Dear Friends,

Reading through the spring newsletter, you’ll see that this has been an impressive year for the English Department. Our faculty continues to publish cutting-edge scholarship and win prestigious fellowships. Our graduate students are publishing; winning fellowships, post-docs, and awards; and landing good jobs; and our majors continue to flourish. This year, the English Club organized a one-day undergraduate conference on the theme of violence and representation. Entirely run by undergraduates, the conference focused on independent research by UB students from Anthropology, Comparative Literature, History, Global Gender Studies, and, of course, English. Hopefully, this will become an annual event! Also, two faculty were promoted to full professor this spring, Carine Mardorossian and Arabella Lyon.

I very much look forward to the arrival this fall of two new hires, Nigerian American novelist Nnedi Okorafor, and scholar of African American literature Jang Wook Huh. Nnedi writes science fiction, fantasy, magical realism, and young adult fiction that focuses especially on Africa. She has published numerous works, including *Who Fears Death*, *The Shadow Speaker*, and *Zahrah the Windseeker*; she has two novels about to be published: *Lagoon* and *The Book of Phoenix*. Nnedi is the recipient of the World Fantasy Award for Best Novel, the Wole Soyinka Prize for Literature in Africa, and the Carl Brandon Parallax Award. She has also been nominated for the Nebula Award. Nnedi will teach courses in both literature and creative writing.

Jang joins us from Columbia University, where he is completing his dissertation on Korean and African American literature. Fluent in Korean, Japanese, and English, Jang studies the influence of African American writers like Booker T. Washington on Korean intellectuals and writers, as well as the influence of Korean culture on writers like Langston Hughes. He is the recipient of a number of prestigious fellowships, including a Mellon / ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, a Dissertation Fellowship from the Social Science Research Council, and Fulbright Fellowships.

This has been a year of real change. Tim Dean, who was previously the director of UB’s Humanities Institute, has taken over as Director of the Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Culture, one of the English Department’s best-known, longstanding programs. Tim is inaugurating his directorship with two international conferences: “What is Sex?” held this past April, and “Psychoanalysis and Cognitive Disability,” a conference to be held this upcoming fall that brings psychoanalytic theory into conversation with disability studies. The Center continues to flourish and grow under Tim’s leadership.

Finally, our new MA in Innovative Writing will see its debut this fall. Building off of the English Department’s reputation in writing and the arts, the MA offers a workshop-based curriculum that gives young writers a launching pad for their careers.

None of this could happen without the support of our alumni, whose accomplishments we are proud to detail and whose generous contributions make much of what we do possible. Please remember that you have a variety of ways for staying in touch with us and joining the events we sponsor. Our department website (http://www.buffalo.edu/cas/english.html) keeps you up-to-date on lectures and readings, and our Facebook page announces events, news, and other items relating to department life (https://www.facebook.com/UBEnglish?ref=hl). Now, you can also join us on Twitter at @UB_English. I would love to see you at any of our events, and would love to hear from you with questions, memories, and ideas.

Cheers,

Graham Hammill

NEW BOOKS / AWARDS

**Carine Mardorossian** has been promoted to Full Professor. Her new book, *Framing the Rape Victim: Gender and Agency Reconsidered*, is forthcoming from Rutgers University Press.

**Prof. Steven Miller’s** book, *War After Death: Violence and its Limits*, was published by Fordham University Press on March 3rd. The book argues that “destruction of the nonhuman or nonliving is a consistent dimension of all violence” and that “the language and practice of war are transformed when this dimension is taken into account.”

Eliisa Marder of Emory University calls the book “intellectually rich, trenchant and engaging.”

**Dave Alff** was awarded the Huntington Library Mayers Fellowship, as well as a Humanities Research Fellowship for 2014-15.

**Doug Basford** was selected as a participant in a National Endowment for the Humanities summer institute, “The Centrality of Translation to the Humanities,” held at the University of Illinois in July 2013. Under the directorship of Christopher Higgins and Elizabeth Lowe, he studied with renowned translators, writers, and critics such as Gregory Rabassa, Suzanne Jill Levine, David Rosenberg, Adam Phillips, and Rainer Schulte, and began work on a translation of L’Osteria, a WWII-era Italian novella set in an imaginary Slavic village, and on a critical essay entitled “Not a single one of you has seen him”: Translating Silvio D’Arzo’s Othersness.”

**Stacy Hubbard** has been selected as one of three inaugural fellows in the Honors College Faculty Fellows program. The appointment is for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 academic years, during which time she will develop new pedagogically innovative and team-taught courses for the Honors College.

**Arabella Lyon** has been promoted to Full Professor.

**Carla Mazzio**, Associate Professor of English and Director of Graduate Studies, was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for 2014-2015 for her book in progress, *The Trouble with Numbers: The Drama of Mathematics in the Age of Shakespeare*. This is the 17th Guggenheim to be awarded to a UB English faculty member. Mazzio’s book explores the affective, tensional, and often conspicuously irrational environments in which mathematics circulated in the early modern period. She will spend the year working in the archives at three institutions: the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, Harvard’s Houghton Library in Cambridge, MA, and the Venerable English College in Rome.
The Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Culture is the oldest and most prestigious center of its kind in the United States. Founded in the 1960s as the Center for the Psychological Study of the Arts, it has been running in UB’s English Department for half a century. That kind of longevity testifies to the important role that the Center plays in the department’s intellectual life; indeed, it was part of what prompted me to leave my tenured position at the University of Illinois twelve years ago and head east to Buffalo.

