This past February, the University of Oregon won a national competition to host an important exhibition commemorating the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare’s death: **FIRST FOLIO! THE BOOK THAT GAVE US SHAKESPEARE**, a national traveling exhibition of Shakespeare’s First Folio, one of the world’s most treasured books. The Folger Shakespeare Library, in partnership with Cincinnati Museum Center and the American Library Association, is bringing a First Folio of Shakespeare in 2016 to all 50 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico. The exhibit will be on view at the UO’s Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art from January 5th to February 7th, 2016.

“We are thrilled to host a copy of Shakespeare’s First Folio,” explains **LARA BOVILSKY**, Associate Professor of English at UO and coordinator of the UO’s bid to host the Folio. “As our only source of half of Shakespeare’s plays, this volume has been uniquely influential, and we can’t wait to share it and talk about it with Oregonians.”

Many of Shakespeare’s plays, originally written for performance, were not published during his lifetime. The First Folio is the first collected edition of Shakespeare’s plays. It was published in 1623, seven years after Shakespeare’s death. Two of Shakespeare’s fellow actors compiled 36 of his plays, hoping to preserve them for future generations. Without it, we would not have 18 of Shakespeare’s plays, including *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Tempest*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *The Comedy of Errors*, and *As You Like It*. All 18 appear for the first time in print in the First Folio, and would otherwise have been lost.

“The First Folio is the book that gave us Shakespeare. Between its covers we discover his most famous characters—*Hamlet*, *Desdemona*, *Cordelia*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo*, *Juliet* and hundreds of others—speeching words that continue to move and inspire us,” explains Michael Witmore, Director of the Folger Shakespeare Library. “We are delighted that we can share this precious resource with people everywhere, from San Diego, California to Gurabo, Puerto Rico, from Eugene, Oregon to Duluth, Minnesota."

When the First Folio arrives in Eugene, its pages will be opened to one of Shakespeare’s most quoted lines, “to be or not to be” from *Hamlet*. Accompanying the rare book will be a multi-panel exhibition exploring the significance of Shakespeare, then and now, with additional digital content and interactive activities.

The effort to host the exhibition brought together English Department faculty, the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and the UO Special Collections.
English Welcomes New Department Head

This spring term, the English Department bid farewell to one Department Head and welcomed another. With KAREN FORD’s recent appointment as Associate Dean of the Humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences, her service in the university service as the role of Department Head of English. Vázquez is Associate Professor of English and as an experienced performing faculty member in the Department of Ethnic Studies. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in English from the University of California, Santa Barbara, with training in the Ethnic Studies department at University of California, San Diego. A productive and awarded scholar and teacher, Vázquez’s studies and teaches comparative Latinx/o literature, comparative ethnic American literature, critical race theory, environmental justice, and twenty-first century U.S. literature. He is a former fellow at the Institute for Humanities Research at Arizona State University (2013), and he has won awards from the Oregon Humanities Center, the Graduate School at the University of Oregon, and at UCR, as well as an honorable mention from the Ford Foundation.

Vázquez’s first book, Triangulaciones: Narrative Strategies for Navigating Latino Identity (2011), explores how Latinx/o authors in late-twentieth century America employ the coordinates of ideas of self in autobiographical texts to find their way to new, complex identities. His other publications have appeared in the Journal of Ethnic Studies, the Arizona State University (2013), and he has won awards from the Oregon Humanities Center, the Graduate School at the University of Oregon, and at UCR, as well as an honorable mention from the Ford Foundation.

Vázquez will work on two book projects. The first is an edited collection that examines intersections between Latinx/o literature and literary history and U.S. environmentalism. The second is a monograph that places into conversation a constellation of ideas around 20th- and 21st-century experimental Latinx/o novels, and environmental justice. He has previously served as Director of the UO Center for Latino and Latin American Studies, summer Director of the UO Ethnic Studies Department, and President of the English Department Council. Please join us in welcoming Professor Vázquez as the English Department’s new Head.

I am filled with excitement, wonder, delight, and a touch of sadness as I write this first letter from the head. Perhaps the biggest change in the department begins with me! KAREN FORD stepped down as the first Department Head to take on the position as Associate Dean of the Humanities. Although Karen is already proving herself a staunch advocate for the humanities in Friendly Hall, she is missed in English for her forward thinking leadership, engaged membership of junior faculty, and compassionate and pragmatic stewardship of department resources. I am humbled and honored in the trust my colleagues have placed in me to follow Karen’s spectacularly successful headship.

I’m also happy—and a little sad—to announce that we have a number of other changes among our faculty and staff. After nearly 40 years of service to the university, our beloved Department Manager MARYLYN REID has retired (see the related article for more on Marilyn’s extraordinary service). Although we can never replace Marilyn, we have found an able successor. MELISSA BOWERS joined us in May. Likewise, we are sad to see PAUL PEPPIS step down after many years as Associate Department Head. We are happy and grateful, however, that HEIDI KAUFMAN, a specialist in ethnic American literature and digital humanities, has agreed to take over as the new Assistant Director of Undergraduate Studies. Other important changes include KATHLEEN O’CALLON to the new position of Assistant Dean of Student Affairs. Kathleen has been with the UO for many years as an NTTF instructor, in her new role she will help to oversee all NTTF matters. Finally we say goodbye to two other staff members. LISA CLAWSON left to join another department on campus. MIKE STAMP will retire in August after many years as our graduate secretary.

