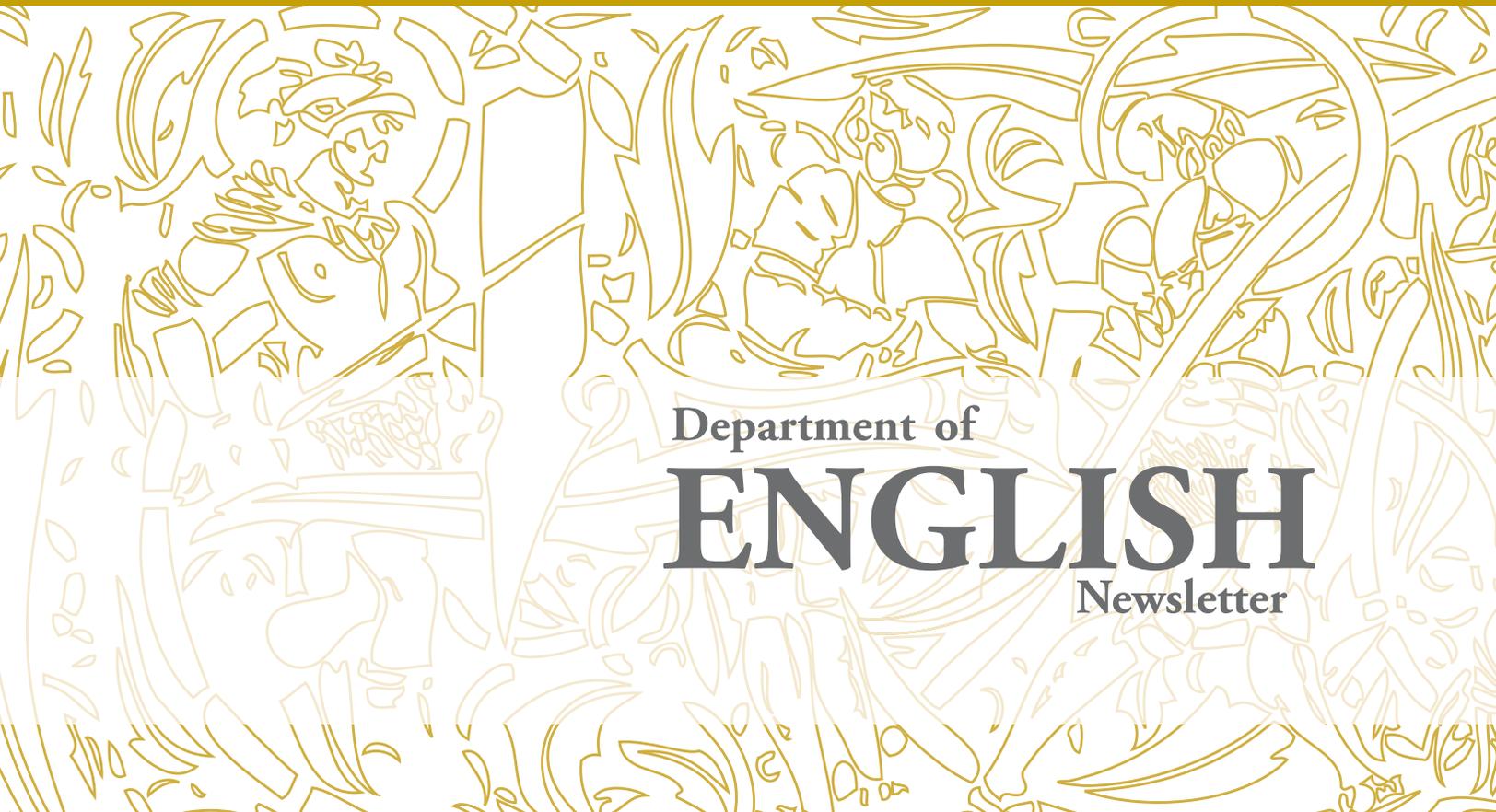


Fall 2010

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Department of  
**ENGLISH**  
Newsletter

# NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



Cristanne Miller

After my 2010-2011 research leave, I am now delighted to be back at UB and in Clemens Hall. During my leave, I concluded a draft of a new book project “Lyric Strains: Reading Emily Dickinson in the Nineteenth Century.” Completing this project has given me new energy and enthusiasm for teaching and for dealing with the long-term and daily challenges of chairing a vigorous, complex department.

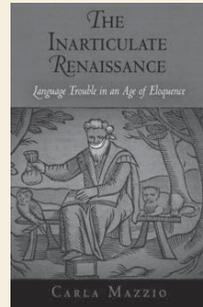
Here are some things you may not know about the English

Department that you can learn more about in the following pages. Within the last year, the Department published (or was a primary collaborator in publishing) nine independent journals—from the international peer reviewed biannual scholarly *Emily Dickinson Journal* to the annual undergraduate literary magazine, *n a m e*. The Department sends two or more graduate students a year to prestigious research and literary gatherings as part of its membership in national institutions devoted to Shakespeare and Charles Dickens, respectively (read on for information about the Dickens Universe). And maybe you already knew that English attracts very bright undergraduates—as attested by the number of our majors eligible for our honors program. We are also now beginning to reverse the national trend of declining numbers of English majors. We think that part of our recent increase may be attributed to our new programs introducing students to alumni and alumnae who talk with them about “What You Can Do With an English Major,” to our new “Fireside Chats” (minus the fire) between undergraduates and illustrious faculty, and to our revision of the undergraduate curriculum a few years ago. Mostly, however, we know that the enthusiasm of undergraduate and graduate students for the Department depends on the quality and devotion of the faculty—and I am continually impressed by my colleagues. Several of the stories in this newsletter highlight ways our students and projects have benefited from philanthropic donations. If you would like to become more involved in helping our students or the department, please contact me. We welcome your support in the form of service, internships for our undergraduates, mentoring, and donations.

