Every year the English Department, in conjunction with Clark’s Alumni-In-Residence event, serves up hearty soups and clam chowder as part of an evening discussion with distinguished alumni who once studied English in our department. This year’s speakers will be:

Ivan Lipton, BA ’78, Ivan Lipton, formerly Chief Executive Officer of Strawberries music stores, is the Chief Operating Officer for Plimoth Plantation. Located in southeastern Massachusetts, Plimoth Plantation is a bicultural museum based on colonial English and indigenous Wampanoag cultures at the time of first contact. Ivan oversees all aspects of the museum’s operation except fundraising, including the development of public programs and exhibits, implementation of marketing strategies, supervision of the retail stores, and management of the Finance, Facilities, and Human Resources Departments.

Natalie Mühlberger, MA ’04, Natalie Mühlberger is Vice President of Operations and Client Services at Trustforte Corporation, a company that provides credential evaluation services in connection with international (non U.S. citizen) applicants for work inside the United States. Trustforte processes approximately 15,000 requests each month. Her responsibilities include reviewing incoming requests, keeping day to day operations running smoothly, managing relations with corporate clients, and maintaining quality control.

Leland Stein ’78, Leland Stein is Director of Marketing and Public Relations for the Regent Theatre in Arlington, Massachusetts. He is responsible for media relations, marketing, communications, and promotion efforts. He prepares press releases and publicity for newspapers, magazines, radio, television stations, and the internet. Leland also coordinates the theatre’s web site and arranges bookings and rental arrangements. He is the official emcee for theatre events and produces the award-winning “Family Fun Saturdays” series, which features “a rich variety of entertaining performances for children and their elders” (Boston Globe).

Inside this issue:

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2. From the Chair
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   Blog With Jay
   Sincere Thanks to Eric Carlson
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5. Work-Study Students
6. News on Our Alums
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Sincere Thanks to Eric Carlson
DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY NEWS

FROM THE CHAIR

I have often heard of an old Chinese curse: “May you live in interesting times.” Well, these are certainly the most interesting times of my life. The presidential election, the financial crisis, and all the mayhem of today’s world sometimes make our everyday study of literature seem irrelevant, but I am reminded again and again how important our common enterprise is. Our ability to unpack metaphors, detect bull****, uncover manipulative framing, and understand language’s multiplicities gives us a much better perspective on current events than bloviating pundits can possibly offer. Literature also reminds us how the elite’s power games affect the lives of individuals. In a recent episode of Stephen Colbert’s “Report,” for example, Shakespearean scholar Stephen Greenblatt pointed out that Shakespeare understood that men of military genius might be poor politicians and lead their country into disaster. Colbert kept the discussion to Macbeth, but it could have extended to Othello and Coriolanus as well. Literary texts give us insight into human character, its highs and lows, its pain and suffering; they inspire us with humanity’s ability to endure the worst that can be imagined. For me, the ability to enter that imaginative world – and to share it with my students -- is a continuing source of solace and joy. Whatever your personal slings and arrows may be, I hope you feel the same.

Virginia Vaughan,

Chair

Senior Representative to the Chair is Adam Kraus

Don’t Miss the Wassail Party
Monday, December 15

Don’t miss this festive occasion for English faculty and students to toast the successful completion of the fall semester. The hot cider will be sure to take the winter chill away.

