A Note from the Chair:

Dear Friends of the Department,

In this issue you will read about the achievements of many faculty, students, and former students—from the MLA's award of the Mina Shaughnessy Prize to Jennifer Trainor's Rethinking Racism, to Elana Dykewoman's reading for the Stonewall Library's Distinguished Author Series, to the quite impressive conference presentations by our graduate students. Some of the developments in our curriculum are also noted.

The fall newsletter contained a note about the conference of the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, held on our campus in November and sponsored by our College of Humanities. This very successful conference proved to be by far the largest meeting of PAMLA since its first conference, also held in San Francisco, in 1899. Many faculty members and students from our department and from other departments in the College participated in the conference, and, behind the scenes, several members of our department—including Emily Merriman, Irina Simon, and James Warren Boyd—made the conference possible. As the person who was president of PAMLA last year, I would like to acknowledge Irina for her good work on the local organizing committee; James for making the reception a festive occasion; Emily for expertly co-chairing the organizing committee and solving a range of logistical problems with remarkable efficiency and grace; and the graduate students who organized papers, staffed the registration desk, and set up the reception. And, thanks to keyboardist and friend of the department Stephen Merriman for playing for the reception.

I would also like to acknowledge a number of alumni, faculty members, and other friends of the department for their financial contributions. In the absence of adequate state funding, such donations have helped support our academic programs, faculty and student research, colloquia and special events, and scholarships. Paper incarnations of the newsletter are printed on paper donated by an alumnus. On behalf of the department, I salute and thank all of you who have donated funds and supplies.

Cordially,

Beverly Voloshin

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

Jennifer Seibel Trainor received the distinguished Mina P. Shaughnessy Prize from the MLA for her book, Rethinking Racism: Emotion, Persuasion and Literacy Education in an All-White High School. Jennifer began her publishing career as a graduate student in our M.A. Literature program, with an essay not unrelated to her prize-winning book. The 1993 issue of Interpretations, the journal of the Graduate Literature Association, includes an essay by Jennifer entitled "Beyond the Kitchen: Sphere and Space in the Later Novels of Harriet Beecher Stowe."

This has been a fruitful year for English in the area of program development. Early in the fall semester, the department endorsed proposed changes to the Composition M.A. and to the graduate certificate in teaching Composition. These changes will result in an updated curriculum and culminating experience project for students, tying it more closely to the knowledge and experiences they're accumulating in the classroom. Students will also progress through the M.A. program more
quickly and with more flexibility; and, new elective courses will better utilize the expertise of the Composition faculty. (Changes to the certificate were necessary for better alignment with the revised M.A.) These proposals received final approval in the Academic Senate in November. The Composition and Postsecondary Reading program is also reworking the GTA program. Also finalized in November was the renaming of one of our undergraduate concentrations: Language Studies will now be called Linguistics. Most recently, the department has won approval to expand its graduate certificate offerings—thanks to the assiduous efforts of Maricel Santos and Gail Weinstein, graduate students may opt to earn the Certificate in Immigrant Literacies. The aim of this certificate is to provide students opportunities to examine the many forms of literacy at work in the lives of immigrants, with additional focus on improving support structures for immigrants as they engage with social systems. The certificate will target graduate students and working professionals in adult ESOL, health, community development, and related fields; it will combine a cross-disciplinary study of language, literacies, and the immigrant experience with community service learning.

On February 4, the English Composition Colloquium Series hosted a talk by Andrea Lunsford (Stanford) on “Student Writing and the New Literacies.” The Humanities Symposium Room was packed to the rafters. Professor Lunsford used the stories of three participants in the Stanford Study of Writing to illustrate how students’ out-of-school literacy practices are being shaped by both new technologies and shifting rhetorical conceptions of audience. (More information about the Stanford Study of Writing can be found at http://ssw.stanford.edu.) Graduate students and faculty had a chance to meet informally with Prof. Lunsford earlier in the day.

A number of new student assistants joined our ranks in January. In the department office: Stacie Guan (Special Major in Psychology, Counseling and Health Ed) and Christina Manalansan (Environmental Studies). In the CMS office: Brad Halverson (English Lit) and Carolyn Benane (Liberal Studies). In the ETC: Adan Falcon (Creative Writing/International Relations) and Alexis Navarro (undeclared). And, in the Comp office: AnneMarie Aure (M.A. Education). Please say hello and introduce yourselves when you visit the offices!

