

SPRING/SUMMER 2010

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DEPARTMENT OF
ENGLISH
NEWSLETTER

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



David Schmid

Newsletters, which aims to give you a sense of the extraordinary range of activities that take place within our department.

We begin with profiles of two of our most accomplished faculty members. Dennis Tedlock, a SUNY Distinguished Professor and the James McNulty Chair of English, has enjoyed a distinguished career that has influenced a variety of fields, from poetics to anthropology. Andy Stott has had an amazing year, including winning a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching (making him the seventh current English faculty member to win this award) and publishing an award-winning book on the clown Joseph Grimaldi that has received a great deal of attention.

We also look ahead to the arrival of a new faculty member, Joseph Valente, who brings wide-ranging expertise in the fields of modernism, Joyce, and disability studies. He will undoubtedly add much to our department's resources in these areas, as well as acting as a significant draw for potential graduate students.

The presence of international visiting scholars adds an important dimension to the intellectual culture of our department and so we are pleased to also include in this issue the reflections of two of our recent fellows, Ein-Sik Chang and Xiaohong Cai, on their time in Buffalo. We are proud of the fact that our alumni network extends to many different countries around the world and we look forward to extending that network even further in the future.

Although we take great pride in the professional accomplishments and activities of our faculty members, graduate students, and undergraduate students, some of which are also documented in this newsletter, the Spring semester is especially notable for the achievement of our graduating seniors, who go on to jobs in a wide variety of fields. We are therefore pleased to also include in this issue excerpts from the remarks made at this year's English Department Commencement Ceremony by one of our exceptional graduating students, Jennifer Lewis.

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Buffalo! I am writing this column as I come to the end of my one-year term as Interim Chair of UB's English Department. I'm not quite sure that my learning curve has slowed down but I am convinced that it has been an educational and enjoyable experience! The reasons for my conviction can be found in the pages of this Spring/Summer 2010 Department

As I survey this record of what goes on in the Department, I think the most amazing thing is that all of this energy and activity continues to take place under the shadow of the most difficult financial situation UB in general and the English Department in particular has ever had to face. The fact that the various members of our community continue to achieve at such a high level is a tribute not only to their energy and intelligence but also to the efforts of our alumni, whose achievements we are also proud to detail, and whose generous contributions make so much of what we do possible. Now more than ever, support from our alumni plays an absolutely crucial role in the life of UB English and so, whether you have donated in the past, or whether you are planning to do so in the future: thank you.

Remember, alumni now have a variety of ways of staying in touch with us and joining in the events we sponsor. Our department website (www.english.buffalo.edu) keeps you informed about who is coming to campus, and our Facebook site updates you on events as well as news items relating to our faculty, students, and alumni (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Buffalo-NY/University-at-Buffalo-Department-of-English/148392333825?ref=ts>). We would love to see you at any of our events, and we encourage you to contact us with your questions, memories, and ideas about how we can better serve your needs.

It has been a privilege to serve UB English as Interim Chair. During this year I have had the pleasure of being in touch with many of our alumni and I look forward to many more such contacts in the years to come.

Best wishes,
David Schmid

FEATURED FACULTY



Dennis Tedlock

Dennis Tedlock's newest work, *2000 Years of Mayan Literature*, released in January 2010 by the University of California Press, is in many ways the embodiment of a diverse career. The book encapsulates art history, anthropology, linguistics, and poetry. Investigating Mayan writing in all its aspects, from glyphs to graffiti to the alphabetic texts, *2000 Years of Mayan Literature* illustrates the mind of a Mayan scribe, inviting the reader, for a time, to inhabit the world of the Maya with an intimacy that is astounding. The spectacularly designed book illuminates the Mayan culture with an insight and creativity that reflects the unorthodox career of its author.

Raised in New Mexico, Tedlock began investigating different cultures while still in high school, studying under the Chochti artist Joe Herrera, exploring Pueblo Indian villages, and journeying south into Mexico. When he entered the University of New Mexico, he majored in both art history and anthropology, and used this diverse training to draw and photograph newly-discovered Anasazi murals during the summer. His research led him to graduate study in ethnography and linguistics at Tulane University in New Orleans.

While working on his doctoral research, Tedlock grappled with the problem of accurately recording the creativity and complexity of Zuni storytellers. Unhappy with prose adaptations that often condensed a complex tradition into a block of abstracted text, Tedlock wanted to maintain the context of the storyteller by capturing elements of the performance. Much was lost in simplified prose. Tedlock's solution was indicative of his wide-ranging interests. He turned to contemporary poetic theory. Using the work of poet Charles Olson as a starting point, he began to translate the work of Zuni storytellers into projective verse, which was able to catch subtleties of the art that prose obscured. Tedlock was able to record changes in tempo, pauses, meaningful repetitions, and musical phrases that would have been ignored in a prose translation. The resulting translations of Zuni stories were collected in *Finding the Center: The Art of the Zuni Storyteller*, a groundbreaking work that was described in *Newsweek* as "A brilliant gathering of Zuni narrative poetry. Tedlock's Zuni narrators seem like singers of some pueblo *Beowulf*, orchestrating traditions with voices they use like instruments." The book was nominated for a National Book Award.

