The English Department’s faculty and staff is hosting
A GRADUATION RECEPTION HOUR for our graduates and their guests
MAY 22, 2016
at Anderson House
Immediately following Commencement

Graduating Seniors

ENGLISH MAJORS
Amelia Ayres
*Emma Berman
Jonathan Brien
Tessa Browne
Jenna Caskie
Nicholas Cotoulas
Matthew Emmer
Timothy Guman
Haley Hanneberry
Catharina Huyen
James Kenney
*Sasha Kohan
Rachel Kraytenberg
Tom Matthews
Caroline McCarthy
Andrea Moniz

*Seamus O’Connor
Ana Perrone
Kim Reeser
*Hunter Reid
Renee Robichaud
Samantha Stanley
Andrea Walkup
Samantha Wallace
Christianie Wiercimok
Patricia Wise

*Recipient of Departmental Honors

ENGLISH MINORS
Madeleine Fontaine
Shivani Patel
Maria Rotelli
Madelyn Valenzuela

Every year Senior Brunch is served to graduating seniors by faculty, staff, and administration. This year’s Senior Brunch is Wednesday, May 18, 12:00-1:00 p.m. in the University Dining Hall, followed by award presentations. Come see who will be serving you from the English Department!

Congratulations to Esther Jones who was Granted Tenure and Promoted to Associate Professor!

Seniors, Don’t Miss Senior Brunch Wednesday, May 18

M.A. Candidates Receiving Their Degrees

Md. Shamim Ahmad
December 2015
Ashley Barry
August 2016
Yanyan Che
May 2016
Stephanie McGrath
August 2016

Patrick O’Donnell
August 2015
Johanna Seibert
December 2015
Lingyun Tao
August 2016
Jessica Theilen
August 2016

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3 Undergraduate News
   —From Reps to the Chair
4 Academic Spree Day
5 Spring Fling
6 Graduate Business
   —From the Director of Graduate Studies
7-10 Grad Student News
   —From Graduate Student Representative
11-12 Faculty News
13 International News
   Dept./University News
14 Wassail
15 From our Alums
16 Faculty List

The English Department is now on Twitter!
Follow us @ClarkUEnglish
Now that Spring Fling is over, and all the accolades for student awards and contests are presented, it’s time for me to write my valedictory From the Chair. Yes, for those of you who don’t know it, I will be rotating out of the English chair this summer, and Lisa Kasmer will moving into the position. It’s been a wonderful six years, and I am extremely grateful for all the assistance and support I’ve received over that time. I’m certainly not retiring from Clark, though, and I’ll be assuming a quasi-administrative position in the fall as Director of the Creative Writing Program, which I have tried to strengthen over the years I’ve been chair.

But the best news for the department this year is that Esther Jones was approved by the university personnel committee for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. We await only the official approval from the Board of Trustees—usually just before graduation—for Esther’s tenure to become a true reality! Congratulations to Esther! She will be taking her post-tenure sabbatical in calendar 2017, meaning that she will be around all next year to shepherd her new Africana concentration, for one thing.

In September Lisa and I will be hosting three professors from other universities who will be spending two days reviewing the English department in all its aspects—the undergraduate program, the MA program and how the department fits with the newest university prerogatives and goals. We did produce a detailed self-study in January and February, which was disseminated to the reviewers and will form the basis of their visit. These reviews are part of Clark’s efforts to improve all aspects of its educational mission; History for example was reviewed last year. I’m proud of what we can present to them, and I expect we will get some significant suggestions concerning many aspects of our departmental roles, curriculum and research.

In closing, I’d like to express my gratitude once again to everyone connected with the English department—fellow colleagues, part-time instructors, staff and all the students, both undergraduate and graduate—who have supported me and the department so strongly and energetically over these last years. Having dealt with the declining demand for Humanities majors as a result of the Recession of ’08—our majors have definitely been increasing in number over the last three years—I see marvelous things in store for English faculty and students alike. As I return to full-time teaching, I will be as supportive of the new regime as all of you have been of me. Thank you all!

And congratulations to all our graduating seniors and MA students. I’ll see you all at Graduation; as faculty Marshall I’ll be leading the graduate student contingent to the ceremonies in the Kneller. Be sure to drop by the reception after the ceremony!

Jay Elliott
FROM NICHOLAS COTOLAS

A few weeks ago, I had to go through all of the rare books owned by Jonas Clark for my work-study job at Clark University’s Archives and Special Collections. Out of the roughly 4,000 books collected by Jonas Clark and donated to Clark University, I’ve had the great pleasure to become intimately acquainted with at least twenty of them. And as I scanned through the collection during my regular Wednesday shift, I got to say my first goodbyes to some of the most humbling books I’ve been able to work with so far. Among the books I got to bid farewell to were: a 1611 King James Bible; a 1773 first edition of Phillis Wheatley’s Poems; a thirteenth century manuscript; and an early edition of Exquemelin’s Buccaneers of America. These books in many ways symbolize and reflect my rather bookish Clark experience.

