

# DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

## NEWSLETTER

**UB** University at Buffalo The State University of New York  
College of Arts and Sciences

2014/2015



Dear Friends,

We begin the 2014-15 academic year with a newly formatted department newsletter. After some consideration, we decided to move to an annual newsletter – one that is in color and longer, with more content. I hope you enjoy learning about research coming out of the English Department by faculty like Ruth Mack, a specialist in Eighteenth Century Literature who spent last year at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, or Arabella Lyon, Director of UB's new and highly successful Center for Excellence in

Writing, whose recent book on democracy, rhetoric, and rights received the 2014 Best Book Award from the Rhetoric Society of America. We have added a new regular feature to the Newsletter called "Current Trends." For each edition, a faculty member in the English Department is invited to reflect on a topic in the news from the perspective of his or her research. The inaugural column is by Carine Mardorossian, whose book on rape and victimhood in American culture was published last spring. In this year's "Current Trends," Carine reflects on current debates about rape and sexual consent on college campuses.

As the academic year gets underway, I am very proud of the many achievements of English faculty, students, staff, and alumni. Let me mention a few recent accomplishments. Bill Solomon received a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, in recognition of his stellar teaching; Jody Biehl was awarded Best College Newspaper Advisor by the National College Media Association for her outstanding work with *The Spectrum*; and Jerold Frakes was promoted to SUNY Distinguished Professor, the highest rank possible in the SUNY system. Jerold is now one of six SUNY Distinguished

Professors in the English Department. I am especially pleased to note that the inimitable Joyce Troy, administrative assistant to the English Department Graduate Office, received a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service, in recognition of her many years of outstanding service to faculty and students at UB.

As always, I am deeply impressed by the creativity and accomplishments of our students and alumni. To single out just one instance, this past spring a collection of English and Art majors planned and executed a major public arts project in the hallway linking Clemens to Lockwood Library. Now people walking through the corridor enjoy poetry by English majors written on the walls in lettering designed by Art majors. This kind of collaborative project not only elevates a well-trafficked but otherwise unremarkable hallway, it represents the kind of creative work we aim to promote in the Arts and Humanities at UB.

We rely heavily on the generosity of our alumni, whose accomplishments we are proud to detail. None of the work we do could happen without your support. 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 (<https://www.facebook.com/UBEnglish>) and Twitter account (@UB\_English) announces events, news, and other items relating to department life. 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

### ☆wishlist—☆wishlist—☆wishlist—☆wishlist—☆wishlist

Many generous alumni designate their annual University giving to the English Department. We are grateful for their donations, which support student research projects and other English Department programs, such as Exhibit X, the department's reading series in experimental and innovative writing, and dissertation fellowships for graduate students.

#### What's on our wish list right now?

- Funds to support undergraduate education through guest speakers, visiting creative writers, trips to plays and performances, technologically enhanced classrooms, and small achievement awards
- Funds to support graduate student research and dissertation writing
- Funds to support a Robert Creeley lecture series in Poetics
- Funds to support scholarship and student research in UB's renowned Joyce Collection

#### How to Make a Gift:

If you would like to support the Department, you can designate the **English Department** when responding to any of the University fund-raising efforts. You can also send a check payable to UB Foundation, Inc., indicating "**Department of English**" on the memo line. Checks should be sent to Cindy Johannes, University at Buffalo Foundation, PO Box 730, Buffalo, NY 14226-0730, phone: 716-645-8720. Or you can donate through the English Department's website: (<http://www.buffalo.edu/cas/english.html>) by clicking on "Giving to UB."

*We appreciate all donations – from the \$1000-levels to the smallest amounts. Since there are over 7,500 English alumni, \$10 and \$25 gifts do add up.*

**Thank you for your support and continued interest in UB's Department of English!**

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## Rape (in) Culture

By Carine Mardorossian  
Professor of English

Campus rape is back on the public agenda with a vengeance. In what appears like a genuine rape epidemic, 55 colleges have recently been under investigation for their gross mishandling of sexual assaults. What is more, new Pentagon data indicate that sexual assaults in the military keep rising, while nearly 90% of victims remain silent. What is extraordinary about this new resurgence of concern for this old crime is that it comes over 40 years after second wave feminists first brought rape to the public's attention and now that rape crisis services are part and parcel of the social landscape of any town or campus. So nearly 50 years of consciousness raising and education seem either to have fallen on deaf ears or to have been successfully co-opted. I think of co-optation because of the victim-blaming mentality that characterizes responses to gendered crimes today. Instead of launching an offensive against the actual social problem of rape, the response to the feminist call for change was either racist (treating a predominantly intraracial crime as a predominantly interracial one) or defensive. It either consisted of disproportionately and falsely imprisoning black men, of defending the (white) male gender by misreading "any man can be a rapist" as "all men are rapists" or by questioning the victim's moral or mental fortitude (as if the victim's moral stature and psychology have any bearing on the crime committed).

Instead of teaching not to rape, society is now increasingly focused on how to teach women not to get raped. The problem with a world that tries to change victims as a deterrent to rape is that it presumes that the (suddenly objectionable) condition of victimization is internal to the victim and therefore precedes/causes the crime. Rape today is consistently represented not as a problem of culture but as one of deviance (whether it is the perpetrator or the victim whose deviance is presumed). Until we successfully reframe the issue as a problem with normative masculinity and cultural norms, rape and the response to it will continue to lead to the victim-blaming rhetoric that was initiated by the backlash in the 1980s. It is almost impossible today to get out of the impasse into which discussions of sexual assault in culture inevitably seem to fall. This is precisely why I turn to fiction, and more specifically to women's literature, as a way of envisioning an alternative to these limited conceptualizations of the problem. Instead of endless theoretical discussions about the potential agency or passivity of victims, writers such as Jamaica Kincaid (Antigua/US), Shani Mootoo (Trinidad/Canada), Edwidge Danticat (Haiti/US), Loida Maritza Perez (Dominican Republic/US), and Maryse Condé (Guadeloupe/US) offer us a more capacious understanding of these notions that reframes the issue as a problem with cultural norms rather than as women's problem.

Carine Mardorossian is a Professor in the English Department, and Director of NeMLA. Her latest book is, *'Framing the Rape Victim: Gender and Agency Reconsidered'* (Rutgers University Press, 2014)

## FEATURED FACULTY - RUTH MACK

Associate Chair of English, Stacy Hubbard, sat down with Associate Professor Ruth Mack to find out more about her teaching interests and her current research.

**SH:** How did you first get interested in eighteenth-century literature?

**RM:** I read very little eighteenth-century literature as an undergraduate [at Yale]—and then only poetry. I went to graduate school [at Johns Hopkins] certain that I wanted to study the British Romantic poets (Wordsworth, Shelley, and so on). Then, I took a course on the eighteenth-century novel, and that was the end of that. I was completely fascinated by the strangeness of the early novel, a genre whose writers are making up the rules as they go along. It's not that the early novels are awkward, but they are formally rather raw or exposed. And the registers in which they ask questions are thus unpredictable, unexpected. I've meant to return to scholarship on poetry, but I'm still as captivated by those strange prose texts as I was the first time I read *Robinson Crusoe*.

**SH:** What are your favorite materials to teach? In the world of the 140-character Tweet, how do you draw people back into the thick tomes of Richardson, Sterne or Radcliffe?

**RM:** My favorite things to teach are probably the "thick tomes" you refer to, because they are so alien and getting more so by the second. In the age of Twitter and Facebook what does it mean to read a novel of letters that runs around 1500 pages? Some students hate reading *Clarissa*, of course, and others love it, are captivated by it, absorbed in it. I like showing students books the likes of which they've never seen before (even, perhaps, as senior English majors). And I like talking about both of those reactions: why it can work in the present, or why it won't. I think that one of the great payoffs of reading older literature is that in figuring out the rules of texts that seem alien to us, we can see our own practices, our own ways of thinking, more clearly. And, perhaps a bit perversely, I like teaching texts to undergraduates that people frequently assume undergraduates can't handle. My undergraduates convinced me a long time ago that such assumptions are ridiculous.

**SH:** Tell us about your book, *Literary Historicity: Literature and Historical Experience in Eighteenth Century Britain*. What motivated that project?

**RM:** The project came out of my reading of eighteenth-century novels and my curiosity about what history was doing in them. These were novels with history in them but novels that did not read as "historical novels." Historical events might be present, for instance, but not fully integrated into the novel's main plot. Or, in the book's most outrageous case study, Horace Walpole's short novel, *The Castle of Otranto*, the past might fall from the sky (and kill the prince) and be strangely indecipherable to its witnesses. The large argument of the book is that cases like this, which appear to trivialize the past, actually make very substantial claims, philosophical claims, even, about how we are to understand the relationship between past and present.

**SH:** This past year you held a fellowship at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. What were you working on there?

**RM:** I had an amazing year at Radcliffe working on my current book, *Habitual Knowledge: Theory and the Everyday in Eighteenth-Century Britain*, which explores how writers thought about and theorized society before the dawn of anthropology as a discipline in the nineteenth century. Most important were the interlocutors I found there. Radcliffe invites 50 scholars each year in all disciplines: there were four others working in literary studies and many more colleagues working in fields as diverse as astrophysics, psychiatry, sociology and art history. Imagine having all of your ideal readers from different disciplines—and their offices are just down the hall.

**SH:** Where do you see your work going in the next 5-10 years?

**RM:** The current project is vast in its scope, and as I work on each chapter, I can imagine it opening into a book-length project. It may be that I ultimately allow one of them to open in that way.



For a longer version of this interview, go to

[http://www.buffalo.edu/cas/english/news-events/latest\\_news/ProfessorRuthMacksTeachingInterestsandherCurrentResearch.html](http://www.buffalo.edu/cas/english/news-events/latest_news/ProfessorRuthMacksTeachingInterestsandherCurrentResearch.html)

## Lyon receives major award for book on democracy, rhetoric and rights

By PATRICIA DONOVAN  
Published June 12, 2014/UB Reporter

Arabella Lyon, UB professor of English and director of the Center for Excellence in Writing at the University at Buffalo, has received the 2014 Book Award from the Rhetoric Society of America (RSA) for the best work in rhetorical study published in 2013.

She received the award for her provocative new book, *"Deliberative Acts: Democracy, Rhetoric, and Rights"* (Penn State University Press, 2013), which provides an incisive and detailed analysis of the theoretical premises underlying dominant Western rhetoric, the art of public discussion.

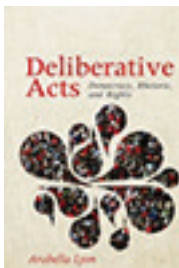
In *"Deliberative Acts,"* Lyon, rather than conceiving of deliberation within the familiar frameworks of persuasion, identification or procedural democracy, accords a higher value to speech acts and bodily enactments that constitute deliberation itself.

