

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

NEWSLETTER

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

2015/2016



Dear friends,

Yes, I'm back! Graham Hammill, after two years of chairing the English Department superbly, has accepted an appointment as Dean of the Graduate School. Congratulations to Graham! I am serving as Interim Chair for 2015-16.

As you will read in the pages following, some of the highlights of the past year in this Department include the hire of Assistant Professor Elizabeth Mazzolini in the field of Rhetoric of Science and the Environment - read more about her work on page 3. Hiring Elizabeth led to the bonus of hiring her husband,

Associate Professor Chad Lavin, who works in political theory and the history of ideas (see page 3). Damien Keane was awarded the Robert Rhodes Prize by the American Conference for Irish Studies for his new publication *Ireland and the Problem of Information* (see page 3). Two faculty members enjoyed prestigious Guggenheim Fellowships over the past year—Jerold Frakes and Carla Mazzio—and I was privileged to enjoy an ACLS Fellowship. Nnedi Okorafor (hired in 2014) published a new novel, *The Book of the Phoenix*, and was a finalist for several international prizes, including the British Science Fiction Association Award. And Walt Hakala was awarded the Edward Cameron Dimrock, Jr., Prize by the American Institute of Indian Studies for an outstanding book manuscript. As even this short list indicates, our faculty continue to produce original, provocative, rigorous scholarship and creative writing.

Our students are similarly impressive in their creativity and accomplishments. Graduate student Marion Quirici was awarded both an AAUW Dissertation Fellowship and a Krause Research Fellowship in Irish Studies for her work in Irish and Disability studies. This year two of our undergraduate majors received the prestigious SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence—John O'Brien and Chelsea Reinhart. John O'Brien was also awarded the Outstanding Senior in English award.

The increasingly long "Alumni News" feature is a joy to read! Not only does it show that more and more of you are staying in touch with us but it also

indicates the extraordinary range of your accomplishments. Do send us news about your work and your life changes.

The Department is immensely grateful to alumnus Louis Slovinsky (BA, 1961) 1937-2012, and his wife Joan Slovinsky, who for the past five years have provided a \$10,000 Louis and Joan Slovinsky Dissertation Fellowship for English graduate students. 2015-16 is the last year of this fellowship bequest. We hope very much that one of our alums will step forward to continue this annual gift—so crucial to enabling a graduate student to finish his or her dissertation more quickly and to be more successful on the still extremely challenging academic job market.

2015-16 is the year of anniversaries. Under the co-direction of Barbara Bono, the Early Modern Research Workshop is staging "Buffalo Bard 2016: 400 Years Since Shakespeare," starting in January, with several performances and events in collaboration with Buffalo institutions, from Nichols School to the Buffalo Philharmonic. Just Buffalo Literary Center—the premier community center for the literary arts in Western New York, founded and continuously directed by English UB alums—turns 40 and is launching various events. And the Department's Poetics Program turns 25 and will sponsor several events throughout the year, including the first annual Robert Creeley Lecture and Celebration of Poetry, at the Albright-Knox Gallery, April 8, and an academic conference April 9-10 (see page 6).

We're also hosting a Second Alumni/ae Reunion—to coincide with the Creeley Lecture and Celebration for Poetry and Poetics conference: April 8-9. Come for a day or the whole weekend. For all these events, watch for details on our website, Facebook page, and in your email.

We face several challenges this year—having to do with local and national shifts in student enrollment and with defining our place in the new UB General Education Program. Among other things, you'll hear about how the Department is moving forward in these areas during the Reunion. At the same time, we are looking forward to another busy, exciting, creative year. I hope to see many of you at the Reunion or other events and would love to hear your questions, memories of the department, and ideas for where we might go next.

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 a Robert Creeley lecture series in Poetics

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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Migration Nation

by Joseph Conte, Professor

In September 2014 Tanya Shilina-Conte, Lecturer in the Department of Media Study, and I held a public screening in the UB Center for the Arts of a recently released film that deals with the crisis of immigration on our southern border with Mexico, *Who Is Dayani Cristal?*, directed by Mark Silver and starring Gael García Bernal. The event kicked off the first annual Buffalo Humanities Festival, whose theme was "Migration Nation Moving Stories." We felt moved to discuss this story, which is partly a CSI-like effort to give a name to the remains of a migrant found in the unforgiving Sonoran desert in Arizona, whose only identifying feature was the tattoo "Dayani Cristal."

As an immigrant from Russia and the descendent of immigrants from the "mezzogiorno" of Italy and Sicily, respectively, Tanya and I have been especially attuned to the diverse cultures and identities that are uncovered in the many migration stories tagged with such adjectives as illegal, nonimmigrant, undocumented, nameless, invisible, unidentified and missing. The topic of immigration and migration has occupied the headlines in recent global and national news: the tragic drowning of more than 500 migrants in 2015 from countries such as Eritrea, Sudan, Libya and Syria on their way to Malta or Lampedusa in the Mediterranean in order to escape sectarian violence and starvation; the still pending passage of the federal Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (or DREAM) Act, first introduced in Congress in 2001; objections to the Obama administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which grants temporary legal status to those who have spent the majority of their life in the U.S.; and the 2014 American immigration crisis—in which xenophobic protesters in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas attempted to "Shut Down All Ports Of Entry" in response to the surge in unaccompanied children from Central America (numbering more than 52,000) seeking asylum in the United States under the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, signed into law by George W. Bush.

The border patrol sign in California near the Mexican border issues a warning: "Caution! Do not expose your life to the elements. It's not worth it!" The Mexico-United States border, the most frequently crossed international border in the world, traverses a variety of terrains, ranging from major urban areas to

uninhabited deserts. In the past decade, reinforcements of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection have pushed migrants into the Sonoran Desert, one of the most desolate sections of the border. In the Sonoran Desert's extreme climate, temperatures reach as high as 118°F and then drop suddenly to 50°F overnight. Although the Sonoran Desert is one of the deadliest stretches of land on the planet, economic needs and familial desires continue to beckon people to take the ultimate gamble. While attempts to cross into the United States have dropped, deaths have risen. Since 1998, more than two thousand corpses in varying states of decay have been found in Arizona's Sonora Desert—the remains of "border crossers" who perished en route to the United States.

Who Is Dayani Cristal? is a "docufiction" film—the fabricated recreation of actual events—that follows two parallel narratives. In one, director Marc Silver unravels the mystery of an undocumented worker from Latin America, found dead after crossing the border into the U.S., identifiable only by the tattoo on his chest. In the other, actor Gael García Bernal (well known for his performances in such films as *Y tu mamá también* and *The Motorcycle Diaries*) makes the same journey himself, traveling through Mexico alongside other men on "The Beast," *el tren de la muerte*, on their way to America. There is yet a third implied story in which we as viewers are also invited on this perilous trip to experience what it feels like to be a migrant. If you view this film, you will understand how utterly defamatory were the recent comments regarding Mexican migrants by a Republican presidential candidate who deserves to remain unnamed.

I'll be screening *Who Is Dayani Cristal?* and reading works of fiction and nonfiction that portray the immigrant experience, such as Anzia Yezierska's novel *Bread Givers* (1925), Jerre Mangione's memoir of the Sicilian enclave of Rochester, NY, *Mount Allegro* (1989), and Gary Shteyngart's autobiographical account of Soviet-era migration of Russian Jews to New York, *Little Failure* (2014), in my online undergraduate course in Fall 2015, English 447: Literature of Migration. These and other works are also featured in my essay-in-progress, "Immigration Literature and the Alien Nation," which argues that the fiction and memoirs of immigrants, deemed "alien residents" not yet "naturalized" in American language or customs, describe the strange shores on which they arrive as the alien nation.

FEATURED FACULTY -DIMITRI ANASTASOPOULOS

Associate Chair Stacy Hubbard sat down with Associate Professor Dimitri Anastasopoulos to talk about his fiction and teaching.

SH: You were born in Athens, Greece and grew up in Virginia and Connecticut. How important is your Greek heritage to the fiction you write?

DA: I've written very little about Greek ethnicity itself, but the themes of migration, displacement, translation, dislocation, and cultural nomadism are there. I suppose that all of these can be considered part of the immigrant experience even if never explicitly evoked as part of an immigrant or ethnic narrative.

SH: Your novels (*A Larger Sense of Harvey*, *Farm for Mutes*) have been described as existential, postmodern or deconstructive. Do any of these labels seem right to you? How would you describe your style?

DA: I don't mind these labels except perhaps deconstructive, which to me implies a method or system that I simply don't see in my work. It may be there. In contrast, postmodern and existential seem more like categories, difficult to argue against. I might prefer to say that I am very interested in the differences and similarities between public discourse and private language, between stock formulas and style. I see my fiction as mainly rhetorical, and though influenced by the moderns and postmoderns, not really wedded to those historical movements.

SH: Your fiction brings in elements of science, science fiction, linguistics, film history and international culture. What else influences your writing?

DA: I am exploring some of these things yet again in my current novel. The dominance of science and technology in contemporary life seems to be an inescapable feature of most fiction today. Mine as well. Currently, I am interested in similarities between political narratives and the literary, between well constituted fields such as economics and the reduction of those fields in political and cultural discourse. My current novel is about the Greek economic crisis and the dangerous adventures of small American tourist children in Greek villages. An autofiction that unreservedly—so far—incorporates my own blog-style analysis of whatever is currently happening in Greece.

SH: Who are your favorite novelists, the ones who give you the most pleasure or whose style you admire?

DA: Some writers, like Nabokov, I've tried my best to disavow (because of their postmodern influence) but I have found difficulty burying them. Kafka and Clarice Lispector were big early influences. My two biggest influences have been Marcel Proust and Thomas Bernhard. JG Ballard as well. Over the last year, I have read and reread Anaïs Nin, Peter Handke and Gayl Jones because of their focus on self-description relative to stock formulations. This summer I read several fictions that incorporated political discourse by Percival Everett, Antoine Volodine and Karen Yamashita, as well as the translation of Julio Cortázar's very weird book *Fantomas and the Multinational Vampires: an Attainable Utopia*.

SH: You write both fiction and critical prose. Do you find that one kind of writing informs the other, or that one interferes with the other?

DA: I believe very few fiction writers do both, or can do both well, or at the same time. They do interfere. Perhaps Nathaniel Mackey is the fiction writer most capable since he reserves a space for literary criticism, music criticism, and critical theory in his fiction. They "sit in" with one another, to use his phrase. . . . Your question has fascinated me in the past. I've devoted a grad seminar to it and may do so again in the future, by looking at critical essays by Nabokov, Samuel Beckett, Helene Cixous, Maurice Blanchot, and Mackey, etc., alongside their fiction.

SH: You teach creative writing courses for both undergraduate and graduate students. To what extent do you think young writers can be taught?

DA: Writers can be taught that they have great powers of the imagination (Paul West's influence!) if they are encouraged to believe that. . . . Writers can be given license to play with language and see how much more pliable it is in the workshop space than it is elsewhere in their daily lives, and in this way, the workshop expands language for students beyond even what they might believe is permissible in the solitude of their own work. . . . I believe that writers rarely know what they are doing, so the attempt to control the work's meaning or to assess what has been learned, practiced, and executed can only lead young writers astray.

SH: Thank you for talking with us.

