SULTAN, Stanley Emeritus Professor of English at Clark University and distinguished literary scholar and writer, died February 4 at his home in Roslindale. He was 84. Professor Sultan grew up in Brooklyn, the oldest son in a Sephardic Jewish family. He attended Cornell and earned graduate degrees at Boston University (M.A.) and Yale (Ph.D.). Having taught briefly at Smith College, Professor Sultan joined the Clark faculty in 1959, where he served as a dedicated and wittily outspoken professor of English literature until he retired in 2005, and had a significant impact on the Clark community in general. Known as Stan to all, Professor Sultan served Clark on critical committees, but also never tired to partake in Clark life as a true, impassioned citizen. He and his wife contributed, for example, to funds awarding excellent students, but wanted his part to remain anonymous. In addition to his tireless devotion to Clark, Professor Sultan published numerous books, articles, and chapters of literary criticism of note, including a path-breaking interpretation of Joyce's novel in "The Argument of Ulysses" and comparative studies of modernist fiction, drama and poetry. His reputation led Professor Sultan to present papers and keynote addresses at universities and conferences both nationally and internationally. Exceptional in many ways, Professor Sultan proved so in the literary world as well. In addition to being a significant scholar, he was also an award winning writer of fiction, with short stories and excerpts from his novel Rabbi: A Tale of the Waning Year appearing in notable collections and public readings. Professor Sultan was deeply committed to social justice; he was a long-standing member of several human rights organizations, including the Democratic Socialists of America, who recently honored his service with the Eugene Debs-Norman Thomas-Julius Bernstein award. A lifelong sailor and lover of travel, good food, and Jewish humor, he leaves his devoted wife of nearly 50 years, Betty H. Sultan, his loving children, James L. and Sonia E. Sultan, grandchildren Gabriel Sultan, Jasmine Baker, Kaia Hinton, and Jesse Sultan, and siblings Allen Sultan, Shirley Raynor, and Carol Leinwand. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in Professor Sultan's memory be made to Clark University, c/o University Advancement Office, 950 Main St., Worcester, MA 01610. A memorial is to be held in Dana Commons at Clark University at a date to be determined. [www.gormleyfuneral.com](http://www.gormleyfuneral.com) William J. Gormley Funeral Service West Roxbury 617-323-8600.

..courtesy The Boston Globe.

Professor Sultan's Memorial Service is scheduled for Friday, April 5, 4:30-6:00 in Dana Commons
FROM THE CHAIR

There are a great many changes afoot at Clark and the English Department as we move into 2013. From Ginger’s retirement, to a shift university-wide to a teaching load of two courses per semester, to a proposal for a Creative Writing Stream attached to the major, to a request to the administration for a new entry-level, Assistant Professor to handle the future Shakespeare and Renaissance courses, to the implementation of the LEEP initiatives—whew! the list sometimes seems endless.

The most important change, however, is this: I regret to inform all of you English alums out there that on February 4th, we lost one of the most cherished members of the English Department, Stan Sultan. He had a distinct personality, as you all know, and he was a fixture in the department from 1959 to 2005, when he officially retired. His obituary says, in part, that he “never tired to partake in Clark life as a true, impassioned citizen.” What I didn’t know is that he was recently honored by the Democratic Socialists of America with the Eugene Debs-Norman Thomas-Julius Bernstein award, an honor that I’m sure he richly deserved. Clark will be holding a Memorial service for Stan on Friday, April 5th, from 4:30-6:00 in Dana Commons. I am in the beginning stages of planning this event with Betty Sultan, and I’d like to hear from any of you who want to attend and say a few words in honor of Stan. Let me know at jelliott@clarku.edu. President Angel will speak, as will Stan’s daughter, Sonia. He was a distinct presence here—after all, I taught with him for 35 years—and our departmental condolences, as well as my personal condolences, go out to Betty, Sonia and Jamie, and the rest of the many who were close to him.