An example of such an enactment, she says, took place in 2011 when Libyan lawyer Eman al-Obeidi burst into Tripoli's Rixos Hotel to tell the international press corps there that Libyan troops had kidnapped, beaten and gang-raped her. Her public statement challenged both the Gaddafi government and the taboo against discussing sex crimes in Libya.

"In changing her location and interlocutors," says Lyon, "al-Obeidi not only remade the event itself, but its possible interpretation and outcome. She redefined woman's shame as Gaddafi's shame and demanded a different kind of recognition and relationship than she would have found in the Libyan legal system."

Rhetoric is a subject of formal study and a productive civic practice, and has played a central role in the Western tradition from ancient times. It aims to improve the capacity of writers or speakers to inform, persuade or motivate a situated audience to act.

Because the 21st century is characterized by the often rapid global circulation of cultures, norms, representations, discourses and human rights claims, Lyon says the collision of often disparate ideas provokes conflicts of many kinds.



"Understanding and resolving them," she says, "requires us to find new ways, not only of making decisions, but of understanding the conflicts themselves."

"The example of al-Obeidi's performative rhetoric," she explains, "illustrates how deliberative theory can be reoriented away from outcomes and toward the initiating moment of recognition, a moment in which those taking part in the conversation are positioned in relationship to each other and so may begin to define their shared world."



In approaching human rights not as universals, laws or immutable concepts but as agreements among people, Lyon says she conceives of them as ongoing political and historical projects that can develop agreed-upon norms through global and cross-cultural interactions.

The annual RSA award is presented on the basis of a book's originality, strength and persuasiveness of argument; readability; potential to promote rhetoric among scholars from other fields; and potential to promote the understanding of rhetoric among the general public.

Of Lyon's selection, one member of the selection committee said, "The articulation of performance and performativity is a welcome intervention into contemporary theories and practices of deliberation. Lyon's discussion builds productively off of the insights of thinkers such as Aristotle, Arendt and Austin to offer an innovative take on how rights and rhetoric might be thought anew."

"I was especially pleased (and frankly excited) to see an engagement of Butler's theories of identity and agency, the latter of which deserves more attention in our field," the committee member said. "The work is provocative and innovative, clearly forwarding important conversations in the field."

Lyon is co-editor of *Human Rights Rhetoric: Traditions of Testifying and Witnessing* (Routledge, 2012), with Lester Olson, and author of *Intentions: Negotiated, Contested and Ignored* (Penn State University Press, 1998), which won the 1998 W. Ross Winterrowd Book Award for the most outstanding book on composition theory from JAC, *the Journal of Rhetoric, Culture and Politics*.

## WELCOME NEW FACULTY MEMBERS....

### Nnedi Okorafor



Nigerian American novelist, Nnedi Okorafor (Ph.D. 2007, University of Illinois-Chicago), joins the department as an Associate Professor and is teaching courses on both literature and creative writing.

She is the author of numerous works of fantasy and speculative fiction, including: *Who Fears Death*, *The Shadow Speaker*, *Zahrah the Windseeker*, and two forthcoming novels, *Lagoon* and *The Book of Phoenix*. She 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, as well as a nomination for the Nebula Award.

"I've had some of the liveliest discussions in my classes that I've ever had. The students here are really intelligent and creative."

- Nnedi

### Jang Wook Huh



Jang Wook Huh (Ph.D. 2014, Columbia University), joins the UB English department as an Assistant Professor. He is teaching courses on African-American literature, Afro-Asian intersections, postcolonialism and race theory.

"Archival work is central to my research, and I am excited about the rich archival resources of UB's poetry collection, literary manuscripts, and rare books. I am impressed with UB students' interest in the issues of race and ethnicity. I look forward to enriching their understandings of race by teaching diverse courses such as *"Black Orientalism"* and *"Race & Photography."* Outside of class, I am interested in exploring African American historical and cultural sites in Buffalo such as the Colored Musicians Club, the Paul Robeson Theatre, and the Underground Railroad. After living in the hustle and bustle of New York City, I enjoy the nature and hiking trails in Western New York."

- Jang

## NEW BOOKS

**Jerold Frakes**, Distinguished Professor of English, recently published a book: *Early Yiddish Epic*. Edited and translated JCF. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2014.

Distinguished Professor **Bruce Jackson's** 1967 study, *The Negro and his Folklore in Nineteenth-Century Periodicals* (American Folklore Society and University of Texas Press, 1967), was republished this year by the University of Texas Press. The work is about how white Americans in the nineteenth century saw and wrote about African Americans. A copy can be found here: <http://utpress.utexas.edu/index.php/books/jacnep>. *The Negro and his Folklore* is one of three major studies Jackson published in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The other two, *Wake Up Dead Man: Afro-American Worksongs from Texas Prisons* (1972) and *Get Your Ass in the Water and Swim Like Me: African American Poetry from the Oral Tradition* (1974), were published by Harvard University Press. *Wake up Dead Man* was brought back into print by University of Georgia Press in 1999, and *Get Your Ass in the Water* was bought back by Routledge in 2004. All three works are considered classics in American Studies.

The Negro and His Folklore in Nineteenth-Century Periodicals  
Edited by Bruce Jackson

**Andrew Stott**, Professor of English, had his book, *The Poet and the Vampyre: The Curse of Byron and the Birth of Literature's Greatest Monsters* (Pegasus), published in September. The book, first published in the UK last fall, tells the story of Byron's Geneva summer of 1816 from the perspective of two little-known individuals whose lives were irrevocably changed by their participation. The book has already received a Kirkus starred review. In June, he saw the publication of the second edition of his book *Comedy*. First published by Routledge in 2005, the book has been revised and updated, with all new sections and brand new chapters on "women and comedy," "race and ethnicity," and "comedy queered."

**Joseph Valente**, Distinguished Professor, co-edited *Yeats and Afterwords*, a collection of essays that explores Yeats's multilayered sense of belatedness as part of his complex literary method. Essays in this collection explore how Yeats deliberately positioned himself at various historical endpoints—of Romanticism, of the Irish colonial experience, of the Ascendancy, of civilization itself—and, in doing so, created a distinctively modernist poetics of iteration capable of registering the experience of finality and loss.

## AWARDS / PROMOTIONS

**Jody Kleinberg Biehl**, Clinical Assistant Professor, received the Honor Roll Award for her work with *The Spectrum*, UB's student newspaper. The award is given by the National College Media Association, which selects one college media advisor each year to honor. The award will be given at a reception for college newspaper advisers on November 2nd in Philadelphia.

**Jerold Frakes**, Distinguished Professor of English, has been promoted to SUNY Distinguished Professor. He has published 15 books, including monographs, translations, and editions, including *The Politics of Interpretation: Alterity and Ideology in Old Yiddish Studies* (1989), *Brides and Doom: Gender, Property and Power in Medieval German Women's Epic* (1994), and *Vernacular and Latin Literary Discourses of the Muslim Other in Medieval Germany* (2011). He is the recipient of numerous fellowships, including a National Humanities Institute Fellowship, a two-year Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Fellowship at the Free University in Berlin, a Harvard Radcliffe Fellowship, and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

**Arabella Lyon**, Professor of English and Director of the Center for Excellence in Writing, was selected to receive the 2014 Rhetoric Society of America's Book Award for her recent monograph, *Deliberative Acts: Democracy, Rhetoric, and Rights*. The RSA selection committee praises Arab's book as "provocative and innovative. *Deliberative Acts* demonstrates a high level of critical acuity, historical depth, and rigorous theoretical engagement with rhetorical theory."

**Bill Solomon**, Associate Professor of English, has been awarded a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Bill is an excellent teacher in every aspect of the pedagogical enterprise. His UBCATS scores are consistently stellar, as are his student evaluations. Students from all of Bill's courses repeatedly call him a "great instructor," a "great professor," "awesome," "brilliant," and "the best teacher I've had at UB." His courses are challenging, extremely well-thought out, and demonstrate a deep knowledge of American modernism. One of the things that stands out the most about Bill as a teacher is his dedication to students. He works on a high number of dissertations, MA theses, and undergraduate senior theses. But his dedication to his students extends well beyond the classroom and well beyond the degree. Bill has continued to serve as a mentor for many of his students — both undergraduate and graduate students — many years after graduation.

## SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

**Carrie Bramen**, Associate Professor of English, was selected for the Anne LaBastille Writers Residency at the Adirondack Writing Center in October 2014 (<http://www.adirondackcenterforwriting.org/programs/twitchell-lake-residency>). While in residence, she will be working on her book-in-progress on American niceness. Bramen is one of six writers selected this year, and the only writer of academic prose.

Distinguished Professor **Joseph Valente's** essay, "'Thrilled by His Touch': Homosexual Panic and the Will to Artistry in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*," has been selected by the Editorial Board of the *James Joyce Quarterly* as one of the most influential essays on Joyce of the last 50 years, to be showcased in their upcoming anniversary volume.

## PUBLICATIONS / LECTURES / PRESENTATIONS / TRAVELS

Professor of English **Joseph Conte's** essay, "The Multimodal Icon: Sight, Sound and Intellection in Recent Poetries," was published in the Danish journal, *Pasage*, last fall, in a special issue on *Lyric at the Crossroads*, edited by Louise Mønster and Peter Stein Larsen (Aarhus University Press, Denmark), translated into Danish. An earlier version was presented as the keynote lecture for a conference on Contemporary Poetry between Genres, Art Forms and Media at Aalborg University, Denmark in 2012. In December 2013, he gave a lecture, "Transnational Politics and the Post-9/11 Novel," in the University at Buffalo Humanities Institute Scholars @ Hallwalls Lecture Series at Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center.

**Jerold Frakes**, Distinguished Professor of English, had a published article: "Quid Shmuel cum Homero? Greek Culture and Early Yiddish Epic," in "The Global Middle Ages." Eds. Geraldine Heng and Lynn Ramey, special issue of *Literature Compass* 10.1111 (2014), 1-12. He also gave a keynote address: "Brautwerbungsepos auf den altjiddischen Kopf gestellt," at "Aventiuren in Aschkenas. Jüdische Aneignungen nichtjüdischer Erzählstoffe im vormodernen Europa," Berlin, Humboldt Universität, 5 March 2014.

**Walter Hakala**, Assistant Professor of English, recently translated with M.A. Naru an 18th-century Urdu poem on coffee. This translation appears in the summer 2014 issue of *Eighteenth-Century Studies*. An accompanying article, "A Sultan in the Realm of Passion: Coffee in Eighteenth-Century Delhi," was published in the same issue (vol. 47, no. 4). In June, he was invited to London to speak at a conference in honor of the late historian of Sultanate India, Simon Everard Digby, held at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. His paper, "Two New Kinds of Fire: Syphilis and Capsicum in Early Hindvi Vocabularies," explores the ways in which multilingual vocabularies in verse document changes to the material culture of South Asia in the aftermath of European explorations of the New World.

