

Musings

Fall 2006 • English Graduate Newsletter • The Department of English
Volume 10 Number 1

From the Chair

The Department of English has had an exciting and productive year.

English's placement for Ph.D. students last year was nothing short of spectacular, with a record rivaling that of any English Department in the country. Seven doctoral students accepted tenure-track jobs, many at major research institutions, including Columbia University, Ohio State University, University of Texas, University of Delaware, Queens College, and University of British Columbia (the latter two being top English departments in Canada). In addition, two doctoral students won highly competitive post-doctorate fellowships at Cornell University and the University of Pennsylvania. One student became Executive Director for a local branch of a national non-profit literacy program for children. A distinctive feature of recent Ph.D.s in our Department is cross-disciplinary work undertaken from within English, in such fields as African-American studies, Asian-American studies, diaspora studies, film, gender studies, history, history of the book, and visual culture. Many of the top-notch jobs that our students accepted were precisely in fields that crossed disciplines.

This fall the Department undertook the ambitious task of launching "One Book, One Northwestern," a set of twelve stimulating events organized around the study of Shakespeare's classic play, *Othello*. For one quarter, the entire Northwestern community was invited to participate in a variety of film screenings, faculty roundtables, performances, dance workshops and public lectures, which cumulatively showcased the way that *Othello* has come to life in many incarnations all across the world. Harvard Professor and public intellectual Marjorie Garber, who has written over a dozen books including four works on Shakespeare, offered a mesmerizing keynote address on the subject of *Othello* and modern culture. Nobel prize winner and distinguished Nigerian writer and political activist Wole Soyinka spoke eloquently on "Othello's Dominion, Immigrant Domain" to an overflow crowd. A prolific writer of plays, essays and poetry, Professor Soyinka is one of the world's foremost interpreters of the staggering quality of human endurance. World-renowned Kabuki director Shozo Sato and award-winning director and playwright David Bell staged separate stimulating performance events. The entire project began during the summer when all incoming freshman for Weinberg College and the School of Communication were mailed a copy of *Othello* and invited to participate in a lively online discussion. Seven courses in the English curriculum this fall then featured *Othello*. Needless to say, the Department has been abuzz with activity around this initiative. And "One Book, One Northwestern" has been a huge success, drawing together the community, undergraduates, staff, faculty, and graduate students from many parts of the University and beyond.

This fall we have also been pleased to welcome new people to the department. Nick Davis joins us as an Assistant Professor jointly appointed with Gender Studies. With a Ph.D. in English Literature from Cornell University, Nick specializes in

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Vanessa Corredera was born in Corona, California. She has happily called herself a Floridian for the past 13 years, with Sebring, Florida, serving as her home. After graduating from Forest Lake Academy in 2002, Vanessa moved to Berrien Springs, Michigan, where she attended Andrews University and completed an English major with a literature emphasis and a History minor. Her particular interests include the

Greg Laski is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, where he earned his bachelor's degree in English and Spanish. His interests include 19th-century American literature and culture, national identity, race theory, and whiteness studies. He explored these interests in his undergraduate thesis, "White Rage: Race, Riot, and Nation in Charles Chesnutt's *The Marrow of Tradition*." Greg moved to Illinois from his hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he worked as the Assistant Director of a non-profit academic program for public middle-school students.

Hugh McIntosh comes to Northwestern from Washington, D.C., where he recently finished a Master's in English at George Washington. His thesis was on Herman Melville's *Battle-Pieces* and he plans to continue studying 19th-century American literature, particularly the 1850's and 60's. Hugh is interested in the history of the book

England. Jackie is an avid long-distance runner (marathon PR of 3:38, Boston qualifier) and plans to continue pursuing her passion despite the harsh Chicago weather. She also enjoys baking, hiking, yoga, watching UCLA football, and collecting Hello Kitty paraphernalia (despite the fact that, at 28, she's probably too old for that).

Laura Passin comes to Northwestern from Seattle, where she worked at Amazon.com. She has a B.A. in English from Smith College and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from University of Oregon. Though she was acclimated to the lovely Pacific Northwest and no longer owned a proper winter coat, she has also lived in several parts of the U.S. and grew up in part near the Great Lakes. Laura's primary academic interests are in 20th-century American poetry and metaphor.

NEW DOCTORAL STUDENTS

early modern period, and she enjoys researching such topics as gender constructs, constructs of desire, and most recently, the relationship between patriarchy and the marginalized Other. In her free time she enjoys music, yoga, *Sex and the City*, and finding exciting new places to eat.

Carissa Harris is from Cleveland, Ohio, and graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in May with a double major in English and Women's Studies. After spending another summer working in food service, she is delighted to be back in school, living in downtown Evanston with her new cat, Margery Kempe. Her primary academic interests are early modern English drama, *The Book of Margery Kempe* (obviously), and literary representations of gender, sexuality, and prostitution. Her non-academic passions include veganism, black coffee, and tattoos.

and material culture studies, and has recently been reading up on the economic debates spurred by the financing of the Civil War. He would love to do some sort of work on the imagery and rhetoric of money in politics and literature. Hugh was delighted to leave his post as Copyright Examiner in the visual arts for the Library of Congress, for Northwestern in September.

Jackie Murdock comes to Northwestern from sunny northern California, where she lived most of her life. After getting a B.A. in English from UCLA, she spent a few years in the "real world" before deciding to pursue an M.A. from San Jose State. She considers herself a medievalist with early modern tendencies. Her scholarly interests include studying representations of childbirth and motherhood in literature, and exploring how these representations reflect both domestic issues for women and larger political issues for

Wanalee Romero was born in New Jersey. She lived in Texas for twenty-five years, so Texas is her home. After fifteen years, she removed the suits and high heels of corporate America to don a back-pack and blue jeans, and recently completed her B.A. at the University of Texas in Austin. Admittance into a Ph.D. program is her most recent accomplishment toward her goal of, as her niece Audrey has termed it, "reading for a living."

