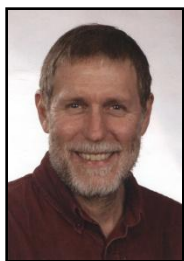


Literature & Criticism

From the Director:



Let me begin by welcoming our new graduate students who came to us from all over the world to begin their M.A. and Ph.D. degrees this fall. Although the global, national, and regional economic difficulties have been felt throughout the university, our students and faculty members continue to distinguish themselves with grants, publications, presentations, awards, university and community service, and teaching excellence, evidence of which can be seen throughout this *Newsletter*. Speaking of which, we are trying to both save money and go green by moving the *Newsletter* to primarily online access via our website. Also, course descriptions will be available only online and not in the *Newsletter*. We will be producing a much smaller number of hard copies to be distributed locally and for recruitment purposes.

In these times, it's probably a good idea for all of us to reflect on just what it is that humanities education has to contribute to the world, and, more specifically to our program and our university. How does, and how should, the intellectual community we create here at IUP serve the public good? When business and technoscience seem to be the yardsticks for measuring success, what is it that is so vital to our missions, goals, and objectives in the humanities? When AAUP President Cary Nelson spoke to us during his visit to IUP last February, he reminded us that despite vast economic and cultural differences, we are all in this together.

As he puts it in his forthcoming book, *No University Is an Island*, faculty, students, and administrators are all now confronting the “rapacious redefinition of the fundamental character of higher education and the role of the faculty” (135). How can we respond to these changes? How can we develop new kinds of student and faculty identities that embody both individual careers and social responsibility? The good news for us is that in our courses, in our colloquia, in our conversations, and in our publications, those of us participating in the literature and criticism programs are asking and trying to answer exactly these kinds of questions all the time.

It is probably a good idea to keep these general discussions alive, even as we become more and more accountable to enrollment and budget criteria over which faculty and students seem to have less and less of a direct hand in determining. My invitation to all students and faculty in our program is that we can provide space in our *Newsletter* for occasional short essays reflecting on these general issues. If you have any such ideas, please let me know, and I will work with any of you to see if we can make it happen.

But turning to practical matters, we now have new, revised versions of the M.A. and Ph.D. Program Handbooks. These can be accessed from our website: www.iup.edu/lit-crit, or by email request from our secretary, Bertha (bcecconi@iup.edu), and also hard copies will be available in the Graduate English office. Please take the time to read through the Handbook for your respective program. Course requirements, language requirements, exams, thesis and dissertation information, as well as admissions requirements and procedures—all these are explained in considerable detail, so these documents can aid you in making steady progress towards your degree. The Handbooks also describe the history, philosophy, and program objectives that distinguish our curriculum from other doctoral literature programs in the country.

David Downing, Director
Graduate Studies in Literature and Criticism

Literature & Criticism



Inside this issue:

- Faculty News
- Student and Alumni News
- New Students

Literature & Criticism Web Site: <http://www.iup.edu/lit-crit>

Registration Web Address: www.iup.edu/ursa

Graduate Literature E-mail Address: iup-gradliterature@iup.edu

Graduate Literature Telephone: (724) 357-2263

IUP Academic Calendar: <http://www.iup.edu/academiccalendar/-default.aspx>



Newsletter Editor: Adam Wassel
Faculty Advisor: David Downing

Faculty News

Gail Berlin has returned from a year-long sabbatical during which she completed four papers: "Constructing Tonwenna: A Gesture in Context," concerning the ancient breast-baring gesture as it appears in the Early Middle English *Lawman's Brut*; "Behold the Breast: A Gesture and Its History," a much longer history of the same cryptic gesture, in art and literature, ranging from 2000 years BCE up to the 1600s and beyond; "Like a Duck Before a Falcon: Moses in Middle English Literature," an examination of the representation and reception of Moses in literature from 1200-1500, particularly in the mystery plays and in *Piers Plowman*; and "There Once Was Elżunia: Empathy in the Teaching of Holocaust Literature." Three of these have been submitted for publication; the fourth is on its way. Dr. Berlin also presented the paper on Tonwenna at the International *Lawman's Brut* Conference held in Wales in July, 2008. During the trip to England and Wales, she had a chance to visit the Hereford Mappamundi (world map), do research in a medieval chained library (yes, the books are really chained to the book case), and examine bunnies, hounds, musicians, and dancers (to name some of the tamer figures) adorning the wall of a lovely Romanesque church.

