

Musings

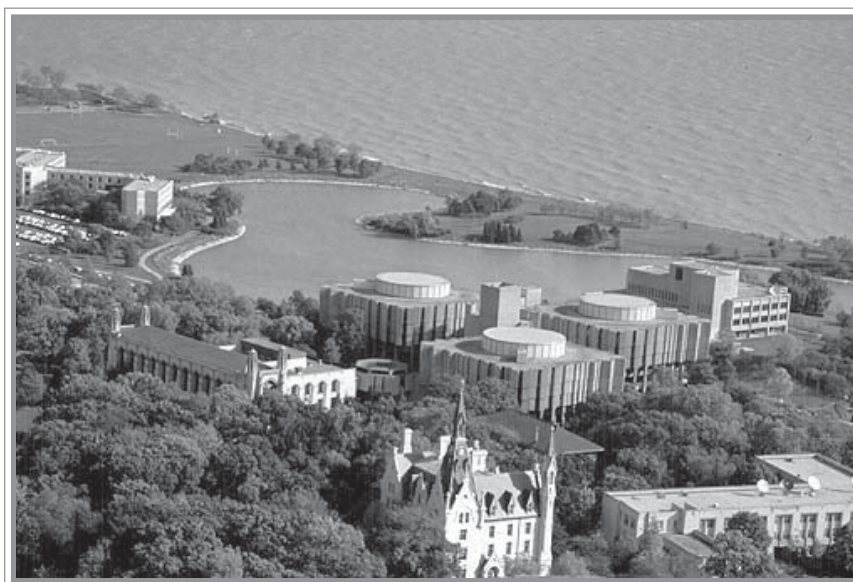
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From the Chair

It's a pleasure to begin my new job as Chair of the English Department at a time when the department is such a dynamic place for the interdisciplinary study of literature, language, and writing. Our distinguished faculty includes senior scholars who have earned international reputations for their pioneering work as well as junior members who are charting new directions within the field of literary study. The boundaries around "literary studies" have become remarkably porous (as you will see from descriptions in this edition of *Musings*), such that our collective endeavors feel astonishingly expansive.

As part of that expansion, I'm happy to welcome three new faculty members this year, each of whom extends the department's deep and wide reach into other disciplines at Northwestern. Evan Mwangi, a specialist in Anglophone African literature and postcolonial studies, comes to Northwestern as an assistant professor after teaching at Ohio University and receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Nairobi. Examining writers such as Imbuga, Chinua Achebe, Ngugi wa Thiong'o and David Maillu, Professor Mwangi teaches and researches African fiction in the context of literary theory, television news, sports and aesthetics, and East African hip-hop music. His fascinating work will provide an important bridge between our department and the Program of African Studies at Northwestern.



We also welcome two specialists in early modern literature and culture. Kasey Evans, an assistant professor, received her Ph.D. from Berkeley, where she completed a dissertation entitled "Borrowing Trouble: Ariostan Adaptation and Feminine Resistance in the 1590 *Faerie Queene*." In this remarkable study, Professor Evans focuses on the way that Edmund Spenser cited his Italian precursors so as to offer a subtle (and gendered) critique of conventional allegorical practice and theory. In adding Professor Evans to our faculty, we strengthen our department's ties to the Department of French and Italian as well as to Gender Studies. Associate Professor William West joins the English department after having taught at University of Colorado, Boulder. His scholarship, which investigates systems for organizing and transmitting knowledge in the early modern period, builds on his B.A. in Latin and his Ph.D. in comparative literature (he works in five languages). Professor West's magisterial book *Theatres and Encyclopedias in Early Modern Europe* (Cambridge UP, 2002) traces vital interconnections between the seemingly dissimilar terms of its title. With publications on Aristotle, Shakespeare, Montaigne, Donne, Bacon, Freud, and Derrida, Professor West will spark a lively dialogue with scholars of classics, comparative literature, philosophy, and theory at Northwestern.

Two new visiting professors join us this year as well. Amy Carroll, a Mellon post-doc scholar, brings a much-needed expertise in Latino studies to our curriculum, and she brings her training in creative writing and anthropology to bear on her research and teaching. Averill Curdy, an award-winning poet and translator (as well as coeditor of the *Longman Anthology of Poetry*), will teach in the creative writing program this fall.

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Meet Our New Graduate Students 2005-06



Melissa Daniels received her bachelor's degree in English from the University of La Verne, and her master's from Claremont Graduate University. This fall she will present a paper at the Midwest MLA Conference. At present, she is at work on a paper about postmodernism and terror within Don DeLillo's novel *Mao II*. Her interests include the writings of Foucault, Lacan, Lyotard, Borges, Mark Strand, John Berryman and Delmore Schwartz. The last two years of her graduate school career were spent publishing short fiction and teaching at-risk and disadvantaged students in the Los Angeles area.

Gretchen Gurujal recently completed her master's degree at the University of Missouri, in St. Louis. Her interests include the Modernists, American writers of the South, and 19th century American literature. She is enthusiastic about all that she has yet to learn and hopes to maintain a historical approach to the study of modern writers. Her summer reading included Samuel Richardson's *Clarissa*, books on the joys of teaching by Jay Parini and Sam Pickering, and a book on the teenage romance of Fitzgerald and Ginevra King.

