The 2014-2015 academic year has been one of many changes, not the least of which is our new departmental home in HUM 484. We’ve also welcomed two wonderful new people to our department staff: Amanda Bent our new Undergraduate Programs and Web Coordinator and Kitty Quinn-Friel, our new Writing Program Administrative Office Coordinator. We owe both of them tremendous gratitude for helping us out during the move upstairs and the many other changes in the department, College and University. And please join me in welcoming the newest (and youngest) member of our staff: Irina Simon and her husband Michael’s new baby boy Flynn.

We have had the good fortune to conduct three tenure line searches this year, one each in English Education, TESOL and Linguistics. Jim Gilligan (English Ed) will be joining us in Fall 2015, and Robert Kohls (TESOL) and Anastasia Smirnova (Linguistics) will join us in Spring 2016. I want to publically thank the stalwart members of the Hiring Committee for their hard work and diligence in bringing these three outstanding new faculty members to our department. Jennifer Trainor, Paul Morris, Troi Carlton, David Olsher, Loretta Stec and Wai-Leung Kwok, dinner at Roti is on me...

This year has also been a time of goodbyes. Ron Martinez (TESOL) has relocated with his family to Brazil and Elizabeth Whalley (TESOL) will be completing her FERP at the end of the Spring 2015 semester. In July, our colleague Nelson Graff will be begin his new position as Writing Program Administrator at CSU Monterey Bay. We wish all of these colleagues our very best in their new adventures and hope they know how grateful we are for all they have contributed to this department.
This past November, we also said goodbye to staff member Paloma Mathern. We wish her all the very best of luck in her new position with CEL at the downtown campus. And after thirty-three years (!!) in the Composition Office, Ernie Vasquez will be retiring this summer. Join me in thanking Ernie for her years of dedicated service to the Composition program.

As always, I want to express the Department’s gratitude to our donors who continue to give generously in support of our students and the intellectual life of our department. For anyone interested in making a donation, please link to the “Support English” page on our website.

And last but certainly not least, I offer my hearty congratulations to all of our graduates. We will celebrate them in grand style in our first English Department Commencement Ceremony on May 21 in McKenna Theater, with a reception afterward in our department suite, HUM 484. All are welcome.

Sugie Goen-Salter

2015 HERA Conference
The 2015 HERA conference in San Francisco has just completed, and it was a great success. A tremendous amount of our literature faculty (as well as our graduate students) were able to present papers. All presenters had the opportunity as well to submit expansions of their papers to our refereed academic journal, Interdisciplinary Humanities, which provided a sense of the English Department’s representation. To the extent that graduate students were able to participate, the conference served as a mentoring introduction to the world of teaching and scholarship.

Department Move
This past January, the English Department office, along with its affiliate offices—Composition, Composition for Multilingual Students (CMS), and the English Tutoring Center (ETC)—moved to the 4th floor of the Humanities building, into the old Dean’s suite. We are happy to report that we have been settling in quite comfortably to our new digs.
Tenure-Track Faculty Searches

This semester, the department conducted three tenure-track faculty searches for Linguistics, TESOL, and English Education. We are excited to announce that we will have three new faculty members joining us next year: Anastasia Smirnova (Linguistics) and Robert Kohls (TESOL) in the spring, and Jim Gilligan (English Education) in the fall.

Sneak Preview 2015

On the first Saturday of April, the University welcomed 12,000 prospective students and their families to campus for Sneak Preview open house. The English Department was represented by chair Sugie Goen-Salter, faculty members Larry Hanley, Bill Christmas, Jenny Lederer, and Paul Morris, and staff member Amanda Bent all day from 9:00-2:00 p.m. on the Quad, and at our Academic Showcase Presentation held in the department suite, where over 50 students and their families came to learn more about our programs.