On April 9th, we are throwing a *Spectrum* 60th-anniversary party. You will receive an invitation with details soon. In the meantime, let us know what you are doing, what you are interested in, and what you might like to do or see if you were to come back to campus to visit us.

Cordially,  
Cristanne Miller

## Congratulations!

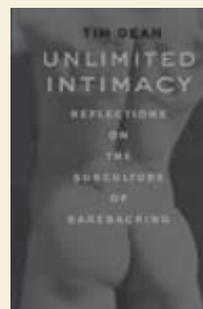


Associate Professor **Carla Mazzio** won the 2010 Roland H. Bainton Prize for Literature for *The Inarticulate Renaissance: Language Trouble in an Age of Eloquence* (2009). The Bainton Prize is an annual reward given by the 16th Century Society and recognizes the best book published in English during the preceding year in any literature field from 1450-1660.



Associate Professor **Andrew Stott** has now won 2 additional national prizes for his recent book, *The Pantomime Life of Joseph Grimaldi: Laughter, Madness, and the Story of Britain's Greatest Comedian* (Canongate 2009): the George Freedley Memorial Award and the Sheridan Morely Prize for Theatre Biography. It was also finalist for the Society for Theatre Research

Book Prize. Stott is currently the Mrs. Giles Whiting Fellow at the Cullman Center for Scholars & Writers at the New York Public Library (2010-2011).



Professor and Director of the Humanities Institute **Tim Dean's** book *Unlimited Intimacy* (2009) was chosen as one of “The Top 10 Books of 2009: Gay and Lesbian” by [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), the only university press book to make this list.

## Victorian Studies at UB

With the hiring of Rachel Ablow in 2006, Kate Brown as Visiting Professor in 2009, and Joseph Valente in 2010, the English Department now provides a solid core of courses in 19thC British fiction and culture. These faculty resources are strengthened by our membership in the annual Dickens Universe and by our leading participation in the regional Victorian Studies Research Group (VSRG), co-founded by Ablow and Claudia Klaver (Syracuse University) in 2002. The group meets once a semester for a day-long workshop to discuss pre-circulated work in progress. Meetings rotate between Syracuse, University of Rochester, and UB campuses. This fall's meeting took place in September at UB.



Rachel Ablow

**Associate Professor Rachel Ablow**, who is currently serving as our Director of Undergraduate Studies, is the editor of the first collection of criticism devoted to the problem of reading in Victorian literature. *The Feeling of Reading: Affective Experience and Victorian Literature* is forthcoming from The University of Michigan Press. The collection focuses on Victorian reading practices and the individual experience of reading in the nineteenth century.



## The Dickens Universe

Held every year at the beginning of August on the beautiful UC Santa Cruz campus, the Dickens Universe brings together scholars, graduate students, high school teachers, and members of the general public for a week of study and conviviality. The program includes formal lectures by distinguished scholars, seminars, small discussion groups, films, performances, and exhibits. The Universe provides a unique forum for scholarly discussion and debate, as well as a rare opportunity to engage with non-scholars who share a passion for Victorian literature, in general, and for Charles Dickens, in particular.

Each summer, the program focuses on a different Dickens novel. This past summer's novel was *Oliver Twist*. Visiting Assistant Professor Kate Brown and Associate Professor Rachel Ablow co-taught a mini-graduate seminar. In Ablow's words, "The Dickens Universe provides an extraordinary opportunity for our graduate students to share their interest in one of the Victorian period's greatest novelists through the intellectual exchange of studying, teaching, and living together."

If you are interested in attending the Universe as a member of the general public, please contact Ablow at [rablow@buffalo.edu](mailto:rablow@buffalo.edu).

More information about the Dickens Universe can be found at: <http://dickens.ucsc.edu/universe/universe.html>.

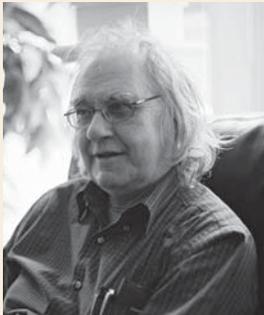
*Participating in the Dickens Universe was an amazing and critical experience for me as a reader of Dickens' works and as an educator. During the Universe I team-taught with another scholar. This taught me an invaluable lesson about how to negotiate differing pedagogic approaches. The environment of the Dickens Universe is electric. Everyone, from undergraduates to faculty members, is excited to be there. I maintain relationships I formed at the Universe to this day.*

*Megan Faragher, PhD student*

# GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

In 2010-2011, two **Dissertation Fellowships** for graduate students in their last year of study were made possible through generous donations by our alumni. This year, The Louis and Joan Slovisky Dissertation Fellowship and the Gray Chair Dissertation Fellowship were awarded to **Mike Hurst** and **Andrew Rippeon** respectively.