With the departure of Joan Copjec, who developed its national and international profile over two decades, I have been delighted to take over directorship of the Center this year. We have several exciting events planned, all of which aim to foster dialogue between psychoanalysis and other research foci within the university. Our first symposium, “What Is Sex?” (April 25, 2014), brought an international and cross-disciplinary cadre of visitors to UB for discussion of what is ostensibly a straightforward question. The goal of this symposium was to put psychoanalysis into deeper conversation with new developments in gender and sexuality studies. Speakers included Leo Bersani, Eugenie Brinkema (UB MA in English ’04), Patricia Gherovici, Kathryn Bond Stockton, and Philippe Van Haute.

Psychoanalysis proposes a theory of mind, and of embodiment, that needs to be in dialogue also with Disability Studies. Toward that end, the Center is organizing a major conference on “Psychoanalysis and Cognitive Disability” scheduled for October 2014. I became familiar with the work of the Center during the 1990s, when it held annual conferences that attracted scholars from far beyond Buffalo. With these two major events, we hope to generate a comparable level of energy and interest. Also in the works for Fall 2014 is an event based around Steven Miller’s new book, War after Death, for which we’ll bring in respondents from other universities to discuss the book’s contribution and impact.

The Center’s symposia and conferences are being coordinated with graduate seminars on related topics, to help ensure that students read visiting speakers’ work well in advance. Graduate students associated with the Center hail from several departments at UB and regularly organize their own reading groups on topics of their choice. This combination of activities makes for a dynamic, continually evolving intellectual project, one that reaches out beyond the strictly psychoanalytic to engage other disciplines, modes of thinking, and cultural spheres.

**Statement from the New Director for the Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Culture:**


Graham Hammill was recently elected President of the International Spenser Society (2015-17).

Bruce Jackson took part in a screening and discussion of “Death Row,” the 1979 film Diane Christian and he made in Texas. The event was held at the Sarasota Selby Library, Feb. 5th. In addition, he took part in “A Conversation with Bruce Jackson,” with death penalty attorneys, faculty from University of South Florida, and artists Lori Loveberry-George and Pam Callendar, at Sarasota Architectural Salvage, Feb. 6th. He discussed and showed some of the photos from three of his recent books (Pictures from a Drawer: Prison and the Art of Portraiture, Temple 2007; In This Timeless Time: Living and Dying on Death Row in America, with Diane Christian, Univ. North Carolina Press, 2011; and Inside the Wire: Photographs from Texas and Arkansas Prisons, University of Texas Press, 2012) at Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL, Feb 6th. Bruce attended an opening of 50 of his prison photographs with artwork based on some of those photos by Lori Loveberry-George and Pam Callendar, The Hub, Sarasota. (Exhibit Feb 7-28). Bruce has also been elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Market Arcade Film and Arts Center.

Steve McCaffery gave talks and readings at the MDRN Conference on Time & Temporality in European Modernism and the Avant-Garde (1900-1950), at the University of Leuven, Belgium; New Architectures, New Landscapes, University of Greenwich, London; the Ottawa Arts Court; The UnAmerican Readings Series - New York City and Cambridge, UK; and St. Jerome’s University, University of Waterloo.

Steven Miller was recently honored with the French Voices Award for his translation of Etienne Balibar’s Citizen Subject and Other Essays on Political Anthropology, to be published by Fordham University Press.
Stacy Hubbard (Associate Chair) sat down with Associate Professor Steven Miller to find out more about his background, his teaching and his new book.

SH: How did you get interested in literature, philosophy, psychoanalysis?
SM: For the majority of my school years, I was absorbed in the visual arts (drawing, painting, photography), both practically and theoretically, so much so that I had very little passion left for anything else. At Brown University [as an undergraduate], I was drawn to French Theory because it offered the possibility of combining critical discourse with a certain writerliness. I was most interested in Marxism and theories of institutions and collective action. I was interested in the idea that, beyond the social and political function of the university, it has a strictly philosophical foundation; that, in a sense, the university as such—regardless of its late capitalist transformations—makes a place for the project of philosophy within society. [At UC Irvine] my doctoral dissertation was largely on political philosophy, theology, and literature. There was very little psychoanalysis in it. To a certain extent, it was coming to Buffalo in 2004 that pushed me to situate psychoanalysis at the center of my writing and research.

SM: The dark core of the book is simply the observation, for which Goya’s Disasters of War set the stage, that what we call “violence” does not necessarily lead to or end upon the death of its supposed victim; that, in spite of pervasive cultural presuppositions to the contrary, there is no guarantee that the living can be trusted to respect or protect the dead; that, in a political register, we cannot suppose that the ‘object’ of war is limited to the life of the enemy; and that, consequently, we must suppose that violence always exceeds its political function and lays waste to a host of objects (human remains, artworks and architecture, landscapes, natural resources) that are too often categorized as collateral damage because they don’t obviously factor into the official game of war.

