LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Dear Friends and Supporters of English:

Spring is an especially wonderful time for the Department of English, as you will see in the pages that follow. Faculty members in English have won recognition for excellent teaching and outstanding research projects. On April 17, we honored talented Purdue undergraduate and graduate student writers, as well as Indiana high-school student writers, at our Literary Awards banquet, while we were inspired by award-winning novelist Zadie Smith, our distinguished author for this year’s celebration. As this edition of the newsletter indicates, English continues to sponsor many events and colloquia that demonstrate the importance of engaged humanities scholarship. We have also faced sad moments this year. Professor Emeritus Thomas E. Gaston Sr., who was a valued faculty member in English from 1972 to 1995, passed away this year in March. And our beloved colleague, Linda Bergmann, passed away suddenly in January of this year. We continue to miss Linda’s intellectual and humane presence in our department, and a memorial for her appears on page 23.

We look forward to a vibrant future for English at Purdue. We have four new colleagues who will become part of the department in August 2014: Brian Leung and Roxane Gay join our Creative Writing program, Shelly Staples joins our Second Language Studies/ESL program, and Bradley Dilger joins our Rhetoric and Composition program. I also want to share the wonderful news that seven faculty members from English were endorsed for promotion by the Board of Trustees on April 4: Michael Johnston, Robyn Malo, and Derek Pacheco have been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure; Angelica Duran, Sandor Goodhart, Venetria Patton, and Thomas Rickert have been promoted to Professor. Congratulations to all!

-Nancy J. Peterson, Head
Kenneth T. Kofmehl Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award

Professors Dorsey Armstrong and Chris Lukasik were recently awarded the 2012-2013 Kenneth T. Kofmehl Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award. The Kofmehl is the highest honor granted by the College of Liberal Arts for undergraduate teaching.

The award was established in 2003 to honor Dr. Kofmehl, professor emeritus of political science at Purdue for over 30 years. Nominees are evaluated based on teaching service, student ratings, student and faculty nominations, integration of teaching and scholarship as it relates to the faculty member’s educational mission, and efforts to assist and motivate students outside of the classroom.

College of Liberal Arts Departmental Award

Professor Robyn Malo was selected by the CLA Educational Excellence Committee as the 2012-2013 winner of the College of Liberal Arts Departmental Award for Educational Excellence.

College of Liberal Arts Discovery Excellence Award

Arkady Plotnitsky is the recipient of the 2014 Liberal Arts Discovery Excellence Award for the Humanities. This award represents the College’s highest recognition for outstanding scholarship and achievement in the humanities.

Grant Awards and Honors

Maren Linett won a CLA Enhancing Research in the Humanities and Arts Grant. The Grant supports summer salary and some supplies for Linett to devote the summer to working on her second monograph, Modernism and Disability.

Chris Lukasik also won a CLA Enhancing Research in the Humanities and the Arts Grant to conduct research for his second book project, The Image in the Text: Intermediality, Illustration, and Nineteenth-Century American Literature. The Image In the Text examines the explosive growth of illustration within American literary culture in the fifty years running from 1825 to 1875.

Elena Benedicto was awarded two grants from the CLA, a Global Synergy Grant for Cross-Linguistic and Cross-Modality Study of the Internal Structure of Motion Predicates to work with colleagues and research labs in Italy, Hong Kong, Chiapas (Mexico) and the Envision Center at Purdue and Service/Experiential Learning Grant for Collaboration with Battleground Middle School, as a Co-PI, with Prof. Dossin (VPA), to prepare and conduct multi-disciplinary activities with Battleground Middle School Latino Students.
Creative Writing

Director of Creative Writing: Brian Leung

Brian Leung, our new Director of Creative Writing, comes to us after 8 years under the same title at the University of Louisville. He is a Southern California native, and earned his M.F.A at IU. He asks us not to hold that against him. Brian is the author of a collection of short stories, two novels, and numerous individual publications in poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. Among his numerous awards are The Asian American Literary Award for Fiction and a Lambda Literary Award for Mid-career Novelist. Joining Brian in the move to Lafayette/West Lafayette, is his partner Brian Yost, a chiropractor and Louisville native. Dr. Yost is a runner who has completed four marathons, and numerous half-marathons, 10ks, and 5ks. The Department’s Brian (is this going to get confusing?) has already hit the ground running in preparation for the fall and looks forward to working with new students and new colleagues.

Assoc. Professor Creative Writing:

Roxane Gay


Assoc. Professor ESL/SLS:
Shelley Staples

Shelley Staples is graduating with a doctorate in Applied Linguistics from Northern Arizona U. Her dissertation investigated linguistic differences in the discourse of international and US nurses in their interactions with patients, including lexico-grammatical (e.g., pronouns), interactional (e.g., discourse markers), and prosodic (e.g., pitch range) features. More broadly, her research focuses on applications of corpus linguistic methods to questions of relevance for Second Language Studies, particularly sociolinguistics, applied linguistics, and second language writing. She is also interested in the integration of corpora and other technology in language teaching and classroom-based research. Her work has been published in the Journal of English for Academic Purposes and English for Specific Purposes Journal as well as several nursing journals.

Assoc. Professor Rhet/Comp:

Bradley Dilger

Bradley Dilger studies networked writing and technical communication. His current research focus, a collaboration with Neil Baird, is a longitudinal study of writing transfer: the ways writers motivate writing skills, experience, and knowledge between differing contexts. Having recently concluded data collection, Dilger and Baird are beginning to publish preliminary findings which describe writing transfer for internship settings, first-generation students, and in debates about the value of humanities education. With Jeff Rice, Dilger edited the collection From A to <A>: Keywords of Markup, winner of the 2010 Computers & Composition Book Award. He earned his PhD from the U of Florida in 2003, advised by Greg Ulmer, Blake Scott, and other faculty. He will soon move from Macomb, Illinois to West Lafayette with his bride Erin Easterling and two daughters, Madelyn and Amelia.
### English Outstanding Senior

Sarah Nixon was the English Department’s Outstanding Senior this year.

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### LITERARY AWARDS WINNERS (G = GRAD; UG = UNDERGRAD)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Awards</th>
<th>1st Prize</th>
<th>2nd Prize</th>
<th>Hon. Mention</th>
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<tr>
<td>Art History Prize (UG—History of Visual Arts Essay)</td>
<td>Selina Hammond</td>
<td>Dustin Meyer</td>
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<td>Asian Studies Award (G/UG—Work Focusing on Asia)</td>
<td>Tiffany Chiang</td>
<td>Yuhan Huang</td>
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<td>Bain-Swiggett Award (UG—Best Poem)</td>
<td>Kyle Meznarick</td>
<td>Will Tole</td>
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<td>Mills Award (G/UG—Best Poem)</td>
<td>Lauren Carpenter</td>
<td>Audrey Gradzewicz</td>
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<td>Booth Tarkington Award (G—Short Story or Novel Excerpt)</td>
<td>Terrance Manning Jr.</td>
<td>Kelsey Ronan</td>
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<td>Mexicott Award (G/UG—Original Play)</td>
<td>Evan Myers</td>
<td>Michael T. Smith</td>
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<td>CLA Diversity Action Award (G/UG—Work on Diversity)</td>
<td>Beth Zimmerman</td>
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<td>Hugh McKee Memorial Award (U)</td>
<td>Selina Hammond</td>
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<td>Kneale (UG—Bible as Literature)</td>
<td>Dustin Meyer</td>
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<td>Kneale (UG—Cultural Criticism)</td>
<td>Katie Martin</td>
<td>James Wright</td>
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<td>Kneale (UG—Film Criticism)</td>
<td>Marsalene Robbins</td>
<td>Sarah Nixon</td>
<td>Jill Bosserman</td>
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<td>Kneale (UG—Gender)</td>
<td>Logan Quigley</td>
<td>Marsalene Robbins</td>
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<td>Kneale (UG—History)</td>
<td>Jill Bosserman</td>
<td>Matthew Sommer</td>
<td>Tyler Navarro</td>
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<td>Kneale (UG—Informal Essay)</td>
<td>Rebekah Maddack</td>
<td>Ryan Buss</td>
<td>Jianxiong Wang</td>
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<td>Kneale (UG—Journalism)</td>
<td>Jill Bosserman</td>
<td>Sarah Nixon</td>
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<td>Kneale (UG—Linguistics)</td>
<td>Ryan Buss</td>
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<td>Kneale (UG—Literary Criticism)</td>
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<td>Kneale (G—Literary Criticism)</td>
<td>Rebekah Mitsein</td>
<td>Christina Stephens</td>
<td>Kara Krewer</td>
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<td>Kneale (G—Pedagogy)</td>
<td>Jeff Spanke</td>
<td>Lauren Huebsch</td>
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<td>Kneale (UG—Developing Nations)</td>
<td>Mary Beth Adkins &amp; Alexandra Hoff</td>
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<td>Awards</td>
<td>1st Prize</td>
<td>2nd Prize</td>
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<td>Kneale (G—Poetry)</td>
<td>Rachel Reynolds</td>
<td>Emily Skaja</td>
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<td>Brian Lamb School of Communication Award (G/UG—Screenplay)</td>
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<td>Devon Goodnight</td>
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<td>Dept. of Anthropology Award (UG)</td>
<td>Michael T. Smith</td>
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<td>Clitheroe Award (UG—Philosophy)</td>
<td>Kevin Adams</td>
<td>Michael Lang</td>
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<td>Adrian McClure</td>
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<td>Elena Sparger</td>
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<td>Smart Award (G—Rhetoric &amp; Composition)</td>
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<td>Kyle Vealey</td>
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<td>Bass Award (UG—Black Literature)</td>
<td>Alexandra Hoff</td>
<td>Mary Adkins</td>
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<td>Church Award (UG—Short Fiction)</td>
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<td>Andrew Henderson</td>
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<td>Church Award (G—Short Fiction)</td>
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<td>Swedlund Award (UG—Feature Story for News Media)</td>
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<td>Jill Bosserman</td>
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<td>Sidwell Award (G/UG—Novel-in-Progress)</td>
<td>Michael Campbell</td>
<td>Terrance Manning Jr.</td>
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<td>Braeger Award (G—Middle Ages Essay)</td>
<td>Rebekah Mitsein</td>
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<td>Polynnia Prize (UG—Sequence of 3—7 Poems)</td>
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<td>Federal Credit Union Award (G/UG—Nonfiction)</td>
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<td>Federal Credit Union Award (G/UG—Short Story)</td>
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<td>Michael Campbell</td>
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<td>Buffy Turner</td>
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<td>Student English Assoc. Award (UG—Prose Poem)</td>
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<td>Claudia Capuano</td>
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<td>University Bookstore (UG—Short Fiction)</td>
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<td>Von’s Award (G—Literary Criticism)</td>
<td>Mary Beth Harris</td>
<td>Michael T. Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson Award (G—ESL)</td>
<td>Joshua Paiz</td>
<td>Fredrik deBoer</td>
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Zadie Smith

