

English



Newsletter of the Department of English

University of Oregon

June 2009

The University of Oregon... @ London!

Next January, at the start of the 2010 winter term, the UO English Department will launch its study-abroad program in London. Designed for our own majors but open to students from other disciplines and other institutions, the program will introduce students to British literature in the cultural contexts that gave it birth. Classes will be held in historic Bloomsbury, and frequent outings will allow students to take full advantage of the cultural riches within and beyond one of the most dynamic cities in the world. In addition to course offerings in theater, history, and culture, the London 2010 program will offer two courses by the English Department's Professor Richard Stein. In "The Victorian City," Professor Stein will challenge students to understand contemporary London as a city living side-by-side with its historic forebears—the Londons of Shakespeare, Johnson, and Dickens, among others. In Professor Stein's other course, "Reinventing Nature," students will visit museums, parks, and gardens from Kew to Greenwich as they explore various "inventions" of nature in England from the time of the French Revolution to just after the first World War. Stein sees the winter season as one of the program's advantages. "Winter is an extraordinary opportunity for American students," he notes. "It gives them a chance to experience the city with virtually no other tourists. It's also the best theater season of the year." Cold weather seems to him a plus for Pacific Northwesterners. "If they are lucky enough to see ice on the Thames, they will never forget it," he observed. "The cold creates far more beauty than discomfort."

Less than a year from the first day of classes, a dozen of our own students have expressed interest in enrolling



Westminster Abbey

for the term, and we hope to attract more. Thanks to a generous gift from Professor Emerita Thelma Greenfield, an unapologetic anglophile, the Department has created a fund for scholarship support of students interested in the program. Any other friends of the Department who would like to help students take advantage of this wonderful opportunity are encouraged to contact the Department Head, Harry Wonham (wonham@uoregon.edu), or to send a donation directly to the Department, indicating that it is intended to support London scholarships. Students who want to learn more about the program should contact Professors Richard Stein, Harry Wonham, or Mark Quigley.

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Superheroes Exhibition and Conference Scheduled for Fall 2009

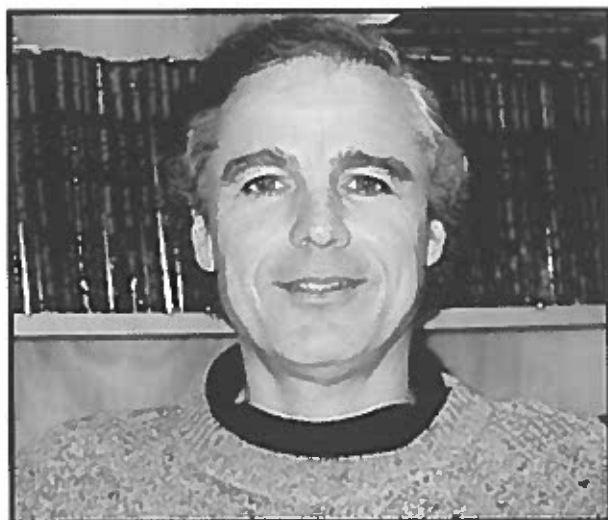
Ben Saunders is organizing two large-scale projects for fall 2009, both devoted to the study of some of the most compelling fantasy figures to have emerged from twentieth-century popular culture — the costumed crime-fighters of American comic-books.

The first project is a major exhibition of original comic art at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum. Entitled *Faster Than a Speeding Bullet: The Art of the Superhero*, the exhibition will consist of over 150 pages of rare comic art from more than a dozen private collections; it will feature key representations of Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Spider-Man, and the X-Men by some of the most influential artists in the field, including Neal

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Professor Steven Shankman is Named UNESCO Chair for Transcultural Studies, Interreligious Dialogue, and Peace

Through his career, Professor Steven Shankman's interests in languages and literatures have spanned three continents and ranged from the classical to the contemporary. In his research and teaching, he has been particularly interested in intercultural perspectives and the conditions that allow dialogue to occur. These interests have led Professor Shankman to collaborate with scholars from around the world to bring the UNESCO Chair for Transcultural Studies, Interreligious Dialogue, and Peace to the University of Oregon. UNESCO, an acronym for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, encourages international peace and universal respect by promoting collaboration among nations. There



Steven Shankman

are currently twenty chairs worldwide in UNESCO's Intercultural Dialogue Program, linking the University of Oregon with nineteen universities, including institutions in Russia, Israel, Lebanon, Georgia, and Kazakhstan.

As the first U.S. Chair in UNESCO's Intercultural Studies Program, Professor Shankman is directing the newly established Center for Interreligious Dialogue at the University of Oregon. This center will offer a UNESCO-sanctioned graduate certificate in conjunction with an advanced degree in a number of fields, including rhetoric, peace and conflict resolution, and comparative literature. This Center will encourage team-taught electronic classes with other UNESCO Chairs from around the world, collaborative research projects, community engagement, and participation in international peace endeavors. The founding of the UNESCO Chair and the Center for Intercultural Dialogue at the University of Oregon reflects the work of professors from all over campus who have sought to transform the institution into a cutting-edge center for transcultural studies.

Professor Shankman's colleagues and students congratulate him on this great accomplishment.

