Every year the English Department serves up hearty soups and clam chowder as part of an evening discussion with distinguished alumni who once studied English in our department. Angie Woodmansee, BA ’10, and Yassine Talhaoui, MA ’08, talked about how Clark, the English Department, and their English degrees benefited them in their careers.

Angie works at College of the Holy Cross as Assistant Director of Study Abroad. Originally from north of Seattle, Angie came to Clark for her undergraduate degree and has been coming back to New England ever since. After graduating in 2010, Angie moved to Luxembourg for a year-long Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship, teaching at both the high school and university levels. She jumped at the opportunity to return to Clark’s English department after the ETA, this time as a graduate student, and spent the next three years on campus working as Program Assistant in the Henry J. Leir Luxembourg office. Next, Angie packed her bags and moved to Izmir, Turkey, to teach English at Yaşar University, but kept her eyes open for job opportunities back home. This summer she was offered a position at Holy Cross, and so once again Angie has returned to Worcester, and she’s thrilled to be back and working with students both on campus and abroad.

After graduating from Clark, Yassine became a Foreign Language teacher at Watkinson School in Hartford, CT. At Watkinson Yassine designed The Academy Watkinson, a unique postgraduate program for college bound students. Since 2013, Yassine has also been serving as Director of Equity & Justice helping students and adults navigate the complexity of diversity and collaboratively work towards an inclusive and kind community. Yassine lives in Windsor, CT, with his wife Nicole Lambert-Talhaoui ’08 and their daughter.

Don’t miss the English Department Wassail Party Friday, December 4 4:30 at Anderson House

Wassail is a festive occasion for English faculty and students to toast the successful completion of the fall semester.
As the weather begins to turn to a more typical late fall pattern of cold and rain, the warmth of English House seems even more inviting. Appropriately so, since this semester has been extremely busy. The NEASC certification team (that’s New England Association of Small Colleges) has just left, but the preparation for their visit involved lots of paperwork, interviews and discussions. My initial impression is that they will certainly re-certify the university, since their initial report—given to a university-wide assembly on Wednesday, November 11th—seemed highly favorable about many areas.

In the aftermath of this inspection, however, the English department has been selected as the first department to host a post-NEASC external department review. It’s not part of the larger re-certification effort, but such reviews were recommended by the NEASC visitors ten years ago, and they have been going on for the last five or so years—principally of departments with graduate programs. What it involves for us is a comprehensive self-study this fall—an evaluation of all aspects of the department, the major, and the graduate program—to be submitted to three outside reviewers who will visit the department sometime in the spring, and who will eventually submit an evaluation. Concerning this self-study, then, I’d like to ask any English alumni to consider sending me a short evaluation of their experience as an English major or as an MA candidate. (email: jelliott@clarku.edu.) These could be integrated into the self-study, since we are tasked with determining “outcomes,” and the uses to which the major has been put post-graduation could be an integral part the ways we view ourselves and whether or not we have accomplished our mission.

Speaking of English major alums, I was delighted to welcome Yassine Talhaoui and Angie Woodmansee to the annual Chowderfest on October 28th. They created their own format, holding a dialogue that built on each other’s experiences, and overall displayed very successful models for our majors and MA students. I am exceedingly grateful to both of them, as is the rest of the department.

Here’s an oddity: This year is the first one in my tenure as Chair that we have a full complement of faculty teaching for the whole academic year! No sabbaticals, no leaves: but the cycle will start up again next year. Still, it’s been wonderful to have everyone around!

Also, Esther Jones is coming up for tenure this spring, and SunHee has been hard at work preparing her glowing file. I have no doubt that she will be joining the department permanently after a positive decision.

Finally, the end-of-semester Wassail party is on the horizon! Until next semester, though, since most of you will not be able to celebrate the season with us, I wish you all the best for Thanksgiving and the long Christmas holiday. May you all receive exactly the gifts you want. Spread the cheer and camaraderie!