Maureen Turner Carey and James Warren Boyd report that the English Tutoring Center is having another record-breaking semester, thanks to their amazing tutors. More students than ever before have been referred to the ETC for tutoring, and with 110 students matched with 66 tutors, the size of the tutoring center has more than doubled in the past five years. Additionally, despite the budget cuts, more than a dozen hours of drop-in tutoring appointments per week are still available. In the face of cutbacks, the ETC continues to expand and thrive due to the dedication and tenacity of our growing tutor population.

UPCOMING EVENT!

The English Department invites its students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the department to

Two on a Party by Tennessee Williams
Performed by Word for Word Theatre Company
McKenna Theatre
Tuesday, 16 March, at 8 pm
Tickets for students, faculty, and staff are $10 in advance
The McKenna box office is open M-F, 1-4
Co-sponsored by the Department of English
Ellen Peel has an essay included in a new MLA publication, *Teaching World Literature* (2009). Ellen’s essay is entitled “Imagining the Constructed Body: From Statues to Cyborgs.”

Bruce Avery’s article “You Don’t Know Jack: Teaching Shakespeare to the 21st Century College Student” will appear in *Pedagogy* 10.1 (September 2010).

Rachelle Waksler presented her paper “And have you met her wife?: Same-sex spousal reference terms and social justice” at this year's Organization for the Study of Communication, Language and Gender Conference in Los Angeles in October. The pdf of the powerpoint slides can be downloaded from her school website, http://userwww.sfsu.edu/~rwaksler .

Sarah Manyika was awarded a writing residency that will take place later in March at Hedgebrook, a women writers’ retreat on Whidbey Island in the Puget Sound.


Emily Merriman has co-edited, along with Adrian Grafe, a collection of essays entitled *Intimate Exposure* that is due to be published by McFarland this spring or summer. This volume of fourteen critical essays examines how British poetry has interacted with the public/private divide since the mid-20th century. *Intimate Exposure* includes an essay by Emily on Geoffrey Hill, as well as an essay on Patience Agbabi by Catherine Murphy, a graduate student in Creative Writing’s M.F.A. program. More details can be found at http://www.mcfarlandpub.com/book-2.php?id=978-0-7864-4221-8 . Emily also chaired a roundtable session at the 2009 MLA conference on “Faith and Fable in the Poetry of Geoffrey Hill.”

Peter Weltner’s *From a Lost Gospel of Mark* was published this January by 2River Press and is available to be read online or to be downloaded into printed form at 2River.org. *News of the World at My Birth: A History*, narrative lyrics and prose poems about the period immediately before, during, and after WWII, will (finally) appear this spring from Standing Stone Books in Syracuse, New York; look for the ad for it in this March’s *Poets and Writers*. It is introduced by the poets Linda Gregg and Bill Mayer and includes relevant photographs from the National Archives; the cover is by Gerald Coble. He has lately completed another book, *Altar Pieces*.

Gail Weinstein was nominated by the Institute for Civic and Community Engagement for the Bay Area Jefferson Award for Public Service. Gail’s nomination recognizes her contributions to the community and to service learning on our campus. Also, Gail delivered the keynote address and conducted a workshop at a meeting of the Bay Area chapter of CATESOL here on the campus on February 20; the meeting’s theme was “Using Stories for Learner-Centered Practice.”

The first sixteen of a series of English language books directed by Vicky Holder will be coming out in Korea at the end of March. The series, *English Egg*, is for Korean children and their moms; some books are written by Vicky, and songs for all the books are composed by Vicky. She is also editing all the books, which will eventually reach more than eighty in number. Also, Vicky’s running the lighting for an upcoming production of Goat Hall Productions and San Francisco Cabaret Opera,
“Sex and the Bible: The Opera (Part I)” at the Community Music Center in San Francisco (March 5-7 and 12-14).

Recently, Nathan Wirth was invited to display some of his photographs in the online art gallery of Integral Life. Michael Schwartz, a Professor of History and Philosophy of Art at Augusta State University, selected the photos and wrote an essay about Nathan’s work. You can read the essay and view of sampling of Nathan’s work at the Integral Life website: http://integrallife.com/node/67114. You can also view more of Nathan’s work at his website: http://www.nlwirth.com.

