DEPARTMENT NEWS

English Department Alumni Day & Chowder Fest
Was Held Friday, October 19

co-sponsored by Career Services, Alumni Affairs, & the Bernard Cotton Fund

Every year the English Department, in conjunction with Clark’s Alumni-In-Residence event, serves up hearty soups and clam chowder as part of an evening discussion with distinguished alumni who once studied English in our department. This year’s speakers were:

Jennifer C. Smith ’95, After working for several years as a Community Program Coordinator in Emergency Medicine at Rhode Island Hospital, Jennifer Smith has taken a new job as Education Programs Manager at Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island, where she will run a pregnancy prevention program for youths, adults, and the Latino Community.

Betsy Hopkins ’97, Betsy Hopkins currently lives in North Andover, MA, where she recently started working at a small software company as a Business Systems Analyst. She has worked in the field of Information Technology for the past seven years, starting with application support on helpdesks and including assisting in Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Planning.

Heidi Gitelman ’80, Heidi Gitelman is an interactive online producer, designer, and writer. Her eclectic career experience has included work on interactive television documentaries, an interval as a social historian, and work as a museum exhibit curator. She was part of the team that developed the original Boston.com for The Boston Globe, one of the first online newspapers. Since leaving Clark she has earned an Ed. M. from Harvard University and studied American Social History at M.I.T. At the university level she has taught interactive design, content development and formative evaluation for new media, as well as script writing and directing for film and video.

Professor Jay Elliott Starts English Department Blog

Jay Elliott has initiated a blog linked to the English Department website. As the list of contributing posters grows, you will be able to see all kinds of interesting material directly and indirectly related to the Department, its faculty, staff and students. Right now, for example, are a published baseball short story by Jay, a draft of a short one-act play by Gino Dilorio, commentary by Betsy Huang on Junot Diaz with a link to an interview, and some of Jay’s suggestions for new books (with links). Log on and join the fun, enter whatever comments you want, and see what’s happening around the English House. You can access the blog directly through clarkenglishblog.blogspot.com.

Inside this issue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Alum &amp; Chowder Fest English Department Blog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Department News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>From the Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Wassail Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Writing Contests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>News on our Alums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Faculty News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Graduate Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>From the Graduate Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Department/University News &amp; Events</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FROM THE CHAIR

For the past few years Clark has identified a global perspective as one of its defining characteristics. That this reality and not simply hype hit me this fall, when I faced a first-year seminar that included, in addition to students from the mid-Atlantic corridor, one student from Sri Lanka and another from Jamaica. In this year’s crop of English Masters students, we have two from Korea, two from Germany, and one from Jamaica. My students come to class with a variety of perspectives on Shakespeare, and the result has been lively discussions and exchanges of opinions.

Globalization is affecting my scholarship as well as my teaching. My current project is a stage history of Shakespeare’s Tempest, and I’m finding that contemporary productions wander. I recently ran across reviews of a Cuban acting company who performed in London, an English company in Trinidad, and a Barbadian production in Melbourne, Australia. I have also recently participated in a conference on “Shakespeare in Venice” (fortunately for me, in Venice) where scholars from England, the United States, Romania, Norway, and Italy discussed the importance of the Venetian setting in The Merchant of Venice and Othello, The Moor of Venice. The production and dissemination of Shakespeare’s work is, it would seem, on the move.

Through the internet and other media, knowledge flows freely from one culture to another. Recent reports from Myanmar, for example, tell us that despite the efforts of a totalitarian regime to control the flow of information, cell phones and other electronic devices are being used by the resistance movement to disseminate their point of view around the world. Whether the court of world opinion can effect any change in Myanmar, new technologies make it much more difficult for the regime to silence its dissidents.

I urge all Clarkies to take advantage of the many opportunities here to experience a global perspective – not just in the classroom – but in all we do.

Have a good semester,

Virginia Vaughan

Senior Honors Students

The following students have been accepted into the senior honors program in English: Ayaan Agane with advisor Virginia Vaughan, Bill Cobb with advisor Winston Napier, Samantha Keefe with advisor Virginia Vaughan, Sam Mattern-Schain with advisor Jay Elliott, Lana Petersson with advisor Jay Elliott, Maggie Rabidou with advisor Winston Napier, Kate Rafey with advisor Virginia Vaughan, Pam Taylor with advisor Steve Levin, Michele Vyadro with advisors Jay Elliott and Bill Tapply, and Christine Zimmerman with advisor Jay Elliott.
Caesura Looking for Submissions

Caesura, Clark's Literary Magazine, is looking for submissions (short stories, poetry, nonfiction) Submissions can be e-mailed to caesura@clarku.edu.

Fall 2007 Convocation Awards

Student Awards
Betty ’79 and Stanley Sultan Short Story Contest
Samuel Mattern-Schain (second prize)
Loring H. & Ruth Dodd Drama Contest
Leah Henoch (second prize)
William H. Carter, Jr. Prize in English
Lana Petersson

Congratulations to Lana Petersson

Lana has been named recipient of the William H. Carter, Jr. Prize in English award. This prize is granted through the generosity of a permanent endowment fund established in 2003 by Harriet R. Carter in memory of her husband, William H. Carter, Jr., an English department professor for over three decades. In addition to his teaching and scholarship, Dr. Carter chaired the department for three consecutive terms.