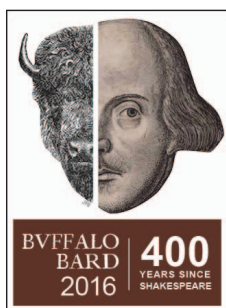
For a longer version of this interview, go to www.english.buffalo.edu

Damien Keane awarded the 2015 Robert Rhodes Prize

Associate professor Damien Keane's book *Ireland and the Problem of Information: Irish Writing, Radio, Late Modernist Communication* (Penn State UP, 2014) has been awarded the 2015 Robert Rhodes Prize for Books on Literature by the American Conference for Irish Studies. The study approaches this question: what aspects of the Irish historical experiences of anti-colonial revolution, non-aligned diplomatic status, and peripheral underdevelopment make it a useful test case for conditions now more commonly associated with "globalization"? With an itinerary moving not simply among Dublin, Belfast, and London, but Paris, New York, Addis Ababa, Rome, Berlin, Geneva, and the world's radio receivers, the book considers how the manipulation and re-direction of literary expression came to reflect not only the immense totality of total war, but literature's increasingly explicit position among – rather than above or apart from – technological media of transmission and reception. Praising the analysis of "the complicated ways that information circulates through various media," the ACIS prize committee underscored the book's contribution to the field of modern Irish Studies: "Keane offers readers fresh archival material and astute close readings to successfully undermine long-standing assessments of this period as one characterized by Irish inwardness and exceptionalism. He insists that Irish modernism was disseminated not only by literary texts but also by global networks of communication, and draws attention to the influence of these networks on late modernist writers such as Samuel Beckett, Walter Starkie, and Francis Stuart. By offering an innovative approach to long-standing concerns in Irish Studies, *Ireland and the Problem of Information* demonstrates the real value of transnational studies to the field more generally." The Rhodes Prize is the most prestigious annual award presented by ACIS.



Getting Ready for "Buffalo Bard 2016: 400 Years Since Shakespeare"



2016 is the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. But during that year all the world will be a stage commemorating his life.

Here in Western New York we will join the celebrations with a year-long calendar of public humanities events: "Buffalo Bard 2016: 400 Years Since Shakespeare."

Against a backdrop of major library exhibits of early Folios and other rare materials at both the downtown Buffalo & Erie County Public Library and up at UB there will be classes and participatory events such as competitions, festivals, and book-making sessions for students from all of the "Seven Ages of Man," infancy to old age.

There will also be a new stage for the 41st season of "Shakespeare in Delaware Park," featuring a reprise of their very first production, the heart-rending and magical *The Winter's Tale*, and the crowd-pleasing *The Taming*

of the Shrew.

Events will include a stellar three-part academic conference at UB on "Object and Adaptation: The Worlds of Shakespeare and Cervantes"; additional theatrical, musical, dance and film interpretations, including a free "side-by-side" concert featuring the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Buffalo Academy of the Visual and Performing Arts; a planetarium show at SUNY Buffalo State on "Shakespeare and the Stars"; a Shakespeare Read-A-Thon; the launch of a "Shakespeare Garden" at the Karpeles Manuscript Library; book and stage-lovers' tours; and even an April 27th visit, courtesy of the UB Distinguished Speakers' Series, from Shakespearean actor and Academy Award-winner Kevin Spacey. Finally, there will be a Jubilee Gala, MCed by UB English Department Professor and UB Dean of Undergraduate Education Dr. Andrew McConnell Stott, echoing the famous Garrick Jubilee of 1769 that made Stratford a tourist site and Shakespeare a national and international icon.

Most of these events are free and open to the public, or involve a nominal cost. Read about them in detail at buffalobard.wordpress.com.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY MEMBERS....

Elizabeth Mazzolini

(PhD, 2006, Penn State University)



"My research is about humanistic interpretations of science and technology, especially as related to the environment. So, my book *The Everest Effect*, out next year, is about how the sciences and technologies that support high altitude mountaineering work persuasively to shape the ideas and values that have animated climbs. My new project investigates links between environmentalism and poverty in the U.S., and also considers environmental-

ism alongside disability studies, in order to draw out what effects are produced from different uses of the idea of "nature." This new project extends some work I started when I co-edited *Histories of the Dustheap*, an interdisciplinary volume on the topic of garbage. I teach classes that encourage humanists and environmentalists to critique the sciences but also to find joy and power in them, such as Science Writing, Feminist Science Studies, and the Environmental Humanities."

Chad Lavin

(PhD, 2003, Penn State University)



"Most broadly, I study the history of ideas – ideas like responsibility, citizenship, and humanity – to see how the meaning of these ideas changes, and how they afford people distinct ways of being in the world. My research and my teaching are interdisciplinary; I like mixing genres of thought and writing, reading novels alongside Supreme Court decisions to see how people think

about property, or self-help books alongside management theory to trace changing ideas about achievement. I am currently at work on a manuscript about the interface of ethics, politics, and economics, and smaller projects focusing on spatial metaphors in political thought and the nature of whistleblowing in an information economy."

AWARDS / PROMOTIONS

Rachel Ablow, Associate Professor, received a Conversations in the Disciplines Award from the State University of New York for the Pain conference she is organizing for the Humanities Institute in October, entitled "Harriet Martineau and the Subject of Pain." *Victorian Studies* 56.4 (Summer 2014): 675-97.

Dave Alff, Assistant Professor, has been awarded a Summer NEH Fellowship for 2015. (See page 5 for details.)

Walt Hakala, Assistant Professor, has been awarded the Edward C. Dimock Prize in the Indian Humanities for his manuscript (currently under review), "Negotiating Terms: Urdu Dictionaries and the Definition of Modern South Asia." The Dimock prize is awarded annually by the American Institute of Indian Studies. He was awarded the OVPRED/HI Seed Money in the Arts and Humanities fund for 2015, and a University at Buffalo College Faculty Fellow, 2015-17.

Judith Goldman, Assistant Professor, was awarded one of two OVPRED/HI Fellows in 2015-16, for her work entitled, ____ Mt. [blank mount].

Steve McCaffery, Professor, is the recipient of the Dora Mavor Moore award for Outstanding Sound Design and Composition General Theatre Category for The Four Horseman Project, which was received in Toronto, Ont., Canada this summer.

Cristanne Miller, SUNY Distinguished Professor, has received an award from the Innovative Micro-Programs Accelerating Collaboration in Themes (IMPACT) to support her team's proposal titled "Marianne Moore Archive (MMA): Notebooks Project."

Steven Miller, Associate Professor, is the recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching; he is one of only three faculty at UB to receive the award this year. The award is based on syllabi and letters from departmental colleagues, external writers, and students. Well-known and well-regarded as rigorous and highly engaging, Steven has been an outstanding teacher and mentor at both the undergraduate and graduate levels since coming to UB as a Visiting Assistant Professor in 2004.

RECOGNITIONS

Carrie Bramen, Associate Professor, was recently elected Chair of the American Literature section of the MLA for 2015-16, succeeding Michele Elam from Stanford.

Bruce Jackson, SUNY Distinguished Professor, had his 1972 book *Wake Up Dead Man*, on the expressive culture of Ramsey State Farm, recently featured in the *Oxford American* as well as *The New Yorker's* section on "Weekend Reading."

PUBLICATIONS

Robert Daly, SUNY Distinguished Professor, published two articles and a book chapter: "Navigating Character: Nautical Talk and Virtue Ethics in The Pilot," *James Fenimore Cooper: His Country and His Art. Papers from the 2013 Cooper Conference and Seminar* (No. 19); "The United States of America in the Networks of the World: Transatlantic Perspectives in LEAR 6." *The James Fenimore Society Newsletter*, 25.2, Whole No. 72 (Fall 2014): 1, 3-8; and "The World, the Flesh, and God in Puritan Poetry," Chapter Three of *The Cambridge History of American Poetry*, 2015: 65-85.

Judith Goldman, Assistant Professor of English, published a chapter, "Dyschrony: Temporalities and their discontents, in new and old Romanticisms," in *Active Romanticism: Innovative Poetry and Poetics from the Late Eighteenth-Century to the Present* (U of Alabama Press, 2015).

Professor Walt Hakala, Assistant Professor, published two essays: "On Equal Terms: The Equivocal Origins of an Early Mughal Indo-Persian Vocabulary," *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* (Third Series) 25, no. 2 (2014): 209-27, and "The Authorial Problem in the Khaliq Bari of 'Khusrau'." *Indian Economic & Social History Review* 51, no. 4 (2014): 481-96.

Bruce Jackson, SUNY Distinguished Professor, has been featured at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in a new exhibition devoted to art about work and workers entitled, *Overtime: The Art of Work*.

Damien Keane, Associate Professor, was awarded the Robert Rhodes Prize for Books on Literature from the American Conference for Irish Studies for his recent book *Ireland and the Problem of Information: Irish Writing, Radio, Late Modernist Communication*, published by Penn State University Press in 2014.

Arabella Lyon, Professor, published an essay, "Recognizing Children When All Recognition is Misrecognition," in a Special Issue on *Children's Rights*. *JAC: A Journal of Rhetoric, Culture, and Politics*. 34.3-4 (2014): 507-515.

Carla Mazzio, Associate Professor, published two essays: "Writing in the Aftermath: Digital Humanities, c. 1600?" in the *Journal of the Northern Renaissance* (February 2015) and "The Invisible Element in Art: Dürer, Shakespeare, Donne," in *Vision and its Instruments: Art, Science, and Technology in Early Modern Europe*, ed. Alina Payne (Philadelphia: Penn State University Press, February 2015).

Steve McCaffery, Professor of English, delivered the keynote address at Scores Poesie Performance Partition, Université Paris Diderot on December 4th.

Cristanne Miller, SUNY Distinguished Professor, delivered a keynote address, "Translating the Rhythms of Dickinson's Poetry," at "Emily Dickinson Dwells in China: Possibilities of Translation and Transcultural Perspectives," Fudan University Center for Literary Translation Studies, Shanghai, China, November 22-24, 2014.

Nnedi Okorafor, Associate Professor, was a guest speaker at the PEN World Voices Festival, PEN America, New York, NY 2015 (May) and delivered keynote addresses at the International Igbo Conference, University of London, England 2015 (April) and the Alpha Chi Honor Society, Chicago, IL 2015 (March). She also published *The Book of the Phoenix* (DAW Books, 2015).

Alex Reid, Associate Professor, published a book chapter, "Digital Humanities Now and the Possibilities of a Speculative Digital Rhetoric," in *Rhetoric and the Digital Humanities* edited by Jim Ridolfo and William Hart-Davidson. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015, 15-20.

Randy Schiff, Associate Professor, published two essays: "On Firm Carthaginian Ground: Ethnic Boundary Fluidity and Chaucer's Dido" in *postmedieval* 6.1 and "Resisting Surfaces: Description, Distance Reading, and Textual Entanglement" in *Exemplaria* 26.2-3.

David Schmid, Associate Professor, was interviewed by famed true crime writer Harold Schechter and is now online: <http://twistedtalessevents.blogspot.com/2015/06/harold-schechter-interviewed-by-david.html>

Andy Stott, Professor, had a US release of *The Poet and the Vampyre* (Pegasus, 2014). He was interviewed by Melanie Rehak, Jan. 15th, 2015: <http://www.nypl.org/events/programs/2015/01/15/poet-and-vampyre-andrew-stott-and-melanie-rehak>

Hershini Young, Associated Professor, was a Keynote Speaker at Yoruba Spirituality and Global Acts Conference, UCSB, February 2015.



In April, Distinguished Teaching Professor **Diane Christian** delivered the Victor E. Reichert Annual Lecture on Robert Frost sponsored by UB's Poetry's Collection. The lecture, "Robert Frost's 'Masque of Reason': Biblical Job in 1945," discussed a short, satirical play by Frost.



