

English Department News

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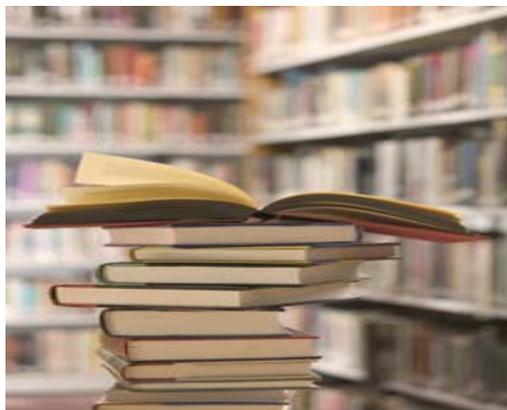
Welcome to the new electronic format of the UC Davis English Department Newsletter! We hope you will find this site informative and up-to-date. Please let us know if you would like to share your news with the English Department community by emailing us at: bezimbalist@ucdavis.edu

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English Department Newsletters

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Upcoming Events

To Be Announced

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Chair's Update: Margie Ferguson

As I look back over my second year of chairing, I think with particular pleasure about the many festive events that have punctuated the time. Among these, in rough chronological order, were: a trip in October to our writers' workshops at beautiful Tomales Bay in Marin County, where I heard our second-year CW students read and also had the pleasure of hearing readings by Pam Houston, Lucy Corin, and John Lescroart, who has funded a fiction prize (the Maurice Prize) in honor of his father. The 2007 Maurice Price winner, Elizabeth Chamberlin, was announced after John's reading. John and his wife Lisa also generously funded a reception at the end of the Tomales Bay workshops.

Also in October, I enjoyed meeting our new faculty and others from around the Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies at an evening party hosted by our Dean, Jessie Ann Owens. And I attended a number of search committee meetings in preparation for our next major event, the Modern Language Association Convention in Chicago. This occurs, as it has for decades, during the week between Christmas and New Year. Some might not describe it as festive, but it has a certain frenetically gay quality at times. For me, it was hectic, since I was scheduled to present two academic papers as well as attend an extraordinary number of interviews of candidates for three jobs that turned eventually (and after many interesting campus visits and girth-expanding dinners) into six positions accepted by six stellar young professors. Back in late December, however, the chairs and the members of the three search committees shared some good laughs and some passable sandwiches with each other along with much too much coffee and Diet Pepsi. An easier occasion (for me, because I wasn't required to be in several places at once) was the weekend in April when I first met many of the graduate students admitted to our literature and creative writing programs; Claire Waters, Pam Houston, Levada McDowell, Janie Guhin, and Tara Porter were gracious hosts for that event, along with the many faculty who met with students interested in particular areas of study. Faculty work-in-progress seminars throughout the year were pleasurable breaks from the daily routine; I owe my assistant Mary White a large debt for

ordering so many sandwiches for so many of these events (I owe Mary for other things too, but the list is long and space, even in an electronic newsletter, is short).

This year has been an extraordinarily full one. I am thrilled to be presiding over our move to an electronic newsletter and I want to thank the editor, Barbara Zimbalist, for helping us move toward a less paper-filled universe (or at least university). Many warm thanks are also due to the staff members who've generously given help, information and invaluable technical support to our new project: Tara Porter, Lynda Jones, Ron Ottman, Mark Wong, and Janie Guhin. I also want to thank our departmental managing officer, Terry Antonelli, early and often, for so many things—too many to list here. But helping us change to an electronic newsletter and overseeing our efforts to improve our Web pages (new ones will be up and running later this fall!) were two of Terry's many contributions to the department last year. In June, she retired; she is, however, still displaying her characteristic generosity to the department by meeting with me and our new MSO Darla Tafoya to help us with knotty questions.

I feel extremely fortunate that we were able to persuade Darla to join us from the History Department; like Terry, Darla is blessed with energy, intelligence, curiosity, superior accounting skills, and a great sense of humor. Darla and I are both very happy that Vita Simonsen, who officially retired with Terry last June has come back to work part time for English; thanks to Vita, everyone got regular paychecks all summer long, and thanks to Vita as well, our six new faculty members have been securely entered into the many Systems that make them benefit-receiving employees of the University of California. Working with staff and recruiting new faculty are two of the most pleasurable parts of the Chair's job as I've experienced it.

Last year also saw a major reform of our undergraduate curriculum. Thanks to the hard work of Fran Dolan, our Director of Undergraduate Studies, Lynda Jones, the Undergraduate Advisor, and members of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, we have a new and I believe improved curriculum at both the lower and the upper divisions. (See Fran Dolan's Update below).

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Volume 11, 2008

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Margie Ferguson, chair

Darla Tafoya, MSO

Claire Waters, graduate advisor

Pam Houston, creative writing director

Fran Dolan, undergraduate advisor

Chair's Update: Continued from page 1

The graduate programs are thriving, and we successfully completed (should I say survived?) one of the intensive Program Reviews that occurs every decade or so. The external reviewer, Kevin Dettmar (a professor of English who now teaches at Pomona College), praised both our Ph.D. program (in literary study) and our M.A. program (in Creative Writing), though he, like the members of the internal review committee, had some recommendations for us to consider. In particular, we need more funds for graduate students in both the Ph.D. and the M.A. programs. One of my ambitions as Chair is to help our department become more competitive than we are currently with sister graduate programs, such as the ones at Irvine and UCSB, which both allow doctoral students two years free of teaching duties: first at the beginning of their programs and then again at the dissertation stage. Alumni gifts, even small ones, make a big difference in the quality of our creative writing and doctoral students' lives. Although few of our graduate students receive as much financial support as I believe they merit, many of them are doing very well on the job market (see the graduate student news page for details). The students themselves are the main architects of our strong placement record, but our wonderful Director of Graduate Studies, Claire Waters, the many faculty who advise dissertations and who write careful letters for students, and the hard-working co-chairs of our placement committee--Colin Milburn and Tim Morton, last year, with John Marx joining them this summer--have all contributed substantially to our efforts to crown the six or seven years it takes to earn a Ph.D. in English with the kind of job that brings professional and personal satisfaction.

Finally, there are the retirement parties to mention as the festive capstones to the academic year: one for Marijane Osborn, Terry Antonelli, and Vita Simonsen in May, and one for Karl Zender in June. It was a delight to be Mistress of Ceremonies at these events; but they were of course also bittersweet. They underscored a lesson that, as Chair, I seem always to be relearning: the job involves intricately varied yet recurring experiences of saying hello, welcome, thank you, and goodbye.

Update from the Graduate Advisor: Claire Waters



This past year was a busy and productive one for the Graduate Program. We welcomed an outstanding new class in Fall 2007 and watched those already enrolled make great progress, winning awards along the way for their teaching, research, and service to the university and beyond. And in the course of the winter and spring we admitted the new Ph.D. and Creative Writing students we look forward to welcoming as Fall 2008 begins. Our annual "prospectives' visit" in April was enjoyable and effective, thanks to the participation of current students and faculty and to the organizational genius of the Graduate Office staff, and contributed to a very successful recruiting year. We are particularly delighted that two of our admitted students received highly competitive campus fellowships (after deciding to attend Davis rather than other programs that had already offered them better funding). We also had the pleasure of seeing a number of our graduates get the recognition, and reward, that their labors have deserved, as they moved on to new jobs in California and across the country; see the Placement news for more information on their successes.

In addition to all our usual activities, we had the salutary experience this year of undergoing a Graduate Program Review, which again benefited from participation across all areas of the department. The review team gave us a very positive assessment overall, as well as some helpful suggestions for improving the program. Their highest recommendation, which we of course warmly endorse, was that our program's funding should be increased to match the quality of the applicants we are able to attract, as well as to make us appropriately competitive, in financial terms, with our peer programs across the country.

As I enter my second year as graduate director, I'm excited to work with all our students and faculty to continue to make the program work as well as it can for everyone involved, and give my heartfelt thanks to Levada McDowell, Tara Porter, and Janie Guhin for their indispensable help, as well as to my predecessor Scott Simmon for his generosity as an adviser, well beyond his term of duty.

Update from the Undergraduate Advisor: Fran Dolan



The Department of English is in the process of revising the Undergraduate English major, a collaborative, gradual process we hope will continue as the curriculum grows and changes with our faculty, our students, and our discipline. This year, we are launching a new sequence of courses at the lower division, Literatures in English, although we are allowing enrolled majors to complete the old lower division requirements if they choose to do so. We are also launching new "advanced" studies courses for those specializing in Creative Writing or in Literature, Criticism, and Theory. We've redesigned our upper division requirements in order to make room for exciting new areas of study. The Undergraduate Studies committee is making other changes designed to support faculty and to enhance our students' experience. The committee now meets with job candidates visiting the department, emphasizing that teaching is an important consideration in recruitment. We find that we also get lots of great ideas in the process! Last year we held the first brunch for graduating seniors and their families on graduation day. This was a huge success and we plan to make it an annual tradition. We're always looking for ways to bring faculty and students together and to tap into the expertise and passion they bring to the study of literature.



Associate Professor Elizabeth Freeman was the featured speaker for the 2007 Fall Faculty Lecture. Dr. Freeman specializes in American literature and gender/sexuality/queer studies

I want to begin by situating my book *Time Binds: Queer Temporality, Queer History* in terms of recent queer theory, for those audience members who are not fully familiar with this field. I'll say at the outset, too, that one important distinction between queer theory and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender studies is that "queer" can encompass aspects of sexuality that cannot be reduced to individual or group identity, and so allows for a broader analysis of dissident sexualities across cultures and historical moments.

Early queer activism and theory were predominantly organized by spatial metaphors. The logic of space dominated the activist front in names like "Queer Nation," actions like kiss-ins in straight bars, and slogans like "Out of the closet and into the streets!" U.S. academic queer theory also emerged within a spatial rubric, arguably beginning with Foucault's *The History of Sexuality*. This work saw human subjectivities and even human bodies as nodal points in a network or grid of power relations. Gloria Anzaldúa and Cherrie Moraga's 1983 anthology *This Bridge Called My Back* was perhaps the first book-length work of American queer theory even though it did not travel under that name---and it provides other examples of spatial thinking. In these essays and works of literature, feminist women of color theorize their position at the intersection of categories like race, class, and sexuality, or described their movement across geographical, linguistic, and political borders. Sexuality studies then turned toward deconstruction in the 1990s. Eve Sedgwick's *The Epistemology of the Closet*, published in 1990 and considered inaugural to the field of queer theory, rethought the spatial metaphor of the closet as a dialectic of knowledge and ignorance. Finally, the 1990s also trafficked in the metaphor of the stage with queer theory's other landmark work, Judith Butler's *Gender Trouble*. Using drag queens as her example, Butler described gender identity as "performative," or consisting of a set of acts that retroactively construct the

original they are supposed to be imitating. Many other scholars drew on Butler's work to theorize racial and sexual passing, the theatricality of sadomasochism, and so on, so that the figure of the stage became more and more explicit.

As important as all this work was, its dominant paradigms assumed that power and knowledge traveled along purely spatial vectors ignoring or leaving tacit the role of time. So my own project began with the somewhat simpleminded question, what if I rethought some of this queer theory through time rather than space? I began by going back to drag performance, retheorizing it as an embodied, minor practice of historiography that preserved and redeployed fading cultural icons in what I called "temporal drag." But as it turned out, of course, the "thought experiment" I thought I was launching was always already present in sexuality studies -- the 19th century sexologists and the early 20th century Freud were theorizing queer time, or theorizing time in queer ways.

As a field of knowledge, sexuality exhibits from its first instances a tension between two temporal modes: linear time and the recursive, looping-back time of repetition and return. Nineteenth-century sexologists, following the Enlightenment Scottish model of "stadialism" or uneven development, generally invested in progressive time (the development of the human race, recapitulated in the human body). Time was an arrow pointing two ways; bodies and societies could move forward toward racial "perfection" or slide backward toward earlier phases. The concept of "atavism" described the sudden reappearance of a preserved "primitive" trait in a "civilized" person or society. But even this idea of "throwback" didn't question the original assignment of phenomena to past or present. Freud followed sexology's linear logic in some respects in his theories of psychosocial development into proper heterosexuality. Those who are familiar with Freud's descriptions of the movement from oral to anal to genital stages, for instance, will recognize how indebted he was to the ideal of progress.

But from early on, Freud also saw human subjectivity as constituted through a temporal splitting. He replaced the concept of atavism with *Nachträglichkeit*, or deferred action. This term describes the way that the mind processes traumatic and pleasurable experiences or even fantasies, before it has the linguistic and conceptual capacity to understand them.

This material lies dormant in the unconscious, reappearing later as symptoms: repetitive "actings out" that are incomprehensible to the subject, who is nevertheless compelled to perform them. In this model, the past wasn't ever really past, for the subject could be said to actually "experience" these traumas for the first time only as they "re"-appear in distorted form in the present. Similarly, the present was always punctured by the past, revising that past, and allowing the past to finally arrive.

Reviewing all this, we might say that subjectivity as a whole is always already queer -- bent or deviating not only toward an array of possible erotic objects, but also toward moments that by the logic of progressive time ought to have either vanished into the mists or become fully integrated into memory.

It's this temporal sense of "queer" that I have been exploring in the book project I have brought to fruition this past year. I'm interested in the ways that "queer" subjectivity, social life, and aesthetics are recursive, anastrophic and sometimes willfully anachronistic. At the same time, I have maintained a certain stubborn---and perhaps itself rearguard---commitment to the idea that "queer" has something to do with erotic life, with the pleasures and travails of the corporeal; that queer isn't just a tartier way to say "postmodern" or "deconstructive," because it describes a lived engagement with bodily risk and experimentation.