In addition, the Fall 2010 entering class of seventeen PhD students this year was awarded approximately \$175,000 of stipendiary per year, including 10 students with full Teaching Assistantships. Two were awarded College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) four-year **Presidential Fellowships**, two were awarded CAS four-year **Dean's Fellowships**, and one student received a **Schomburg Award**. The Presidential Fellowship is CAS's most competitive award and the English Department is proud to receive at least one of these awards for its students every year. The **Arthur A. Schomburg Fellowship** offers support for historically underrepresented students. In addition, we admitted three students with **Fulbright Grants** for one to one and a half years of graduate study: Chih-wei Hsu is joining us from Taiwan National Chingchi University (BA); Kyung-ran Park comes to us from Korea University (BA); and Shosuke Kinguawa has an MA from Hokkaido University, Japan.

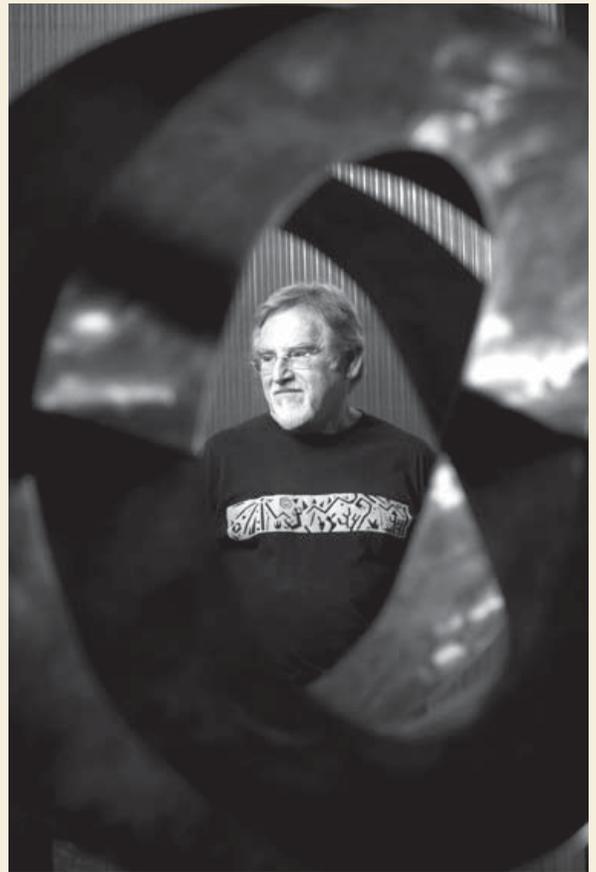


As the holder of the endowed David Gray Chair in Poetics and Letters, poet and poet-critic **Steve McCaffery** supports many student projects in the Department's renowned Poetics Program, and he finances a one-year dissertation fellowship (at \$4000) for a student working in poetry of any period from this

generous endowment. Professor McCaffery's recent publications include *Verse and Worse: Selected and New Poems, 1989-2009* (Laurier University Press, 2010); *Paradigm of the Tinctures* (with illustrations by Alan Halsey, Argoist eBooks, 2010); and *Every Way Oakly. Homophonic Translations from Stein's Tender Buttons* (Bookthug, 2008).

**Louis Slovisky** (BA English, 1961) is a former corporate executive turned sculptor/ painter/ writer. Slovisky enrolled at UB in 1957, working nights at Buffalo General Hospital and summers at Bethlehem Steel. He fondly remembers one of his favorite professors in English at UB, Professor Oscar Silverman (1903–1977) of English and the Libraries, as “a man of sharp wit and great grace.” After building a successful career in the art of communication (he was senior vice president of corporate communications at HBO when he retired), he began taking art lessons, eventually becoming an accomplished sculptor and painter with regular shows throughout New York State.

<http://slovinskysculpture.blogspot.com/>



# GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS



**Mike Hurst**, winner of the 2010 Louis and Joan Slovisky Dissertation Fellowship and of a 2009-2010 UB Graduate Excellence in Teaching Award, is a Dean's Fellowship holder in our program. He graduated summa cum laude with high honors in English literature from the University of Cincinnati, where he also grew up.