Assistant Professor Dave Alff Awarded NEH Summer Grant

Assistant Professor Dave Alff was awarded a prestigious NEH Summer Stipend grant to support the completion of his book manuscript, entitled "The Wreckage of Intentions: Projects in British Culture, 1660-1730. Professor Alff's book investigates the idea of projects, concrete yet incomplete efforts to advance British society in a period defined by revolutions of finance and agriculture, the rise of experimental science, and the establishment of constitutional monarchy. Then, as now, the word 'project' meant a proposal for action and the possibility of action itself. By 'proposal' Professor Alff means a document drafted to make things happen, while 'action' signifies the happening of those things through events like the enclosure of land, the construction of hospitals, and the founding of colonies. "Wreckage of intentions" will offer the first comprehensive critical account of projects, a term as crucial to the making (and unmaking) of eighteenth-century British culture as it is to the functioning (and malfunctioning) of modern society. Professor Alff's manuscript traces the historical development of an idea that continues to shape possibilities of thought and experience today.

The NEH grant allowed Professor Alff to travel to England in August to undertake some final archival research at the British Library, the National Archives in Kew, the Cambridgeshire Records Office, and the River, Drainage and Water Records Special Collection at the University of Nottingham

Goldman, Mardorossian, and Young awarded HI Fellowships

Judith Goldman, Carine Mardorossian, and Hershini Young have been awarded Humanities Institute Fellowships for 2015-16. In addition, Goldman has been named OVPRED/HI Fellows because her project especially well represents the interdisciplinary mission of both HI and the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development.

• Judith Goldman, Assistant Professor, English
"_____ Mt. [blank mount]"

• Carine Mardorossian, Professor, English
"Creolized Ecologies in Caribbean Literature"

• Hershini Young, Associate Professor, English
"The Vulnerability of Horizontality"

DEPARTMENT NEWS

New Scholarship for Non-Traditional Women Undergraduates

The English Department is pleased to announce the Nielson-Donaldson Women's Scholarship, which offers financial support for returning or interrupted female students majoring in English or the Liberal Arts at UB.

The Nielson-Donaldson Women's Scholarship is made possible by the generous support of Dr. Sandra Donaldson. Dr. Donaldson established this scholarship to honor the unheralded work of women, as exemplified by her mother, Margaret Nielsen Donaldson, and grandmothers, Tekla Gredsted Nielsen and Mary MacMillan Donaldson.

Sandra Donaldson received her B.A. in English from UB in 1968, and went on to earn her MA and PhD from the University of Connecticut. She taught for 35 years at the University of North Dakota, where she was the Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor of English, before retiring in 2012. During her time at UND, Professor Donaldson helped to start the Women's Studies Program and earned both the Outstanding Faculty Award for Development and Service and the UND Foundation / Thomas J. Clifford Faculty Achievement Award for Excellence in Research. A winner of numerous grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Professor Donaldson is widely known and respected for her scholarship on the Victorian poet, Elizabeth Barrett Browning. In 2010 she published a 5-volume scholarly edition of *The Works of Elizabeth Barrett Browning*.

Professor Donaldson created this scholarship to support a non-traditional woman student at UB who is pursuing her education in the humanities. She is especially grateful for the support many years ago from her employer at the time, the New York Telephone Company, which allowed her to attend UB's Millard Fillmore College during the evenings. Academic success changed Sandra Donaldson's life and fortunes, and she wishes to pay it forward for a woman student who has financial need and is either employed full-time or supporting a family or both.

Poetry Reading:

An Evening with Irving Feldman

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015 • 7 PM
UB Anderson Gallery • Doors open at 6:30

Irving Feldman, Emeritus Distinguished Professor of English, taught at the State University of New York at Buffalo from 1964 to 2004, when he retired. Feldman's collection of poetry includes *All of Us Here* (1986), a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; *The Ripet Marshes* (1965) and *Leaping Clear* (1976), both finalists for the National Book Award; and *Works and Days* (1961), winner of the Kovner Poetry Prize of the Jewish Book Council. Feldman is the recipient of a National Institute of Arts and Letters award, as well as fellowships from the Academy of American Poets, the Ingram Merrill Foundation, and The MacArthur Foundation. His *Collected Poems 1954-2004* was published by Schocken Books in 2004.

Robert De Niro, Sr. and Irving Feldman: Painter and Poet at UB in the Late 1960's

September 11- October 25, 2015
University at Buffalo Anderson Gallery

Recruited by his friend Irving Feldman, Robert De Niro, Sr. was one of the 'star' artists who helped make Buffalo a center for creativity in the arts during the 1960s. 1967 was the first of six summers he taught at UB, which provided the opportunity for him to complete a series of paintings that responded dramatically to the light and color of Buffalo's landscapes. Several works in the exhibition are from Buffalo collections, including the Albright-Knox Art Gallery.

University at Buffalo Anderson Gallery, One Martha Jackson Place, Buffalo, NY 14214 • ALL EVENTS FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • www.ubartgalleries.org

PROGRAM DIRECTOR NOTES

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF PSYCHOANALYSIS AND CULTURE

Building on its rich intellectual legacy, this year the Center moves forward with a committed and inventive core group of faculty: Steven Miller (Director, English), Ewa Plonowska Ziarek (Executive Director, Comparative Literature), Graham Hammill (English), Fernanda Negrete (Romance Languages), William Solomon (English), and Stephanie Clare (Comparative Literature). Together with the graduate and undergraduate students associated with the Center, we will work on initiatives that both reaffirm the Center's long and fascinating history at UB and open new directions for the future. In the 2015-16 academic year we will explore two main themes: 1) the complex relationship between psychoanalysis, literature and the visual arts; and 2) the theoretical insights derived from clinical practice.

Our other goals include the expansion of the Center's interdisciplinary collaboration with departments, institutes, and individual faculty members at both UB and other universities in the US and abroad; relaunching the Center's signature journal publication [formerly *umbr(a)*]; and organizing a graduate student research colloquium.

We are delighted to announce a series of lectures and seminars by scholars whose work brings together the study of psychoanalysis, literature, and art:

In October, we welcome Jamieson Webster (psychoanalyst), author of *The Life and Death of Psychoanalysis* (2011) and (with Simon Critchley) *Stay Illusion!* *The Hamlet Doctrine* (2013), who will offer both a lecture and a seminar.

In February, we host Jean-Michel Rabaté (University of Pennsylvania), an eminent scholar of modernist literature and psychoanalytic theory, author of, most recently, *Crimes of the Future: Theory and Its Global Reproduction* (2014), *The Cambridge Introduction to Psychoanalysis and Literature* (2014), and *The Ghosts of Modernity* (2010).

And finally, with the Department of Art, we will co-sponsor the visit of Kaja Silverman (University of Pennsylvania), whose most recent books are *Flesh of My Flesh* (2011) and *The Miracle of Analogy: or, the History of Photography*, Vol. 1 (2015).

- **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

POETICS PROGRAM

The Poetics Program of the English Department will mark its 25th anniversary during 2015-16. This anniversary year features a myriad of events including symposia, exhibits, special guests for the Poetics Plus Series, and two notable events in April, 2016.

The Annual Robert Creeley Lecture and Celebration of Poetry will be inaugurated on April 8, 2016. As many of you will recall, Bob Creeley taught at UB from 1966 to 2003 and published over 60 books of poetry as well as numerous books of prose, essays, and interviews. Creeley served as the New York State Poet Laureate from 1989-1991. He is held in the highest regard as a poet and teacher nationally and internationally, and in Buffalo, he is further remembered as an enthusiastic supporter of all arts in the community.

The Creeley Lecture and Celebration will begin at 1:00 on Friday April 8th at the Albright-Knox Gallery. After opening remarks, SUNY Distinguished Professor Bruce Jackson and SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor Diane Christian will show their film about Creeley. Remarks by visiting French scholars and translators about Creeley's importance to the French will be followed by the announcement of the winner and honorable mention for a new poetry contest: the winner of the Young Poet's Award—open to any student of a Buffalo-area high school—will read his or her winning poem or poems. These events will be followed by the Creeley Lecture, which will address a broad range of concerns involving poetry and poetics, and then by an invitation to anyone in the audience to join in the celebration by reading or reciting a favorite Creeley poem. A reception to celebrate the winning young poet, the Creeley lecturer, and poetry in Buffalo will conclude the afternoon's events. All events are free and open to the public. If you'd like to send us an anecdote or story about your experience with Creeley to share with others at the celebration (or perhaps on our website), please send it to Karen Serrienne at english-department@buffalo.edu. Further details about this event will be forthcoming on our website. It is co-sponsored by riverrun and by Just Buffalo Literary Center.

Our second April event, an academic conference, "Poetics: (The Next) 25 Years," to be held April 9th-10th, 2016, will provide an occasion for intensive reflection on the possibilities and agencies that poetics brings to bear on trajectories of the now and histories-to-be. The conference will consist primarily of discussion: papers will be short (10-12 minutes); there will be no plenary speakers and no introductions. Seminar workshops will enable intensive conversation on particular topics in small groups. Panel presentations will propose material and ideas for continuing discussion with all participants. For more information about the conference and to receive a "Call for Papers," please contact Allison Cardon at alcardon@buffalo.edu.

- **Myung Mi Kim**

Director, Poetics Program

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

Alumni/ae Reunion Spring 2016

Once again, we are inviting UB English graduate and undergraduate alums to join us on campus for a chance to reconnect with old friends, visit with former professors and explore recent developments on campus and in the city of Buffalo. Those of you who attended our last reunion a few years back know how much fun this will be! This year, the event will overlap and intersect with the April 8 first Annual Robert Creeley Memorial Lecture and Celebration of Poetry on Friday afternoon at the Albright-Knox Gallery, concluding with an invitation to anyone present to read their favorite Creeley poem, a reception, and then a "flash" reading for anyone who would like to participate later that evening. The reunion will also overlap with the Poetics: (The Next) 25 Years Conference on contemporary innovative poetry on April 9-10. Returning alums are invited to attend part or all of both events. The reunion proper will involve workshops and "back to class" sessions on Saturday with popular English professors such as Bob Daly and Barbara Bono, as well as panels made up of alumni, current English majors, and Journalism Director Jody Biehl and current Spectrum editors. We'll be offering tours of some of the new buildings and areas on campus, followed by a reception and an exhibit of materials from the 25-year history of the Poetics Program in the Poetry Collection of the University Libraries. (NB: Anyone interested in donating chapbooks, magazines, photographs, faculty syllabi, audio/video recordings, reading posters, and other ephemera from the history of the Poetics Program should please get in touch with James Maynard, Associate Curator, at jl46@buffalo.edu.) Saturday evening, alums can enjoy visiting any of Buffalo's excellent new or old restaurants or join Poetics Conference attendees at a buffet reception and poetry reading at the Karpeles Manuscript Library on Porter Avenue. If you are able to come early, you may also want to join us for the Buffalo Bard 2016: 400 Years Since Shakespeare events featuring talks by Roger Chartier and Peter Stallybrass on April 6 & 7. Registration for the reunion is free (however, there is a fee for the Poetics Conference). Please mark your calendars for this weekend and join us for intellectual stimulation, reminiscing, eating and socializing. Check our website and your mailboxes for forthcoming details about all of these April events.

GRADUATION CEREMONY MAY 2015



by Judith Goldman,
Assistant Professor

The kinds of reading and attention you have cultivated in earning your English degree – up close and at a distance – with full concentration and through distraction or diffusion – along linear and non-linear itineraries

-- of literary texts and texts from other domains and disciplines – as well as of many other kinds of media and performance; the capacity for subtle, sharp critical thought you have developed through these reading practices as you have reflected on how meaning and experience are made -- these are skills of resistance to "market thinking" that I hope you will continue to value and foster throughout your lives.

