

Spring 2012 Newsletter

SFSU English Department

SFSU English Department
Humanities 289
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From the Chair

We end the academic year with some words of congratulation. Larry Hanley, associate professor in the Literature program, has been elected chair of the Academic Senate. This is a full-time position for one year: the department's loss will be the academic community's gain. Larry has a deep background in academic governance and academic freedom from his years as editor of *Academe*, the journal of the American Association of University Professors. We also felicitate Sarita Cannon, of the Literature program, on her tenure and promotion to associate professor and Nelson Graff, of the Composition program, on his promotion to associate professor.

Kudos to several members of the faculty on their scholarly work. Lynn Wardley, assistant professor in the Literature program, was a featured speaker this spring at Rutgers University, where she presented her recent work on American literature and the life sciences. The research of three members of the department will be supported by grants this coming year: assistant professor Gitanjali Shahani of the Literature program and associate professors Maricel Santos and David Olsher, both of the TESOL program. Professor Troi Carleton (Linguistics) has completed her collaborative work of documenting and preserving the endangered dialect of Zapotec spoken in Teotitlán del Valle, in Oaxaca (there is a fuller description of Troi's project in this newsletter).

We are delighted to welcome Ron Martinez as assistant professor in the TESOL program. A San Francisco native, Ron has a master's from Oxford and a doctorate from the University of Nottingham. We also congratulate Ron on his appointment to the editorial board of *TESOL Quarterly*, the leading journal in the field. (For more about Ron, see the article in this newsletter.)

In the coming year we will be hosting two visiting scholars, Dr. Marnie Holborow from Dublin, Ireland, and Dr. Bihimini Somananda, from Sri Lanka; both will be affiliated with the TESOL program. The Composition program is beginning to plan for a local conference. And, Samuel Otter, professor of English at UC Berkeley and a noted scholar on nineteenth-century American literature and on the works of Herman Melville, will be delivering a guest lecture in the fall, title and time TBA.

Let me also take a moment to say farewell to some members of the department. Dr. Erica Fretwell, a lecturer in Literature, has taken a visiting assistant professorship at the College of Wooster. Javier Jimenez, who taught *The American Renaissance* this past semester, is moving to a position as assistant professor. Javier has his master's in literature from our department and is completing a doctorate in Comparative Literature at UC Berkeley. He was also the subject of an unusual article, on the job search, in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*; see <http://chronicle.com/article/Facing-Fears-About-Fitting-In/130346/>. Dr. Steve Schessler, also a lecturer in literature, has taken a tenure-line position at a local community college. We wish them all the best in their new jobs. Mary Winegarden, Michael Frisbie, and Elizabeth Spinner, lecturers in Composition, have retired, and we wish them well in the next stage of their lives. We also bid farewell to Prof. Helen Gillotte-Tropp (see the article about Helen in this newsletter).

Prof. Elise Wormuth is FERPing and stepping down from her position as Director of the University Writing Program. I thank Elise for her excellent work as Director, and I am delighted to announce that Prof. Sugie Goen-Salter has taken on this important position. Prof. Mary Soliday, Director of Writing in the Disciplines, is to be congratulated on her work with many departments in developing their junior-level writing courses. In the coming year, almost all majors in the University will be able to complete the junior-level writing requirement with a course in their major.

You have no doubt heard that the coming academic year is going to be another year of underfunding and budgetary uncertainty. Despite these challenges, we continue to mount an excellent program for our students. In these circumstances, the department is especially grateful to all of our donors. Your contributions allow us to enrich our programs for the benefit of our students and to support to our faculty.

- Beverly Voloshin



Campus Blackout



On Feb. 17, 2012, a campus-wide power outage took place and the hallways of the Humanities building were left dark and eerie. Irina Simon of the English Department was brave enough to check out the rest of the building outside of HUM 289. Power was restored after about 45 minutes.

Photo: Kelsey Avers

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Department News



The SFSU M.A. TESOL Student Association organized:

TESOL Talk: Classroom Research Forum

Friday, May 18 - HUM 587

This research forum explored challenges and opportunities encountered in teacher-inquiry and classroom-oriented research in language education. M.A. TESOL faculty provided a brief overview of research terms and practices, and then students, faculty, and recent graduates shared research tips from their experiences. Finally, breakout groups provided more opportunities to participants to discuss experiences, challenges, and questions. This forum was particularly helpful for current M.A. TESOL students preparing for their Capstone Projects, but teacher-researchers at every level of experience were welcome to join and share questions and insights.



