



Dear friends,

The year 2015-16 was an academic whirlwind. Although we did no hiring, we were kept busy throughout the fall by designing new courses and modifying existing courses to participate in the new UB Curriculum, an entirely redesigned undergraduate General Education program. English Department faculty served on key committees designing this new curriculum, and the entire effort was led by Andy Stott, Professor of English, Director of the Honors College, and VP for Undergraduate

Education. In the coming year, we will be teaching 10 new UB Seminars (small interactive courses required for incoming students), 2 UB Transfer-Seminars, and we have designed 3 new interdisciplinary lecture/discussion section courses to be offered in the new Pathway system: Literature and Technology, Literature and War, and Literature and Nature. In all we developed or revised a staggering 25 new courses to fit the new curriculum. For the full array of courses being offered, check out the latest Whole English Catalogue of course descriptions—a publication which still disappears like hot cakes as soon as the inimitable Nicole Lazaro (secretary for undergraduate studies) makes it available. <http://www.buffalo.edu/cas/english/undergraduate-programs/courses.html>.

As described in our Special Edition newsletter issue in the spring, the Poetics Program had a year of 25th anniversary celebratory events, beginning with two symposia on translation and transliteration of international literatures, and culminating with the extremely well-attended first annual Robert Creeley Lecture and Celebration of Poetry and a two-day conference, "Poetics: (The Next) 25 Years." It was a joy to see so many of you there! Please join us this coming March 30 for the second annual Creeley Lecture, featuring an address by Jerome McGann, the John Stewart Bryan Professor at the University of Virginia, and music by UB's SUNY Distinguished Professor in Music, David Felder, composed to two Creeley poems. From an anonymous donor, this lectureship has received an initial endowment; to contribute to

making it adequate to meeting the annual costs of this celebration, go to www.giving.buffalo.edu/creeley. Check our Facebook and webpage for updated information on these events in March.

2015-16 also initiated the "Buffalo Bard 2016: 400 Years Since Shakespeare" year-long celebration, also described in our spring Special Edition. For highlights of the coming fall, see page 5.

The English Department also received the pledge of a generous endowment from Mark Hass, as described on page 9.

Faculty were extraordinarily prolific in publishing this year: 7 faculty authored or edited twelve books. In 2016-17, three of these faculty will go forward for promotion, in addition to three others who have books forthcoming. Such productivity and (anticipated) promotion is a clear sign of the vitality of the department.

On a soberer note, we were deeply saddened this year by the death of Dennis Tedlock, SUNY Distinguished Professor & James H. McNulty Professor in English, and of three emeriti faculty: George Levine, Bill Sylvester, and Mark Shechner. We appreciate your many expressions of appreciation for these gifted teachers, administrators, and writers. See pages 14-15 for memorial tributes.

Finally, I am delighted at the increasing number of you who are staying in touch with us through notes on your activities or achievements (see pages 11-13). A simple list of the vast array of kinds of work you do, the numbers and diversity of your publications, and the fascinating, often circuitous life paths you have followed would convince any skeptic that an English major at UB (or an MA or PhD) provides a gateway to a rich life of discovery and productivity across a large number of fields. We hope you keep returning to see us and staying in touch. The pages that follow announce only a few of the highlights of the year to come. We hope to see you at some of them!

Cordially,
Cristanne Miller

★wishlist—★wishlist—★wishlist—★wishlist—★wishlist

Many generous alums designate their annual University giving to the English Department. We are grateful for their donations, which support student tuition, student research projects, dissertation and travel fellowships for graduate students, and English Department programs.

What's on our wish list right now?

- Funds to support graduate student research and dissertation writing. The department has come to the end of a 5-year dissertation-fellowship gift; we would like to replace it to continue funding an exceptional student in his or her final year of work on the dissertation.
- Funds to support undergraduate education through small achievement awards, trips to performances, technologically enhanced classrooms, special opportunity workshops
- Funds to support our membership in the Folger Library Shakespeare Consortium

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 smallest to the largest amounts. Since there are over 7,500 English alums, \$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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An Education in Style by Chad Lavin



Like many people, when I first enrolled in college, I was encouraged to make the most of this precious time by immediately committing myself to a marketable degree. I resisted that advice, however, and soon enough I found myself in a Political Science class called "Critical Theory" that, in spite of its title, offered what ended up providing the most marketable lesson I got in college.

This was ironic because the class focused on the works of Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno, philosophers who, in what is now famous for being some of the most impenetrable (many just say "bad") writing of the 20th century, warned against the idea that knowledge should be directed toward some instrumental end. So what was the marketable lesson I got in this class?

Midway through the semester some classmates and I went to office hours and goaded our professor, a visiting scholar from the UK, into speaking openly about how she found American students. After a bit of hedging, she replied that our writing was, in a word, "appalling"; while a handful of us in the class could write functionally, "Nobody in this room has any style whatsoever."

Style? My writing was supposed to have style? . . .

This conversation stuck with me as I took all of the other political theory courses available. . . . I eventually earned a BA in Political Science, quickly followed by an MA and a PhD. I then wrote two books with the word "politics" in the titles, and earned tenure in Political Science. Clearly, I'd found a marketable degree (or three). But something wasn't right. What wasn't right was my style.

Political theory, you see, is quite marginalized in most Political Science departments. The argument for this marginalization typically reduces to

professionalization: studying classic texts, we hear, does not speak to an increasingly career-oriented student body or their tuition-paying parents. . . .

But . . . could it be that in this so-called information economy, the basic skills of incisive reading and effective writing prove to be tremendously marketable skills? Despite the argument that degrees in the Humanities don't train students for the job market, civic and professional activity in the 21st century would seem to require the ability to navigate a landscape of texts. Success in this environment—whether it involves interpreting market analyses, seeking capital investment for a new technology, or mediating a relationship between management and labor—can only be assisted by knowing how texts work: how they are produced, how they are distributed, and how they are consumed. If our current students are likely to become "content providers" and "information managers" and "knowledge workers," aren't the Humanities, attentive to aesthetic questions of presentation, persuasion, and affect as well as political questions of reason, emotion and power, teaching very marketable skills?

In other words, the marketable lesson I picked up from Critical Theory was this: *reading and writing will be crucial to your success in whatever you do. They are both difficult. Get good at them. . . .*

Teaching in an English department has given me the chance to explore this problem more directly. I don't mean to suggest that the Humanities are simply more stylish than other fields (though I have begun to wonder if I have the right wardrobe for an English professor). But I do get a certain perverse satisfaction when I remember that I learned how to write while slogging through what is occasionally called the worst writing of the past century – when a visiting professor told me that I didn't have any style.

Chad Lavin is the author of *The Politics of Responsibility and Eating Anxiety: The Perils of Food Politics*. Trained in Political Science, he is happy to be making a home in the English department.

FEATURED FACULTY - CARLA MAZZIO

Associate Chair of English, Stacy Hubbard, sat down with Associate Professor Carla Mazzio to find out more about her background and her teaching and research interests.

SH: Tell us about your background--where you grew up, where you went to school, why you chose to join the faculty at Buffalo.

CM: I'm Irish Italian, a classic combination from the Boston area. I did my undergrad at Barnard College and my graduate work at Harvard and then taught at the University of Michigan and the University of Chicago. Along the way I realized how much the mission of the public university resonated with me. UB English, one of the top departments in the country from my perspective, represents a combination of scholarly brilliance, creativity and innovation, a genuine commitment to scholarship, teaching and intellectual exchange. But it's also the combination of humor and humility among my students and colleagues in and well beyond the English Department that makes teaching here such a deep pleasure.

SH: Your award winning book, *The Inarticulate Renaissance: Language Trouble in an Age of Eloquence*, challenged longstanding assumptions about the literature and culture of early modern England. Tell us about that.

CM: I began the project by wondering about the history of inarticulacy--about what it might have meant to feel inarticulate, particularly in a period so long understood as the "age of eloquence," the Renaissance. As English emerged in the sixteenth-century as a language capable of representing new forms of collective identity, from "common prayer" in the wake of the Reformation to fictions of national unity under Elizabeth I, a plethora of inarticulate "others" also emerged who might then bear the burden of the inarticulate, the exiled, the willfully unheard. My concern for those who felt shame and self-consciousness about self-expression ranged from the socially marginalized (by gender, rank, region, dialect, ethnicity, etc.) to the elite male subject at the center of the "Renaissance" or rebirth of rhetoric and eloquence. By exploring this history I understood that drama drew upon the limits as well as the possibilities of humanist eloquence and common speech in a way that that gave the inarticulate a place to be heard anew.

SH: How did you you get interested in the Renaissance?

CM: I was miscast as a short character (I am tall) in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in high school. Apparently, the teacher had not reread the

play before casting parts. So the hilarity of the miscasting, itself perfect for Shakespearean comedy, contributed to my sheer joy at this early theatrical experience. I wanted to be on stage. I wanted to be a comedian. I loved that sense of timing and audience engagement. And so there you have it: teaching. And teaching Shakespeare. Those who can't do stand up, sit down and write, and, of course, profess.



SH: You have opened up the field of Renaissance literature and science in new ways with your edited volumes (such as *The Body in Parts and Shakespeare & Science*) and other publications over the years. How did you get interested in the history of science?

CM: My work on the history of speech led me directly into the history of medicine, and more specifically, our historical understanding of the body. In fact, I wrote an entire essay on "the tongue" for *The Body in Parts*, a volume in which each contributor wrote an essay on the history and culture of a different body part. Currently I'm engaged in investigations of literature in light of early natural history, meteorology, and most recently, mathematics.

SH: Your current book project is about mathematics, yes?

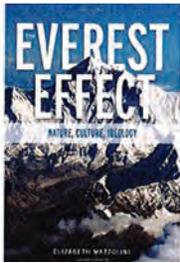
CM: That's right. "The Trouble with Numbers: The Drama of Mathematics in the Age of Shakespeare" started with the simple observation that "numbers" meant both poetry and quantitative units, suggesting that literature intersected with the history of calculation --such as arithmetic, geometry, and accounting--in curious ways. My book shows how dramatic shifts and controversies within an emerging understanding of mathematics, in late sixteenth-century England in particular, served as a stimulus for some central tensions, plots and subplots within Renaissance drama.

SH: As an award-winning teacher, how do you get today's students interested in Shakespeare?

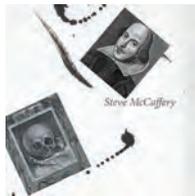
CM: I find that I first have to start my lecture courses by aiming to dismantle some preconceived ideas of Shakespeare's "greatness." It is important to allow students to encounter the plays and poems anew, relieved of the burden of "the" bard's exceptional status. Additionally, Shakespeare is all the more alive in and as performance in the digital age and students bring with them a great deal of digital and visual literacy, which can lead to vigorous discussion and a great deal of fun.