Okey Ndibe

In February, the English Department had the honor of hosting an event in our conference room for the acclaimed Nigerian American author Okey Ndibe, where he spoke and read from his novel Foreign Gods, Inc. and signed copies of the book. Foreign Gods, Inc. tells the story of Ike, a New York-based Nigerian cab driver who sets out to steal the statue of an ancient war deity from his home village and sell it to a New York gallery.
5 Broken Cameras and Iyad Burnat

The Department of English recently co-sponsored a screening of the award-winning documentary 5 Broken Cameras, by Emad Burnat and Guy Davidi, with a discussion with the filmmaker's brother, Iyad Burnat. The event took place on Wednesday morning, 15 April, in Coppola Theater, and was graciously hosted by Prof. Weimin Zhang and her cinematography class. Prof. Beverly Voloshin of our department introduced the film and the speaker and moderated the question and answer period.

Filmmaker Emad Burnat is from the Palestinian village of Bil'in; the film is his personal and political response to the villagers' non-violent resistance movement to the Israeli occupation over a period of five years, ending with the filmmaker's fifth broken camera. New York Times film critic A.O. Scott described 5 Broken Cameras as "a moving and rigorous work of art"; the film won awards at the International Documentary Film Festival, the Sundance Film Festival, and the Jerusalem Film Festival, and was nominated for an Oscar. The filmmaker's brother Iyad Burnat, who spoke after the screening, is the leader of the non-violent movement in Bil'in; in June, Iyad Burnat will return to the US to receive the James Lawson Award for Achievement in the Practice of Nonviolent Conflict from the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict.

Students of literature might find the film particularly interesting in comparison with a number of nineteenth-century American literary works such as Thoreau's "Resistance to Civil Government," Northup's Twelve Years a Slave, Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin, and Delany's Blake, or the Huts of America.
Study of Writing Research Project

The “SF State Study of Writing” is a multi-year investigation of the writing students complete in lower-division Composition courses and their GWAR courses, as well as how students transfer learning between these sets of courses. Research leads Tara Lockhart and Mary Soliday wish to thank those students who worked on the project last year: Martha Rusk, Linda Swanson, and Niki Turnipseed. Martha and Niki both also completed their M.A. culminating portfolios, which included writing samples analyzing their research on the project. Emma Remick, Emily Nashif, and Evan Kaiser joined the research team this year as Research Assistants, funded by a Small Grant from ORSP.

Graduate Literature Association

The Graduate Literature Association is proud to announce another successful run of Explications, our annual literary conference. The department was well represented by our graduate students, who presented on topics ranging the spectrum from medical language in Shakespeare’s Richard II, to the limitations of expression in Maurice Sendak’s Where the Wild Things Are. We were happy to welcome students from the Comparative and World Literature and Creative Writing departments, as well as colleagues from our neighboring CSUs.

Miriam DeQuadros White presents on Richard Wright and James Baldwin

Sam Sturdivant looks on while Candy Winters presents her paper on clothing in Pride and Prejudice.

Submissions have been collected and selections have been made for the upcoming volume of the student journal Interpretations, which will mark its 27th consecutive publication with this edition. Look for your copy in the English Department in the fall.
M.A. TESOL

The MA TESOL Graduate Student Conference was held on Friday, May 8, 2015. This semester’s conference took up the theme of *Think Globally, Teach Locally: TESOL in Our Backyards* and featured presentations by fifteen graduating MA TESOL students on a wide range of research and curriculum development topics in teaching English to speakers of other languages, including collaborative styles of peer feedback in writing classrooms, English for business purposes, video-chat-based tutoring, and the status of Korean English as variety of English. For details and highlights, please see the official conference Web site.

The SF State **M.A. TESOL Student Association** organized two TESOL Talks this spring semester. The first event, “Beyond the Capstone: How to break into the Bay Area TESOL community,” was held on April 3, and featured a panel of distinguished representatives from various Bay Area English teaching programs who shared information about ways to seek employment with their respective institutions. The second event, “Memories, Feedback, and Fun,” was held on May 19, featured a presentation by Dr. Elizabeth Whalley on the occasion of her retirement from SF State and included a reception to honor her contributions to her students, the English Department and the field of TESOL. This semester, Project SHINE (Students Helping in the Naturalization of Elders) organized a special guest Lecture on Community Service Learning by Dr. Kimberly Vinall of the University of California, Berkeley, which was held on May 15.