SH: What are your favorite topics to teach? Why?
SM: I absolutely love teaching Freud and Lacan—both to graduate students and to undergraduates. With no other texts do I have the same feeling that they “teach themselves” and that my role as a teacher is simply to act as a “medium” or perhaps as what French psychoanalysts call a passeur.

SH: There are a lot of misunderstandings about who Freud was and what he thought. How do you overcome those misunderstandings when teaching?
SM: I always begin by emphasizing what Freud says about his clinical practice and process of discovery whereby he happened to invent psychoanalysis. I always want the students to appreciate the problems that Freud himself confronted and how psychoanalytic theory responds to these problems, less by solving them than by making a place for them within modern thought and society. At least initially, in Freud’s clinical practice, the most intransigent problem is that of the symptom. So we usually begin there, as Freud did, and then see where it leads.

SH: You have a reputation for being funny in the classroom, despite teaching about death and trauma. Have you always been a funny guy?
SM: What I see on my course evaluations is not so much that I am funny but that I like to laugh at my own jokes! But, really, my jokes are not really jokes. [It] can be very funny, out of the blue, to ask a class in all seriousness, “what is death?” Such immense questions almost always make students laugh, as they should. I am certainly always laughing when I pose them. Perhaps I am a Socratic teacher because, in my opinion, such laughter always means that thinking has begun—that “we,” as a class, have begun to think together.

For a longer version of this interview, go to www.english.buffalo.edu.

Senior English major Sushmita Sircar spent her childhood in the capital of India, New Delhi, where she was surrounded by many languages, including Bengali, English, and Hindi. At UB, she has studied Chinese and French, and has spent two semesters abroad studying Chinese at Capital Normal University in Beijing and French literature at Université Paul Valéry in Montpellier. She is currently completing an English honors thesis entitled “Translating Difference: Language and Social Structure in Indian Novels in English” which examines the vexed matter of multilingualism in three different English-language novels written by South Asian authors. According to her thesis advisor, Prof. Walter Hakala, the study “shows as clearly as is possible in literary analysis the very real ways in which humans use language both to reinforce and resist the social dynamics of power—specifically, how characters are put in their place by and through language.”

Here is what Sushmita has to say about her time as a UB English major:

“I remember walking back to my room the spring semester of my freshman year, unreasonably happy to have just completed my paper on death rites in Hamlet. That first experience of working with a text to rework my understanding of it, of sitting in on class discussions that changed how I looked at a book or a poem, made me certain that I wanted to major in English.

What I will remember most from my years at UB are the wonderful professors in the English department. I appreciated, too, the flexibility in being able to choose classes according to my often-undeterminate interests. Apart from my literature classes, I took a few fiction-writing classes, majored in French, which allowed me to study French literature, and also took Chinese classes for three years, studying and teaching abroad in China and Taiwan. All of these experiences allowed me to approach my work in literature classes from a different perspective.

Around the end of junior year, I began to consider applying to graduate school for a PhD in English. Despite changing my mind at least six times throughout that year, I did end up working on my thesis and applying to graduate schools senior year, thanks in large part to the support of my professors. I am in the midst of choosing between NYU and Cornell to pursue my PhD starting next fall. I hope to study postcolonialism, focusing on South Asian literature, and francophone literature. I am excited to continue to read and learn and develop the interests that my years at UB have sparked.”
In addition to the students in the Fall 2013 Newsletter, the following have also been honored:

Lisa Khoury, Sam Fernando, and Aaron Mansfield have won the Society of Professional Journalists’s Mark of Excellence Awards for reporting done in The Spectrum this past year. Lisa was awarded this honor for in-depth reporting in her article “The Heights of Fear.” Sam and Aaron won the award for the news story they wrote on UB’s Student Association, and Aaron won a separate award for his sports columns.

Senior Marc Pierre has received this year’s Vice President for Student Affairs Leadership Award. The award honors a graduating senior who is committed to leadership training, education and development, and has demonstrated leadership during an undergraduate career for the benefit of others.

ENGLISH WRITING PRIZE WINNERS

English Department Outstanding Senior: Farhana Hasan

PRIZE WINNERS

The Arthur Axelrod Memorial Award:
1. Jamie Gugino, English
   Title: “Pen Pusher”; “Status Updated”; “Labadie”; “1.e.”; “Homage to Margritte”
2. Susan Seep, Bio Med
   Title: “Titration of Nomenclature (or why the dog-headed creatures like their strangers raw and highly spiced)”
Honorable Mentions:
   Chase Conatser - English, Title: “A Conservationists Guide to Wiping Your Ass”
   Lexa Hunt - English, Titles: “what the robin knows”; “9pm curbside”; “beside still waters”; “1 change my name”; “we dead men”

The Scribblers Prize
   Kelly Schucker, English
   Title: “Green Apples”

The George Knight Houp Prize
   Elizabeth Teebag, English
   Title: “I can’t even see if this is really me”: “An Exploration of Personal Agency and Redemption in Buffy the Vampire Slayer”

The Joyce Carol Oats Fiction Prize
   Alex Thayer, Media Study
   Title: “The Lot”

English Department Prize in Creative Non-Fiction
   Winner: Angelina Bruno, English
   Title: “Disney, Dismay”
   Runner-up: #15 Kelly Schucker, English
   Title: “Suicide Hotline”