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

PUBLICATIONS & EXHIBITS



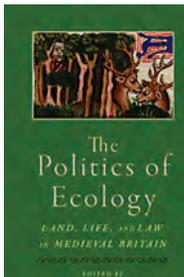
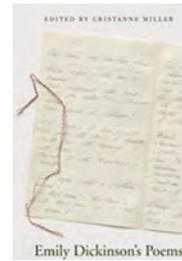
Elizabeth Mazzolini, Assistant Professor, published *The Everest Effect: Nature, Culture, Ideology* (U of Alabama Press, 2015)



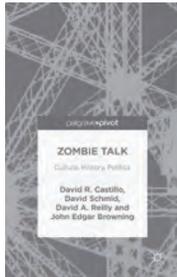
Steve McCaffery, David Gray Chair of Poetry and Letters, and Professor, published *Parsifal* (Roof Books, 2016) and *Dark Ladies* (Chax, 2016)



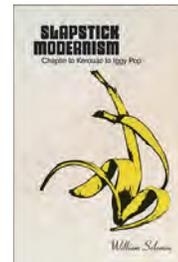
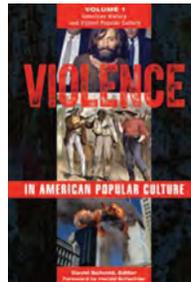
Cristanne Miller, SUNY Distinguished Professor, edited *Emily Dickinson's Poems: As She Preserved Them* (Harvard University Belknap Press, 2016); *Dickinson In Her Own Time*, co-edited with Jane Eberwein and Stephanie Farrar (University of Iowa Press, December 2015); her *Emily Dickinson: A Celebration for Readers* co-edited with Suzanne Juhasz (Gordon and Breach, 1989) was reissued by Routledge, 2016.



Randy Schiff, Associate Professor, co-edited with Joseph Taylor, *The Politics of Ecology: Land, Life, and Law in Medieval Britain* (Ohio State University Press, 2016).



David Schmid, Associate Professor, co-authored *Zombie Talk: Culture, History, Politics* (Palgrave, 2015) and edited *Violence in American Popular Culture* (2 vols; Praeger, 2015)

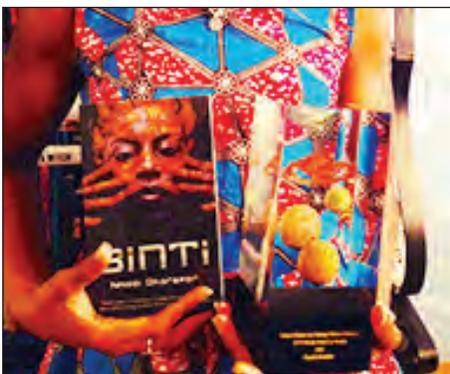


William Solomon, Associate Professor, published *Slapstick Modernism: Chaplin to Kerouac to Iggy Pop* (University of Illinois, 2016)



Bruce Jackson, SUNY Distinguished Professor, had 2 solo photography exhibits and released a 2-CD set with notes & transcriptions, based on his recordings of *J. B. Smith: No More Good Time in the World for Me*

Congratulations to Nnedi Okorafor, whose novella *Binti* won the Nebula and the Hugo Awards for Best Novella



Nnedi also won the Arthur C. Clarke Award for *The Book of Phoenix*, and the Children's Africana Book Award for *The Chicken in the Kitchen*.

AWARDS

Rachel Ablow, Associate Professor, received a SUNY Conversations in the Disciplines Award

Dave Alff, Assistant Professor, was awarded an NEH Summer Stipend (Summer 2016)

Diane Christian, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor and Bruce Jackson, SUNY Distinguished Professor, received the UB Alumni Association Walter B. Cooke Award, for non-alumni/ae notable meritorious contributions to the university

Bruce Jackson, SUNY Distinguished Professor, received a Robert & Patricia Colby Foundation Grant; he was also named Co-director of the UB Creative Arts Initiative.

Christina Milletti received a Mable House Project Residency (2016); with the Department of Media Study, she secured a WBFO Visiting Artist Proposal to bring Shelley Jackson to UB for 7 weeks in 2015-16

RECOGNITIONS

Bruce Jackson, SUNY Distinguished Professor, was named "Best Columnist" in this year's Buffalo Spree Best of WNY competition. The citation read: "Raconteur and provocateur Bruce Jackson is a SUNY Distinguished Professor, documentary filmmaker, author, and photographer. Jackson also writes occasional columns for Buffalo alternative weekly The Public; his topics include local political lunacy, national politics, death row inmates, the Attica Correctional Facility riots of 1971, education, race relations, terrorism, and more. His style is precise, intense, and—rare for academics—crystal clear."

Andy Stott, Dean of Undergraduate Education and Director of the Honors College, was named one of thirty-three American Council on Education Fellows nationwide for 2016-2017. Since 1965, more than 1,800 vice presidents, deans, department chairs, faculty, and other emerging leaders have participated in the ACE Fellows Program, a customized learning experience that enables participants to immerse themselves in the culture, policies, and decision-making processes of another institution. Andy will spend the coming year working with the leadership at Ohio State University.

Nikolaus Wasmoen, Postdoctoral Fellow, was selected for a Commendation for an Outstanding Dissertation at the University of Rochester, where he received his degree this spring. In 2016-17, he will continue at UB as a postdoc in English and Digital Humanities.

Barbara Bono awarded Meyerson Award

We are delighted to announce that Professor Barbara Bono has been awarded the prestigious UB President Emeritus and Mrs. Meyerson Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching and Mentoring. This award was established to recognize exceptional teaching at the University. Professor Bono is in her fortieth year as an English Professor, and her thirty-second year of teaching at UB. A specialist in the literature of Shakespeare and his contemporaries, she is the author of *Literary Transvaluation: From Vergilian Epic to Shakespearean Tragicomedy*, and numerous articles. She has just finished a six-year term as Academic Director of the UB Civic Engagement Academy. She has also just finished her fourth year convening an undergraduate weekly non-credit Shakespeare Reading Group. She continues as the Department's representative to the famous Folger Shakespeare Institute in Washington, D.C.



Professor Bono regularly teaches both undergraduate- and graduate-level courses in Shakespeare and his contemporaries, Shakespeare and film, and Shakespeare pedagogy. She is one of the most popular teachers in the department: her large lectures on Shakespeare regularly fill to capacity. She estimates that she has taught some 8,000 students over the course of her career—both graduate and undergraduate. Thanks to her tireless energy, her wealth of knowledge, and her extraordinary commitment to pedagogy, whole generations of UB students have learned to appreciate and enjoy the work of William Shakespeare and the early modern period.

Professor Bono is also the principal organizer of "Buffalo Bard 2016: 400 Years Since Shakespeare," a year-long, region-wide series of public humanities events, including the 2016 UB Humanities Institute Conference, "Object and Adaptation: The Worlds of Shakespeare and Cervantes." For more information on the conference, go to <https://buffalobard.wordpress.com>.

Dickens Universe

Once again, the English Department sent two PhD candidates to the Dickens Universe, a week-long intensive seminar at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Graduate-student participants from all over the world come together at the "Universe" to hear talks from some of the leading scholars in the field of Victorian studies and to participate in discussions led by those scholars. Every year the "Universe" chooses one novel around which the events are organized. This year's novel was *Dombey and Son*, one of the most popular and complex of Dickens's works. The two students who attended, Sarah Goldbort and Allison Cardon, are both going into their third year of the program. Both intend to work in Victorian studies. According to Sarah, "the Dickens Universe provided an invaluable opportunity for furthering my research interests, networking with fellow scholars, and gaining insights about publishing and the job market. Not only was it productive, but it was a truly unique and fun opportunity to learn about Victorian literature and culture."

Mack, Mazzolini, and Milletti awarded HI Fellowships

Ruth Mack, Elizabeth Mazzolini, and Christina Milletti have been awarded Humanities Institute Fellowships for 2016-2017. In addition, Mazzolini has also been named an OVPRED/Hi Fellow.

•Ruth Mack, Associate Professor
"Habitual Knowledge: Theory and the Everyday in Enlightenment Britain"

•Elizabeth Mazzolini, Assistant Professor
"Environmentalism Without Guilt"

•Christina Milletti, Associate Professor
"Room in Hotel America", a novel

The UB English Department has entered into a new collaboration with riverrun, a local foundation supporting academic and community partnerships in the arts and humanities. This is the inaugural year of a film series, which will focus each year on the film of a different country or region, with particular interest in films newly released and not yet distributed in the U.S.

The riverrun Global Film Series September 29-October 1 - Country in Focus 2016: Iran

Burchfield Penney Art Center, 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo • 2016 Curator: Tanya Shilina-Conte

Thursday, September 29:

7:00-10:00

Downpour (1972; 2 h 6 m), Bahram Beyzaie. Restored in 2011 by the World Cinema Foundation at Cineteca di Bologna/L'Immagine Ritrovata, in collaboration with Bahram Beyzaie.

Introduced by Bruce Jackson, SUNY Distinguished Professor and James Agee Professor of American Culture, Department of English, UB

Friday, September 30:

2:00-4:30

Remote Control (2015; 47 m), Anonymous
Hair (2016; 1 h 18 m), Mahmoud Ghaffari. Courtesy of Mahmoud Ghaffari.

Introduced by Nadia Shahram, Western New York Activist and Adjunct Faculty, Law School, UB

7:00-8:15

Public Lecture: "Rising from the Ashes: Iranian Art House Cinema," Hamid Naficy, Scholar of Iranian cinema, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani Professor in Communication, Northwestern University

8:30-10:30

Tales (2014; 1h 28 m), Rakhshan Bani-Etemad

Followed by a conversation and book signing with Hamid Naficy

Saturday, October 1:

2:00-4:30

Roads of Kiarostami (2005; 34 m), Abbas Kiarostami.

The riverrun Global Film Series is produced by riverrun, with support from the UB Departments of English and Media Study, Buffalo State English, James Agee Chair in American Culture, SUNY Distinguished Professor Bruce Jackson, and an Action Grant from the New York Council for the Humanities. Advisory and coordinating board: UB Lecturer Dr. Tanya Shilina-Conte, UB SUNY Distinguished Professor Cristanne Miller, UB Associate Professor William Solomon, President of riverrun Patrick Martin, and Buffalo State Lecturer Laurence Shine. For more information, contact the 2016 Curator Tanya Shilina-Conte, tshilina@buffalo.edu, or Assist. Director Ajitpaul Mangat, ajitpaul@buffalo.edu.