April 17, 2014

Sadie Smith was born in North-West London in the Borough of Brent which includes Willesden and parts of Wembley, that part of London which is the omphalos of all her novels (even the one set largely in Boston). Her mother was Jamaican and her father English. When she was fourteen, the same year her mother gave her a copy of Zora Neale Hurston’s Their Eyes were Watching God (Changing My Mind, 3), she changed her name to Zadie, and these two events may not be unconnected (Zora also turns up as the name for the Belsey daughter in On Beauty). She was educated at Hampstead Comprehensive School and King’s College, Cambridge, from where she graduated in 1997. During the academic year 2002-2003 she was a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and since 2010 she has been a Professor of Creative Writing at New York University. In addition to being a novelist, she has also taken on the role of public intellectual. She has one volume of cultural essays, Changing my Mind (2009) and since settling in New York she has become a regular contributor to The New York Review of Books, which opened its April 3, 2014 issue with her essay on climate change, “Elegy for a Country’s seasons.”

Her first novel, White Teeth (2000), was a sensation from its first appearance, garnering numerous literary accolades, among them the Whitbread Prize for Best First Fiction, The Guardian First Book Award, and The Commonwealth Writers First Book Prize. The Autograph Man (2002) (Jewish Quarterly Literary Prize for Fiction) is the most cerebral of her novels. Although it has garnered a steady readership, in comparison with White Teeth, its reception has been relatively muted. On Beauty (2005), shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2005 and winner of the Orange Prize for Fiction, 2006, is closer in style and content to White Teeth.

Smith’s most recent novel, NW (2012), returns to North-West London, Kilburn in particular (NW6) on the south-east corner of Brent. If White Teeth can be considered Smith’s “Songs of Innocence” (the generation born in London as teenagers), then NW is her “Songs of Experience” (that generation grown up in their thirties and forties). NW still has its light touches, but the violence in it is mindless, the gap between achievers and non-achievers greater, and there is far less room for optimism in this world. Which is perhaps why, even though the novel has proven popular and the reviews have been stellar, it has not appealed to prize awarding committees in the way the first three novels clearly did. Also, in contrast to the conventional styles of the earlier works, the narrative proceeds in ways that may be characterized as unconventional and experimental. There are different size fonts, four chapters numbered 37 (the author’s age at the time of the novel’s appearance for a start) in the opening section, “Visitation,” and no chapter 37 among the 185 chapters (37 x 5) of the long middle section, “Host.” The focus is on families and their struggles and the ties both real and imaginary, which keep the characters linked to the streets and neighbourhoods of their childhood.

http://www.cla.purdue.edu/english/literaryawards
Sponsored by the Department of English and Purdue Literary Libraries.
A Heavning of Whimsy
On Thursday, April 3rd, the Graduate Student English Association (GradSEA) presented its 3rd annual HEAVning of Whimsy at Adelino’s in downtown Lafayette. Emceed by doctoral candidate Cody Reimer, the show featured a variety of musical and comedic talent from across the department, including musical performances by Professors John Duvall, Sándor Goodhart, and Tony Silva. Thanks to the generosity of the department’s faculty, staff, and students, this year’s event raised a record number of donations for GradSEA’s Emerging Scholars Fund, which was founded in 2011 to extend conference travel support to graduate students before they reach ABD status. Congratulations to this year’s Emerging Scholars recipients: Jessica Auz, Meghan Buckley, Yue Chen, Freddie deBoer, Amy Elliot, Daniel Kenzie, Dennis Koyoma, Leah Pennywark, Fernando Sánchez, Elena Schvidko, Suneeta Thomas, and our Best Proposal Award recipient, Mary Beth Harris.

OWL Celebrates 20th Anniversary
The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) celebrates the 20th anniversary of its web launch in 2014. Founding Director Muriel Harris and David Taylor, former OWL staff and graduate student in Educational Computing, started the OWL as a gopher site in 1993 and then brought it to the WWW in 1994. Their goal was to provide a resource for students who sought writing help but couldn’t make it into the physical Writing Lab during operating hours. Since that time, our OWL has become a complement to classroom instruction, a supplement to face-to-face tutorials, and a stand-alone reference for thousands of writers worldwide.

The OWL has grown into a popular web site that received over 280 million hits from over 125 countries in 2012-2013. It currently houses more than 300 resources about general writing and writing in the disciplines, along with an accompanying YouTube channel.

Celebrations for the OWL’s 20th Anniversary will take place throughout the year. The OWL has already hosted a Homecoming Open House and sponsored door prizes during Books and Coffee. Additional giveaways will take place at the East Central Writing Centers Association and the Conference on College Composition and Communication. Please visit our website, Twitter feed, or Facebook page for information on upcoming events related to the 20th Anniversary.

Medieval and Renaissance Studies
MARS students and faculty were well represented at the 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies (May 2013) at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Some of the highlights involving English Department faculty and students were a session on “Chaucer and the ‘Celtic Fringe’: Revisiting Geographic and Cultural Margins” sponsored by MARS and The C. S. Lewis Society founded by graduate student, Crystal Kirgiss, with three sessions on “Lewis and the Last Things” focusing on “Death,” “Hell,” and “Purgatory and Heaven.” On behalf of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies, Shaun Hughes organized two sessions. Joanna E. Benskin, winner of the 2012 Thomas Ohlgren Award for Best Graduate Student Essay in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, presented her prize-winning paper in a session on “Early Modern English Literature.” The winner of the 2013 Thomas Ohlgren Award for Best Graduate Student Essay in MARS was Ingrid Pierce for an essay entitled “Seeing as in a Mirror.”

**MARS Symposium**

At the beginning of October, 2013, MARS hosted its annual symposium. This year’s speaker was Professor Frederick Burwick of UCLA, who gave a talk on “Pirates of the Romantic Stage” as well as visiting classes and holding a mentoring luncheon with graduate students. All of these activities were well received and Professor Burwick’s visit was enjoyed by all.

**2nd Annual Indiana Medieval Graduate Student Consortium**

This year instead of holding their annual conference on campus as they have done since 2003, the graduate students of Comitatus, participated in the 2nd Annual Conference for the Indiana Medieval Graduate Student Consortium of which they are a part. This year the conference was held on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, February 28-March 1, 2014 and the theme was: “The Geographic Imagination: Conceptualizing Places and Spaces in the Middle Ages” with Professor Geraldine Heng of the University of Texas at Austin as the keynote speaker. Adrianna Radosti was the only Comitatus member on the program with her presentation, “All Boats Lead to Rome: Tensions Between Virtue and Rome in *The Man of Law’s Tale* and Emaré”, but Comitatus and MARS were well represented by a healthy turnout of graduate students and faculty. It is planned that the 3rd Annual Conference will be held at Indiana University on the Bloomington campus in 2015.

**EARG Colloquium 2014 “Rethinking the Atlantic”**

On April 11 and 12, the Early Atlantic Reading Group (a.k.a. EARG) hosted their eighth annual Colloquium. This year’s theme was “Rethinking the Atlantic” and featured a diverse array of papers from graduate students in the Literature, Philosophy, Creative Writing, and Rhetoric and Composition programs here at Purdue, plus several speakers from outside of Purdue. Every year the colloquium features a key note address, and this year EARG was pleased to host Dr. Christopher Loar’s (Western Washington University) presentation “Putrid Shells and Settling Slime: the Matter of the Colonial Georgic.” The EARG faculty and graduate students hope to expand departmental awareness and participation in the conference each year; be on the lookout for next year’s colloquium in Spring 2015 (CFP Fall 2014).