Gitanjali Shahani co-organized and co-lead a workshop on “‘Kitchin-physick’: Diet and Identity in a Colonial Economy” with Kim Coles (University of Maryland) at “Attending to Early Modern Women: Conflict, Concord,” a symposium sponsored by the Center for Renaissance & Baroque Studies from November 5-9, 2009.

Katherine Powell’s history of Nob Hill is scheduled to be released by Arcadia publishers in fall of this year.

In November, Elizabeth Whalley presented “Improv Games to Build Community and Promote Language Development” at the CATESOL Regional Conference in Concord; in January, she gave a paper entitled “Inspiration for the Intermediate ESL Grammar Class” at the Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities in Honolulu. Her improv troupe Spontaneous Combustion donated all the proceeds from their January show to provide relief to earthquake victims in Haiti. Information about the troupe’s future shows can be found at www.sponcomsf.com.

“Who says we’re extinct?” asks Elana Dykewoman, in an article so titled that was published in Trivia: Voices of Feminism (Issue 10, on Are Lesbians Going Extinct?). Access the journal here: http://www.triviavoices.net. On January 7, she appeared at the Stonewall Library in Fort Lauderdale as the featured writer in the library’s Distinguished Author Series. Elana also reports that on Saturday, March 20, she will be reading from her latest novel, Risk, at Sappho’s Salon at Women and Children First Bookstore in Chicago, along with her cousin, Jennifer Brier, who will be reading from her new book, Infectious Ideas: U.S. Political Responses to the AIDS Crisis. Tell your friends in Chicago not to miss this!

Later this month in Louisville, Sugie Goen-Salter, Kory Lawson Ching, Tara Lockhart, Mark Roberge, and Jennifer Trainor, along with SFSU graduates Kelly Hagen and Pamela vanHaitsma, will present a half-day workshop at the annual Conference on College Composition and Communication (4Cs) entitled “The Composition M.A. Remixed: Preparing New Community College Faculty, Addressing Diverse Student Needs.”

The Translator’s Sister, a collection of poetry by Mary Winegarden, is going to be published by Mayapple Press in October, 2010.

**Steve Arkin** was invited to lecture on American photography at London Metropolitan University last November. Wright Morris figured heavily in his comments, and he met with students and staff in their American Studies Program. He is due to lecture in a photography course at the University of Minnesota in April.

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**Maureen Turner Carey** is happy to announce the completion of her MFA, and of her first novel, *Upside Down Underwater*. The novel—a work of literary fiction that focuses on family, secrets, loss, and renewal—is set in rural Alabama and weaves together elements of mystery, suspense, memory, and magic realism. Maureen will soon begin her search for a literary agent to represent her work (and welcomes any suggestions).

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**Manfred Wolf**, in a “Perspective” aired on KQED in mid-February, questioned society's acceptance of the “talent and experience” argument put forth in defense of bankers' enormous salaries and bonuses. Manfred fears that as long as we continue to buy these arguments, “we'll continue to put the pyromaniacs in charge of fire-fighting, because they have so much experience with fire.”

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**Bev Voloshin's** painting “Leverage” was exhibited in the show “Small Works for Hard Times” at the Petaluma Center for the Arts (January-February).

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At the recent 2010 Humanities Education Research Association (HERA) Conference in El Paso, **Sarita Cannon** discussed “Organic Food for the ‘Lunchables’ Generation: Encouraging Critical Multiculturalism in the New Millennium.” Sarita also has an article coming out entitled “Engaging Heads and Hearts: Teaching Richard Wright at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century” in *Richard Wright At 100*, edited by Paula Mesquita, published by Edições Colibri.

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**In Memoriam**

Dorothy Danielson, Professor Emerita of English, passed away on January 31, 2010. Dorothy was first appointed in the Department of English Language and Literature in 1962, and retired in 1983. She was the founding co-coordinator of the department’s English as a Second Language Program, and was also instrumental in establishing what is now the Master of Arts in English with a concentration in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Jim Kohn, Dorothy’s former student and colleague, wrote a remembrance of her for the English faculty in which he noted her dedication to the teaching of literature in the ESL classroom, as well as her love of grammar. Dorothy wrote or coauthored several textbooks in each of these areas that were widely used both here and abroad. Jim also credited Dorothy for her role in establishing “the cohesiveness of the MATESOL program, and … the long-lasting rapport it has developed over the years among its faculty members and students.”