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**English Dept. Senior Honors Students**

*Each of the following students is working on an honors thesis*

- **Seamus O’Connor**, “Antonio Gramsci and George Martin’s *A Song of Ice and Fire,*” with Steve Levin
- **Hunter Reid**, “50’s Haunted House Narratives,” with Betsy Huang
- **Sasha Kohan**, “Mad Men,” with Betsy Huang
- **Catharina Huynen**, “Eric Carle and the Appeal of Children’s Books,” with Jay Elliott
- **Samantha Wallace**, “Depictions of Youth Heroes and Heroines in Young Adult Science Fiction,” with Esther Jones
English Department Writing Contests
Open to all Clark undergraduate students, including matriculated COPACE students

DEADLINE: Friday February 19, 2016
12:00 NOON— no exceptions

- **Loring H. and Ruth Dodd Drama Contest** (Prizes: $100/$250/$500) Maximum of ONE submission per student. Entries can be a one-act play or a section of a longer play. Minimum of 10 pages, NOT to exceed 50 pages. Entries must be in standard playwriting form. Students should contact Professor Gino Dilorio at ginod42@aol.com for instructions if they are not familiar with standard playwriting format.

- **Prentiss Cheney Hoyt Poetry Contest** (Prizes: $50/$100/$250) Maximum of five poems per student.

- **Betty ‘79 & Stanley Sultan Short Story Contest** (Prizes: $50/$100/$250) Maximum of ONE story per student, not to exceed 5,000 words.

DEADLINE: Monday, April 25, 2016
12:00 NOON— no exceptions

- **Leroy Allston Ames Contest** (Prize: $100/$250/$500) for best essay on the literature and/or history of England from 1750 to 1900. Maximum of ONE essay per student.

RULES

1. All submissions must be the original work of the student. All entries must be unsigned. No handwritten or electronic entries will be accepted. TWO COPIES of each entry must be hand-delivered to the English Department office by the posted deadline. Do not place entry/entries in an envelope.

2. On a separate piece of paper, write the title or first line of the entry, together with your name, year in school, email address, campus box number, and phone number. Place this piece of paper in a sealed envelope and write the name of the contest on the outside of the envelope. Use a separate envelope for each contest. **Missing information will disqualify your entry.**

3. Both the unsigned entry and the sealed envelope must be dropped off at the English Department office by the deadline date and time (no exceptions).

4. NO entries will be returned. The English Department may present or publish winning entries. Contest winners will be invited to post their winning entries at Academic Spree Day.

5. If, in the opinion of the judges, none of the entries in a particular category is deserving of an award, none shall be given.

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

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**Steve Levin’s Capstone Class Takes Boston—to see Salman Rushdie Speak**

Steve Levin’s Capstone class traveled to Harvard University September 21 to see Salman Rushdie speak to a sold out crowd about his book *Two Years Eight Months and Twenty-Eight Nights: A Novel.*

![Image of Steve Levin's Capstone class at Harvard University](image-url)
Welcome to the autumn issue of the 2015-16 English Times! In each of our two annual issues, we share news not only about the Department and Clark, but also from alumni, as you will see in these pages.

The international and national context for this academic year was ignited in tumultuous vein, with—among many other instances—the experiences suffered by migrants, such as by those most covered in the media, the families and individuals escaping the harrowing conditions in Syria; the horrifying spate of shootings on university campuses, amplifying the violence perpetrated throughout our country; and efforts offering positive counter attempts to stem the senseless carnage, as exemplified by the Black Lives Matter movement. With a presidential election coming up in 2016, let's hope for intelligent solutions and not just promises. Perhaps, we can contribute by having thoughtful conversations as well. Journalists, for example, are now debating whether or not to feature a shooter’s name in their reports, since doing so may encourage more shooters to gain recognition, a topic, I'm told, brought about by scholars who weighed in on one of the multiple ways to discourage violence. We need more of our balanced discussions to enter the mainstream.

Intelligent and fruitful exchanges are already taking place in the English Department and will indeed continue throughout 2015-16. Colloquia, for example, feature a playwright’s discussion of his new play, 9/11, humanitarian intervention, leadership strategies, the role of narratives in peoples’ lives, collective victimization, mental health, and black portraiture. But other insightful, informal conversations are also taking place among our MA students. Thus, I would be especially remiss if, in this first issue, I did not welcome them.