Did you Know...

Five Clark University English Department alums currently teach courses for the English Department. Three received both their B.A. and M.A. degrees at Clark: Lou Bastien, B.A. ’77 and M.A. ’80; Genie Giaimo, B.A. ’06 and M.A. ’07; Lisa Kleman, B.A.L.A. ’89 and M.A. ’95. Two alums received their M.A. degrees at Clark: Jim Dempsey, ’78 and Jennifer Plante, ’00.

Don’t Miss the Wassail Party Tuesday, Dec. 11

Don’t miss this festive occasion for English faculty and students to toast the successful completion of the fall semester. The hot cider will be sure to take the winter chill away.

Thursday Night at the Movies Film Screenings

Everyone is welcome

All screenings will take place in Anderson House Basement Lounge
Please enter by the Parking Lot entrance

English 121: Shakespeare Recycled (Fridays at 4:45 p.m.)
November 16 The Tempest

English 253: Adv. Studies in Shakespeare (Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.)
October 24 King Lear
October 31 Macbeth
November 14 Anthony and Cleopatra
December 5 The Winter’s Tale

English Department Work Study Students

Shirley and Terri are very happy to have five highly capable work-study students in the English Department office:

Returning this year are Nicole Dewberry, Chelsea Quattrone-DeOre, Matt Pettengill, and Addi Rancourt-Walker.

Starting this week: Joel Hinton
DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY NEWS

English Department Writing Contests

DEADLINE: Friday, February 15, 2007, 12:00 NOON—no exceptions

Open to all Clark undergraduate students, including matriculated COPACE students

- **Loring H. and Ruth Dodd Drama Contest** (Prize: $250) Maximum of ONE one-act play, not to exceed 25 pages, per student. Entries must be in standard playwriting form.
- **Prentiss Cheney Hoyt Poetry Contest** (Prizes: $50/$100/$250) Maximum of five poems per student.
- **Betty ’79 & Stanley Sultan Short Story Contest** (Prizes: $50/$100/$250) Maximum of ONE story per student, not to exceed 5,000 words.
- **Leroy Allston Ames Contest** (Prize: $250) for best essay on the literature and/or history of England from 1750 to 1900. Maximum of ONE essay per student.

**RULES**

1. All submissions must be the original work of the student. All entries must be unsigned. No handwritten or electronic entries will be accepted. TWO COPIES of each entry must be hand delivered to the English Department Office between February 1 and 15, 2008. Do not place entry/entries in an envelope.
2. On a separate piece of paper, write the title or first line of the entry, together with your name, year in school, e-mail address, campus box number, and phone number. Place this piece of paper in a sealed envelope and write the name of the contest on the outside of the envelope. Use a separate envelope for each contest. **Missing information will disqualify your entry.**
3. Both the unsigned entry and the sealed envelope must be dropped off at the English Department office by the deadline date.
4. NO entries will be returned. The English Department may present or publish winning entries. Contest winners will be invited to post their winning entries at Academic Spree Day.
5. If, in the opinion of the judges, none of the entries in a particular category is deserving of an award, none shall be given.

For further information, please check our website: [www.clarku.edu/english/undergraduatecontests.cfm](http://www.clarku.edu/english/undergraduatecontests.cfm) or come to the English Department office.

---

**2007 Clark University Slam Team**

Six people were selected from the 2007 Clark University Slam Team (by a series of competitive poetry slams) to represent Clark University on April 5-7, 2007, at the exclusive College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Team members Ellyn Lambeck ’07, Phillip Bieber ’08, Cade Overton ’08, Emily Mele ’09, Terri Deletetsky ’07, and Armen Kassbian ’09 were able to run over poems and strategies on the 15-hour drive to Michigan. The practice paid off when the Clark Slam Team received three awards, including Best Group Piece Award, Team Spirit Award, and The Best of the Rest Award. The team had the privilege of performing their group piece, "Star Stuff" (written by Phillip Bieber) in front of hundreds of people at the final competition. They hope to send an all new team to New Mexico to compete in 2008.

The Clark University Slam Team wishes to thank Clark University and the English Department for their support.

The slam team was also invited by Lea Graham to "show their stuff" at Hotel Vernon’s Ship Room May 11, where they were excited to share their poetry with the Clark and the Worcester community.
FACULTY NEWS

Betsy Huang on Japanese Art

SunHee Kim Gertz on Political Performance
SunHee Kim Gertz was invited to deliver a lecture at the University of Bonn, Germany, in their Current Debates in North America and Cultural Studies Series. Her talk, delivered on 26 June 2007, was entitled, “Paradigmatic Political Performance: Rhetorical Strategy as Exemplified by Brandt, Merkel, and Bush.”

Jim Dempsey at WPI
Jim Dempsey has been taken on full time at WPI as Administrator of Literary Studies and Adjunct Instructor of English, while still taking time to teach at Clark. He recently published a small collection of translations of Chaucer’s lesser-known poetry with The Mellen Press. His book is titled The Court Poetry of Chaucer: A Facing-Page Translation in Modern English.

