

Department of English News

Congratulations



Graduates!

From The Chair

As the 2010-11 academic year comes to a close I would like to salute those students graduating this spring. Through the budgetary and political upheavals that have roiled the campus over the past three years they have persevered and succeeded. They richly deserve the congratulations of friends, family, and the teachers and staff here in the English Department. We have been privileged to watch them grow and change over their time here, and send them on into the next chapter of their lives with pride in their accomplishments and admiration for their creativity and skill.

There's an additional reason for celebration. Two members of our outstanding faculty, Professors **Maricel Santos** and **David Olsher**, have been awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor, and so become permanent members of the English Department's scholarly community. They are both dedicated and accomplished professionals, and we wish them continued success as they proceed to the next phase of their careers.

At this writing there is still no budget in place for the next academic year. Despite this uncertainty we have created a schedule and students are registering for classes, so one way or another, the English Department will be open for business come Fall Term, 2011.

When that term begins we will be housed in a newly constituted College of Arts and Humanities. It will be much larger than the current College of Humanities, encompassing 25 departments including all those from the soon-to-be defunct College of Creative Arts. While this move is partially conceived of as a money-saver, it will also create exciting possibilities for collaboration between faculty in English and those in History, Theater Arts, Music, Fine Arts, and many other programs. Crises aren't fun, but they can produce opportunities, as this reorganization promises to do.

I would like to close by wishing everyone a lively, happy summer. When we resume classes in the fall, Bev Voloshin will resume her place as the Department Chair as I return to the classroom full time. Thanks to all the faculty and staff for their work, good will, and collaboration during this difficult year for SFSU and the English Department.

Bruce Avery
Acting Chair

In Memoriam

Ed Nierenberg, on the literature faculty from 1962 to 1994, passed away on May 4. Michael Krasny shares this remembrance: "Ed Nierenberg was a dedicated and inspiring teacher, an eighteenth century literature scholar, a man of high moral character and rich humanity who taught in the San Francisco State English Department for decades and served for many years as Vice Chair of Literature. He was a man of keen intelligence, sweet tempered with a playful and generous spirit, a giving heart and a keen sense of humor. Those who knew him will remember him most for his kindness and peerless integrity. He was, above all, decent, the kind of colleague who could be relied upon to support and serve his students and fellow professors. He loved Dr. Johnson and Lenny Bruce, Laurence Sterne and Woody Allen, jazz and puns and baseball and the life of the active and curious mind. He was a former Marine and a loving husband who tragically suffered the deaths of two beloved wives. He was a giving and selfless father. He loved San Francisco State and our English department. He was a devoted friend and mentor to me. May those who knew him honor and cherish his memory as we also grieve his passing."

With great sadness, the M.A. TESOL Program shares news of the loss of two of its alumni. **Martin Doerner** passed away on May 3 after a period of illness. Martin graduated in the fall of 2007, and was one of the department's Distinguished Graduate Students that year. He was a beloved teacher for the San Mateo Worker Resource Center and the San Mateo Adult School, where he established the Passport to Employment program. He was a long-time advocate for day laborer rights and recently completed an ESL curriculum project in collaboration with SF State TESOL, Nursing and BECA faculty. On May 13, **Rob Beckley** (M.A. '05) died after suffering a stroke two days before. Rob was teaching at the English Center in Oakland, and had just been on campus to participate in a networking event at the M.A. TESOL Conference on May 6. We extend our condolences to family and friends of Martin and Rob, and we mourn the loss of such fine individuals and devoted teachers.

Gail Weinstein died on December 8, 2010. Much has already been shared about Gail and her life between then and now. The Department, working with the Institute of Civic and Community Engagement and the Marian Wright Edelman Institute, hosted a memorial on February 11 at which colleagues, students, and Gail's family enjoyed a warm, inspired gathering that included visual, musical and spoken tributes to Gail. We are happy to report that a scholarship in her memory is being established, thanks to many donations which have and continue to come in: the Gail E. Weinstein Fellowship in Community Literacy Education. It seems fitting to offer one last tribute using the words of her students. [This passage](#), written by Cherry Ngai and Tiffany Pippin and published in this spring's M.A. TESOL Conference program, reads in part, "Dr. Weinstein was a comet. The appearance of her in our life changed our way of seeing the world, our way of defining teaching and learning, and even our way of living our lives. Her life was taken much too quickly, but we are still warmed by the strength and love that she always carried with her. ... As teachers in this time of turmoil without our fearless leader, we are committed to sustaining her legacy and priceless wisdom, and *showing* the world what she taught us."

Jane Gurko passed away on November 29, 2010. She joined the English Department faculty in 1967, and eventually served as Associate Dean of Humanities. She was instrumental in developing the Women Studies Program and shaping revisions of the General Education and Teacher Credential programs. Gib Robinson, Professor *Emeritus* of English, reflects, "Jane was my friend both before and after her thirty-plus years at the University, where she served first on the literature faculty, later as associate dean of the school. Loyalty, reliability, fairness, attention to the needs of others were so deeply ingrained in her way of being as to inspire everyone around her to work in a more collegial way. She tended to underplay her brilliance as a scholar in favor of a radiant humanity, an open and gentle heart that nourished all of us. Always, with Jane, there was a quiet, persistent quest to share what was unique to her – her own vision of education, of literature, of teaching – informed initially by her mother and father, a writer and an English professor, and endlessly modified by her own rigorous adherence to the truth of her life and her boundless compassion for others."