**EARG Visits Rotary Jail**

This spring, the Early Atlantic Reading Group (a.k.a. EARG) journeyed off into the realm of the bizarre, the colloquial, and perhaps even the supernatural with their visit to the Crawfordsville Rotary Jail Museum on March 29th. Opened in 1882 and serving as the county jail until it was closed in the 1970s, the jail is one of the few remaining functional rotary jails in the nation. The museum is a testament to changing ideas about punishment, confinement, and discipline in small-town Indiana, as well as a site where racial tensions and gender expectations have intersected and played out in provocative ways. The EARGers preceded their visit with a common reading of Foucault’s “Panopticon,” and the trip was funded by PGSG through a gSOGA grant. The EARGers look forward to more enriching local, historical, and theoretical expeditions in the future.
Emily Allen
Emily Allen continues to enjoy her position in Purdue's new Honors College, where she is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and welcomed the college's inaugural first-year class in Fall 2013. In Spring 2014, she led, with English Department colleague Dino Felluga, the Honors College's first study abroad trip, which took students to Venice, Italy, over Spring break. Between fall and spring, she delivered a paper at the NAVSA conference in Pasadena, published an article in *English Language Notes*, and survived a ridiculously long winter.

Janet Alsup
Prof. Alsup is continuing her term as Associate Head of the department and is working on various administrative projects, including program assessment. She is also working on a book project entitled *A Case for Teaching Literature in Secondary School: Why Reading Fiction Matters in an Age of Scientific Objectivity and Standardization*. This book argues for the continued teaching of literature in the secondary school through critical examination of the ongoing "culture wars" between the humanities and the sciences, recent research in cognitive literary studies demonstrating the power of narrative reading, and an analysis of educational trends that have marginalized literature teaching in the US. In the last year, she has seen articles published or forthcoming in the *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*, *English Education*, and *The Teacher Educator*. She continues to be active in the National Council of Teachers of English and the Conference on English Education.

Dorsey Armstrong
Dorsey Armstrong continues to serve as Editor-in-Chief of *Arthuriana*. Her latest book project, *Mapping Malory: Regional Identities and National Geographies in Le Morte Darthur* (co-authored with Kenneth Hodges) will be published by Palgrave MacMillan as part of its "New Arthurian Studies" series in June 2014. She has just completed recording a lecture series for The Teaching Company (on "Great Minds of the Middle Ages") and has recently co-edited two festschriften: one in honor of Bonnie Wheeler, and one in honor of Tom Ohlgren. She continues to serve on the executive committees of the Bonnie Wheeler Fellowship, TEAMS (the Consortium for the Teaching of the Middle Ages), and the International Arthurian Society-North American Branch.


While most criticism has treated romance’s use of place as fantastic and essentially meaningless, our book argues that geography is a crucial element in Sir Thomas Malory’s *Le Morte Darthur*; Armstrong and Hodges’ analysis of the concerns of nation, region, borders, and identity in this text sheds new light on how Malory both understood the ‘England’ in which he was writing and how he imagined the ‘Arthurian Community’ he depicts in his text. The great knights in *Le Morte Darthur* come from regions where sovereignty is a vexed issue, and their rivalries, rather than being fictions of individuals, capture significant political divisions of the fifteenth century. Armstrong and Hodges’ work thus not only provides fundamental reinterpretations of Malory’s book, but also places it in larger discussions of how regional and national identities developed at the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the Early Modern period.
Dwight Atkinson
Dwight Atkinson spent a third of his sabbatical year 2013 in India, pursuing his decade-and-a-half-long research on non-traditional (mostly Dalit, or former "Untouchable") Indian university students' experiences with English and education. He gave four invited presentations, co-organized the Symposium on Alternative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition at Penn State in May, and published three research papers and a number of encyclopedia and handbook entries.

Elena Benedicto
Prof. Benedicto continues her research on motion predicates across languages; she has published a refereed article with her Mayangna colleague Elizabeth Salomón; two articles are forthcoming. She presented at UCL London, Tegucigalpa, Mexico, and UT-Austin. She continues trips to Nicaragua for Participatory Research. Research continues on the Acquisition of Multi-lingual Grammars, Spatial Predicates across Languages, and Participatory Research, in the Indigenous and Endangered Languages Lab. Prof. Benedicto obtained a Global Synergy Grant from the College of Liberal Arts and a Research Incentive Grant from the Dept of English; she is participating in an Engagement Grant from the CLA Engagement Office with Prof. Dossin of the VPA Dept. She was elected to the Nominating Committee of the Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas.

Margie Berns
Prof. Berns gave a plenary talk on Ha Jin and his critics at the FLOW/Foreign Language Opportunities in Writing conference in Łódź, Poland last June. At the annual conference of the International Association for World Englishes in Tempe, Arizona, she gave a memorial lecture on Yamuna Kachru's legacy in English language pedagogy and presented a paper (with Cong Zhang), on China English and national identity. This paper was part of the colloquium “World Englishes: from constructing the Queer to facing the nation”, which she organized. She served as director and chief editor of a curriculum design and 4-level materials development project for the English Language Program of the Luminus USA Institute for Global Citizenship. She continues her research on the impact of English in China and Chinese users of English. She was inducted in December 2013 into the Purdue University Book of Great Teachers.

Marianne Boruch, Cadaver, Speak (2014)
Some books begin as a dare to the self. Marianne Boruch’s newest collection, Cadaver, Speak, is an unsettling double, a heart of two chambers. The first half is attuned to history—how time hits us, and grief—and to art and its making. The second half, the title sequence, is spoken by a ninety-nine-year-old who donated her body for dissection by medical students, a laboratory experience in which the poet, duly silenced, was privileged to take part.

Born from lyric impulse, which is Boruch’s scalpel, her work examines love, death, beauty, and knowledge—the great subjects of poetry made new by a riveting reimagining.

"Send a poet like Boruch to work in a cadaver lab and extraordinary poems come to life." — Publishers Weekly

"Marianne Boruch’s work has the wonderful, commanding power of true attention: she sees and considers with intensity."—The Washington Post
Marianne Boruch

Marianne Boruch's 8th poetry collection, *Cadaver, Speak* (Copper Canyon Press, 2014), has just appeared. Her essays came out in *American Poetry Review* and *Poetry*, her poems in *Field*, *Narrative*, and *TriQuarterly*. She led a week of poetry workshops for visual artists at Haystack School of the Arts in Deer Isle, ME, and at the Bear River Writing Conference in MI. She gave readings from her poetry (and sometimes her memoir, *The Glimpse Traveler*) at Warren Wilson College, the University of Michigan, Claremont Graduate University, DePauw University, The College of Lewis and Clark, the Associated Writing Programs annual meeting in Seattle, the Claremont (CA) Forum Bookshop, and the Inlandia Institute, Corona Public Library, CA. The poetic sequence "Cadaver, Speak" performed as readers' theater at the University of Redlands in Redlands, CA. In May, she received a month's residency to write at the Anderson Center in Red Wing, MN.

Marshall Deutelbaum


Lance Duerfahrd

Prof. Duerfahrd's book *The Work of Poverty: Samuel Beckett’s Vagabonds and the Theater of Crisis* was published in October. An interview with Duerfahrd and photographs of his production of *Waiting for Godot* in Zuccotti Park during the Occupy Wall Street protest were featured in an exhibit *Prigione* (in)visibili: Il teatro di Samuel Beckett e il mondo Contemporaneo at the Casa dei teatri in Rome. This year Professor Duerfahrd published *The Work of Poverty: Samuel Beckett’s Vagabonds and the Theater of Crisis* (2013)

How did Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* come to be performed in California's most notorious prison (San Quentin), in the worst of the fighting in Sarajevo, in the flood-ravaged landscape of the Lower Ninth Ward, New Orleans, in the South during the Civil Rights Movement, and in New York during the Occupy Wall Street protest? The *Work of Poverty: Samuel Beckett’s Vagabonds and the Theater of Crisis* studies these performances and the appeal of *Godot* to audiences and settings of historical rupture and suffering. The resonance of Beckett's plays in these contexts fulfills the aesthetic of "ultimate penury" that Beckett honed in his novels and critical writings. The book argues that these settings transform the performance and the reception of the play, thereby illuminating a new and unexpected side of one of the most canonical plays of the 20th century and its Nobel prize winning author. In the Afterword, Duerfahrd discusses his co-producing *Waiting for Godot* in the middle of the Occupy Wall Street encampment in Zuccotti Park in 2011.
“For Your Glasses Only: ‘The Stewardesses’ and Sex in Three Dimensions” in the journal Public and Developing the Image, on the photography of Edward Weston and painting of Alexi Worth, in the Yearbook of Comparative Literature. He will be the director of the Film and Video Studies Program in the fall.

