In 2005, one of the English department’s most generous alumni, Robert A. Lee, PhD ’66, and his wife, Gloria Lee, established an endowment to fund eventually a professorship in honor of A. Kingsley Weatherhead, Lee’s dissertation advisor and a scholar of twentieth-century literature, primarily modern English and American poetry. After finishing his PhD under Weatherhead’s direction, Robert Lee went on to a teaching position at the California State University in San Bernardino, where he taught courses in the humanities and later became a dean and eventually the coordinator of the university’s humanities courses. Like her husband Robert, who passed away in 2008, Gloria Lee is a passionate and generous supporter of education and the humanities. While the Lees lived in Eugene, she worked in the UO’s Clark Honors College; after relocating to California, she taught elementary school in San Bernardino for many years. The Lees’ original gift was thus only one demonstration, albeit an extremely generous one, of their joint commitment to supporting education.

Professor Weatherhead, who passed away last year, was an expert on twentieth-century literature, whose scholarship focused on modern writers such as Marianne Moore, William Carlos Williams, Stephen Spender, and Ted Hughes. Yet it was Weatherhead’s hope to be remembered as a teacher, scholar, and colleague through the promotion of learning related not to twentieth-century literature but to Shakespeare studies, which he thought essential to general undergraduate education and to the English major. The Lees’ original gift specified accordingly that the Weatherhead Professorship would help support the work of an associate or full professor “with a demonstrated commitment to teaching Shakespeare, especially at the undergraduate level.”

This year, Gloria Lee generously provided the English department with an additional, separate gift to support the ongoing study and teaching of Shakespeare at the UO by establishing the A. Kingsley Weatherhead Fund for Shakespeare Studies. The Weatherhead Fund will support a number of important new initiatives: an annual award for the best essay written by an undergraduate English major on Shakespeare’s work; regular class trips to Ashland’s Oregon Shakespeare Festival for students to see Shakespeare plays and speak with their directors and actors; and annual lectures by leading scholars in the field of Shakespeare studies, on or as close as possible to Shakespeare’s birthday, April 23, each year.

Two weeks after the Bard’s birthday this year, the department inaugurated the Weatherhead Lectures in Shakespeare Studies by welcoming one of the United States’ most celebrated scholars of Renaissance literature, including Shakespeare, for a public lecture, visits to undergraduate Shakespeare classes, and a
Notes from the Department Head

Dear friends of the Department of English

It’s early June in Eugene, and spring is trying a second time to nudge winter away for good this year. The bright skies and colorful blossoms around town suit the optimistic mood that’s been growing in PLC since May 1 when we learned that Martha Bayless, Jim Crosswhite, Tres Pyle, Dan Wojcik, and Mary Wood received promotions to full professor. Also in May, Lara Bovilsky won the Excellence Award for Directors of Graduate Studies, and Gordon Sayre won an Outstanding Research Career Award. You can read more about their accomplishments and the many achievements of our majors, graduate students, staff and faculty members, and alums in this edition of the newsletter.

My main sensations since stepping into the head’s office on July 1 last year are reverence for previous department heads who did the job with such grace; gratitude to staff members and colleagues who have been so helpful and committed; and near exhaustion. Total exhaustion was averted thanks to a dedicated administrative staff—Carolyn Bergquist, Lara Bovilsky, Miriam Gershow, Anne Laskaya, Paul Peppis, Bill Rossi, and Corbett Upton; a seasoned office staff, especially Marilyn Reid and Susan Dickens; and my students who came to office hours every week to talk about poems.

The department has changed since some of you were here, with three faculty resignations late last year—Allison Carruth, Enrique Lima, and Cynthia Tolentino—and two retirements in the main office: Cathy O’Grady in November and Donna Laue in June. We were pleased to welcome new colleagues Kirby Brown and Quinn Miller, new staff members Liesl Haggas and Beth Magee, student workers Alexis Leonetti, Kaylee Lewis, and Daniel Nielsen, and, of course, new students and postdocs whose many contributions fill these pages. We hired two new colleagues this year who will join us in the fall: Stephanie LeMenager will begin as the Moore Chair in Literature and Environment on July 1; Heidi Kaufmann will be an assistant professor in Victorian literature starting in the fall; Veronica Alfano, a specialist in Victorian poetry, and Jennifer Levin, a modernist and food studies expert, will also join the department as visiting faculty members for three years. You’ll learn more about them in next year’s English newsletter.

We’ve been focusing attention on our undergraduate majors, beginning with the creation of an associate director of undergraduate studies position. Corbett Upton stepped into that role last summer and has exceeded our wildest dreams. He eased us into the twenty-first century with Facebook and Twitter, working with undergraduate majors to bring a chapter of Sigma Tau Delta to the UO, and to reactivate the English Undergraduate Organization. Bill Rossi, director of undergraduate studies, trained a small team of dedicated advisors who have improved our undergraduate advising efforts. We are reevaluating the major and the undergraduate curriculum, have established more undergraduate prizes, and in July, the English department will participate in the Summer Academy to Inspire Learning (SAIL) program for the first time in the hope of recruiting students from diverse backgrounds to the UO and to English. (To learn about this terrific program, visit sail.uoregon.edu.) We also gave renewed attention to the study of literature and environment this year—with lectures by Joni Adamson and Wendy Wheeler in the fall, the Moore Endowed Chair hire in winter, and the first biosemiotics conference in North America in the spring. Likewise, we have continued our commitment to develop the study of race and ethnicity with a public conversation on “Minstrelsy or Popular Culture? On the Legacies of Blackface” with Louis Chude-Sokei in the fall; yearlong efforts of several faculty members to establish a new interdisciplinary graduate concentration in culture, identity, and politics and a mentoring program for graduate students in ethnic literary studies; and a department meeting with the new vice provost for equity and inclusion in the spring. We have a lot of work to do, and it’s exciting to look ahead together.

Many generous friends of English have given vital financial support to our projects, which, in turn, lends moral support to all our efforts. The year was enriched by three in particular: Robert St. Louis, who supported the St. Louis Seminars, small capstone courses for our majors; Gloria Lee, who surprised us with five-year funding for undergraduate Shakespeare studies, making possible a lecture by renowned scholar Harry Berger, a trip to Ashland for Shakespeare on Stage and Page students, and an essay prize for the best essay on Shakespeare; and Bill Casto ’76, MA ’93, whose long-standing gift designated, simply, for “enriching departmental life” again allowed us to honor and celebrate members of the department.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our successful year.

Karen J. Ford
Course in the Spotlight: St. Louis Seminar in African American Poetry and Poetics

Thanks to the generous gift of the St. Louis Seminar Endowment, established by Robert St. Louis in memory of his late wife, Nadine Small St. Louis ’58, the English department offered Professor Karen Ford’s St. Louis Seminar in African American Poetry and Poetics this past spring term. Professor Ford, an expert on poetry and poetics with a special interest in the politics of literary form, taught the seminar, which focused on the debates about poetic form and identity. Ford describes the rationale for the course’s intensive reading: “One of my favorite quotations from Gwendolyn Brooks is her response to an interviewer who asked her how literary critics should approach African American poetry; she said, ‘The first thing any critic of black poetry should do is read the poetry.’ That’s become the motto of our St. Louis seminar on African American Poetry. Because the class is small and meets in a three-hour time block, we have the luxury of time to recite the poems we discuss and read them thoughtfully and thoroughly. The recitations have been powerful, and the performances of Black Arts poetry a couple of weeks ago were particularly dazzling. The whole room rocked, and I loved seeing how much the students responded to those world-changing poems.” The students expressed their amazement at the number of poets the seminar studied and excitement at the chance to read so many “new” poets and be exposed to new areas of scholarship. Senior English major Justine Chisolm was impressed by the “intense reading and the broad expanse of history and the number of black poets” the course considered. Marty Larson-Xu, who has taken one other St. Louis seminar, “really enjoy[s] the seminar format. The small class size is more enjoyable and allows for more interaction and time to go in-depth with the material.”

In addition to critical reading, the seminar gave students time to work on academic writing skills. “One of the many benefits of this small class size is that we can give a great deal of attention to student writing,” says Ford. “Attention to writing is often challenging for students who have only ten short weeks to study a subject on the quarter system. But the 407 students have been up for the challenge. One student sat down in my office with her paper on her lap and said she’d never received such a low grade. But then she shook her shoulders as if to cast off disappointment and said with determination, ‘I’m ready to write better; it’s time.’ I can’t tell you how much I admired her at that moment and how glad I was to be a teacher.” Seminar participant Dana Gschell affirms the rewards of the course’s attention to writing. She appreciated especially “the depth and range of Professor Ford’s knowledge and her immense helpfulness in helping students take their writing to the next level; the intense, personal focus on academic writing skills and the technical skills necessary to read poetry well” were very useful. Thanks to the generosity of the St. Louis family, generations of future English majors will benefit from these opportunities.

Course in the Spotlight: The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program Course in Hip-Hop

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program increases opportunities for students, inside and outside of prison, to have transformative learning experiences that emphasize collaboration and dialogue, inviting participants to take leadership in addressing crime, justice, and other issues of social concern. Inside-Out courses are taught to a mix of undergraduates (“outside” students) and inmates (“inside” students) at the correctional institutions where the courses are offered.