Jim Cahalan recently reviewed an essay submission for the *New Hibernia Review*, as part of his ongoing work as the fiction specialist on its editorial board, and also evaluated a revision of an essay for the *African American Review*. For NCTE, he completed an evaluation of a proposal for a book about teaching college literature. Jim is in the midst of a sizeable project in the field of pedagogy. He continues his work on student recruitment for our program.

An article by **Susan Comfort** has just been published in the current issue of *Postcolonial Text*, Vol 4, No 4. The title of the piece is "The Hidden Life of Things: Commodification, Imperialism, and Environmental Feminism in Arundhati Roy's 'The God of Small Things.'" *Postcolonial Text*, the Journal of the Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies, is freely available online on an open access basis. For those who are interested, here is the link: <http://postcolonial.org/index.php/pct/issue/view/25>.

In July 2008, **Karen Dandurand** participated in a conference titled "Transatlantic Women: Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers in Great Britain, Ireland, and Europe," sponsored by the Stowe, Fuller, and Sedgwick Societies and held at Oxford University. Her presentation, "Travel Narrative as Comedic Performance: Susan Hale's Letters and Other Writings," is part of her ongoing work on the letters of Susan Hale and other members of the Hale family. Following the conference, she spent some time in London and in Haworth, the hometown of the Brontës. Karen is glad to be back teaching this semester—she thanks everyone who sent cards and emails when she was on sick-leave during the Spring semester. Her essay titled "Saying Nothing . . . sometimes says the most: Dickinson's Letters to Catherine Dickinson Sweetser" will appear in *Reading Emily Dickinson's Letters: Critical Essays*, edited by Jane Donahue Eberwein and Cindy MacKenzie, to be published in December 2009 by the University of Massachusetts Press.

David Downing reports that the next issue of *Works and Days* will be published in early 2010. This volume, guest edited by Victor Cohen, is *The New American Movement: An Oral History*, and contains essays and interviews by many of the founders and leaders of this important social and political movement in the 1960s and 70s, which later became the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). Serving as editorial assistants on this volume are **Edward Carvalho**, **Tracy Lassiter**, and **Adam Wassel**. David was asked by Cary Nelson, President of the AAUP, to review his forthcoming book, *No University Is an Island: Saving Academic Freedom* (NYU P, 2010), and the review will appear in a follow-up section on "Academic Freedom" in the NAM issue, together with **Ed Carvalho's** interview with Gayatri Spivak. **Susan Comfort** will be editing the succeeding volume, *Imvisible Battlegrounds: Feminist Resistance in the Global Age of War and Imperialism*. David was asked to serve as the moderator for the MLA Radical Caucus's session at the December, 2009 convention in Philadelphia, "Performing Revolution." He was invited to be one of the featured speakers at the February, 2010 Society for Critical Exchanges Winter Theory Institute, "terror.edu: Terrorism and Education in America," where he will read a paper, "The War on Terror and the Battle for the Global Commons." He was invited by the Executive Committee of the Cultural Studies Association to form a *Works and Days* panel for the March, 2010 CSA conference, and this session will be based on the NAM issue, with Victor Cohen as moderator. He has been invited to speak at the April, 2010, University of

Minnesota conference, "Beneath the University, the Commons," Where he will read a revised version of his paper on "The Battle for the Global Commons."