## FACULTY NEWS

**Cristanne Miller**, Distinguished Professor, published "Revising Whitman's Repetitions: H.D.'s Feminist Leaves of 'dune-grass'" in *H.D. and Modernity*. Eds. Hélène Aji and Antoine Cazé. Paris: Éditions Rue d'Ulm, July 2014. She also gave a paper titled "An 'Owed' to 'Convenshun' in Comic Dialect Poems in the *Springfield Republican*, 1855-1862" at C-19, University of North Carolina, March 2014, and presented an invited lecture on "Dickinson, the Lyric, and (other) American Experiments in Nineteenth-century Verse" at Case Western Reserve University, April 2014. This fall she will present a paper at the Modernist Studies Association conference in Pittsburgh (on "Loy and Moore Writing the New York Line") and she is co-organizing two international conferences, one (with Baihua Wang and Martha Nell Smith) at the Fudan University Literary Translation Center in Shanghai, China (November 2014), where she will present a keynote address on "Translating the Rhythms of Emily Dickinson's Poetry" and the other (with Éric Athenot) on "Whitman and Dickinson" at the University of Paris (March 2015), where she will participate in a roundtable on Whitman's and Dickinson's Poetic Languages.

**David Schmid**, Associate Professor of English, gave a Keynote Lecture: "The Moors Murders and the 'Truth' of True Crime." True Crime: Fact, Fiction, Ideology. Manchester, England, June 2014. He also gave two conference papers: "City, State, and Globe in the Crime Novels of Pío Ignazio Taibo II." The Global and the Local in Contemporary World Crime Fiction, Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland. June 2014; and "The Suburb in American Crime Fiction." American Literature Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, May 2014.

**Andrew Stott**, Professor of English, has published the following articles: "'Let them use their talents': *Twelfth Night* and the Professional Comedian," in *Twelfth Night: A Critical Reader*, ed. Alison Findlay and Liz Oakley Brown (London and New York: Bloomsbury, 2013), pp. 144-165, and "Split Personalities," *Lapham's Quarterly*, Winter, 2013: 214-221 – which explored the origins of the trope of the depressed comedian in early psychology. He has also started blogging regularly for the Wordsworth Trust.

**Dennis Tedlock**, Distinguished Professor, traveled in June to Mexico to participate in the Primer Congreso Internacional Poéticas de la Oralidad, organized by the Morelia campus of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. He read Spanish translations of his work, performing on a double bill with the French poet Serge Pey. In July, he traveled to Cape Town, South Africa, to give a paper titled "The Sky and Earth of the Storyteller" at the Tenth Oxford Conference on Astronomy, Indigenous Knowledge, and Interpretation. He recently discovered, to his surprise, that his *Popol Vuh: The Mayan Book of the Dawn of Life* had been translated into Croatian and published by Stari Grad in Zagreb. This is the latest translation; others have been published in Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Norwegian, and Polish.

**Joseph Valente**, Distinguished Professor, published "Ethnostalgia; or the Feel of Not To Feel It: Irish Hunger and Traumatic Memory," in *Irish Memory*, ed. Oona Frawley (Syracuse UP, 2014); "Stoker's Vampire and the Vicissitudes of Biopower," in *The New Bedford Critical Edition of Dracula*, ed. John Paul Riquelme (Bedford Press, 2014); "Art for Nation's Sake: Yeats and Aestheticism" in *Yeats and Afterwords*, ed. M. Howes and J. Valente (University of Notre Dame Press, 2014); and "The Accidental Autist: Neurosensory: Disorder in The Secret Agent" *The Journal of Modern Literature* (Fall 2014).

## PAST AND PRESENT

### 1984 at the 2014 Shakespeare Association of America meeting: Looking Back/Looking Forward

by **Barbara Bono**, Associate Professor of English

1984 was a pivotal year in Shakespeare studies. High theory was still in full flow. *Representations*, the lead journal in the American movement called "New Historicism," had been founded just the year before. It found its echo—and its difference—in the predominantly British practice of cultural studies. Various forms of feminist criticism wove themselves throughout theory and practice; gay and queer studies were starting to surface. Psychoanalytic and media criticism continued to redefine themselves. One strong mark of this ferment was the publication in 1984 of Jonathan Dollimore's *Radical Tragedy*, followed the next year by *Political Shakespeare: Essays in Cultural Materialism*, edited with Alan Sinfield. Together both books sought to replace the idea of a timeless Shakespeare with a Shakespeare deeply imbedded in the social, political, and ideological conflicts of his time.

Thirty years later Dollimore was the honored plenary speaker at this spring's Shakespeare Association of American meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. His intense and funny address galvanized the crowd of younger and older Shakespeareans, who these days remain equally moved by the challenges of economic inequality, environmental degradation, and globalism.

But mostly the conference made me think about the iconoclastic and plural study of Shakespeare in the English Department here at UB, which I joined in 1984. It began with the trio of Leslie Fiedler (*The Stranger in Shakespeare*, 1972), C.L. Barber (*Shakespeare's Festive Comedy*, 1959, and the posthumously-published *The Whole Journey: Shakespeare's Power of Development*, 1986) and Norman Holland (*The Shakespearean Imagination*, 1964, and *Psychoanalysis and Shakespeare*, 1968); it continued around the time that I joined the Department with Murray Schwartz (*Representing Shakespeare*, 1980), Jim Swan, Richard Fly (*Shakespeare's Mediated World*, 1976), Marc Shell (*The End of Kinship: "Measure for Measure," Incest, and the Ideal of Universal Siblinghood*, 1988), and David Willbern (*Poetic Will*, 1997). These scholars produced an outstanding generation of new scholars, among them Joel Fineman (*Shakespeare's Perjured Eye*, 1986), Richard Wheeler (*Shakespeare's Development and the Problem Comedies*, 1981), Barbara Freedman (*Staging the Gaze*, 1981), Jim Siemon (*Shakespearean Iconoclasm*, 1985; *Word Against Word*, 2002). My own book on Shakespeare, *Literary Transvaluation*, came out in 1984. And since I have joined the Department, I have collaborated closely in teaching Shakespeare with younger colleagues: romanticist Susan Eilenberg (*Strange Power of Speech*, 1992), Jim Holstun (*A Rational Millennium*, 1997, and *Ehud's Dagger*, 2000), theater historian Andy Stott (*Comedy*, 2005; *The Pantomime Life of Joseph Grimaldi*, 2009; and *The Poet and the Vampire*, 2014), and most recently seventeenth-century specialist Graham Hammill (*Sexuality and Form*, 2000, and *The Mosaic Constitution*, 2012) and Shakespearean Carla Mazzio (*The Inarticulate Renaissance*, 2009).

All of these UB colleagues would be proud of the former UB MA and PhD students who participated in the 2014 SAA Conference and the rich diversity of their work there: Jonathan Baldo (University of Rochester), Olga Valbuena (Wake Forest University), Howard Marchitello (Rutgers University) Tracey Sedinger (University of Northern Colorado), Bradley Greenburg (Northeastern Illinois University), Anne-Marie Schuyler (Central State University), Colleen Kennedy (PhD candidate, OSU), Maya Mathur (University of Mary Washington), Michael Clody (University of Houston), and Sonya Brockman (UNC, Charlotte).

And I was there as well, participating in a seminar on "The Blind Spots of Knowledge in Shakespeare and His World." But mostly, I just enjoyed attending the seminars and sharing meals with almost all of my old students, and feeling pretty good about the future.

## Doug Basford Receives NEA Literature Translation Fellowship



The National Endowment for the Arts announced that Douglas Basford has been recommended for an NEA Literature Translation Fellowship of \$12,500. Basford is one of 20 recommended fellows for 2015. In total, the NEA plans to distribute \$300,000 in this round to support the new translation of fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry from 12 different languages into English.

Domenico di Giovanni (1404-1449), known by his nickname Il Burchiello, trained as a barber-surgeon and opened his own shop in Florence, where the city's literati and others gathered for impromptu sonnet matches in which barbed, versified insults were levelled by competitors. Burchiello was commissioned to write sonnets against the Medici by a competing family, the Albizzi, and when the Medici returned to power, he was forced into exile, first to Siena, where he became ill (and even more ill with ill-considered medical intervention) and spent time in prison for debts and insolent, violent behavior, writing sonnets to various authorities and patrons that move between pleading, rage, and gallows humor. His travels took him then to Venice and Rome, and he took to mimicking the accents from the various cities he visited.

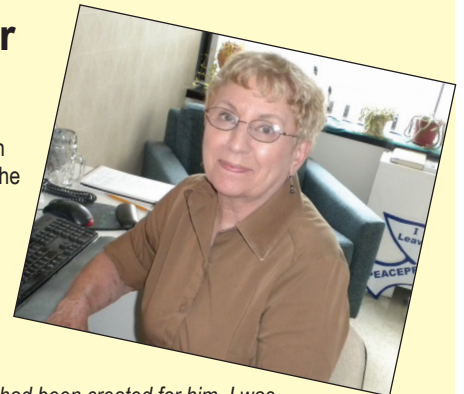
His work is best known for its bizarre images piled up "alla burchia," like the merchandise on river barges and boats. His sonnets offer a cross-section of contemporary life not found in his earlier forebears Dante and Petrarch, showing a great range of tonalities (bitingly satirical, despondent, earnest, bawdy, defiant, baffled, playful) and subjects (medical quackery, fortune-telling, pest-infested accommodations, the violence of jousting, bathing, clerical misbehavior, the bookish excesses of scholastics and grammarians). Although his sonnets, of which approximately 200 survive and which will form the basis for the anticipated book-length publication *Oarless: The Sonnets of Burchiello*, were to become widely imitated over the next two centuries, even by Lorenzo de' Medici himself, Burchiello died, possibly from syphilis, in Rome in penury.

Douglas Basford has been Assistant Director of Composition in the Department of English since 2008, having previously taught at Johns Hopkins University, Loyola University Maryland, and Goucher College. A poet, critic, and scholar of the history and rhetoric of science, he has published translations of poetry and prose in various journals—*Poetry*, *Subtropics*, *Western Humanities Review*, *Two Lines*, *The Atlanta Review*, *Words without Borders*, *Formes Poétiques Contemporaines*, and *SubStance*—and in edited collections—*The FSG Book of Twentieth-Century Italian Poetry* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux) and *The Display of Art in Roman Palaces, 1550-1750* (Getty Research Institute). He co-edits the online journal *Unsplendid*, which specializes in poetry in received forms, and is the Italian language editor of Coeur Publishing, a new venture for book-length translations of world literature.

"The NEA's long history of supporting literary translation is one of the most important ways we can broaden our nation's perspectives while also making the work of these talented writers and translators more available," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "This recommended award will go a long way in fostering a sense of empathy and understanding for how people from different countries and cultures connect with each other and live their lives."