This spring, Associate Professor Elizabeth Wheeler taught her first Inside-Out course, Hip-Hop Music: History, Culture, Aesthetics. UO senior Kehala Hervey and Marc Trice, a member of ACE (Another Chance at Education), a group of former and current inside students who help train new Inside-Out instructors and promote education within the prison, served as teaching assistants for the course. The course explored the uses and contradictions of hip-hop, focusing primarily on rap music but also considering dance and graffiti art. The course integrated the DIY ethos of hip-hop, asking students to create their own raps, poetry, memoirs, music, and visual art.

The effect of the program on participants is profound. Wheeler recounts the challenges and rewards
Racial Representations

In April, Assistant Professor Courtney Thorsson, a specialist in African American literature, organized the symposium “Racial Representations: African American Literature since 1975.” The English department, with the support of the senior vice provost for academic affairs and the Center for the Study of Women in Society, hosted the gathering.

The one-day event featured an exciting assembly of scholars and writers. Participants included Associate Professor Erica Edwards, a specialist in black political culture and African American literature, gender, and sexuality at the University of California at Riverside; Howard Rambsy II, associate professor of literature and director of the Black Studies Program at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville; Anthony Reed, assistant professor of English and African American studies at Yale; Evie Shockley, associate professor of English at Rutgers; and Matt Sandler, instructor of literature in the Clark Honors College at Oregon.

Mark Whalan, Robert D. and Eve E. Horn Endowed Chair in English and American Literature at Oregon, moderated the symposium’s opening panel.

The presentations explored African American poetry, autobiography, and what Howard Rambsy referred to as “a golden age of inspiration for Black men writers” between 1977 and 1997 that draws from genres and styles as divergent as zombie movies, Star Wars, black studies, and hip-hop. The day concluded with readings from poet Evie Shockley, who read from her book the new black and incorporated both spoken word and song to great effect, and novelist David Bradley of the University of Oregon, who read works of fiction and creative nonfiction.

Reflecting on the event, Associate Professor Rambsy blogged about the value of small gatherings like the “Racial Representations” symposium. “I encounter more people in passing at larger conferences; however, I ended up having more extended conversations about African American literature and various research projects with a larger number of people at this smaller gathering.” In a separate entry, Rambsy applauded Thorsson as a “lit scholar as organizer,” “one of those folks who bring a variety of scholars, teachers, grad students, undergrads, and general citizens together to talk and think about literary art. . . . As Courtney Thorsson is demonstrating, the literature scholar as organizer creates expanded opportunities for accessing . . . the field.” The English department joins with Howard Rambsy in praising Thorsson’s efforts in organizing the symposium and its resounding success in creating exceptional opportunities for intellectual exchange, scholarly discussion, and community-building.

Watch video of the symposium at media.uoregon.edu/channel/?s=racial+representations&x=21&y=16. Read Rambsy’s blog entries about the event at www.siublackstudies.com/2013_04_01_archive.html. Finally, watch the UO Today conversation between Evie Shockley and Oregon’s Paul Peppis at media.uoregon.edu/channel/2013/05/15/uo-today-545-evie-shockley.

Weatherhead

FROM PAGE 1

public reception: Harry Berger Jr., professor emeritus at the University of California at Santa Cruz. A founding member of Santa Cruz’s famous “History of Consciousness” program and a revered expert on Renaissance literature and visual art, Professor Berger is the author of innumerable books and articles on Shakespeare, Spenser, early modern theatricality, and Rembrandt and other Dutch painters.

Delivered before a packed hall of enthusiastic community members, faculty members, and, especially, undergraduates, Berger’s hourlong lecture, “Bad Boys and Hipsters: Shakespeare’s Iago and Rembrandt’s Rembrandt,” staged a series of exciting close readings as keen as they were witty of the soliloquies of Shakespeare’s arch-villain and the self-portraits of the great Dutch master as “bad-boy.” Berger’s virtuoso talk examined how these two famous Renaissance figures figure themselves—one verbally, the other visually—as possessing the period virtue of sprezzatura: the ability to conceal all art and make whatever one does or says appear to be effortless, to disguise what one really desires, thinks, or intends behind a mask of apparent reticence and nonchalance—or, as Berger explained, what we might call “cool.”

Professor Berger’s lecture on these two Renaissance “hipsters” marked a wonderful beginning to what promises to be an illuminating series of lectures on Shakespeare, and a fitting tribute to both Professor Weatherhead’s years of distinguished scholarship and undergraduate teaching at Oregon, and Robert and Gloria Lee’s tremendous devotion to education, the humanities, the University of Oregon, and the English department. The A. Kingsley Weatherhead Fund for Shakespeare Studies will ensure that, for years to come, UO students and faculty members will continue to explore and learn from the wonders of Shakespeare’s works and the insights of his leading scholarly exponents.

You can download the first Kingsley Weatherhead Lecture in Shakespeare Studies at 128.223.84.191/cts/download/B7D79A4D-AED4-46B4-8FF7-CD78808E679A.mp4.
New Faculty Books

Elizabeth Bohls’s Romantic Literature and Postcolonial Studies was published as one of Edinburgh University Press’s Postcolonial Literary Studies Series, edited by David Johnson and Ania Loomba. Bohls’s book examines the relationship between Romantic writing and the rapidly expanding British Empire. Literature played a crucial role in constructing and contesting the modern culture of empire fully in place by the start of the Victorian period. Drawing on postcolonial criticism’s concern with issues of geopolitics, race and gender, subalternity, and exoticism, the book discusses works by major Romantic authors such as Blake, Coleridge, both Shelleys, Austen, and Scott, as well as their less familiar contemporaries. Bohls’s study charts how key theoretical concerns of postcolonial studies—in its analyses of imaginary geography, the construction of otherness or difference, and cultural hybridity—have dramatically changed our understanding of Romantic literature. Informed by postcolonial criticism, Romantic Literature and Postcolonial Studies provides accessible yet sophisticated in-depth analyses of selected texts, in a range of genres.

James Crosswhite’s Deep Rhetoric: Philosophy, Reason, Violence, Justice, Wisdom was published by the University of Chicago Press. “Rhetoric is the counterpart of logic,” claimed Aristotle. “Rhetoric is the first part of logic rightly understood,” Martin Heidegger concurred. “Rhetoric is the universal form of human communication,” opined Hans-Georg Gadamer. But in Deep Rhetoric, Crosswhite offers a groundbreaking new conception of rhetoric, one that builds a definitive case for an understanding of the discipline as a philosophical enterprise beyond basic argumentation and is fully conversant with the advances of the New Rhetoric of Chaîn Perelman and Lucie Olbrechts-Tyteca. Chapter by chapter, Deep Rhetoric develops an understanding of rhetoric not only in its philosophical dimension but also as a means of guiding and conducting conflicts, achieving justice, and understanding the human condition. Along the way, Crosswhite restores the dignity and importance of the discipline and illuminates the twentieth-century resurgence of rhetoric among philosophers, as well as the role that rhetoric can play in future discussions of ontology, epistemology, and ethics. At a time when the fields of philosophy and rhetoric have diverged, Crosswhite returns them to their common moorings and shows us an invigorating new way forward. Deep Rhetoric was also featured this spring in Around the O, the UO’s campus news website, around.uoregon.edu/story/academics/print-deep-rhetoric.

Mark Quigley’s Empire’s Wake: Postcolonial Irish Writing and the Politics of Modern Literary Form (Fordham University Press) sheds new light on the rich intellectual and political milieu shaping the divergent legacies of Joyce and Yeats. Empire’s Wake traces how a distinct postcolonial modernism emerged within Irish literature in the late 1920s to contest and extend key aspects of modernist thought and aesthetic innovation at the very moment that the high modernist literary canon was consolidating its influence and prestige. By framing its explorations of postcolonial narrative form against the backdrop of distinct historical moments from the Irish Free State to the Celtic Tiger era, Quigley’s book charts the different phases of twentieth-century postcolonialism in ways that clarify how the early emergence of the postcolonial in Ireland illuminates the formal shifts accompanying the transition from an age of empire to one of globalization. Bringing together new perspectives on Beckett and Joyce with analyses of the neglected works of Sean O’Faoláin, Frank McCourt, and the Blasket autobiographers, Empire’s Wake challenges the notion of a singular “global modernism” and argues for the importance of critically integrating the local and the international dimensions of modernist aesthetics.

Fordham University Press also published Forest Pyle’s Art’s Undoing: In the Wake of a Radical Aestheticism. Radical aestheticism describes a recurring event in some of the most powerful texts of nineteenth-century British literature, offering a way to reckon with what takes place at certain moments in texts by Shelley, Keats, Dickinson, Hopkins, Rossetti, and Wilde. Pyle’s book explores what happens when these writers, deeply committed to certain versions of ethics, politics, or theology, nonetheless produce an encounter with a radical aestheticism that subjects their projects to a fundamental crisis. A radical aestheticism offers no positive claims for art, whether on ethical, political, or aesthetic grounds, as in “art for art’s sake.” It provides no transcendent or underlying ground for art’s validation. The radical aestheticism encountered in these writers, in its very extremity, takes us to the constitutive elements—the figures, the images, the semblances—that are at the root of any aestheticism, an encounter registered as evaporation, combustion, or undoing. It is, therefore, an undoing by and of art and aesthetic experience, one that leaves this important literary tradition in its wake. Embracing diverse theoretical projects, from those of Benjamin to Derrida, Art’s Undoing reveals how some of the most significant theoretical and philosophical projects of our time remain within the wake of a radical aestheticism.