Jennifer Plante Named Interim Director of Writing Center
Jennifer Plante has been named Interim Director of the Writing Center. The Writing Center is located on the first floor of Corner House. Free one-to-one assistance is available for all members of the Clark community. Any writing. Any level. Any discipline. They’ll work with you at any stage of the writing process.
Jennifer received her B.S. in English/Humanities from W.P.I. in 1996, and her M.A. in English from Clark University in 2000.

Lisa Kasmer Awarded a Fellowship
Lisa Kasmer, who is on sabbatical for 2007-2008, was awarded a Visiting Fellowship at Chawton House Library, in Alton, Hampshire, UK, which houses a collection of early editions of works written by women from 1600-1830. During her time at Chawton House, she will work on her book manuscript, “Regendering History: Gender and Genres of History, 1760-1830.” As a Visiting Fellow, she will give a talk on her work, as well as participate in academic activities with other Visiting Fellows, at the University of Southampton, with which Chawton House Library is affiliated. During the time of her fellowship, Kasmer will be housed in facilities on the grounds of the Library, which was previously an estate owned by Jane Austen’s brother.

Meredith Neuman on Puritan Promiscuities
Meredith Neuman presented a paper entitled “Fundamentalism: a Puritan Perspective” for a panel on “Puritan Promiscuities” that examined trans-historical and trans-national dimensions of new Puritan Scholarship at the Society of Early Americanists at Williamsburg, VA in June. She spent the rest of the summer using a Higgins grant to stay in Boston researching at the Massachusetts Historical Society, the New England Historical and Genealogical Society, and the Houghton Library at Harvard. There she read and transcribed sermon notebooks and manuscript poetry by Puritans in the Seventeenth Century.

Faculty news continued on page 8
NEWS ON OUR ALUMS

After having retired in 1998, from full-time work as a department chairperson and professor of secondary education (English) at Lehman College, City University of New York, STANLEY BANK, B.A. ’55, completed his work with graduate students in June of this year. If any other graybeards still read the English Times, he would be pleased to hear from them at Bank1273@optonline.net.

After earning their degrees at Clark, BRIAN BATES & JENNIFER KEARNY, M.A. ’00, went on to earn their Ph.D.s from the University of Denver. Brian is currently an Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences Lector at the University of Denver. The couple recently welcomed twin girls, Ella and Sophia, to the world.

JARRETT BROWN, M.A. ’99, has been a Pre-Dissertation Fellow and Lector at Bowdoin College for the past two years. Jarrett will be staying on as a Post-Doctoral Fellow next year.

DARLENE (PATTERSON) DOBISH, M.A. Candidate, ’95, was married on August 17 in Hamburg, Germany. Darlene is still singing and teaching English in Hamburg and the rest of Germany.

ROSS EDWARDS, B.A. ’03, was recently named the new Sports Editor for the Fitchburg, MA newspaper, Sentinel & Enterprise, after spending the past two years as a reporter and Assistant Sports Editor.

HANNAH GOODMAN, B.A. ’97, ran an introductory workshop in September for Releasing the Writer Within. The workshop was held at the Milford Yacht Club in Milford, CT.

AARON JOSLOW, B.A. ’05, was engaged over the summer to Clark Alum Annya Djachiachvili.

STEPHANIE KADER, M.A. program ’04, is working as part-time faculty member for conference interpretation at the Germersheim Campus of the University of Mainz, Germany. Stephanie previously worked as a freelance interpreter—mainly for Daimler Chrysler in Stuttgart, but has decided to focus on teaching and working towards her Ph.D. Stephanie hopes to visit Boston in April.

JESSICA KOSOWSKI, M.A. ’05, is very excited to inform everyone that she was accepted into the Ph.D. program at the University of Rhode Island and started classes there this fall.

SEBASTIAN LIEBOLD, M.A. program (History) ’05, recently earned his M.A. at Chemnitz University, Germany, and is continuing there in a Political Science Ph.D. program.

TOM LYNN, B.A. ’79, is currently Associate Professor of English at Penn State Berks. He and his wife live in Haver- ton, PA with their three children.

ADRIENNE MATTERN-SCHAIN, B.A. ’03, recently started working as the Human Resources Coordinator for Blue Man Productions in New York. Blue Man Productions was formed from the Blue Man Group show—which another Clark Alum, Matt Goldman, co-founded.

NATALIE MUHLBERGER, M.A. ’04 (behind the red x), is pictured here at Weird Al Yankovich’s show at the Beacon Theater in September. The group went on stage with Weird Al for his Star Wars spoof song. Natalie produced a documentary film, “Heart of the Empire,” about the Star Wars consuming group, of which she is a member.

LAKSHMI SARMA RAMANI, B.A. ’96, left Nextel Corporation and now works as a Senior Attorney for the Nature Conservancy in Arlington, Virginia.

BRIAN SHACTMAN, M.A. ’02, recently joined financial network CNBC as a general assignment reporter and fill-in anchor for CNBC’s Business Day Programming. Brian had spent the past four years at the NBC affiliate in Hartford, CT. Brian, his wife, and their 17-month-old daughter are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their son in November.
A NOTE TO ALL ALUMS FROM AARON JOSLOW, B.A. ’05:

You never know when or where you will find them. Reading the New York Times alone in a diner. Riding the bus with a dusty novel the size of a small Jacuzzi. Stubbornly sitting in that one comfy chair in Barnes & Nobles. Serving you your Starbucks venti soy milk moccachino latte ...

