

MUSINGS

THE GRADUATE NEWSLETTER EVANSTON, IL
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From the Chair

I return as Chair of English after a blissful and productive leave made possible by Christopher Herbert's generous willingness to serve as interim Chair last year. In addition to finishing—or nearly finishing—a book and several essays in American literature, one of the great pleasures of my leave involved volunteer teaching a Great Books class to fourth graders at Mc Kenzie Elementary School in Wilmette. We read everything from Langston Hughes's "Thank You, M'am" to "The Story of Wang Li" and the Russian folktale "Vasilissa the Beautiful." I was delighted by the animated and sometimes offbeat intelligence of these fourth graders, whose "satiableness" (to use Kipling's term in "The Elephant's Child") continues to amaze and uplift me. My other great pleasure this year was being invited to speak at a millennial conference on Walt Whitman at Peking University in Beijing, China. The conference was held in honor of the eminent Chinese translator of Whitman, Zhao Luorui, whose library was confiscated during the Cultural Revolution and who always dreamed of holding a world conference in China on Whitman. While in Beijing, I met several graduate students who were eager to pursue their doctoral studies in English in the United States. Perhaps we will see one or two of them in the Graduate Program at Northwestern over the next few years.

As I return to the work of Chair, I am delighted to see so many new faces in University Hall. Dorothy Wang (Ph.D. 1998, Berkeley), who works in the field of Asian American studies, has returned from her one-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, San Diego. This year we also added five dazzling new scholars to our assistant professor faculty. Blakey Vermeule (Ph.D. 1995, Berkeley), whose book *The Party of Humanity: Writing Moral Psychology in Eighteenth-Century Britain* will be published this Fall by Duke University Press, as well as Helen Thompson (Ph.D. 1998, Duke); Kevin Bell (Ph.D. 2000, NYU); Alexander Weheliye (Ph.D. 1999, Rutgers); and Brian Edwards (Ph. D. 2000, Yale). As you can see in our faculty profiles later in *Musings*, our undergraduate and graduate programs will be much enriched by the vibrant intellectual presence of these new members of our faculty.

I am pleased to welcome six new graduate students to our doctoral program, whose individual accomplishments you will also learn more about in the subsequent section of this newsletter. I also want to congratulate Paul Breslin on his promotion to Full Professor. Breslin's first book of poems *You Are Here* was published this Fall, and his eagerly-anticipated book on Walcott, *Nobody's Nation: Identity and History in Derek Walcott*, will be published next year. We have also added two terrific new people to our staff: Stacia Kozlowski, who will be working as assistant to the Graduate Program, and Nathan Mead, who will be working as Undergraduate Program assistant. We regret to say that after twenty-six years of service to Northwestern, Gerrie Gartner decided to retire in September. As many of you know, Gerrie was beloved by all of us. We miss her dearly and send her our warmest wishes for a happy retirement.

As in years past, we hope that *Musings* will serve as a means of communicating and sharing the accomplishments of past and present faculty and students. As you will see in looking over its contents, our graduate students and faculty have had a particularly impressive year of recognition and achievement. Three of our graduate students, Jim Lang, Lorri Nandrea, and John Young, have accepted tenure-track positions. Barbara Baumgartner, Matt Frankel, Joe Kraus, and Celia Marshik have all placed critical articles in major journals. Marshik's essay on Woolf won a prize for the best essay in *Modern Fiction Studies* in 1999. This year, too, for the first time ever, two graduate students in English, Chris Hager and Eric LeMay, received Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards from the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. Several of our graduate students have presented their work at national conferences throughout the country. And, in addition to the books by Paul Breslin and Blakey Vermeule mentioned above, several of our faculty have major books published or in press: Tracy Davis, *The Economics of the British Stage, 1800-1914* (Cambridge UP); John Domini, *Talking Heads 77* (Red Hen Press); Reginald Gibbons, translation of Euripides' *Bakkhai* (Oxford UP); and Christopher Herbert, *Victorian Relativity: Radical Thought and Scientific Discovery* (University of Chicago).

We were pleased to hear from many former graduate students and faculty last year, and hope to hear from more of you about any news you want to share with students and faculty in the Graduate Program at Northwestern. With this newsletter comes our very best wishes for a healthy and satisfying millennial year. Please stay in touch.

