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The English Department’s faculty and staff will host
A GRADUATION RECEPTION HOUR
for our graduates and their guests
MAY 17, 2015
at Anderson House
Immediately following Commencement

Graduating Seniors

ENGLISH MAJORS
Amanda Brogan
* Levi Byrne
Agustine Castile
Dashiel Davis
Victoria Delgado
Alanna Dinning
* Joel Helander
Kelly Herbst
Daphne Kinney-Landis
* Jeremy Levine
Jenna Lewis
Michael Mainuli
* Laura Matthew
Matthew Newburg
Adam Nye
Natasha Orzech-Byrnes

Mitchell Perry
Christopher Pirsos
* Nicholas Porcella
Elizabeth Robbins
Jessica Rymut
Delia Schroeder
Orfa Torres
Nicholas Sancho-Rosi
* Recipient of Departmental Honors

ENGLISH MINORS
Katherine Bogen
Zachary Fromson
Emma O’Melia
Mariah Shuck

M.A. Candidates Receiving Their Degrees AY 2014—2015

August 2014
Samantha Marrazzo

December 2014
Douglas Jake Baulf

May 2015
Nadia Gul

Tobias Hartl

Marie Schuchmann

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As this wacky-weather semester comes to a close at Spring Fling, I’d like to take the opportunity to congratulate all our graduating senior majors, as well as the winners in the various writing contests (they will be cited elsewhere in this newsletter). I’d also like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to Mitchell Perry and the Editorial Board of Clark Writes, the newly-reformulated version of the old Clark English Blog. After spending some time in the department as a work-study student, Mitchell came to me last fall with the idea to turn the outmoded blog into a departmental on-line literary magazine, and I strongly encouraged him to proceed. The result is viewable at clarkwritesblog.wordpress.com (also linked on the English department web page). He has assembled an Editorial Staff, which reviews submissions from all over the university, whether the writer be an English major or not. It is a marvelous outlet for many of our Clark writers, and I fully intend to continue supporting it in the coming years. Towards that end, the Editorial Board consists of all years—from first year through senior—thus guaranteeing continuity for the project even after Mitchell and other seniors involved graduate.

Simultaneously, during the second semester I also initiated a Creative Writing Forum, which met five times on late Friday afternoons and was closely allied with the Clark Writes crowd. Convening in such venues as the Fuller Music Room in the Library and the Little Theater, these forums offered the opportunity for Clark writers—whether or not they had been published in the journal—to present their work in any genre to a knowledgeable and receptive audience. The attendance averaged around 35-40 per session, and almost everyone considered the events to be an excellent supplement to the Creative Writing Program. One clear advantage emerged: the winners of the various writing contests could read their best entries, and those seniors with creative Honors Theses could present sections of their work as well.

I thoroughly applaud the energy and enthusiasm of Mitchell, the Clark Writes Editorial Board, and all those who presented. Keep up the good work!

Lest one think that the English Department has metamorphosed into a pre-MFA mindset, I can report that the department is getting stronger; we have been on a continually rising arc of majors each year since 2011. Including graduating seniors and recently declared first and second years, we are at present totaling 72 majors and 10 minors—both records for the post-Great Recession years. Eric DeBarros is fitting nicely into our curriculum, and the recent spate of sabbaticals and faculty leaves is temporarily over, giving the department a full slate of instructors for both semesters next year—for the first time in recent memory! Meredith Neuman reports that last fall’s Capstone seminar for the senior English majors was one of the strongest she’s encountered, and we had five quite accomplished Honors Theses this year.

If Spring is traditionally a time for renewal, it is also a time for the English department to take stock and be quite proud of its achievements. We are well positioned for the NEASC (that’s New England Association of Small Colleges) visit in the fall, which will inspect the university’s programs with the goal of renewing Clark’s certification. Have a good summer, all; and congratulations again to all the graduates.

**FROM THE CHAIR**

**UNDERGRADUATE NEWS**

*Jeremy Levine Receives James Bogdanoff Award*

*Katie Bogen and Joel Helander Receive Howard Bonar Jefferson Award*
FROM NICK PORCELLA, SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CHAIR

Graduation is bittersweet. In a month’s time, give or take a few days, I will be waltzing across a platform to shake David Angel’s magnificent hand and receive my diploma. Shortly thereafter—only two days after, in fact—I will be right back in a classroom to begin my Master of Arts in Teaching program in the Education department. So I cannot yet say that I will miss the violently swinging doors of Jonas Clark Hall. I cannot yet grow nostalgic about the idea of no longer walking past Freud. Certainly I cannot be sad just yet about no longer visiting the Goddard Library. All of these occurrences will continue for at least one more year.