Congratulations to M.A. TESOL’s 2015 graduates!
M.A. TESOL student Lindsey Sivaslian presented a project at the annual Graduate Research and Creative Works Showcase. Lindsey’s project is titled: “Two heads are better than one: A collaborative curricular innovation for peer feedback.” In this project, Lindsey investigated the effects of utilizing a collaborative rather than evaluative approach for peer feedback in a low-level pre-academic ESL writing classroom. She piloted materials teaching speaking skills and providing scaffolded-support students needed to take on a collaborative style of peer feedback, with positive results in terms of motivation, the quality of peer feedback provided, and improvements evident in subsequent revisions of student essays.

2015 Honors & Awards Recipients

HOOD RECIPIENT – College of Liberal & Creative Arts
Lindsey Sivaslian – TESOL

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT
Lindsey Sivaslian – TESOL
Jason Slavin – Literature
Sarah Britto – Literature
Emma Remick – Composition

UNDERGRADUATE DEPARTMENT NOMINEE
Keira Hamilton – English Education

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH PROGRAM HONOREES
Carly Watson – Literature
Keira Hamilton – English Education
Meagan LaRose – Linguistics

ASW SCHOLARSHIP
Jad Qandour

DEBRA PLOUSHA MOORE SCHOLARSHIP
Calandra Warren

ELLANORE & MAURICE BASSAN SCHOLARSHIP
Lisa Ang

JAN GREGORY POST-SECONDARY READING & COMPOSITION SCHOLARSHIP
Ileana da Silva

JIM BROGAN – JACK POST SCHOLARSHIP
Shanna Cooper

JIM KOHN SCHOLARSHIP
Ayaka Ihara

R. JOEL DORIUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Emily Farris

TESOL CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP
Ayaka Ihara
Brendon Peacock
Deirdre Hallman
Tarek Al-Zand

GAIL WEINSTEIN FELLOWSHIP
Hannah Chan
Lina Jurkunas

PROVOST SCHOLAR AWARD
Bead Kerr

Congratulations to all of our recipients!
Faculty News

**Sugie Goen-Salter** has been named co-chair of the College of Liberal & Creative Arts Dean’s search committee being conducted by Academic Affairs.

**Summer Star** attended the annual meeting of the British Association for Victorian Studies in September, "Victorian Sustainabilities," presenting a paper entitled "The Mother of Invention: Elizabeth Gaskell's Narratives of Necessity"; she also presented in a special panel on new approaches to teaching prosody entitled "What we talk about when we talk about teaching meter" at the annual MLA convention in Vancouver, BC. Her article, "The Obedient Mind of Gerard Manley Hopkins" was published in the fall issue of Literature and Religion (Notre Dame) and her annual review essay of new works in the field of Victorian Poetry was published in The Years Work in English Studies (Oxford UP) in March 2015.

Eleven of **Jennifer Arin's** poems appear in Occupation II: Talisman Press Anthology (Spring 2015); and last April, in honor of National Poetry Month, she was selected to give a reading, at the Albany Library, with fellow poet and translator Chana Bloch.

**Jennifer Arin** received a Distinguished Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching at the May 12th Academic Senate meeting. She will be honored again at the open faculty meeting this fall. Congratulations, Jennifer!

Eleven of **Sugie Goen-Salter**'s poems appear in Occupation II: Talisman Press Anthology (Spring 2015); and last April, in honor of National Poetry Month, she was selected to give a reading, at the Albany Library, with fellow poet and translator Chana Bloch.

**Hollie Hardy** recently published her first book, How to Take a Bullet, And Other Survival Poems (Punk Hostage Press, 2014) and has participated in more than twenty readings on her West Coast book tour since June. For more information about the book and upcoming events, please visit www.holliehardy.com.