## Joyce Troy Wins SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Classified Service

This past Spring, Joyce Troy, former secretary to Leslie Fiedler and long-time administrative assistant in the English Department's Graduate Office, was awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in the Classified Service. This award gives system-wide recognition for superior performance and extraordinary achievement to individuals who provide excellent service to students and to the campus community at large. Those of you who have studied in the department's graduate programs know how well this description fits Joyce. Fiedler once said that "Joyce performs not merely the duties of secretary but is an adjunct memory and diplomat in residence." We couldn't agree more. What follows is an account of Joyce's UB career in her own words.



"I began working for Leslie Fiedler in 1972, when the Samuel L. Clemens Chair, with a modest budget, had been created for him. I was told by a friend on a Friday evening that Leslie needed a secretary who could take shorthand. At nine o'clock the following Monday I phoned him at his office. When I explained my interest, Leslie asked if I could find my way to Annex B, South Campus. I arrived an hour later. We shook hands, he handed me a shorthand notebook and pen. For the next hour or so he dictated replies to the pile of correspondence on his desk, then left to teach. I was on my own, transcribing Leslie's dictation on a manual typewriter.

A former downtown legal secretary, I hadn't worked in an office for over 15 years. (I was a stay-at-home mother raising five children.) The University was a totally new and interesting experience for me. Leslie kept regular office hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, nine to noon, a constant through the years until his retirement from teaching in the 1990s. He never referred to himself as "emeritus." The Clemens Chair continued until his death in January 2003, as did Leslie's dictation and my shorthand.

Early in 1990 I became a full time employee when I began working afternoons in the Chairman's office. When a promotional position opened in the English Graduate Office in 1992, a half-time secretary and I took on those responsibilities, learning Graduate School policies and procedures and assisting then close to two hundred graduate students. Especially interesting over the years has been meeting, working with and learning from international students, as well as domestic students from many parts of the country."

# PROGRAM DIRECTOR NOTES

## CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF PSYCHOANALYSIS & CULTURE

The current academic year is a big one for the Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Culture, with major visitors and the continued expansion of our mission.

Our first event, on November 24, focuses on Associate Professor Steven Miller's recent book, *War After Death: On Violence and Its Limits* (Fordham UP, 2014). The book raises so many timely issues about war, violence, and the destruction of nonliving forms that we wanted to provide a forum for their public discussion and debate. Joining us for this event will be professors David L. Clark (McMaster University) and Jacques Khalip (Brown University).

This year the Center's annual symposium, *Psychoanalysis and Neurocognitive Disability*, seeks to put psychoanalytic paradigms and thinkers into dialogue with new work in the field of Disability Studies, particularly around questions of autism and Down syndrome. In addition to distinguished visitors from Paris, the symposium speakers include Michael Bérubé and Janet Lyon, pioneers in Disability Studies from Penn State University. The daylong symposium will be held on March 27, 2015.

Toward the end of the spring semester, British psychoanalyst Adam Phillips will visit UB for a week of lectures, seminars, and public conversations. Trained in the object relations tradition of D. W. Winnicott, Phillips draws on various clinical, philosophical, and literary traditions for his account of psychoanalysis as an "art of redescription." He exemplifies the Center's mission of democratizing psychoanalysis by reframing it in ordinary language, rather than in esoteric vocabularies of expertise. Phillips will be at UB during the last week of April.

Having recently published the final issue of *Umbra*, we now are working to compile an edited collection of essays under the title *Acts of Inheritance*. Among other things, this volume will provide an occasion to reflect on transitions at the Center and the place of psychoanalysis in intellectual, political, and institutional life.

- **Tim Dean**

Director, Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Culture

<http://www.buffalo.edu/cas/english/graduate/psychoanalysis.html>

## SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow Comes to UB's Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Culture

**Dr. Angela C. Facundo** will be taking up residence for two years in UB's English Department starting this fall. Facundo, who received her PhD in 2013 from York University, was awarded a Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) to come to UB to work with faculty in the Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Culture.

Building off of her dissertation, Facundo will be researching a new book project, entitled *The Age of Digital Reproduction: Sexuality in Literary-Photographic Art*. Facundo looks at the ways in which images and writing generate creative, reparative thought, not only new ideas, but also new ways of building meaning. As part of her research, she plans to examine the role of visual pleasure in W. G. Sebald's *Austerlitz* and Jonathan Safran Foer's *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, as well as in photographic portraits by Andy Warhol, Cindy Sherman, and Yasumasa Morimura.

## POETICS PROGRAM

Fall 2014 is a particularly rich and vibrant moment for the Poetics Program as it launches a new website and a new mission statement which reads in part: "The Poetics Program creates a generative space for inquiry around poetry's extraordinary and urgent critical re-grounding of foundational categories of thought and praxis. Poetry scrutinizes and activates language as a medium that materializes history and power and forms the very frames of perception and consciousness. The Poetics Program's intensive focus on poetry's capacity to re-world in turn fosters the making of scholarly and artistic work *on alert* — work that is profoundly responsive to the epochal shifts of the 21st century and that opens up new, consequential objects of study." (For full text: <http://www.buffalo.edu/cas/english/graduate/poetics.html>)

As part of its continuing effort to promote intradepartmental, interdepartmental, and interdisciplinary conversation, the Poetics Plus Fall 2014 Calendar reflects avid co-curation and collaboration with the Poetics Affiliate Faculty, comprised of colleagues in English as well as Comparative Literature, Media Study, Romance Languages and Literatures, and the Poetry Collection. The Poetics Program appreciates and fosters alliances within and outside UB in realizing its programming and mission, and is particularly committed to building on its dialogue with the Graduate Poetics Group, Exhibit X Fiction Series, The Gender Institute, Transnational Studies, The Poetry Collection, and Just Buffalo Literary Arts Center.

The Poetics Program will mark its 25th anniversary in 2015. During this anniversary year, 2015-16, Poetics will bring together a series of lectures, visits by poets and scholars, exhibitions, mini-symposia, and publishing projects, all culminating with an international conference (projected for Spring, 2016). Whether you are alumni, a fellow traveler, or a friend of Poetics, I am keen to hear from you about ways to shape these events, to activate the question of the question, "What is Poetics?"

- **Myung Mi Kim**

Director, Poetics Program

<http://www.buffalo.edu/cas/english/graduate/poetics.html>



"The Robert and Carol Morris Dissertation Completion Fellowship has provided me with a reprieve from teaching, which will allow me to finish my project on poetic and cultural formations of early modern melancholy. I'm grateful for this opportunity and excited to finish my dissertation. Thank you."

- Joe Aldinger



# UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

**Lisa Khoury** is the national 2013 Mark of Excellence award winner for in-depth reporting. The award is based on her article "The Heights of Fear" for *The Spectrum*. Lisa was recognized for her excellent work in journalism this September in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Eric Cortellessa**, who graduated in 2014, has been accepted into the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.

## Phi Beta Kappa (ΦBK) inductees:

Sara Antao	Gabriel Kahn
Lishi Chloe Chen	Sarah McGrath
Lesley Crawford	Katherine Rusch
Nicole Fishkind	Dhriti Tiwari
Farhana Hasan	

## List of Sigma Tau Delta (ΣΤΔ) inductees:

Woogee Bae	Emma Janicki
Barbara Bradley	Kirsten Morgan
Angelina Bruno	Daniel Perlino
Melissa Chen	Rachel Sawyer
Chelsey Coye	Amanda Shaw
Nicole Hamza	



Poetry Prize Winners 2014



## Accepted Students Day 2014

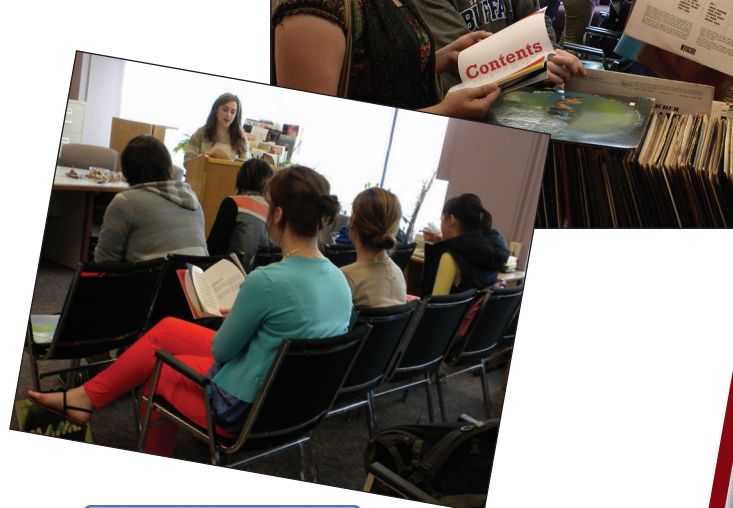


## FEATURED UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT - MAX CRINNIN



English major Max Crinnin spent this past summer traveling in Germany and visiting family there. During the school year, Max works as a writer and editor at *The Spectrum*, participates in Honors College activities, and serves as student sustainability coordinator for Campus Dining & Shops. In this latter role, he works to keep lines of communication open between the university and students regarding ways that UB can develop less wasteful, more eco-friendly, practices. He gives tours of Crossroads Culinary Center to nutrition classes, works with dining employees on composting efforts, helps plan Earth Week activities, and is currently lobbying for the university to start a campaign to encourage use of refillable water bottles. As a senior, Max has almost completed the requirements for his B.A. in English. "The professors in the department have helped me to develop as both a person and a student," Max says. "My entire time at UB has been shaped by the connections I've made and the great friendships I've been lucky to find. I have managed to stick my foot in some of the best doors on North Campus." Max is currently working on completing the pre-requisites for medical school, after which he plans to apply to a number of East Coast schools, including UB.

## NAME Launch 2014



## FEATURED POEM

### The Others

Faithfully imagining a better place to dissolve into;  
feeling the void and have it flow as one –  
through me.  
Distant from the static in the head  
of some far off dream of the planned.  
This has to do with understanding.  
Not to ignore but feel more.  
Getaway...

The sun gleams on the horizon and my senses soar.  
The oceans roar like the lions in Tanzania.  
The whistling wind fits like a glove.  
I want to hear his song for now and maybe later on too...

And so my psychological climate is shifting,  
in this subtracted space, because of the high frequency  
of its inhabitants.  
(I as well as them.)  
It may not be for you but it sound alright to me.  
Here I've created a hyper-reality.  
But this abstract is yours and mine,  
Along with this poly-sonic makeup produced by  
The Others.

by Kendall Spaulding

## THE POETRY COLLECTION



James Maynard (far left) accepted the Pegasus Award at a ceremony on June 9 in Chicago. With Maynard are: (L to R) Maynard; Poetry magazine editor Don Share; Poetry Foundation president Robert Polito; and co-award winner Peter Quartermain. Photo: Gerber Scarpelli

### Maynard wins poetry award

by SUE WUETCHER (UB Reporter)  
Published May 22, 2014

A compilation of the work of 20th-century American poet Robert Duncan edited by UB scholar James Maynard has won the inaugural Pegasus Award for Criticism from the Chicago-based Poetry Foundation.