2007 Wassail Party

Senior Honors Students

The following students have been accepted into the senior honors program in English: Nicholas Checchio with advisor Virginia Vaughan, Willa Deitch with advisor Jay Elliott, Keen Hahn with advisor Betsy Huang, Tara Hedayat–Zadeh with advisor Stephen Levin, Adam Kraus with advisor Jay Elliott, Kayleigh Lagasse with advisor Jay Elliott, Daniel Menard with advisor Betsy Huang and Li Han (Computer Science), Peter Murray with advisor SunHee Gertz, and Amital (Tali) Sachs with advisor Stephen Levin.
Conference to Honor Professor Winston Napier

Plans are underway for a conference to honor the intellectual contributions of Professor Winston Napier and to commemorate the significance of the African American Intellectual Culture Series that he initiated and nurtured for over ten years at Clark University. To be held February 27-28, 2009, during Black History Month, the conference will focus on the contributions of African American intellectual culture to advancing and broadening the study of Blacks in America, to deepening our understanding of race through the lenses of humanities, and to laying a sophisticated and multi-faceted groundwork for social and political action. Panels at the conference will include topics such as the role of the intellectual in African American culture, literary theory and African American Studies, the historical legacy of Black Arts, and explorations of gender identity in a racialized context. The keynote speaker for the conference will be Dr. Karla F.C. Holloway, who is the James B. Duke Professor of English and Professor of Law at Duke University. Dr. Holloway, who spoke at Clark early in the African American Intellectual Culture Series, also holds appointments in Women’s Studies and African & African American Studies. The author of six books, her most recent is *BookMarks: Readings in Black and White-A Memoir* (Rutgers University Press, 2006).

Blog With Jay

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.

Sincere Thanks to Eric Carlson

The English Department would like to thank Eric Carlson, Professor Emeritus, Department of English at University of Connecticut, for his generous donation of books and journals to the English Department library.
Fern Johnson Participates in Panel

On October 7, Professor Fern Johnson participated as a faculty panelist for Election 2008: The Presidential Candidates and Climate Change, co-sponsored by the Mosakowski Institute and the Difficult Dialogues project at Clark. The panel discussion preceded viewing of the Obama-McCain debate on big-screen television. Johnson’s comments focused on news framing and political ads.

Steve Levin Publishes Book

Professor Stephen Levin has recently published a book entitled *The Contemporary Anglophone Travel Novel*, which, according to the publisher, “explores the themes of alienation and displacement in a genre of post–World War II novels that portrays the pursuit of an authentic travel experience in a culturally unfamiliar place.” In addition to the book publishing, Professor Levin spent the summer in London on a Higgins School of Humanities grant to conduct research on “The Politics of Contemporary Literary Prizes.” He examined archival material at the British Library and attended the London Literature Festival.

Susan Richmond Participates in Panel Discussion

Professor Susan Edwards Richmond participated in the panel, “A Tribute to William Stafford,” at The Concord Poetry Center on October 19. The event was held on the occasion of the publication of Another World Instead: The Early Poems of William Stafford, 1937 - 1942 edited by Fred Marchant (Graywolf Press, 2008). Richmond joined Marchant and Concord Poetry Center Director Joan Houlihan in presenting Stafford’s poems written while the poet was a conscientious objector during World War II, many never before published.

Richmond will also moderate and read from her poetry collection, Birding in Winter, at a CPC event on November 2, featuring poets published by Finishing Line Press.

On October 30, Richmond will join fellow editors of Wild Apples: a journal of nature, art, and inquiry at the launch of their second issue, as part of the Concord Festival of Authors. All members of the Clark community are welcome to attend.

Virginia Vaughan Joins Panel on Shakespeare

Professor Virginia Vaughan was a panelist at the Shakespeare Studies Seminar held at Harvard’s Humanities Center on September 26. The panel explored new directions in early modern race studies and their effects on our readings of Shakespeare’s plays. Professor Vaughan will be the keynote speaker for a conference on Shakespeare’s *Tempest* at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, sponsored by the theatre Department which is celebrating its 75th anniversary.

Jessica Bane Robert Has Excerpt Published

Professor Jessica Bane Robert has an excerpt from a memoir in progress, entitled “Dark on the Inside,” in the current issue of *Ecotone: Reimagining Place.*
Meredith Neuman on Sabbatical
To pursue scholarly projects, Professor Meredith Neuman is on sabbatical AY 2008-09.