On Tuesday, March 6, the English Department at SF State co-sponsored the Word for Word performance of "Sorry Fugu," a story by T.C. Boyle about food and passion. Word for Word Performing Arts Company is the professional San Francisco theater ensemble whose mission is to turn great literature into great theater. Word for Word has previously performed at SFSU with "More Stories by Tobias Wolff," "Sonny's Blues" by James Baldwin, "Two on a Party" by Tennessee Williams, and "The Islanders" by Andrew Sean Greer. James Warren Boyd helped organize a festive dinner for graduate students and faculty before the performance, and over 200 students in English classes attended the performance in McKenna Theatre, along with students from Theatre Arts and Creative Writing.



Jessica Morrow and James Warren Boyd pose in front of the Sorry Fugu flyer

On March 1, 2012, SFSU's Metro Academy received national recognition for its leadership. Metro seeks to close the college completion gap between low-income, first-generation, and under-represented students and their more affluent peers, by admitting them in cohorts, offering

academic support and counseling, and assigning them to co-herded classes.

A number of English faculty have participated in the Metro program: Elise Wormuth, Paul Rueckhaus, Dana Lomax, Georgia Gero, James Warren Boyd and others have taught Metro

students in 104/105, 114 and 214, and have found them to be lively and interesting students. They continue to support the Metro program and its inclusive, student-centered methods of teaching. Beverly Voloshin has supported the project as chair of the Department of English.

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Student News

A special issue on the CATESOL Journal on Graduate Student Professional Development features several MA TESOL students (alumni and current):

- **Christina Lorimer (spring 2011)** guest-edited the special issue and co-authored an “Reimagining TESOL Professionalism: The Graduate Student Perspective” with Julia Schulte (Spring 2012).
- **Heidi Fridriksson (spring 2011)**, “Professional Development as Academic Apprenticeship: Moving From Outsider to Voice of Authority.”
- **Corrie McCluskey (current student)**, “Professional Development to Work With Low-Educated Adult ESL Learners: Searching Beyond the Program.”
- **Elizabeth Wadell, Kathryn Frei, and Sherri Martin (spring 2011)**, “Professional Development Through Inquiry: Addressing Sexual Identity in TESOL.”

The Graduate Literature Association has published the twenty-fourth volume of *Interpretations*. This year's volume includes essays by Zebulah Baldwin, Luke Church, David Cosca, Magda Panunzio, Paizha Stoothoff and Leora Turko. It is for sale in the department office for \$5.00 (back volumes are also available for \$4.00). The GLA also held a spring conference, Explications, showcasing the works of graduate students.



Staff Updates and Faculty News

New Faces

As you walk in and out of the English Department offices, please take a moment to welcome some of the new staff members that have joined our fabulous team!



New English Tutoring Center manager **Jessica Morrow** is currently getting ready to graduate with a degree in TESOL that she will use to teach at Ohlone College in the fall, as well as in the Program in Composition for Multilingual Students at SFSU. Of her job in the ETC, Jessica says, “it is the most amazing thing to experience students learning new reading and writing strategies and seeing the improvements they make over the semester.”

Kelsey Avers is a graduate of the SFSU Journalism Department and is the new web coordinator in the English Department. She worked in the ETC as a student assistant in 2009, and is very happy to be back in the department.



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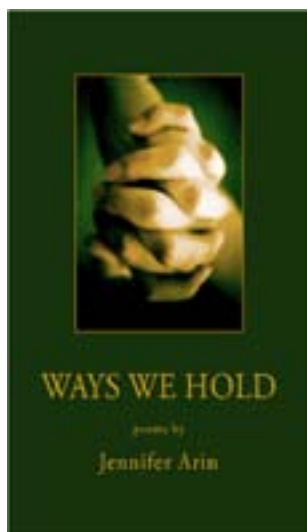
Since 2004, **TROI CARLETON**, Linguistics professor in the English Department, has been working with the community of Teotitlán del Valle in Oaxaca, Mexico to document and preserve the endangered dialect of Zapotec spoken in this small Mexican community. Under her direction, the Teotitlán del Valle Community Language Archive Project has recorded and transcribed dozens of texts in Zapotec with Spanish translations for the Oral History Archive, and produced a fully-accessible, on-line Zapotec-Spanish-English dictionary. The Oral History Archive is the one of largest collections, if not the largest collection, of transcribed and translated texts of an indigenous language in the region. In addition to compiling a corpus of language materials for the community, the project has emphasized training both SFSU students as well as community members in documentary linguistics and participatory action research design. Over the years, Dr. Carleton has trained over two-dozen community members and over three-dozen SFSU students. Many of the SFSU students have gone on to pursue the study of endangered languages at the doctoral level. From February-June 2013, the Teotitlán del Valle Community Language Archive Project will be a featured exhibition at the Centro Académico y Cultural San Pablo in Oaxaca as an example of community-centered language preservation research in the region.



