DEPARTMENTAL AND PROGRAM NEWS

Congratulations to Troi Carleton on her promotion to Professor, and to Julie Paulson, who started out the new academic year with tenure in the rank of Associate Professor.

Also, this good news came out just as last spring semester was concluding: Sara Hackenberg and David Olsher both received Vice President’s Assigned Time Awards; Faculty Diversity Support Awards went to Gitanjali Shahani and Priya Abeywickrama.

In the spring, we introduced Kory Ching, Tara Lockhart, Larry Hanley and Mary Soliday, our newest tenured and tenure-track faculty, in the newsletter. We extend a warm welcome to them, and to other new faculty joining the department this fall: lecturers Lynn Wardley and Kim Zarins in Literature; Carol Pragides in CMS; and, Elizabeth Andrews and Bonnie Bennett-Walker in Composition/IRW. Also, Jenna Palmer and Steve Surryhne, who previously taught for the department in Composition and Literature, respectively, are back this fall.

In the early summer, a friend of the literature program made a donation to support the program and to honor Loretta Stec, Geoffrey Green, Professor Emeritus Donald Doub, and Steve Surryhne for teaching students to think for themselves. The donor wrote, “I hope [this contribution] will help to maintain the excitement of original thinking and incisive analysis” in our classes. A portion of the donation will be used for a purpose that benefits the entire literature program, such as a guest lecture. In addition, the donation will also make it possible, for the first time, for members of the tenured and tenure-track faculty to employ graduate students as research assistants. Research-related travel will also be supported from the fund.

And, funding for graduate students in English has come from quite a different direction, in the form of a prestigious grant from the National Science Foundation that was awarded to Diana Chu, Assistant Professor of Biology. This particular grant program confers awards to faculty at the beginning of their careers who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of education and research. Chu’s five-year grant will support her research on the role of proteins in sperm production, and the education component of the funding will include employing graduate students in English to tutor and collaborate with Chu's students in their preparation of scientific papers and proposals.

Steve Arkin reports that the Alexander String Quartet now has an official connection with the College of Humanities and is interested in collaborating on interesting programs that involve what we teach with what they play. There is a Dvořák project in the works involving Patricia Hampf's book Spillville, and other ideas are welcome. Pass them along to Steve and he will forward them to the quartet.

Loretta Stec has been named to the University’s Provost Search Committee, and Bev Voloshin has been appointed to the University’s Search Committee for Dean of the College of Education.

Maureen Turner, staff coordinator for the ETC, reports that the tutoring center has seen a significant increase in the number of tutors and students this semester. This semester brings record numbers of tutors and students, with 55 tutors and 104 students. Partly due to these rapidly increasing numbers, Maureen and James Boyd, faculty coordinator of the ETC, are piloting an iLearn site for the ETC that they developed last semester. They hope this online resource will help to build a sense of community among the ETC’s diverse tutor population, which consists of students from a range of academic backgrounds. James and Maureen will present their findings on the effectiveness of the iLearn tutoring site at the International Writing Centers Conference in Las Vegas.
The following M.A. students are newly appointed GTAs in English and are teaching IRW and composition classes:

Kristin Agius (Literature)
Graham Bowman (Composition)
Alison Dailey (Literature)
Antoine de Fridman (Composition)
David King (Comparative Literature)
Suzanne Loomis (Comparative Literature)
Ellen Ma (Composition)
Brandon Marshall (Literature)
Jay Pascua (TESOL)
Maureen Turner (Creative Writing)
Pam VanHaitsma (Composition)
Amy Zink (Composition)

Cynthia Losinsky, a staff member in the College for several years, is now the department’s assistant to Graduate Programs in English. Cynthia provided administrative support to both the TPW and Womens’ Studies programs before joining our staff.