Fern Johnson Appointed Fellowship
Professor Fern Johnson is the recipient of this year's Senior Faculty Fellowship at Clark University. The fellowship is presented annually to a senior faculty member who personifies 'the Clark ideal of excellence in research and excellence in teaching.' The award was announced at fall convocation and presented at the first meeting of the Faculty Assembly in September.

DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY NEWS

Shirley and Terri are very happy to have five highly capable work-study students in the English Department office:

Returning this year are Joel Hinton, Addi Rancourt-Walker, and Chelsea Quattrone-DeOre.

Joining us this year: Keen Hahn and Sharon Doherty.

Higgins Faculty Lecture Series
Monday, October 27
7:30 p.m.
Dana Commons, Second Floor Lounge
SunHee Kim Gertz
“The Poetics of Politics? The Persuasive Rhetoric of Leadership”
NEWS ON OUR ALUMS

Tamara [Levi] Beck, AB ’68, In the past half dozen years, I have been writing poetry... not so much metered rhyme but more like raw emotion expressed in adjectives and images. Most of my writing is done on city buses, the 20 to 40 minute trips to and from my office. The work is perfected and edited over several such small journeys and compiled when I have a chance in a file on my computer.


Nan King, M.A., ’97, and her husband Tom Kelly are happy to announce (finally!) the birth of their twin boys, Thaddeus Robert Kelly and Atticus Sidney Kelly, on December 22, 2007. The family lives in Willington, CT; Nan teaches English and Women’s Studies part-time at ECSU in Willimantic, along with raising the twins full-time and trying really hard to write her first novel, and Tom is an engineer at UTC in South Windsor.

David Knotts, B.A. ’71, Received a Masters of Theology and a Doctorate of Ministries from Drew University and a Masters in Psychology from West Chester University. This past June he celebrated his thirty-third jubilee as an ordained Methodist minister. He is currently assigned to an urban parish in Reading, Pennsylvania where he is involved in immigration advocacy; David also maintains a private practice as a clinical psychologist. He has also served as an adjunct professor at Immaculata University and an Assistant Professor at Alvernia University. He frequently writes for professional publications in the area of Liturgy and Spiritual Formation. David is married to Sandra Mohr (’71); they have two grown children.

Olga Malinovskaya, M.A ’03, has just become a Marie Curie Fellow within the European Doctorate in the Social History of Europe framework. Olga will use the funding to conduct her research on “Medieval Spain to Medieval England: the case of cultural and intellectual transmission” in Seville, Spain.

Christina Rizzo, B.A. ’03, published a book of poems, *No Such Person is Likely to Appear*, which is now available from Finishing Line Press (www.finishinglinepress.com under "New Releases") and in the upcoming weeks, on Amazon.com. It is her first collection of poetry, to be published.

Mason Sand, B.A. ‘00, M.S.P.C ’01, married Christine Widhson in June of this year and had a fabulous honeymoon in Costa Rica. Mason and Chrissy live in Boston with their English Bulldog puppy, Daisy. Mason continues his work with Company One - the theatre company that he started with several other Clarkies - as it heads into its tenth season. Visit companyone.org for the latest Company One news. He also acts with other theatres around Boston including the Huntington, the A.R.T., New Repertory Theatre and others. For his day job, Mason works on homebuyer education and affordable housing in Watertown.

Daniel Ten Eyck, B.A. ’01, is teaching English at Tourtellotte Memorial High School in Thompson, CT.
DEPARTMENT NEWS

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 15, 2008. 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.
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.cfm](http://www.clarku.edu/english/undergraduatecontests.cfm) or come to the English Department office.

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**Dianne Berg to Present Paper at Medieval Conference in May 2009**

Graduate student, Dianne Berg, will be presenting her paper, “Familiar in Their Mouths as Household Words: Shakespeare Repackages the Middle Ages,” at the 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, in a session called “I ha’t from the playbooks. / And think they’re more authentic: Popular History in Early Modern England” It is sponsored by the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, St. Louis University.