A Tribute to Jim Hall by Emeritus Professor Kingsley Weatherhead

Jim Hall, who died recently at the age of 90, came to this English Department in the early fifties and taught here for many years. He founded the Creative Writing Program, in which, among others, Ken Kesey and Barry Lopez were students. During his career he wrote a great deal of fiction and poetry and was nationally recognized for his substantial contribution to these arts. From here he moved to Irvine and finally to Santa Cruz.

When I arrived in Oregon in 1960 to be looked over, Jim had been here for some years, and he was the first person to buy me a beer. We became friends, obviously, and I got to know him. For some time, we served together on the graduate committee. In one session of this august body we locked horns over some item, and later he came to my office to have it out. When he left he said, "I was hopping mad when I came in here." But as he went out he left on the desk a copy of his novel, *Racers to the Sun*, which he had already inscribed, "Affectionately yours." That was Jim.

I had read quite a bit of his writing, poetry and fiction, and had recognized the imagination at work in these creations. But the strength of that faculty I had never realized until later when I saw a passage of autobiography he had published. As an undergraduate at Miami University he had applied for a scholarship at the University of Hawaii. He bought his ticket and sailed to Honolulu on the *Lurline*. When the ship entered the harbor there was a band playing and reporters coming aboard. But, he wrote, when he got to the dean's office,

“There was a good deal less *Aloha*.” At the time that he had bought his ticket, he had been absolutely convinced that he had been awarded the scholarship. But it was not so; he had imagined it. And he came to realize “the kind of imagination which was his lot: projective, realistic in detail.” That was Jim.

One more anecdote should be appended. At the end of a fall term there was a graduate student in creative writing who was doing badly. He was downhearted; his work was poor. In addition he was having trouble paying for his groceries. Just before Christmas he found in his mailbox two \$50 bills (and those were days when fifty bucks would buy things; and they were also days when most people in the English department had never even seen a \$50 bill) with a note saying something like, This is how we want to use our Christmas money. There was no signature, but circumstantial evidence pointed only one way. This was Jim.

Department Features Spielberg Screenings

During the 2008-09 academic year, the Department of English presented “Directed by Steven Spielberg,” a series of public film screenings investigating Spielberg’s influence as a director and producer on the film industry and culture, both domestically and globally. Each film was preceded by a short talk by a UO graduate student contextualizing the film’s place within Spielberg’s filmmaking career and the history of film itself. Presenters included Drew Beard, Steve Rust, Raphael Raphael, Colleen Laird, Brenna Wardell, Larissa Ennis, Jeong Chang, Patti Prenger, Kelly Jane Rosenblatt, Blair Orfall, Phoebe Bronstein, and Sarah Stoeckl.

Notes from Department Head Henry Wonham

Dear Friends of the English Department, I find it hard to believe that I am approaching the end of my third year as Department Head, and even harder to believe that my colleagues have agreed to let me stay on for another three-year term. It is a great honor to oversee the intellectual and educational endeavors of such a vast, diverse, and creative department, and I look forward to the challenges and opportunities we will face during my second term as Head.

The 2008-09 academic year was full of its own challenges and opportunities. In fact, with the addition of one new colleague, the delayed arrival of another, and the promotion of four assistant professors to the associate rank, we are a significantly different department than we were in September. The latest addition to our faculty,



Henry Wonham

Courtney Thorsson, is a recent Ph.D. from Columbia University and a specialist in African-American literary studies. Her research and teaching interests span a variety of fields, but her primary focus is on issues of gender and nationalism in novels by contemporary African-American women. We are also looking forward to welcoming Assistant Professor Allison Carruth, a specialist in the field of Literature and the Environment, who spent her first year on the faculty as a post-doctoral visitor at UC, Santa Barbara. Their careers are full of promise, and I look forward to the contributions they will both make as members of the English Department faculty.

Bringing talented young scholars into the Department is exciting, but it is even more gratifying to witness the success of existing colleagues, four of whom triumphantly navigated the perilous road to tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in 2008-09. It was an anxious year for Mike Aronson, Lara Bovilsky, Lisa Gilman, and Cynthia Tolentino, as they waited for committee after committee to deliberate over their tenure files, but they passed every test with flying colors. The English faculty now has four new senior members, and I am personally delighted to contemplate their expanded roles in administration of the Department (i.e. service!).

In addition to significant personnel changes, there were other highlights of the 2008-09 academic year, including a major Dante symposium, a Steven Spielberg film series, and frequent lectures by critics, writers, and poets. We made major changes to the graduate and undergraduate programs, and we launched what we hope will be a highly successful program for English majors in London. All of these initiatives emerged from the vision and energy of the people—both faculty and students—who call the English Department home. I thank them for making my job so gratifying.

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Wonham

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I could go on listing events, but I will close by thanking the Department's many supporters, without whom we would be unable to offer the members of our growing student body the intellectual experiences they deserve. In this era of diminishing public support, we rely more than ever on the generosity of donors for everything from student scholarships to prizes for distinguished undergraduate writing. Simply put, the support of alumni and friends is critical to maintaining the academic excellence of literary studies at the University of Oregon. On behalf of my colleagues, I thank all the friends of English for their interest in our activities and their efforts to help the Department thrive.