Shimberlee Jirón-King's first academic article, "The Second Tower of Babel: Ana Castillo's Borgesian Precursors in The Mixquiahuala Letters," originally printed in *Philological Quarterly*, will be re-published this year in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, published by Gale Cengage Learning. She was also happy to find that her second publication, a more creative work entitled "La estudiante caminante: my (m)otherworks (t)here," originally printed in an essay collection called *Parenting and Professing: Balancing Family Work With an Academic Career*, has been selected for republication by the Women's Center at the University of Texas at El Paso. Her most recent publication, "A History of Silencing: Catharsis in María Amparo Ruiz de Burton's *Who Would Have Thought It?*," came out this Spring in *Mester* and inspires many of the issues and topics she raised in her graduate seminar offered during Summer 2009. Additionally, her scholarship on Alejandro Morales's newest novel—the first critical reading available on the text—came out this January. Some of the most pressing intercultural issues concerning marginalization, assimilation, and globalization are discussed in "Illness, Observation, and Contradiction: Intertext and Intrahistory in Alejandro Morales's *The Captain of All These Men of Death*," as Morales's work has the potential to influence the U.S. canon in new and interesting ways.

Mike Sell's book *The Avant-Garde: Race Religion War*, an interdisciplinary study that proposes a new theory of radical cultural production, will be published next year by Seagull Books. It will appear as part of a new series edited by leading Performance Studies scholar Richard Schechner. He has just wrapped up work on a collection of essays, *Avant-Garde Performance and Material Exchange: Vectors of the Radical*, which will be published by Palgrave Macmillan, also next year. His essay "Don't Forget the Triple Front! Some Historical and Representational Dimensions of the Black Arts Movement in Academia" appears in the current *African American Review* and several articles on drama and theatre appear in *Performance Studies: The Key Concepts*, published by Routledge. His article "The Avant-Garde and the Arab World" is under submission; he has started a new book, *The Avant-Garde: A Concise Introduction*; and is developing a critical-creative project on the "poetics of the archive" with IUP Professor Emerita Rosaly Roffman for the journal *Works and Days*. He was recently elected to the Executive

Committee of the American Society for Theatre Research.

Ron Shafer continues his guest-lecturing. He keynoted at the recent 21st World Congress of Poets (WCP) meeting in Managua, Nicaragua (July 2009). He serves as the Eastern USA vice-president of the parent organization of WCP, United Poets Laureate International. Ron has recently returned from delivering both the keynote address and other workshop sessions at the Second International Conference on Applied Linguistics and Literature at Costa Rica University, Heredia, Costa Rica. Ron plans to travel to Uganda and Kenya, East Africa, to teach mini-courses and lecture, January 2010. His keynote address at the Costa Rica meeting, "The Renaissance Quest for Individuality and Identity," has been published in the conference proceedings. He is also planning guest-lecture/teaching-abroad stints in other countries for AY 2010-11—namely, Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia.

Kenneth Sherwood's most recent work has focused on the intersection of poetics and networked digital media. He traveled to Barcelona, Spain this past May for the international E-Poetry 2009 festival and conference where he presented "Word Arrays Processed in Tranquility: Procedure, Program, Play, Poesis." At the &Now Conference of Innovative Writing and the Literary Arts taking place in October at SUNY Buffalo, he will present "Digital Resistances: New Media Poems." Those who are in the area may be interested in visiting the IUP Kipp Gallery where Prof. Sherwood and ENGL 983 students will curate an exhibition of digital literature entitled "Reading Rebooted: Glimpsing the Future of Literature in the Digital Age." This exhibit explores the imaginative engagement of poets and fiction writers with the tools of new media and is sponsored by the IUP Center for Digital Humanities and the Culture and Graduate Program in Literature and Criticism. The on-site exhibition runs from November 30 - December 4, 2009. The web version will be accessible at readingrebooted.iupdhc.org

This semester, **Dr. Tom Slater** has worked with the associate dean of Fine Arts, Michele Norwood, to help promote and support the Pittsburgh Filmmakers Film Series at IUP. He is also working with his graduate assistants to try to bring more filmmakers and scholars to IUP. Additionally, he established the IUP Film Studies Blog at iupfilmstudies.wordpress.com. Dr. Slater hopes that this blog can become a site for students and faculty across campus, and perhaps from outside campus

as well, to share discussion and study of film. He invites our graduate students to take a look at it, join in discussions of movies, suggest ideas for film events or film courses that they would like, and explore new topics. On the website, you will find a proposal for a film studies institute, and a number of other discussion threads established there. Hopefully, it can also be a place where people can just talk about films or maybe even get a film club going. It could also be a place for instructors to ask about films that might be useful in their courses or ideas for teaching films that they're planning to use. In scholarship, Dr. Slater's essay "June Mathis's Valentino Scripts: Images of Male 'Becoming' After the Great War" has been accepted for publication in *Cinema Journal*. The date of publication remains unannounced. In this work, Dr. Slater defines how Mathis constructed a positive, spiritual model of masculinity in the five scripts she wrote for Rudolph Valentino in 1921-22. This work presents a new understanding of how women writers responded to the insanity of the first world war and offered a critique of the destructive patriarchal ideology that has been too long overlooked.