So, first, I’d like to welcome back our returning MA students:

**Those in Worcester and environs:**
- Shamin Ahmad (Bangladesh)
- Ujwala Bandaru (India)
- Ashley Barry
- Keith Dooley
- Steph McGrath
- Lingyun Tao (People’s Republic of China)

**And those further away:**
- Johanna Seibert (Fulbright, Germany)
- Natalie Kruse (Mainz Awardee, Germany)
- Jerry Travers

**A hearty welcome, too, to our new MA Students:**
- Ama Bemma Adewetewa-badu
- Linda Blinova (Fulbright, Russia)
- Julia Castellet (Fulbright, Germany)
- Michael Fisher
- Xu Han (People’s Republic of China)
- Laura Jungblut (Germany)

In Spring 2016, we’ll also be welcoming another German student, Kiel Awardee Isabel Czilwik.

And finally, welcome to our Visiting Scholars too:
- Ksenia Filinova (Fulbright from Russia)
- Nikita Golovko (Fulbright from Russia)
- Edita Miftari (Fulbright from Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Peili Niu (University Awardee, People’s Republic of China)

Let’s all hope for a wonderful year—come join us for our colloquium series or simply around the Department!

SunHee Kim Gertz
Director of Graduate Studies in English
## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT COLLOQUIA

All colloquia held in Leir I at 2:00 unless otherwise noted

### FALL 2015

**December 2**

- **3:00**
  - **Rosalie A. Torres Stone, Sociology Professor**, “Community Mental Health Assessment”
  - **Janette Greenwood, History Professor**, “Black Portraiture and the Re-Imagined Self: The Example of the Perkins Family”

### SPRING 2016

**February 10**

- **3:00**
  - **Juliane Straetz, M.A. Candidate**, “Instagram and the Human Body: Between Visual Pleasure and Visual Pressure”
  - **Laura Jungblut, M.A. Candidate**, “The Language of Indigenous Politics: Winning but Losing”
  - **Michael Fisher, M.A. Candidate**, “What Mrs. Wright Said: Using Susan Glaspell’s *Trifles* to Teach Hélène Cixous’ *Écriture Féminine* in Higher Education”

**February 24**

- **Julia Castellett, M.A. Candidate**, Sexuality and Sentiment - Love in Hawthorne’s *The Scarlet Letter*
  - **Henry Robbert, M.A. Candidate**, “‘Nothing Was the Same’: The Construction of Black Identity in American Hip Hop Discourse”
  - **Arthur George Kamya, M.A. Candidate**, “Our American Cousin: Odyssey of a Satire." 47th Annual NeMLA Convention

**March 2**

- **Nick Sancho-Rosi, M.A. Candidate**, “(Non)Being and Language in Ursula LeGuin’s *A Wizard of Earthsea*”
  - **Jacqueline Schnieber, M.A. Candidate**, “Gender, Race and Human Rights: Black Masculinity in *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*”
  - **Linda Blinova, M.A. Candidate**, “Reading and Interpretation of Jack Kerouac in 1990s Russia: The Subterraneans by Jack Kerouac and Subs by Gleb Teleshov”

**March 23**

- **Xu Han, M.A. Candidate**, title TBA
  - **Ama Bemma Adwetewa-badu, M.A. Candidate**, title TBA

**March 30**

- **Linda Roghaar, Author**, on publishing

### Congratulations to the Following M.A. Candidates Who Received Or will be soon Receiving Their Degrees

#### August 2015 Degrees

- **Patrick O’Donell**, “Solitude and Solidarity: Reading Dos Passos and Garcia Marquez”
  - Thesis director: Jay Elliott
- **Tugba Polatcan**, “A Novel of Purgatory: The Saint of Insipient Insanities by Elif Shafak”
  - Thesis director: Jay Elliott

#### December 2015 Degrees

- **Md Shamim Ahmad**, "Dual Portrayal of Africa in *Heart of Darkness* and *Things Fall Apart* and The Chilling Effects of Imperialism and Colonialism"
  - Thesis director: Jay Elliott
- **Johanna Seibert**, "Toward a Literary Identity: Early Black Newspapers in the Anglophone Caribbean.”
  - Thesis director: Meredith Neuman
**MA Candidate Keith Dooley Attends Conference**

Keith presented at the Medieval and Renaissance Forum at Keene State University last April. Coppelia Kahn was the keynote speaker. From Keith: “I thoroughly enjoyed her talk. My paper was related to my thesis and focused on Marlowe’s *Doctor Faustus* and the television series Breaking Bad’s portrayals of immoral tragic figures. I was scheduled to present at the Medieval and Renaissance Symposium at Saint Louis University but had to pull out due to health reasons. That paper focused on Polonius’s role as director in *Hamlet*. This semester I will present at both the SCMLA and MMLA on *Macbeth* and William Butler Yeats respectively.”