Sarah Lang graduated from Brown's MFA program in May 2004, where she drank wine, ate cheese, cut up cadavers, and designed immersive virtual reality environments all in the name of poetry. A large portion of her MFA thesis was included in the Fall 2004 issue of *Conjunctions*. She was employed by Brown as a web designer and is at work publishing her first book and writing her second.

After spending a year abroad studying at Trinity College, Dublin, **Nathan Leahy** received his bachelor's degree in English and History at the University of Minnesota in 2002. His studies focused primarily on 20th century Anglo-Irish literature, German film and critical theory. Nathan's honors thesis was on the viability of viewing Stephen Dedalus's aesthetic theory in Joyce's *Portrait of the Artist* as an anticolonial expression. After graduating from Minnesota he moved to Essen, Germany, to work as an English teacher and translator — and finally attain a mastery of German. He returned to Dublin in 2003 in the master's program at Trinity in Anglo-Irish literature, and wrote his dissertation on the conceptualizations of the city in the interwar poetry of Louis MacNeice. He lives in Oak Park. During the summer he worked at an eBay listing service.

Jenny Lee received her bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley. Her undergraduate thesis surveyed the influence of Western modernism on Korean literature. After spending a few years teaching in Korea, she moved to South Africa, and enjoyed the master's program in English at the University of Cape Town. There she read widely in critical theory and returned to her interests in mythology and religion. Before arriving in Evanston, she taught rhetoric and literature at Triton College. She is thrilled to be a student again!

Jason Malikow has a bachelor's degree in English from Syracuse University and a master's from the University at Buffalo. In 2004 Jason published his M.A. thesis, "The Economics of Violence in the Fiction of Dennis Cooper and Bret Easton Ellis," and moved to New York City to work as a project manager at an interactive advertising agency. He recently published an article on the continuing relevance of J. D. Salinger and luxury item advertising and has reviewed transgressive literature and adult films. Jason is at work on an essay on the figure of the serial killer in unpopular culture.

Carolyn Mao graduated from the University of Virginia in 2004. She was raised in the Washington D.C. Metro area. Her research interests include post-colonial and Asian American literature, especially the relationship between non-native languages and themes of the "other." She is looking forward to residing in a city where politics is not the only talk around town.

Brietta Perez is from Austin, Texas. She intends to pursue transatlantic studies from the Romantic period to WWI. Like any good Texan, Brietta loves steak, and like any good Austinite she loves live music. Brietta expects she will be very happy at Northwestern because the English Department seems to have all the warmth and friendliness of her hometown — qualities that are somewhat less present at the mammoth University of Texas.

Wendy Miller Roberts received a B.A. in literature from Biola University (southern California) and took her M.A. in literature this May from the University of Arizona (Tucson). She spent three years in between working as an editor at PR Newswire, Los Angeles — a big change from her humble beginnings in Ten Sleep, Wyoming, with a population of 307. Reinvigorated by the opportunity to study at Northwestern, Wendy plans to narrow her reading to the realm of American poetry and religion.

Nathaniel Small graduated this past spring from Trinity College in Connecticut. His chief academic interests are early modern drama and modernist poetry. When not ensconced in the library, he likes to play basketball, go to the theater, and follow international football.

Sarah Turner graduated from the University of Chicago's Master of Arts in the Humanities program in June 2004. She received her undergraduate degree in literature from Harvard University. She spent the last year teaching as adjunct faculty at Loyola University and Columbia College, Chicago. Her research interests include British Romanticism, Gothic literature, canon formation, and psychoanalysis. She enjoys flamenco dancing and playing with dogs and hopes to find time for both while pursuing her doctorate.



We had the opportunity to welcome new faculty members along with our impressive entering graduate class of eleven students at the annual departmental Fall Collation, a wonderfully convivial event hosted by our graduate student organization. Helen Thompson, an eighteenth-century expert on political theory, feminism, and the birth of the novel, gave a talk on Sarah Fielding's *The History of Ophelia*. Jeffrey Masten, a scholar of early modern literature and culture, then spoke on editorial theory and sexual politics. These vibrant presentations sparked a lively question and answer period; conversations flowed into the reception where faculty and graduate students had a chance to get to know one another. This event also provided an occasion for celebrating the fact that two of our outstanding professors, Susannah Gottlieb and John Keene, were promoted and tenured last year.

At the departmental Collation, I remarked that in my field, Renaissance studies, scholars sometimes think of “collating” as a rather dry and mechanical task, since it largely involves the mechanical comparison of multiple copies of early texts: there are 238 existing editions of Shakespeare's earliest collected works (the First Folio), and a special collating machine was built just for the purposes of determining variants between these versions. But “collate,” as the *Oxford English Dictionary* reminds us, also means the “physical act of bringing together different perspectives for comparison and critical thinking,” and, as in keeping with this more sweeping definition, our departmental Collation wonderfully inaugurated the material exchange of ideas that comprise the best of academic life.

