Graduating Seniors

ENGLISH MAJORS
Emma Baker
Jonah Beukman
Crystal Carpenter
*Lauren Cyr
Jessica Davis
Maraed Dickinson
Andrew Doig
Isaac Goodman
Kathryn Gummoe
Hallie Hayden
*Shalyn Hopley
Alexandra Katechis
Adam Kelley
David Lwamugir
*Claire McDonald
Peter Murphy
Erin O’Kelly
Victoria Patlajan

ENGLISH MINORS
Christopher Booth
David Carter
Laura Fleischmann
Joshua Goldberg
Molly Igo
Austin Knief
Jennifer O’Rourke
Luke Scanlan

*Recipient of Departmental Honors

M.A. Candidates Receiving Their Degrees 2013—2014

MAY DEGREES
Annika Becker
Alexandra Finn-Atkins
Stephanie Grace
Diane Kelleher
Emma (Mackie) Martin
Ayesha Sindhu

AUGUST DEGREES
Tugba Polatcan
Angela Woodmansee

Welcome to new Assistant Professor of English Eric DeBarros, who was hired for the Early Modern Position!

Congratulations to Betsy Huang for being voted outstanding teacher by the senior class!

Inside this issue:
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2 From the Chair
   Spring Fling
3 Undergraduate News
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5 Award Winners
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14-15 Senior Brunch Photos
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Ah, Change! We must bid farewell to two retirees this semester—Ginger Vaughan and Fern Johnson—and congratulate them on their looming Emerita status. They will both stay around Clark—sort of—as Research Professors, and I hope they will drop by occasionally. In the meantime, with a mixture of sadness for their leaving and gratitude for all the wonderful things they have done for us, we wish them well in what Ginger calls “The Endless Sabbatical!”

At the same time, though, we welcome Eric DeBarros as our newest hire: Assistant Professor of Shakespeare and Early Modern Literature. We have already hung out with Eric, Khym and their daughter Cirë and I’m sure they will continue to find a congenial and gracious department. He comes to us from SUNY Oswego, where he was a Visiting Assistant Professor for three years after getting his PhD from the University of Illinois at Champaigne/Urbana. It will be delightful to incorporate him into our daily departmental lives.

I have some other announcements that reflect well on the English department. Betsy Huang was selected as Clark’s Teacher of the Year for 2014-15, and Shalyn Hopley, our own English major and Paula’s excellent Work-Study assistant, won Clark’s Jefferson prize for the outstanding Clark senior of the class of 2015. Congratulations to both! It’s just the latest gambit in our plan to take over the university! Also, Nick Porcella was selected as the Carter prize winner—the best rising senior—and will climb the corporate ladder, as it were, to move from junior to senior representative to the Chair. Elsewhere, you’ll find him, and the other winners, in the list of writing contest winners, as the first-place poet.

Continuing with the idea of change, I wish to congratulate all our graduating seniors. May you have good fortune in your quests beyond the comfy confines of college. And to our MA grads: Cheers! I hope you will keep in touch!

I’m looking forward to a summer that will not, unfortunately, be endless, but I’m also gleefully anticipating a great year next year, as the department adjusts to its changes. Happy summer, everyone!

Jay Elliott

Spring came to Anderson House with our annual Spring Fling end of semester celebration. Thanks for joining us!

We’re on the web! www.clarku.edu/english
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For the past two years as Representative to the Chair, my favorite job has been to go to the Accepted Students’ Days and Majors Fairs. I love this job because I love being asked questions about my English major and the department. I’ve been asked a lot of questions from “How many creative writing courses are there?” to “What is your favorite class you’ve taken?” from “What do you do in an English class?” to “What will you do with your English degree?” However, I have never been asked the question I most want to answer which is “What advice do you have for an English major here?”

That being said, advice-giving is a didactic business, and usually I try to avoid the overly moralistic. However as I come to the end of my student career at Clark University, I feel a drive to pass on what I have divined from my years here. I need to pass the English torch to a new set of students. Every time I am asked a question about course selection for next year or about the experience of writing an honors thesis, I’m reminded that this may be my last time I get asked those questions. So I declare this writing my final piece of English advice. It is a bittersweet feeling to give my last bit of advice as a Clark English major, but it is the closure I want on what has been a wholly unique and overwhelmingly positive chapter of my life.

My first piece of advice would be to take a lot of English courses, even when you don’t have to or don’t think you’d be interested in the subjects. Some of my most interesting courses have been in subjects I never thought I would like. Intro. to Archival Research, 18th Century British Literature, Gender and Discourse: I did not go in thinking I would be excited to come to each class. Yet I think that Clark, and the English Department especially, is really good about sharing passion. The professors made the course material accessible and exciting; their interest and obvious enthusiasm was contagious. I may never study colophons again or do another transcription of a television advertisement, but I am glad I did so while I’ve been here even though I did not have to do it to complete my major.

Counter-intuitively I also advise that you take a lot of non-English courses. There are so many courses out there that can really complement what you learn in English. My sociology courses and geography courses have been a lot of fun to take and often-times provided me with a different set of information to bring to my projects in English. I finally got around to taking a history course and now I regret not having done so sooner.