**MA Candidate Stephanie McGrath Receives Summer Award**

Stephanie was awarded the 2015 Henry J. Leir Summer Research Scholarship for an Internship at the Luxembourg American Cultural Society in Belgium, Wisconsin. From June to August, she worked on a project which focused on archiving and caring for the LACS’s collection of historical artifacts. She was happy to be a part of the vibrant LACS Team and community, where she learned about Luxembourg-American culture and history.

**A Fun Night Out!**

A number of graduate students and Fulbright scholars went out together recently for dinner at The Fix Burger Bar on Shrewsbury Street. They had some really delicious burgers and a fun night talking to one another!

Left to right: Keith Dooley, Jacqueline Schnieber, Laura Jungblut, Kseniia Filinova, Edita Miftari, Henry Robbert, and Nick Sancho-Rosi.

**Graduate Student Representative Jacqueline Schnieber**

Jacqueline is the English Department Graduate Students’ representative to the Graduate Student Council and to English Department Meetings.

**MA Candidates JT Thelen and Steph McGrath Deliver Papers in St. Louis**

From June 15-17, 2015, MA candidates JT Thelen and Stephanie McGrath presented papers at the Third Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies in St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO, during which they could take a tour of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, home to a huge collection of beautiful mosaics. Steph chaired their session, *Agency in Medieval and Renaissance Narratives*, which was also to feature fellow MA candidate in English, Keith Dooley, who could not present due to illness.

JT’s paper was entitled “Panorama, Pride, Agency, and Prophecy in Malory’s *Balin or the Knight with the Two Swords*. Even though medieval and renaissance studies are not her academic area of specialization, she reports, she was welcomed with open arms. She also affirms: attending a conference with a fellow Clark English MA student was a great experience and made the conference all the more enjoyable.

Stephanie’s paper was entitled, “Unlikely Warriors: Responding to Male Dominance in *Tain Bo Cuailnge* and *Xena: Warrior Princess*.” As a student specializing in pre-1700 literature, she appreciated the plenary session’s presentation, “The Renaissance Transformation of Medieval Rome,” given by Professor Ingrid Rowland of Notre Dame, in which the ways how Medieval and Renaissance architecture are preserved in modern structures in Rome, Italy were discussed.

**MA Candidate Johanna Seibert to present at Conference**

Johanna’s paper “*Columbus Unsettled: Washington Irving and the Early Black Press in the British Caribbean*” was accepted for next year’s C19 conference, which is going to take place at Penn State in March 2016. C19 is the Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists.
FROM OUR FACULTY

Professor Esther Jones Publishes Book and is Appointed to Phi Beta Kappa Senate

Congratulations to Esther on the publication of her book, *Medicine and Ethics in Black Women's Speculative Fiction*, recently published by Palgrave!

Congratulations are also in order for Esther’s appointment on the Phi Beta Kappa Senate. From *Key Reporter* (Phi Beta Kappa) 11/6/2015: “On October 9th at its 44th Triennial Council, Phi Beta Kappa welcomed nine new members to the Phi Beta Kappa Senate. ... Esther Jones (ΦBK, Fisk University, 1998) is Assistant Professor of English and the E. Franklin Frazier Chair of African American Literature, Theory, and Culture at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, as well as President of Clark's ΦBK Chapter. She is involved in the local community and maintains various commitments to service organizations, including Girls Inc. of Worcester and the United Way-funded student group All Kinds of Girls. Jones sees the role of a Senator as that of an advocate, and as such, she aims to promote liberal education despite the deprecation it often receives from the media.”

On Wednesday, October 28, Professor Andrew Stewart (Psychology) joined Professor Eric De Barros’s *Major British Writers I* class for a discussion of the present-day resonance of early modern representations of sexual violence against women.