And, a quick introduction to our student assistants:
In the department office, Barton Creeth (in MA Lit) and Donny Wombold (in BA Lit) are our newest assistants. In her fourth year with us is Harpreet Hayer (in BBA with Marketing emphasis). In the Comp/JEPET office, Russell Yamamoto (postbac in Physiology) continues, and Ryan Willard (in MA Lit) was hired at the start of the semester. In CMS, Dorothy Koch (in MA Linguistics) and Keith Anderson (in MA TESOL) continue for a second year, and Michael Pedro (in MA Asian American Studies) joins them in that office for his first semester. Lastly, Alex Henderson (in BA Journalism) is in her second year working in the ETC.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Word for Word will return to San Francisco State in the spring in conjunction with English 214. The Department of English will host the company’s performance of *More Short Stories* by Tobias Wolff in McKenna Theater on the evening of Sunday, 8 February.

**FACULTY AND STAFF ~ NEWS AND ACTIVITIES**


Bruce Avery went to Yale over the summer with three other SFSU faculty to investigate the creation of a San Francisco Teachers’ Institute here at SFSU. According to Bruce, it was apparent from talking to teachers from cities such as Chicago, New Haven, and Philadelphia that these institutes are an extremely effective approach to professional development; also, data have also been compiled by Rogers Smith, Professor of Political Science at Penn, which show that K-12 teacher retention improves by a “statistically highly significant percentage” after participation in these institutes. In each institute, K-12 teachers are paired with a university faculty member in a seminar on a mutually agreed-upon topic. The teachers, working with the professor, devise curricular units for their classes based upon the work done in the seminar. These units are then posted on the Yale website for anyone in the country to use.

Overall, the results are innovative curriculum based on real, solid content; inspired teachers and energized teaching; and greatly improved retention on the part of the participating teachers. Bruce reports that SF Unified, USF, and SFSU have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to begin the venture. Funding has been provided by Bechtel Corp. for two years’ worth of exploration before an application is made to the Institute for the formal establishment of the SFTI. The program will be independent of SF State; participating State faculty would receive stipends. During this exploratory period, Bruce and Matt Luskey (in Liberal Studies) will serve as liaisons to the administration, recruit faculty, participate in a search for a director, and help prepare for the launch of the actual program.

Also, Bruce, who is on sabbatical this semester, was in Ashland, Oregon to deliver a lecture on Coriolanus, and in England continuing research for the book he is writing on teaching Shakespeare.

Katherine Powell’s book on the Haight-Ashbury is due out on December 8th. San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury is part of Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series. Amazon.com describes the book as a compilation of “vintage images and stories from individual sources, public collections, and from the interviews [Katherine] has conducted as a columnist for the Haight Ashbury Beat newspaper.”

Lynn Wardley is finishing an essay on “Courtship, Marriage, and the Family” for the collection Henry James in Context, edited by David McWhirter and forthcoming from Cambridge University Press. She is traveling to the NYPL and to the Schlesinger Library for a project on American women and the production and reception of Expressionist drama.

At its 14th Annual Celebration of Achievement Ceremony and Reception in May, Lisa Heyer was presented with a Distinguished Teacher Award by the Office of International Programs, “in recognition of many outstanding contributions, support and service to the international student community at SFSU.”

Elana Dykewomon’s new novel, Risk, is scheduled for publication in April of next year with Bywater Books. Also, her review of Toni Mirosevich's Pink Harvest is included in the current issue of the Women's Review of Books.

At the University of London's international conference on “The Idea of America in Nineteenth-Century British Culture, 1776-1914” in June, Sara Hackenberg presented a paper titled “Alien Image, Ideal Beauty: Hiram Powers’ Greek Slave and Visions of American Slavery in Mid-Nineteenth Century England.” A version of this paper will be published in the December issue of the journal Victorian Newsletter. Sara was also invited to present a lecture in Australia as part of the University of Newcastle’s “Emerging Scholars Speaker Series.” Her lecture, “Beyond Fashion: From the Urban Mysteries Reader to the Cinema Spectator” was an extended version of a paper she presented at last year’s MLA conference in Chicago. While at the University of Newcastle, Sara also conducted a seminar for graduate students in literature on developing scholarly projects. Lastly, Sara published an article in June in American Transcendental Quarterly titled “Plots and Counterplots: The Defense of Sensational Fiction in Louisa May Alcott’s Behind a Mask.”
Professor Emeritus Maurice Bassan reports that his latest book, *Twice-Told Poems*, is due out this year. Also, an excerpt drawn from his novel *The Governor*, “A Message from Garsha,” was included in *Haight Ashbury Sketches* (2003). Maurice is currently teaching Shakespeare's *Henriad* at the Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning, and is scheduled to do a course on Hemingway and the Spanish Civil War in the spring. He continues to volunteer at the Friends of the Library Booksale Room on Tuesdays and Thursdays. (Profits from the Booksale Room contribute to the renovation of J. Paul Leonard Library.)