Most of **Michael Slater's** life, he lived in a small town of Lytle (roughly 2000 people) just outside of San Antonio, Texas. Michael attended Trinity University in San Antonio as an undergraduate, majoring in English and Philosophy. In his senior year, somewhat reluctant, he decided to pursue graduate studies in English instead of philosophy, a choice that he's very grateful he made. Michael recently completed his Master's degree in English. at the University of Colorado at Boulder.





from the chair (cont.)

twentieth-century American fiction, drama, film, and theories of sexuality. We also are happy to have Stuart Dybek, author of five books of fiction, poetry and nonfiction including *The Coast of Chicago*, serve as Northwestern's first Distinguished Writer in Residence. Often proclaimed to be the living American writer most identified with the city of Chicago, Stuart will be in residence each fall quarter at Northwestern. We welcome as well Eula Biss, a Visiting Assistant Professor, who will help to anchor a new track in creative nonfiction in our creative writing program. Finally, Jinah Kim, a Mellon Postdoctorate Fellow, will be teaching courses in the English Department and in Asian American Studies this year.

Congratulations are in order to three dynamic assistant professors who received tenure last year: Brian Edwards, who specializes in twentieth-century American literature and culture in its international contexts (with interests in North Africa, film, and diaspora studies); Helen Thompson, a scholar of eighteenth-century British literature, feminism, literary theory, and philosophy; and Alex Weheliye, who works on Afro-Diasporic literature and culture, theory, sound technology, and popular culture. We are extremely fortunate that these distinguished colleagues continue to bring important expertise to our intellectual community.

Last spring renowned scholar Maud Ellmann returned as the Carole and Gordon Segal Visiting Professor of Irish Literature. Professor Ellmann offered two seminars and a fascinating public presentation on the works of James Joyce. Her lecture marked the final event in a year-long set of thought-provoking colloquia, roundtables and lectures on a variety of topics sponsored by the English Department.

I close with one final cause for celebration: English faculty members were once again recognized for outstanding teaching last year. Jeffrey Masten, a specialist in Renaissance literature and gender theory, was awarded the University's most distinguished teaching honor, The Charles Deering McCormick Professorship of Teaching Excellence (which makes English's third McCormick!). John Keene, an experimental fiction writer and scholar of African American literature, received Weinberg College's highest honor, the E. Leroy Hall Distinguished Teaching Award. A professor from the English Department has thus been deemed the best teacher in the Humanities at Northwestern for three of the last four years. Finally, Jay Grossman and Chris Hager were elected to the Faculty Honor Roll. We remain extremely proud of our Department's proven commitment to classroom excellence.

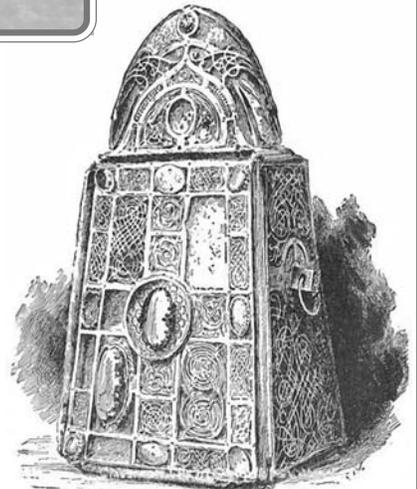
This year, as we face new challenges, we will also send our good wishes and gratitude to Joanna Lipking and Larry Lipking, who have been a vital part of the department's intellectual community for 28 years, and who are now retiring.

Wendy Wall
Department Chair

NEW MASTERS STUDENTS

Anne McCarley earned her bachelor's degree in English from the University of Notre Dame and subsequently participated in a rotational development program at an independent investment research firm based in Chicago. Anne's primary academic interests are twentieth century American literature and postcolonial theory, although she also enjoys working with francophone African texts. At Northwestern, she hopes to explore further such issues as diaspora and globalization.

Rachel Osterhage graduate from Georgia State University in 2002. Before pursuing her dream of returning to the world of academia, she spent over three years working as a Department of Defense contractor for the US Navy in Washington, D.C. and as a middle school teacher of the Humanities in her home state of Georgia. Her scholarly interests include British Modernism and film. In her free time Rachel enjoys performing and listening to music, practicing yoga, cooking, and sipping coffee or good beer with friends.





Gwynn Dujardin (Ph.D., December 2006)

“Reforming (Men of) Letters: English Language Reform and the Formation of English Literary Identity (1540 - 1660)”

Coleman Hutchison (Ph.D., December 2006)

“Revision, Reunion, and the American Civil War Text”

Wen Jin (Ph.D., December 2006)

“Rethinking Cultural Translation: Multiculturalism and Chinese American Transnational Literature”

Jenny Mann (Ph.D., December 2006)

“Rhetorical Habits of Mind in Early Modern England”

Carolyn Mao (M.A., June 2006)

“Prisons and Planes: The Politics of Space in Pamela Lu’s *Pamela: A Novel* and Linh Dinh’s *Blood and Soap*”

John Martin (Ph.D., December 2006)

“Disquieting Intimacies: Confession and the Gothic Poetic in Edgar Allan Poe & Emily Dickinson”

recent graduates

placement

Ashley Byock has accepted a two-year position as Lectrice of Civilization Américaine and English language at l’Université de Paris, Diderot.