I don't mean to universalize or essentialize "the body." Rather, I mean to suggest that inhabiting a stigmatized sexuality, or being what my colleague Jose Munoz calls a "vulgar homosexual," has in most historical moments and places involved the management of a body seen to be fundamentally different than so-called normal ones, and/or the creative use of body parts for pleasures inassimilable to reproduction. Interestingly, too, the repetitions and returns that disturb the Freudian subject appear not as pictorial or narrative memories per se, but in forms that are at once metaphorical and visceral: a "slip of the tongue," repetitive bodily acts, lingering symptoms with no apparent physical etiology. So the Freudian body is the scene of and catalyst for encountering and redistributing the past. This Freudian legacy and the history of queer bodily stigma and creativity has meant, for me, risking thought about the body as, itself, a tool for registering, measuring, encountering, experiencing, and redrawing time.

2008 Department of English Citation Winners

Including Honors Thesis/Creative Project titles for those students who participated in the Honors Program

- Elizabeth Allen: Practice Makes Perfect Possible: A Bloomian Community
Brian Ang: Poems
Daniel Bracco: Growing Sideways
Susan Calvillo: The Other Side of the Wall
- Elizabeth Campbell: Inscribed Signs: Dickens' Commentary on Existence
Whitney Carpenter
Jacob Chilton (2 honors projects)
Problems of Reproduction
"Delivery": Deconstruction, Androgyny and Obstetrics in Milton's Late Poems
Toni Chisamore: Mustang Blood
Ashley Clarke
Katie Conway
Taylor Cox
Stephanie Doeing
- Linnea Edmeier: Young Woman and Fire: Transcending the Dilemma of Difference as Woman and Firefighter
- Daniel Fritz: John Steinbeck, Edward Ricketts, and the Environment: The Relationship and Philosophy Behind Cannery Row
Elizabeth Frost: A Bit of Earth
Gregory Gaye
- Danielle Hanosh: Rhetorical Seduction. The Alluring Fiend and Sexualization of Language in John Milton's Paradise Lost
Paul Hobbs
- Michelle Jackson: Unbound Texts, Unbound Women: Female Disorderliness and Ballad Culture in Early Modern England
- Melody Jue: Navigating With Metaphor: At Home in the Cybernetic Theater of Consciousness
Alexandra Kagstrom
Svetlana Karaslavova
Shannon Kemena
Zoe Kemmerling
- Dara Khan: A Common Household Demon
Bo Hee Kim
Elizabeth Knox: Make Believe
Antonina Mandrussow
Gabriella Martelino
Caitlin McCarthy
Alissa McGowan
Garrett McGrath
- Nicole Nguyen: "A Machine of Words": locating William Carlos Williams' negotiation of the linguistic and pictorial sign in modernity
Beth Noyes
Amanda Olson
Trina Peng: Billboard Train Frames
- Andrew Porter: Acting Authority: Cross-Dressing of Technology and Religion in Vonnegut and Twain
Katharine Rosen Molina
Matthew Slagle
Manmeet Toor
- Steven Tyra: The Saracen as Muslim and Heretic: A Historical Context for the Treatment of Sir Palomydes in Le Morte D'Arthur
Alana Washington: The Aroma of the Citizen
- Natalie Williams-Munger: Bringing a New Dawn to Women's Frontier Literature: The Recovery of Dell H. Munger's Writing
Jessica Wilson



Creative Writing Contest Winners

Ina Coolbrith Memorial Prize

Finalists for the state & campus wide competition

James Wooden

Haley Davis

Kristen Judd

Pamela Maus Contest in Creative Writing

First Place Fiction: Koji Frahm

Second Place Fiction: Susan Calvillo

First Place Tied for Poetry

Brian Ang & James Wooden

Diana Lynn Bogart Prize

First Place: Kristen Judd

Second Place: Qinger Kitty Liang

Third Place: Michelle Tang Jackson

Honorable Mention

Hailey Yager

Celeste Turner Wright Poetry Prize

First Place: Austin Smith

Second Place: Henry 7 Reneau Jr.

2008 Maurice Prize in Fiction

This year's winner of the Maurice prize will be announced on October 26th

Elliot Gilbert Memorial Prize for Best Honors Creative Work

Dara Khan, "A Common Household Demon"

&

Alana Washington, "The Aroma of the Citizen"

Graduate Student Winners of the Elliot Gilbert Prize Contest for Fiction and Poetry:

Erica Scheidt for Fiction short-story, "Something More"

Masin Persina for his poem, "Behead"

Graduate Student Publications & Achievements

Alysia Garrison's article, "Ill Seen, Ill Said: Trauma and Testimony in Beckett's *The Unnamable*," is forthcoming in the collection *Samuel Beckett: History, Memory, Archive*. Alysia presented a paper titled "Beckett's (Im)postures" at the Ninth Annual Modernist Studies Association Conference in Long Beach in November. She was awarded an Office of Graduate Studies and a Consortium for Women and Research Travel Award to present a paper at the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica this summer. She was also awarded a Dissertation Research Fellowship from the Department of English for summer 2008. She is serving as Vice President of the MLA Graduate Student Caucus this academic year.

John Garrison's essay, "Echoes of Influence: Music, Social Power and the Law in Speculative Fiction," appeared in *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts* Volume 18, Issue 1. He presented a paper entitled "Imagining the Multitude in 'The Culture' of Iain M. Banks" at the MLA conference, and a paper entitled "Hamlet and the Business of Being Seen" at the annual gathering of the Popular Culture Association.

Maura Grady accepted a three-year position at the University of Nevada, Reno. Beginning Fall 2008, she will serve as Assistant Director of Core Writing and Lecturer in English. Maura presented a paper in the Women's Studies area of the PCA/ACA Annual Conference in San Francisco in March '08, and welcomed her second child, Ada, in August '07.

Andrew Hageman published "The Uncan-

ny Ecology of David Lynch's Mulholland Drive" in the June '08 issue of the online journal *Scope*, and a chapter entitled "The Cinematic Confluence of Ecological Aesthetics in Suzhou River" in the forthcoming collection *Chinese Ecocinema*.

Jessica Howell received the UCD Humanities and Research Award for 2007-2008, which she used to develop and run the "Literature and Pathology" conference, Feb 29- March 2nd. She recently filed her dissertation, and has been chosen as a 2008-2009 Professors for the Future Fellow.

Jessica Hope Jordan received a dissertation fellowship for the 2008 spring quarter and received her Ph.D. June 2008; she has accepted a position at University of the Pacific, as an Assistant Professor of Nineteenth-Century American Literature.

Tony R. Magagna completed his dissertation in spring 2008 and has accepted a position as a postdoc in English and UWP here at Davis for the 2008-09 year. He recently had an article accepted at Western American Literature entitled "Erased by Space, Ignored by History: Place and Gender in Marilynne Robinson's West."

Katie Rodger's article, "A Shared Poetic: The Influence of Ricketts's Literary Philosophy on Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*," is forthcoming in *Dialogue: The Grapes of Wrath*, edited by Michael J. Meyer, Amsterdam and New York: Rodopi Press, 2009. In May, she gave a paper

at the American Literature Association: "First Encounter: Richard Henry Dana, Jr.'s Two Years Before the Mast and the Rise of American Literature of the Pacific."

Poonam Sachdev filed her dissertation in March 2008. Her field of study is Twentieth Century British and Post-colonial Studies with a DE in Critical Theory. In April 2007 she attended the annual American Comparative Literature Association conference in Puebla, Mexico. She also received a "small grant" from the English department last year, which she used toward research for her dissertation.

Lisa Sperber received a \$500 grant from the UC Davis Consortium for Women and Research, and the \$1500 summer research grant from the department. ■

2007-2008 Ph.D.s AWARDED

Shellie Banga: A Banquet of Silhouettes: William Least Heat-Moon's Travel Trilogy in Context

Seth Forrest: "Thus far the transmission is oral": Orality and Auality in Poetry by the Black Mountain School

Maura Grady: "I'm telling you she's your man": The Female Organization Man in Twentieth Century Fiction and Film

Jessica Howell: Under the Weather: Disease, Race and Climate in Victorian Tales of Travel

Jessica Hope Jordan

Andrea Lawson: Reading Farewell Gifts in Renaissance Drama and Poetry

Tony R. Magagna: Placing the West: Landscape, Literature, and Identity in the American West

Poonam Sachdev: The "Gypsy" as Muse and Metaphor: Modernity, Mobility and a People's Struggle for Subjectivity

2007-2008 PLACEMENT NEWS

Steven Blevins: Florida International University

Maura Grady: University of Nevada, Reno

Janice Hawes: South Carolina State University

Jessica Hope Jordan: University of the Pacific

Samaine Lockwood: George Mason University

Candace Taylor: Westmont College

June 200 Creative Writing M.A.s

Crystal Lee Anderson. Strange Language

Crystal Cheney, Feeder Rabbits

Allison Hack, A Small Wake

Samantha Hudson, Reprieve and Other Stories

Patricia Killelea, Counterglow: Poems

Jason Morphew, Shame

Gabrielle Myers, Feeding, City & Memory

Masin Persina, Suction

Jeanine Peters Webb, Pirates vs. Ninjas

Erica Scheidt, Uses for boys: A Novel and Stories

Monica Lita Storss, Women's Work

Marc Wise, The Other Mark Wise or American Studies, Selected Writings of Dennis Herlofski

Alumni Bulletin

Julie Dalrymple (BA 1998) has been trying out different career paths including public relations, graphic design and marketing. She is currently the Marketing Director at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek and use the skills learned from her undergrad studies (and years at the California Aggie as a reporter and editor) daily. She is currently finishing an MA at St. Mary's College in Moraga, focusing on the early Northern California writers who first inspired her during her undergrad days at UC Davis.

Melody Jue (BA 2008) is currently abroad on a Fulbright Scholarship, working as an English Teaching Assistant at the Open University of Hong Kong and blogging about the experience on her webpage. She won department awards at the end of the school year for best critical thesis/ outstanding senior, and had a winning entry in prized writing 2 years ago and a winning entry in Explorations last year.

Maria Kochis (MA) had her first short story, "Coral," published in the Pisgah Review (Winter 2008).

Gail Lockhart (MA 1973) recently retired from state service after over 32 years in emergency management, including 20 years with the California Army National Guard. In January 2008, she will become a subject matter expert (SME) at the Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP) at California State University, Sacramento. She is currently writing a book of short stories about Shiba Inu, a small spitz-type hunting dog from Japan.

Susan Edwards Richmond (MA 1987) published a new poetry collection, Purgatory Chasm, with Adastra Press in fall 2007. She recently served as poet-in-residence for the Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, MA and continues to consult with the museum on poetry activities and events.

Michael Shapiro (MA 1992) received a Ph.D. in English Literature from Brandeis University. After teaching in Hawaii for ten years, he is now the editor of Hana Hou! the Magazine of Hawaiian Airlines. Last year, he was awarded Travel Writer of the Year by the Hawaii Tourism Authority. He continues to write and publish poetry, and is currently at work on a novel.

Cora Stryker (MA 2007) has been awarded the 2008-2009 Steinbeck Fellowship at San Jose State University to write her novel.

John Vernon (Ph.D.1969) is a Distinguished Professor at Binghamton University (SUNY). In 2001, he went on half time teaching, and now teaches at Binghamton during the spring semester of each year and lives in the mountains of northern Colorado for the rest of the year. Houghton Mifflin will publish his sixth novel (and eleventh book), Lucky Billy, in 2009. His previous novel from Houghton Mifflin, The Last Canyon, was about John Wesley Powell's 1869 expedition down the Green and Colorado Rivers and through the Grand Canyon.

Alvin Ka Hin Wong (BA 2006) just published a book review of Lisa Rofel's new book *Desiring China*. The review, "Queering Chineseness, Unthinking Neoliberalism," was published in the 2008 issue of GLQ.

Please share your good news with fellow graduates! The annual newsletter traces the professional lives of English department alumni, so tell us of your recent career accomplishments, promotions, professional awards, and publications. Email your news to bezimbalist@ucdavis.edu and include your name, UC Davis degree, and year graduated. Please make the subject heading "Alumni News." We look forward to hearing from you! ■

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT

UCD & DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Friends of English Outstanding Graduating Senior Award

Two people received this award this year:

Jacob Chilton

Melody Jue

English Department Essay Prize

1st Place, Jacob Chilton, "Hearse Verses Sickie: Killing Death With a Timeless Tomb or Sonnet 86: The Entombing Womb Rehearsed in Verse." Essay written in ENL 188 with Professor Richard Levin

2nd Place, Kevin Peterson, "Damnable Desire in the Aging Queen." Essay written in ENL 117B with Judith Rose

Elliot Gilbert Memorial Prize for Best Honors Critical Essay

Melody Jue, "Navigating With Metaphor: At Home in the Cybernetic Theater of Consciousness"

Elliot Gilbert Memorial Prize for Best Honors Creative Work

Two people awarded this year:

Dara Khan, "A Common Household Demon"

&

Alana Washington, "The Aroma of the Citizen"

GRADUATE STUDENT

UCD & DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

FRIENDS OF ENGLISH RESEARCH AWARDS

Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award (Ph.D.):
Melissa Strong

Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award (Creative Writing): Ben Jahn

DISSERTATION QUARTER FELLOWSHIPS

Sean Allan, Maura Grady, Jennifer Jones, Jung-kook Paik, Karma Waltonen

SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS

Steven Blevins, Jason Dunn, Karen Embry, Seth Forrest, Jessica Howell, Tony Magagna, Mindi McMann, Colleen Pauza, Tara Pederson, Ryan Poll, Anna Pruitt, Chris Schaberg, Kendra Smith, Jessica Staheli, Melissa Strong, Daniel Thomas-Glass, Kara Thompson, Nicholas Valvo, Barbara Zimbalist

2005 DAVID NOEL MILLER SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY PRIZE

Christopher Schaberg, "Air Force One: Sovereignty at the Edge"

2005-2006 PROFESSORS FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAM

Jennifer Jones

2006-2007 CHANCELLOR'S TEACHING FELLOWSHIP

Tony Magagna

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING AWARD

Jessica Jordan, Tony Magagna, Karen Walker

Gina Bloom's book, *Voice in Motion: Staging Gender, Shaping Sound in Early Modern England*, has been published by the University of Pennsylvania Press.