Betsy Erkkila

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A Publication of the English Department
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Contributions Editor: Al Cirillo
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Congratulations To Our Recent Graduates

Ph.D. Students:

Cynthia Baule

Eating the Book: Reading and the Formation of the Devout Subject in Late Medieval England

Laura Braunstein

Strange Cases: Representing Epistemology in Victorian Detective Narratives

Beth Charlebois

The Jealous Zealot: Faith, Desire and Epistemology in English Renaissance Drama

Joseph Kraus

The Immigrant and the Underworld: Chester Gould, William Faulkner, Damon Runyon, F. Scott Fitzgerald and the Imagining of the Gangster in the Prohibition Era

M.A. Students:

Blake Barich

Beatriz K Bastos

Mary Ann Bretzlauf

Stephen Deng

Daniel Epstein

Courtney Harris

Sean Johnston

Kristina Kerber

Liza Michaels

Zoran Samardzija

Vikas Turakhia

Peter Woodhull

Welcome New Ph.D. Students

Mike Garabedian received his BA in English Literature from Whittier College in Southern California. As an undergraduate he did work on Ernest Hemingway, in particular how and why Hemingway's nasty reputation obscures some of the author's more profound musings on romantic love. Currently Mike is interested in several topics in 19th- and 20th-century American literature, including: the relationship between the American Renaissance and American Modernism; how the popularization (and commercialization) of writers like Hemingway and Kerouac affects the ways their works are received; and whether we can think about early American literature and postcolonial literature—in particular Magical Realism—as similar endeavors with similar goals.

Coleman Hutchison is interested in teaching and writing about 18th/19th American literature and culture, and in particular about how that literature registers issues of nationalism, sexuality, and masculinity. Cole graduated with his BS from Vanderbilt ('99), where he examined models of masculinity in the literature of baseball. His five years in the South left him with a love for both Southern literature and the mandolin (though both utterly baffle him).

Wen Jin was born in Shanghai, China, and at 21 spent a year in Maryland as an exchange student. Freshly graduated from the Foreign Language Department of Fudan University in Shanghai, she now wavers between the alternatives of being, metaphorically, a Romanticist and a Victorianist. It's a mystery whether she will eventually pay more attention to the individual spirit or social/cultural issues, to the textual or the contextual. So far, her favorite places in Evanston are the window seats in the Norris Center cafeteria and the nice little room in her Wesley apartment, whose walls are decorated with the pictures of Shakespeare, Eliot, Einstein, Feynman, and Bah'u'll.

Jenny Mann grew up downstate in Macomb, Illinois where both of her parents are English professors at Western Illinois University. She attended college at Yale University, graduating in May of 1999. During the year following graduation, Jenny worked in New York City in a public relations firm. At Northwestern, Jenny plans to focus on the Renaissance, in particular on the theatricality of Shakespeare. Jenny is a 2000 Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Humanistic Studies.

Doug O'Keefe, Brown University, MA Columbia University, is delighted to be starting in the program. His interests include contemporary theatre, turn of the century European cabaret, and dramatic rhetoric. Doug has also worked as a playwright, performer, and director in Boston and Chicago and is thus accustomed to writing such third person blurbs as this.

Randall Woods, A. B. Princeton in Sociology, senior thesis on "Individualizing Education." MBA University of Chicago, concentration in Finance. Work experience: various financial management positions at FMC Corporation in Chicago. Military Service: US Army Security Agency, Czech translator. Married with two children. Degrees earned part-time while working: Masters in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, Illinois Institute of Technology; M.A. Philosophy, DePaul University, thesis was "Metaphor, Relativism, and Sense: The Use of Metaphor in Emmanuel Levinas and Richard Rorty;" M.A. English, Northwestern University, thesis was "Portia and her Predecessors: The Heroine in Classical Roman, Italian Renaissance, and Shakespearean Comedy." Major interests: philosophy/ethics and literature, Shakespeare, Twentieth Century Poetry. Currently focuses on exploring (following Richard Rorty) how changes in language through the creation of new metaphors in literature provide new ethical perceptions.

