

## the year in review--a report from EGSO

This year, the English Graduate Student Organization renewed its commitment to promoting the academic and professional concerns of its graduate students and to advocating on behalf of graduate students to the English department and Northwestern University. EGSO commenced the year by working with outgoing and incoming Chairs Betsy Erkkila and Reginald Gibbons to organize the Annual Collation and by hosting a "Welcome Back Party" for the graduate community in honor of our new students. This winter EGSO played a vital role in the Recruitment Weekend by helping Graduate Assistant Stacia Kozlowski in welcoming our prospective students. During the hectic job season, EGSO submitted to each hiring committee a letter documenting graduate student opinions on all job candidates. Working closely with Chair Reg Gibbons and DGS Blakey Vermuele, EGSO also obtained graduate student representation on the Graduate Policy Committee, submitted substantial proposed revisions of the *Guide to Doctoral Studies*, and responded to graduate concerns over class offerings. As part of its regular programming, EGSO has hosted two paper colloquiums featuring graduate student work. This spring we hosted our last colloquium, sponsored a spring workshop on getting published with new DGS Chris Lane, and organized our second annual town hall meeting. Also this spring, we look forward to holding our first-ever round of mock oral examinations. Last but not least, Hunt Howell will represent the interests of advanced graduate students and Gayle Rogers will represent those students still in course work at graduate committee meetings in 2003-04. They will be joined in EGSO by Katy Chiles and Sarah Mesle, the returning co-chairs. Finally, with thanks to Reg Gibbons, Betsy Erkkila, and Wendy Wall, EGSO is pleased to announce that we have been offered an annual panel at the Midwest MLA Convention. There NU graduate students will showcase new and best practices in literary studies. This fall's roundtable discussion will feature Emily Bryan, Marcy Dinius, Ryan Friedman, and Doug O'Keefe in a panel entitled "New Directions in Literary Studies."

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## fellowship awards

**Dana Bilsky** has been awarded a Kaplan Humanities Center Graduate Fellowship and Travel Grant for Fall 2003. The award carries one quarter leave from teaching and a travel stipend, which will enable Dana to complete her work on "Part of the Furniture: Speaking Subjects and Household Things in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century American Literature."

Winner of a Dissertation Year Fellowship from The Graduate School, **Emily Bryan** will spend 2003-04 finishing, "In the Company of Boys: The Place of the Boy Actor in Early Modern English Culture."

The Huntington Library in San Marino, CA has named **Ashley Byock** a Mellon Foundation Fellow and offered her two months of research funding. In combination with a fall quarter Brady Fellowship, Ashley will spend her summer and fall in the Huntington's archives working on her dissertation project, "Cryptic Signs: Writing and Mourning in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century America."

**Leah Guenther** is one of six graduate students across Northwestern who earned a Presidential Fellowship this year. This award—Northwestern's most prestigious prize for graduate students across all disciplines—provides Leah with both 24 months of continuous funding, and entry into the University's Society of Fellows, a small cohort recognized as future intellectual and creative leaders. This will afford Leah the time to complete her project, "Fragmenting the Body Politic: Subversions of Headship in Renaissance England." For more about Leah and her fellow Fellows, visit the Graduate School's on-line newsletter at <http://www.northwestern.edu/graduate/quarterly/Current/presidential.html>.

**Bryan Hampton**, winner of a Weinberg Dean's Dissertation Fellowship for 2003-04, will spend next year writing, "The Poetry of Proclamation: Milton and Incarnational Poetics."

The American Philosophical Society, in Philadelphia, has awarded **Hunt Howell** a John C. Slater Library Resident Fellowship for one month's research. He is also the recipient of a two-quarter research fellowship from the Graduate School. The addition of one quarter's Heltzel fellowship to these awards will enable Hunt to spend 2003-04 conducting research for his project, "Writing the Body Politic: Philology, Orthopedics, and the Possibilities of Citizenship in Early America."

Like Hunt Howell, **Hyun-Jung Lee** has also won two quarter's of Research Fellowship from the Graduate School. A third quarter's Heltzel fellowship will give HJ the entire year to devote to "Morality Incarnate: Evil and the Bodily Imagination in Victorian Literature."

**Glenn Sucich** has been awarded two quarters of Heltzel fellowship, which he will use to work on, "Between Two Worlds: The Miltonic Sublime and the Poetics of Mediation."

This summer **Carrie Wasinger** will be researching the works of George MacDonald as a Mayers Fellow at the Huntington Library in San Marino, CA. She is also the recipient of a Brady Fellowship in

2004, thus devoting Spring Quarter of 2004 to "'Thus Grew the Tale of Wonderland': Victorian Gender and the Figure of the Child."