Saturday, October 1: (continued)

Animation Shorts (1970-2011; 1 h 6 m), Nouredin Zarrinkelk.
Duty, First, 1970

A Playground for Baboush, 1971
Association of Ideas, 1973
The Mad, Mad, Mad World, 1975
A Way to Neighbor, 1978
One, Two, Three, More... 1980
Super Powers, 1982
Identity, 1993
Pood (Persian Carpet), 2000
Bani Adam (Excellencies), 2011

Followed by a conversation with animator and graphic illustrator Nouredin Zarrinkelk

5:00-7:00

Tenant (2015; 20 m), Mohsen Makhmalbaf.
316 (2014; 1 h 12 m), Payman Haghani

Introduced by Laurence Shine, Lecturer at Buffalo State College, 2016 NY State Chancellor's Award in Teaching

*Film Future

8:00-10:00

Notes on Blindness: A VR Journey Into the World Beyond Sight, trailer (2 m)
Notes on Blindness, Peter Middleton and James Spinney (2016; 1 h 30 m)

Introduced by M. Faust, *The Public*

Buffalo Bard 2016: 400 Years Since Shakespeare

In continuing celebration of the Shakespeare commemorative year locally represented by "Buffalo Bard 2016: 400 Years Since Shakespeare," the UB Libraries and the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library are staging an unprecedented "Wedding of the Folios" that brings together all eight of Buffalo's exceedingly rare and valuable 17th-century Shakespeare Folios (1623, 1632, 1663, 1685)—the four held by UB and the four held by the B&ECPL. This "marriage," which will take place on the steps and in the exhibit cases of the B&ECPL on Tuesday, October 4th at 10 am, will then be celebrated at a "Shakespeare Jubilee," featuring special tours and sample performances, on Thursday, October 13th from 5-7 pm. The combined exhibit will remain up for the duration of the calendar year. The "Wedding," the "Jubilee," and the exhibit, are free and open to the public.

The "Shakespeare Jubilee" (Oct. 13) will be hosted by UB's Andrew McConnell Stott, Professor of English and Dean of the Honors College/Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, a theater historian whose forthcoming book is on David Garrick, and will include performances by students from Peace of the City's "Shakespeare Comes to (716)," an after-school theatre troupe for at-risk youth, and UB's Department of Theatre and Dance.

Other free or nominally-priced major Shakespeare or Renaissance-themed events during fall 2016 include:

22-24 September: "Renaissance Remix," the Buffalo Humanities Festival, <https://buffalohumanities.org/>

13-14 October: "Object and Adaptation: The Worlds of Shakespeare and Cervantes," a Humanities Institute conference <https://objectandadaptation.com/>

13-17 October: *The Macbeth Insurgency*, drama, Niagara University, <http://theatre.niagara.edu/>

27 Oct.-6 Nov.: *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, musical adaptation, UB Center for the Arts

16-20 November: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, drama, UB Center for the Arts

For more information, see also <https://buffalobard.wordpress.com/>.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR NOTES

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF PSYCHOANALYSIS AND CULTURE

During the 2015-2016 academic year, the Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Culture (CSPC) successfully increased collaborations among faculty and students from a range of disciplines. The Center's core working group now consists of affiliates from English, Comparative Literature, Romance Languages and Literatures, Music, and Transnational Studies. We initiated two new lecture series: one is entitled "Psychoanalysis, Literature, and the Arts"; the other is dedicated to exploring clinical dimensions of psychoanalytic practice. Within the framework of these series, we hosted speakers who each offered both public lectures and seminars. All of our events were well attended and enthusiastically received. In addition, we co-sponsored lectures and conferences both in English and other departments; we launched a new graduate reading group and a dissertation-writing group.

This coming year we will publish the first number of a new online journal, provisionally titled *Psychoanalysis and Modernity*. The journal will be designed and edited collaboratively at UB by the faculty and students of the CSPC but it will feature an advisory board of prominent international scholars in the field of psychoanalytic studies. Each issue will revolve around a theme determined by the editorial board. The inaugural issue, on "The Untimely," will appear in fall 2017.

In addition, we are offering an exciting series of lectures and seminars, both in the fall and the spring. In late September, Anna Kornbluh (University of Illinois, Chicago), author of *Realizing Capital: Financial and Psychic Economies in Victorian Form* (Fordham, 2013), will lead a seminar on "political psychoanalysis"; in early October, Elissa Marder (Emory University), author of *The Mother in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction* (Fordham, 2013), will give a lecture on "Femininity, Fixation, and Photography"; in March, Aaron Schuster (University of Chicago), author of *The Trouble with Pleasure: Deleuze and Psychoanalysis* (MIT, 2016), will offer a mini-seminar; and, in April, we are excited to host the Israeli psychoanalyst and visual artist Bracha Ettinger, author of *The Matrixial Borderspace* (Minnesota, 2006), who will give a lecture and a seminar on her work.

- Ewa Plonowska Ziarek
Executive Director, Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Culture
<http://www.buffalo.edu/cas/english/graduate/psychoanalysis.html>

- Steven Miller
Director, Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Culture

SAVE THE DATES

Sept. 26, 12:30pm - Anna Kornbluh (U of Illinois, Chicago) "Political Psychoanalysis" - 638 Clemens
Sept. 27, 4:00pm - Anna Kornbluh (U of Illinois, Chicago) "Synchronizing Wuthering Heights, Circa 1848" - 1032 Clemens
Oct. 5, 5:30pm - Elissa Marder (Emory U) "Knock Knock: Femininity, Fixation, and Photography"- 306 Clemens
Oct. 6, 12:30pm - Elissa Marder (Emory U) "Fixation: Freud's Counter-Concept" - 1032 Clemens
March (date & time TBA) - Aaron Schuster (Univ. of Chicago) mini seminar
April (date & time TBA) - Bracha Ettinger - Israeli psychoanalyst - lecture & seminar

POETICS PROGRAM

In April 2016, the Poetics Program observed its 25th anniversary by hosting several interrelated events. One of these events, a conference titled, "Poetics: (The Next) 25 Years" activated multiple sites of inquiry, and the Poetics Program will translate these questions and considerations into its series of readings, talks, seminar visits, and curatorial projects this year. Our fall schedule includes Aja Couchois Duncan, an educator and writer of Ojibwe, French and Scottish descent. Her work has been anthologized in *Biting the Error: Writers*. Western NY Book Arts Center, 468 Washington St., Buffalo. For more details on Fall 2016 Poetics events, please visit: <https://www.buffalo.edu/cas/english/news.../poetics-plus.html>

In the spring, the Poetics Program welcomes Jerome McGann as the next speaker in the Robert Creeley Lecture in Poetry and Poetics series. We also welcome the opportunity to again run a Buffalo city-wide poetry contest encouraging students to engage with poetry and art in the broadest sense.

And a final note: I'm delighted to announce that we now have a Poetics Program Library! This will be a crucial space not only for building the Poetics community but for creating a context for all those interested in making/reading/thinking poetry and poetics to gather. There will be an Open House for the Poetics Program Library (404 Clemens) on Thursday, September 15, 5:00-6:30pm. Everyone is cordially invited.

- Myung Mi Kim
Director, Poetics Program
http://www.buffalo.edu/cas/english/news-events/upcoming_events/poetics-plus.html

DO YOU REMEMBER THE 1960s (OR WISH YOU DID)?



Join us for a panel discussion on Arts and Literature at UB During the Sixties Saturday, Oct. 8, in the newly remodeled Silverman Library, Capen Hall, North Campus, as part of UB Homecoming and the 1960s Reunion Weekend.

We'll start at 10:30 with a continental breakfast, and images and sounds of the 1960s (you can test yourself on how many songs and groups you can name). Brunch will be followed at 11:00 by a panel discussion with Associate Professor of Music Jonathan Golove, Associate Professor of Visual Studies Jonathan Katz, Associate Professor of English William Solomon and Edward H. Butler Professor of Literature

Cristanne Miller. This panel will talk about the 1960s "greats" who were at UB, including Allen Ginsberg and other "beats," John Barth, and John Cage.

Learn more and register for this free event online: www.buffalo.edu/alumni/events/homecoming



English Department Commencement Ceremony



The English Department Commencement Ceremony took place on Friday, May 13, 2016 in Clemens 306, 11:00-1:00. Steven Miller, Associate Professor and Director of the Undergraduate Program, Barbara Bono, Associate Professor and recent recipient of the Meyerson Award, Elizabeth Mazzolini, Assistant Professor, and Amanda Kelly, graduating senior, addressed the seniors and their families.

The following is an excerpt from Professor Mazzolini's address. The full text can be found on the English Department web site.

"Hello everyone, I'm honored to be here today celebrating your accomplishments and this milestone with you and your families. . . .

[You have a] highly developed narrative capacity. You have amassed a storehouse of narrative knowledge and interpretive skill and the ability to articulate all of it in writing and speech, all of which is far more than most people have who live amidst all that same roiling scary and disappointing stuff. Humans lie to themselves because life is made of stories, and some people are more in control of those stories than others. Through your studies in English, you have encountered, experimented with, *lived* other lives, other modes of being, other possibilities for existence. You have lived in the heads of countless characters

and personas, perhaps adopting some of them experimentally in your writing, perhaps examining them from a clinical distance. And speaking of writing, ah, your writing experience, no matter what it was—academic papers, short stories, poems, experimental essays, professional memos, literary analyses—has given you the ability to render, to *concretize*, contingency, possibility, change and the endless stream of shifting modalities of existence that puzzle and trouble everyone all the time.

Today's college graduates, in no matter what field, are expected to change careers (not just jobs) something like 8 times before retirement. (Yes, you will retire someday! Remember, time keeps going.) The changes will roll toward you steadily, and you will meet them with the tools of narrative, analytic, and interpretive response. You are more ready to greet the world of stories than almost anyone else. So here's the advice portion of this graduation speech: Go forth!, knowing you already are the change in the world, to paraphrase a popular bumper sticker. Don't forget to keep vigilant for the truest stories to tell yourself, and don't forget to plan for time and space marching onward, and don't be afraid to apply a little elbow grease to make situations—yours and others—better and more joyful in the long haul. Most of all, see if you can recognize the story in everything; stories may or may not make you rich or famous, but, with a lot of elbow grease, they have the infinite capacity to make you and others happy. Congratulations again, and it's time to get to work."

For the full version of this interview, go to www.english.buffalo.edu



Congratulations to the English Department Award Winners:

Michael Fiorica won a David Boren Undergraduate Scholarship (Swahili)



Satya Srinivas Ramanujam Gundu, an English-Economics double-major who has been very active in English department activities, won **The George Knight Houpt Prize**, **The John Logan Prize**, and **The Kogut Brothers of New York Mills Economic Development Award**. He was also a College Ambassador. He will be going into the military before applying to CS or Applied Mathematics graduate programs.

Kayleigh Reed won a David Boren Undergraduate Scholarship (Urdu) and a Critical Languages Scholarship; she also served as a college ambassador.

Liam Saiia (Philosophy, English) served as a college ambassador.



Max Crinnin won the 2016 **English Department Outstanding Senior Award**. He also received a **SUNY Chancellor's Award** and was named a **Western New York Prosperity Fellow**. An Honors College student, he was the Arts Editor for *The Spectrum* and has worked as the student sustainability coordinator for Campus Dining & Shops. "My Wife, My Mistress: Chekhov's Literary Lessons in the Art of Medicine" is the title of Max's honors thesis. In previous years, he won

the **John Logan Prize for poetry** (2014), the **Academy of American Poets Prize** (2015), and the **Western New York Prosperity Fellowship** (2015), among others. For the coming year, Max will work at Evergreen Health Services, before applying to medical school.