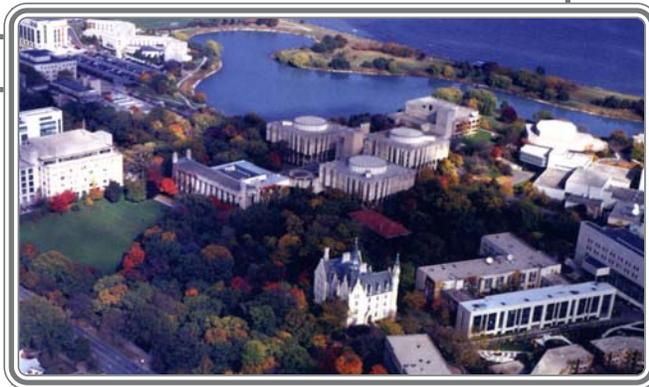
Marcy Dinius accepted a tenure-track position in 19th-century print culture at the University of Delaware.

Gwynn Dujardin was thrilled to accept a tenure-track position in English Renaissance literature at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

Ryan Friedman accepted a tenure-track position, teaching film studies and African American literature/culture at Ohio State University in Columbus, starting in September.

Leah Guenther is the Executive Director for 826CHI, a non-profit literacy and tutoring organization dedicated to helping students aged 6-18 and their teachers.

Hunt Howell accepted a McNeill Center Mellon Postdoc at the University of Pennsylvania which started in July.



Coleman Hutchison accepted a tenure-track position at the University of Texas in Austin which started in August.

Wen Jin accepted a tenure-track position in Asian American Literature at Columbia University which started in August.

Deanna Kreisel accepted a tenure track position in Victorian Literature at the University of British Columbia.

Jenny Mann left for Ithaca this past summer, having accepted a Postdoc position at Cornell University.

John Martin accepted a tenure-track position at Louisiana Tech University teaching 19th century American Literature.



FELLOW TRAVELING WITH LARRY LIPKING

By Kasey Evans

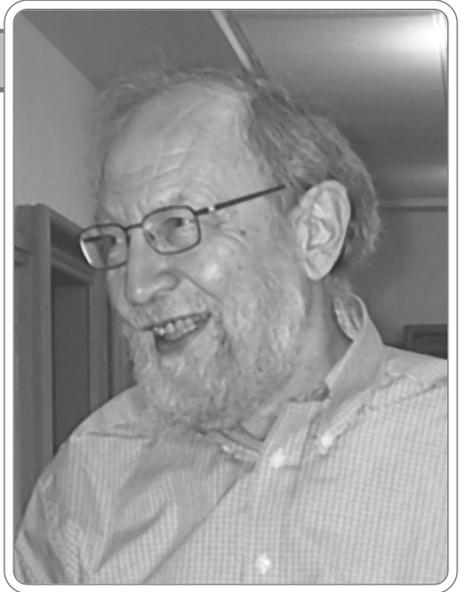
At the end of the 2006–07 academic year, Larry Lipking—Chester D. Tripp Professor of the Humanities; member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; winner of the Phi Beta Kappa Christian Gauss Award and the MLA William Riley Parker Prize; editor of the *Norton Anthology of English Literature*; and “son of a prize fighter” (a detail proudly noted in a recent anthology introduction)—will retire.

During his 28 years at Northwestern, Lipking has inspired the awestruck admiration of his colleagues and students alike. Quarter after quarter, his course evaluations use the declarative (“Lipking is God!”) and the interrogative (“Do you know *everything*?”) to formulate the only possible response to a scholar of his stature. And yet these exclamations, and the narratives that arise from them, continue to sound strange to Lipking, who avows that he never thinks of himself as a fossilized, Establishment figure, except when he reads his evaluations.

When he first arrived at Northwestern, Lipking devoted himself to professional activity, serving on the MLA executive council and the editorial board of the *PMLA*, delivering lectures for Phi Beta Kappa, and, he explains, “running around in all kinds of professional ways.” In the last decade of his career, though, Lipking has become less professional, embracing the opportunity to think and write as the theoretically catholic maverick he has always felt himself to be.

Lipking’s scholarly interests are nothing if not ecumenical; he has published on everything from the Sappho to Shelley, Camões to chess, the mirror stage to *The Mirror and the Lamp*. This breadth has often surprised audiences who expect more intellectual conservatism from an editor of *The Norton Anthology*. “I got a lot of that [response] when I was identified with the ‘Men in Feminism’” of the 1980s, Lipking explains. “I was never a loyal, card-carrying member of ‘Men in Feminism,’ although I had good friends in feminist criticism, including Sandra Gilbert, Susan Gubar, and Catharine Stimpson, among others. I learned from the feminists I knew, but I thought about those issues in my own way. My association for ‘Men in Feminism’ was always ‘Pigs in Space,’ from *The Muppet Show*,” he chuckles. “I can’t hear ‘Men in Feminism’ without thinking of it. I’ve never fully identified myself with any single group,

Fellow Traveling continued on page 10



fellowships

Sarah Blackwood has been awarded the Patricia and Phillip Frost Fellowship for Research in American Art and Visual Culture at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery, beginning in January 2007.

Janaka Bowman has been awarded a Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois (DFI) Fellowship, beginning this fall.

Joanne Diaz is the 2006-07 recipient of the Debbie & Larry Brady Graduate Fellowship. During February of 2007, she will be a Mellon Foundation Fellow at the Huntington Library, during which time she will look at sonnet sequences and complaint poems that are part of her dissertation. A Mellon Graduate Research Grant from the Kaplan Center for the Humanities will fund her research and writing during the summer of 2007.

Peter Jaros has accepted a DYF for the 2006-07 school year, which will assist him in traveling to East Coast archives, as well as providing writing time. He will also be a Graduate Affiliate through the fall and winter at the Kaplan Humanities Center.