Herman Haluza will be presenting a paper with regard to ancient literature/culture and its relevance to the present day. Its title is “Ancient Paths/Modern Journeys: Our Connection with the Past,” at the HERA (Humanities Education and Research Association) Conference this coming April at the Whitcomb Hotel in San Francisco. A secondary purpose is to restart the international newsletter Ancient Paths/Modern Journeys on which you will all be hearing more.


Gitanjali Shahani guest edited a forum in Shakespeare Studies (Volume 42) on "Diet and Identity in Shakespeare's England," published in Fall 2014. She also contributed chapters to two edited volumes, Shakespeare and the Ethics of Appropriation (Palgrave 2014) and Bollywood Shakespeare (Palgrave 2014), both co-authored with Brinda Charry.

In December, Elizabeth Whalley evaluated Fulbright applications for Taiwan. Earlier in the year, she presented a paper, Using Improvisational Drama to Practice Grammar, Teach Spoken English and Empower ESL/EFL Students, at the S.T.E.M. Education Conference in Honolulu Hawaii. She continues to perform with her improv troupe, Spontaneous Combustion, and in April, she directed an improvised long form, “It’s a Spontaneous Life” inspired by Frank Capra’s movies. When she retires in June, her plan is to get up early for breakfast so she’s not late for lunch.


In the Summer 2014 issue of The Hudson Review, Dr. Schoerke published “Narrative Boundaries,” an omnibus review of five recent poetry books: Darkened Rooms of Summer: New and Selected Poems, by Jared Carter; The Blue Buick: New and Selected Poems, by B. H. Fairchild; All At Once, by C. K Williams; Roget’s Illusion, by Linda Bierds; and The Invention of Influence, by Peter Cole. In July and August 2014, Dr. Schoerke spent five weeks at the University of Chicago, participating in a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for College Teachers on two of her favorite poets, George Herbert and Emily Dickinson, led by Herbert scholar Richard Strier.

In December, Ellen Peel evaluated Fulbright applications for Taiwan. Earlier in the year, she presented a paper, Using Improvisational Drama to Practice Grammar, Teach Spoken English and Empower ESL/EFL Students, at the S.T.E.M. Education Conference in Honolulu Hawaii. She continues to perform with her improv troupe, Spontaneous Combustion, and in April, she directed an improvised long form, “It’s a Spontaneous Life” inspired by Frank Capra’s movies. When she retires in June, her plan is to get up early for breakfast so she’s not late for lunch.

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Irina and Michael Simon welcomed Flynn Spencer to their family on Sunday, February 15th. Flynn was born at 8:33 a.m., weighed 7 lbs 7 oz, and was 19.5 inches long. He is the second son to join the Simon family and can look forward to all of big brother Henry’s awesome hand-me-downs and tips on how to best annoy mom and dad.

Sevan Saint Pierre Goorjian (named after Lake Sevan in Armenia) is Composition instructor, Jolie Goojian’s son. He was born on Saturday, November 15, 2014 at 3.11 PM, weighing 6 pounds 5 ounces, and 19 1/4 inches. His favourite books (so far) are: The Velveteen Rabbit, Peter Rabbit, and the Oliva series.

Tyler Erlendson (M.A. Comp. Graduate 2014) had two poems published. "Different Gods" has been published in Issue #9 of Cactus Heart Press and "I Search in Dreams for You" has been published by Rose Red Review. Tyler is now attending Pacific University pursuing an MFA in Creative Writing.

Symone Grubbs (B.A. in Literature Graduate 2014) has been working in Hong Kong for the last year as a 5th grade teacher.

Christina Lorimer, recent graduate of the MATESOL Program has been appointed a co-editor of the CATESOL Journal (California's TESOL journal). Two years ago Christina Served on the board of directors of the CATESOL Association. She also served as a guest editor of the journal, introducing a new "Graduate Perspectives" section that has become a permanent feature of the journal. In fact, under her stewardship, several SFSU MATESOL students have already published articles in the CATESOL Journal.