We are delighted to welcome three new colleagues and the receiving a number of distinguished awards. After many years of inspirational performance in the classroom, Karen Ford won the university’s highest teaching honor, the Thomas F. Herman Distinguished Teaching Award. GORDON SAYRE won a Fund for Faculty Excellence Award, an award that honors UO faculty performing at the forefront of research and discovery. While there are many other sources of news that I can’t fully outline in this short letter, suffice to say that a number of colleagues were successful with support from the Humanities Center, the Center for the Study of Women and Society, the Teaching Effectiveness Program, and a number of external and internal funding entities. I would be remiss if I didn’t also celebrate SANGITA GOPAL’S appointment as Associate Director for the Center for the Study of Women and Society and Paul Peppis’s appointment as permanent Director of the Oregon Humanities Center.

This year we gave renewed attention to recruiting and recognizing English undergraduate majors. BILL ROSS, Director of Undergraduate Studies, and CORBETT UPTON, Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies, have spearheaded efforts to recruit and retain English majors. Bill’s work with the Curriculum Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee to revise the major has been indispensable. Corbett has engaged in an incredible series of efforts that range from developing and maintaining a UO English Department Facebook page and Twitter account, to traveling with our Poetry Slam Team to the College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational (CUPS) at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia and the Sigma Tau Delta honor society to the International English Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Corbett and Bill’s efforts to promote the major have already borne fruit as we’ve happily added seats to the Introduction to English Department Facebook and Twitter accounts.

In the pages that follow, you can also read about the numerous productive and stimulating events that UO English sponsored and co-sponsored this year. These events not only brought engaged teachers and students from elsewhere to hear these events. In our newsletter, we will continue to update you on the many events that UO English sponsored and co-sponsored this year. These events not only brought engaged teachers and students from elsewhere to hear these events, but also engaged more faculty and students to share their insights and expertise with our students, faculty, and community, and continue UO English’s tradition of leading national and international conversations around English language, literature, and culture. English Studies.

Although this has been a year of some turbulence with the ongoing implementation of the United Academics Collective Bargaining Agreement and the GTFF strike, I am heartened by the good will and solidarity among my colleagues. It is an honor to serve as head among a dedicated and productive group of scholars. I look forward to continuing to learn from and serve them in the coming years.

— David J. Vázquez

Former Department Head Appointed Associate Dean

After two-and-a-half years of ambitious, generous, and accomplished leadership as English Department Head, Professor KAREN FORD has moved on and upward into the role of Associate Dean for the Humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences. Her students and colleagues will miss Professor Ford’s steadfast commitment to supporting, inspiring, and improving everything we do in the English Department, from teaching to scholarship to community service. She will also continue to lead the innovative work of our new major, the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies.

In her new role, Professor Ford will focus her attention on making the Humanities Center a “go-to” place for all humanities faculty. She will lead in the development of the new major, the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies, and the Center for the Study of Women and Society. She will also continue to lead the English Department Facebook page and Twitter account, to traveling with our Poetry Slam Team to the College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational (CUPS) at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia and the Sigma Tau Delta honor society to the International English Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Corbett and Bill’s efforts to promote the major have already borne fruit as we’ve happily added seats to the Introduction to English Department Facebook and Twitter accounts.

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Frances Dolan Presented Third Annual A. Kingsley Weatherhead Lecture in Shakespeare Studies

T he Third Annual A. Kingsley Weatherhead Lecture in Shakespeare Studies, “Know Your Foods: Shakespeare’s Titus Andronicus and the Question of the Local,” was delivered to a large and enthusiastic group of students, faculty, and community members by FRANCES DOLAN (Battleground). Professor of English at the University of California at Davis on February 9 in the Gerlinger Alumni Lounge. She is the author of numerous articles and books on Shakespeare among other topics. Professor Dolan’s work focuses on early modern English literature, law, and history. But, as her lecture and current research project reveal, “promodern” agricultural how-to books relate in complicated and interesting ways to contemporary narratives about agricultural innovation in books, ads, websites, and tours. She also teaches and writes about Children’s Literature. Professor Dolan’s most recent book, True Relations: Reading, Literature, and Evidence in Seventeenth-Century England (U Pennsylvania P, 2013), is the winner of the 2014 John Ben Snow prize from the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies and was the recipient of the 2014 John Ben Snow prize from the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.