I hope the same holds true for my visiting Anderson House. I will not say my farewell during Spring Pling, since after graduation I plan to continue to visit the place that I claimed as another home during my undergraduate career. Anderson House to me represents a distinct set of memories and anecdotes. For one, when I give an Admissions tour, Anderson House is always “the best building on campus.” I tell prospective students that it is “the place where I have classes in someone’s former living room and sit around a fireplace to discuss Lacan’s mirror stage or what Keats was getting at in ‘Ode on a Grecian Urn.’” But it is also the place where friends and I have chatted about baseball and travel, and where professors have met with me to discuss an internship or writing opportunity.

Quite frankly, I would challenge anyone on campus who said they had a better department to be a major in. The English department at Clark is made up of really smart people who really love what they do. That goes for professors and students alike, as well as staff. Much of that feeling for me is embodied in Anderson House. It is my understanding that the English department was once given the choice to stay in the old Victorian, or uproot and go elsewhere on campus (to a more “traditional” environment). It was a good choice to stay; I might even argue a vital choice. For me, walking up the stairs to Anderson is akin to visiting a dear friend. There is great comfort for me in walking into a big yellow house to go to Contemporary Literary Theory, or English Poetry, or Advanced Creative Writing. The bathroom that used to remind me of my ninety-year-old Aunt Olga’s has since been upgraded, but for the most part, in four years Anderson House has looked the same. The care here is constant.

I will miss the English department; I hope that the department does not feel jilted by my new adviser in Education. This is what the next step is for me.

I will never forget the morning that fourteen English Capstone students met on the front lawn of Anderson on an early Saturday morning in October. Our faces were bright; it was a parallel to the yellow paint in back of us. Before heading out for a class field trip to a museum some seventy miles away, we all sat—waiting for others to arrive—laughing about English major things: the Oxford comma, our Capstone readings, whether we preferred The Perks of Being a Wallflower or The Catcher in the Rye, and anything that came to mind, really. Anderson House hugged us like a caring parent: not wanting to give us up so soon but recognizing that great things happened beyond Hawthorne Street, as well. I recognize that Anderson House, and all the people and memories contained within, has given me so much. So while I am sad that I will soon no longer call myself an English major, I know that I can always return to that place which I have thought of as another home.

Virginia Mason Vaughan Prize in English
Awarded to
Nick Porcella and Jeremy Levine

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 Nick Porcella ’15 and Jeremy Levine ’15 took home prizes this year for their honors theses in the category of Creative Writing.

William H. Carter Prize in English
Awarded to Samantha Wallace

The 2014-15 winner of the William H. Carter Prize is Samantha Wallace ’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 to all English Majors who presented at Academic Spree Day on Wednesday, April 22

Poster Presenters:

Levi Byrne ‘15 (sponsor: Professor Meredith Neuman) Urban Fantasy.


Laura Matthew ‘15 (sponsor: Professor Betsy Huang) Transcending the Binary: Gender, Identity, and Representation.


Prentiss Cheney Hoyt Poetry Contest winners:
1st place: Jessica Hoops ’18 — “Ash Wednesday”
3rd place: Cara Yacino ‘15 — “These are Dark Times for Robots”

Betty & Stanley Sultan Short Story Contest winners:
1st place: Madhubanti Anashua ‘18 — “Mother”
2nd place: Laura Barker ’17— “Death’s Morning Routine”
3rd place: Sarah Wells ’17 — “The Observer”

Loring Holmes and Ruth Dodd Drama Contest winners:
1st place: Margaret French ’15 — “Garden Party”
2nd place: Laura Barker ’17 — “Move On/Slow Down”
3rd place: Chloe Anderson ’17 — “Reality Check”
Spring came to Anderson House with our annual Spring Fling end of semester celebration. Thanks for joining us!

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 13, 12:00-2:00 p.m. in the University Dining Hall, followed by award presentations at 2:00.
We are experiencing disconcerting times. The caricatures of human behavior stereotyping race, ethnicity, gender, and religion used to justify acts of violence—political, physical, or emotional—are shameful. Sadly, such ignorant stereotyping is part and parcel of our cultural landscape, fueling brutality that runs the gamut from Indiana to Ferguson to inexcusable fraternity racist and sexist taunts and barbaric actions, all of which is deeply harmful and destructive. The unwillingness to invest time and thought into our ethics and civic responsibilities not only assaults sensibilities, it also perplexes quite a number of us no end.