Sarah Mesle is the recipient of a 2006-07 Weinberg Dissertation Research Fellowship.

Gayle Rogers received a Mayers Research Fellowship from the Keck Foundation of the Huntington Library in Los Angeles, California for 2006-2007 and a Research Fellowship from the Graduate School for fall 2006 through the winter of 2007. A Virgil Heltzel Fellowship will support him during the following spring. He has also received a grant from the Spanish Ministry of Culture’s Program for Cultural Cooperation to conduct dissertation research on the exchanges between British modernism and Spanish vanguardism at the Fundación Ortega y Gasset and Residencia de Estudiantes in Madrid and the Fundación María Zambrano in Málaga, Spain. He plans to do archival and translation work there in March, 2007.





Alfred Appel's most recent book, set to be published by Knopf and entitled *Victory Album: War Fear in Hemmingway, Léger, Dick Tracy, and Me*, is well underway, and is expected to include as many as 150 illustrations.

Katharine Breen and her husband recently welcomed a six pound, three ounce daughter, Elizabeth Breen O'Hara. While the baby naps, Katharine has been organizing a conference panel on personification allegories as "thinking machines" for the 42nd International Congress on Medieval Studies.

Paul Breslin spent the summer quietly working at various pursuits (improving his French; putting in a lot of time with the guitar, learning new songs and developing new licks for old ones; helping his mother move and set up her new place; sketching drafts of new poems that are now lying dormant for a while; refereeing sundry tenure and promotion cases; writing an encyclopedia article on "Caribbean Literature," which he succeeded in ratcheting down to Caribbean literature in English).

He finished a fairly long poem, *A Paris Conference*, which will appear in *TriQuarterly* in late 2007, and an essay, *'The First Epic of the New World': But How Shall It Be Written?*, which concerns problems of narration in literary representations of the Haitian Revolution; this piece is forthcoming in a collection of essays on things Haitian, *The Tree of Liberty*, edited by Northwestern's own Doris Garraway and forthcoming from University of Virginia Press.

Jennifer DeVere Brody was appointed to a two-year Chair as the Weinberg College Board of Visitors Research and Teaching Professor. She published articles on the ellipsis in Ellison's *Invisible Man*, globalization in the film *Set it Off*, and co-authored an essay on a 19th-century Afro-Native narrative entitled *The Memoirs of*

Elleanor Eldridge. She gave the Booth Tarkington Lecture in American Literature at Indiana University. She serves the graduate students as Placement Director and minority liaison.

Nick Davis is a new member of the English faculty and the Gender Studies program, with primary research interests in film studies, 20th-century American literature, and feminist, gender, and sexuality studies. He is now starting off the year with a new Gender Studies course called *Introducing Queer Cinema* and is looking forward to presenting papers this year at MLA in Philadelphia and at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference in Chicago.

Tracy C. Davis has been elected President of the American Society for Theatre Research. Her three-year term begins this fall as the ASTR celebrates its 50th anniversary conference at Chicago's Allegro Hotel. The purpose of ASTR is to encourage scholarship in theatre and performance studies; it promotes the cause of theatre as a field for serious scholarly study and research through its annual conferences and publications of *Theatre Survey*, and provides a public voice for theatre scholars. Through the efforts of the department's own Doug O'Keefe, ASTR now has a graduate student caucus and will elect the first graduate student representative to the Executive Committee in 2007.

After a lecture tour through Tunisia between winter and spring quarters (including visits to *Star Wars* shooting sites in the south), **Brian Edwards** was able to return to the Maghreb on a more relaxed pace once summer began. He is directing a group research project in Fez, Morocco, and was lucky to be joined by his family, including Oliver (7), Pia (4) and Theo (1). Some cultural imperialism was practiced by Oliver via wiffleball, but Moroccan friends taught the boy soccer moves in return that have globalized Evanston AYSO.

Brian is on leave during 2006-07, on a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. This fall, he will give invited lectures at the Women's Foreign Policy Group (in D.C.), at Rutgers, and at Concordia University (Montreal), and will present a paper at the Middle East Studies Association. He then heads to Iran to lead a two-week seminar at Tehran University's Institute for North American Studies, where he is an affiliate, and from there to New Delhi, to participate in a symposium on cultures of democracy.

His plans for the rest of his leave include research trips to Egypt and Morocco; invited lectures at UCLA and Indiana University; and, in late spring, a decampment to Paris, where he

and wife Kate Baldwin will be visiting faculty at the École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS). Entretiens, he is finishing editing a collection based on the three Globalizing American Studies conferences he organized at Northwestern between 2004 and 2006, and working on his new book project, "After the American Century."

Joseph Epstein published a book this summer called *Friendship, An Expose*. What the book seeks to expose is the sappy Hallmark Greeting Card notion of friendship and to show how richly complex friendships in the modern era can be. He also has a new book in HarperCollins' *Eminent Lives Series* titled *Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy's Guide*, and is currently working on a brief (50,000 word) book on Fred Astaire for Yale University Press. A wag of his acquaintance suggested that he combine these two books and call them, collectively, *Dancing in Democracy*.