Phi Beta Kappa (ΦBK) inductees:

Alexandria Rowen
Edward Spangenthal
Anthony Yan
Satya Srinivas Ramanujam Gundu

List of Sigma Tau Delta (ΣΤΔ) inductees:

Sophie Bonk
Sushmita Gelda
Ashley Gielow
Kayla Menes
Alexandria Rowen
Megan Urbach
Margaret Wilhelm

The Arthur Axlerod Memorial Award: Alex Pennington and Kendall Spaulding. Honorable Mention: Hannah McGovern.

The Scribbler's Prize: Lisa Lu. Honorable Mention: Ellen Lutnick

The English Department Essay Contest: Cassidy Sulaiman. Honorable Mention: Michael Fiorica.

The Joyce Carol Oates Prize: Ruby Anderson. Honorable mentions: Amanda Kelly and Kristina Marie Darling

The Albert Cook Prize, The Mac Hammond Prize, and the John Logan Prize: W. Dustin Parrott, and Rebekah White. Honorable Mentions: Alexander Blum, Conor Patrick Clarke, Christopher Krysztofowicz and Delmarie Lewis.

The Creative Non-Fiction Prize: Ruby Anderson. Runners-up: Nathan LeClaire and Catherine Veiders

From the University Libraries:

Brian Windschittl - winner of the **Academy of American Poets Prize**. Honorable Mention: Shayna Israel

Hannah McGovern - winner of the **Friends of the University Libraries Prize**. Honorable Mention: Tom Dreitlein

Kristina Marie Darling - winner of **The Dan Lilberthson Poetry Prize**.

JOURNALISM AWARDS

Spectrum Photo Editor **Kainan Guo** won a photojournalism award at the College Media Association conference in NYC, spring 2016.

Sara DiNatale won the Associated Collegiate Press Reporter of the Year (second place); she also received the Associated Collegiate Press Investigative Story of the Year Award (first place)

Emma Janicki - Associate Collegiate Press (second place) Best General News Story

Owen O'Brien received third place in the Associated Collegiate Press Best Sports Investigative Story category

Spectrum Staff won the Pinnacle Award for the Best Special Section from the College Media Association.

Kainan Guo, Gabriela Julia, and Marlena Tuskes won the 6th annual Rosalind Jarrett Sepulveda Journalism Education Awards.

FEATURED UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS: LISA GAGNON | RUBY ANDERSON



Buffalo native and UB senior **Lisa Gagnon** is one of three English majors to receive a Western New York Prosperity Fellowship this year. The fellowship, which promotes the economic development of WNY, allowed Lisa to intern at the Just Buffalo Literary Center this past summer and will support her writing of a senior thesis about local organizations using the arts to positively affect the city and region. In addition to her English studies, Lisa is also studying Linguistics and Music Performance. Lisa has been thrilled with the professors, classes and opportunities she's had here so far. An Honors College Provost Scholar and Phi Beta Kappa member, Lisa has been a contributor to and editor of *NAME* literary magazine and is working with professor Barbara Bono on "Buffalo Bard: 400 Years Since Shakespeare," a year-long, region-wide celebration of Shakespeare's life and legacy. Lisa has also played cello in the UB Symphony Orchestra and two UB theatre productions and works as a writer for the School of Architecture and Planning.



Ruby Anderson, an English and Psychology major, also received a Western New York Prosperity Fellowship, with which she plans to promote literacy education through English-based mentorship programs. Ruby, who is from Westchester, NY, chose UB for its nursing program but was quickly drawn into the English Department. Thanks to support from a few special teachers, especially Associate Professor Dimitri Anastasopoulos and Graduate T.A.

Joseph Hall, Ruby committed to writing and was awarded both the Joyce Carol Oates Fiction Prize and the Creative Non-Fiction Prize. She is currently a psycho-physiology research assistant and marketing representative at Lake Shore Behavioral Health, an expansive WNY mental health and addiction service. Ruby is pursuing clinical psychology and intends to work with youth through their struggles with trauma, eating disorders and depression.

Journalism Program: winter study abroad trip to Berlin

For the second consecutive year, the UB journalism program offered a winter study abroad trip to Berlin, which gave students a chance to learn first-hand what it's like to be a foreign correspondent. Students learned on-the-ground reporting, met with seven journalists and editors working in Berlin, and each selected a topic and produced two pieces of original journalism, some of which appeared in UB's award-winning student newspaper, *The Spectrum*.

Part of the goal of the winter program is to give students an understanding of a city's history and of the importance of knowing that history when reporting on a topic. In learning to be more informed news producers, they also learn to question their own habits of news consumption. This year, with a U.S. presidential race looming, terrorism fears growing, and right-wing parties on the rise in Europe, classes focused on where information comes from, what biases influence news reports, and what information and perspectives get left out and why.

Berlin offers a remarkable background to discuss 20th-century history and the role of Germany in Europe and the world today. Students spent the first week learning about Berlin, thinking about possible topics and walking and biking through 20th-century landmarks such as the Brandenburg Gate, Unter der Linden, the former Nazi headquarters, Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, the site of the Hitler bunker, the Reichstag, the Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie, and the Monument to the Murdered Jews of Europe. They also saw the contemporary buildings and initiatives that have blossomed since Berlin became the German capital again in 1999.

This year the program focused, in particular, on the role of refugees in Europe. January marked the height of the European refugee crisis -- the largest migration since World War II -- and Germany's chancellor Angela Merkel distinguished herself among European leaders by insisting that Germany maintain an open-door policy. The evidence of that choice, which resulted in the acceptance of close to 1 million refugees, was noticeable on the streets of Berlin, in our talks with reporters, and even in our youth hostel, where 16 Syrian refugees were housed, including two young families with children.

The students interviewed these refugees and heard about their reasons for fleeing Syria, the dangers they encountered on small, overcrowded rafts, and how the refugees walked from Greece to Germany. Most of the Syrians had never met any Americans before and only some spoke English. Most of the students had never been abroad before, none had ever met a refugee, and all only vaguely knew about the refugee crisis before arriving.

The encounters debunked stereotypes the Syrians had about Americans and the students had about Syrians and left everyone changed, including the young Syrian children, who gleefully tasted their first M&Ms from the bag one American student had brought with her.

LINKS:

Main Syrian story:

<http://www.ubspectrum.com/article/2016/07/german-woman-tries-to-ease-path-for-refugees-in-europes-biggest-immigration-crisis-since-world-war-ii>

Cathleen Draper artist story:

<http://www.ubspectrum.com/article/2016/07/a-look-at-berlins-art-scene>

Rui Xu smoking story:

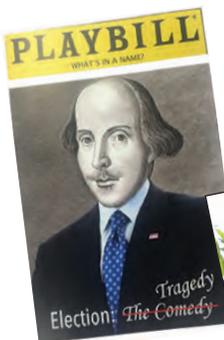
<http://www.ubspectrum.com/article/2016/07/berlin-bars-still-smoking-despite-bans>

Christina Dunn graffiti story:

<http://www.ubspectrum.com/article/2016/07/graffiti-painting-city-streets>

Christina Dunn memoir:

<http://www.ubspectrum.com/article/2016/07/my-mm-meeting-how-a-syrian-boy-named-mohammed-changed-my-life>



NAME launch April 2016



The Walter and Miriam Hass Student Excellence Fund

The English Department is delighted to announce a new funding opportunity for English majors, provided by the generous pledged endowment and gift of Mark Hass (BA, 1975). This fund will be used to support an undergraduate English major in an out-of-classroom experience, with particular attention to supporting professional development activities that will increase a student's experience of and exposure to the worlds of business or engineering. Mark also hopes to encourage students thinking of careers in business or engineering to recognize the value of a major in English and the ways that reading, writing, and analytical thinking skills contribute to success in many professions. Activities supported by this fund may include internships, conferences, and research or community-focused projects.

Robert and Carol Morris Dissertation Completion Fellowships

Emily Anderson: "Moving House: New Contexts for *Little House on the Prairie*"

Jesse Miller: "The Birth of the Literary Clinic: Bibliography and the Aesthetics of Health in the Late Modernist Novel"

CAS Dissertation Completion Fellowships

Eleanor Gold: "Creative Discomforts: Bodies, Trans-Corporality, and Literature in the Anthropocene"

Ana Grujic: "Remembering Bodies, Backward Time: Collective Memory and Erotic Ethics in Black Diasporic Performance"

Ajitpaul Mangat: "Modernism and Cognitive Disability: The Formation of Neurological Difference"



Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellowship in Women's Studies

Alison Fraser: "Cutting Out Poetry: Poetics and Process in American Literature 1865-present"; she was also awarded a Humanities Institute Fellowship

ADDITIONAL AWARDS

Shayani Bhattacharya was awarded Mark Diamond Research Funding.

Kristina Marie Darling was awarded grants by the Whiting Foundation and the Robert and Carol Morris Fellowship Fund. She was a visiting artist at the American Academy in Rome and at the Whitely Center at the University of Washington, and she had artist residencies at Yaddo, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, The Writer's Room, the Dorland Mountain Arts Colony, Caldera, and at Playa. She is now Editor-in-Chief of the *Tupelo Quarterly*.

Josh Flaccavento was awarded the Associated Writing Program's Intro Journals Project Award in Poetry for his poem "To delete, press seven" by judge Philip Metres. His poem will soon appear in the journal *Artful Dodge*. A "sneak peak" recording of his poem can be accessed on *Artful Dodge's* Blog at <http://artfuldodgewooster.wordpress.com>

Jeremy Lakoff was awarded Mark Diamond Research Funding.

Nicole Lowman was elected President of the Kurt Vonnegut Society.

Ajitpaul Mangat was awarded a New York Council for the Humanities grant for the riverrun Global Film Series (grant co-authored with Tanya Shilina-Conte).

Jesse Miller received the New York Council of Humanities, Public Humanities Fellowship.

Leslie Nickerson received a Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Award.

PLACEMENT NEWS

Heather Duncan (PhD): Assistant Professor, United International College, China

Shosuke Kinugawa (PhD): Assistant Professor, Kobe City University of Foreign Studies, Japan

Prabha Manuratne (PhD): Lecturer, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

Justin Parks (PhD): University of Norway (Tromsø), a tenure-track equivalent appointment

Macy Todd (PhD): Assistant Professor, Buffalo State University

Tina Zigon (PhD): Assistant Professor, American University of Kuwait

riverrun Awards

Adam Drury won a research fellowship for "En/gendering Genres: The Cultural Politics of Experimental Writing in /Savacou: a journal of the Caribbean Artists Movement/, 1970-1979" (The Caribbean Collection, Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University)

Jeremy Lakoff won a research fellowship for "Mass Sound Reproduction and the Anxiety of Audience in Modernist Writing" (archives at Ulster University, Trinity College, and elsewhere in the UK)

Veronica Wong won a research fellowship for "Muna Lee: Pan Americanism, Feminism, and the Latin American Literary Field" (Library of Congress and Columbus Memorial Library). Veronica also won the riverrun Best Syllabus Prize for a course she will teach on Hip Hop and Literature in the Spring 2017.