English Department Essay Contest
   Sushmita Sircar, English
   Title: “Gardening an Empire: Cultivation and Colonization in Henry V”
   Honorable Mention:
   Holly Danielle Domney, English, Title: “Signora Teresa found her voice: The Power of the Female Voice in Nostromo and Wild Thorns”

Cook, Hammond, Logan
   Winners:
   1. Chase Conatser, English
      Title: “A Conservationists Guide to Wiping Your Ass”
   2. Max Crinnin, English
      Title: “where does a goose go to die?”; “Against the Many Targets”; “Pre-Med”; “muttersprache”
   3. Susan Seep, Bio Med
      Title: “Titration of Nomenclature (or why the dog-headed creatures like their strangers raw and highly spiced)”
   Honorable Mentions:

The English Club organized an undergraduate conference on the theme of “Violence and Representation,” which was held at UB on April 26, 2014. The conference featured independent research by UB undergraduates especially (though not exclusively) from the Humanities and Social Sciences, as well as students from Buffalo State College, Medaille College, and Canisius College. During this one-day event, students looked at how violence is communicated and how the means of communication impacts the meaning of violence as well as its consequences and influence.

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The Friends of the University Libraries Undergraduate Poetry Prize:
   Lexa Hunt, English
   Honorable Mention: Chase Conatser, English

The Academy of American Poets Prize:
   Lexa Hunt, English

The Dan Liberthson Graduate Student Poetry Prize:
   Alison Fraser, Graduate student - English

Two students win Sepulveda Journalism Award

Ben Tarhan and Chad Cooper each won $1,000 scholarships in the 3rd annual Rosalind Jarrett Sepulveda Journalism Education Award.

The students used the scholarships toward a two-night stay in New York City to attend the College Media Association’s 2014 media conference from March 12-15. Tarhan, a senior computer engineering major, has written for The Spectrum since his freshman year and is currently senior sports editor. Cooper, a sophomore business administration major, has a passion for photojournalism and is currently a Spectrum photo editor.

Jospeh Konze, a senior communication major, won an honorable mention and had his $110 conference registration fee paid.

Over 1,000 journalists, journalism professors and students attended the four-day media convention. Students met and mingled with professionals and talked to colleagues and professors engaged in student media from across the country.

Twelve Spectrum editors attended the conference with adviser, Jody Biehl, who participated in the sessions and led a group of students and advisers on a tour of Pro-Publica.

The Sepulveda Award is made possible by the generosity of Rosalind Jarrett Sepulveda, who received her BA from UB in English and Theater and is currently the executive in charge of publicity for the Screen Actors Guild Awards.

The English Club organized an undergraduate conference on the theme of “Violence and Representation,” which was held at UB on April 26, 2014. The conference featured independent research by UB undergraduates especially (though not exclusively) from the Humanities and Social Sciences, as well as students from Buffalo State College, Medaille College, and Canisius College. During this one-day event, students looked at how violence is communicated and how the means of communication impacts the meaning of violence as well as its consequences and influence.
MA Certificate in Innovative Writing

The MA Certificate in Innovative Writing presents a unique form of graduate study in creative writing, closely intertwining the practice of writing with literary and aesthetic inquiries.

Our Mission

Our program creates a collaborative space in which we reflect on the ethical and political implications of creative writing within the matrix of global citizenship; tease out evident and obscured connections between contemporary and historical texts; consider how aesthetic concerns are inflected by various systems of power; and create rigorous, sensuous, contentious—above all, evocative—forms of writing that embody imaginative and forward-thinking strategies.

Our hope is to create an environment in which new forms of writing will flourish. Poetry. Fiction. Hybrid forms. Digital and electronic media. However innovation takes place.

Informed by UB’s long history of innovation in the arts, the writing workshops and literature seminars in the MA Certificate in Innovative Writing arise from our faculty’s shared belief that writing engages with—and intervenes in—the worlds we inhabit as much as the identities we pose and perform; that writing is a situation layered by critical examination, inventive thought, wild speculation, complex, often paradoxical feelings, multiple, entangled media platforms and social circuits, differing perceptions of time, and an ongoing translation of languages, as much as people and cultures.

Our MA Certificate invites you to view writing as an investigative, exploratory process in its own right: a mode of inquiry that, at its best, can articulate and rearticulate diverse experiences of 21st century culture, and unearth, perhaps even overturn, our most foundational thoughts—freeing them for profound imaginative work.
Department Dissertation Completion Fellowships


Patricia Caroline Chaudron was awarded the 2014-2015 Robert and Carol Morris Dissertation Completion Fellowship for her dissertation, “William Dean Howells and Late Nineteenth-Century American Realist Poetics.”

Allison Siehnel was awarded the Louis and Joan Slovinsky Dissertation Fellowship for her dissertation, “Gothic Guilt in American Literature, 1799-1863.”

Congratulations!


Ronan Crowley has been awarded a two-year post-doctoral fellowship by the prestigious Humboldt Foundation to work on a digital humanities project on Ulysses at the University at Passau in Germany.

Alison Fraser was selected to participate in the Graduate Student Exchange Program at the Université de Lausanne.

Amy Greer, graduating MA student, has been accepted into the PhD program at Cornell.