A celebration of Dorothy Danielson's life will take place at the Maritime Museum Library in Fort Mason Center (Building E, 3rd floor) on Saturday, March 20, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Those who cannot attend but would like to contribute a remembrance to be read at the gathering may send it to kwolf@ccsf.edu or dennis.debiase@cdcr.ca.gov.
NEWS ABOUT CURRENT AND FORMER STUDENTS

The Linguistics Program is proud to announce that all of the four students applying to Ph.D. programs have heard from and been accepted into top-tier linguistics programs around the world: **Gary Patterson** was accepted into the Ph.D. program at UCLA for computational linguistics, and has been invited for an interview with UCSD as well. **Chris VanderStouwe**, who graduated from the Language Studies Program and was the department’s Undergraduate Honoree last year, has been accepted to UCSB to do sociolinguistics. **Kim Witten** has been accepted into the doctoral program at Cardiff University in Wales to study forensic linguistics. And, **Keiko Beers** has heard news of her acceptance to the University of New Mexico, and plans to continue her work there on indigenous languages and documentary linguistics. While they are still waiting to hear from other programs, we congratulate them wholeheartedly on their hard work, perseverance and accomplishments, and wish them all success as our future colleagues!

In her “Writing for the Public” themed IRW class, GTA **Eleni Economides** (Composition) asked her students to reflect on current issues and work to make their voices heard. Reflecting on the Richmond High school gang rape in October, students drafted opinion pieces about the incident along with thoughts about the state of their generation and were successfully published on the San Francisco Chronicle’s opinion page (11/27/09). Eleni has been invited to present this positive outcome and other aspects of this pedagogical approach at three conferences this year, the next being held by the Michigan College English Association in October.

**Cherry Ngai** (TESOL) has received the Community Service Learning Student Award for this year in honor of her contributions to community service learning at SFSU. This is an award given by SFSU’s Institute for Civic and Community Engagement. Cherry was hired to establish a SHINE leadership corps as part of an effort to make SHINE a more student-run project. Cherry has created a system for experienced coaches (her fellow students) to master and lead essential operations, such as orientation training, and numerous special projects. Gail Weinstein, who nominated Cherry for this award, notes that Cherry consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty, and that her enthusiasm and hard work have been infectious.

Because of the budget, the university has suspended its support for students who are traveling to participate in conferences. The department will attempt to provide a modest stipend to English students who have been accepted to give papers and presentations; in addition, we are pleased to share the news about their achievements:

- **Heidi Fridriksson** (TESOL), **Nathan Maertens** (Composition) and **Carrie Hall** (Creative Writing) will present “What Makes a Student a ‘Reader’?” at 4Cs. All three are pursuing the graduate certificate in Post-Secondary Reading, and will investigate, in their presentation, how reading and readership are conceived and taught from the perspectives of TESOL, creative writing, and composition.
- **April Shandor** (Linguistics) and **Elizabeth Wadell** (TESOL) will give a paper entitled “Teachers’ Views on Motivation in a Global Society” at two gatherings: the 2010 SLA Graduate Student Symposium (at the University of Wisconsin-Madison), and the annual CATESOL Conference in Santa Clara.
- **Ned Buskirk** (Literature) presented a paper entitled “The Lisp in Eighteenth-Thentury Literature: A Symbol for Sexual Deviation” at the HERA Conference.
- **Lara Kucera** and **Sarah Murrman** (both in TESOL) will present “Learners’ Lives as Curriculum: Stories of Passing It On” at CATESOL.
• At the annual meeting of the Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, **Deanna Malvesti** (Literature) presented a paper entitled "Fluid Anxieties: Correlations between Early Modern Conceptions of the Sea and Gender in *The Roaring Girl*.