After taking a break of eight years, he became a manager for the Principal Financial Group. This, however, was never his dream, and he literally walked off the job on his 30th birthday to pursue his dream of becoming a professor of English literature by beginning the application process to PhD programs. After being accepted to a number of schools, he chose to enroll in UB's English PhD program. He has never regretted this decision. Six years in, he is still as enthusiastic about the English Department as he was when a first-year student. The program has exceeded all his expectations and is, in his words, "wonderful" because of "the caliber of the faculty, their accessibility, and their encouragement to engage in original thought that often pushes the boundaries of the field, coupled with an insistence upon intellectual rigor." He has also fallen in love with Buffalo to such an extent that he would like nothing better than to teach at one of the local universities as a permanent career. Whether that happens or not, he and his wife currently plan to retire in this city because they love its mix of cultural richness and working class values. He is currently completing his dissertation titled "Bodies of Knowledge: The Material Soul of Transcendentalist Epistemology." In this thesis, Mike demonstrates the central role that the body plays in Transcendentalist epistemology. He argues that for Transcendentalists who enjoy social power due to their race, class, and gender, like Emerson and Thoreau, the body largely presents problems of perception—accurate reportage—and purity. On the other hand, those who try to adopt Transcendentalist ideas that are positioned as Other due to race or gender, like Frederick Douglass and Margaret Fuller, primarily experience the problem of the body as one of social contestation. If, due to the realities of the job market, his dream job as an English professor fails to materialize, Mike will pursue a career as an electrician and write fiction in his spare time.



**Andrew Rippeon**, winner of the 2010 David Gray Chair Dissertation Fellowship and Presidential Fellowship holder, is currently editor of the journal *P-Queue* (2007–2010) and of *QUEUE* Books (2007–present). Before arriving in Buffalo, Andrew earned his BA in English from the University of Delaware, after studying anatomy and physiology

for three years at the same school in pursuit of a degree in animal science.

After a year of extensive domestic travel (including a cross-country trip by car lasting nearly a month and a half, and culminating in a volunteer stint on the Navajo reservation in Tohatchi, NM), Andrew earned his MA from the University of Chicago (with a thesis on the mid-career work of Robert Creeley). Over the last four years in Buffalo, he has found both the city and the university to be extremely energizing with regard to their academic and artistic communities, and his engagements in both have mutually reinforced one another. Andrew is currently completing his dissertation, tentatively titled "Lyric Resource" about the spoken, aural, and sonic qualities of lyric. The project considers the critical and social-political value of poetic sound, and offers a historical survey of lyric theory through the study of contemporary poets such as Larry Eigner, Jayne Cortez, and Kamau Brathwaite. Andrew's research includes extensive investigations into the archival records of these poets, and rare and one-of-a-kind original audio-recordings. In 2008, he co-founded with Siobhan Scarry the Graduate Poetics Group, which provides funding for students interested in Poetics and functions as a repository for student input to Poetics programming and curricula. Andrew lives in Buffalo with his partner and their hound dog Mabel.



**Divya Victor**, a Doubrava fellowship holder, studies Poetics and postcolonial/transnational literature and theory in the Department. After getting her MA at Temple University, Divya came to UB to work with Myung Mi Kim, current Director of

the Poetics program and a poet, Divya states, "whose book *The Bounty* was the first work that launched for me the possibility of a life spent in studying and practicing in the field. Steve McCaffery's scholarship and eclectic, baroque approach to inquiry has been a singular influence in constructing new possibilities for critical study and historical methodology within the intersecting fields of poetics and philosophy and his presence in the Program as the Gray Chair has been important to my time here as well. I have also had the great privilege of working with remarkably generous and adventurous scholars and teachers like Bill Solomon, whose seminar radically changed my approach to the modernist novel. Without doubt, I have found these particular members of the faculty to be unstintingly generous in making room for risks I wish to take in my own projects and present dissertation."

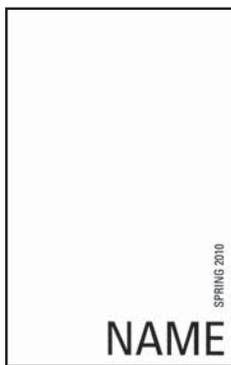
Divya has two new chapbooks: *SUTURES* from Little Red Leaves and a transcriptive joke-text parody entitled *Hellocasts By Charles Reznikoff by Divya Victor by Vanessa Place* from Ood Press--in the model of Andy Warhol's Factory and community of production. Her installation *HELLOCASTS*, which deals with trauma, historical transcription, and the branding of the "Holocaust Industry," was recently curated by Les Figs Press at L.A.C.E Gallery in Los Angeles. Divya is also a poet and a Teaching-Artist with Just Buffalo Literary Center's "Writing with Light" program and works with young writers in Buffalo's public schools.

The Department continues its long tradition of devotion to undergraduate teaching and the undergraduate student body, as noted by its frequent winning of **teaching awards** by graduate Teaching Assistants and faculty. In 2010, Tim Bryant and Mike Hurst won UB Graduate Excellence in Teaching Awards, and Andrew Stott won a SUNY Chancellor Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Last year, the Department also joined the **SIGMA TAU DELTA: The International English Honor Society**, and inducted nine members. We now have 35 students in our departmental honors program, and another 53 students are eligible for departmental honors.