This event also gave us a chance to reflect upon the fact that the past year has been a good one for the English Department. Faculty have garnered an array of glittering awards, including fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Guggenheim Foundation, American Council of Learned Societies, Newberry Library, Rockefeller Foundation for Research in Bellagio, the National Humanities Center, and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. And since last year, several impressive — and impressively different — books by faculty were published, including Brian Edwards's *Morocco Bound: Disorienting America's Maghreb, from Casablanca to the Marrakech Express* (Duke), Betsy Erkkila's *Mixed Bloods and Other American Crosses: Rethinking American Literature from the Revolution to the Culture Wars* (Pennsylvania); Christine Froula's *Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury Avant-Garde: War, Civilization, Modernity* (Columbia); Helen Thompson's *Ingenuous Subjection: Compliance and Power in the Eighteenth-Century Domestic Novel* (Pennsylvania) and Alex Weheliye's *Phonographies: Grooves in Sonic Afro-Modernity* (Duke). These striking new books once again testify to the extraordinary diversity of our faculty's research interests.

The department was fortunate to host two noteworthy visitors last year. Lucy McDiarmid, the Carole and Gordon Segal Visiting Professor of Irish Literature, taught seminars last winter on Yeats and the Irish revival. Her book, *The Irish Art of Controversy* (Cornell) was listed in the *Irish Times* of as one of the “50 books” to watch in 2005, and she is the author of several scholarly books on Auden, Yeats, and Eliot. Tara Ison also joined us last spring as the Simon Blattner Professor of Creative Writing. Ison's novel *A Child out of Alcatraz* (Faber & Faber, Inc.), was a CINCH Librarian's Choice Award winner and Finalist for the 1997 *LA Times* Book Awards. Her short fiction, essays and book reviews have appeared in *Tin House*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Mississippi Review*, *LA Weekly*, the *LA Times Sunday Magazine*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the *Chicago Tribune*.

Our graduate students, as you will see in this publication, have continued to impress us by presenting papers at major conferences, winning fellowships, and publishing new research. We also had a banner year for students completing their dissertations: Ryan Friedman, Elizabeth Sturgeon, Brian Artese, Dana Bilsky, Glenn Sucich, Leah Guenther, Hunt Howell, Carrie Wasinger, and Emily Bryan all became Ph.D.s.

In the next year, Northwestern will be pursuing possibilities for expanding the Kaplan Humanities Center into a larger institute for humanistic study and for creating more interdisciplinary structures on campus. Maud Ellman will join us once again as the Carole and Gordon Segal Visiting Professor of Irish Literature in the spring.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Wendy Wall
Department Chair

Student Publications

Sarah Blackwood's article “The Inner Brand’: Emily Dickinson, Portraiture, and the Narrative of Liberal Interiority,” will appear in the *Emily Dickinson Journal*.

Katy Chiles published an essay on Dion Boucicault's 1859 play, *The Octoroon; or, Life in Louisiana*, in *Nineteenth Century Theatre and Film*.

Coleman Hutchison's essay, “Breaking the Book Known as ‘Q’” will appear in a special issue of *PMLA* on “The History of the Book and the Idea of Literature” in January 2006. His essay “Nation, Anthem, Revision; or Whistling Dixie for the Union” is forthcoming in *American Literary History*.

Marcy Dinius is writing an essay on Poe's hoaxes for the forthcoming *Approaches to Teaching Poe's Poetry and Prose*, published by the MLA. Articles in *ESQ* and *Poe Studies* will be published in 2005.

Wendy Roberts's essay “If *Eve* did erre, it was for knowledge sake; *Gnosis* in Aemilia Lanyers *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum*” will come out this fall in *The Rocky Mountain Review of Language and Literature*.

Graduate Student Fellowship Awards

Ashley Byock, recipient of the graduate school's Dissertation Year Fellowship for 2005-06, is currently researching in Paris. She is finishing her dissertation "Cryptic Signs: Writing and Mourning in America in Mid-to Late-Nineteenth Century America."

Tasha Hawthorne was awarded the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois (DFI) fellowship for 2005-06. This fellowship is renewable up to four years.

Thanks to the Heltzel Dissertation Fellowship, **Coleman Hutchison** spent the summer in four of his favorite cities—Chicago, New Orleans, Portland and Seattle — working on his dissertation. In 2005-06 Cole received a graduate school Dissertation Year Fellowship, an American Antiquarian Society Stephen Botein Fellowship, and a Huntington Library Reese Fellowship in American Bibliography; he plans to complete his dissertation by the end of the academic year.

Wen Jin, winner of the graduate school's Alumnae Fellowship, will spend her time working on her dissertation "Literary Dialogue Across the Pacific: Race and Gender in Chinese Transnationalism."

Melvin Peña has been awarded a Research Fellowship from the graduate school for 2005-06. Melvin continues working on his dissertation entitled "Sentimental Cosmopolitanism: Defining 'Britishness' in International Context, 1770-1880."

Peter Jaros has been awarded the Paris Program in Critical Theory fellowship for 2005-06. While in Paris researching, he will research a dissertation chapter that superimposes 18th-century and contemporary theories of physiognomy, character, and the limits of the human.

Staff News

The English Department's Administrative Coordinator, **Kathy Daniels**, was one of three finalist for the university's Employee of the Year award for 2005.