A. Kingsley Weatherhead Fund for Shakespeare Studies Presents

A Performance by the Oregon Shakespeare Festival Players

What happens when multiple characters from five Shakespeare plays attend the same party? Last November, UO students found out—lots of play (of the sword and word varieties, that is). Celebration of Shakespeare’s 450th Birthday, Laura Montes and Joe Wegner of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival Players performed selections from some of Shakespeare’s greatest plays to a full house in the Hope Theater at The University of Oregon Miller Theatre Complex. The OSF players performed selections from various scenes from Much Ado About Nothing, As You Like It, The Winter’s Tale, Twelfth Night, and Macbeth in the context of a birthday party for William Shakespeare, who, played by Professor KATHLEEN HORTON, made a surprise appearance. Earlier in the day, the OSF players conducted three workshops for students in Shakespeare courses and advanced level “Acting Shakespeare” students.

The A. Kingsley Weatherhead Fund for Shakespeare Studies made this performance possible. The Weatherhead fund supports a number of 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.

English Alumni Mentors Program

Interested in Volunteering as an English Alumni Mentor?

If you received a BA in English from the University of Oregon and are willing to share your experience and advice with current undergraduates with questions about the English major experience, post grad exploration, job-hunting, transitioning into the work world, your career path, and your current job, you would be an ideal UO 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 (mailing and email addresses), preferred method of contact, current geographic location, graduation year, profession or trade field, and, if you like, a brief biography.

First Folio continued

tions and University Archives, with the additional support of the Oregon Humanities Center. UO will supplement the exhibition’s content with some of the most exciting volumes from its Special Collections and University Archives—including copies of Shakespeare’s second and fourth folios (later editions of the touring volume) and copies of Ben Jonson’s first and second folios, so as to give a fellow playwright in Shakespeare’s London, invented the folio form, bringing new dignity to the popular theater, not seen at the time as possessing literary value.

The exhibition will begin with a free opening gala at the UO’s Robinson Theater. This event, “Shakespeare’s Texts: Page/Ontage,” will feature Oregon Shakespeare Festival actors performing multiple interpretations of a single Shakespeare scene, in which variation includes textual differences between Folio and other manuscript versions of a play, followed by a discussion with English faculty about how such manuscript variations and acting companies’ decisions shape audience encounters with Shakespeare.

During the exhibition, UO will run numerous programs for the public, families, teachers, and students of all ages around the First Folio exhibition. The exhibition will also offer educational programming themed to Shakespeare’s First Folio for students around the state. English Department faculty who specialize in Renaissance and early Modern literature, LARA BOVILSKY, LISA FREINKE, and SIGRID CERF, will talk about the skills that UO English faculty most work to cultivate in our courses here. We wish to use the exhibition to collaborate on producing a pipeline of informed and well-trained UO undergraduates, by thinking through how both groups of teachers might best be prepared for sharing and teaching students over time. In addition, the English Department will use its A. Kingsley Weatherhead Fund for Undergraduate Shakespeare Studies, endowed in 2005 by one of our most generous alumni, Robert A. Lee (Ph.D., ’66), and his wife, Gloria Lee, to bring an eminent scholar to UO for a large public lecture associated with the exhibition. The Oregon Humanities Center will likewise incorporate a related public lecture into its 2016 programming.

First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare is made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the Human Endeavor, and by the generous support of Google.org and Vinton and Sigrid Cerf.
Course in the Spotlight

St. Louis Seminar on Robert Frost

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, UO English offered Professor JOHN GAGE’S St. Louis Seminar in Poetry on Robert Frost this past fall. Professor Gage, an expert on twentieth-century American Poetry and rhetorical theory, taught the seminar, which focused on Robert Frost’s poetry in relation to his poetic theories.

Seminar participants read Frost’s poetry and prose as well as works by Virgil, Dante, Wordsworth, Emerson, Dickinson, James, and secondary readings to provide Frost’s work critical and historical context.

Over ten weeks of intensive three-hour meetings, English majors and Professor Gage discussed Frost’s corpus and poetics. For Professor Gage, the seminar format “gives our most motivated students an opportunity to study a poet in depth, in the company of a scholar who can serve as a guide for inquiry.” The opportunity afforded by the program’s small size allowed Professor Gage to teach “the class like a graduate seminar, with a lot of reading, dialogue in the classroom, and a serious research project.” The course was a discussion-based seminar in which students wrote eight-one-page reading response essays that were revised each week and accompanied by a reflective essay at the end of the term, delivered an oral report; and wrote and revised a substantial research essay, including an annotated bibliography and abstract. The level of engagement and scholar’s ship demanded by the course proved worthwhile, according to Gage: “The students have risen to the challenge and—though it’s a different and more difficult experience for them—they are taking responsibility for their learning in a way they find rewarding. I’m sure this is mainly because of Frost, whose ‘delight and wisdom’ deepen and become more evident week by week.”

Seminar participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to study a subject in-depth. For senior English major JILL OWEN, “The Frost seminar has been challenging and exhilarating.”

The course was so popular that Dr. Gage plans to continue it in the future to give the students more time to study Frost’s poetry and prose.

Frost is a difficult poet, and sustained engagement with his work shattered my image of him as a simple nature poet and replaced it with something much more interesting—a poet-philosopher with complex and contradictory ideas of what nature is, both in the wild and in the human heart.”