To speak for a moment to the concerns of some parents out there (and these concerns are reasonable and caring), what the abilities nurtured in English, and in the humanities in general, add to the economy tends to be undercounted; and these abilities, while marketable in themselves, are also foundational to many different kinds of jobs and professions

But I also want to suggest that what you have built here, everything you have accomplished and that you have cultivated in yourself as a person, can go towards building another kind of culture than the one dominant here and now. A culture that is not so consumer-oriented or profit-minded or entrepreneurial. One that recognizes and makes central forms of value beyond or against a narrow dollar value -- attuned to the demands of civilization as opposed to those of economy.

The demanding course of study through which you have earned

your English degree in our "liberal arts corner" of this large university, has,

of course, helped to make you outstanding critical thinkers, insightful readers, articulate speakers, as well as cogent, exciting writers – of literary and cultural criticism and of journalism and poetry and fiction.

It has also honed your intellectual curiosity, trained your historical empathy and your sense of differing histories from "above" and "below." It has made you aware that there is no one monolithic English, but Englishes in flux across time and space, changing in response to different dynamics and pressures, while you have also learned how all of these Englishes have provided rich resources to makers of literature and culture. Through earning



your degree, you have fostered a capacity to sense absences and lacunae, an aptitude absolutely essential to understanding how power can work in society to silence and repress and exclude. You have gained cross-cultural knowledge, sensitivity, and respect. You have become generous listeners and interlocutors.

And I want to assert this as a strength. All of these amazing resources you carry with you now are not easily quantifiable. They are not easily or comfortably harnessed to profit-making or accelerated production. They are not easily instrumentalized.

It is not a stretch to say that the strengths you've built here through the study of language, literature, and culture can help shape a society based on care, collaboration, collective-mindedness. An inclusive society that works against indifference, competitiveness, distrust, fear, hard and soft hatreds and their various forms of violence, which we sometimes forget are learned ways of being in the world that we can



refuse, that we need to unmake every day.

I'm not one to speak in imperatives, but the commencement speech is a genre that encourages the imperative mood. So, as I close, I will take it up on its conventions.

Don't be excellent.

Don't be part of a myopic celebration culture that adulates "innovation," that only looks



towards a streamlined, high-tech future. Take a critical stance towards problem-solving, sit with a problem.

Engage in speculative, holistic thought about the short- and long-term consequences of losing what is being engineered away.

Read and research deeply, so that underlying structural issues become visible.

Respect differences.

Create solutions that don't put efficiency, expedience, standardization, or the "majority" first.

Don't let your imagination and your desire for what literature and culture and society can be, be molded by austerity thinking.

Always remember the capaciousness and largesse of your imagination, against stingy austerity.

Be the positivity.

But more importantly, also be the interesting, thoughtful negativity.

Everything in this culture wants to speed things up, to force obsolescence, to force disposability.

Think it through for yourself; do it the long way.

Be slow if you need to be.

Be the slowdown.

Be the holdout.

Be the wrench in the works, if there needs to be one.

And one last thing:

Do with your life what is truly fulfilling to you, as part of a larger community.

[The full version of this speech can be found on the English Department website]



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

SUNY Chancellors Award for Student Excellence - Two English majors were awarded the SUNY Chancellors Awards for Student Excellence, **John O'Brien** and **Chelsea Reinhardt**. The SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence recognizes students who have best demonstrated and been recognized for their integration of academic excellence with other aspects of their lives, which may include leadership, campus involvement, athletics, career achievement, community service or creative and performing arts.

Chelsea Reinhardt recently graduated *summa cum laude* with a double major in English and Health and Human Services, and minors in Education, Counseling, and Sociology. During her time at UB, she worked as a student manager for the University Libraries and tutored students in English for the Educational Opportunity Program's Academic Resource Center. She also completed internships in the Buffalo Public Schools and the Kensington and Chelsea Youth Offending Team in London, England. She was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Tau Delta, the UB relay for life planning committee, and UB running club; further, she participated in the global scholars program through the academies and actively volunteered as a global ambassador for the study abroad programs office. In Chelsea's free time as an undergraduate, she trained for and ran three marathons, spanning three countries. This past summer, she began a Graduate Assistantship in the Study Abroad Programs Office at UB, and will be pursuing a master's degree in Higher Education Administration at UB in the fall. Her ultimate goal is to earn a law degree and work in Educational Law.

John O'Brien graduated *summa cum laude* with a BA in English and Urban and Public Policy Studies. In addition to winning the SUNY Chancellor's Award, he was selected as the **2015 Outstanding Senior in both English and Social Sciences Interdisciplinary**. John is both a UB Honors College scholar and an English department honors student who has won numerous honors, including the 2015 English Department George Knight Hought Prize, Dean's List, an Honors College Scholarship for International Study, Dash's Market Academic Scholarship, membership in the Mortarboard chapter, CAS's Lester Milbrath Award, and Phi Beta Kappa membership. Deeply interested in civic engagement, John has been involved with urban revitalization projects such as Habitat for Humanity. He has served as an intern for US Representative Brian Higgins and US Senator Charles Schumer. He has also taught English at the Islamic Cultural Center in Valencia, Spain, and served as a tutor and mentor for UB athletes.

Phi Beta Kappa (ΦBK) inductees:

Niccole Barsch	Audrey Foppes
Angelina Frances Bruno	Alexandra Steele Mary Hunt
Jasmine Elise Chang	Sarah Elizabeth McGrath
Melissa Chen	Nora McGuire
Max Frederick Crinnin	John O'Brien
Anna Elizabeth Davidson	Chelsea Catherine Reinhardt

List of Sigma Tau Delta (ΣΤΔ) inductees:

Brittany Hill	Taloria Gamble
Rebecca Sabia	Jasmine Chang
Alaina Taber	Kyli Foster
Tomas Olivier	

2015 Writing Award Winners

The Arthur Axlerod Memorial Award: Sarah Grimaldi and Edward Spangenthal. Honorable Mentions: Angelina Bruno, Alex Hunt, Corey Klino, Cassandra Norris, and Cathryn Piersa.

The Scribbler's Prize: Amanda Kelley. Honorable Mention: Cathryn Piersa

The English Department Essay Contest: Alex Hunt. Honorable Mention: Edward Spangenthal.

The Joyce Carol Oates Prize: Emily Anderson. Honorable mentions: Monica Lippens, and Veronica Wendy

The George Knight Hought Prize: Alex Hunt

The Albert Cook Prize, The Mac Hammond Prize, and the John Logan Prize: Emily Anderson, Satya S. Gundu, and Amanda McLaughlin. Honorable Mentions: Conor Patrick Clarke, Kristina Marie Darling, and Alex Hunt.

The Creative Non-Fiction Prize: Rebecca Tong. First runner-up: Angelina Bruno.

JOURNALISM AWARDS

Lisa Khoury, Sara Dinatale, and Emma Janicki were honored this April at the Region 1 Spring Conference at Hofstra University. The following stories were recognized for journalistic excellence:

Lisa Khoury for "Animal Heights"

Sara DiNatale for "Law School Dean Makau Mutua Resigns"

Emma Janicki for "Publishing Textbooks can Mean Big Money for Professors"

UB's student journalists garnered numerous awards at the Fall 2014 meeting of the College Media Association. The Associated Collegiate Press Awards went to **Lisa Khoury** (fourth place) for news story of the year for her piece on unrecognized fraternities at UB; to **Brian Keschinger** (second place) for sports section design of the year for a cover story on Khalil Mack; and to **Chad Cooper** (honorable mention) for spot news. The Pinnacle Awards given by the College Media Association went to **Aaron Mansfield** (first place) for sports column writing and **Brian Keschinger** (5th place) for design of the year for his cover story on Khalil Mack.

Career Fair 2015



FEATURED UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT - SARA DiNATALE



For four years at UB, I crowded over computer keyboards and reporters' notebooks, often working late at night – really early into the morning – to file stories for *The Spectrum*. I learned how to be a journalist by being a journalist, surrounded by great people who helped teach me the craft. No number of journalism classes can compare to the on-the-field experience a college newspaper offers.

But the classes help, too, and without the journalism certificate program I would have never built up relationships with the working reporters who helped guide me to where I am now: just finishing up a highly sought-after and rigorous internship at *The Boston Globe*.

While at UB, I was able to navigate complicated issues for *The Spectrum*. I felt the pressures of deadlines, understood what it was like to work on a team, and learned how to handle stories with care. In my English classes, I was able to devour beautiful writing, always working to enhance my own.

The majority of interns at *The Globe* with me this summer attended journalism and Ivy League schools. But my time at UB and *The Spectrum* left me just as prepared to pursue a career in journalism.

I'm so excited to see what's next.

NAME Launch 2015:15 Year Anniversary

Jessica Smith, NAME Founding Editor

On the 15th Anniversary of NAME Magazine

It must have been a Monday, because Robert Creeley's office hours were always on Monday mornings. I remember that hallway on the 3rd floor of Clemens and his office, the last one on the window side near the elevators, the door always open, the room usually packed with boisterous boys. But this day I was alone with him. I told him I wanted to start a literary magazine, not like *Generation*, which was more fiction- and art-focused, but a poetry-centered magazine housed in the English Department and associated with the Poetics Program.

Bob occupied the David Gray Chair, and he, like Charles Bernstein who followed him in that position, used his endowment to fund graduate student reading series and publications. But there was a group of undergraduates who had embraced the Poetics Program. We'd met in Charles Bernstein's or Creeley's or Susan Howe's classes, bonded over heated arguments about what "real" poetry was and whether Charles Bukowski was worth reading, and begun to gel as a group. We needed our own publication.

It must have been January; he probably laughed gently and wiped his eye, a gesture that often punctuated his conversation. He was probably wearing flannel. He told me that usually all of his Chair money was taken, but that Jorie Graham had just cancelled her "Wednesdays at Four" engagement because she had a cold. So he could give me \$300.

I remember how staggering that sum seemed at the time, although in the next few years our budget was to grow by 500%. We filled out all the paperwork to start a new club. We solicited submissions from everyone we knew. The first issue was printed out on my home printer-\$300 paid for paper, ink, translucent plastic envelopes, and the venue and refreshments for the first reading/release party.

Most of us who started and worked on *name* in those first few years are still friends fifteen years later, although we live different lifestyles all over the country (indeed, all over the world) now. Those late nights printing out *name* on the Cybrary printers before they were regulated, tearing up cardboard or spray-painting bubble wrap, arguing about the inclusion or exclusion of a poem, celebrating our work at the end of the semester with packed poetry readings at Rust Belt Books, gave form to our experiences as undergraduates, artists, and humans. I celebrate and congratulate the work of the editors then and since who have made meaningful community available to young writers at UB.

"Reprinted with permission from Jessica Smith and NAME from their 15th anniversary issue"



FEATURED POEM

An Elegiac Ode

Should I pride myself on an achievement?
Or on the idea of one?
For time hath come to let go,
To let go of that which I sedulously worked for.

Should not I celebrate my feat?
Before mourning at its sacrificial altar?
For the time I treat with contempt has come
to rid me, unceremoniously, of all industry I worked with.

Is it not my time to rejoice?
Before I grudgingly espouse
Abject dejection with resignation?
Maybe not,
For the contumelies of reality threateningly dragooned me into it.

Is it a greater feat to orchestrate my victory
with oblatinal notes or should I do myself a favor
and take my fruits of labor?

Perhaps it is time for this bitter savor,
To let perish my fruits of labor
And to stifle the consequential quaver.