Seeta Chaganti's book, *The Medieval Poetics of the Reliquary: Enshrinement, Inscription, Performance*, was published this September in Palgrave Macmillan's New Middle Ages series.

Lucy Corin's collection of short stories, *The Entire Predicament*, was released from Tin House Books in Oct, 2007; she was a Breadloaf fellow at Middlebury College for the summer of 2008.

Fran Dolan's book, *Marriage and Violence: the Early Modern Legacy*, was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in 2008. The book was glowingly reviewed in the August 2008 issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. She has also edited a collection of essays, *Catholic Culture in Early Modern England*, with Ron Corthell, Christopher Highley, and Arthur Marotti (South Bend, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2007). Her article, "Why Are Nuns Funny?" was published in the *Huntington Library Quarterly* 70.4; and her article "Learning to Listen: Shakespeare and Contexts," was published in Blackwell Press' 2008 volume *Teaching Shakespeare: Passing It On*. This year, she received a Faculty Development Award, which acknowledges extraordinary service contributions to the department and the university.

Margie Ferguson has won an Outstanding Mentor Award from the Consortium for Women and Research at UC Davis. This year she served on the MLA Elections Committee, and completed an article on "The Epistemology of the Hymen," forthcoming this year.

Lynn Freed received an invitation for a residency from the International Writers' and Translators' Centre of Rhodes (Greece) and also from the Fundación Valparaíso (Spain), both for the Fall (2008).

Pam Houston has received an "outstanding service" award from the UC Davis Extension.

Alessa Johns received a 2008-2009 UC President's Research Fellowship in the Humanities to complete her book, *Alternative Enlightenments, Cultural Translation, and Anglo-German Exchange, 1750-1837*. Her article, "Gender, Disaster, and the Grand Tour: Visits to Vesuvius, 1770-1825," will be appearing soon in *Das Erdbeben von Lissabon und der Katastrophendiskurs im 18. Jahrhundert*, edited by Gerhard Lauer and Thorsten Unger (Goettingen: Wallstein, 2008). She will continue her work as Reviews Editor for the journal *Eighteenth-Century Studies* when she returns from her year on leave; Mike Ziser will fill the position in her absence.

Sandra McPherson's *Expectation Days* (University of Illinois Press) has been nominated on behalf of the Northern California Book Reviewers (NCBR), for the Northern California Book Award in Poetry as one of the best works by a northern California author published in 2007.

Colin Milburn won a UCHRI Residential Fellowship for the 2008-09 year; he has also been awarded a 2008 fellowship from the newly established Hellman Family Foundation Awards for his research project "Mondo Nano: Fun and Games in the World of Digital Matter." This year, Dr. Milburn was the recipient of a 2007-2008 Faculty Development Award. Dr. Milburn's book, *Nanovision: Engineering the Future*, will be published by Duke University Press this October.

Timothy Morton's book *Ecology without Nature* is being translated into Chinese by Beijing University Press, forthcoming in 2009; his next book, *The Ecological Thought*, is forthcom-

ing from Harvard University Press. His essay "Of Matter and Meter: Environmental Form in Coleridge's 'Effusion 35' and 'The Eolian Harp,'" was published in the e-journal *Literature Compass* in January, 2008. Dr. Morton gave the keynote speech for the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment via video link to the UK, to save on carbon; and spoke at Cambridge University in the spring quarter of 2008.

Marijane Osborn has contributed a memorial tribute, "Remembering Celeste Turner Wright," to the UC Davis Centennial's "One Hundred Stories" Program. Dr. Wright was a founding professor and the first Department Chair of the UCD English Department.

Catherine Robson was asked to select three papers from the North American Victorian Studies Association 2007 annual conference for publication in the Winter 2008 edition of *Victorian Studies*; her essay, "The Presence of Poetry," which will be published with them, forms the response to this cluster of recent work in the field of Victorian poetry. She has accepted a fellowship at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin for 2008-09. She presented a piece entitled " 'Three Cheers for Mute Ingloriousness!': Gray's Elegy, Cultural Capital, and the Scholarship Boy" to the Nineteenth-Century Studies Working Group at the University of California, Berkeley in March, and delivered invited lectures on different aspects of the topic of the memorized poem at Harvard and Brandeis this spring. She presented a paper on similar themes at the NAVSA conference in Victoria, British Columbia in the fall. She gave a talk entitled "Why It's Grim Up North: A Brief Primer on Yorkshire, Lancashire, and All Things Northern" at the Dickens Universe at UC Santa Cruz this summer. In addition, she was pleased to host the annual University of California Dickens Project Graduate Student Winter Conference at Davis in the winter 2008.

In the Winter quarter, Winfried Schleiner was a teaching fellow at the UC campus in Washington, DC. In March 08, he gave a paper on "Two Early Modern Diseases of Women: Green Sickness and Hysteria" at a UCLA conference on Nostalgia, Melancholy, and Love Sickness; in April '08, a paper on "Early Modern Medical Humor" at a Hofstra University conference on Humor in Romance Language Literatures.

Scott Simmon has been interviewed on Elvis Mitchell's radio show *The Treatment*, broadcast on Los Angeles' KCRW. The interview focused on the new DVD set, "Treasures III: Social Issues in American Film, 1900-1934," which Dr. Simmon curated. Dr. Simmon was also interviewed about the new DVD set for NPR's "Morning Edition" in October of 2007; the interview is archived on NPR's website.

David Simpson received the Needham Endowed Chair for the 2008-2009 academic year; his review of Heonik Kwon's *Ghosts of War in Vietnam* appeared in the *London Review of Books* this August. Dr. Simpson's latest book, *Wordsworth, Commodification and Social Concern*, is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press in 2009.

Claire Waters's edition *Virgins and Scholars: A Fifteenth-Century Compilation of the Lives of John the Baptist, John the Evangelist, Jerome, and Katherine of Alexandria* will be coming out from Brepols in fall of 2008. She presented a paper, "Getting the Riffraff into Heaven: Popular Eschatology in the Thirteenth Century," to the Medieval Colloquium at Northwestern University, December 6, 2007.

Joe Wenderoth has an essay in the forthcoming *Best American Essays 2008* and he also had a poem in *Best American Poetry 2007*.

Alan Williamson interviewed Gary Snyder, recipient of the Lilly Prize, for the Poetry Foundation; the interview focused on Buddhism and the Far East.

A Tribute to KARL ZENDER

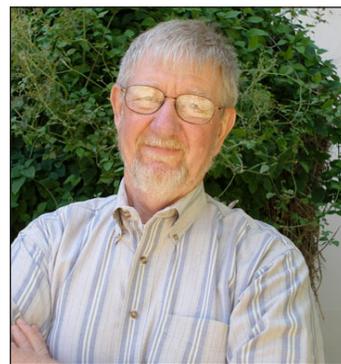
on the Occasion of his Retirement

An Excerpt from Michael Hoffman's
Remarks on Karl Zender's Retirement—
Tuesday, June 3, 2008

I've been looking forward to this day for seven years, to welcome Karl Zender into the delicious irresponsibility of retirement. I want to organize my remarks around our long friendship and to offer some insights into Karl that might surprise you, including a few silly moments that he and I have shared. (Jack Hicks once referred to us—lovingly, of course—as the odd couple.) In the process, I want to stress Karl's accomplishments as a teacher and scholar and, especially, his contributions to the campus and to the English department. Let's start at the beginning. Karl comes from a working-class family in Southern Ohio, and he's proud of his origins...After completing his physics major at Case Tech, Karl changed his mind about becoming a scientist and turned to literature. He took his masters degree at Western Reserve and his doctorate at Iowa, where he specialized in Renaissance literature and wrote a thesis on revenge tragedies. His first teaching job was at Washington University in Saint Louis. Like a lot of us from that generation, Karl didn't get tenure at his first position, and he came to California in 1973 to find a fresh port in the storm and create a new career. After all, you can't knock the climate. What makes Karl's coming to Davis unusual is that he was appointed as a lecturer to run the Subject A Program, which was then administered out of the English department. From the start he was a good administrator, and when the director of Composition retired a few years later, Karl succeeded him. Karl was an excellent director of composition; by the time he'd been here less than a decade he'd had a major impact on two important writing programs that served the campus. Then, in 1980, he and Linda Morris—who had taken over Subject A from Karl—proposed a program to foster writing across the curriculum. This was the Campus Writing Center. I have a special affection for that unit because I was then an administrator in what is now the Provost's Office, and we were able to fund it within the English department. If I'm not mistaken, we are one of only two UC campuses with an upper-division writing requirement, and the Campus Writing Center was instrumental in implementing it. More important, in my view, was that the Center established writing across the curriculum as being essential to undergraduate education at Davis. Along with the Composition Program it has evolved into the University Writing Program. As Emerson says in "Self-Reliance," "an institution is the lengthened shadow of one man."

This is a good description of Karl's impact on how writing is taught at Davis. But I can speak of one accomplishment there more easily than others, and that is the hiring of David Simpson and Margie Ferguson, two appointments that have had an immense influence on the department and on its future. While doing his administrative work, Karl published steadily, including a number of first-rate articles on Faulkner (one of which appeared in PMLA), and he was able to move to a regular academic senate appointment. Some of these essays formed the basis of his first book on Faulkner, which Rutgers published in 1989: *The Crossing of the Ways: William Faulkner, the South, and the Modern World*. Focusing mostly on novels that Faulkner wrote late in his career, such as *Intruder in the Dust*, *Requiem for a Nun*, *The Town*, and *The Mansion*, Karl showed how Faulkner reacted in his fiction to the disappearance of the traditional South and to an emerging, de-regionalized America. The book was well received by reviewers and established him as a writer of genuine merit. If you haven't read any of his work, you should know that Karl's prose is thoughtful, elegant, and absolutely clear. It's a model of academic writing. ...

I'll conclude with two brief observations. First of all, Karl is ending his career on a high note, with a book coming out this year on Shakespeare, again with LSU, the fruits of teaching Shakespeare courses yearly. It's a personal book, the kind an established scholar can write at the end of a career, in which reflections on ageing mix with shrewd observations about such matters in the plays. The readings of works like *Macbeth* and *Antony and Cleopatra* are splendid. There are many things for which I admire Karl; but this is one thing for which I envy him. What timing! The other observation takes us back to the beginning of my talk. And that is my welcoming Karl to the delicious irresponsibility of retirement. Well, not quite. After seven years of our going to upscale lunches every month, of basketball games and baseball games, of reading books together that we have chosen simply because we want to read them, I figured that Karl was ready for the good life. He once told me that the reason I enjoy retirement so much is that I have no superego. I thanked him for the compliment. But what have we heard? It seems that Karl has been recalled to work in the dean's office, drafting personnel letters. Can you imagine? He finds drafting personnel letters more delicious than experiencing the good life with me. I ask you, "What can you do with such a man?"



Laura Maestrelli (MA '02) reflects on her Advisor and Mentor Karl Zender

"Although Karl never taught any graduate seminars, those of us grad students lucky enough to have encountered his teaching in other forums – in my case, as the T.A. for his undergraduate Shakespeare survey – knew all too well what our fellow graduate students were missing. His impeccably organized lectures. His prolific and varied publications on everyone from Shakespeare to Faulkner. His tremendous respect for his students and the craft of teaching.

But maybe most significantly, I pitied my fellow graduate students for missing out on Karl's unbridled, even boyish, enthusiasm for the language and literature he had been teaching and writing about most of his life. As I listened to his lectures and watched him lead class discussions, I remember thinking to myself with a mixture of admiration and incredulity, "Here's a man who still clearly loves his job." Though he had been teaching many of those same plays and novels for years, his enthusiasm for their artistry and power clearly hadn't diminished – and it was nearly impossible not to be affected by his infectious zeal for them. Karl somehow managed to elegantly illuminate and explain the complexities of the books and plays he was teaching while simultaneously convincing his students how much fun they were to read.

With all of those fond memories in mind, I am left here pondering Karl's retirement. I must confess that I wasn't sure this day would ever come. He always seemed to have some kind of excuse for putting off his retirement another quarter – a deferral which, admittedly, was a boon to his students and colleagues alike. And while I'm happy that Karl will now be able to put the "briars of this working day world" behind him, I can't help but feel sorry for the future undergraduates who will never get to listen to one of his illuminating lectures on Hamlet... or struggle to decipher his nearly illegible but always astute marginal essay comments... or listen to one of his stories about growing up in the hills of southern Ohio. I was lucky enough to have benefited from a variety of the different hats Karl has worn throughout his career – teacher, scholar, mentor, and in the 5 years since I completed my Masters degree, good friend. For all of those, I am tremendously grateful."