The penchant for either-or thinking (in and of itself already deeply undemocratic) is exacerbated further by those who would replace ‘either-or’ with ‘my way or the highway.’ The latter seems to be what characterizes the divisive behavior of Congress. What, for example, would possess the Republican House to submit a budget in March, whose intent, yet again, was to eviscerate the Affordable Care Act (ACA)? The Tea and Republican parties have tried to destroy the ACA well over 50 times since it passed into law in 2010. In doing so, these congressional ‘Representatives’ instantiate an intransigent inability to understand, or to want to understand, the most fundamental tenets of democracy: majority rules, and compromise is the lifeblood of government by the people. Over 50 defeats. Seriously. It’s time to accept and stop acting like spoiled children. In 2008, then presidential candidate Barack Obama articulated in his “a more perfect union” speech, how differences can lead to divisiveness, or they can be celebrated as strengths. Let us work towards the latter.

In our M.A. program, we try indeed to envision differences as strengths. This is evident in our embrace of students from all nations, our ability to respond flexibly to what our M.A. candidates wish to research, and our discussions both in formal and informal settings.

Allow me to close, then, by congratulating 5 of our students, who took their orals this academic year and already graduated or expect to graduate in May.

**August 2014 Degree**

Samantha Marrazzo, whose M.A. thesis, “You shall not write my praise: Exploring Modern Adaptations of Shakespeare’s Tragic Women,” was directed by Prof. Virginia Vaughan

**December 2014 Degrees**

Douglas Baulf, whose M.A. thesis, “The Political Necessity of Critical Thinking and Imagination: Performing a Queer Friendly America in Tony Kushner’s Angels in America and Moises Kaufman’s The Laramie Project,” was directed by Prof. Betsy Huang

Tobias Hartl, whose M.A. thesis, “Of Posthuman and Man: The Remains of the Ticklish Subject in Replicants, Cylons and Clones,” was directed by Prof. Betsy Huang

**May Degrees**

Nadia Gul, whose M.A. thesis, “Displacement and Identity Formation in the Novels of Bapsi Sidhwa,” was directed by Prof. Esther Jones

Marie Schuchmann, whose M.A. thesis, “Young Adult Dystopian Fiction-Suzanne Collins’ Hunger Games Series,” was directed by Prof. Jay Elliott

CONGRATULATIONS!

*And to everyone, have a productive, enjoyable, and thoughtful summer!*

SunHee Kim Gertz, Director of Graduate Studies in English
FROM GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE JOHANNA SEIBERT

Time flies, really. Virtually almost one year ago, I received the one letter I had been waiting for so eagerly: the acceptance letter from Clark, congratulating me on my successful application and welcoming me to the new academic year beginning in August 2014. While I had been awarded a Fulbright scholarship already, it was not until this very moment that I learned where exactly in the U.S. I would spend one year studying, researching, and living. Finally, at the beginning of August, I met my fellow students for the first time during the orientation week. Many new faces, both American and international students, all slightly nervous but also very excited. The first moment of awkwardness passed quickly when we started chatting about our hopes, expectations, and also anxieties about grad student life. Apparently, we were in this together now.

A couple of words on my own academic background: I am a Fulbright scholar from Germany and here at Clark I participate in a double degree program, one of the major reasons why I decided to apply to Clark. The program, which has grown out of a close partnership between Clark and Mainz University in Germany, provides students with the unique opportunity to experience both academic and cultural environments and to receive degrees from both institutions. So, I spent the first year of graduate studies in Mainz and then the second one at Clark. On my final thesis I work with scholars from both institutions and I will defend my thesis here and also in Germany.

Apropos of thesis work, my time at Clark has been particularly productive, enriching, and illuminating in terms of my own final project on early black newspapers from the Caribbean. At Mainz, I have specialized in the field of early American studies and accordingly the plan was to do archival research at the American Antiquarian Society (AAS) in Worcester for my final thesis. But before coming to Clark I had never done archival research and thus lacked even the basics. When arriving here, Professor Neuman, my first reader, offered to show me the ropes and created an individual directed study course on “Early American Archive Methods” for me. On a regular basis we met at the AAS – learning by doing so to speak. I still think the directed study option is one of the major advantages of studying at this Department, allowing students to develop and to pursue individual research interests under the supervision of experienced scholars. The proximity to one of the major archives in this country is certainly a second big plus of Clark’s English program, especially for scholars interested in Britain and the early Americas, in their histories, literatures, and cultures.