"This photo was taken the last day of the 2011 field season. Aurora's sister-in-law, Norma, makes aprons. Every year at the end of the field trip we have an apron party. Norma brings them over to Aurora's house and those of us interested purchase them. Regardless, we all try all of them on and this picture was taken after we had all found our favorites. Sort of the village equivalent of a tupperware party... but way cooler."



"Aurora and her 8-year-old daughter, Sarah, working with Youness and Katherine. They are working in the outdoor kitchen where Aurora makes atole. The text they are working on is about the rituals and practices of child-birth. Aurora and her family have been working with us since the beginning of the project in 2004. Her father was our first consultant. Then her husband was a consultant, and finally three years ago she became one. Sarah has grown up with us in her home."



JENNIFER ARIN's book of poetry, *Ways We Hold*, has been published by Dos Madres Press, and her poem "Cycles" appeared this spring in *ROAR*, a journal of poetry and art. Two other poems, "Squash" and "Self-Defense," were accepted by *One Thousand Poets for Change*; the poem "Force of Nature" is included in the recently published anthology *A Bird Black as the Sun*; and her essay "The Rhythms of Flamenco" was published last fall in *Serving House Journal*. Also, an interview with her appeared in the February 14 issue of the *San Francisco Examiner*, for documents she translated from French to English about Hergé, the creator of the *Tintin* comic-strip series, for an official website accompanying the release of the Spielberg/Jackson movie, *The Adventures of Tintin*.

MARY ANN KOORY, Ph.D. and lecturer in English, will lead a creative writing course in poetry this Fall that marks a unique collaboration between U.C. Berkeley Extension and the San Francisco Center for the Book. "Forms of Poetry on the Page" will be held in a Berkeley classroom, where students will explore traditional forms of poetry, many introduced in printed books and broadsides in Early Modern Europe, and at the printing studio at the Center for the Book, where students will print their 21st century poems as broadsides. It's an exciting intersection of Early Modern literary history and contemporary interest in the art of printing. In January, Koory led an experimental class called "The King Lear Project" for a rogue group of creative writers, academics and performers who spent 8 weeks learning about Early Modern culture by reading, performing and writing about one play: Shakespeare's *King Lear*.



LAWRENCE HANLEY has been appointed to the Editorial Board of the journal, *WorkingUSA*. His essay, "What the Bee Is to the Hive: Digital Syndicalism in Education," first presented at the the III Encuentro International Workers' Economy in Mexico City in June 2011, is now available online for reading and commentary (<http://scritti.lfhanley.net/archives/6>).

Professor Hanley was also recently ordained as a minister in the American Fellowship Church and officiated at his first wedding in Southern Pines, NC (see photo above).

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Faculty News

GEOFFREY GREEN delivered a paper, "Freud and Korngold at the Crossroads of the Psyche: Freud's 'Remembering, Repeating, and Working-Through' (1914) and 'Mourning and Melancholia' (1917) as Represented in Korngold's *Die Tote Stadt* (1920)," at the 2012 annual conference of the Humanities Education and Research Association in Salt Lake City. He has edited a special issue of *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*: "A Search for the Most Deeply Hidden Human Values": Film Adaptations of Post-1950 Novels. The issue includes Geoffrey's introduction and an essay, "'Trying to Talk about Paradox, or the Existence of That Which Does Not Exist': The Transposition of *The Blood Oranges* from John Hawkes's 1972 novel to Philip Haas's 1997 film."

PROFESSOR GREEN also delivered a paper on postmodernism and participated in the panel on assessing postmodernism at the recent Brown University "Unspeakable Practices" conference. In 1988, Brown held the first "Unspeakable Practices" conference, to look at the state of fiction and postmodernism. Participating at that conference were: Donald Barthelme (in his last public appearance); William Gaddis; Robert Coover; Stanley Elkin; William H. Gass; John Hawkes; Susan Sontag; Jaimie Gordon; Leslie Fiedler; Robert Scholes; Marianne Robinson (among many others) and Green. This 2012 conference provides a benchmark attempt to chronicle an era of contemporary fiction, mapping the changes from modernism to postmodernism and beyond.