Reflecting on Marijane Osborn's retirement, Brad Busbee wrote:

"I was a little caught off guard when I got the invitation and email announcing Marijane's retirement, probably because I have trouble thinking about UC Davis without thinking about Marijane. And so, it has taken me almost the entire month since to figure out what I might possibly say about such a wonderful scholar, teacher, mentor and friend in only a paragraph or two. After all, this a lady who not too long ago boasted that she could swim the length of the Davis Community pool while wearing chain mail armor—we are still waiting for you to do that, Marijane. This is someone who once commissioned a reconstructed Viking ship to follow Beowulf's sea journeys across the dangerous waters between Sweden and Denmark, a trip she completed and wrote a book about. This is someone who kept an astrolabe on her office desk to show students and to consider while conducting research—she wrote a book about the astrolabe, too. And this is someone who has taught and researched in places as far flung as Alaska, Belfast, California, Edinburgh, Hawaii, Lancaster, New York, Oxford and Reykjavik. Marijane Osborn has an active, eclectic mind: she's a scholar of medieval texts, a poet, a translator, and a screenplay writer. And she is a teacher.

Those of us who have had the good fortune to be in her classes know firsthand how Marijane gathers together knowledge and enthusiasm in order to bring language and literature to life. Gillian Overing (currently Professor of English at Wake Forest and one of Marijane's first students) sent the following account of her first encounter with Marijane:

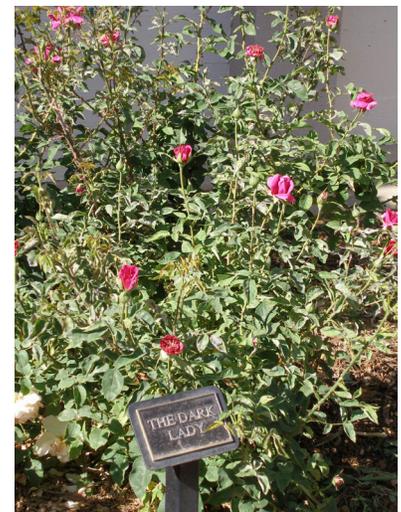
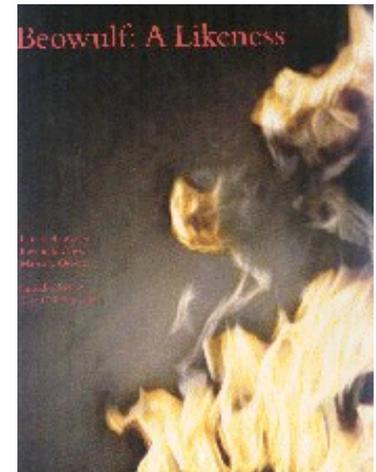
Four British undergraduates look on, slightly bemused, skeptical, nonetheless interested, as the American Professor, Marijane Osborn, takes over the Beowulf class to fill in for a professor on leave. She is unusually enthusiastic, full of a sense of discovery; she has brought to class a collection of pictures and prints, some quite rare, of artistic renderings of the Grendelkin. "Isn't this Swedish one fascinating?" she questions, unrhethorically, looking directly at the student she is addressing. Well, yes, it is, the student replies. And so, under her tutelage, the cultural world of the poem unfolded throughout the rest of that Spring term . . .

For those four students, of whom I was one, and for many of Marijane Osborn's students before and since, the study of

Beowulf and of Old English has been transformed, and seeing the Anglo-Saxon world through her eyes has been a transformative experience.

As a student at the other end of Marijane's career, I have had a similar inspiring and transformative experience. In the fall of 2000, Alessa Johns asked me to invite a professor to our graduate professionalization class, so I called Marijane and requested a meeting. Like my fellow classmates, I was pleasantly surprised when she arrived equipped with show-and-tell items, such as her astrolabe, some pictures of rune stones and Nordic landscapes, and an image of the Beowulf manuscript. I knew then that, to her, literature and language and life were inseparable, and that she was right: words are living things. She continually reminded me and others of this point as we studied Old English and wrote dissertations under her guidance. And today, I realize that her impact on me continues: as I write these words, I am sitting in the waiting room of the manuscript collection at Royal Library of Denmark, where in an hour or so I'll be sitting in front of a particular medieval manuscript I've only had a chance to read about before. It is for moments like these, ones of discovery that we study and train and hope for, that I would like to thank Marijane Osborn. Marijane, you have been an inspiration to us. Thank you for that. I hope you enjoy retirement! And I'm looking forward to your making that armor-clad swim, the next time I'm in Davis."

Mark Bradshaw Busbee received his Ph.D. in Medieval Literature from UC Davis in 2005; his dissertation, completed under Marijane Osborn's advisement, is titled "N.F.S. Grundtvig's Interpretation of Beowulf as a Living Heroic Poem for the People." He is now an assistant professor at Florida Gulf Coast University.



A Tribute to MARIJANE OSBORN on the Occasion of her Retirement

Terry Antonelli



Terry Antonelli knows UC Davis from many different perspectives; she studied Psychology here at UC Davis and soon thereafter (in 1971) started work as a clerk in the Biochemistry department. Later, she worked in Sproul Hall, where she met Vita Simonsen, and after a few years, was running 25 programs, including Comparative Literature and Religious Studies. Professor Seth Schein wrote that Terry was his guide into UCD culture--"she took the scales off my eyes," he wrote in a message sent at the time of Terry's retirement in June 2007. The image of Terry as a demystifier is a resonant one for the many teachers of reading and writing who have worked with her over the years. I'd like to add, however, that Terry not only demystifies; she also remystifies when it's necessary. She never holds grudges, which is one of her many virtues as an administrator. Quick to forgive, quick and deft with accounts, a master problem solver, Terry might be described as an ironical Polyanna; she sees everyone and everything in the best possible light even when she knows better. She was and is my friend, and she was the best possible guide I could have had into the job of a department chair.

Terry came to the English department as our MSO in 1994; more recently, and with her typical grace and pizzazz, she took on the tasks of administering other units in Voorhies including the University Writing Program, Nature and Culture, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and the Davis Humanities Institute. Carolyn de la Peña, the Director of the DHI, wrote the following about Terry: she has been "amazingly supportive of the DHI. She knows the answer, apparently, to every question I can think up. She answers the phone with cheer. She finds answers for me--pronto--and is right back on with the followup. . . She helps because she wants to, because she enjoys people and likes solving problems. . . She makes everyone feel valued (and she really likes my hair)!"

I'd like to relay some of the comments that the Voorhies Staff made about Terry as their MSO. "When she comes in at 9 a.m., usually with a big cup of coffee in her hand," says Lynda Jones, "Terry is already thinking and talking a mile a minute. She greets everyone by name and there is never a morning when there is any doubt about the different energy level on the hall after Terry arrives! She will stop and talk to you about what you're doing no matter what is on her mind; she never makes you feel that you are interrupting her even though she must sometimes feel irritated by the hundred interruptions she deals with daily." "How Terry gets as much done as she does with her incredible open-door policy is a kind of a mystery, one we'll all be remembering for a long time. " Moreover, as another member of the staff remarks, "Terry doesn't know the word 'no.' If you come to her with a request, she will always and with a certain glee set to work to see how your request might be fulfilled."

Karl Zender, one of the many chairs who worked with Terry, said in his remarks at her retirement party that she DID "know no," and sometimes said it to him; but most of us would say, as her staff does, that she always starts by seeing how she can say yes to requests that have a shred of rationality to them. I'll give the last word to a staff member who wants to remain anonymous with a story that illustrates the fact that Terry isn't perfect even though she is almost so. We called Terry requesting an interview with the Davis Enterprise. The caller wanted to know how she treated her staff. Little did she know, until the caller dissolved in laughter, that it was one of her staff members on the line. Terry was so easy to fool!" But she of course has the last laugh, playing with her husband Tony on the golf course instead of answering the phone at all.

Vita Simonsen



"The idea for a three-in-one retirement party, honoring Vita Simonsen, Terry Antonelli, and Marijane Osborn, is not an idea drearily dictated by impending budget cuts, but is rather a typically Terry Antonelli idea of how we can have fun, mixing staff and faculty colleagues and bringing everyone together for a big party that will end in time to let people go out to dinner with their families. I'm delighted to be celebrating three amazing women colleagues. Each has been at Davis a long time. Vita came to work in the Chancellor's Office in 1967, Terry came as a clerk in Biochemistry in 1971 and Marijane came as a faculty member in 1981.

Vita wasn't initially very keen on having a public celebration because, as she says, she is not exactly retiring but is rather "moving on in her life," expecting--as has indeed transpired--to work part time in Voorhies. We are delighted that she 's not REALLY retiring because this gives us a chance to continue to benefit from the grace and competence she displays everyday as the Personnel Officer for English and the University Writing Program. She has been on the Voorhies' units' staff since 1990 as our "gateway" person, the person who helps all of our new hires--faculty, staff, graduate teachers, exchange students, visiting lecturers--enter smoothly enough into the vast electronic and paperwork systems of this university so that they can get paid in a timely way. Vita welcomes people into the Voorhies community with truly amazing efficiency and kindness. She does critical tasks in a quiet, unflappable way that Terry, Chris Thaiss, I, and now Darla rely on--and for which we're truly grateful."

The English Department at the University of California, Davis

The Friends of English encourages alumni and community members to stay connected to the English Department and to the reading and study of literature. “Friends” will be invited to attend scholarly talks and readings by our own sterling creative writers, and receive our annual departmental newsletter. In return, “Friends” will be helping the department continue to achieve distinction by supporting graduate and undergraduate fellowships and awards, supporting faculty and student research, and sponsoring public lectures and readings. For more information on how to become a member, visit the Friends of English website.

We are sincerely grateful to the following individuals for their contributions to Friends of English (including gifts to the department) during the 2007-2008 academic year: Nora Ann McGuinness, Peter Horton, Donald Thomas, Jane Reed, Sue Walther Jones, Timothy Flynn, Stephanie Spanja, Emily Artiano, and Poonam Sachdev.

New Faculty Introductions 2007-2008 Academic Year

Gina Bloom joined the department in 2007. Before coming to Davis, she taught in much colder places: the University of Iowa and Lawrence University. Her areas of interest include early modern English literature, especially Shakespeare and drama, gender and feminist theory, theater history and performance, and sound studies. Her first book is entitled *Voice in Motion: Staging Gender, Shaping Sound in Early Modern England* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007), and she’s currently writing a book on games and masculinity in the early modern English theater. She’s an avid theater fan and also enjoys hiking and African dance.

Chris Loar joined the department in 2007 after completing his doctorate at UCLA. His research centers on the British eighteenth-century, with particular interests in studies of the early British empire; early American literature and the Atlantic world; histories of the novel; literature and histories of technology; and political theory. He is at work on a book manuscript that examines technology and violence in eighteenth-century fictions of cultural contact.

John Marx joined the English Department in 2007 and taught courses on contemporary British fiction and the notion of literary comparison in his first year at Davis. This year, one of his courses will be a seminar that addresses the question, “What do we mean when we say ‘Twentieth-Century British Fiction?’” Like this seminar, his current research considers the changing shape of the canon that encompasses modernist, postcolonial, and contemporary British fiction. He is completing a book with the working title “The Postcolonial Mainstream,” which features chapters proposing alternate rubrics for grouping twentieth-century works including “Failed State Fiction” and “The Historical Novel of Globalization.” His previous book is *The Modernist Novel and the Decline of Empire* (Cambridge UP, 2005).

2008-2009 Academic Year

Nathan Brown just completed his Ph.D. at UCLA, where his research focussed on connections between contemporary materialist poetics and materials science, both considered as branches of “fabrication.” He is at work expanding his dissertation into a book project tentatively titled *The Materials: Technoscience and Poetry at the Limits of Fabrication*, and his current side projects include an article on Alain Badiou and Quentin Meillassoux and an edited collection of visual/conceptual poetry by modernist poet Bob Brown.

Kathleen Frederickson comes to UC Davis from Chicago, Illinois. Her research focuses on the scientific and socio-political cultures that produced sexuality in late-Victorian Britain, drawing on work in Victorian studies, queer and feminist scholarship, and critical theory. Born and raised in Vancouver, BC, she is glad to be back in the west. She enjoys training martial arts and doing social justice activism.

Hsuan L. Hsu comes to UC Davis from UC Berkeley. He is interested in U.S. literature, Asian American literature, geography, and cultural studies. He is completing a book manuscript on geographical scale in the writings of Charles Brockden Brown, Edgar Allan Poe, Herman Melville, Sarah Orne Jewett, Sui Sin Far, and Henry James. He is also writing essays on biopolitics and media representations of global health. In his free time, he enjoys biking and capoeira.

Yiyun Li is the author of *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers*, which won the PEN/Hemingway Award, Frank O’Connor International Short Story Award, and Guardian First Book Award. Her stories and essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *Best American Short Stories*, *O Henry Prize Stories*, and many other publications. She was chosen by *Granta* as one of the Best Young American Novelists, and won a Whiting Award. Her novel, *The Yagrats*, will come out in February 2009.