Nathan Mead, the department's Undergraduate Program Assistant, was awarded a university employee recognition award for his excellent service in the department, April 2005.

Other Prizes & Awards

Sarah Blackwood was selected as a Teaching Fellow for 2005-06 academic year by the Searle Center for Teaching Excellence. She will lead workshops in training the English Department's new teaching assistants and offer mentoring throughout the year.

Katy Chiles and **Coleman Hutchison** were elected for three-year terms as Regional Delegate to the Modern Language Association's Delegate Assembly, which begins in the Fall.

Bryan Hampton was awarded the Jean Hagstrum Prize for outstanding dissertation work. Bryan is an assistant professor at University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, teaching 17th-century literature and theory.

Coleman Hutchison spent February conducting research on Confederate print culture at the Boston Athenaeum, as the Caleb Loring Jr. Fellow.

Jenny Mann was awarded the Karin Strand prize for best essay in 2004-05 year.

Job Placement News

Marcy Dinius (PhD 2003) declined tenure track offers from St. Mary's College of Maryland and the University of Massachusetts at Lowell to take a one-year postdoc position at the University of Pennsylvania. Marcy will conduct research relating to the Forum's topic for the year in residence, and she will teach one freshman seminar per term on this theme.

Ryan Friedman (PhD 2004) accepted a one-year Visiting Assistant Professorship appointment at Rice University in Houston. He will teach courses in 19th- and 20th-century American literature and film studies.

Hunt Howell (PhD 2005) will be teaching for the English Department at Northwestern University as a visiting assistant professor.

Elizabeth Sturgeon (PhD 2004) accepted a tenure track position as Assistant Professor at Mount St. Mary's College beginning August 2005.

Glenn Sucich (PhD 2005) will teach as a visiting assistant professor for the English Department at Northwestern University

Carrie Wasinger (PhD 2005) will teach as a visiting assistant professor for the English Department at Northwestern University.

Papers Presented



Janaka Bowman, "Revisiting Pecola Breedlove," Race, Gender, and Class conference, Louisiana, New Orleans, April 2005; "Opening the Church Doors: Space and Sexuality in James Baldwin's 'Amen Corner'," College English Association (CEA) conference, Indianapolis. Janaka participated in the "Language Matters II: Reading and Teaching Toni Morrison" workshop/conference at Northern Kentucky University this past summer.

Sarah Blackwood, "'Could you believe me - without?': The Portrait and Ekphrastic Interiority in Emily Dickinson and Harriet Jacobs," Exposing the Nineteenth Century: Interiors, Interiority, and Introspection conference, Rutgers University, October 2005; "Portrait of the Slave as a Young Artist: Harriet Jacobs, Runaway Slave Advertisements, and the Camera Obscura"; New England ASA, Worcester, MA, September 2005.

Katy Chiles presented her dissertation work at the Modern Language Association, the American Studies Association, and the CIC American Indian Studies conferences. This spring she spent time at the Newberry Library researching and taking a seminar on early Native American print culture. Her fall conference presentations include the McNeil Center for Early American Studies (Penn), M/MLA, and Ethnohistory.

Joanne Diaz, "The Contemplation of Shameful Things: Early Modern Complaint and the Poetics of Dissatisfaction", Newberry Library's graduate student conference, June 2005; "Upon Whose Weeping Margent She Was Set': Complaint in the Shakespeare Archive", Shakespeare Association of America, Bermuda, May 2005.

Gwynn Dujardin, "Underwriting English Humanism: The Cambridge Greek Pronunciation Debates (ca. 1535 - 1542) and the Origins of English Spelling Reform", Renaissance Society of America and the Society for Renaissance Studies, Cambridge University, United Kingdom, April 2005.

Cole Hutchison, "'Secret in altered lines like memory': The Civil War Song in Manuscript, Print, and Performance Publics", American Antiquarian Society's "Histories of Manuscript, Print, and Performance in America" conference. Worcester, Massachusetts; "Metaphors Nations Live By", Frederick Douglass

and Herman Melville: A Sesquicentennial Celebration, New Bedford, Massachusetts, June 2005; In December, Cole will present a paper on Confederate propaganda—and its relation to latter day Bush administration propaganda—as part of a Nineteenth-Century American Literature Division panel at the MLA.

Jenny Mann, "'And all their minds transfigured so together': Rhetorical Practice as 'Source' in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*" Shakespeare Association of America, Bermuda, May 2005.

Heidi Kim, "From Language to Empire: Walt Whitman in the Context of Nineteenth-Century Popular Anglo-Saxonism", International Medieval Congress; "Carrie's Magical Rise: Romance and Realism in the works of Theodore Dreiser" for the Dreiser Society panel at the American Literature Association.

Peter Jaros, "Character and Contagion in *Arthur Mervyn*," Biennial Conference of the Charles Brockden Brown Society, New York City, October 2005; "Multiplicity and Community in *The Confidence-Man* and *Blake*" at Frederick Douglass and Herman Melville: A Sesquicentennial Celebration, New Bedford, Massachusetts, June 2005.