GEORGE EVANS' essay "The Deaths of Somoza" has been placed on a shortlist of staff favorites from the past ten years at *World Literature Today*, and reposted online as part of a readers' choice vote to celebrate the 350th issue of that magazine: worldliteraturetoday.com/deaths-somoza-george-evans. "Bash's Pheasant," next in his ongoing series of memoir essays, is forthcoming from the online magazine *Jacket2*, University of Pennsylvania. He also has work forthcoming in *Poetry Ireland Review*, the online magazine *Big Bridge*, and the anthologies *Al Mutanabbi Street Starts Here* and *Come Celebrate with Me* (a St. Mary's College, Maryland memorial tribute by friends of the late poet Lucille Clifton). Additionally, he has been appointed to the Advisory Board for the annual International Poetry Festival of Granada, Nicaragua.

ERICA FRETWELL, lecturer in literature, gave a paper at the second conference of the Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, held in April in Berkeley. **Beverly Voloshin** chaired a session at the conference on masculine and feminine genres.

On March 17, **ELLEN PEEL** gave a paper entitled "Unnatural Narration by Constructed Bodies" at the conference of the International Society for the Study of Narrative.

The CATESOL association presented **MARK ROBERGE** with a distinguished service award for his past 8 years of work as co-editor of the *CATESOL Journal*.

BEV VOLOSHIN is a member of the Planning Committee for the Fulbright Institute on American Studies for German University Teachers, which will be held on our campus in September. This will be the fourth time that San Francisco State has hosted the Fulbright Institute, and we are the only university to host the Institute more than once. Bev will also be giving a presentation, "Race and Reconstruction: The Example of Charles Chesnut."

GITANJALI SHAHANI was invited to present a lecture on "Shakespearean and Hindi Cinema" at the Asian Art Museum on March 31st, as part of the culminating events associated with the Maharaja exhibit. She also participated in a seminar on "Shakespeare in Public" at the 40th Annual Shakespeare Association of America meeting, held in Boston from April 5-7th.



BrickHouse Press in Baltimore is publishing **PETER WELTNER's** new book of poems, *The Outerlands*. He read from the book at Canessa Park on Montgomery Street in San Francisco on May 14th at 7:30. (Left: the cover of Weltner's book)

ELISE WORMOUTH participated in a show, "Small Wonders," at the Santa Cruz Art League, with three of her photographs. (Right: one of Elise's photographs)



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WELCOME, PROFESSOR RON MARTINEZ, TO THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT!

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Ron Martinez (Ph.D., Nottingham University) has accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position with the MA TESOL Program, starting Fall 2012. Most recently, Ron was a Research Fellow at the Center for Research in Applied Linguistics at Nottingham University. He also is a part-time lecturer with the University of Oxford, where he received his Master of Science in Applied Linguistics. Ron's research interests involve the practical application of a wide number of applied linguistic disciplines, including corpus linguistics, vocabulary acquisition, and language testing. In addition to scholarly publications, he is also the author of a number of ELL books, including *Taboos and Issues* and *Conversation Lessons* (Heinle). Ron is a native of San Francisco. In Fall 2012, Ron will be teaching ENG 426 Second Language Acquisition, and ENG 732 Seminar: TESOL Reading and Writing Skills. Please look out for Ron in the hallways next fall, and welcome him to our Department!

Tributes to Retiring Faculty

The Composition Program honors the years of service of **Mary Winegarden**, **Michael Frisbie**, and **Elizabeth Spinner** and wishes them well on their retirement. Thank you for all you have done over the years for your students, our program and department.

- *Elise Ann Wormuth*

Helen Gillotte-Tropp's scholarly expertise is a valuable but all-too-rare field not only at SFSU, but in higher education in general. Professor Gillotte-Tropp spent her professional career as a postsecondary reading specialist at a time when reading theory and instruction were typically considered the purview of elementary education (learning to read was thought to be accomplished by third grade and teachers who teach reading earn elementary teaching credentials). Conventional wisdom suggested, then, that undergraduate college students did not need reading courses and certainly SFSU did not need to prepare teachers to teach reading at the postsecondary level. Yet, Dr. Gillotte-Tropp spent her long and productive career at SFSU doing both, teaching reading to undergraduates and teaching prospective teachers to teach these courses at community colleges. Just as importantly, Dr. Gillotte-Tropp has contributed scholarly work to a national conversation about why reading is a vital component of the postsecondary education curriculum.