Junior English major SAM RODGERS felt that the “St. Louis Seminar on Robert Frost was a unique, rewarding opportunity, and a course I’d highly recommend to anyone studying English. The small class size and Dr. Gage’s clear mastery of the subject made each week’s discussion memorable and valuable. It always felt like a privilege to attend the class.”

Thanks to the generosity of the St. Louis family, generations of future English majors will benefit from similar opportunities.
In early November, NICK DAVIS, Associate Professor of English at Northwestern University, delivered a lecture, “Queer Machines and Sexual Contexts: The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo and Cinemas of Consent.” Professor Davis was invited to UO by Professor Dennis Braddock of the Department of Ethnic Studies, the Global Studies Institute, and the School of Music and Dance. You can view a UO Today interview with James Braxton Peterson at: youtube.com/6YtEYNvVNA.

Colonial and Decolonial Connections: An Indigenous Philosophy Symposium was co-sponsored by the University of Oregon’s Eugene Robinson Distinguished Chair in Interdisciplinary, Intellectual, and Formal Distinctions between philosophy, history, story, drama, performance, and the law by philosophy and co-Director of the Disability Studies Initiative Emory University. Garland-Thompson is widely recognized in the field of race, gender, and Asian American law and culture, and his work has been published in numerous academic journals. The symposium was open to all students, regardless of race, gender, and disability, and featured nine speakers from across the country. The symposium was sponsored by the University of Oregon Disability Studies Initiative, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Oregon, Portland State University, and the Center for the Study of Women in Society. The symposium was made possible by the generosity of the Oregon Humanities Center, the School of Music and Dance, and the School of Music and Dance.

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Professors Win Major University Awards

This academic year, English professors were selected for two of the University’s most distinguished awards: Professor Gordon Sayre received a Fund for Faculty Excellence Award and Professor Karen Ford won a Thomas F. Herman Faculty Achievement Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Gordon Sayre was among thirteen UO faculty members selected as recipients of the 2014-15 Fund for Faculty Excellence Awards. Professors 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 for an 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—and numerous essays, reviews, articles, notes, and book reviews. His list of international and national conference presentations is lengthy, and his professional service (conference organizing, executive committees, editorial referee work, and faculty reviews) bespeaks his fine reputation and prominence in his discipline. The Fund for Faculty Excellence was established in 2006, thanks to generous gifts from Lorry I. Lokey. The fund is designed to enhance the University’s efforts to improve its overall academic quality and reputation. By supporting, recognizing, and retaining world-class tenured faculty, UO holsters its commitment to excellence in research, scholarship, and education.

In recognition of her excellence in teaching, Karen Ford received a 2015 Thomas F. Herman Faculty Achievement Award for Distinguished Teaching. Recipients are chosen by a committee made up of past award winners. Recipients were also honored at a joint reception with Research and Innovation on May 28, 2015. Surprising Ford with one of the coveted crystal apple that honor Herman recipients, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Barbara Altman read the following statement of commendation: A specialist in poetry, Karen Ford places high demands on her students’ abilities as readers and analysts, always inspiring them to dig deeper and learn more. As one student writes, “Prof. Ford is the best instructor I’ve had at the UO. She is clear, organized, encouraging, and demanding. The amount of work she puts into helping us become better writers and thinkers is remarkable, and her high standards called forth better work than I usually do.” Writes another: “She has consistently challenged me to produce better work than I thought I was capable of and she helps me succeed by providing the tools and assistance I need.”

One of the keys to Ford’s success is the atmosphere of her classroom, which students describe as “cumulative and relaxing” with the “right blend of rigor and relaxed discussion.” Her enthusiasm for her subject and her devotion to it is always on display. As one student remarks, “She constantly modeled how to read and speak about poetry, demonstrating that reading well takes diligence, discernment, an eye for detail, and common sense.”

Karen Ford’s unflagging devotion to teaching is played out not only in her classroom, but also behind the scenes as a mentor. Making herself available to her younger peers on matters as far flung as grade distribution, syllabus design, pedagogic innovation, and equity and inclusion in the classroom, and she is considered “the ultimate teacher-mentor” in the words of one colleague. She is also admired for her “poem kit,” a set of exercises for analyzing poetry widely used in the UO English Department as well as by her former students teaching at other institutions.

The students and colleagues of Professors Sayre and Ford in the English Department join in congratulating them on their exceptional talents and accomplishments.

TARA FICKLE

Assistant Professor Tara Fickle received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles, and her B.A. from Wesleyan University. Her research interests include Asian and Asian American literature, American Studies, and 21st century American literature, Ethnic literature, the Digital Humanities, Graphic Fiction, and Children’s literature. Her current book project, “American Peril, American Pastime: When Race Becomes Play,” argues for the centrality of games both literal and metaphorical to minority American literature. Fickle poses an alternative model for reading canonical novels like Maxine Hong Kingston’s The Woman Warrior and phenomena such as the recent rise in Chinese International Student migration through novel logs: dichotomies of constraint and freedom, chance and choice, persons and avatar. Fickle’s work has been published or is forthcoming in Modern Fiction Studies, Comparative Literature Studies, MERUS, The Journal of Asian American Studies, and Gau Suan Journal.

