English Department Faculty Search

The English Department is conducting a search for a new full-time faculty member: the E. Franklin Frazier Professorship in African American Literature, Theory and Culture. Undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff are strongly encouraged to attend all three presentations in Leir I by our finalists. Those who are able to attend all three presentations are asked to send comments to Professor Vaughan (VVaughan@clarku.edu) by Saturday, January 31.

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE:

Thursday, January 22 at 12:00
Candidate #1

Monday January 26 at 5:30
Candidate #2

Thursday, January 29 at 12:00
Candidate #3

Conference to Honor Professor Winston Napier

The Higgins School of Humanities at Clark University, the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost, and the Department of English present:

EVOLUTIONARY MOMENTUM IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES: legacy and future direction

This Spring we pay tribute to Professor Winston Napier (1953-2008) with a conference honoring his commitment to the study of African American intellectual culture, its influence on America at large, and its contribution to social and political action.

Dr. Karla FC Holloway (James B. Duke Professor of English and Professor of Law at Duke University) will present the keynote address: ‘Home Invasions: A Narrative Ethic of Race and Privacy.’

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 27-28, 2009
Dana Commons, Clark University

Conference opens February 27 at 4:30 and resumes on Saturday, February 28 from 9:30-6:00; includes reception on Friday and luncheon on Saturday.

Please register by February 18: conference fee $25 ($5 for students). To register, and for full conference schedule, please visit our website www.clarku.edu/higgins or contact Shirley Riopel Nelson at 508-793-7142, or napierconference@clarku.edu.
The word “January” comes from the Roman god Janus who sported two heads, one looking forward and one looking backward. This is particularly appropriate this time of year, for as the year begins, we think about the successes and disappointments of the previous year and contemplate our hopes for the next. We make resolutions about the changes we want to make in our lives, and even if we don’t keep them, at least we’ve taken stock of ourselves. In January we also start a new semester, and this year the excitement of the new is multiplied with the inauguration of a President Barack Obama on January 20. Truly this is a time of new beginnings.

January will also mark a new beginning for the English Department. If all goes well, we will be hosting campus visits by candidates for the E. Franklin Frazier Professorship in African American literature. Whenever we add a new faculty member to the English Department, our community is revitalized with new ideas and energies. We hope students will participate enthusiastically in this process. Remember that, like Janus, the hiring process looks both ways. The candidate wants to impress us, but we also want the candidate to have a positive impression of Clark, especially its students. Students and faculty will be invited to hear the candidates talk about their research, and students may be asked to join a candidate at lunch or to escort him or her across campus. We urge you take part in this important process and to offer your feedback after you’ve met the candidates.

With best wishes for a happy new year and a successful spring semester,

Virginia Vaughan

The representative to the Chair is Adam Kraus.

English majors interested in serving as representative should see Professor Vaughan.

English Department Wassail Party in December
English Department Writing Contests

DEADLINE: Monday, February 16, 2009, 12:00 NOON—no exceptions
Open to all Clark undergraduate students, including matriculated COPACE students

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

**RULES**
1. All submissions must be the original work of the student. All entries must be unsigned. No handwritten or electronic entries will be accepted. TWO COPIES of each entry must be hand delivered to the English Department Office between February 1 and 16, 2009. Do not place entry/entries in an envelope.
2. On a separate piece of paper, write the title or first line of the entry, together with your name, year in school, e-mail address, campus box number, and phone number. Place this piece of paper in a sealed envelope and write the name of the contest on the outside of the envelope. Use a separate envelope for each contest. **Missing information will disqualify your entry.**
3. Both the unsigned entry and the sealed envelope must be dropped off at the English Department office by the deadline date.
4. NO entries will be returned. The English Department may present or publish winning entries. Contest winners will be invited to post their winning entries at Academic Spree Day.
5. If, in the opinion of the judges, none of the entries in a particular category is deserving of a prize, none shall be awarded.

**English Department Blog With Professor Jay Elliott**

Jay Elliott has initiated a blog linked to the English Department website. As the list of contributing posters grows, you will be able to see all kinds of interesting material directly and indirectly related to the Department, its faculty, staff and students. Log on and join the fun, enter whatever comments you want, and see what’s happening around the English House. You can access the blog directly through clarkenglishblog.blogspot.com.

**English Department Participates in Gingerbread House Build-off**

English Department students, led by Professor Meredith Neuman, participated in the first build-off, sponsored by Initial Advantage. The English Department walked away with 2 trophies.
May Term in Luxembourg, May 11-June 6, 2009

Undergraduates may study in the heart of western Europe in 2009, during Clark University’s May Term in Luxembourg. By offering three courses, the Leir Luxembourg Program-Clark University continues its commitment to providing international perspectives and learning experiences for students and faculty. Applications from Clark University should be submitted to Uwe Gertz, Leir Luxembourg Program, Dana Commons, no later than Wednesday, January 28, 2009.

