A New York Times front-page story in March 2014 pointed out an emerging trend on college campuses: “University courses on global warming have become common.”

Environmental Studies, the Times article also pointed out, is typically understood to be a science-based discipline that aims “to marshal evidence for climate change as a human-caused crisis, or to measure its effects.” And yet the article wasn’t about college science classes. Rather, it profiled STEPHANIE LEMENAGER, the Barbara and Carlisle Moore Distinguished Professor of English and American Literature at UO, and focused on a graduate class she designed and taught here called “The Cultures of Climate Change.”

The course considered artistic and literary forms—poetry, fiction, visual art, and critical theory—in relation to climate change. Instead of studying scientific texts, LeMenager and her students closely read and discussed work that grapples with the problem of climate change from authors like Jonathan Franzen, Terry Eagleton, Ian McEwan, Ursula LeGuin, Nathaniel Rich, Susan Sontag, Rita Raley, Warren Cariou, and Stacy Alaimo.

The Environmental Humanities doesn’t just examine representations of or responses to climate change in art and literature; it takes climate change as a case study through which to explore what LeMenager calls “the interdisciplinary axes” of the Environmental Humanities. English is one of these “axes” and, as such, a central component of Environmental Studies here at the UO. In fact, the English department’s Literature and Environment program is one of the top-rated environmental literary study programs in the United States. Graduate students in English can choose it as a Structured Emphasis to focus, for example, on nature writing, environmental film and media, environmental philosophy and theory, the literature of the American West, the intersections of environmental and social justice, or colonial and post-colonial writings about environmental history and culture. Likewise, the Environmental Science, Studies and Policy program housed in the Environmental Studies Program allows doctoral students to select English as a focal department. While students at UO have an opportunity to study a range of fields within Environmental Humanities, UO is one of the few places where they can work with faculty who specialize in the intersections of Environmental studies and race/ethnicity.

At the 2016 MLA Convention in January, Professor LeManager and other members inaugurated the first ever MLA forum for Eco-criticism and the Environmental Humanities. At the convention, LeMenager presided over a panel called “Elemental Ecocriticism: Thinking with Earth, Air, Fire, and Water.” The panel consisted of contributors to a new book that challenges the concept of the elements as inert resources of the material world. Partici...
Notes from the Department Head

As my first full year as head of the English department draws to a close, I am excited, hopeful, and confident about the department’s future. This has been a year of many changes—from the University’s budget realignments, to new faculty, staff, and administrators joining the department. Above all, I am proud to say that we have an incredible group of faculty and staff that make English one of the most exciting units on campus. From our cutting-edge research and teaching, to our efficient and competent staff, I have never felt better about working with and on behalf of UO English.

As I have already noted, the theme for this year has been change. In our office staff alone, we say goodbye to our Accounting and Travel Clerk, ROBIN KNUDSEN, who leaves UO for another opportunity. We are delighted, however, to welcome KAREN MCCLAIN as our new Receptionist and Undergraduate Secretary and KATHY FURRER, our new Graduate Coordinator. Both Karen and Kathy are welcome and able additions to our wonderful office staff. Likewise, we are sad to see HEIDI KAUFMAN step down as Associate Department Head. Although I will miss Heidi’s competence, good humor, and attention to detail, I am happy to report that she will take on a new role developing a Digital Humanities minor for the department. Thankfully, LIZ BOHLS will step in to take Heidi’s place as Associate Head. Many of you may remember Liz’s administrative skill and acumen during one of her two recent stints as Director of Graduate Studies. We’re lucky to have such an able successor stepping in to the Associate Head position.

This year saw the inaugural search for a Postdoctoral Fellow in Ethnic American Literature and Culture. I want to thank the search committee: PRISCILLA OVALLE (chair), SARAH WALD, and ERNESTO MARTÍNEZ (Ethnic Studies). The committee did an outstanding job of recruiting one of the strongest pools of emerging scholars we’ve seen in years. As someone who participated in the process and who works in the field, I was stunned by the high quality of candidates across the board. We are delighted to welcome JOYCE PUJALANI WARREN, who will soon receive her PhD from UCLA, as the inaugural Postdoctoral Fellow. Joyce brings expertise in Oceanic Literature, American Literature, African American Literature, Postcolonial Theory, and Blackness in the Pacific. We look forward to the research, teaching, and programming she will bring to campus next year.

Along these lines, we are thrilled to welcome seven new Career NTTF colleagues to the Composition Program. They are AVINNASH TIWARI, BILL FOGARTY, BRIAN GAZAILLE, NICK RECKTENWALD, KARA CLEVINGER, KATE MYERS, and JENÉE WILDE.

Our new Career NTTF instructors are some of the best teachers we’ve seen. The Composition Program and our students will benefit from their energy and expertise.

After clearing a number of administrative hurdles, we are excited to implement our new undergraduate major. Expertly shepherded through an array of department, college, and university committees by Director of Undergraduate Studies BILL ROSSI, we will begin running the new major in Fall 2016—fully a year ahead of schedule! Perhaps the most exciting development in the new major is the Foundations of the Major course that will replace the old Introduction to the Major. Team taught by HEIDI KAUFMAN, WARREN GINSBERG, and PRISCILLA OVALLE, the new Foundations of the Major offers an interactive, multigenre, and multimedia experience for our students that spans the entire academic year. The course will trace the development of genres over multiple historical periods and cultural contexts. The new major also offers innovative curricular offerings in film, new media, Queer Studies, Disability Studies, ethnic American literature, Digital Humanities, and new Genre courses that trace the development of particular literary forms (e.g. Poetry) over the long course of literary history.

One of the best parts of this job is celebrating the many achievements of our dedicated and accomplished colleagues. First, I congratulate LISA GILMAN, a specialist in African dance and performance and veterans studies, for her promotion to Full Professor. We are also delighted to congratulate CAROLYN BERGQUIST, our gifted Director of Composition, on her promotion to Senior Lecturer II. Both Lisa and Carolyn are exceptionally worthy candidates for promotion as top-notch researchers, teachers, and administrators.

Our faculty continues its tradition of excellence by receiving a number of important awards. Although he has only been at UO a little over four years, KIRBY BROWN has already distinguished himself as one of our best teachers. A specialist in Native American literature, Professor Brown won the inaugural Tykeson Teaching Award in recognition of his innovative and inspiring approach in the classroom. MARTHA BAYLESS is the recipient of an American Council of Learned Societies Collaborative Research Grant. BILL ROSSI received a Tauber Family Foundation Fellowship in Science and Humanities. MARK QUIGLEY won two awards: a Helms Fellowship from Indiana University to support his study of the Hollywood director John...
A Brave New English Major

For the first time in a quarter of a century the English major is new again. While retaining the same basic structure as the old, the new major will more accurately reflect the range of work of our department researchers while addressing the current needs and interests of our students. We’ll transition to the new major beginning in Fall 2016, marked by a few noteworthy curricular changes. To begin with, the new major introduces a writing requirement that can be satisfied either by a new lower-level grammar course or with any one of four upper-division writing courses. A new grammar-focused course, Craft of the Sentence, will complement CAROLYN BERGQUIST’S Art of the Sentence. We’ve also designed a new genre course as a lower-division requirement. Each of these courses will trace the historical development and transformation of a key literary and cultural genre over time. The first to be offered, TRES PYLE’S course titled, Lyric(s), will be offered in fall 2016, and will be followed by courses on Fantasy and Tragedy. Finally, the three-part Introduction to the Major will be replaced by a new series, Foundations of the English Major. WARREN GINSBERG, PRISCILLA OVALLE, and HEIDI KAUFMAN will be the first team to teach this course. The aim is to help students recognize English as an interdisciplinary field. The course will therefore include a range of media forms, historical periods, and methods of study. Each of the three terms will focus on helping students develop an understanding of essential disciplinary skills (studying texts in context, reading texts alongside theory and criticism, and close reading). We’re excited to implement the new major after several years of work developing new courses and finding ways to create an inclusive curriculum, representative of the range of fields and interests among members of our department. We’re especially grateful to BILL ROSSI for the epic task of implementing the curricular changes.
**Courses in the Spotlight**

**St. Louis Seminar: “Writing Poetry in a Time of Revolution: W.B. Yeats and Seamus Heaney”**

April 24th of this year marked the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rebellion, the uprising in Dublin, Ireland, that ultimately led to the creation of an Irish Republic independent of Britain and the partition of Northern Ireland, which remains part of the United Kingdom to this day. It seems especially fitting then that the English department this spring offered a St. Louis Seminar on W.B. Yeats and Seamus Heaney that studied their poetry in relation to the political conditions of their particular times.

Professor **MARK QUIGLEY** taught the course, which traced the development of the two Nobel laureates’ poetic visions over their long careers examining the ways their aesthetics both intertwined and diverged. The class positioned Yeats and Heaney, who both lived and wrote primarily in Ireland, in the context of an Irish national literature that would come to be known as one of the most important literary traditions in the modern period. Each was also a principal heir of the poetic legacy of British Romanticism. The class investigated the ways Yeats and Heaney worked to reinterpret that legacy during key moments in twentieth-century (and, for Heaney, twenty-first-century) literary and cultural history. The fundamental question of the seminar was what role can poetry play in moments of historical crisis?

For Professor Quigley, the small class size and the seminar format afforded by the St. Louis Seminar Endowment created an environment where students felt “compelled to play a very active, engaged role.” One student in the class, Elizabeth Backus, described the intimate environment as setting the stage for the kind of concentration required for poetry: “It’s been exciting and enlightening to have the time and space to pour over individual lines and consider both historical and symbolic perspectives within poetry. The small class size allows us each to be heard, and the different perspectives in the room have really helped open up some poems that felt very obscure to me upon first reading.” Students honed their own close-reading skills and spent time learning about poetic forms and structures. This equipped them with the skills to write a final research paper in which they demonstrated their ability to engage in the dynamic critical conversation that these poets have attracted.

**“Creating Comics” and Entertaining Comics**

The English department’s Comics and Cartoon Studies minor continues to be a vanguard program. This year’s culminating event was the May 13th opening at the Schnitzer Museum of a two-month exhibition called “Aliens, Monsters, and Madmen: The Art of EC Comics.” Our next newsletter, published in Summer of 2017, will offer in-depth coverage on this groundbreaking exhibition.

