

CHSS Annual Report– 2008-09

The Department of English

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I. Staffing

A. New Hires

Prof. Alex Lykidis was hired as an Assistant Professor specializing in film studies.

Prof. Susan Somers-Willett was hired as an Assistant Professor in Creative Writing(Poetry).

B. Tenure, Promotions, Retirements

The candidate for tenure was approved; Dr. Laura Nicosia continues as an Assistant Professor.

Dr. Emily Isaacs was promoted to Associate Professor.

There were no retirements in the department.

C. Graduate Assistants

Due to a delay in approvals the designation of Graduate Assistants has not been completed. However, the department will send three GAs to work in the Writing Center, two more (assigned by large class size) will work for the Film Minor, and two others will be assigned to scholarly projects generated by the faculty (such as Dr. Monika elbert's work as editor of the Hawthorne Review).

II. Curriculum Development:

The graduate Teaching Writing Certificate program, which had been officially approved, began in Fall 2008. Several new courses were proposed and at least one, on James Joyce, was approved for the Fall term. Dr. Lucy McDiarmid, our Frazee chair holder, has offered several new courses in Irish literature, film and culture. Dr. David Galef has begun a restructuring of the creative writing program and course cycle. Meanwhile, an ad hoc committee on Revising the English Major met regularly during the academic year to discuss possible additions and changes in the present major. Surveys of faculty and students were administered as part of this process.

III. Programs, Projects, Special Events:

The Annual English Awards Night honored both recipients and donors of awards. Over \$7500. was awarded during this ceremony, with several new awards added by donors, including the former Pica Club of New Jersey.

IV. Other Department/Program Achievements and Endeavors:

Departmental Administrator Rashida Batte-Bowden received her MA in Educational Leadership from MSU in May, 2009.

V. Activities of Administrative Units within Departments [if applicable]:

Advising Coordinator's Annual Report, 2007-8

Larry Schwartz, June 1, 2009

I continued to assign advisors and to advise my own students and those of faculty on leave, in person, via email (extensively), and increasingly by phone. I represented the department at several Admissions Open Houses and CAAAL Transfer Days and several collaboration events.

The major focus of my work this year was to retrieve from IT the complete database of offered course since the inception of the new major in 1994 (all were retrieved except for Summer 07 which apparently was destroyed when the English Server was compromised). This file was then converted into a series of tables that permit faculty and students easy access to guidelines for the full history of courses offered by the department. Further, a new key was developed to identify teacher education course guidelines to end the confusion inherent in the numbering system for the TE worksheet:

English Major (incl. Elem. Ed)	Teacher Ed. (K-12)
1a = Lit. Pre-1800 (ENGL or ENLT)	TE 1a = Shakespeare
1b = Lit. Pre-1900 (ENGL or ENLT)	TE 1b = British Lit.
1c = Lit. (ENGL or ENLT)	TE 1c = American Lit. Pre-1900
1d = Lit (ENGL or ENLT)	TE 1d = American Lit.
2 = Writing Intensive	2= Writing Intensive
3= Genre (Drama, Fiction, Film, Poetry)	TE 3a = Genre (Film)
4a = Multinational	TE 3b = Genre (Poetry)
4b = Minority Writers	TE 3c = Genre (Drama or Fiction)
4c = Women Writers	4a = Multinational
4d = Gender Studies	4b = Minority Writers
4e = Class Issues	4c = Women Writers
	4d = Gender Studies
	4e = Class Issues
	TE 5 = Study of English Language

Beginning with course guidelines listing Summer 08, there will be a separate TE column for linking courses to this key.

In assigning students to advisors, CAAAL has shifted to a new NetDrive database that is updated overnight to show a list of students and their advisors. This information is drawn from the M19 screen on SIS. This change allows the department to assign advisors to students immediately to have it appear within 24 hours on WESS and FASS. Beginning in September the department had some 250 students who had not been assigned a departmental advisor. By the end of the month, working with CAAAL and Phyllis Brooks, we were able to distribute these students to faculty and have 100% compliance with University guidelines on decentralized advisement. Now we download the NetDrive list, see which students show no advisor, assign an advisor via SIS M19. As necessary, followup emails are sent to students to point them to the department and outline advising procedures. This is an efficient and effective system.