Angelica Duran
Prof. Duran, newly promoted to Full Prof. (8/14) has two multi-author volumes due out at the end of 2014: Mo Yan in Context: Nobel Laureate and Global Storyteller (Purdue UP) co-edited with Purdue Comparative Literature graduate student Yuhan Huang; and The King James Bible, Across Centuries, Across Borders (Duquesne UP), both of which emerged from conferences she hosted as Director of Religious Studies (2009-13). Her other publications include an article in Disability Studies, “Blindness according to Milton and his Contemporaries”; and a non-fiction essay, “It’s about 1000 Miles from Oaxaca, Mexico to San Antonio, Texas and about 2000 Miles from California to Indiana”. After earning the College of Liberal Arts’ Kofmehl Teaching Award, she has been selected to teach a 2-week summer course, “Nobel Prize Winners,” at one of Purdue’s partner institutions in China, Shanghai Jiao Tong University; and has been selected as one of three senior resource faculty for Purdue’s University-wide Teaching for Tomorrow Awards Program. She is the Milton Society of America’s Treasurer and editorial board member of the Milton Quarterly.

John Duvall

Dino Franco Felluga
Prof. Felluga has spent the last year completing, as general editor, the million-word, four-volume Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Victorian Literature, with over 300 authors writing on all aspects of the field. The collection will be published in print and online in 2015. He published new work from his co-written manuscript, Byron and the Constitution of the British Novel, in a special issue of English Language Notes. In addition, he ran a 370-person conference and a 40-person graduate-student professionalization workshop in


In 2012 the Swedish Academy announced that Mo Yan had received the Nobel Prize in Literature for his work that “with hallucinatory realism merges folk tales, history, and the contemporary.” The announcement marked the first time a resident of mainland China had ever received the award. This is the first English-language study of the Chinese writer’s work and influence, featuring essays from scholars in a range of disciplines, from both China and the United States. Its introduction, twelve articles, and epilogue aim to deepen and widen critical discussions of both a specific literary author and the globalization of Chinese literature more generally.

The book takes the “root-seeking” movement with which Mo Yan’s works are associated as a metaphor for its organizational structure. The four articles of “Part I: Leaves” focus on Mo Yan’s works as world literature, exploring the long shadow his works have cast globally. “Part II: Trunk” explores the nativist core of Mo Yan’s works. The three articles in “Part III: Roots” delve into the theoretical and practical extensions of Mo Yan’s works, uncovering the vibrant critical and cultural systems that ground Eastern and Western literatures and cultures. Mo Yan in Context concludes with an epilogue by sociologist Fenggang Yang, offering a personal and globally aware reflection on the recognition Mo Yan’s works have received at this historical juncture.
Venice, Italy during May and June of 2013, followed by an Honors College study-abroad course in Venice during March Break 2014. He presented invited lectures this last year at the Universities of Cambridge, Oxford, Exeter, and London in Great Britain. He completed a tenth year as president of the North American Victoria Studies Association, which now has over 1,200 members.

**Wendy Stallard Flory**

Her essay, “Melville’s ‘Statues in Rome’: Billy Budd and the Death of Delight,” appeared in the October 2013 issue of *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies*. In June, at the *Ninth International Melville Conference*, in DC, she gave a paper, “Not the Slave Trade Alone: Aranda’s Skeleton, Froissart, Scotland, & the Age-Old Cycle of Brutality & Retaliation in *Benito Cénero*.” Planned for the occasion of the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, the conference title was “Melville and Whitman in Washington: The Civil War Years and After.”

**Elaine Francis**

Elaine Francis is enjoying her role as graduate director for the Linguistics Program, and she continues to be active in the Linguistic Society of America, where she has just completed a two-year term as co-chair of the Ethics Committee. In March 2014, she gave an invited talk at the Workshop on Innovations in Cantonese Linguistics, which was held at the University of Chicago, as well as a co-authored poster presentation at the CUNY Conference on Human Sentence Processing, which was held at the Ohio State University. Both presentations were on her collaborative research on resumptive pronouns in Cantonese relative clauses. Her collaborators include two PhD students from the Linguistics Program, Charles Lam and Carol Chun Zheng, and one recent graduate of the SLS/ESL PhD program, John Hitz, now an assistant professor at the University of Central Oklahoma.

**Geraldine S. Friedman**

Geri Friedman published an essay “History and the Traumatic narrative of Enjoyment and Desire in Althusser” in the journal of *Philosophy across Disciplinary Inquiry*. She presented two papers on Anna Seward, one called “The Affective Life of Romantic Friendship” at the conference of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism at Boston University in August, and another called “The Signifying Calendar” at the International Conference on


To read literature is to read the way literature reads. René Girard’s immense body of work supports this thesis bountifully. Whether engaging the European novel, ancient Greek tragedy, Shakespeare’s plays, or Jewish and Christian scripture, Girard teaches us to read prophetically, not by offering a method he has developed, but by presenting the methodologies they have developed, the interpretative readings already available within (and constitutive of) such bodies of classical writing. In *The Prophetic Law*, literary scholar, theorist, and critic Sandor Goodhart divides his essays on René Girard since 1983 into four groupings. In three, he addresses Girardian concerns with Biblical scripture (*Genesis* and *Exodus*), literature (the European novel and Shakespeare), and philosophy and religious studies issues (especially ethical and Jewish subject matters). In a fourth section, he reproduces some of the polemical exchanges in which he has participated with others—including René Girard himself—as part of what could justly be deemed Jewish-Christian dialogue. The twelve texts that make up the heart of this captivating volume constitute the bulk of the author’s writings to date on Girard outside of his three previous books on Girardian topics. Taken together, they offer a comprehensive engagement with Girard’s sharpest and most original literary, anthropological, and scriptural insights.
Romanticism at Oakland University in Michigan. With the support of departmental travel funds, she spent two weeks at the Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum in Lichfield, UK, reading a set of Anna Seward’s unpublished letters for the conference papers.

April Ginther
April Ginther, along with OEPP Testing Coordinator Nancy Kauper and ESL/SLS graduate students Xun Yan and Dennis Koyama, have been developing support materials for Purdue’s growing population of international undergrads. International undergrads will soon have access to Listen to Purdue, an on-line orientation program that admitted students will be able to access before arriving on campus. Ace-IN, the Assessment of College English, International, is also under development. In March, April presented What Test Takers Say: Test taker Input and the Improvement of Post-Entry Language Tests, at a panel on post-entry testing in higher education at the American Association of Applied Linguistics in Portland. The study, conducted with Kauper, Yan and Ploy Thirakunkovit, examines 1440 examinee comments about the Purdue’s Oral English Proficiency Test (OEPT) provided over a three-year period. In August, April will serve as a discussant for an invited panel on automated scoring at the International Association of Applied Linguistics in Brisbane, Australia.

Sandor Goodhart
During the year, Dr. Goodhart’s book, The Prophetic Law: Essays on Judaism, Girardianism, Literary Studies, and the Ethical (Michigan State University Press, 2014) appeared. He delivered nine lectures at conferences in Pittsburgh, Cedar Rapids, Oakland (Michigan), Miami, London (England), Porto (Portugal), Amsterdam (Holland), and Paris (France) on Emmanuel Levinas and René Girard, Shakespeare and mimetic theory, Shakespeare’s “Sonnet 116,” the film version of Edward Lewis Wallant’s The Pawnbroker, the prophetic (and the apocalyptic) in Jewish tradition, the binding of Isaac in the Hebrew (and of Ishmael in the Islamic) tradition, mimetic theory and Islam, hospitality in Greek and Jewish traditions, and other topics. His on Saul Bellow’s “Looking for Mr. Green” appeared in The Saul Bellow Journal, and an essay of his was translated into Italian.

*now available in audiobook

Redwood Audiobooks reproduced it for their series, “Best Books Published by University Presses,” with Kirk Hanley reading.

The sequel to Lamb’s award-winning Art Matters: Hemingway, Craft, and the Creation of the Modern Short Story, hailed by novelist Russell Banks as “terrific, the best thing on Hemingway’s stories I’ve ever read.”

“These fine-grained elucidations of exemplary stories complement the broader discussion of narrative poetics in Lamb’s equally impressive Art Matters. Lamb’s treatment brings biography, cultural history, criticism, and theory to bear on each paragraph. Reading The Hemingway Short Story is like attending a master class on literary craft; an expert scholar-critic reveals the subtle methods and moves that produce the distinctive, memorable effects that comprise Hemingway’s literary signature.”—J. Gerald Kennedy, Imagining Paris: Exile, Writing, and American Identity

“Lamb’s insightful readings delight and instruct, and will be cited for many years to come.”—Susan F. Beegel, editor of The Hemingway Review

“This remarkable volume is absolutely persuasive in its clarity, precision, and thought. Anyone interested in fiction will value this thoroughly researched, beautifully written book. Summing up: Essential. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty and professionals.”—Choice.