In another bit of news, I can report that SunHee Gertz is taking a leave of absence this semester in anticipation of her sabbatical next academic year. I am doing some of the Graduate Studies work on a de facto basis; Lisa Kasmer will phase in as the interim Director of Graduate Studies for ’13-’14 at the end of this semester. Terri is supplying some of the good news about our graduate students, but SunHee is taking a well-deserved break from her column.

Finally, Steve Levin’s tenure case is presently being considered. All good luck to him; I have the streamers ready for deployment the moment we hear about his successful transition to tenured Associate Professor.

And that’s the news from here. Perhaps for the next English Times I’ll write a screed about the supposed decline in liberal arts majors, focusing particularly on English. There’s a cultural meme out there that such majors don’t prepare the graduate for real jobs. I’ll argue—and enlist your support—that exactly the opposite is the case. Stay tuned!

Take care, everyone. I hope to see some of you on the 5th.

Senior Representative to the Chair: Kulani Panapitiya Dias

Junior Representative to the Chair: Shalyn Hopley
UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

“Woman’s Shakespeare, Shakespeare’s Women, Men Welcome”
The Twelfth Annual Undergraduate Shakespeare Conference of New England

Saturday, April 20, 2013
College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts
Proposals for papers on all aspects of gender in the performance, editing, criticism, reception, and history of Shakespeare’s plays will be welcome.

Plenary Speaker: Virginia Mason Vaughan, Professor of English, Clark University
“Women making Shakespeare”

For more information, contact Professor Vaughan at vvaughan@clarku.edu.
Or visit: http://www.cowc.org/college-student-resources/undergraduate-shakespeare-conference

Poet Ruth Foley Visits Professor Bane Robert’s Class

Ruth Foley visited Professor Bane Robert's FYI class, Heart of a Poet, Heat of a Poem, to discuss the writing life and where poems come from. A prolific and highly published poet, Foley teaches at Wheaton College.

Wassail Party 2012
GRADUATE NEWS

Five M.A. Students Honored for Their Scholarship

SunHee Kim Gertz’s Introduction to Graduate Studies seminar emphasizes the mastery of professional writing in the discipline of English. One of the exercises involves submitting abstracts to conferences. Thus, the ten members of the class submitted abstracts that were reviewed and revised in workshop sessions and finally submitted to conferences along with cover letters that clearly indicated they were MA students (usually faculty and PhD students deliver papers). Prof. Gertz assesses all ten as viable paper presentations, presenting fascinating topics, but some of which may not neatly fit into the convener’s sense of what s/he would like to have at the conference. To date, five MA candidates had their abstracts accepted for presentation.

Alexandra Finn Atkins (TA) had her paper entitled “The Redemptive Act of Reading: Richard Crashaw and the Teresean Liturgy” accepted for presentation in the NEMLA convention. She will be presenting in the "Searching for Authority: Rebellious Readers in Early Modern Texts 1640-1740" session.

Marina Kitik had her paper entitled “Business Report: Linguistic Approach” accepted for presentation at “The 19th International Congress of Linguistics, 22-27 July, Geneva.” Her abstract will also be published in the collection of materials of the Congress, and she will also take part in the section of Business and Governance Linguistics.

Samantha Marrazzo had her paper entitled “Does this look like a kid’s story to you?: Lewis Carroll's Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland as depicted in Film Adaptations,” accepted for presentation in the PCA/ACA National Conference to be held March 27-30th.

Tugba Polatcan had her paper entitled “Representation of Magic Realism in Elif Shafak’s novel The Gaze” accepted into the 10th Annual Southeast Coastal Conference on Languages & Literatures.

Ayesha Sindhu (TA) had her paper entitled “Magical Realism as a Vehicle of Postcolonial Experience in Rushdie's The Satanic Verses” accepted for presentation in the NEMBLA conference session Rethinking the Concept of the Postcolonial. She will present on March 22nd.