Comics and Cartoon Studies continues to innovate in the classroom, too. This year, Professor **BEN SAUNDERS** invited **JAN ELIOT** to teach a spring course called “Creating Comics.” Eliot is creator of the nationally syndicated comic Stone Soup, a UO alum, and a longtime Eugene resident. Stone Soup, which chronicles the daily life of a single mom and her extended family, is, as Saunders puts it, “brilliantly witty, exquisitely paced, and delightfully drawn.”

Eliot developed her course with a practical bent: to help students with the design, development, and production of their own comics, and to offer guidance on how to pitch work to publishers and syndicates. Eliot was the perfect person to teach the class. She launched Stone Soup in 1990, where it ran as a weekly in The Register Guard. By 1995, the comic was nationally syndicated, and it now appears worldwide in over 300 newspapers—including The Oregonian, The Boston Globe, and New York Newsday. Eliot is currently completing work on her eleventh book in a series that collects the published strips.

Along with working on their own comics, students read and discussed two important comics studies texts, Scott McCloud’s Making Comics and Brad Guigar’s The Webcomics Handbook, as well as collections of Calvin and Hobbes, Doonesbury, and New York Newsday. Eliot is currently completing work on her eleventh book in a series that collects the published strips.
and *The Far Side*. The course had stellar guest visitors, too: T. Lewis, the co-creator of the *Over the Hedge* comic, which was made into two feature films, spoke to the class about digital work. During week four, Lee Salem, the retired president of the syndicate that picked up *Stone Soup*—and the discoverer of *Calvin and Hobbes*, *Doonesbury*, and *The Far Side*—discussed with the class (for two hours via FaceTime) issues surrounding censorship and what he looks for in prospective comics creators. We look forward to a new year of Comics and Cartoon Studies events and to providing more information in next year’s newsletter about the Schnitzer’s *Entertaining Comics* exhibition.

**Life Stories: The Self-Made Musical**

Inspired by her work with the Inside-Out Prison Exchange program, that includes both UO students and inmates at Oregon State Penitentiary, Professor BETSY WHEELER saw an opportunity to create a new course that integrates UO students and people from the larger Eugene community. Wheeler applied for and was awarded a Tom and Carol Williams Council Fund for Undergraduate Education grant to help her develop the new course. She turned to Jim Evangelista of Reality Kitchen as her collaborator. Together they designed a course that brought together UO students and people from Reality Kitchen, a nonprofit café and wholesale bakery that provides job training for young people with disabilities. The final product was a life-story theatre production.

For Professor Wheeler, the course exceeded all her expectations: “I thought that this kind of immersion in disability community would teach the UO students more than they could ever learn from a book, and I was right. Sometimes the subject matter gets pretty intense, as we talk about institutions, bullying, and assault, but we also have a whole lot of laughs. It has proved to be a phenomenal, transcendent experience for me, and I hear for many of the students. I am astounded at the creativity that has emerged. Students have shared stories from their lives with each other, and I have crafted a script from these stories. However, what I could not have expected was the songs, dances, art, joy, and connections the play has brought out of people.”

The course concluded with the free public performance of the play, written by students enrolled in the course, on June 3 in the Global Scholars Hall Great Room at the University of Oregon. The play alternates songs written by the cast with dance numbers and scenes drawn from life stories. Stanley Coleman of Lane Community College directed the show. Volunteer support, including Molly Elliot from KindTree/Autism Rocks, Bill Winkley, and Mike Shugrue from Full Access Brokerage, helped to make the show a success.

**Literature and the Environment continued**

pants included Stacy Alaimo of the University of Texas-Arlington, Jeffrey Jerome Cohen of George Washington University, Lowell Duckert of West Virginia University, Steve Mentz of Saint John’s University, and Serpil Oppermann of Hacettepe University in Turkey.

UO continues to make headway into the future of Environmental Humanities. In the winter of 2017, leading academic publisher Routledge will release *Teaching Climate Change in the Humanities*, edited by LEKENGER, SHANE HALL, and recent English PhD STEPHEN SIPERSTEIN. The book will be the first of its kind: a textbook of essays designed to help instructors teach climate change in college humanities classes. The thirty-five-chapter book presents Environmental Humanities as a look toward the kind of future climate change could create. This doesn’t suggest that such an aim is cataclysmic; rather, it is forward-looking. “This isn’t the time to reflect on the end of the world, but on how to meet it.” LeMenager told the Times. “We want to apply our humanities skills pragmatically to this problem.” LeMenager made a similar statement on NPR’s weekly radio program *Science Friday*, where she was interviewed this April 2016 and asked about how literature offers ways of imagining survivable futures into the era of climate change.
On February 19th, QUINN MILLER, Assistant Professor in the English department at UO, and a group of collaborators including Nick Davis, Associate Professor of English and Gender Studies at Northwestern University, and ROSALIE ROBERTS, postdoctoral scholar in the English department at UO, presented a panel of queer performers and scholars entitled “#notmychildren: A Soap Opera Symposium” at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art.

The symposium was designed to create a bridge between soap opera studies and experimental film and media studies. It grew into a larger discussion of queer and trans representation and visibility, trans fandom, and trans celebrity. The first presenter, writer and performer Raquel Gutiérrez, read from and discussed her queer media manifesto, Radical Schlock, before presenting a video of a short play she appeared in called Real Women Have Periods, an experimental remake of the films Real Women Have Curves and What’s a Period? written and directed by Dino Dinco in 2010. Next, Abigail De Kosnik, Associate Professor at UC Berkeley, and Julia Havard, a graduate student in Berkeley’s Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies program, discussed media theory frameworks for understanding a purported “trans tipping point,” the current moment of emergence for trans visibility in popular culture. Professor Miller was delighted with the productive, complex discussion that ensued: “It didn’t wind up as a soap opera symposium; what it did wind up being was a kind of funhouse version of the current moment in transgender studies.” One of the aims of the symposium, Professor Miller remarks, was always “to have reinvention happen in the room,” so he was especially pleased that the day’s discourse went beyond its original focal point, a conversation that went “to the edges of queer media studies.”

The symposium was tied to a pair of sequential Queer Productions courses that Professor Miller developed. Queer Productions I, offered in the fall, looked at queer experimental film, Hollywood movies, and cultural theory. The second course, Queer Productions II, continued the focus from the fall term on nonbinary feminisms, ephemera, and gender-queer agitation of the fall course while adding more materials in gender theory and media studies, including a visit with the curatorial team Dirty Looks that built upon a fall screening of The Mystery School with director Jerry Tartaglia. Students prepared for, planned, attended, and revisited the “#notmychildren” symposium, which had also become a space for mentorship. During lunch that day, Professor Davis facilitated a mentorship exercise for people doing queer research in TV and media studies.

Tanisha Ford: the Politics of Style and Fashion

The Department of English, along with the Center for the Study of Women in Society, the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, the College Scholars Program, the CSWS Women of Color Project, the Department of Ethnic Studies, Academic Affairs, and the Office of Equity and Inclusion, sponsored a visit by Professor Tanisha Ford, an award-winning writer, historian, and public speaker. Professor Ford’s talk at UO was titled “The Politics of Style: Black Women, Social Movements, and Global Fashion Economies.”

Tanisha Ford is an assistant professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her book, Liberated Threads: Black Women, Style, and the Global Politics of Soul (University of North Carolina Press, 2015) explores how black women—from the Civil Rights and Black Power era of the 1960s through anti-apartheid activism in the 1980s and beyond—“have used their clothing, hair, and style not simply as a fashion statement but as a powerful tool of resistance.”

The Organization of American Historians announced this month that Liberated Threads is the 2016 winner of the Liberty Legacy Foundation Award for the best book on the Civil Rights struggle from the beginnings of the nation to the present.

Read more about Liberated Threads: http://unc.live/1ZvrniA
Our last newsletter announced proudly that the UO had won a national competition and would be the only Oregon site to host a copy of Shakespeare’s First Folio, as part of the travelling exhibition, First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare, on tour from the Folger Shakespeare Library. Thanks to the efforts of Associate Professor of English LARA BOVILSKY and an exciting collaboration between the English Department, the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and the University of Oregon Libraries, First Folio! was on display at the Jordan Schnitzer from January 5 to February 7.

The exhibition celebrated the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death and the impact of his work, much of which was first printed in the First Folio, so-called as the first collected edition of his plays, published in 1623, seven years after Shakespeare’s death. Alongside the First Folio itself were UO’s own copies of Shakespeare’s Second and Fourth Folios and Ben Jonson’s first folio, as well as illustrations of Shakespeare’s work, items loaned by the Knight Library Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA). SCUA’s extensive Shakespeare-related holdings were also on display in the Knight Library, where Professor Bovilsky curated an extensive companion exhibition that ran from January 5–April 5. This exhibition, Time’s Pencil: Shakespeare After the Folio, used rare books to illustrate the many changes made to Shakespeare’s works and the different understandings and uses of his writings over 400 years, including radical rewritings of his plays that jumpstarted his lagging popularity in the late 17th century, the beginnings of Shakespeare as a school subject during English Company Rule of India in the 18th century, fan fiction written about him in the 19th century, and 20th-century performances and study of his work here in Eugene.

The momentous First Folio! exhibition began with a performance entitled “Sweetly Writ” at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts. Actors from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival focused on the striking differences between Shakespeare’s three surviving versions of King Lear. They presented a fictional initial rehearsal of the first scene of Lear, frequently stopping the read-through to discuss their characters’ different speaking options. As Shakespeare’s textual variations were projected overhead, an audience of 500 repeatedly gasped to see the significance of Shakespeare’s varied takes on Lear.

The Hult Center gala was the first of many events during the exhibition’s run. The Jordan Schnitzer hosted performances of Shakespearean scenes by Theatre Arts students and lunchtime lectures by Professor BEN SAUNDERS on conflicting readings of the Folios and the Quartos and by Professor Bovilsky on how the First Folio contributed to modern understandings of drama and Shakespeare.