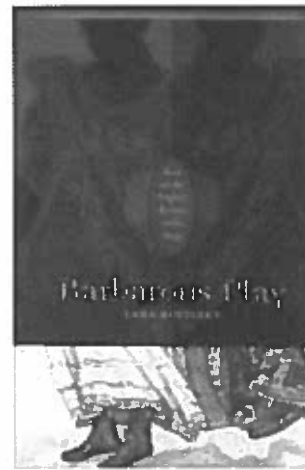
Best wishes, and please stop by the main office in 118 Prince Lucien Campbell Hall to say hello if you are visiting campus.

Sincerely,
Henry B. Wonham

New Faculty Books

From the 1905 opening of the wildly popular Nickelodeon in the city's downtown to the outgrowth of nickel theaters in its neighborhoods, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, proved to be perfect for the movies. It was a melting pot of ethnic, economic, and cultural forces—a "wellspring" for the development of movie culture—and nickelodeons offered citizens an inexpensive respite from the harsh realities of the industrial world. In *Nickelodeon City: Pittsburgh at the Movies, 1905-1929* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2008), Michael Aronson provides a detailed view inside the city's early film trade. He examines film promotion, distribution, and exhibition and reveals the earliest forms of state censorship and the ensuing political manipulation attempted by members of the movie trade. He offers a fascinating view of the city and the socioeconomic factors that allowed an infant film industry to blossom, as well as the unique cultural fabric and neighborhood ties that kept nickelodeons prospering, even after Hollywood took the industry by storm.

Lara Bovilsky's *Barbarous Play: Race on the English Renaissance Stage* (University of Minnesota Press, 2008) explores early modern English



understandings of race as represented in dramatic narratives of boundary crossing: miscegenation, conversion, disguise, and degeneracy. In these stories depicting changes in individual racial histories, we can see the culture's conventional wisdom about race, its fantasies and anxieties about the stability, instability, and diffusion of racial identities in its midst. The book argues that these beliefs strongly resemble our own understandings of race, not least in their reliance on fallacy and metaphor in portraying human differences. *Barbarous Play* works to dispel a prevailing double claim that race is based on science, and that what comes before modern science can therefore not be race. Readings of *Othello*, *The Jew of Malta*, *The Changeling* and other plays gloss English links between race and gender, religion, and nationality.

Miriam Gershow's novel *The Local News* (Spiegel & Grau, 2009) follows Lydia Pasternak, a bookish, socially awkward 15 year-old girl whose older, more charismatic brother goes missing one summer evening. Set in the aftermath of Danny Pasternak's disappearance, the book depicts Lydia's tentative, halting coming of age set against the suddenly shifting terrain of her life. As her parents go off the rails and the town buzzes with self-indulgent mourning, Lydia finds herself thrust into unwanted celebrity, forced to negotiate her ambivalent—often grudging—grief for a brother she never particularly liked but who is suddenly gone.



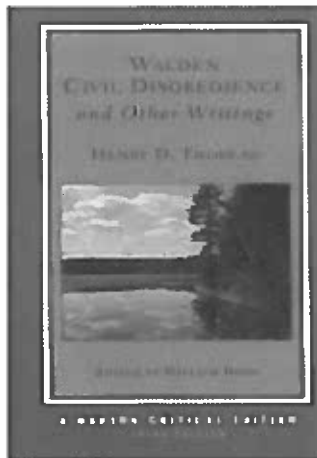
While the success of *Slumdog Millionaire* has recently alerted U.S. audiences to Hindi popular cinema, this film culture has long enjoyed a mass following worldwide. Sangita Gopal's *Global Bollywood: The Travels of Hindi Film Music* (University of Minnesota Press, 2008), an anthology she co-edited with Sujata Moorti, is the first book focused on the global circulation of Hindi film music. The introduction argues that Hindi cinema's mobility is formally motivated. Not only does the song-sequence take leave of the diegetic milieu and



circulate in other formats, but the very feature – song-dance – that makes it a unique national form also accounts for its global resonance. The book periodizes the dissemination of Hindi film music to suggest that its circulation has been uneven and articulated with larger historical shifts related to such issues as immigration and national identities. Together, the

collected essays show how this formal device has been received, transformed and commodified in sites ranging from 1930s Egypt to contemporary Indonesia.

Edited by William Rossi, the revised and expanded Norton Critical Edition, *Walden, Civil Disobedience, and Other Writings* (W.W. Norton & Co., 2008), includes, besides Thoreau's two best-known works, three later essays on abolition, environmental experience and ethics, and natural history. These are accompanied by contemporary reviews, posthumous assessments by Ralph Waldo Emerson, James Russell Lowell, and John Burroughs, as well as nine new critical essays that examine Thoreau's engagements with questions of environment, race, political action, and gender.