Her teaching interests include 20th and 21st century American and Ethnic literature, Popular Culture, Graphic Fiction, and Game Studies. She is also affiliated with the Joint Institute for Regional Earth System Science & Engineering (JIFRESSE) as a Senior Web Editor and Analyst. The Institute is a collaborative enterprise between UCLA and NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) committed to researching issues of regional as well as international climate change, including global warming.

SARAH WALD

Assistant Professor Tara Fickle in the UO English Department.

SHARON LUK

Assistant Professor Shaaron Luk earned an M.A. in Education from the University of California, Los Angeles, and her Ph.D. in American Studies and Ethnicity from the University of Southern California. Luk was born and raised in the San Francisco bay area. Before pursuing an academic career, she worked in the fields of independent media and youth and community development, with training in domestic violence counseling and advocacy. Her research examines both the precursors of and the influx of commodities, feminisms, and ephemeral archives. Her teaching and research focus on “anthropologizing” Western Civilization and exploring the role of cultural production in communal survival and sustainability. She is currently working on a book manuscript entitled “The Life of Paper, A Poetics,” which explores the life worlds mediated through or created by the labor of letter correspondences, specifically within the history of mass incarceration and its attendant racial regimes in California. Her investigation unfolds in three cycles: to uncover how letter correspondences function as relational and performative, then examine the ways forms connect with the actualization of specific groups facing systemic social dismantling in different phases of development in the U.S. West.

BRENDAN O’KELLY

Faculty Fellow Brendan O’Kelly earned his Ph.D. in English from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and his M.A. in English from the University of Southern California. His research interests include Modern and Contemporary American, British, and Irish Literature; Critical Theory and Philosophy; Film and Visual Theory. His dissertation, “The Unseen in the Modern Image World,” reconsidered the complex and mutually constitutive relationship between visual perception and literary production in the twentieth century. Analyzing works by a wide range of authors, including Henry James, Joseph Conrad, Ernst Hemingway, Virginia Woolf, James Joyce, D. H. Lawrence, and Vladimir Nabokov, O’Kelly’s study resituates both literary and critical discourses on the boundaries of the perceptible in order to foreground the dependence of vision on its limits. The study recontextualizes the most formative theories of novels—subject-positioning the century alongside theories about the dominance of vision in modernity in order to suggest that the constraints rather than the proliferations of visual perception shape modern prose. O’Kelly’s teaching interests include American, British, and Irish Literature; Genre Fiction; Film Studies; and Rhetoric and Composition.

SARAH WALD

Assistant Professor Sarah Wald earned her B.A. in American Studies from Reed College and her M.A. and Ph.D. in American Studies from Brown University. Inspired by a diverse set of readings, she seeks to understand why mainstream environments are more engaged with the issues facing working people and people of color. Wald’s current research strives to link Race and Ethnic Studies with environmental cultural studies. Both interests inform the manuscript she is currently completing, entitled “The Farmer in all of us: Race, Nature, and Citizenship in Representations of Californian Farmers and Farmworkers.” The study mines newspaper articles, pamphlets, novels, and short stories for twentieth and twenty-first century Asian American and Latinx voices, asking: what have been the representations of Californian agricultural laborers, how do cultural understandings of “naturalness” shape the “racial gaze-keeping of the nation”? and “what do these works tell us about the ways we imagine nature and landscape in relation to nation and the ways we racialize that relationship”? Wald’s research and teaching interests include food studies, environmental justice, ethnic American literatures, and service learning.

English Welcomes Four New Faculty Members

Assistant Professor Tara Fickle

Assistant Professor Shaaron Luk

Assistant Professor Brendan O’Kelly

Assistant Professor Sarah Wald
est counselor, the department served as a central location for administrative support, and Marilyn’s leadership was highly regarded. She earned her promotion: she became the head’s executive secretary a year later, and, in 1980, the department’s manager of administrative services. Serving in this role for the next 35 years, Marilyn managed all the administrative functions of the English Department, overseeing an office staff of six, advised and aided by 10 different departmental heads (George Wicks, Thelma Greenfield, Paul Armstrong, Dick Stein, Molly Westling, John Gage, Warren Girsberg, Harry Wonham, Karen Ford, and David Vázquez), welcomed and guided countless new faculty and staff to the culture and bureaucratic intricacies of the University of Oregon, and earned the respect, admiration, and gratitude of everyone she has worked with.

Marilyn’s professionalism, wisdom, tact, and integrity were well recognized by her fellow officers of administration, who twice elected her to two-year terms on the Officers of Administration Council. She served as Chair of the Council for 3 years. Marilyn’s stellar reputation earned her broader institutional recognition as well: in 2002, she received an Officer of Administration Recognition Award; in 2007, she was elected to serve on the Faculty Advisory Council, which meets with the President and Provost weekly, offering advice and counsel on the most pressing issues facing the University.