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**Higgins Modern Poetry Series**

**Thursday, November 6**

7:30 p.m.

Dana Commons, Second Floor Lounge

Poetry Readings

by

Susan Edwards Richmond & Joan Houlihan
GRADUATE BUSINESS

From the Director of Graduate Studies in English

In an earlier issue of the English Times this year, I commented on the cataclysmic events that seemed to be punctuating our lives at the time. I also pointed to the importance of remaining grounded in times like these and suggested that Ovid’s Metamorphoses provides a long-term perspective even as it focuses on the painful tragedies and myriad lunacies engulfing us mere mortals. The interplay between macro- and microcosmic perspectives weaves and unravels throughout Ovid’s fifteen-book narrative, as crystallized in the phrase ut unda inpellitur unda, as wave is pushed on by wave (XV. 181). With its ups and downs, the depths of the ocean nonetheless remain powerful and life-granting.

We are steering through stormier times now, and day after day, gloomy announcements seize many journalists’ attention as they glut on ‘unprecedented’ chaos in the global community. The very real financial consequences on our daily lives push up the individualized perspectives that crest in fear, deflating the big picture, making it less present, less easily discernible. Importantly, Ovid’s image of waves pushing upon waves actually compares their movement to that of time and links both together through their shared attribute of constant change, the essence of mutability. Pointing to the lack of substance in the transitory may seem cold comfort in these times. Yet, if there is any good to come from this current set of global disasters, it will not come, I believe, from the quintessentially mutable arenas of our financial and political sectors. The good we still can absorb and that can help us through our own individualized ups and downs will come from abiding values, from those supremely unquantifiable traits that—I know it sounds old-fashioned—are noble. We need to look out for each other. We need to talk with one another. We need to understand that if globalization fed on the superficial linking of cultures through money and its infinite manifestations, that fact does not mean that international communities should be abandoned. Quite the contrary, this is the time to build stronger, more resilient, value-informed international bonds that can withstand the forceful, insidious, and mutable holds on our imagination.

This year, the English Department’s M.A. program welcomes the opportunity to keep all communication channels open and forge more lasting bonds, as our U.S. students join with colleagues from Afghanistan, Canada, Germany, South Korea, and Sri Lanka. Come join us.

SunHee Kim Gertz
Director of Graduate Studies in English

Nicole Dewberry is graduate representative to department meetings and graduate student council meetings.
Congratulations to the Following M.A. Candidates Who Passed Their Oral Defenses and Will Soon Be Receiving Their Degrees:

**Steven Bruso**, August 27, 2008, “Discord in Chivalry’s Ideological Discourse”

**Gina Desmarais**, May 1, 2008, ”Service is Perfect Freedom: Choosing to Serve in Shakespeare and Milton”

**Meghan Gayton**, July 28, 2008 “Janeites and Jane Austen’s Canonicity: An Examination of Austen’s Hybridized Texts and Readerships”


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**English Department Colloquia Schedule**

**FALL 2008**

October 22—at 1:30

- Michael Bamberg, Professor of Psychology, “Narrating Life”: John Edwards
- Denise Robertson, Graduate School, MA Thesis Formatting and Guidelines

October 29

- Stanley Sultan, Professor Emeritus, from Interpreting Modernist Writers: Macro History, Persoan History, and Manuscript History
- Jackie Penny, Graduate Student, TBA
- Chris Beyers, Professor, Assumption College, TBA

December 10

- Steve Levin, Professor, “Between History and Humanity: A Postcolonial Debate”
- Virginia Vaughan, Professor and Chair, “What’s the Word!” MLA Radio Program on Othello

**SPRING 2009 tentative schedule**

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<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>Shannon Minifie, Graduate Student</td>
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<td>Nicole Dewberry, Graduate Student</td>
<td>Karen Miele, Graduate Student</td>
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<td>Samantha Keefe, Graduate Student</td>
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DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY NEWS

English Department 2008-09


September 5 Departmental Dinner at Salisbury Green Clubhouse

Not pictured: Graduate Students Zach Bellino, Nuance Bryant, Matthew Henningsen, Mark Axelson, Dayoung Chung, Nicole Delasanta, Samantha Keefe, Bernadette Smith, Stefan Tiwy; Work study staff Keen Hahn, Joel Hinton, Chelsea Quattrone-DeOre, and Addi Rancourt-Walker.