During the fall semester of my sophomore year, I caught what is commonly known as “the rare book bug”, and I’ve yet to shake it. I attribute my catching of the bug to my work-study jobs, Professor Meredith Neuman’s Intro to Archival Research course, and my family’s love of antiques. Since then I’ve been rather fortunate to have many unique bookish opportunities and experiences, including archival based course-work at Clark and the American Antiquarian Society, exhibition design, conservation work, conferences, and even a delicious Italian dinner with some of the top dogs in the rare book field. Along the way I’ve met so many incredibly interesting, kind, eccentric, passionate, and down-to-earth book people, ranging from the Clark Alum Daniel De Simone, to a maritime and nautical rare book dealer in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Although my time at Clark has been perhaps the most difficult and challenging endeavor of my life so far, I still feel pretty fortunate to have the opportunity to further my education. It’s been a lot of hard work and effort, but worth it. My experience at Clark has been somewhat unique in that it has allowed for me to explore my passion for rare books, archival research, and libraries. In addition to this aspect of my Clark education, I am even more grateful for all of the relationships and friendships Clark and Worcester have given me, over the past four years.

Here are just a few of the many shout outs I owe to all of those who’ve supported and encouraged me throughout my college career. My dearest Clarkie friends: Miss Church and Mr. Crean. My mentors: Meredith, Jay, Jane Foti, and Clark’s legendary archivist, Fordyce Williams. And of course my incredibly caring and hard-working parents.

—Nick

FROM EMMA BERMAN

Goodness, the year has flown by so quickly! It feels autumn was only yesterday, and now the academic year is coming to an end. In fact, it feels like college just began and it too has come to an end! Reflecting upon my time at Clark in Anderson House, I feel lucky and I feel nostalgic. At Clark, I have met so many unique and engaging people who have taught me to see literature and the world differently. My connections with these people have enriched me and shaped the person I am becoming.

I would like to use this letter as a chance to give a couple of words of advice to my underclassman peers. First- try to talk to as many different types of people as you can. Everyone comes into your life from different places, and I have learned the most at Clark from talking to people with experiences different from my own. Consider the profundity and luck that has allowed you to connect with another person, and how lucky we are to exchange ideas together in a University Setting. Second, use literature as a tool to grow as a person. We are blessed to study these beautiful and complex texts together, and we are even more blessed if we are able to use literature as a contemplative tool that will help us to each other.

Lucky enough for me, I do not have to say goodbye to everyone at Anderson House just yet. I am fortunate enough to stay at Clark for one more year to complete a Masters of English! For those of you who will be at Clark next year, I look forward to exchanging ideas and getting to know one another better. For those fellow seniors who are off to new adventures, it has truly been a pleasure getting to know you. We had a lot of fun together in Capstone and many other classes, and I will never forget you! To our professors, I am truly grateful for the education you have given me. You inspire me to study hard and consider both literature and life with a critical eye. To everyone in Anderson House, I hope you have a really lovely summer and get some sun!

Warm wishes, Emma
Laura Barker ‘17 lands Internship with Chicago-based Magazine

Laura Barker ‘17 returns to her hometown this summer to write features, organize photo shoots, and conduct interviews for Chicago Social Life.

Tom Matthews ‘16 Receives James A. Bogdanoff Award

Sarah Wells ‘17 competes in Worcester Poetry Contest

This spring I was flattered to be nominated by Professor Houlihan for the Worcester County Poetry Association’s annual College Poetry Contest as the Clark representative. I, and students from Anna Maria College, Assumption College, the College of the Holy Cross, Fitchburg State University, MCPHS University, WPI, and Worcester State University submitted three poems of our choosing and came together one Saturday in early April at the Worcester Public Library to read two of our three poems aloud to an audience of supporters and judges. Two prizes were awarded that Saturday: a manuscript prize which the judges had deliberated on prior, and a performance award which they decided after each student had read their selected pieces. Fantastic pieces for both categories were chosen and after the group came together once more for a photo, the judges were kind enough to give each of us back our poems with annotated responses and suggestions. The contest as a whole was a lot of fun and I’m happy to have been able to represent Clark at such an event!” - Sarah Wells

Virginia Mason Vaughan Prize in English Awarded to Sasha Kohen ‘16

In April 2008, a permanent endowment fund was established by Michael J. ’81 and Lisa Klein Leffel ’82 for the Virginia Mason Vaughan Prize in English. Winner Sasha Kohen took home the prizes this year for her honors theses on Betty and Beauvoir, Sally and Sartre: Mad Men’s Gendered Existentialism.