The prize was awarded jointly to *Robert Duncan: Collected Essays and Other Prose*, edited by Maynard, associate curator of UB Poetry Collection, and *Robert Duncan: The Collected Later Poems and Plays*, edited by British Columbia-based poet, critic and publisher Peter Quartermain. Both books were published by the University of California Press as part of its *Collected Writings of Robert Duncan Series*.

In announcing the award winners, the Poetry Foundation noted that the two editions "represent a major achievement in textual scholarship, bringing together Duncan's authoritative texts and unpublished works. The result is an extraordinary look into the development and evolution of Duncan's distinct and

groundbreaking poetics. Editors Peter Quartermain and James Maynard deftly navigate Duncan's textual complexities while providing extensive notes, annotations and commentaries on Duncan's career and works.

The Pegasus Award, a major new American prize in poetry criticism, honors the best book-length work of criticism published in the prior calendar year, including biographies, essay collections and critical editions that consider the subject of poetry or poets.

Robert Duncan (1919-1988) was a key figure in 20th-century American poetics associated with several of its most prominent groupings and aesthetics, from his early study at Black Mountain College, to his contributions to Donald Allen's *The New American Poetry*, and long-term involvement in what came to be known as the San Francisco Renaissance.

Duncan's manuscripts are owned by the UB Poetry Collection.

Maynard received his PhD in English from UB in 2007 for his dissertation, "Architect of Excess: Robert Duncan and the American Pragmatist Sublime." He is the second Duncan scholar with UB connections in recent years to win or be nominated for such a major award.

Buffalo-area native Lisa Jarnot, who did her undergraduate work at UB, was a finalist for last year's National Book Critics Circle Award in biography for *Robert Duncan, The Ambassador from Venus*, also published in the University of California Press's *Collected Writings of Robert Duncan Series*.

The shortlist of finalists for the Pegasus Award also included another prominent book co-edited by a Buffalo-based scholar. D'Youville College professor and UB alumna Marta Werner (also a PhD in English) was nominated for the award for *The Gorgeous Nothings: Emily Dickinson's Envelope Poems*, published by New Directions Books.

## CAS Dissertation Completion Fellowships

**Leah Benedict:** "Impotence: the Anatomy of a Passion, 1660-1800"

**Sara Gutmann:** "Early Modern Drama and the English Geopolitical Imagination"

**Nicholas Hoffman:** "Information Technologies and the Discourse of Public Virtue in the Renaissance"

**Jung-Suk Hwang:** "American Pastoralism: Maintaining the Myth and Recreating the 'Other' in Contemporary American Literature"

**Morani Kornberg-Weiss:** "Rethorizing the Lyric: Transnationalism, Collective Voices and Hebrew Protest Poetry"

**Dustin Parrot:** "How to Do Things with Aids: Death, Pleasure, and Queer Subjectivity in the Epidemic"

## AWARDS

**Patricia Chaudron** received a Mark Diamond Research Fund award for archival work on the poet Madison Cawein at the Filson Historical Society in Louisville, Kentucky.

**Kristina Darling** has received awards for her poetry from the Ucross Foundation and the Hambidge Center for the Arts and Sciences. She was accepted as a Visiting Artist by the American Academy in Rome for the Fall, 2014. She also has three new books available from BlazeVOX Books: *Scorched Altar: Selected Poems & Stories 2007-2014*; a collection of prose poems called *The Sun & the Moon*; and a flash fiction book called *The Arctic Circle*.

**Michael Flatt** was given a travel grant by the Digital Scholarship Center last semester to attend Humanities Intensive Learning and Teaching at the University of Maryland this past summer.

**Eleanor Gold** and **Jesse Miller** were awarded fellowships by the Humanities Institute to attend the Future of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth College this past summer.

**David Hadbawnik** was awarded a Humanities Institute Dissertation Fellowship for his dissertation "Language Strange: Speech and Poetic Authority from Chaucer to Spenser."

**Jung-Suk Hwang** was awarded a Mark Diamond Research Grant for the 2014-2015 school year to visit the Manuscript Division at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. and read Philip Roth's papers and research materials on *American Pastoral*. Jang-Suk was also awarded a Graduate Student Caucus Travel Award from the Northeast Modern Language Association for her presentation, "Unmasking the American Dream in Philip Roth's *American Pastoral*," at NeMLA's 45th Annual Convention in April 2014.

**Keiko Ogata** was awarded the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society Dissertation Research Grant.

**Marion Quirici** is the new graduate assistant for the International Yeats Society. The recently launched IYS is a global interdisciplinary initiative promoting the study of the Irish poet, playwright, essayist, and Modernist W.B. Yeats.

**Morani Kornberg-Weiss** received a Mark Diamond Research Fund award from the Graduate Student Association.

## Four Students Awarded Opler-Doubrava Fellowships for 2014-15

Four PhD students in English were awarded Opler-Doubrava Fellowships. These \$5,000 fellowships are meant to supplement concurrently held TAs and are awarded to students in English in their fifth year of graduate study who demonstrate the highest level of academic excellence. This year, Opler-Doubrava Fellowships were awarded to the following students:

**Daniel Gomes**, for "Battle of the Bards: The Irish Political Ballad, 1922-1972"

**Shosuke Kinugawa**, for "Mark Twain's Detective Fiction"

**Melissa Schindler**, for "Black Women Writers and the Spatial Limits of the African Diaspora"

**Macy Todd**, for "Countable Man: From the Great Famine to Modernism"

## PLACEMENT NEWS

Since the Spring 2014 Newsletter, the following students have received employment offers:

### Tenure-Track Assistant Professorships

- **Ryan Hatch**, California Polytechnic State University
- **Stephanie Farrar**, University of Wisconsin at Eau-Claire
- **Divya Victor**, Nanyang Technological Institute (Singapore)

### Visiting Assistant Professorships

- **Maria Almanza**, Randolph College
- **Prentiss Clark**, University of South Dakota
- **Margaret Konkol**, New College
- **Andrew Rippeon**, Hamilton College
- **Justin Parks**, University in Turku (Finland)
- **Siobhán Scarry**, Bethel College

### Fellowships

- **Ronan Crowley**, Humboldt Foundation Fellowship
- **John Hyland**, College Writing Program at Haverford College

## Shin Named UB Student Employee of the Year

**Yoonha Shin** was named UB Student Employee of the Year, the best of all UB student employees, for her work in the Center for Excellence in Writing. Yoonha set up a program in spoken English at the Center for Excellence, and developed materials to help students apply for work and graduate school. Yoonha provides [to other TAs and consultants at the CEW] guidance in working with international students.

## riverrun Teaching Fellowship

**Eleanor Gold's** Science Fiction syllabus won the riverrun Fellowship award. She is a fourth-year PhD student whose dissertation examines contemporary literature and culture through a posthumanist lens, where she focuses on encounters with "non-charismatic life" and what that might mean for conservation practice and posthuman ethics.

## riverrun Research Fellowships

**Alison Fraser** will work at the Rosenbach Library and Museum in Philadelphia, researching Marianne Moore's scrapbooks. The scrapbooks are the focus of a chapter of Alison's dissertation, which will consider the relationship between avant-garde modernism and this "American popular practice of appropriation."

**Ajitpaul Mangat** will travel to the Melvin Sabshin Library and Archives of the American Psychiatric Association in Arlington, Virginia. There, he will read the Leo Kanner Papers to study the identification of autism as a disorder and its differentiation from both schizophrenia and Asperger's syndrome. His dissertation examines the history of cognitive disability and its influence on early twentieth-century novels.

**Jesse Miller** will work at the American Library Association Archives to research the history of the hospital library, focusing particularly on ideas of health associated with the practice of reading. This work will inform the first chapter of his dissertation, "The Birth of the Literary Clinic: Bibliotherapy and the Aesthetics of Health in the Modernist Novel."



## Barbara Cole (Ph.D. 2006)

When Barbara Cole was a Ph.D student in the English Department, she never imagined she would become Artistic Director of Just Buffalo Literary Center, one of Buffalo's great cultural institutions. As a graduate student in the Poetics Program, Barbara did what all Poetics students do. She read books, took classes, wrote seminar papers, went to readings, taught classes, wrote poetry, and participated in the Department's immensely rich intellectual community. Now, she works for one of the nation's top literary centers. Just Buffalo is a mainstay in the cultural and educational life of the city. It brings the world's greatest writers to Buffalo, sponsors literacy programs across Western New York, and supports the development of young writers through the award-winning *Writers in Education* program.

Barbara's interest in community engagement began when she served as Writer-in-Residence under Just Buffalo's auspices. Her job was to lead poetry lessons with middle-school and high school students. "What started as an extracurricular activity, motivated by a desire to be more connected to the community outside of the university, inspired my decision to devote myself fully to this type of community engagement in the not-for-profit sector," Barbara explains.

A few years after finishing her Ph.D, Barbara was hired as Just Buffalo's Education Director, "leading the very program that awakened me to the need for poets and writers in the schools," she continues. Despite its recent and exciting economic growth, Buffalo remains a city deeply divided between haves and have-nots. When Barbara first stepped into the role of Education Director, Buffalo was the third poorest city in America, with 43% of its children living below the poverty line and 67% of its eighth graders reading below grade level.

"During my tenure as Education Director," Barbara notes, "we reached more than 10,000 students; employed an ever-expanding team of talented fiction writers, poets, playwrights and book artists; inspired teachers to try new approaches to creative writing in their own classrooms; developed a website and online archive; curated exhibitions in local galleries and at City Hall and even installed student poems on bus shelters across the city."

A few years later, Barbara was promoted to Artistic Director, overseeing a broad spectrum of programs and initiatives, including the acclaimed author series BABEL, which invites internationally renowned writers to give readings in Buffalo, including, this year, Colum McCann, David Henry Hwang, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and Patti Smith.

Barbara never expected to enter the world of "alt-ac" employment. ("alt-ac" is shorthand for alternative academic career.) But she feels that her Ph.D. prepared her well for the work she now does. "Whether I am mentoring a new teaching artist, meeting with classroom teachers, or advocating for more creative writing opportunities at the school board as Education Director or, under my present role as Artistic Director, researching an upcoming BABEL author, writing articles and grants, or developing new initiatives to increase the visibility of the literary arts, I am constantly drawing on the skills I honed during my time at UB."

Winner of a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry in 2011, Barbara is an active poet and writer. She is currently working on a long poem project entitled *foxy moron*, which she very much looks forward to finishing. She is the mother of two young daughters, and says that her "most fulfilling work" is "raising strong and independent girls, instilling confidence in them to grow into determined women."