A presentation by the riverrun Fellow Awardees will be held on
Thursday, Sept. 22nd, 2016 at 7:00 pm at
Talking Leaves Book Store,
3158 Main Street, Buffalo, NY
It is free and open to the public.

Please come out and congratulate the award winners and learn about their research and teaching projects.

Four Students Awarded Opler-Doubrava Fellowships for 2016-17

Jennifer Dickson

Jeremy Lakoff

Joseph Hall

Veronica Wong

Opler-Doubrava fellowships are awarded on a competitive basis to PhD candidates in the English Department entering their fifth year who continue to hold a TAship. The Marilyn Doubrava Endowment was established by Sterling M. and Kathryn L. Doubrava as a memorial to their daughter. The Opler Scholarship Fund is generously supported by Morris E. Opler and Lucille R. Opler.

Barry Fallon Memorial International Student Assistance awards went to: Shayani Bhattacharya, Patricia Chaudron, Jung Suk Hwang, Shosuke Kinugawa, Min Jin Lee

Mark Hass (BA, 1975)



In 2013, we wrote in these pages that “Mark Hass, President and CEO of the public relations firm Edelman U.S., is a testament to the creativity, ambition, and hard work of those who pass through UB’s Department of English.” This continues to be true. Mark received a BA in English from UB, studied Journalism as a graduate student at the University of Maryland, and then worked for sixteen years as a reporter and editor, a career culminating in 1991, when his reportorial team won a Pulitzer Prize for disclosing spending abuses at Michigan’s House Fiscal Agency.

In 1996, he founded the public relations firm Hass Associates, Inc., and began a second career, eventually overseeing a number of international public relations firms, most recently Edelman U.S. Now, he is again changing careers to join the faculty at Arizona State University as a professor of practice in the W. P. Carey School of Business and the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Communications.

What do you most look forward to in Act III of your career, in moving into the field of teaching?

Teaching will give me a chance to influence future generations of young journalists and business professionals. It is a service profession, and I believe everyone should, at some point in their careers, do work that is mostly about helping others. I am fortunate at this point in my life to do so. From a more practical perspective, teaching is also much more sustainable than the career I recently left. So, I hope to be working in the classroom for a long time.

Do you think your experience in courses you enjoyed at UB, such as “Bible as Literature” with Diane Christian and Shakespeare with Richard Fly, will influence your teaching at Arizona State?

I am a rookie teacher, and I expect I will unconsciously rely on the lessons I learned watching the great teachers I’ve known. Subject matter knowledge is, of course, one important characteristic of an excellent teacher, but I will think back on the other lessons I’ve learned from teachers such as Diane and Richard. Passion, presence, a genuine interest in students, a sense of humor

and relevance all are important. I also plan to wear a tie when I teach, out of respect for my students, something that is not too common in summertime Arizona.

Do you think that undergraduate English programs should be rethinking curricular offerings to make them more obviously or immediately relevant to our students’ diverse career goals, or would you encourage continued promotion of great literature as most relevant to undergraduate students’ success?

Being a full-time college student is a unique time in life. During my years at UB, I didn’t realize how special it was to have the freedom to read great books, think and talk about complex ideas, and explore my own changing intellectual interests without the specific context of career preparation. I miss those days. It seems there is now more pressure on students to make career decisions early in their undergraduate days. That’s too bad. Life is long, and getting longer, so I think parents and students should relax about what job will await after graduation. A well-prepared mind is the reward of a broad liberal arts education. Even as job skills become outdated, a mind well-prepared is an asset that we carry from job to job, experience to experience, throughout life.

What is your hope for your generous gift to the English Department, the Walter and Miriam Hass Student Excellence Fund?

Miriam and Walter Hass are my deceased mom and dad. They were immigrants from post-World War II Europe who made great personal sacrifices to get to the U.S. and who dreamed of creating better lives for their kids. The skills I acquired as an English major at UB, along with unwavering support during college from my parents, made that dream real for me. And now more than ever before, I believe that an undergraduate experience rooted in reading, writing, and thinking, in the context of literature and the humanities, is essential to leading a full and rewarding life. This fund is designed to help students with a passion for English and an interest in the business world achieve their own version of the American Dream. In some small way, I also hope it allows the dream my parents had for me and my sisters to become reality for other young people.

ALUMNI/AE NEWS

Mindy Aloff (MA, 1972) ABD, Woodburn Fellow ‘73-’74, has been appointed as an editor-at-large for books on dancing at the University Press of Florida. Since 2000, she has taught dance history and essay writing as an adjunct at Barnard; in addition, she now teaches first-year students at the CUNY Macaulay Honors College. Her book-in-progress, *Why Dance Matters*, was commissioned for Yale University Press’s “Why X Matters” series.

Sarah Brennan (BA, 1999) has recently published two (collaborative) articles: Rodriguez, N. N., Brennan, S., Varelas, A., Hutchins, C., DiSanto, J. “Center for teaching and learning on tour: Sharing, reflecting, and documenting effective strategies.” *Journal on Centers for Teaching and Learning* 7 (2015); Nunez Rodriguez N, DiSanto J, Morales A, Feliz I, Brennan S. “Inter-visitation: Innovative Strategies that Meet the Needs of A Diverse Student Body,” *Global Academic Review* (2014) 2.4; a third co-authored article is in press.

Eugenie Brinkema (MA, 2004) was awarded honorable mention in the MLA First-Book award for *The Forms of the Affect* (Duke University Press); the prize is awarded for an outstanding scholarly work published in 2014.

Mary Cappello (PhD, 1988) Professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of Rhode Island, won a Berlin Prize, fall 2015. She also won the 2015 URI Foundation Scholarly Excellence Award. Her fifth book is forthcoming this October 2016, *Life Breaks In: A Mood Almanack* (University of Chicago Press). An excerpt, “Mood Rooms,” will appear this Fall as the annual Meridel LeSueur Essay in *Water-Stone Review*. Mary has also published: “Lyric Essay as Perversion: Channeling Djuna Barnes” (*TriQuarterly* on-line), and a conversation with poet, editor and translator, Peter Covino, on anti-beauty, un-beauty, disruptive beauty, and uncontained beauty in poetry (*The Conversant*, November 2014). She contributed to a series on creative nonfiction as a queer genre in *Slag Glass City*. www.marycappello.com

Donald Carampa (BA, MCL, 1974) was, he supposes, an atypical UB graduate: he transferred from University of Michigan, spent considerable time in France, and received a double major in English and French. While learning French, he also learned to juggle and took mime classes, leading to his career as a juggler, magician, and clown (for about 40 years), specialized in street

performing (passing the hat). He is not very enthusiastic about listing his own achievements, but believes they might make an interesting story for other alumni. He has authored a book (in Spain), published numerous essays in the U.S., France, Spain, Croatia, and Brazil, lectured at Harvard, translated six books by notable authors into English, exercised his profession on five continents (most recently in Iraqi Kurdistan), curated museum activities, and been photographed for *Elle* magazine. Donald founded and directs a circus school, the Premio Nacional de Circo, in Madrid (www.carampa.com), which was distinguished with the National Prize, Spain’s highest recognition, and he is president of the European based federation (FEDEC, www.fedec.eu), which unites the principle institutions in circus/street performance around the world. There is now a major in this field at the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, the first BA in Circus Arts in Spain. Despite the fact that he never had to use his degree for anything he does, he uses the skills that he gathered as an English major at UB every day, especially in communicating internationally in a field that is cosmopolitan by nature.

Nancy Cook (PhD, 1991) was promoted to Professor of English at the University of Montana in 2015. She has taught as an exchange faculty member at the University of Toulouse and continues both to present her work at academic conferences in Europe and the U.S., and to publish in the fields of place studies and ecocriticism.

Eric Cortellessa (BA, 2013) is a Washington, D.C. reporter with the *Times of Israel* and freelance journalist and essayist with recent publications in *The Huffington Post* and *Newsweek*. Before moving to D.C., he spent four months reporting from Jerusalem. In 2015, he received an MA from Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University, where his thesis project—a documentary on criminal records as a barrier to employment—was nominated for a College Emmy Award. While at Northwestern, he was involved with the Social Justice News Nexus, the National Security Journalism Initiative, and travelled to Pakistan, where he wrote a series of articles for *Newsweek Pakistan* on U.S.-Pakistani immigrant issues and Pakistan’s death penalty, particularly the country’s practice of executing inmates for crimes committed as minors.

Eric Culver (BA, 2014) will soon finish an MS in Sports Management/Athletic Administration at Southern New Hampshire University. He is now an intern in the SUNY New Paltz Athletic Department, working with NCAA compliance, student-athlete development, Academic Support, department budgeting, Summer Camp administration (event management), and the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. This fall, he will apply for an internship with the NCAA, in part to learn more about compliance and the championship department.

Jack D'Amico (PhD, 1964), now retired from Canisius College, divides his time between Berkeley, CA and Buffalo. Recent publications: "Rehearsing Leander: Byron and Swimming in the Long Eighteenth Century" in *British Sporting Literature and Culture in the Long Eighteenth Century*, ed. Sharon Harrow (Ashgate, 2015) and "The Role of Theatricality in Andrea Camilleri's Crime Fiction," *Rivista di Studi Italiani* 33 (2016).

Kristin Dykstra (PhD, 2002; MA, 1988) has translated contemporary Cuban poet Juan Carlos Flores's *The Counterpunch (and Other Horizontal Poems)* (University of Alabama Press, 2016 - Forthcoming from Alabama in 2016 are her translations of books by Angel Escobar and Marcelo Morales. In 2015 she wrote the commentary series "Intermedium," with a focus on translation, for *Jacket2*. In 2012 she won an NEA for Literature Translation.

Karen L. Eichler (BA, 1994; MA, 1997) is a member of the two-person improvisational comedy group Defiant Monkey Improv. She and her partner Andy perform shows and teach workshops for children, adults, and corporations, as Teaching Artists with Young Audiences of Western New York and Rochester. Defiant Monkey Improv now has a full-length comedy show and runs an open "Improv Jam" once a month at the Kenan Center's Taylor Theater in Lockport. Karen uses her degrees from UB to teach public speaking at Niagara University and writing at Empire State College. If you see the "2 Person 1 Man Band," "Space Girl and Rinaldo the Robot," or "Hertie Gertie's Monkey Mayhem Show starring Lola, the Lowland Gorilla" performing on the street, tip them generously! One of them was an English major at UB. improv@defiantmonkey.com

Alan Feldman (PhD 1973), retired professor and chair of the English Department at Framingham (MA) State University, now gives free, drop-in poetry-writing workshops at the library in Framingham, where he lives, and in Wellfleet on Cape Cod, during the summer. These workshops have inspired, in part, his most recent collection, *Immortality* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2015) and some of his recent work in *Southern Review*, *Salamander*, *upstreet*, *Harvard Review*, *Antigonish Review*, *Cimarron Review*, and work featured in *Best American Poetry 2011*, *Poetry Daily*, *Writers Almanac*, and *Common Threads*.