My final and most important advice I have to give to English majors and really anyone at Clark is to get engaged with what you are doing. Do the coursework; read the texts; talk in class; find a project that speaks to you. Moreover, I think you should get involved in your department. I work in the English Department, I take classes in the English Department, I come to office hours in the department, and I go to events to represent the department. Most days I take at least one trip by Anderson House. When my friends come to campus, 12 Hawthorne is one of the first places I show them. My professors not only know my name, but they know when I am headed home for the weekend or when I get invited to Phi Beta Kappa.

As I look across the country for a new job and community, in what I am sure will be the first in a series of jobs and communities, I know Anderson House will always be my first “new home,” an always sunny yellow, always warm place, in my reminiscences because of the students, professors, and staff I know here.

English Senior Capstone Class Creates Online Literary Project

In Fall 2013, the English senior capstone class, led by Professor Betsy Huang, participated in a nation-wide synchronous teaching program, the Mixed Race Initiative (http://aalrmag.org/mixed-race-initiative/) organized around literature by and about mixed race people. As part of the project, Professor Huang and the students created MIXLIT, a Digital Exhibit of Mixed Race Characters in Literature and On Screen. The exhibit features an interesting array of characters from a diverse body of literature and film. All character entries are selected and written by the Capstone students and feature descriptive, analytical, and bibliographic information.

The exhibit, now a public website, can be accessed here: http://wordpress.clarku.edu/mixlit/. It’s a must-browse!
Congratulations to all English Majors who presented at Academic Spree Day on Wednesday, April 23

**Poster Presenters:**

Alexandra Katechis ’14 (sponsor: Professor Betsy Huang) Making Meaning and Magic through Abecedarian Poems.

Apollonia Roman ’14 (sponsor: Professor Betsy Huang) Conversations Across the Atlantic: An exploration of communication through American poetry.

MixLit: A Digital Exhibit of Mixed Race Literary and Screen Characters. (sponsor: Professor Betsy Huang)

Emma Baker ‘14, Shalyn Hopley ‘14, Charlotte Turner ‘14, Crystal Carpenter ‘14, Apollonia Roman ’14, Hallie Hayden ’14, Jonah Beukman ’14, Peter Murphy ’14, Adam Kelley ’14, James Tyler ’14, Claire Tierney ’14, Ma-raed Dickinson ’14, Andrew Doig ’14, Erin O’Kelly ’14, Elisabeth Valinski ’14, Claire McDonald ’14, Jessica Davis ’14, David Lwamugira ’14, Lauren Cyr ’14, Kathryn Gummoe ’14, Isaac Goodman-Boyd ’14, Michael Steigman ’14, Ilana Yoneshige ’14, Victoria Patlajan ’14, and Alexandra Katechis’ 14.

Prentiss Cheney Hoyt Poetry Contest winners:
1st place: Nick Procella ’15 — “Less Than a Year”
2nd place: Sharon Broadway ’14 — “The Elephant Graveyard”
3rd place: Ava Molnar ’14 — “Father Moon You Have Made Me”

Betty & Stanley Sultan Short Story Contest winners:
1st place: Emma Pierson ’14 — “Lost and Found”
2nd place: Laura Barker ’17— “Seven Deadly”
3rd place: Sarah Wells ’17 — “A Merciful Fog”

Loring Holmes and Ruth Dodd Drama Contest winners:
1st place: Lillian Schley ‘15 — “Don’t Leave Me Hanging”
2nd place: Jordon Formichelli ’14 — “Sanity (Love Songs from Her Asylum)”
3rd place: Ava Molnar ’14 — “Seedlings”
The 2013-14 winner of the William H. Carter Prize is Nick Porcella ‘15. 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 Shalyn Hopley!

Congratulations to Shalyn Hopley who received the Howard Bonar Jefferson Prize and a Residential Life and Housing Award.

Panel Presenters—Capstone Projects:
Faculty Sponsor: Betsy Huang

Panel 1: Consuming Pop Culture Critically: On Harry Potter, Chick Lit, 30 Rock and Hipsters

Jessica Davis ‘14, Victoria Patlajan ‘14, Maraed Dickinson ‘14, and Hallie Hayden ‘14

Panel 2: A Queer by Any Other Name: Excerpts from Long and Short Fiction

Charlotte Turner ‘14 and Michael Steigman ‘14

Panel 3: Femininity, Masculinity, and the Ethics of Voice

Shalyn Hopley ‘14, Lauren Cyr ‘14, and Jonah Beukman ‘14

Virginia Mason Vaughan Prizes in English Awarded to Shalyn Hopley, Claire McDonald, Michael Steigman, and Charlotte Turner

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. Co-winners Shalyn Hopley ‘14 and Claire McDonald ‘14 took home prizes this year for their honors theses in the category of Critical Analysis, and Michael Steigman ‘14 and Charlotte Turner ‘14 received prizes for their Creative Writing theses.
It has been an honor to act as Director of Graduate Studies this academic year. I have especially appreciated getting to know each of the new students in the Master’s program both personally and intellectually—witnessing Nadia Gul’s shock at first encountering snow and hearing of her rediscovered interest in Pakistani literature; learning about the hockey team Wil Brown coaches and of his fascination with H.P. Lovecraft; discovering that Bella Che earned her driver’s license and watching her confidently present her scholarship on psychoanalytic criticism at the International Narrative Conference; listening to Bob Karockai’s excitement over his successful presentation at the HERA conference and learning of his interest in exploring the media coverage of the Rwandan genocide for his thesis; and, finally, hearing Natalie Kruse speak enthusiastically about both her introduction to African culture through her housemates in Worcester and her successful initiation as a TA. I have also enjoyed deepening my relationship with the continuing Master’s students Alex Finn-Atkins, Ayesha Sindhu, Stephanie Grace, and Annika Becker as I have watched each of them flourish and excel as they passed their Master’s defenses and completed their theses.