Robin McLean wins National Writing Award

**First Meeting of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Group**

Professor Eric De Barros and members of the newly-formed Medieval and Renaissance Studies Group met Friday, October 16, 2015, to workshop papers for next Spring’s Undergraduate Shakespeare Conference. The group will meet once or twice a semester to workshop scholarship and more generally discuss the pivotal and neglected texts of both periods. (From left to right: Jacob Ruta, Miranda Briggs, Eric De Barros, Nadia Friedler, Stephanie McGrath, and Keith Dooley)

**Emerita Faculty Member Fern Johnson and Simmons College Emerita Faculty Member Marlene Fine Publish Article and Serve on Panel**

An article by Fern Johnson, Research Professor & Professor Emerita, and Marlene Fine, Professor Emerita at Simmons College, appears in this fall’s issue of *New England Journal of Public Policy*. The article is titled "The Role of the Press in Framing the Bilingual Education Debate: 10 Years After Sheltered Immersion in Massachusetts." Johnson and Fine also served as panelists for a screening at Simmons College of "She’s Beautiful When She’s Angry." The film chronicles the emergence of the feminist movement in the 1960s and early ’70s.

**Emerita Faculty Member Virginia Vaughan is Published again**

Virginia Vaughan’s latest publication is *Antony and Cleopatra: Language and Writing*, published by Bloomsbury for the Arden Shakespeare.

**Professor Betsy Huang has been very busy!**


Betsy was invited to contribute a chapter to the *Cambridge Companion to Asian American Literature*, edited by Crystal Parikh and Daniel Kim. The book, along with her chapter, “Popular Genres and New Media,” was published in July 2015.


Betsy delivered a paper titled "Plague and the Nightmare Fantasy of Racial Undifferentiation" at the 2015 Association of Asian American Studies Conference in Evanston, IL. She also organized and chaired the roundtable “Diversity, Inclusion, and the Asian American(ist) in Higher Education” at the conference.

**Michael Carolan Publishes Article and Photographs**

Michael Carolan published an article and photographs on the diary and pension records of James Early White, an ancestor who participated in the American Civil War. It appeared in the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* on May 19—the 150th anniversary of his second great grandfather's thousand-mile journey from North Carolina to Missouri at the end of the war. [http://www.gazettenet.com/home/16912350-95/the-war-that-came-after-war](http://www.gazettenet.com/home/16912350-95/the-war-that-came-after-war)

The story concerns Private White’s wound at the Battle of Atlanta and his struggle to have a charge of desertion overturned, including a letter written on his behalf by the Governor of Illinois. The diary was reviewed by the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester. The article was picked up at newsworks.com, the NPR affiliate WHYY-Philadelphia. [http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/local/essayworks/82918-the-war-after-how-my-great-great-grandfather-deserted-the-union-army-and-earned-an-honorable-discharge](http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/local/essayworks/82918-the-war-after-how-my-great-great-grandfather-deserted-the-union-army-and-earned-an-honorable-discharge)
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Study and Travel in The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg/Europe from May 17 to June 10, 2016

Undergraduates may study in the heart of western Europe in 2016, during Clark University’s May Term in Luxembourg. By offering two courses, the Leir Luxembourg Program-Clark University continues its commitment to providing international perspectives and learning experiences for students and faculty. Applications from Clark University should be submitted to Uwe Gertz, Leir Luxembourg Program, Dana Commons, by Wednesday, January 27th, 2016.

None of the courses requires any prior background. All courses are taught in English and are open to first-year students.

For more information, contact Uwe Gertz at uadgetz@clarku.edu.

International Students Attend Luncheon

First year Fulbright, DAAD, and other International Awardees studying in Clark’s graduate programs this year attended a lunch hosted by SunHee Kim Gertz. Also in attendance were the English Department’s Jay Elliott, Lisa Kasmer, Paula Connors, and Terri Rutkiewicz. Photo courtesy Edita Miftari

DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY NEWS

English Department Student Office Assistants

We are pleased to have 5 great student office assistants this year.

Left to right—Front row: Tyler Sirokman, Jordan Ramsey, Tom Matthews, Back row: Nick Sancho-Rosi*, Molly Caisse, and Tajsh Solomon.

Jordan couldn’t make it to our lunch meeting for the photo shoot, but Molly used her Photoshop skills to make sure she was included! “The group was photo-bombed by Nick (former office assistant and English Major who is now an English Dept. MA candidate).”

Fright Night: “Being Human” Symposium takes on Tales of Terror

From Clark Voices October 29, 2015: It was a dark and stormy night.