Tom Matthews ‘16 publishes article for Worcester Magazine

Tom Matthews ‘16 authored the cover article “Is Worcester Really a College Town?” for the Worcester Magazine. Tom, a Worcester native, writes “Last winter, the New York Times published a story titled ‘Long a College Town, Worcester Now Looks the Part.’ My only problem with the story is the author isn’t from Worcester. I am.” Read Tom’s article at worcestermag.com

William H. Carter Prize in English Awarded to Sarah Wells’17 and Nadia Friedler ’17

The 2015-16 co-winners of the William H. Carter Prize are Sarah Wells and Nadia Friedler. This is a permanent endowment fund, established in Spring 2003 by Harriet R. Carter in memory of her husband, William H. Carter, Jr., an English Department professor of over three decades. In addition to his teaching and scholarship, Dr. Carter chaired the department for three consecutive four-year terms. The Prize is awarded to the outstanding rising senior English major every spring.
Congratulations to all English Majors who presented at Academic Spree Day on Wednesday, April 27

Poster Presenters:

Sasha Kohan ’16 (sponsor: Professor Betsy Huang) Betty and Beauvoir, Sally and Sartre: Mad Men’s Gendered Existentialism

Prentiss Cheney Hoyt Poetry Contest winners:
1st place: Sarah Wells ’17 — “Dissipate”
2nd place: Jess Hoops ’18 — “Depression”
3rd place: Mal Sklar ‘18 — “Sandmen”

Betty & Stanley Sultan Short Story Contest winners:
1st place: Thomas Rhalter ‘18 — “The Monarch”
2nd place: Emily Denny ’17 — “Mutually Assured Destruction”
3rd place: Sarah Wells ’17 — “Day One”

Loring Holmes and Ruth Dodd Drama Contest winners:
1st place: Emily Denny ’17 — “The Lavenders”
2nd place: Sarah Wells ’17 — “Step One”
3rd place: Chloe Anderson ’17 — “Inked”
Spring came to Anderson House with our annual Spring Fling end of semester celebration. Thanks for joining us!
I’m writing this column on March 4th, absolutely thrilled that Prof. Esther Jones received a positive vote for tenure (a vote that must be approved by the President and Clark’s Board of Trustees). And I’m writing in appreciation of the mild winter thus far, while knowing at the very same time, this is not a good thing, a conundrum that makes me doubly grateful for the interdisciplinary events that were designed to help us to come to grips with climate change and that were launched by Professors Sarah Buie and Amy Richter, among others, through the Higgins School of the Humanities. I’m writing very happy to be at Clark, for the various fora that attune us to the concerns of our times, not least of which was Prof. Jones’ spontaneous teach-out to underscore how far we need still to go in order to effect diversity and inclusion, an effort that another English Department faculty member, Prof. Betsy Huang, has tirelessly pursued as Clark’s first Chief Officer of Diversity and Inclusion. We still have far to go, to be sure, but we are trying.

This is also the day after the Detroit Republican presidential debate, which makes me wonder how bad it can get. Surely, we’ve reached the nadir. I hope so. Yet, I cringe at the nagging suspicion that it could get worse.

Recently, I was reminded of one of the Dalai Lama’s wonderfully trenchant observations, “If you think you’re too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito in the room.” The money-fed machinery for electing a U.S. president and the migrant tragedies loom particularly large in my mind this evening. That’s when places like Clark are especially valuable. Even if we are not currently investigating any particular problem at any given moment, we have the capacity to do so. And more importantly, we have the will to do so. In addition to the importance of diversity and inclusion efforts and climate change events, for example, the Leir Luxembourg Program sponsored a workshop convened by Prof. Robert Boatright on campaign finance and the global recession, a workshop that resulted in a book published just this past year. And the Leir Luxembourg Program is working as well with Profs. Marianne Sarkis and Anita Fabos, who are planning a workshop on refugee narratives. I know slogans are suspect nowadays, but this is challenging convention, changing the world. Little by little. Mosquito by mosquito.

If more and more institutions had the capacity and the will, if they would provide the space – conceptual as well as physical – to work on such challenges, things would change, little by little, for the better. After all, we got to where Republican presidential candidates are mud-slinging, through incremental, divisive changes – it didn’t happen all at once.

In our English M.A. program space, we try to envision differences as strengths and to weave a fabric that is colorful, strong, and enduring. This is evident in our embrace of students from all nations, our attempts to respond flexibly to what our M.A. candidates wish to research, and our discussions both in formal and informal settings.

Thank you, M.A. students, for your essential part in creating this beautiful fabric!

And, finally, a special congratulations to those who took their orals this academic year and plan to graduate in May!