This semester our graduate students have continued to exhibit great success in their professionalization; nine of our graduate students presented at a conference this spring. Robert Karockai gave a paper at the Humanities Education and Research conference in Washington DC. Alex Finn-Atkins and Angie Woodmansee presented at the NELMA conference in Harrisburg, PA. Ayesha Sindhu, Stephanie Grace, Natalie Kruse, Nadia Gul, Yanyan (Bella) Che, and Tugba Polatcan participated in panels at the International Narrative Conference at MIT. It was exciting for me to see those graduate students who presented at the International Narrative Conference and witness their progress from Colloquium presentations to presentations outside their scholarly home.

This year we also have an exceptional number of Master’s students graduating whom I would like to congratulate: Annika Becker, Alex Finn-Atkins, Stephanie Grace, Diane Kelleher, Ayesha Sindhu, Emma (Mackie) Martin, Angie Woodmansee, and Tugba Polatcan. We will miss these students in our program, but I know they will have success in the new endeavors awaiting them. To all of the graduating Master’s students, please don’t forget to keep in touch with your home away from home.

I hope that everyone will attend the graduation on May 18th this year and come to the reception held in Anderson House afterward. Beyond that, have a wonderful summer!

Lisa Kasmer

Congratulations to the Following M.A. Candidates Who Will Receive Their Degrees in May:

Annika Becker, “Prescribing Smut in American Racy Papers”
Thesis Director: Lisa Kasmer.

Alexandra Finn-Atkins, “First Fruits of Women’s Wit’: Resisting Patriarchal Constructions of Womankind in Early Modern Women’s Writing”
Thesis Director: Virginia Mason Vaughan.

Stephanie Grace, “Yearning for a Place: The ‘Affliction’ of Adolescence in the Young Adult Problem Novel”
Thesis Director: James Elliott.

Thesis Director: James Elliott.

Thesis Director: Esther Jones.

Ayesha Sindhu, “Beyond Nativist Politics: The Impact of Class on Mumbai’s Culture of Cosmopolitanism”
Thesis Director: Stephen Levin.
When I was admitted to the Master’s program at Clark University as an international student from Germany, I already knew that I would take home invaluable experiences, great memories, and knowledge. If you have ever thought about going abroad or studying English, here is why you should definitely do it. What makes Clark’s English graduate program so special for me is certainly its small size, the familiar atmosphere, and the fact that every member contributes in making the program a success. Thanks to its international character, people from many different countries, like China, India, Pakistan, Turkey, the USA, and Germany, with versatile cultural and professional backgrounds, are brought together allowing a lively exchange of ideas and perspectives based on at least one common ground: the love for language and literature.

Thanks to the variety of courses offered, you may become interested in different topics and a broad range of literature that you have never thought or heard of. At the International Narrative Conference at MIT, for example, five of us graduate students participated in panel discussions which gave us the opportunity to put our acquired skills of writing quality research papers into practice and to gain experience in presenting in front of other scholars in the field. One of the panels, chaired by Professor Jones, evolved out of her course “Special Topics in African American Literature.” The discussion of personhood and bio- and medical ethics in the realm of literature and, more importantly, in our own lives was an enlightening experience that opened up new avenues of knowledge and perspectives, eventually leading me to the scholarly field of Disability Studies which now serves as the theoretical background for my Master’s thesis. In Professor Elliott’s “Contemporary Literary Theory” class, I learned how to deploy literary theory to our readings and real life experiences, and became aware of the importance of thinking critically and questioning everything.

More than just being a valuable academic experience, living and studying abroad has promoted my adaptability to a new culture and exposed me to different kinds of food. During my short stay, I was a bridesmaid in my Ghananian roommate’s wedding, learned how to cook Pakistani food and how to eat with my hands, went to an American hockey game, and saw my friend’s excitement of seeing snow for the very first time in her life. While your experiences allow you to discover and appreciate the benefits and positive qualities of a foreign country, it simultaneously lets you appreciate the good things in your home country. You furthermore find yourself confronted with your subliminal but long-cherished prejudices against a certain country and culture, eventually coming to realize that the biases and stereotypes turn out to be totally unjustified or absolutely true. (Yes, New England winters are really that bad!).

As I study abroad, I have realized that every challenge has turned out to be an invaluable experience that made me grow as a person. I learned that the benefits always exceed possible doubts and low points like homesickness which is why I encourage everyone to seize the chance of entering the enriching adventure of studying abroad. Don’t hesitate, just go and you will not regret it!

Stephanie Grace Accepted to Conference

Stephanie Grace presented at a graduate conference this March at Stony Brook University. Her presentation is entitled: "(No Homo)Social Bonds: Homosociality and Homosexuality in Young Adult Literature".

Stephanie also attended a the Mid-Atlantic Popular Culture Association Conference in Atlantic City at the Tropicana Resort.

Ayesha Sindhu Attends Conference

Ayesha Sindhu, current graduate student and Teaching Assistant for the English Department, attended a conference in Portugal last semester.

This photo was taken on the banks of the River Tagus in Lisbon.