**Ellen Peel**'s essay “‘God Is Change’: Persuasion and Pragmatic Utopianism in Octavia Butler's Earthseed Novels” is included in *Afro-Future Females: Black Writers Chart Science Fiction’s Newest New-Wave Trajectory*.

**Geoffrey Green**’s new novel was brought out this summer by Northwestern University Press, which describes *Voices in a Mask* as “a short-story cycle that explores themes of identity and subterfuge in a fictional fugue that ranges from comic to poignant.”

**Sarah Manyika**'s debut novel, *In Dependence*, was released in late September by Legend Press; an official launch party took place in London on the 30th. *In Dependence* is a love story set in England and in post-independence Nigeria.

(For more information about both of these newly released books, see the “Department Events and Highlights” area of the department website for links to the books’ Web pages.)

**Martha Klironomos** has two articles out in recent publications. “British Women Travellers to Greece, 1880-1930” is included in *Women Writing Greece: Essays on Hellenism, Orientalism and Travel*; and, her review of Eleni N. Gage’s book, *North of Ithaka: A Granddaughter Returns to Greece and Discovers Her Roots* is in the October issue of *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*.

**Tom Scovel** gave a lecture on “Ten Tendentious Topics in Applied Linguistics” at Northern Arizona University in mid October. He also co-authored, with two former Japanese students, two articles which appeared recently in Brain Research. These studies described neuroimaging experiments which examined the comprehension and production of Japanese word pairs. One used neuromagnetic measures and the other event-related optical signals. Both studies showed that short vs. long vowel contrasts in Japanese correlate with very rapid and very localized changes in the brains of native speakers.

**Emily Merriman**’s essay, “Raging with the Truth: Condemnation and Concealment in the Poetry of Blake and Hill,” will be published in the March 2009 issue of *The Journal of Religious Ethics*. Also, Emily is co-editing a collection of essays titled *The Public/Private Divide in British Poetry since 1950*, to be published by McFarland.

The local CBS affiliate, KPIX-Channel 5, aired a segment on October 7 that featured Shelley Waksler, who explained the etymology of “vetting”; the segment is accessible online at [http://cbs5.com/goodquestion/vetting.term.origins.2.835174.html](http://cbs5.com/goodquestion/vetting.term.origins.2.835174.html)

**Jennifer Arin**’s poetry chapbook, *The Roots of Desire*, was selected for inclusion in a literary exhibit this fall by the Women's Leadership Institute at Mills College.

In September, Meg Schoerke presented a paper, “‘Epitaph for a Romantic Woman’: Elegy as a Feminist Critique of Romanticism in Louise Bogan's *Body of This Death*,” at “Lifting Belly High: A Conference on Women's Poetry Since 1900,” at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Also, Meg delivered a talk in June, “Teaching *Life Studies* as an Experimental Book,” for the Round Table on Teaching Robert Lowell,
sponsored by the Robert Lowell Society, at the American Literature Association Annual Conference in San Francisco. The piece (same title) was recently featured in the inaugural issue of the Robert Lowell Society Newsletter.

Amy Love and Pamela Vaughn, Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs, traveled to Edmonton, Alberta in mid-October to present a paper titled “The Accessibility Connection: Universal Design for Learning” at the fifth annual conference of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

Kory Ching won the James L. Kinneavy Award for most outstanding article published in 2007 in JAC: A Journal of Rhetorical and Writing Studies. Kory’s article was entitled “Theory and Its Practice in Composition Studies.”