• **Viola Lasmana** (Literature) participated in a one-day symposium at UC Berkeley, “The Future of the Forum: Internet Communities and the Public Interest.” Viola and her co-presenter spoke on "Making Public, and Being Made Public: Dilemmas of Social Media In/Out of the University Classroom." On Feb. 20 at the Digital Media in a Social World Conference (Ohio State University), Viola gave a paper on “New Media Literacies and Representations.” Lastly, she explored "Borderlines in New Media, Culture and Representation” at the HERA Conference.

• **Josie Schoel** (Literature) has just presented “Transubstantiation as Metaphor for Conversion, Regeneration and Liminality in *The Croxton Play of the Sacrament*” at the Medieval and Early Modern Graduate Conference at the University of Alberta. Josie will also head to NYU to take part in the Early Modern Interdisciplinary Group’s conference on Exploring Early Modern Masculinity; Josie’s paper is entitled “The Construction of Masculinity, Desire and Marital Chastity in Milton’s *Samson’s Agonistes*.”

• **Chris VanderStouwe** (Linguistics) will participate in the Lavender Languages and Linguistics Conference at American University in Washington D.C. His paper is entitled “Coming Out Narratives-in-Interaction: What’s ‘mine,’ what’s ‘ours,’ and what do we want from ‘them’?”

• **Ali Sperling** (Literature) delivered “The Orlando Case: Sex, Gender, and the Patriarchal Worlds of Woolf’s Orlando and Freud’s Dora” at the HERA Conference. In April, she will attend the NeMLA 2010 Convention in Montreal, where she’ll speak on “Eggers’s Humor in Memoir: Destructive or Instructive?”

• **Al Harahap** (Composition) presented “Fake News is Good News: The Daily Show as Equipment for Living” at the Rocky Mountain MLA conference that took place in Utah last October. At 4Cs, Al will organize a roundtable session on “Writing Centers and the Recession: Fostering Effective Institutional Dialogue.” In May, Al will attend the Writing Across the Curriculum Conference at Indiana University, where he will give a paper entitled “Tutoring Across the Curriculum: How Interdisciplinary Tutor-Tutee Collaborations Affect Writing.” He is co-presenting at the latter two conferences with a fellow graduate student who attends the University of Nevada (Reno), Robert Cedillo.

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**Timothy Johns** (M.A., Literature) is Assistant Professor of English at Murray State University. He specializes in South African literature and has recently published “Birth of a Medium: Dickens, Griffith and the Advent of Sentimental Cinema” in *Victorian Studies*; “Laughing off Apartheid” in the *Journal of Narrative Studies*; and “The Price of Pleasure” in the collection *Masculinities in African Literacy and Cultural Texts*.

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**Vanessa Rapatz** (B.A., Literature) is a doctoral candidate in English at UC Davis. She is also a contributor to a new MLA publication, *Teaching Early Modern English Prose*.

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**Kristen Nelson** (M.A., Literature) has capitalized on many years of experience in the coffee business and opened a cafe on the ground floor of the Tribune building in downtown Oakland. Kristen describes the venture as being “akin to a brew pub. We’re a venue that showcases great coffee, the producers behind those coffees, the buyers in front of those coffees, and the roasters whose points of view are reflected in every cup.” Modern Coffee is open on weekdays from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.; the address is 411-13th Street. And, Kristen and her partner are tweeting about business at [http://twitter.com/moderncoffee](http://twitter.com/moderncoffee).
While teaching at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Victor Cohen (M.A., Literature) met David Downing, the editor of the journal Works and Days, a meeting which led to Victor’s editorship of a special issue Work and Days on the New American Movement, a socialist-feminist organization active in the 1970s. The issue (55/56) comprises essays and interviews that present a “collective first-person account” of the history of NAM.

A graduate of the Comparative and World Literature program, Susannah Carson, has recently edited A Truth Universally Acknowledged: 33 Great Writers on Why We Read Jane Austen (Random House). Susannah, now doing her doctoral work in French at Yale, wrote her M.A. thesis under the guidance of Bill Christmas and Ellen Peel. In her introduction to the collection of essays, she acknowledges Steve Arkin for his insights into Austen and her work when she was a student in his English 580 on Austen.

We are eager to maintain contact with alumni and friends of the department. To receive future news and announcements, to update us about yourself, and to submit items for the newsletter, please e-mail Ceci Herrmann at herrmann@sfsu.edu