Also, she was selected as a recipient for the Clark Graduate Student Council Travel Award for the same conference, and received $300 as prize money. This helped offsetting some of the costs she incurred in traveling to Portugal in November.

Samantha Marrazzo Accepts New Job

Samantha Marrazzo accepted a new position as the Associate Editor at Tropical Fish Hobbyist magazine. She will be responsible for both editing and various aspects of social media.

We’re on the web! www.clarku.edu/english
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Bob Karockai Attends Conference

A few weeks ago, I presented a paper at the HERA (humanities education research association) conference in Washington D.C. This was my first academic conference, first airplane ride, and first time out of New England. Full of anxiety and self-doubt, I arrived in Washington and took a train to the most luxurious hotel I’ve ever seen. Immediately upon entering the Fairfax on Embassy Row (which I learned later was the childhood residence of Al Gore and Jacqueline Kennedy’s favorite place to have a cocktail during the “Camelot” years), I was greeted by a HERA representative, given a schedule of events, and invited to an informal cocktail reception in the hotel lounge. Within forty-five minutes I found myself in the midst of an absolute Bacchanalia populated by academics. I learned much at that conference, perhaps foremost among them the absolute joy of being in the presence of seventy-five drunken P.h.D.’s. This first evening, sans drunkenness, set the tone for much of the rest of the conference. Simply put, I met an untold number of scholars whom I had become comfortable with and exchanged ideas with them. The conference became the perfect marriage of academia and blooming friendships as it progressed. My presentation went extremely well, in part because I suspect a number in the audience enjoyed my Worcester accent, which I employed without restraint. I left four days later feeling genuinely sad. My experience was so overwhelmingly positive that I plan to search for another conference in another part of the country as soon as I can afford to attend one. Thanks to Prof. Lisa Kasmer for teaching me to write and present a conference paper; Prof. Meredith Neuman for her almost supernatural ability to point out the exact sources I needed to add to improve my paper, and Prof. Peggy Korcoras for introducing me to the beauty and complexity I found within Hawthorne’s short stories.

Yours,
Robert Karockai, M.A. candidate

FROM OUR FACULTY

Fern Johnson and Marlene Fine Have Been Busy!

Fern Johnson wrote an article about the adoption of her two black sons, discussing how the experience has made her more aware of racial issues in the U.S. “Both of us [Marlene G. Fine] are academics who specialize in issues related to race, racial identity, and interracial communication. Our academic knowledge gave us a foundation, but we understood we needed to learn more. We didn’t understand, however, just how much more.”

Fern Johnson, along with Marlene Fine (Simmons College), were participants at two spring conferences focused on adoption.

1. In April, they spoke and led a dialogue at the American Adoption Congress in San Francisco on “Privilege and Power in Interracial Adoption.”

2. In May, they participated in the 8th Biennial Adoption Conference at St. John’s University (New York) by facilitating a workshop on “The Intersection of Race, Sexual Orientation, and Social Class” in adoption. The St. John’s conference is organized in collaboration with Montclair State University through a program titled “The Adoption Initiative.”

Fern Johnson and Marlene G. Fine also published a blog in the Huffington Post this past December about their book “The Talk” which addresses how to deal with cultural perceptions of Black men as violent and threatening.
**Thoughts after grading for the last time ~ Fern Johnson**

A few minutes past midnight last night, I submitted grades for my last semester at Clark. I’m retiring, re-orienting, and liberating myself from the biorhythms that characterize a faculty life. This August will be the 40th anniversary of my Ph.D. I began my faculty career in 1974 at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, where my home was the Communication Studies department. At UMass, I also had another life (some called it ‘going to the dark side’) in the administration, spending my last 5 years as Associate Provost and then Deputy Provost. I came to Clark in 1988 as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, a position I held until 1994. I was tenured in English at Clark (thanks to Ginger and some reasoning about needing a linguist), and thus began my many years as a faculty member here.

The one constant for me at Clark has been the deep connection of my teaching and research interests with discourse in my classrooms and faculty conversation across disciplines. I know for certain that the intellectual discourse at Clark moved my projects in particular directions. Trained more as a social scientist, I have loved being in an English department and the freedom this gave me to work across humanities and social sciences. It made me remember why I loved being an undergraduate English major. My engagement with the Communication and Culture Program (which I directed for a number of years) introduced me to colleagues in a number of fields who shared ideas and learned from one another. And it was the exciting 10-year run of the Women’s Studies Ph.D. program that brought me much closer to both an international perspective and the emerging new theories that were stimulating work against the grain.

For the role that students have played in my life, I can say with certainty that everything in my years here is about the teaching-learning connection in the Clark classroom. Every time I taught ENG 215—“Language and Culture in the U.S,” the terrain of the field was changing and I got to talk about this with my students. All of that talk is imprinted on my book, *Speaking Culturally: Language Diversity in the United States*. I can trace the development of my interest in the language of advertising as a major cultural text of our time to teaching COMM 101 and subsequently developing ENG 252—“Cultural Discourses of Advertising.” I thank my students for their role in helping me shape the research that went into *Imaging in Advertising: Verbal and Visual Codes of Commerce*. I’m not sure that I would have conducted research on language policy in the EU had it not been for the European graduate students in my “Language Policy” seminar. And the gender and discourse seminar students? Well, there was new material every time—even the fluidity was fluid, and we worked together to understand the importance of speaking as and about gendered beings, not to mention that reading Judith Butler moved dynamically with the semantic shift from “gender” to “gendering.”