Betsy Erkkila spent a dreamy year on an NEH fellowship at the Newberry Library in Chicago, where she made some progress on her book, *Imagining the Revolution: Literature and Politics in the Era of the Founding*, amid a very simpatico cohort of historians and literary scholars. Since 2005 was the 150th anniversary of the publication of Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*, she was invited to give plenary talks on Whitman at conferences at the University of Nebraska, the University of Iowa, the College of New Jersey, and the University of Paris VII (her favorite!). From these conferences she published "Whitman Among the French Revisited" in *La Revue Francaise d'Etudes Americaines*, and she has an essay entitled "The Whitman Revolution" forthcoming in *Whitman's Leaves of Grass: The Sesquicentennial Essays* and another entitled "Whitman, Marx, and the American 1848" forthcoming in *Walt Whitman: The Sesquicentennial Essays*. Her essay "Revolution in the Renaissance" was the lead essay in a special volume of *Emerson Society Quarterly* on Reexamining the American Renaissance, and she has another essay, "Whitman, Melville, and the Tribulations of Democracy," forthcoming in a Blackwell *Companion to American Literature and Culture*, edited by Paul Lauter.

This year, she was awarded a Faculty affiliate fellowship at the Alice Berline Kaplan Institute, and she is hoping to complete at least two more chapters of her book on Revolutionary literature and politics. Somehow, she is hoping to complete a long-overdue volume entitled *Ezra Pound: The Contemporary Reviews* for Cambridge University Press by the beginning of summer. She has also been asked to collect her numerous essays on Whitman in a volume





for the University of Iowa tentatively entitled *Imagining Democracy: Walt Whitman and the World We Live In* (she would love to have suggestions for other possible titles). Aside from reading and writing, what still keeps her happy and sane is tap dancing with her daughter Suli: this year they will perform “In the Mood” and “Mame” for the annual tap dance recital in the spring.

Elzbieta Foeller-Pituch had her paper proposal accepted for the MMLA conference in Chicago and spoke on “Eating Satirically: Food in the 1996 Film Adaptations of Jane Austen’s *Emma*” on Saturday, November 11.

Reginald Gibbons has edited *Autobiographical Essays, Notebooks, Evocations, Interviews*, by William Goyen, forthcoming from the University of Texas Press in 2007, and is completing his translations of *Selected Poems of Sophokles*, forthcoming from Princeton University Press in 2008. Also forthcoming in 2008 is his new book of poems, *Artesian*, from LSU Press. He has

contributed recent essays to *Common Knowledge*, *The Pedestal Magazine*, and *The Cambridge Companion to E.M. Forster*. Next spring, he’ll give the Josephine Ferguson Memorial Lecture at Tulane University; but just before that, he hopes to earn his second-degree black belt in taekwondo, this time without breaking any fingers!

Susan Manning has enjoyed a change of pace over the last year, as she has focused on leadership and community outreach. As president of the Society of Dance History Scholars (SDHS), she attended an ACLS symposium on “Revitalizing the Humanities” and oversaw SDHS conferences held at the Banff Centre for the Arts and the Centre national de la danse in Paris. As founding donor and chair of Arts in Community, a field-of-interest fund within the Evanston Community Foundation, she spearheaded a two-year process of research and community-convening, for which she received the Evanston Mayor’s Award for the Arts. Yet she has not abandoned scholarship

volume all of the critical essays of the late scholar, poet, fiction writer and translator. McBride and his co-editor, Justin Joyce, provide a scholarly introduction to Dixon’s work that contextualizes the writer and his contributions to black queer studies, American literary studies and Diaspora studies.

Professor McBride’s 2005 book *Why I Hate Abercrombie & Fitch: Essays on Race and Sexuality* has been nominated for both the Lambda Literary Award and the Hurston-Wright Legacy Award. Also, he and his co-editor, Professor Bob Gooding-Williams (University of Chicago) were named runner-up by the Council of Editors of Learned Journals (CELJ) for their 2005 Best Special Issue Award for “100 years of *The Souls of Black Folk: A Celebration of W.E.B. Du Bois*,” a special issue of *Public Culture*.

As chair of the Department of African American Studies, Professor McBride is involved this year in the launching of Northwestern’s new Ph.D. program in African

Faculty News

just begun a three-year term as Director of Northwestern’s Center for the Writing Arts.

Chris Herbert spent the 2005-06 school year on leave (thanks to NEH and ACLS fellowships) finishing his long-running study of Victorian representations of the great Indian Mutiny of 1857. Tentatively entitled *War of No Pity*, the book has been accepted for publication by Princeton University Press.

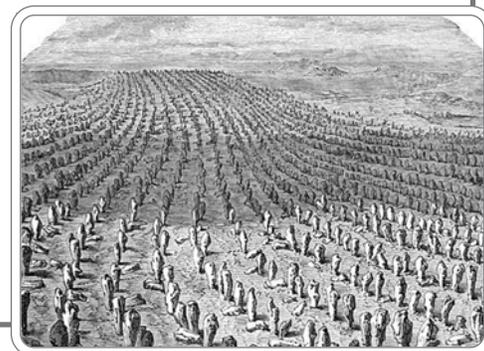
Christopher Lane was on leave last year, enjoying much of his Guggenheim Fellowship in Europe, where, during the winter quarter, he was visiting professor of English and American Studies at the University of Coimbra, Portugal. He also gave invited lectures at the University of Malta and in New York, as well as a workshop on Victorian literature and psychiatry at the NASSR/NAVSA conference at Purdue University. After receiving unprecedented access to the American Psychiatric Association’s archives in Arlington, Virginia, he managed to complete his latest book, an intellectual history of social phobia, which is forthcoming with Yale University Press in Fall 2007. Also due out then, with Northwestern University Press, is his coedited *James Purdy: Selected Plays*. Chris

altogether: her 2004 book, *Modern Dance, Negro Dance: Race in Motion*, recently came out in paperback and received an Honorable Mention for Outstanding Publication from the Congress on Research in Dance. A second edition of her 1993 book, *Ecstasy and the Demon: The Dances of Mary Wigman*, will soon appear in paperback. Both paperbacks are published by the University of Minnesota Press.