*My time in the UB Honor's program served as my entry point into serious academic study. I took Professor Ablow's course on Gothic literature, and the novels we read helped to shape the interests I hope to pursue in graduate school. The small seminar format allowed all of us to bring our ideas into a persistent dialogue. I think it's a crucial experience for English students as they approach graduation.*

*Michael Mott, Honors student, (BA, 2011)*



**NAME**, an annual literary magazine, publishes poetry and short fiction from currently enrolled UB undergraduates. Students from the English Department as well as other related departments take an active role in the editorial and production aspects of the magazine. The primary mission of NAME is to encourage and foster a thriving and vital community of undergraduate creative writers at the University at Buffalo. Many thanks to the following students who served as editors for the Spring

2010 issue of NAME: Matt Allison, Xicong Chen, Matt Kotula, Michael Tyson, and Peter Vullo. Faculty Advisor: Myung Mi Kim, Professor of English and Director of Poetics.

## Teaching Students to Dream:



Christina Milletti

### Launching the New Creative Writing Focus

The Department of English is pleased to announce the launch of a new Creative Writing Focus for our undergraduates. A new 6-course curriculum will help give young writers the skills they need to develop their practice of poetry and fiction significantly. By taking both

writing workshops from the introductory to advanced levels and courses in contemporary literature, student writers will become immersed in the idea of writing as a discipline, as an active way of looking at, and inserting themselves into, the world around them.

As 2010 Nobel Prize winner Mario Vargas Llosa once noted: "You cannot teach creativity—how to become a good writer. But you can help a young writer discover within himself what kind of writer he would like to be." Director of the new focus, Christina Milletti, says, "Our aim is to help students find the words that will allow them to share their own unique imaginative universe."

As senior English major Nicolas Nowak reflects: "The way the professors have organized the program has been enormously helpful to a novice student of writing. I've heard stories about creative writing programs that are geared toward making you write a certain way, courses that get you to write like Stephen King for instance. Happily, that isn't the case with the new Creative Writing Focus. The professors push us to get better, not by trying to make us write like someone else, but to write the way we write better." Todd Natti (UB 2005) wishes he'd had the same opportunity. Todd, who recently earned his MFA in fiction from Emerson College and now teaches writing in the Finger Lakes region, writes: "As a former student, I'm extremely jealous. Current students with a desire to write will now have a new great benefit within the department."

For more information about the new Creative Writing Focus, contact Christina Milletti, at [Milletti@buffalo.edu](mailto:Milletti@buffalo.edu) or join the Focus' new Facebook page at:

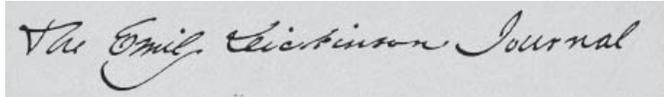
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/University-at-Buffalo-Creative-Writing-Focus/142012485844010>.

We are seeking to strengthen all parts of the undergraduate program, and welcome your support in the form of service, providing internships, mentoring, and donations. If you would like to become more involved in helping our undergraduate students, please contact Cristanne Miller at [ccmiller@buffalo.edu](mailto:ccmiller@buffalo.edu).

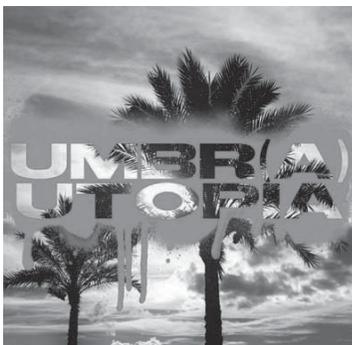
# SMALL PRESS ACTIVITY

## Journals Published in the English Department

UB's English Department may be unique in offering students the possibility to design, edit, and produce journals of creative and scholarly work. It also offers graduate students the unusual opportunity to work on an international peer-reviewed journal as a managing editor for two years. Here are journals appearing in print in the department during 2010-2011.



**The Emily Dickinson Journal**, edited by Cristanne Miller, showcases the writing and life of Emily Dickinson in relation to nineteenth-century writers and culture and from current theoretical and critical perspectives. The journal appears twice a year, and features work by the most distinguished scholars in the field and by graduate students making their first foray into publication. Recent special issues of the journal have included "Poets on the Poetry of Emily Dickinson" (including brief pieces by Susan Howe and Steve McCaffery) and "Emily Dickinson's Reading" (with essays on Dickinson and Darwin, Keats, and popular fiction writers whom Henry James disparaged as the "Azarian School"). Two graduate students work with Miller every year, as managing editors of the journal, helping with correspondence, copy-editing, securing permissions from authors, and preparing the issue for printing at Johns Hopkins University press. Current Managing Editors are Justin Parks and Allison Siehnel.



**UMBR(a): a journal of the unconscious** is published by the Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Culture. It includes long and short essays, translations, film and book reviews, conference reports, photos, photograms, jokes – any evidence of the unconscious. It is committed to rigorous debate and prizes the

surprise encounters with truths beyond knowledge. It is conceived not as a periodical, but as an unpredictable. It has no schedule of publication, no regular format, and no set columns. Since the journal has no staff writers, contributors who are interested in psychoanalysis are urged to become its sites of "floating attention," and to contribute to future issues whatever and whenever they can.



**"Wild Orchids"** (edited by Sean Reynolds and Robert Dewhurst) is an annual journal of affective/inspired forms in literary criticism. Its issues hope to reencounter, write close to, and trace the unlit flows of our favorite writers, in volumes centered around single authors. The most recent issue featured the writing of Hannah Weiner.