Wen Jin, "Chicago in Yan Geling's *Fusang*", MELUS conference, Chicago, April 2005; "Yan Geling and Chinese Diasporic Publics", 2005 AAAS conference, Los Angeles, California; Asian American Studies: Activism, Ethnic Studies, Diaspora, and Beyond conference, Northwestern University.

Gayle Rogers, "Freud, Benjamin, and the *Logos*: Translation in the Euro-Judaic Diaspora" at the Literary Belief and Non-Belief Conference, Fordham University, February 2005; "Translation and Transition: Globalization and the Legacies of Imperial Education in Brian Friel's *Translations*", Irish World Conference, University of Chicago; "Newspapers, Nationalism, and Imperialism: The Rhetorical Logic of Power", American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference, Pennsylvania State University, March 2005.

Congratulations to Recent Graduates

Dana Bilsky (PhD June 2005)

"Tangled Skeins: Identification and Fantasmatic Genealogies of Slavery in Narratives by Jacobs, Crafts, Wilson, and Keckley"

Emily Bryan (PhD December 2005)

"In the Company of Boys: The Place of the Boy Actor in Early Modern English Culture"

Sarah Hermann (MA June 2005)

"Stories are Light': Enlightenment among the Protagonists and Readers of Newberry Medal-Winning Fiction"

William Hunt Howell (PhD December 2005)

"A more perfect copy than heretofore': Imitation, Emulation, and Early American Literary Culture"

Leah Guenther (PhD December 2005)

"Capitation: Heads and Headship in Early Modern England"

Glenn Sucich (PhD June 2005)

"Between Two Worlds: The Miltonic Sublime and the Poetics of Mediation"

Carrie Wasinger (PhD December 2005)

"Children at Play: Victorian Literature, Gender, and the Figure of the Child"



Katy Breen, who is on leave this year, plans to work on her book, "From *Habitus* to *Habit*: The Formation of a Reading Public in Late Medieval England." She will

also lead a faculty e-seminar on "Translating Ethics" for the New Chaucer Society — a new mode of scholarly communication that she has high hopes for!

Jennifer DeVere Brody missed April in Paris by one month (but she was there in May). She took her first trip to Louisiana in March to deliver the keynote on the sculptor Edmonia Lewis for the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Conference. She made the trek from Baton Rouge to the French Quarter giving her a greater sense of the area past and present.

While on leave during the 2004-05 academic year **Tracy C. Davis** completed the manuscript of *Stages of Emergency: Cold War Nuclear Civil Defense* (forthcoming Duke University Press), which explores preparations for nuclear war and its aftermath, especially as it drew upon ideas of rehearsal, staging, and acting. Guided by scientists, planners sought realism in the thousands of events mounted for hundreds, thousands, and sometimes tens of millions of participants in civil defense exercises. This study tracks the deployment of performance and performance theory that pervaded the training of specialists and civilians alike, comparing tactics of the three NATO allies and the differences arising from political, geographic, and economic contingencies for national policy. This work participates in a growing effort to reinvent military history from the perspectives of cultural history. It addresses the thin line between history and event using theoretical perspectives associated with performance studies, and theorizes two important aspects of the relationship between theatre and political life: 1) research toward survival strategies explored through embodied action, and 2) rehearsal (always just short of performance) as a means to inculcate predictable behavior. Tracy also recently joined TDR: The Drama Review as a contributing editor. In conjunction with the journal's fiftieth anniversary, it will launch a new section, "Provocations," which she will edit.

On his return from Morocco in October, **Brian Edwards** was happy to find copies of his newly published book *Morocco Bound: Disorienting America's Maghreb, from Casablanca to the Marrakech Express* (Duke 2005) awaiting him. In the meantime, he began work on two new book projects. First, with colleague Dilip Gaonkar (Communication Studies), he is editing a collection entitled "Globalizing American Studies," based on conferences he organized at NU in 2004 and 2005. Second, he launched a research project entitled "After the American Century," which examines the circulation of American culture in North Africa and the Middle East. He focuses on cyberculture, material culture/consumption, media coverage of American culture and society, and the

teaching of American Studies in four cities in the region. In April, the Carnegie Corporation of New York named him a Carnegie Scholar, providing two years of funding for the project. The American Institute of Maghrib Studies also awarded him a grant. This fall, he is shuttling between Evanston, Fez, Cairo, Beirut, and Tehran, trying to keep the dialects of colloquial Arabic straight—to say nothing of Persian, which he is studying at NU, or colloquial Evanston, which he uses at home.

Kasey Evans joins the Northwestern University faculty from the University of California, Berkeley, where she recently completed her Ph.D. on Italian source-texts, gender, and allegory in Edmund Spenser's *Faerie Queene*. Other teaching and research interests include early modern literary theory; early modern medicine and midwifery; and the history of emotion and affect in the Renaissance. Kasey is spending most of the fall quarter pinching herself in disbelief over her good fortune. She could not be more impressed by the English Department's brilliant, collegial faculty; friendly, professional staff; and engaged, ambitious students. Her excitement at her new surroundings even outweighs her apprehension about how her California-ized constitution will fare during the notorious Chicago winters.