Continuing Students

Dissertation Year Fellowships

Brian Artese

Testimony and its Other: Joseph Conrad and Nineteenth-Century Anonymous Authority

Charlotte Artese

Graduate School DYF and DYG

The History of the Unwritten World: Textual Authority, Imperial Identity, and English Claims to the New World, 1570-1630

Michael Bryson

Virgil Hetzel DYG

Dethroning Divinity: Justification, Iconoclasm, and Milton's Rejection of 'Heav'n's King'

Awards & Prizes

Bradley Deane earned this year's departmental Hagstrum Prize for his outstanding dissertation on "The Making of the Victorian Novelist: Authorship, Ideology, and the Mass Market."

Eric LeMay and **Christopher Hager** have won WCAS Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards. To the best of our knowledge, it is unprecedented for two graduate students from the same division—let alone the same department—to receive this prize in one year. Eric was nominated by English, and Chris by Comparative Literary Studies.

Celia Marshik has been awarded the Margaret Church Modern Fiction Studies Prize for her article "Publication and 'Public Women': Prostitution and Censorship in Three Novels by Virginia Woolf."

For her "Ruffianly Hair, Bushy Beards and Periwigs: The Early Modern Barber as a Maker of Men," **Leah Guenther** has received the Karin Strand Prize, awarded annually for the best seminar paper by a graduate student. Honorable mention goes to **Ryan Friedman** for "Bombastic Subjects: Inauthenticity and Disorder in the Discourse of Renaissance Humanism."

Publications

Barbara Baumgartner has had an article accepted in *Callaloo*: "The Body as Evidence: Resistance, Collaboration, and Appropriation in The History of Mary Prince."

Matthew Frankel's "'Nature's Nation' Revisited: Citizenship and the Sublime in Thomas Jefferson's *Notes on the State of Virginia*," will appear in a forthcoming issue of *American Literature*.

Joseph Kraus' "How the Melting Pot Stirred America: The Reception of Zangwill's Play and Theater's Role in the American Assimilation Experience" was published in *MELUS* 24 this year.

Celia Marshik's article "Parodying the £5 Virgin: Bernard Shaw and the Playing of Pygmalion" appeared in the October 2000 issue of the *Yale Journal of Criticism*. The Winter edition of *Modern Fiction Studies* includes Celia's article "Publication and 'Public Women': Prostitution and Censorship in Three Novels by Virginia Woolf."

Papers Presented

Benjamin Pauley presented a paper entitled "'Every Man His Own Lawyer': Elaborations of Legal Agency for the Lay Reader in Eighteenth-Century British Legal Treatises" at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Philadelphia in April 2000.

Barbara Anderson delivered "The Politics of Temporality in Joy Kogawa's *Obasan*," at the MLA, Chicago, December 1999; "The Temporalities of Social Justice in Asian American Fiction," at the MELUS Conference, New Orleans, March 2000; and "Bakhtinian Temporalities and the Parody of National History in Contemporary British Fiction," at the Narrative Conference, Atlanta, April 2000.

Elizabeth Fekete presented "Imagined Revolution: Reading in Susan Warner's *The Wide, Wide World*" at the Northeast MLA Conference in Buffalo, New York in April 2000.

Michael Bryson will be presenting a paper entitled "'His Tyranny Who Reigns': The Biblical Roots of Divine Kingship and Milton's Rejection of 'Heav'n's King'" at the PMLA conference at UCLA in mid-November and the same paper at the MLA conference in Washington D.C. in December.

Alumni Placements & Promotions

Barbara Baumgartner's 1998-2000 postdoc at Washington University (St. Louis) has been extended into a year of full-time teaching.

Laura Braunstein has accepted a position with the Modern Language Association in New York. Laura serves as Indexer for the Teaching of Literature, MLA International Bibliography.

Joshua Charlson has accepted a position as managing editor of clearfutures.com, a web-based publication sponsored by Morningstar.

Deanna Kreisel has accepted a tenure-track position at Mississippi State, a research institution in Starkville Mississippi. She thus leaves her tenure-track job at Keen State College (a non-research institution in New Hampshire).

James Lang has accepted a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor of English at Assumption College in Worcester, MA.