When Tedlock met the poet Jerome Rothenberg, who had published his landmark anthology, *Technicians of the Sacred* in 1968, they began editing the journal *Alcheringa*. *Alcheringa* became the voice of ethnopoetics, a poetics interested in cultural interchange. Contributors not only used current avant-garde poetic theory to re-investigate other traditions, but also used these other traditions to produce new work. In the opening issue, the editors wrote that one of the purposes of the magazine was "to enlarge our understanding of what a poem may be." Through 13 issues and two series, *Alcheringa* published contemporary and ancient poets from dozens of cultures in this light, demonstrating the possibilities of literary art through poetry, artwork, and recorded performances, pushing through the boundaries of what was considered art and what was not. Publishing poets as diverse as Ron Silliman and Gary Snyder, Anne Waldman and Jackson MacLow, *Alcheringa* was also a touchstone for contemporary poetics, and, from 1975 to 1980, investigated poetic production from many cultures with endless creativity. In 1977, *Alcheringa* won the Pushcart Prize.

Tedlock's next project turned south of the border to Guatemala. He worked with the K'iche people of Guatemala to produce a new translation of the New World masterpiece, the *Popol Vuh*. During field work, conducted along with his wife, Barbara, also an anthropologist, he was trained as a Mayan daykeeper and diviner. His insights into the people and traditions of the living Mayans led to his groundbreaking translation of the *Popol Vuh*. Richly annotated with ethnological data, the text illuminated one of the great works of world literature. The *Popol Vuh* won the PEN translation prize in 1986 and is a key document in the study of the Americas.

In 1987, Tedlock accepted the McNulty Chair in English here at the University of Buffalo. Tedlock joined Robert Creeley, Charles Bernstein, Susan Howe, Raymond Federman, and Robert Berthoff to form the Poetics Program in 1990. The Poetics Program, known as one of the premiere programs for the study of contemporary poetics, has brought many poets to Buffalo, including Robert Grenier, David Antin, Simon Ortiz, Arthur Sze, Cecilia Vicuña, and Gary Snyder, to name only a few.

Encouraging the study of a poetics of interchange, both between cultures and disciplines, Tedlock's work exists in an area between languages and disciplines, between image and text, between design and meaning. His current work, *The Afterlife of Architecture*, explores the boundaries between photography and text, between an abstract aesthetics and a grounded curiosity. Dennis Tedlock's work continues to test boundaries, to find creativity in the borders between language and image, between cultures and disciplines. In the Mayan language, the term *tz'ib* means both writing and sculpture, both text and image. Dennis Tedlock's work continues to embody the principle of discourse between artistic disciplines, finding the center they share.

Ben Bedard

FEATURED FACULTY



Andy Stott's book *The Pantomime Life of Joseph Grimaldi: Laughter, Madness and the Story of Britain's Greatest Comedian* has won the 2010 Sheridan Morley Prize for Theatre Biography.

The award was judged by the actor Dame Eileen Atkins, theatre critic Susannah Clapp, and the biographer Michael Holroyd, who was also last year's winner. Chair of the judges, Ruth Leon, said: "The Grimaldi book gave us not just a picture of a clown,

not just a picture of a man, not just a picture of a family, not just a picture of the theatre, but a picture of London eighteenth-century life."

The book is a biography of Joseph Grimaldi (1778-1837) the first Clown to use white-face make-up and wear outrageous colored clothes, and one of the first celebrity comedians, whose many friends included Lord Byron and the actor Edmund Kean. But beneath the greasepaint, Grimaldi struggled with depression, his first wife died in childbirth, his son drank himself to death, and in later life, the extreme physicality of his performances left him disabled and in constant pain. If the story sounds familiar, it's because Grimaldi invented it, for out of the fertile contradiction suggested by his professional and personal lives sprang the abiding popular image of the "sad clown", the comedian whose humor is built upon a foundation of suffering and depression. In his book, Stott seeks to return Grimaldi to his place within the raucous and colorful theatre of Georgian London, complete with its frequent riots and spectacular excesses, while also assessing the impact of Grimaldi on the formation of modern attitudes towards comedy.

As well as winning this most recent prize, *Grimaldi* won the Royal Society of Literature/Jerwood Award for Non-fiction (chaired by Hermione Lee), and was also shortlisted for the Society for Theatre Research Book Prize. Last December, the book was also serialized as a BBC Radio 4 "Book of the Week", five episodes read by the British actor Kenneth Cranham (*Layer Cake*, and HBO's *Rome*).

Next year, Stott will be the Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellow at the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers, an international fellowship program designed for those whose work will benefit directly from access to the collections at the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building of the New York Public Library. His project continues with the theme of Romantic celebrity, although this time from the perspective of those who desperately sought it, but failed to attain it. Central to this work will be a discussion of the relationship between entertainment, marketing, publishing and industry, the supposed privileging of talent over heredity in the age of revolutions, and the formation of ideal personalities in print media. The key to this narrative, however, will be the story of Lord Byron's physician, John William Polidori, and their journey to Geneva in 1816, there to meet up with Claire Clairmont

and the Shelleys. Though extremely talented in his own right, Polidori found himself stifled and unable to thrive when exposed to the suffocating force of Byron's fame, ultimately entering a depression that ended with his suicide.