Under Professor Gillotte-Tropp's stewardship, San Francisco State's Graduate Certificate in Teaching Postsecondary Reading has served as a model for other campuses within the CSU and remains one of the few graduate certificates in California to meet the state-mandated qualifications for teaching reading at the community college level. Dr. Gillotte-Tropp was also a primary architect of SFSU's award-winning Integrated Reading/Writing (IRW) program which serves as a model alternative to traditional English remediation in reading and writing.

- *Sugie K Goen-Salter*

Newest Arrivals



Nelly Volsky's new bundle of joy, Nev Sarah-Adam Wolfson, arrived on February 24 at 6:02 a.m., weighing in at 7 lbs., 2 oz. and measured 19.5 inches long.



Jenny Lederer's new baby, Dorian Lawrence Matos, was born on Leap Day, February 29, at 8 lbs., 13 oz.



Former ETC manager Maureen Carey welcomed new baby Calvin Thomas Carey on Thursday, January 12 at 6:19 a.m. He weighed 8 lbs., 2 oz. and measured 20 inches long.



Congratulations to Anita Kitses on the birth of new granddaughter, Audrey! Her mother is SFSU alumna Jasmine Kitses (MA Lit, plus Reading and Composition Certificates at SFSU 2002-2004), who is currently completing her PhD at Davis. Audrey was born on Thurs. April 12.

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Student News

Congratulations to the Spring 2012 graduates of the MA TESOL Program, who hosted a successful conference, Paths and Panoramas: Exploring the Landscape of TESOL, on May 4, 2012. The conference showcased the students' capstone projects. Please check out the conference website to see the student work: <http://matesol2012.wordpress.com/>



Front row, left to right: Prof. Maricel Santos (faculty advisor), Kendra Aronson, Julia Schulte, Joel Swenddal, Lena Kelly, Octavio Alvarez, Rebecca Aldinger, Erinn Struss, Blanca Coma, Marie Caput. Second Row, left to right: Jessica Morrow, Maritez Apigo (photo credit), Yuriko Matsumoto, Clare Corcoran, Ruth Crossman, Ligia Montano, Michelle Duff, Osa Kauffman, Tamara Strelnik, Lauren Yal

2011-2012 DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE HONORS AND AWARDS RECIPIENTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH UNDERGRADUATE HONOREE

Ayse Kublay- Literature

JIM KOHN SCHOLARSHIP

Heather DeSmidt, Sanghee Park, Adam Reid

DEBRA PLOUSHA MOORE & JOHN E. MOORE JR. SCHOLARSHIP

Telisa Nyoka King

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT

Heather Swenddal - TESOL
Jennifer Tinonga - LITERATURE
Mariko Mihashi - TESOL
Emily Watson - COMPOSITION

R. JOEL DORIUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Tauva Hellie

ELLANORE AND MAURICE BASSAN ENGLISH DEPT. SCHOLARSHIP

Bethany Qualls

ASW SCHOLARSHIP

Amylia Pounds

TESOL CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP

Heather DeSchmidt, Julia Schulte, Aaron Sponseller

JAN GREGORY POSTSECONDARY READING AND COMPOSITION SCHOLARSHIP

Robert Talley

CUNNINGHAM SCHOLARSHIP IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

Gina Caprari

GAIL WEINSTEIN SCHOLARSHIP

Chelsea Lo

JIM BROGAN – JACK POST SCHOLARSHIP

Jesse Ataide

Humanities Education and Research Association Conference (HERA) - Salt Lake City, March 8-10, 2012

Thank you to those who presented at this years conference!

Former MA English Literature students:

Ron Richardson
Ali Sperling
Viola Lasmana
Ruth Osorio
Alden Wood

Current MA English Literature students:

David Cosca
Amy Thrash
Stephani Pierce

SFSU English Literature Faculty:

Sarita Cannon
Geoffrey Green

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Student News

CONGRATULATIONS!

Here is a list of students who have been accepted into PhD programs, credential programs and other graduate programs:

MA Composition student accepted into PhD programs:

Exequiel Ganding
UC Berkeley, Education PhD

Jennifer Saltmarsh
University of Pittsburgh, Composition & Rhetoric PhD

Carrie Hall
University of Pittsburgh, Composition & Rhetoric PhD

From the MA Linguistics program

Herman Leung will attend the linguistics doctoral program at UC Berkeley, with funding.