Celia Marshik accepted a one-year position as a lecturer in Stanford's Writing and Critical Thinking Program.

Lorri Nandrea earned a tenure-track position at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point.

Georg Schmundt-Thomas (Ph.D. 92) will go to Seoul, South Korea as Marketing Director with Procter & Gamble. He has lived and worked in Frankfurt, Germany since joining the company in 1992.

Elizabeth Sturgeon teaches composition at Long Beach City College and El Camino College in Southern California, and last spring, she successfully passed her LBCC teaching review. She reports that she loves "teaching composition thanks to NU's excellent teacher preparation program."

Sybil Virshbo is teaching English composition in Roosevelt University's Liberal Arts Department and is also teaching English at various corporate sites in their Partners in Corporate Education program. She has taught various seminars in the Evelyn Stone Bachelor of General Studies program, and she has evaluated GMAT exams for Educational Testing Services in Evanston. (You might say her master's degree in English from NU has served her well!)

John Young has just accepted a tenure-track job in Modern British Literature at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. He moved there after completing his postdoc at the University of Michigan.

Faculty Profiles

In May **Debra Best** presented a paper, "From Knight to Pilgrim: Monsters and the Threat to Christendom in the Middle English *Guy of Warwick*" at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan. For the 2001 Congress, she has organized a panel, "Monsters, Marvels, and Magic in Medieval Literature." Last fall at the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association conference, Debra presented "Giant Brothers, Faulty Fathers, and a Man and his Dog: Defining the Late Medieval Family through the Romance of *Sir Tryamour*." Lastly, her article, "The Monster in the Family: A Reconsideration of *Frankenstein's* Domestic Relationships" just appeared in *Women's Writing*.

Northwestern University Press just released **Paul Breslin's** collection of poems, *You Are Here*, in mid-November. Paul also appeared at the Library of Congress on April 3rd, with Robert Pinsky and the historian Kenneth Cmiel, on a panel on "Voice in American Poetry." This panel was part of a day-long seminar celebrating the completion of The Favorite Poem project. In May, he presented a paper called "Milton Waylaid by the Midnight Robber: Creole and the Canon in Derek Walcott," as part of a panel he organized for the Caribbean Studies Association meetings in St. Lucia. He will also appear on a Walcott panel chaired by Robert Hamner for the South Central MLA conference in San Antonio, and on a panel chaired by Jahan

Ramazani at the national MLA convention in Washington, D.C., in December.

In Fall 2000, **Tracy Davis** published *The Economics of the British Stage, 1800-1914* with Cambridge University Press. Three other essays related to theatre economics are forthcoming: a comprehensive history of theatre labour, financing, and management in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Economics History*, an essay on laissez-faire in *The Cambridge Guide to Victorian and Edwardian Theatre*, and an article on women theatre managers up to 1914 in *Nineteenth Century Theatre*. Tracy is now working on a comparative study of nuclear civil defense in the USA, Canada, and Britain.

John Domini spent three weeks in and around Naples, Italy, during August and September 2000, on a grant from the Center for the Writing Arts. An essay on Naples appeared in the Summer 2000 issue of the *Southwest Review*. John's first novel, *Talking Heads 77*, has been accepted for publication by Red Hen Press. This is the same press that published his short story collection, *Highway Trade*, in 1998.

Brian Edwards presented a paper this past June, entitled "Le Domain de la Traduction," at the annual meeting of the Conseil International d'Etudes Francophones, which was held in Sousse, Tunisia. Thankfully, he was able to escape the bizarre resort

Faculty Profiles Continued. . .

where the conference was held (lots of semi-nude Europeans) in order to spend a few days in the Tunisian Sahara, where he examined shooting locations used for *Star Wars* and *The English Patient*. In July he spoke at the San Francisco branch of the World Affairs Council, for which he has designed and is leading an academically informed, politically responsible, and hopefully anti-Orientalist trip to Morocco in summer 2001.