MAY 2016
Yanyan (Bella) Che, whose M.A. thesis, “Lost Success: Female Development in Sister Carrie and Gone with the Wind,” was directed by Prof. Lisa Kasmer

AUGUST 2016 (finished in time to attend Commencement)
Ashley Barry, whose M.A. thesis, “Identity, Liminality, and Subverting the Binary in Harlem Renaissance Era and Contemporary Passing Literature,” was directed by Prof. Esther Jones

Stephanie McGrath, whose M.A. thesis, “Shaping Motherhood in Marie de France’s Le Fresne, The Digby Mary Magdalene, and the Self Presentation of Queen Elizabeth I,” was directed by Prof. SunHee Kim Gertz

Lingyun Tao, whose M.A. thesis, “The American Dream in Benjamin Franklin’s Autobiography, Horatio Alger’s Ragged Dick and F. Scott Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby,” was directed by Prof. Jay Elliott

Jessica (JT) Thelen, whose M.A. thesis, “‘You make a life out of gestures and politeness’: Franklin Hata’s Identity Constructions and Performances and How they Shape the narrative of Chang-rae Lee’s A Gesture Life,” was directed by Prof. SunHee Kim Gertz

CONGRATULATIONS!

Everyone, have a productive, enjoyable, and thoughtful summer!

SunHee Kim Gertz, Director of Graduate Studies in English
The academic year 2015-2016 has been an exciting but also turbulent time, as much for the world as for the Clark community. The ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, terrorist attacks and the worsening refugee crisis are harsh times to face for the global community—and we have felt the impact at Clark with the rise of overt racism, which currently affects the whole nation. These have been trying times, but I am glad to say that, as Clark’s English Department, we have stood together and faced these issues on our own campus.

I am of course referring to the incredible amount of work that Professor Esther Jones and Chief Officer of Diversity and Inclusion Betsy Huang have put into supporting students of color on the Clark campus, but I also need to mention the work of the English Department faculty as a whole, who have raised these issues in their own classrooms and invited students to share their perspectives. These discussions resonated among us graduate students, and it is amazing to be part of this group of people who share the same passion for fighting oppression in all of its forms. The whole department has proven to be a great source of support and advice, not only in pursuing our own academic goals but also in navigating through all these arising issues around campus and globally.

I have had the privilege of working among faculty and students who promote the important scholarship of the humanities, which brings to light the roots and complexities of today’s world and helps us understand as well as navigate this world a little better every day. The interdisciplinary scholarship of our graduate students has contributed much to this: whether it be issues of beauty standards, capitalism, gender, race, ethnicity or our historical heritage, you have all done an exceptional job at pointing to these issues in popular culture or literary texts. While I am sad that most of the graduate students will be leaving us, I am grateful that I have met and worked with all of you—because all of you have made the academic year 2015-2016 an amazing experience. Congratulations to each one of you for your achievements here at Clark—I wish you all the best for your future, and please do keep in touch!

To those of us who are staying: we should be no less proud of our achievements and confident in what we have helped to build thus far. I am excited to see what the coming academic year 2016-2017 holds in store for us and who we will be working with in the coming fall!

Last but not least, I would like to thank our administration—Paula Flynn Connors, Terri Rutkiewicz, SunHee Kim Gertz, Jay Elliott as well as all the work study students—for the amount of painstaking work they accomplish behind the scenes to ensure that everything runs smoothly. It is truly invaluable to have your support and expertise in the English Department.

Thank you to all of you—you have all contributed to making Clark a second home. I wish you all a refreshing summer break and all the best,

Jacqueline

Two English Department M.A. Candidates Present at Clark University’s 14th Annual Graduate Multidisciplinary Conference April 6

The following graduate students presented papers at Clark University’s Annual Graduate Multidisciplinary Conference:


Jacqueline Schnieber, “The Mask That Does Not Fit: Nick Adams’s Struggle with Masculinities in *The Three-Day Blow*”

Web Site  www.clarku.edu/english ● Facebook  www.facebook.com/ClarkUniversityEnglish● Blog  www.clarku.edu/clarkwrites

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MA Students Delivering Papers at Scholarly Conferences

Ten of our MA students in their first year delivered conference papers this spring semester.

Ama Bemma Adwetewa-Badu attended the African Literature Association Conference in Atlanta GA, April 6-9.

Ama Bemma presented her paper, entitled “The Power of Sight: Hybridity, Dis(re)orienting and Un(re)defining Africanness in Aidoo’s Our Sister Killjoy.” The conference gave Ama Bemma the opportunity to engage in fruitful conversations with professors and Ph.D. candidates, enabling her to see the ways in which she can focus her own areas of interest as well as giving her a better view of the field.

In addition, three attended the Popular Culture Association National Annual Conference in Seattle WA, 22-25 March.

Linda Blinova

Linda presented a paper entitled "Reading and Interpretation of Jack Kerouac in 1990s Russia: The Subterraneans by Jack Kerouac and Subs by Gleb Teleshov." The panel was not crowded, but a lively discussion occurred. It was the first time Linda attended a U.S. conference. The panel, Film Adaptation, was also a new field. For these reasons, the whole conference experience was a great opportunity for study, comparison and development.