Just released is Letters to Poets: Conversations about Poetics, Politics, and Community (Saturnalia Books); edited by Dana Teen Lomax and Jennifer Firestone, this is a collection of letters exchanged by 14 poet-pairs from various regions, races, genders, sexual preferences and aesthetics.

NEWS ABOUT CURRENT AND FORMER STUDENTS

Jennifer Chapin and Christina Lorimer, students in the M.A. TESOL Program, were awarded Graduate Equity Fellowships for the year.

Una Chung (M.A., Literature) received her Ph.D. from the CUNY Graduate Center in 2007 with a dissertation entitled “Contagion of Living: East-West Experimentations with Affectivity, Subjectivity, and Political Embodiment.” She is on the faculty of Sarah Lawrence College.

Scott Yates (M.A., Literature), his wife, and their two young children are living in Sana’a, Yemen, where Scott teaches in the Yemen Modern School. The older boy is in an Arabic immersion preschool program.

Former SFSU undergraduate and graduate student Jennifer Molidor is now Assistant Professor of English at Kansas State University. She completed her Ph.D. at Notre Dame last spring and was hired by Kansas State shortly thereafter.

Erin Suyehara (B.A., Literature) was a third grade teacher after her graduation. She is now in the doctoral program in English at the University of Pennsylvania.

Robert Appelbaum (M.A., Literature; Certificate, Teaching Composition) went on to do a Ph.D. at UC Berkeley. Since 2006, he has been a Senior Lecturer in Renaissance Studies for the Department of English and Creative Writing at Lancaster University in the U.K. Bob’s most recent publication was Aguecheek’s Beef, Belch’s Hiccup, and Other Gastronomic Interjections: Literature, Culture, and Food Among the Early Moderns (University of Chicago Press), for which he won the 2007 Roland H. Bainton Prize for Best Book on the Literature of the Renaissance.

Bev Voloshin attended the summer seminar of the Association of Departments of English, and there met three department chairs who are graduates of our department. She reports:

Casey Charles is chair of the Department of English at the University of Montana. He has his master’s in literature from our department, with a thesis on Anthony and Cleopatra that he wrote under the direction of Judy Breen, and a doctorate from SUNY Buffalo. Casey also taught in our Composition program before going on for his doctorate and remembers warmly working with Jo Keroes and Bill Robinson in that program. Casey teaches courses on 16th- and 17th-century English literature, literature and the law, and gay and lesbian studies. He has published articles on Plato, Chaucer, Sidney, Barnfield, and Shakespeare; a lawyer in his previous life, Casey has also written The Sharon Kowalski Case: Lesbian and Gay Rights on Trial (University of Kansas Press, 2003).
Adam Zachary Newton held the Blumberg Centennial Chair in English at the University of Texas before moving to Yeshiva University last year to chair the Department of English. Adam wrote his master’s thesis on Emmanuel Levinas in the Composition Program, working with Jo Keroes; this was the seed for his first book, *An Ethics of Reading*, published by Harvard University Press. Adam did his doctoral work in English and Philosophy at Harvard. He recalls especially working with Jo as well as with Bill Robinson and Rosemary Patton (all now retired) in our department. He is also the author of *The Fence and the Neighbor* (SUNY), *The Elsewhere: on belonging at a near distance* (Wisconsin), and *Facing Black and Jew* (Cambridge).

David Werner, chair of English at the University of La Verne in southern California, began as an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin but completed his bachelor’s and his master’s in literature at SFSU. He especially remembers David Renaker’s course in John Donne, which David Renaker taught at his home. David Werner is also director of his university’s program of college courses at a local youth corrections facility and has written a book on prison education as well as many articles on diverse topics.

~ A note from the chair ~

Though everyone in our department feels the bite of the state’s budget, we continue to work together to offer our students stimulating courses and programs and to provide our faculty members with opportunities to deepen and broaden their expertise. As this newsletter indicates, we have many reasons to be proud.

– Bev Voloshin