Betsy Erkkila spent a her leave year working on *Mixed Bloods and Other American Crosses* and writing several essays on American literature. This fall, in a special issue dedicated to Larzer Ziff, *English Literary History* published her "Franklin and the Revolutionary Body." Other forthcoming essays include: "Does the Republic of Letters Have a Body?" in *Early American Literature* (Winter 2001); "The Poetics of Whiteness: Poe and the Racial Imaginary" in *Romancing the Shadow: Poe and Race* (Oxford UP, 2001); "The Emily Dickinson Wars" in *The Cambridge Companion to Emily Dickinson*; and "Public Love: Whitman and Political Theory" in *American Poetry in a Global Context: Whitman 2000* (U of Iowa Press, 2001). She continues to work with John Martin on a Riverside edition of Edgar Allan Poe, and she is planning an essay on "Emily Dickinson and the REAL World" for the *Oxford Historical Guide to Emily Dickinson*. She will chair a session on "Turn-of-the-Century Sexualities" at the Modern Language Association meeting in Washington, D. C., and she has delivered papers at various national and international conferences, including a millennial conference on Walt Whitman held this fall at Peking University in Beijing, China. She is currently running for Chair of the American Literature

Section of the MLA, and is a member of the Executive Committee of the Late Nineteenth-Century American Literature Division. Her horse, Suraiid, still dreams of open spaces on an animal farm in Wauconda. Her true joy is tap dancing: she is rehearsing "Cabaret" and "Side by Side" (with her daughter) for the Wilmette Dance Show next Spring.

Christine Froula has given a few recent talks including: "Laughter of the Furies: Women and Courtroom Drama in the Oresteia and A Question of Silence," at Washington University, in February 2000, and "Women, the Nude, and Public Space," at Washington University in March (both as Fannie Hurst Visiting Professor of English); "Mrs. Dalloway's Secrets," at Knox College, in April 2000, and "Un/Sentimental Passions: The Moderns, 'the Murrys,' and Mrs. Dalloway," on the Late Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth Century Literature Division program at MLA in Chicago in December 1999.

Reginald Gibbons' new translation of Euripides' *Bakkhai* will be published in December or January by Oxford University Press. His collaborator, Charles Segal of Harvard, provided an introduction and notes to the translation. Gibbons and Segal are beginning work on a new translation of *Antigone*, also for Oxford, and also with introduction and notes for general readers and students alike. In 1999, Reg published a volume of poems, *Homage to Longshot O'Leary*, and during his leave in 1999-2000 he completed a memoir about his childhood and youth

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Reminiscences from Our Alumni/ae

from **Robert T. Antus**
M.A. 1969

"Dr. Moody Prior was the head of the Graduate English Department, and he was also my teacher for his course, British Drama from Dryden to Sheridan. This was my very first course in graduate school, and I was still having trouble with basic writing strategies. He gave me very good advice . . . and above all, he was kind. Without him I would not have made it the rest of the way . . .

After graduate school I was drafted by the United States Army into the Viet Nam War where I wrote letters of sympathy and condolence to the parents of soldiers killed in the War. After my stint in Viet Nam, I returned to the United States, married and became a high school English teacher . . .

I am very happy I left law school and entered Northwestern's graduate school of English where I was given the kind guidance and perception of Dr. Moody Prior. With his support I went on with my life and as able to get through any obstacle."

from **Willis E. McNelly**
Ph.D. 1957

"While I am now 78 and Professor Emeritus at California State University, Fullerton, where I have spent the last 30 years of my professional career, I still look back on my days at the Evanston campus with fond memories.

That was the era of Frederic Faverty, John Webster Spargo, Zera Silver Fink, Richard Ellman, Harrison Hayford, Earnest Samuels, Moody Prior, Jean Hagstrum, Wallace Douglas, Bergen Evans. . . giants all, but I am sure the present department lives up to their memories and reputations. I might add that your department's reputation was such that I obtained my position at Cal State Fullerton in 1961 largely because I could say that I had been awarded my Ph.D. from Northwestern and had written my dissertation under Richard Ellman."

Faculty Profiles Continued. . .

as a time of coming to consciousness during the 1950s and 1960s. Reg continues to serve as an officer and board member of the Guild Complex, a literary center in Chicago, now ten years old, that presents over 100 literary events every year; Reg was one of the founders of this organization.

The winner of a Whiting Foundation Fellowship in the Humanities through the University of Chicago, **Susannah Gottlieb** is on leave this year. She is using her leave primarily for research, but will teach one quarter as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Chicago.