Noah Katznelson has been offered admission and funding to begin UC Berkeley School of Education's doctoral program in Language, Literacy and Culture. She begins in the fall.

English Education students accepted to graduate schools:

Gregory Done - Naropa University for an MA in Religious Studies - Indo-Tibetan Buddhism w/ Sanskrit and Tibetan Language

Ashley Guaraldi, MA TESOL - San Jose State University

Sara Britto - MA in Literature - SFSU

Emily Adams-Irving (BA 2012) has accepted an offer, with fellowship, to enter the Master of Arts in Teaching program at Bard College.

English Education students moving forward to credential programs:

Anthony Schwartz
Jesse McGrath
Robert Lechleiter
Kendricks Anderson
Claire Barros
Sheree Christensen

From the MA Literature program

Annette Hulbert (MA 2011) has accepted an offer, with fellowship, to attend the PhD program in English Literature at UC Davis.

Jennifer Tinonga (MA 2011) has accepted an offer, with fellowship, to enter the PhD program in English Literature at UC Davis.

Karl Mohn (MA 2011) will be attending the University of Georgia in the Fall to begin his PhD work.

Rachel Mann (MA 2012) will be attending the University of South Carolina in the Fall to begin her PhD work. In addition to a GTA fellowship, Rachel was also awarded the Brucolli Fellowship for British Literature.

Josie Schoel will be attending a doctoral program in English at SUNY Albany, with funding.

**GOOD LUCK WITH
YOUR
FUTURE ENDEAVORS!**

Congratulations, Chaz!

Congratulations to **Chaz Kelley**, English literature senior, who took first place at the Interstate Oratory Competition in February.

Kelley has been on the SFSU speech and debate team for 4 years and wrote a persuasive speech on the topic of SuperPACs, which received first place at the Northern California Forensics Association (NCFA) Championships. This win allowed him to attend the Interstate Oratory in Boston, MA at the end of April. Kelley is the first person from SFSU to qualify for this tournament, which he says he finds to be "quite humbling and a great honor." Kelley said he found the entire trip to be a great way to end his speech and debate career, and his undergraduate education. Kelley would like to thank the director of the program, **Alexis Litzky**, who helped him with his winning speech and throughout his forensics career.



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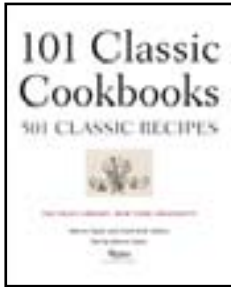
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Alumni News

Elizabeth Wadell (MA 2011) and April Shandor (MA 2011) have had a manuscript "Changing views on motivation in a globalizing world" accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed journal *The Language Teacher*, a journal associated with the Japan Association for Language Teaching.

Corrie McCluskey, who is pursuing a Certificate in Immigrant Literacies Programs along with her MA, has been elected to the Board of the Adult Literacy League of Sonoma County. She will serve as the chair of in-service tutor trainings.

"Heart of the Valley," an article by Gerald Haslam (B.A., '63; M.A., '65) that appeared in *Saveur* magazine (140 [Aug/Sept. 2011]) has been nominated for the Bert Greene Award for Culinary Writing. His most recent book, *In Thought and Action: The Enigmatic Life of S.I. Hayakawa* (w/ Janice E. Haslam, Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2011) has been nominated for the Book Club of California's Oscar Lewis Award.



<<< Clark Wolf (B.A. '76) is the coeditor of the book, *101 Classic Cookbooks; 501 Classic Recipes*, which will be released in October. Clark assembled the advisory committee and wrote the preface for the book. (Left: the book cover for Wolf's cookbook)

James Duggins, SFSU BA 1960, MA, 1964. Ph.D. UC Berkeley, 1970. Faculty, SFSU College of Education, 1969-2002 (FERP 1997-2002): Following retirement, Dr. Duggins retired to southern California where he writes historical fiction full time. He has won fourteen prizes for his three books, *The Power, Slave Stealer*, and *The Possession of Sarah Winchester*. He is currently working on his fourth novel. He has a home in Mexico where he collects Mexican Folk Art and contributes to half a dozen museums around the United States.

