



DEPARTMENT NEWS

The English Department Welcomes Lisa Kasmer

The English Department is proud to welcome Lisa Kasmer as our newest tenure-track faculty member. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles and had a brief stint as a Visiting Professor at the College of the Holy Cross. Professor Kasmer's research and teaching interests center on 18th- and 19th-century British literature, gender studies, post-colonial studies, and print culture.

Professor Kasmer was highlighted as one of seven new tenure-track faculty at Clark University this fall in "Education 2004: Find Your Place in the Spotlight," a special section of the *Worcester Telegram and Gazette*.

Visiting Scholar, Professor Zhifang Wu

The English Department is hosting Professor Zhifang Wu, School of Foreign Languages, Wuhan University of Technology, China, during 2004-05. Professor Wu will be using the scholar's office during her stay.

Chair's Tea

EVERYONE is welcome. Please join Professor Gertz **3:30-4:30 in her office Tuesday, October 19 and Thursday, December 2** for engaging conversation, tea and scones. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know Professor Gertz and to meet other English Department faculty, majors, and graduate students.

Fall Convocation 2004 Awards

University Honor Societies

New Members of the Society of Anton Fellows

Susan Munroe

Faculty Awards

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

Shiva Aliabadi

Student Awards

Prentiss Cheney Hoyt Poetry Contest

Nicole Rabin (second prize)

Karen Smith (third prize)

Short Story Contest

Gregory Dufresne (second prize)

Erica Silber (third prize)

Loring Holmes & Ruth Dodd Drama Contest

Samuel A. Musen

William H. Carter, Jr. Prize in English

Susan Munroe

English Department Faculty Search

The English Department is conducting a search for a new fulltime faculty member in antebellum American literature. Undergraduate and graduate students are strongly encouraged to attend the finalists' presentations next semester. Keep on the lookout for updates.

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FROM THE CHAIR

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Where life comes to literature

Mid-term break is over, ideally having afforded all of us with the respite needed to launch into the rest of the semester. This fall semester will continue to be shaped by the demands of classes, University activities, and our own personal proclivities, just as in most semesters. But if you've been listening to, reading, or watching the news, you hear that both on- and off-campus, it's not "business as usual." Commentators report a rare intensity among voters and, not surprisingly, report the divisions among us as well.

To a large degree, I'd guess, a lot of it is staged. And, being staged for a highly diverse audience, much of it is reduced to generalities, far from our day-to-day realities, creating a "disconnect," not unlike the question that used to be asked (and may still be) of foreigners who were applying for visas to this country, "Are you, or have you ever been, a terrorist?" Who would respond, "Yes"? Will a "No" from a terrorist *really* form the grounds for trying him or her?

In spite of the veneer and its accompanying sense of "disconnect," it is critical to go out and vote. I agree that it's not exactly inspiring to see how media can normalize the brutal, prozac the utterly depressing, and sanitize the regurgitated. But, just as we need to shake ourselves out of the idea that this semester (or any semester) is just like any other, we need to exercise our civic rights.

We're not, after all, voting for the media (or creating a fascinating semester for the Clark administration). Try thinking of voting (and the demands of a semester) as a sort of ritual—a performance, yes, but one exercised within a great degree of liberty (the best kind), and more importantly, a ritual that does allow for individual participation, that through individual participation gains its power and legitimization, that is defined by its individual participants.

Voting is the first step to stopping the erosion of our civil rights.

Vote on November 2nd.

SunHee Kim Gertz
Professor and Chair of English



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[www.clarku.edu/
departments/
english](http://www.clarku.edu/departments/english)

DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY NEWS

Higgins School of Humanities Fall Events Series 2004

- October 19
7:30 p.m.
Grace Conf. Room
- Marcyliena Morgan**, Assoc. Professor of African and African American Studies at the W.E.B. DuBois Institute for Afro-American Research at Harvard University, and Director of the Hip-Hop Archive, "Hip-Hop and the Art of Politics."
- October 21
7:30 p.m.
JAC, Room 218
- Farideh Koochi-Kamali**, Editor at Palgrave Press and instructor at the New School, "Women and Islam."
- November 9
7:30 p.m.
Grace Conf. Room
- Rhys Townsend**, Assoc. Professor of Art History, "Archaeology of Remote Places: Looking for Ancient Cities in Rough Cilicia, Turkey"
- November 15
7:30 p.m.
Grace Conf. Room
- Tracy Sharpley-Whiting**, Professor of French, and Director of African American Studies at Vanderbilt University, "Heavy in the Game: Young Women in the Thrall of Hip-Hop Culture"
- November 17
7:00 p.m.
Razzo Hall
- Kimi Takesue**, an award-winning Asian American filmmaker, "Cross-Cultural Journeys"

"Women and Islam," by Farideh Koochi-Kamali

Thursday, October 21, 2004, 7:30 p.m.