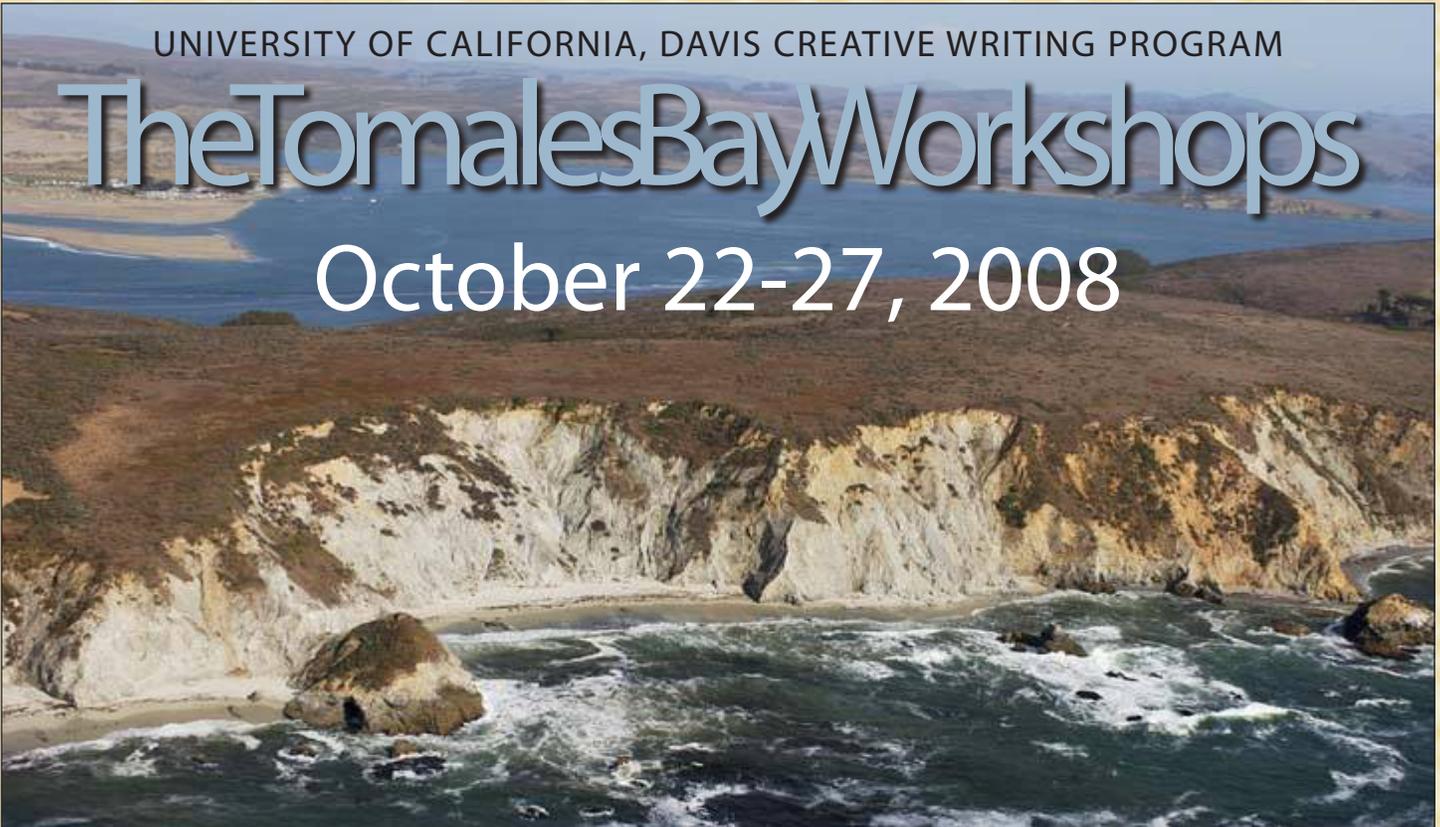
Elizabeth Carolyn Miller has joined the UCD English Department as an Assistant Professor specializing in Victorian literature. Liz’s research focuses on late-Victorian literature and culture, with particular interests in gender and feminist studies, print culture, visuality, early cinema, popular and working-class culture, and radical politics. Her first book, entitled *Framed: The New Woman Criminal in British Culture at the Fin de Siècle*, will be published this November, and she is currently at work on a new project entitled *Print Culture and Late-Victorian Literary Radicalism*. Since earning her Ph.D. in 2003 at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, Liz has taught at Ohio University, University of Michigan, and University of Oklahoma. Liz is delighted to move to California where she can indulge year-round in some of her favorite activities: running, hiking, and cooking with local ingredients.

Matthew Stratton spent his infancy in Sacramento and is pleased to return to the Central Valley after such a long absence. His work focuses on the political aesthetics of irony in 20th-century American literary culture, with particular emphasis on the novel, visual culture, and radical politics from WWI through the Cold War. He has been known to fret over stringed instruments, brew British-style ale, and make passable Piedmontese cuisine involving salted anchovies.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM

The Tomales Bay Workshops

October 22-27, 2008



For more information, call (800) 752-0881 ext 2112,
or visit: www.extension.ucdavis.edu/arts

The Tomales Bay Workshops, directed by Pam Houston, brings developing writers from across the country together with the UC Davis Creative Writing Program, top published writers from around the nation and publishing industry professionals. Participants enjoy five days of writing, readings, conversation and contemplation--all atop a hill overlooking Tomales Bay, in gorgeous Point Reyes National Seashore. Highlights include intimate evening receptions with faculty authors and publishing professionals, as well as readings by fellowship winners, conference participants and UC Davis Creative Writing Program graduate students; the conference closes with the announcement of the year's Maurice Prize winner and a sunset patio reception with local wine and oysters straight from the bay. A collaboration between the UC Davis English Department, the UC Davis Creative Writing Program and UC Davis Extension, The Tomales Bay Workshops are directed by Pam Houston, who hand-picks each year's faculty and presenters. The Workshops welcomes published and unpublished participants in the areas of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction/personal essay. Fellowships are available each year, and information about these is available at the UC Davis Extension website.

Alumni Experience

"Going to Tomales Bay was such a gift. The experience felt so balanced and complete: I enjoyed the camaraderie with other writers, but also got to spend time alone; I got helpful feedback on existing work but also wrote new stuff. Then there's the beautiful setting, simultaneously grand and intimate. The place just nourished me as a writer and as a person -- and has the best food I've eaten at any conference."
--Naomi Williams, Tomales Bay '06

"Aside from the serene beauty of Tomales Bay, its bright weather and all the fine food, I was most enthralled by my workshop. Listening to a week's worth of Heather McHugh's insights on poems, ranging from ones written by Nobel Prize winners to ones by my fellow students, was beyond instructive. It was as though I had been given a higher vantage point from which to take in poetry's landscape. I was high off that refined writing air for a month." --Masini Persina, Tomales Bay '07

"I didn't go to Tomales Bay to read...workshops and conferences are good for giving other, more experienced eyes a chance to read you. Pam Houston has set up as perfect a situation for that process as you're going to find anywhere. She seems to know every writer now typing in America, so she gets the best workshop leaders. And it's very extremely beautiful out there in Tomales Bay. If you can get the dough together, I wouldn't think twice about signing on up. I've got poems and stories and essays to write. Don't you?"
--Jason Morphew, Tomales Bay '06

Chair's and Directors' Updates



Chair's Update: Margie Ferguson

As I look back over my second year of chairing, I think with particular pleasure about the many festive events that have punctuated the time. Among these, in rough chronological order, were: a trip in October to our writers' workshops at beautiful Tomales Bay in Marin County, where I heard our second-year CW students read and also had the pleasure of hearing readings by Pam Houston, Lucy Corin, and John Lescroart, who has funded a fiction prize (the Maurice Prize) in honor of his father. The 2007 Maurice Price winner, Elizabeth Chamberlin, was announced after John's reading. John and his wife Lisa also generously funded a reception at the end of the Tomales Bay workshops.

Also in October, I enjoyed meeting our new faculty and others from around the Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies at an evening party hosted by our Dean, Jessie Ann Owens. And I attended a number of search committee meetings in preparation for our next major event, the Modern Language Association Convention in Chicago. This occurs, as it has for decades, during the week between Christmas and New Year. Some might not describe it as festive, but it has a certain frenetically gay quality at times. For me, it was hectic, since I was scheduled to present two academic papers as well as attend an extraordinary number of interviews of candidates for three jobs that turned eventually (and after many interesting campus visits and girth-expanding dinners) into six positions accepted by six stellar young professors. Back in late December, however, the chairs and the members of the three search committees shared some good laughs and some passable sandwiches with each other along with much too much coffee and Diet Pepsi. An easier occasion (for me, because I wasn't required to be in several places at once) was the weekend in April when I first met many of the graduate students admitted to our literature and creative writing programs; Claire Waters, Pam Houston, Levada McDowell, Janie Guhin, and Tara Porter were gracious hosts for that event, along with the many faculty who met with students interested in particular areas of study. Faculty work-in-progress seminars throughout the year were pleasurable breaks from the daily routine; I owe my assistant Mary White a large debt for ordering so many sandwiches for so many of these events (I owe Mary for other things too, but the list is long and space, even in an electronic newsletter, is short).

This year has been an extraordinarily full one. I am thrilled to be presiding over our move to an electronic newsletter and I want to thank the editor, Barbara Zimbalist, for helping us move toward a less paper-filled universe (or at least university). Many warm thanks are also due to the staff members who've generously given help, information and invaluable technical support to our new project: Tara Porter, Lynda Jones, Ron Ottman, Mark Wong, and Janie Guhin. I also want to thank our departmental managing officer, Terry Antonelli, early and often, for so many things—too many to list here. But helping us change to an electronic newsletter and overseeing our efforts to improve our Web

pages (new ones will be up and running later this fall!) were two of Terry's many contributions to the department last year. In June, she [retired](#); she is, however, still displaying her characteristic generosity to the department by meeting with me and our new MSO Darla Tafoya to help us with knotty questions.

I feel extremely fortunate that we were able to persuade Darla to join us from the History Department; like Terry, Darla is blessed with energy, intelligence, curiosity, superior accounting skills, and a great sense of humor. Darla and I are both very happy that Vita Simonsen, who officially retired with Terry last June (see [Retirements](#)) has come back to work part time for English; thanks to Vita, everyone got regular paychecks all summer long, and thanks to Vita as well, our six new faculty members have been securely entered into the many Systems that make them benefit-receiving employees of the University of California. Working with staff and recruiting new faculty are two of the most pleasurable parts of the Chair's job as I've experienced it. (For our new faculty, see the "[Department News](#)" page).

Last year also saw a major reform of our [undergraduate curriculum](#). Thanks to the hard work of Fran Dolan, our Director of Undergraduate Studies, Lynda Jones, the Undergraduate Advisor, and members of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, we have a new and I believe improved curriculum at both the lower and the upper divisions. (See Fran Dolan's Update below).

The graduate programs are thriving, and we successfully completed (should I say survived?) one of the intensive Program Reviews that occurs every decade or so. The external reviewer, Kevin Dettmar (a professor of English who now teaches at Pomona College), praised both our Ph.D. program (in literary study) and our M.A. program (in Creative Writing), though he, like the members of the internal review committee, had some recommendations for us to consider. In particular, we need more funds for graduate students in both the Ph.D. and the M.A. programs. One of my ambitions as Chair is to help our department become more competitive than we are currently with sister graduate programs, such as the ones at Irvine and UCSB, which both allow doctoral students two years free of teaching duties: first at the beginning of their programs and then again at the dissertation stage. Alumni gifts, even small ones, make a big difference in the quality of our creative writing and doctoral students' lives. Although few of our graduate students receive as much financial support as I believe they merit, many of them are doing very well on the job market (see the [graduate student news](#) page for details). The students themselves are the main architects of our strong placement record, but our wonderful Director of Graduate Studies, Claire Waters, the many faculty who advise dissertations and who write careful letters for students, and the hard-working co-chairs of our placement committee--Colin Milburn and Tim Morton, last year, with John Marx joining them this summer—have all contributed substantially to our efforts to crown the six or seven years it takes to earn a Ph.D. in English with the kind of job that brings professional and personal satisfaction.

Finally, there are the retirement parties to mention as the festive capstones to the academic year: one for Marijane Osborn, Terry Antonelli, and Vita Simonsen in May, and one for Karl Zender in June. It was a delight to be Mistress of Ceremonies at these events; but they were of course also bittersweet. They underscored a lesson that, as Chair, I seem always to be relearning: the job involves intricately varied yet recurring experiences of saying hello, welcome, thank you, and goodbye.



Update from the Graduate Advisor: Claire Waters

This past year was a busy and productive one for [the Graduate Program](#). We welcomed an outstanding new class in Fall 2007 and watched those already enrolled make great progress, winning awards along the way for their teaching, research, and service to the university and beyond. And in the course of the winter and spring we admitted the new Ph.D. and Creative Writing students we look forward to welcoming as Fall 2008 begins. Our annual "prospectives' visit" in April was enjoyable and effective, thanks to the participation of current students and faculty and to the organizational genius of the Graduate Office staff, and contributed to a very successful recruiting year. We are particularly delighted that two of our admitted students received highly competitive campus fellowships (*after* deciding to attend Davis rather than other programs that had already offered them better funding). We also had the pleasure of seeing a number of our graduates get the recognition, and reward, that their labors have deserved, as they moved on to new jobs in California and across the country; see the [Placement news](#) for more information on their successes.

In addition to all our usual activities, we had the salutary experience this year of undergoing a Graduate Program Review, which again benefited from participation across all areas of the department. The review team gave us a very positive assessment overall, as well as some helpful suggestions for improving the program. Their highest recommendation, which we of course warmly endorse, was that our program's funding should be increased to match the quality of the applicants we are able to attract, as well as to make us appropriately competitive, in financial terms, with our peer programs across the country.