While graduate studies means commitment, it does certainly not mean academic commitment exclusively. To be a graduate student is also to engage in extracurricular activities, to experience campus life, to connect with the local community outside the university. It thus literally means to get up from your desk and to leave the library and the classroom from time to time. Me personally, I would not want to miss my experiences as a grad student representative. As a rep, I am mainly responsible for attending grad student council meetings as well as for communicating student concerns to both the council and the English faculty. During the last two semesters, while holding this position, I did not merely get a real insight into campus politics. It was also incredibly fun! The same applies to my experience at Goddard School of Science and Technology in Worcester, where I have been working once a week on language acquisition with third graders whose first language is not English. Seriously, to read and write poetry with these children has taught me so much about poetics, about poetical meaning.

I started by looking back to the moment we, the grad students of 2016, first met. And I really believe we have come quite a long way. Including struggles and breakthroughs, setbacks and progresses, joys and frustrations. I would like to conclude by thanking the whole English Department, both faculty and staff, for supporting us throughout this academic year! Last but not least, I wish you all nothing less than a marvelous break and all the best,

Johanna

Four English Department M.A. Candidates Present at Clark University’s 13th Annual Graduate Multidisciplinary Conference

The following graduate students presented papers April 8 at Clark University’s 13th Annual Graduate Multidisciplinary Conference.

Jessica Thelen, “Critiquing Capitalism in Abdelrahman Munif’s Cities of Salt: The Characterization of Ibn Rashed”
Lingyun Tao, “The Representations of Silence in Julie Otsuka’s When the Emperor was Divine”
MD Shamim Ahmad, “Hypocrisy in the Name of Christianity in Clotel: or, The President’s Daughter”
Lingyn Tao Attends Conference

M.A. student Lingyun Tao gave a presentation at the 15th Annual Graduate Student Conference, Conflicts and Resolutions: Tensions, Struggles, and Solutions in the Varied Discourses, convened by UNC Charlotte’s English Graduate Student Association on Saturday, January 24, 2015. Her paper was entitled, “One Conflict, Three Resolutions: A Comparison of Three English Translations of A Classical Chinese Poem.” Appreciative of both the beautiful city and the opportunity, Lingyun felt the plenary talk, “Identity, Conflict, and the Feeling of Emptiness,” given by Professor of Religion John Corrigan (Florida State University) was particularly compelling. Also noteworthy was Professor Tony Jackson, EGSA’s 2015 Professor of the Year, who not only praised Clark, but more importantly, enjoyed her paper and asked an interesting question about how she would have translated the classic Chinese poem at the heart of her presentation. Other appreciated questions involved the process of deletion and poetic form.

Ashley Barry Attends 24th Annual British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference

M.A. student Ashley Barry presented a paper at the 24th annual British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference in Savannah, Georgia in February, where temperatures went ‘down’ to the 40s. Her paper was titled “Speechlessness and Shame in Wide Sargasso Sea and Shame,” and she was part of a panel called Community Codes: Making and Breaking Them. The keynote speaker, Barbara Harlow, complimented Ashley on her paper for the juxtaposition of the two texts she chose. In addition to the sunny Savannah weather, Ashley particularly enjoyed the panel entitled Teaching the Effects of Colonialism. Ashley at Chippewa Square, site of the “Forrest Gump” bench scene.

Johanna Seibert Gives a Lunch Talk at the American Antiquarian Society

On May 12, graduate student Johanna Seibert gave a lunch talk at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, where she has been doing archival research throughout the academic year. She will speak on her thesis project on early black newspapers from the Caribbean. After her return to Mainz, Johanna will also present her work at the American studies research colloquium at Mainz University.

JT (Jessica) Thelen Participates in Student Researchers Workshop

With six other students, JT Thelen had the opportunity to take part in Prof. Alexander’s student researchers workshop on Tuesday, 12/2/14, during which she discussed her paper “The Holocaust Isn’t All There Is: Expanding the Jewish American Literary Imagination in Philip Roth’s The Plot Against America.” The participants’ current and future research interests comprised the focal point of the multi-disciplinary workshop, with topics spanning a range of subjects: Jewish American identity, trauma and gender, the partition of India, the displacement of Vietnamese refugees, the Holocaust, the Armenian genocide, and the Jewish diaspora in Argentina. JT writes, “This workshop was a great experience, and I am thrilled that I had the opportunity to share my research and ideas with other talented scholars and researchers.”