<http://wildorchids.endingthealphabet.org/>

**"Kadar Koli"** (edited by David Hadbawnik) seeks to publish work by young poets who have not yet published a full-length book, as well as small gems by more established poets who have not found another outlet.

[Website http://habenichtpress.com/](http://habenichtpress.com/)

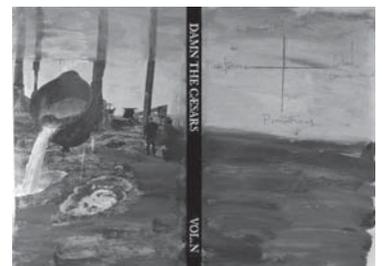


**"P-Queue"** (edited by Andrew Rippeon) is a fine press printed journal of poetry, poetics, and innovative prose.

[Website: http://www.p-queue.org/](http://www.p-queue.org/)

**"Damn the Caesars"** (edited by Richard Owens) is a journal of contemporary poetry and poetics committed to fostering a transnational, transoceanic dialogue among poets, artists, and critics.

[Website: http://damnthecaesars.org](http://damnthecaesars.org)



# SMALL PRESS ACTIVITY

**Becoming Poetics: An Online Journal** (edited by Associate Professor Ming-Qian Ma) and developed by the Poetics Affiliated Group at UB functions as a forum for articulating, disseminating, and archiving exploratory and innovative thinking on poetics by UB's faculty and graduate students, and eventually by poets and scholars nationally and internationally. The journal aims to encourage and promote works that imagine, explore, create, articulate, and conceptualize a new discourse on emerging interdisciplinary poetics in the contexts of the twenty-first century. To this end, it publishes "entries," that is short passages, paragraph statements, or segments of thinking that capture the fleeting insights or the flickering sparks of acumen on poetics in the interstices between academic and creative discourse. At present, *Becoming Poetics* is available only to those on the UB server, but it plans to go public soon.

**theory@buffalo:** an interdisciplinary journal of the humanities housed in the department of Comparative Literature, also offers editing opportunities for our graduate students. Issue 14 on the subject of "Territory & Thought" (Spring 2010) was co-edited by Joshua Lam (English) and Phillip Campanile (Comparative Lit) and includes a book review by Guy Witzel (English), as well as work by important scholars such as Elizabeth Grosz, Catherine Malabou, and Krzysztof Ziarek. [Website: http://wings.buffalo.edu/theory/](http://wings.buffalo.edu/theory/)

## OBITUARY: MYLES SLATIN



**Obituary: Myles Slatin**, emeritus professor of English at UB, passed away in May 2010 after a long illness. Professor Slatin earned his doctorate at Yale University with a study on Ezra Pound, then moved to Buffalo in 1952 when he became an associate professor at UB. He taught

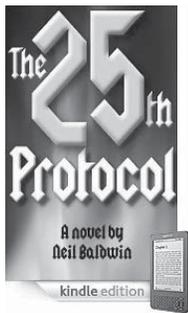
Romantic and modern poetry and was an early proponent of women writers such as Louisa May Alcott and feminist activists such as Margaret Sanger. He also explored current authors and popular fiction in his classes. Active in UB's transition into the State University of New York system, he helped recruit numerous prestigious faculty to the department. He was director of Lockwood Library from 1969 to 1973, during a period of student protests and unrest. An avid art collector and patron of local artists, he focused almost entirely on art after he retired in 1994. He took drawing and painting classes at UB and rented a studio on the West Side to pursue his art.

**Debora Meadows** (BA, 1977) remembers Professor Slatin: "Myles was a gifted teacher who influenced many of us. He encouraged my poetry, writing pointed and thoughtful responses to my early efforts as well as to my completed books. He avidly discussed the work of Paul Celan and took up painting later in life. He was a person of great joy and very affirming of people but also someone who knew about the darker elements of life. In his classes, he was one of the first to teach works by and about women writers. In one of those courses, for a final research project, he suggested I might be interested in reading works by Emma Goldman, which the library housed. He will be greatly missed."



**Ansie Baird** (MA, 1980): In April 2010, Ansie was recognized by the UB Poetry Collection with *Three Poems*, a publication honoring poets living in Buffalo. In 2008, her book *In Advance of All Parting* (2009) won the White Pine Press poetry competition. Ansie edits *Earth's Daughters*

literary magazine, the longest running women's publication in the country; the *Earth's Daughters* Collection of manuscripts, letters, and ephemeral materials is held in the UB Poetry Collection. This summer, she was a Poet in Residence at the Chautauqua Institution, where she conducted a five-day poetry workshop, gave a public reading and a lecture.



**Neil Baldwin** (PhD, 1973) is currently Professor of Theatre and Dance at Montclair State University, where he is also Director of The Creative Research Center [www.montclair.edu/creativeresearch](http://www.montclair.edu/creativeresearch). A native New Yorker, he has published biography and historical and critical nonfiction in the analog world for three decades. This year, his first novel, *The 25th Protocol*, was published on Amazon Kindle.

**Ben Cady** (BA, 2001) is in his second year at NYU Law School. He has found that studying English at UB was good preparation for the study of law, and he has many fond memories of the *Spectrum* and the great professors and students in the English Department. This past summer, he worked for the Justice Department's Environmental Enforcement Section in Washington. Now he is enrolled in the Immigrant Rights Clinic and a staff editor on the *Review of Law and Social Change*.