Also, new faculty were offered personal orientations to student advising and I made a special effort to extend extra support to our new faculty. Having gone through this process I have a better idea of what information and orientation is useful.

Graduate Program Year-End Report 2008-2009

The Graduate Program in English experienced another year of strong enrollments and this year, for the first time, we ran eight courses during one semester. This is the second consecutive year that we have run at least seven courses each semester and it now seems feasible to consistently offer this many courses each term. In the summer of 2009 we will offer two sections of a new course devoted to Writing Studies and the potential of electronic and web based teaching models. I anticipate a spirited discussion about semi-virtual classrooms and their place within our program in the future. However, we will not be offering a literature course during the summer of 2009 and once again, I would urge the administration to increase summer compensation for faculty. It is the only way to improve our offerings to students in the summer session, an important time for our population to earn credits.

Two new faculty members entered the graduate classroom this year: the Frazee Professor Lucy McDiarmid and Professor Melinda Knight. Professor McDiarmid will be offering regular graduate classes in Irish literature and culture. In particular I want to praise Professor Wendy Nielsen for her contribution to the Methods of Literary Research course. In addition to covering research skills, she has re-shaped this course (along with Professor Matthew) into one that has allowed many students to lay the research foundation for their thesis and numerous students have praised that course as an essential first step in the their preparation.

Once again, the graduate assistants did outstanding work in the Writing Center and Film Study Center, tutoring hundreds of students from across campus. But the problem of GA under-compensation has yet to be adequately addressed. To restate the problem, since tuition continues to rise and since GA tuition remission, as part of the package, is taxed, GAs are, in fact, bringing home less money than in previous years. I have spoken to acting Dean Claire Taub and our concerns have been forwarded to the Provost, but no satisfactory action has been taken. It will remain difficult for us to remain competitive among graduate programs in the area if the administration does not increase GA compensation.

As we look ahead to 2009-2010, our GA allocation is now down to five with two additional GAs, for the Film Studies program, coming from Special Allocation. Discussion is now underway as to how to split the responsibilities of the five between the Writing Center and research assistance for faculty. This allocation is down dramatically from just a couple years ago.

Our MA students continued to produce outstanding work and among the distinguished theses submitted this year were works on the poetry of Muriel Rukeyser and on nation and empire in the writings of E. M. Forster, Virginia Woolf and George Orwell. I am also pleased to report that two recent graduates of the MA program, Fred Solinger and Anne DeMarzio, were admitted to Ph. D. programs in English at Rutgers and Temple University respectively.

Finally, as this is my last year-end report after nine years as Graduate Director, I am pleased to be handing over the position to Monika Elbert on a one-year interim basis and then to Jon Greenberg who this past semester was elected our next GD. I am confident Jon will move the program in a new and prosperous direction. (Art Simon)

Individual accomplishments

Laura Nicosia:

ARTICLES—PEER REVIEWED

“Literature Alive! Using Second Life to Teach American Literature.” The EDUCAUSE Review 43.5 (Fall 2008). <http://connect.educause.edu/Library/EDUCAUSE+Review/LiteratureAlive/47242>

“Adolescent Literature and Second Life: Teaching Young Adult Texts in the Digital World.” New Literacies: A Professional Development Wiki for Educators. Improving Teacher Quality Project (ITQP): Federally Funded Grant.

http://www.newlits.org/index.php?title=Adolescent_Literature_and_Second_Life:_Teaching_Young_Adult_Texts_in_the_Digital_World

"Louis Sachar's Holes: Palimpsestic Use of the Fairy Tale to Privilege the Reader." *The ALAN Review* 35.3 (Summer 2008): 24-29.

BOOK CHAPTERS—PEER REVIEWED

"Virtual Constructivism: Avatars in Action." *Information Technology and Constructivism in Higher Education: Progressive Learning Frameworks*. IGI Global Publishing. 2009: Chapter IX: 1-16.