Christina Lorimer (M.A. '11) graduated from the MA TESOL program in 2011 and served as the student representative on the CATESOL Board of Directors from 2009 to 2011. She has taught academic and nonacademic English in the US and abroad. Her primary interests are community-based ESL, immigrant literacies, and curriculum development/assessment. In 2012, she will be conducting teacher training in Brazil with the support of the Fulbright Program. She is currently keeping a blog of her life and work in Brazil that reflects on language, culture and her experience teaching English at a University abroad. (Right: A photo of Lorimer in Brazil) You can find her blog at: www.christinanobrasil.squarespace.com



Norman Smith (class of 64, MA '66) has recently published the book *Out of the Norm*, a 314 page series of short essays on all areas of life. The book is available through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and other book sellers.

Michael Corrigan's (MA '69) book, *These Precious Hours*, is being released as an audiobook read by Alex Hyde White.



<<< Jeffrey Kinghorn (BA '77) has spent his entire life in the theater and as a university and public school Special Education teacher. He continues to write novels, short stories, plays, and screenplays, and just this month published his latest play, *In a Coal-Burning House*, published by RMJ Donald.

Brooke Steckley (MA '06) is currently teaching composition and other courses for a technical college in Portland, OR. As a writing-practice example to students and to further her own writing goals, she began a blog (secondhand-goods.blogspot.com), functioning as a form of politicized, contemporary, and informal archaeology of domestic artifacts, personal reflection, and cultural critique.

John J. Lesjack ('65) is now a retired school teacher that is working on winning a Pulitzer for his book on Bert Cutting, a blind diver who is now in the Diving Hall of Fame. An excerpt of his book was published in winter edition of *Dialogue* magazine.

Richard Arbib (BA '82, MA '89) was born in New York City, earned a master's degree in English and creative writing at San Francisco State University, taught English in Vietnam, and composition and literature to college students in Nevada. He has had short fiction published in *Mensa Bulletin* and articles published in *Integra—The Journal of Intertel*.

John Christgau (MA '62) has published a book titled, *Birch Coulee: The Epic Battle of the Dakota War*.

Michael Howerton (MA '11) is teaching freshman reading and writing at The College of New Jersey.

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Alumni News



<<< **Steve Schaefer (BA '78)**, currently has a novel in draft titled *Have You Seen Her Face: a middle age man's coming of age story*. For the past 20 years he has been writing automotive columns for the *San Leandro Times* where he writes reviews on different cars that he test drives every week. You can find his blog here: <http://testdrivinglife.blogspot.com/>

Michael Sykes (BA '66, MA '68) was accepted by the U. of Iowa in the Writer's Workshop, but elected not to continue with graduate work and went on to open several bookstores around the country since graduating from the department. He currently runs a bookstore called Floating Island Books and Publications, in Cedarville, CA, and on occasion hosts readings and book signings by authors from the 1960s.

Diane P. Levine (BA '69) is a professor of anthropology at Los Angeles Pierce College, where she teaches cultural and physical anthropology, as well as linguistics. She is the chair of the Department of Anthropological and Geographical Sciences. As a former teacher of English and ESL, she has written articles on the use of literature in the ESL classroom and presented seminars on critical thinking in the language arts classroom. Professor Levine is on the advisory boards for *Annual Editions: Anthropology* and was also a national adviser for the film series *Cultural Anthropology: Our Diverse World*. She is the co-author of three editions of *A Concise Introduction to Linguistics*. (Left: Levine's book cover photo)



Clark Sturges (MA '66) is a retired community college teacher and current publisher of a small press, Devil Mountain Books. He has published four books by another SFSU English grad, Gerry Haslam.

Mary O. Burnette (BA '70, MA '73) retired from fulltime teaching in 2004. Her memoir on growing up in the mountains of western North Carolina before the civil rights era is almost finished.

Linda Teague (MA '79) taught ESL/EFL in San Francisco and abroad for many years and then changed her career to advertising copywriter, then technical writer, then corporate communications. She says she has used her English MA for every job she's ever had and is immensely grateful.

In April 2011, **Wendy LaBron (M.A. '98)** joined Emmanuel College in Boston, Massachusetts as the Director of the Academic Resource Center where she oversees the peer tutoring, writing assistance, academic counseling, and disability support programs. Previously, she was a faculty member in the liberal arts department of the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.

Robert Tindall ('04) has written a couple of books on Amazonian shamanism, in keeping with Stephen Arkin's prediction that his work would be in distant lands. He and his wife now live in the Peruvian Amazon, in a small town called Tarapoto. His teaching is entirely online, for the Academy of Art University and Skyline College.

Candace Khanna (MA '98) continues to teach at Laney College part-time, mentor UC Extension TESOL students occasionally, and teach at the UC Berkeley SELS program (Summer English Language Studies, formerly SELI: Summer English Language Institute).