Elzbieta Foeller-Pituch was invited to contribute a chapter to *American History through Literature, 1820-1870*, published by Charles Scribner's Sons in late 2005. Elzbieta's chapter was on "Classical Literatures and the Literary, Social, and Marketplace Culture of America 1820-1870." She also wrote the entry on John Barth for the online Literary Encyclopedia at www.LiteraryEncyclopedia.com and delivered a paper on "The I and the Other in John Barth's 'Night-Sea Journey'" at the VII Spanish Association for American Studies in Jaen, Andalucia, in March 2005, after which she visited her son who was doing his semester abroad at the University of Seville. Ole!

Christine Froula's essay on the Sokal Hoax, "Truth on Trial: Quantum Physics, Western Enlightenment, and *A Passage to India*," came out in a recent issue of *Etudes anglaises* on new theoretical approaches. "Emancipatory Legacies: A Seance," an experimental piece for the 2004 MLA Forum on Feminist Activism Inside and Outside the Academy in memory of Carolyn Heilbrun, appears in *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature* and in the May *Bulletin of the Virginia Woolf Society of Great Britain*. A reflection on Hugh Kenner for a 2004 Modernist Studies Association forum appears in the current issue of *Modernism/Modernity*, and an illustrated lecture, "On French and British Freedoms: Early Bloomsbury and the Brothels of Modernism," given at the Woolf and Bloomsbury Centenary conference in Porto, Portugal, the 15th Annual Woolf Conference in Portland, Oregon, and the University of Michigan, is forthcoming in *Modernism/Modernity* and in a special Bloomsbury issue of *Les Cahiers Victoriens et Edouardiens*. In April she lectured on "A Room of One's Own and Enlightenment Modernity" for the University of Utah Honors Program's Intellectual Traditions course.

After completing a three-year term as chair, **Reginald Gibbons** is on research leave this year, working on several projects, including new translations from ancient Greek, new poems and fiction, and essays about poetry. His translation of *Antigone* (with Charles Segal; Oxford University Press, 2003) was used as the first "one book, one class" text for all incoming freshmen in the Weinberg College of Arts in Sciences at the beginning of this school year, and with three students he gave a reading of the play on Sept. 19 in Cahn Auditorium.

Recently promoted to Associate Professor, **Susannah Gottlieb** is happily serving as Associate Chair and Director of Graduate Studies in the English Department, where she is enjoying the opportunity to spend more time with the graduate students. In March, her essay "Two Versions of Voltaire: W.H. Auden and the Dialectic of Enlightenment" was published in *PMLA*, and two more essays are scheduled to appear this year: one for the Munich-based journal, *TEXT+KRITIK*, entitled: "'Seit jener Zeit': Arendt in Licht ihrer Literaturkritik" and one for *diacritics*, entitled "With Consious Artifice: W.H. Auden and the Right to Marriage." Perhaps Susannah's biggest scholarly achievement this year, however, is the completion of her edition, *Hannah Arendt: Reflections on Literature and Culture*, due out from Stanford in 2006.

Chris Herbert's cup runneth over this year, since he was awarded two different grants (a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship and an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship) for work on his current research project, which deals with cultural repercussions of the great Indian Mutiny of 1857. He is on leave in 2005-06, hiding out part of the time in Michigan, trying to stay in touch with his graduate students in Evanston, and cogitating plans for a visit to his daughter in Dijon to replenish his mustard reserves.

In March, **Larry Lipking** gave the Stacy Allen Haines Lecture at Sewanee (The University of the South), where Jennifer Michael teaches. On a trip to Florence, he looked at Galileo's wonderful wash drawings of the moon, and this October he will be talking about them to the Renaissance Seminar at the University of Chicago. Recent publications include an essay on John Clare in "Parnassus" and a piece on "Literary Criticism and the Rise of National Literary History" in the *Cambridge History of English Literature, 1660-1780*.

Susan Manning has taken on new responsibilities as president of the Society of Dance History Scholars, as convener for the Chicago Seminar on Dance and Performance, and as chair of Arts in Community for the Evanston Community Foundation. She still has found time to prepare a second edition of her book *Ecstasy and the Demon: The Dances of Mary Wigman*.

Jeffrey Masten spoke this past spring on the "Feminist Futures" roundtable at the Shakespeare Association of America annual meeting. He was the keynote speaker at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, English Graduate Conference, and spoke recently about his

paper "Editing Boys" (on Twelfth Night and Beaumont and Fletcher's Philaster) at the University of Illinois Chicago. He has recently taken up the directorship of Northwestern's Gender Studies Program.

Last year, **Dwight A. McBride** was named the Leon Forrest Professor of African American Studies. This year he published his second book, *Why I Hate Abercrombie and Fitch: Essays on Race and Sexuality* (NYU Press), and co-edited a special issue of *Public Culture* titled "One Hundred Years Of *The Souls Of Black Folk*: A Celebration of W.E.B. DuBois." He is currently at work on three new book manuscripts tentatively titled: *The Melvin Dixon Reader*, *Poetics, Politics, and Phillis Wheatley*, and *White Lies in the Republic: Race, Sexuality, and the Law*. As chair of African American Studies, he is involved this year in the launching of Northwestern's new Ph.D. program in African American Studies. This is the seventh such doctoral program in the nation.