They are Clark English majors, past and present, a group of introspective beings who have a curiosity for literature and writing. And while one unknown, but undoubtedly wise, man opined that trying to bring together English majors is akin to herding cats—if such a group were formed, it would have great insights and stories to share.

I would love for some of us to form such a group. Whether to share writings, organize a reunion, or collaborate in some way with current students. It would be an interesting and exciting experience and a wonderful community to enjoy. Please write me at ajoslow@gmail.com if you would like to join.

SUSAN MUNROE, B.A. ’05, recently worked for 6-1/2 months in Antarctica as Lead Dining Attendant at McMurdo Station. Upon return from Antarctica, she spent the summer out west working on a horse farm.

From Susan: Abracadabra: Antarctica 19 August 2007

The sun was melting into the horizon. It was a red ball slowly losing definition, its edges softening and bleeding outward, smearing messy orange and pink across the gray sky and white land. A relentless wind blew out of the east, sending snow writhing along the ice in thin, snakelike ribbons. I sat backwards on the speeding snowmobile, leaning against the back of my friend Andre as he drove. Fingers freezing, bones aching with cold, I hunched my shoulders and burrowed further into my layers of down, fleece, and wool. The fur fringe of my insulated parka hood framed my view: ice, snow, wind, oozing sun. I thought, “Remember this. This is Antarctica.”

I was in New Zealand when it happened. I met an American couple who wore matching “US Antarctic Program” patches on their jackets. “Antarctica...?!” I asked, in awe. As they spoke, weaving tales of penguins, glaciers, and steaming, ice-covered volcanoes, I had a vision of my future. It looked cold. And so it was that on August 20, 2006, I climbed out of a C17 Air Force cargo plane into the most surreal landscape I had ever seen. This was to be my home for the next six months: white, cold, and thousands of miles away from the rest of the world.

McMurdo Station is a motley town of Quonset huts and corrugated steel buildings situated on the edge of the frozen Ross Sea. Built by the US Navy, now funded by the National Science Foundation, the base provides the support structure for US scientific endeavors. My job was in the cafeteria as the dining attendant supervisor. It was a thankless, mind-numbing, sixty-hours-a-week job which ensured that I saw more institutional blue trays than I ever saw of the highest, driest, coldest, and windiest continent. And yet, there I was. No matter how frustrating the work, the simple fact was that I woke up every morning in Antarctica. Those were the magic words: add them to the end of any sentence and suddenly the most mundane statement became imbued with adventure.

The greatest moment of my time on ice was that day on the snowmobile. Ten of us rode north across the frozen sea to set flags along one of the routes that the scientists would travel later in the season. The improbable wonder of standing and working in the middle of that cold, bleak waste was indescribable. Twenty-six weeks I lived in this monochromatic, icy desert, bereft of humidity, smells, warmth, life. It was enough, though, as the season progressed, simply to close my eyes and remember, to be whisked away once more into the magic of that one day, that one mental snapshot of: “Wow...”

Read more stories, details and magical happenings: http://selizabeth83.livejournal.com

Ask questions: susanmunroe@gmail.com
At the American Antiquarian Society (AAS)  
with Meredith Neuman

Back in Chicago, when I was first taking English coursework as a “graduate student at large” (I always loved that term... it sounded so dangerous!), I had the good fortune to take a seminar based partly at the Newberry Library, an independent research library in Chicago. Half of our sessions met at the Newberry, and almost all our reading was on reserve there. I encountered many classic Transcendentalist texts for the first time in their original contexts. I read first editions of books, perused articles in 19th-century journals, and explored the culture of the time through everything from phrenology pamphlets to architecture handbooks, from guides to traveling West in a covered wagon to reviews of the foreign literature and politics. I did not know it at the time, but this early experience initiated in me a career-defining habit of archival scholarship.

While writing my dissertation, I realized that my book project would look very different depending on where I ended up getting a job. Now I teach at Clark and live in Worcester, just down the street from the American Antiquarian Society, an independent archival research library with unparalleled collections from three centuries of American literature, history and culture. This is my local library, so not only can I take on the “history of the book” as it relates to sermon literature, but I can also make extensive use of its unique manuscript collections. Recently I used a Higgins grant to work at the AAS as well as in Boston archives. I transcribed notebooks that regular people kept while listening to sermons in the 17th century, and I now have a new chapter for the book about how people heard the sermons that the ministers preached.

This semester I am offering a seminar of my own on the Transcendentalists, and as this class begins to look to the resources of the AAS to conduct their own original research in the period, I fell the satisfaction of coming full circle and, hopefully, inspiring new generations of students to take on archival research. Every semester I take my seminar to the AAS to explore primary materials related to course reading. The “Early American Women Writers” class, for example, got to read in an original edition of Phyllis Wheatley’s Poems and read the additional lines some early enthusiast had penciled in at the bottom of one page. We looked at manuscript copies of poems in Wheatley’s own handwriting and saw an extremely rare almanac from 1782 with a woodcut of the Wheatley on the cover—a testament to the cultural currency of her contemporary reputation.