Gordon Sayre translated and, with Carla Zecher, coedited Jean-François-Benjamin Dumont de Montigny’s The Memoir of Lieutenant Dumont, 1715–1747: A Sojourner in the French Atlantic (University of North Carolina Press, 2012). In 1719, Jean-François-Benjamin Dumont de Montigny, son of a Paris lawyer, set sail for Louisiana with a commission as a lieutenant after a year in Quebec. During his peripatetic career over the next eight years, Dumont came to challenge corrupt officials, found himself in jail, eked out a living as a colonial subsistence farmer, survived life-threatening storms and epidemics, encountered pirates, witnessed the 1719 battle for Pensacola, described the 1729 Natchez Uprising, and gave account of the 1739–40 French expedition against the
Chickasaws. Dumont's adventures, as recorded in his 1747 memoir conserved at the Newberry Library, underscore the complexity of the expanding French Atlantic world, offering a singular perspective on early colonialism in Louisiana. His life story also provides detailed descriptions and illustrations of the peoples and environment of the lower Mississippi valley. This English translation of the unabridged memoir features a new introduction, maps, and a biographical dictionary to enhance the text. Dumont emerges here as an important colonial voice and brings to vivid life the French Atlantic.

Courtney Thorsson's *Women's Work: Nationalism and Contemporary African American Women's Novels* (University of Virginia Press, 2013) reconsiders the gender, genre, and geography of African American nationalism as she explores the aesthetic history of African American writing by women. Building on and departing from the Black Arts Movement, the literary fiction of such writers as Toni Cade Bambara, Paule Marshall, Gloria Naylor, Ntozake Shange, and Toni Morrison employs a cultural nationalism—practiced by their characters as “women’s work”—that defines a distinct contemporary literary movement, demanding attention to the continued relevance of nation in post–Black Arts writing. Identifying five forms of women’s work as organizing, dancing, mapping, cooking, and inscribing, Thorsson shows how these writers reclaimed and revised cultural nationalism to hail African America. Michael Awkward, University of Michigan, calls *Women’s Work* “a substantive, deeply learned, and provocative contribution to the study of an important body of literature,” which examines how these novelists portray black women's multifaceted creative work as involved in “the theorizing of U.S. and diasporic nationhood.”

Animated by the conviction that we urgently need to reevaluate the human place in the world in relation to other animals, Louise Westling's *The Logos of the Living World: Merleau-Ponty, Animals, and Language* (Fordham University Press, 2013) puts Maurice Merleau-Ponty's philosophy into dialogue with literature, evolutionary biology, and animal studies. A volume in Fordham University Press’s Groundworks Series on Ecological Issues in Philosophy and Theology, *The Logos of the Living World* takes a radical departure from most critical animal studies, arguing for evolutionary continuity between human cultural and linguistic behaviors and the semiotic activities of other animals. In his late work, Jacques Derrida complained of philosophers who denied that animals possessed such faculties, but he never investigated the wealth of scientific studies of actual animal behavior. Most animal studies theorists still fail to do this. Yet more than fifty years ago, Merleau-Ponty examined the philosophical consequences of scientific animal studies, with profound implications for human language and culture. For him, “animality is the logos of the sensible world: an incorporated meaning.” Human being is inseparable from animality. Westling’s book differs from other studies of Merleau-Ponty by emphasizing his lifelong attention to science. It shows how his attention to evolutionary biology and ethology anticipated recent studies of animal cognition, culture, and communication.

**Writing in the Disciplines**

On March 19, the Center for Teaching Writing held a workshop for UO faculty members interested in including more writing assignments in their courses and helping their students sharpen their writing skills.

During the workshop, volunteers from the Center for Teaching Writing presented advice for designing effective assignments, ideas for informal writing activities, and strategies for efficient grading and assessment. Participants discussed their most successful writing assignments and brainstormed ways to adapt new assignments to their courses. Faculty members were also encouraged to redesign one of their course syllabuses to incorporate ideas and strategies from the workshop, for which they received development grants from the center.

Twenty faculty members from fifteen different UO departments attended the workshop, including physics, geological sciences, biology, psychology, international studies, economics, Romance languages, theater arts, political science, and planning, public policy and management, as well as the School of Journalism and Communication and the College of Education.

Center director John Gage was impressed by the range of faculty members who signed up for the workshop. “I’ve always felt that writing is central to learning in any field of knowledge,” he said. “The faculty response to this workshop shows that this is a belief held campuswide.” One faculty participant, Bethany Steiner of the Community Service Center, expressed the enthusiasm of others when she said, “If I could come to a workshop like this once a year, I would be a much more inspired and creative teacher.”

Gage was assisted in designing and conducting the workshop by Lee Rumbarger, English instructor and Teaching Effectiveness Program director, and by graduate students in rhetoric and composition Kristy Kelly and Francesca Gentile, assistant center director Dan Platt, and comparative literature instructor Michael McCann. Cosponsors included the Teaching Effectiveness Program, the Office of the President, and the Williams Council.
English Welcomes Two New Faculty Members

Assistant Professor Kirby Brown, who received his PhD from the Department of English and the Indigenous Studies Initiative at the University of Texas at Austin in 2012 and won the Mellon–American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Completion Fellowship, joined the department this fall. He has published articles on contemporary indigenous critical theory, constitutional criticism in Native American literatures, and Native interventions in the genre of the Western in leading journals in his fields, including Studies in American Indian Literatures and Nakum Journal. In 2012, he won the Don D. Walker Prize from the Western Literature Association for the best essay published on Western American literature. His research and teaching focuses on Native writing from the late eighteenth century to the present, Indigenous critical theory, and nation-nationalism and sovereignty–self-determination studies. He is interested in the politics of citizenship and belonging in ethnic American writing and the relationships between narrative form, cultural representation, public policy, and the law. His current book project, Stoking the Fire: Nationhood in Early Twentieth Century Cherokee Writing, examines how four Cherokee writers variously remembered, imagined, and enacted Cherokee nationhood in the period between Oklahoma statehood in 1907 and tribal reorganization in the early 1970s. He also created the popular “Native Studies at the UO: Weekly Update” e-mail that publicizes the wide variety of events, announcements, and opportunities available at the UO and in the surrounding communities. Brown was also featured in Around the O, the UO’s campus news website, around.uoregon.edu/story/academics/faculty-profile-life-long-texan-feeling-home-uo-english-department.

Assistant Professor Quinn Miller, a specialist in television studies and queer theory, also joined the department this fall. Miller received his PhD in screen cultures from Northwestern University’s Department of Radio, Television, and Film in 2010. This year, he received a University of Oregon Junior Professorship Development Award. His research and teaching focuses on queer and trans forms of media representation in U.S. sitcom history and consumer culture, engaging in new models of criticism and analysis. Miller has regularly presented his work at leading national and international media studies and cultural studies conferences and has published scholarly essays and entries in Television and New Media and The International Encyclopedia of Media Studies: Media Production. Currently, he is at work on a book project, Camp TV: Transgender-Queer U.S. Television History, which refigures conventional camp to make room for queer representation, revealing queer history through pop culture. Reflecting on his first year at Oregon, Miller has been impressed by the wide range and dynamism of his students. In his courses, he introduces students to the sitcom as an art form that preserves queer history and to archival research in media studies. Miller was also featured in Around the O, the OU’s campus news website (around.uoregon.edu/story/academics/faculty-profile-expert-queer-media-studies-arrives-way-qatar), which discusses his time serving as a visiting assistant professor of media culture at Northwestern University in Qatar’s School of Communication.

Course in Spotlight: Prison Exchange FROM PAGE 3

of the course for her and the outside students: “Each week the outside students and I travel into an entirely different world together. The rules of the institution have to be obeyed carefully, and we have to question our own privilege and assumptions. We have become a cohort that travels together, eats together, and cares about each other. We share an experience almost impossible to convey to the outside world.”

This class had thirteen inside students who are incarcerated at Oregon State Penitentiary and twelve outside UO students. “All of them are hip-hop fans,” says Wheeler. “While Inside-Out classes aim for equality and exchange among all students, the shared passion for hip-hop has provided even more common ground. It has been phenomenal to watch the inside students and outside students form friendships with each other.”

Wheeler notes that teaching in prison can be a challenge because of technological and time limitations; the prison does not have Internet access, and class time is strictly limited. So, while she could not teach a class on hip-hop using audio and video technology, her students, being rappers, poets, and creative writers themselves, shared their talents along with the hip-hop history and art appreciation. The students worked in teams to compose, memorize, and perform raps together for an epic rap battle in week nine of the course.

Are you curious to know what it’s like to be in an Inside-Out class? See the documentary Inside Looking Out, made about the course English professor Steven Shankman taught on literature and ethics using Don Quixote and Dostoevsky’s The Idiot at the Oregon State Penitentiary in spring 2009 (vimeo.com/5193052). This documentary was awarded the national 2009 Mark of Excellence Award by the Society of Professional Journalists.
**Oregon in London: Fourth Edition**

Downton Abbey, ancient Celts, Victorian art, politics, and theater were all on the program this winter when a group of intrepid Oregon students crossed the Atlantic to take winter term classes at the UO’s AHA London Centre. From the program’s base in the literary Bloomsbury section of London, the students studied hard, traveled widely, endured unprecedented snowy conditions, and experienced British culture firsthand.

This is the fourth year the English department has sent winter-term students to London. This year, they were accompanied by faculty member Martha Bayless, who taught two courses. The most participatory of these was Beyond Downton Abbey: The Rich, the Poor, and the Servants in British Literature, in which students not only read novels and memoirs about the rich and their servants, but visited stately homes such as Osterley House and studied the difference between “upstairs” and “downstairs,” from the opulence of the rooms to the ornateness of the locks. Even the AHA center, a well-preserved eighteenth-century house, provided evidence: its basement preserves the stone sink and gloomy rooms where the servants formerly worked, evidence of conditions that were a far cry from some seen on TV.