Alexander Lee (B.A. in Literature Graduate 2014) won a Fulbright Award for 2015-16, and is going to Taiwan to be an English Teaching Assistant, as well as acting as a cultural ambassador to increase mutual understanding between Americans and the people of Taiwan. Alex thanks the department for all their support, and is excited to begin this new chapter.

Thank you to outgoing WAC/WID Director, Mary Soliday

As many of you may know, our colleague Mary Soliday has completed her term as Director of SFSU’s Writing Across the Curriculum/ Writing in the Disciplines program. On Tuesday May 12, 2015, the Academic Senate approved a resolution in honor of the incredible work Mary has done revamping our GWAR program and turning it into a nationally recognized model for how to implement and assess upper-division writing proficiency in the majors. We offer Mary hearty congratulations on a job well done and welcome her full-time in the English Department.

In the intervening 33 (!) years, Ernie has worked steadfastly to make sure that our undergraduate composition program runs smoothly, to provide teachers with the support they need to do the important work of providing high quality instruction to our students, and to provide students with up to date guidance to navigate often byzantine university requirements and paperwork. She has provided spot-on and greatly appreciated therapy to many a writing program coordinator and lent a sympathetic ear to countless students and instructors. This generosity of spirit is driven by a deep conviction – one that has only grown stronger over time – that “what we do matters.” Her unshakeable belief in our value – no matter the
countless reasons we’ve given her to doubt us – is the defining gift that Ernie has bequeathed us. So, to Ernie we say in return: What you’ve done for us matters and you will be sorely missed.

From all of us in the English Department, congratulations on your retirement. You depart SFSU with our profound gratitude and very best wishes for this next chapter of your life.

Professor Nelson Graff is moving on from SFSU after more than 10 years of coordinating English Education. He is going on to direct the university-wide writing program at CSU Monterey Bay.

As program coordinator, Nelson has been a guiding light in English Education since 2003, tirelessly supporting thousands of future school teachers towards their chosen career. In that time, he ceaselessly moved the program forward, with constant innovation in teaching and curricular design, as well as countless contributions to campus and local life, each role defined by the same selfless dedication and incredible eye for detail. Among his achievements, it should be noted that Nelson set up the English Education undergraduate concentration soon after arriving at SFSU and instigated the flourishing in-school tutoring program with the non-profit 826 Valencia. Most recently he launched two major initiatives for the future of the undergraduate program—a World Language emphasis designed to serve the educational needs of English language learners and an option in Technical and Professional Writing. Beyond the campus, Nelson is well-known to generations of teachers through his extensive contributions to the Expository Reading and Writing Curriculum, widely used in California schools, as well as numerous workshops and summer programs on behalf of the Bay Area Writing Project.

Nelson has supported students and colleagues alike with assured, even-keeled leadership twinned with compassion. Below are testimonials from two of his students:

“Students who have had the opportunity to take classes with Nelson Graff consider him to be much more than a professor; he is seen as an adviser, a mentor, and a model teacher. Nelson shows a deep commitment to social justice that he brings to his classes in penetrating ways. He teaches with enthusiasm, humility, and a sincere respect for his students. He not only holds high expectations for his students, but for himself as well, constantly striving to improve his teaching.

Nelson will be truly missed by the students and faculty at San Francisco State. Personally, I can say that my experience with the English Education department and my path as an educator have been greatly influenced by him. I know that many other students would say that same.” ~ Graduating student, Keira Hamilton

“No student took Professor Graff because he was ‘easy;’ rather, we pursued his classes hungrily because of the stretch we expected to experience as developing teachers. In his classes, we were encouraged to try out, to
create, to envision anew, to experience the productive struggle...I am in my third year teaching, and even now when faced with the complex challenges that come with teaching, Prof. Graff is still my support.

Experiencing Prof. Graff is like speaking a language. I have met different generations of his students in my professional career, and we recognize each other in the language we choose to speak about students, the approach we have to curriculum design, the interest we have in inquiry into our practice as teachers, and our perspective of ourselves as “servers of students.” Nelson shared with us his soul in the classes. It takes dedication, commitment, creativity, and content knowledge to be a good and effective professor, but it takes an unconditional, selfless, and limitless capacity for loving to make a master professor. Thank you, Prof. Graff, for your gift of self. We hope to make you proud.”  