Todd Thompson presented a paper, entitled "Cyborg Nation: Dismemberment as Mechanization in Popular Nineteenth-Century War Satires," at the 2009 Midwest Popular Culture Association and Midwest American Culture Association in Detroit.

Cheryl Wilson's book *Literature and Dance in Nineteenth-Century Britain* was published by Cambridge University Press as part of their prestigious Nineteenth-Century Literature and Culture Series. This is the first academic book on the subject of nineteenth-century literature and dance—an emerging interdisciplinary field. As such, *Literature and Dance* fills a scholarly gap, while also contributing to the fields of literary study, dance history, and gender studies. Theoretically grounded in narrative theory, gender studies, and performance studies, *Literature and Dance* also draws from a range of historical materials, including dance manuals, periodicals, and related ephemera, demonstrating true interdisciplinary scholarship. A review of the book, written by L&C Ph.D. student Amanda Lagoe, and an interview with Dr.

Wilson will appear in the forthcoming issue of *Studies in the Humanities*. Dr. Wilson recently presented "Gender, Fashion, and Social Power in *Emma*," 18th- and 19th-Century British Women Writers Conference (University of Iowa, April 2009); "Rethinking the Silver-Fork Novel," Midwest Victorian Studies Association Conference (Indiana University, April 2009); and "Who's Afraid of the Ballroom? The Dangers of Nineteenth-Century Social Dance," MLA Convention (San Francisco, December 2008). Dr. Wilson continues to serve as President of EAPSU, and, along with several graduate students and colleagues, she will be representing IUP at the Fall 2009 EAPSU Conference at Shippensburg University.

Student & Alumni News

Abdullah M. Al-Dagamseh (Ph.D. Lit) presented his paper, "In-between-ness/Hybridity in the Character of the Ex-Colored Man: A Postcolonial Reading of James Johnson's *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*" at the EAPSU Conference at Shippensburg University, on October 23, 2009.

Matthew James Babcock (PhD, Lit/Crit 2009) has received the Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Award. In addition, a revised version of his dissertation (*Private Fire: The Ecopoetry and Prose of Robert Francis*, directed by James Cahalan) will be published as a book by the University of Delaware Press in 2010.

Brad D. Baumgartner presented papers at the national Literature/Film Association Conference 2009 and EAPSU Conference 2009 this fall. His essay entitled "Recovering Resentment: A Reflection on Disgust, Empathy, and Milton's Satan" is forthcoming in *CTheory*.

Amanda Benigni, Andrea Harms, and Jessica Sidler presented a panel titled "Body, Spirit, and Mind in Julia Ward Howe's *The Hermaphrodite*" at the University of Rhode Island's Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, March 28.

Judy M. Bertonazzi presented her paper, "A Borderland Woman's Positionality and Self-Embodiment in Ana Castillo's novel *So Far From God*," at the Pitt Johnstown Faculty Lecture Series, Johnstown, Pa, March 5, 2009 and for the International Cultural Research Network (ICRN) Conference "Exploring Cultural Perspectives," Calgary, Alberta, Canada, July 2-5, 2009. She will also be presenting, "Caridad's Choice for Transformation: Running off a Mesa Cliff in Ana Castillo's Novel *So Far From God*," for the upcoming English Association of Pennsylvania State Universities (EAPSU) convention to be held October 22-24, 2009 at Shippensburg State University. In addition, Bertonazzi will be chairing the panel "Transnational Identity in Fiction and Drama" during the upcoming EAPSU 2009 conference.