With support from a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Gordon Sayre and two co-editors, Carla Zecher and Shannon Dawdy, have published *Dumont de Montigny: Regards sur le monde atlantique, 1715-1747* (Septentrion, 2008), the autobiography of Jean-Francois Benjamin Dumont de Montigny, a French soldier who lived in Louisiana from 1719 to 1737. In a first-person, hand-written narrative

of 450 pages, which he composed in 1747 after he returned to France, Dumont recounted his travels and misadventures in Quebec, Louisiana, and Brittany. The document, including 23 color illustrations by Dumont, has been preserved at the Newberry Library in Chicago, but has been little known among historians. "Dumont's narrative is filled with rich, vivid detail of daily life in frontier Louisiana," says Sayre. "It's fascinating material and it will give scholars and students new insight into the hard, rugged life and times of this era." The book will be released in France by Les Presses de l'université Paris-Sorbonne.



John Witte's new collection of poems, *Second Nature*, was published in 2008 by the University of Washington Press as part of their Northwest Poets Series. It is described by the publisher as poetry that "sweeps the reader into its crosscurrents, its passionate engagement, and its ambivalence. Composed of staggered tercets, the poems in *Second Nature* track the chaotic rush and swerve of life as we live it. Alert to the dangers of love and loss, Witte writes with uncommon energy and urgency. *Second Nature* teems with expertly realized lyrics, monologues, and narratives, as well as poems based on historical figures from Ovid to Janis Joplin. The metaphors for human endurance and the transformative power of art and community are accurate and rich. Like birds in a clear-cut, singing their 'desperate psalm,' Witte's unflinching poems convey a rare kind of hope."

Seminar Spotlight: Ecocollapse

The topic of Professor Louise Westling's seminar on "Ecocollapse," held during winter quarter, seems particularly timely in light of current economic events. Borrowing a term from critic Donna Haraway, the seminar's title signals its focus on literary and visual renderings of the interrelationships between human communities and regional biosystems during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Although the resonance with current events was unintentional, it reminded graduate students of the potential social relevance of their work. Readings were organized around particular disaster areas, including the Dust Bowl (in Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*), the flooding of the Mississippi Delta (in Richard Wright's



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Seminar Spotlight

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“Down by the Riverside”), and the mining disasters of the Appalachian region (in Denise Giardina’s *Storming Heaven* and Muriel Rukeyser’s *Book of the Dead*). In addition to reading literary texts and environmental histories, students viewed two works by documentary filmmaker Pare Lorentz from the 1930s as well as more recent films such as John Sayles’ *Matewan*, about a coal miners’ strike in 1920. They also examined works of prose and photography by Richard Wright, Eudora Welty, James Agee and Walker Evans that anticipate environmental justice writing of recent decades. Westling expressed great pleasure in the way seminar members assumed the tasks of leading discussions of the texts and offering original readings from ecocritical perspectives. “Students are providing exciting new approaches to major works from the 1930s,” she said, “and some of their papers will be publishable contributions that expand debates in environmental justice criticism to include earlier historical periods than our own.” The class was demanding, with a heavy reading load and extensive writing requirements, but students overwhelmingly agreed that it was one of the best seminars that they had taken. First-year graduate student Paul Bindel said of the class, “The discussion and readings taught me more about the American environment than I could have ever gleaned from a cross-country road trip.”

The seminar is one of many courses on literature and the environment that the English Department offers each year. Under the leadership of Professors Glen Love and Louise Westling, both founding members of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE), the UO English Department created a structured emphasis in literature and the environment in 1999 for graduate students wishing to specialize in this area. With a number of other English faculty members



Louise Westling

working in the field, the UO has become a world leader in environmental studies.

Speaker Series Brings Four Distinguished Professors to UO

Each year, the English Department brings internationally renowned scholars to present their work on the UO campus. Students and faculty have the opportunity to interact with visiting scholars during informal lunches, a public lecture, and a reception. This year’s speakers were David Lloyd of the University of Southern California, Hsuan Hsu of the University of California-Davis, Shannon Steen of the University of California-Berkeley, and Ramón Saldivar of Stanford University. David Lloyd commenced the series with “The Extorted Voice: From Guantanamo Back to *How It Is*,” a lecture about torture illuminated by the work of Samuel Beckett. In his talk “The Dangers of BioSecurity,” Hsuan Hsu analyzed *The Host*, a South Korean film about a monster that rises out of the Han River to attack Seoul. Shannon Steen discussed the role of affect and performance in the 2009 US presidential election in “Affect, Race, and the Political Life of Barak Obama.” Ramón Saldivar, the final speaker in the series, examined connections between race and novelistic conventions in Salvador Plascencia’s *The People of Paper* and Junot Díaz’s *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. Professors David Vázquez, David Leiwei Li and Dianne Dugaw and graduate student Kelly Jane Rosenblatt served on this year’s speakers committee.