## other awards & prizes

**Emily Bryan** and **Ryan Friedman** were both accepted to the Kaplan Center for the Humanities Dissertation Forum held on May 6. This new event, funded by a Mellon Foundation award, gives advanced graduate students in the humanities a chance to share their dissertation work with an 'interdisciplinary' audience. With two out of the six presenters, English was well represented.

**Coleman Hutchison** joins past winners Chris Hager, Eric LeMay, and Matt Frankel, in garnering this year's Weinberg College Outstanding Graduate Teacher Award. Cole has accepted a nomination to stand for election to the MLA Delegate Assembly (Great Lakes district) — "campaign" dispatches to follow....

The Searle Center for Teaching Excellence has selected **Sarah Mesle** as a Teaching Fellow for 2002-03. In this capacity, she will lead workshops in training the English Department's new Teaching Assistantships and offer mentoring throughout the year.

## papers presented

In March **Brian Artese** gave a paper—"Shotgun Monologues: Kafka on the American Screen"—at this year's Narrative conference at UC Berkeley.

**Katy Chiles** delivered two papers this year—one on Benjamin Franklin's *Autobiography*—at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference, and another—on Martin Delany's *Blake*—at the University of Chicago Minority Graduate Student Conference.

**Marcy Dinius** presented a paper entitled "Poe's Moon Shot: The Art and Science of Antebellum Print Culture" at the American Literature Association annual conference, May 22-25 in Cambridge, MA. She will also be part of a roundtable discussion at December's MLA conference in San Diego on "New Views on [Melville's] *Pierre*," giving a paper entitled "Of Letters, Handkerchiefs, Pamphlets, Manuscripts, and Other Printed 'Ephemera.'"

**Ryan Friedman** will participate in a panel at the upcoming annual convention of the American Studies Association in Hartford, CT (October 16-19, 2003). He will deliver his paper, "'This Debacle of Human Emotion': \*Hallelujah\* as Myth and History," for the panel on "Violence Seen and Unseen: The Production of African American Bodies in Hollywood and the Race Film, 1920-1929."

On March 26, at the University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL, **Deana Greenfield** presented a paper entitled "Fantasy, Breasts and Acceptance: Ralph Singh's Use of Women in Naipaul's *The Mimic Men*" at Caribbean Currents Navigating the Web and the Word: The

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## new PhD students 2003-04

Having finally given birth to her senior thesis (and now the proud parent of “Poetics of Liberation: Women’s Writing in the Black Arts Movement”), **Janaka Bowman** is now trying to remember what she did with her life before she began writing in September. That said, she is glad that one thing is certain—her place at Northwestern. After graduating from Duke in May and spending a summer doing absolutely nothing in her hometown of Augusta, Georgia, Janaka will embark on the next stage of her academic career, in which she plans to research African-American women’s writing in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. She looks forward to working with the faculty in the English Department and reuniting with members of her new cohort whom she met at NU’s Visiting Weekend in late February.

When not skiing, cycling, camping or sleeping, **Chris Clary** attended classes at the University of Colorado, somehow managing a double major in English and history the spring of 2003. Though quite pleased with life in general, he thrives on depressed/-ing music and art. He intends to pursue a PhD in Early Modern Studies at Northwestern focusing on aspects of gender, class and the Renaissance’s international context. The only certainty of this process, he admits, is the inevitable reorganization of... everything.

**Anna Fenton-Hathaway** earned her B.A. in English from Davidson College in 1999. Since then she has worked in a variety of writing and editing jobs, ranging from business writing to national park outreach. She intends to focus on 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Literature in her studies, especially gender politics and narrative framing devices, as well as the effects of the cultural context on literature.

**Christie Harner** hails from Rescue, VA—a hamlet that can proudly claim its existence on the state map along with its two James River-side marinas and single stop sign. Growing up there meant that she could pick steamed crabs at age two and water ski behind her father’s boat. After a four-year stint pretending to worship Thomas Jefferson at the University of Virginia, Christie is more than ready to explore another state and continue bounding towards her love for Victorian literature. Don’t be fooled by the seeming prudery of the era; Christie also has a decade old fascination with romance novels and will definitely talk about them. The link between the two... now there’s the beauty of graduate school.

**Tasha Hawthorne** earned her bachelor’s degree in African-American Studies at Bates College in 1997 and completed her master’s degree in Africana Studies at Cornell University in 2003. She has taught African-American history, world literature, English literature, and social studies at the Hopkins School in New Haven, Connecticut, The Pembroke Hill School in Kansas City, Missouri, and Summerbridge. Her literary interests include feminist and African-American literature, particularly the trope of Black Wifery in the writings of Coretta Scott King and Winnie Mandela. Here at Northwestern, she would like to expand her examination of this trope to the writings of Amy Jacques Garvey, Mary Washington, and Amy DuBois.