The First Folio! exhibitions and events attracted over 10,000 visitors. The English Department is grateful to many who enabled this resounding success in public humanities and the high quality of these events. Gloria Lee’s support of the Kingsley Weatherhead Fund for the Undergraduate Study of Shakespeare provided crucial underwriting. We also thank the College of Arts and Sciences, the Division of Undergraduate Studies, the Oregon Humanities Center’s Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities, the Department of Theatre Arts, and the City of Eugene, which donated the Hult Center space and staff. First Folio! was organized by the Folger Shakespeare Library and produced in association with the American Library Association and the Cincinnati Museum System. It was made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the human endeavor, and by the support of Google.org, Vinton and Sigrid Cerf, and other generous donors.
The Oregon Rare Books Initiative (ORBI) is an Oregon Humanities Center Research Interest Group (RIG) that seeks to bring attention to the Knight Library’s early print and manuscript collections and encourage the use of these collections by undergraduate and graduate scholars. Moreover, according to the ORBI mission statement, these holdings offer “a new area of excellence within the University’s core academic mission” at a time when the humanities and the library are experiencing budget cuts.

This year, Professors GORDON SAYRE and LIZ BOHLS curated a lecture series in support of the ORBI mission, inviting scholars from around the university and across the country. The ORBI blog (blogs.uoregon.edu/orbi) includes information about the lectures as well as the library call numbers for each of the documents addressed in the presentations to enable and encourage future research in The Knight Library Special Collections and University Archives.

According to Professor Sayre, the series brought together scholars with similar interests with the community and helped Oregon students access these documents for teaching and research: “I enjoyed working on the ORBI series along with Liz Bohls this year. There is great interest in it because people love looking at the old books from our collection, from the incunabula (books printed before 1500) to the lavish, large engravings in the atlas of the voyages of James Cook. The program has also led to many graduate and undergraduate students doing original research in the rare books and archives.”

Professor Bohls, who presented a lecture this year with English department graduate student, AMANDA EAGLE, likewise appreciated the gathering of scholars from around the nation that highlighted Oregon’s collection and the opportunity to mentor graduate student research: “ORBI has brought a series of distinguished speakers to campus to lecture on issues connected with the UO’s rare books and special collections, in particular the history of science and scientific exploration. Our collections include numerous first editions of books and engravings connected with Captain Cook’s voyages of exploration in the late eighteenth century, which brought him to the Oregon coast in 1778 (where he named Cape Foulweather and Cape Perpetua). I presented on the Cook materials with first-year MA student Amanda Eagle, whose continuing work in digital humanities has included digitizing some of the images from Cook’s third voyage. At our talk, attended by community members as well as UO faculty and students, Special Collections staff put a variety of rare travel books on display for the audience to examine.”

University of Oregon in Galway

In the summer of 2016, the UO English Department—under the direction of Professor MARK QUIGLEY will partner for the eleventh time with Global Education Oregon and the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) to offer a six-week study abroad program in Galway, Ireland. The program immerses students in Irish literature, history, theatre, music, and the Gaelic language and consists of courses taught by established Irish, British, and US scholars. Classes are held at the Galway campus of the National University of Ireland (NUIG).

Students will visit Dun Aengus, a prehistoric fort on the island of Inishmore; Thoor Ballylee, the castle Yeats lived in and wrote about in his classic book The Tower; Coole Park, the estate of Lady Gregory that nurtured Yeats’s most famous poetry and was the nerve-center of Yeats’s and Gregory’s work as founders and directors of Ireland’s world-famous Abbey Theatre; and the “famine roads,” infamous roads-to-nowhere that Irish peasants were forced to build in exchange for food during the Great Famine. Visiting the famine roads, Professor Quigley remarks, is an especially “significant experience for students with Irish roots since so much Irish emigration resulted from that catastrophe.” For students of Gaelic, another significant experience is the chance to practice the language, thanks to Galway’s proximity to “gael-tachtí”—Irish-speaking areas dotted throughout the country—on the nearby Aran Islands and in Connemara.
This year marked the beginning of a collaboration between members of the English department and CASIT to build a Digital Humanities (DH) minor in the College of Arts and Sciences. Professor Heidi Kaufman and Post-Doctoral scholar, Matthew Hannah, worked with Garron Hale, head of CASIT, to develop new courses for a new DH minor and to lead DH workshops throughout the year.

Digital Humanities, or DH, is a growing interdisciplinary research area focuses on the intersection of technology and traditional humanities fields. DH creates innovative ways of thinking through technology—that is, it creates new approaches to existing humanities research by considering how digital tools can open up new methodologies or raise new research questions. In turn, humanities research will reframe and redefine the power of these tools, many of which were not created explicitly for the use of humanistic study. The new minor in DH, housed in the English department, will appeal to students who are not only interested in studying English, but who want to apply this disciplinary field to a range of arenas, including, for example, geospatial narratives that visualize social justice movements; the creation of dynamic digital editions of rare or under-studied texts; and public humanities initiatives aimed at addressing environmental concerns.

Heidi and Matt led seven hands-on DH workshops on subjects as varied as Omeka, Palladio, Voyant, and “What is Data?” They hosted 8 working group meetings that showcased newly developed and established DH projects created by members of the UO community. Visit the DH at UO website to learn more and sign up to receive blog and twitter feed updates which will resume at the start of the fall term: dh.uoregon.edu

The program officially begins in Galway on June 26 and concludes on July 30. However, students have the option of spending a prior week in Dublin to experience a bustling contemporary metropolis and a capital city steeped in national history. After Dublin, students arrive in Galway and begin two classes they select from six options: Irish Literature, Irish Theatre, Modern Irish History, Irish Music and Dance, the Gaelic Language, and World Religions in Ireland. Meeting twice a week in two-and-a-half hour sessions, these small seminars provide close attention from faculty. Each year, the courses are ranked as one of the best parts of the program. One student, Bridget Dolan, remarks, “My favorite was the History of Irish Music; each class brought new ‘trad’ or traditional music and guests to demonstrate. I will never forget hearing my first Sean Nós song and listening to the heartache that attached to each Gaelic word.” The program had such a lasting impact on Dolan that she decided to apply to NUIG medical school, which she will attend in the fall.

The program also coincides with what are now recognized as two of the most important arts events in Europe: the Galway Arts Festival and the Galway Film Fleadh (Irish for festival). During the third and fourth weeks, students have the chance to attend and even take part in the Galway Arts Festival, an increasingly prominent site for theatrical debuts, international music, and narrative plays and performances reminiscent of medieval dramas that occur across the streets of the city center. Professor Quigley explains that one of the highlights of the program over the last decade has been student participation in those street plays. We hope to continue to seek new prospects for developing funding for English majors who want to study Irish literature and theater in Ireland.
Several of our faculty have won impressive national and international scholarly awards. We congratulate Professors Mark Quigley, Martha Bayless, Bill Rossi, and Stephanie Lemenager on their remarkable accomplishments.

Professor MARK QUIGLEY received the Everett Helm Fellowship from Indiana University where he will research the Hollywood director John Ford in the Lilly Library archives in late summer 2016. Mark is developing several projects for publication that will incorporate research on John Ford. The manuscript materials at the Lilly will enable Mark to trace the illuminating parallels between Ford’s work and that of the Irish novelist Liam O’Flaherty. Mark’s archival work will also help him with a special issue of the modernist studies journal Modernist Cultures he is currently editing for publication in 2017. Mark received a second award, the Mayers fellowship at the Huntington Library in San Marino, CA, to study a collection of Irish newspapers published by nationalist, suffragist, and labor groups during the First World War. This award will help Mark to complete a book project exploring Irish opposition to the war entitled Not Such A Long Way To Tipperary: Retracing Opposition to the First World War in the Irish Popular Press, 1914-1919.

Professor MARTHA BAYLESS won a fellowship with the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). With this collaborative research fellowship Martha will spend 2016-17 academic year in Cambridge (UK) writing a book about bread as a cultural force in Anglo-Saxon England. Her collaborator, Dr. Debby Banham, is an agricultural historian at Cambridge University. This project brings together insights from a range of disciplines, including history, archeology, anthropology, and the maturing field of Food Studies, to describe and analyze early English culture as reflected in the cultivation, processing, consumption, and understanding of bread. The study will demonstrate the ways in which a staple foodstuff formed a nexus of social practice and moral meaning, imbued with symbolic and cultural significance, and embodying issues of power, status, community, morality, and the organization of life and work.

Professor BILL ROSSI is the recipient of a Laszlo N. Tauber Family Foundation award for his project, Democratizing Natural Knowledge: Henry Thoreau in the Commons. Critical efforts to understand Henry Thoreau’s environmentalism and dual career as naturalist and writer have long been hobbled by ahistorical conceptions of the science he practiced, neglect of the cultural conditions of writing natural knowledge in his day, and by a belief that his individualism prevented meaningful socio-political engagement. Examining his major writings in the context of popular and professional science writing in the mid-century evolutionary controversy, this study documents Thoreau’s engagement in this debate, traces and historicizes the development of Thoreau’s evolutionary imagination, and situates his literary environmental advocacy in a changing cultural politics of natural knowledge. This award will enable Bill to spend a full year developing this project.

Professor STEPHANIE LEMENAGER has been awarded a fellowship with the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University. She’ll spend 2016-17 working on a new research project, Weathering: Towards a Sustainable Humanities. This project will explore global climate change and its effects on what it means to be human, the meaning of Humanism, and the kinds of objects and practices the Humanities assume to remain ecologically and institutionally viable. In this project, the development of the Environmental Humanities (EH) acts a case study for the Humanities’ contemporary tendency toward applied and interdisciplinary practice, public projects, and expression through digital or new media. Weathering charts the history of EH, and in so doing it calls for a “sustainable Humanities” wherein the knowledge and skills associated with human cultural expression work toward adaptation to or remediation of diminishing biocultural diversity.

**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.
New Faculty in the English Department

This year we welcomed the arrival of three new faculty members. **EMILY SIMNITT** is a Career Instructor at the University of Oregon specializing in teaching student writers from diverse linguistic backgrounds. She is currently working on a dissertation project to complete a Ph.D. in Composition and TESOL from Indiana University of Pennsylvania that explores student academic authorship as a multilingual, digitally-mediated experience. As a teacher-scholar, Emily considers the ways in which writing programs can draw on cultural competencies, digital literacies, and linguistic agility of students to support their agency as writers in academic and public spaces. Her recent *Composition Studies* article “Teaching for Agency: From Appreciating Linguistic Diversity to Empowering Student Writers” discusses the role of Twitter within a pedagogical framework that enables multilingual writers to understand the effect of their linguistic and rhetorical choices.