It is time to let go,
For there is a time to cry also.
Farewell, thee victory
While lackaday bears a beacon fit for me.

by Satya S. Gundu

CAS Dissertation Completion Fellowships

Daniel Gomes: "Cold Island: Ballads, Media, and the Irish Left, 1922-72"

Marion Quirici: "Fitness for Freedom: Disability and Irish Modernism"

Robert and Carol Morris Dissertation Completion Fellowships

Shosuke Kinugawa: "Mark Twain's Secret Writings"

Melissa Schindler: "Black Women Writers and the Spatial Limits of the African Diaspora"

Louis and Joan Slovinsky Dissertation Completion Fellowships

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

Gender Institute Dissertation Fellowships

Kristina Marie Darling: "An Imagist Turned Philosopher: Formal Innovation, Conscious Experience, and the Self in Modernist Women's Poetry"

AWARDS

Shayani Bhattacharya and **Shosuke Kinugawa** are recipients of the Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Award for 2014-15. This award is a highly competitive honor given to the very best graduate student teachers at UB.

Patricia Chaudron was accepted into an NEH summer institute on Paul Laurence Dunbar, co-organized by Tom Morgan, a graduate of our PhD program, who is now an Associate Professor of English at the University of Dayton.

Alison Fraser was accepted into an NEH summer institute on Early American Women's Archives.

Lara Hubel, Clare Brown, Daniel Schweitzer, and Min Young Kim were awarded travel fellowships from the Humanities Institute to attend the Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth College in June.

Jesse Miller, PhD candidate in English, was awarded a Public Humanities Fellowship by UB's Humanities Institute for his project, "Reading for Better Health(Care): A Bibliotherapy Workshop and Educational E-pamphlet."

Marion Quirici has been awarded the Krause Research Fellowship in Irish Studies. It is a \$700 travel grant to be used for archival research. Marion plans to go to the National Library of Ireland to consult the newly acquired Christy Brown papers for the final chapter of her dissertation. She has been chosen to receive a Certificate of Honorable Mention through this year's Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Award.

Macy Todd and **Hannah Fogarty** have been awarded the Dickens Project Annual Fellowship. This is a week-long summer seminar on the Santa Cruz campus that brings together faculty, graduate students, and members of the general public for formal lectures by distinguished scholars, seminars, small discussion groups, films, performances, and a variety of informal social activities.

PLACEMENT NEWS

Joseph Aldinger (PhD 2015): Lecturer, Randolph College

Maria Almanza (PhD 2014): Visiting Assistant Professor, Randolph College

Kyungin Bae (PhD 2014): Lecturer, Korean University, Seoul

Prentiss Clark (PhD 2014): Assistant Professor, University of South Dakota

Jeremiah Croster (PhD 2015): Assistant Professor, Houston Community College

Stephanie Farrar (PhD 2013): Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

David Hadbawnik (PhD 2015): Assistant Professor, American University, Kuwait

Jung Min Kim (PhD 2015): Lecturer, University of Seoul

Jason Marley (PhD 2013): Assistant Professor, English, Francis Marion University

Justin Park (PhD 2015): Lecturer, University in Turkey

Courtney Pfahl (PhD 2014): Staff Writer, Office of the Provost, UB

Siobhan Scarry (PhD 2013): reappointed Visiting Assistant Professor & Chair of Dept. at Bethel College

David Squires (PhD 2015) received a two-year Visiting Professorship at Washington State University in Pullman, WA

Marion Quirici has been awarded a dissertation fellowship from the American Association of University Women for the 2015-16 academic year. Quirici's project, "Fitness for Freedom: Disability and Irish Modernism," examines the responses of twentieth-century Irish writers to national stereotypes of disability and degeneracy. Confronting a postcolonial heritage of stereotypes feminizing the Irish as weak and dependent, or masculinizing them as unruly simians, Irish writers in the twentieth century were uniquely situated to challenge intersectional prejudices of race, gender, and disability. The dissertation argues that modernist Irish literature centers disabled perspectives to resist the notion of fitness as a basis for autonomy, whether national self-rule, individual citizenship, or creative agency. Modernists like James Joyce, Samuel Beckett, Edna O'Brien, and Christy Brown give voice to disabled and debilitated storytellers and writers in their narratives to show that disability is a natural component of the human experience regardless of race or nation. Ultimately, the project asserts disability as a basis for inclusion in, rather than exclusion from, civil society.

At UB, Marion is the president of the Modernisms Graduate Group, and the graduate assistant of the International Yeats Society, which takes Buffalo as its North American headquarters. She also co-hosts a biweekly Finnegans Wake reading group, and takes an active role in the Center for Disability Studies and the Gender Institute.



Three Students Awarded Opler-Doubrava Fellowships for 2015-16

Andrew Dorkin, for his dissertation project "The Mind Sneezing: Humor, Media Theory, and Modernist Poetry"

Jesse Miller, for his dissertation project "The Birth of the Literary Clinic: Bibliotherapy, Disability, and the Aesthetics of Health, 1914-1945"

Leslie Nickerson, for her dissertation project "Clothing, Tactility, and Embodiment in Eighteenth-Century Literature"

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 TAsip. 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.

Emily Anderson has an excerpt from her forthcoming book, *Little Novels*, appearing in the January issue of Harper's. <http://harpers.org/author/emilyanderson>

Reading for Better Health(Care)

In discussions about healthcare in the 21st century two topics loom large: technical innovations and economic repercussions. In this, Buffalo is no exception, especially as the city prepares to situate itself as an important medical hub in New York State with the opening of the University at Buffalo's new downtown medical campus. By contrast, what tends to receive much less attention in popular discourse regarding healthcare in Buffalo and in the country at large is the experience of patients. What is it like to be a patient today? How do cultural narratives and economic forces shape experiences of illness and disability? What is the phenomenology of struggling to navigate the bureaucratic protocols of health insurance? Of the encounter with modern technologies of visualization, diagnosis, and cure? What might the more empathetic and equitable paths to wellbeing that the present moment calls for look like?

With support from the University at Buffalo's Humanities Institute and the New York Council for the Humanities, I've begun to design and implement a public project called "Reading for Better Health(Care)" which aims to interrogate these important, but too often overlooked questions. It does so by bringing the practices of literary studies – of reading, writing, analysis, and discussion – out of the academy and into spaces usually reserved for the biomedical. Through a series of workshops held at area hospitals, patients are encouraged to read and analyze stories about illness, to share their own experiences of the medical institution, and, in light of these discussions, to conduct utopian re-imaginings of the hospital in which they are temporarily embedded.

In exploring the role that reading and writing might play in experiences of illness, this intervention puts into practice my dissertation research on the history of bibliotherapy, the intentional use of literature as a tool for achieving and maintaining mental health and general wellbeing. It also draws inspiration from recent trends in the medical humanities focused on the narrative aspects of medicine and on the importance of centering the stories of patients in medical practice. But where bibliotherapy aims at direct medical efficacy and the medical humanities focuses on the education of doctors and other healthcare providers, "Reading for Better Health(Care)" aims to provide a space for patients to co-create new knowledge by voicing their own experiences of illness and reflecting upon the ways healthcare institutions can best serve them, not just as bodies, but also as people.

Jesse Miller is a PhD Candidate in the English Department and a reviews editor for the literary culture and criticism website *Full Stop* (www.full-stop.net). His dissertation project is called *The Birth of the Literary Clinic: Bibliotherapy, Disability, and the Aesthetics of Health, 1914-1945*.

FEATURED ALUMNUS



Garrett R. Sanders (BA 1979)

Garry Sanders is a leadership coach and research administrative professional. He is currently the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Research Foundation for the SUNY system and is an active member of the National Council of University Research Administrators. Garry has led teams at a variety of colleges, universities, research institutes, and hospitals,

including the University at Albany, the University of Rochester Medical Center, and the NIH. He was a double major in English and History at UB.

Earlier this summer, Graham Hammill sat down with Garry to talk about his experiences at UB and how being an English major has influenced his career.

GH: What do you most remember about the English classes you took when you were an undergraduate at UB?

GS: I recall that in contrast to many courses I took at UB, I could depend on my English classes to be conducted in smaller group settings suitable for discussion. I remember class discussions to be lively, as we students were experimenting with our perspectives on world literature and the challenges of expressing our opinions, and being challenged about those opinions.

I also remember one semester where I took a history class on the American Civil War while taking an English course on American transcendentalism. I enjoyed learning about this period of our country's life through the lenses of literature and history simultaneously. Great way to learn!

GH: Did you have a favorite class?

GS: I took a survey English class during my freshman year (can't recall professor's name) and our professor gave us a writing assignment: defend something in writing that you find personally abhorrent. It was a test of rhetorical skills. I had a lot of fun with that assignment, and remember writing an argument against the seafaring code of conduct about "help women and children first" should a boat sink or be in peril of sinking. My challenge was to argue that everyone should fend for themselves! This was a great lesson about the power of words and the morality of argument-making. I have occasionally thought of this assignment when participating in policy making discussions, especially in research compliance and ethics matters. What is right? How do we know it is right? Who says so? What is their stake in the matter?

GH: How did your double major in English and History influence your career choices?

GS: I am a practicing leadership coach, having received certification from Georgetown University, and I use the concepts of story and metaphor with my coaching clients. These concepts come from the humanities. I think it was my earlier experience learning about people and places that led me to leadership coaching as my "encore career."

GH: You've spent your career promoting and advocating for advanced research. What role or roles does advanced research play in the world today? Do you see a special role for the humanities?

GS: My "first" career has been spent serving researchers and serving the institutions that employ researchers: colleges, universities, research institutes, and agencies that support and conduct research. It has been an honor to work in the field of research administration. I enjoy reading about science, especially

the work of the biologist Lewis Thomas (*Lives of a Cell*), or Dennis Flanagan (*Flanagan's Version*). These are examples of literary expositions on the beauty and potential of science. Flanagan was a former editor of *Scientific American*, and to my knowledge, did not major in science in college. Both Flanagan and Thomas had an ability to describe science for laymen, to ask questions, to speak in metaphors, and to construct a compelling story. The latter skills I recall learning as an English major.

The humanities have always, and will always, serve as an equal companion to the sciences. Society needs both, of course. We need our stories, contexts, myths, and ability to confront science (see John Hersey, *Hiroshima*). I have found both English and History to be the links to making sense of the world, and especially post-9/11, as the writings of Don DeLillo and Karen Armstrong have done for many of us.

GH: What career advice would you give to English majors today?

GS: I hope that English majors—like all college students—have learned to write well, even if their writing techniques or styles need to be acculturated to their workplaces.

But this is not the best advice I would give. The best advice I would give English majors today is to understand that your greatest skill is in understanding context, realizing that every organization you work with, and for, is in the midst of some story. The story is made of characters. Some see themselves as heroes, most do not see themselves as anti-heroes but their dysfunction can bring down an organization. Understand your employers and 'stakeholders' voices and motivations and needs. Understand that character development is not just something that occurs in novels.

Speaking of novels, in organizational life you don't always know if you are in chapter one or two of a thirty chapter book, or perhaps you are in chapter twenty-nine. But, as an English major, you know to think this way and to ask the questions you need to ask to understand the story.

People talk in organizations about understanding the "story" and "backstory," meaning that there are multiple perspectives and experiences to consider in making decisions or understanding actions and behaviors. Be brave to ask the questions that you know you need to ask to understand the story.

If you don't understand your organization's story, you can't lead it. I experience this daily in my work as a leadership coach working with clients, and in my current leadership role at the Research Foundation for SUNY.

GH: Do you have a favorite author, book, or type of literature you enjoy reading?

GS: I found Lauren Hillenbrand's book, *Unbroken*, to be absolutely wonderful. It was a story of courage worth telling, and the period of history (World War II era) has always been fascinating to me. Also, I would recommend *The Adventures of Augie March*, by Saul Bellow. In all candor, this was a book I was assigned at UB, but never finished while a student. Several years later, when I was in my early 30's (same age as Bellow when he wrote the book), I picked it up again and read it and found the American story of Augie, his life growing up during the Great Depression, to be very powerful and reminiscent of stories I remember hearing from my own parents and grandparents.