Meet Our New Faculty



Joseph Valente

Joseph Valente (PhD University of Pennsylvania, 1992) joins the UB English Department as a Professor in British modernism, Irish literature and culture from 1840 to the present and Cognitive Disability Studies. His writing has appeared in *Critical Inquiry*, *Diacritics*, *ELH*, *Novel*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, *Narrative*, *Style*, *Victorian Studies*, *Eire-Ireland* and *The James Joyce Quarterly*.

Professor Valente began his career at Tulane University, where he published *James Joyce and the Problem of Justice: Negotiating Sexual and Colonial Difference*, which was nominated for the Gustave O. Arldt Award in literary criticism. During his time at Tulane, he also developed a strong interest in collaborative research and has now crafted presentations, articles, edited collections and journal issues with eight different scholars.

In 1995, he moved to the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. During his tenure there, he published *Dracula's Crypt: Bram Stoker, Irishness and the Question of Blood* and the edited volumes *Quare Joyce* and *Disciplinary at the Fin de Siecle*. His new book *The Myth of Manliness in Irish National Culture, 1880-1922* will appear later this year, as will his latest editing venture, a special issue of *Eire-Ireland* entitled "Urban Ireland." While at Illinois, he discovered a passion for intellectual management: organizing conferences, speaker series, graduate student symposia, programs, etc. His passion coming for this kind of work stems from its facilitation of a sense of community that not only includes the students but also greatly enhances their training in and enjoyment of the literary profession.

We are thrilled to have Professor Valente at Buffalo for a number of reasons. He will help us attract even more top-notch graduate students in the areas of Modernism and Irish Studies and the presence of such a distinguished Joyce scholar will bring more attention to our world-class James Joyce archives. Moreover, Professor Valente's expertise in disability studies will give additional impetus to this burgeoning area of study. In short, Professor Valente's presence will be felt both inside and outside the classroom, and we are delighted to welcome him to UB!



And now Buffalo.... The Exhibit X Fiction Series Brings the &Now Conference of Innovative Writing & the Literary Arts to UB (October 14-17, 2009)

What do the postmodern novel and the English Department at the University at Buffalo have in common? Why, John Barth of course. Along with Donald Barthelme, J.M. Coetzee, Raymond Federman, and Samuel R. Delany. Each of them has played a significant role in shaping the face of contemporary fiction and at one time or another they each called Buffalo home.

Established in 2003, the Exhibit X Fiction Series was founded to showcase UB's long tradition of fostering new forms of fiction—most recently by hosting the biennial &NOW Conference of Innovative Writing & the Literary Arts in October 2009. A unique conference, &NOW brings together a wide array of writers and artists whose writing defies easy categorization. Whether as avant-garde, experimental, hybrid, cross-genre, or postmodern, the conference embraces writing that is drawn to linguistic playfulness as much as thorny social and political questions; fictions characterized by interdisciplinarity, intelligence, and humor; narratives that not only challenge the boundaries of a story's form...but the limits of fiction itself. Panels at the conference often evaluated what traits constitute genres as we know them—both aesthetic as well as historic divisions—and also examined the most significant issues contemporary writers are exploring today: for example, how socio-cultural currents have transformed the scene of fiction and how new technologies have come into play.



Dan Lesniak (2009 winner of the JCO Fiction prize) who read at the conference in fulfillment of a Morris grant.

These are all questions Exhibit X Directors Dimitri Anastasopoulos and Christina Milletti believed would elicit an animated dialogue in the unique, literary-rich environment of the Buffalo community. Many noted American and international writers attended. From distinguished prize winning writers such as Percival Everett, Nathaniel Mackey, Rikki Ducornet, Jorge Volpi, Steve McCaffery, Mary Caponegro and Joanna Scott, to young writers with impressive

publishing records such as Brian Evenson, Christine Hume, and Shelley Jackson, the Buffalo literary community swelled from October 14-17, 2009. A planned two-day event became a three day event shortly after the conference announcement was circulated. Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center (341 Delaware Avenue) generously offered their space to handle the unprecedented digital demands of writers exploring new technologies. And Buffalo's

profile as a hotbed of advanced innovative writing was firmly re-rooted within a new generation of authors, readers, and critics.



Percival Everett

The good news that arose from &NOW Buffalo is that there's still a lot going on in contemporary fiction...even in the face of a radically shrinking publishing sector and changes to print culture. Unusual, humorous, thought-provoking storytelling is still making in-roads in trade and small presses, in chapbooks, on-line, and in performance. At &NOW, there was a remarkable breadth of new fiction and new ideas about fiction: for instance, a novel told using a "tabletop augmented reality storytelling machine," a docu-fiction centered around a model-airplane exhibit, "Gurl-esque" readings, theories about "quantum narratology," and innumerable conversations about the place of the novel, short-short fiction, critifiction, visual prose and poetry, and digital literature. Even the sly creep of fiction into history textbooks and political news was the source of lively debate.

The dynamic scope of the discussions at &NOW Buffalo demonstrated that the place of innovative writing isn't merely on the margins. On the contrary, the overwhelming support of conference guests who made their way to Buffalo to take part in &NOW's panels, readings, and digital media presentations revealed that critical questions that energize innovative writing not only impact the genre as a whole but are also fundamental to its growth. Above all, however, the international array of &NOW Buffalo's guests—they came from as far as France, Poland, Mexico, Canada, and Brazil and as nearby as downtown Buffalo—confirms that UB remains at the very forefront of contemporary critical inquiry.