Sally McWilliams:

"Intervening in Trauma: Bodies, Violence, and Interpretive Possibilities in Vyvyane Loh's *Breaking the Tongue*" *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature* (forthcoming)

"Sex in Yop City: Ivorian Femininity and Masculinity in Abouet and Oubrerie's *Aya*," in *Sweet Christmas! Construction of Blackness in Comics and Sequential Art* (eds. Duffy, Jennings, and Gateward) [publication date not set]

"*Big Moneys and Shanghai Girls, Traditional Boys and Little Country Sisters: Sex and Gender in Contemporary China*" presented at *Gender Roles in a Global Context, World Cultures Day*, Institute for the Humanities, MSU, March 27, 2009.

"*Re-orienting Representations of Chinese Women*" New York Conference on Asian Studies (Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, September 26-27, 2008).

CHSS Dean's Recognition Award for Service, March 2009

M.A., Thesis Sponsor for Diana McKenna. *In Search of Female Space: Resistance and Creation in Tsitsi Dangarembga's She No Longer Weeps and Nervous Conditions*. [completed Fall 08]

M.A., Thesis Reader for Jennifer Laster. *Out of Many One People: A Comparative Critique of the Short Fiction of Michelle Cliff*. [completed Spring 2009]

Melinda Knight:

For curriculum development, I would like to suggest the following:

1. Graduate: Writing Center Theory and Practice (ENWR 600)
2. Graduate: Teaching Writing Through Technology (ENWR 600)--the English Department's first hybrid course (to my knowledge). The course has already become so popular that we have opened a second section, almost filled.
3. Undergraduate: ENWR 250: Theory and Practice of Tutoring Writing (Fall 2009). First course of this kind at Montclair State; it will also be service learning.

For faculty achievements, I am finishing the third year of a three-year Sponsored Award from the National Transportation Safety Board. I also presented a paper (co-author Emily Isaacs) at the major conference in Writing Studies, CCCC.

For MSU service, I am on two Provost-appointed university-wide task forces:
Assessment and Online/Hybrid.

Rita Jacobs:

Paper delivered on Alexis de Tocqueville and Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*, at The American Drama Conference sponsored by the Arthur Miller Society at St. Francis College, Brooklyn, NY November 8, 2008.

Lecture delivered at The Fair Lawn Jewish Center on Lucette Lagnado's *The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit: A Jewish Family's Exodus from Old Cairo to the New World*, November 3, 2008.

Published reviews of *Lush Life* by Richard Price and *Indignation* by Philip Roth in the November/December 2008 issue of **WorldLiterature Today**.

Daniel Bronson:

Paper delivered on "Three Chairs and a Trophy in Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman" at The American Drama Conference sponsored by the Arthur Miller Society at St. Francis College, Brooklyn, NY November 8, 2008. The paper was requested for consideration in a publication of the best papers delivered at the conference.

Lucy McDiarmid:

ESSAYS SOLICITED FOR BOOKS

"Oscar Wilde, Lady Gregory, and Late Victorian Table-Talk," Oscar Wilde and Modern Culture: The Making of a Legend, ed Joseph Bristow, Ohio UP (Athens, Ohio: 2009), 46 - 62.

"Follow the money: the Abbey Players in Chicago & Dublin," *Irish Theatre in America*, ed. John P. Harrington, Syracuse UP (Syracuse, NY: 2009), 93 - 102.

REVIEW

Life on Earth

by Derek Mahon and *The Poetry of Derek Mahon* by Hugh Haughton (*TLS*, April 17, 2009), 23 (1250 words)

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INVITED PAPERS

/ PLENARY LECTURES

"*Riders to the Sea* and the Irish Revival," Lincoln Center Performing Arts Library, April 2009

"Yeats's Cigarette Butt: Irish Revival Memoirs & Dublin Celebrity Culture," Trinity College Dublin Synge Centenary Symposium, March 2009

"Seven Poets, Five Hours, One Peacock," invited participant on literary biography panel, ALSC, Philadelphia, October 2008

"The *Playboy* Riots and Controversy," post-performance talk, Queens College CUNY, October 2008