Jay Grossman organized and participated in a roundtable discussion on "F. O. Matthiessen, Activism, and the Origins of American Studies" at October's American Studies Association Convention in Detroit. His entry on Walt Whitman recently appeared in *The Encyclopedia of Homosexuality*, 2nd edition, edited by George E. Haggerty (Garland Publishing, 2000), and his essay entitled "Rereading Emerson/Whitman" has been published in *Reciprocal Influences: Literary Production, Distribution, and Consumption in America*, edited by Steven Fink and Susan S. Williams (OSU Press, 1999). He is continuing work on a website entitled "Brothers in Arms: Masculinity in Whitman's Civil War," part of *The Classroom Electric: Whitman, Dickinson, and American Culture*, a project funded in part by the U.S. Department of Education Fund for Innovation in Post-Secondary Education. He plans to contribute a web-site on Whitman's "Calamus" poems to *The Classroom Electric* as well.

Christopher Herbert's book, *Victorian Relativity: Radical Thought and Scientific Discovery*, (University of Chicago Press) is slated for publication in Spring 2001. Otherwise, he says he seems "to lead a pretty uneventful life."

Joanna Lipking has adapted her Norton Critical Edition of Behn's *Oroonoko* for a Norton trade paperback edition, which is just out. And her paper titled "At London and Paris: Pursuing Behn's French Connections," given at an international Behn conference in 1999, will appear later this calendar year in *Aphra Behn: Identity, Alterity, Ambiguity* (Paris, Editions L'Harmattan).

Lawrence Lipking's most recent publication is a chapter on "Poet-critics" in *The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism, Vol. VII: Modernism and the New Criticism*. This essay was originally drafted in the mid 1980s and, after being completely forgotten, has now emerged from a time warp. He has also written an essay forthcoming in *New Literary History*, "Chess Minds and Critical Moves," which relates his (very minor) career as a chessmaster to current issues in literary studies.

Susan Manning spent the last year on leave writing more than 400 pages of her new book titled "Black, White, and Queer: American Modern Dance and Black Concert Dance 1930-1965." In November 1999 she took a break to speak on "Performance and Performativity" at the American Studies Association, and in February 2000 she delivered a keynote on "Interdisciplinarity" for a conference on dance and theatre studies at Florida State University. This year she is serving as pro-

gram chair for the annual meeting of the Society of Dance History Scholars, chairing a search for a new position in 20th-century drama in the English department, and hoping to find enough time to finish her book! Outside work her major pre-occupation remains parenting her two sons, ages seven and eleven.

Jeffrey Masten has published three essays in volumes out this fall: "The Interpretation of Dreams, circa 1610" (on a manuscript held at Chicago's Newberry Library), in *Historicism, Psychoanalysis, and Early Modern Culture*, ed. Carla Mazzio and Douglas Trevor; "Ben Jonson's Head" in a forum on "materiality" in *Shakespeare Studies*; and a review of Alan Stewart's *Close Readers: Sodomy and Humanism in Early Modern England* (also *Shakespeare Studies*). At the annual meeting of the Shakespeare Association in April, he presented the paper "More or Less: Editing the Collaborative," on the panel "Editing Shakespeare Revisited." In August, the journal *Renaissance Drama*, co-edited with Northwestern colleague Wendy Wall, published its annual volume. Jeffrey spoke at "The Future of the Queer Past" conference at the University of Chicago in September and discussed homoeroticism in *The Merchant of Venice* with area high school teachers at a recent Chicago Humanities Festival "Classics in Context" seminar. Jeffrey wrote the playnotes for the Chicago Shakespeare Theater's production of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and led the Newberry Library's Shakespeare Workshop on the play. Jeffrey was recently elected a trustee of the Shakespeare Association.

Barbara Newman has won a Guggenheim Fellowship for the academic year 2000-01. She is spending her leave working on a book project titled "God and the Goddesses: Vision, Poetry, and Belief in the Middle Ages" (under contract with the U. of Pennsylvania Press). Barbara has also been elected a Councilor of the Medieval Academy of America (equivalent to executive board).