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

**Comparative Courts and Law** with Professor Mark Miller, Clark University (GP).
**From Total War to European Union** with Professor Theresa McBride, College of the Holy Cross (HP).
**Seeing the Light: At the Crossroads of Art and Science** with Professor S. Leslie Blatt, Clark University (NCP).

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

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

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**Shakespeare on Film**

**Wednesday Night at the Movies**

**7:00 in Anderson House Basement Lounge**

Everyone is welcome

Please enter by the parking lot entrance

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**January 21**  **Titus**

Directed by Julie Taymor, this film features Anthony Hopkins as Titus Andronicus and Jessica Lange as Tamora, Queen of the Goths.

**February 4**  **Henry V**

Kenneth Branagh’s first major Shakespeare film, judged by some to be an anti-war treatment of Henry V’s heroic exploits in France.

**February 18**  **Much Ado About Nothing**

Another Kenneth Branagh film, with Denzel Washington as Don Pedro, a Spanish Duke, Emma Thompson as Beatrice, and Branagh himself as Benedick.

**March 25**  **Othello**

Directed by Oliver Parker, this version of Shakespeare’s classic tragedy features Laurence Fishburne as Othello, Kenneth Branagh as Iago.

**April 15**  **Macbeth**

Roman Polanski’s violent version of Macbeth with Jon Finch as the eponymous hero and Francesca Annis as his lady.

Students may bring refreshments, but are responsible for cleaning up before they leave.
8th Undergraduate Shakespeare Conference of New England
Saturday, April 18, 2009
at Fitchburg State College

Keynote Speaker: Professor Emerita, Joan Ozark Hollmer (Georgetown University), Author of The Merchant of Venice: Choice, Hazard and Consequence.

Don’t miss the Central Massachusetts Undergraduate Shakespeare Conference, convening this year on Saturday, April 18th, at Fitchburg State College in Fitchburg, MA.

Students from various consortium institutions will present research projects and papers on the writings of William Shakespeare. The theme for the conference is “Shakespeare and Italy: Source, Setting, and Subtext”

For more information and to submit proposals, visit the conference website: www.fsu.edu/Shakespeare

Submission deadline: Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Sponsored by: Colleges of Worcester Consortium, Inc.

FROM OUR FACULTY

Stanley Sultan Publishes Essays

Professor Emeritus Stanley Sultan’s essay about the humanist ethos of equality in our lives, “Us and Our Minds: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow,” was published in the Spring 2008 issue of The Humanities Review.

Professor Sultan’s piece on James Joyce, entitled “Sentimentality and Self-delusion: Joyce on Society,” was published by the Oxford Journals in December.

James Dempsey Quoted In Magazine

Professor James Dempsey was recently quoted in Worcester Magazine on the state of the printed newspaper and featured in the Worcester Telegram and Gazette for his part in a celebration of the writer Robert Cormier.

Bill Tapply Publishes Another Novel

English Professor William G. Tapply has published his 24th novel in his Brady Coyne series. Hell Bent was featured in the book section of the Boston Globe.

Virginia Vaughan’s Book Now Available in Paperback

Professor Virginia Vaughan’s 2005 monograph, Performing Blackness on English Stages, 1500-1800, is now available from Cambridge University Press in paperback.
Betsy Huang to Publish Article in MELUS and Chair Panel in Boston on Jhumpa Lahiri

Professor Betsy Huang's article, "Premodern Orientalist Science Fictions," will appear in the Winter 2008 issue of MELUS, a special issue entitled "Alien/Asian: Imagining the Racialized Future." Huang's article problematizes the "technologization" of Asians and the uses of "premodern" orientalist motifs in classic and contemporary American science fiction. The special issue of MELUS features essays that critique literary and cultural imaginations of "the Asian" in discourses of science, technology, and the future.

Professor Huang will chair a panel on Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jhumpa Lahiri at the 2009 American Literature Association Conference in Boston, MA. Lahiri has enjoyed widespread critical and popular acclaim for bringing the Indian American immigrant and transnational experiences to the mainstream American literary consciousness. The panel will consider Lahiri's work as a critical node that connects the distinct but interrelated spaces of Asian American, South Asian, and transnational/postcolonial studies.

Jay Elliott Publishes Story


NEWS FROM OUR ALUMS

Susan Munroe, B.A. ’05, has recently returned to the States after a nine-month South American adventure in which she: tackled the southernmost trek in the world, danced in an Andean religious festival with the descendants of the Incas, floated downriver on a rusty cargo boat in the Amazon, and wrote all about it here: http://selizabeth83.livejournal.com. She will be spending the winter in Salt Lake City, fulfilling a life-long dream to be a ski bum.