As I enter my second year as graduate director, I'm excited to work with all our students and faculty to continue to make the program work as well as it can for everyone involved, and give my heartfelt thanks to Levada McDowell, Tara Porter, and Janie Guhin for their indispensable help, as well as to my predecessor Scott Simmon for his generosity as an adviser, well beyond his term of duty.

Update from the Undergraduate Advisor: Fran Dolan



The Department of English is in the process of revising [the Undergraduate English major](#), a collaborative, gradual process we hope will continue as the curriculum grows and changes with our faculty, our students, and our discipline. This year, we are launching an new sequence of courses at the lower division, Literatures in English, although we are allowing enrolled majors to complete the old lower division requirements if they choose to do so. We are also launching new "advanced" studies courses for those specializing in Creative Writing or in Literature, Criticism, and Theory. We've redesigned our upper division requirements in order to make room for exciting new areas of study. The Undergraduate Studies committee is making other changes designed to support faculty and to enhance our students' experience. The committee now meets with job candidates visiting the department, emphasizing that teaching is an important consideration in recruitment. We find that we also get lots of great ideas in the process! Last year we held the first brunch for graduating seniors and their families on graduation day. This was a huge success and we plan to make it an annual tradition. We're always looking for ways to bring faculty and students together and to tap into the expertise and passion they bring to the study of literature.

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Elizabeth Freeman is an Associate Professor of English at UC Davis.

Her Fall 2007 Faculty Lecture is taken from her forthcoming book, *Time Binds: Queer Temporality, Queer History*

Excerpt from the English Department Fall Faculty Lecture, October 2007

I want to begin by situating my book *Time Binds: Queer Temporality, Queer History* in terms of recent queer theory, for those audience members who are not fully familiar with this field. I'll say at the outset, too, that one important distinction between queer theory and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender studies is that "queer" can encompass aspects of sexuality that cannot be reduced to individual or group identity, and so allows for a broader analysis of dissident sexualities across cultures and historical moments.

Early queer activism and theory were predominantly organized by spatial metaphors. The logic of space dominated the activist front in names like "Queer Nation," actions like kiss-ins in straight bars, and slogans like "Out of the closet and into the streets!" U.S. academic queer theory also emerged within a spatial rubric, arguably beginning with Foucault's *The History of Sexuality*. This work saw human subjectivities and even human bodies as nodal points in a network or grid of power relations. Gloria Anzaldúa and Cherríe Moraga's 1983 anthology *This Bridge Called My Back* was perhaps the first book-length work of American queer theory even though it did not travel under that name---and it provides other examples of spatial thinking. In these essays and works of literature, feminist women of color theorize their position at the intersection of categories like race, class, and sexuality, or described their movement across geographical, linguistic, and political borders. Sexuality studies then turned toward deconstruction in the 1990s. Eve Sedgwick's *The Epistemology of the Closet*, published in 1990 and considered inaugural to the field of queer theory, rethought the spatial metaphor of the closet as a dialectic of knowledge and ignorance. Finally, the 1990s also trafficked in the metaphor of the stage with queer theory's other landmark work, Judith Butler's *Gender Trouble*. Using drag queens as her example, Butler described gender identity as "performative," or consisting of a set of acts that retroactively construct the original they are supposed to be imitating. Many other scholars drew on Butler's work to theorize racial and sexual passing, the theatricality of sadomasochism, and so on, so that the figure of the stage became more and more explicit.

As important as all this work was, its dominant paradigms assumed that power and knowledge traveled along purely spatial vectors ignoring or leaving tacit the role of time. So my own project began with the somewhat simpleminded question, what if I rethought some of this queer theory through time rather than space? I began by going back to drag performance, retheorizing it as an embodied, minor practice of historiography that preserved and redeployed fading cultural icons in what I called "temporal drag." But as it turned out, of course, the "thought experiment" I thought I was launching was always already present in sexuality studies – the 19th century sexologists and the early 20th century

Freud were theorizing queer time, or theorizing time in queer ways.

As a field of knowledge, sexuality exhibits from its first instances a tension between two temporal modes: linear time and the recursive, looping-back time of repetition and return. Nineteenth-century sexologists, following the Enlightenment Scottish model of “stadialism” or uneven development, generally invested in progressive time (the development of the human race, recapitulated in the human body). Time was an arrow pointing two ways; bodies and societies could move forward toward racial “perfection” or slide backward toward earlier phases. The concept of “atavism” described the sudden reappearance of a preserved “primitive” trait in a “civilized” person or society. But even this idea of “throwback” didn’t question the original assignment of phenomena to past or present. Freud followed sexology’s linear logic in some respects in his theories of psychosocial development into proper heterosexuality. Those who are familiar with Freud’s descriptions of the movement from oral to anal to genital stages, for instance, will recognize how indebted he was to the ideal of progress.

But from early on, Freud also saw human subjectivity as constituted through a temporal splitting. He replaced the concept of atavism with *Nachträglichkeit*, or deferred action. This term describes the way that the mind processes traumatic and pleasurable experiences or even fantasies, before it has the linguistic and conceptual capacity to understand them. This material lies dormant in the unconscious, reappearing later as symptoms: repetitive “actings out” that are incomprehensible to the subject, who is nevertheless compelled to perform them. In this model, the past wasn’t ever really past, for the subject could be said to actually “experience” these traumas for the first time only as they “re”-appear in distorted form in the present. Similarly, the present was always punctured by the past, revising that past, and allowing the past to finally arrive.

Reviewing all this, we might say that subjectivity as a whole is always already queer – bent or deviating not only toward an array of possible erotic objects, but also toward moments that by the logic of progressive time ought to have either vanished into the mists or become fully integrated into memory.

It’s this temporal sense of “queer” that I have been exploring in the book project I have brought to fruition this past year. I’m interested in the ways that “queer” subjectivity, social life, and aesthetics are recursive, anastrophic and sometimes willfully anachronistic. At the same time, I have maintained a certain stubborn—and perhaps itself rearguard—commitment to the idea that “queer” has something to do with erotic life, with the pleasures and travails of the corporeal; that queer isn’t just a tartier way to say “postmodern” or “deconstructive,” because it describes a lived engagement with bodily risk and experimentation.

I don’t mean to universalize or essentialize “the body.” Rather, I mean to suggest that inhabiting a stigmatized sexuality, or being what my colleague Jose Munoz calls a “vulgar homosexual,” has in most historical moments and places involved the management of a body seen to be fundamentally different than so-called normal ones, and/or the creative use of body parts for pleasures inassimilable to reproduction. Interestingly, too, the repetitions and returns that disturb the Freudian subject appear not as pictorial or narrative memories per se, but in forms that are at once

metaphorical and visceral: a “slip of the tongue,” repetitive bodily acts, lingering symptoms with no apparent physical etiology. So the Freudian body is the scene of and catalyst for encountering and redistributing the past. This Freudian legacy and the history of queer bodily stigma and creativity has meant, for me, risking thought about the body as, itself, a tool for registering, measuring, encountering, experiencing, and redrawing time.

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New Faculty Introductions!

2007-2008 Academic Year

Gina Bloom joined the department in 2007. Before coming to Davis, she taught in much colder places: the University of Iowa and Lawrence University. Her areas of interest include early modern English literature, especially Shakespeare and drama, gender and feminist theory, theater history and performance, and sound studies. Her first book is entitled *Voice in Motion: Staging Gender, Shaping Sound in Early Modern England* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007), and she's currently writing a book on games and masculinity in the early modern English theater. She's an avid theater fan and also enjoys hiking and African dance.



Chris Loar joined the department in 2007 after completing his doctorate at UCLA. His research centers on the British eighteenth-century, with particular interests in studies of the early British empire; early American literature and the Atlantic world; histories of the novel; literature and histories of technology; and political theory. He is at work on a book manuscript that examines technology and violence in eighteenth-century fictions of cultural contact.



John Marx joined the English Department in 2007 and taught courses on contemporary British fiction and the notion of literary comparison in his first year at Davis. This year, one of his courses will be a seminar that addresses the question, "What do we



mean when we say “Twentieth-Century British Fiction’?” Like this seminar, his current research considers the changing shape of the canon that encompasses modernist, postcolonial, and contemporary British fiction. He is completing a book with the working title “The Postcolonial Mainstream,” which features chapters proposing alternate rubrics for grouping twentieth-century works including “Failed State Fiction” and “The Historical Novel of Globalization.” His previous book is *The Modernist Novel and the Decline of Empire* (Cambridge UP, 2005).

2008-2009 Academic Year

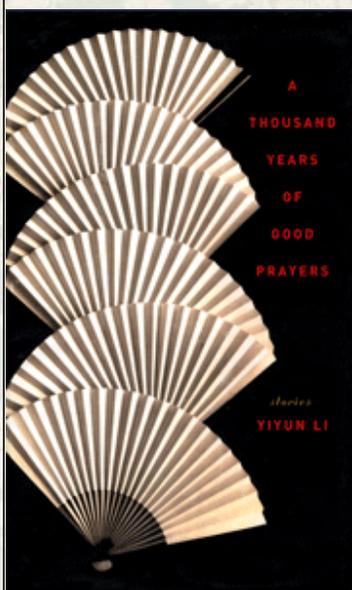


Nathan Brown just completed his Ph.D. at UCLA, where his research focussed on connections between contemporary materialist poetics and materials science, both considered as branches of "fabrication." He is at work expanding his dissertation into a book project tentatively titled *The Materials: Technoscience and Poetry at the Limits of Fabrication*, and his current side projects include an article on Alain Badiou and Quentin Meillassoux and an edited collection of visual/conceptual poetry by modernist poet Bob Brown.

Kathleen Frederickson comes to UC Davis from Chicago, Illinois. Her research focuses on the scientific and socio-political cultures that produced sexuality in late-Victorian Britain, drawing on work in Victorian studies, queer and feminist scholarship, and critical theory. Born and raised in Vancouver, BC, she is glad to be back in the west. She enjoys training martial arts and doing social justice activism.



Hsuan L. Hsu comes to UC Davis from UC Berkeley. He is interested in U.S. literature, Asian American literature, geography, and cultural studies. He is completing a book manuscript on geographical scale in the writings of Charles Brockden Brown, Edgar Allan Poe, Herman Melville, Sarah Orne Jewett, Sui Sin Far, and Henry James. He is also writing essays on biopolitics and media representations of global health. In his free time, he enjoys biking and capoeira.



Yiyun Li is the author of *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers*, which won the PEN/Hemingway Award, Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award, and Guardian First Book Award. Her stories and essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *Best American Short Stories*, *O Henry Prize Stories*, and many other publications. She was chosen by *Granta* as one of the Best Young American Novelists, and won a Whitings Award. Her novel, *The Vagrants*, will come out in February 2009.





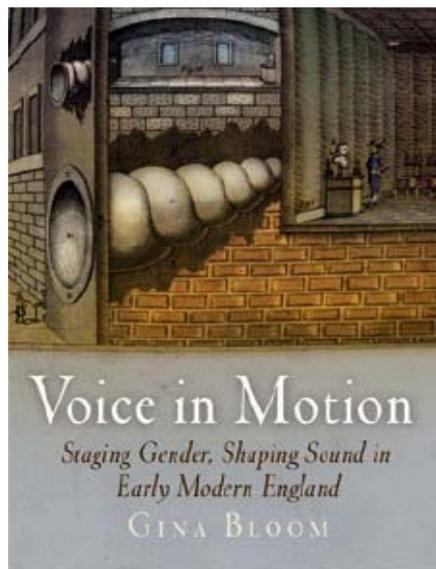
Elizabeth Carolyn Miller has joined the UCD English Department as an Assistant Professor specializing in Victorian literature. Liz's research focuses on late-Victorian literature and culture, with particular interests in gender and feminist studies, print culture, visibility, early cinema, popular and working-class culture, and radical politics. Her first book, entitled *Framed: The New Woman Criminal in British Culture at the Fin de Siècle*, will be published this November, and she is currently at work on a new project entitled *Print Culture and Late-Victorian Literary Radicalism*. Since earning her Ph.D. in 2003 at the University of Wisconsin - Madison, Liz has taught at Ohio University, University of Michigan, and University of Oklahoma. Liz is delighted to move to California where she can indulge year-round in some of her favorite activities: running, hiking, and cooking with local ingredients.

Matthew Stratton spent his infancy in Sacramento and is pleased to return to the Central Valley after such a long absence. His work focuses on the political aesthetics of irony in 20th-century American literary culture, with particular emphasis on the novel, visual culture, and radical politics from WWI through the Cold War. He has been known to fret over stringed instruments, brew British-style ale, and make passable Piedmontese cuisine involving salted anchovies.



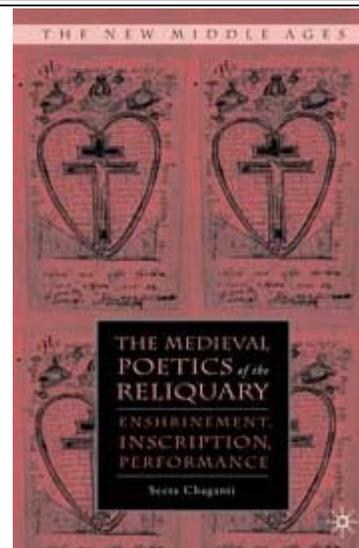
The Department of English is pleased to welcome our newest faculty members! For more information and a full listing of our entire faculty, please visit the [UC Davis English Department website faculty page](#).