Speaking of her time in the English Department, Barbara fondly remembers the Weds@4 Plus readings curated by Charles Bernstein. Every week, Bernstein brought a different poet – from David Antin to Adrienne Rich, Kenneth Goldsmith to Keith Waldrop, Bruce Andrews to Cecilia Vicuña – to Buffalo to read in the Center for the Arts. "I had the privilege of meeting a diverse range of writers," Barbara comments. "Not just meeting them for a fleeting handshake but actually sharing an evening with them" over dinner. These meetings became the backbone of the Poetics Program, as graduate students, faculty, and visiting poets exchanged ideas, shared research, discussed hotbed issues in the world of poetry and poetics, and collaborated on new projects. Cole vividly portrays the excitement of those readings. "Imagine finding yourself, breathless, while Robert Creeley, Susan Howe, and Adrienne Rich discussed gender issues in their early work! At that moment, I knew I was witnessing history."

Just Buffalo Literary Center was founded in 1975 by Debora Ott, another alumna of UB's English Department. You can read more about Just Buffalo's history, events, and educational programs at <http://www.justbuffalo.org>.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Daniel Alexander** (BA, 1995) is a very busy orthopedic surgeon who owns the Finger Lakes Bone and Joint Center. He also owns Catamount Associates, a medical billing and coding company with accounts across the country, an Open MRI of the Finger Lakes, which donates its profits to charity. Along with Paul Cimminelli, Dan is building a community center in his old neighborhood, a very poor section of South Buffalo in the Seneca Babcock area. This year Dan is celebrating his 25th anniversary to his wife Gail in the South of France. Dan and Gail have four children and live in Canandaigua, NY. Dan continues to write, and is finishing a screenplay about his life, growing up poor, getting an education, becoming a firefighter in Buffalo, retiring after 10 years as a Lieutenant, and then becoming a successful entrepreneur and surgeon.

**Amanda Allen** (BA, 2014) graduated from UB in May 2014 and earned a subsequent bachelor's degree in communicative disorders. She will be attending the graduate program for speech-language pathology (M.A.) in the fall of 2014 at UB.

Attorney **Timothy J. Altieri** (BA, 2004) opened Altieri Law Firm, P.A. this past April in Cape Coral, Florida. He is admitted to practice in both New York and Florida. Prior to opening Altieri Law Firm, P.A., Mr. Altieri was an Assistant State Prosecutor as well as a personal injury defense lawyer in Florida.

Prior to moving from Buffalo, New York to Florida in 2010, he was a criminal defense lawyer in Buffalo. His firm's practice areas include: DUI Defense, Criminal Defense, Personal Injury, and Civil Litigation. Mr. Altieri currently resides in Cape Coral, Florida with his wife, Melissa.

**Carla Billitteri** (PhD, 2001) has recently published her translations of Maria Attanasio with Litmus Press. Please follow the link: <http://www.litmuspress.org/amnesia-of-the-movement-of-clouds-of-red-black-verse/>

**Bob Calo** (BA, 1969) is on sabbatical from a regular position at The Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley. He is doing some freelance video projects and some lecturing in Europe, and resting.

**Barbara Cantalupo** (nee White) (PhD, 1988) has published a monograph, *Poe and the Visual Arts*, <http://www.psupress.org/books/titles/978-0-271-06309-6.html>

**Terrence Chiusano** (MA, 2000) won the Poets Out Loud editor's prize (selected by Elisabeth Frost) for *On Generation & Corruption: Poems*, which will be published by Fordham University Press, spring 2015. [http://www.fordham.edu/academics/programs\\_at\\_fordham/english/creative\\_writing/poets\\_out\\_loud/pol\\_prizes\\_95248.asp](http://www.fordham.edu/academics/programs_at_fordham/english/creative_writing/poets_out_loud/pol_prizes_95248.asp)

**Bruce Clarke** (PhD, 1980), Horn Professor of Literature and Science at Texas Tech University, has been appointed to a three-year term as chair of TTU's Department of English. The University of Minnesota Press will publish his fifth single-authored book this fall, *Neocybernetics and Narrative*, which presents systems theory as a matrix of operations for narrative and media theory.

**Peter Morton Coan** (MA, 1979) recently had a book signing on Ellis Island in June and in September for his book: *Taxi: The Harry Chapin Story*.

**Maura Collins** (BA, 1999) was recently promoted to Director of Policy and Administration at Vermont Housing Finance Agency in Burlington, Vermont. She acts as a senior policy advisor and legislative liaison at the state and federal levels. Named as one of Vermont's top 40 professionals under 40 years old by *Vermont Business Magazine*, she serves on VHFA's Executive Management team and manages the Agency's research, communications, human resources, and information technology departments.

**Kevin Costa** (PhD, 2006) is the Director of Fine and Performing Arts at the McDonogh School, and also the Education Director for Baltimore's thriving and innovative Chesapeake Shakespeare Company. This fall, from October 24th - November 9th, he will direct a production of *Richard II* (the first public production ever in the state of Maryland) at their newly-restored theater just blocks from Baltimore's Inner Harbor. He'll also visit Western New York in Rochester on November 10th-11th, when, as a member of the Folger National Teacher Corps, he'll lead a Shakespeare Teaching Intensive, sponsored by the English Speaking Union and the Folger Shakespeare Library and directed toward Common Core standards, for area junior-high and high school teachers. In that program he'll be helped by his former mentor, UB English Department Associate Professor Barbara Bono.



**Michael Davidson** (PhD, 1973) has recently published *On the Outskirts of Form: Practicing Cultural Poetics* (Wesleyan University Press, 2011) and *Bleed Through: New and Selected Poems* (Coffee House Books, 2013).

**Richard Deming** (PhD, 2003) was recently appointed Director of Creative Writing in the English Department of Yale University.

**Sally Ann Drucker** (PhD, 1988) spent most of June, 2014 portraying Emma Goldman in an Oklahoma World War I traveling Chautauqua: 3 cities in 3 weeks. When not re-creating famous women in public humanities programs, she is a Professor in the Dept. of English at SUNY/Nassau.

**Jill Duffy** (BA, 2000) has just released her first Kindle single book. It is titled, *The 'Get Organized' Guide to Travel: How to Plan, Budget, and Book Your Next Trip* [http://www.amazon.com/Get-Organized-Guide-Travel-Budget-ebook/dp/B00L9HIF8M/ref=la\\_B00FOXT14O\\_1\\_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1404932315&sr=1-2](http://www.amazon.com/Get-Organized-Guide-Travel-Budget-ebook/dp/B00L9HIF8M/ref=la_B00FOXT14O_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1404932315&sr=1-2).



**Frederick Feirstein** (BA, 1960) has published his ninth book of poems, *Dark Energy*, by The Grolier Series of Established Poets.

**Leah Culligan Flack** (BA, 1996) is an assistant professor at Marquette University. Cambridge University Press will publish her first book (*Modernism and Homer: The Odysseys of H.D., James Joyce, Osip Mandelstam, and Ezra Pound*) next year.

**Greg Fischman** (BA, 2005) recently launched a NYC based talent agency in April - Destination Artists Touring Agency. The website is [www.datatouring.com](http://www.datatouring.com).



**Erwin Ford** (PhD, 1988) has published a new biography of George V. Higgins (who taught in the UB English Department 1986-7) in the US and Europe.

**Mary C. Gentile** (PhD, 1983) is Director of Giving Voice to Values, launched with The Aspen Institute and Yale School of Management, now based at and funded by Babson College. This pioneering curriculum for values-driven leadership has had over 625 pilots globally and has been featured in *Financial Times*, *Harvard Business Review*, *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, *McKinsey Quarterly*, etc. Gentile, faculty at Babson College and educational consultant, was previously at Harvard Business School. [www.MaryGentile.com](http://www.MaryGentile.com); [www.GivingVoiceToValues.org](http://www.GivingVoiceToValues.org)

**Loss Pequeño Glazier** (PhD, 2009) directed E-Poetry 2013 London: An International Digital Poetry Festival in June. He organized a part of "EPC@20" the Twentieth Anniversary of the Electronic Poetry Center, which was held Sept. 11 and 12, 2014 in Buffalo, and will be held on Digital Poetry & Dance 2015, January 31, 2015 at UB. He has recently given talks and readings at the Poetry Library, Royal Festival Hall, London and in New York City, Toronto, Scotland, Florida, and Monterrey, México.

**Stephen Goss** (BA, 2002) is currently a Visiting Professor of English Education at the University at Buffalo. He was recently named the director of U.B.'s Undergraduate Minor in Education. The minor is relatively new and he is trying hard to promote what it offers. He uses innovative techniques in his classrooms (Buffalo Public Schools and here at UB) that have been featured, along with the work of his students, in the *Buffalo News* and on WBFO FM. Here are some links: [http://www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter/spotlight.host.html/content/shared/university/news/ub-reporter-articles/stories/2013/profile\\_goss.detail.html](http://www.buffalo.edu/ubreporter/spotlight.host.html/content/shared/university/news/ub-reporter-articles/stories/2013/profile_goss.detail.html), <http://news.wbfo.org/post/future-teachers-receive-lesson-self-expression>, <http://bheardmechs.tumblr.com>

**Gary Hink** (MA, 2005) received his Ph.D. in English from the University of Florida (2012). He teaches full-time in the Program for Writing & Rhetoric at University of Colorado Boulder (since summer 2013).

**Esther Harriott** (PhD, 1983) has a forthcoming book, *Writers and Age*, to be published in December 2014 (McFarland & Co.). It focuses on the late works of five great writers: V. S. Pritchett, Stanley Kunitz, Doris Lessing, Mavis Gallant, and Russell Baker. Born between 1900 (Pritchett) and 1925 (Baker), are members of the first generation of the twentieth century when life expectancy almost doubled, and of the first generation of writers able to write about old age from experience. The book examines their novels, short stories, essays, and poems about old age, written in old age, and the interviews listen to their personal reflections on the subject.

**Jacob Jewusiak** (PhD, 2012) was awarded the Donald Gray Prize for the best essay in *Victorian Studies* for 2014.

**Jaechol Kim** (PhD, 2006) recently published "The North-South Divide in *Gorboduc*: Fratricide Remembered and Forgotten." *Studies in Philology* 111.4 (Fall 2014): 691-719. He is currently teaching at Hansung University, Seoul.

**Richard Kopley** (PhD, 1982) has retired as Distinguished Professor of English from Penn State DuBois. He is now co-organizing The Fourth International Edgar Allan Poe Conference (Roosevelt Hotel, New York City, February 26 to March 1, 2015).

**Meron Langsner** (PhD, 1996) has a play, *Bystander 9/11*, included in *The Methuen Drama Anthology of Testimonial Drama*, which was recently published by Bloomsbury. More info here: <http://www.bloomsbury.com/us/the-methuen-drama-anthology-of-testimonial-plays-9781408176528/>

**Elizabeth Licata** (BA, 1984) is now Associate Publisher at Buffalo Spree Publishing (in addition to editor-in-chief).

**James Maynard** (PhD, 2007) edited *Robert Duncan: Collected Essays and Other Prose*, published in January 2014 as part of the University of California Press's Collected Writings of Robert Duncan series, and was awarded the Poetry Foundation's inaugural Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism.