UO English Welcomes Three New Faculty Members

Lara Bovilsky, a specialist in Shakespeare and other writers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, joined the UO English department as an advanced Assistant Professor in September and was promoted to Associate Professor in May, 2009. After she received her Ph.D. from Duke University, Professor Bovilsky taught in the English Department at Washington University in St. Louis. There she helped to create the Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities, an undergraduate major that combines a broad introduction to philosophy, literature, political theory, and religious studies with independent thesis research of the student’s design. Professor Bovilsky’s research and teaching interests include Shakespeare; sixteenth- and seventeenth-century poetry; early modern colonialism; critical theories of race, gender and sexuality; and early modern cultural studies. Since arriving at the University of Oregon, Professor Bovilsky has taught introductory and advanced



Lara Bovilsky

courses on Shakespeare, as well as a graduate seminar on “Early Modern Travel and Colonization.” Her book *Barbarous Play: Race on the English Renaissance Stage*, published this year by the University of Minnesota Press, examines English Renaissance understandings of race as depicted in popular drama, focusing on the shifts in racial identity generated by narratives of boundary crossing such as miscegenation or religious conversion. She is currently working on a book exploring early modern definitions of human identity. The book’s case studies explore the boundaries between human and inhuman, and they include robots, talking animals, and stony human hearts.

A specialist in twentieth-century literature and environmental criticism, **Allison Carruth** joins the UO English Department as an Assistant Professor after having recently received her Ph.D. from Stanford University. She has taught courses in English and in rhetoric and writing at Stanford, the University of San Francisco, and the University of California at Santa Barbara. Professor Carruth’s research and teaching interests also include green cultural studies, globalization theory, food studies, theater and space, and technology and literature. Her article “The Space Stage and the Circus: E.E. Cummings’ *Him* and Frederick Kiesler’s *Raumbühne*” was published in the December 2008 issue of *Modern Drama*. Another essay, “*The Lives of Animals* and the Novel after Globalization,” which has been solicited for a collection of essays on postcolonial literature and ecocriticism, argues that Coetzee’s novella requires an ecocritical framework to understand its literary critique of late capitalism and factory farms. Professor Carruth is currently revising a book manuscript for publication. “Global Appetites: Literary Form and Food Politics” argues that the entwined phenomena of industrial agriculture and global food commodities have profoundly shaped the production of literature in English since World War I. Professor Carruth will begin teaching in fall 2009.

She says that she is delighted to have joined the faculty this year and eagerly awaits her move to Eugene this summer.

Carol Stabile, the new director of the Center for the Study of Women in Society, is Professor in the UO English Department and the School of Journalism and Communication. Professor Stabile received her Ph.D. from Brown University, where she completed a dissertation in cultural studies. Before arriving at the University of Oregon, she taught at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, the University of Pittsburgh, where she also served as the Director of the Women’s Studies Program, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Professor Stabile’s teaching and research interests include feminist theory, media history, and gender and technology. Her most recent book, *White Victims, Black Villains*, traces how race and gender have combined in news media narratives about crime and violence in U.S. culture. She is currently completing a book about women writers who were blacklisted in the television industry in the 1950s, and she has begun a new research project on gender in massively multiplayer online games. Professor Stabile will teach an English graduate seminar on feminist media studies in fall 2009. When asked what she likes best about the UO, she answered that she is impressed with the energy and enthusiasm for interdisciplinary work on campus and looks forward to the role she will play at CSWS in promoting research on women and gender.



Allison Carruth



Carol Stabile

English Department Notes Faculty News

Carolyn Bergquist received a Williams Council Grant to develop a new course called “Artful Sentences: Style through Grammar.”

Louise Bishop has been appointed Associate Dean of the Clark Honors College. Despite her descent into administration, she delivered a paper on Reginald Pecock and Thomas Elyot at the Medieval Association of the Pacific meeting in Albuquerque in March and contributed an invited 12,000-word entry on Chaucer for *Icons of the Middle Ages* (Greenwood Press).

Suzanne Clark delivered a paper with Professor Dan Miller of Journalism on “Documenting War” for the Democracy Symposium at Kent State University. The paper examined the relationship between media representation and documentary critique, especially with respect to the Vietnam era.

Michael Copperman had essays accepted by or published in *The Oxford American*, *Guernica*, *Best Creative Nonfiction* (Norton Anthology, vol. III), *Teachers and Writers*, *Anderbo*, *The Oregonian*, *The Register-Guard*, and *The Eugene Weekly*. His fiction appeared in *The Arkansas Review*, *34th Parallel* and *Third Reader*.

John Gage spent a week in April at Sogang University in Seoul, Korea, where he lectured on rhetoric and taught workshops for faculty on writing across the curriculum and designing a Writing Center. He is the editor of a forthcoming volume of essays, *The Promise of Reason*.

Lisa Gilman published *The Dance of Politics: Gender, Performance, and Democratization in Malawi* with Temple University Press and an article “Complex Genres, Intertextuality, and the Analysis of Performance” in the *Journal of American Folklore*.

Warren Ginsberg’s “From Simile to Prologue: Geography as Link in Dante, Petrarch, Chaucer” appeared in *Through a Classical Eye*, a Festschrift in honor of Winthrop Wetherbee (University of Toronto Press). He reviewed five books for major journals and was a specialist reader for the Guggenheim Foundation and the American Council of Learned Societies. With Gina Psaki of the Department of Romance Languages he co-organized a conference, “Dante’s Traditions in the New Millennium,” which took place at the UO last February. He also lectured at the University of Rochester, Amherst College, and the Università per stranieri di Siena in Siena, Italy.

Emeritus Professor **Robert Grudin’s** new book *Design as Truth* will be published by Yale University Press next spring, and he is co-authoring a book on Boccaccio with Micha Grudin.