Jeffrey Masten traveled this summer to the International Shakespeare Association’s World Shakespeare Congress in Brisbane, Australia, where he presented research on an unusual manuscript that lives at the Folger Shakespeare Library. Masten was recently named Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence. He also contributed the playnotes for Chicago Shakespeare Theatre on Navy Pier’s fall 2006 production of *The Two Noble Kinsmen* by Shakespeare and John Fletcher. He eagerly awaits the construction of the Chicago Fletcher Theatre on Navy Pier.

Professor **Dwight A. McBride** published a new book, *A Melvin Dixon Critical Reader* (University of Mississippi Press, 2006). The book brings together for the first time in one

American Studies. He is offering one of the first core courses in the graduate curriculum for the new doctoral students, “Expressive Arts & Cultural Studies: Major Debates.” Northwestern’s is the seventh such doctoral program in the nation, joining University of California of Berkeley, Harvard, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Michigan State, Temple, and Yale. This will mean that African American Studies will be offering graduate courses that will be of interest to English graduate students and that some of African American Studies’ new graduate students will be taking courses in the English department as well.





Barbara Newman is beginning a two-year term as Director of Graduate Studies in English, moved by either an inexplicable love of power or a fateful inability to say No. Her new book, *Frauenlob's Song of Songs*, will be published by Penn State in November, complete with a CD by the early music ensemble Sequentia. As always, she has a variety of irons in the medieval fire, including books and articles on such topics as mystical love, the saints' lives of Thomas of Cantimpré, translations

from the vernacular into Latin and *vice versa*, the Shekhinah as a medieval Jewish response to the Virgin Mary, and what T.S. Eliot was really doing with Julian of Norwich in *Little Gidding*. With her colleague Stuart Sarbacher, she is currently team-teaching a course on "Goddesses East and West," and looking forward to the international conference she has organized for the Religion Department on "The Feminine Divine in Cross-Cultural Perspective" (November 26-28, 2006).

Bill Savage will publish his essay, "'It was Dope!': The Paperback Revolution and the Literary Reputation of Nelson Algren," in the *Nelson Algren: A Collection of Critical Essays* (forthcoming 2007, Farleigh Dickinson University Press, edited by Robert Ward).

Carl Smith's new book, *The Plan of Chicago: Daniel Burnham and the Remaking of the American City*, was just published by the University of Chicago Press. He is back teaching this year after a year on leave, thanks to an ACLS grant, which he devoted to working on a cultural history of cities and water in America in the 19th-century.

In May of 2006, **Julia Stern** co-ran the "Humanities in Context Seminar," a one-day event for Chicago public high school English and History teachers, with Professor Sarah Pearsall of the History Department, exploring Hector St. John de Crevecoeur's *Letters from an American Farmer*. During new student orientation this September, Stern gave the Convocation Lecture for the class of 2010, entitled "How the Joys of Explication Kept Me Out of Law School." She is slouching toward Bethlehem on her book in-progress, *Mary Chesnut's Unfinished Epic*, under contract with the University of Chicago Press.

Liz Fekete Trubey continues to work in the WCAS Advising Office and to teach courses about American literature in the English department. She had an article about Augusta Evans's novel, *St. Elmo*, appear in *American Literature* in March, 2005, and she contributed a chapter about women readers and *Uncle Tom's Cabin* to a collection of essays titled *Reading Women: Literary Figures and Cultural Icons from the Victorian Era to the Present* (Toronto, 2005). Her adorable and charming daughter, Megan Joy Trubey, turned 1 in October.

Wendy Wall has recently been pursuing two projects, one that emerged from research she did for her last book, *Staging Domesticity: Household Work and English Identity on the Early Modern Stage* (which was just reissued from Cambridge University Press in paperback). Her exploration of cookbooks and drama in the Renaissance prompted her to ask questions about interdisciplinary methods, namely how literary scholars "fit" plays into historical stories about changes in family life. From this work, she gave a talk at Yale on Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi* and syrup. Her second project has to do with how early modern printed books cued readers to navigate through texts. She made

presentations at the Renaissance Society of America and at York University on this subject. This year, she's also worked to organize the pilot program for the "One Book, One Northwestern" reading initiative, which features Shakespeare's *Othello*. And she spent one glorious week in a villa in Tuscany.

Three of **Stuart Dybek's** stories were presented by the NPR syndicated program Selected Shorts from Symphony Space in New York City, which did a show from the Steppenwolf Theater on October 16 that also featured work by Nelson Algren.

Will West spent much of his summer working with English graduate student Joanne Diaz on a website for incoming first-year undergraduates on all things *Othello*. This involved soliciting ideas and paragraphs on aspects of the play from a number of English professors, but also others from departments all across the humanities. Thanks in large part to Joanne Diaz's tireless work, the site turned out beautifully. He came away more impressed than ever with the range of issues our faculty, both inside and outside of English, is engaged in, and with the ability of a work like *Othello* to engage the opinions and interests of people from all across the spectrum.

PUBLICATIONS

Sarah Blackwood released her article on Emily Dickinson and portraiture in the Fall 2005 issue of *The Emily Dickinson Journal*.

Katy Chiles's essay "Within and Without Raced Nations: Intratextuality, Martin Delany, and *Blake; or the Huts of America*" is forthcoming in *American Literature*.

Melissa Daniels is in the process of publishing an article on James Weldon Johnson's "The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man" entitled "Race Treason and the Politics of Passing" for inclusion in an anthology devoted to Post-Double-Consciousness.

Joanne Diaz has some poems appearing in *The Southern Review* and *The Madison Review*.