Nick Sancho-Rosi

Nick chaired the panel “Celebrating the Forefathers of Modern Science Fiction and Fantasy” in which he presented his paper “(Non)Being and Language in Ursula Le Guin’s A Wizard of Earthsea.”

Jacqueline Schnieber

Jacqueline presented her paper “Gender, Race and Human Rights: Black Masculinity in Uncle Tom’s Cabin,” in which she explored the myth around the figure of Uncle Tom and its supposed feminization. Her paper was well-received and she had a nice time even though the conference was pretty big and a little overwhelming. Jacqueline met up with an Assistant Professor of her home university, Muenster University, and they were able to have a little chat!

Jacqueline also attended the Annual Interdisciplinary Conference of the American Men’s Studies Association in Ann Arbor, 31/3-3/4.

And six attended the 47th Annual Northeast Modern Language Association Convention in Hartford CT, 17-22 March.

Julia Castellett

Julia presented a paper on Hawthorne, “‘The ties that bind’—Love in Hawthorne’s The Scarlet Letter.” Despite the lunch time slot on Saturday, a little over a dozen people attended, and it went very well. The panel convener, Dr Paula Kot, praised Julia’s paper. Julia reports, “I felt honored that I had been invited to participate.”
Michael Fisher

Michael presented his paper, "What Mrs. Wright Said," as part of a panel discussing the use of Susan Glaspell's "Trifles" in college classrooms as a way to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the play. According to reports, he had an excellent presentation.

Laura Jungblut

Laura presented her paper on the language of indigenous politics, entitled "The Language of Indigenous Politics: Winning but Losing." Focusing on indigenous issues of environmental justice and indigenous rights, the panel provided an effective context in its contributions on sovereignty and proceedings at the UN for indigenous people. With most audience members evincing deep interest and respect, it proved overall to be a good first step into the world of conferences.

Arthur George Kamya

Arthur delivered a paper entitled “Our American Cousin: Odyssey of a Satire.” Convened at 8:30 AM, Arthur was able to develop a rapport with co-conveners Professor Jonathan Dyen and Dr. Gillian Mason, graduates of one of the universities which accepted him for the Ph.D. Program with a full ride. Needless to say, they had much to discuss. Arthur was also able to attend sessions of interest to him (on the 19th century), enabling him to get a better view of the field.

Henry Robbert

Henry presented his paper on contemporary rap lyrics, entitled "Nothing Was the Same: The Construction of Black Identity in American Hip Hop Discourse." Focusing on the rapper Drake, Henry was surprised by how interested the audience was in his topic, one member even asking him to compare Drake with Trump. The conference provided Henry with a good “introduction into the world of academia beyond research and publication.”

Juliane Straetz

Juliane presented the paper "Instagram and the Human Body: Between Visual Pleasure and Visual Pressure" at the NEMLA panel "Body, Voice, and Being: Identity and the Fragmented Self in the Age of Social Media." Despite the early slot at 8:30 AM, the panel was well attended. The audience was very engaged, and Juliane felt that "the three of us could contribute to offer a broader picture of social media’s influence on identity formation.”

M. A. Candidate Jacqueline Schnieber receives travel grant

Jacqueline Schnieber has been awarded the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Michael Schoenecke travel grant to help cover the travel costs for her presentation at the upcoming PCA/ACA national conference in March. At this conference, she will be presenting her paper “Gender, Race and Human Rights: Black Masculinity in Uncle Tom’s Cabin.”

M. A. Candidate Arthur George Kamya receives admission to PhD programs in American Studies

Arthur George Kamya, MA Candidate in English, has been offered admission to Boston University’s American and New England Studies PhD program starting in the Fall of 2016 with full funding including a five year Dean’s Fellowship. Arthur has also been admitted to Purdue University’s American Studies Department to pursue a five year PhD course of study and has been awarded Purdue University’s David M. Knox Fellowship as part of the funding for his prospective studies. Arthur accepted the offer from Boston University.
M.A. Candidate Lingyun Tao Discovering Alaska and the Grand Canyon over the Winter Break

In May, Juliane will begin to work at the Department of American Studies at Potsdam University, Germany. She will work as a research assistant for Prof. Dr. Ruediger Kunow, a scholar working in the fields of transnationalism, cultural imagination of aging and illness, transformation of literary representation, biocultures and Indian diaspora in the U.S. and Canada. At the same time, she will have the opportunity to continue her own studies.

FROM OUR FACULTY

Michael Carolan Receives Award from New England Newspaper & Press Association

Professor of Practice Michael Carolan received a history reporting award February 20 from the New England Newspaper & Press Association for his memoir/essay The War That Came After: 150 years ago today, a Valley writer’s great-great-grandfather went AWOL at the end of the Civil War. This is how he made his way home.