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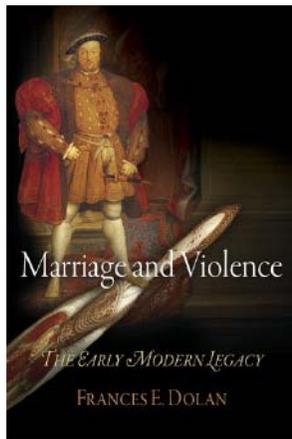
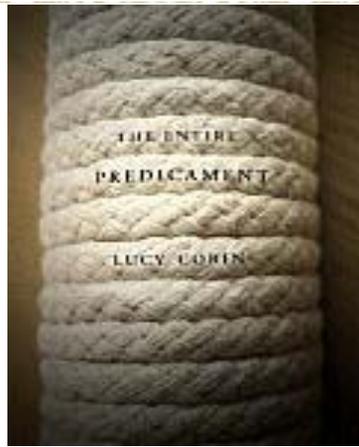


Gina Bloom's book, [*Voice in Motion: Staging Gender, Shaping Sound in Early Modern England*](#), has been published by the University of Pennsylvania Press.

Seeta Chaganti's book, *The Medieval Poetics of the Reliquary: Enshrinement, Inscription, Performance*, was published this September in Palgrave Macmillan's *New Middle Ages* series.



Lucy Corin's collection of short stories, *The Entire Predicament*, was released from Tin House Books in Oct, 2007; she was a Breadloaf fellow at Middlebury College for the summer of 2008.



Fran Dolan's book, *Marriage and Violence: the Early Modern Legacy*, was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in 2008. The book was glowingly [reviewed](#) in the August 2008 issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. She has also edited a collection of essays, *Catholic Culture in Early Modern England*, with Ron Corthell, Christopher Highley, and Arthur Marotti (South Bend, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2007). Her article, "Why Are Nuns Funny?" was published in the *Huntington Library Quarterly* 70.4; and her article "Learning to Listen: Shakespeare and Contexts," was published in Blackwell Press' 2008 volume *Teaching Shakespeare: Passing It On*. This year, she received a Faculty Development Award, which acknowledges extraordinary service contributions to the department and the university

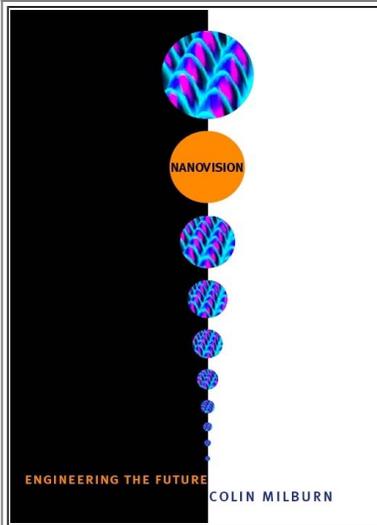
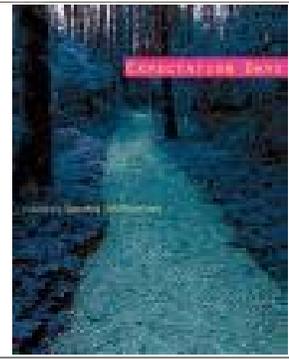
Margie Ferguson has won an Outstanding Mentor Award from the Consortium for Women and Research at UC Davis. This year she served on the MLA Elections Committee, and completed an article on "The Epistemology of the Hymen," forthcoming this year.

Lynn Freed received an invitation for a residency from the International Writers' and Translators' Centre of Rhodes (Greece) and also from the Fundación Valparaíso (Spain), both for the Fall (2008).

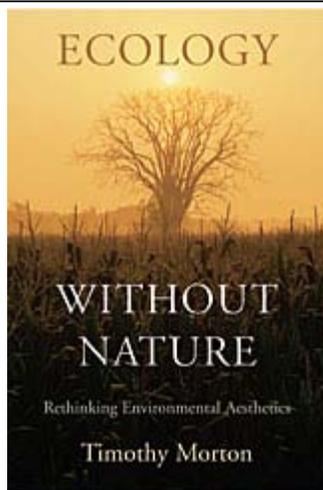
Pam Houston has received an "outstanding service" award from the UC Davis Extension.

Alessa Johns received a 2008-2009 UC President's Research Fellowship in the Humanities to complete her book, *Alternative Enlightenments, Cultural Translation, and Anglo-German Exchange, 1750-1837*. Her article, "Gender, Disaster, and the Grand Tour: Visits to Vesuvius, 1770-1825," will be appearing soon in *Das Erdbeben von Lissabon und der Katastrophendiskurs im 18. Jahrhundert*, edited by Gerhard Lauer and Thorsten Unger (Goettingen: Wallstein, 2008). She will continue her work as Reviews Editor for the journal *Eighteenth-Century Studies* when she returns from her year on leave; **Mike Ziser** will fill the position in her absence.

Sandra McPherson's *Expectation Days* (University of Illinois Press) has been nominated on behalf of the Northern California Book Reviewers (NCBR), for the [Northern California Book Award](#) in Poetry as one of the best works by a northern California author published in 2007.



Colin Milburn won a [UCHRI Residential Fellowship](#) for the 2008-09 year; he has also been awarded a 2008 fellowship from the newly established Hellman Family Foundation Awards for his research project "Mondo Nano: Fun and Games in the World of Digital Matter." This year, Dr. Milburn was the recipient of a 2007-2008 Faculty Development Award. Dr. Milburn's book, [Nanovision: Engineering the Future](#), will be published by Duke University Press this October.



Timothy Morton's book *Ecology without Nature* is being translated into Chinese by Beijing University Press, forthcoming in 2009; his next book, *The Ecological Thought*, is forthcoming from Harvard University Press. His essay "Of Matter and Meter: Environmental Form in Coleridge's 'Effusion 35' and 'The Eolian Harp,'" was published in the e-journal [Literature Compass](#) in January, 2008. Dr. Morton gave the keynote speech for the [Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment](#) via video link to the UK, to save on carbon; and spoke at Cambridge University in the spring quarter of 2008.

Marijane Osborn has contributed a memorial tribute, "Remembering Celeste Turner Wright," to the UC Davis Centennial's "One Hundred Stories" Program. Dr. Wright was a founding professor and the first Department Chair of the UCD English Department. You can read the tribute [here](#).

Catherine Robson was asked to select three papers from the North American Victorian Studies Association 2007 annual conference for publication in the Winter 2008 edition of *Victorian Studies*; her essay, "The Presence of Poetry," which will be published with them, forms the response to this cluster of

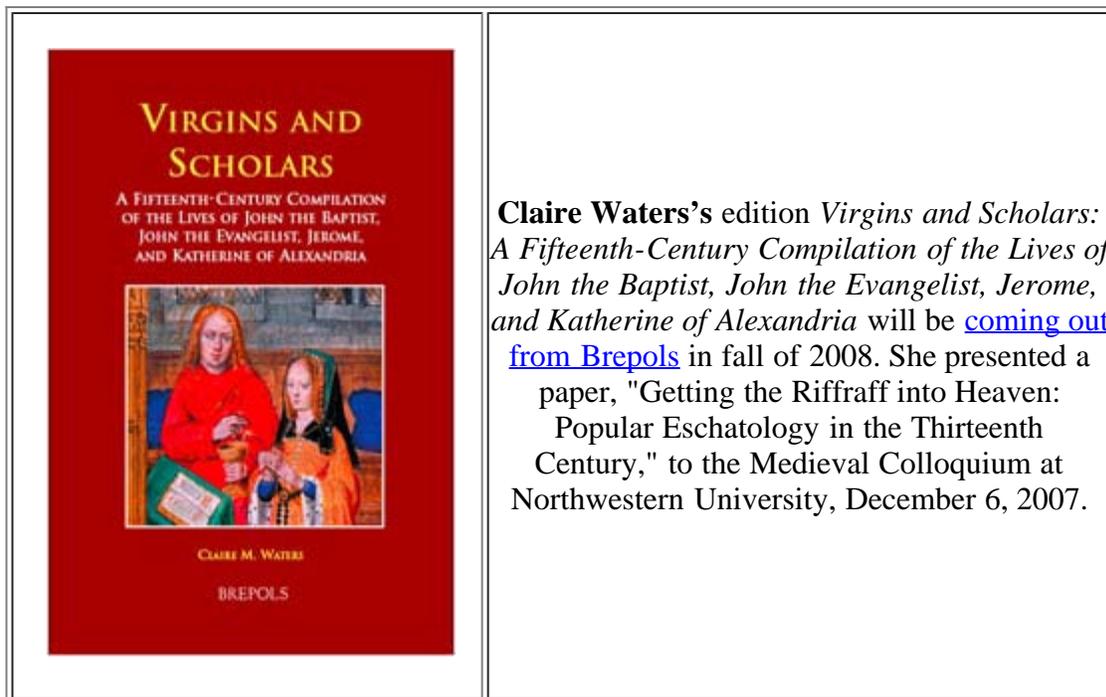
recent work in the field of Victorian poetry. She has accepted a fellowship at the *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin* for 2008-09. She presented a piece entitled "Three Cheers for Mute Ingloriousness!": Gray's Elegy, Cultural Capital, and the Scholarship Boy" to the Nineteenth-Century Studies Working Group at the University of California,

Berkeley in March, and delivered invited lectures on different aspects of the topic of the memorized poem at Harvard and Brandeis this spring. She presented a paper on similar themes at the NAVSA conference in Victoria, British Columbia in the fall. She gave a talk entitled "Why It's Grim Up North: A Brief Primer on Yorkshire, Lancashire, and All Things Northern" at the [Dickens Universe at UC Santa Cruz](#) this summer. In addition, she was pleased to host the annual University of California Dickens Project Graduate Student Winter Conference at Davis in the winter quarter of 2008.

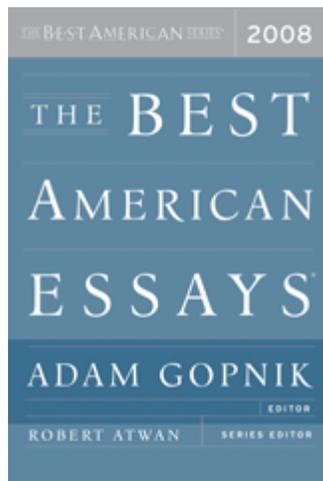
In the Winter quarter, **Winfried Schleiner** was a teaching fellow at the UC campus in Washington, DC. In March 08, he gave a paper on "Two Early Modern Diseases of Women: Green Sickness and Hysteria" at a UCLA conference on Nostalgia, Melancholy, and Love Sickness; in April '08, a paper on "Early Modern Medical Humor" at a Hofstra University conference on Humor in Romance Language Literatures.

Scott Simmon has been interviewed on Elvis Mitchell's radio show *The Treatment*, broadcast on Los Angeles' KCRW. The interview focused on the new DVD set, "Treasures III: Social Issues in American Film, 1900-1934," which Dr. Simmon curated; you can listen to the interview [here](#). Dr. Simmon was also interviewed about the new DVD set for NPR's "Morning Edition" in October of 2007; the interview is [archived](#) on NPR's website.

David Simpson received the Needham Endowed Chair at a ceremony in April; his [review](#) of Heonik Kwon's *Ghosts of War in Vietnam* appeared in the *London Review of Books* this August. Dr. Simpson's latest book, [Wordsworth, Commodification and Social Concern](#), is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press in 2009.



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Joe Wenderoth has an essay in the forthcoming [Best American Essays 2008](#) and he also had a poem in [Best American Poetry 2007](#).

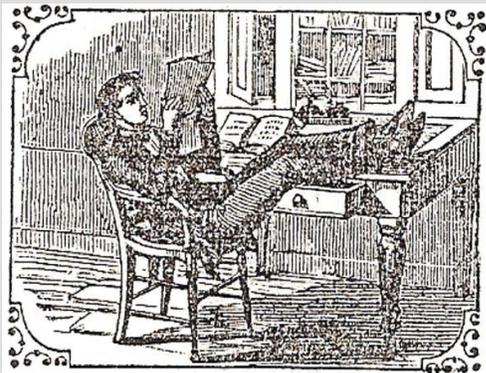


"A best anthology that really lives up to its title." —CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Alan Williamson interviewed Gary Snyder, recipient of the Lilly Prize, for the Poetry Foundation; the interview focused on Buddhism and the Far East. You can read the interview [here](#).

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Graduate Program News



2007-2008 PLACEMENT NEWS

Steven Blevins

Florida International
University

Maura Grady

University of Nevada,
Reno

Janice Hawes

South Carolina State
University

Jessica Hope Jordan

University of the
Pacific

Samaine Lockwood

George Mason
University

Candace Taylor

Westmont College

Graduate Student News

Alysia Garrison's article, "Ill Seen, Ill Said: Trauma and Testimony in Beckett's *The Unnamable*," is forthcoming in the collection *Samuel Beckett: History, Memory, Archive*. Alysia presented a paper titled "Beckett's (Im)postures" at the Ninth Annual Modernist Studies Association Conference in Long Beach in November. She was awarded an Office of Graduate Studies and a Consortium for Women and Research Travel Award to present a paper at the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica this summer. She was also awarded a Dissertation Research Fellowship from the Department of English for summer 2008. She is serving as Vice President of the MLA Graduate Student Caucus this academic year.

John Garrison's essay, "Echoes of Influence: Music, Social Power and the Law in Speculative Fiction," appeared in *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts* Volume 18, Issue 1. He presented a paper entitled "Imagining the Multitude in 'The Culture' of Iain M. Banks" at the MLA conference, and a paper entitled "*Hamlet* and the Business of Being Seen" at the annual gathering of the Popular Culture Association.