Other courses covered medieval Celtic myths and legends, modern British politics, art, and the thriving London theater scene. Students were able to watch a lively debate in Parliament and experience the no-holds-barred style of political Q and A with mayor of London Boris Johnson.

Theater was equally lively, including a play about Robert Frost, The Dark Earth and the Light Sky (students noted that the lead’s American accent was faulty) and a new play, People, by renowned English playwright and former Beyond the Fringe comedy troupe member Alan Bennett. Here the students were quick to note that the lead, Frances de la Tour, was the actress who played Madame Olympe Maxime in some of the Harry Potter films. The most ambitious theater expedition was a trip to Stratford-upon-Avon, where the group watched the Royal Shakespeare Company production of A Winter’s Tale.

The students also made a three-day excursion to Edinburgh, enduring some dramatic train delays because of snow, and made a day trip to Cambridge, where they attended a candlelit evensong at the famous King’s College Chapel. The British Museum, Victoria and Albert Museum, and the National Gallery expanded the opportunities for study in London. The Downton Abbey students even spent an afternoon at Dennis Severs’ House, a house still lived in just as it was in the eighteenth century.

“So many times the world in books seems so distant,” observed Professor Bayless. “In the London program, it comes to life. I hope students can continue to have this wonderful chance to experience it all in three dimensions.”

In 2014, the London program will shift to spring term and be led by Associate Professor Elizabeth Wheeler. She will be teaching Black and Brown London: Postcolonial Literature since 1945 and Graphic Novels and Cultural Theory (exploring how history gets rendered in graphic novels, especially in portrayals of the history of the Middle East). Course offerings next spring will also include a composition class taught by one of the English department’s doctoral candidates. With the addition of these general-education satisfying courses, the London Program will provide new opportunities for UO undergrads to complete university general-education requirements while studying in London. At the same time, it will provide an amazing opportunity for graduate students to teach in an international context and access a wealth of research materials they would otherwise not have the opportunity to consult. As always, we are working to provide scholarship support to English undergraduate majors who would like to have the opportunity to study the incomparable—and expensive—city of London. If you are interested in helping more students take advantage of all London has to offer, we hope you will consider making a donation.

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**English Professor Helps Organize Knight Library Exhibit on ‘Greatest Athlete in History,’ Jim Thorpe**

To celebrate Native American heritage month in November, Knight Library hosted an exhibit showcasing notable athlete and Sac and Fox Nation citizen Jim Thorpe (1888–1953). Entitled “The Greatest Athlete in History,” the exhibit situated Thorpe’s personal and public life explicitly within the contexts of Sac and Fox and American Indian history. The exhibit, which ran from November through January, was a collaboration between Knight Library Exhibit Services and Native American content specialists: Many Nations Longhouse steward Gordon Bettles (Klamath), Lindsey Watchman (Walla Walla), Assistant Professor of English Kirby Brown (Cherokee Nation), and Thomas Price.
UO Hosts International Comic Arts Forum on Portland Campus

This May, the University of Oregon hosted the sixteenth annual conference for the International Comic Arts Forum (ICAF). ICAF is the longest-running academic comics conference and has an international reputation. It has been held at Georgetown University, the Smithsonian, and the Chicago Art Institute; this is the first time it has been hosted on the West Coast.

Established in 1995, ICAF is dedicated to promoting the scholarly study and appreciation of comic art, including comic strips, comic books, comics albums and graphic novels, magazine and newspaper cartooning, caricature, and comics in electronic media. The forum provides a collegial environment to showcase innovative comics scholarship and comic art for critics, historians, teachers, and comics professionals from around the world.

This year’s conference took place in the Portland campus’s White Stag Block and featured a wide variety of presenters and guest artists. Events included ten academic panels, six panel discussions, and guest artists. Events included ten academic panels, six panel discussions, and guest artists. A John Lent Award Lecture on “How to Think about Comics as Social Objects,” plenary talks by Douglas Wolk and Scott Bukatman, and a documentary film screening of Comic Book City, Portland, Oregon, USA.

The conference would not have been possible but for the English department’s own Ben Saunders. The decision to host ICAF was made to celebrate and promote the fact that in the fall of 2012, the UO began offering a new undergraduate minor in comics and cartoon studies under Saunders’ direction. The interdisciplinary minor, the first of its kind in the country, emphasizes the international history, interpretation, and appreciation of the comic art form. According to Saunders, hosting ICAF this year was “the perfect way to celebrate the first year of the comics studies minor!”

Three University of Oregon graduate students presented papers in two academic panels, including English graduate student Margaret Bostrom, who presented her paper “Graphic Narrative, Catastrophic Homelessness, and Stories from the Storm: Reading A.D.: New Orleans after the Deluge” for the “Comics and the American South” panel.

Joining Professor Saunders and the English department in helping to bring ICAF to the University of Oregon in Portland and make it a success were the Oregon Humanities Center, the College of Arts and Sciences, the comparative literature department, Knight Library, the staff and administrators of the UO Portland, as well as faculty members from across campus in the comics and cartoon studies minor who made the trip and presented on their courses for the comics pedagogy panel.

Good Grief! Selected Art from Charles M. Schulz’s Peanuts

This fall, Professor Ben Saunders curated an exhibition of a selection of original artwork from Charles M. Schultz’s celebrated comic strip Peanuts at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art. The exhibit—entitled Good Grief!—on display from September through December, featured twenty-five examples from Schulz’s lifetime of work, with five strips for each decade. Peanuts ran for fifty years, from 1950 until 2000. Aside from one month-long holiday, he worked consistently on the comic until his death, passing away just a day before the last episode saw print. In total, he produced an astonishing 17,897 Peanuts strips.

“In selecting just twenty-five examples from this lifetime’s work, the sin of omission is unavoidable,” explains Saunders, who also directs the UO’s comics and cartoon studies minor. “Instead of pretending to an impossible comprehensiveness,” he continues, the exhibit offered “a series of revealing snapshots spanning the five decades of Peanuts to produce a kind of ‘time-lapse’ effect, allowing the viewer to take in the origins, maturation, and final years of the strip in a slow tour of the gallery.”

The iconic characters from Peanuts did not spring from Schulz’s pen fully realized. They took shape gradually, over years of disciplined, daily creative exercise, and address the period’s social and cultural changes. The shows selections reflected these tumultuous years, and sometimes Schulz’s personal values, with subtle invocations of the civil rights struggle, women’s liberation, an increasingly litigious society, and the fragility of the natural world.

Although necessarily incomplete, explains Saunders, the exhibit’s selection of strips proves that “Charles Schulz’s Peanuts is not merely the most successful newspaper comic strip in the history of the medium. It is also a modern American masterpiece.” In conjunction with the exhibit, Saunders also interviewed UO English alumna and celebrated Eugene comic strip artist Jan Eliot ’77 about her experiences with Schulz and her own career as the artist of the nationally successful newspaper strip Stone Soup.
Winter term 2013, the UO hosted the “Prisons, Compassion, and Peace” conference, an unprecedented collaboration of organizations both within and beyond the university, including the UNESCO Chair in Transcultural Studies, Interreligious Dialogue, and Peace and its research affiliates around the world, the Eugene Opera, the Eugene Public Library, and Sponsors, Inc., a local organization that helps recently released prison inmates reenter society. The conference included more than twenty events, lectures, art exhibits, and performances focused on incarceration in the United States.

The conference was preceded by a lecture series at the UO School of Law on religious perspectives on the death penalty. The series included “Buddhism and the Death Penalty” by Randi Getsushin Brox of the Portland-based Dharma Rain Zen Center prison volunteer program and UO professor emerita of French; “Judaism and the Death Penalty” by Rabbi Maurice Harris, former junior rabbi at Temple Beth Israel in Eugene and UO instructor; “Christianity and the Death Penalty” by Dan Bryant, pastor at First Christian Church in Eugene; and a panel discussion, “Interreligious Perspectives on the Death Penalty,” led by UO religious studies instructor and Gandhi scholar Veena Howard.

In his opening remarks at the inaugural lecture, English professor Steve Shankman, the UNESCO Chair for Transcultural Studies, Interreligious Dialogue, and Peace at the UO, explained the relevance of a conference focused on incarceration in the United States to the chair’s mission of promoting cross-cultural understanding and peace: “The incarceration rate in the U.S., which is the highest in the world, is a peace issue. The Global Peace Index, which ranks countries around the world on the basis of each country’s perceived contribution to world peace, ranks the U.S. very low—88 out of 158 possible rankings in 2012 (Somalia is in last place). Why such a dismal ranking? Because we have the highest incarceration rate in the world: one out of every four prisoners in the world is incarcerated in the United States.” The Prisons, Compassion, and Peace Initiative, Shankman explained, “aims to raise the public consciousness of the scandal of mass incarceration in the United States and to lift America’s ranking in the Global Peace Index.”

Art exhibits featuring the work of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated artists titled Visions from Within were held by the Downtown Initiative for Visual Arts, the Eugene Airport gallery, and the Eugene Public Library. The Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art hosted an exhibit by OSU art professor Julie Green titled The Last Supper, a collection of 500 porcelain plates with illustrations including the last meal requests of death row inmates. The Eugene Public Library’s 2013 “Big Read” classic book, Dead Man Walking.