The essay was published in the Daily Hampshire Gazette (Northampton, MA, May 19, 2015). The award recognizes exceptional journalism produced by 450 publications in six New England states and had 3,100 entries in five categories. The article may be found at michaelcharlescarolan.com

Professor SunHee Kim Gertz has two Articles Forthcoming


Professor Esther Jones remains busy!

Professor Esther Jones has been awarded an American Antiquarian Society long-term National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship to be taken during her post-tenure research sabbatical in the Fall of 2017.

Along with the publication of her book last semester, Esther published an article entitled “Africana Women’s Science Fiction and Narrative Medicine: Difference, Ethics, and Empathy” in Afrofuturism 2.0, edited by Reynaldo Anderson and Charles Jones.

In April, she served as the panel chair for “Speculative Fiction, Digital Griot, and AfroFuturism” at the College Language Association Conference in Houston, TX.

Additionally, in December she attended the Phi Beta Kappa National Senate Meeting in Washington, DC, and served as the Chapter Representative for the Phi Beta Kappa Triennial Council in Denver, Colorado last October.

Esther will also attend the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes Health Humanities Institute in London, UK at King’s College of London June 26-28, 2016.

Professor Eric De Barros presents Paper

Professor Eric De Barros presented his paper “My fleece of woolly hair that now uncurls: Shakespeare’s Titus Andronicus, ‘Black’ Hair, and the Revenge of Postcolonial Education.” at Shakespeare and Our Time Conference, Old Dominion University, 14 April 2016 and at Shakespeare Association of America, New Orleans, LA, March 25, 2016.
**Professor Stephen Levin has been busy!**

In October, Professor Stephen Levin presented a paper entitled, “Theorizing the Inability to Play” at a conference on ‘Affect Theory’ in Lancaster, PA.


Steve presented at Emory University for a conference on “Transgressing Boundaries: Interdisciplinary Culture, Psychoanalysis, and Anthropology” (in honor of Robert Paul). He also presented a paper entitled “More Thoughts on Spreading the Plague: Freud on the Vitalism of Dead Object Worlds”, and co-organized a panel, with Pashmina Murthy of Kenyon College, on “Austere Subjects” at American Comparative Literature Association, March 2016, at Harvard University. This May Steve will be teaching at the Henry J. Leir May Term in Luxembourg.

**Emerita Virginia Mason Vaughan Speaks at Harvard**

The 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death on April 23 is keeping Virginia Vaughan busy this spring. On March 11 she gave a paper at the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University on "Shakespeare and the Myths of Hercules"; on April 16 she participated in a Symposium on "America’s Shakespeare" sponsored by Brown University at the Rhode Island Historical Society; and on April 21, she spoke on "Reimagining Shakespeare’s Miranda in Canadian Fiction" at a Symposium on Shakespeare and Canada, hosted by the University of Ottawa. You can also find her essay, "Critical Approaches to Othello" on the British Library’s "Discovering Literature" web pages (www.bl.uk).

**Professor Meredith Neuman attends Conferences in PA**

Meredith Neuman has had a busy conference schedule this year. She presented on teenage female poets in early America (with thanks to Laura Matthew, BA ’15, whose transcription of Deborah Pratt Ruff she cited in her paper) at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers, participated in a seminar on “Why We Can’t Read Nineteenth-Century Poetry” at C19 (where she got to catch up with Johanna Seibert, MA ’15, who was presenting her own work to great acclaim), and served as a respondent on a panel that was valiantly “Making Sense of the Mathers” (and during which not a single person fell asleep) at the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies. These conferences were held in Philadelphia, State College, and Pittsburgh, respectively, and so when Meredith returns to Philadelphia in May to be part of the concluding roundtable of the Early American Material Texts conference at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at University of Pennsylvania, she may just have to establish part-time residence in the state.

**Jessica Bane-Robert hosts Worcester Poet Catherine Reed**

Hosted by Jessica Bane Robert's Intro to Creative Writing class, Catherine Reed gave a poetry reading and workshop on April 8th. Ms. Reed, a former Clark graduate and resident of the Main South neighborhood, read from her third book of poetry, *Sankofa*, and facilitated writing exercises. Audience members were offered a book and signing by this local poet.

**Jessica Bane-Robert presents at Conference**

Professor Jessica Bane Robert presented "Beyond the Wringing Center Doors: Shining the Light of Reflection and Personal Narrative" at The Northern California Writing Centers Association 2016 Annual Conference at Santa Clara University on April 2nd. This workshop discussed the innovations happening through collaborations at Clark and provided participants with a toolbox of reflective practices aimed at strengthening student narratives and self-authorship. She has been invited to give a similar pre-conference workshop at the NACADA annual conference in Atlanta in October.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

International Students Attend Luncheon

China Scholars Council Awardee and Zhengzhou University of Aeronautics Assistant Professor of English Peili Niu spent the academic year as a Visiting Scholar with Clark's English Department, working with our own Professor Lisa Kasmer. Among other things, she has completed a translation of two in a series of five feminist articles, for which she just gained permission from the author and Johns Hopkins Press to publish in an academic journal, which is likely to be the PRC journal Foreign Literature.