What will I miss? Certainly my wonderful colleagues in the English department, which is simply the best department imaginable. And certainly the sparks of insight and questioning in classes with Clark students that can never be predicted but are, nonetheless, the A-1 privilege of this profession. Onward to life that starts each day with a much shorter list!

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**Michael Carolan Publishes Essays**

Michael Carolan published personal essays in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *Valley Advocate*, and broadcast on New England Public Radio, WFCR-FM (NPR affiliate in Western Massachusetts) in early February. They concerned the death of the actor Philip Seymour Hoffman. He published a holiday essay in the *Worcester Telegram-Gazette*, Newsworks.com, which was heard on WHYY-Philadelphia (NPR affiliate) on December 24.

Michael received a LEEP Grant for developing the new course English 111-Creative Writing: Nonfiction.

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**Virginia Mason Vaughan Speaks at Conference**

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Prof. Dr. Alfred Hornung receives 2013 Carl Bode-Norman Holmes Pearson Prize

The American Studies Association 2013 honoree for the Bode-Pearson Prize for Outstanding Contributions to American Studies is Prof. Dr. Alfred Hornung, only the second non-American to win the prize since its inception. The Bode-Pearson Prize, established in 1975, is one of the oldest and most prestigious awards in American Studies. The prize is awarded periodically at the annual meeting of the American Studies Association and includes lifetime membership in the ASA for the recipient. The prize is awarded to an individual for a lifetime of achievement and service within the field of American Studies.

Prof. Hornung’s publications and accomplishments in the field are impressive and too numerous to list here. Besides being a much-sought after Editor for prestigious journals in the field, he was the President of the German Association for American Studies as well as of the Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas. He is also the Honorary Director of the Center for Intercultural Studies at the Universität Mainz and has initiated numerous international programs, such as the Ph.D. programs at Columbia University and at Peking University, in addition to being honored with guest professorships literally all around the world. In the U.S., he was guest professor at Columbia University and fellow at Harvard, Yale, and the National Humanities Center.

Kudos to Prof. Hornung, whose connections to Clark’s English Department include advising Universität Mainz students who work towards a double M.A. degree with our program, faculty scholarship evaluations, guest lecturing at Clark, and co-sponsoring and participating in an international conference held in Luxembourg. Congratulations!

Our New Contact at the Universität Münster,
Prof. Dr. Katja Sarkowsky, Chair of American Studies

As a student, I tried my hand at a number of subjects in various places: linguistics, sociology, Japanese, philosophy, Russian, women’s studies in Trier, Trenton NJ, and Frankfurt; I finally received my MA in American Studies with minors in postcolonial literature and medieval German studies and then my PhD in American Studies from the Goethe-University in Frankfurt. Both my MA and my PhD thesis were written in the field of Indigenous literature. I was lucky to have enthusiastic and challenging teachers in Germany and the United States who stressed the importance of scrutiny, creativity, passion, and self-critical examination of the cultural and biographical embeddedness of serious scholarship; this I also try to communicate in my own teaching. My approach to American Studies — in teaching and in research — emphasizes the transcultural and transnational dynamics of literatures and cultures in North America, as well as the need to integrate theoretical frameworks of various disciplinary backgrounds. I am particularly interested in Native American/First Nations literatures and in Asian American/Asian Canadian literatures; in citizenship studies; in theories of space; and in the study of life writing. After teaching posts in Frankfurt and Augsburg, I now hold the Chair of American Studies at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in Münster. With it, I have taken over from my esteemed predecessor Prof. Maria Diedrich the honor of being the contact partner in Münster for the collaboration between our universities. I am very much looking forward to the future cooperation with colleagues and students from Clark University!

Our New Contact at the Universität Marburg,
Prof. Dr. Carmen Birkle, Chair of American Studies

DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY NEWS

Congratulations to Terri Rutkiewicz

Congratulations to Terri who is receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in Communications from Clark University this May. Terri is graduating with high honors and is continuing her studies toward a Master of Science in Professional Communication (2016).

A Fond Farewell to Shalyn and Lauren

A fond farewell to English Department student workers Shalyn Hopley and Lauren Cyr, who are graduating this year. We wish them the best in their future endeavors. You will both be missed!

Rose Goldich Lands Job at Habitat for Humanity

Rose Goldich, former English Department student worker, recently started her new job at Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester as their Development Associate. She will be assisting with grant writing, social media, and event planning. After she graduates in May with her B.A. in Economics, she will continue to work there full time! So far everything is going really well, but she still misses working at the English Department!

Welcome Professor Robert Deam Tobin, The Henry J. Leir Chair and Newest Adjunct to the English Department

The inaugural occupant of the Henry J. Leir Chair in Foreign Languages and Cultures, Professor Tobin, teaches comparative literature with an emphasis on sexuality, human rights, psychoanalysis, and German Studies.

Professor Tobin earned his A.B. magna cum laude from Harvard College and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Princeton University. While an undergraduate, he spent his junior year abroad at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich. As a graduate student he studied for two years at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität in Freiburg.