The Eugene Opera’s Northwest premiere of Jake Heggie’s opera Dead Man Walking. The opera was greeted with much enthusiasm. According to The Register-Guard’s review of the performance, “Jake Heggie’s Dead Man Walking is the most visceral opera any of us will witness, and Eugene Opera’s production that opened Friday at the Hult Center is first-rate.”

This spring, English majors Madeleine Thornburg and Samantha Dalton, along with Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies Corbett Upton, reactivated the English Undergraduate Organization. The organization is open to all English majors and minors, including those in comics and cartoon studies and in writing, speaking, and critical reasoning. Their first order of business was to join with the Alpha Tau Phi Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta to put together a panel of graduating senior English majors (“How to Advocate for Your Education”) who discussed their experiences in the major, postgraduate planning, and finding campus resources and academic opportunities. Thornburg and Dalton also drafted a mission statement to guide the group:

The English Undergraduate Organization (EUO) is an organization for undergraduates pursing the study of English language, literature, and writing at the University of Oregon. Our main goal is to provide a community for English majors and minors to augment their studies and strengthen their connections among other English majors and minors, the faculty, and the university and surrounding communities. To this end, the EUO seeks to build our intellectual community beyond the classroom by creating opportunities for leadership within the organization, community service related to English, and academic and professional development.

They have scheduled a planning session to organize events for next fall to introduce the organization and welcome new majors. Look for their table at IntroDUCKtion!
**Professors Garner Major University Awards**

This spring, English professors were selected for two of the UO’s most distinguished awards: Associate Professor Lara Bovilsky received the Graduate School’s Excellence Award for Directors of Graduate Studies; Professor Gordon Sayre received one of two Outstanding Research Career Awards.

In 2011, the Graduate School developed the Excellence Award for Directors of Graduate Studies to recognize the good work of the faculty members who lead and manage graduate programs and to provide means for identifying and disseminating best practices that enhance the quality of graduate education at the University of Oregon.

In awarding the Excellence Award for Directors of Graduate Studies to Bovilsky, the Graduate School noted her “commitment to improving graduate students’ daily educational experiences and overall professional preparation” and her “innovative and energetic approach” for bringing “lasting improvements to the training environment in the English department.” The Graduate School singled out for praise the following of Bovilsky’s achievements: improving the professionalization and mentoring of English graduate students, with particular devotion to the whole student and those specializing in the study of race and ethnicity; obtaining funding and community positions that foster graduate students’ career development and overall job preparation; and establishing multiple, diverse forums for faculty members and students to exchange information designed to enhance student training. We join with these student advocates and the Graduate School selection committee in celebrating Lara Bovilsky’s excellence as director of graduate studies in English.

Sponsored by the Office for Research, Innovation, and Graduate Education, the Outstanding Research Career Award is given annually to two tenured faculty members of associate or full professor rank. Award recipients share their outstanding work with campus colleagues by giving the Presidential Research Lecture on campus in the year following the receipt of their award. Kimberly Espy, vice president for research and innovation and dean of the Graduate School, and Michael Gottfredson, UO president, honored this year’s recipients at a ceremony attended by colleagues, friends, and families at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art.

With this award, the university acknowledges what his colleagues and students in the English department have long recognized: Gordon Sayre is a truly outstanding researcher and scholar. Sayre is a specialist in colonial and early American literature with particular expertise in French colonial history and literature, in the exploration and cartography of North America, in Native American literature and ethno-history, and in natural history and eco-criticism. His work is deeply interdisciplinary and, though he works in the English department, his scholarship frequently entails reading and translating French colonial texts, history, and cartography. Since joining the department in 1999, he has published five books—two monographs and three editions or translations—twenty-three essays, eleven review essays and notes, and more than twenty book reviews. His list of international and national conference presentations is even longer, and his professional service (conference organizing, executive committees, editorial refereee work, and faculty reviews) bespeaks his fine reputation and prominence in our discipline.

In his opening remarks at the award ceremony, President Gottfredson praised the recipients as scholars “actively engaged at the highest level in creativity and discovery,” whose research “is at the core of everything we do.” These words describe Gordon Sayre perfectly; we join with the president in honoring his outstanding career as a scholar and researcher.

**English and Political Science Win Grant for Graduate Concentration in Culture, Identity, and Politics**

The Departments of English and Political Science have been awarded a 2013 Innovations in Graduate Education Grant from the Graduate School to support a new interdisciplinary graduate concentration in culture, identity, and politics. The program will begin accepting applications in winter 2014 for admission of its first cohort in the 2014–15 academic year. The specialization will draw faculty members and graduate students from across the social sciences and humanities with shared interests in bringing the theories and methods of cultural studies and its attention to narrative, identity, discourse, and representation to questions of political order, social change, and power. The program seeks to provide UO graduate students with strong interdisciplinary theoretical and methodological training; enhance the capacity of multiple graduate programs to recruit, retain, and place outstanding graduate students with interdisciplinary interests in this area; and build a cross-disciplinary intellectual community on campus. English faculty members Kirby Brown, Sangita Gopal, Priscilla Ovalle, Courtney Thorsson, and David Vázquez collaborated with colleagues across campus, including Associate Professor Dan HoSang in political science, to propose this new interdisciplinary concentration.
In Memoriam: Roland Bartel

Roland Bartel died on September 20 at the age of ninety-three. He was a member of the English department from 1961 to 1986 and department head for eight years, 1966–76. Roland was the mainstay of the department throughout his long tenure as head and particularly during the chaotic period of campus protests against the Vietnam War. It was only fitting that Roland Bartel, yet isn’t it telling that of Biosemiotics from Physiochemical Dynamics.” John Deely, professor of philosophy, St. Thomas University in Houston, spoke about “Objective Reality and the Physical World: Relation as Key to Understanding Semiosis.” Ted Toadvine, associate professor of philosophy and environmental studies and head of the UO Department of Philosophy, summed up the conference: “It was an impressive event and a real treat for us to have the major founders of this new interdisciplinary field here for two days of talks and conversations. The conference was superbly organized, the talks were rich and challenging, our scholar-guests had a great time, and everyone left with their horizons widened in unexpected directions.”

You can view the conference proceedings at media.uoregon.edu/channel/?s=biosemiotics&x=0&y=0. You can find out more about the field in Wendy Wheeler’s online book, Biosemiotics: Nature, Culture, Science, Semiosis at livingbooksaboutlife.org/books/Biosemiotics.

Roland chose a graduate student with previous teaching experience, Ulrich Hardt, DA ’74, PhD ’74, to take over some of his English ed classes. Rick Hardt spoke at the memorial for Roland, recalling particularly their long and friendly association in later years and Roland’s contributions to the Oregon English Journal: “Since 1984 (when he was sixty-five years old), we published twelve major articles of his, the last one he sent us when he was eighty-six years old. . . .” Most of his articles dealt with war and peace, but he wrote on other subjects as well. Roland also published seven textbooks on various literary and historical topics.

At the memorial, Rick read excerpts from many of the reminiscences of his fellow graduate students. The following are typical of their memories of Roland: “He was a very kind and thoughtful man, with a firm but gentle touch in managing the sometimes unmanageable students and faculty members of the UO English department.” Very few of we doctoral students had actually taken a course from Roland Bartel, yet isn’t it telling that all of us think of him as a teacher from whom we learned important lessons?”

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Department Hosts Distinguished Speakers

This year, the English department helped bring six leading scholars to speak on campus. Each visit included a public lecture and a reception held in the Booth Lounge.

In October, Joni Adamson lectured on “Rethinking the Commons: How the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Sciences Power Our Struggle for Food and Climate Justice.” Adamson is associate professor of English and environmental humanities, research scholar at the Global Institute of Sustainability, a faculty member in human and social dimensions of science and technology, and an affiliate of women and gender studies at Arizona State University. Her work focuses on environmental justice, contested notions of “the commons,” food sovereignty, global indigenous literatures, and organizing for human, civil, and environmental rights. She is the author of American Indian Literature, Environmental Justice, and Ecocriticism (2001) and coeditor (with Mei Mei Evans and Rachel Stein) of The Environmental Justice Reader (2002). She served as the 2011–12 president of the Association for the Study Literature and Environment, the leading professional organization of scholars, educators, students, and scientists in the field.

In November, Wendy Wheeler, professor emerita of London Metropolitan University and a scholar of modern British literature and cultural studies, lectured on “Green Imaginaries: Biosemiotics, History, Memory, and the Future.” Wheeler helped introduce the new interdisciplinary field of biosemiotics into environmental literary criticism in the United Kingdom with her book The Whole Creature: Complexity, Biosemiotics, and the Evolution of Culture (2006). Originally developed in Denmark and Estonia, biosemiotics explores meaningful communication throughout the living world. Such communication includes behaviors from intracellular code exchanges to interspecies communication and human language and culture. According to its advocates, biosemiotics has the potential to reintegrate cultural studies with the life sciences and open new perspectives on the evolution of language and the arts. Professor Wheeler returned to the UO this spring to join Louise Westling, professor emerita of English, as coorganizers and hosts of the international conference “Biosemiotics and Culture.”