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Student Accomplishments

Jennifer Tinonga was a featured speaker at the gala birthday meeting (235th) of the Jane Austen Society of North American (Norcal chapter) last December, and also presented at JASNA's annual general meeting in Portland last October. Jennifer's presentation, "The Price is Right: Shopping, Masculinity and Muslin in *Northanger Abbey*" surveyed regency consumerism, with a special focus on Henry Tilney's "eye for quality and value."

Nelly Volsky was one of ten campus-wide winners in the 25th Annual CSU Student Research Competition for her research on trauma theory in literature. All of the campus entrants participated in the SFSU Research and Creative Works Showcase that took place on April 28th, including Nelly and **Jessica Morrow**, whose research project was entitled "Balancing Act: A Saudi Woman Negotiates Language and Identity in the U.S."



A number of graduate students have been participating in professional conferences and meetings this year:

Kate Frei, Elizabeth Waddell and Sherri Martin co-presented at the statewide CATESOL Convention in Long Beach on "Queering the Classroom: Language, Identity and Community in TESOL." The group also did a poster presentation at the TESOL Convention in New Orleans entitled "Teachers' Views on Queering the ESL Classroom."

Heather Campbell, Kwai Daugherty-Manor and Shawn DeMille were also at CATESOL, presenting "Using a *Friends* Corpus for Language Teaching." And, **Corrie McCluskey** gave a panel presentation with **Maricel Santos**, Christina Lorimer and **Tenley Harrison** on "TESOL Students Paving Interdisciplinary Crossroads Through Community Service Learning." At CATESOL's Grad Student Forum, Corrie presented her proposal for a community-based learning center in Santa Rosa.

Also in New Orleans at TESOL was **Suk Fun (Fanny) Law**, who presented "Lesson Plans on Teaching Pragmatics in Context."

A few students delivered papers at the Popular Culture and American Culture Associations Joint Conference in San Antonio. **Lindsey Bynum** presented "You Are What You Wear: Clothing as Self-Representation in *The Awakening* and *Quicksand*." **Leora Turko** spoke about "Men, Women and Food in Pinter," and **Karl Mohn's** paper was entitled "In Auschwitz We Didn't Wear Watches: Signified time and Visual Narratives in Art Spiegelman's *Maus*."

Al Harahap spoke at the International Writing Centers Association Conference in Baltimore last fall; the title of his paper was "Decentralized: Redefining 'Conventional' Writing Center Identities and Practices." Then in April, Al went to 4Cs in Atlanta and gave a presentation on "Helping Others Invent the University: Institutional and Pedagogical Perceptions of Writing Tutors and Writing Fellows."

Nicole Corrales gave a paper at last fall's Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association meeting in Honolulu on "Tunes of an American Charon." **Annette Hulbert** was in Honolulu, too, and addressed PAM-LA participants on "An Alternative (to) Utopia: The Country Adjacent to Millenium Hall."

Roda Malco gave a presentation entitled "Razed and Rebuilt: Refinement of Boundaries in *The Woman Warrior*" at the (trans)literation conference in Nashville.

In the fall, **April Shandor** (Linguistics) and **Christina Lorimer** (TESOL) were both recipients of Alumni Association Scholarship awards for graduate students. Campus-wide, the Alumni Association bestowed nine awards in all.

Also, Christina has been serving as the graduate student representative on the Board of Directors for CATESOL and is guest editor of a new section in the CATESOL Journal on "Teachers and Scholars in Training – The Future of CATESOL." Contributions in this section will focus on scholarship by and about graduate students in TESOL.

Honors and Awards Recipients, 2010-2011

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH UNDERGRADUATE HONOREE

Jamie Lundy English Education

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT

Viola Lasmana Literature

Tsz Ki Ngai TESOL

Megan Plumb Literature

Julie Reis TESOL

Paul Rueckhaus Composition

ASW SCHOLARSHIP

Andrew Brooks

CUNNINGHAM SCHOLARSHIP IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

Victoria Pacchiana-Rojas

DEBRA PLOUSHA MOORE & JOHN E. MOORE JR. SCHOLARSHIP

Kiara Brown, Lindsey Bynum, Brijet Finister

ELLANORE AND MAURICE BASSAN ENGLISH DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Collin Ludlow-Mattson

JAN GREGORY POSTSECONDARY READING AND COMPOSITION

SCHOLARSHIP

Roberta D'Alois

JIM BROGAN-JACK POST SCHOLARSHIP

Tyler Curtis-Peterson

JIM KOHN SCHOLARSHIP

Kendra Aronson, Kaori Ishikura, Amanda Snyder

R. JOEL DORIUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Paizha Stoothoff

TESOL CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP

Kathryn Frei, Melissa Jaquish, Rafiq Kamal, Sohee Kim, Sherri Martin

PHI BETA KAPPA

Carlos Lorenzana, Chelsea Van Doren

This year's fabulous *Interpretations* has just arrived! Congratulations to the Editorial Staff, led by Annette Hulbert. Copies available for \$5 in HUM 289.