Lurie Conference Room, Higgins University Center

Farideh Koochi-Kamali, Editor at Palgrave Press and instructor at the New School, will read her short story, anthologized in *Stories by Iranian Women Since the Revolution*, which was published by the University of Texas Press. She will then contextualize the story from a political perspective, as reflected, in part, in her recent study, *The Political Development of the Kurds in Iran: Pastoral Nationalism*. The event is sponsored by Higgins School of Humanities and the English Department and is free and open to the public.

DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY NEWS

Alex Martin, University of East Anglia Exchange Student

The English Department is hosting Alex Martin from the United Kingdom during 2004-05, as part of a special arrangement with the University of East Anglia.

Senior Honors Students

The following students have been accepted into the senior honors program in English: **Kimberly Dunbar** with advisor Fern Johnson, **Susan Munroe** and **Ian Roberts** with advisor Jay Elliott, and **John Siever** with advisor Betsy Huang.

Work Study Students

Eddie and Terri are very happy to have three highly capable work-study students in the English Department office: **Lydia Bennett**, **Deidre Gleason**, and **Sarah Nelson**. **Christy Tavarez** is working on a special project in the department library.

Junior and Senior Representatives to the Chair

Junior, Ksenia Varlyguina
Senior, Susan Munroe

Students have papers published in Nichols College publication

Professor Lea Graham reported that three of her students, **Nick Delaney**, **Brian Rosa**, and **Paul Sheprow** were published in "Windfall," a student journal from Nichols College.

Professor Graham stated that even though she is biased, she believes her students' work is some of the best in the journal.

Harry Wu and Dan Picutta Speak at Clark University

Harry Wu, Human Rights Activist, and Dan Piccuta, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Luxembourg, presented "A Prisoner and his Consul: The Chinese State Secret Trial of Harry Wu" last Friday night, October 15, in Grace Conference Room, Higgins University Center. Mr. Wu and Mr. Piccuta met for the first time since Mr. Wu's release from prison in the People's Republic of China.

Mr. Wu was featured on radio station WBUR's program, *The Connection*, earlier that day.

GRADUATE STUDENT BUSINESS

Fall 2004 Colloquia Schedule

October 27

Jay Elliott, TBA

Bill Tapply, "How to Write a Mystery Novel"

November 3

Chencheng Wang, TBA

Holly Moren, TBA

Lisa Kasmer, TBA

December 1

Dan Alford, TBA

Besty Huang, TBA

Shiva Aliabadi to present paper

Shiva Aliabadi's proposal/abstract, "The Ghost Dance: Mythopoesis for Ethnic Survival," has been accepted for inclusion in the presentations/conferences at the International Conference on Storytelling and Cultural Identity in Terceira, Azores, June 27-29, 2005.

New Arrivals

Congratulations to Holly Moren on the new addition to her family. Evan Lachlan Denardo Moren was born July 22, 2004.

Congratulations to Jack and Tomomi Haringa who welcomed their new son, Jacob Kai, to the world on August 31, 2004.

Returning Graduate Students

Shiva Aliabadi

Jean-Paul Breaux

Jordan Demaio

Holly Moren

Michael O'Sullivan

Ashlye Warner

New Graduate Students

Matthew Brown

Ashley Cataldo

Sebastian Fett

Joseph Flis

Meghan Gayton

Jan Martin Herbst

Byoung-Hwa Hwang

Stephanie Kader

Marina Mertens

Trisha Wooldridge

Sascha Zivkovic

Congratulations to MA Candidates Marybeth Gordon and Susaye Gayle

who passed their oral exams and will soon be receiving their degrees:

Marybeth Gordon, "I'll Be True: Constancy, Gender, and Romantic Speech Acts in Shakespearean Comedy"

Susaye Gayle, "Female Commodification and Capitalism in Theodore Dreiser's *Sister Carrie* and Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth* and *The Custom of the Country*"

**Graduate Reps
for
department
meetings are
Jordan
Demaio and
Trisha
Wooldridge**

**Graduate
Student
Council Rep.
Shiva Aliabadi
is also
president of
Graduate
Student
Council**

FACULTY NEWS

To find more information about Professor Tapply and his whereabouts, check out his website at www.williamgtapply.com

Professor Tapply Attends Book Signing, Conference, and will Moderate Panel on Mystery Writing

If you were at the New England Booksellers Association trade show October 9 at the World Trade Center in Boston, you would have seen Professor Bill Tapply at a book signing there for his new book, *Bitch Creek*.

He also participated in two panels, "Writing Matter: Hot Genres-Mysteries," and

"Meet the Agents," October 16 at a conference sponsored by the National Writers' Union. The Conference, "Write Angles 2004," was held at Smith College.

Professor Tapply will also be moderating a panel on mystery writing, "Things That Go Bump," at the annual "New England Crime Bake,"

November 13 at the Holiday Inn in Tewksbury, Massachusetts. The panel is sponsored by the New England Mystery Writers Association.