Hyun-Jung Lee's chapter "'One for Ever': Desire, Subjectivity, and the Threat of the Abject in Sheridan Le Fanu's *Carmilla*" was published in Rodopi's collection of essays *Vampires: Myths and Metaphors of Enduring Evil*, edited by Peter Day, in February of 2006.

Jenny Mann's essay "How to Look at a Hermaphrodite in Early Modern England" was published in the Winter 2006 issue of *Studies in English Literature*.





PAPERS PRESENTED

Sarah Blackwood presented at the Mellon Dissertation Forum of the Alice Berline Kaplan Center for the Humanities on April 1, 2006.

Janaka Bowman presented her paper "Engendering John: Modernity and Masculinity in Hurston's 'John Redding Goes to Sea'" at the College English Association Conference (San Antonio) in April and presented "Frederick Douglass and Frances E.W. Harper: Writing, Revising, and Performing Intellectualism" at the American Literature Association Conference (San Francisco) in May of 2006.

Katy Chiles presented portions of her dissertation work at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies (Penn), the Midwest Modern Language Association, and the American Society for Ethnohistory. She also presented at the Mellon Dissertation Forum of the Alice Berline Kaplan Center for the Humanities on April 1, 2006.

Joanne Diaz presented a paper titled "Grief as Medicine for Grief: Spenser's Emblems and the Future of the Archive" at the MLA conference in December, and "Looking for a Sympathetic Ear: The Status of Confessional Expression in Early Modern Complaint Poetry" at the Shakespeare Association of America conference in April of 2006.

Gretchen Gurujal presented a paper last year at a 2005 M/MLA special session.

Coleman Hutchison presented a paper at the 2005 MLA conference about Confederate propaganda as part of a Nineteenth-Century American Literature Division panel, "American Literature and the State."

Peter Jaros presented "The Physiognomic Turn: Johann Caspar Lavater and the Temporality of Character" at the Narrative Conference in Ottawa in April of 2006.

Nathan Leahy attended a conference on interdisciplinary studies of the interwar period at Bucknell University in early June, and gave the paper "'Dark Bandages': MacNeice, The City, and the London Blitz."

Jenny Lee presented a paper entitled "Religious Reimaginings in D.H. Lawrence's 'Apocalypse'" in the Religion and Literature panel at the 2006 M/MLA Conference.

Jenny Mann presented a paper at the 2005 MLA conference titled "The Infections of an English 'Vein of Rhetoric': Samuel Shaw's *Words Made Visible*." In February of 2006 she gave a talk titled "Outlaw Rhetoric" to the Early Modern Reading Group at Washington University in Saint Louis, Missouri.

Sarah Mesle presented a paper on Mary Chesnut, trauma theory, and autobiographical form at the 2006 Narrative Society Conference.

Wendy Roberts presented "*What Would Jesus Do...if He Were a World Citizen? The Hyper-Local and Globally Open Ethic of Charles Sheldon's *In His Steps**" at NEXUS: Religion and the Nation in Knoxville, Tennessee in April 2006. She also presented her paper "Leslie Scalapino's Poetics" at the Modernist Studies Association Conference in Chicago, Illinois in October 2005.

Gayle Rogers presented at the Mellon Dissertation Forum of the Alice Berline Kaplan Center for the Humanities on April 1, 2006.

PRIZES

Jeff Knight was selected to receive the 2005-06 Karin Strand Prize for his paper "Chaucer 'Polyced': The Labors of Literary Collecting, ca.1532."

Hunt Howell's dissertation "A More Perfect Copy than Heretofore': Imitation, Emulation, and Early American Literary Culture" has been selected to receive the 2005-06 Jean H. Hagstrum Prize for best dissertation.

Anna Fenton-Hathaway was awarded the 2005-06 English Department Teaching Award for Excellence as a Teaching Assistant.

Hyun-Jung Lee was selected as the recipient of the newly instituted 2005-06 English Department Teaching Excellence Award for her class "Modern Monsters."





though I've been a fellow-traveler of many." (Lipking undersells the significance of his fellow-traveling contributions: his 1988 book *Abandoned Women and Poetic Tradition* appeared in Stimpson's *Women in Culture and Society Series*, alongside other such foundational books as *Rewriting the Renaissance*, edited by Margaret Ferguson, Maureen Quilligan, and Nancy Vickers, and *Playing the Other: Gender and Society in Greek Classical Literature*, by Froma Zeitlin.)

The "son of a prize-fighter" comment—an apposite gesture toward Lipking's self-fashioning both inside and outside the professional center of literary studies—comes from a short biography printed in the 2007 Bedford/St. Martin's *Critical Tradition* anthology. The piece of Lipking's included in that collection is entitled "Dialogue with Paul deMan: The Practice of Theory," and was originally commissioned by the MLA to "explain deconstruction for department chairs, because they didn't understand deconstruction.

So when they had job applications from deconstructionists, they didn't understand. And when they had job applications from non-deconstructionists, they were attacks on deconstruction, and they still didn't understand." Lipking's job in that essay was something of a synecdoche for his academic career: "to be clear about something that isn't my own at all," he explains. "I was thinking my way into a different way of thinking, and trying to make a good case for it." The piece was anthologized elsewhere, too: in a collection that mistakes earnestness for irony; categorizes Lipking as a "humanist provocateur"; and calls the article "a sly spoof of a deconstructionist reading," a parody that "distorts" its object. "But that's what I deserve!" says Lipking, with good humor. "That's what I like doing: entertaining different positions, thinking different things that I haven't thought too many times before. My worst moment in the classroom is when someone asks a question, and I catch myself thinking, 'What is it that I always say about this?'"