Student Accomplishments, Continued

The M.A. TESOL Program wishes to congratulate its 37 students who will graduate from the program this spring. The graduate students put on an outstanding conference titled "Sharing Words, Changing Worlds" on May 6. Many of our graduates will continue to live and work in the Bay Area, while others will leave us for homes around the world, including China, South Korea, Chile, Japan, Denver, and Los Angeles. Here is a snapshot of the group's future adventures: **Erin McGrath** will teach for Zirve University, Turkey. **Sarah Murrmann** will be an English Language Fellow in Turkey. **Christina Lorimer** won a Fulbright and will be heading to Brazil. **Christopher Ott** will be teaching for the Japan Exchange Teaching Programme. **Will DeVault** will be teaching for the Composition for Multilingual Students Program here at SF State.

Current students and alumni are hearing back from Ph.D. programs and deciding about the next phase of their education:

Viola Lasmana (M.A. Lit '10) has been awarded a College Doctoral Fellowship from the University of Southern California, and will enter the Ph.D. program in Literature this fall.

Al Harahap (Composition) will attend the University of Arizona in the fall. He was accepted into the Rhetoric, Composition and Teaching of English doctoral program.

Jessica Young (M.A. Lit '10) has been accepted into the English Ph.D. program, with a Graduate College Fellowship, at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Ann Garascia (B.A. Lit '05, M.A. Lit '10) will enter UC Riverside's Ph.D. program in English.

Susanna Williams (M.A. Lit '09) was accepted into the Ph.D. program at Washington University in St. Louis with full funding.

Jordan Hayes (M.A. Lit '09) was accepted into the Ph.D. program at Brandeis University.

Hae Sung Yang (M.A. TESOL '10) was accepted into Georgia State University's Ph.D. program in Applied Linguistics.

Kristen Lindblom (M.A. Linguistics '11) was accepted into UCLA's Ph.D. program in Applied Linguistics, and was awarded the Chancellor's Prize. Kristen was also accepted at Columbia University's Teachers College.

Chanté Mouton Kinyon (M.A. Lit '10) has been tentatively accepted to the National University of Ireland, Galway for their Ph.D. program. She is waiting to hear about other universities in Ireland. Her proposed dissertation topic is a comparative analysis of the Irish Renaissance and the Harlem Renaissance.



Mark West's classroom in Azerbaijan. See story at right in "Alumni News."

Alumni News

Xuan He (M.A. Lit, '09) is busy in the book and journal trade for Sinomedia International Group (she joined Cypress Book Co. after graduating, and it was acquired by Sinomedia last March). As Export Trade Manager, she oversees matters related to company journal, book, and copyright exports. Xuan is a great contact for authors and publishers seeking information about copyright sales in China.

Also in publishing is **Travis Peterson** (M.A. Lit '08) who, since graduating, has been working in marketing and sales at No Starch Press, a local book publisher. There, he has gained experience in professional and technical writing, sales and accounting, and book publishing in general. And, as No Starch Press is a technical and computer book publisher, Travis has found himself immersed in a wide-reaching discussion about the convergence of technology and traditional publishing, and what that means for the future of publishing. Travis also has been editing a novel for a former professor, and is currently wrapping up a short story of his own which he hopes to get published soon. He hasn't ruled out more graduate school, but says that he is content in the publishing world for the time being.

April Davidauskis (M.A. Lit, '04) is a Ph.D. Candidate in the English and Gender Studies departments at the University of Southern California. She was elected last fall as the graduate student representative to the Executive Committee of PAMLA and serves until November 2012. April gave a paper at PAMLA on roguish women in nineteenth-century American literature.

Chris Gabbard (B.A. Lit '79, M.A. Lit '93, Ph.D., Stanford University) is now an associate professor of English at the University of North Florida. His essay, "A Life Beyond Reason," is a moving tribute to his young son August, who lives with a number of debilitating conditions, including cerebral palsy. The essay was included in *Papa, PhD: Essays on Fatherhood by Men in the Academy*, published by Rutgers University Press last November. The *Chronicle of Higher Education* reprinted the essay online. Also, Chris has just been appointed to a term on the editorial board of *Pacific Coast Philology*.

Yvonne Price (B.A. Lit, '92; Ph.D., Stanford University) reports that since 2008, she's been Assistant Professor of English at Folsom Lake College outside Sacramento; she loves teaching there and says that FLC is a wonderful, new, and fast-growing school.

Brenda Machosky (M.A. Lit, '91; Ph.D., University of Wisconsin), Assistant Professor at the University of Hawaii-West Oahu, spoke on Hegel in the philosophy and literature session at PAMLA. Most recently, she edited a collection of essays, *Thinking Allegory Otherwise*, published by Stanford University Press in 2010.

Darryl Stephens (graduate study in English, SFSU; Ph.D., UC Berkeley) works in the Office of the Inspector General for the USDA in Washington, where he has developed a team of writers.

Genevieve Brassard (B.A. Lit '95; M.A. and Ph.D., University of Connecticut) just received tenure in the English Department at the University of Portland.