When students from “Scribblers and Other Novelists” went to the AAS last spring, many decided to do further work in the archive. Graduate student Genie Giaimo conducted original work on Louisa May Alcott’s sensationalist fiction, discovering how the author crafted her own literary reputation. Graduate Student Jane Lindelof dived into 17th- and 18th-century parenting guides to understand the strange combination of harsh Calvinism and unrestrained sentimentality of Susan Warner’s popular novel The Wide, Wide World. Undergraduates took on projects for Academic Spree day, challenging notions that we in the humanities do not take on original research. (Stay tuned for more exciting projects for this year’s Academic Spree day! Many students from both the Transcendentalist seminar and Moby-Dick capstone are already contemplating projects at the AAS.)

Students are taking more opportunities with the resources at the AAS. This fall Bill Cobb (’08) is taking the American Studies Seminar at the AAS, a yearly chance for students in the Worcester Consortium to work with primary ma-
terials under the direction of a prominent scholar. This fall the seminar on “Captive Histories: Puritan Captivity Narratives and Native Stories from the Era of the Colonial Wars, 1675-1760” is led by Kevin Sweeney, Professor of History and American Studies at Amherst College. Some graduate students are beginning to develop thesis work that incorporates AAS material, too. Jane Lindelof used the AAS collections to develop her thesis on uncertainty and anxiety in Puritan spiritual writings. Amy (Simon) Barcelo has been diving into the collections to contextualize her work on problems of female authorship in the 19th century, using everything from newspaper editorials to “conduct books” for women.

I encourage any student, graduate or undergraduate, who is interested in exploring the resources of the AAS to contact me (meneuman@clarku.edu) or peruse the AAS website on your own (americanantiquarian.org). There are ways to get involved for longer and shorter projects, as part of coursework, thesis work, or a directed reading. As any student who has used these resources will tell you, the AAS offers exciting opportunities for original research, and the staff is extremely friendly and helpful with beginning researchers!

**Virginia Vaughan’s Shakespeare**

On July 25, Virginia Mason Vaughan gave a lecture on “The Wonders of *The Tempest*” at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon. While there she interviewed both Libby Appel, Artistic Director of OSF, and Derrick Weeden, who took the role of Prospero in their production of *The Tempest*.

On September 24, Professor Vaughan and her husband, historian Alden T. Vaughan, served as keynote speakers at the “Shakespeare on the Fox” Festival, sponsored by Lawrence University and the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh, among others. Their talk, “*The Tempest*: Before and After,” outlined the sources and origins of Shakespeare’s romance (Alden) and its subsequent stage history (Virginia).

Professor Vaughan was also in Italy the week of October 8. She lectured at the University of Bologna on “Miranda, Here’s Your Sister! Women’s Appropriations of *The Tempest*” on October 9. In Venice from October 10 to 11, she participated in a symposium on “Shakespeare and Venice,” and delivered a paper, “Supersubtle Venetians: The Geopolitics of Shakespeare’s *Othello*” at a formal conference sponsored by the University of Venice and the International Globe Centre, October 12-13.

**Former English Instructor, David Williams Remembers**

**Clark Alum and Instructor Chris Gilbert**

Perhaps you knew Chris Gilbert, who, in addition to being a graduate student in psychology many years ago at Clark, was also an accomplished writer who won the Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets, and who also taught some courses in the English Department in the 1990s. Chris died in July after a long struggle with an inherited kidney disorder. Chris’s family held a memorial service for him on October 13.

David sends best wishes to all his old friends at the Anderson (English) house. He has been very busy and pretty happy teaching full-time at Wheaton College, but remembers the good times at Clark.
From the Director of Graduate Studies in English

Embraced by a cool clarity of light, the crisp autumn air in New England is something I look forward to experiencing each year. This year, we planted bulbs. Not being one of agrarian ilk, I was awed by this “little” event. What struck me most about planting the Narcissus bulbs promising to be various colors, shapes, and sizes is the act of faith that planting them implies. Not the obvious belief/knowledge that these bulbs will become graceful spring greetings. What struck me was the faith in metamorphoses, in the time-dependent process rather than the easily foreseen outcome (after all, the pictures on the packets make it all very clear).

It’s not an easy distinction, in part because it is one that points to the paradox of hope, faith, in beginnings at a time associated with endings. In some ways, that’s what the beginning of the academic year means for me as well. For the graduate students who have come into our M.A. program in English and those who are continuing, it must seem, sometimes, that constricting and conflicting emotions tug at what sanity you can muster. Accomplished students who have completed B.A. degrees, and a number who have already taken M.A. courses, you’re back at a beginning. The promise of expertise that your university education had conferred upon you may almost seem fragile, a thing of the distant past, as you navigate your way through the new customs and academic rituals that don’t quite seem like the ones you’ve mastered. At other times, however, I hope you will see how you too believe in a process of transformation, metamorphosis, in taking the time, the mental space, to explore.