Kevin Bourque (MA 2005) is working on his dissertation at the University of Texas at Austin. His recently edited Charles Johnstone's novel, *Chrysal, or the Adventures of a Guinea* (1760), which has just been published by Valancourt Books.

Amy Storniauolo, who took her MA in Composition in our department and who also taught in our Composition program, has taken a position as assistant professor at University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education in the Reading/Writing/Literacy department. Amy writes, "My research interests center around multimodal literacies, adolescent and adult literacy, diversity and equity in education, education in global contexts, and relations between authors and audiences in new media composing contexts. I am also interested in qualitative methodology more broadly, particularly in methods that capture how people, ideas, and texts travel across spaces."

Our greatest thanks to those who made donations to the SFSU English Department for the 2011-2012 academic year:

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Memorial: Bernice Prince Biggs - January 2, 1923 - February 3, 2012



Bernice Prince Biggs

Jan. 3, 1923 - Feb. 3, 2012

After enjoying a good lunch, a movie, and the Peet's coffee she loved, Bernice Prince Biggs had a stroke and died peacefully on the evening of Feb. 3, 2012, with her loving children and grandchildren around her.

Bernice's career began editing Student Life for the National Education Association in Washington, D.C. However, she realized it wasn't what she wanted to do and went back to school. In 1950, with a year to go to finish her Ph.D. dissertation in Speech Communication at the University of Denver, she wrote to prospective employers: The answer came back from San Francisco State: "Come now!" She did, and felt she had come home when she saw San Francisco for the first time. She taught for 43 years at San Francisco State and made a difference to thousands of students. She was known as an advisor who could solve problems, one of a network of knowledgeable faculty members who could help a student with too many units and no major figure out a way to graduate. She instituted innovative programs for students to earn university credit for their life and work experience, helping many a success-

ful person fulfill a goal of achieving a college degree – including her eldest daughter. Bernice was very popular with the members of the Humanities Club for Elders, a group she co-founded for older adults in the community to take classes in the School of Humanities at SFSU.

Her first Fulbright Scholarship was to the University of Navarra, Pamplona, Spain (1966-68). Although she was advised not to take the children to Spain due to their young ages (3, 7, 11 and 13), she did not consider leaving them behind. Bernice taught at the university by day, made dinner for the family, entertained guests in the evening, and after the children were in bed she typed husband Donald's dissertation (six carbons on a manual typewriter).

Her second Fulbright Scholarship was as the first recipient (with Donald) of concurrent scholarships to a married couple, to Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland (1973-74). She taught university students during the week, and teachers of English in weekend seminars.

In her 43 years in the English Department at SFSU, she taught courses in English, Reading, Speech, and added the Teaching of English as a Second Language to her expertise. She also filled many other roles on campus: founding member, board member and vice president of the SF State chapter of Phi Beta Kappa; chair of the campus Academic Senate 1984-86; member of the California State University Statewide Academic Senate for several terms, as well as chair of its governmental affairs committee.

Elected president of the campus chapter of United Professors of California (UPC), she held the post from 1979-83, when UPC lost by a few votes to the California Faculty

Association (CFA) in the collective bargaining agent election runoff. She then joined CFA and held the position of Political Action Chair for CFA in 1986-87.

A founding member of the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, she was also a founding member of the Friends of the J. Paul Leonard Library at SFSU.

When she retired from SFSU in 1992, she stated her concern that she would be bored. There was nothing to fear; many organizations and her church benefited of her time and talent. She served the ACLU of Northern California on the board and seeking major gift donations. She was a member of the 1994-95 San Francisco Civil Grand Jury, where she deepened her understanding of the issues of homelessness. She was a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco for thirty years, singing in the choir for 25 years and holding many leadership positions. Her three terms on the Board of Trustees included two years as moderator; she was also president and program chair of the Society for Community Work. She was honored with the Rheiner Award for lifelong community service.

A Memorial service was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 3, 2012 at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, 1187 Franklin St. at Geary St. The family invites you to visit the memorial website at www.bernice-biggs.org. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the ACLU of Northern California, in memory of Bernice Biggs (39 Drumm St., San Francisco, CA 94111 or www.aclunc.org), or the Bernice Prince Biggs Scholarship Fund in the English Department at SFSU. If you would like to contribute to the fund, please make checks payable to The University Corporation, SFSU; indicate Bernice Prince Biggs Scholarship, and send to Andrea Rouah, University Development, Adm 153, SFSU.

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