DEPARTMENTAL AND PROGRAM NEWS

Dr. Lynn Wardley will join the department in the fall as assistant professor. Lynn has a Ph.D. from Berkeley, and she has taught English and American Literature and American Studies at Yale, Harvard and Berkeley. This year she is a lecturer in our department. She is completing a book on the influences of the life sciences on nineteenth-century American Literature—“The Garden in the Machine”—and is also at work on a book on nineteenth-century science, philosophy, and women writers entitled “Masterful Capacity: Nietzsche’s New Women.”

The department is collaborating with the English departments at Stanford, Mills College, Peralta Community College on a joint grant proposal to the Teagle Foundation for assessment. If the grant is funded, you will hear more about the project.

Sabbaticals were awarded to Meg Schoerke and Julie Paulson for the upcoming academic year. Meg intends to carry out an interdisciplinary creative project that will merge drawings and poetry writing. Julie plans to complete the final chapter of her book, Words Made Flesh: Performance and Penitential Subject in the English Morality Play.

Word for Word gave a wonderful performance of three stories by Tobias Wolff on 8 February in McKenna Theatre, sponsored by our department. In attendance were students from English 214, students from various literature classes, faculty members, and alumni of the department. A generous donation from alumna Debra Plousha Moore allowed us to keep student ticket prices low. Before the show, a large group of graduate students, lecturers and staff enjoyed a candlelight dinner, thanks to the organizational genius of Barton Creeth and James Warren Boyd.

UPCOMING EVENTS

¡Attención!

A department celebration in honor of Steve Arkin, Gayle Davies and Tom Scovel, long-time colleagues who will leave us after this spring, is in the planning stages! More information to come very soon ....

Also, a reception honoring students in the department for their achievements will take place during finals week on Thursday, May 21, probably in the mid-afternoon.
More events:

The Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA) will hold its one-hundred-seventh annual conference on our campus, November 6 and 7, 2009. The conference is hosted by our College of Humanities and co-sponsored by Mills College. Emily Merriman is a member of the local arrangements committee. We hope that you will consider attending, and please let your graduate students know about this conference; SFSU students are invited to attend the conference for free. The call for papers may be found at the PAMLA website: http://www.pamla.org

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Helen Gillotte-Tropp is leading a CTFD workshop on March 5, in which she will help faculty develop strategies for encouraging and improving reading among their students. The content of the workshop is reading and comprehension skills and strategies used in the integrated reading-writing (IRW) courses in our English Department. The expectation is that these materials will be used in the content courses and thus reinforce what students are already learning and doing.

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A number of faculty will present papers at the upcoming Conference on College Composition and Communication (4Cs) in San Francisco. The presenters would welcome seeing SFSU faculty and graduate students at their sessions:

3/11 (Wed.), 1:30-5:00 Pamela VanHaitsma will present “Knowledge Making, Making Students: Constructions of ‘Basic Writer’” at the Qualitative Research Network interest group gathering. Her research explores the ways in which teachers and scholars in the field of English composition have constructed knowledge about students through the categories “basic writer” and “first-generation college student.”

3/12 (Thurs.), 12:15 Tara Lockhart will present a paper entitled "Teaching Graduate Writing: Reflections from a New Assistant Professor."

3/13 (Fri.):
9:30-10:45 Kory Lawson Ching will discuss “Genre Discovery in Online Gaming Quest Narratives” on March 13, 9:30-10:45.

11:00-12:15 Mary Soliday will present "Where You've Been Is Where You Might Go: Why BW History Matters," as part of the panel “CCCC-Studies in Writing and Rhetoric: The Next 25 Years.” This panel, hosted by the editor of SWR, responds to new books in the series; Mary will respond to Kelly Ritter's book, Before Shaughnessy: Relocating Basic Writing in Context, 1920-60.

3:30-4:45 Debbie Miller, Sherry Suisman, and Shannon Pries (M.A., 2002; former Lecturer in English, and now an Assistant Professor of Reading at American River College) are presenting "Reading, Writing, and Cyber Discussions: Bringing the Book Group Format to an Online Learning Community." They will talk about the group assignments on nonfiction books that they have developed and now include as part of their 114 and 414 curriculum.
Katherine Powell had a book published in December, *San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury*; a reading and signing took place at The Booksmith in January.

Also in January, Sarah Manyika was a featured speaker in the Voices of World Author Series, sponsored by the Young Professionals International Forum. The series is designed to bring international writers of fiction, poetry and memoir to the Northern California World Affairs Council. Sarah spoke about her recently released-book, *In Dependence*.

Mark Roberge co-edited a volume which has just been published by Routledge/Taylor and Francis. *Generation 1.5 in college composition: Teaching academic writing to U.S. learners of ESL* includes chapters by Mark ("A teacher's perspective on generation 1.5") and by Sugie Goen-Salter, Patricia Porter, and Deborah vanDommelen ("Working with generation 1.5: Principles and practices").