Angela Woodmansee

is the graduate representative to department meetings and graduate student council meetings.
New Agreement with the Universität Marburg

Prof. SunHee Kim Gertz is happy to announce that another international University has finalized an agreement with our English Department. One of the finest universities in Germany, the Philipps Universität Marburg is set in picturesque Marburg an der Lahn. Founded in 1527, it is also the oldest Protestant University in the world.

We hope to welcome English MA students from Marburg to Clark in the coming years.

English Department Colloquia Schedule
Spring 2013 Full Schedule

February 6
1:30 pm  
Robert J. Ross, “Bread and Roses: Women Workers and Dignity and Respect”
Steve Levin, “Only Mostly Dead: The Fate of Realism in Contemporary Literature”

February 13
Ayesha Sindhu, “Magical Realism as a Vehicle of Postcolonial Experience in Rushdie’s The Satanic Verses”
Doug Baulf, “The Political Importance of Thought and Judgment in the Works of Hannah Arendt and James Baldwin”

February 27
1:30 pm  
Tugba Polatcan, “A Woman of Her Own: Edna Pontellier”
Annika Becker, “You Said What?: United States Illicit Newspapers during the Nineteenth Century”
Sam Marrazzo, “Does this look like a kid’s story to you?: Ambiguities of Carroll’s Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland as depicted in Film Adaptations”

March 13
3:00 pm  
Carolin Böttcher, “Performing Gender: Tensions in Bernice Rubens’ The Elected Member and Naomi Alderman’s Disobedience”
Tobi Hartl, “Of Sheep and Replicants: The Remains of the ticklish Subject in Never let Me Go and Battlestar Galactica”
Alexandra Finn-Atkins, “The Redemptive Act of Reading: Richard Crashaw and the Teresean Liturgy”

March 27
1:30 pm  
Marie Christin Schuchmann, “Young Adult Fiction and Dystopias”
Irina Lipchanskaya, “The Dickensian City of Peter Ackroyd”

April 3
3:00 pm  

April 24
1:30 pm  
Anne Godlewska, (Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario), “How to Become a Research Pariah with One Easy Question: What do Canadians Know about Native Peoples?”
FROM OUR FACULTY

Esther Jones is staying very busy!

Esther Jones participated on the panel Contempory Black Women’s Sexualities in African American Literature and Cultural Production at the Modern Language Association’s annual conference in Boston, MA Jan. 3-6. Her contribution was titled “Untangling Pathology: Adolescent Sexuality and Social Responsibility in Black Women’s Speculative Fictions.”

Esther will also participate at NEMLA (Northeast MLA) March 24-26 as part of a workshop titled: “Ethnofuturisms: Spatiotemporal Geographies.” She will workshop her paper, “Sex and the State: Social Responsibility and the Black Female Youth in Octavia Butler's Fledgling.”

Esther Jones has received a Higgins Grant for summer research and has also been designated an Alice and Milton Higgins Faculty Fellow this year. This is an honor given to a faculty member for distinction in the research proposal they have submitted.

Michael Carolan Published Article and also Appeared on the Radio!


Michael also appeared on New England Public Radio on October 27th. His Segment was called ‘Not Enough to be Scared by this Halloween? Commentator Michael Carolan Remembers Snomageddon.’

Links to original articles/broadcasts follow.


Congratulations to Meredith Neuman for the Upcoming Publication of her New Book!


New England Puritan sermon culture was primarily an oral phenomenon, and yet its literary production has been understood mainly through a print legacy. In Jeremiah’s Scribes, Meredith Marie Neuman turns to the notes taken by Puritan auditors in the meetinghouse in order to fill out our sense of the lived experience of the sermon. By reconstructing the aural culture of sermons in Puritan New England, Neuman shifts our attention from the pulpit to the pew to demonstrate the many ways in which sermon auditors helped to shape this dominant genre of Puritan New England.