Johanna Seibert Attends Fulbright Enrichment Seminar

The enrichment seminar is not merely considered a major event in the annual Fulbright calendar. It is also a unique opportunity for all Fulbright students who are lucky enough to be accepted and to be invited to one of the seminars. The enrichment seminars, hosted during the academic year all over the U.S., are set up to provide a forum to first-year Fulbright students currently studying and researching in the U.S. – to network, to generate ideas, and to engage with topical social and political issues. One of the seminars took place towards the end of March in the beautiful city of Chicago, where more than 140 Fulbright students from over 60 different countries got together to engage with questions of “Youth Engagement and Empowerment.” Me, being one of them.

During the four-day seminar we attended discussion sessions, including a larger panel discussion with local experts on “Strategies for Encouraging Youth Empowerment and Engagement,” participated in interactive training sessions, and learned about youth projects in Chicago. The visit to a local Chicago prep college, to do community service on an urban farm, and the home hospitality evening we spent with American host families were further highlights, to name only a few. To state the obvious at the end: It’s been one of the most enjoyable, inspiring, and memorable experiences I made during my time as a Fulbright student here in the U.S. If you ever get the chance to, do apply!

Stephanie McGrath Attends Renaissance Forum

Graduate student Stephanie McGrath attended a Medieval Renaissance forum at Keen State University April 24-25.

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

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Eric De Barros Publishes Essay and Delivers Lecture


On May 1, Eric delivered an invited lecture entitled “‘My fleece of woolly hair that now uncurls’: Shakespeare’s Titus Andronicus, ‘Black’ Hair, and the Revenge of Postcolonial Education” as part of the University of New Hampshire’s First Friday Series.

Virginia Mason Vaughan Keynote Speaker

Professor Emerita Virginia Mason Vaughan’s book, The Tempest: Shakespeare in Performance (Manchester University Press) will be re-issued in a paperback version this summer.

Ginger was the keynote speaker at the conference, “Shakespeare recreated: New Contexts, New Interpretations” at the University of Lodz, Poland, April 22-23, 2015.

Stephen Levin to Publish Essay and Present Paper

Professor Stephen Levin was invited to contribute an essay to the Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Travel Writing, to be published by Cambridge University Press in 2016. His essay is titled ‘Imaginary Tourists: The Fashioning of the Global Traveller in Postcolonial Fiction’.

Steve will present a paper at the African Literature Association conference in Bayreuth, Germany in June. His paper is titled “Rereading the Catastrophe: The Future of the Negative in Three African Novels.”

Esther Jones Has Been Busy!

Professor Esther Jones has two book chapters that have been published in edited collections. The first, “Untangling Pathology: Sex, Social Responsibility, and the Black Female Youth in Octavia Butler’s Fledgling” in Black Female Sexualities, Trimiko Melancon and Joanne M. Braxton, eds. Foreword by Melissa Harris-Perry. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2015.

The second, “What’s My Name?:” Reading Rihanna’s Autobiographical Acts in Rihanna: Barbados World-Gurl in Global Popular Culture, Heather Russell and Sir Hilary Beckles, eds. Cave Hill: University of West Indies Press, 2015. She will also present a paper by the same title for the Caribbean Studies Association conference to be held in New Orleans, LA at the end of May to launch the book.

Esther presented two invited lectures this semester. In February, she presented the lecture “Africa in the Public Imagination: Stereotypes, Sickness, and Saviors” as part of Quinsigmond Community College’s Sankofa Lecture Series here in Worcester.

She presented another version of this talk as a LEEP Lecture for Karl Hartshorn’s IDND 022-01 Writing and Reading Illness course. The lecture was titled “Stereotypes, Sickness, and Saviors: A View of Ebola from Below.” LEEP Lectures offer alternative perspectives on course subjects and materials that would not otherwise be represented in the course; they are designed to surprise, challenge, and illuminate perspectives as well as engage LEEP Learning Outcome 4: Ability to Integrate Knowledge and Skills.

Meredith Neuman Will Be Busy This Summer!