GH: Is there anything else you'd like to share?

GS: Thanks for this opportunity.

Anna Badalian (PhD, 2013) is now working in Manhattan as an attorney at a mid-sized full-service law firm.

Anselm Berrigan (BA, 1993) has recently published *Pregrets*, a small book of poems through Australia's Vagabond Press. He has a book-length poem titled *Primitive State* forthcoming this summer from Edge Books, and a book-length series of rectangle-shaped poems titled *Come In Alone* due out from Wave Books in the spring of 2016. He read this summer in the Discutia Secreta literary festival in Arad, Romania, and will be a participant in the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Process Space residency program in NYC this autumn. He lives with his family in New York City, teaches part time for Brooklyn College and the Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts, and is the current poetry editor of *The Brooklyn Rail*, a print & on-line arts and culture monthly.

Sanjay Bhatt (BA, 2009) went to dental school and graduated in 2015 with a DDS degree. He is now doing a residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at University of Texas Southwestern; the residency is 4 to 6 years after obtaining a doctorate. The profession involves facial reconstruction, micro vascular surgery, facial plastic surgery, head and neck cancer, trauma, anesthesiology, dental implants, and wisdom teeth extractions.

Alan Bigelow (PhD, 1992) continues to publish his electronic fiction and poetry at <http://www.webyarns.com>. These stories and poems use images, text, audio, video, and other components. They are non-traditional narratives that employ poetic and occasionally humorous and ironic metaphors. Often they make statements about contemporary life, culture, and politics. These stories and poems are created for the web, although they also appear in museums, festivals, and galleries as media installations.

David J. Bookbinder (BA, 1973) has signed with the literary agent Stephany Evans, president of Fine Print Literary Management. Ms. Evans is representing his recently completed book *Fifty-Two Flower Mandalas*, a collection of images and essays that distill into one volume his work as artist and healer. david@ davidbookbinder.com

Patti Brocato (BA, 1989) is a receptionist at the Univ. at Buffalo Child Care Center. She is proud to be part of the university community. She has been here since the '70's, and still is dedicated to her profession. She works with children and their families every day, whether it's just saying, "Hi", or attending an event in the classroom when the children are performing a skit, or playing at the water table. Education, teaching and learning, go hand in hand.

Alec Brownie (MA, 2012; BA, 2009) had his essay titled "Life and Thoughts of an Aspie" published in the winter 2015 issue of *At Buffalo* http://issuu.com/ ubaa/docs/at_buffalo_winter_2015_issuu/0

Barbara Cantalupo (nee White) (PhD, 1988) was promoted to Professor of English in the College of Liberal Arts, Penn State University, July 2015. She recently published *Poe and the Visual Arts* (Penn State University Press, 2014). <http://www.psupress.org/books/titles/978-0-271-06309-6.html>

Michael Castro (BA, 1967) earned a PhD in American literature at Washington University (his dissertation, *Interpreting the Indian: Twentieth Century Poets and the Native American* was published by University of New Mexico Press, and later as a University of Oklahoma Press paperback); taught at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and Lindenwood University; co-founded the literary organization & magazine *River Styx* in 1975 (it's still going); edited the magazine of the same name, directed its reading series, and hosted three literary radio programs that ran for a total of twenty years. He recently has been named the first Poet Laureate of St. Louis.

Matthew Chambers (PhD, 2011) is now Assistant Professor at the University of Lodz in Poland. He recently published *Modernism, Periodicals, and Culture Poetics* <http://www.palgrave.com/page/detail/modernism-periodicals-and-cultural-poetics-matthew-chambers/?sf1=barcode&st1=9781137541352>

Ranjan Chhibber (PhD, 1999) is currently a Professor of Film Studies and Humanities at Florida State College at Jacksonville. He gave a recent interview published by an Indian think tank called the Society for Policy Studies, that runs a news site called "The Indian Diaspora." They are comprised of current and ex-Members of Parliament in India, ex-Ambassadors, etc. In the interview he thanks his UB professors by name for making him the person he is today: Dr. Alan Spiegel, Dr. Howard Wolf, both of the English Department, and Dr. Brian Henderson of Media Study (his Ph.D. was focused on Media Studies/ Film Studies within English). To see this interview: <http://bit.ly/RanjanHorror-Interview>

Terrence Chiusano (MA, 2000) has a new book out, *On Generation & Corruption: Poems*, winner of the 2013-14 POL (Poetry Out Loud) Editor's Prize. The POL Book Series, run in coordination with Fordham University Press, issues

two new full-length volumes of poetry annually, awarding publication and honoraria to the best manuscripts submitted in an international competition. The book is available from Fordham University Press, as well as Amazon, Powell's and other retailers.

Prentiss Clark (PhD, 2014) accepted a tenure-track position (American Literature) in the Department of English at the University of South Dakota. An article titled "Pulse for Pulse in Harmony with the Universal Whole: Hearing 'Self-Reliance' Anew," was published in *Nineteenth-Century Literature* 69.3 (Winter 2014): 319-341. Prentiss.Clark@usd.edu

Jill Colella (BA, 1997) launched *Ingredient*, a food magazine for children in 2010; Jill is happy to announce *Butternut*, a magazine for very young readers ages 3-6 that emphasizes food and reading literacy. The inaugural issue will arrive in mailboxes in late August. Subscribe or learn more at www.butternut-mag.com.

Eric Cortellessa (BA, 2014) is now taking an MA in journalism at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University in Chicago. In October, he was selected as a fellow with the Social Justice News Nexus. The current class—an array of graduate students and professional journalists—are working on a series of reporting projects dealing with mental health care issues in Chicago. He was selected to go on a trip to Pakistan during spring break.

Julianna Crumlish (BA, 2011) decided to go back to school and will be graduating with a degree in Environmental Science this December. She has a research fellowship this summer where she will be studying water quality and beach closures.

Jack D'Amico (PhD, 1965) published "The Dangers and Virtues of Theatricality in Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso*," *Modern Language Notes*, vol. 130, Jan. 2015, 42-62. jdamico@canisius.edu

Michael Davidson (PhD, 1972) is retiring at the end of this academic year from the Literature Department of the University of California, San Diego where he has taught for the past forty years. Recent publications include: *On the Outskirts of Form: Practicing Cultural Poetics* (Wesleyan University Press, 2011); *Bleed Through: New and Selected Poems* (Coffee House Press, 2013); "The Rage of Caliban: Disabling Bodies in Modernist Aesthetics," *Modernism/modernity* 22.4 (Nov. 2015 forthcoming) "Missing Bodies: Disappearances in the Aesthetic" (Winter, 2016 forthcoming) mdavidson@ucsd.edu

Clark Davis (PhD, 1992) has a book just out from the University of Texas Press. *It Starts with Trouble: William Goyen and the Life of Writing* is the first biography of an under-appreciated American writer, author of *The House of Breath*.

Sally Ann Drucker (PhD, 1988) Performed at an Oklahoma Chautauqua as Dust Bowl Survivor Hazel Shaw this past June. When not presenting figures from history in public Humanities events, she's a Professor in the Dept. of English at SUNY-Nassau. drucker@ncc.edu

Kristin Dykstra (MA, 1988; PhD, 2002) started at Illinois State as an assistant professor in the English Department in 2002, leaving as a full professor in 2014 to accept a position as Distinguished Scholar in Residence at St. Michael's College in Vermont. She has been translating contemporary Cuban literature since the mid-1990s. Her recent publication news also overlaps with President Obama's recent announcement on US/Cuban relations. The University of Alabama Press released the first of her three books of translated literature (with introductions) in December 2014: *Other Letters to Milena*, by Reina Maria Rodriguez. She will have two more bilingual editions forthcoming from Alabama in 2015, by poets Juan Carlos Flores and Ángel Escobar. As for other work now in progress, she and Marcelo Morales Cintero have just received the good news that their selection from his newest manuscript, "El mundo como ser / The World as Presence," was chosen by judge Jen Hofer to receive the Gulf Coast Prize in Literary Translation.

Jonathan Feldman (BS, 1990) was one of two international keynote speakers at the New Zealand CIO Summit in June, speaking about his third "IT turnaround": making IT more effective by making it more human focused. <http://www.ciosummit.co.nz/cio-summit/speakers-2015> <http://feldman.org/>

Erwin H Ford II (PhD, 1988) transferred his personal research archive to the Thomas Cooper Library, University of South Carolina, for: The Erwin H. Ford II Collection of George V. Higgins. University of South Carolina Library Special Collection: The Irvin Department of Rare Books and Special Collection, providing national and international scholars, faculty, and students an opportunity to discover a wealth of materials that capture Higgins' world and his singular impact on the development of the American literary canon.

Graham Foust (PhD, 2002) is currently Director of Undergraduate Studies in English at the University of Denver. His sixth book of poems, *Time Down to Mind*, will be published by Flood Editions in December of 2015. In October of 2015, Wave Books will publish *Of Entirety Say the Sentence*, a co-translation-with Samuel Frederick of the Pennsylvania State University—of the late German poet Ernst Meister's *Sage vom Ganzen den Satz*.

Mary Galbraith (PhD, 1989) has been teaching at San Diego State University in the English Department since 1996. She teaches courses in children's literature, adolescent literature, Victorian novels, psychological novels, and advanced composition. This fall she went on sabbatical to England, where she is pursuing some theoretical work that will also be an appreciation of Raymond Briggs, a British artist who creates picture books and graphic memoirs using comic strip format. Her education at UB has given her a wonderful foundation for theorizing as well as close reading. During her graduate school years, she took seminars in six different departments (English, Philosophy, Computer Science, Psychology, Communicative Disorders, Linguistics) and served as graduate assistant for the Cognitive Science Graduate Group.

Andrew L. Giarelli (PhD, 1984) left Buffalo in 1980, all but his dissertation completed, and moved to New York City, where he pursued a freelance journalism career while spending summers on Montana's Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation doing fieldwork for that dissertation, directed by Bruce Jackson. From 1984-1988 he taught feature and magazine writing in the journalism department at New York University; from 1988-92 he did likewise at Utah State University. In 1993 he was a senior Fulbright lecturer in journalism at the University of Malta. Upon return to Utah he quit his position and founded *Edging West*, a regional Western magazine that lasted until 1998. He moved to Portland, Ore., where he became an assistant professor of English at Portland State University and helped found the department's graduate writing program and taught courses in Twain and folklore. In 2011 he won a second Fulbright, this time to teach American studies at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. Since 2012 he has taught folklore, popular culture and journalism courses each spring semester at Anglo-American University, Prague; he is also an external lecturer at the University of Vienna comparative literature institute, where he teaches a B.A. thesis seminar in the folktale. He has just finished a three-year term as an American studies peer reviewer for the Fulbright program. His book *American Romanista* is on Kindle.

Bradley Greenburg (PhD, 2001) published his debut novel, *When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed*, in September from Sandstone Press (UK). <http://sandstonepress.com/books/when-lilacs-last-in-the-dooryard-bloomed>

Allen Dewane Harris (BA, 1993) produced the play "Miracle in Rwanda" at the Women Playwrights International Conference in Cape Town, South Africa in July of this year. He was there at the invitation of his former UB professor, Dr. Anna Kay France. Dr. France was one of the founders of the international conference which made its premiere at the University of Buffalo back in 1988. www.wpconference.com. After leaving his former professor Dr. France and Capetown, he then went to Grahamstown, South Africa where he produced the play for their National Arts Festival. <https://www.nationalartsfestival.co.za/events/miracle-in-rwanda/allendewane@yahoo.com>

Julie Husband (PhD, 1999) started as Assistant Professor, English at the University of Northern Iowa in 2000 and became head of the department in 2012. She was promoted to full professor in 2014. She and Jim O'Loughlin collaborated on *Daily Life in the Industrial United States: 1870-1900* (2003), and wrote *Antislavery Discourse and Nineteenth-Century American Literature: Incendiary Pictures* (2010). She & Jim have three children - Nic, Devin, and Ian - and enjoy sharing their love of storytelling and outdoor life with them.