For more information about the Buffalo &NOW Conference, and to watch selected readings and panels, visit the Exhibit X Fiction Series website at www.english.buffalo.edu/exhibitx.

The Buffalo &NOW Conference was dedicated to Raymond Federman, UB Distinguished Emeritus Professor, who retired from the English Department in 1999 and died shortly before the &NOW Conference on October 6, 2009.

Commencement



English Graduation Ceremony

At the English Department 2010 Commencement ceremony, Jennifer Lewis spoke for the graduating seniors.

Excerpts from her remarks:

I must admit that I was pretty anxious to put this speech together. You'd think that after years of writing that my final piece would be the easiest of all. In fact, it has been the most difficult, as I was asked to address my peers and their families, as well as the professors

who have helped us reach our graduation from the University at Buffalo English department. . . .



Christina de Rosa

As English majors at UB, we have taken those intense passage-identification tests and written comparative analysis essays. On windy days, we have blown through the Clemens wind tunnel, and we have admired the sunshine and summer breeze on others. We have strolled down to South campus or Elmwood to Talking Leaves Bookstore to pick up our semester reading material. On other days, we have enjoyed an afternoon in a local coffee house talking about one of our English classes. . . .

Like many of you, I have been asked the question "so you want to be a teacher?" And have actually figured out an interesting response, if you'd like to hear it. "Actually, as an English major, there are a lot of things I'd be able to do with my degree. But I am *choosing* to become a teacher." . . .



Anna Ng

Some of our classmates will graduate and become world-renowned artists and writers. Others may become film directors, teachers, comedians, lawyers or even politicians. The reason for this array of options is that our skills in written and oral communication make us qualified applicants for jobs in many industries. These include

marketing, public relations, policy-making and technical writing. Further, our knowledge of a second language as required by our major will make us even more qualified. But regardless of where our paths may take us, we will all look back to our starting point: the University at Buffalo.

As English majors, we possess invaluable skills that will set us apart in any job interview. Here are three that seem to stand out the most. 1) We possess the ability to write, 2) the ability to analyze information, and 3) the ability to ask the right questions. Of course we would like to think that we have honed these skills independently, but that wouldn't be accurate. We are here today not only because of our determination to learn, but because of others' determination to teach and help us grow. . . .



Brian Flory and his wife

On Graduation day, I hope that you feel empowered to continue on to the next step of your lives after college and that you feel confident in what you have learned. As an English major, you have the skills that will prepare you for jobs and careers in many disciplines. Try not to be discouraged if graduate schools or employers shut the door

on you at first, and take this advice from Keith Olbermann: "Don't take it personally when they say 'no' — they may not be smart enough to say 'yes.'"

Rediscovering Nathaniel Hawthorne as a Poet



Ein-Sik Chang
Professor of English at Joongbu University in South Korea. Research Professor at UB from February, 2009 to February, 2010

Wondering what the weather would be like in Buffalo, my family and I came here on February 25, last year. But the weather was not as cold as I had expected. Many people that I met assured me that the weather of the winter, 2009, was warmer than the usual weather, which signified God's special favor to welcome my family to Buffalo. Though they told me that as a joke, I ached to believe their saying. As Joseph in the Book of Genesis was taken away to Egypt, safeguarding both Egyptians and Israelites from the severe famine, I earnestly craved that my family and I would be

used as instruments to give others beneficial assistance wherever we would be. When I reflect upon my past 12 months, I desire to give thanks to all the faculty and staff in the English Department and express special gratitude to professors Cristanne Miller, David Schmid, Kenneth Dauber, Myung Mi Kim, Stacy Hubbard, Rick Feero, and staff member Sophia Canavos.

As a research professor at SUNY (Buffalo), I have stayed here for one year. During my stay here, I researched the following five subjects related to Nathaniel Hawthorne and Biblical Literature: a) the personification technique in Nathaniel Hawthorne's poems and notes, b) the eco-theological consciousness in Nathaniel Hawthorne's poems and notes, c) the influence of Jonathan Edwards on the works of Nathaniel Hawthorne, d) a comparative study between Thomas Hardy and Nathaniel Hawthorne, e) a comparative study of the episodes in the synoptic Gospels from a literary perspective. Particularly on Biblical literature, I am greatly indebted to professors Kenneth Dauber and Rick Feero. In addition to discussing and having conversations with them, and attending Professor Dauber's Biblical Literature class, I have procured new insight into the Old Testament and been given the possibility of reviewing the synoptic Gospels from the perspective of comparative literature.

One of my most significant findings is a treasure trove of poems by Nathaniel Hawthorne, titled *Hawthorne: Poems Adapted from the American Notebooks*, at the Special Collections (Rare Books). The joy that I felt at the moment of my discovery was very great. Nowadays many scholars do not know that Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote poems; they are only familiar with Hawthorne as a novelist. Until now only 80 poems of Nathaniel Hawthorne have been known: 29 poems in *Nathaniel Hawthorne: Poems* (Kingsport: Kingsport Press, 1967) and 51 poems in *Nathaniel Hawthorne: Poems* (Fairfax: Red Hill Press, 1977). His poems are very notable in that they can give us a new outlook on the author and thus a more balanced view of the writer, which his novels alone do not provide.