Shari Huhndorf’s new book, *Mapping the Americas: The Transnational Politics of Contemporary Native Culture*, will be published by Cornell University Press this fall, and a co-edited collection, *Indigenous Women and Feminism*, will appear from the University of British Columbia Press next year. She also published an article in *American Quarterly*, gave an invited lecture at the University of California-Berkeley and a keynote address at the University of Alaska, and received an Oregon Humanities Center fellowship for her next book project.

Kathleen Karlyn’s new book *Unruly Girls, Unrepentant Mothers* is now under final contract with the University of Texas Press.

Anne Laskaya’s article “‘Wrangling Parliaments’: Terminology and Audience in Medieval European Literary

Annual Giving reminder: If you should receive a letter or telephone call from UO Annual Giving and decide to make a contribution to the University, consider designating the English Department as a recipient of your gift. Such gifts make a great difference in what the department can do to enhance educational opportunities for our students and provide valuable research and instructional resources for our faculty. If you wish to make a contribution now, please make your check payable to the University of Oregon Foundation, designated for the Department of English, and send it directly to the UO Foundation at 1787 Agate Street, Eugene, OR 97403.

Thank you!

Studies and Lesbian Studies” was accepted for publication in the collection *The Lesbian Premodern*, ed. Sauer, Watt, et al (Palgrave, 2010). She was also appointed Director of Medieval Studies.

David Li gave a keynote address, “Multiculturalism and the Monoculture of Global Capital,” at University of Turku, Finland, in August. His “Le spectre néoréaliste de Bazin dans le monde néolibéral de Jia Zhangke” appeared in *Cahiers du Cinéma* 640 (Dec. 2008), “Crazy English w/ a Chinese Face” in *Cultural Identity & Language Anxiety* (Guangxi Normal UP, 2009), and “Yi Yi: Reflections on Reflexive Modernity in Taiwan” was reprinted in *Chinese Films in Focus II* (British Film Institute 2009).

Emeritus Professor **Glen Love** recently published an article, “Teaching Environmental Literature on the Planet Indivisible,” in *Teaching North American Environmental Literature* (MLA, 2008). He also wrote two entries, on H. L. Davis and Don Berry, for the online Oregon Encyclopedia.

Last spring, **Paul Peppis** published a review in *Comparative Literature*. In November, he attended the Modernist Studies Association Conference where he chaired one panel, “Modernist Violence: Aesthetics, Politics, Agency,” organized another, “Auto-Ethnography, Evolution, and Estrangement at Modernism’s Peripheries,” and presented a paper, “Head-Hunters, Anthropologists, and the Forging of Modernist Subjectivity.”

William Rossi presented a paper on “Thoreau’s Non-Modern Practice in Modern Time” at the Thoreau’s Modernities Conference, University of Lyon, France, in May. He has also been named a Fulbright Lecturer at the University of Freiburg during spring and summer of 2010.

Gordon Sayre was Scholar in Residence at the H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest last September. A co-edited volume, *Dumont de Montigny: Regards sur le monde atlantique 1715-1747* (Québec: Septentrion, 2008), appeared last fall. He also published an article, “Jefferson and Native Americans: Policy and Archive,” in *The Cambridge Companion to Thomas Jefferson*, edited by Frank Shuffleton (Cambridge University Press).

Steven Shankman’s co-edited collection, *Faith in Literature*, is forthcoming from Königshausen and Neumann in 2009. He wrote the introduction to a new edition of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, and his article “Ghosts and Responsibility: The Hebrew Bible, Confucius, Plato” is forthcoming in *Rethinking Ghosts in World Religions* (Brill). He gave lectures at the UNESCO headquarters, the North American Levinas Society Meeting, and the ICLA conference. He was the chief organizer for the “Ethics, Religion, and the Environment” symposium held at UO and the accompanying meeting of UNESCO Chairs. He won a Williams Council award for teaching “Literature and Ethics” as part of the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program.

Sharon Sherman, Professor Emerita, was elected a Fellow of the American Folklore Society (the highest

recognition in folklore studies). She published two articles: “Who Owns Culture and Who Decides?: Ethics, Film Methodology, and Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection” in *Western Folklore* and “Film and Women’s Folklore” in *Encyclopedia of Women’s Folklore and Folklife*. She also presented papers at the meetings of the American Folklore Society and the Western States Folklore Society.

Richard Stein, Professor Emeritus, published an article, “*Bleak House* and Illustrations: Learning to Look,” in the MLA Volume *Approaches to Teaching Dickens’s Bleak House*.

Nathaniel Teich, Professor Emeritus, has retired from directing the Oregon Writing Project, a program he founded in 1977 as an affiliate of the federally funded National Writing Project. It supports the continuing professional education of K-12 teachers of writing. His essay, “The Rhetoric of Empathy: Ethical Foundations of Dialogical Communication,” was published in the *Journal of the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning*, Winter 2008-2009. It is an expansion of a paper he read at a featured session of the Conference on College Composition and Communication focusing on the influential principles of Peter Elbow.

David Vazquez’s article “*Jesús Colón* and the Development of Insurgent Consciousness” is forthcoming in the *CENTRO Journal* this spring. The article examines Colón as a transitional figure who links the politics of the Popular Front of the 1930s with the insurgent nationalisms of the 1960s.