**Randi Minetor (Bassow)** (BA, 1980) has two new books, both released this spring: *Hiking Waterfalls in New York* (FalconGuides, May 2014) and *Scenic Routes & Byways: New York* (The Globe Pequot Press, June 2014). She just completed work on *Day Trips: Hudson Valley*, which will be released in January 2015. Minetor, a freelance writer, has also been selected by the University of

Rochester Medicine for the year-long project of rewriting the entire website of this prominent regional medical system.

**Perry S. Nicholas** (MA, 1982), along with ECC colleagues Lisa Wiley and Rick LaClair, read his original poetry on Friday, July 25th. The event was at Impact Gallery at the Tri-Main Building on Main Street. He read mostly from his book, co-authored by his wife, Maria Sebastian-Nicholas called *The Company We Keep*. She received her M.A.H. from U.B. in 2004.

**Scott Oldenburg** (PhD, 2007) has a new book entitled *Alien Albion: Literature and Immigration in Early Modern England*, coming out this fall with the University of Toronto Press (<http://www.utppublishing.com/Alien-Albion-Literature-and-Immigration-in-Early-Modern-England.html>). He also served as an advisor for some experimental theater: Luna series I and II.

**Jena Osman** (PhD, 1998) has published a book of poems, *Corporate Relations* (Burning Deck Press), that includes language culled from Supreme Court cases that have granted corporations constitutional rights since the late 19th century. Other recent books include *Public Figures* (Wesleyan University Press) and *The Network* (Fence Books).

**Karen Swallow Prior** (PhD, 1999) has a new book, *Fierce Convictions: The Extraordinary Life of Hannah More - Poet, Reformer, Abolitionist*, which comes out in November, the seeds of which were her PhD dissertation. For more info on the book: <http://www.amazon.com/Fierce-Convictions-Extraordinary-Reformer-Abolitionist/dp/1400206251>

**Richard Rosichan** (BA, 1964) and his wife, Ellen, are currently retired and living in the same Miami Beach house that they purchased in 1983. They were married in 1963. She is active in a local book club. He recently completed two novels and is working on a third one; he has also completed a number of short stories. As many are doing these days, given the near impossibility of getting into print, he is self-publishing on the internet.

**Steve Schuelein** (BA, 1967) is from Playa del Rey, CA. His three years as *Spectrum* sports editor provided an early stimulus for a long career in newspaper and magazine sports journalism.

**Mark Francis Schwab** (BA, 1976) is working on his next book entitled *Saratoga Times*. It's a collection of fictionalized, historic "New America" short stories from the birth of our nation to the current day. He is the author of the published novel, *The Spouse Stealer*©. [www.linkedin.com/in/markfrancischwab](http://www.linkedin.com/in/markfrancischwab), [www.examiner.com/adirondacks-travel-in-albany/mark-francis-schwab](http://www.examiner.com/adirondacks-travel-in-albany/mark-francis-schwab), [www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDor8h5VnSU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDor8h5VnSU), [www.thespousestealer.com](http://www.thespousestealer.com)

**Jonathan Skinner** (PhD, 2005) is now an Associate Professor in the Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies at the University of Warwick, where he teaches ecopoetics (in the Warwick Writing Program), contemporary poetry and ecocriticism. He currently is editing an anthology, *Earth Bound: Compass Points Toward an Ecopoetics*, under advance contract with Wesleyan University Press. His last poetry collection, *Birds of Tiff*, featured the urban wilds of Buffalo.

**Scott Slawinski** (BA, 1992), tenured Associate Professor since 2010, has been appointed Director of Graduate Studies for Western Michigan University's English Department.

**Rachel Sparacio-Foster** (BA, 1999) was included in the Online Marketing Institute's list of the "Top 40+ Digital Strategists in Marketing for 2014." The list recognizes "the luminaries who have paved the way for digital marketing innovation and education throughout the past year."

**Lisa Stahl** (BA, 1974) designed a distance learning online class on fashion style for NY Institute of Art and Design which is scheduled to be reviewed for NYS accreditation this September. She not only wrote the course, but she designed the course to be competitive with other distance-learning classes of this nature, hired, interviewed, negotiated fees with, and managed the entire life cycle of the course production. She attracted some big names in fashion and the course was very highly regarded by senior management. She continues her training in gourmet wine (Snooth Media) and is an event host as well. She has had several articles published in *Wine Enthusiast* and also wrote an article on Fred Dexeheimer, a big name in nightlife and mixology, published on a website ADANAL.

**Betsy (Lasky) Sterman** (MA, 1950) had a novel, *Ghost Road*, an Underground Railroad time travel adventure novel for 8-12 year olds, published in late spring. It is her 6th book of juvenile fiction, and now joins the following: *Too Much Magic* and *Backyard Dragon*, co-authored with her husband, Samuel Sterman (BS, 1939 from UB), published by HarperCollins; *Saratoga Secret*, Published by Dial Books for Young Readers; *Curiosity Falls* and *Escape to Danger*, published by Pearson Education Book Trek series.

**John Taylor** (BA, 2004) completed his residency in psychiatry and fellowship in psychosomatic medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston MA. He has joined the faculty of MGH and Harvard Medical School where he is an attending psychiatrist, assistant training director of the adult psychiatry residency, and project manager in population health management.

**Kerrie Tills** (BA, 2006) recently relocated from Los Angeles to Raleigh, NC to take a position as the SEM (Search Engine Marketing) Lead at Three Ships, a digital advertising agency.

**Kimber VanRy** (BA, 1991) graduated from UB and was then off to Eastern Michigan University where he earned an MS in Historic Preservation Planning. From there, he spent some time in Western Pennsylvania running an internship program and writing National Register of Historic Places nominations for three towns. Along the way, he got married and moved to Brooklyn, NY in 1995, where he fell into what would become a career in the photo and film licensing business. Twenty plus years on from his time in Buffalo, he is the Senior Sales Operations Manager for the Americas for Corbis in NYC. He spends his days using the analytical skills gained as an English major at UB interpreting tons of data and telling a story through numbers that helps drive sales strategy and solve problems for customers. Outside of work, he's managed to become a husband to Amy who works for the Environmental Defense Fund and the father of two sons -- Jules (9) and Sterling (14) -- who he plies with plenty of history, literature, art and pop culture. In his spare time, he plays a lot of board games and historical miniatures wargames -- an obsession he documents regularly on his blog ([www.brooklynwargaming.com](http://www.brooklynwargaming.com)).

**Jonas Zdanys** (PhD, 1975) is a Professor of English at Sacred Heart University. He has received a grant from the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture to complete and publish his fifth volume of poetry written in Lithuanian; it will be his 42nd published book overall. This latest work, entitled *Ikaro Priskelimas*, which means 'the resurrection of Icarus,' continues the themes he began to explore in his book of prose poems entitled *The Kingfisher's Reign*. He was nominated for the grant by his publisher and received the award based on his book's literary and cultural merit. The book was scheduled to be published in September in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, by the Lithuanian Writers Union Publishing House. He has published a volume of poetry entitled *Cormorants*, which consists of 25 modified sonnets that are thematically linked together. This work was published in a fine arts, letterpress edition by Timberline Press in Boston. The sequence explores how we can come to experience and understand the numinous and the transcendent through the aesthetic experience. He was also featured poet at the ninth annual Scissortail Festival in Ada, Oklahoma. The Scissortail Creative Writing Festival is an annual poetry and literary arts gathering that is held the first weekend of every April on campus at Oklahoma's East Central University. Ken Hada, a widely published and award-winning American poet and professor of English at East Central, first created this festival back in 2005. This festival is the largest gathering of its kind in the American Southwest.

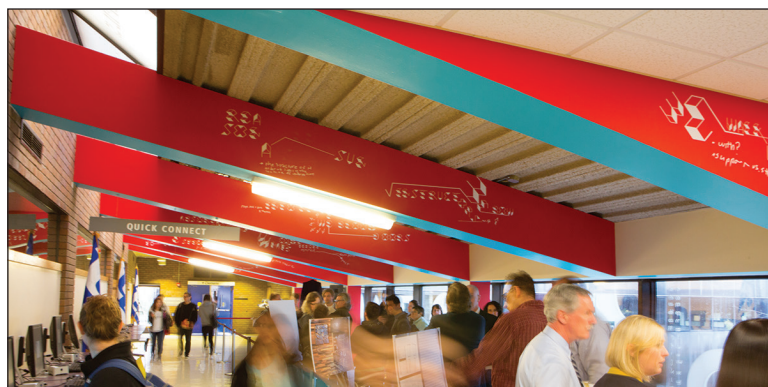
**George Zornick** (BA, 2005) was promoted to Washington editor of *The Nation* magazine.



"I am grateful to the donors of the Louis and Joan Slovinsky Dissertation Fellowship, as they offer the financial support necessary to pursue innovative thinking and writing. In the coming year, I will continue my investigation of the relationships between literary genre and cultural history in the nineteenth-century United States."

- Allison Siehnell

## Praxis creates 'memorable space' in Lockwood



A crowd gathers at the unveiling of the Praxis installation in the Quick Connect Corridor between Lockwood Library and Clemens Hall. The computer workstations, left, will be redesigned in the second phase of the project this fall. Photo: Douglas Levere

by SUE WUETCHER (UB Reporter)  
Published July 17, 2014

Faculty, staff and students traveling the second-floor walkway running from Lockwood Library to Clemens Hall may be pleasantly surprised to discover the space has been transformed from a plain, white corridor into a colorful art installation that engages passersby both artistically and intellectually.

"Praxis—Lockwood Interfacing," which features the work of students from the departments of Art and English, was unveiled last semester as part of UB's Signature Series celebrating the university's legacy in the arts and letters. The second phase of the project, which is being designed by students in the Department of Theatre and Dance, is expected to be installed in the fall.

Praxis, according to its abstract, "synthesizes theoretical investigations with practical applications in typography." Its objective: "to design and apply a coded message to this space that tests the limits of language and challenges readership."

Ben Van Dyke, an Associate Professor in the Department of Art

whose Typography 2 students took part in the project, said he told the students that the project "needed to be transformative."

"It couldn't just look like a piece of art just put on the space, something that would blend in. It had to fundamentally change the space," said Van Dyke, who has since left UB to join the faculty at Michigan State University.

Visitors may first notice the overhead beams along the corridor have been painted bright shades of red, blue and yellow. A poem written by English student Kendall Spaulding serves as a riddle, its words "coded" in different typographical designs created by Van Dyke's students. Five lines of poetry appear along the beams from each direction, which allows visitors to read them differently as they pass through the hallway. To add to the complexity, fonts are associated with specific color schemes—for instance, plainer fonts are displayed in white type on a yellow background—making some of them harder to read and decipher.