An Impressive Year at UB



Xiaohong Cai

The year I spent at the University at Buffalo from April 2009 to March 2010 was one of the most unforgettable experiences in my life. What impressed me most was not only the quiet, beautiful city, distinctive seasons and friendly local people, but also the convenient facilities and services of the

UB Libraries and the dense cultural and academic atmosphere of the English Department. As a visiting scholar, I liked to linger in the libraries and English Department for quite a while, which triggered most of my contemplation on UB and the United States.

The library is the window of a university through which we can catch sight of some realistic pictures of the educational system. I don't know whether the UB Libraries are the best in USA. What I am definitely sure about is that I got the best library services in my academic career. I found some words on the UB Libraries website: *A reminder that the UB Libraries are more than just buildings. It's all about bringing people and information together.* The libraries have done what they said. For most occasions, I could find the books and articles from the libraries and their E-journals and databases. For other occasions, I could obtain almost everything I wanted through interlibrary loan. The amount, variety and freshness of the information I could acquire from the libraries were so amazing that I could not help envying the scholars in the United States. However, what was more impressive was the student-centeredness embodied in every aspect of the UB Libraries. From the libraries, students could enjoy all kinds of instructional services, quiet and comfortable environments, separated seats and spaces, free and quick printing, dining areas with permission for in-library eating and drinking, and so on. The UB Libraries are more than just houses of books and are not vanity projects of the university. They are places where students are the most important clients and can get the best service and assistance necessary for their studies.

What struck me most in the English Department was the free and independent academic atmosphere. When I first got out of the lift to the third floor of Clemens Hall I was greeted by many flyers, posters and notices on the wall or tables. I recognized that a lot of them were about academic seminars or lectures. And I seldom saw administrative notices. I was instantly aware that the well-developed department was research-oriented. Here academic work was dominant and free from the interference of administrative work. The faculty members were respected and enabled to freely and independently devote most of their energy and efforts to their academic research. Later observations repeatedly proved my inference correct.

RECENT FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Recent Faculty Publications

Bob Daly published "Reading Sedgwick Now: Empathy and Ethics in Early America" in *Literature in the Early American Republic* 2 (2010): 131-152; and a review of Wayne Franklin's *James Fenimore Cooper: The Early Years* (New Haven: Yale UP, 2007) in *New York History* 91.1 (2010): 73-75.

Jerold C. Frakes translated Korkut Buğday. *An Introduction to Literary Ottoman* (New York: Routledge, 2009); edited with Jeremy A. Dauber *Between Two Worlds: Yiddish-German Encounters* (Leuven: Peters, 2009) and his *Vernacular and Latin Discourses of the Muslim Other in Medieval Germany* is forthcoming (New York: Palgrave).

Graham Hammill published two essays, "Thinking Culture, and Beyond," in *A Touch More Rare: Harry Berger, Jr. and the Arts of Interpretation* (Fordham, 2009), and "Sexuality and Society in the Poetry of Katherine Philips," in *Queer Renaissance Historiography: Backward Gaze* (Ashgate, 2009).

Bruce Jackson (SUNY Distinguished Professor and James Agee Professor of American Culture) published "Night Moves Around Maud," part of a special Eric Rohmer Dossier in *Senses of Cinema* 54.

Arabella Lyon published "You Fail": Plagiarism, the Ownership of Writing, and Transnational Conflict" in *College Composition and Communication* and "Writing An Empire: Cross-Talk on Authority, Act, and Relationships with the Other" in the *Analects, Daodejing, and HanFeizi* in *College English*. As well, she, along with coeditor Lester Olson, was awarded a Rhetoric Society of America grant to support the preparation of a special issue of *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* on traditions of witnessing and testifying within human rights rhetoric.

Carine Mardorossian published "Rape by Proxy in Contemporary Caribbean Women's Fiction," in *Feminism, Literature, and Rape Narratives: Violence and Violation*, Eds. Sorcha Gunne and Zoë Brigley Thompson (London and New York: Routledge, 2010); and "From Fanon to Glissant: A Martinican Genealogy" in *Small Axe* 13.3 (October 2009): 12-24.

David Schmid published essays on the novelist David Goodis and on True Crime in *A Companion to Crime Fiction*, eds. Charles Rzepka and Lee Horsley (Oxford: Blackwell, 2010) and an essay entitled "The Devil You Know: Dexter and the 'Goodness' of American Serial Killing" in *Dexter: Investigating Cutting Edge Television* ed Douglas Howard. (London: I.B. Tauris, 2010): 132-142, 253-4.

Mark Shechner will publish a work of fiction (his first) in *The Texas Review* in its Fall-Winter 2010 issue. It is titled "Birth of a Cetacean - Moby's Story," and* is a chapter from his novel-in-progress: "Call Me Moishe: The True Confessions of a White Whale."