**ALLISON MCGUFFIE**, a Faculty Fellow in English at the University of Oregon, specializes in film studies with a focus on African cinema, gender and sexuality in film, and critical video game studies. She has taught at the University of Iowa, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and Portland State University. Her current research examines educational films of Sub-Saharan Africa and the effects of international non-profit funding on their ideological content and modes of production. Allison especially enjoys teaching analytical tools and film theory that help students question the media they encounter in their everyday lives.

**BRENT DAWSON**, a Faculty Fellow in English at the University of Oregon, received his PhD from Emory University in 2014 and joined the department in fall 2015. His research and teaching focuses on early modern literature, science, and philosophy, as well as ecocriticism and global studies. His current book project, *Worldly Muck: Universality, Materiality, and Global Relations in English Renaissance Texts*, studies ideas of natural variety that circulate in early modern transatlantic networks and how they shape imaginings of cross-cultural and cross-species affiliations. His work has been published in *New Literary History, Renaissance Drama*, and the collection *This Distracted Globe: Worldmaking in Early Modern Literature*.

New Faces in the English Department

We are delighted to welcome three new members of the English department. **MELISSA BOWERS** joined us as Department Manager and Officer of Administration in May of 2015. Melissa oversees the administrative and managerial tasks of the Department and ensures that our policies and procedures conform to those of the College of Arts and Sciences and the University. Along with holding an MBA from Oregon State University, Bowers has many years of administrative experience in a variety of fields including parks and recreation, community development, and nonprofit and community partnerships. The English Department represents for Melissa “a rewarding opportunity to dedicate my time and skills to working with people in a field that engages creativity and generates thoughtful insight.”

**KAREN MCCLAIN** started as Receptionist and Undergraduate Clerk in the English Department last July. Karen provides general reception services, sends reports to the Associate Department Head, and assists both the Director and Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies with various tasks related to undergraduate English majors. Before coming to UO, Karen provided administrative support at an economic consulting firm here in Eugene and at engineering and geology consulting firms and a law office. “I feel lucky to have landed in the English Department,” Karen says. “I work with great staff and enjoy interacting with our faculty and students.”

**KATHY FURRER** became our English department Graduate Coordinator in September. In this capacity, Kathy communicates with current and prospective graduate students about deadlines, rules, and requirements. She also maintains graduate student records, monitors student progress, and compiles all graduate applications. Kathy has a background in Administrative work in community services and has worked at the Chamber of Commerce and Habitat for Humanity. She earned her Bachelors of Education in Curriculum and Instruction here at UO, and is thrilled to return: “Coming back to the University of Oregon has been wonderful. Although I enjoy the general atmosphere, the most rewarding part is helping graduate students along the path to achieving their dreams.”
English Undergraduate Organization

The English Undergraduate Organization (EUO) continued its mission to provide a community for English majors and minors to augment their studies and strengthen their connections between other English majors and minors, faculty, and the university and surrounding communities through creating opportunities for leadership within the organization, community service related to English, and academic and professional development. The EUO is open to all English majors and minors, including those in Comics Studies, and Writing, Speaking, and Critical Reasoning.

This year, the EUO hosted and co-hosted several events designed to enhance the undergraduate experience for UO English majors. During Week of Welcome EUO tabled with affiliated groups to promote English and sponsored the UO English First Year Orientation, designed to welcome incoming English majors and UO students. The event featured performances by UO Poetry Slam poets and presentations by UO Think. Play, Unbound, and Art Ducko. The EUO also invited the BreakBeat Poets to campus for a series of workshops and a public performance. The EUO joined the Alpha Tau Phi Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta (ΣΤΔ) to put together the “Graduate School Panel” with Prof. LARA BOVILSKY, UO English graduate Dr. MATT HANNAH, and current UO English Graduate Student RYLEIGH NUCILLI to discuss the process of applying to graduate school and life as a graduate student. The EUO and ΣΤΔ hosted an honors thesis defense presentation workshop with alumni NEIL DAVIDSON and DEAN DIER and UO English faculty PAUL PEPPIS and WILLIAM ROSSI.

Continuing their tradition of attending the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, EUO president DANA GLASSOCK organized the 3rd Annual trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival to see Vietgone on May 7. The group also hosted a reading of Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare with graduate student KATE MYERS to celebrate its appearance this year at the festival.

Finally, The EUO has also sponsored another new club, UO Think.Play, bringing the number of affiliated student groups to four. The organization also sponsored and co-hosted events with Unbound magazine, UO’s undergraduate literary-arts magazine, and Art Ducko comics magazine, to promote student publications related to English at the University of Oregon.

UO Think.Play: critical engagement with video games through play

The newest student group to join the English Undergraduate Organization is UO Think.Play (UOTP). Founded in 2011 as a small discussion group, Today UOTP is a group of faculty, staff, students, and community members that facilitates dialogue and critical engagement with video games through play. The club runs open play sessions, hosts guest speakers from the academic and professional communities, and provides a place for students, scholars, and professionals across disciplines to share information.

UOTP is led by its Steering Committee: REBECCA TOBI (Japanese), TESSA FREELAND (Cinema Studies), BLAKELY BROWN (Philosophy), ANA LIND (Digital Arts), and DANTE DOUGLAS (Sociology). TARA FICKLE, BEN SAUNDERS, CORBETT UPTON serve as UO English Faculty sponsors for the group.

UO Think.Play also founded the first and only games studies conference at the University of Oregon, Oregon Games Studies Conference (OGSC), which held its third meeting in January. They organized the conference entirely on their own with some funding assistance from the EUO. The conference was a day-long event that included four panels, individual presentations, and a local game show-case, featuring four local game developers. The event featured presentations by Nina Freeman, Kahlief Adams, Solon Scott, Laura E. Hall, and Austin C. Howe.

To promote critical thinking about games and gaming culture (and fun), UOTP hosted, in addition to the OGSC and several social events, lectures by academics, developers, journalists, and UO students, including Kahlief Adams (The Spawn Point Blog), Edmond Chang (UO), Clayton Davis (UO), TARA FICKLE (UO), Todd Harper (University of Baltimore), Michael Lutz (Indiana University), Lana Polansky (Sufficiently Human), and more.

To get a sense of the scope, seriousness, and fun of UOTP, visit: facebook.com/uothinkplay or uothinkplay.wordpress.com
BreakBeat Poets inspired undergraduates with hip hop poetics

The English Undergraduate Organization (EUO), inspired by the new anthology, The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop (edited by Kevin Coval, Quraysh Ali Lansana, and Nate Marshall) and the diversity of voices it includes, invited The BreakBeat Poets, featuring Kevin Coval, Jamila Woods, and Fatimah Asghar to campus to conduct workshops with University of Oregon undergraduates and give a performance on October 7, 2015.

To celebrate the BreakBeats’ visit, the Alpha Tau Phi Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, International English Honor Society, held a reading group to discuss selections from the anthology and several undergraduate literature courses included the anthology in their syllabi.

Inspired by hip-hop culture and aesthetics, the BreakBeat Poets’ performance included graffiti art and hip-hop, creating a specific context for their performance poetry, which Kevin Coval sees as essential to the poetics of young poets coming of age in the hip hop era and, indeed, revitalizing American poetry.

See the BreakBeats interview with UO English Professor PAUL PEPPIS on UO Today: youtu.be/nt6-RArJTs

Alpha Tau Phi Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta

Alpha Tau Phi Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor society continued its tradition of conferring distinction for high achievement in English language and literature in undergraduate studies at Oregon. This year the chapter sent six society members to the 2016 Sigma Tau Delta International Convention: Finding Home in Minneapolis, MN. The chapter set a personal record with six presentations: “Inter-textuality in Kesey: Sometimes A Great Notion” by DANA GLASSCOCK; “Scopophilia and Experience in Maya Angelou’s ‘Men’” by SARAH GOMEZ; “The Bower of Bliss: A Spenserian Ecomonster” by SEAN PEBLER; “Satan vs. Abdiel: Understanding Servitude” by SAMUEL RODGERS; “Non-Binary Gender in Science Fiction and Fantasy Comics” by BENNI ROSE; and “Mitsuye Yamada’s Manipulating National Identity” by GRACE SHUM. Sean Pebler, chapter president, and Dana Glasscock, chapter secretary, served as session chairs at the convention. While at the convention, chapter vice-president Benni Rose was re-elected to national office as the Far West Regional Associate Student Representative. Dana Glasscock, chapter secretary, took second prize in the international competition for society conference blogs.

The chapter continued its tradition of Sigma Tau Delta Faculty Firesides, 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 ANNE LASKAYA, BETHANY JACOBS, CAROLYN BERGQUIST, and SHARON LUK.

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 Charles Baxter, Lucia Berlin, The BreakBeat Poets, Ken Kesey, William Shakespeare, and Kao Kalia Yang.

The chapter hosted an honors thesis defense presentation workshop with alumni NEIL DAVIDSON and DEAN DIER and UO English faculty PAUL PEPPIS and WILLIAM ROSSI.

Finally, the chapter elected a new president and vice-president: DANICA EBEL and SARAH HOVET. The new committee has already inducted 18 new chapter members, growing the society to 38 active members and over 40 alumni. The chapter awarded its annual teaching award for excellence in undergraduate education and in promoting interest in the discipline of English to Professor Anne Laskaya for the second year in a row!

Read the Alpha Tau Phi Chapter’s conference blog: uosigmataudelta.wordpress.com

Read Dana’s award-winning blog entry at WORDY by Nature: wordybynature.org/finding-home-in-the-borderlands
The UO Poetry Slam (UOPS) continued its progress this year, holding a term-long slam to select its 2016 team to compete at the College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational (CUPSI) in Austin, TX, the top competition for college slam poets. The competitive slam, where poets perform a 3-minute original poem judged by five judges randomly selected from the audience, concluded in December. The slam attracted a wide range of students, competing in six bouts resulting in the formation of the following team: **ALEX DANG** (English), **DANTE DOUGLAS** (Sociology), **MAXINE DAVID** (Political Science), **HANNAH GOLDEN** (Journalism), and **ANNALEE NOCK** (English).