Marilyn’s own words best explain the reasons for her longevity and success at UO: “Whenever I have been asked why I stayed for 37 years at the University of Oregon, I respond that it is because I believe in the educational mission of the University and I have been fortunate to be a small part of that mission and to provide the best service and experience to the students who I see walking by my window today and in all of the previous days.”

Thank you Marilyn Reid for all your years of devoted service and impressive accomplishments and best of luck in your next chapter.

Marilyn Reid (center) with past and current English Department staff
**English Undergraduate Organization**

The English Undergraduate Organization (EUO) hosted a number of panels about graduate school with covered English-related study skills; a senior panel, opportunities with Professors with graduating seniors; and the “Professionals of panel on graduate school, featuring the Class of 2015’s way of reminding ourselves why we are students of literature and to represent the spirit of the English major to the community,” said ERICA LAMBRIGHT, one of the organizers of the project. The structure is now listed in the Little Free Library national registry and available to all who visit Prince Lucien Campbell Hall.

This spring, the EUO added Think. Play, a group dedicated to critical engagement with video games through play, to its ranks. Professor TARA PICKLE, whose research engages with video games, and Dr. Corbett Upton will serve as the club’s UO English faculty sponsors.

Finally, the EUO elected its second Executive Committee: SAMUEL RODGERS (historian), and REBECCA HOWARD (public relations). The new committee has already conducted 15 new club members, growing the society to 42 active members and over 20 alums. The chapter awarded its annual teaching award to two UO Postdoctoral Fellows, RACHEL BASH and DANIEL PLATT. The chapter, together with the English Undergraduate Organization (EUO), arranged a new annual panel composed of graduating senior English majors, “How to Advocate for Your Education.” Pandits discussed campus resources, academic opportunities, and post-graduate planning. They also worked with the EUO to sponsor a series of panel on graduate school, featuring Professor LARA BOVILSKY, Director of Graduate Studies.

The chapter hosted a scholarships and conference presentation workshop with two UO Postdoctoral Fellows, RACHEL BASH and DANIEL PLATT. The chapter, together with the English Undergraduate Organization (EUO), arranged a new annual panel composed of graduating senior English majors, “How to Advocate for Your Education.” Pandits discussed campus resources, academic opportunities, and post-graduate planning. They also worked with the EUO to sponsor a series of panel on graduate school, featuring Professor LARA BOVILSKY, Director of Graduate Studies.

**Alpha Tau Phi Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta**

A lpha Tau Phi Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society, had an incredibly successful second year. Sigma Tau Delta is an academic conference, these students had the opportunity to hear three keynote addresses by Leslie Marmon Silko, Simon Ortiz, and Gary Soto. The conference,               ence hosted over 1,000 Sigma Tau Delta members, representing 236 chapters from Oregon to Kuwait. While at the convention, chapter secretary Amber Rose was elected to national office as the Far West Regional Associate Student Representative. Amber and Sean Pebler took first and second place respectively in the national competition for society conference blogs!

The chapter continued its tradition of Sigma Tau Delta Faculty Fireises, conceived of as a series of informal gatherings to allow undergraduates to get to know faculty better and hear about the exciting research being done at Oregon and engage in lively, intellectual conversation. This year, the chapter invited MARK WHALAN, COURTNEY THORSSON, KIRBY BROWN, and BETSY WHEELER. The chapter’s monthly reading group, organized to further part of its mission to promote the discipline of English, including literature, language, and writing, and to promote academic excellence, celebrated its first anniversary. The chapter hopes that reading works outside of class in a small group will contribute to the intellectual life of the chapter and ultimately improve their close reading skills and classroom participation. They also issued a standing invitation to all English and affiliated faculty to participate. This year they read works by Simon Ortiz, Corine McCarty, Alice Munro, Neil Gaiman, Art Spiegelman, Alice Oswald, Anthony Doerr, Richard Wright, and William Shakespeare.

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Finally, the chapter elected its third Executive Committee: Sean Pebler (president), Amber Rose (vice president), DANAL GLASSCOCK (secretary), SAMUEL RODGERS (historian), and REBECCA HOWARD (public relations). The new committee has already conducted 15 new club members, growing the society to 42 active members and over 20 alums. The chapter awarded its annual teaching award to two UO Postdoctoral Fellows, RACHEL BASH and DANIEL PLATT. The chapter, together with the English Undergraduate Organization (EUO), arranged a new annual panel composed of graduating senior English majors, “How to Advocate for Your Education.” Pandits discussed campus resources, academic opportunities, and post-graduate planning. They also worked with the EUO to sponsor a series of panel on graduate school, featuring Professor LARA BOVILSKY, Director of Graduate Studies.

**Alpha Tau Phi Chapter Members at the 2015 Sigma Tau Delta International Convention in Albuquerque, NM**

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**AlphaTauPhiBlogAlphaTauPhiBlog**

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The UO Poetry Slam (UOPS) was founded by Hannah Golden and Alexander Dang to build a community and audience for poetry on campus that embodies the inclusiveness and excitement of slam po- etry. In Fall 2014, the UOPS held a slam, where poets perform a 3-minute original poem judged by five judges randomly selected from the audience, to form a team with a match of the College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational (CUPS), the top competition for college slam poets. The slam attracted a wide range of students, competing in six bouts. After the dust settled, the UOPS had its range of students, competing in six bouts.