Max Wickert (Professor Emeritus) has relaunched the OUTRIDERS POETRY PROJECT, which he ran as a reading series in the '60s, '70s and

early '80s, as a small poetry press. The first Outriders book, Ann Goldsmith's *The Spaces Between Us*, appeared on April 15. A second title, *Monoxidyl And Other Stories* by Martin Pops, with an introduction by Carl Dennis, will be ready in autumn.

Howard Wolf published a story, "Ludwig Fried's Magdalene Malaise" (part of a series of twelve stories about one character, seven of which have been accepted), in *Prosopisia* (Rajasthan, India), under the auspices of the Academy of Writers.

Recent Faculty Presentations

Rachel Ablow delivered "The Sentimental Education of John Stuart Mill" at the Northeast Victorian Studies Association Conference, Princeton, NJ, April 2010.

Bob Daly delivered "Cooper's Stoic Cosmopolitanism and His Gleanings in Switzerland" at the 17th International James Fenimore Cooper Conference. He also served at this event on a panel, "Why Cooper Matters in the 21st Century," and was re-elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors.

Jerold C. Frakes delivered "A Jewish Pasquino in Pre-Ghetto Venice" at the Renaissance Society of America, Venice, 8 April 2010; "Is There a Future for Yiddish?" at the Università Ca' Foscari (Venice), 16 April 2010; and "Der Mythos von der jiddischen Literatur als eine 'Frauen-Literatur'" at the Universität Erlangen, 9 June 2010.

Graham Hammill delivered invited lectures and papers at Temple University, New York University, UCLA, Irvine, and the Melbourne Law School.

Stacy Hubbard organized a panel entitled "Teachers, Preachers and Speechifiers: Women in the 19th Century Public Sphere" for the Society for the Study of American Women Writers Conference in Philadelphia in October. She also presented a paper entitled "Bound to Do Her Bidding: Sojourner Truth's Voice of Authority" and presented a paper entitled "The 'Science-Baffling Star Without Parallax': Astronomical Discovery and Transcendental Personhood" at the inaugural conference of The Society of 19th Century Americanists (Imagining: A New Century) at Penn State in State College, PA in mid-May 2010.

Bruce Jackson delivered "Folklore and Seeing: Photographs from Cummins Prison, 1915-2010," Botkin Lecture Series, March 25 2010, Library of Congress.

Arabella Lyon delivered four conference talks, most notably "The Beauty of Arendt's Lies" at the Rhetoric Society of America and "Composition and the Preservation of Rhetorical Traditions" at the Modern Language Association. Her MLA paper was discussed in *Higher Education Today*.

David Schmid recently gave a keynote address entitled "The Banality of American Violence" at the Grinnell Peace Studies Conference at Grinnell College in Iowa in March 2010.

RECENT FACULTY ACTIVITIES

Recent Faculty Awards

Tim Dean won a **SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Scholarship**

The following is excerpted from a recent UB Reporter profile of Professor Dean, by Charlotte Hsu:



Professor Dean

Tim Dean is a scholar of American poetry and psychoanalysis. . . . His latest book, published by the University of Chicago Press, weighs in at 237 pages and carries the title “Unlimited Intimacy: Reflections on the Subculture of Barebacking.” A rich academic career has taken Dean to Baltimore; Seattle; Palo Alto, Calif.; Champaign, Ill.; and, finally, to Buffalo. . . He joined UB’s English department in 2002 and became director of the UB Humanities Institute in 2008 . . .

Dean says while “it’s not my life’s dream to be an administrator,” he sees his position at the institute as “a real opportunity.” In the late 1990s, he spent a year as a junior fellow at Stanford University’s Humanities Center, regularly lunching and meeting with colleagues from disciplines ranging from history and philosophy to classics. Explaining his work to researchers outside his field and seeing how they framed problems helped Dean discover new ways of thinking about his areas of inquiry.

“It was an incredibly fertile time for me,” he says. “I suppose ever since that year at Stanford, I’ve seen what it is that a great humanities center can do for the intellectual life on campus, and I’ve been keen to help achieve something like that on this campus,” Dean says. “And I think the most important and enduring research issues can’t really be solved from within one discipline. They have to be solved by researchers collaborating and speaking outside of their usual parameters.” At UB, under Dean’s leadership, the Humanities Institute hosts programs designed to bring faculty members from varied fields together to think about problems. A new lecture series this year, “On Belief,” features invited experts in specialties ranging from anthropology and Asian studies to Christian studies. Talks in the series carry such tantalizing titles as “Love and the Heretic” and “The Hypnotist: After Effects of the Tsunami in Sumatra.” In research workshops on such subjects as “Queer Theory,” “Time and Memory” and “Cultural Studies of Space,” UB faculty members and graduate students from diverse disciplines present research and explore topics of common intellectual concern. The institute provides seed money for these groups to sponsor guest speakers, seminars and conferences. Dean not only preaches the importance of inter-