Visiting Scholar Peili Niu Translates Chinese Feminist Articles


Clark Writes hosts spring writing forums

The official Clark University English Department blog, Clark Writes, showcased original work from members of the Clark community at their Spring Creative Writing Forums in March and April. Clark Writes is always looking for submission, and if you’re interested, email clarkwritesblog@gmail.com for more info.

Vicki Steifel publishes Chest of Bone

Vicki Steifel sold her most recent novel, Chest of Bone, a paranormal romantic suspense to Curiosity Quills Press. The novel—the first in her new series, the Afterworld Chronicles, about an unawakened Mage, a deadly deceiver, and an alliance that will change the world—will be published Winter 2016.


Congratulations Tajsh and Tom!

Congratulations to English Department student office assistants Thomas Matthews and Tajshana Solomon, who are graduating this year. Tajsh will attend Smith College in the Fall for a Masters Program in Psychology. Tom will remain in New England and pursue a journalism career.

A Special Congratulations to Terri Rutkiewicz

Program Assistant, Graduate Studies in English Recipient of a Master of Science in Professional Communication!
The English Department Cordially Invites you to

WASSAIL

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 2015
4:30PM
ANDERSON HOUSE

PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE END OF A SUCCESSFUL FALL SEMESTER!

Hot apple cider, cocoa, & delicious treats will be sure to take the winter chill away!
Carol Bailey, M.A. ’99, Professor of World Caribbean and Cross-Cultural Literature at Westfield State University, spoke at Clark University April 22 as part of a dialogue about African and Caribbean identities.

Seokyeong Choi, M.A. ‘11, received and accepted an offer of admission from Texas A&M PhD in English and will continue her Ph.D. studies in Fall 2016. Last year, she completed her doctoral coursework at Seoul National University, and now teaches English undergraduate students at SNU. She writes, “I would like to express my deepest thanks to SunHee for all of the help and wonderful guidance she has provided me. Looking forward to going back to the States. I often think of my days and friends at Clark, and am cheered by those great memories. Hope to see you again soon!”

A message from Jim Dempsey, M.A. ’78: “I am the editor of The Worcester Journal, an international nonprofit magazine for young and aspiring writers, and I would like to extend an invitation to your students to submit their work. We publish all genres, although we have a not-so-secret bias toward creative nonfiction. We are happy to work with young writers at all stages of the creative process, from conception through execution to final editing. We would be delighted to hear from your talented writers. Our submission guidelines may be found at http://www.theworcesterjournal.com/submissions/”


Exploring the highly literate novel, Elizabeth Costello by J. M. Coetzee, Jin Lee M.A.’10 co-organized a session for the Northeastern Modern Language Association conference this year. Aimed at helping undergraduates understand the novel’s classical allusions, Jin Lee’s paper in the session was entitled, “Inter/Anti-Text: Coetzeean Reading of the Classic for a Postcolonial Class,” to discuss the ways in which Elizabeth Costello engages with the question, “What is a Classic?,” using intertextual and postcolonial approaches.

Congratulations are in order for Olga Malinovskaya, M.A. ‘03! Olga successfully defended her Ph.D. Dissertation on “Teaching Russian Classics in Secondary School under Stalin (1936-1941).” She will receive her Doctorate of Philosophy from the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages at the University of Oxford, U.K. In her dissertation, Olga argues, “that for many teenagers growing up during this period, indoctrination in the classroom blurred the boundary between reality and fiction, and provided a moral compass to navigate their social environment, to judge others as well as themselves along prescribed lines, and model their lives on the precepts and slogans of the characters and authors they encountered, particularly the 19th-century radical democrats. Retrospective accounts – interviews, memoirs, and written responses to questions – expose the durability of the moral and ethical lessons derived from Russian classics and reveal the enduring Soviet emotional complex formed by this literary instruction.” CONGRATULATIONS, OLGA!

Ona Russell, M.A. ‘90 is an author, lecturer and credentialed mediator. She got her PhD in literature at the University of California, San Diego, where she eventually began teaching. While teaching at UC San Diego, she developed a course on literature and the law that was accredited for continuing education by the California Bar Association. She has presented this course to legal organizations throughout the state. In addition to her 1920s historical mystery series, she has been published in newspapers, legal journals and literary magazines. In 2015, she was awarded a silver medal by the Independent Publisher's Book Awards (IPPYs) for Rule of Capture, and in 2009, she was named a finalist by the California and San Diego Book Awards for The Natural Selection. www.onarussell.com

Amber Vayo M.A. ’07, M.S. ’11 recently published a chapter, “What the Green Grass Hides: Denial and Deception in the Suburban Gothic” in Gothic Landscapes: Changing Eras, Changing Cultures, Changing Anxieties. Vayo was also accepted into a PhD program at University of Massachusetts, Amherst in political science.
Louis Bastien, Ph.D.
Professor Bastien is a committed Generalist who teaches a wide variety of undergraduate courses, from Introduction to Literature and First Year Seminars to intermediate level classes in romance, tragedy, and Major British Writers I and II. He also teaches an advanced seminar in Mythopoetics, a study in Modernism. 