Louis Chude-Sokei, whose visit this January was cosponsored by Clark Honors College, the Department of English, and the Oregon Humanities Center, presented his lecture, “Minstrelsy or Popular Culture? On the Legacies of Blackface.” Chude-Sokei is associate professor of English at the University of Washington and senior editor of The Black Scholar, one of the oldest black cultural-political journals in America. His interests are in postslavery black immigration to the United States—particularly from Africa and the Caribbean. Ably moderated by the Robert D. and Eve E. Horn Endowed Chair in English and American Literature, Mark Whalan, Chude-Sokei’s talk explored the multiple legacies of blackface in America and across the world, beginning with a discussion of Bahamanian comedian Bert Williams, who in 1910 became the first performer to racially integrate Broadway, and gained worldwide fame for his career as a black blackface minstrel. From there, the discussion moved on to the place of Caribbean artists in the Harlem Renaissance, the history of black blackface (and what this strange form tells us about American understandings of race), and the ways blackface continues to play a role in the twenty-first century culture—despite frequent announcements of its disappearance. Chude-Sokei’s book The Last Darky: Bert Williams, Black on Black Minstrelsy and the Black Diaspora (2005) was a finalist for the Hurston-Wright Legacy Award for nonfiction.

In April, Michael Chasar, assistant professor of English literature at Willamette University, presented a lecture on “Setting the Letters of Fire into Operation: Magic Lantern Poetry and the Making of Convergence Culture.” Examining why poetry was printed on magic lantern slides for the purposes of projection in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Chasar’s lecture argued that this seminal moment in the history of popular poetry—when the word left the printed page and became immaterial in widespread ways for the first time in history—helped to reshape people’s relationship to nonprint media and set into motion some of the dynamics that we attribute to today’s media world. Assistant Professor Chasar studies the culture of American popular poetry and especially how ordinary readers use that poetry in their lives. He is coeditor of the collection Poetry after Cultural Studies (2011) and author of Everyday Reading: Poetry and Popular Culture in Modern America (2012).

In May, Peter Travis, Henry Winkley Professor of Anglo-Saxon Literature and Language at Dartmouth College, discussed “Imitatio Christi: The Violence of Mimetic Desire.” This presentation was sponsored by both the Medieval Studies Program and the Department of English. Drawing on examples from medieval drama, Travis discussed the body, wounds and blood, Skin Ego theory, theories of Mind, and sacrifice theology and psychology, all in an effort to understand mimesis and catharsis. His primary interests are medieval literature and contemporary critical theory, and he recently developed and taught a course on contemporary masculinities, The Masculine Mystique. Travis’s most recent book, Disseminal Chaucer: Rereading the Nun’s Priest’s Tale (2010), was the 2009 Winner of the Warren-Brooks Award for Outstanding Literary Criticism.

Robert Glenn Howard, PhD ’01, professor of communication arts and director of the Folklore Program and the Digital Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, also visited this May. His lecture, “Back to the Newly Digital Networked Normal,” discussed the “new” media. Howard’s teaching and publications span the fields of communication, folklore studies, journalism, rhetoric, and religious studies. Combining critical cultural and rhetorical theories with network graphing methods and traditional ethnography, his research seeks to uncover the possibilities and limits of empowerment through everyday expression in network communication technologies by focusing on the intersection of individual agency and participatory performance. He is the author of more than thirty academic articles and has published three books: Digital Jesus (2011), Network Apocalypse (2011), and Tradition in the Twenty-First Century (2013).
Faculty News

Martha Bayless was promoted to full professor this spring. She received a 2013 UO Faculty Research Award to support a new research project, "Building a New Model of Oral-Cultural Systems," which aims to construct a new model of how knowledge and tradition are preserved and transmitted in oral cultures, using the example of medieval Wales.


Elizabeth Bohls's new book, *Romanticism and Postcolonial Studies,* has been published by Edinburgh University Press. She received a 2011–12 Oregon Humanities Center Research Fellowship for her work in progress on the Scottish explorer Mungo Park, which she presented at the Borders and Crossings conference in Birmingham, United Kingdom.

Lara Bovilsky presented one paper, "Racked to the Uttermost: Demanding Aggression in *The Merchant of Venice,*" as part of a Festschrift for Jonathan Goldberg at Brown University, and presented another, "The Verves of Love and Subjecthood in *The Merchant of Venice,*" at the Shakespeare Association in Toronto. This spring, she received the 2013 Director of Graduate Studies Excellence Award given by the UO Graduate School, and she won the inaugural Teaching Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Education given annually to an English faculty member by the new Alpha Tau Phi chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society.

Kirby Brown was awarded the Don D. Walker Prize by the Western Literature Association for "the best essay published in Western American literature" in 2011 for his essay "Citizenship, Land, and Law: Constitutional Criticism and John Milton Oskison’s *Black Jack Davy,*" published in the winter 2011 issue of *Studies in American Indian Literatures.* This fall, he collaborated with a number of other Native American content specialists on campus and Knight Library Exhibit Services to curate an exhibit showcasing famed athlete and Sac and Fox Nation citizen Jim Thorpe. Assistant Professors Brown and Burke Hendrix (political science) were awarded a UO College of Arts and Sciences Program Grant to support a proposed interdisciplinary conference, "Alternative Sovereignties: Decolonization through Indigenous Vision and Struggle," to be held at the UO in spring 2014. A call for papers and schedule of events will be forthcoming shortly.


Michael Copperman’s essays appeared in *Gulf Coast,* *Creative Nonfiction,* *The Goodmen Project,* and *The Rumpus.* He was the recipient of a fellowship in literary nonfiction to Breadloaf Writer’s Conference, and read from his memoir, *Gone,* for the Sunday Salon reading series in New York, New York.

James Crosswhite published *Deep Rhetoric: Philosophy, Reason, Violence, Justice, Wisdom* (University of Chicago Press). In October, he delivered an address titled "Conflict and Hope: Creating Rhetorical Capabilities" at a meeting of the Rhetoric Society of Korea at the University of Incheon. That address was published in the conference proceedings. While in South Korea, he gave another lecture, "Shakespeare’s Hamlets," at Seowon University. In September, he was a distinguished lecturer at Belang University in Beijing, China, and gave seven lectures: "Rhetoric: Its Origins and History," "Rhetorical Situations," "Rhetorical Capabilities," "Rhetorical Questioning," "Rhetorical Reasoning," "The Essentials of Rhetoric," and "A Rhetorical Education." He received a UO Faculty Research Award for his work on "Rhetorical Capabilities," and his promotion to full professor was announced this spring.

Lisa Gilman was awarded a Fulbright to spend a year in Malawi to pursue her project, "Dance and the Politics of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Malawi," and to teach at Mzuzu University. Her first documentary film, *Grounds for Resistance,* was selected for distribution by the Film Media Group.

Warren Ginsberg, Philip H. Knight Professor of Humanities, published "Hell’s Borderlands: A Preliminary Cartography of Dante’s *Inferno*" in *Modern Language Notes.* He presented a lecture on Boccaccio and Chaucer at the *Settimana di studio sulle Letterature dell’ Europa medievale* in Montepulciano, Italy, as well as two talks at the annual conference of the American Association of Italian Studies, which met in Eugene. This June, he will be presenting a lecture at the Università di Roma, La Sapienza.

Sangita Gopal received a research grant from the UO Center for the Study of Women in Society for "Between State and Capital: Women Make Movies," a project analyzing the dramatic rise of women directors in the Bollywood film industry during the 1980s. She has also received an Oregon Humanities Center 2013–14 Faculty Research Fellowship to support the project "Two Takes on Modernity: Self-Reflexivity and North Indian Popular Cinema."

Kathleen Karlyn gave an invited keynote lecture, "Feminist Dialectics and Unrepentant Mothers: What I Didn’t Say, and Why," at the International Television for Women Conference at the University of Warwick, United Kingdom.

Anne Laskaya presented a paper, "Exploring Fault Lines: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight in Manuscript, Image, and Edition," at the 2013 Medieval Association of the Pacific meeting at the University of San Diego. She was elected secretary for the Medieval Association of the Pacific, and she is coeditor of *Chronica,* the newsletter for the Medieval Association of the Pacific. Director of the Medieval Studies Program at the UO, she organized a one-day conference for UO medievalists. She was elected cochair of the UO
Faculty Advisory Council, and served as interim director of graduate study in the Department of English during spring 2013.

While serving his term as Fulbright Distinguished Chair at the University of Arts, London, David Li, Collins Professor of the Humanities, has also shared his work at the University of Trento, University of Napoli "Orientale," and Ragusa University in Italy, sponsored by the respective institutions as well as the Italian Fulbright Commission.


Priscilla Ovalle has received an Oregon Humanities Center 2013–14 Faculty Research Fellowship to support her project, “‘Hair/Style.’” She, her husband, Omar Naim, and their son, Ziad, welcomed the newest member of their family, a beautiful baby girl: Nidal Soccoro Naim.

Paul Peppis’s book, Sciences of Modernism: Ethnography, Sexology, and Psychology, is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press. This April, he gave two invited lectures: “Modernizing Fiction, Writing Minds: The Case of Virginia Woolf” as part of the UO Insight Seminar Program, and “Making the Novel New: Ulysses and Modernism” at Willamette University, Salem, Oregon.

Forest Pyle’s book, Art’s Undoing: In the Wake of a Radical Aestheticism, has been published by Fordham University Press. He was promoted to full professor this spring.

Mark Quigley’s book, Empire’s Wake: Postcolonial Irish Writing and the Politics of Modern Literary Form, has been published by Fordham University Press. He presented a paper, “Liam O’Flaherty’s ‘Unreal City’: Post-Revolutionary Dublin and the Framing of Cinematic Modernism,” at the Modernist Studies Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Bill Rockett, associate professor emeritus, presented a paper, “The Indictment and Trial of Thomas More,” at the 2013 meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, San Diego, California. This paper is one of several studies of More’s incarceration, trial, and execution that he has written since retiring in 2000.