Kimberly Bell, M.A. ‘95, announces the birth of her daughter Avalon on October 13, 2008.

Barbara, M.A. ’05, & Holger Haaf announce the birth of their daughter Grace in September 2008. The 6 Haafs (Holger, Barbara, Grace, Robin, Joy, and Merlin) wish everyone a very happy and wonderful New Year.


Sandra Jablonski, M.A. ‘06, and her husband, John, announce the birth of their son William Elija on November 20, 2008. Sandra is still working for the University of Maryland as an Adjunct Instructor.
Clark's Annual Oratorical Contest, sponsored by Hervey Ross '50, is focused on the art of public speaking and oratory. This year, students are asked to perform ORIGINAL speeches. Students will be judged on both their performance and content of the text.

**Prizes**
- 1st prize: $500
- 2nd prize: $250
- 3rd prize: $100
- Audience-favorite prize: $150

**Eligibility:** The competition is open to all Clark undergraduate students.

**Guidelines:** Students present a 4-6 minute speech on any topic. Appropriate content is imperative (i.e. no profanity or crude insults). The speech must be significantly original. Any quoted material must be so identified during the speech presentation.

**Submission:**
Interested students must contact Professor Gino DiIorio by Friday, March 20 at GDIIORIO@clarku.edu and include your name, address, e-mail address, phone number and speech title.

There will be a preliminary round to reduce the field to a final eight contestants. The preliminary round will be held on Tuesday, March 24, in Michelson Theatre of Little Center.

The final presentation will be held on the evening of Tuesday, April 7, in Little Center.

There will be a panel of at least three judges whose decision will be final. Students submitting applications will be kept appraised of developments and other guideline issues as they come up.

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**Katja Kurz, M.A. ’07,** has been appointed a scholarship to work on and do research for her Ph.D. at the Columbia University English Department from August 2008 to May 2009. It is part of the doctoral exchange program between Columbia University and the University of Mainz, Germany.

**Tina Tuminella, M.A. ’01,** married David DeLong in an outdoor ceremony in Mellon Park (Pittsburgh, PA) on Sept. 21, 2008. Their reception took place at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. **Monica Hiller Gebell, M.A. ’97,** of Rochester, NY stood as one of three bridesmaids. The couple honeymooned in Vancouver, B.C.

**Michelle Vyadro, B.A., ’08,** is working as Jr. Producer for the Daily Beast magazine (www.thedailybeast.com) where her first story came out in December.

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**DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY NEWS**

**Sixth Annual Hervey Ross Oratorical Contest: Call for Entries**

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**Professors Vaughan and Johnson Hard at Work at the Majors Fair**

**Caesura Looking for Submissions**

Caesura, Clark's Literary Magazine, invites submissions (short stories, poetry, nonfiction). Submissions can be e-mailed to caesura@clarku.edu.
From the Director of Graduate Studies in English

Well, as we prepare for the Year of the Ox, we may very well need the qualities associated with the Chinese Horoscope animal—that is, the qualities of great leaders, including: diligence, reliability, SINCERITY, strength, patience, the ability to organize, and a strong sense of RESPONSIBILITY. Qualities that we seem to have been missing in our leadership for about eight years. As I write this column on 26 November 2008, Obama has rolled up his sleeves and suggested directions for trying to assess and control the horrendous, ‘toxic’, financial chaos engulfing us, but still, little if anything seems secure. The billions that are thrown around as unlikely solutions to The Problem from which ‘nobody can hide’ are revealed to be far more fictitiously situated and managed than the poet’s golden world. Likewise, the imaginations of those who have made currency their only metaphor for power seem severely lacking, undisciplined, and/or simply perverse. The imagined causal relationships between ‘sound investing’ and profits have proven porous, to say the least, as imagined baroque linkages (most insidious, perhaps, in leverage pile-ups) not only crumble; in the process, they also reveal the lack of intimate knowledge of what actually underlies the monolithic world that financial magnates have tried to shape, the kind of knowledge a good writer should have of her tools, material, and subjects—words, images, characters, pathos, plots, ethos.

For us supporting and participating in Clark’s English M.A. Program, we hope that all this chaos may not affect too adversely the project we embarked on in 2001: the goal of having our students benefit from the small Masters community we create, a community that actively invites both U.S. and international graduate students to gain depth in the study of literature not only through close mentoring, but also through the exchanges between U.S. and international students, the kinds of exchanges that we hope will enrich our ways of looking at the world, of understanding that whatever structures we try to shape with our lives, the more we include different perspectives, the more likely that these structures are going to be sound. Although we may become less fettered insofar as the restraints to international intellectual exchanges have already been perceptibly lifting since last year, we may find that international students have financial constraints that prove even more restrictive (hard as it is to imagine) than Homeland Security. Let us hope this proves not to be true.