Having begun his academic career at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, Professor Tobin proved to be a well-loved administrator, an award-winning advisor and teacher, and a named chair (the Cushing Eells Professor of the Humanities), before coming to join us at Clark in 2008. At Clark, he has been perhaps even more successful, serving on a key Clark committee and a significant undergraduate task force as well as having sponsored and organized discipline-bridging, highly well-received events. Moreover, his work with students and his scholarship have won him a reputation as an excellent scholar-teacher.

Professor Tobin has received awards from the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (German Academic Exchange Service), and the National Endowment of the Humanities. He has been a Fulbright Senior Scholar, a Rockefeller Fellow, and most recently, in the Spring of 2013, the Fulbright Freud Visiting Scholar of Psychoanalysis in Vienna. Moreover, he has been elected to key committees of the Modern Language Association, the flagship organization for literary scholars.

Finally, Professor Tobin’s scholarship has garnered critical acclaim. He is the author of Warm Brothers: Queer Theory and the Age of Goethe and Doctor’s Orders: Goethe and Enlightenment Thought, as well as the co-editor of A Song for Europe: Popular Music and Politics in the Eurovision Song Contest. His most recent book, Peripheral Desires: The German Discovery of Sex, is forthcoming with the University of Pennsylvania Press.

Acclaimed Science Fiction Author Ted Chiang Speaks at Clark University

On March 27, 2014, Nebula- and Hugo-winning science fiction author Ted Chiang gave the inaugural lecture of “The Future of Everything” series, sponsored by the Higgins School of Humanities and the newly formed Science Fiction Research Collaborative, a cohort of faculty scholars of science fiction literature and cinema founded by Professors Betsy Huang, Scott Hendricks, Esther Jones, and Stephanie Larrieux. Chiang’s talk, titled “Memory, Technology, and the Narrative of the Self,” posed provocative questions concerning the development, use, and long-term implications of assistive-memory technologies such as life-logging and Google Glass. Predicting that the greater use of computers to record our personal lives will shift us away from relying on our own recollection of events and toward consulting digital video, Chiang asked the audience to consider how will this affect our sense of ourselves, and how it will change the way we understand our pasts.

Professor Huang, who hosted the event, conducted an extensive two-part interview with Chiang for the Asian American Literary Review in 2013. They can be found here: http://aarmag.org/specfictioninterviewchiang/

Chiang’s latest novelette, “The Truth of Fact, the Truth of Feeling,” can be found here: https://subterraneanpress.com/magazine/fall_2013/the_truth_of_fact_the_truth_of_feeling_by_ted_chiang

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Richard Blanco and Diversity & Inclusion

Our newest adjunct professor to the Department, Prof. Robert D. Tobin, and Clark's first Chief Officer for Diversity and Inclusion, Prof. Betsy Huang, co-hosted poet Richard Blanco on campus to what became, in the poet's own words, a "poetry stampede." Even after the audience moved from Razzo Hall to Jeff 320, aficionados were sitting in the aisles and later joined Prof. Huang for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion's inaugural event. What follows are the introduction made by Prof. Tobin, who invited Blanco to Clark and the remarks made by Prof. Huang on this memorable evening.

One year ago today, on Martin Luther King Day, 2013, I heard Richard Blanco, as he read at President Obama's inauguration. I was so proud of my country and my president to hear Blanco read his poem, "One Today."

To begin with, it was exciting to know that we had a president and a country that knew it needed poetry at the inauguration. Richard Blanco is only the fifth poet to read at a presidential inauguration, after Robert Frost, Maya Angelou, Miller Williams and Elizabeth Alexander.

When we think about poets and the nation, we can go as far back as the great Greek and Roman bards, Homer and Virgil, or the biblical Hebrew prophets, David, Isaiah and Jeremiah. They unified communities, collected memories, celebrated triumphs, and gave meaning to tragedies, cajoling their nations when they failed to live up to their ideals and consoling them for their losses. In many of his poems, Blanco follows in these traditional offerings of the poet to the nation.

It was also exciting to hear this particular voice on the national stage. Blanco—conceived in Cuba, born in Spain, raised in the Cuban immigrant community in Florida—was the first Latino and the first immigrant poet to read at an inauguration. As a gay man, he brought important new perspectives on gender and sexuality to the table. His training as an engineer bridged the gap between the sciences and the humanities. His current life in Maine brings him closer to us in Massachusetts.

Poets pay particular attention to language, to its rhythms and colorations, to word choice and grammatical structure, to metaphors and myths. Richard Blanco's background, his bilingualism, makes him particularly attuned to the subtleties and complexities of language. Anyone who has straddled the divide between two languages knows how things that are easy to say in one are more complicated in the other, how some very basic concepts in one culture turn out to be obscure and not at all self-evident in another. Blanco's poetry, as it slips between Spanish and English, invites us to scrutinize how we speak and how we think about such concepts as freedom, civil rights, and America.

Blanco's willingness to work in a sophisticated way with his many identities in order to help reconceptualize the nation puts his writing in the tradition of a poet he has often mentioned, Elizabeth Bishop. Bishop was born here in this city a little over a century ago. In one of her most famous poems, "In the Waiting Room," set in a dentist's office in Worcester, she makes an astonishing discovery: "You are an I." The poem continues, "I knew that nothing stranger / had ever happened, that nothing / stranger could ever happen." Blanco's ability to speak from a number of different distinct identity positions gives his readers—and listeners—new chances to experience the "I" in the other. That vivid presentation of the perspectives of previously excluded groups to a broad public was more than enough reason to ask Blanco to speak for and to the nation at the inauguration on Martin Luther King Day last year. Likewise, we are thrilled to welcome Blanco speak today on this holiday that celebrates the expansion of the franchise to more and more citizens.