Tom Scovel was featured in an article by Michael Tortorello in *The New York Times* (12/17/2008). In "Many Takes on a Traveler’s Tale," Tortorello tells some of the stories underlying the collection and preservation of crèches (Nativity scenes) of worldwide origins by aficionados around the U.S., including Tom.

This year Sandy McKay, recently retired from SFSU, is a visiting professor in the Second Language Studies Department at the University of Hawaii in Manoa. She is also administering a large federal grant that she received from the U.S. State Department to develop English language teaching materials for at-risk young people around the world and to host a summer institute for teachers of such students. Her new book, *International English in its sociolinguistic contexts: Towards a socially sensitive EIL pedagogy* (with W. Bokhorst-Heng, Routledge), just came out and she is working on a second edition of *Sociolinguistics and Language Teaching* with Nancy Hornberger.

The AWP pedagogy committee has asked Jennifer Arin to be the speaker at their multigenre pedagogy forum, at this year’s AWP Conference in Chicago. Also, her pedagogical essay, “Arts and Letters Revisited,” was one of twenty selected for publication in *The Best of the AWP Conference Papers 2009*.

Elana Dykewomon is the 2009 recipient of the James Duggins Outstanding Mid-Career Novelists’ Prize. (This prize was started last year and is funded by James Duggins, who was a history professor. Dorothy Allison was the first women’s winner.) The award is administered by Saints and Sinners, the largest LGBT literary conference in the U.S.

Vicky Holder is organizing a new series of *English Books for Korean Children and their Moms* with a new publisher in Korea (who is also a former English 411 student of Vicky's). Working with her are Anita Malnig, Patricia Koblenz, and Pamela Hughes. Vicky also will be designing and running lights for the San Francisco Cabaret Opera production of "The Marriage of Figaro" at the Community Music Center the first weekend in March.
Gitanjali Shahani presented a paper entitled, "Of 'barren islands' and 'cursèd gold': Worth, Value, and Womanhood in The Sea Voyage," at the Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies (GEMCS) conference held in Philadelphia last November. She also chaired a panel at GEMCS on "Appetite and Otherness: Consumption, Colonialism, and the Circulation of Narratives in the Early Modern World."

Jim Kohn wrote a review of Gessica DeAngelis's book, Third or Additional Language Acquisition, which appeared in the final 2008 issue of The Modern Language Journal. He recently took on the duties of Membership Chair for the Executive Committee of the Friends of the Library. Jim continues his activities as a docent and lecturer for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and for the San Francisco Botanical Garden. Currently, he has lectures and tours scheduled for the Andy Warhol exhibit at the deYoung.


Pamela VanHaitsma will speak on “Community Literacy Work and Graduate Students: Finding Best Practices for Building Community and Academic Connections” (with Rebecca Lorimer, M.A., 2005; former Lecturer in English) at the Interdisciplinary Conference for Graduate Students in April at Ohio State University.

Emily Merriman gave a presentation at MLA 2009 in San Francisco on "Plain and Fancy: Geoffrey Hill's Imagined England." In early spring she will be attending the North-East MLA conference in Boston, where she will give a paper on "The aging age of protest in American poetry: Bly, Merwin, Snyder, Baraka, and Rich" and participate in a roundtable on gender, tradition, and innovation in Caribbean Poetry. Her topic will be "Derek Walcott’s Engendering Puns."

Amy Love led a workshop with Pamela Vaughn at the SFSU Faculty and Staff Retreat entitled “How I Stopped Worrying and Started Living: How UDL Changed My Life.” Amy also contributed to a presentation at the retreat on the use of social networking sites in the classroom.

Meg Schoerke presented a paper, "Oppen's Difficulty / Oppen's Clarity: An Evolving Balance," at the George Oppen: A Centenary Conference, which was held last November at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

Patty Baldwin, Helen Gillotte-Tropp, Sugie Goen-Salter and Joan M. Wong are revising their textbook, Composing for Success, for a second edition to be released Fall 2009. In addition, since the integrated reading-writing text has been adopted by many community colleges, an edition for national distribution is being prepared. (Royalties from sales of this book go directly into the Jan Gregory Scholarship Fund.)

Also, Helen and Sugie conducted a workshop at Cañada College in November for faculty from all disciplines that was designed to provide tools for teaching and creating assignments that will provoke more active learning and metacognition among students. They will do a follow-up workshop on March 19.
Laura Yim been selected to participate in a Folger Institute seminar on the "Changing Conceptions of Property" in 17th- and 18th-century England. The seminar will be directed by J.G.A. Pocock and Gordon Schochet at the Folger Shakespeare Library early this summer.