To prepare for CUPSI, the team kept to a rigorous schedule of writing and rehearsal several times a week. 59 universities vied for a chance at the national title at this year’s 15th competition. The team began the competition with two rounds of preliminary bouts. Oregon won its Bout 1 over Ball State, Berklee College of Music, and Princeton. In Bout 2, Oregon placed third behind Michigan and Lewis and Clark. Oregon placed 22 and was featured on the Finals Stage Group Piece Showcase with a poem performed by Alex Dang and Dante Douglas.

The team also performed with, or featured, nationally and internationally known performance poets, including Kevin Coval, Jamila Woods, Fatimah Asghar, Brenda Twohy, Anthony McPherson, and Mighty Mike McGee. Throughout the process of recruiting and building a team that can be competitive anywhere in the nation, the slam held to its ideal of an inclusive, democratic community with an insistence on high-quality work and an atmosphere of mutual encouragement. On campus, the team held poetry workshops and open mics accessible to all UO 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 CUPSI blog entries: uopoetryslam.wordpress.com

Watch videos of the UO Poetry Slam’s showcases on the UO English YouTube channel: http://bit.ly/216lo4b

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**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 recipient of your gift. Such gifts make a difference in what the Department can do to enhance educational opportunities for our students and provide valuable research and instructional resources for our faculty. If you 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: english.uoregon.edu/support
Or make your check payable to the University of Oregon Foundation, designated for the Department of English, and mail it to: Department of English, 1286 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1286

Thank you!
MARTHA BAYLESS presented two papers, “Medieval Ritual Board Games: Power, Display, and Gender” in the Workshop on Gender and Status Competition, Umeå University, Sweden, and “Dance in Anglo-Saxon England,” International Society of Anglo-Saxonists, Glasgow, UK. She published an essay, “Is the Comic World a Paradise for Women? Medieval Models of Portable Utopia,” in Humour, Laughter, and the (Un)making of Gender: Historical and Cultural Perspectives, ed. Anna Foka and Jonas Lillequist (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015). And she received two awards this year: a University of Oregon Summer Stipend for Humanities and Creative Arts Faculty (Summer 2015) and a research fellowship from The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS).

LIZ BOHLS presented “Romantic Exploration and Atlantic Slavery: Mungo Park’s Coffle” at the “Romanticism and the Atlantic World” symposium at Boston University, Boston, MA. She published “Picturesque Travel: The Aesthetics and Politics of Landscape” in the Routledge Companion to Travel Writing (Routledge, 2015). Liz has also served as acting Director of Graduate Studies in the English department.

LARA BOVILSKY presented a paper, “The Conceit of This Inconstant Stay: Exhibiting Shakespeare(s) in Eugene, Oregon” at the Shakespeare Association of America Annual Conference (SAA), New Orleans. As part of the Moll Fellowship in Literary Studies at the Oregon Humanities Center which she received in Fall 2015, Lara gave a talk at the OHC on “The Talking Donkey and the Stony Heart: Expanding the Bounds of Early Modern Personhood.” She published an essay, “The Race of Shakespeare’s Mind,” in Shakespeare in Our Time: A Shakespeare Association of America Collection, ed. Dympna Callaghan and Suzanne Gossett (Bloombury Arden Shakespeare, 2016). Lara was the recipient of the Faculty Research Award for a book project, “Almost Human,” from the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation at the University of Oregon. Additionally, Lara was the recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from the Division of Equity and Inclusion at the University of Oregon. Over the past year Lara served as the project manager for the First Folio! exhibition and related programming surrounding this event. She curated “Time’s Pencil: Shakespeare After the Folio,” a companion exhibition in Knight Library’s Special Collections and University Archives. Additionally, she gave two public talks as part of the First Folio exhibit, “Creating Shakespeares: The First Folio and its Afterlives,” at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art at the University of Oregon, and “A Guide to Commemorating Shakespeare, 1616-2016” at the Eugene Public Library.

KIRBY BROWN gave a number of talks including, “‘It’s Our Dead:’ Race, Nation, and Family in Lynn Riggs’s The Cherokee Night” at the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA), Washington, DC; “Stoking the Fire: Nationhood in Early 20th-Century Cherokee Writing” at the Oregon Humanities Center; “Ruth Muskrat Bronson, Form, and the Challenge of the Archive” at the Native American Studies Research Colloquium at the University of Oregon; “Keywords: Sovereignty” at the Western Literature Association (WLA), Reno, NV; and participated in a keynote panel for the 50th Anniversary of the Western Literature Association in Reno, NV. Kirby also published “Identity, Culture, Community, and Nation: Literary Theory as Politics and Praxis” in the Routledge Companion to Native American Literature, ed. Deborah Madsen (Routledge, 2016). Kirby was the recipient of the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation Faculty Research Award, 2015-16, which included a summer stipend to support completion of book manuscript, “Stoking the Fire: Nationhood in Early 20th-Century Cherokee Writing.” He also received the Oregon Humanities Center Vice President for Research and Innovation Completion Fellowship, 2015-16. (Winter term free of teaching to support completion of the book manuscript). Kirby was also awarded the Tykesson Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in the College of Arts and Sciences. Kirby has been selected to teach in UO’s College Scholars Program during AY 2016-17 and will teach Introduction to Native American Literatures; Native American Writers: Land, Resources, and the Environment; and Film, Media, & Culture with an emphasis on Indigenous film.

STEPHANIE CLARK presented a paper, “Does Prayer Work?: The Prayers of King Alfred,” at the International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI.

MIKE COPPERMAN has three new publications. First, the story, “First Orders,” will be published in the current issue of The Arkansas Review. Second, his new book, Teacher: Two Years in the Mississippi Delta, is forthcoming from University Press of Mississippi. You can order an advanced copy at: amzn.to/1rdhNoP. Third, Mike published an essay he wrote for The Hill about the desegregation decision out of the Delta. You can find that piece here: bit.ly/1t4djca

JAMES CROSSWHITEn presented “Demagoguery, Deliberation, and Democratic Hope” the Landmark Lecture in Rhetoric and Writing at San Diego State University. He has also published “The Point is to Change It” in Toward a Critical Rhetoric on the Israel-Palestine Conflict, ed. Matthew Abraham (Parlor Press, 2015).


JOHN GAGE presented two papers, “The Delsarte System of Oratory as Downward Transcendence,” at the Rhetoric Society of America (RSA), Atlanta, GA and “Thomas Merton’s Calligraphies as Active Contemplation” at the Oregon Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Association, Lafayette, OR. John also published “Preface: The Enthymeme Within Reason” in The Essential Enthymeme: Propositions for Educating Students in a Modern World, ed. Jorge Vega y Vega (Peter Lang Publishers, 2015). Carolyn Bergquist and John Gage were awarded a $36,000 CAS General Education Renaissance grant for “Writing Connections” to develop themed sections of WR 121 and 122 linked to Group Satisfying and Multicultural Courses across the curriculum.

LISA GILMAN presented “Is Oral tradition Alive and Well? Contemporary Legends and Social Issues in Northern Malawi” at the Annual meeting of the American Folklore Society, Long Beach, CA. She published two books: My Music, My War: The Listening Habits of U.S. Troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. (Wesleyan University Press, 2016) and co-edited (with Michael Foster) UNESCO on the Ground: Local Perspectives on Intangible Cultural Heritage (Indiana University Press, 2015). Lisa was awarded the Rippey Innovative Teaching Award for her Freshman Interest Group seminar at the University of Oregon, “Politically Creative.” She was appointed to the Higher Education Coordinating Council as an Advisor, Oregon Heritage Commission and will serve a second year on the Executive Board of American Folklore Society. Lisa was also just promoted to Full Professor of English.

WARREN GINSBERG presented “Translation and Figura: Statius and Bonagiunta” at the International Seminar on Critical Approaches to Dante at the University of Toronto and “Chaucer as Editor: The Host’s Stanza” in the Canada Chaucer Seminar at the University of Toronto. He has also published “Tellers, Tales, and Translation in Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales” with Oxford University Press. An electronic version is available at Oxford Scholarship Online: bit.ly/1UAIE5E. Finally, Warren was appointed member of the advisory board of Dante Studies.


BETHANY JACOBS presented “Mother of Revolution: The Failure of Self-Sacrifice in Suzanne Collins’s The Hunger Games Trilogy” at the Modern Languages Association Conference, Austin, TX. Bethany has also published “Mothering Herself: Manifesto of the Erotic Mother in Audre Lorde’s Zami: A New Spelling of My Name” in MELUS (2015). Bethany was awarded the Marion L. Brittain Postdoctoral Fellowship at Georgia Tech, a three-year position that begins in August 2016.

HEIDI KAUFMAN was an invited speaker at the Will Eisner Week Symposium at Portland State University, where she spoke about Eisner’s neo-Victorian graphic novel, Fagin the Jew. She presented two papers, “From the Outside?: Jamaican Superstition in Philip Cohen Labatt’s Short Fiction” at the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) conference at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, and “Anglo-Jewish Women’s Literary History in Digital Context” at Digital Diversity: Writing/Feminism/Culture, a conference at the University of Alberta. Her essay, “Inside and Outside the Nineteenth-Century East End” was published in BRANCH (2015). She participated in the Jamaican Cemetery Inventory, ongoing work to create an inventory and digital archive documenting Jamaican Jewish culture. She has served as Associate Head of the Department of English. She has also worked with colleagues around campus to develop a Digital Humanities minor in CAS. In June she participated in two Digital Humanities Summer Institute workshops at the University of Victoria.

ANNE LASKAYA presented “Style and Trauma in Malory’s Morte d’Arthur” at the Medieval Association of the Pacific (MAP) 50th Annual Conference, University of California-Davis. She has served as Secretary for the Medieval Association of the Pacific, the regional arm of the Medieval Academy of America, and helped organize and promote the 50th Annual Conference, “The Global Middle Ages,” which included presenters from Taiwan, Australia, Malaysia, and Europe as well as from the US and Canada. Papers at the April 2016 conference focused on both European and non-European texts and historical events.