William Savage, Jr. is currently at work on an Annotated Edition of Nelson Algren's *Chicago: City on the Make*, with David Schmittgens, for the University of Chicago Press. This follows hard upon the publication of the *The Man with the Golden Arm: 50th Anniversary Critical Edition*, co-edited with Daniel Simon (Seven Stories Press, 1999). Bill presented two papers on Algren at scholarly conferences in the United Kingdom, the Three Cities Conference at the University of Birmingham (September 1999) and the International Nelson Algren Symposium at the University of Leeds (June 2000). Closer to home, Bill wrote an essay on Algren for the Rogers Park-based political quarterly *Heartland Journal*. For more technologically cutting-edge discourses, he is writing the entries on Algren and his works for an online *Literary Dictionary*, as well as content for the Lookingglass Theater's website on their upcoming production of John Musial's play, *Nelson Algren: For Keeps and A Single Day*. Finally, he was interviewed for the WTTW Channel 11 local documentary series, *Art Beat*, about Algren in conjunction with Live Bait Theater's production of John Susman's biographical drama, *Nelson and Simone*. It's good to be in on the ground floor of the emerging Algren publishing industry.

Regina Schwartz's biggest achievement last year was helping to turn her mother's health around: she is now living with Regina, feeling much better at her young 83 years. Regina is enjoying living with several generations; when recently watching "Queen Christina" starring Greta Garbo, Regina's mother reminisced about the film's first issue (circa 1935) and Regina's 21-yr old student resident said she had never heard of Greta Garbo! Regina had a very busy professional year: she was instrumental in hiring the new faculty members. She gave an address about biblical narrative and its violent afterlife at a conference on "Christianity and Violence" at Wheaton College based on her *The Curse of Cain: The Violent Legacy of Monotheism* (which was nominated for a Pulitzer). She gave the keynote address at the University of Wisconsin conference on "The Place of Divinity in Academic Discourse," and a paper, "Questioning Narratives of God" at the philosophy/theology/literature conference at Villanova University. In Lancaster, England, she gave a paper, "On Silence." At "The Continental Philosophy of Religion" Conference at the University of Chicago, she presented a paper on mystical theology, an installment of the book she is working on called "Mystics." She gave the convocation address at Drury College and the annual Neeman address at the Institute of Jews in American Life at the University of Southern California. Her essay on "Gender and Religion" is coming out in the "Critical Terms in Gender Studies" volume edited by Catherine Stimpson and Gilbert Herdt. She published an essay in *Religion and Literature*, and along with numerous public speaking engagements she was interviewed on National Public Radio.

Dorothy Wang has recently returned from a University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of California, San Diego, Literature department. There she worked with the poetry critic and poet, Michael Davidson, who has also helped Dorothy with her manuscript on contemporary Asian American poetry. She also went to Canberra, Australia in September 1999 to attend the first conference on Asian Australian literature and culture. Dorothy presented a paper forthcoming in the *Journal of Australian Studies* on the novel *The World Waiting to be Made* by the Asian Australian writer, Simone Lazaroo.

In June **Joshua Weiner** organized a reading of the Favorite Poem Project, the archival series directed by outbound U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky, at the Chicago Public Library; participants included Studs Terkel, Roger Ebert, Mary Zimmerman, and Reverend Willie Barrow of Operation Push. This summer he also received (as did Paul Breslin) an Illinois Arts Council Literary Award, for a poem published in *TriQuarterly* #106. The poem, "Kindertotenlieder" is from the book, *The World's Room*, which will be published this April by University of Chicago Press. This fall Josh will travel to Washington D.C. to tape an hour-long reading and interview program produced by National Public Radio. In February he will give a reading and a lecture entitled "Misgivings: A Conversation About History, Experiment, and Generation" with the poet Christine Hume for the Humanities Division at the University of Chicago.

Focus on our New Faculty

The department has had a very successful year in hiring a stellar group of young faculty members who will undoubtedly add to the intellectual vitality of the University.

Kevin Bell, from New York University, has an impressive array of interests including critical aesthetic theory, hermeneutics, and psychoanalytic theory. To all of these he adds expertise in jazz and film noir. He is working on a study called, "Signatures of Subjection: Literary Modernism and the Violence of Cultural Identity."