Gordon Sayre’s edited translation of Jean-François-Benjamin Dumont de Montigny, The Memoir of Lieutenant Dumont, 1715–1747: A Sojourner in the French Atlantic, has been published by University of North Carolina Press (2012). He received the Outstanding Research Career Award from the UO Office of Research, Innovation, and Graduate Education. He was elected in January to the leadership of the Society of Early Americanists, and will begin in the role of executive coordinator in June. His article, “How to Succeed in Exploration without Really Discovering Anything: Four French Travelers in Colonial Louisiana, 1714–1763,” was published in Atlantic Studies this spring.


Richard Stein, professor emeritus, is currently at work on a textual-visual project concerning medicine, maps, and what he calls “vital statistics.” Having relocated to Los Angeles, he has been participating in the Nineteenth-Century Reading Group at UCLA, where he has a courtesy association. He returned to Eugene for UO graduation to see honors bestowed on a former student from 1981, now a retired U.S. ambassador.

Courtney Thorsson’s book, Women’s Work: Nationalism and Contemporary African American Women’s Novels, has been published by the University of Virginia Press. Thorsson gave a talk drawn from Women’s Work at the American Literature Association annual conference in Boston. She presented talks from her current work on food ways and African American literature at the University of Toronto, the Oregon Humanities Center, and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Thorsson will continue researching and writing her food ways manuscript with the support of a 2013 Faculty Research Award from the Office of Research, Development, and Graduate Education and a Junior Professorship Development Award from the UO College of Arts and Sciences. Her article, “James Baldwin and Black Women’s Fiction,” is forthcoming in African American Review. Thorsson organized the April symposium “Racial Representations: African American Literature Since 1975.”

Corbett Upton, MA ’06, PhD ’10, published “What He Has Assumed, We Have Assumed: ‘Song of Myself’ as American Poetry” in Literary Imagination. He presented a paper, “Opportunity Magazine and the Harlem Renaissance of the Professional Middle Class,” at the 2012 Harlem Renaissance Conference: The Harlem Community: Contemporary

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Department Notes

and Historical Enclave of Creativity at Paine College in Augusta, Georgia.

Professor Emerita Louise Westling’s book, The Logos of the Living World: Merleau-Ponty, Animals, and Language (Fordham University Press) is set to appear in September. She is the editor of The Cambridge Companion to Literature and the Environment (forthcoming, 2013). She received a UO College of Arts and Sciences Program Grant to support the Biosemiotics and Culture Conference held at the university this past spring.

Elizabeth Wheeler’s article, “No Monsters in This Fairy Tale: Wonder and the New Children’s Literature,” will appear in a special disability studies issue of Children’s Literature Quarterly in fall 2013. She received a UO College of Arts and Sciences Program Grant to support a Disability Studies Colloquium in fall 2013. Part of the UO Disability Studies Project, this colloquium is an occasion to share knowledge about disability studies and raise its profile at the UO.

Mark Whalan, Robert D. and Eve E. Horn Endowed Chair in English and American Literature, presented a paper, “Toomer 2.0: Jean Toomer in 2012,” at the Modernist Studies Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. He presented another paper, “Letters from a Soldier: Letters and States of Intimacy in World War I American Literature,” at the British Association for American Studies conference in Exeter, United Kingdom. He organized the visit of Professor Louis Chude-Sokoh, who gave a campuswide talk entitled “Minstrelsy or Popular Culture? On the Legacies of Blackface” in January, and led a class on this topic in the honors college. He has accepted an invitation to join the editorial board of The Journal of American Studies.

Daniel Wojcik’s research on apocalyptic and millennialist beliefs was highlighted in various publications in association with the December 21, 2012, prophecy date (the alleged end of the Mayan calendar) with two articles appearing in the Oregon Quarterly, “12/21/2012: Doomsday or Deliverance?” and “Music for the End of the World” (oregonquarterly.com/ winter2012), and Cascade Magazine, “The End of the World as We Know It (Again)” (cascade.oregon.edu/fall2012). In December, he conducted fieldwork among pilgrims who travelled to the ancient Maya pyramid at Chichén Itzá, and he will publish his findings in Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions. His new book, Outsiders: Visionary Worlds, Trauma, and Transformation, is forthcoming from Amsterdam University Press. Last but not least, he was promoted to full professor this spring.

Mary Wood’s book, Writing Schizophrenia: Encounters at the Edge of Meaning, is forthcoming from Rodopi Press. This spring, she was promoted to full professor. She has also received, along with Kristin Yarris of the Departments of International Studies and Women’s and Gender Studies, a UO College of Arts and Sciences Program Grant to bring anthropologist Cheryl Mattingly, an expert on medical and health humanities, to the UO in conjunction with a Center for the Study of Women in Society research interest group (RIG) they started on health, narrative, and social justice. This visit and the RIG are part of an ongoing effort to build medical and health humanities at the University of Oregon.

Harry Wonham celebrated his abdication from the department’s headship over the summer by teaching a seminar (aptly and unapologetically entitled American Leisure) as a visiting professor at the University of Tubingen. While in Germany, he delivered a guest lecture on Mark Twain at the University of Trier. He also delivered two conference papers in the U.S.: “I’ll Be Dogged!: Evolution and Imbruation in A Hazard of New Fortunes” at the American Literature Association conference in Boston, Massachusetts, and “Mark Twain at Work” at the Center for Mark Twain Studies in Elmira, New York.

Graduate Student News


Rachel Bash has been appointed for a second year as one of the assistant directors of the UO Composition Program.


Allison Bray won the fall 2012 Sarah Harkness Kirby Award for best seminar paper by an English graduate student for her essay “What the Hell Are You?: Confronting Modern Monsters in John McTiernan’s Predator.”


Zachary Chaney presented a paper, “Defaced Identities, Deferred Anxieties, and Deflective Facades in North by Northwest,” at the Ai Face Value: Rethinking Surfaces Graduate Conference, UCLA, Los Angeles, California.


Elizabeth Curry won the 2012–13 Krohn Essay Award for best seminar paper by an English graduate student on literature and the environment for her essay “Animal Sacrifice and Survival in When the Killing’s Done.”

Bill Fogarty has been appointed to a two-year term as one of the UO Composition Program’s assistant directors.

Mary Ganster was accepted to participate in the Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth this June and has been awarded an Oregon Humanities Center Graduate Dissertation Fellowship.

Hannah Godwin presented a paper, “Scalpels and Babes: Reproductive
Interested in Volunteering as an English Alumni Mentor?

If you received a BA in English and would be willing to share your experience and advice with current undergraduate majors with questions about job-hunting, transitioning into the work world, your career path, and your current job, you would be an ideal English Alumni Mentor.

If you would like to participate in this program, please send the following information to Corbett Upton, associate director of undergraduate studies (cupton@uoregon.edu): your contact information, preferred method of contact, current geographic location, graduation year, and profession or trade field.

The program anticipates a launch date in spring 2014.


Brian Psiropoulos’s essay, “Hortense Is No Esther: Dickens’ Anagrams,” is forthcoming in the next issue of Notes and Queries. This spring, he received the UO Composition Program’s Outstanding Teacher Award for 2012–13.

Sarah Ray Rondot was awarded the College of Arts and Sciences 2013–14 John L. and Naomi Luvaas Graduate Fellowship. The Luvaas Fellowship Fund was established in 1998 by the late Naomi and John Luvaas ’39, ’42, to recognize the importance of graduate education.

Katina Saint Marie is this year’s recipient of the Bandiero Award for Outstanding Public Service by a Local Lawyer, awarded each year by the UO law school’s Oregon Law Students Public Interest Fund group.

Rachel Tanner received the UO Composition Program’s Excellence in Teaching Award for 2012–13.


Veronica Vold presented portions of her dissertation at two conferences this spring. In March, she presented her paper “Women, Webcomics, and Transformational Consciousness” at the Annual University of Florida Conference on Comics and Graphic Novels. In June, she presented her paper “Mapping Cancer: Locating Environmental Risk in Graphic Cancer Narratives” at the Biennial Conference for the Association for Literature and the Environment, Lawrence, Kansas.

Jenée Wilde has received the 2012–13 John R. Moore Scholarship for her contributions to the LGBT community at the University of Oregon. She also has presented works in progress from her dissertation, “(Re)reading Bisexuality: Knowledge, Interpretation, and Identity in Speculative Fictions and Bisexual Lives,” at WisCon 37, a feminist science fiction convention held in Madison, Wisconsin, and BiReCon USA, a bisexual research convention held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
created an endowment to fund these annual prizes. Bitney’s winning essay, “The Incomparable Horrors of Lynching,” helped launch his research for the Undergraduate Research Award. This year, he has conducted research and written essays on poetic form and ethnic American poetry under the mentorship of his faculty advisor, Professor Karen Ford, a specialist in American poetry.

Veronica Cegarra has been elected an officer of the new Alpha Tau Phi chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society.

Samantha Dalton worked with fellow English major Madeleine Thornburg and Corbett Upton, associate director of undergraduate studies, to reactivate the English Undergraduate Organization.

Joel Ekdahl has been awarded the George and Susan Fugelsang Scholarship.

Audrey Graser led the successful effort to charter the new active Alpha Tau Phi chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society. She was elected and is currently serving as president of the chapter.