Clark University Establishes the Fern L. Johnson Award

In May 2004, Fern L. Johnson was honored by the College of Professional and Continuing Education at their Annual Awards Banquet.

After ten years of actively and imaginatively supporting COPACE, Clark established the Fern L. Johnson Award in recognition of her "dedication and outstanding contribution to the development and success of COPACE graduate programs." She was cited as being "instrumental in assisting and guiding COPACE through the development and successful launch of the Master of Science in Profes-

sional Communication degree." Moreover, Professor Johnson "has continuously and generously devoted her time and energies to COPACE programs through participation on the COPACE Graduate Advisory Board. In her advisory capacity on this board of many years, she has helped to shape and insure the academic and intellectual integrity and honesty of COPACE graduate programs."

In recognizing Prof. Johnson, COPACE wanted to ensure that her tireless efforts would not be forgotten. "Commencing next year, and every year thereaf-

ter, COPACE Graduate Programs will be awarding a \$1000 cash prize to the outstanding COPACE Accelerated Degree Program student of the year. That student's name will be engraved on our Fern L. Johnson Award Plaque that will be hung prominently in the COPACE Graduate Programs office. The award recipient will be honored at the annual COPACE Graduate Programs Dinner."

Needless to say, we are very proud of Professor Johnson's exciting and important accomplishments.

"Clark University has this year established the Fern L. Johnson Award in recognition of Professor Johnson's dedication and outstanding contribution to the development and success of COPACE graduate programs."

Professor Lisa Kasmer Receives Award

The Women's Caucus of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies awarded Professor Kasmer the Emile du Chatelet Award for best Independent Scholarship in eighteenth-century women's studies for her book project.

Professor Sultan's book, *Joyce's Metamorphosis* was favorably reviewed by Sidney Feshbach in the Spring 2004 edition of the James Joyce Literary Supplement.

ALUM NEWS

Book Signing by Ona Russell, MA '90

Ona Russell was on hand to sign copies of her new book, *O'Brien's Desk* on September 8, 2004 at Tatnuck Bookseller, 334 Chandler Street, Worcester.

Alum, we need your news. Send us an email and we'll include your news in the next issue.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[www.clarku.edu/
departments/
english](http://www.clarku.edu/departments/english)

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 twenty years.

SunHee Kim Gertz, Ph.D.

Professor of English, Department Chair. 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 and is also Director of the Communication and Culture program.

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.

Winston Napier, Ph.D.

E. Franklin Frazier Chair, Associate Professor of English. Professor Napier specializes in critical theory, 20th century African American literary culture and African American philosophy.

Stanley Sultan, Ph.D.

(on leave - Spring 2005)

Professor of English. Until recently, Professor Sultan's scholarly interest was largely in the poetry, fiction, and drama of modernist writers. In the past few years he has devoted more attention to critical theory, literary history, and theoretical issues in literary history.

Virginia Mason Vaughan, Ph.D. (on sabbatical AY 2004-05)

Professor of English. 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. She teaches courses in Shakespeare at the introductory and advanced level in addition to the seminar "Studies in the Renaissance."

Sione Aeschliman, M.A.

Expository Writing

President Bassett, Ph.D.

William Faulkner

Louis Bastien, Ph.D.

Intro to Lit and Composition

Major British Writers

Intro to Medieval Literature

Tim Connolly, M.A.

News Writing

Jim Dempsey, M.A.

Feature Writing

Peter Erickson, Ph.D.

Advanced Shakespeare

Anne Geller, Ph.D.,

Director of the Writing Center & Writing Program

Expository Writing

Lea Graham, Ph.D.

Writing on Travel

Creative Writing: Poetry

English Poetry I

Diane Moul, Ph.D.

Intro. to Lit. & Composition

Jen Plante, M.A.

Expository Writing

Intro to Lit. & Composition

Leeore Schnairsohn, M.F.A.

Expository Writing

Claire Schomp, M.A.

Expository Writing

Bill Tapply, M.A.T.

Expository Writing

Creative Writing: Fiction

Writing the Novel I

Lucilia Valerio, Ph.D.

Intro to Lit & Composition

Women Writers I: pre-1900

Emeriti Faculty

John Conron, Ph.D.

20th-century American literature

Jesse C. Cunningham, Ph.D.

History of the novel

Serena Hilsinger, Ph.D.

Modernist literature and women writers.

The Writing Center

is located in Corner House. The Writing Center offers assistance with writing for any class in any discipline, at all stages of the writing process (trying to understand a writing assignment, brainstorming, composing, getting unstuck, writing, revising, seeking citation information, editing, proofreading).

The Center for Community Engagement and Volunteering (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 through Friday. Stop by for the "Coffee and Tea with the CEV" any Wednesday between 1-4, or call Allison Schei at 508-421-3785 for an appointment.

**Professor
Lisa Kasmer is
the English
Department's
newest
member**

Where life comes to literature

There are copies of faculty office hours outside the front lounge. Please help yourself.