Nina Garfinkel (BA, English and Psychology, 1976) is a frequent contributor to *Book/Mark: A Quarterly Review of Small Press Publications*.

Bernadette Gargano (BA, 1999) was appointed as Vice Dean of Student Affairs at UB Law School in 2016. She received the 2016 graduating class's "Faculty Award," the only teaching award at the Law School, and her Pro Se Civil Litigation Practicum, which provides legal services to underrepresented communities, was a finalist for UB's Excellence in Community Engagement award. Bernadette received the NY Erie County Bar Association "Justice Award" for this same program. She was also honored as the 2015 Woman Lawyer of the Year by Women Lawyers of Western New York, the area's oldest organization for women lawyers.

Michelle Gaskin (BA, English, Art, 2015) is working on her Masters in TESOL set to graduate May 2017. Currently in Crete, volunteering on the Gournia project, she is learning about Minoan wall and floor plasters under archaeologist, Anne Chapin.

Brian Gastle (BA, 1989) has returned to teaching in the English Department at Western Carolina University after holding positions at WCU as Department Head, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, and Interim Associate Provost. He serves as webmaster for the John Gower Society (www.johngower.org) and recently secured permission from the British Library to host an open-access online digital copy of the Trentham Manuscript, which was owned by John Gower, a medieval poet (and friend of Chaucer), and possibly composed partially in his own hand—a rare example of medieval English literary material production.

Evan Gottlieb (MA, 2000; PhD, 2002) has been promoted to Professor of English in the School of Writing, Literature, and Film at Oregon State University. His latest book, *Romantic Realities: Speculative Realism and British Romanticism*, is forthcoming with Edinburgh University Press, September 2016.

Brian Herberger (BA, 1995) recently published his first novel, *Miss E*. An educator for over twenty years and father of two middle-school-aged children, Brian is immersed in the world of young adult fiction. *Miss E* draws from Brian's childhood memories and love of history. It is told from the perspective of an independent-minded 15-year-old, whose father leaves for the war in Vietnam and whose history teacher gives an assignment that has the whole school searching for clues. When a peaceful protest spins out of control, Bets reconsiders how she feels about the war her father is fighting and her own role in events at home. UB alum Michael Gelen's Inkwell Studios designed the book cover. <http://www.brianherberger.com/>

Amy Hezel (BA, 2000) is the ILS & E-Resource Librarian and Assistant Professor in the Dayton Memorial Library at Regis University, Denver, CO.

Bruce Holsapple (PhD, 1991) will publish *The Birth of the Imagination: William Carlos Williams on Form* with the University of New Mexico Press, Nov. 2016.

Sibyl James (PhD, 1978) has received three Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellowships, which led to teaching positions in Tunis, Tunisia, and Cote d'Ivoire. She has also taught at colleges in the U.S., China, and Mexico and received awards from Artist Trust, from Seattle, King County, and Washington State Arts Commissions, and from several literary journals. She recently read from her new collection of poems, *The Grand Piano Range*. The "range" of poems in this volume is political, personal, and geographic. James is interested in Pacific Northwest back roads, small towns, and good bars where a barmaid "shares Wild Turkey on the house" and a neighbor takes your shift the night your baby's born. She is the author of 11 books—poetry, fiction, and travel memoirs—including *In China with Harpo and Karl*, *The Adventures of Stout Mama*, and *China Beats*.

Rick Jetter (BA, 1996; PhD, English Education, 2010) has published three books in three genres since January 2016: *Sutures of the Mind* is a self-improvement/Christian-living book that activates the art and science of mindfulness for dealing with pain (Motivational Press); *Hiring the Best Staff for Your School* is an academic book that uses narrative theory as a tool for hiring educators (Routledge); and *The Isolate /n./* is a young adult novel about an autistic student who suffers from agoraphobia (Twilight Times Books). Rick is currently writing another book in each of these genres.

Sean J. Kelly (PhD, 2008), Associate Professor of English at Wilkes University, teaches courses in nineteenth-century American literature, African American literature, the American novel, and composition. His recent articles include "Hawthorne's 'Material Ghosts': Photographic Realism and Liminal Selfhood in *The House of the Seven Gables*," *Papers on Language and Literature* 47.3 (2011); "American Idle: Washington Irving, Authorship, and the Echoes of Native American Myth in 'Rip Van Winkle,'" *Short Story* 19.1 (2011); and 2 essays in *The Edgar Allan Poe Review*: "I blush, I burn, I shudder, while I pen the damnable atrocity": Penning Perversion in Poe's 'The Black Cat,'" 13.2 (2012); and "Staging Nothing: the Figure of Das Ding in Poe's 'The Raven,'" (forthcoming, 2016). He is also faculty advisor for *The Manuscript*, an award-winning student publication of creative writing and the visual arts.

John M. Krafft (PhD, 1978) co-founded the (now defunct) journal *Pynchon Notes* and co-edited it for thirty years. For more than a decade he has been collaborating with Luc Herman (University of Antwerp) on a series of essays they hope to turn into a book of genetic criticism of Pynchon's first novel, *V*. He taught at the University of Köln in 2002 and 2011 and at the Catholic University of Lublin from 2012 to 2014. He was widowed in 2009 and will retire from Miami University in 2017. krafftjm@miamioh.edu

Kevin Kurtz (BA, 1993) has published a nonfiction children's picture eBook, *Where Wild Microbes Grow* (2015), that introduces kids to the scientific search for life under the seafloor. It was funded through a National Science Foundation grant and written for the Center for Dark Energy Biosphere Investigations; it is available in both PDF and interactive iBook formats for Macs and iPads. The iBook version contains videos, photographs, and other media. This book is a companion to *Uncovering Earth's Secrets*, about the JOIDES Resolution, which Kevin also wrote, <http://joidesresolution.org/node/2998>.

Jenna Lay (BA, 2002) has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the English department at Lehigh University and published her first book, *Beyond the Cloister: Catholic Englishwomen and Early Modern Literary Culture* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016).

Meron Langsner (BA, English & Theatre 1996) earned MA degrees from NYU and Brandeis and a PhD in Drama from Tufts University (2011). He was one of three writers selected for the pilot year of the National New Play Network Emerging Playwright Residencies. His plays have been performed around the U.S. and overseas and published by imprints including Bloomsbury, Smith & Kraus, and Applause. His scholarship has been published by McFarland, Oxford, and other presses. Meron is also a critically acclaimed theatrical fight choreographer, on the Core Faculty of the Tom Toderoff Acting Conservatory. In his parallel life, he works with the NY firm Cooper & Cooper Real Estate. www.MeronLangsner.com

Annette Magid (PhD, 1992) has published *Apocalyptic Projections: A Study of Past Predictions, Current Trends and Future Intimations as Related to Film and Literature* (Cambridge Scholars, 2015). The book cover was adapted from *Precambrian Midnight*, a painting by her son, Jonathan Magid.

Aaron Mansfield (BA, 2014) works as Account Manager at SportsMEDIA Technology in Durham, NC, where he oversees the relationships between his company and clients such as Turner Sports, MSG Network, Pac-12 Networks, and NFL Network. His company helps produce the Olympics, Super Bowl, and other major sporting events. He is also a regular contributor to *Complex Magazine*. After graduating from UB, Aaron earned an MS in Sport Management at UMass Amherst and served as an assistant men's basketball coach at Amherst College.

David Marion (BA, English & Political Science, 1976) works at Uptown Communications Consultants, which has just completed its third project for the United Nations in three years. Most recently, they provided writing and design services for the revision of an enterprise system user manual to support the system upgrade for the UN International Computing Centre. Work product included new module documentation, revision of existing modules, creation of online wiki content, training presentations, and workflow cheat sheets for users. dwmjmarion@gmail.com

Anne McGrail (PhD, 1998) was awarded two NEH Office of Digital Humanities grants for bringing digital humanities to community colleges. Her article "The Whole Game: Digital Humanities at Community Colleges" was published in *Debates in the Digital Humanities 2016*, eds. Matthew K. Gold and Lauren Klein (University of Minnesota Press, 2016).

Kevin McShane (BA, 2015) received his degree 44 years after he was supposed to get it! He did his undergrad work during the era of such luminaries as John Barth and Robert Creeley.

Deborah Meadows (BA, 1977) teaches as Emerita faculty in the Liberal Studies Department at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. She recently published *Translation, the bass accompaniment: Selected Poems* (Shearsman Press, 2013) and *Three Plays* (BlazeVox Books, 2015), and her play "Some Cars" was produced in LA's MorYork Gallery, 2015. She was nominated Los Angeles Poet Laureate in 2014. She lives with her husband in the LA Arts District/Little Tokyo, where she serves on the board of the Los Angeles River Artists' and Business Association.

Paige Melon (BA, English & French, 2013) published her first book of poetry, *Puddles of an Open* (BlazeVOX) and a chapbook, *MTL/BFL/ÉTÉ/QUINZE*, (Buffalo Ochre Papers). Paige was the Keynote Speaker at this summer's Poet's Camp organized by Plur-ality Press. In May she obtained her MA in English from the University of Maine, where she worked with poet Jennifer Moxley on her thesis, a translation of a novel by Chinese-Canadian author Ying Chen. Paige works as Education Coordinator for Explore Buffalo® and runs *steel below: a purely Buffalo literary magazine*, which she founded in 2012 with her partner, fellow UB alum Vincent Cervone. Paige and Vincent will be married in November 2017 at Rust Belt Books, where they met at a poetry reading. paigemel@buffalo.edu

Lois Merriweather Moore (BA, 1969) attended Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, 2016 Women & Power: Leadership in a New World Summit at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia. The business and leadership sessions were highlighted by two seminars: Centered Leadership: How Talented Women Thrive and Diversity, Inclusive Leadership, and Unconscious Bias. Summit participants also enjoyed an interactive experience at Queensland University of Technology Cube (one of the world's largest digital interactive learning spaces) and observed international research being conducted on drought tolerant, disease resistant chickpeas. The second half of the Leadership Summit took place in Sydney and included a session at New South Wales Parliament House, a visit to the Australia Zoo, an excursion to Cockatoo Island, a tour of the Sydney Opera House, and lunch overlooking the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The Leadership Summit is an annual event attracting women from countries around the world. This year's Summit participants included women from Afghanistan, Australia, Tanzania, New Zealand, and the United States. Immoore@usfca.edu

Rae L. Muhlstock (PhD, 2014) is a Lecturer in the Writing and Critical Inquiry Department at SUNY Albany. She was also accepted into the Project Narrative Summer Institute (for the second time), a competitive international seminar in narrative theory at Ohio State University. In addition, UB students elected her as one of two honorary faculty initiates into the Golden Key International Honors Society, UB chapter.