Among his many honors, Lipking counts a place in his high school's "Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame." His induction ceremony afforded him the chance not only to articulate his own view of his intellectual life, but also to urge similarly limitless curiosity on his audience. The poem he read to commemorate the occasion speaks better than this short biography about the appetites that have driven Larry Lipking's inimitable scholarly career.

High School Poem

(On being inducted into the Cleveland Heights High School
Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame, April 29, 1982)

I know a man who lives in Iowa
Who gets the shakes whenever he drives through
Ohio. Signs of Cleveland clench his jaw.
He sweats, steps on the gas as if he flew
over a dangerous crack that his mind saw
plunging down to his teens. He's fifty-two.
It's coming back, or near, that still excites
that nervous twitch. This man remembers Heights.

Most of us hated it, you know. High school.
We never figured out what was so high.
For everything you thought, there was a rule.
Girls did not study math. Boys did not cry.
Brains were off-limits. Playing games was cool.
The corridors were guarded, and the sky.
No wonder coming back inspires such fear.
(Of course we love it now we are not here.)

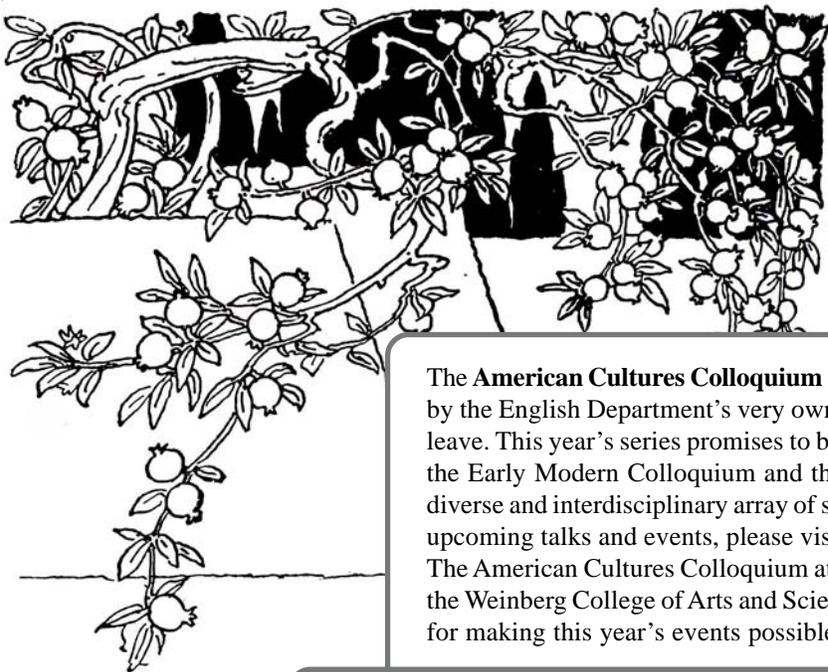
And always there was terror. Not of books
(although we faked our book reports) or sin
or being turned down for a date, or crooks
or SATs or death or heroin
or even one of Mr. Daugherty's looks—
not these, but just one thing: Not Fitting In.
The banners of jerks may be unfurled
but do not think that their world is the world.

It's not the world. And what I have to say
to those who don't fit in, is, don't despair.
The best jock of my time now has a bay
window, an ugly wife, almost no hair
and sells used cars and probably is gay.
So is the cutest girl, that cheerleader.
I do not mock their choice of what lust is
but only note that there is some kind of justice.

And life gets fairer. *Nobody* fits in.
Just look at me and see how strange I am
—Professor outside, but inside a skin-
ny kid who doesn't want to play the game,
still promising, though maybe a has-been.
I'm scared of joining any HALL OF FAME,
it sounds like where they put you when you're dead.
There are no grown-ups, as a wise man said,

and I am not grown up, I'm just strung out.
I won't stop here, I still expect to try
to beat Karpov, or hook a rainbow trout
or learn Chinese or teach someone to fly
or poke the President right in the snout
or write one decent poem before I die.
Please don't fit in. These Heights are not the top.
Step on the gas, pass through, don't ever stop.





The **American Cultures Colloquium** at Northwestern will kick off its 2006-2007 series with a talk by the English Department's very own Carl Smith, who has returned to Evanston after a year on leave. This year's series promises to be particularly exciting, as the ACC@NU joins forces with the Early Modern Colloquium and the Loyola – Chicago Americanist reading group to host a diverse and interdisciplinary array of scholars from a variety of institutions. For a complete list of upcoming talks and events, please visit our website www.english.northwestern.edu/index.html. The American Cultures Colloquium at Northwestern University would like to thank, in advance, the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, English, Performance Studies, and American Studies for making this year's events possible. We hope to see you at our events throughout the year!

American Cultures Colloquium



early modern colloquium

The **Early Modern Colloquium** is an interdisciplinary group of scholars and graduate students who meet regularly for lectures and workshops of essays and chapters-in-progress. This year, the EMC sponsored a number of events that featured the work of Northwestern faculty, graduate students, and scholars from other universities, including: a workshop to discuss chapters from Garrett Sullivan's (Pennsylvania State) and Rebecca Zorach's (University of Chicago) newest books; a workshop to discuss a chapter from Torrey Shanks's (graduate student, Northwestern) dissertation; a special co-presentation on the history of the book by Coleman Hutchison (graduate student, Northwestern) and Matthew Brown (University of Iowa); a presentation on print culture by Peter Stallybrass (University of Pennsylvania); and a workshop featuring a chapter from Jenny Mann's dissertation (graduate student, Northwestern). We are scheduling a series of events for the forthcoming year as well, and encourage you to join us.





We are grateful to everyone who has donated to the department over the past year, and especially those listed below (donations over \$100).



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