I know, I know. That’s the most cliché first line in literature, but it also happened to be true Wednesday night, when the rainy October perfectly set the scene for Not Quite Human: Stories of Monsters, Demons and the Supernatural, a reading of spooky stories in the Higgins Lounge.

The scene was set for a scary good time as Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” played while attendees entered the room, and a lone chair, lit by a lone lamp, sat waiting for three brave readers.

Part of the Higgins School of Humanities’ Being Human Dialogue Symposium, the event featured Jennifer Plante (Academic Advising), Jay Elliott (English) and Gino DiLorio, (Theater), reading Stephen King’s “The Boogeyman,” Edgar Allan Poe’s “The Tell-Tale Heart” and Neil Gaiman’s “Down to a Sunless Sea,” respectively.

DiLorio reflected on why terrifying tales are such an important part of the human condition. “Whether it’s riding a roller coaster or bungee jumping, we love getting a bit frightened,” he said. “It makes us feel more alive on many levels. Reading scary stories is especially effective because it plays to the imagination. Once you can get the imagination going, there’s no telling how frightened you can become!”
On Tuesday, November 17th, four of the seven tenure-line black faculty who teach at Clark University decided to take their classes outside, opening the doors and walls to all faculty, staff, and especially students in a Teach-Out on the Red Square. Quickly organized in light of notifications sent out to faculty over the weekend that revealed a racial incident had taken place at a school basketball game and its subsequent fallout, the Teach-Out was designed to bridge the ideas and concerns that some of us teach in the classroom everyday on race, prejudice, and stigma with the real, contemporary issues facing Clark as a community. We decided to contribute by doing what we do: teach and facilitate dialogue. Doing so in a public forum was one way to open up the conversation we routinely have within our classrooms to the broader university community.

Prof. Ousmane Power-Greene taught his African American History course from 10:25-11:40 on the subject of "The Freedom Struggle and Mass Demonstrations 1940s-1960s." Prof. Esther Jones taught her English 125 course with the theme "Racial Injustice, Health Disparities, and Why Telling (and Hearing) our Stories Matters," opening at high noon with the reading of an open letter to black students. Prof. Odile Ferly brought her French first-year intensive class to Red Square and initiated a discussion about "Racialized Discourse from Clark’s Campus to the Paris Bombings,” and Prof. Nicole Overstreet taught her Psychology course on the theme “Mapping Privilege and Disadvantage: Becoming Allies in the Struggle for Justice.” The crowd ebbed and flowed throughout the day, from 10:30-5:30.

Teaching in this way is risky and messy. It was not well-advertised, as it was a quickly pulled together effort; we didn’t know who was going to show up or what was going to happen. But we realized it to be an important and necessary thing to do primarily for our students, not only because they so often do not see the ways we are working to support them inside and outside of the classroom, but also because there are times when it becomes necessary to disrupt our notions of what the classroom is and ought to be and the work it ought to be doing in the world. Many students heard about the opportunity and joined, and that is ultimately who it was for and what it was about. We thank the students for their willingness to have class outdoors in the cold; for the students who wandered through, engaged, and stayed when they could have done other things; we thank the faculty who sent their classes outside to participate in our open classroom, and those faculty who shared in and supported the practice with their presence. We are not where we want to be as a community, but because of the courage of our students, we will get there. We will get there.

Professors SunHee Kim Gertz and Betsy Huang were busy organizing and attending Henry J. Leir Luxembourg-sponsored Diversity and Inclusion Conferences this past year. They were joined by Lauren Cyr, Clark English Dept. undergraduate alum, BA ’14, and History Ph.D. candidate.

**June 19 to 22, 2015**
**Luxembourg**
"Diversity and Inclusion in the U.S. and Abroad"
Conveners: Professors SunHee Kim Gertz and Betsy Huang
The Henry J. Leir Student Conference Participation Awardee: Lauren Cyr, History Department.

**October 13 to 15, 2015**
**Ridgefield, CT**
"Diversity and Inclusion in the U.S. and Abroad (Part II)"
Conveners: Professors SunHee Kim Gertz and Betsy Huang
The Henry J. Leir Student Conference Participation Awardee: Lauren Cyr, History Department.
Science Fiction Research Collaborative

The Science Fiction Research Collaborative is a cohort of faculty and students working in the burgeoning fields of science-fiction literature and cinema. Because Clark has a high concentration of active science-fiction scholars in the humanities, the University is uniquely poised to trailblaze this emerging field. To explore and support science fiction's interdisciplinary ethos and capacities for imaginative cultural and political critique, the collaborative develops public and curricular programs fostering research and pedagogical communities among the humanities, sciences, and social sciences.