**Heidi Kim** graduated from Harvard in 2001 with a degree in biochemistry and a certificate in French, and then worked nine (very long) months at a consulting firm. Since then, she has been taking classes to better prepare herself for the world of English and working on processing the Gore Vidal manuscripts at the Harvard archives. She loves to read everything, but some particular favorites are Elizabethan drama and the twentieth-century American novel. She is happy to chat anytime about her years in lab, consulting, Gore, and a host of other topics like movies and Jane Austen!

**Jeff Knight** earned a BA in English Literature, Journalism, Sociology, and Anthropology from Miami University in 2002. Since graduation, he has spent most of his time alternating between very long periods of working 60+ hours per week in Ohio and very short periods of blowing all his earnings

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## new PhD students continued...

backpacking in Europe. In his spare time, Jeff pursues several side-interests: independent/art film, global economics and corporate culture, politics, and urban geography. Without any real knowledge to back up his claims, Jeff considers himself a true connoisseur of the world's public transportation systems, and his happiest moments are usually experienced on the Tube during rush hour, sipping terrible espresso and skimming discarded tabloids. At NU, Jeff hopes to further (and narrow) his dual-interest in early modern print culture and contemporary digital culture.

**Liz McCabe** earned her BA in English from the University of Delaware in 2002. There, Liz worked as a University Writing Fellow, devoted more time than she had to a student-run theatre group, and developed a keen interest in travel (she was in Delaware after all). After graduation she returned home to the suburbs of New York City to spend time with the folks. Her scholarly focus currently includes 19th Century Literature and Culture, especially the relationship between industrialization and the novel, and she has a particular interest in costumes and fashions of the 19th and 20th centuries. Liz is looking forward to the upcoming move. She's heard mid-westerners are nice.

**Brent Mix** spent three years on a Bachelor's in English at Boston University. Put off by neither the Dante-esque driving conditions nor the obnoxious accent, Brent completed a Master's in Education (Secondary English) at Boston College, which he put to use by teaching freshman and senior English at Boston Latin Academy (one of Boston's elite examination schools) for two years. Inspired by his students' insatiable thirst for learning, Brent brings his interests in American poetry and literary theory to Northwestern. Brent believes in the Necessary Angel, the affective fallacy, the Eisenhower Interstate System, and love.

**Scott Proudfit** is Managing Editor of *Back Stage West* newspaper in Los Angeles. For *BSW*—and at sister paper *Back Stage* in NYC—Scott has covered the bicoastal theatre scenes with features, profiles, and reviews since 1995. As a performer and director, Scott was a member of Irondale Ensemble Project in NYC and is currently a member of Tracy Young's BOTHarts theatre company, Tim Robbins' The Actors' Gang, and a board member of the Factory Theater West (an L.A. branch of the Chicago institution). Scott was the student advisor for the creation of the undergraduate Theater major at Columbia University, where he became a member of its first graduating class; he also earned a B.A. in English. His interests involve applying works from a range of linguistic theorists (Wittgenstein, Saussure, Bakhtin, etc.) to the diverse texts within modern and contemporary plays. He is also intrigued by post-modernism within the post-punk music scene, performance studies (particularly communal-writing and -directing challenges to the traditional theatre-making hierarchy), and the tradition of popular Gothic genre fiction in the US. Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, his first job out of college was writing and editing Spider-Man and Iron Man comics for Marvel.

## new MA students

After graduating in 1999 from Oberlin College with a BA in English and art history, **Cindy Meyers** fled west in search of the mountains, snowboarding and strong coffee of Seattle. Three dotcom jobs later (all involving dangerous quantities of free soda), she looks forward to swapping her cubicle for a carrel upon the return home to Chicagoland. Perennial favorites include Pico Iyer, Evelyn Waugh, wimpy pop music and evading bites attempted by her occasionally cranky pet parrot. She plans to focus her studies on works of the 19th century, with special emphasis on the 1890s and the Decadent movement.

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## new MA students continued...

After eighteen years of clear skies and sunshine, **Mike Spiegel** left Phoenix, Arizona, for the frozen tundra of Madison. Since graduating with a BA in English in 1999, he has worked as an editor for a small publishing company. When not working, managing his fantasy baseball team, or playing computer games, Mike writes nonsensical plays and disjointed short stories. At NU, Mike plans on specializing in literature between the world wars and hopes that the education he receives at NU will assist him in his undying quest to finish the Sunday edition of the *New York Times* crossword puzzle. He also finds it a bit depressing that his life and aspirations can be summed up a little over a hundred words.