[Before I finish, let me say thank you to some of the many colleagues who helped make this visit possible: the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (led by Betsy Huang), the Higgins School of the Humanities (directed by Amy Richter), Provost Davis Baird, Dean Mary Ellen O’Boyle, Foreign Languages and Literatures (chaired by Beth Gale), English (chaired by Jay Elliott), Political Science (chaired by Kristen Williams), Sociology (chaired by Shelly Tenenbaum) and the Program in Women's and Gender Studies (directed by Denise Bebbington).

After the reading there will be a reception and book signing in Dana Commons, where both Betsy Huang and President David Angel will say a few words. It's about two and a half blocks in that direction. Just follow the crowds to get there or ask someone who looks like they know their way around.]

And now ... from the White House to our house ... I present in honor of Martin Luther King Day, 2014 ... Richard Blanco.
MLK Day Reception Welcome Remarks Made by Professor Betsy Huang, Chief Officer of Diversity and Inclusion at Clark University

On behalf of the brand new Office of Diversity and Inclusion, I welcome all of you here at the “after party.”

I want to first thank Professor Robert Tobin for making Richard Blanco’s visit possible and for having the foresight to bring such an apt voice to speak for us at our inaugural Martin Luther King Day observance.

I want to thank you, Richard, for gracing us with your presence and your words. Toni Morrison had said that the felicity of language is in its reach toward the ineffable; you have demonstrated that eloquently today.

You also helped us reach for more expansive definitions of selfhood and nationhood. This, too, was a crucial part of Dr. King’s work. Our history is rife with the battles fought over how broad or narrow those definitions ought to be. And history has, for the most part, been on the side of breadth, of inclusiveness. You remind us how to be on the right side of history.

Here at Clark, we continue to expand our definition of what it means to be a “Clarkie.” We do so not to be exclusive, but to be inclusive, to provide everyone with a path to dreams, and tools to realize them. We do so to create contact zones not of conflict but of creativity, so that we accept and learn from difference, rather than try to stamp it out in service of insipid sameness.

Many here are already engaged in that work—allies across the campus who embody and promote diversity. I see in the crowd here so many individuals, from the student body, faculty, staff, and the administration—from very different biographical and professional trajectories, who work hard to make sure we flourish here.

It is instructive to see representation here from The Dean of Students Office, the Office of Academic Advancement, and the ACE program; the Office of Intercultural Affairs; the Student Leadership and Programming Office; student groups and clubs like OPEN, BSU, ACS, FOCUS, SIS, and others who work tirelessly to educate and raise awareness; the Athletics program; the Higgins School of the Humanities; the Difficult Dialogues initiative; departments and individual faculty who make intentional efforts to diversify our research and curricular programs; and all the staff who ensure a nurturing, inclusive working environment in which everyone has what they need to do their best work.

I see so many of you here at the reception, and I am grateful for your support of the work of this office. But we know that grand pronouncements are not the index of change, but hard work on the ground, in our daily negotiations and interactions. There is work ahead of us, and I invite all of you to participate in whatever way you can.

A special thanks to SunHee Gertz and her Diversity Task Force, whose recommendations put diversity and inclusion front and center as a core institutional mission. To Provost Baird, who has been instrumental in carrying out that mission with me. And, finally, to President Angel, who saw the need for this Office and responded.
**Senior Brunch Wednesday, May 14**

Senior Brunch was served to graduating seniors by faculty, staff, and administration. This year’s Senior Brunch was **Wednesday, May 14, 12:00-2:00 p.m. in the University Dining Hall**, followed by award presentations at 2:00. Paula, Terri, Jennifer Plante, and Jessica Bane-Robert happily served brunch.

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**FROM OUR ALUMS**

**Kimberly Bell M.A. ’95** was tenured and just recently promoted to full professor at Sam Houston State University, where she began teaching as an assistant professor in classical and medieval literature and history of the English language in 2002. She is Associate Director of the Honors College and has served as Interim Dean of the Honors College for the past year. In 2010, she won the university’s Excellence in Teaching Award, and in 2011, her second collection of essays was published: *The Texts and Contexts of Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Laud Misc. 108: The Shaping of English Vernacular Narrative*, Ed. with Julie Nelson Couch. Leiden: Brill. She is currently writing a monograph on metaliterary games in five Middle English frame narratives. Her five-year-old daughter, Avalon, loves Greek mythology and making her own illuminated books.

Married and with two children, **Kyle Brunel B.A. ’93** went on to Boston Architectural College before moving out to San Francisco, where she has carved out an incredibly full and fulfilling career for herself. Among other things, she is Artist in Residence at Cyprians ARC, a community organization for Arts, Resilience, and Community, whose mission statement is squarely in Clarkie terms: “Creating a community where everyone matters” to connect artists and others for a more resilient and sustainable future.” As Artist in Residence there, she creates paintings and teaches art classes; she is just completing, for example, a 450 square floor mural for an elementary school. Moreover, Kyle is a Team leader, Project Manager and Senior Project Designer for DGA, a San Francisco architecture firm, where she is able to articulate her firm belief in holistic design for large hospitals, small cancer clinics, university teaching facilities, state courthouses, and life sciences laboratories.
Carolin Böttcher M.A. ‘13 presented a paper titled "Kal? That's my name? - Questions of Identity in Zack Snyder's Man of Steel" at the PCA/ACA Conference in Chicago, April 16th - April 19th. Carolin is going to attend the PhD program in Literature at the University of California, San Diego.