(From left) The Science Fiction Research Collaborative: Professors Stéphanie Larrieux, Scott Hendricks, Betsy Huang and Esther Jones.

COMMENCEMENT 2015
Jennifer Eagan, reporter and anchor for WHDH-TV Boston (Channel 7), spoke to Tim Connolly’s News Writing class on Sept. 28. She provided an overview of her life as a reporter at the local CBS-affiliated station. Jennifer normally works the early morning shift, but also can be found at the anchor desk or in the field during almost any daily news show. Jennifer and the class of 15 students had a lively discussion of the news business. She stressed the ability to say as much as possible in as few words as possible. The News Writing class prompts students to write succinctly. Jennifer often has 90 seconds or less on the air to tell a complicated story with multiple sources. Her insights and advice should help the students write more tightly as the semester progresses.
Valerie Hamilton, M.A. ‘84, co-authored a book with Martin Parker which will be coming out in January 2016. *Daniel Defoe and the Bank of England: The Dark Arts of Projectors* is published by Zero Books. While a TA in the M.A. program at Clark, Val taught Expository Writing and Intro to Lit. Val left Clark to return to London, where she worked with young offenders in the community and in schools, and then went on to advise on the effective management of schools and social agencies, and then, after an M.Sc in Organisation Development, went on to work as a consultant to large public institutions (including the Bank of England), advising on the management of change, etc. This book brings together the two strands of her career. Val gained a Ph.D from the University of Warwick Business School in 2013 and currently runs her own consultancy practice in London.

From Christoph Lanzen, M.A. ’09: "Dear kind spirits of Anderson House, please meet our son Levi Alexander, who was born on January 9th 2015. He is doing very well and teaching us a lot of new things. We are very happy that he is with us. I hope he will visit Clark one day! Greetings from Mainz, Germany, Christoph, Vera and Levi"

Emily McGinn, B.A. ’03, M.A. ’07, just landed a job as Digital Humanities Coordinator for the University of Georgia’s new digital humanities lab, Willson Center Digilab, a state-of-the-art instruction space as well as an incubator and publicity hub for ongoing and nationally significant digital humanities projects. [http://digilab.uga.edu/](http://digilab.uga.edu/)

**From Our Alums**

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**From Christoph Lanzen, M.A. ’09:** “Dear kind spirits of Anderson House, please meet our son Levi Alexander, who was born on January 9th 2015. He is doing very well and teaching us a lot of new things. We are very happy that he is with us. I hope he will visit Clark one day! Greetings from Mainz, Germany, Christoph, Vera and Levi”

**Emily McGinn, B.A. ’03, M.A. ’07**, just landed a job as Digital Humanities Coordinator for the University of Georgia’s new digital humanities lab, Willson Center Digilab, a state-of-the-art instruction space as well as an incubator and publicity hub for ongoing and nationally significant digital humanities projects. [http://digilab.uga.edu/](http://digilab.uga.edu/)

**Mitchell Perry, B.A. ’15, MSPC ’16 Candidate**, worked with Professor Neuman on a couple articles related to Esther Forbes that are published in the feature section of the *Worcester Review*. One article was a series of profiles on artists who did creative fellowships at the American Antiquarian Society, and the other was a bio of Esther Forbes and a series of short works from childhood to early adulthood that Mitchell pulled from the archives at Clark and the AAS. While continuing his education at Clark in the MSPC program, Mitchell been working as the Event Manager at Pagio, Inc., publishers of *Pulse Magazine* here in Worcester. They produce Worcester Restaurant Week, Worcester Chili & Chowder Fest, Worcester Music Awards, and a bunch of other food/entertainment related things.

**Jake Seliger, B.A. ’06** reported that his new novel, *The Hook* was recently published by Madison & Union. Jake is a principal at Seliger + Associates Grant Writing, has his Ph.D. from University of Arizona, and teaches at Marymount Manhattan College.
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FACULTY

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.

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.

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

SunHee Kim Gertz, 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.

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

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.

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.

Science 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 Afric-Amer Lit S’16

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

Lucila 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.
20th-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
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)

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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