STEPHANIE LEMENAGER was awarded a prestigious fellowship with the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University. Her project is titled, “Weathering: Towards a Sustainable Humanities.”

DAVID LI published a new book, Economy, Emotion, and Ethics in Chinese Cinema: Globalization on Speed (Routledge). David was invited to be the keynote speaker for the annual Huiallywood Film Research Center’s Conference “Situating Huiallywood: Cinematic Interconnections in the Asia-Pacific” (May 2016) at the School of Media and Design, Ningbo Institute of Technology, Zhejiang University, China.

MARGARET MCBRIDE edited Aqueduct Press’s WisCon Chronicles (Vol. 10): Social Justice (Redux) in homage to Ursula K. Le Guin’s, “Is Gender Necessary (Redux)” (1976/1988). She also participated in several panels at WisCon including one on the female characters in the fiction of the guest of honor, Nalo Hopkinson. Margaret was involved in planning the James Tiptree Jr. symposium held at the University of Oregon Special Collections and University Archives in December 2015.

QUINN MILLER will be part of a plenary session called “New Directions” and a forum titled “What’s in a Platform? Tumblr’s Feminist and Queer Spaces as New Sites of Scholarly Inquiry” at the Console-ing Passions conference at the University of Notre Dame. In November 2015 Quinn participated in the first in a series of invited conferences at the University of Georgia focusing on “Television History, the Peabody Archives, and Cultural Memory.”

KATHLEEN O’FALLON gave a talk at the Eugene Public Library, “Louisa and Her Little Women: How a Children’s Book Shaped Alcott’s Life and Literary Legacy.” This talk was part one of the events coordinated with the Eugene Opera’s production of Little Women. Kathleen
**DEPARTMENT NOTES**

**Paul Peppis** was invited to participate on the panel, “Mid-career Modernism: Challenges and Opportunities,” at the Modernist Studies Association conference, Boston, MA. He organized and chaired a second panel at the conference, “Locating Popular Modernism.”

**Mark Quigley** was awarded the Everett Helm Visiting Fellowship at Indiana University to support research in the archive of the John Ford papers for an essay on John Ford’s early films. Mark has also been awarded a Mayers Fellowship at the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA to support research on a book project on Ireland and the First World War. Mark will serve as guest editor for a special issue of *Modernist Cultures* focusing on Ireland and the First World War which will be appearing in 2017.

**Sarah Ray Rondot** presented two papers: “Collective Archives of Resistance: Trans* Digital Storytelling on YouTube” which was delivered at the Transgender Spectrum Conference at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and “Radical Epistemology in Twenty-First Century Trans* Digital Storytelling” delivered at the What is Media? Conference at the UO in Portland. Her article “Bear Witness and Build Legacies: Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Trans* Autobiography” has been accepted in the *Auto/Biography Studies Journal.*

**Bill Rossi** presented two papers, “Teaching Darwin as History” at the Regional Reacting to the Past Conference, University of Oregon and “Writing ‘Science’ in Time” at the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID. His essay, “Performing Loss, Elegy, and Transcendental Friendship” originally printed in *The New England Quarterly* (June 2008) has been reprinted in *Emerson and Thoreau: Dimensions of Two Intertwined Careers* (MIT Press, 2015). Bill has received the Laszlo N. Tauber Family Foundation Fellowship for Science and Humanities, 2016-17. He was also a finalist for an Excellence in UO Undergraduate Advising Award.

**Stephen Rust** presented “Integrating Ecomedia into the Online Film and Media Curriculum” at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS), Atlanta, GA. Stephen has published “Teaching Climate Change and Film” in *Teaching Climate Change in the Humanities,* ed. Stephen Siperstein, Shane Hall, and Stephanie LeMenager (Routledge/Earthscan, 2016). Stephen continues to serve on the Executive Council for the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE); serves as co-chair for the Ecomedia research interest group; and continues to serve on the advisory committee for the Media and Environment research interest group for SCMS.

**Ben Saunders** participated as a speaker and panel moderator at half a dozen events at the Rose City Comic Con in Portland, including a panel on “Transgender Themes In Comics,” a panel on “Treasures of Comic Book Art,” and a presentation called, “Sexy, Silly, and Strange: Lost Superheroes of the 1940s.” He was an invited participant in a roundtable discussion at CSUN on Jack Kirby’s work. The proceedings have since been published by The Jack Kirby Collector. Ben presented “Sexy, Silly, and Strange” again at the Vegas Valley Comic Book Festival at the Clark County Library in Las Vegas. Ben also served as one of the co-organizers and co-sponsors for the very successful symposium on James Tiptree Jr., held at the University of Oregon Special Collections and University Archives in December. Ben gave a public lecture entitled “Folio vs Quarto: Conflicting Readings and The Critical Tradition” as part of the First Folio: The Book That Gave Us Shakespeare exhibition at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art. Ben was a guest speaker at Portland’s “OMSI AFTER DARK” where he delivered a talk titled, “Wonder Woman in Bondage.” He gave an “Introduction to Comics Studies” talk to the Seattle Chapter of the UO Alumni Association (the “Seattle Ducks”) and more recently at the Emerald City Comic Con in Seattle. Ben organized and moderated the panels “Beyond The Femme Fatale: Re-Imagining The Female Supervillain” with comic book creators Terry Moore, Amy Chu, and Mairghread Scott; “Corrupting Your Children: On EC Comics” with Mike Catron, Joe Keatinge, Susan Kirtley, and Bill Schelly; and “The Wicked and The Divine” with Kieron Gillen and Jamie McKelvie. Ben delivered an additional lecture “Peanuts for Grown-Ups: Gender, Politics, and Philosophy in the work of Charles M. Schulz.” Ben’s critical anthology, co-edited with Professor Charles Hatfield, also appeared this year. The anthology, which focuses on comic-book legend Jack Kirby, is titled, *Comic Book Apocalypse: The Graphic World of Jack Kirby* (IDW Publishing, 2016). Ben co-wrote the introduction to the volume with Professor Hatfield and contributed an essay on Kirby’s western comics, entitled “Slap Leather.” Ben published “Who Cries When Lesser Rock Gods Die?” on the pop-culture website The Hooded Utilitarian ruminating on the death of the progressive rock pianist Keith Emerson. Ben received two important awards: the Oregon Humanities Center Provost’s Senior Humanist Research Fellowship for the coming Fall term (2016-2017) and a Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art Academic Support Grant for 2015, used to fund speaker programming the “Aliens, Monsters, and Madmen: The Art of EC Comics” exhibit at the JSMA. As Director of the College Scholars Program, Ben has co-sponsored numerous talks and events, including the campus visit by the Breakbeat Poets and the recent lecture by Professor Tanisha Ford. Ben has co-organized and sponsored “Hip Hop and Comics: Cultures Combining,” a panel discussion and a performance featuring Mix Master Mike and Chali 2na of Jurassic 5. Ben invited Professor Ramzi Fawaz from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI to talk about his latest book, *The New Mutants* (NYU, 2016).

**Gordon Sayre** presented three papers: “Of Muses and Memoires: Literary Textures of Testimony in the French Atlantic World” at the Emerging Histories of the Early Modern French Atlantic at the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, VA; “The Library of Life” at the Futures of Environmental Humanities at University of Utah/Brigham Young University; and “Alive and Moving: Aesthetics, Agency, and Technology in Audubon’s *Birds of America*” at the Modern Language Association convention, Austin, TX. Gordon has also published two articles: “Self-portraiture and commodification in
the work of Huron/Wendat artist Zacharie Vincent, aka ‘Le dernier Huron’” in the *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* (2015) and “Moral Testimony and Noblesse Oblige in Memoirs of the Atlantic Revolutions” in *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* (October 2015). With Elizabeth Bohls, Gordon served as the co-chair of the Oregon Rare Books Initiative lecture series for 2015-16. They brought three guest speakers to campus in winter and spring 2016: Beth Yale of University of Iowa, Ralph Bauer of University of Maryland, and Paula Findlen of Stanford University, in addition to two UO speakers. Gordon and Liz won a CAS Program grant to support this program. Gordon also serves as the Vice President of the Society of Early Americanists.

**STEVEN SHANKMAN** is scheduled to give a keynote address “Infinity and the Stranger in Tolstoy’s War and Peace” at “The Neighbor and the Stranger” conference hosted by the Société Internationale de recherche Emmanuel Levinas (SIREL), in Toulouse, France. Steve will present a paper, “Levinas and Tolstoy: Totality and Infinity as War and Peace” at the “Leo Tolstoy and World Literature” conference in Yasnaya Polyana, Russia. Steve gave a lecture “Turned Inside-Out: Reading the Russian Novel in Prison After Levinas” at Northwestern University. He will also present “Beyond Dharma, Beyond Destiny: The Bhagavad Gita, the end of the ‘Mahabharata,’ and Genesis 18” at the North American Levinas Society, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. Steve’s article “God, Ethics, and the Novel: Dostoevsky and Vasily Grossman” was published in *Neohelicon* in December 2015. He will also publish “Book 1 of the ‘Zhuangzi’: A Verse Translation” in *Sino-American Journal of Comparative Literature*. His book, *Turned Inside-Out: Reading the Russian Novel in Prison* is forthcoming from Northwestern University Press. As a founding member of the research committee on Ethics, Religion, and Literature of the International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA), Steve initiated, organized, and will moderate a panel of scholars from around the world (India, Germany, the United States) on the topic, “Secular Literary Texts and Sacred Exegesis” at the upcoming 21st World Congress of the ICLA in Vienna, Austria.

**SHARON SHERMAN** delivered “Folklore at the University of Oregon: A History of Tradition, Innovation, and Pushing the Rock Up the Hill” at the Western States Folklore Society (WSFS) annual meeting at the University of California-Berkeley. Sharon also served as an instructor for the “Folklore and Intangible Cultural Heritage: Christmas in the Willamette Valley” video documentation workshop which was funded by the American Folklore Society-Chinese Folklore Society Luce Project, organized by Central China Normal University.

**EMILY SIMNITT** presented two papers, “Whose Writing? For What Purpose?: Taking Action with Writing About (Multilingual) Writing” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, Houston, TX; and “Six Graduate Students Walk into a WPA Course: Suggestions, Inquiries, and Tentative Proposals to Create Sustainable Administrative Practices” at the Council of Writing Program Administration, Boise, ID. Her co-authored article “Teaching for Agency: From Appreciating Linguistic Diversity to Empowering Student Writers” will appear in *Composition Studies*.