Leif Sorensen (M.A. Lit, '97; Ph.D., New York University) is now Assistant Professor of English at Colorado State University where he specializes in multi-ethnic American literature, with a primary focus on the 20th century. He has published articles on Zora Neale Hurston, Younghill Kang, and Americo Paredes in *MELUS, Genre*, and *American Literature*. Essays on Kathy Acker and H.P. Lovecraft are forthcoming in a book on Kathy Acker and transnationalism and Modernism/Modernity. He is working on a book, *Alternative Modernisms: Genealogies of Critical Multiculturalism*, which focuses on multicultural writing from the 1930s.

Mark West (M.A. Comp '11) is currently working as a Fulbright fellow at the State Agricultural University in Ganja, Azerbaijan. He writes that he's been "having a grand (if not always easy) time teaching numerous writing and other literacy classes ... I can't imagine doing my job without the fruits of my SFSU education." Mark sent a photo of a typical classroom at SAU with the comment that it's "not exactly Harvard ... but when there's chalk it's functional."

SF State's Institute for Civic and Community Engagement announced recipients of its 2010-2011 awards earlier this year. Among them was **Christopher Zepeda** (M.A. Lit '11), who received a Community Engagement Staff and Student Award.

Alumni of the M.A. Literature program, please check out this [survey](#) on the department website! We want to know about your path after graduation, and welcome your feedback on the program.

Students, Former & Current, Present at HERA

The 2011 Conference of the Humanities Education and Research Association occurred in San Francisco this year, and students from English were not only present, but also presenting:

Clayton Plake – “What is it...a Man?: Paranoia and the Erotic Dialects of the Male Body in Edgar Rice Burroughs’ *Tarzan of the Apes*”

Rozan Soleimani – “Discovering the Unconscious Self in Fiction: Virginia Woolf’s Metamorphosis into Orlando”

Ian Latta – “Here, We Spontane’: The Psychogeography of Composition”

Brigitte Polianos – “Using Postcolonial Literature to Transform Freshman Composition”

Chris Simpkins – “Gender Transformation: “Process” as a Crossover Discourse in 1950s Poetics”

Carolina Patino – “Redefining the Grrrl, or, ‘It is Happening Without Your Permission”

Annette Hulbert – “The Rise of Disguise: Masked Politics in Beach Blanket Babylon”

A panel presentation chaired by **Al Harahap** included grad students from both literature and composition (**Viola Lasmana**, **Carolina Patino**, **Alden Wood**, **Sarah Powers**, **Shana Alavi**), aptly titled “The Many Faces of English Studies - Disciplinary Identity, Problems, and Synergy.”

A few grads appeared at HERA, too:

Christopher Zepeda (M.A. Lit ‘11) – “Feeding on Self-Destruction: A Psychobiography of Anne Sexton”

Alison Sperling (M.A. Lit ‘10, now at University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee) – “Hemingway’s Flight from Civilization and Search for the West: *For Whom the Bell Tolls*”

Allison St. John (M.A. Lit ‘08, now at USC) – “A Case for Graphic Novels in English Curricula”

Sarah Mangin (M.A. Lit ‘08, now at UC Berkeley) – “Wordsworthian Allegory and the Ethics of Reading”

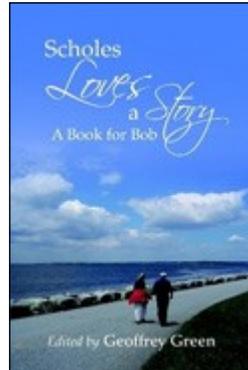
New Conference on Philip K. Dick To Be Held at SFSU



David Gill is excited to announce that he and others are organizing a Philip K. Dick Conference to be held

September 22-23, 2012 at San Francisco State University. The keynote speaker will be none other than Jonathan Lethem (or a simulacrum thereof). A past MacArthur Fellow, Lethem has written numerous novels, most recently *Chronic City*. He also has been an avid “Dick-head” for two decades, and edited the three volumes of Dick’s writing recently released by the Library of America. Lethem is the current Writer in Residence at Pomona College. Other confirmed attendees include author Erik Davis and Italian scholar Umberto Rossi.

New Releases



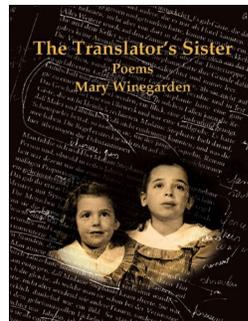
Scholes Loves a Story: A Book for Bob, edited by **Geoffrey Green**, has just been published. Included are memoirs, poems, and essays by Geoffrey and many others in celebration of Robert Scholes. Contributors include Ursula Le Guin, Tzvetan Todorov, Robert Coover, Michael Harper, Mary Ann Doane, Marianne Hirsch, Arnold Weinstein, Greg Ulmer, and Marcia Green. The book is available at Amazon and lulu.com.

Lehua Yim sings and plays guitar with the performing group Halau ‘o Keikiāli‘i, and they have recently released a CD, *Kawika Alfiche’s “Kale’a,”* with Lehua performing on several tracks. The group has delighted audiences in Boston, New York, and San Francisco with music from the CD, and will soon perform in Las Vegas and Chicago.