David Hadbawnik has received a two-month 2014-15 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship at the Huntington Library. He will be studying manuscript and early print holdings there, especially those relating to John Lydgate and Edmund Spenser.


Hyeon Jeong Lee recently was awarded a translation grant from the Literature Translation Institute of Korea. She has been translating a Korean novel, White Bird, into English.

(Prabha) Salwatura Acharige Manuratne received the UB Gender Institute’s Isabel S. Marcus International Research Fellowship for her scholarship on “The Martyr and the Traitor: Representations of Violence in World Literature and Cinema.”


Teaching Awards

Sara Gutmann, Allison Siehnel, and Morani Kornberg-Weiss are all recipients of the Graduate School’s Excellence in Teaching Award for 2013-14. This award is a highly competitive honor given to the very best graduate student teachers at UB.

Keiko Ogata has published an essay in Zizek and Media Studies.

Courtney Pfahl’s essay “Shuffling the Sjuzhet in Marc Saporta’s Composition No. 1” has been accepted for publication in Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction. Another article, “Reading [as] the Power-Free Text: Jackson Mac Low’s Words and Ends from Ez” has been accepted for publication in JML: Journal of Modern Literature.

Allison Siehnel was awarded a Mark Diamond Research Grant for the 2013-2014 school year, to visit early African American archives in Philadelphia and New York City.

Placement News

Since the Fall 2013 Newsletter, the following students have received employment offers:

Divya Victor received a tenure-track job offer from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

Ryan Hatch received a tenure-track job offer to become an Assistant Professor of Modern and Contemporary Drama from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Riverrun Research Fellowships

Jung-Suk Hwang will be working at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin, researching Don DeLillo’s 2003 Cosmopolis. Her work with the photographic and manuscript holdings will culminate in a chapter of her dissertation, entitled “Unmasking Pastoralism in Contemporary American Literature.”

Amanda Montei will be travelling to the archives at the University of California, San Diego. There she will work with manuscript materials in the Hannah (Viner) Weiner Papers Collection in order to develop an article on the poet, currently entitled, “Transcorporeality, Toxicity and Posthumanist Ethics in the Work of Hannah Weiner.”

Macy Todd will be travelling to the Quinnipiac University archives to develop his dissertation project on the discourse of the Great Irish Famine. Quinnipiac houses a famine museum and archive which holds visual art, including sculpture and painting, alongside texts and manuscripts unavailable in print.

Riverrun Teaching Fellowships

The Riverrun Teaching Fellowship for 2014 - 2015 was awarded to Prabha Manuratne for her unusually thoughtful ENG 276 course on Literature and the Law. This global literature course will focus on the institutional, legal, and psychological site of the prison in literature across and between cultures.
Ken Ilgunas (BA 2007)

Although it has only been seven years since he graduated from UB, Ken Ilgunas has already had quite a career. He has written for The New York Times and Salon.com, talked with Jay Leno on The Tonight Show, and published a novel-length memoir entitled Walden on Wheels: On the Open Road from Debt to Freedom, which has sold nearly 20,000 copies since its release in May 2013.

Walden on Wheels details Ken’s experiences paying off his student debt. After spending a year at Alfred University, a small private college in southern New York, Ken had racked up almost $20,000 in student loan debt. So he transferred to UB, where he majored in English and History.

In Walden on Wheels, Ken describes the excitement he experienced at UB: “In the English department, I read Shakespeare; in the history department, I studied the Constitution and the Founding Fathers. During my senior year, my classmates got smarter. My classmates and I thought, discuss, discussions. I wrote for the university’s newspaper, befriended a couple of professors, and took an unpaid internship interviewing V-Day veterans and another one, later on, writing stories for Buffalo’s alternative weekly newspaper.”

By the time he was close to graduating, however, Ken had racked up $32,000 in debt. To pay off his loans, between his fourth and fifth years at UB, he hitchhiked 5,500 miles and canoed another 1,000 across Ontario, working in Alaska as a tour guide, garbage picker, and night cook.

After graduating from UB, Ken wanted to continue his education, “to re-immerses myself in a world of thought and ideas and ancient texts of the classics,” Ken said. But money was standing in his way. “Working so hard to pay it off – there was no way I was going back into debt.”

So he enrolled in Duke University’s Masters in Liberal Arts Program and, while taking classes, lived secretly in a van – a 1994 Ford Econoline. Ken paid for his tuition and other expenses by working in Alaska during the summers and, during the school year, participating in over 25 paid experimental studies. He left Duke with an MA and $1,156 in savings.

In 2012-13, after graduating from Duke, Ken hiked the 1,700 mile proposed route of the Keystone XL pipeline from Alberta to Texas, blogging about his adventures and talking with people he met about the pipeline’s negative environmental impact. “It has been a transformative journey that has changed how I think about poverty and wealth and everything in between,” Ken writes on his blog. “If I’ve learned anything, it’s that a life lived not half-wild is a life only half-lived.”

Ken returned to UB this past fall to give two talks. He spoke about his adventures to conquer student debt and offered advice for current undergraduates. “I think a lot of people heading into undergraduate school, especially, they’re attracted to certain schools for the wrong reasons: for prestige or for a good football or basketball team….What’s really important,” he said, “is that there’s a good professor in a small classroom.” He said that he has nothing but fond memories of UB and that part of the reason he went on to graduate school was to recapture the educational experience he had here.