The Epic F’15
Seeing New Englandly F’15
Modernist Literature F’15
Intro to Lit Analysis S’16
Fabulae Genre of Romance S’16
Mythopoetics S’16

Eric De Barros, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of English. Professor De Barros’ research centers on the politics of embodied subjectivity and specifically examines how Renaissance thinkers confronted the theoretical tension between the body and discourse to work through the period’s most pressing concerns.

Major British Writers I F’15
Studies in the Renaissance S’16
Intro to Shakespeare S’16

James P. Elliott, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair of English. Trained as a 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 forty years.

Contemporary Literary Theory F’15
The Short Story S’16

SunHec Kim Gertz, Ph.D.
Professor of English, Director of Graduate Studies in English. Professor Gertz’s research and publications are centered in western European literature in the late Middle Ages, semiotic theories, and political power.

Intro to Grad Study In English F’15
Pedagogy II and IV S’16

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

Sci-fi and the Mind of the Other F’15
Fictions of Asian America S’16

Esther Jones, Ph.D.
E. Franklin Frazier Chair, Assistant Professor of English. Professor Jones specializes in the study of black women writers in the Americas, with a focus on the intersections of race, gender, class, and nationality and theorizations of difference.

Medical Ethics in Sci Fiction F’15
African American Literature I F’15
African American Literature II S’16
Special Topics in AfricAmer Lit S’16

Lisa Kasmer, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of English. Professor Kasmer’s research and teaching interests center on gender studies in 18th- and 19th-century British literature.

The Gothic F’15
Traumatic Tales: Brit Rom Lit F’15
Major British Writers II S’16

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

Web and Labyrinths F’15
Fictions of Empire S’16

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

Major American Writers I F’15
American Print Culture F’15
Voicing the Verse S’16
Intro to Archival Research S’16

Jessica Bane Robert, M.F.A.
Intro to Creative Writing F’15

Ashley Barry, T.A.
The Gothic F’15
Intro to Literary Analysis, S’16

Michael Carolan, M.F.A.
Creative Writing: Nonfiction F’15
Intro to Literary Analysis F’15 F’16

Cynthia Conti
Not teaching Fall 2015
Cultural Discourse: Advertising

Megan Dawley, M.A.
Major American Writers II S’16

Johnathan Dickstein, Ph.D.
Culture & The News S’16

Keith Dooley, T.A.
Major British Writers I F’15
Voicing the Verse S’16

Karl Hartshorn, M.A.
Expository Writing F’15
Intro to Literary Analysis F’15 F’16

Joan Houlihan, M.A.
Creative Writing: Poetry F’15 F’16

Arthur Kamy, T.A.
Intro to Literary Analysis S’16

Stephanie McGrath, T.A.
Women Writers I F’15
Intro to Shakespeare S’16

Ethan Myers, M.A.
Introduction to Literary Analysis F’15

Karen Osborn, M.F.A.
Advanced Creative Writing F’15

Jacqueline Schneiber, T.A.
Intro to Literary Analysis F’15, S’16

Vicki Stiefel, M.F.A.
Writing for Modern Media F’15, S’16
Writing the Novel I and II F’15, S’16

Jessica Thelen, T.A.
Capstone F’15
Intro to Literary Analysis S’16

Lucilia Valerio, Ph.D.
Introduction to Literary Analysis F’15 F’16
Women Writers I F’15
Contemporary Latino/a Lit F’16

Jacqueline Schneiber, T.A.
Introduction to Literary Analysis F’15

Emeriti Faculty

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

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

Fern L. Johnson, Ph.D.
sociolinguist specializing in the study of ethnicity, race, and gender in discourse.

Virginia M. Vaughan, Ph.D.
Early Modern English literature, with an emphasis on Shakespeare.

Adjunct Faculty

Gino Dilorio, Ph.D.
Visual and Performing Arts

Jaan Valsiner, Ph.D.
Psychology

Robert Tobin, Ph.D.
Language, Literature and Culture

Michael Bamberg, Ph.D.
Psychology

The Writing Center

The Writing Center is located in the LEEP Center on the second floor of Dana Commons. 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 and Volunteering (CEV)

Located in the LEEP Center on the first floor of Dana Commons, the Center assists students in finding a community service placement suitable for a particular class requirement or personal interest. You may contact Micki Davis, CEV Program Coordinator, at 508-421-3785 or cev@clarku.edu.

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