“Elevates Lamb to the top rank of Hemingway scholars”—Twentieth-Century Literature
ENGLISH NEWSLETTER  

FACULTY NEWS

Shaun F. D. Hughes
Professor Hughes published reviews on Tolkien’s *The Fall of Arthur in Arthuriana* (2013) and “A Female Legendary from Iceland: “Kirkjubæjarbók” in JEGP (2014). His article “Where are all the Eddic Champions Gone?: The Disappearance and Recovery of the Eddic Heroes in Late Medieval Icelandic Literature, 1400-1800” appears in *Viking and Medieval Scandinavia* (2013) and he has a chapter, “Steinunn Finnsdóttir and Snækóngs rimur” in *Eddic, Skaldic, and Beyond: Poetic Variety in Medieval Icelandic and Norway* (2014). He presented on topics from Caribbean slave revolts to Old Norse translations and mythology manuscript studies at ASECS, the Annual Meeting of The Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies, and the Conference “Old Norse Mythology in its Comparative Contexts” at Harvard University. On campus he gave his 6th “Books and Coffee” talk in February 2014, discussing Khaled Hosseini’s *And the Mountains Echoed*. He currently serves as Director of English Language and Linguistics in the Department of English and Director of Medieval and Renaissance Studies in the College of Liberal Arts.

Michael Johnston
Michael Johnston spent much of 2013 beginning his next book project, which focuses on the reception history of popular, but largely ignored, literature in late medieval England. He co-edited an essay collection on scribe and manuscript compiler Robert Thornton, which is due out with York Medieval Press in April 2014; he published “Romance, Distraint, and the Gentry” in the *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*. He has continued teaching courses on early British literature, the history of the book, and *Piers Plowman*.

Christian Knoeller
As President of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature, Christian Knoeller presided over the 43rd Annual Symposium held at MSU while also organizing two sessions at MMLA as Chair of the permanent Native American Literature section. This year he published “Landscape & Language In Erdrich’s Books and Islands in Ojibwe Country” in *ASLE’s Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment; “The Making of a Conservationist: Audubon’s Ecological Memory” in Journal of Ecocriticism; “Bearing Witness: Ecological Memory in the Writings of Scott Russell Sanders” in SSML’s *MidAmerica*; and “Poetics of Place in Theodore Roethke’s ‘North American Sequence’” in

Derek Pacheco,
*Moral Enterprise: Literature and Education in Antebellum America* (2013)

*Moral Enterprise* investigates an important moment in the history of professional authorship. Pacheco uses New England “literary reformers” Horace Mann, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Elizabeth Peabody, and Margaret Fuller to argue that writers came to see in educational reform, and the publication venues emerging in connection with it, a means to encourage popular authorship while validating literary work as a profession. Although today’s schools are staffed by systematically trained and institutionally sanctioned teachers, in the unregulated, decentralized world of antebellum America, literary men and women sought the financial stability of teaching while claiming it as moral grounds for the pursuit of greater literary fame. Examining the ethically redemptive and potentially lucrative definition of antebellum author as educator, this book traces the way these literary reformers aimed not merely at social reform through literature but also at the reform of literature itself by employing a wide array of practices—authoring, editing, publishing, and distributing printed texts—brought together under the aegis of modern, democratic education.

*Moral Enterprise* identifies such endeavors by their dual valence as bold, reformist undertakings and economic ventures, exploring literary texts as educational commodities that might act as entry points into, and ways to tame, what Mann characterized as the “Alexandrian library” of American print culture.
American Road Literature. He is presently completing Narratives of Environmental History: Ecological Memory in the American Midwest, a book-length ecocritical study examining representations of landscape change in Midwestern literature, spanning 19th century artist-naturalists and pioneering Midwestern ecologists, as well as 20th century poets, Native American novelists, and contemporary literary naturalists.

Robert Paul Lamb

Prof. Lamb’s The Hemingway Short Story: A Study in Craft for Writers and Readers (Louisiana State University Press, 2013) was named a Choice “Outstanding Academic Title for 2013.” Redwood Audiobooks reproduced it for their series, “Best Books Published by University Presses,” with Kirk Hanley reading. This audiobook version is also available as an Audible Book from Amazon. Bob gave a presentation titled “The Fourth World of Huckleberry Finn: The Internalization of Jim’s Voice, Perspective, and Ideology in Huck’s Evolving Consciousness” at the Seventh Quadrennial International Conference for Mark Twain Studies, held at Elmira College, where he became friends with Hal Hollbrook. In September, he traveled to Hannibal, Missouri to help open the Museum of African American History and Huck Finn Freedom Center, for which he serves as a consultant. He is currently completing a book on Mark Twain and race. Bob also received a department Excellence in Teaching Award, the 50th teaching prize of his career.

Clayton Lein

This last spring Clayton Lein published “Revisiting the Records: Donne at St. Dunstan’s” in John Donne Journal (appearing in May 2013). This article, the result of almost thirty years of research in British archives, is a major revision of the portrait of Donne as a parish priest at St. Dunstan’s in the West, London, using new manuscript material from the Guildhall Library, London, the Public Record Office, the British Library and the London Metropolitan Archives. It indicates many lapses and corrects various errors in the treatment of Donne in the standard biography by R.C. Bald.

Venetria K. Patton,
The Grasp that Reaches Beyond the Grave: the Ancestral Call in Black Women’s Texts (2013)

The Grasp That Reaches Beyond the Grave investigates the treatment of the ancestor figure in Toni Cade Bambara’s The Salt Eaters, Paule Marshall’s PraiseSong for the Widow, Phyllis Alesia Perry’s Stigmata and A Sunday in June, Toni Morrison’s Beloved, Tananarive Due’s The Between, and Julie Dash’s film, Daughters of the Dust in order to understand how they draw on African cosmology and the interrelationship of ancestors, elders, and children to promote healing within the African American community. Venetria K. Patton suggests that the experience of slavery with its concomitant view of black women as “natally dead” has impacted African American women writers’ emphasis on elders and ancestors as they seek means to counteract notions of black women as somehow disconnected from the progeny of their wombs. This misperception is in part addressed via a rich kinship system, which includes the living and the dead. Patton notes an uncanny connection between depictions of elder, ancestor, and child figures in these texts and Kongo cosmology. These references suggest that these works are examples of Africanisms or African retentions, which continue to impact African American culture.

“Patton’s book examines systematically the living role of the elder and the ancestor in literary works by African American women. Bringing these roles and relationships into critical literary discourse is revelatory and real. Patton’s buttressing sources include not only those of the literary scholar, but also well-known works by scholars of African and African American art and religion. This is a wonderful and long overdue contribution.” — Joanne M. Braxton, Director, Middle Passage Project, College of William and Mary
Maren Linett

In 2013-14, Maren Linett published articles on representations of blindness in early twentieth-century literature; madness in Rebecca West’s *The Return of the Soldier*; and three essays on Elizabeth Bowen. She taught a graduate seminar on James Joyce in the fall of 2013, and is currently enjoying teaching an undergraduate course in literary disability studies. She presented a paper at the Disability Disclosure in Higher Education conference in 2013 and plans to present new work on Flannery O’Connor at the Society for Disability Studies in June, 2014. She is currently at work on a book about disability in modernist fiction, supported by an “Enhancing Research in the Humanities and Arts” grant.

Alfred J. Lopez

Prof. López’s latest book *José Martí: A Revolutionary Life* will be published by the Trade Division of University of Texas Press in October. It will be the definitive biography of Cuban patriot and martyr José Martí (1853-1895), poet, journalist—and leader of the 1895 revolutionary movement that eventually ended Spanish colonial domination of Cuba. *A Revolutionary Life* is a comprehensive biography. It will be the first major biography of Martí in over half a century, and the first ever written in English, thus bringing his life and work to more readers than ever before. *South Atlantic Quarterly* also published Prof. López’s essay “Occupying Reality: Fanon Reading Hegel,” which was his contribution to the journal’s Winter 2013 Special Issue “Fanon: Imperative of the Now.”

Chris Lukasik

In the past year, Professor Lukasik’s work has appeared in the *Western Humanities Review, Common-place*, and the *Journal of American History* and he has presented papers at the MLA, the New Media in American Literary History Symposium, the SHEAR Conference, the ALA Conference; the ASECS Conference, the SEA Conference, the American Antiquarian Society, and the Virginia Historical Society. He has received numerous grants and fellowships to support his new book project, *The Image in the Text: Intermediality, Illustration, and Nineteenth-Century Literature: Enhancing Research in the Humanities Award* (Purdue University); William F. Helfand Fellowship in American Visual Culture (Library Company of Philadelphia), William S. Reese Research Award in the History of the Book in the Americas (Virginia Historical Society), Lillian Gary Taylor Fellowship at the Harrison Institute for American History, Literature, and Culture (University of Virginia), Jay and Deborah Last Research Fellowship

Arkady Plotnitsky,

This book offers a discussion of Niels Bohr’s conception of “complementarity,” arguably his greatest contribution to physics and philosophy. By tracing Bohr’s work from his 1913 atomic theory to the introduction and then refinement of the idea of complementarity, and by explicating different meanings of “complementarity” in Bohr and the relationships between it and Bohr’s other concepts, the book aims to offer a contained and accessible, and yet sufficiently comprehensive account of Bohr’s work on complementarity and its significance.
Lukasik was a faculty fellow in the College of Technology's Polytechnic Initiative.