You can read more about Ken on his blog: http://www.kenilgunas.com. Some material from this story was taken from a Spectrum article on Ken’s talks written by Brian Keschinger.

**ALUMNI NEWS**

In January 2013, Paul Allen (BA 1989; PhD Yale 1995) published It Begins With Our Questions: A Thematic Introduction to the Humanities with Jennifer Bauman, PhD (Hayden-MacNeil Publishing). In July 2013 he was promoted to Associate Dean of Humanities, Language & Culture, ASL/Interpreting, and International Studies at Salt Lake Community College.

Neil Baldwin (PhD, 1973) is under contract with Alfred A. Knopf Publishers in NYC to write his next biography, Martha Graham: When Dance Became Modern. Baldwin is Professor of Theatre & Dance at Montclair State University, where he also runs The [virtual] Creative Research Center www.montclair.edu/creativeresearch.

Cary Bayer (BA, 1974), an author, life and business coach and meditation teacher, has just released a trilogy of books for massage therapists: Think and Grow a Rich Massage Business, Market and Grow a Rich Massage Business, and Communicate and Grow a Rich Massage Business. All are available through his Heaven on Earth Publishing company, from $17 to $20, (954) 788-3380, www.themassagemarketingcoach.com. Cary, who has coached 300 massage therapists and another 100 healers, coaches, ministers and other facilitators of growth, gave the keynote address at the American Massage Therapy Association national convention. He has also consulted with Oscar-winners Alan Arkin (Little Miss Sunshine), Pietro Scalia (JPX, Black Hawk Down), Emmy-winner Judy Henderson (Homeland), comic/director David Steinberg, and Quality Inns. He is also the author of such books as Prosperity Aerobics, 40 Days to a Happy Life, Conscious Communication, and Relationships 101.


Mary Cappello (PhD, 1988) has published an essay, “My Secret Private Er-rand: An Essay on Love and Theft” in the most recent issue of Salmagundi. In memory of Professor Emeritus Martin Pops, the novella-length piece channels Henry James’s The Aspern Papers, which Cappello studied with Pops, and captures the spirit of a distinctly 1980’s Buffalo milieu of mentorship and desire, of lives in letters, and the performing voice of a sort of pedagogy that is no more. She is currently at work on a book-length tryptic of such pieces with two other SUNY/Buffalo graduate alums, James Morrison (PhD, 1989) and Jean Walton (PhD, 1988), tentatively titled Buffalo Trace. You can keep up with Cappello’s new and forthcoming essays, interviews, readings, performances, honors and forthcoming books at: www.swallowthebook.com

Scott Dalrymple (MA, 1989; MBA - 1991; PhD - 1996) will become President of Columbia College, in Columbia, Missouri on May 1, 2014. Sally Ann Drucker (PhD 1988) is a Professor in the Department of English, Nassau Community College. This June, she’ll portray Emma Goldman in a WWI Chautauqua in Oklahoma.

Mary Foltz (PhD, 2009) is an assistant professor in the English Department at Lehigh University. Her research and teaching bring together environmental science, legal studies, race studies and literary theory to analyze “waste” in contemporary literature—disposal, sewage, trash and environmental degradation.

Erwin Ford (PhD, 1988) has published George V. Higgins: The Life and Works (McFarland Publishing). He also delivered “JS Bach’s Lost Son” at The Harvard Center for European Culture last summer.

Graham Foord (PhD, 2002) has published his fifth book, To Anacreon in Heaven and Other Poems. It is a finalist for this year’s Believer Award. Details here: http://www.believermag.com/issues/201403/?read=believer_poetry award. Walless Space, his co-translation of Ernst Meister’s Wandloser Raum (with Samuel Frederick of the Pennsylvania State University) will be published by Wave Books this coming September.

Paula Freedman (BA, 1992) published her first novel, My Basmati Bat Mitzvah, in October. My Basmati Bat Mitzvah is a middle-grade novel about Tara Feinstein, a 12-year-old New Yorker navigating aspects of her own identity and heritage. Kirkus Reviews named it a best book of 2013. In May, she will be participating (along with Deborah Ellis and Sharon Robinson) in a panel discussion on identity and diversity at the International Reading Association (IRA) annual conference in New Orleans. You can find more information, images, and reviews on her blog, http://paulafreedman.com/

Christopher Fritton (BA, 2000) is the organizer of the 2014 Buffalo Small Press Book Fair, Karpeles Manuscript Library. The Fair brings together hundreds of vendors and thousands of writers and artists for one long weekend in April. The Fair continues to grow each year, attracting national attention from the AWP, the New York Art Book Fair, and MLA. To see the entire agenda, visit www.buffalosmallpress.org/schedule. For more information, contact Chris at Buffalo Small Press Book Fair c/o Chris Fritton, 61 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14201, 716-392-7305 - info@buffalosmallpress.org www.buffalosmallpress.org


Ann Goldsmith (PhD, 1999) has completed a third book of poems, Waiting at the Turn, which is now looking for a publisher. Her second book, The Spaces Between Us, was published in 2010 by Outriders Poetry Project. Her first, No One Is the Same Again, was brought out by the Quarterly Review of Literature as one of its 1998 prize-winning Poetry Books. She also has two poems in upcoming anthologies of Western New York poets and the most recent issue of The Sow’s Ear.