**Rick Coughlin** (BA, 1978) is Vice President of Security Credit Systems, Inc. in Buffalo, New York with direct responsibility for business technology decisions, systems development, and computer operations. During the personal computer revolution of the 80's, Rick was able to leverage the skills he developed at UB in the role of technical manager for Keane Inc., a Fortune 500 consulting firm. "Without the benefit of formal IT training, it was my ability to serve as a 'middleman' between technical specialists and customers that set me apart," Rick conveyed. "Communication, documentation, proposal writing, and interpreting requirements are a major part of a consulting engagement. Writing lesson plans as a student teacher helped me to be focused and effective in learning on my own." Rick founded Peak Technologies 'Engineered Software and Documentation' in 1990. Before it was sold to a German company

in 2002, Peak Technologies developed software for many local organizations including Bank of America, the City of Buffalo, National Fuel Gas, and The Tanning Bed.

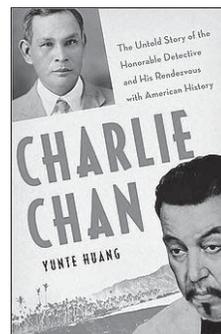
**Sandra Donaldson**, (BA, 1968), Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor at the University of North Dakota, is one of the world's top scholars of Elizabeth Barrett Browning. She recently attended the London launch of her latest book, a 5-volume *Works of Elizabeth Barrett Browning*. There had not been a complete scholarly edition of this influential author's works for over a century.



Sandra also recently unearthed a previously unknown manuscript of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's "Sonnets from the Portuguese" in a manuscript notebook that had been in private hands since 1915. No other draft of any of the sonnets has previously come to light, which makes this the discovery of the earliest known manuscript of the sonnet sequence. "Sonnets from

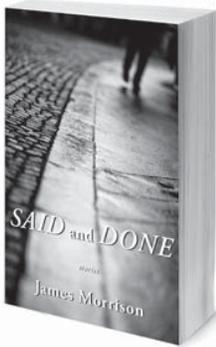
the Portuguese" was composed by Barrett Browning during her courtship with Robert Browning, which began in January 1845 with a letter from him and resulted in their marriage in September 1846. Sandra is also the co-editor (with Philip Kelley) of a collection of letters from Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning to a friend while they lived in Florence during the period of the Italian struggle for independence in the late 1840s and 50s: *The Letters of Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Robert Browning to Isa Blagden 1850-1861* (Wedgestone Press, 2009).

**Amy Dunkin** (BA, 1976) editor-in-chief of *The Spectrum* in 1975-76, is now director of academic operations at the City University of New York Graduate School of Journalism.



**Yunte Huang** (PhD, 1999) was a student at Beijing University in the late 1980s. After the protests in Tiananmen Square in 1989, he determined to leave China. After getting his PhD at UB, he spent four years teaching literature at Harvard before taking a position at the University of California, Santa Barbara where he now holds the rank of Professor. Huang's novel *Charlie Chan: The Untold Story of the Honorable Detective and His Rendezvous with American History* was released by W. W. Norton on August 12, 2010 and has been

widely acclaimed. Yunte Huang is also the author of *Transpacific Imaginations* (2008) and *Transpacific Displacement* (2002), and he is a nationally syndicated newspaper columnist. On November 5th, he gave a talk at the Albright-Knox on his new novel.



**James Morrison** (PhD, 1988) published a collection of short stories in 2009, *Said and Done* (Dzanc Books/Black Lawrence Press), which was a finalist for a Lambda Literary Award and winner of the ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Award in short fiction. He was recently promoted to Professor of Literature and Film Studies at Claremont McKenna College, and also teaches in the Intercollegiate Media Studies Program of the Claremont

Colleges consortium and at the Claremont Graduate University. Morrison is also the author of a memoir, *Broken Fever*, and a novel, *The Lost Girl*. His fiction and nonfiction have been cited in both the *Best American Short Stories* and *Best American Essays* anthologies.



**Ted Pelton** (PhD, 1992) Post-PhD, Ted moved to Wisconsin to take a sabbatical replacement job at Ripon College and then a tenure track position at Lakeland College. After winning an NEA Fellowship in Fiction and starting work on his first novel,

*Malcolm & Jack (and Other Famous American Criminals)*, however, he moved back to Buffalo in an effort to live cheaply and finish the novel. He began teaching at Medaille College of Buffalo, where he is now Professor and Chair of the Humanities Department.