On campus, the team held weekly poetry workshops and open mics open to all students. The newly minted team competed, for the first time in Oregon’s history, at CUPS, held at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA, and the host school, Virginia Commonwealth University, teams that placed first in each of their preliminary bouts last year, and UC Menard. The team began the competition with a rigorous sched-

Collaborating with Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art and the UO Cultural Forum, the team hosted and performed at events that drew hundreds of specta-

tors and featured nationally and interna-
tionally known performance poets: Doc Luben, Phil Kaye, and Ana Moigani. The team was featured at the Portland Poetry Slam and Poetics Corvallis. In April, two of the competitive team’s poets, Hannah Golden and Alex Dang, competed at the Portland Poetry Slam Grand Slam Finals; Alex made the team that will compete at the national title. The team was also featured at the Portland Poetry Slam and Poetics Corvallis. On campus, the team held weekly poetry workshops and open mics open to all students and performed in numerous classrooms and at the end-of-year English Department Meeting. The UO Poetry Slam’s work on campus, in the region, and nationally, fosters an energetic spirit of creativity and a love of the spoken and written word.

Read the team’s CUPS blog entries at: uope-

otyslam.wordpress.com/author/uopoe)

Watch videos of the UO Poetry Slam’s show-
cases on the UO English YouTube channel: youtube.com/user/UOEnglish

Watch a UO Today interview with Alex Dang at: youTube/b11k15/5A2Af6c

Annual Giving Reminder

If you receive a letter or phone call from UO Annual Giving and decide to make a contribution to the University, consider designating the English Department as a recipi-
tent of your gift. Such gifts make a difference in what the Department can do to enhance educational opportunities for our students and provide valuable resources for our faculty. If you would like to discuss the department’s long-range plans and ambitions, please contact the Department Head, David J. Vázquez, vazquez@uoregon.edu

It’s easy to donate online at: eng. uoregon.edu/support

Or make your check payable to the University of Oregon Foundation, designated for the English Department, and mail it to Department of English, 1286 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1286

Thank you!
DEPARTMENT NOTES

ANNE LASKAYA received a College of Arts and Sciences humanities summer research award to visit the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, where she was preparing her book, William Caxton’s early book publications, Alpha Tau Phi chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the national English Honors Society, sponsored and Professor Laskaya’s annual teaching award for excellence in undergraduate education and in promoting interest in the discipline of English.

STEPHANIE LEMENAGAR, the Barbara K. and Carlisle Morse Professor, along with graduate students and alumni, organized and honored of the Society for Ethnomusicology. She presented at multiple conferences, including the International Conference on Arts, Culture, Heritage and the Sciences, including the International Conference on Arts, Culture, Heritage and the Sciences, where she also spoke on “Making the Past Visible: Best Practices and New Advancements in Digital and Material Archives.”

KATHLEEN O’FALLON was appointed as the first ever Assistant Department Head of English and has been promoted to Senior Instructor II.


BEN SAUNDERS published an essay on rock drummer Keith Moon at the pop culture website, The Hooded Undertailer, and he has another essay, on Shakesphere’s play, “The Tempest,” in the August 2015 issue of The Key Reporter.

SARAH WALD published “Sustainable Harvests: Food Justice, Community Based Learning, and Environmental Justice Pedagogy” in Service Learning and Literary Studies in English (MLA 2015) and “Hisaye Yamamoto as Radical Agrarian” in Asian American Literature and Culture. She also presented at the Annual Conference on Asian Studies, the Association for Asian American Studies, and an invited presentation at a Peabody University symposium recognizing 50 years since the Bronco's People end.

EMERITUS Professor, LOUISE WESTLING has contributed chapters to two forthcoming book projects, published an article, “Creole Identity in French Louisiana: from the Memoire of Dumont de Montigny,” in Cahiers des Annales de la Memoire.

GORDON SAYRE was the recipient of a UO Excellence Award in 2015, and he completed his fellowship at the Oregon Humanities Center as one of the Provost's Senior Humanist Fellows. He published an article, “Creole Identity in French Louisiana: from the Memoire of Dumont de Montigny,” in Cahiers des Annales de la Memoire.

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MARK WALHAM, the Robert D. and Eddy L.pourer of the Annual Literature and Western Michigan University. He also spoke to large public audiences at the “Cultural Capital of the Year: Las Vegas,” The Rose City Comic Convention Portland, Special Edition (NYC) and The Emerald City Comic Convention (Seattle).

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Graduate Student News

APRIL ANSON was awarded a Sustainability Grant to hold a sustainability and Housing Justice Forum in Fall 2015. She was invited to contribute a chapter on film to the Stanford Encyclopedia of Literature in Context series on Henry David Thoreau, and presented papers at the Western Literature Association conference, the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment conference, OSU’s Environmental Humanities conference, and UO’s Climate Change Symposium. She won this year’s Outstanding Teacher of Composition Award from the UO Composition Program.