**COURTNEY THORSSON** presented “Boundaries of Race, Place, and Form: The Atlanta Child Murders in African American Literature” at the Modern Language Association conference, Austin, TX. She has co-authored “Black Women’s Food Work as Critical Space” in *Gastroonomica* (Winter 2015). Courtney held a College Scholars Teaching Fellowship from the University of Oregon. Finally, she organized Professor Tanisha Ford’s April 2016 visit to University of Oregon.

**BRIAN TRAPP** presented “Representing my Brother: Three Approaches to Disability in Fiction” as the Kidd Lecture at the University of Oregon. Brian’s article “Super Sad True Melting Pot: Re-imaging the Melting Pot in a Transnational World in Shteyngart’s Super Sad True Love Story” will be published in *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*. Brian will also publish “Eyes and Ears Fiction in *The Gettysburg Review*” in *Fiction Editor, Memorials: A Journal of New Verse and Fiction*.

**DAVID VÁZQUEZ** won a UO Office of Research and Innovation Summer Research Award, gave an invited talk at Bryn Mawr College in November entitled “Fueling the Agribusiness Engine: Helena Maria Viramontes’s Under the Feet of Jesus and the Cross-Currents of U.S. Environmentalism,” and served as an invited keynote Roundtable Participant at “Ecohumanities for Cities in Crisis” at the HistoryMiami Museum in April.


**LOUISE WESTLING** presented two papers, “Green Knowing in the Semiosphere” at the Green Knowledge—ASLE UK & Ireland biennial conference at Cambridge University, England and “Dangerous Intersubjectivities from Dionysos to Kanzi” at the Animals in the Anthropocene Conference at the University of Stavanger, Norway. She has also co-edited, with Wendy Wheeler, a special biosemiotics culture issue of *Green Letters: Studies in Ecocriticism* (2015). With John Parham she has co-edited *A Global History of Literature and the Environment*, forthcoming from Cambridge University Press.

**MARK WHALAN** presented “The End(s) of Local Color: One of Ours, World War One, and the Changing Politics of Regionalist
Writing” at the Willa Cather Spring Conference, Red Cloud, NE. Mark published a review of Barbara Foley’s Jean Toomer: Race, Repression, and Revolution in the Journal of American Studies (2016). He is also the winner of the Oregon Humanities Center Ernest G. Moll Research Fellowship to support research on a new book, World War One, American Literature, and the Federal State. Mark has become co-editor, along with Professor Martin Halliwell of the Edinburgh University Press Monograph Series, Modern American Literature and the New Twentieth Century. Mark organized the visit of Dr. Niall Munro who gave a campus-wide talk entitled “Of Ouija Boards and the Fourth Dimension: Queer American Poets and the World Beyond.” Mark was re-appointed to Editorial Board of The Journal of American Studies.

ELIZABETH WHEELER participated in a workshop held at the University of Oregon Teaching Effectiveness Program, focused on “Inclusive Course Design.” She delivered a talk, “Disability and Deaf Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences” at Advancing Disability Rights and Leadership Globally: UO 25th ADA Anniversary. She offered workshops on “Kids on the Autism Spectrum in Books and Media” with A Team Justice League and EC CARES Child’s Garden parents groups. Betsy received two research grants to support work on her book project, HandiLand: The Crippest Place on Earth, which focuses on representations of young adults and children with disabilities in literature and popular culture since the worldwide disability rights movements of the late 20th century. Her research grants came from the Center for the Study of Women in Society and the Children’s Literature Association. Betsy was awarded a Williams Instructional Grant for Wider Worlds Seminars pilot project. This grant supported “Life Stories,” a community-based education course that brings together UO students and students from the community with intellectual and developmental disabilities to create a life story theater play and musical. She also received a CAS Program Grant for a Disability Studies faculty development seminar. Betsy serves as co-editor of Literature for Young Readers, a special issue of The Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies, 2016. She was the keynote speaker at “Understanding Disability through Literature” an international conference of the Korean Society for Literature and Religion, Seoul, South Korea.


JOHN WITTE’S book Disquiet (University of Washington Press) was named as a finalist for the Oregon Stafford/Hall Poetry Award. You can find out more about the book at bit.ly/1TWdPZN

Graduate Student News

APRIL ANSON presented “Scaffolding: What Bodies Count” at the Fall Composition Conference at the University of Oregon. She planned UO’s first Forum on Sustainability and Housing Justice, and participated in the panel of activists and scholars that concluded the event. April published “The Patron Saint of Tiny Houses” for Cambridge University Press’ forthcoming Literature in Context Series Henry David Thoreau in Context. She has additionally published “Review of Moving Environments: Affect, Emotion, Ecology, and Film” in the University of Toronto Quarterly in addition to “Notes on ‘Rethinking Race and the Anthropocene’” in EcoMedia Studies: Exploring Non-Print Media and Environment. April was awarded Outstanding Teacher of Composition for 2015. April also received a Sherwood Research Travel Award to attend The Sitka Institute in Alaska where she delivered “The Unsettling Apocalypse: Dispossession Anxiety in Fredrick Jackson Turner and Chief Simon Pokagon.”

LIZ CURRY presented three conference papers: “Reading the Work of Domestic Enclosure in Two Native American Autobiographies” at PAMLA in Portland; “Animal Narratives: Cultural (re)Productions of Individuality and Speciesism” at the Critical Animal Studies symposium at Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA; and “Animal Sacrifice and Survival in When the Killing’s Done” at the International Symposium on Companion Species in North American Cultural Productions in Toulouse, France. Liz was awarded a Sherwood Research Travel Award and Ecocrit Travel Award (in addition to the departmental travel fund) to fund conference travel. She represented the GTFF as a delegate at the annual AFT-OR conference in Portland.

GINA FILO won a Kirby Award for her essay, “‘Thus sway’d was this carpenters wif’: Patriarchy, Homoeroticism, and the Traffic in Women in The Miller’s Tale and Day Five, Story Ten, of The Decameron,” written for Warren Ginsberg’s graduate seminar.

COURTNEY FLOYD won a Kirby Award for her essay, “‘Always the same unrememberable revelation’: Thoreau’s Telegraph Harp and the Development of an Immanent Romantic Secularism,” written in Bill Rossi’s graduate seminar. Courtney also presented a paper at the North American Victorian Studies Conference (NAVSA) in Honolulu, HI for which she received a Sherwood Research Travel Award. Her paper was titled, “Feverish Imperial Eyes and Victorian Geography Primers: Illness as Ideological Subversion in Charlotte Yonge’s Little Lucy’s Wonderful Globe.” Courtney has also been accepted to attend the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia. She’ll have an opportunity to enroll in the seminar, “The Printed Book in the West since 1800” that covers technological advances in papermaking, illustration processes, composition, printing, binding, and distribution which fueled the development of the modern book industry. The course will also include units on William Morris and the modern fine press movement, artists’ books, the rise of book-clubs and organized bibliophilia.

FRANCESCA GENTILE won a Sherwood Research Travel Award to attend the Rhetoric Society of America Conference in Atlanta, GA. Her paper was titled, “In Crisis, In Contact: Revising Crisis Narratives with The New Rhetoric.”
**CLAUDE GRAMAN** presented a paper, “Glorified Vaudeville?: Ernst Lubitsch and Cinematic Sound,” at the San Francisco State University Cinema Conference, San Francisco, CA.

**HELEN YILUN HUANG** presented two papers: “What Bananas Tell Us: A Conversation between the New Modernist Studies and Foodway Studies” at the Modernist Studies Association, Boston, MA and “The Tropics, The Exotic: Cultural Imaginings of the Banana in Claude McKay’s Poems and Josephine Baker’s Banana Skirt” at the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association in Portland. Helen was awarded an MSA Conference Travel Grant to attend the Modernist Studies Association conference in Boston. Helen has also received two travel awards to attend conferences where she will present her work. She received a Horn Graduate Conference Travel Grant from the Department of English to attend the 20th Annual CLIFF Conference at the University of Michigan to present her paper, “Visual Sensations: From Josephine Baker’s Banana Skirt to Miss Chiquita’s Fruit Hat.” She has also been awarded a Sherwood Research Travel Award from the Department of English to attend the Canadian Comparative Literature Association at the University of Calgary to present her paper, “The Birth of an American Staple Fruit: Reading Bananas from Cookbooks, Recipes, and Home Magazines.”

**KRISTY KELLY** won a Sherwood Research Travel Award to present a paper at the Rhetoric Society of America conference in Atlanta, GA. Kristy’s paper was titled, “‘Lurk Moor: Emergent Audience in Reddit’s Feminist Communities.”

**LIZZY LERUD** presented “Thoreau’s Forms of Friendship” at the American Literature Association Conference (ALA) in San Francisco, CA. She was awarded a Sherwood Research Travel Award to assist with conference travel.

**MITCH MACRAE** was awarded a Sherwood Research Travel Award to attend the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America in New Orleans. Mitch’s essay was titled, “‘La- vinia, shall I read?’: Citation and Mimicry in Shakespeare’s Titus Andronicus.”

**KATE MYERS** received a Sherwood Research Travel Award to attend the Shakespeare Association of America conference where she presented “Reading like the Haggard: Imaginative Affect, Distorted Perception, and Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night.”

**CARMEL OHMAN** received the Sherwood Research Travel Award to attend a symposium, “Frontiers and Borders in American Literature,” at the American Literature Association conference in San Antonio, TX. Carmel’s paper was titled, “American Pastoralism in Evelyn Waugh’s The Loved One.”

**ANGELA ROVAK** was awarded the Malarkey Essay Prize in African American literary and cultural studies for her essay, “The Past, Present, and Future of Black Female Reproduction in Ntozake Shange’s Sassafrass, Cypress & Indigo and Fran Ross’s Oreo.”

**DANIELLE SEID** was awarded a Sherwood Research Travel Award to attend the Society for Cinema and Media Studies annual conference in Atlanta, GA where she delivered “Forgotten Femmes, Forgotten War: The Kim Sisters' Disappearance from American Television.”