John Witte’s third collection of poems, *Second Nature*, was published by the University of Washington Press as part of its Northwest Poets Series.

Daniel Wojcik’s article “Spirits, Apparitions, and Traditions of Supernatural Photography” was published in *Visual Resources: An International Journal of Documentation* (2009). His essays on “Bohemianism,” “Native American Church,” and “Peoples Temple (Jonestown)” appeared in *American Countercultures: An Encyclopedia of Nonconformists, Alternative Lifestyles, and Radical Ideas in U.S. History* (2009). Another article, “Avertive Apocalypticism: Using Spiritual Techniques to Avert Worldly Catastrophe,” is forthcoming in the *Oxford Handbook of Millennialism*. Wojcik’s film project, *Pre’s Rock: Legacy and Lore at the Roadside Shrine for Steve Prefontaine*, was highlighted in *Cascade Magazine*, Fall 2008; <http://cascade.uoregon.edu/fall2008/online-extras/pres-rock-pilgrimage>). He also served as Director of Folklore.

Henry B. Wonham contributed an essay to the anthology *Centenary Reflections on Mark Twain’s No. 44, The Mysterious Stranger*, published by the University of Missouri Press in 2009. He was also appointed to a second term as Department Head.

Graduate Student News

Drew Beard participated in a roundtable on “Narrative Franchises” at the Flow TV conference, held at the University of Texas at Austin in October 2008. He also has a forthcoming publication as a contributor to the “Moving Image Review” in *GLQ: A Journal of Gay and Lesbian Studies*.

Diana Coogle received a Diversity Building Scholarship for 2009-11. She presented a paper on the significance of cups in “Beowulf” at the conference for the Medieval Association of the Pacific and another on battle exhortations in “The Battle of Maldon” at the International Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo.

Maggie Evans’s article “Give Me Your Hand’: Accessibility, Commitment, and the Challenge of Cliché in the Poems of Barbara Kingsolver” will appear in the forthcoming collection *Seeds of Change* from University of Tennessee Press. She also presented a paper, “‘Itself is all the Like’: Selfsameness as Metaphor in the Poetry of Emily Dickinson,” at the *Poetries of Numerosity* Conference at MacEwan College in Edmonton, Alberta.

Janet Fiskio has accepted a tenure-track position in the Environmental Studies Program at Oberlin College.

Her classes next year will include a seminar on environmental justice literature and a course on ethics, equity, and narratives in climate change.

Kom Kunyosying will present “The Interrelation of Form, Theme, and the Question of the Animal in Nick Abadzis’ *Laika*” at the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Conference in June and “The Interrelation of Ethnicity and Form in Gene Yang’s *American Born Chinese*” at the International Comics Arts Forum in October.

Sarah Jaquette Ray accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of English at University of Alaska-Southeast. She was also elected Graduate Student Liaison of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment.

Stephen Rust presented three papers: “Re-imagining Eden: F.W. Murnau and Robert Flaherty’s *Tabu* (1931)” at the Film Studies of Canada Conference last June, “Performing Science: An Ecocritical Reading of *Cosmos* (1980)” at the Film and History Conference in November, and “Hollywood and the Changing Climate” at the Society for Film and Media Studies (SCMS) Conference in May. He will also present “*There Will Be Blood* Between Capitalism and Christianity” at the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) conference in June. He currently serves on the Graduate School Student Advisory Council.

Tristan Siple attended the MLA Delegate Assembly Meeting as a regional representative for the western United States and will present “Rethinking the Garden: Gilman’s Urban Political Ecology” at the Association for

the Study of Literature and Environment Conference as well as at the MLA Marxist Literary Group Institute on Culture and Society.

Sarah Stoeckl’s article “An Authenticating Hand: Willa Cather, Gertrude Stein, and the Right to Write About War” appeared in the Winter 2009 edition of *The Willa Cather Newsletter and Review*, a peer-reviewed journal focused on the writing and life of Willa Cather.

Jenée Wilde presented her paper “Queer Matters in Batman and Robin: Why We Insist on a Sexual Identity for Batman” at the national Popular Culture Association conference in April.

Erin Young presented two conference papers: “Shape-Shifter Heroines: The ‘Queer’ Effects of Late Capitalist Logic in Werewolf Romances” at the International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts (ICFA) and “Tourists and Tourist Attractions: Vampire Heroes and the Heroines Who Love Them” at the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA).

Alumni News

Michael Arnzen (PhD, 1999) has been promoted to Full Professor of English at Seton Hill University, where he will chair the Division of the Humanities beginning next fall. Arnzen publishes horror genre-related criticism and fiction and won his fourth Bram Stoker Award last year, this time for his story collection, *Proverbs for Monsters* (Dark Regions Press, 2007). A revision of his dissertation, *The Popular Uncanny*, is forthcoming from Guide Dog Books. He invites friends to catch up with him at <http://www.gorelets.com> or to read his pedagogy blog at <http://blogs.setonhill.edu/MikeArnzen>.