William H. Carter, Jr. Prize in English Awarded to Danielle Coles

Danielle has been named recipient of the William H. Carter, Jr. Prize in English award. This prize is granted through the generosity of a permanent endowment fund established in 2003 by Harriet R. Carter in memory of her husband, William H. Carter, Jr., an English department professor for over three decades. In addition to his teaching and scholarship, Dr. Carter chaired the department for three consecutive terms.

First Virginia Mason Vaughan Prize in English Awarded to Pam Taylor

In April 2008, a permanent endowment fund was established by Michael J. ’81 and Lisa Klein Leffell ’82 for the Virginia Mason Vaughan Prize in English.

This yearly prize was awarded to Pam Taylor with her honors thesis “Dave Eggers and the Negotiations of Narration.” Pam’s honors advisor was Professor Steve Levin.

Wednesday Night at the Movies
Film Screenings
7:00 in Anderson House Basement Lounge

Everyone is welcome
Please enter by the parking lot entrance

October 22
Merchant of Venice
November 5
Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead
November 12
King Lear
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, by 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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**DAAD STUDY SCHOLARSHIP OR RESEARCH GRANT**

Clark University is proud to announce that one of Germany’s most elite academic institutions, **The Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst** (DAAD: German Academic Exchange Service) has awarded us priority consideration for either

- **The DAAD Study Scholarship** for graduating seniors and graduate students, or
- **The DAAD Research Grant** for M.A. and Ph.D. students as well as Post-Docs

If you are a graduating senior (May 2009) or a graduate student, and you would like to conduct research in Germany during the academic year 2009-10, you may be eligible.

If awarded either the Study Scholarship or the Research Grant, the DAAD will support your research in the Federal Republic of Germany for a year. In some cases, the Study Scholarship may be renewed. Although recommended, it is not necessary to be fluent in German.

Please contact Prof. SunHee Kim Gertz, Director of Graduate Studies in English, English Department (sgertz@clarku.edu), for further information.

**DEADLINE FOR PRELIMINARY APPLICATION IS NOVEMBER 15.**
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.
Introduction to Literature

President John Bassett, Ph.D.
Not teaching AY 2008-09

Louis Bastien, Ph.D.
Introduction to Literature

Major British Writers

Mythology

Steve Bruso, M.A.
Expository Writing

Tim Connolly, M.A.
News Writing

Jim Dempsey, M.A.
Feature Writing

Gino Diforio, M.F.A.
Director, Theatre Arts Program

Playwriting

Michael Eldridge, S.A.G.
Not teaching Fall 2008

Steven Krzywda, M.A.
Introduction to Literature

Allia Matta, A.B.D.
African American Lit I

Ethan Myers, M.A.
Introduction to Literature

Jen Plante, M.A.
Interim Director of the Writing Center & Writing Program

Expository Writing

Nicole Rabin, M.A.
Expository Writing

Susan Richmond, M.F.A.
Creative Writing: Poetry

Heather Roberts, Ph.D.
Major American Writers I

Aimee Sands, M.F.A
Expository Writing

D. L. Stephenson, Ph.D.
Not teaching Fall 2008

Bill Tapply, M.A.T.
Creative Writing: Fiction

Walden Today

Lucilia Valerio, Ph.D.
Introduction to Literature

Border Crossings

Scott Zoback, M.A.
Not teaching Fall 2008

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.