From Yale comes **Brian Edwards** who teaches and writes about 19th and 20th century American literature and culture in its international context. Among his many interests are American studies, colonial and postcolonial studies, film, cultural studies, ethnic studies, as well as North African literature and culture which inform his book in progress, *Morocco Bound: North Africa in the 20th Century Imagination*.

Helen Thompson, from Duke University, teaches 18th century literature as well as critical theory, and her research interests include 18th century materialism and its relation to romance narrative.

Blakey Vermeule earned her degree at Berkeley and has since published on Pope and Hume. Johns Hopkins press will publish her book, *The Party of Humanity: Writing Moral Psychology in 18th Century Britain*, in Fall 2000.

Last but not least, **Alexander Weheliye**, who comes from Rutgers, is in both English and African American Studies. His teaching interests and expertise are in African American and Afro-Diasporic literature and culture, American Literature and Cultural Studies. He is working on an exploration of sound recording and reproduction, and its impact on 20th century black culture, including literary, musical, and cinematic art. Its title is "Phono-Graphies: Grooves in Sonic Afro-Modernity."

by Al Cirillo

Support Staff

As Department Assistant, **Kathy Daniels** oversees the operations of the department as a whole, and assuages all panic over computer hardware catastrophes. She assists the Chair in recruiting faculty, administers the budget and manages support accounts, acts as liaison between faculty and other university areas, and schedules classes for the year. She loves to spend her free time with her family, as well as dance, play guitar, sing with her friends, and listen to Beatles music. She dreams of someday soon owning the new Mac Cube.

Tasha Dennison-Lemott serves as Program Assistant to the Director of the English Major in Writing, and handles various departmental business such as the faculty searches and course descriptions. The faculty and staff rely on her computer and creative acumen in serving the their desktop and web publishing needs. She and her husband, Allenby, have three children—Giovanni, age 12, Tatiana, age 11, and Alicya, age 7. She enjoys cooking, bike riding and movies, and enjoyed the distraction of Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon* while recovering from knee surgery this summer.

As Graduate Program Assistant, **Stacia Kozlowski** acts as information conduit, campus concierge, and occasional diplomat. She assists the graduate students with administrative concerns, making herself as indispensable as possible to them and the Director of Graduate Studies. Once upon a time, she earned her BA in history at the University of California, San Diego, but found that she loved snow more than sun and fiction more than "fact." On weekends and evenings, she takes on the roles of part-time student in the Masters of Literature program, and of dreamer. With particular affection for Grace Paley's short stories, at courageous moments, she dares to call herself a writer. While her current obsession revolves around telling her life stories not by chronology but by the

spaces she has occupied (houses, bookstores, her own body), she writes this mini-biography with some reluctance.

Nathan Mead serves as Undergraduate Program Assistant for the Department. He earned his Bachelor in Performance (oboe) from the Peabody Conservatory in 1997, and later earned a Masters in Performance while studying under Chicago's own Ray Still at Northwestern from 1999-2000. In the interim, he worked as a nanny while performing in the Mid-Atlantic Symphony orchestra as assistant principal/second oboe. He will expound on the music and culture of the 80s whenever anyone makes the mistake of listening and, when no one else is watching, enjoys writing and composing. He is a rabid fan of the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, and has the bad habit of rereading Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* at any opportunity.

A fond farewell...

After 26 years of service to Northwestern University, **Gerrie Gartner** retired this past September. For eight years, Gerrie served not only as Program Assistant--helping faculty, staff, and students with record keeping and departmental news and information--but also as confidante and guru. A mean poker player, she loves movies, the Cubs--despite the great misery the team brings her--and the Wildcat Football Team (Go, 'Cats!), whose amazing run for a bowl game has helped her forget the baseball season. She is loved not only by faculty and staff, but also by the families and pets of the faculty and staff. She takes care of the raccoons, cats, and other creatures that visit her home, has been known to find warm homes for cold kittens. We wish her well in her retirement, and will miss her gentle kindness, keen humor and--as Carl Smith noted at her farewell party--the delicious snacks she kept at the ready.

We welcome your thoughts and news.

**Please send us e-mail at
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or write to:

Musings

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