Your graduate studies are beginnings. Luxuriate in the energy of exploration. Don’t worry, I won’t point out here the opportunities this year will offer you. Terri has, or will, put them all on our website. I’ll just invite you to attend the talks, the films, the fests and integrate them into your academic experience. That’s one of the great beauties of pursuing a degree in literature—the more you experience, the more resonant literature can become for you.

I’ll close with this: if you would like to make a suggestion, if you have questions, or if you would like assistance, just let us know.

Have a great time!

SunHee Kim Gertz
Director of Graduate Studies in English

Congratulations to the Following M.A. Candidates Who Passed Their Oral Defenses and Will Soon Be Receiving Their Degrees:


Kathy Webber, August 31, 2007, “Examining Consciousness in William Faulkner’s As I Lay Dying”
English Department 2007-08


September 7 Departmental Potluck Dinner

Not pictured: Professors Fern Johnson and Winston Napier; Graduate Students Steve Bruso, Nuance Bryant, Nicole DellaSanta, Gina Desmarais, Jaclyn Penny, Dania Dwyer, Nikki Rabin, Michelle Simon; Work study staff Joel Hinton, Chelsea Quattrone-DeOre, and Addi Rancourt-Walker.

English Department Colloquia Schedule

FALL 2007

November 7
Nicole Rabin, Graduate Student, on Mixed Race Literature
Jongsook Lee, Professor of English and Chair, Interdisciplinary Program of Classical Studies; and Director, Institute for English Studies, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea
“Lucrece’s Hecuba: Allusion and Ekphrasis”

November 18
Yassine Talhaoui, Graduate Student, “Who am I?: Identity Formation of Second Generationers in Germany and the United States”
Stephen Levin, Professor, “Shadow Lines: Disciplinary Boundaries and the Object of Postcolonial Studies”

SPRING 2008

February 6
Hyeyoung Kim, Graduate Student
Jay Elliott, Professor

February 20
Nicole DellaSanta, Graduate Student
Christoph Lanzen, Graduate Student

March 12
Dayoung Chung, Graduate Student
Josh Flaccavento, Graduate Student

March 19
Michelle Simon, Graduate Student
Winfried Herget, Professor

April 9
Dania Dwyer, Graduate Student
Jenny Provo, Graduate Student

Josh Flaccavento and Nikki Rabin are graduate reps to department meetings. Zach Bellino and Josh Flaccavento are graduate reps to graduate student council meetings.
Questions of Faith: A Spoken Word Chorus  
A Difficult Dialogues Event held on October 10, 2007

The words of Clark students on issues of faith on campus are woven into a spoken-word chorus, performed by other Clark students, and based on interviews with current students. Getting beyond the basics of simple denominational differences, the program investigated the hard questions, surprising discoveries, new perspectives, and lasting challenges that our encounters with both organized religion and personal faith have brought while at Clark. A conversation café followed the performance.

A personal note from Professor Neuman:
The script for the performance was woven together from conversations with almost 20 Clark students conducted over the last month. English majors have been involved with every stop of this process, including the original inspiration (speaking with many of you both in and outside of classes) and direct participation in the taped conversations. Ayaan Agane and Heather Cenedall have worked tirelessly to transcribe portions of the conversations and have collaborated on the writing of the script. Kate Rafey was one of the performers for the October 10th performance.

Higgins Faculty Lecture Series: Women’s Voices: Past and Present  
Wednesday, November 7, 2007  
7:30 p.m.  
Dana Commons, Second Floor Lounge  
Lisa Kasmer  
“Regendering History” Talk and Panel Discussion

Bill Tapply’s Walden Today Class  
Visited Walden Pond on September 21
**DAAD STUDY SCHOLARSHIP OR RESEARCH GRANT**

Clark University is proud to announce that one of Germany’s most elite academic institutions, The Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD: German Academic Exchange Service) has awarded us priority consideration for either

The **DAAD Study Scholarship** for graduating seniors and graduate students, or

The **DAAD Research Grant** for M.A. and Ph.D. students as well as Post-Docs

If you are a graduating senior (May 2008) or a graduate student, and you would like to conduct research in Germany during the academic year 2008-09, you may be eligible.

If awarded either the Study Scholarship or the Research Grant, the DAAD will support your research in the Federal Republic of Germany for a year. In some cases, the Study Scholarship may be renewed. Although recommended, it is not necessary to be fluent in German.

Please contact Prof. SunHee Kim Gertz, Director of Graduate Studies in English, English Department (sgertz@clarku.edu), for further information. **DEADLINE FOR PRELIMINARY APPLICATION IS OCT. 25.**

---

**Presenting The Virginia Mason Vaughan Prize in English**

A permanent endowment fund was established by Michael J. ‘81 and Lisa Klein Leffell ’82 for the Virginia Mason Vaughan Prize in English.

This yearly prize will be awarded to the English honors thesis deemed worthy of the prize by English Department faculty.

**Michelle Simon Appointed New MELUS Editorial Assistant**

English graduate student Michelle Simon has been appointed the new MELUS Editorial Assistant for the ’07-’08 academic year. Michelle will be assisting Professor Betsy Huang, the book review editor for the journal, with all aspects of the editorial process.

First published in 1974, MELUS: Journal of the Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States, features articles, interviews and reviews encompassing the multi-ethnic scope of American literature past and present. Most issues are thematically organized for greater understanding of topics, criticism and theory in the total picture of American literature MELUS hopes to present. The editorial office is supported by the University of Connecticut.