"The Peacock Dinner: Wilfrid Blunt, Yeats, Pound, and the Profession of Poetry," London Modernism Seminar, October 2008

"Soccer, Masculinity and the Irish Family: Damien O'Donnell's 35 A-Side," London Irish Studies Seminar, October 2008

FORTHCOMING

"O'Donnell's short film *Chrono Perambulator* and the Neolithic Origins of Irish Drama," American Conference for Irish Studies, NUI Galway, June 2009

SESSION ORGANIZED

invited to organize the session ***Riders to the Sea: The Irish Context*** for the Lincoln Center Performing Arts Library's celebration of the centennial of J. M. Synge's death (April 13, 2009).

RADIO BROADCAST

(invited)

Yeats section of MLA-sponsored broadcast of Great Irish Writers; aired in the NYC metropolitan area on WBGO (88.3FM) at 7:30pm(EDT) on Wednesday, May 20, 2009.

Monika Elbert:

Books/essays:

<>Co-Editor and Intro., *Culinary Aesthetics and Practices in 19th-Century American Literature.* forthcoming, Palgrave Macmillan, Fall, 2009. (my essay,

"The Perfect Dinner: Hawthorne's Ruminations on Old and New England." on Hawthorne's nationalism, through food preferences, during his stay in England is included)

E-book Features Editor for *The Scarlet Letter*, Penguin e-book, summer 08:

Essays I wrote for the kindle edition include: "Puritan Pleasures and Punishments," "Puritan Garb," "Puritan Child-Rearing, and Children's Recreation," "The Salem Witch Trials," "Hester as a Nineteenth-century Woman," "Filmography as well as Plays and Operas based on *The Scarlet Letter*, E-book Notes, Chronology of Hawthorne's Times, Chronology of Hawthorne's Life, Chronology of 17th-century Puritan New England, Suggested Further Reading, I also collected Illustrations of *The Scarlet Letter* and of images from Salem.

Editorship: *Nathaniel Hawthorne Review*

Talks:

May, 2009 "Abundance and Scarcity: Stowe's Culinary Declaration of Independence in *House and Home Papers*," Conference of the American Literature Association, Boston.

Patricia Matthew and Jonathan Greenberg:

"The Ideology of the Mermaid: Children's Literature in the Intro Theory Course" in Pedagogy (Duke UP).

Jessica Restaino:

- “‘Telephone’ Writing and the Collaborative Exploration of Poetry Across Levels”
(with Eileen Nagle, Dumont High School). Academic Exchange Quarterly.
(Spring 2009).
- “Motherhoods: Feminist Solidarity and Fear Rhetoric.”
Thirdspace: A Journal of Feminist Theory and Culture. Summer 2008. <<http://www.thirdspace.ca/journal/index>>.
- “Drained”
Unbuttoned: Women Open Up About the Pleasures, Pains, and Politics of Breastfeeding. Ed. Maureen Connolly and Dana Sullivan. Cambridge: Harvard Common Press, 2009.
*This book has gotten a bunch of press--mostly positive--review in Pub Weekly, interviews on Salon and NPR--
here's a link to all:
<http://harvardcommonpress.com/content/books/details/unbuttoned/>
- “Absent Voices: Rethinking ‘Writing Women Safe’”
Reflections: A Journal of Writing, Service-Learning, and Community Literacy.
(Fall 2008).
- “Dialogue: Elenore Long and Jessica Restaino”
Reflections: A Journal of Writing, Service-Learning, and Community Literacy.
(Fall 2008). < <http://reflections.syr.edu/current.html>>.

Additionally, in Fa 08 the Series in Writing and Rhetoric (SWR), published jointly by the Conference on College Composition and Communication and Southern Illinois University Press requested that I submit the full manuscript of my book project, *First Semester: Arendtian Contexts for New Writing Teachers*, for further review and consideration. That's due on June 15...so...I don't know if you'd call this an "accomplishment", but it has been a milestone for me and we'll see where it leads.