Lori Jacobson (PhD, 2007) has three essays in the new anthology *The Women's National Indian Association: A History* (U of New Mexico P, 2015), edited by Valerie Sherer Mathes. Her essays are titled "Shall We Have a Periodical?: The Indian's Friend"; "Environed by Civilization": WNIA Home-Building and Loan Department"; and "The WNIA and the Erotics of Reform."

Lisa Khoury (BA, 2014) was a finalist in the nation for investigative pieces written by newspapers with a student population of over 10,000 for her *Spectrum* piece "Heights of Fear." She just finished an internship at ABC news in NYC and has just started a job at YNN (Time Warner cable) in Buffalo as a news producer.

Sang-Yule Kim (PhD, 1999), a professor of English literature at Sookmyung Women's University, Seoul, Korea, has been appointed to a cabinet position in Korea, as the senior presidential secretary for education and culture.

Sharon J. Kirsch (PhD, 2004) has published two important books on Gertrude Stein in 2014. She co-edited with Janet Boyd *Primary Stein, Returning to the*

Writing of Gertrude Stein, Lexington Books, a collection of critical essays. Neil Schmitz's essay, "Tender Buttons, notwithstanding," is in the collection. Sharon's *Gertrude Stein and the Reinvention of Rhetoric*, University of Alabama Press, is also just out.

David Koepsell (BA, 1990) has been a tenured Associate Professor of Philosophy at the Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Technology, Policy, and Management in the Netherlands, Visiting Professor at UNAM, Instituto de Filosofías, Mexico, and Director of Research and Strategic Initiatives at Comisión Nacional De Bioética in Mexico. He is married with two children, Amelia (4 years old) and Alexandro, 2 months. He and his family live in Mexico City. He writes and teaches about science, ethics, and technology, and dabbles in writing sic-fi.

Carolyn Kyler (PhD, 1989) and **Jocelyn Sheppard** (MLS, 1989; PhD, 1990) were married in Washington, DC, in October 2013. Carolyn is Professor of English and Director of the Gender & Women's Studies Program at Washington & Jefferson College. She currently serves on the board of the College English Association. Jocelyn is a consultant (www.redhouseconsulting.com) providing research and strategic support to startups, nonprofits and other innovative organizations. She recently served as President of the Association of Independent Information Professionals.

Chris Leise (PhD, 2007) published one essay in January: "The Eye-Ball and the Butterfly: Beauty and the Individual Soul in Emerson and Hawthorne," *Philological Quarterly* 92.4 (Fall 2013 [backdated]), 471-497, and another in March: "With Names, No Coincidence": Colson Whitehead's Postracial Puritan Allegory," *African American Review* 47.2-3 (Summer/Fall 2014): 285-300.

Dave Lucia (BA, 1970) was at UB during a very exciting time. There were many luminaries in the English department, such as John Barth, Leslie Fiedler, Stanley Edgar Hyman, Jonathan Coetzee, and Carl Dennis. He got to take classes under the last three, and they also happened to be excellent instructors. As a result, he has had a lifelong love of literature and even once wrote a novel that went deservedly unpublished. During the strike of '69/'70, his class in Samuel Becket met at Coetzee's home once a week, giving them a chance to prove that they weren't just dodging class but did fervently oppose the war in Vietnam. The following year after graduation, he refused induction into the army, something he has never once even slightly regretted. His working career has been divided into three distinct phases. After a short stint teaching in graduate school at Arizona, he went to work for an auto parts distributor and eventually became national training manager. He then co-founded a business publication on automobiles that is still around today in six regional editions. Lastly, he worked in the business of networking international freight forwarders and has owned his own networking company for 13 years. It allows him to travel all over the world and yet work from his own home. Although he is past "retirement age," he will work a few more years. Of course, he marvels how quickly he got to this point or even that he did so at all, coming from a time when excess was the norm. Everything he has been able to achieve has been done based on an ability to communicate and the consequent reasoning capability. While he got a good grounding at Jamestown Community College, the real skills were learned at UB; and he is very glad to have had the opportunity to study there. scndave@msn.com

Annette M. Magid (PhD, 1991) has a new publication, *Apocalyptic Projections: A Study of Past Predictions, Current Trends and Future Intimations as Related to Film and Literature* (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2015). <http://www.cambridge-scholars.com/apocalyptic-projections>

Christy A. McCormick (BA, 1985) by unanimous consent of the U.S. Senate, was appointed in January by President Obama as a Commissioner on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. Subsequently, her fellow commissioners elected her to be the Chairwoman of the Commission.

John Marvin (PhD, 2004) was a featured reader at two events in July. *Steel Bellows: A Purely Buffalo Literary and Arts Magazine* hosted John and 2 other poets at the Brighton Library. John also read an entirely different program of poetry at Daily Planet Coffee, 1862 Hertel Ave. as part of the "Circleformance" series. John's work has evolved from the seminars and poetry readings of UB professors & visiting poets and critics, including Charles Bernstein, Susan Howe, Carl Dennis, Michael Basinski, Robert Creeley, Steve McCaffery, Myung Mi Kim, Joan Retallack, and others. In his work he endeavors to explore the zone beyond narration and plot in which language seethes like virtual quarks and leptons seeking to break the laws of physics.

Kelly A. Minerva (MA, 2004) successfully defended her PhD dissertation at the University of Toronto and has accepted a tenure-track position at Avila University in Kansas City, MO.

Randi (Bassow) Minetor (BA, 1980) recently saw the publication of her fiftieth book with the release of *Day Trips: Hudson Valley* (Globe Pequot Press, 2014). She is currently at work on *Hiking Through History New York* (FalconGuides, 2016) with her husband, photographer Nic Minetor, and she just completed *Robert's Rules of Order in Action* (Zephyros Press, 2015) and *Extra Mile: 500 Customer Service Tips for Success* (Tycho Press, 2015). Her complete book list can be found on her Amazon Author Page at amazon.com/author/randiminetor. Randi is available for ghostwriting projects; you can reach her at randi@minetor.com.

Nicole Murray (née Colegrove) (BA, 2001) graduated from Canisius College with an MS in Sport Administration 2003, and an MBA in 2015. She married fellow UB graduate **Rex Murray** in 2006. nk.murray@yahoo.com

Nancy J. Parisi (BA, 1986) is about to begin her third year as a freelance journalist/music reviewer for *Buffalo News*, unusual as the majority of music reviewers are male. She is the creator of the weekly column "Story," and its offshoot, "Caption," in *The Public* (www.dailypublic.com). She just completed teaching a yearlong, iPad-based photo + words digital photo course (two classes) that she created at Sacred Heart Academy in Eggertsville, New York.

Kevin Pelletier (PhD, 2007) published his first book, *Apocalyptic Sentimentalism: Love and Fear in U.S. Antebellum Literature* (University of Georgia Press).

Michael J. Pikus (PhD, 1994) was a staff member at the 2015 James Fenimore Cooper Society Biennial International Conference and Seminar held in Oneonta and Cooperstown, NY, this past May & June. He introduced papers and the scholars/presenters and moderated a discussion after each scholarly panel.

Peter Ramos (PhD, 2003) has a new book of poems out: *Televisions Snow* from Back Pages Books. <http://www.amazon.com/Television-Snow-Peter-Ramos/dp/0615822517>. ramospj@buffalostate.edu

Dan Rigney (BA, 1988) is currently working in External Affairs at Manitoga/The Russel Wright Design Center - <http://www.visitmanitoga.org> - the House Studio and Landscape of mid-century industrial designer Russel Wright. He is also President of a small organization, BeaconArts, <http://www.beaconarts.org> dedicated to promoting Beacon, NY as an arts and cultural destination in the Hudson Valley of NYS. He has lived in Beacon since 2007 with his wife, Kat Stoutenborough, and 9 year old daughter, Penny.

Jennifer Rosseland-Bates (BA, 2002) received an Ed.M. in Higher Education Administration 2015. Her goal is to continue moving up through the departments in UB and would like to someday become a Director or Vice Provost. She is currently seeking opportunities to research and publish concerning first-generation and minority students.

Anthony Siu (MA, 2004; PhD, 2006) was lecturer of arts and humanities in various schools in Hong Kong and was given tenure at Hong Kong Community College in 2008 and then Assistant Professor of English at Hang Seng Management College in 2011. He attended Cornell's School of Theory and Criticism in 2014. His book review of Anat Pick's *Creaturely Poetics: Animality and Vulnerability in Literature and Film* was accepted by *Film-Philosophy* and is forthcoming. Recently, he left academia and took up events and social media management in the entertainment business after teaching for 9 years.

Jessica Smith (BA, 2002; MA, 2005) Her second book of poetry, *Life-List*, was published by Chax Press in April 2015.

Lisa Stahl (BA, English and Anthropology, 1974) now writes for an online digital publication, *Beauty and Well Being*, where she was recently promoted to a staff writer. She has had 7 or 8 publications in the last 6 or 7 months on fashion & art, several book reviews on gourmet French cooking, Ayurveda Yogic philosophy of nutrition, sleep disorders, and an interview with a prominent sleep disorder specialist, Dr. Ana Krieger. She is now covering art happenings in NYC for the July issue. Her publications total 63 - in digital and print magazines.

Danny Stone (BA, 2009) had his second novel, *Then Comes the Harvest*, published in October 2014, available on Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/Then-Comes-Harvest-Danny-Stone/dp/0990813320>. Proceeds from the book will fund a one-time scholarship at his high school to be given to a graduating senior entering college for humanities. He is an ESL teacher, a French teacher, and a fiction writer living in New Haven, Connecticut. He belongs to a community chorus and is engaged to be married this fall.

Susan (Glaeser) Stoney (MA, 1983) concentrated on creative writing while at UB. After almost 25 years in corporate marketing communications at four companies and in four different industries, she became Principal of *TheMes-*

sageCrafter.com, her company, in August 2013. She provides writing, editing and writing coaching services to individuals and small business owners. She specializes in collaborative writing techniques that bring the best out in subject matter experts who have devoted their lives and careers to the study of something other than English. In July 2015, Sue began her third year volunteering as Co-VP of Communications for the San Francisco chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC). In February, Sue presented as part of a panel of four at the IABC's Leadership Institute in Orlando, Florida. The subject of the panel was an SF IABC special interest group, the Independent Communicators' Roundtable. Sue welcomes contact from anyone associated with UB's English Department, student or alum: <http://www.themessagecrafter.com>; Leesuestoney@comcast.net; sstoney@themessagecrafter.com

Elizabeth Teebagy (BA, 2014) is attending the University of Iowa College of Law, ranked #22 in the country, with strong emphasis on legal writing & also a strong public interest law program.