**Academic Spree Day**

**Wednesday, April 25, 2007**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS**

**TILTON HALL POSTERS**

**Michelle Simon**

“Two’s a company, three’s a crowd: A new historical look at father-daughter relationships in The Tempest and Les Miserables” (Sponsors: Professors Virginia Vaughan and Beth Gale of French)

**Rebecca Posner**

“Desire, loss, and the postmodern imagination in the novels of Haruki Murakami” (Sponsor: Professor Jay Elliott)

**Kathleen Lied, Peter Murray, Katherine Parr, & Jerry Travers**

“Beyond the text: Archival research in 19th-century American literary culture” (Sponsor: Professor Meredith Neuman)

**Claudia McQuistion**

“The newspaper project” (Sponsor: Professor Jay Elliott)

---

**Academic Spree Day**

**Wednesday, April 25, 2007**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS**

**TILTON HALL POSTERS**

**Michelle Simon**

“Two’s a company, three’s a crowd: A new historical look at father-daughter relationships in The Tempest and Les Miserables” (Sponsors: Professors Virginia Vaughan and Beth Gale of French)

**Rebecca Posner**

“Desire, loss, and the postmodern imagination in the novels of Haruki Murakami” (Sponsor: Professor Jay Elliott)

**Kathleen Lied, Peter Murray, Katherine Parr, & Jerry Travers**

“Beyond the text: Archival research in 19th-century American literary culture” (Sponsor: Professor Meredith Neuman)

**Claudia McQuistion**

“The newspaper project” (Sponsor: Professor Jay Elliott)
A Bit of Adventure in a Castle-Ridden Land
by English Major Amital C. Sachs

I guess the experience I had this past summer working as a student envoy at the United States Embassy in Luxembourg began about a year ago with an email telling me I’d been nominated to interview for the position. It sounded interesting to me, so I went in and said my piece. I heard back about a week later. It was another email, this time telling me that I had been chosen as one of the Henry J. Leir Summer Research Scholarship 2007 recipients.

A year ago I had no idea what I was going into, nor did I have a clue as to how much it would teach me about myself, how much it would change me, or how much it would set in stone. When I try to sum it all up, I find that I can’t, so I will do my best, since an experience like this can only be understood by living it...and I’m still trying to figure it out.

I’m not going to lie, the thought of being an envoy at a US Embassy was a little intimidating at first. My first day, I went in and got introduced to all the staff, which included a mix of Foreign Servicemen, American expatriates hanging out in the area, Luxembourgers, French, and a couple of others of different nationalities. My office was in Protocol. Going in, I had no idea what that meant exactly but had been told that it was something a little like high profile events planning. Well, that description is true, but it was so much more than that.

Protocol involves events, yes, but also sending people like Ambassadors and other diplomats to other people’s events. These happenings included anything from fashion shows to memorial services. In addition to sending people places, we organized our own happenings and sent out invitations to lots of VIPs from Luxembourg and the surrounding countries. The biggest job we had was organizing a fantastic Fourth of July celebration complete with a red carpet for all the VIPs. I stood at the door and checked people off the guest list while attending to another major part of my job: meeting and greeting, and a little bit of mingling with the guests who were people ranging from other ambassadors to regular, everyday people you’d meet in the grocery store.

But events weren’t all that I did by far. I was thoroughly impressed with the way foreign servicemen treated everyone with the utmost respect. As an envoy, or someone with relatively ‘intern’ status, I wasn’t just shoved around and asked to make copies of random things people needed. In fact, the stereotypical idea of ‘intern’ or someone in that kind of position wasn’t there. More than once I was asked to accompany diplomats on missions around the country.

Professionally speaking, I learned that I could thrive and enjoy a political environment more than I ever dreamed. Working at the Embassy showed me that I had no reason to worry about my rather moderate political views and diplomatic approach to people in all situations ranging from the mundane everyday conflicts to major world issues. I have always felt out of place until I worked at US Embassy Luxembourg, either too liberal for the very conservative political climate in my home state of Georgia, or too conservative for Massachusetts where I go to school. No, I learned, don’t be worried. The ability to see both sides of a situation with an impartial and open mind is a great advantage. A good mediator has the ability to sympathize with both sides and impart some of that understanding on
to disagreeing factions. For the first time in my life I saw that I truly could contribute to helping the world, even if just a little bit. I could help promote understanding not only between two people but between two nations...a seemingly high aspiration that now doesn’t seem so far off. I’d finally found a place for myself.

It wasn’t merely my own life I finally settled into, but European world. Often I have wondered where America’s place is in the world and where mine would be as an American. For the first time, I was confronted with America from an outsider’s perspective and it disturbed me more often than not. Yet with all of the criticism I was forced to take, and with all of the criticism it was my job to counter whether I agreed with it or not, I had a unique perspective. I saw America and the American Dream for all that it could be and all that it really is in a way I could have had I never left my home shores. I saw my country for the first time from the outside, how I personally could work to improve it, and also, how easy it is to forget how beautiful something is when you see it every day. I was reminded and will not forget again.