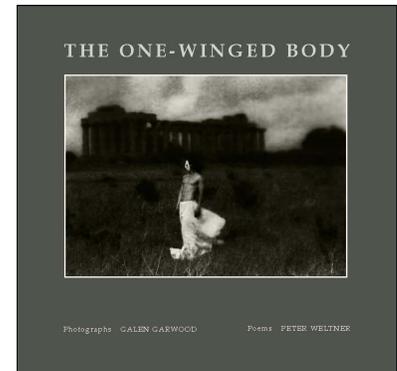
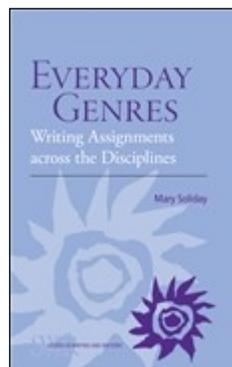
Lehua Yim and group, Halau ‘o Keikiāli‘i.

Mary Winegarden’s book of poetry, *The Translator’s Sister* has just been published by **Mayapple Press**. SFSU colleague and poet **Meg Schoerke** writes about the book: “Mary Winegarden crosses genre boundaries—between prose and poetry, fiction and memoir, convention and experimentation—playing off the root meaning of translation: ‘to carry across.’ While words can never bridge the boundary between life and death, this beautiful meditation invokes the vital bonds of sisterhood.” Her book is available at local bookstores and Amazon.com.



Mary Soliday has a new book out from Southern Illinois University Press, *Everyday Genres: Writing Assignments across the Disciplines*. The book is one of the newest additions to SIU Press’s *Studies in Writing and Rhetoric* Series.

The One-Winged Body is **Peter Weltner’s** latest collection of poetry and a collaboration with photographer Galen Garwood. It was just released by **Marrowstone Press** and includes a review by Bob Glück in *Creative Writing*.



Faculty Activities

Gitanjali Shahani has received a Provost's Research Time Award for the Spring 2012 semester. She plans to research the practice of receipt collection in the early modern era, and what it reveals about female labor and textual practices. In April, Gitanjali was in Bellevue, WA at the annual meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America, and chaired a panel on "Diet and Identity in Shakespeare's England."

Katie Leslie will be participating in AIDS LifeCycle 10. From June 5-11, she'll ride with 2500 other cyclists from San Francisco to Los Angeles in order to raise funds for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. This will be her second time participating in AIDS LifeCycle, and the total number of miles she will ride is about 545. Visit [Katie's personal AIDS LifeCycle page](#) to learn more about the event, check out her fundraising progress, and donate.

Lyn Motai recently concluded her studies in the University of San Francisco's Organization and Leadership Program. She successfully defended her dissertation, "The Impact of Emergent Technologies on Interpersonal and Community Interaction of the Future: A Thematic Analysis of Selected Novels of William Gibson and Vernor Vinge," and will be awarded her doctoral degree in Education.

Another new graduate on the faculty is **James Warren Boyd**, who will be awarded the M.A. in Communication Studies. James concentrated on Performance Studies, and on April 9 he presented his culminating creative work project at Knuth Hall. James based "8 - Eight Events, Eight Stories" on his experiences competing in last year's Gay Games, and interwove eight of his own short works of creative nonfiction. He performed in the play along with four other actors. Equally notable is that the Communication Studies faculty selected James to be this year's Distinguished Graduate Student.

Besides bringing out a new book this year (see "New Releases"), **Mary Soliday** presented a paper at 4Cs on the "History of Basic Writing" and spoke at the CSU Fresno Symposium on Remediation. She has just finished a stint on the 4Cs Outstanding Book Award Committee and is beginning a term on the Editorial Board of Southern Illinois University Press.

Dan Langton has recently published poems in *Natural Bridge*, the *Lullwater Review*, *Hotel Amerika*, *Quest*, the *Lyric*, the *Denver Review*, *Tribeca Poetry Review*, *Evening Street Review*, *New Letters*, *Abbey* and *Presca*. His seventh book, *During Our Walks*, will appear this summer. And, Dan reports that he is the winner of the Roberts Memorial Prize in Poetry.

Jim Kohn continues his docent and lecture activities for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. Besides leading tours of the Olmec exhibition at the DeYoung, he delivered lectures at various locations around the Bay on Olmec Colossal artwork. Most recently, Jim gave a lecture entitled "I Left My Art in San Francisco" at the Koret auditorium in the DeYoung. Coming up on May 28 at the

Legion of Honor, Jim will give a talk at 2:15 p.m.; the topic will be "From Paper to Art."

Bruce Avery was a guest on KQED's Forum on March 22, along with ACT Artistic Director Carey Perloff and ACT Associate Artist Anthony Fusco, to discuss Harold Pinter and his play *The Homecoming*.

Bill Christmas traveled to England during his sabbatical leave in the Fall where he largely avoided books and libraries in favor of a more experiential mode of literary research. In London he found St. John's Gate which, in the eighteenth century,



Bill Christmas, walking the Cobb, on his trip to England

housed the offices and presses of Edward Cave's *Gentleman's Magazine*, the first of its kind in English; he located an eighteenth-century coffee house in Clerkenwell; he walked the planks where Johnson's *Dictionary* was compiled; and he searched for the spot of Keats's plum tree in Hampstead. Travelling to the southwest, he found the pub in Wiltshire which still commemorates the career of local thresher-poet Stephen Duck; he walked the Cobb in Lyme-Regis, taking stock of Louisa's leap in *Persuasion*; and he raised a glass to Lawrence's ghost at the Tinner's Arms in Zen-nor.