Karen Buffett-Smith presented her paper "What the Waves Are Saying: A Discussion on the Sea in James Joyce's *Ulysses*" at the ACIS Ireland by the Sea conference held at Monmouth University in New Jersey on 9/18-9/19/2009. Karen thanks **Dr. James Cahalan**

for helping with the inspiration and the editorial advice needed to get this paper ready for presentation. IUP alumnus **Todd Carlisle** (Ph.D. Lit) was granted tenure at California University of Pennsylvania this semester. Todd wishes to express his gratitude to IUP's faculty for helping him achieve this goal.

Doctoral Candidate and Teaching Associate **Edward Carvalho** has had four new poems accepted for publication in Robert Barsky's *Ameriquests* journal (Vanderbilt University—forthcoming 2009). The poems are scheduled for inclusion in his forthcoming collection "*If the radiance of a thousand suns*": *Songs of the American Hiroshima* scheduled for release in 2010. Another poem from this collection also was accepted for print publication in *MARGIE Review: American Poetry Journal* fall 2009 (a well-known poetry publication that has featured Charles Simic, Ted Kooser, Billy Collins, Ron Slate, and Dara Wier, among many others). Additionally, *Writing on the Edge* at UC Davis has accepted his interview with IUP's **Pat Bizzaro** (forthcoming 2010).

Wan-Li Chen's article, "Traversing the Fantasy of 'Vanguard': an Inquiry into the Aesthetics," appeared last year in an online journal, *Vitalpoetics*. Special thanks to **Dr. Downing** and **Dr. Sell**, whose classes had built the foundation of this essay. Also, her book review on *Pluralizing Plagiarism: Identities, Contexts, and Pedagogies* was published in the latest issue of College English Association Forum. This fall, Wan-Li will present the first chapter of her dissertation, "Politicizing English-Language Theater in Postcolonial Malaysia," in Knoxville, TN.

In Summer, 2009, **Anna Faktorovich** founded and published the first issue of the online *Pennsylvania Literary Journal*. She was the co-writer and co-producer of the short film, *My Sister, The Psychopath*, (Winged Film Productions, Boston, MA) which was first screened in July 12-13, 2009 in Somerville, MA. She received a research Grant for \$1000 from the Graduate School in spring, 2009 for her project, "Abolitionist Writings of Antebellum Southern Women" (<http://sites.google.com/site/abolitionistwomen>). She will be presenting her paper, "Political Journalism and Libel," at the South Atlantic Modern Languages Association Conference, Atlanta, GA, November, 2009. Also, at SAMLA, she will be presenting three poems at

the Graduate Poets' Circle, and she will serve as the Chair of the Graduate Student Forum in English in 2010. She presented her paper, "Hypertext," at the October, 2009 EAPSU in Shippensburg, PA. In September, 2009, she presented her paper "Antebellum Abolitionist Southern Women Writers" at the Southern Women Writers Conference in Mr. Berry, GA. She also served as a Panel Moderator for "The Conjuring South" scholarly panel, and she performed an excerpt from her unpublished novel, *The Achi Revolution*, at the Open Mic. At the EGO/GSA Conference in June, 2009, she read her paper, "Views on Yellow Journalism in the Works of Kipling, Dickens and Jame," and served as a moderator on another panel. In April, 2009, she read her paper, "Chemical Warfare: Drugs and Disease as Tools of Colonialism and Mass-Poisoning," at the Texas Tech University Migration Conference: United States Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies, Lubbock, TX.

David W. Johnson is taking time away from IUP to teach writing at Great Bay Community College in New Hampshire. His article based on a 1976 interview with Delta blues musician Bukka White has been accepted by the journal *Southern Cultures*, published by the University of North Carolina. He wrote a speech for White's daughter, Irene Kertchaval, to deliver at ceremonies in Houston and Aberdeen, Mississippi, honoring the 100th anniversary of White's birth in 1909. Johnson continues to work with the University Press of Mississippi on his biography of the Stanley Brothers.