Stephen Goss (BA, 2002) is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of English in the department of Learning and Instruction at UB. Recently some of his work and the work of his students has been covered by the local media: http://news.wbfo.org/ub-professor-stephen-goss and http://www.buffalo.edu/ub-reporter/spotlight.host.html/content/shared/university/news/ub-reporter-articles/stories/2013/profile_goss.detail.html

Kevin Grauke (PhD, 2003) has won the Texas Institute of Letters’ 2012 Steven Turner Award for Best Work of First Fiction, for his collection of stories, Shadows of Men (Queen’s Ferry Press).

Brad Hahn (BA, 2013) is the Executive Director of Explore Buffalo, a new non-profit architecture and history tour organization. Working with an incredible and growing team of more than 40 talented volunteer tour guides, the organization aims to improve Buffalo as a destination for visitors by telling the stories of this great city.

Jennifer Johnson (BA, 2013), who won last year’s English Department Haupt Prize, is currently happily attending the one-year Master of Arts in Humanities Program at the University of Chicago.

Michael Kawocha (BA, 1994) Sotheby’s International Realty agent, just sold the largest 3 Bed / 3 Bath condo in Long Island City (Arris Lofts #130 http://lnkd.in/dDc29q) for which he was recently twice featured in both the Mann Report Residential magazine and the Queens Courier. Keep up with him at https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelkawocha

Rachel Kempster (BA, 1997) published her fourth book with Sourcebooks in January 2014. The Big You, Little Me Book, co-written with Meg Leder, is a guided journal packed with fun prompts and activities for kids to do with the grown-ups in their lives, from moms to uncles to grandmas. Kempster also made her sixth appearance on The Today Show in early December in her capacity as the Director of Marketing and Publicity for DK Publishing: http://www.today.com/video/today/53726860#53726860

Dr. Jaechol Kim (PhD, 2011) has begun work as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of English at Hansung University, Seoul. Earlier this year, Texas Studies in Language and Literature published his essay, “Cognitive Cartography in the Neocolonial World: Jameson’s ‘Third-World Literature’ and Ngūgi’s Petals of Blood.” English Studies (UK) has just published his ‘National Mesianism and English Chorography in King Lear.’

Margaret Konkel (PhD 2013) is currently a Brittan Postdoctoral Fellow at Georgia Tech. Recently four of the students from her first-year Writing and Communication Program course, “English 1101: Atlanta Food Systems,” were selected to participate in Tech4Good, an Institute-wide showcase of more than 30 civic engagement projects created at Georgia Tech. Her students examined the values, practices, and social conditions that shape food production, distribution, and consumption in Atlanta.

Richard Kopley (PhD 1982), Distinguished Professor of English at Penn State DuBois, wrote the Poe bibliography for the Oxford Bibliography Online (2012); he has since been appointed an editor-in-chief of the OBO’s American Literature subject area. He also published an essay in The Edgar Allan Poe Review, Adventures with Poe and Hawthorne (2013). He co-edited the book Poe Writing / Writing Poe (AMS Press, 2013). And he is co-organizing The Fourth International Edgar Allan Poe Conference, to be held February 26 to March 1, 2015, at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City. (Proposals for papers should be sent to him by June 1, 2014, at rkk3@psu.edu.) His recent creative work has been the short story The Invisible and Intolerable Bookshop (Lightship Anthology, Alma Books, 2012) and the children’s picture-book The Remarkable David Wordsworth (Eirfig Publishing, 2013).

Jenna Lay (BA, 2002) is now an assistant professor of English at Lehigh University, specializing in early modern English literature. She’s currently working on a book entitled Beyond the Cloister: Catholic Englishwomen and Early Modern Book Culture. The project has received support from the Institute for Historical Research in London, the Huntington Library, and the Renaissance Society of America.

Joel Lipman (MA-Creative Writing, 1975), retired from all professional responsibilities and is emeritus Professor of English at the University of Toledo and emeritus Lucas County [Ohio] Poet Laureate. In 2013 he opened the determinedly non-profit ABRACADABRA Studio of Poetics (http://www.abracadabrapoetry.com). Joel and Cindy split time between Toledo and Belfast, Maine.
Kandace Brill Lombart (PhD, 2002) was invited to Daemen College, Buffalo, NY as part of Women’s History Month, for a presentation on “Ruth Stone & Her Daughters: The Topography of Artistic Collaborations Between a Poet, an Artist & A Writer” on March 19, 2014; organized a panel for AWP’s conference in Seattle, WA: “Behind the Scenes: Meet the Producers of the Literary Documentary,” Feb. 27, 2014. The Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF) Educational Program Director, independent filmmaker Allison Hedge Coke, and Five Sisters Production presented their most recent works.

Louis Kirk McAuley (PhD, 2006) published his first book, *Print Technology in Scotland and America, 1740 - 1800*, as part of Bucknell University Press’s innovative Transits: Literature, Thought, and Culture, 1650 - 1850 series. The series “seeks to provide transformative readings of the literary, cultural, and historical interconnections between Britain, Europe, the Far East, Oceania, and the Americas in the long eighteenth century.” He was recently granted tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in the Department of English at Washington State University. Also, in 2013, he received a WSU Meyer Project Award to research the economy and ecology of early Caribbean newspapers and magazines at the National Library of Jamaica in Kingston and American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, MA.