**STEPHEN SIPERSTEIN** presented “Developing Climate Change Literacy with the Humanities: A Narrative Approach” at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) annual conference, San Francisco, CA. He received a Sherwood Research Travel Award to attend this conference. Stephen co-presented with fellow PhD student Rob Zandstra, “Teaching Sustainability in the Introductory Writing Classroom” at the Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (OHESC) at Lane Community College. His chapter, “Engaging in Climate Change Conversations: Role-Playing Exercises for Cultivating Effective Communication” was included in the recent collection Learner-Centered Teaching Activities for Environmental and Sustainability Studies (2016). He was awarded one of the Teaching Effectiveness Program’s Peer Mentor Awards for the 2015-16 academic year. Stephen accepted a teaching position at Choate Rosemary Hall, an independent high school in Connecticut.

**ELEANOR WAKEFIELD** presented “Dual Identities in Helene Johnson’s Harlem Renaissance Poetry” at the South Atlantic Modern Languages Association in Durham, NC and “Helene Johnson’s Poetry of Christian Conflict” at the Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association in Portland. She has also published “Helene Johnson” in the Scribner’s American Writers Series Supplement (XXVI, 2016). Eleanor received a Horn Travel Award to support travel to the SMLA conference.

**PAULA WRIGHT** published “Darwin’s Disappointment” in the Alpinist. She placed as first alternate for the Oregon Humanities Center Dissertation Fellowship.

### Undergraduate News

**IZABEL AUSTIN** gave a presentation at the University of Oregon Undergraduate Research Symposium in May.

**ADAM BUCHANAN** gave a presentation at the University of Oregon Undergraduate Research Symposium in May.

**ALEX DANG** competed at the College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational in Austin, TX in April.

**DANICA EBEL** was elected president of the Alpha Tau Phi Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, International English Honor Society.

**DANA GLASSCOCK** gave presentations at the University of Oregon Undergraduate Research Symposium in May and at the 2016 Sigma Tau Delta International Honors Society Convention: Finding Home in March, where she also moderated a panel discussion. She also won second place in the international blog competition for the Sigma Tau Delta conference.

**SARAH GOMEZ** gave presentations at the 2016 Sigma Tau Delta International Honor Society Convention: Finding Home in March and at the 2015 Sigma Tau Delta Far West Regional Conference at California State University-Fullerton in November.

**SARAH HOVET** was elected vice-president of the Alpha Tau Phi Chapter of Sigma
Tau Delta, International English Honor Society.

REBECCA HOWARD gave a presentation at the University of Oregon Undergraduate Research Symposium in May.

TRAVIS JENSEN successfully defended his thesis for the UO English Honors Program.

MAXFIELD LYDUM gave a presentation at the University of Oregon Undergraduate Research Symposium in May.

DOROTHEA MOSMAN gave a presentation at the University of Oregon Undergraduate Research Symposium in May.

ANNALEE NOCK competed at the College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational in Austin, TX in April.

SEAN PEBLER successfully defended his thesis for the UO English Honors Program and gave presentations at the University of Oregon Undergraduate Research Symposium in May and at the 2016 Sigma Tau Delta International Honor Society Convention: Finding Home in March.

SAMUEL RODGERS successfully defended his thesis for the UO English Honors Program and gave a presentation at the University of Oregon Undergraduate Research Symposium in May.

GRACE SHUM gave presentations at the University of Oregon Undergraduate Research Symposium in May and at the 2016 Sigma Tau Delta International Honor Society Convention: Finding Home in March.

PRISCILLA SOL gave a presentation at the University of Oregon Undergraduate Research Symposium in May.

ERIN WEAVER successfully defended his thesis for the UO English Honors Program and gave a presentation at the University of Oregon Undergraduate Research Symposium in May.

Alumni News

JESSIE DILLEY (B.A. 2014) has plans to pursue a Master’s degree in Library or Archival Studies. Before beginning this work, however, she made the decision to pursue studies in English literature, particular Modernist Literature. After spending a year working at a call center in Springfield, OR, during which she was offered (and deferred) acceptance to the University of British Colombia’s dual library and archival studies program, Jessie pursued a one-year Modernities MLitt degree at the University of Glasgow (thanks to a partial scholarship). She completed an MA dissertation on W.G. Sebald’s Vertigo, focusing on the resistance of the prioritization of visual memory and questioning the authority of literature and stories within individual and social memory. She has enjoyed the opportunity to meet wonderful people and to travel throughout the UK and continental Europe. While studying in Glasgow Jessie has developed new interests in science fiction, Beat literature, and the writing of Walter Benjamin.

SAMANTHA ELWOOD (B.A. 2015) was hired at an intellectual properties law firm as a legal assistant in downtown Portland. Initially a bit tentative about pursuing this line of work, Samantha quickly overcame her fears. The attorney who hired her was impressed by her skills as an English major from UO. Samantha explains, “while the attorney and engineers [at her firm] deliver the content for the patent application I format it, make sure the application follows the rules of the United States Patent and Trademark office and the client, file paperwork (error free on a good day!) with the USPTO, which sets off a chain of processes that get the application on the road to being patented, write formal and concise email correspondence to clients, and research different aspects of specific patents and patent law in general. . . . [T]he inclusion or lack of a single word can change how a law is perceived.” Samantha adds, “I feel so fortunate to have found a path that incorporates my English degree so thoroughly.”

RON GERVIAIS (Ph.D. 1969) recently retired as Emeritus Professor of English from San Diego State University after 46 years of teaching American Literature. He was a Fulbright Professor in Austria, an NEH fellow at Yale, and received a departmental Outstanding Faculty Award. He was Honorary Grand Marshal of the
College of Arts and Letters commencement, and gave the address at the Department of English commencement. He and his wife Carol are now resident tourists in San Diego, and passionate travelers in Europe.

ALEXANDER G. GONZALEZ (Ph. D., 1982) is nearing retirement. He held the title of assistant professor at The Ohio State University and then moved on to Cortland College of the State University of New York, where he was able to teach his beloved specialty, Irish literature, and where he eventually attained the rank of full professor prior to his promotion to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor. He is the author or editor of seven books and author of over forty peer-reviewed articles, almost all on the subject of modern Irish literature. His most recent work involves Ireland’s superb women writers, especially the poets. His groundbreaking Irish Women Writers (2006) is still widely considered the starting point for those scholars who are either entering the field or who are beginning work on a new author. His dissertation director was Joseph Hynes, whom he remembers with great respect and affection and with whom he still corresponds. Alex is scheduled to enter phased retirement after the end of the spring 2016 semester.

NICHOLAS WALLERSTEIN (Ph.D. 1989) is professor of English at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, SD. He was the recipient of the 2015 Distinguished Faculty Award (S. Dak. Board of Regents Special Resolution 38-2015), BH-SU’s highest faculty honor. Wallerstein teaches early British literature and modern poetry. His most recent publication is “The Scheming Pardoner: Style in Chaucer’s Pardoner’s Tale.”

Graduate Student Course Readers

Since 2006, the Composition Program has produced twelve single-topic course readers for use in themed writing courses. Created and edited by graduate students and faculty in Composition, casebooks are interdisciplinary, affordable and printed on demand. As graduate students, BETHANY JACOBS edited the WR 122 casebook, Social Protest, and BRIAN GAZAILLE edited the WR 123 casebook, Uses and Abuses of Technology. MIRIAM GERSHOW, Managing Editor of the Casebook Series, sat down with them to report on their work.

GERSHOW: What initially interested you in the ideas of social protest and technology?

JACOBS: I got the idea in 2012 when there was a rash of social protest movements happening like Kony 2012, Travon Martin, Arab Spring, Occupy Wall Street. All of these were happening at the same time. I saw within these movements and within the documents coming out of these movements these very interesting examples of good and bad argumentation. I thought of [social protest] as both a relevant and an applicable subject matter to the history of technology, I hadn’t considered as much about the ideological implications of those devices.

GAZAILLE: I think my students actually inspired my casebook. I was teaching in the computer classroom. My students really struggled to think about the way that technology informs the way we think and write, which I found really interesting, considering it’s such an integral part of our lives. At the time, we were talking about cameras and war photography specifically, and we had an interesting conversation—a really passionate conversation, too—about the way that that technology changes the way that we perceive things like suffering. At that moment my students and I both had an epiphany that we needed to talk more about technology and think more critically about the way that that informs us.

GERSHOW: Give me the one-sentence soundbite that describes each of your casebooks.

GAZAILLE: My casebook asks students and instructors to think more critically about the way that technologies shape the way we think and act and treat each other.

JACOBS: My casebook asks students to place contemporary movements of social protest within the context of an American history largely defined by protest movements, in order to examine what has changed and stayed the same in the way we argue for liberation.

GERSHOW: Do you end up with upset students?

JACOBS: It’s very tame. It’s just trying to map things out. Students often come to the classroom thinking that the protestors were at fault. After we discuss that movement, they have been upset to realize that what they thought is not necessarily what actually happened.

GAZAILLE: The reading about which we’ve had the best conversations is David Campbell’s on war photography. He’s responding to arguments written by Susan Sontag about what she calls “compassion fatigue,” the thought that our culture is
so imbued with images of violence and suffering that we can’t process it. His response is that we actually need more of those. We need something that shocks us into action. My students had never really considered—and, to some extent, myself, either—hadn’t really considered how often we see those kinds of images.

Gershow: What do you have to say to future casebook editors?

Jacobs: It’s a generative process.

Gazaille: Yes, it’s generative. It’s going to come out of what you are doing in your class and being sensitive to the conversations that are happening there. It should be fun; it should be provocative; it should be for you.

Jacobs: There was a clear connection between my casebook and my own scholarship.

Out of the work that I was doing in the classroom, I was realizing the ways that social protest movements have failed and continue to fail some of the most marginalized members of communities—in my case, specifically mothers and mothers of color. Out of that I situated my dissertation as a response to the failure of social justice movements of the mid [twentieth] century to liberate mothers. So, it gave my project some historical stakes that were really valuable.
New Faculty-authored Books

**Michael Copperman**
*Teacher: Two Years in the Mississippi Delta*. University Press of Mississippi, forthcoming 2016

**Lisa Gilman**

**David Leiwei Li**

**Sarah D. Wald**

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