Amanda M. Lagoe presented "The Role of Medusa in Eugene Lee-Hamilton's 'The New Medusa,'" and received an honorable mention for the Graduate Student Prize, at the New York College English Association Conference held at St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, NY on October 25, 2008. Amanda also presented "The Design of Vampirism as Anti-Christianity in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*" at the College English Association Conference in Pittsburgh, PA March 26-28, 2009. To finish out the academic year, Amanda presented "Fanny Trollope, Women, and Evangelicals: The Transition from Travel Narrative to Novel" at IUP's Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference on June 26, 2009. This semester, Amanda presented "The Relationship Between Masochism and Voyeurism in *Ulysses* by James Joyce" at the New York College English Association conference in Niagara Falls, NY on October 24, 2009. Her paper won the fall NYCEA Graduate Student Prize and will be featured in NYCEA's e-journal, NYCEA News.

Tracy Lassiter won a travel grant for a paper she presented entitled "Silence Speaks Loudly in *Cities of Salt*." The grant was awarded by the conference's joint conveners, Texas Tech University and the USACLALS. The conference was held in April 2009 in Lubbock, TX.

Dennis B. Ledden, PhD candidate, presented a paper entitled, "Psycho-analyzing the Eudora Welty of *One Writer's Beginnings*" at the 70th Anniversary Conference of the College English Association (CEA) held in Pittsburgh, March 26-28, 2009. Dennis will also be presenting a paper entitled, "Hemingway, Kurowsky, and the Male Self in *A Farewell to Arms*," at the 14th Biennial International Hemingway Conference sponsored by The Ernest Hemingway Foundation and Society, to be held in Lausanne, Switzerland, June 25-July 3, 2010. His paper is based on one chapter of a book he has been working on, tentatively titled, *Full Circle: Hemingway, Kurowsky, and the Male Self*.

This fall, **Melissa J. Lingle-Martin** presented her paper "Lady Lawyers' and 'scribbling women': Representations of Law, Justice, and the New Woman Lawyer in American Women's Discourse" at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers conference in Philadelphia. In the spring she presented "[N]o happy woman ever writes': Nineteenth Century Women Writers and the Pursuit of Happiness" at the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Annual Conference at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs. She also presented "Designing Justice: Nineteenth Century Women Writers' Re-Imagings of Law and Advocacy" at the College English Association Annual Conference in Pittsburgh.

Stacey L. Mascia, doctoral student in IUP's Literature and Criticism program, was recognized for her digital essay, "Reclaiming the Female Body." Stacy was co-recipient of first place prize in the "Tribute to Women" Creative Arts Awards at North Country Community College, where she teaches English. Her digital essay was based on Judy Grahn's poem "I Have Come to Claim Marilyn Monroe's Body," and grew out of a course she took at IUP. The NCCC contest honors Women's History month. Members of the North Country Community College community – students, staff, faculty, and administrators – on all three campuses, were asked to think about the important women in their lives and to regard the contributions of women to humankind through her story – her history – the challenges she has faced and the struggles and obstacles she has had to

overcome simply because she is a woman. These thoughts were then to be interpreted into a creative art piece – writing, artwork, music, a choreographed dance, a photographic essay or a digital essay.

Patrick McAleer is working on his dissertation while residing and teaching in the Twin Cities. His first book, *Inside the Dark Tower Series: Art, Evil and Intertextuality in the Stephen King Novels*, was published by McFarland Press in the early months of 2009. His second book, tentatively titled *The Family King: The Writings of Tabitha King, Owen King and Joe Hill*, will be published in the fall of 2010 by McFarland Press, with an introduction by fellow IUP English Graduate Student Matthew Holman. Patrick presented his paper "The Fallen King(dom): Surviving Ruin and Decay in Stephen King's Fiction" for the Popular Culture Association's annual national conference in New Orleans in April of 2009, and he will be presenting an excerpt from his upcoming book at the Popular Culture Association's annual national conference in St. Louis in March/April of 2010. Patrick also co-chairs the Stephen King Area and the Vampire Area for the Popular Culture Association's annual national conference, and has three articles/book chapters on Stephen King which are to be (tentatively) published in 2010.

