Chair's Tea
EVERYONE is welcome
December 5
3:30-4:30
Please join Professor Gertz in her office for this semester's last Chair's Tea: engaging conversation, tea and scones await you. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to meet our English faculty, majors, and graduate students.

Studying Abroad or Interning
Next Semester?
Remember, we welcome hearing from you while you’re studying abroad or interning. Please contact Terri (508-793-7142), or simply e-mail trutkiewicz@clarku.edu, if you would like to submit a “foreign correspondent’s” viewpoint to The English Times.

Junior and Senior Reps to the Chair
Junior David Hahn and Senior Christina Rizzo, the Junior and Senior Representatives to the Chair are trying to get interested students to form an English Club and may be contacting you soon. If you’re interested, you can reach them at dhahn@clarku.edu and crizzo@clarku.edu respectively.

ALUM NEWS
Congratulations to Jennifer Arnieri, ’99, who just graduated from law school and passed the bar exam.
FROM THE CHAIR

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have passed, and many of you still studying at Clark will be cajoling yourselves to prepare for your final exams and papers.

To be sure, there are reasons enough to be distracted, for those of us still at Clark, as well as for our alums. As tensions mount geopolitically (surely exacerbated by the rumors of war sounded in the media) and more businesses lose ground, our lives may seem less firm and more subject to caprice, especially if we personally are affected by the vagaries of what we call “the economy.” When even United Airlines is on the brink of bankruptcy, for example, we may find ourselves agreeing with Chaucer’s Egeus, who had seen much change in his life, both good and bad, only to proclaim that the world is a thoroughfare of woe, and we are but pilgrims journeying back and forth in it. Or, as stated in the far more poetic original: Egeus “...knew this worldes transmutacioun, / As he hadde seyn it change bothe up and doun,/ Joye after wo, and wo after gladnesse, / [he seyde] . . .’This world nys but a thurghfare ful of wo,/ And we been pilgrymes, passying to and fro.” (The Knight’s Tale, 2839-2849).

It never ceases to amaze me, though, how even in the darkest times, writers never cease to write, artists never cease to create. And just as with Chaucer, many of them don’t create as their “job”; they create in addition to working in other more or less money-making positions. Perhaps more astounding, their audiences don’t cease to be moved by their efforts--it may actually be that literature and art are even more necessary in such times, for communication of values beyond the day-to-day does seem more critical. Some may label our participation in the arts as an indulgence or an escape, but I think there’s more than that involved. Whether we read or view The Lord of the Rings, for example, we may very well “indulge” or “escape” from our tasks for a few hours, but we may also very well emerge with a strengthened sense of our commitment to certain values which we cherish, such as (I know the terms sound antique, but I find them nonetheless appropriate:) the battle of good and evil.

It is important, to be sure, to be attentive to the darker notes heard nowadays, as registered in our own individual lives as well as in our world. But to be able to function effectively, it seems to me, to make sure we listen to other tones as well. It helps me to remember, for example, that Egeus’ voice, as poetic and convincing as it is, is only one among the many in Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales. Moreover, I find it an enrichment that even a 21rst-century movie-maker can find inspiration from The Knight’s Tale to translate it into a more optimistic mix of medieval and contemporary mores.

So, good luck with your final papers and exams. Let me know if you enjoyed part 2 of The Lord of the Rings, and don’t forget the last Chair’s Tea of the semester: Thursday, December 5th!

SunHee Kim Gertz
Chair of English
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FACULTY

John J. Conron, Ph.D.
(on leave - Fall 2002)
Professor of English. Professor Conron researches and teaches 20th-century American literature (painting, photography, architecture, landscape architecture, literature and film) and relations between American art and culture.

Imraan Coovadia, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of English. Professor Coovadia studies 18th- and 19th-century British literature and culture. He is particularly interested in intersections between literary texts and concurrent developments in politics, sociology, and economics.

James P. Elliott, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of English. Trained as textual editor in the field of American literature, Professor Elliott has been associated with the Edition of the Writings of James Fenimore Cooper for twenty years.

SunHee Kim Gertz, Ph.D.
Professor of English, Department Chair. Professor Gertz's research and publications are concerned with semiotics and western European literature in the late Middle Ages. She also researches links between Asian and European literatures.

Fern L. Johnson, Ph.D.
Professor of English. Professor Johnson is a sociolinguist specializing in the study of gender, race, and culture in language and is also Director of the Communication and Culture program.

Winston Napier, Ph.D.
E. Franklin Frazier Chair, Associate Professor of English. Professor Napier specializes in critical theory, 20th century African American literary culture and African American philosophy.

Heather Roberts, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of English. Professor Roberts specializes in the study of pre-1865 American literature, history and culture. Her research explores the role of fiction in cultural production.

Stanley Sultan, Ph.D.
(on leave - Spring 2003)
Professor of English. Until recently, Professor Sultan's scholarly interest was largely in the poetry, fiction, and drama of modernist writers. In the past few years he has devoted more attention to critical theory, literary history, and theoretical issues in literary history.

Virginia Mason Vaughan, Ph.D.
Andrea B. and Peter D. Klein ’64 Distinguished Professor, Professor Vaughan specializes in Renaissance literature, especially in Shakespeare, but as a cultural historian, she is also interested in appropriations of Shakespeare’s texts from the seventeenth century to the present. She teaches courses in Shakespeare at the introductory and advanced level in addition to the seminar “Studies in the Renaissance.”

Jim Adams, M.A.
Expository Writing

Louis Bastien, Ph.D.
Intro to Literature & Composition
Intro to Medieval Literature

Tim Connolly, M.A.
News Writing

Jim Dempsey, M.A.
Feature Writing

Lea Graham, Ph.D.
English Poetry

Hillary Joyce-Scott, M.F.A.
Expository Writing

Peggy Kocoras, M.A.
Intro to Literature & Composition

Diane Moul, Ph.D.
Intro to Literature & Composition

Jen Plante, M.A.
Expository Writing

Bill Tapply, M.A.T.
Expository Writing

Lucilia Valerio, Ph.D.
Intro to Literature & Composition
Introduction to Women Writers

Chris Weinmann, Ph.D.
Expository Writing

David Williams, M.A.
Expository Writing
The Essay: Reading & Writing
Creative Writing: Poetry

Bernie Kaplan, Ph.D.
Professor emeritus of psychology
Interpretation of Dreams

Lawrence Langer, Ph.D.
Strassler Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies
Voices from the Holocaust

Office Hours
There are copies of faculty office hours outside seminar room II. Please help yourself.

The Writing Center
is located in Corner House. The Writing Center offers assistance with writing for any class in any discipline, at all stages of the writing process (trying to understand a writing assignment, brainstorming, composing, getting unstuck, writing, revising, seeking citation information, editing, proofreading).

Emeriti Faculty

Jesse C. Cunningham, Ph.D.
History of the novel

Serena Hilsinger, Ph.D.
Modernist literature and women writers.