Priya Abeywickrama and **Lisa Heyer** collaborated on a presentation at the CATESOL conference entitled "Directed Self-Placement for ESL/Multilingual Writing Programs."

Sarita Cannon presented a paper at HERA's 2011 Conference entitled "'Tryin' to Make it Real--But Compared to What?': Critical Race Theory Meets Popular Music in Danzy Senna's *Caucasia*." She was also elected as Vice-President on HERA's Board of Directors.

Jen Mylander was awarded a \$5,000 CSU Mini-Grant for research and writing related to her project, "The English in America: National Identity and the Transatlantic Book Trade, 1620-1720."

Elana Dykewomon will have a poem in the new Jewish Lesbian anthology, *Milk and Honey*, due out in May from A Midsummer Night's Press. In June, her conversation with Jyl Lynn Felman will appear in the 21st anniversary issue of *Bridges: A Jewish Feminist Journal*, which will focus on the conversations that mark our lives, and



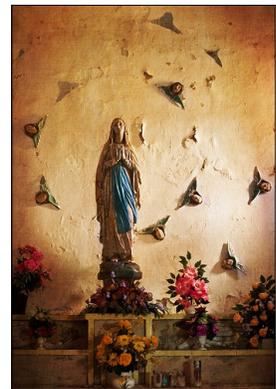
is available via Clare Kinberg at ckinberg@gmail.com. Elana recently was interviewed for a project on the Radical Feminist Press Movement for the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at Radcliffe. She will read on Saturday, June 4 in Poets Under the Oak, part of the Art and Music in The Gardens event at the Lake Merritt Garden Center in Oakland. Elana will also read in the opening ceremony for the Pacific Northwest Old Lesbians Organizing for Change gathering in Tacoma, WA at the end of July, after which she will be enjoying a writing residency at Hedgebrook on Whidbey Island.

Elise Wormuth is showing her work, with Rozan Soleimani and Margaret Boehm, in *We dwell in Possibility: Portraits and Photographs*, an exhibit of photographs, paintings and drawings in HUM 484. She will also be part of the "Summer Art in the Garden" series at Wisteria Antiques and Gardens in Soquel on July 23-24. Two of her photographs are part of the Elkhorn Slough 2011 calendar, and her work has recently been featured in *Global Magazine Ciudad*, a Venezuelan publication for architects and interior designers; in SegPlay, a digital paint-by-numbers program; and on Color Hunter, a website used to generate color palettes for interior decorating and other purposes.

Bev Voloshin will give a paper in a session on Melville and the Classics, and she will chair a session on Melville and translation at the Eighth International Melville Conference, to be held in Rome in June. She is also working on a longer version of the paper she gave at the last international Melville conference, held in East Jerusalem; the title is "Parables of Creation: Hawthorne, Melville, and Plato's *Banquet*." She would like to thank former SFSU graduate student Darryl Stephens for collaborating with her on research on Melville's interest in ancient philosophy some years ago.

Michael Krasny will be part of a mission going to Cuba at the end of May charged with bringing much needed medicines, books and other supplies to Cuban citizens. His book, *Spiritual Envy*, was one of five books nominated for the annual non-fiction award by the Northern California Independent Booksellers. Recently, he interviewed novelist

"Spring Flowers" (above) and "El Triunfo" (below) - two of many photos Elise Wormuth exhibited in *We dwell in Possibility: Portraits and Photographs*, an exhibit of photographs, paintings and drawings in HUM 484. Paintings by Rozan Soleimani and Margaret Boehm are also featured in this exhibit.



Newest Arrivals

Warren August Keck joined his mother Casey and the Keck family on Tuesday, March 29. Ned Buskirk is the proud father of Shay Edward Buskirk, who arrived in this world on the morning of April 7. And, on November 6, 2010, Jonathan Middlebrook was elevated to Grandpapa status, thanks to the appearance of Eloise, daughter of Jonathan's daughter Sophie. Congratulations to all!

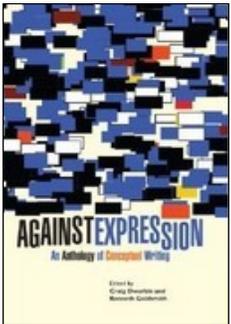
Faculty Activities, continued

and Stanford medical professor Abraham Verghese on stage at Dominican College for the annual "One Book One Marin" event, and the next day had an onstage conversation at the University of San Francisco with author Joyce Carol Oates in an event co-sponsored by USF and the Fromm Institute.

Steve Arkin is a volunteer tutor at the Hawthorne School for Refugees in Rochester, MN.

Peter Weltner has a new book out (see "New Releases"). Also, [the 50th issue of *The Cortland Review*](#) includes two of Peter's poems with links to recordings of him reading them. Three poems were published in the April issue (online) of *Vitruvius, Arts Journal for the Metaverse*. His last collection, *News from the World at My Birth: A History*, is now available through Amazon.com and Small Press Distribution and, both in print and as an e-book, directly from the publishers, [Standing Stone Studios](#).