Eric Meljac has three articles due out this fall: in *Literature/Film Quarterly*, "Dead Silence: James Joyce's 'The Dead' and John Huston's Adaptation as Aesthetic Rivals"; in the *Journal of Modern Literature*, "Seductive Lines: The Use of Horizontal Bars by Jospovici and Coetzee"; and in the *Journal of College Writing*, "Teaching Theory: Using Genre Theory in the Literary Theory Classroom." Additionally, Eric will be presenting at two conferences. The first is the Literature/Film Association 2009 Annual Conference with a presentation entitled "Female Objectivity and Subjectivity in Beckett's *Not I* and its 1977 BBC Production." The second is at the EAPSU 2009 Conference with a presentation entitled, "Vengeance and Justice in *Lost* and *Waiting for the Barbarians*."

Nancy E. Raftery gave a talk-back session after a performance of Lennox Robinson's "Is Life Worth Living?" at the Mint Theater in New York City in August 2009. The talk focused on the autobiographical nature of the work. Nancy also presented a paper entitled "From Shifts to Slips: Catching Glimpse of Synge in Joyce's *Ulysses*" at the Mid-Atlantic Regional meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies held at

Monmouth University in September 2009. She also chaired a panel on "Irish Women Writers" at the conference.

Ph.D. student **Ellen Ryan** has been selected as a 2009 Educator of Excellence by the New York State English Council (NYSEC). The Council invited her to present at their annual conference in Albany, New York on October 21-23, 2009. Her presentation, "Engaging the Imagination: Visual Encounters in the English Classroom," explores the ways in which art and visual rhetoric may be used to engage and inspire students as well as to supplement curricular study. Her article, "Imagining the Text: Visual Transactions in the English Classroom," appeared in the Spring 2009 issue of *The English Record*.

Jessica Sidler's poem "Home Repair" appeared in the *Calyx* 25.2 Summer 2009 issue. She also presented a paper, "Shifting Identities in E.D.E.N. Southworth's *The Hidden Hand*," at the 2009 IUP EGO/GSA Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference.

Kim Socha (Ph.D. Lit.) has had an essay entitled "Outside the Reign of Logic, Outside the Reach of God: *Hester Panim* in the Surreal Art of Paul Celan and Samuel Bak" accepted for publication in *War, Literature, and the Arts: An International Journal of the Humanities*. In addition, she has accepted a full-time English faculty appointment at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, MN that started this fall.

Henry C. Stewart, first year doctoral student, has recently been informed that his essay, "In the Blink of an Eye: Teaching Jean-Dominique Bauby's *Diving Bell and the Butterfly* While Learning from Eye Blinks" will be published in *The Journal of Literary and Cultural Disabilities Studies*, by the Liverpool University Press, in early 2010.

Marsha I. Walker participated in the Summer 2009 Faculty Resource Network Seminar on "Reading Richard Wright." This week-long, intensive workshop at NYU was led by noted international Wright scholar Jerry W. Ward, Jr. Academicians and community activists discussed the lesser known works of Wright and shared ways of teaching Wright in the 21st century college classroom.

Congratulations Graduates!

The following Ph.D./Literature & Criticism students successfully defended their dissertations and were graduated in May and August of 2009:

Ph.D./Literature & Criticism May & August, 2009 graduates:

- **Mais Al-Qutami**, "Feminist Resistance in Contemporary American Women Writers of Color: Unsettling Images of the Veil and the House in Western Culture," directed by Dr. Susan Comfort.
- **Matthew Babcock**, "Private Fire: Robert Francis's Eco-poetry and Prose," directed by Dr. James M. Cahalan.
- **Alyce Baker**, "The Presence, Roles and Functions of the Grotesque in Toni Morrison's Novels," directed by Dr. Ronald Emerick.
- **Anthony Carlisle**, "The Black Press and the Shaping of Protest in African American Literature, 1840-1935," directed by Dr. Veronica Watson.
- **Sheri Denison**, "Walking through the Shadows: Ruins, Reflections, and Resistance in the Postcolonial Gothic Novel," directed by Dr. Lingyan Yang.
- **William Kraemer**, "The Hypnotic Literary Genre: Poetry, Trance, and Hypnotext," directed by Dr. Ronald Shafer.
- **Pamela June-Rodgers**, "Bodily and Narrative Fragmentation: Wounds, Scars, and Feminist Healing in Selected Novels by Postmodern Multiethnic American Women," directed by Dr. Lingyan Yang.
- **Sheila Sandapen**, "Being Black, Becoming British: Contemporary Female Voices in Black British Literature," directed by Dr. Christopher Orchard.
- **Jill Wagner**, "Engendered Edens: Postmodern Landscapes in Novels by John Fowles and Julian Barnes," directed by Dr. Cheryl Wilson.