Tracing the material transmission of sermon texts by readers and writers, hearers and notetakers, Jeremiah’s Scribes challenges the notion of stable authorship by individual ministers. Instead, Neuman illuminates a mode of textual production that pervaded communities and occurred in the overlapping media of print, manuscript, and speech. Even printed sermons, she demonstrates, bore the traces of their roots in the oral culture of the meetinghouse.

Bringing material considerations to bear on anxieties over the perceived relationship between divine and human language, Jeremiah’s Scribes broadens our understanding of all Puritan literature. Neuman examines the controlling logic of the sermon in relation to nonsermonic writing—such as conversion narrative—ultimately suggesting the fundamental permeability among disparate genres of Puritan writing.

"A polished, informative, and distinctively original study that will certainly become the book to read on sermons.”—David D. Hall, Harvard Divinity School

Lisa Kasmer has Article Published

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Irina Lischanskaia (Fulbright Visiting Scholar) had her paper entitled “The Dickensian City of Peter Ackroyd” accepted into the ACLA conference to be held in Toronto April 4-7, 2013. She will be presenting in the seminar “Locating the Invisible City.”

DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY NEWS

Another Great Chowderfest, November 13, 2012!
Special Thanks to our Speakers Jeffrey Siegel, Genie Giaimo, and Lana Cohen
Check out the English Department Blog

Professor Elliott has enlisted the Work Study students to contribute to the English Department Blog. Look forward to more frequent entries on an array of topics including favorite books, student internships and general goings-on in the department.

ClarkEnglishBlog.blogspot.com

Scarlet Seeks Staffers

Have a fondness for grammar? Love to write? The Scarlet is looking for reporters and copy editors. All levels of experience are welcome. We cover campus news, opinions, living arts, and sports and are always encouraging our staff to bring new ideas to the table.

We meet every Wednesday at 9:00 p.m. in the basement of 138 Woodland St. Come learn how you can help!

Worcester Wired Seeks Writers

Worcester Wired is a recently launched online news source run in large part by Jim Dempsey, who teaches Feature Writing at Clark and other writing classes at WPI. The website is brand new and in need of interns. Contact Jim at JDempsey@wpi.edu for more information and visit http://www.clarku.edu/offices/career/ if you’d like to apply the internship for academic credit. Check out the site at WorcesterWired.com.

The English Department Invites You to Spring Fling

Friday, April 26th
4:30-6:00 p.m.
Anderson House

Please join us for refreshments and conversation!

Follow us on Facebook at M.A. English, Clark University

https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/MA-English-Clark-University/281305345229067
NEWS FROM OUR ALUMS

We would love to hear how you're doing, what you're up to, and your opinions on what is important to you. While we won't be able to include everything, we will try to include all updates on what you've been doing since leaving Clark.

From Sharon Aknin, MA 2012:
“After my graduation from Clark in May 2012 I continued my studies back home in Germany. I now have my double degree and will shortly be starting an internship in Italy. I am endlessly grateful to SunHee and the English MA program at Clark which instilled certain interests in me that I would never have pursued back in Germany and without which I would never have taken the route I have chosen since I started writing my thesis. Back at Clark, SunHee first introduced me to Slow Food International, since I was researching Italian culinary culture for my thesis, and I will now be working in Italy for them. Thanks Clark, thanks SunHee!”

Kareen Bar-Akiva, BA 2000, contributed two entries in the recently-published Sexual Violence and Abuse: An Encyclopedia of Prevention, Impacts, and Recovery, edited by Dr. Judy L. Postmus. This work coalesces the vast amount of information available on the subject, providing a convenient and comprehensive resource on sexual violence and abuse. It is the first of its kind to bring together a full range of topics on sexual violence and abuse across a human lifespan in a single work. Kareen's entries are titled Reporting Rates and Bias, Police and Prosecution.