Excerpts from **Dana Teen Lomax's** book-length poem entitled *Disclosure* recently appeared in *Against Expression, An Anthology of Conceptual Writing* just out from North-western University Press; the anthology includes work from Andy Warhol, Samuel Beckett, Marcel Duchamp, and many others. She was also recently published in *Imaginary Syllabi*, an experimental teaching text published by Palm Press. *Disclosure*, will be published this year by Black Radish Books.



experimental teaching text published by Palm Press. *Disclosure*, will be published this year by Black Radish Books.

Lehua Yim was awarded a three-month research fellowship by the Folger Shakespeare Library to be in residence there to work on her book manuscript ("Fluid Propriety: Water and Authority in Spenser and Shakespeare"). Also, she won a Native American Arts and Cultural Traditions



Lehua Yim and Emily Merriman reconnect in Medford, MA at a Halau 'o performance there.

Grant to create an audio CD called "He Imiloa" [Farseeker], a collection of new compositions in traditional Hawaiian chant, contemporary songs, and spoken word pieces. This grant is from the San Francisco Arts Commission's Cultural Equity Grants. In conjunction with the release of another CD (see "New Releases"), Lehua and her group performed in the World Music Institute series at Symphony Space in New York, NY on March 26, earning a [warm review in the Dance section of the *New York Times*](#) on March 27.

In mid-May, **Kory Lawson Ching** will give a paper, titled "Reflection and Resistance in Future Teachers' Narratives of Literacy and Technology," at the annual Computers and Writing conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

In April, **Ellen Peel** spoke in St. Louis at the International Society for the Study of Narrative: "Can a Plot be Feminist?"

Lynn Wardley gave a paper at the MLA in January on literature and the rise of genetics in the 20th century and epigenetics in the 21st. And she tells us that this year, the convention was held in a section of the "new downtown Los Angeles" that looks like Gotham City in *Batman*.

Jennifer Arin's essay "Writers' Blocks: New York City's Library Way" appeared in the February 2011 issue of *The Writer's Chronicle*, and a poem, "Never Mind Samson," is forthcoming in the premiere issue of the literary review *Adanna*. Also, last February 13, she did a television segment on KRON-TV's Weekend News program about how to write a love poem for Valentine's Day.

Congratulations to **Troi Carleton** and **Jen Mylander**! Troi was awarded a sabbatical to conclude her work on the creation of a bilingual Spanish/Zapotec dictionary and Jen won a Presidential Award to research and write about West Indian colonial book cultures. Both will be away and working on their projects in the fall.

Larry Hanley's article "Mashing-Up the Institution: Teacher as Bricoleur" is forthcoming in *Radical Teacher*. And, he'll be delivering a paper, "The Hive to the Bee: Digital Syndicalism and Education," at the Third International Meeting of The Workers' Economy in Mexico City in June. He's also been invited to join in a panel on the "Digital Divide" at the 2011 Working-Class Studies Conference in Chicago in late June. But, most importantly, students in his English 527 have been working like gangbusters this spring to produce and publish their digital textbook: *Democratic Vistas: A Digital Anthology of American Literature*.

Donor Acknowledgements

The department wishes to acknowledge and give thanks to the following individuals for their contributions; such generosity allows us to support our students and faculty in ways of immeasurable and lasting consequence.

Mr. and Mrs. Eric L. Bosler
 Professor James Brogan and Mr. Jack Post
 Dr. Linda Buckley
 Mr. Paul S. Cantor
 Ms. Ellen Cleary
 Mr. and Mrs. Marc Dollinger
 Ms. Stacie Yee May Guan
 Ms. Judith M. Harrington
 Dr. and Mrs. Gerald S. Eisman
 Mr. Thomas Enright
 Ms. Rebecca W. Johnson and Mr. Lawrence S. Weisberg
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 Professor Rachelle I. Waksler
 Mr. and Mrs. Gene Weinstein

The English Tutoring Center will be open this summer! Contact us at etc@sfsu.edu or 338-1821 for tutoring and referrals.

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Democratic Vistas: A Digital Anthology of American Literature

Welcome to Democratic Vistas: A Digital Anthology of American Literature. We'll be using this wiki to create our own literature anthology. For now, you can browse our [texts](#) and check out our [community](#) site. You can also surf over to our class [motherblog](#), the venue where I'll be posting updates, announcements, our syllabus, and various other bits of important information.

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Tributes to Retiring Faculty

Over the course of this year, some of our faculty have decided to retire after many years of service to the department and the university. Svein Arber, Kevin Conway, Vicky Holder, Dodie Lindsay, and Deborah Swanson – we congratulate you, we thank you, and we wish you well.

We are grateful to the colleagues who have composed the following tributes.