I could go on forever about how much I enjoyed this experience and how much it opened my eyes to the world, but that would take a book or two. Not only did this summer provide me with an incredible work experience, but with invaluable life experience. I must thank the late Mr. Henry J. Leir and the generous Leir Charitable Foundation for making this possible, and for providing me with this wonderful opportunity through the Henry J. Leir Luxembourg Program—Clark University. All I can say now is this: not a day goes by when I don’t think of Luxembourg, the Embassy and its staff, the beautiful natural scenery mixed with ancient castles and spires, and the confidence I found regarding my own future. I got on the plane to Europe a little girl afraid of what might come next because it was new and absolutely unknown; but I came back to the United States an adult, confident and sure that there was hope for my own future, the world in general, and for the United States of America. And that all of it is worth fighting for.

May Term in Luxembourg, May 11 — June 7, 2008

Undergraduates may study in the heart of western Europe in 2008, during Clark University's May Term in Luxembourg. By offering three courses, the Leir Luxembourg Program-Clark University continues its commitment to providing international perspectives and learning experiences for students and faculty. Applications from Clark University should be submitted to Uwe Gertz, Leir Luxembourg Program, Dana Commons, by Tuesday, January 29, 2008.

Students may enroll in one of the following courses each of which carries a Perspective:

Nutrition, Aging, and Health with Professor Thomas Leonard, Clark University (SP).

Beyond Armageddon: Enmity to Amity in Europe with Professor William Green, College of the Holy Cross (HP).

Romans, Barbarians, and Scholars: Language and Culture with Professor Paul Burke, Clark University (LCP).

There are no prerequisites for any of these courses, and they are open to all students, including first-years.

For more information, contact Uwe Gertz at ugertz@clarku.edu, or check out the website www.clarku.edu/offices/leir/mayterm.cfm.
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FACULTY

James P. Elliott, Ph.D.
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 over twenty years.

SunHee Kim Gertz, Ph.D.
Professor of English, Director of Graduate Studies in English. 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.

Betsy Huang, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of English. Professor Huang researches and teaches representations of ethnic and racial identities in 20th-century American literature and popular culture.

Fern L. Johnson, Ph.D.
(on sabbatical AY 2007-08)
Professor of English. Professor Johnson is a sociolinguist specializing in the study of gender, race, and culture in language.

Lisa Kasmer, Ph.D.
(on sabbatical AY 2007-08)
Assistant Professor of English. Professor Kasmer’s research and teaching interests center on 18th- and 19th-century British literature, gender studies, postcolonial studies, and print culture.

Stephen Levin, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of English. Professor Levin specializes in contemporary British and postcolonial literature, transnational cultural studies, and critical and literary theory.

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.

Meredith Neuman, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of English. Professor Neuman teaches and researches in the fields of early and nineteenth-century American literature.

Virginia Mason Vaughan, Ph.D.
Professor of English, Department Chair. 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 17th century to the present.

President John Bassett, Ph.D.
Not teaching Fall 2007

Louis Bastien, Ph.D.
Major British Writers I
Philosophy of Horror

Jessica Bane-Robert, M.F.A.
Expository Writing

Basil Cleveland, M.A.
Creative Writing: Poetry

Tim Connolly, M.A.
News Writing

Jim Dempsey, M.A.
Feature Writing

Michael Eldridge, S.A.G.
Not teaching Fall 2007

Genie Giaimo, M.A.
Expository Writing

Jennifer Gulameti, A.B.D.
Intro to Literature & Composition

Lisa Kleman, M.A.
Intro to Literature & Composition

Ethan Myers, M.A.
Expository Writing

Jennifer Plante, M.A.
Interim Director of the Writing Center & Writing Program

Aimee Sands, M.F.A.
Expository Writing

Sarah Stanley, M.A.
Expository Writing

D.L. Stephenson, Ph.D.
Not teaching Fall 2007

Bill Tapply, M.A.T.
Walden Today
Creative Writing: Fiction
Writing the Novel I

Lucilia Valerio, Ph.D.
Intro to Literature & Composition
Border Crossings
Women Writers I

Emeriti Faculty

John Conron, Ph.D.
20th-century American literature

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

Stanley Sultan, Ph.D.
Poetry, fiction, and drama of modernist writers, as well as critical theory, literary history, and theoretical issues in literary history.

The Writing Center

The Writing Center is located on the first floor of Corner House. Free one-to-one assistance for all members of the Clark community. Any writing. Any level. Any discipline. They’ll work with you at any stage of the writing process. To make an appointment, call 508-793-7405 or visit www.clarku.edu/writing to learn more.

The Center for Community Engagement & Volunteering (CEV)

The CEV Center is located on the first floor of Corner House. The Center assists students in finding a community service placement suitable for a particular class requirement or personal interest. Office hours are 9-5, Monday-Friday. You can also contact Micki Davis, CEV Program Coordinator, at 508-421-3785 or cev@clarku.edu

We’re on the web! www.clarku.edu/english
Clark University, Department of English, 950 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01610
Undergraduate—phone: 508-793-7142, email: engUG@clarku.edu  Graduate—phone: 508-793-7630, email: engMA@clarku.edu

Editor: Terri Rutkiewicz