M.A./Literature Graduates—May/August 2009:

James Beggs, Maria Bodenschatz, Ashley Crossland, Lori Ferguson, Opal Gayle, Andrea Harms, Anthony James, Anthony Lang, Ahmad Mahmoud, Germaine McArdle, Benjamin Roberts

Welcome New Students!

The following students have been admitted to the graduate programs in Literature and Criticism since Spring 2009:

Ph.D./Literature & Criticism:

Nouh Alguzo, Jill Archer, Ibrahim Azizi, James Beggs, Maria Bodenschatz, Francine Cray, Dominique Ficalora, Andrea Harms, April Jackson, Timothy Kirk, Gretchen Koenig, Shana Kraynak, Cindy Lange, Brian Lutz, Ahmad Mahmoud, Carolyn Marcille, Lisa Marzano, Nancy Raftery, Sarah Rice, Benjamin Roberts, Mi Ok Sa, Bahramand Shah, Matthew Spivey, Henry Stewart, David von Schlichten, Adam Wassel, John Whithers

M.A./Literature:

Ali Al-Ahdal, Abdulrahman Alharbi, Nicholas Beishline, Regina Briggs, Angela Geosits, Amy Klemm, Bijay Rauniyar, Kelly Thompson, Ian Wissinger, Julie Yeager

M.A./Generalist:

Joseph Atwood, Erik Bonini, Jedidiah Carr, Michael Dunlap, Jade Emhoff, Rebecca Feldbusch, Brandon Galm, Jamie Matthews, Ellen Quick, Rebecca Reynolds

Dates to Remember

LATE FALL 2009

Candidacy Exam Workshop: Dec. 3
Last Day of Fall classes: December 14
Final Exams: December 15-18
Commencement: December 20

FUTURE DATES TO HELP WITH YOUR PLANNING

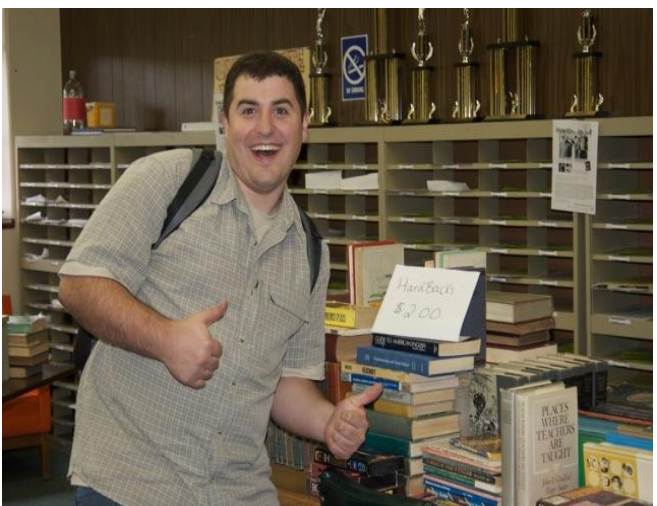
Candidacy Exam: June 3-4
Candidacy Exam: August 26-27
Fall 2010 classes begin: August 30

SPRING 2010

Candidacy Exam: January 14-15
Classes Begin: Tuesday, January 19
May graduation applications due on URSA: March 1
Spring Recess: March 8 through 14
Summer/Fall Registration TBA, usually end of March
Draft of Thesis/Dissertation due for format review: April 1
Archival copies of Thesis/Dissertation due: April 15
Last Day of Spring classes: May 3
Commencement: May 9

EGO Events

This Fall, the English Graduate Organization (EGO) facilitated, among other activities, a picnic to usher in the semester and a book sale in the Graduate Lounge. Thanks to Andrea Harms for furnishing the *Newsletter* with photos from these events.







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