Homeira Foth will have a story, "Letters to Keats," published in the Wordriver Literary Review in April. Wordriver is publication out of the English Department at University of Nevada Las Vegas.

James Warren Boyd's short story, “Sluham [I'm listening],” which he performed at The Marsh with Gay Writes last spring, appears in the current issue of the literary journal Memoir (and).

Bill Christmas has an essay, "Genre Matters: Attending to Form and Convention in Eighteenth-Century Labouring-Class Poetry," forthcoming in Key Words: A Journal of Cultural Materialism, the publication arm of The Raymond Williams Society; and a book review forthcoming in Eighteenth-Century Fiction.

In October, Sarita Cannon contributed to an Ethnic Studies panel at the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Conference in Reno. During the Thanksgiving break in November, she presented a paper entitled “Engaging Heads and Hearts: Teaching Richard Wright at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century” at the Richard Wright at 100 Conference at Universidade da Beira Interior in Covilhã, Portugal. (While in Portugal, Sarita also visited Lisboa, Sintra, and Coimbra.) In addition, Sarita has two forthcoming publications: a book review of Mixed Race Hollywood in the Spring 2009 issue of The Black Scholar and an article on the controversy surrounding the 1998 Miss Navajo Nation Pageant in the Spring 2009 issue of Interdisciplinary Humanities.


NEWS ABOUT CURRENT AND FORMER STUDENTS

Congratulations to a number of our graduate students, who were awarded scholarships last fall. From among the Literature students, Jessica Young won the Ellanore and Maurice Bassan English Department Scholarship; Jordan Hayes and Chris Wilson Simpkins each won a Randall Nakayama Memorial Scholarship. And, Barton Creeth was the winner of the College’s Edward B. Kaufmann Scholarship. Students in the TESOL Program who will travel to Denver having won TESOL Convention Scholarships include John Chen, Tien Tran, Min Song, and Daichi Shiraishi.

At the end of February, Ali Sperling (Literature) attended the Organization of Graduate Students of English Peaks Conference at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona.
She gave a paper on "T.S. Eliot’s Black Mask: Belonging, Identity and Community in the Language and Imagery of Eliot and Noir."

**May Whitaker** (an undergraduate student in Literature) has been accepted to present a paper in April at the 23rd National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. The title of her paper is “New World Voices of Modernity: The Transnational Migrant in the Poetry of Velma Pollard.”

**Davan Jennings**, a senior English major, has been accepted to the Stanford Teacher Education Program for the M.A. in Education and a teaching credential. Davan has been offered a tuition fellowship at Stanford.

**Caitlin Chiller** (B.A., 2007) sent this brief account of her teaching life to Bruce Avery:

“Today I teach six grades of English at a tiny school on the Ft. Peck Reservation (or Rez), Montana, mainly to Assiniboine and Sioux students. Last week we started reading Shakespeare, and for most students this was the first time they’d ever read him. This past Monday, a travelling group of actors put on a production of *Much Ado* and the students were enraptured. For about two-thirds of the school it was the first play they’d ever seen, and I’ve never seen them so engaged, so interested.”

**John Smithula** received his M.A. in literature in 1995. Last year, he completed his doctoral dissertation on the representation of war in American literature and film since 1960 at the University of Nevada, Reno. John is also a film actor and director. He directed *Hidden in Plain Sight* (2003), a documentary about the Army’s School of the Americas and its training in terrorism. Reviewer Leah Wells wrote that the film says that "these horrific stories [of government terrorism] have been 'Hidden in Plain Sight,' and culpability is strangely obscured despite a trail of evidence linking U.S. foreign policy to the bloodstained history of Latin America in the 20th Century. 'Hidden' gives interviews of both SOA supporters and critics, and shows flinchworthy footage of soldiers and victims." The film has been shown across the U.S. and in national and international film festivals.

**Chelsea Martin** (M.A., 2008) has been accepted into the Draper Program in Interdisciplinary Studies at NYU and will begin her work there in September.

**Garrett Morrison** (graduate work in literature) has been accepted to the doctoral program in English at Northwestern.

**Sarah Mangin** (M.A., 2008) has been accepted to the Ph.D. program in English at UC Berkeley (with full fellowship) and has been offered fellowships to other programs as well.

**Liam Felsen** (M.A., 1999) has been Assistant Professor at Indiana University Southeast since 2003; he teaches Medieval literature, amongst other things.

**Christopher Loots** (B.A. 1998) completed his Ph.D. last year at the CUNY Graduate Center.

**Steven Swarbrick** (B.A., 2008) has been accepted to the graduate program in English at Emory University.

**Matthew Dorville** (Literature) has taken a position reviewing books for *O Magazine*.