Sheri Chriqui M.A. ‘03 and Georgia Rushing M.A. ‘06 have written essays that are being published in the book World Film Locations: Toronto, which comes out in March.

Josh Flaccavento M.A. ‘09 has happily accepted a Dean’s Fellowship offered by the English department at the University at Buffalo (alma mater of Clark’s own Dr. Betsy Huang). He will begin PhD studies there this fall, focusing on Modernism, poetry, and the literary applications of hypertext.

Genie Giaimo BA ‘06, MA ‘07 successfully defended her dissertation, "Unable to Remember But Unwilling to Forget: Cognition, Perception and Memory in the Contemporary American Memoir," at Northeastern University on February 4. Among the fifty-plus people who attended were a number of Clarkies: Jacob Seliger (Clark, 2006), Michael Gravina (Clark, 2005), Katherine O’Brien (Clark, 2007), and Nate Hogan (Clark, 2004). It was a joyous and collegial occasion!


From Jin Lee, M.A. ‘10: I would like to share this joy with you: I got an acceptance letter from Texas A&M!!! I am attaching the official hard copy. It's my first time to see the "fat envelope" which I have only heard of before. :)

Samuel Mattern-Schain B.A. ‘08 stumbled into a PhD program in organic chemistry at the University of Tennessee. He is now in his second year and co-wrote a paper called “Triggered Liposomal Release through a Synthetic Phosphatidylcholine Analogue Bearing a Photocleavable Moiety Embedded within the sn-2 Acyl Chain,” which was recently published in Chemistry– A European Journal.

Emily McGinn B.A. ‘03, M.A. 07 is now in my last year of my PhD in Comparative Literature at the University of Oregon. A digital project of Emily’s, a co-authored digital edition of Virginia Woolf’s short story "The Mark on the Wall," was just published this week with Scholarly Editing. http://www.scholarlyediting.org/2014/editions/intro.markonthewall.html

Amber B. Vayo M.A. ‘07 presented a paper on Harry Potter and student engagement at NeMLA in Harrisburg on April 5th. Pictured here is Amber and her daughter.

Brian Wessels B.A. ‘87 is a Principal Technical Writer at ARRIS Group in Lowell, MA. He graduated from Clark with a BA in English and an unofficial minor in Computer Science. He has been writing about networking for 25 years. His son Ben is majoring in Writing for Film & Television at Emerson College in Boston.
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FACULTY

Louis Bastien, Ph.D.
Lecturer. 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.

Introduction to Literature
Fabulae: Genre of Romance
Mythopoetics

James P. Elliott, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair 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 forty years.

The Short Story
Contemporary Literary Theory
Departmental Colloquium

SunHee Kim Gertz, Ph.D.
Professor of English, Director of Graduate Studies in English. Professor Gertz’s research and teaching interests center on postcolonial literature, transnational cultural studies, and critical and literary theory.

On Sabbatical S'14

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.

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

Language & Culture
Language Policy: US & EU

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.

Major American Writers II
Black Political Literary MVMTS

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.

Gender/Genre 19th C Brit Novel
Pedagogy II
Pedagogy IV

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.

On Sabbatical F'14

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

On Sabbatical S'13

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

Advanced Shakespeare

Jessica Bane Robert, M.F.A.
Mindful Choral
Intro to Creative Writing
Christiana Betts, M.A.
Fictions of Asian America
Michael Carolan, M.F.A.
Introduction to Literature
Creative Writing: Nonfiction
Cynthia Conti
Introduction to Communication & Culture
Media Policy
Alexandra Finn-Atkins, T.A.
Major British Writers
Genie Giaino, Ph.D.
American Ethnic Writers
Stephanie Grace, T.A.
The Short Story
Rachel Gans-Boriskin, M.A.
Culture & the News

Karl Hartshorn, M.A.
Expository Writing
Writing: Write & Read Illness
Joan Houlihan, M.A.
Creative Writing: Poetry
Natalie Kruse, T.A.
Intro to Literature
Ethan Myers, M.A.
Introduction to Literature
Expository Writing
Jen Plante, M.A.
Director of the Writing Center & Writing Program
Dialogue Sem: Failure
Ayesha Sindhu, T.A.
American Ethnic Writers
Vicki Stiefel, M.A.
Writing for Modern Media
Advanced Fiction Workshop II
Lucilia Valerio, Ph.D.
Introduction to Literature
Women Writers II
Kate Welch, Ph.D.
Major British Writers II

Emeriti Faculty

John Conron, Ph.D.
20th-century American literature
Serena Hilsinger, Ph.D.
Modernist literature and women writers.

Adjunct Faculty

Gino DiIorio, Ph.D.
Visual and Performing Arts
Jaan Valsiner, Ph.D.
Psychology
Robert Tobin, Ph.D.
Foreign Languages and Literatures
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)
The CEV is 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. Office hours are 9-5, Monday-Friday. You may also contact Micki Davis, CEV Program Coordinator, at 508-421-3785 or cev@clarku.edu.

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We’re trying out a new look for the English Department in this issue—let us know that you think.