Robyn Malo

Prof. Malo's first book, *Relics and Writing in Late Medieval England* (Toronto, 2013), has earned praise for its "depth of erudition and scintillating sophistication that one rarely finds in an interdisciplinary study." Prof. Malo is busy at work on her second book, tentatively entitled *Vernacular Penitence in the Middle Ages*. An essay related to this next project, "York Merchants at Prayer: The Confessional Formula of the Bolton Hours," will appear in *Truth and Tales*, a festschrift for Richard Firth Green. Another essay, "The Finger of Edmund Geninges and Other Relics," is forthcoming in *The Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*. She is co-editor of a special issue of *JMEMS* on the Sacred Object; and she organized four sessions and is giving a paper at this year's biannual meeting of the New Chaucer Society in Reykjavik, Iceland; she will also be presenting on her book project at Fordham University in June 2014.

Dan Morris

New work by Dan Morris appears (or is forthcoming) in: *Notre Dame Review*, *Otoliths*, *Marsh Hawk Review*, *Talsman*, *Studies in Jewish American Literature*, *Something on Paper*, and *MLA Approaches to Teaching Baraka's Dutchman*. Morris also had two poems accepted at *BlazeVox*.

Chinelo Okparanta

Chinelo Okparanta was named a 2014 Finalist for Literature by Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative and her short story collection *Happiness, Like Water* was named a 2014 Finalist for the 26th Lambda Literary Awards, and it was also an Editors' Choice for the *New York Times Sunday Book Review*, September 20, 2013. *Happiness, Like Water* was rated a Best African Fiction of 2013 by *The Guardian*. Okparanta's short story "America" was a Notable story for the *Best American Short Stories 2013*, edited by Elizabeth Strout and Heidi Pitlor. *Happiness, Like Water* is a 2014 New York Public Library Young Lions Award Finalist.

Manushag N. Powell,


*Now Available in Paperback*

N. Powell addresses the English periodical and how it shapes and expresses early conceptions of authorship in the first two thirds of the eighteenth century. The periodical, especially the essay periodical, is a genre unique to the British "long eighteenth century" period. It is therefore of great value to scholars of English cultural studies, but is also more widely important because it offers a venue where authors can hash out, often in extremely dramatic terms, what they think it should take to be a writer, what their relationship with their new mass-media audience ought to be, and what qualifications should act as gatekeepers to the profession. To explore these questions, Powell examines several "paper wars," where authors attack other authors for fun and profit. At the height of their popularity, essay periodicals allowed professional writers to fashion and make saleable a new kind of narrative, performative literary personality, the eidolon, arguably birthing a new cult of authorial personality. In *Performing Authorship in Eighteenth-Century English Periodicals*, Powell argues that the coupling of persona to genre imposes a lifespan on the periodical text; the periodicals don't only rise and fall, but are born, and in good time, they die.
Derek Pacheco
Prof. Pacheco has had a busy year. His first book, *Moral Enterprise: Literature and Education in Antebellum America*, was published by The Ohio State University Press in November 2013. He continues to work diligently on his next book project, about Transcendentalism and children's literature. Beyond presenting papers on literary fantasy at the Children's Literature Association and the American Literature Association conferences, he has also completed an article, "Engendering Fantasy in Transcendentalist Children's Fiction," forthcoming in 2014. He'd like to give special thanks to the Purdue English department, the American Antiquarian Society, and the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society for their generous support during the research and writing process.

Venetria K. Patton
Venetria Patton presented papers at the conferences of the Modernist Studies Association and the National Council for Black Studies. Her new book, *The Grasp That Reaches Beyond the Grave: the Ancestral Call in Black Women's Texts* (SUNY, 2013), was published this past summer.

Nancy Peterson
Nancy J. Peterson is delighted to have been selected to participate in the CIC's Academic Leadership Program for 2013-14. This program sponsors a series of seminars for fellows from Big 10 universities who have shown administrative promise, with the goal of developing the next generation of academic leaders for major universities. In addition, Professor Peterson made progress on her book project exploring connections between Native writers and Native artists by presenting a paper titled “Trickster Visions of Sovereignty: Gerald Vizenor and David Bradley” at the Western Literature Association Conference in October 2013.

Donald Platt
Over the last year, Donald Platt’s poems have appeared or have been accepted for publication in *Seneca Review, Ecotone, Western Humanities Review, Poetry East, Notre Dame Review, The Journal, Green Mountains Review, Prairie Schooner, Sou’wester, Passages North, Alaska Quarterly Review, Gulf Coast, Shenandoah,* and *Southwest Review*. His fifth book, *Tornadosque*, will be published in 2016 by CavanKerry Press.

James Saunders,

In Bebe Moore Campbell's *Brothers and Sisters*, Humphrey Boone is offered a seemingly wonderful deal by his job interviewer: "If you accept my offer and do the job that I believe you're capable of, I'll groom you for the presidency." A generous offer indeed until one realizes that for a black man, the capabilities to which the interviewer refers include such factors as being self-effacing, conforming one's speech to "clipped enunciation and perfect diction," and above all stifling any attraction to a white woman. In the works of such writers as Ralph Ellison, Gloria Naylor, Brent Wade, Ishmael Reed, Jill Nelson, and Bebe Moore Campbell, blacks who work in predominantly white corporations pay a terrible emotional and moral price. Wade and Nelson conclude that such situations have caused many blacks to go quietly insane. Reed draws a rather frightening connection between the corporate and the academic worlds, explaining how the former has come to serve as a model for the latter in recent years. In Ellison’s *Invisible Man*, the young narrator learns of the extent to which Northern corporations control the activities of a Southern black college, and understands that he is invisible "because people refuse to see me."
Arkady Plotnitsky
During the last academic year, Arkady Plotnitsky has published articles on Romanticism, continental philosophy, the philosophy of mathematics and science, and the relationships between science, philosophy, and literature. He gave plenary talks and invited lectures on these subjects at, among other places, the Linnaeus University (Sweden), Harvard, and Northwestern. His last book, *Niels Bohr and Complementarity: An Introduction* was published in 2013. He is also part of the Purdue team (along with Sandor Goodhart and Daniel Smith), which was a recipient of the three-year Partner University Fund grant awarded jointly to Purdue and the U of Paris 8, Nanterre, in Sept 2013.

Manushag Powell
Professor Powell was thrilled to receive tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor of English in August 2013, so now Purdue is well and truly stuck with her. Other highlights from this wonderful year include being approved as a University Faculty Scholar, the publication of her essay on women and periodical culture in Blackwell’s brand-new *Companion to British Literature*, and getting to teach not one but two glorious classes on literary pirates. When not hard at work cowriting her new book project about British pirates on stage and in fiction, she attends conferences such as ASECs, EC-ASECS, CSECS (all the SECS, really), the Defoe Society, and the Samuel Johnson Society. In June she will present an original paper on piratical counterfactuals at the Newberry Library’s 5-year anniversary celebration of its eighteenth-century seminar, and then head back to West Lafayette to teach a summer seminar on graduate publication. Because they are our future.

Victor Raskin
Victor Raskin has continued to preach and practice the application of natural language semantics in computational applications. He has delivered 3 invited keynote addresses at major international conferences and published 12 refereed journal and conference proceeding papers on these topics.

Charlie Ross
In December 2013, Charles Ross submitted a $221,000 grant titled “Restoring Sidney’s *Arcadia*” to the NEH Scholarly Editions and Translations Grant Program. The grant would cover a modernized English version of Sir Philip Sidney’s *Arcadia* (1593), for two hundred years the most important original prose fiction written in English. Professor Ross’s partners are Sharon

James Saunders,
Howard Frank Mosher has spent the greater part of his career depicting a relatively isolated section of Vermont known as the Northeast Kingdom. Yet, even as he writes about that particular area in the Green Mountain State, he is investigating age-old themes from among the best English and American literary works. His first novel, *Disappearances* (1977), signaled the arrival of a master craftsman harkening us back to Melville’s *Billy Budd* and *Moby-Dick*, in terms of humankind’s struggle against an ever present evil. A full 33 years after the publication of his first novel, the Vermont author, in *Walking to Gatlinburg* (2010), examined the polarity between cowardice and honor. In the intervening years, between *Disappearances* and *Gatlinburg*, Mosher explored crucial matters such as the disappearing wilderness, industrialization, black male/white female encounters, the necessity of humor, the quest for salvation, and the immortality of romantic love, all issues that he delved into as he staked out a unique terrain within the pantheon of Bunyan, Shakespeare, Dreiser, Twain, Faulkner, Steinbeck, Harper Lee, and others.
Solwitz of our department and Joel Davis of Stetson University. A decision is expected in August. Last semester Professor Ross also published an article titled “Murrin, Lewis, Greenblatt, and the Aristotelian Self-Swerve” in the Journal of Philosophy (2013).

**James Saunders**

James Saunders is looking forward to his sixth book publication this summer, Howard Frank Mosher and the Classics (McFarland). He also has penned an article, "Ellen Bryant Voigt: Preserving the Rural Landscape" (forthcoming), and is looking forward to the reissue, this summer, of Tightrope Walk. His article "Why Losing a Tooth Matters" has prompted dentists to consult with him as they implement federally funded grants to assist homeless veterans. He advises Ph.D. students on topics such as runaway slaves in literature, women and spirituality, and the Black/Asian connection. One of his proudest achievements is his experience as Co-Director of the B.A.S.E. Program (Black American Student Experience) throughout the years; students have been successful as medical doctors, editors, professional athletes, NASA researchers, coaches, as well as other positions. He is happy to continue to provide his assistance to Attica’s Annual English Department Celebration, which is in its 5th year.