disciplinary thinking. His work and interests embody that concept, spanning and drawing connections between two seemingly divergent fields: poetry and psychoanalysis (which Dean describes as the study and interpretation of the unconscious, a tradition started by Sigmund Freud). He describes his love for poetry, saying that “it seems an incredibly powerful use of language,” with language “compressed and more resonant” in a poem than in ordinary uses. The sounds and rhythm in poetry, like music, trigger emotion and sensation, speaking to humans in a way that seems to transcend the rational and cognitive, that go beyond the meaning of the words, Dean says. And what does that have to do with psychoanalysis? “I think of Freud as a late romantic writer, and I read psychoanalysis as poetry so I don’t have to worry about whether it is true or even useful, but only whether it is haunting or moving or intriguing or amusing—whether it is something I can’t help but be interested in,” Dean wrote not long ago in a short article describing the links between his two passions. “Poetry, like psychoanalysis, is not true in the way that we consider science to be true,” Dean wrote. “It doesn’t describe objects or experiences in ways that can be reliably verified. If poetry, like psychoanalysis, has an impact, then we describe it as subjectively, rather than objectively true. We say that it resonates. Perhaps it haunts us or makes our world look different. Perhaps it brings us pleasure, rather than solid facts or something that can be translated into income. Perhaps we find it intriguing without quite knowing why.”

Hershini Bhana-Young won a Milton Plesur Teaching Award.

Jerold C. Frakes is currently the holder of a research fellowship at the Simon Dubnow Institut, Universität Leipzig.

Bruce Jackson won a UB Humanities Institute Faculty Research Fellowship

Steven Miller won a Fulbright Fellowship to study and teach at the Freud Museum in Vienna

Randy Schiff won a UB Humanities Institute Faculty Research Fellowship

David Schmid won a UB Humanities Institute Faculty Research Fellowship

Andy Stott won a SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Student Awards



David Watts

Matthew Allison (Junior, English) won an Axelrod Memorial Award for poetry.

Lucas Barton (Junior, English and Media Studies) won the English Department Essay Contest.

Caleb Clark (Junior, English) won the Joyce Carol Oates Prize for Fiction.

Michael Fix (MA student, English) won an Albert Cook, Mac Hammond, and John Logan Prize. Michael also won the Academy of American Poets Prize, awarded by the University Libraries.



Michael Fix

Brian Flory (Senior, English, Film Studies and Sociology) won the George Knight Houpt Prize for excellence and proficiency in the work of the English Department. He also won the 2010 CAS Outstanding Senior Award for English.

Matthew Kotula (Senior, History) won the Friends of the University Libraries Undergraduate Poetry Prize.

Morani Kornberg-Weiss received honorable mention in the University Libraries Academy of American Poets competition.

Jenn Maggin (Sophomore, English) won an Albert Cook, Mac Hammond, and John Logan Prize.



Natasha Pasternak

Natasha Pasternak (Senior, Art History and African American Studies) won the Scribblers Prize for the best piece of creative writing by an undergraduate woman.

Peter Vullo (Senior, English) received honorable mention in the Friends of the University Libraries Undergraduate Poetry Contest.

David Watts (Senior, Psychology and Media Studies) won an Axelrod Memorial Award for poetry.

Recent Graduate Student Publications and Activities

Tim Bryant presented "Culture Heroes and the Imitation of Christ in American Spiritual Biographies, 1865-1935" at "The Image of the Hero in Literature, Media, and Society Conference." Colorado Springs, CO, 20 Mar. 2010; "The Underground Roots of Contemporary Comics" at the Nichols School, Buffalo, NY, 5 Mar. 2010; and "A Tragic Overview of Underground Comix" at the University at Buffalo. 23 Oct. 2009.

Jon Cotner and his collaborator Andy Fitch have recently published their new book *TEN WALKS/TWO TALKS*. The book combines a series of sixty-

minute, sixty-sentence walks around Manhattan and a pair of dialogues about walking -- one of which takes place during a late-night "philosophical" ramble through Central Park. It is available here: <http://www.spdbooks.org/Search/Default.aspx?SearchTerm=ten+walks>

Kyle Fetter presented "The Logic of Letters: Sophie Calle, The World, and Repetition" at the Gender Across Borders: Globalisms conference at the University at Buffalo. He is also co-editing the 2011 issue of *Umbr(a): a Journal of the Unconscious*.

Mike Hurst published a review of Wendy Brown's *Regulating Aversion* in the Fall 2009 issue of *Cultural Critique*. He also has a forthcoming article in *Arizona Quarterly* entitled: "Bodies in Transition: Transcendental Feminism in Margaret Fuller's *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*."

Graduate Student Awards

Tim Bryant won an Excellence in Teaching Award as well as a Graduate Student Association Conference Grant; a Samuel P. Capen Chair of American Culture Research Grant; and a grant from the Mark Diamond Research Fund.

Ryan Hatch won a Certificate of Honorable Mention for Excellence in Teaching.

Mike Hurst won an Excellence in Teaching Award and the Louis and Joan Slovinsky Dissertation Fellowship

W. Dustin Parrott (PhD candidate, English) won an Albert Cook, Mac Hammond, and John Logan Prize.

Andrew Rippeon won the Gray Chair Dissertation Fellowship

David Squires received the Humanities Institute Summer Research Grant to visit the University of Chicago Special Collections, where he will be conducting archival research on Ida B. Wells for his dissertation.

Alumni

Chiou-Rung Deng (UB English PhD) has had an article titled “Sentimental Killing: Truth, Sympathy, and Translation in Catharine Sedgwick’s *Hope Leslie*” accepted for publication in *NTU Studies in Language and Literature*.

Frank Emmett (UB English MA 1991) recently received his PhD in History from Lancaster University, England.