Josh Newman (BA, 2011; MA, 2013) begins his studies at Trinity College Dublin this fall to earn a PhD in English, studying the works of James Joyce, especially *Finnegans Wake*, in relation to eco-criticism and the politics of place.

Clare Paniccia (BA, 2012) received a MA in Professional Writing from Southeast Missouri State University (2015) and is pursuing her PhD in English at Oklahoma State University. In 2015 she was named one of the nation's best new poets by Pulitzer prize winning poet Tracy K. Smith and in 2016 she was a finalist for the *Indiana Review*, *Nimrod*, and *Sonora Review* Poetry Prizes; her poetry is featured or forthcoming in *The Pinch*, *Superstition Review*, *Sonora Review*, *Zone 3*, *Nimrod*, *Puerto del Sol*, and *Best New Poets*. Her research interests include poetics, creative writing pedagogy, and the intersection of these two fields. This fall, she will begin managing the PR/social media presence for *Cimarron Review*. clpaniccia@gmail.com

Remla Parthasarthy (BA, English, 1989; JD, 1994) is back in the area working as Project Leader, Crime Victims' Legal Network at the Empire Justice Center. She hopes to provide transformative experiences for her students and ignite their passion for social justice activism. Her particular areas of focus are intimate partner violence, violence against women, and helping others understand the lives of targets of abuse. For over 20 years, she has worked as an advocate, attorney, educator, leader, and collaborator, presenting at major confer-

ences and serving on several boards of directors to help create change in these areas. She would love to work with others who are similarly motivated to create a world that is safe and just.

Karen Swallow Prior (PhD, 1999) is writing a book modeling the exercise of virtue through the reading of classic works of literature (Brazos Press, 2018). She is Professor of English at Liberty University, where she received the Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence in 2013, was named Faculty of the Year by the Multicultural Enrichment Center in 2010, and was the 2003 recipient of the President's Award for Teaching Excellence. Her books include *Fierce Convictions: The Extraordinary Life of Hannah More, Poet, Reformer, Abolitionist*, and *Booked: Literature in the Soul of Me*.

Gary Earl Ross (BA, 1973; MA, 1975) received the 2016 Emanuel Fried Outstanding New Play Award from Arties for *The Mark of Cain*, staged by the Subversive Theatre Collective in Buffalo. *Cain* will have a staged reading at NYC's Castillo Theater in August. Gary's novel *Nickel City Blues*, the first Gideon Rimes mystery, is forthcoming with Black Opal Books. He is at work on both a new play and the next novel in his PI series.

Rebecca Sanchez (PhD, 2010) published her first book, *Deafening Modernism: Embodied Language and Visual Poetics in American Literature* (NYU Press, 2015).

Ronnie (Selk) Schwartz (BA, 1976; EdM, 1977) and her UB-graduate husband Raymond Schwartz retired last year and welcomed their first grandchild, Hayley Isabel Schwartz. They have been traveling and catching up with old friends. They recently returned from a river cruise in the south of France, where they celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

Carol Senf (PhD, 1979) has stepped down as Associate Chair and is back to teaching in the School of Literature, Media, and Communication at the Georgia Institute of Technology. She has recently published: "Bram Stoker's Reflections on the American Character," *English Literature in Transition, 1880-1920*, 59.3 (2016); "Bram Stoker's *The Lair of the White Worm*: Supernatural Representations and Nineteenth-Century Paleontology," *Supernatural in the Nineteenth Century 2* (2015); "Invasions Real and Imagined: Stoker's Gothic Narratives," *Bram Stoker and the Gothic: Formations to Transformations*, ed. Catherine Wynne (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016); and "Bram Stoker," *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Victorian Literature* (2016). During a recent trip to Philadelphia, where she served as a consultant on Stoker for the Rosenbach Museum, she met with fellow UB alumna, Doreen Saar, who now teaches at Drexel University. carol.senf@lmc.gatech.edu

Aimee M. Woznick (BA, 2005) earned her MA & PhD (2010) in English at UC Santa Barbara, with a focus on U.S. literature in the late 19th & early 20th centuries. She then chose to work in administration, first as Director of the Academic Success Center at Villa Maria College (a small, mostly commuter Catholic college on the east side of Buffalo), then as Director of Academic Support Services at SUNY Empire State College, where she oversees tutoring services and other academic support programming for five college locations in WNY. She holds concurrent academic rank and frequently teaches in her field, enjoying a "best of both worlds" position!

George Zornick (BA, 2005) is the Washington Editor at *The Nation*. Prior to joining *The Nation*, George was Senior Reporter/Blogger for ThinkProgress.org. He worked as a researcher for Michael Moore's *SICKO* and as an Associate Producer on "The Media Project" on the Independent Film Channel. His work has been published in *The Los Angeles Times*, *Media Matters*, and *The Buffalo News*.

What can YOU do with an English major?

If you're **Matt DelPiano** (BA, 1991) you can become an agent representing actors like Kevin Spacey, two-time Academy-award winner, former Artistic Director of Britain's Old Vic Theatre, and now Frank Underwood, the ruthless Presidential politician in the hit Netflix original series *House of Cards*



UB Alumni Matt DelPiano speaks with English students in Clemens Hall.
Photograph: Douglas Levere

Irving Massey, Professor Emeritus, was appointed Visiting Fellow at Cambridge for the spring term of 2017. He was a co-author of an experiment mentioned in an article in *The Atlantic*, written by Valdas Noreika. <http://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2016/04/deciphering-hypnagogia/478941/>

Howard Wolf, Professor Emeritus, was featured at an event in November at The University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for German & European Studies, giving a lecture entitled "Goethe to Grass and Beyond: Responsibilities of the Writer in the Postwar Period". He was also invited to lecture at the University of Aveiro (Portugal) on "Fitzgerald and Hemingway: The Legacy of American

Modernism," and invited to Mizoram University in India as a Visiting Professor. His most recent short story, "Library of the Lost," came out in *Bryant Literary Review* 17 (2016). It is set in a department and university not unlike UB. He will be teaching two mini-courses in the Honors College in the fall -- his 50th year of teaching at UB.

Max Wickert, Professor Emeritus, recently completed a verse translation of Torquato Tasso's Italian Renaissance epic, *Rinaldo*. It will be published by Italica Press in a bilingual edition in early 2017.

IN MEMORIAM

Dennis Tedlock by Steve McCaffery, UB English Professor, David Gray Chair of Poetry and Letters

July 19, 1939 – June 3, 2016

SUNY Distinguished Professor and James H. McNulty Professor in English, Dennis Tedlock, was a trained linguist, ethnographer, poet, translator, and photographer. Dennis was raised in Albuquerque and Taos and developed as a boy a passion for archaeology. He studied under the Cochiti artist Joe Herrera and joined an archaeological dig while still in high school. He studied history and anthropology at the University of New Mexico and pursued doctoral studies in the art of story telling among the Zunis archeology at Tulane. Dennis's field research was carried out with his wife Barbara and together they worked in Mexico, Brazil, Nigeria, Mongolia, and most repeatedly among the Mayan peoples in Guatemala and Belize. He was founding editor of *Alcheringa* the influential journal of ethnopoetics (a discipline he co-conceived with Jerome Rothenberg in the late 1960s). Since 1987 he was the McNulty Professor in English and held a research professorship in anthropology at UB, co-founding in 1991 (with Charles Bernstein, Robert Creeley, Raymond Federman, and Susan Howe) the UB Poetics Program and remaining a Core member of its faculty until his death. Dennis was an ardent donor of material to UB Libraries Poetry and Rare Books including several letters from D. H. Lawrence. Among his many publications are a definitive translation of the *Popul Vuh: The Mayan Book of the Dawn of Life; Finding the Center: Narrative Poetry of the Zuni Indians*, and most recently the magisterial *The Human Work, The Human Design: 2000 Years of Mayan Literature*. He passed away at his home near Taos, New Mexico sixteen days before his 78th birthday, in the house whose former residents include Frieda and D. H. Lawrence. A memorial will be held in Clemens 306 on September 17th at 11:00am. Dennis is survived by his widow, Barbara Tedlock.

Xliktech utsil to Xibalba Dennis.

George Levine (from the UB Reporter, Dec. 17, 2015)

August 5, 1929 – December 16, 2015

George R. Levine, a Fulbright scholar and highly respected UB English professor who served in various administrative positions, including provost of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, as part of a career spanning more than four decades in higher education, died December 16, 2015 at Buffalo General Hospital following a brief illness. He was 86.

Levine, a native of Boston, Massachusetts, joined the UB faculty from Northwestern University in 1963. He retired in 2001. "He never forgot a student's name," said Rivona Ehrenreich, Levine's widow. "There were many things he loved about the university, but his students always came first."

A 1951 graduate of Tufts University, Levine earned an MA from Columbia University the following year. From 1952-54, he served as a member of the U.S. Army Signal Corps in Korea. He resumed his studies at Columbia following his military discharge and received a PhD in 1962.

"George was a valued colleague and a real gent --beloved by students and department staff, too, for his kindness and decency," said James Holstun, UB professor of English. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Levine assumed a leadership role in the English Department when he was named director of undergraduate studies in 1967. He became associate provost of the Faculty of Arts and Letters in 1971 and later its provost in 1975, serving in that capacity until 1981.

After 1981, Ehrenreich said Levine was thrilled to be back in the classroom, a place where he often formed lasting relationships with many of his students, advising them on matters of academics and later in matters of life. "If George met a former student he hadn't seen in twenty years, he would pick up the conversation as though no time had gone by at all," said Ehrenreich. He also played a role as an administrative link to students holding campus demonstrations as a member of then-president Martin Meyerson's Committee on Student Demands. "He was a gentle man who didn't like the discord," said Ehrenreich. "It was a very difficult time."

Levine, who helped develop an innovative method of teaching lyric poetry, won a Fulbright Lecturing award in 1969 that took him to the University of Cologne in Germany, where he lectured in the literature of the Restoration and the 18th century, his academic specialty.

He spoke often of the strong relationship between literature and the arts, and was the author of *Henry Fielding and the Dry Mock: A Study of the Techniques of Irony in his Early Works*. He also co-wrote two textbooks; edited and completed Willard Hallam Bonner's *Harp on the Shore: Thoreau and the Sea*; and authored several scholarly articles.

An accomplished violinist, Levine played with many non-professional groups and served on the boards of the Buffalo Chamber Music Society; The Buffalo Youth Orchestra Foundation, and The Arts Education Council. He was an elected officer of the Arts in Education Institute.

Levine is survived by his widow and by children David (Maggie) and Michael (Karen) Levine; a grandchildren Allyson, Alexandra, William, Jacob and Julia; and a sister, Thelma (Robert) Kirby.