Scott Knickerbocker (PhD, 2006) has accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of English and Environmental Studies at The College of Idaho in Caldwell, Idaho, where he will teach courses in American literature, environmental studies, and creative nonfiction writing. His article “Emily Dickinson’s Ethical Artifice” appeared in *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, and his “Organic Formalism in John Witte’s *The Hurling*” was published in *The Kenyon Review*. Another essay, “‘Bodied Forth in Words’: Sylvia Plath’s Ecopoetics,” is forthcoming in *College Literature*. He is currently at work on a book manuscript entitled “The Language of Nature, the Nature of Language: Modern Ecopoetics.”

Sarah McFarland (PhD, 2005) and **Ryan Hediger** (PhD, 2005) co-edited *Animals and Agency: An Interdisciplinary Exploration*, which is forthcoming from Brill Academic Press in June.

Angela Venezia (BA, 2008) was hired as an assistant publicist at Farrar Straus & Giroux.

Cody Yarbrough (BA, 2007) won the bronze prize at

the 2009 Cinequest Film Festival for his screenplay "Freefall." The script started as an English Department honors thesis.

English to Host Graduate Reunion for M.A., M.F.A., and Ph.D. Students from 1965-1975

Two of the Department's most resourceful and energetic alumni have taken it upon themselves to organize a reunion for graduate students who attended the UO English Department between 1965 and 1975! John Wilson Foster and Robert Garratt are the visionary organizers of what is shaping up to be a wonderful campus event from August 14-16. A number of former teachers and an impressively long list of alumni have made plans to attend, and anyone who may have been overlooked (due to imperfect detective work) is hereby invited to join them in reminiscing about an exciting era in the Department's history.

The reunion will kick off with a reception in the PLC courtyard right outside the Department office beginning at 6:00 pm on Friday, August 14. The following evening, Saturday, August 15, a festive dinner will be served at the Excelsior Inn. If you are able to join us for dinner, the cost will be \$55 per person. For more information or to add your name to the list of attendees, please contact Jack or Rob directly: jwfoster@interchange.ubc.ca; garratt@ups.edu.

Happy Birthday

Norma Lobaugh (BA, 1931) celebrated her 100th birthday on October 29 with family and friends. After receiving her degree in English from UO, Norma began her career teaching English at Orland High School in Orland, California, and she continued teaching and directing three-act plays there for 10 years. After living in Mexico City for a year, Norma and her daughter, Janis Siegfried, returned to San Jose, California, in 1955 where Norma taught in the public schools. Norma now resides at Meadow View Manor in Grass Valley, California.

Students Honored for Outstanding Essays

Competition for the Swig Essay Prize, awarded each year for the finest essay by an undergraduate English major, was fierce, as usual, in 2008-09. Two of the Department's most generous friends, Mary and Steven Swig, created an endowment in 2007 to fund the annual prize, which is presented at graduation. Professors

submit copies of the best student work they receive during the academic year, and a faculty committee is charged with the excruciating but gratifying task of selecting a winner. Nominated essays in the past few years have covered an astounding range of topics, from the Old English epic "The Battle of Maldon," to prison imagery in *Bleak House*, to Irish politics in the poetry William Butler Yeats. The 2007-08 prize was awarded to a graduating senior and member of Phi Beta Kappa, Julia Mueller, who wrote a stunning analysis of Wallace Stevens's poem "The Man on the Dump." The 2008-09 winner was junior English major Robert Fuhrman, who's essay "Not Again: Echoes as Metaphor in *A Tale of Two Cities*" was written for Professor Richard Stein's seminar on the fiction of Charles Dickens.

Graduate students are also acknowledged for submitting superior written work. Each term, a faculty committee offers the Sarah Harkness Kirby Award to the author of the best essay written for a graduate seminar. Erica Morton-Starner received the winter 2009 Kirby Award for "Visuality and Phantasmagoria in John Thompson's *Victorian London Street Life in Historic Photographs*," a paper she wrote for Professor Alexandra Neel's "Victorian Visualities" seminar. Sarah Stoeckl was the fall 2008 Kirby Award winner for "Dear You, Dear Me: The Individual Communal in Gertrude Stein's War Autobiography," written for Cynthia Tolentino's seminar, "Post-1945 Autobiography"; and Melissa Sexton won the award in spring 2008 for "'Packing the World into Words': Ecocriticism and Representations of the World in Thoreau's 'The Bean Field'," written for Bill Rossi's "Science and 19th-Century Literary Culture." Congratulations to all the winners and nominees!

Superheroes

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Adams, John Byrne, Steve Ditko, Ramona Fradon, Gil Kane, Jack Kirby, Frank Miller, George Perez, Marie Severin, Bill Sienkiewicz, Alex Ross, and many more. It will run from September to January, and related speaker events will be programmed throughout the term.

The second, related project is an academic conference on the superhero phenomenon: *Understanding Superheroes*. The conference will be held over two days in October (23-24), and will include guest speakers drawn from the professional world of comics as well as several academic commentators. Professor Saunders is currently considering conference papers that explore the implications of superhero fantasies for our understanding of such diverse topics as gender identity, queerness, theological yearning, and nationalist politics. He welcomes further proposals.



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The Newsletter of the University of Oregon English Department

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