**Marya Van der Eb** graduated with a BA in English from Brown University in 2002. She has been working as a formatter and freelance editor of doctoral dissertations since that time, endeavors which have further piqued her interest in beginning her own graduate studies. While at Northwestern, she plans to concentrate on analyzing poetry, paying particular attention to the historical context of given works and the ways in which their structure and content interact. Marya is especially interested in the compositions of T. S. Eliot. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking bibimbap, teaching English as a second language, learning Korean, indulging her addiction to reading about current events, studying with her cats in the sun, and spending time with her fiancé Sean.

## papers presented continued...

XXII Annual West Indian Literature Conference. In late April, Deana also presented a paper entitled "‘Jehovah’s name-no other arms I bear’: The Revolutionary Rhetoric of Phillis Wheatley’s ‘Goliath of Gath’" at The University of Chicago’s 10th annual Eyes on the Mosaic Conference.

**Bryan Hampton** presented essays at two conferences this year: "‘Foul Whisperings Abroad’: Domestic Purgation and Early Modern Exorcism in Macbeth" at the annual meeting of SAML A in November 2002, and "The Virtue of Reading: Temperance and Interpretation in the Faerie Queene (Book 2) and Paradise Regained" at the Mideast Conference on Christianity and Literature in October 2002.

In early spring, **Coleman Hutchison** travelled to the Narrative Conference in Berkeley, CA, where he gave a paper entitled. "‘This country’s great narrative’: Promises and Problems of Narrative in Ken Burns’ *Civil War*." In turn, late May brought Cole to Boston where he delivered, "Eastern Exiles: Dickinson, Whiggery, and War," to the ALA.

In March **Carrie Wasinger** gave a paper entitled "On the Psychic Margins of Kensington Gardens: the Infant Figure in *Peter Pan* and Freud" at a conference at Emory University called "Encountering Infancy: the Infant Figure in Literature, Psychoanalysis, and Philosophy."

In March, **Randy Woods** delivered two papers: "Walcott’s *Haitian Trilogy*: Beyond Mimicry and Manicheism" at the Annual West Indian Literature Conference at the University of Miami and "*The Waste Land*

and Richard Rorty’s Theory of Metaphor" at the Midwestern Conference on Literature, Language and Media" at Northern Illinois University. In June, he will travel to the University of Tulsa and give a paper, "The Sins of the Fathers in Joyce’s Work: Opening a New Cultural Space Between the Colonial Powers" at the 2003 North American James Joyce Conference.

## publications

**Katy Chiles** published a book review in the fall 2002 issue of *Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature*.

**James Lang** (who received his PhD from this department in 1997, then worked at the Searle Center for Teaching Excellence, then accepted a tenure-track position at Assumption College in Worcester, Ma.) has written a book that will be published by Capital [sic] Books, a new trade publisher in DC, in February of 2004. Jim’s book is creative nonfiction: *Learning Sickness: A Year with Crohn’s Disease*.

**Eric LeMay’s** first collection of poetry and prose, *The One in the Many*, has now been published by Zoo Press.



## recent graduate program graduates

**Kristen Lie** (MA, June 2003)

“‘He Gradde After Grace’: Looking for Salvation and God in *Piers Plowman* and Some Works of the *Gawain*-Poet”

**Erin Redfern** (PhD, June 2003)

“Prognosis Pathological: American Literature and Psychoanalytic Psychiatry during World War II”

## placement news 2002-03

**Charlotte Artese** (PhD 2002) garnered two tenure-track job offers this year. Charlotte declined an offer from the University of Maine, Farmington in order to take a position at Agnes Scott College, a small women’s liberal arts college in Decatur, Georgia.

**Michael Bryson** (PhD 2001) has accepted a Visiting Assistant Professorship, renewable for up to three years, at DePaul University.

In Fall, **Liz Fekete Trubey** (PhD 2001) will join Bill Savage (PhD 1992) as an academic advisor in the Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences. The position will combine both advising for undergraduates as well as continued teaching in the department.

**Christopher Hager** declined a tenure-track appointment at SUNY Geneseo, where he has taught part-time since August 2002, to return to Northwestern as Assistant Director of the Office of Fellowships. He plans to defend his dissertation by summer’s end.

**Karen Leick** (PhD 2002) accepted an offer from Ohio State-Lima. This is a tenure-track position with The Ohio State University English Department faculty, including Lima, Columbus and all satellite campuses.

In order to concentrate on his own poetry and prose, **Eric LeMay** (PhD 2002) has accepted a long-term position in the Harvard University Writing Program.

Oberlin College has renewed **Ben Pauley’s** Visiting Assistant Professorship for 2003-04. He, too, will finish his dissertation in late summer.

**Derik Smith** will also find himself very busy this August— both finishing his dissertation and beginning his tenure-track appointment at Arcadia University outside Philadelphia.

send us your thoughts and news:

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