Three more books have followed: a novella, *Bhang*; a collection of short stories, *Endorsed by Jack Chapeau*, now in an expanded second edition; and another novella, *Bartleby, the Sportscaster*. *Endorsed by Jack Chapeau* was the first book published by the small press Ted founded in 2000, Starcherone ("start your own") Books. Ted began Starcherone to publish his first collection of short stories,

but after Raymond Federman offered the press the opportunity to reprint his *The Voice in the Closet*, the press expanded and became a nonprofit corporation in 2003. Starcherone has now published two

dozen titles and is considered one of the top publishers in the US for innovative and experimental fiction. Ted's own writing career has also had success. In 2006, Buffalo Spree magazine awarded him Best Fiction Writer in its annual Best of WNY issue, and in 2008, Ted won an Isherwood Fellowship. Ted married UB English Assistant Professor Susan Muchshima Moynihan in May 2008, and their daughter, Sophia Boonyen Pelton, was born in July, 2009. You can see more of what he is up to by visiting his writing website, [tedpelton.com](http://tedpelton.com), or the press website, [starcherone.com](http://starcherone.com), or by looking him up on Facebook.

**Charlotte Pressler** (PhD, 2002) teaches at South Florida Community College where she specializes in English and Philosophy, and directs the Honors and service-learning programs. True to her commitment to both pedagogy and civic engagement, she has been participating in an oral history pilot project spearheaded by the Historical Society of Avon Park: "Decades of Change: Black and White Residents of Avon Park Recall Their Memories of the 1940s, '50s, and '60s." Very little oral history has been documented from the rural South during this period, so the focus on Avon Park, a very small town in rural, citrus-and-cattle South Florida, offers a new and important perspective. An associated exhibit will take place at the Museum of Florida Art and Culture <http://mofac.org/programs/decades-of-change-2/>. Charlotte has also been helping to run a service-learning project that sends Honors students in science, technology, engineering, and math down to the Highlands County Agricultural Extension, where the University of Florida is running a research program on biofuels crops. She has recently received a grant from Florida Campus Compact to organize a day-long meeting on biofuels, the economy, solar panels, and green jobs, and she is active in state and regional professional associations. Charlotte is also the proud owner of a "historic" Craftsman bungalow dating to about 1924 that she is slowly rehabilitating, and she grows citrus, figs, and pomegranates in her backyard.

**Brendan Quinn** (BA, 1981) writes: “These days I often return to Buffalo, to visit my son, a lawyer with the Mayor’s Office, and my daughter, a freshman at Buffalo State College. And of course when I return to Buffalo, I also return in memory to the four years I spent there in the late 1970’s, pursuing a degree in English. And I remember my last summer there when I took a course on Shakespeare with Fred See, the last of a number of courses I took with Fred, one of the consistently great English professors I had at UB, a list that includes but is not limited to Neil Schmitz, Joe Fradin, Dick Fly and Robert Daly. I am forever grateful to those professors, not only for the knowledge they imparted but even more for the passion they brought to their profession and to their classes. It was in those classes that Joe Fradin taught me to love Dickens, Dick Fly helped me to discover Shakespeare and Neil Schmitz and Bob Daly brought to life a love for American literature (especially Hawthorne and Willa Cather) that continues to this day. Nowadays I make my living as a lawyer but my passion remains literature. And although I have not yet been able to achieve the merging of avocation and vocation that Frost speaks of, I know that my time in Clemens Hall with those professors helps me everyday, if only to maintain my sanity. When I left Buffalo I swore I would never go back. Now I return at every opportunity, not only to visit my children, but also simply to be there. Buffalo does seem to grow on you, at least it does for me. It is said that Mark Twain (who spent two years in Buffalo, hence the naming of Clemens Hall) detested Buffalo, but I do not believe it. For when he was asked by a Buffalo librarian for a literary gift, he happily sent the original manuscript of *Huckleberry Finn* that sits in the Mark Twain room of the Buffalo Public Library to this day. Now when I visit Buffalo, like a *‘flâneur’* of old, I like to walk around Delaware Park and remember when we met for class at Neil Schmitz’s house over on Crescent Ave. and when I rode my bike to the Albright-Knox for an art history course that met there. And I love to wander through the cozy galleries of the beautiful new Burchfield-Penney Museum at the Buffalo State Campus or walk through the streets of the West Side or along the lakefront to immerse myself in the ‘dirty old town’ by the lake that I love so well. Buffalo, I know now, is a part of me, and I am a part of Her.”



**Juliana Spahr** (PhD, 1996) is close to completing a book on the literature of the 1990s. A scholarly and creative writer, she is also publishing “Well Then There Now” with Black Sparrow Press. With David Buuck, she is writing a book that tells the story of Demented

Panda and Koki, two friends who are writers in a time of war and ecological collapse. Last year, her book of poems *This Connection of Everyone with Lungs* was translated into Norwegian Nynorsk. With UB colleague Jena Osman (PhD, 1998), Juliana still co-edits *ChainLinks*, the latest incarnation of *Chain*, the journal they started while graduate students. Their most recent book is *Genocide in the Neighborhood*, a translation of a number of primary texts about the escrache movement in Argentina. Their next book will be “A Megaphone,” the bulk of which consists of some 75 responses collected over the last two years from writers around the globe in response to some questions about feminism and writing. Juliana writes, “Last summer, I co-organized with Joshua Clover the group hug that was the 95 Cent Skool, a week-long seminar in poetry and its relationship to struggle. We are inviting people to join us in the Durruti Free Skool project for summer of 2011.”

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To sign up for the alumni listserv, please email Sophia Canavos at [scanavos@buffalo.edu](mailto:scanavos@buffalo.edu)



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