Jessica Topper (nee Rosokoff) (BA, 1992) announced the June release of *Courtship of the Cake*, her third novel of romantic women's fiction, through Berkley/Penguin. Topper resides with her husband Jonathan (BA History, 1992) in Buffalo, where they both run the music management office for the rock band moe. jess@jesstopper.com

Michael A. Uhl (BA, 1985) began work at Martin Marietta in April 1995, before moving to the newly merged Lockheed-Martin Marietta company--called Lockheed Martin. He has supported the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Environmental Supercomputing Center, which EPA has since renamed the Environmental Modeling and Visualization Laboratory (EMVL). EMVL provides two broad areas of scientific computing support: High Performance Computing (HPC) resources and technical staff; and scientific visualization and modeling programming. He has served as manager of EMVL's scientific visualization lab since 2000. In 2015, he lead a team of 14 scientific programmers and together they manage and support 15 different scientific research projects for EPA's Office of Research and Development. His group supports areas of research ranging from modeling embryonic tissue development to integrating and visualizing multi-terabyte datasets from models, satellites, ground observations, and aircraft. As part of his undergraduate education at UB he developed skills in technical writing, which ultimately led him into program management in scientific research.

Gary Vider (BA, 2006) performed stand-up comedy on the *America's Got Talent* T.V. show during the summer of 2015.

James M. Van Wyck (MA, 2008) has an article, "Benito Cereno and the Impossibility of Civility" forthcoming this fall in *The New England Quarterly*, Vol. 88, No. 3.

Roland Vegso (PhD, 2007) was appointed the Susan J. Rosowski Associate Professor of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, for the next five years.

Lia Vella (PhD, 2002) is an Instruction and Research Services Librarian at Colorado School of Mines since 2011, where she finds herself using the teaching skills she honed at UB on a daily basis. Although she still finds engineering faculty and students something of a mystery, she is excited to work with Liberal Arts faculty who specialize in science and technology in literature. Lia lives in Golden, CO, with her partner, Bo, and their 2-year-old daughter, Maya.

Albert Wachtel (PhD, 1968) has a new article out on the painful necessity of and deficiency of the most current film on the Holocaust. It's available at: <http://www.algemeiner.com/2015/05/27/never-forget-but-dont-stay-trapped-in-the-past/>: awachtel@pitzer.edu

Janelle Aisha Wells (BA, 2002) is originally from Long Island, NY. She is married to Craig Opie, Chief in the US Navy, and she is currently pregnant with her first child. She received an MA in English Literature with a specialty in Gender and Ethnicity Studies from UCF in 2009. She taught 5 years (2008-2013) at Seminole State College in Florida. Currently, she is a professor at Honolulu Community College.

Aimee Woznick (BA, 2005) went on to earn her MA (2006) & PhD (2010) in English (19th-century U.S. Literature) at the University of California, Santa Barbara. After a stint directing the Academic Success Center at Villa Maria College in Buffalo, she is now Director of Academic Support (WNY region) & Assistant Professor of English at SUNY Empire State College. She lives in Buffalo with her husband, Kevin Newman, who is also a UB grad. Aimee.Woznick@esc.edu.

Gary Earl Ross (BA, 1973; MAH, 1975) retired from the UB Educational Opportunity Center in 2013 and has devoted himself to writing and sometimes directing. An Edgar Award-winning member of Mystery Writers of America, he has published three stories in the past year: "Sister Bessie's Boys" in the Cleis Press anthology *Darker Edge of Desire*, "Beneath the Ice" in the mystery journal *Over My Dead Body*, and "Good Neighbors" in the forthcoming Akashic Press anthology *Buffalo Noir*.

He has also directed Katrori Hall's Martin Luther King play *The Mountaintop* in February 2014, and his own *The Guns of Christmas* in December 2014, both for the Subversive Theatre Collective, where he was recently named Associate Artistic Director. *The Guns of Christmas* recently received the Emanuel Fried Outstanding New Play Award. Ross is at work on *Nickel City Blues*, the first novel of the Gideon Rimes mystery series set in Buffalo, and will direct his own courtroom drama, *The Mark of Cain*, at Subversive in 2016.

Professor Emeritus **Howard R. Wolf**, had his article "Today I Am A Fountain Pen" published in *Colere*, Coe College's journal of multi-cultural creative writing (2015). He will lecture this fall on "The Responsibilities of the Writer in the Post-World War II Period" at eight Warburg Chapters of the American Council on Germany. His three-act play, *Home at the End of the Day*, is forthcoming in late 2015.

Professor Emeritus **Neil Schmitz's** "Mark Twain" is Chapter 18 in the Cambridge University Press *A History of American Civil War Literature*, edited by Coleman Hutchinson.

IN MEMORIAM

John G. Dings, Jan. 13, 1939 – Oct. 28, 2014

John Garetson Dings, 75, a member of the English department faculty for more than three decades, died Oct. 28 in his home in Boulder, Colorado, of Parkinson's disease complicated by the effects of a fall.

Colleagues, former students and family alike call him a teacher in the finest sense of the word, with a kind, thoughtful style that was never pedantic. A lifelong environmentalist, they say Dings shared with them a sense of wonder and delight in the beauty of literature and the world around us.

Born in Covina, California, Dings attended high school in Denver. He received a bachelor's degree from Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, in 1961 and in 1968, a PhD from Cornell University, where he specialized in the poetry of William Wordsworth.

Dings' book on the poet, *The mind in its place: Wordsworth, 'Michael' and the poetry of 1800*, was published in 1973 by the Institut für Englische Sprache und Literatur at the University of Salzburg and reflects the deep interest of both poet and author in the natural environment.

It is not coincidental that Wordsworth's politics, like Dings', were fundamentally "green." In fact, he was our first truly ecological poet and exercised a formative influence on later conservation movements. Many observers, including Dings, have found him of immediate relevance to great environmental issues today.

After teaching at Washington University in St. Louis, Dings joined the UB faculty in 1968. He taught Victorian literature and courses on literature and the environment until 2001, when he retired and moved to Boulder to be close to his family and the mountains he loved.

Dings held a number of administrative positions at UB, including associate chair and chair of the English department, associate dean of undergraduate education and associate dean of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, later incorporated into the College of Arts and Sciences. He also was a master of UB's Rachel Carson College, served on the university's Environmental Task Force and was a key member of the UB Graduate Group for Marxist Studies.

James Holstun, professor of English, called Dings "a rare combination of high principles and good humor: fearless, witty, passionate about literature, beloved by his students and colleagues. He was from Colorado and continued to be a mountain boy all his life, as evidenced in his environmental teaching."

Holstun's comments were echoed by several colleagues. William Fischer, associate professor emeritus and a colleague and close friend of Dings for 30 years, calls him "a wise and compassionate human being who cared deeply for his family, for the community of his friends and for the great natural world around him that he loved and fought to protect."

Other former students and colleagues speak to his influence on them as well, including James Swan, emeritus associate professor of English, who wrote a lengthy and warm remembrance for the English department's website; former student Susan Nygaard of the Marshall School in Duluth, Minnesota, and UB Associate Professor Stacy Hubbard, who said, "Over my years at UB I have been guided by the question: 'What would John do?'"

Another former student, Joseph Brennan, former UB associate vice president for university communications and now vice president for strategic communication at the University of Iowa, notes that Dings was his dissertation director "and I had the pleasure and privilege to have been his student for many years. He was compassionate, good-natured and caring, and had a strong sense of social justice, coupled with a broad view of the world and the ability to listen respectfully to all points of view, even those that he didn't share."

"John was a modest man," says Prudence Dings, his wife of 53 years. "He favored jeans and a plaid shirt, had a ready smile for everyone, loved babies, played the piano and additional instruments for enjoyment, and sang enthusiastically in quartets and barbershop groups."

"He enjoyed a good conversation, a great book, every imaginable pun, games and, above all else, his family," she says. "He paid attention to detail, whether it was the text of a novel, the way the light caught a leaf, the planting of a garden, the course of a hike — in fact, Dings was an avid hiker who continued to walk extensively until the last month of his life — the mechanics of a car, the arguments of a political debate. He brought a keen intellect to every situation, along with a kind heart and a sense of humor."

Contributions in Dings' memory can be made to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation or the Rocky Mountain National Park.

Published in Fort Wayne Newspapers on May 21, 2015

R. Mark Keaton, Sept. 16, 1963 - May 13, 2015

R. Mark Keaton, passed away on Wednesday, May 13, 2015, in the care of Hospice at his parents' home in Buffalo, N.Y. He was born on Sept. 16, 1963, in Logan, W.Va. Mark earned his BA from the University at Buffalo where he was awarded the Arthur A. Axlerod Memorial Prize for Poetry, and was a founding member of *Generation Magazine*. He received his Juris Doctor from Maurer School of Law Indiana University Bloomington where he served as an editor on the *Indiana Law Journal*. He practiced law with Kirkland & Ellis in Chicago, Ill., Damon & Morey in Buffalo, N.Y. and Baker & Daniels in Fort Wayne before establishing an independent practice. He coached Little League at Foster Park and was an avid golfer. He will be remembered for his keen intellect and generous spirit. Mark was a devoted writer, mentor and friend. He is survived by his children, Adriana Rae, Adam Marshall and Emily Claire Keaton; parents, Ronald and Karen Keaton; brother, Paul Keaton (Rozlyn Rader); sister, Rebekah Keaton (Terrance Peterson); nephews, Maxwell and Henry Peterson; and grandmother Ruby Keaton.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER:

- 2 - Transcription/Transliteration/Translation: Fields For Experimentation - The Poetry Collection, 4th Floor, Capen Hall
- 8 - 10 - Pain Conference, Honors College, Capen Hall & Center for the Arts (Screening Room) <https://painconference.wordpress.com/>
- 9 - Polyhedrons of Scripture: Translation(s), Multilingualisms, and the Single Text - The Poetry Collection, 4th Floor, Capen Hall

NOVEMBER:

- 9 - Martino Stierli "The Visuality of Space and the Space of Vision: On Miles van der Rohe's Photomontages", Darwin Martin House, Greatbatch Pavilion, 125 Jewett Parkway
- 13 - Mark Doty - Oscar Silverman Reading, 672 Delaware Ave. (Butler Mansion)

APRIL:

- 8 - Robert Creeley Lecture & Celebration of Poetry, Albright-Knox Gallery
- 8 - 9 - English Dept. Alumni/ae Reunion in Buffalo!
- 9 - 10 - "Poetics: (The Next) 25 Years" Anniversary Conference

THE BUFFALO FILM SEMINARS SERIES 31/FALL 2015

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

- Oct. 13 - Lawrence Kasden, *Body Heat*, 1981
- Oct. 20 - Costa-Gavras, *Missing*, 1982
- Oct. 27 - Roland Joffé, *The Mission*, 1986
- Nov. 3 - Mira Nair, *Mississippi Masala*, 1991
- Nov. 10 - Hayao Miyazaki, *Princess Mononoke*, 1997
- Nov. 17 - Elia Suleiman, *The Time That Remains*, 2009
- Nov. 24 - Terry Gilliam, *The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus*, 2009
- Dec. 1 - Béla Tarr, *The Turin Horse*, 2011
- Dec. 8 - Michael Powell & Emeric Pressburger, *A Matter of Life and Death/Stairway to Heaven*, 1946

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

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

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

Recommended Reading....

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

Rachel Ablow: Jennifer Evans, *Welcome to the Goon Squad* (2011).

David Alf: Graham Swift, *Waterland* (2014).

Dimitri Anastasopoulos: Julio Cortazar, *Fantomas and the Multinational Vampires* (1975; English translation 2015)

Barbara Bono: Jim Shapiro, *Shakespeare in America* (2014).

Carrie Bramen: Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the World and Me* (2015).

Bob Daly: Chad Harbach, *The Art of Fielding* (2012).

Stacy Hubbard: Mary Lee Settle, *I, Roger Williams* (2001).

Christina Milletti: *The Complete Stories of Clarice Lispector* (2015).

Randy Schiff: Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony* (1977).

David Schmid: William T. Vollman, *Last Stories and Other Stories* (2014).

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