Evan Mwangi is native of Kenya, teaching Anglophone African literatures and postcolonial studies. He was trained in Nairobi and taught for two years in Athens, Ohio. He has published in the areas of identity formation, popular culture, drama, and oral literature and takes an interest in local texts in global contexts. Evan has a forthcoming book, "A Guide to Eastern African Literature and Culture", being published. Some of his current projects include "African Metafiction", "Teaching Sexuality in the African Novel" and "Orality in the African Urban Imaginary." Evan lives in the Evanston area and his very happy to be in Northwestern surrounded by supportive colleagues who are brilliant, enthusiastic, and hardworking students with stimulating ideas that make him look forward to the next class. He's humbled by the resources at the university, especially the Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies. Northwestern University is a site of the possible on which he hopes to grow intellectually through lively exchanges and engagements with African and global ideas.

Barbara Newman spent the academic year 2004-05 on leave with an NEH translation grant, which began with a month in the Rockefeller Foundation's paradisaical villa at Bellagio, Italy. Having lugged a suitcase full of Middle High German tomes to the shores of Lake Como, she soon found herself seduced by an Italian project instead, using the quarter to research the provenance of a mysterious medieval painting and write an essay on "The Heretic Saint: Guglielma of Bohemia, Milan, and Brunate" (in the March 2005 issue of *Church History*). This diversion left only ten months of feverish work to complete her "official" project, a literary translation with commentary: *Frauenlob's Song of Songs: A Medieval German Poet and His Masterpiece*, forthcoming from Penn State in fall 2006. After a serious overdose of German academic prose, Prof. Newman could be observed sneaking into a bookstore at the end of August muttering, "I must read something in English! *right now!* in narrative form, set in my lifetime!" In October she was inducted into the American Academy of Arts

and Sciences. The fall term finds her happily back in the classroom, guiding the English Honors seminar and a graduate reading group in Medieval Latin.

In September, **Bill Savage**, was promoted to Senior Lecturer and presented a paper at the Third International Conference on the History of the Book at Oxford-Brookes University in the UK, entitled "Why E-books Won't Work: Lessons of the Paperback Revolution." His essay on judging books by their covers, "It Was DOPE!: The Paperback Revolution and the Literary Reputation of Nelson Algren," is forthcoming next year in a new collection of essays on Algren.

Carl Smith wrote the text and edited a major new website on the 1909 *Plan of Chicago* (<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/10537.html>) in collaboration with Academic Technologies at Northwestern, the Chicago Historical Society, and the Art Institute of Chicago. This is a special feature of the electronic version of the *Encyclopedia of Chicago*. He is on leave during 2005-06, supported by a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies. He is spending a month at the Rockefeller Foundation Study and Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy, and the rest of the year in Berkeley. He continues to work on his book on cities and water in the U.S. during the 19th century.

Julia Stern received an advance contract from the University of Chicago Press for her study of "Mary Chesnut's Unfinished Epic," due in the fall of 2007. Three of eight chapters are completed. Along with Betsy Erkkila, Marcy Dinius, Cole Hutchison, and Peter Jaros, she attended the "Herman Melville/Frederick Douglass Sesquicentennial Celebration" conference in New Bedford in June, where she gave a paper on Mary Chesnut and the after-life of sorrow songs. She also has been invited to contribute an essay for a German American studies volume on melodrama, which is titled "Whatever Happened to Elvira?": Faulknerian Melodrama in "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane." She is hoping to use this piece as the springboard for a collection of essays on racial politics in classical Hollywood cinema of the 1930s and 40s.

Wendy Wall delivered the McElroy Memorial Shakespeare Lecture at Loyola University last spring, an event in which a scholarly presentation is accompanied by scenes performed by professional actors. Her talk, "Shakespearean Laundry," was illustrated with scenes from *Othello* and *Merry Wives of Windsor*. Professor Wall also lectured at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater (in conjunction with their performance of *Romeo and Juliet*) and taught a Newberry Seminar for high school teachers on Shakespeare, textual theory, and film. A research trip to the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. helped her develop materials for a new project on how early printed indexes shaped Renaissance reading practices (this is part of a larger study of how manuals and books of poems — notably Philip Sidney's *Astrophil and Stella* — created a particular notion of Renaissance "expertise"). Professor Wall is giving talks from this project this year at the Renaissance Society of America and at York University in the U.K. She's just finished her term as trustee of the Shakespeare Association of America (having served as Program Chair for the Association's conference in Bermuda last spring), and is working on book entitled *Reading Food: Culinary History from Shakespeare to Martha Stewart*. Professor Wall is also learning the art of cultivation—trial by error—in her attempts at gardening: the newcomers are a Rose of Sharon and an azalea bush.

Will West received his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Michigan. He studies and teaches early modern literatures and cultures. Will has published *Theatres and Encyclopedias in Early Modern Europe* (Cambridge UP, 2002) and co-edited, with Helen Higbee, Robert Weimann's book *Author's Pen and Actor's Voice: Writing and Playing in Shakespeare's Theatre* (Cambridge UP, 2000) and (with Bryan Reynolds) a forthcoming collection of essays honoring Weimann, *Rematerializing Shakespeare: Authority and Representation on the Early Modern Stage* (Palgrave). He is currently at work on a book called *Understanding and Confusion on the Elizabethan Stages* and on a project following the history of the idea of the Renaissance.