Ann Goldsmith (UB English, PhD 1999, and taught here for a number of years) has published, *The Spaces Between Us*, her second book of verse, with Outriders Poetry Project.

Sean Patrick Hill (UB English BA 1994) writes with an update on his recent activities: “This month my first full-length book of poetry, *The Imagined Field*, is being published by <http://wordpainting.com> Paper Kite Press. Poems in it have appeared in a number of print and online publications. I graduated with an MA in Writing from Portland State University in Oregon. I’m currently teaching in Kentucky. Several poems have been nominated for Pushcart Prizes and Best New Poets. I also have a blog (<http://theimaginedfield.blogspot.com>) with links to many publications, including poems, book reviews, and travel articles. I have also written a hiking guide for Oregon to be published by Avalon Press this spring, as well: *Moon Outdoors Oregon Hiking*.

Gary Huber (UB English MA 2005), who teaches high school English in Williamsville, NY, has just published an article on collaborative blog projects in the May, 2010 issue of ‘Educator’s Voice,’ which is produced by the New York State Union of Teachers (NYSUT). http://www.nysut.org/educators-voice_14845.htm

Julie Husband (UB English PhD 1999) has just published her second book, *Antislavery Discourse and Nineteenth Century American Literature: Incendiary Pictures*, with Palgrave Macmillan. The book examines the impact of antislavery narratives and icons on emerging conceptions of wage labor during the antebellum era. More information on the book can be found at <http://us.macmillan.com/antislaverydiscourseandnineteenthcenturyamericanliterature>. Julie and her partner, Jim O’Loughlin (UB English PhD 1998), live in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and work in the Department of English at the University of Northern Iowa.

Richard Kopley (UB English PhD 1982) has been named a Distinguished Professor of English at Penn State DuBois.

Jaroslav Kusnir (Fulbright at UB, 2004, Professor of Literature, Presov University, Slovakia) published “Literature, life, sex and truth, or narratologies in Ronald Sukenick’s ‘Art Brute’ (2000) and “Howard Wolf’s ‘Library of the Lost’” (2006) in *XLinguae: A Trimestrial European Scientific Review Vol. 2*, Issue 4: 3-13. <https://ubmail.buffalo.edu/mail/parse.php?redirect=http://www.xlinguae.eu>

Elliot Krieger (UB English PhD 1974) writes: “UB English is and was the greatest English department in the country! I was lucky enough to be a grad

student at UB-English in the heyday, 1970-74. After graduating, I taught English at UMass-Boston for several years, then worked as a reporter and editor at the Providence (R.I.) *Journal*. Now, I work for the R.I. Department of Education. Last year, Soho Press (N.Y.) published my first novel, *Exiles*. It’s set in Sweden in 1970, among American war resisters. Readers will notice that some of the back story takes place in an unnamed university that will remind them of SUNY Buffalo.

Stephan Morrow (UB English BA, 1971) has sent us the following biography: Stephan Morrow is an actor, director and producer who has been laboring in the trenches of non-commercial theater in New York and Los Angeles for over twenty five years. A staunch proponent of the Off Off Bway arena, it is in that cauldron of creativity that he finds the work to be most compelling and interesting. He came to this calling after surviving a two-year global pilgrimage that took him overland from Istanbul to India and then on through Asia. He has directed the plays of some of our most outstanding writers, working personally with Arthur Miller, Norman Mailer, John Ford Noonan, and Leonard Melfi. He was honored to receive The 2009 Silver Solas International Travel Writing Award for Adventure Travel for his piece ‘Amorgos’ about an almost fatal and unlikely encounter with a snowstorm in the mountains there. He will have another excerpt from his book on Norman Mailer ‘Tough Guys Do Dance’ published in the upcoming issue of *The Mailer Review* (2009).

Kevin Pelletier (UB English PhD 2007) recently had an article, “Uncle Tom’s Cabin and Apocalyptic Sentimentalism,” published in the journal *LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory*. Kevin is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Richmond.

Scott Slawinski (UB English PhD 1992) has received early tenure in the Department of English at Western Michigan University and has been promoted to the rank of associate professor.

Jayne Lyn Stahl (UB English 1972) published her first collection of poetry, *Riding with Destiny* (NYQ Books) <http://nyqbooks.org/title/ridingwithdestiny>

Paul Watsky (UB English PhD 1974) has just published his debut poetry collection, *Telling the Difference* (Fisher King Press). After five years teaching English at San Francisco State in the 1970s, Paul switched fields to clinical psychology, and now works as a Jungian analyst in San Francisco.

Jonas Zdanys (UB English MA 1974, PhD 1975) published *The Thin Light of Winter* (Chicago: Virtual Artists Collective), a volume of new and selected poems. <http://vacpoetry.org/thethinlightofwinter.htm>. It is his 38th published book. Zdanys has also just received a translation grant from the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture for a new volume of his translations of poems by the young Lithuanian woman poet Agne Zagrakalyte. It is one of many grants and book awards he has received over the years (see, for example: http://www.buffalo.edu/UBT/UBT-archives/24_ubtf03/classnotes/pon4.html).


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To sign up for the alumni listserv, please email Sophia Canavos at scanavos@buffalo.edu



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