**Ryan Schneider**

Ryan Schneider continues to serve as Director of Graduate Studies. In addition to building a broader recruiting base at top-tier colleges and universities in the U.S. and abroad, he has worked to increase the number of fellowship students in the department’s various graduate programs—and last year’s incoming class included the largest cohort of fellowship students ever admitted. This year he also helped shift the graduate admissions process to a new online system that allows for paperless processing and reviewing of applications. While most of his time has been devoted to administration, admissions, and advising, Prof. Schneider also presented a paper (on W.E.B. Du Bois’s biography of John Brown) at this year’s MLA conference in Chicago.

**Melanie Shoffner**

This past year, Prof. Shoffner was elected Vice Chair of the Conference on English Education (CEE). She continues her work as editor of Contemporary Issues in Technology and Teacher Education (CITE): English and member of the Microsoft Higher Education Advisory Board; while the former took her to New Orleans for meetings, the latter took her to

**Luciana C. de Oliveira and Tony Silva, eds.,**

*L2 Writing in Secondary Classrooms* (2013)

Second language writers and the teaching of writing at the secondary level have received little attention compared with other skills such as reading. Addressing this gap, this volume uniquely looks at both adolescent L2 writing and the preparation of secondary teachers to work with this population of students. Part I, on adolescent L2 writers, includes case studies looking at their literacy identities, their trajectories in mainstream content area classes, and their transition from high school to college. Part II looks at academic issues. The focus in Part III is L2 writing teacher education. Taking a theoretically eclectic approach that can support a variety of pedagogies, this book contributes significantly to understanding adolescent second language writers and to educating teachers to address these students’ specific needs.
Romania and Ukraine to conduct workshops on technology enriched instruction. Prof. Shoffner’s research and writing efforts resulted in three published articles and six conference presentations.

Tony Silva

In 2013, Tony co-edited a book, L2 Writing in Secondary Classrooms (Routledge); co-compiled an annotated bibliography, Selected Bibliography of Recent Scholarship in Second Language Writing, published in each issue of the Journal of Second Language Writing; and authored an invited piece, Second Language Writing: Talking Points, for the same journal. In addition, he delivered plenary talks at two international conferences: the 3rd Foreign Language Opportunities in Writing Conference at the U of Lodz in Poland and the 12th Symposium on Second Language Writing at Shandong U in Jinan, China; and presented two papers at the 48th TESOL International Convention. Tony received a Department of English Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award, was the chair of eight dissertations completed in 2013, and was elected to the Board of Directors of the TESOL International Association.

Sharon Solwitz

Sharon Solwitz published 3 stories in 2013, all of them nominated by their editors for the Pushcart Prize. A fourth just came out from Chicago Quarterly Review in Winter, 2014. Two more are forthcoming. Most of these are from the novel-in-stories Solwitz has been working on, Camp Happiness.

Paul Whitfield White

Prof. White has been working with the Mellon Foundation “Performing the Middle Ages” project, which is planning several play-related events and meetings in the next few years. Appearing soon is “Liveried Players and Minstrels in Tudor England 1485-1585,” for the Oxford Handbook of Tudor Drama Online. He received an Incentive Grant from Purdue in December 2013 to support a digital edition of Robert Wilson’s The Three Lords and Three Ladies of London, which he is co-editing with doctoral student Bryan Nakawaki, under contract with Internet Shakespeare Editions. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Poculi Ludique Societus, which hosted the Chester Cycle in 2010, The “MARS Players,” a group of Purdue students (mostly grad and mostly English), has been invited back to the U of Toronto to stage Wilson’s play under Professor White’s leadership in late Spring 2015.


In Ambient Rhetoric, Thomas Rickert seeks to dissolve the boundaries of the rhetorical tradition and its basic dichotomy of subject and object. With the advent of new technologies, new media, and the dispersion of human agency through external information sources, rhetoric can no longer remain tied to the autonomy of human will and cognition as the sole determinants in the discursive act. Rickert develops the concept of ambience to engage all of the elements that comprise the ecologies in which we exist.

“Ambient Rhetoric will immediately find an audience of rhetorical scholars who will want to grapple with its many provocative directions. Not only is it a well-conceived and well-executed book, but it is an important one.”
—John Muckelbauer, University of South Carolina

“Thematically, Ambient Rhetoric is at the cutting edge of rhetorical theory in the US context. . . . What would it mean for rhetoric to reside outside the control of human agency? The strength of Rickert’s book is the rich response to this question.”
—Daniel M. Gross, University of California, Irvine
Professor of English Linda Shell Bergmann passed away unexpectedly at home on Saturday, January 11, 2014. Born November 12, 1950, in Syracuse, New York, Linda was the daughter of the late Stanley and Helen Shell.

Dr. Bergmann received her B.A. with high honors in English from Oberlin College in 1972, her M. A. with Departmental Honors in English from the University of Chicago in 1973, and her Ph.D. in English from the University of Chicago in 1983. Professor Bergmann’s current work addressed transfer of writing skills in several arenas: writing centers, writing across the curriculum initiatives, community-university engagement, and high school to college transitions. After completing her dissertation, *American Historical Humor: The Tradition and the Contemporary Novel*, at the University of Chicago, Linda turned to the writings of 19th century educator, biographer, and amateur botanist Elizabeth Agassiz. This early scholarship prepared her for lifelong publishing in cross-disciplinary venues as she often studied science, education, literature, rhetoric, and writing simultaneously.

Before she came to Purdue, Dr. Bergmann served as director of Writing Across the Curriculum at the Illinois Institute of Technology (1991 to 1996) and the director of Writing Across the Curriculum and the Writing Center at the University of Missouri-Rolla (1996 to 2001).

In 2001, she joined the Purdue faculty as an associate professor of English and associate director of Purdue’s Writing Lab; 2003, she was appointed director of the Writing Lab. She was promoted to Professor of English in 2010. Her work in rhetoric and composition reflected equal passions for language and student learning, and led to a $1.5 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2011 to create a new interactive internet tool for high school students based on the Purdue Online Writing Lab. International interest in her writing pedagogy led to invitations from places as disparate as Lebanon, Poland, Turkey, and Colombia, and she was planning to present this month at the "Writing Research across Borders" conference in Paris. Her textbook *Academic Research and Writing* (Longman, 2010) complemented her teaching and scholarly research on composition by enabling students and instructors world-wide to benefit from her work.

Linda’s contributions as a colleague are too many to enumerate. Those that stand out include her commitment to the professional development of graduate students. She developed and taught a much needed seminar in Writing Center Administration, a valuable addition to the graduate secondary area in Writing Program Administration, and taught a seminar in Writing Across the Curriculum. She directed eight dissertations in the short time she was a member of the faculty at Purdue and served on more than a dozen dissertation committees, providing doctoral students with insightful guidance and helping launch their careers as rhetoric scholars and administrators. Those of us who had the opportunity to work with her on those committees know first-hand how her perceptive comments helped students, but even more, how she offered encouragement and support when, as almost inevitably happens, the dissertation suddenly seems impossible.

Linda is survived by her husband, Dr. Bernard Bergmann III of Chicago, and her son, Bernard Bergmann IV of Washington, D.C.

Linda’s intelligence, wit, compassion, and generosity made her a very special friend to all of her colleagues in the English department and in her wide professional circles. We will feel her absence, but we will also know how lucky we have been to have her in our lives.

Respectfully submitted,
Irwin Weiser and Patricia A. Sullivan
Aylin Baris Atilgan
Aylin’s research focuses on needs assessments of international students in U.S. educational settings. She presented papers at IUPUI, Purdue, and CCCC’s. Currently Aylin is working on her dissertation: “Chinese students’ journey from mainstream composition courses to the Purdue Writing Lab: A needs assessment”. In 2013, she received a Purdue Research Grant. Her article entitled “The effects of extensive reading on vocabulary on writing in terms of Vocabulary” came out in the Indiana Teachers of English to Speakers of Others Journal in 2014. Another article “Chinese writers in the U.S. classroom: Marrying cultures of learning” came out in Tesol International Association SLW News in 2014. As President of Friends of Europe Club and International Student Leader for the Office of the Dean of Students, Aylin is glad to provide support for international students. Aylin also serves as the Graduate Student Representative in INTESOL.

Megha Anwer
Megha’s article “Tigers of an-Other Jungle: Adiga’s Tryst with Subaltern Politics” is forthcoming in Journal of Postcolonial Writing. She also published an essay in Short Film Studies and another on the visual archive of lynching in the Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics. Her paper, “Murder in Black and White: Victorian Crime Scenes and the Ripper Photographs,” was invited for publication in a special issue of Victorian Studies after she presented it at the annual NAVSA conference in October 2013. She also gave two presentations at MLA in Chicago (Jan 2014): “Terrorism as Non-Event: Ambling Temporality in South Asian Narratives” and “Congested City, Conflated Identities: Terror and Slum in Bollywood.” She was invited to present her work on cinematic slums at the symposium on Global Grit: Cinema and Aesthetics in the Global South at University of Wisconsin, Madison (March 2014).