Professor Meredith Neuman will have a busy summer, beginning with a talk at the American Antiquarian Society’s "Digital Antiquarian" conference (about her work with the Mather family library), then a colloquium at UCLA (about her new book project), and a presentation at the Society of Early Americanists conference (as part of a roundtable on material textual objects and religious experience). After that, she will be taking a one-month fellowship at the Library Company of Philadelphia, where she will be working with poetry manuscripts and annotations in printed books.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Fulbright U.S. Student Program

Applications for 2016-17

Campus Deadline Date: Monday 21 September, 2015

Campus Fulbright Committee:
Prof. Thomas Kuehne (tkuehne@clarku.edu)
Prof. Ken MacLean (kmaclean@clarku.edu)
Dir. LARC Connie Montross (cmontross@clarku.edu)
Prof. SunHee Kim Gertz, Chair (sgertz@clarku.edu)

International Students Attend Luncheon

Fulbright, DAAD, and other International Awardees studying in Clark’s graduate programs this year attended a lunch hosted by Sun-Hee Kim Gertz. Also in attendance were the English Department’s Jay Elliott, Paula Connors, and Terri Rutkiewicz.

DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY NEWS

Congratulations Mitchell and Nick!

Congratulations to English Department student office assistants Mitchell Perry and Nick Sancho-Rosi, who are graduating this year. Mitchell and Nick are both staying at Clark for another year. Mitchell was accepted to Clark’s Master of Science in Professional Communication program and Nick was accepted to the English Department’s M.A. program.

Nadia Gul and Melike Sayoglu Attend the Northeast MLA Conference

Nadia Gul, MA '15, and Melike Sayoglu, MA '14, PhD '18, were a part of this year’s Northeast Modern Language Association meeting in Toronto, Ontario from April 30th to May 3rd.

Nadia presented her paper “Displacement and Identity Formation in Bapsi Sidhwa’s Novel An American Brat” in a panel entitled “Immigration and the Impact of Place in Post-colonial Women’s Novels.”

Melike chaired the panel entitled ”Slave Narratives from the Mediterranean and Middle East.” She also delivered her paper “Slavery and Travel Writings on the Ottoman Empire” in the panel.

In the fall of 2014, the English Department launched its revamped writing blog, Clark Writes. The vision of the new publication was to breakdown departmental barriers and provide a space for the entire Clark community to showcase their passions and talents for writing.

During its pilot year, the CW board of editors curated and contributed weekly postings consisting of creative fiction & nonfiction, editorials, and reviews of campus literary events. The blog also hosted its first poetry contest this spring, awarding prizes from local business to Natasha Orzech-Byrnes, Mohamed Elmaola, and Adam Nye for their winning poems on “The Intersection of Eating & Art.”

In an effort to enhance the opportunities offered by the department's creative writing program, the board also hosted a series of monthly forums where students and alum read and engaged in dialogue on their original writing.

The Clark Writes Board of Editors: (From left to right) Nick Porcella, Jess Hoops, Mitchell Perry, Molly Caisse, Eli Goldman, Laura Barker, and Tyler Sirokman
FROM OUR ALUMS

Steven Bruso, M.A. ‘08, has been pursuing his fully funded Ph.D. at Fordham University, where he specializes in Medieval English and Fantasy literatures. His dissertation, entitled "Knightly Male Bodies and Violence in Late Medieval and Fantasy Literature," examines the depiction of knightly violence and physicality in late medieval and fantasy narratives, in order to explore the relationship between violent masculine identities and the male body, and to consider how those identities and physicalities are 'translated' from late medieval romance into fantasy literature. His forthcoming article, "The Sword and the Scepter: Mordred, Arthur, and the Dual Roles of Kingship in the Alliterative Morte Arthure" will appear in Arthuriana. The photo shows Steve with his wife Colleen; the couple married in 2010.

The latest book from Myfanwy Collins, M.A. ‘12, is The Book of Laney, a young adult novel covering such topics as violence, mental illness, and self-reliance. Author of The Silver Linings Playbook, Matthew Quick, says this about the book, "Myfanwy Collins writes with big-time empathy and fierce courage."

Alexander Finn-Atkins, M.A.’14, is attending Fordham University’s Ph.D. program in English Literature this Fall where she is receiving a full tuition scholarship and a graduate assistantship. Alex was also offered a full tuition scholarship and a graduate assistantship from The University of Arizona, Tucson, and the University of Florida, Miami, but after much time and consideration chose to attend Fordham.