Whatever 2009 brings, let us also hope that we can bring the spirit of the Ox to our endeavors.

Have a great Spring Semester!

SunHee Kim Gertz

Nicole Dewberry is the graduate representative to department meetings and graduate student council meetings.
Spring 2009 English Department Colloquia  
Anderson House, Leir I

January 26, 5:30 p.m.  
Candidate #2 for the E. Franklin Frazier Professorship

January 29, 12:00 p.m.  
Candidate #3 for the E. Franklin Frazier Professorship

February 18, 2:00 p.m.  
Shannon Minifie, Graduate Student, TBA  
Samantha Keefe, Graduate Student, TBA

March 11, 2:00 p.m.  
Bernadette Smith, Graduate Student, TBA  
Toufiq Sarwarzada, Graduate Student, TBA

March 18, 1:30 p.m.  
Nuance Bryant, Graduate Student, TBA  
Zach Bellino, Graduate Student, TBA  
Nicole Dewberry, Graduate Student, TBA

April 8, 3:00 p.m.  
Jin Lee, Graduate Student, TBA  
Karen Miele, Graduate Student, TBA

Congratulations to the Following M.A. Candidate  
Who Passed Her Oral Defense and Will Soon Be Receiving Her Degree:

Dania Dwyer, November 7, 2009, “Re-membering History: The Aesthetics of Ruins in the Post-Colonial West Indian Literature.”

Graduate Student Council Announces  
Seventh Annual Multidisciplinary Conference

The Seventh Annual Graduate Student Multidisciplinary Conference will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2009, in the Grace and Lurie Conference Rooms at Higgins University Center. A call for papers and posters is issued to all Graduate Students in every department to present their research at this event.

Please visit the graduate student council website www.clarku.edu/students/gsc or contact your graduate representative for more information.

Professor Gertz’s Graduate Teas
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FACULTY

James P. Elliott, Ph.D.
Professor of English. Trained as textual editor in the field of American literature, Professor Elliott has been associated with the Edition of the Writings of James Fenimore Cooper for over twenty years.

SunHee Kim Gertz, Ph.D.
Professor of English, Director of Graduate Studies in English. Professor Gertz’s research and publications are concerned with semiotics and western European literature in the late Middle Ages. She also researches links between Asian and European literatures.

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

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

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

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

Meredith Neuman, Ph.D.
(on sabbatical AY 2008-2009)
Assistant Professor of English. Professor Neuman teaches and researches in the fields of early and nineteenth-century American literature.

Virginia M. Vaughan, Ph.D.
Professor of English, Department Chair. Professor Vaughan specializes in Renaissance literature, especially in Shakespeare, but as a cultural historian, she is also interested in appropriations of Shakespeare’s texts from the 17th century to the present.

Jessica Bane Robert, M.F.A.
Expository Writing
Writing: Sense of Place
President John Bassett, Ph.D.
Not teaching Spring ’09
Louis Bastien, Ph.D.
Introduction to Literature
Drama in Western Tradition
Mythopoetics
Steve Bruso, M.A.
Not Teaching Spring ’09
Tim Connolly, M.A.
Not Teaching Spring ’09
Jim Dempsey, M.A.
Not Teaching Spring ’09
Gino DiIorio, M.F.A.
Director, Theatre Arts Program
Advanced Playwriting Workshop
Michael Eldridge, S.A.G.
Intro To Screen Writing
Steven Krzywda, M.A.
Introduction to Literature
Ethan Myers, M.A.
Introduction to Literature
Jen Plante, M.A.
Interim Director of the Writing Center & Writing Program
Writing: The Beats
Nicole Rabin, M.A.
Not Teaching Spring ’09
Susan Richmond, M.F.A.
Not Teaching Spring ’09
Heather Roberts, Ph.D.
Not Teaching Spring ’09
Aimee Sands, M.F.A.
Expository Writing
Writing: Race
Ekra Miezan
Culture and the News
Bill Tapply, M.A.T.
Writing for Magazines
Advanced Fiction Writing
Lucilia Valerio, Ph.D.
Introduction to Literature
Contemporary Latino/a Literature

Emeriti Faculty
John Conron, Ph.D.
20th-century American literature
Serena Hilsinger, Ph.D.
Modernist literature and women writers.
Stanley Sultan, Ph.D.
Poetry, fiction, and drama of modernist writers, as well as critical theory, literary history, and theoretical issues in literary history.

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

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

Editor: Terri Rutkiewicz
Staff: Joel Hinton