Tony Moore (BA, 1992) had a script “The Unity Trigger” reach the quarterfinals of the 2013 Academy Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting competition (top 5% of over 7,200 scripts) and the finals of 2013 Scriptapalooza (top 30 of over 4,000 scripts). Tony was also named a Top Ten Finalist in Francis Ford Coppola's 2012 American Zoetrope Screenplay Contest. During the day, Tony is a writer/editor with Dickinson College's Office of Marketing & Communications.

Scott Oldenburg (PhD, 2007) has just been tenured at Tulane University. His book, “*Alien Albinon: Literature and Immigration in Early Modern England*,” is due out from The University of Toronto Press in the fall.


Jacob Paul (BA, 1995) has had an article, "Slouching Past Totality; or, What a Post-Postmodern Holocaust Novel Might Be," published by Fiction Writers Review this past fall. His second novel, *A Song of Ilan*, was accepted by Jaded Ibis Productions and will be published next spring. Jacob is currently an assistant professor of English and creative writing at High Point University.

Kevin Pelletier (PhD, 2007) has recently been promoted to Associate Professor of English at the University of Richmond. Kevin’s book, *Apocalyptic Sentimentalism: Love and Fear in US Antebellum Literature*, is forthcoming in the fall from U. of Georgia Press.


Robert Rebein (PhD 1995) published his second book, *Draggin Wyatt Earp: A Personal History of Dodge City* (Ohio UP, 2013). Information about this book, as well as a downloadable cover, etc., can be found at his website, www.robertrebein.com. In 2013, he was named Chair of the Department of English at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.


Cassandra Rivais (BA, 2013) is now a law student at SUNY-Albany. She has taken an internship in Albany with ACOG (American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists), a multifaceted national organization that lobbies for women health care providers in Congress. Cassie will be working as a research assistant for them.

Gary Earl Ross (BA, 1973, MA, 1975) recently directed the play *The Mountaintop* by Katori Hall for the Subversive Theater Company in Buffalo. Gary’s play, *The Mark of Cain*, will be produced at the Second Street Theater in Bend, Oregon, during the 2014-15 theater season, and his short stories, “Good Neighbors” and “Sister Bessie’s Boys”, will appear, respectively, in the forthcoming anthologies *Buffalo Noir* and *Darker Edge of Desire*.

Kelsey Russo (BA, 2013) has decided to attend Rutgers University, where she has received a full fellowship, to study public interest based law.

Rebecca Sanchez (PhD, 2010) completed her first book, *Deafening Modernism: Embodied Language and Visual Poetics in Twentieth-Century American Literature*, which has been accepted for publication by NYU Press, in a series edited by Michael Bérubé.

Jonathan Skinner (PhD, 2005) is now an assistant professor of English & Comparative Literature at U. of Warwick, UK. He is the author of numerous books of poetry, including *Birds of Tiff and Political Cactus Poems*, and is currently editing an anthology of eco-poetics for Wesleyan Press.


Susan Glaeser Stoney (MA, 1983) has been providing writing, editing and writing coach services to non-English majors in a corporate environment for more than 20 years. Last year, she launched her own business at TheMessageCrafter.com. Susan sends this memory: "one of the English majors in attendance at the recent UB English Department reunion asked, ‘Can I really make a living using my English major?’ My answer was a resounding ‘Yes.’ After my evolution into new business owner, I would add ‘Yes -- in the corporate world and beyond!’

Divya Victor (PhD, 2013) has received The Bob Kaufman Award from Trembling Pillow Presses for her volume entitled, *Natural Subjects*.


Kristy Woodfield (BA, 2012) is currently a second year law student at UB.
Poetry Collection receives $150K to catalogue obscure yet influential post-WWII literary magazine archives

As writers, Susan Howe and Charles Bukowski don’t have much in common. Yet both wrote poems for small press periodicals called “little literary magazines” before achieving mainstream success.

Unfortunately, the contents of many of these magazines, which serve as a proving ground for writers and budding literary movements, aren’t well known outside of their literary communities.

That is starting to change, thanks to the Poetry Collection at the University at Buffalo, which received a $150,600 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) to create online records for the editorial archives of 11 such collections, including magazines that featured Howe and Bukowski.

“These archives document 50 years of poetic history. They represent different socio-aesthetic communities from feminist to academic avant-garde to verbo-visual poetry, and they have served the careers of countless poets,” said Michael Basinski, curator of the Poetry Collection.

UB was among 22 organizations to receive funding from CLIR, which reviewed 75 proposals nationwide for its Cataloguing Hidden Special Collections and Archives program.

“Cataloging these literary magazines will immediately impact scholarship in the field of post-World War II American Poetry,” said James Maynard, associate curator of the Poetry Collection, who along with Basinski and Amy Vilz, university archivist, worked on the grant application.

UB will use the grant money to buy supplies and hire a project archivist. The archivist will work with two graduate students, as well as Maynard, Basinski, Vilz and Marie Elia, a processing archivist in the Poetry Collection, to create online finding aids for the 11 magazines’ editorial and business records.

- Cory Nealon
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