Call **Svein Arber** a polymath, and you won't be exaggerating a bit. A man of many talents, he has been a writer (of a historical baseball novel), cab driver, philosopher (one of his minors at Cornell), an executive in the book publishing world of New York, and even a restaurateur in San Francisco. But it was when he added "teacher" to the list that I believe Svein found his true calling. Svein has taught with us since completing the Comp certificate in the mid-Nineties, but around the same time he earned a high school credential and found a home teaching at Lowell, where he rose to become the chair of the English department. He freely shares his love of literature, jazz, and Norwegian culture with his students, who appreciate the dedication he shows to teaching. After 16 years of teaching in the Comp program, he is retiring; we will miss him greatly and wish him all the best as he returns to his roots on the East Coast. Thank you, Svein, for the years you spent with us. *Elise Wormuth*

Kevin Conway completed the M.A. in literature and the Composition Certificate here at SFSU, and began teaching in 1987. In his time here, he has taught a wide range of composition classes to vast numbers of students who remember him with fondness and respect. His retirement leaves a huge gap in the Composition Program because Kevin has always been a "teacher's teacher," ready to share his insights, classroom skills, and compassionate understanding with all of us. He says that English 657 with Jo Keroes "transformed [his] engagement with language and syntax" and adds that he has, throughout his years of teaching, "championed the teaching of sentence combining as well as sentence focus, and always, each semester, students wonder, 'Why didn't we ever learn this "stuff" before?'" He claims that he will leave teaching still unable to read and respond to a student essay in under thirty minutes. While we are sad to lose those years of accumulated wisdom and experience, we are happy that Kevin will have the leisure to read and enjoy life while he and his long-time partner David oversee a long-awaited kitchen remodel. In saying farewell, he borrows a line from Thurgood Marshall: "I want to be remembered for doing the best I could with what I had." *Nancy Sours*

Dodie Lindsay joined the ESL Program (today's Composition for Multilingual Students Program), in 1989. In her 21 years here, she has taught the full range of courses in the program, served on numerous committees, participated in a state-funded Collaborative Academic Preparation Initiative (CAPI) project, co-authored a textbook, *Inside Out/Outside In: Exploring American Literature*, and actively worked to support and protect lecturers' rights and benefits through the California Faculty Association. She has remained well-read and current in her field and has generously devoted much of her time to the mentoring of graduate students in the M.A. TESOL program, including teaching English 733, Student Teaching in TESOL. Dodie embodies qualities that have distinguished her as an invaluable resource to the CMS and M.A. TESOL Programs – she is generous, highly competent, culturally sensitive, and committed to her work. She will be sorely missed by colleagues and students alike. *Esther Chan*

The halls seem a little emptier and the CMS faculty will certainly find their meetings lacking in witty quips because **Vicky Holder** retired in January after 22 years of teaching here. Many of us in the English Department know Vicky as a dedicated teacher and valued colleague. However, Vicky has many other talents. In addition to being the go-to person in CMS on all things grammar, Vicky is an author, editor, and composer. She is one of the co-authors of *Inside Out/Outside In - Exploring American Literature*, an anthology of American literature for college composition students. She is also the editor and one of the authors of a new series of books for Korean students and their moms called *English Egg*. The series even includes some original songs composed by Vicky! Moreover, it will come as no surprise that someone who is such a talented teacher, author, editor and composer is also a multi-talented theater expert. If you've attended some of the wonderful productions of the San Francisco Cabaret Opera or Goat Hall Productions that Vicky worked on, you've no doubt witnessed her diverse skills in lighting design, staging and directing. All of Vicky Holder's talents make her a true renaissance woman, and someone whom we will miss having here with us in Humanities. *Andrea Kevech*

With the retirement of **Deborah Swanson**, the Composition program loses a colleague whose contributions to the program, the department, and the university have been many. Through her work in the classroom, she shaped the future of many teachers working today in community colleges and universities. As JEPET Coordinator for many years, she oversaw the fulfillment of the upper division writing requirement for thousands of students; as Co-Coordinator of the program, she steered the ship through some difficult times. She has chaired the university's Committee on Written English Proficiency and served the department on the Retention and Promotion, Ranking, EAB and UCC committees. She laid the groundwork for our current Writing in the Disciplines program, and worked with WASC on assessment projects. Those of us who have known Deborah well will miss her greatly; her intelligence and terrific sense of humor have gotten us over many bumps through the years. As she turns her attention to her other passion, caring for animals who have been mistreated or abandoned, we wish her all happiness and success. *Elise Wormuth*

Staff Update

The year is ending on a high note because each staff position is now filled! We are very pleased to have **Katie Leslie** in the department office. As of January 31, **Katie** assumed many of the responsibilities that are essential to our smooth operations, namely communicating with faculty and students; advising support; maintenance of the department's website; coordinating use of department meeting rooms, and much more. **Katie's** expertise about so many areas of the department is a tremendous asset – she obtained her M.A. in Literature in this department, she has been a lecturer in Composition for seven years, and she was the staff assistant to the CMS program for seven years before starting upstairs. And so, one may wonder: how could the CMS Program bear to lose **Katie**? Only because of the appearance of **Dorothy Koch**, who worked in CMS as a student assistant for over two years while getting her M.A. in Linguistics. **Dorothy** graduated a year ago, but did not stray too far, luckily! We welcome **Dorothy**, and we're very happy to have such warm and capable colleagues.



Katie Leslie (left), the English Department's new front office and web coordinator, and Dorothy Koch (right), CMS's new program assistant.

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 us at engdept@sfsu.edu