Rachael Cohen, BA 2010, is now working at Pandora (the internet radio) in Oakland, California. She is very happy to have a “real job”!

Genie Giaimo, BA2006; MA 2007, presented at MLA, which was held in Boston this year. Her paper was on photography and the language of remediation in Alison Bechdel's Fun Home. She was also involved with the MLA-sponsored THATCamp: a digital humanities conference. During MLA Genie had the pleasure of seeing Meredith Neuman and fellow MA colleague, Emily McGinn. She will be chairing a panel on the cognitive turn in American literature at NELMA, also to be held in Boston, in May.

Marc Sanguinetti, BA 1999, was named 2012 Employee of the Year by Bay State Savings Bank here in Worcester. Marc works in the Commercial Lending Department where he reviews loan documents and verifies loan covenants for accuracy. Marc has been recognized consistently by senior bank administration, not so much for his banking skills, but more for his written communication skills. Marc thoroughly believes his background in English has helped him coalesce successfully at every position he's held since graduation. He is also a freelance correspondent for the Worcester Telegram & Gazette.

Jake Seliger, BA 2006, is a graduate student in the University of Arizona's English Department, and is writing a dissertation titled “Starting Monday, I kill a duck a day until I get a budget:” Academic Novels and the Structure of University Culture, which he promised his advisor he would finish within 12 months. But he had to move from Tucson to Manhattan in December because his fiancée is an ER resident at Beth Israel Hospital.

Jake still write proposals for Seliger + Associates Grant Writing, writes The Story's Story at http://jseiger.wordpress.com, and gets into trouble, most often by saying the wrong thing at the right time, the right thing at the wrong time, or the wrong thing at the wrong time. And if that’s not keeping busy enough he is also starting to work for Tucker Max's publishing company, Lion Crest Publishing.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Position</th>
<th>Research Interests</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Louis Bastien, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Lecturer, Associate Professor of English</td>
<td>Shakespeare, gender and nationality and theorizations of difference.</td>
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<tr>
<td>James P. Elliott, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Professor and Chair of English, Associate Professor of English</td>
<td>Early Modern English literature, transnational cultural studies, and critical and literary theory.</td>
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<td>SunHee Kim Gertz, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Professor of English, Director of Graduate Studies</td>
<td>Modernist literature and women writers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Betsy Huang, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Associate Professor of English</td>
<td>20th-century American literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fern L. Johnson, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Professor of English</td>
<td>Ethnic and racial identities in 20th-century American literature and popular culture.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Esther Jones, Ph.D.</td>
<td>E. Franklin Fraser Chair, Assistant Professor of English</td>
<td>Women writing in the Americas, with a focus on the intersections of race, gender, class, and nationality</td>
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<td>Lisa Kasmer, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Associate Professor of English</td>
<td>18th- and 19th-century British literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen Levin, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Assistant Professor of English</td>
<td>Contemporary British and post-colonial literature, transnational cultural studies, and critical</td>
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<td>Meredith Neuman, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Assistant Professor of English</td>
<td>Modernist literature and women writers.</td>
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<td>Jessica Bane Robert, M.F.A.</td>
<td>Expository Writing</td>
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<td>Douglas Baulf, TA</td>
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<td>Rachel Gans–Boriskin, M.A.</td>
<td>Introduction to Literature</td>
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<td>Joshua Harmon, M.F.A.</td>
<td>Writing the Novel II</td>
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<td>Letisha Harris</td>
<td>Professor Jones' Research Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robyn Murphy, M.F.A.</td>
<td>Expository Writing</td>
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<td>Ethan Myers, M.A.</td>
<td>Introduction to Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jen Plante, M.A.</td>
<td>Director of the Writing Center &amp; Writing Program</td>
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<td>The Center for Community Engagement and Volunteering (CEV)</td>
<td>The CEV is located on the second 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 <a href="mailto:cev@clarku.edu">cev@clarku.edu</a>.</td>
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