Jason Dodge
Jason recently published an article in Critique, titled “September 11 and Public Grief: Grieving Otherwise in Jess Walter’s The Zero.” His second article is forthcoming from LIT, titled “Spaces of Resistance: Heterotopia and Transgression in Chuck Palahniuk’s Fight Club.” He is currently working on a dissertation that argues that our experience of temporality has shifted given certain aspects of our contemporary occasion—terrorism and the war on terror, increasing securitization, and global climate change.

Casarae L. Gibson & Kadari Taylor-Watson
Casarae L. Gibson (English) and Kadari Taylor-Watson (American Studies) won the Most Outstanding Award for their project titled, “Domesticating Blackness: Black Hair, Citizenship, and the Politics of Respectability” at the first annual “Let’s Talk About Hair: An Interdisciplinary Symposium. Gibson and Taylor-Watson’s multi-media presentation examined the political role hair played in defining how black women represented themselves as full-citizens and expressing femininity. One way to gain that status, they contend was to alter the hair texture in order to appeal to American civic and social institutions. In celebration of their win, the two graduate students were awarded $1000 and a certificate. Gibson and Taylor-Watson were most appreciative of receiving the award from the Black Cultural Center and the Office of Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Their research was a personal reflection on the historical understanding of Black womanhood and identity.

Mary Beth Harris
Mary Beth was awarded Honorable Mention for the S. Eric Molin Prize for her presentation at the East Central American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies conference (2013). The award is given annually to an outstanding graduate student paper and is judged according to quality of content, delivery, and Q&A. Mary Beth has also enjoyed acting as this year’s Early Atlantic Reading Group (EARG) Colloquium Chair.

Julie Henson
Julie Henson is a second year MFA candidate at Purdue in poetry. Her poems, "Step Sister, The One We Cannot Find," & "On Writing a Parable" are forthcoming in The Pinch, and her poem "Elegy for my Father's Suspicions about Snakes" is forthcoming in Tennessee.

Helen Knight
This past year, Helen Knight has been wading knee-deep in her dissertation, currently titled The Satisfaction of Torment: Erotic Dominance and Submission in the Early American Novel. While fervently hoping that Purdue has not flagged her internet search history (it’s all for research, she swears!), she has served as the Leonora Woodman Lecture chair for GradSEA this fall and is the current president of the Early Atlantic Reading Group. Along with her executive committee, she has completed a successful grant-writing campaign for EARG resulting in full sponsorship from PGSG for the club’s professional and social events, from common reads to pre-conference practice sessions. Under her guidance, EARG has embarked

ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

GRADUATE-STUDENT NEWS

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on its first local field trip—this time to the Crawfordsville Rotary Jail Museum—and is preparing to host its eighth-annual colloquium, which is upcoming on April 11th and 12th and is featuring Chris Loar as the keynote speaker.

Allison Layfield

Kristen Leaman
After graduating with her M.L.S. with a specialization in Rare Books and Manuscripts, Kristin Leaman was offered and accepted a position as the Special Collections Cataloger with the Lilly Library, Indiana University-Bloomington. She works with and catalogs rare books and processes manuscript collections, many focusing on music and translations. She will also write descriptions for medieval manuscripts in the Lilly Library for the Digital Scriptorium in the near future.

Nick Marino
Nicholas Marino won the Loren Frankel Memorial scholarship at the annual meeting of the American Men’s Studies Association in Tacoma, WA.

Mary McCall
Last fall, Connexions: International Professional Communication Journal published "First Year Composition through a Global Engineering Perspective," an article Mary co-authored with Matthew Allen and Gracemarie Mike. She has also presented at Computers & Writing, the Council for Writing Program Administrators (CWPA), Feminisms and Rhetorics, and the East Central Writing Centers Association Conference (ECWCA) of which she was nominated for the Tutor Leadership Award. Last semester, she was awarded the English Department Excellence in Teaching Award and will be awarded the Teaching Academy Graduate Teaching Award this spring.

Kyle R. McIntosh
In 2013, Kyle McIntosh presented papers at American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL), International Association of World Englishes (IAWE), and TESOL. He and April Ginther coauthored the chapter “Writing Research Reports” that appeared in The Companion to Language Assessment, published by John Wiley & Sons. In September, Kyle successfully defended his dissertation titled “ELT Professionals Publishing in International Applied Linguistics Journals: The Case of Mainland China,” and next August, he will join the Department of English and Writing at University of Tampa as an Assistant Professor of English (First-Year Writing).

Gracemarie Mike
Gracemarie Mike’s article “Towards an Ethics of Writing Placement” was published in CEA Critic in Spring 2013, and her article “First-year Composition Through a Global Engineering Perspective,” co-written with Matthew Allen and Mary McCall, appeared in Connexions: International Professional Communication Journal. In the fall of 2013, Gracemarie presented “The Role of ESL Textbooks in the Construction of American Identity” at the Making Meaning: Language, Rhetoric and Enculturation conference at the University of Michigan. This spring and summer, she will present “A Grounded-Theory Approach to Diversity in Technical Communication” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, Indianapolis, IN; “Interrogating Writing, Labor, and Value in the Independent Digital Workspace” at Computers and Writing, Pullman WA; and “Engineering and First-Year Composition: Bringing Engineers into Writing Spaces and Writers to Engineering Conventions” at the International Writing Across the Curriculum Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

Masakuza Mishima
Masakuza Mishima’s recent publication in the Second Language Writing Newsletter is a report of the research study that Mishima conducted to examine his own feedback practices in an international student section of freshman composition class. His sole wish is to be a reflective teacher. To be reflective, we need to understand how students are doing in class but perhaps more importantly how WE as writing instructors, are doing in class. The study primarily focused on how Mishima responded to students’ writing and how students perceived his feedback in terms of its usefulness to improve their writing skills. Mishima concludes that questioning what we take as “usual business” sometimes reveals more than what it seems and challenging our pre-conceived understanding of the environment may be one step forward to being reflective a teacher.

Rebekah Mitsein
Rebekah Mitsein's article "'Come and Triumph with your Don Quixote': or, How James Bruce Travelled to Discover the Source of the Nile but Found Scotland Instead" was
published in Studies in Travel Writing this spring. She presented a paper on African testimony and the Boston inoculation controversy at the East Central American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies conference last fall and a paper on the influence of Ethiopian women on European naturalist discourse at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies national conference this March.

Stacy Nall
Stacy's article, "Remembering Writing Center Partnerships: Recommendations for Archival Strategies," was published in the Spring 2014 issue of The Writing Center Journal. This year, she has presented her work at the Conference for Writing Program Administrators (CWPA), the Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference, and the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC).

Ingrid Pierce
Ingrid published “The Greek Chorus in Ben Jonson’s ‘Epitaph on S[alomone] P[avy], a Child of Queen El[zabeth]’s’ Chapel’” in Notes and Queries, and she has a second piece forthcoming in Notes and Queries called “The Orientation of Poetic Labor in Auden’s ‘In Memory of W. B. Yeats’ and Yeats’s ‘The Circus Animals’ Desertion.’” Ingrid presented her paper “Seeing as in a Mirror Dimly: Fellowship and Vision in Malory’s Le Morte Darthur” at the Southeastern Medieval Association Conference. In March, she participated in a graduate-student workshop at Chicago’s Newberry Library called “Music and Travel: 1500-1700,” for which she received a Newberry Renaissance Consortium Grant. Ingrid is assisting R. Alden Smith and Lee Fratantuono with their commentary on Virgil’s Aeneid, Book V.

Kelsey Ronan
Kelsey Ronan was the recipient of a 2013 AWP Intro Award and her winning story, "Krakow," published in the Fall/Winter issue of Hayden’s Ferry Review. Her short story "The Fireside Poets" was published in the Summer 2013 issue of Michigan Quarterly Review, and was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She has a story forthcoming in Indiana Review’s Fall issue. She was also honored with a Teaching Academy Graduate Teaching Award.

Kathryn Trauth Taylor
Through a contract with Purdue’s Center for Medication Safety Advancement, Katie currently serves as technical writer for the Veterans Administration’s Center for Applied Systems Engineering. Her role in the 2013-14 academic year involved writing a Congressional decision memo for Project ARCH, an initiative aimed at increasing health care accessibility for Veterans in rural and highly rural areas. She also served as co-author on a number of VA publications related to Lean deployment strategies and Large System Transformation within healthcare organizations for systems engineering journals. In August 2014, Katie will join the faculty at Miami University of Ohio as an Assistant Professor of English. She is excited to teach undergraduate courses in Professional Writing and graduate seminars in Rhetoric and Composition.

J. Case Thompkins
J. Case Tompkins defended his dissertation, Methods of Revision in Sixteenth Century English Cycle Drama, in the fall of 2013. He also assisted the Professional Writing Program at Purdue in developing curriculum for a new class in medical writing (ENGL 422) which will debut in the fall of 2014.