MARGARET BOSTROM won the Sarah Harkness Kirby Essay Award for fall 2014.

ALLISON BRAY has been appointed to a one-year term as one of the UO Composition Program’s assistant directors. She received a Global Oregon Grant to conduct archival research at the Museum of English Rural Life at the University of Reading, England.

JUIN BROWN received an English Department Sherwood Research/Travel award. She published “When Cen- ters Catches in the Classroom (and Class- room in the Center): The First-Year Writing Tutorial and the Writing Program” in Praxis: A Writing Center Journal.

FRANCESCA GENTILE received an English Department Sherwood Research/ Travel award. She published “When Centers Catches in the Classroom (and Classroom in the Center): The First-Year Writing Tutorial and the Writing Program” in Praxis: A Writing Center Journal.

KATIE JO LARIVIERE won the Sarah Hark- ness Kirby Essay Award for winter 2015.

ZACH CHENEY’S essay, “Alfred Hitchcock: Cinematic Pessimist Par Excellence,” was published in Hitchcock: Cinematic Pessimist Par Excellence, and UO’s Climate Change Symposium, OSU’s Environmental Humanities confere- nce, and UO’s Climate Change Symposium. She was invited to contribute a chapter on film to the Stanford Encyclopedia of Literature in Context series on Henry David Thoreau, and presented papers at the Western Literature Association conference, the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment conference, OSU’s Environmental Humanities conference, and UO’s Climate Change Symposium. She won this year’s Outstanding Teacher of Composition Award from the UO Composition Program.

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Fundied by an Oregon Humanities Center Graduate Research Support Fellow- ship, HANNAH G O’DONAUII presented her paper “Who are you?: Modernism, Childhood, and Historical Conscious- ness” at the Faculty and Yukonpatschka Conference (July 2014). Her paper will be published in an edited collection titled, “Faunc and History,” forthcoming in 2016 from University Press of Mississip- pi. She also received an English Depart- ment Sherwood Research/Travel award.

JORDAN GREEN received the 2015 Ernst Dissertation Fellowship. On his dissertation, “The Personification of Setting and Consequence: Examining the Price of Sexual Desire,” he was awarded the 2015 McNair Scholars Symposium award.


JOEL EKDAHL is this year’s departmental- valedictorian, having earned the high- est GPA of the English graduating class of 2015. He also gave a presentation, “The Love of a Man, The Love of a Commu- nity: Desire as Decolonial Critique in Alexie’s The Business of Dancing,” at the University of Oregon Undergraduate Research Symposium in May.

SARAH HOVIT competed at the College Poems Union Slam in Richmond in May. She also presented a creative piece with the UO Poetry Slam Team at the University of Oregon Undergraduate Research Symposium in May.
DEPARTMENT NOTES

REBECCA HOWARD has been elected vice president of the English Undergraduate Organization and public relations officer of the Alpha Tau Phi chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, International English Honor Society.

EMMA IVIE has been elected secretary of the English Undergraduate Organization.


VERONICA VOLD. Husband Damon, an English professor at George Vold on April 24th, 2015.

ALEXANDER YOUNG (Ph.D. ’12) and his wife, Angela, welcomed a daughter, Sophia Bailey Young, on December 18th, 2014.

Local alumns who were members of FEMTHG, a feminist theory discussion group that began in the 1980s, are planning a reunion for sometime in the future. If you are interested in being contacted once plans are firm, please email one of the following women:

KATHLEEN O’FALLON kofallon@uoregon.edu
MARGARET BAYLESS mabg1@gmail.com
KATHY GENTILE kjusticetgentile@yahoo.com
DELA FISHER delafisher.8@gmail.com

English Department graduate students and faculty participated in the event, including graduate students, APRIL ANSON, TARA MCHOLM, and DAN PLATT, and faculty, TARA PICKLE and SARAH WAID (English & Environmental Studies). The symposium concluded with a regional panel of community organizers on “Racial Justice and Indigenous Perspectives on Climate Justice.”

A symposium co-sponsored by the departments of Environmental Studies, English, Ethnic Studies, Women’s and Gender Studies, the College of Arts & Sciences, the Center for Latina/o and Mexican American Studies, the Center on Diversity and Community, the Clark Honors College, and Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities.
Emeritus Professor Wins an Oregon Book Award

Professor Emeritus and former editor-in-chief of Northwest Review, RALPH SALISBURY is this year’s recipient of the C.E.S. Wood Retrospective Award, one of the Oregon Book Awards. The C.E.S. Wood Retrospective Award celebrates a distinguished career in Oregon letters. Salisbury has published 11 collections of poetry, including Rainbow of Stone (2000) and Like the Sun in Storm (2012), which were both finalists for the Oregon Book Award. He also published three short story collections and a memoir, So Far, So Good (2013), which Library Journal called “an important glimpse into 20th-century Midwestern life.” Salisbury’s previous awards include a Fulbright, the Rockefeller Bellagio Award in Fiction, and the Northwest Poetry Award.