Jason Irrgang was included in an Emerald feature story, “25 Ducks” (May 2, 2013), on twenty-five undergraduates who “will change the world after life at the University of Oregon” for his work as a tutor and mentor at the Looking Glass Riverfront School. Irrgang volunteered at the Riverfront school as part of the English department’s Community Literacy Internship, a core requirement for students taking Associate Professor Elizabeth Wheeler’s Teen and Children’s Literature course (ENG 313), one of two English courses integral to the University of Oregon Literacy Initiative, established by Wheeler and Professor Emerita Suzanne Clark in 1998 as a community outreach program. Inspired by Wheeler’s course, Irrgang devoted himself to tutoring at the Riverfront School.

Alisha Kinlaw has been elected an officer of the new Alpha Tau Phi chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society.

Martin Larson-Xu was awarded the Swig Essay Prize for the best undergraduate essay submitted to an English class during the winter term for his essay “Means Something, Language of Flow: Music, Noise, and Conceptual Art in the ‘Sirens’ Episode of Ulysses.”

Tucker Mollers was the recipient of the Major William F. Hecker III Award. The Hecker Award offers support to an undergraduate English major who is a first-generation college student, an American veteran, and who has an extraordinary academic record. The award is named in the honor of Major William F. Hecker III, MA ’00, an English department alumnus who was killed in action in Iraq in 2006.

Madeleine Thornburg worked with fellow English major Samantha Dalton and Corbett Upton, associate director of undergraduate studies, to reactivate the English Undergraduate Organization.

Anna Baldwin Tomlinson is this year’s departmental valedictorian, having earned the highest GPA of the English graduating class of 2013.

Alumni News

Amanda Adams, PhD ’07, is an assistant professor at Muskingum University in Ohio; her book Performance, Authorship, and the Nineteenth-Century Transatlantic Lecture Tour is forthcoming from Ashgate Press as part of its Nineteenth-Century Transatlantic Studies series.

Michelle Balaev, PhD ’06, has accepted a tenure-track position as assistant professor of English at Washington State University at Tri-Cities in Richland, Washington. Her book The Nature of Trauma in American Novels has been published by Northwestern University Press (2012).

Margaret Bayless, MA ’86, PhD ’91, will be retiring after twenty-one years of teaching at Lane Community College. She is a much-beloved teacher of composition and American literature. She designed a course in American working class literature and film that has been very popular over the years. She served as union president for five years, and she has been an active mentor for new faculty members.

Suzanne Bordelon, PhD ’98, has been promoted to full professor of rhetoric and writing studies at San Diego State University. She is the author of A Feminist Legacy: The Rhetoric and Pedagogy of Gertrude Buck (2007) in the Southern Illinois University Press’s Rhetorics and Feminisms series. The first book-length study of a pioneering English professor and theorist at Vassar College, Bordelon’s A Feminist Legacy draws on previously unexamined archival sources to trace the beginnings of feminist theories of argumentation and pedagogy.

Chelsea Henson, MA ’08, PhD ’12, has accepted a tenure-track position at El Camino College, where she will be teaching composition and literature courses.

Scott Knickerbocker, MA ’02, PhD ’06, assistant professor of English and environmental studies at the College of Idaho, has published his first book, Ecoeotics: The Language of Nature, the Nature of Language (2012). Knickerbocker’s book probes the complex relationship between
artifice and the natural world in the work of modern American poets—in particular Wallace Stevens, Elizabeth Bishop, Richard Wilbur, and Sylvia Plath. Each of these poets, in his or her own distinct way, employs what Knickerbocker terms “sensuous poesis,” the process of rematerializing language through sound effects and other formal devices as a sophistication response to nonhuman nature. In examining their work, Knickerbocker charts a new direction for ecocriticism.

In 2009, Jess Markt ’00, a player for the New York Rollin’ Knicks of the National Wheelchair Basketball Association, responded to a request from a newly formed wheelchair basketball team in Maimana, Afghanistan, to travel to Afghanistan to spend a week coaching the team. Thus was born the Afghanistan Wheelchair Basketball Project. Following this life-changing experience, he worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Motivation UK to produce and deliver 120 new basketball-specific wheelchairs to Afghanistan so all the players in the country would have access to proper equipment. He returned to Afghanistan in May, working with sixty players in three cities. In April 2012, he embarked on his third coaching trip to Afghanistan, this time as an official consultant to the ICRC, and worked with more than 130 players, coaches, referees, and administrators from five cities across the country over the course of two months.

Eric D. Meyer ’76, an independent scholar and former assistant professor, published Questioning Martin Heidegger: On Western Metaphysics, Buddhist Ethics, and the Fate of the Sentient Earth (University Press of America). Martin Heidegger’s “Overcoming Metaphysics” provides Meyer with the jumping-off point for a wide-ranging critique and deconstruction of Western metaphysics from the Pre-Socratics and Sophists to Descartes, Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, and Derrida. Written in straightforward, jargon-free language, Questioning Martin Heidegger will be stimulating and exciting reading for professional scholars and enthusiastic laypersons, philosophy students, and the general public.

Sarah Jaquette Ray, PhD ’09, assistant professor of English and the geography bachelor of arts program coordinator at the University of Alaska Southeast, has published her first book, The Ecological Other (University of Arizona Press). Ray’s book examines the ways in which environmentalism can create social injustice through discourses of the body. Extending recent work in environmental justice ecocriticism, The Ecological Other urges us to be more critical of how we use nature as a tool of social control and to be careful about the ways in which we construct our arguments to ensure its protection. The book challenges long-standing assumptions in environmentalism and will be of interest to those in environmental literature and history, American studies, disability studies, and Native American studies, as well as anyone concerned with issues of environmental justice.


Mark Rhinard ’96 was recently awarded tenure at Stockholm University, where he teaches international relations and serves as a senior research fellow at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs.

Abraham Romney, MA ’07, completed his PhD in rhetoric at the University of California at Irvine and has been appointed assistant professor of rhetoric and composition at Michigan Technological University.

Janice D. Rubin ’77, MS ’73, CRC, is a published poet and a career and vocational rehabilitation counselor. Her first book of poetry, Transcending Damnation Creek Trail and Other Poems, was published by Flutter Press in 2010.

Stephen Rust, PhD ’11, presented a paper, “Postmodernism and the Eco-Horror Film,” at the Association for Literature and the Environment Biennial Conference, Lawrence, Kansas.

Arwen Spicer, PhD ’05, is the author of two works of science fiction: The Hour Before Morning (2012), a novel about personal redemption within a colonized civilization, and Perdita (2001), in which a planet grapples with questions of ecology and technology. Both books are available in print and on Kindle through Amazon.com.

Emily Thomas, MA ’08, PhD ’12, has accepted teaching International Baccalaureate eleventh-grade English at Annie Wright School, a private high school in Tacoma, Washington.

Nicholas Wallerstein, PhD ’89, is professor of English at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota. He teaches surveys of early British literature, upper-division courses in Shakespeare, and seminars on Virgil, Chaucer, and Spenser. Because he holds a graduate degree in theology from Harvard, he also teaches a course on Western religions. His fifteen scholarly publications are wide-ranging, with topics running from Beowulf to Audre Lorde.

Donald Wellman, MA ’72, DA ’74, has retired from his position as professor of writing and cultural studies at Daniel Webster College in Nashua, New Hampshire. He has been an active author, translator, and editor. His most recent books include Enclosed Garden, a translation of Jardín cerrado by Emilio Prados (2013), and The Cranberry Island Series (2012). Wellman has written, edited, or translated more than fifteen titles since leaving Eugene. He has also authored critical articles on the works of Charles Olson, Robert Creeley, poetics and hybridity, and translation theory.
In winter term 2013, junior English major and Clark Honors College student Audrey Graser and Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies Corbett Upton began the process to charter the now active Alpha Tau Phi Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society. Sigma Tau Delta is an organization that confers distinction for high achievement in English language and literature in undergraduate, graduate, and professional studies. Sigma Tau Delta also recognizes the accomplishments of professional writers who have contributed to the fields of language and literature. A member of the Association of College Honor Societies, Sigma Tau Delta began in 1924 at Dakota Wesleyan University. There are more than 800 active chapters located in the United States, the Caribbean, Europe, and the Middle East.

Graser’s interest in founding an honor society stems from her desire to create a sense of community and to encourage academic success within the English major, one of the most popular majors in Oregon’s College of Arts and Sciences and the Clark Honors College. Graser, the chapter president, along with chapter officers Alisha Kinlaw and Veronica Cegarra, have organized several chapter events to achieve these goals.

Spring term saw the first Sigma Tau Delta Faculty Fireside, conceived of as a series of informal gatherings to allow undergraduates to get to know faculty members better, hear about the exciting research being done at Oregon, and engage in lively, intellectual conversation. This term, the society invited Emily Thomas, a postdoctoral fellow in the English department, to discuss her dissertation “Penetrating Tendencies: Female Masculinity and a Logic of Lesbianism in Early Modern England” and new course, ENG 399 Special Studies: Renaissance Sexualities.

The chapter also began a monthly reading group to further its mission to promote academic excellence and the discipline of English, including literature, language, and writing. The chapter hopes that providing opportunities for English majors to read works outside of class in small groups will contribute to the intellectual life of the chapter and ultimately improve their close reading skills and classroom participation. They issued a standing invitation to all English and affiliated faculty to participate. This term they read works by Virginia Woolf, Ernest Hemingway, and Jack Kerouac.

Finally, the chapter inducted its first twenty-five members on June 5, 2013, and awarded its inaugural teaching award for excellence in undergraduate education and in promoting interest in the discipline of English to Lara Bovilsky.