Bill Sylvester by Mike Basinski, UB Curator, University Libraries - VPUL

July 1, 1918 – June 12, 2016

William A. Sylvester was Professor Emeritus in the Department of English. A native of Washington, D.C., Sylvester received an MA in English from the University of Chicago and a PhD in English from the University of Minnesota. He arrived in Buffalo from Case-Western Reserve University as the English Department expanded rapidly under Al Cook in the 1960s, and he was on the UB English Department Faculty for 23 years, retiring in 1988. Always a lover of music, from the Beatles to Lawrence Welk to the music experiments of the 1970s, Bill was also a great friend of poetry and a poet. He published seven poetry collections and was an active citizen in Buffalo's literary community. Bill would bicycle onto campus in his yellow rain jacket and pants. He was full of spirit and a natural, challenging teacher. For the beatnik faction in a course he taught on Hemingway and/or the Beats (Hemingway on Tuesday – Beats on Thursday), he posed this as the final exam question: "Answer Kerouac's question at the end of *On the Road*: God is Pooh-Bear?" Within the company of Buffalo poets, former students, and faculty and community friends, he is sorely missed. A memorial event will take place this fall at the Poetry Collection, 420 Capen Hall.

Mark Shechner (1940-2015) by Andrew M. Gordon

I have lost a good friend; American literature has lost a major critic. Mark Shechner (1940-2015), Professor Emeritus of English at the University at Buffalo, was one of the most distinguished and influential critics of Jewish-American literature of his time, a sharp observer of cultural politics: as he wrote, "It is sometimes hard to tell the Jewish literary scene from gang war-fare" (*After the Revolution* 3). He kept up with the changing scene as a writer and editor, as well as a frequent participant in the annual symposium on Jewish-American and Holocaust literature and at recent Philip Roth conferences in Venice and in Newark. Since 2007, he was a judge of the Edward Lewis Wallant Award, presented annually to a young writer whose fiction is considered to have significance to the American Jew.

All his writing was lucid, consistently perceptive, sometimes brilliant, and informed by reading both deep and wide. But what made his criticism especially engaging was his effusive wit and lively style. He was constitutionally incapable of writing a dull or impenetrable sentence. And he possessed a fine sense ofchutzpah: what other scholar would dare entitle a book about the fiction of Philip Roth *Up Society's Ass, Copper?* But it was a fitting title for a study of Roth the provocateur; Mark was quoting from the end of *Portnoy's Complaint*.

Mark was also a *mensch* of the first order, always generous with his time and assistance to fellow scholars, myself included. We met in graduate school at Berkeley; he was my friend and colleague for almost fifty years.

Under the tutelage of Professor Frederick Crews, he began as a psycho-analytic critic but evolved into a cultural critic. With his accessible, witty style and his widespread pattern of publication, Mark aspired to be a Jewish-American public intellectual along the lines of Alfred Kazin or Irving Howe. He started his career as a Joycean, and his first book was *Joyce in Nighttown: A Psychoanalytic Inquiry into Ulysses* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1974). But his major lifelong devotion was to Jewish-American literature. Starting in the 1970s, his essays and reviews appeared in journals such as *Partisan Review*, *The Nation*, *Salmagundi*, *Tikkun* and many anthologies and collections. He was also a prolific book reviewer for *The Buffalo News*.

In addition to three books and three edited or co-edited collections on Jewish-American literature, in 2014 Mark published his first novel, *Call Me Moishe: The True Confessions of a White Whale*: Melville's *Moby Dick*, retold by the whale, as channeled through Morris (Moishe) Dickens, Professor of English at the "University of Snowport" in upstate New York. Lovers of Melville or of Buffalo, NY will find a lot to laugh about in the book. Although he got a late start as a novelist, Mark was a gifted raconteur. His last book, *Cherry Picker*, based on his gambling career, is forthcoming.

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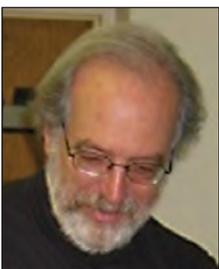
In the end, Mark compares Philip Roth to Mailer and Ginsberg as literary rebels who expanded the territory of American literature by writing about sex and rage, and by provoking authority: "They are problems; they stir things up. They did all they could to be singled out, to be difficult and cause distress, and though they did it for themselves, they posted gains for others, and American literature owes them all a debt of gratitude" (219).

Up Society's Ass, Copper, indeed! Mark Shechner helped to expand the territory of American literary criticism. He moved beyond the academic jargons of the day and always responded to literature with honesty, with energy; with learning, wit, and style. For forty years, he was one of our best barometers of the works of Philip Roth and other Jewish-American writers. He reacted with all he had, with his mind and his memory, as well as his eyes, his ears, and his heart. Mark says that the patrimony Philip Roth received from his father Herman was "nothing less than his own character: his humor, his stories, his own iron will, vernacular heart, and toughness of mind" (130). The same could be said of Mark Shechner as a critic of Roth and of American literature. And for that we owe him an enormous debt of gratitude.

Except from *Philip Roth Studies*, 12.1 (Spring 2016), 5 - which honors the significance of Mark's publications in Jewish American literature; quoted courtesy of Purdue University Press.

On Mark Shechner by Neil Schmitz, UB Professor Emeritus

June 22, 1940 - October 16, 2015



Mark had the genial Jewish humor we abject sour Gentiles dumbly envy, and it was drawn from a vault not too far from the Temple of Singer. Effortless flow, in dialect, superb mimicry. He could have been a staff writer for Mel Brooks, just as Howard Wolf, who sits among us, also a funny guy, could have been a staff writer for Jack Benny. We have been blessed to have such company in our English department. Here, too, the king of our comedy, Carl Edward Dennis, sits modestly among us.

1. Somewhere between 2005 and 2010 I continuously taught a course on blackface minstrelsy and just when I thought I knew everything, Mark introduced me to Vaudeville's jewface, a short lived tradition in the genre of novelty act. He had the actual voices and music: Monroe Silver; The Heavenly Hebe; Rhoda Bernard, That Zany Zaftig Meidele. She sings: "Cohen owes me 97 dollars," an Irving Berlin song. Mark's music vault was as deep as the story vault.

2. He owned Philip Roth in the English department. Mark was born and raised in Roth's New Jersey. He was a citizen in Roth's world, a native speaker.

3. He also lived in other worlds. He was cosmopolitan. He was a figure in the literary world of James Joyce. And he knew Japan. He enjoyed its culture, if one can say that; while living in Japan, he learned its ways and manners, if not language, and came back dedicated to its cuisine.

4. He also knew the world of American and Canadian casinos. He played the games. He learned the lexicon, ate the food, dug the electric ambiance. Mark's account of his casino life is very French, existentialist; it engages the issue of being there before a slot machine, and it does semiology, classifies the colors, the smells, the noise. It is a tour de force, one of his best things, and it has been posthumously published as *Cherry Picker*.

5. Finally, his summa, *Call Me Moishe, The True Confessions of a White Whale*. A marvelous comic device, a Jewish white whale, but alas the mortals pursuing are long-ago critic dragons and professor villains; the text needs much footnoting, so finally it does not carry the day. Nearly everyone attending Mark's memorial gathering is in *Call Me Moishe*, captured in some instance of foolery.

6. I am not, I am somewhat sad to say, in the novel, and I still don't know how to take my exception. Mark liked me. I know this, but I think he also thought I was hopelessly Midwestern, a rube, a square, an innocent, and therefore not a fit figure for his gallery of departmental rogues and charlatans. Well, I accept my fate.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE:

- Sept. 15 - 5:00-6:30pm - Open House for Poetics Program Library - 410 Clemens Hall
Sept. 15 - 7:00-8:30pm - Andy Stott documentary on stand-up comics in Buffalo. "Cold Snow Losers: Open Mic at the Edge of America" (screening) - 120 Clemens
Sept. 29 - October 1 - riverrun Global Film Festival (see p. 5)
Sept. 26 - 12:30pm - Anna Kornbluh (U of Illinois, Chicago) - Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis & Culture - 638 Clemens
Sept. 30 - 8:00pm - Poetics Plus Reading, Aja Couchois Duncan
Oct. 6 - 4:00pm - Elissa Marder (Emory Univ), lecture on "Fixation: Freud's Counter-Concept" - 1032 Clemens
Oct. 10 - 7:00pm - Exhibit X presents Can Xue - WNYBAC
Oct. 13 - 5-7:00pm - Shakespeare Jubilee, B&EC Public Library
Oct. 13-14: "Object & Adaptation: The Worlds of Shakespeare's Cervantes," UB Center for the Arts (see p. 5)
Oct. 18 - 12:00-1:30pm - Jang Wook Huh - "Color Around the Globe: Langston Hughes and Comparative Racialization" - 830 Clemens
Nov. 3 - 7:00pm - Exhibit X presents Amelia Gray @ WNYBAC
Nov. 11 - 4:00pm - Ruth Mack, "Captain Cook's Tools for Ethnography" - Hallwalls
Nov. 11 - 8:00pm - Campbell McGrath - Oscar Silverman Reading - 672 Delaware Ave. (Butler Mansion)

SPRING SEMESTER:

- Mar. 30, 2017 - 2:00-5:00pm - Creeley Lecture & Celebration of Poetry - lecture by Jerome McGann, "Reading Poetry"
Apr. 21, 2017 - 2:00-6:00pm & Apr. 22 - 8:00am-10:00pm - Community Marathon Reading of Emily Dickinson's poetry - 8:00am-10:00pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 724 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY

Check out our website for more information on Upcoming Events:
http://www.buffalo.edu/cas/english/news-events/upcoming_events.html

THE BUFFALO FILM SEMINARS SERIES 32/FALL 2016

Dipson Amherst Theatre, 3500 Main Street, Buffalo, NY
Tuesdays at 7:00pm

- Sept. 6 - Sam Wood, *A Night at the Opera*, 1935
Sept. 13 - Jean Cocteau, *Beauty and the Beast*, 1946
Sept. 20 - Jacques Tourneur, *Out of the Past*, 1947
Sept. 27 - Yasujiro Ozu, *Late Spring*, 1949
Oct. 4 - Joseph L. Mankiewicz, *All About Eve*, 1950
Oct. 11 - Federico Fellini, *La Dolce Vita*, 1960
Oct. 18 - Orson Welles, *Chimes at Midnight*, 1966
Oct. 25 - Sarah Elder and Leonard Kemerling, *The Drums of Winter*, 1977
Nov. 1 - Hall Ashby, *Being There*, 1979
Nov. 8 - Brian De Palma, *The Untouchables*, 1987
Nov. 15 - Norman Jewison, *Moonstruck*, 1987
Nov. 22 - Andrei Tarkovsky, *The Sacrifice*, 1986
Nov. 29 - Alfonso Arau, *Like Water for Chocolate*, 1992
Dec. 6 - Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck, *The Tourist*, 2010

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

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