Active in Retirement Alfred Appel



Alfred Appel, Jr., Professor Emeritus and editor of *The Annotated Lolita* (in print since 1970) recently took part in Columbia University's September 19 celebration of the 50th anniversary of *Lolita*'s publication. He joined Stacy Schiff, author of *Vera Nabokov*, and Azar Nafisi, author of the best selling *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, in a panel moderated by Bill Goldstein at Miller Theater, attended by 600 people. The *New York Sun* reported that during the question-and-answer period a woman in the balcony thanked Professor Appel for having done *The Annotated Lolita*, prompting the audience to applaud. On September 15, he appeared on a National Public Radio program devoted to Nabokov's anniversary.

What happens in the seminar rooms of University Hall these days? What are students and teachers talking about? We decided to take a closer look at two graduate seminars and give a peek at what is going on inside.

Each Thursday afternoon last spring, ten students gathered in University Hall 318 for Helen Thompson's seminar "Enlightenment Modernities." Professor Thompson's goal in teaching the course was, as she put it, "to appreciate the centrality of the Enlightenment to present-day claims for what critical theory does." She also sought "to appreciate the critical vitality of the texts composing the Enlightenment itself." In creating her syllabus, she decided to bring eighteenth-century texts together with contemporary representations of political modernity. This led to some fascinating readings—see the sidebar—and to vibrant conversations.

Scott Proudfit, a student in the class, comments: "The radical, but useful juxtaposition of Thompson's readings had us in the space of three hours trying to decipher what Deleuze and Guattari meant by 'a body without organs' and pondering whether, as Edmund Burke suggests, the most beautiful objects are indeed small, smooth, and opaque."

Other students remarked on Thompson's special ability to keep a vibrant conversation going in class. Abram Van Engen noted: "We were never short of ideas. Helen listed them at the beginning of class on the dry board. They stood by us then giving us a certain sense of security; any time one idea was talked out, we had another waiting in the wings."

Abram has a nice figure for conversation in Thompson's class: "We formed a kind of web, I guess, so that if you touched one grad student in the back right, another would respond in the front left, and then another across from that one and on and on. We had some great discussions."

This fall, in a seminar room hidden away on the fourth floor of the library, a new crop of first years are taking "Introduction to Graduate Study." They're joined by students from German, French and Italian and Comp Lit: the class is maxed out at sixteen. The teaching of English 410 rotates through the graduate faculty. This year's group is fortunate to have Jules Law as their instructor.

Texts from Helen Thompson, English 481

Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park*
Edmund Burke, *A Philosophical Inquiry into our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful*
John Cleland, *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*
Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*
Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*
Foucault, *History of Sexuality, Volume 1*
Horkheimer and Adorno, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*
Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

Selected Texts from Jules Law, English 410

Wimsatt and Beardsley, "The Intentional Fallacy"
de Man, "Semiotics and Rhetoric" and
"The Epistemology of Metaphor"
Foucault, "What is an Author?"
Kant, *Critique of Judgment*
Auerbach, "Figura"
Ricoeur, *Freud and Philosophy*
Derrida, *Of Grammatology* and *Dissemination*
Plato, *Phaedrus*
Saussure, *Course in General Linguistics*
Lacan, "Seminar on the Purloined Letter"

"I last taught this seminar ten years ago," Law said recently, "and it's interesting to have an opportunity to reflect on how much I've changed and how much the material has changed." The enormity of the topic—and decisions about what it means—benefit from the sure hand of a theorist with Law's experience and range. He notes: "A strong tendency in the seminar as it has developed over the past few years has been towards sociological analysis of the profession and the discipline of literary studies, and I guess I've decided to cut back on that aspect of it a little and emphasize theory instead."

Students in the course, contacted for this article after only a couple of weeks of classes, have quickly started learning about the profession of literary study from the course design itself. First year student Sarah Turner said: "Professor Law has the interesting job of introducing *all* of literary theory to incoming PhD students. That said, I have appreciated his honesty in admitting that the syllabus tends towards his own theoretical specialties or pursuits. This invites students to examine how a different theorist might structure the same course."

In constructing the course for the diverse needs of new students, Law has thought about changes and continuities in the field of literature. "My sense of an obligation to keep up with the absolutely most recent developments in theory," he says, "has been balanced somewhat by a desire to go back to some more canonical philosophical and theoretical texts underlying those more recent developments. So I

find myself moving both backwards and forwards."

Gretchen Gurujal, another student in the class, explains how she understands the task of Law's class: "We are encouraged to rethink conceptual designs, to continue our unearthing of linguistic assumptions, as we ponder the central, unavoidable question: 'what is interpretation?' and wonder whether we can hope for a harmony underlying our various 'answers.'"

That sort of reflection demonstrates the sophistication of our new students and the intellectual energy emerging from our seminar rooms. Whatever the course and whoever the seminar leader, English graduate students are engaging in vibrant conversations with their peers and professors as they grapple with—and sometimes try to rethink—the discipline itself.

Please send thoughts and news to:

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