Jason Moore M.A. ’13 got married to Marybeth (Southard) Moore in November 2014 at the Starline Factory in Harvard, IL, celebrating with plenty of books, pizza, and cupcakes. Then in January they went to Disney/Universal to get off to a magical start by visiting Magic Kingdom and the Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

Susan Munroe, B.A. ’05, continues to roam the globe, gathering experiences and challenging herself to learn more about the world and the environment. In the summer of 2014 she spent her fourth season working as a whitewater rafting and mountain biking guide in southern Utah (www.bikeraft.com), leading clients into the wilderness and teaching them to appreciate and protect our country's wild places. In October she expanded her guiding resume by working for three weeks on an expedition cruise to Antarctica (http://susanmunroe.com/south-very-south), rounding out the year with a three month trip to Australia. She'll be back in Utah for another summer of guiding in April - come visit!

Peter Murray, B.A. ’09, M.A. ’10, was awarded a Harry Ransom Center Dissertation Fellowship and a NeMLA summer fellowship to conduct archival research for his dissertation, “Precarious Children: The Politics of the Child in 1930s Transnational Feminist Writers,” this summer at the University of Texas, Austin. In addition, Peter received grant-in-aid from Fordham University to participate in the Institute of Critical Social Inquiry at The New School. He will participate in Patricia Williams’s seminar, “Racial Formation and Justice Today,” and workshop his article on contemporary poet Claudia Rankine’s Don’t Let Me Be Lonely (2004).

Ona Russell, M.A. ’90, has a new historical mystery, Rule of Capture, that was recently published by Sunstone Press. Set in 1928 Los Angeles against the backdrop of the once notorious Julian Petroleum stock swindle, the story involves the murder of a Mexican woman and a sinister secret upon which part of Los Angeles was built. Kirkus Reviews called it "an entertaining whodunnit with a striking protagonist and a compelling cultural backdrop," and the book just received honorable mention at the Los Angeles Book Festival Awards. Ona also has an essay, “Without His Fingers,” soon to be published in Philadelphia Stories magazine. The essay is about Ona’s uncle who briefly played violin with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Anousa Singhavong (MA ’12), in a recent picture with his wife and son, Boualamphanh and Athirath, sends greetings from him and his family.
**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FACULTY**

**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.  
*Introduction to Literary Analysis*  
*Major British Writers I*  
*Mythopoetics*

**Eric De Barros, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor of English. Professor De Barros’ research centers on the politics of embodiment, 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.  
*Introduction to Shakespeare*  
*Studies in Renaissance*

**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*  
*Departmental Colloquium*

**SunHee 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.  
*Departmental Colloquium*

**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.  
*On Leave S’15*

**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*

**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.  
*On Sabbatical S’15*

**Stephen Levin, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor of English. Professor Levin specializes in contemporary British and post-colonial literature, transnational cultural studies, and critical and literary theory.  
*Fictions of Empire*  
*English Poetry*

**Meredith Neuman, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor of English. Professor Neuman teaches and researches in the fields of early and nineteenth-century American literature.  
*Special Topics in 19th Century Lit.*  
*Special Topics in 17th/18th Century Lit.*

**Jessica Bane Robert, M.F.A.**  
Intro to Creative Writing  
ASHLEY BARRY, T.A.  
Introduction to Literary Analysis  
MICHAEL CAROLAN, M.F.A.  
Not teaching Spring 2015  
CYNTHIA CONTI  
Introduction to Communication & Culture  
Cultural Discourse Advertising  
KEITH DOOLEY, T.A.  
Lyric Architect: Reading Poetry  
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Culture & the News  
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Expository Writing  
Writing: Write & Read Illness  
JOAN HOULIHAN, M.A.  
Creative Writing: Poetry  
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Introduction to Literary Analysis  
ETHAN MYERS, M.A.  
Introduction to Literary Analysis  
ROSE NOVAK, Ph.D.  
Introduction to Literary Analysis  
KAREN OSBORN  
Advanced Creative Writing  
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ALEX PUENTE, M.A  
Fictions of Asian America  
VICKI STIEFEL  
Writing for Modern Media  
Writing the Novel II  
JESSICA THELEN, T.A.  
The Short Story  
LUCILIA VALERIO, Ph.D.  
Introduction to Literary Analysis  
Contemporary Latino Literature

**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 DiIorio, Ph.D.**  
Visual and Performing Arts  
JAA VAISNER, 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.

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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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