In addition to doing a couple conference presentations, I'm heading to Penn State in late June for the Rhetoric Society of America Institute, to participate in a workshop on discourse analysis. This is in preparation for my next big project, which is a study of online discourse around/about motherhood.

Art Simon:

My commentary for the DVD of *Kid Galahad* (1937) was released this year by Warner Bros. It was done in collaboration with Robert Sklar and released in a box set titled *Warners Gangster 4*.

David Galef:

1. "Back to the Future." Inside Higher Ed. Sept. 2008-.
<<http://www.insidehighered.com:80/views/2008/09/05/galef>>.
2. "Crusade." Eclipse 19 (fall 2008): 157-66.
3. "Natasha." Agni Review (online) fall 2008:
<<http://www.bu.edu/agni/fiction/online/2008/galef.html>>.
4. "Bits and Pieces." Verbatim 32.1 (2008): 29-30.
5. "Versions of Grace." Opium Magazine. Sept. 2008:

- <http://www.opiummagazine.com/Index.aspx?storyid=2443>.
6. "At the Paradise Club," *The Texas Review* 28.3-4 (fall-winter 2007): 28-36. [appeared 2008]
 7. "Fiction in Review: Jasper Fforde." *The Yale Review* 96.4 (2008): 167-71.
 8. "Breaking the Code." *Inside Higher Ed.* Sept. 2008-.
<http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2008/09/26/galef>.
 9. "Her Name Is Always Junko." *FlatmanCROOKED*, Oct. 2008 -.
<http://www.flatmancrooked.com/fmconline.html>.
 10. "After Rilke." *Light* 60-61 (2208): 69.
 13. "Advise and Consent." *Inside Higher Ed* Oct. 2008-.
<http://www.insidehighered.com:80/views/2008/10/30/galef>.
 14. "Our New and Improved Fund Raising Efforts." *Inside Higher Ed.* Dec. 2008-.
<http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2008/12/05/galef>.
 15. "Teaching Teaching." *Inside Higher Ed.* Jan. 2009-.
<http://www.insidehighered.com:80/views/2009/01/30/galef>.
 16. "Breakfast of Champions," story accepted for publication in *Cimarron Review* [forthcoming]
 17. "Disorder," poem accepted for publication at *The Yale Review* [forthcoming]
 18. "Inheritance." *The Common Review* 7.4 (2009): 24.
 19. "Pull." *The Common Review* 7.4 (2009): 9.
 20. "Trip." *The Common Review* 7.4 (2009): 31.
 21. "Class Observation Report." *Inside Higher Ed.* Apr. 2009-.
<http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2009/04/03/galef>.
 22. *My Date with Neanderthal Woman*, short story collection accepted by Dzanc, forthcoming 2011.
 23. "What's So Funny?" *Stop Me If You've Heard This: A History and Philosophy of Jokes*, by Jim Holt. *The Common Review* 7.3 (2009): 42-44.
 24. "Boxers & Briefs." *Conceive* Winter 2008: 42.
 25. "After Rilke," *Light* 60-61 (2008): 69.
 26. Feb. 2009: three Pushcart nominations, for "Natasha," "Crusade," and "At the Paradise Club"
 27. "A Guide to Administrators." *Inside Higher Ed.* Mar. 2009-.

<http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2009/03/13/galef>.

28. reprint of three poems, "Night," "Southern Exposure," and "The Bicycle Race in Beowulf" in Measure 3.2 (2008): 119-21.
29. reprint of "Crossing Over: Authors Who Write Both Children's and Adult's Fiction" in Children's Literature Review, vol. 39
30. "But Is It Art? Creative Writing Workshops in the U.S." The Journal of American and Canadian Studies 26 (2008): 3-13.
31. "Get the beondegi bug." Kansai Time Out 385 (Mar. 2009): 47.
32. "My Date with Neanderthal Woman," Reprinted in Short Story Omnibus, eds. Daniel Born, Judith McCue, and Donald H. Whitfield. Chicago: The Great Books Foundation, 2009. 465-67.
33. "Graduation Day, U of All People." Inside Higher Ed. May 2009-.

<http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2009/05/14/galef>.