“Jamie Lundie, English Department Chair, Wallenberg High School, S.F.”

Elizabeth Whalley is retiring this June after having taught here for an amazing 28 years (1987-present).

Elizabeth obtained her Ph.D. in Foreign Language Education from Stanford University, her M.A. in English with Concentration in TESOL from SFSU, and her B.A. in History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Previously, she taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Cal State Polytechnic-Pomona, and in Germany, Mexico, Israel, and Indiana (first grade), and at Stanford.

Here at SF State, Elizabeth has taught a wide range of classes, including many of the undergraduate CMS classes, several upper division linguistics classes, and a number of graduate classes in TESOL. She loved the challenge of tackling a brand new course. Elizabeth created, and is especially well known for, the M.A. TESOL program’s courses on teaching performance (drama and improv) for the ESL/EFL classroom, and on teaching ESL in the workplace. These classes built on her many years of experience performing improv herself (with a variety of groups including BATS Improv and Spontaneous Combustion), and serving as a workplace consultant (for companies such as Oracle, Sun Microsystems, and Target Therapeutics).

Elizabeth is the co-author of 7 ESL/EFL textbooks, including Mosaic: A Listening/ Speaking Skills Book (2 vols.) and Reading for a Reason (3 vols.). She has been a frequent presenter at conferences locally, nationally, and internationally. (cont. on p. 14)
For 8 years (1992-2000), Elizabeth served as Language Studies / M.A. TESOL Program Coordinator. She generously served on numerous Department committees and in a variety of professional roles, including Editor of the popular “It Works” column in the California TESOL newsletter.

Among our graduate students and alumni, Elizabeth is especially appreciated and famous for sharing practical teaching wisdom. For example, here are a few of her memorable aphorisms: “Repetition is your friend.” “Always have a Plan B.” “Always start and end your classes on time.” When sharing written feedback: “As my mother always said, take what you want, leave what you don’t.” Some of this wisdom would also be offered during faculty meetings. E.g., on instituting change: “There's always a first time,” and “Just because it's never been done before is not a reason NOT to do it.”

Elizabeth has often said, “I have the best job in the world,” and she is sad to be leaving this, her perfect job. But we know that with her adventuresome spirit, many talents, and wide-ranging interests (among them, yoga, improv, travel, and many friendship circles), her retirement years are certain to be bright and enjoyable. We will miss you, Elizabeth, and we wish you a rich, healthy, and happy retirement!

In Memorium

Judith Puchner Breen, former faculty member of the English Department (1969-2006) passed away on January 17, 2015 after a long illness. Judy was born in Milwaukee, WI on March 31, 1935. She received her B.A. from Swarthmore College and her Ph.D. from Cornell University before embarking on a long career teaching English literature, first at Temple University in Philadelphia and then, from 1969 to 2006, at San Francisco State University. After retirement she taught college courses at San Quentin prison, where she also headed the Video Literacy Project. She was an avid birder and gardener as well as an essayist.

Judy is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Katharine Breen and Douglas O’Hara of Chicago and Molly Breen and Joshua Poertner of San Francisco; three granddaughters, Elizabeth and Samantha O’Hara and Lorna Lark Poertner; her dear friend and former sister-in-law Peggy Kinney and her husband Ross; and five beloved nieces and nephews, Alex Puchner, Laurie Puchner, Pennie Strebel, Eric Puchner, and Brooks Puchner, as well as their partners and children. Memorial contributions may be made to the Golden Gate Audubon Society or to Project Read of the San Francisco Public Library.
We hope to see you all at our **First Annual English Department Commencement Ceremony** on Thursday, May 21, 2015 from 12:00-1:30 p.m. with a reception to follow in the department suite, HUM 484. Everyone is welcome!

**THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS**

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