Van Dyke said that while only a few persons know the answer to the riddle, "there is a key in the space that can be used to help unlock the message."

In phase 2 of the project being implemented this fall, students under the direction of Erich Frank, Clinical Assistant Professor of technical theatre, will redesign the workstations for the "quick connect" computers that line the hallway.

In fact, an initial plan by the Office of the CIO to replace those workstations actually sparked the entire Praxis project, notes Nancy Kielar, Assistant Vice President in the Chief Information Office.

"The number of people who walk through that corridor is incredible," Kielar says. Rather than simply replacing the furniture, she thought, "why don't we turn this area into another memorable space?"

Kielar has a track record of transforming uninspired space on the North Campus into space that is memorable and a high point for students. Nearly three years ago, she spearheaded the transformation of the Lockwood Cybrary from a space that students informally called "the cave" into a bright, colorful, more inviting space—and a highlight of UB campus tours.

The idea of creating "memorable spaces" on campus came to Kielar after she took a series of college tours with her children. While all the campuses generally seemed the same, each one had one spot that stood out and was memorable, she recalls.

The effort to create that memorable space in the Quick Connect Corridor began when Kielar reached to E. Bruce Pitman, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Pitman put out the word to his faculty, and Van Dyke and Frank "jumped at the chance," Kielar says.

The Praxis project "is really very cool," she says "transforming the entire space and highlighting the work of our students."

The project did not cost a lot of money, she notes, but it made a real difference.

"I'd love to continue it, piece by piece," she says.

Robert Poleszak, BS '14, contributed to this article.



"The 2014-2015 Robert & Carol Morris Dissertation Completion Fellowship has bought me one of the most precious and needed resources for all PhD candidates: time. Time to do research on realist poetics, write, re-write, and re-write again. It's a gift that I wish could be extended to more people in the department who are doing excellent work."

- Patricia Chaudron



**Arthur Efron** published a book in 2013: *D. H. Lawrence's Women in Love: Sexual Experience and the Struggle With Death*, Prestige Books International. New Delhi-Sydney, 2013

An article of his on William Godwin appears in a recent book, "Reading Political Justice: A New, Experiential Anarchist Approach," in *The Best of Social Anarchism*, edited by Howard J. Ehrlich and a.h.s. boy. See Sharp Press: Tucson, Arizona. 2013 (pages 176-85).

Another article of his appears in "Civilized Society: Four Words by D. H. Lawrence." *D. H. Lawrence Studies* (Seoul, Korea) 21:1 (June 2013) pages 105-123.

Also, a part of the book was published in a journal: "D. H. Lawrence's Women in Love: Sexual Experience and the Struggle With Death." *Commonwealth Review* (New Delhi) 22:1 (2013), pages 22-71.

**Howard Wolf**, Emeritus Professor and

Senior Fellow, presented a paper at Wolfson College, University of Cambridge, on May 28, 2014: "The Fourth Genre: Between Fact and Fiction." It will be published in *Humanities Circle* (Kerala, India). An essay-memoir, "Site-Seeing in New York," an example of the fourth genre, will appear in the same issue. Another essay-memoir will appear in the Fall issue of *Evening Street Review* (Ohio): "My Mother's World: A Son's Memoir." Howard's short story, "Reunion at the Driftwood," will appear in *The Coo*, the literary journal of Rogers State University (OK).

A small birthday reception was held for **Bill Sylvester**, emeritus faculty member who came to the English Department in 1965 and retired in 1988. Bill was in town celebrating his 96th birthday. Bill is the founding editor of *\*Buffalo Vortex\** and has published poems in venues such as *Chelsea*, *Commonweal*, *Poetry*, *Exquisite Corpse*, and *House Organ* for more than 60 years. For an interview with Bill, see <http://theshop.free-jazz.net/bill-sylvester-interviewed-by-bruce-holsapple-michael-basinski/shop/gronlagaule/>

Since retirement, **Mark Shechner** has been writing fiction and journalism, and his novel, *Call Me Moishe: The True Confessions of a White Whale*, was published as an Amazon Kindle book in April 2014. It will be re-issued in Fall 2014 as an illustrated book. It can be found at [http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss\\_2?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=shechner](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss_2?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=shechner).



Mark is also co-editor of an anthology of thirty-seven contemporary short stories by Jewish writers living in North America. The book, to be published by Wayne State University Press in December 2014, is titled *The New Diaspora: The Changing Landscape of American Jewish Fiction*. A preview of it can be found on Amazon at [http://www.amazon.com/New-Diaspora-Changing-Landscape-American/dp/0814340555/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1402795240&sr=1-3&keywords=shechner](http://www.amazon.com/New-Diaspora-Changing-Landscape-American/dp/0814340555/ref=sr_1_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1402795240&sr=1-3&keywords=shechner).

Most recently, while working on the illustrated version of *Call Me Moishe*, Mark has begun a mixed genre work (fiction, memoir, essay) on casino gambling and slot-machine wagering, based on his fifty plus years of playing slot machines wherever he can find them. A short book, it will be titled *Cherry Picker*.

On May 21, the Department of English presented a free public reading by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet **Carl Dennis** from his new collection, *Another Reason*.

Carl is an Emeritus Professor of English at UB. He taught at the university from 1966 until his retirement in 2001, after which he served for several years as an artist-in-residence.



He is the winner of the 2002 Pulitzer Prize in poetry for his collection *Practical Gods*. In addition to *Another Reason*, he is the author of 12 other books, including *House of My Own* (1974), *The Outskirts of Troy* (1988), *Meeting with Time* (1992) and *Callings* (2010).

Carl has received numerous honors and awards for his work, including fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as the 2000 Ruth Lilly Prize from *Poetry Magazine* and the Modern Poetry Association for his contributions to American poetry.



## IN MEMORIAM

**Harold Sunshine** (BA 1956, MEd 1957), age 78, of Chenango Forks, died suddenly in a car accident on Tuesday, October 29, 2013. He was predeceased by his parents, Reuben and Ada Sunshine, of Buffalo, NY. He is survived by his brother, sister-in-law and nephew: Ben, Lisa, and Ross Shore of Indian Wells, California; best friend and life partner, Karen Goodman of Chenango Forks and her siblings' families; cousins Bess, Dan and Alice Feldman of Buffalo; special friends the Henkle family, especially winter companion Roxanne of Jacksonville, FL, the Carbones of Jacksonville and Rosemarie of Binghamton; and many other cherished friends and neighbors in New York and Florida. A native of Buffalo, Harold was a graduate of Bennett High School and of the University of Buffalo. He was a proud veteran of the U.S Army and professor emeritus of Broome Community College, where he taught English, speech and humanities for 30 years. Prior to that, he taught for five years at Bennett High School. In his retirement, Harold enjoyed spending winters in Jacksonville, Florida. He was a vibrant man of many interests, including art, theater, opera, classical music, baseball, ice hockey and football. He was a steadfast fan, through good seasons and bad, of the San Francisco Giants, Detroit Red Wings and New York Giants. He loved sharing his knowledge and enthusiastic opinions about all of his passions.

**Jayne Lyn Stahl** (BA, English, 1972, summa cum laude) passed away on March 21, 2013. Jane was a poet, essayist, playwright, screenwriter, and blogger for the *Huffington Post*. Deeply committed to free expression and freedom of the press, Jane was a member of the American Civil Liberties Union, PEN American Center and PEN Center USA, and was founder and project manager of Writers-At-Large, a writers' advocacy group funded by the California Arts Council to speak out against harassment of the press, and in favor of a federal shield law. Jane has donated part of her library to the English Department and the Poetry Collection.

## UPCOMING EVENTS .....

### NOVEMBER:

- 5 - **Julia Elliott** - Exhibit X Fiction Series Reading - 7:00pm 341 Delaware Ave.
- 7 - **Erin Mouré** - Poetics Plus Reading - 8:00pm - 468 Washington St.
- 10 - **Sophia Roosth** - Science Studies Workshop Series - 3:30pm - 306 Clemens Hall
- 12 - **Yedda Morrison** - Poetics Plus/Exhibit X Reading - 7:00pm, 341 Delaware Ave.
- 13 - **Publics/Humanities/Intellectuals** - Roundtable Discussion - 2:00-5:00pm - 107 Capen Hall
- 14 - **Eavan Boland** - Oscar Silverman Reading - 8:00pm - 672 Delaware Ave.
- 17 - **Christi Merrill** - Juxtapositions Lecture - 4:00pm - 306 Clemens Hall
- 21 - **Works in Progress** - Poetics Plus Event - 8:00pm - 202 Allen St.
- 24 - **Panel on War After Death** - Center for Study of Psychoanalysis & Culture - 3:00pm - Location TBA

### THE BUFFALO FILM SEMINARS SERIES 29/FALL 2014

- Dipson Amherst Theatre, 3500 Main Street, Buffalo, NY • Tuesdays at 7:00pm
- Nov. 4 - **Roman Polanski**, *Tess*, 1979
  - Nov. 11 - **Sydney Pollack**, *Tootsie*, 1982
  - Nov. 18 - **Joel and Ethan Coen**, *Fargo*, 1996
  - Nov. 25 **Erik Skjoldbjærg**, *Insomnia*, 1997
  - Dec. 2 - **Mike Nichols**, *Charlie Wilson's War*, 2007

Further information at: <http://buffalofilmseminars.com>

Check out our website for more information on Upcoming Events:  
[http://www.buffalo.edu/cas/english/news-events/upcoming\\_events.html](http://www.buffalo.edu/cas/english/news-events/upcoming_events.html)

## Recommended Reading....

*We asked some English faculty to recommend a few good books. Here's what they came up with.*

**Joseph Conte:** *Super Sad True Love Story* by Gary Shteyngart (Random House, 2011)

**Bob Daly:** *The Dream of the Great American Novel* by Laurence Buell (Belknap Press, 2014)

**Arthur Efron:** *Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?* by Jeanette Winterson (Grove Press, 2011)

**Graham Hammill:** *Far From the Tree: Parents, Children and the Search for Identity* by Andrew Solomon (Scribner, 2012)

**Stacy Hubbard:** *The Housekeeper and the Professor* by Yoko Ogawa (Deckle Edge Press, 2009)

**Jang Wook Huh:** *Why I Read: The Serious Pleasure of Books* by Wendy Lesser (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2014)

**Steve McCaffery:** *AISTHESIS: Scenes from the Aesthetic Regime of Art* by Jacques Ranciere (Verso, 2013)

**Christina Milletti:** *Neverhome* by Laird Hunt (Little, Brown & Co., 2014)

**David Schmid:** *The End of Everything* by Megan Abbott (Reagan Arthur Books, 2011)

**Neil Schmitz:** *River of Dark Dreams: Slavery and Empire in the Cotton Kingdom* by Walter Johnson (Belknap Press, 2013)

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To submit information or to contact us:  
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