Maura Grady accepted a three-year position at the University of Nevada, Reno. Beginning Fall 2008, she will serve as Assistant Director of Core Writing

'07-'08 Ph.D.s

Shellie Banga

A Banquet of
Silhouettes: William
Least Heat-Moon's
Travel Trilogy in
Context

Seth Forrest

"Thus far the
transmission is oral":
Orality and Aurality in
Poetry by the Black
Mountain School

Maura Grady

"I'm telling you she's
your man": The Female
Organization Man in
Twentieth Century
Fiction and Film

Jessica Howell

Under the Weather:
Disease, Race and
Climate in Victorian
Tales of Travel



2008-2009
POSTDOCS

Shellie Banga

Seth Forrest

Tony Magagna

Poonam Sachdev

Jessica Howell

and Lecturer in English. Maura presented a paper in the Women's Studies area of the PCA/ACA Annual Conference in San Francisco in March '08, and welcomed her second child, Ada, in August '07.

Andrew Hageman published "The Uncanny Ecology of David Lynch's *Mulholland Drive*" in the June '08 issue of the online journal *Scope*, and a chapter entitled "The Cinematic Confluence of Ecological Aesthetics in Suzhou River" in the forthcoming collection *Chinese Ecocinema*.

Jessica Howell received the UCD Humanities and Research Award for 2007-2008, which she used to develop and run the "Literature and Pathology" conference, Feb 29- March 2nd. She recently filed her dissertation, and has been chosen as a 2008-2009 Professors for the Future Fellow.

Jessica Hope Jordan received a dissertation fellowship for the 2008 spring quarter and received her Ph.D. June 2008; she has accepted a position at University of the Pacific, as an Assistant Professor of Nineteenth-Century American Literature.

Tony R. Magagna completed his dissertation in spring 2008 and has accepted a position as a postdoc in English and UWP here at Davis for the 2008-09 year. He recently had an article accepted at *Western American Literature* entitled "Erased by Space, Ignored by History: Place and Gender in Marilynne Robinson's West."

Katie Rodger's article, "A Shared Poetic: The Influence of Ricketts's Literary Philosophy on Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*," is forthcoming in *Dialogue: The Grapes of Wrath*, edited by Michael J. Meyer, Amsterdam and New York: Rodopi Press, 2009. In May, she gave a paper at the American Literature Association: "First Encounter: Richard Henry Dana, Jr.'s *Two Years Before the Mast* and the Rise of American Literature of the Pacific."

Poonam Sachdev filed her dissertation in March 2008. Her field of study is Twentieth Century British and Post-colonial Studies with a DE in Critical Theory. In April 2007 she attended the annual American Comparative Literature Association conference in Puebla, Mexico. She also

Jessica Hope Jordan

Andrea Lawson
Reading Farewell Gifts
in Renaissance Drama
and Poetry

Tony R. Magagna
Placing the West:
Landscape, Literature,
and Identity in the
American West

Poonam Sachdev,
The "Gypsy" as Muse
and Metaphor:
Modernity, Mobility
and a People's Struggle
for Subjectivity

received a "small grant" from the English department last year, which she used toward research for her dissertation.

Lisa Sperber received a \$500 grant from the UC Davis Consortium for Women and Research, and the \$1500 summer research grant from the department.

Graduate Student Awards & Honors



UNIVERSITY AWARDS

2008-2009 PROFESSORS FOR THE FUTURE FELLOWSHIP

Jessica Howell

UCD & HUMANITIES GRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD FOR 2007-2008

Jessica Howell & Steven Blevins

Graduate Student Assistant to the Dean and Chancellor for 2008-2009

Cynthia Degnan

Fellowship for Summer School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University

Karen Embry

Globe Exchange to London

Vanessa Rapatz

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

DISSERTATION QUARTER FELLOWSHIPS

Winter 2008 Dissertation Quarter Fellowships

Andrea Lawson, Julie Wilhelm

Spring 2008 Dissertation Quarter Fellowships

Melissa Bender, Catherine Fung, Jenni Halpin, Jessica Jordan, Tony Magagna, Ryan Poll, Katie Rodger

SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS

Sara Anderson, Gretchen Braun, Valerie Dennis, Margaret France, Alysia Garrison, Natalie Giannini, Courtney Hopf, Andrea Lawson, Genevieve Pearson, Kyle Pivetti, Vanessa Rapatz, Clara Van Zanten, Karen Walker, Julie Wilhelm

FRIENDS OF ENGLISH RESEARCH AWARDS **OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD**

Courtney Hopf
and
Uyen Hua

2007 DAVID NOEL MILLER SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY PRIZE

Rachel Swinkin

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING AWARD

Eric O'Brien, Lisa Sperber, and Chris Schaberg

2008 SMALL GRANTS

Sharada Balachandran-Orihuela, Gina Caison, Valerie Dennis, Jason Dunn,
Karen Embry, Darcy Irvin, Anett Jessop, Tim Kreiner, Jessica Loudermilk, Shannon Pufahl, Karolyn
Reddy, Rosalinda Salazar, Lisa Sperber, Nick Valvo, Barbara Zimbalist

CREATIVE WRITING SMALL GRANTS

Joe Atkins, Melissa Chordas, Tiffany Denman, Christopher Erickson, Sarah Hoagland, Maria Kochis, Carmen Lau,
Austin Smith, Erin Steinke, Lauren Velevis, Elise Winn

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Undergraduate Program News

Friends of English Outstanding Graduating Senior Award

Two people received
this award this year:

Jacob Chilton
Melody Jue

English Department Essay Prize

1st Place, Jacob Chilton,
"Hearse Verses Sickle:
Killing Death With a
Timeless Tomb or
Sonnet 86: The
Entombing Womb
Rehearsed in Verse."
Essay written in ENL
188 with Professor
Richard Levin

2nd Place, Kevin
Peterson, "Damnable
Desire in the Aging
Queen." Essay written
in ENL 117B with
Judith Rose

Elliot Gilbert Memorial Prize for Best Honors

Critical Essay

Melody Jue,
"Navigating With
Metaphor: At Home in
the Cybernetic Theater
of Consciousness"

Elliot Gilbert Memorial Prize for Best Honors

Creative Work

Two people awarded

2008 Department of English Citation Winners *Including Honors Thesis/Creative Project titles for* *those students who participated in the Honors* *Program*

Elizabeth Allen
Practice Makes Perfect Possible: A Bloomian
Community

Brian Ang
Poems

Daniel Bracco
Growing Sideways

Susan Calvillo
The Other Side of the Wall

Elizabeth Campbell
Inscribed Signs: Dickens' Commentary on Existence

Whitney Carpenter

Jacob Chilton (2 honors projects)
Problems of Reproduction
"Delivery": Deconstruction, Androgyny and Obstetrics
in Milton's Late Poems

Toni Chisamore
Mustang Blood

Ashley Clarke

Katie Conway

Taylor Cox

Stephanie Doeing

Linnea Edmeier
Young Woman and Fire: Transcending the Dilemma
of Difference as Woman and Firefighter

Daniel Fritz
John Steinbeck, Edward Ricketts, and the
Environment: The Relationship and Philosophy
Behind Cannery Row

Elizabeth Frost

Undergraduate News

Katie Conway has been
accepted to the
University of Oregon's
PhD program.

Melody Jue received
English Department
funding to attend the
NCUR conference.

Jacob Chilton and Andy
Porter delivered papers
at the English Language
and Literature
Conference at Joliet
University in Illinois.

Maria Kochis recently
had her first short story,
"Coral," published in
the Pisgah Review.

this year:
*Dara Khan, "A
Common Household
Demon"*
&
*Alana Washington,
"The Aroma of the
Citizen"*

A Bit of Earth

Gregory Gaye

Danielle Hanosh

Rhetorical Seduction. The Alluring Fiend and
Sexualization of Language in John Milton's Paradise
Lost

Paul Hobbs

Michelle Jackson

Unbound Texts, Unbound Women: Female
Disorderliness and Ballad Culture in Early Modern
England

Melody Jue

Navigating With Metaphor: At Home in the
Cybernetic Theater of Consciousness

Alexandra Kagstrom

Svetlana Karaslavova

Shannon Kemena

Zoe Kemmerling

Dara Khan

A Common Household Demon

Bo Hee Kim

Elizabeth Knox

Make Believe

Antonina Mandrussow

Gabriella Martelino

Caitlin McCarthy

Alissa McGowan

Garrett McGrath

Nicole Nguyen

"A Machine of Words": locating William Carlos
Williams' negotiation of the linguistic and pictorial sign
in modernity

Beth Noyes

Amanda Olson

Trina Peng
Billboard Train Frames

Andrew Porter
Acting Authority: Cross-Dressing of Technology and
Religion in Vonnegut and Twain

Katharine Rosen-Molina

Matthew Slagle

Manmeet Toor

Steven Tyra
The Saracen as Muslim and Heretic: A Historical
Context for the Treatment of Sir Palomydes in Le
Morte D'Arthur

Alana Washington
The Aroma of the Citizen

Natalie Williams-Munger
Bringing a New Dawn to Women's Frontier Literature:
The Recovery of Dell H. Munger's Writing

Jessica Wilson



CONGRATULATIONS ALL!!

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Creative Writing News



Pam Houston, director

June 2008 Creative Writing Graduates and Thesis Titles

- Crystal Lee Anderson, Strange Language
Crystal Cheney, Feeder Rabbits
Allison Hack, A Small Wake
Samantha Hudson, Reprieve and Other Stories
Patricia Killelea, Counterglow: Poems
Jason Morphew, Shame
Gabrielle Myers, Feeding, City & Memory
Masin Persina, Suction
Jeanine Peters Webb, Pirates vs. Ninjas
Erica Scheidt, Uses for boys: A Novel and Stories

Monica Lita Storrs, Women's Work
Marc Wise, The Other Mark Wise or American Studies, Selected Writings of Dennis Herlofski



2007-2008 Creative Writing Contest Winners

Ina Coolbrith Memorial Prize

Finalists for the state & campus wide competition

James Wooden
Haley Davis
Kristen Judd

Pamela Maus Contest in Creative Writing

First Place Fiction

Koji Frahm

Second Place Fiction

Susan Calvillo

First Place *Tied* for Poetry

Brian Ang & James Wooden

Poet Laureate Award at UC Davis

not funded this year

Diana Lynn Bogart Prize

First Place
Kristen Judd

Second Place
Qinger Kitty Liang

Third Place
Michelle Tang Jackson

Honorable Mention
Hailey Yager

Celeste Turner Wright Poetry Prize

First Place
Austin Smith

Second Place
henry 7 reneau jr.

2008 Maurice Prize in Fiction

The [Maurice Prize in Fiction](#) is generously funded by [John Lescroart](#), one of the nationally known writers who contribute to the annual [Tomales Bay Writer's Workshops](#). This year's winner of the Maurice prize will be announced on October 26th

Elliot Gilbert Memorial Prize for Best Honors Creative Work

Dara Khan, "A Common Household Demon"
&
Alana Washington, "The Aroma of the Citizen"

Graduate Student Winners of the Elliot Gilbert Prize Contest for Fiction and Poetry:

Erica Scheidt for Fiction short-story, "Something More"
Masin Persina for his poem, "Behead "

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[Tomales Bay Writer's Workshops](#)



Alumni News

Julie Dalrymple (BA 1998) has been trying out different career paths including public relations, graphic design and marketing. She is currently the Marketing Director at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek and use the skills learned from her undergrad studies (and years at the California Aggie as a reporter and editor) daily. She is currently finishing an MA at St. Mary's College in Moraga, focusing on the early Northern California writers who first inspired her during her undergrad days at UC Davis.

Melody Jue (BA 2008) is currently abroad on a Fulbright Scholarship, working as an English Teaching Assistant at the Open University of Hong Kong and blogging about the experience on her [webpage](#). She won department awards at the end of the school year for best critical thesis/ outstanding senior, and had a winning entry in prized writing 2 years ago and a winning entry in *Explorations* last year.

Maria Kochis (MA) had her first short story, "Coral," published in the *Pisgah Review* (Winter 2008).

Gail Lockhart (MA 1973) recently retired from state service after over 32 years in emergency management, including 20 years with the California Army National Guard. In January 2008, she will become a subject matter expert (SME) at the Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP) at California State University, Sacramento. She is currently writing a book of short stories about Shiba Inus, a small spitz-type hunting dog from Japan.

Susan Edwards Richmond (MA 1987) published a new poetry collection, *Purgatory Chasm*, with Adastra Press in fall 2007. She recently served as poet-in-residence for the Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, MA and continues to consult with the museum on poetry activities and events.

Michael Shapiro (MA 1992) received a Ph.D. in English Literature from Brandeis University. After teaching in Hawaii for ten years, he is now the editor of *Hana Hou! the Magazine of Hawaiian Airlines*. Last year, he was awarded Travel Writer of the Year by the Hawaii Tourism Authority. He continues to write and publish poetry, and is currently at work on a novel.

Cora Stryker (MA 2007) has been awarded the 2008-2009 Steinbeck Fellowship at San Jose State University to write her novel.

John Vernon (Ph.D. 1969) is a Distinguished Professor at Binghamton University (SUNY). In 2001, he went on half time teaching, and now teaches at Binghamton during the spring semester of each year and lives in the mountains of northern Colorado for the rest of the year. Houghton Mifflin will publish his sixth novel (and eleventh book), *Lucky Billy*, in 2009. His previous novel from Houghton Mifflin, *The Last Canyon*, was about John Wesley Powell's 1869 expedition down the Green and Colorado Rivers and through the Grand Canyon.

Alvin Ka Hin Wong (BA 2006) just published a book review of Lisa Rofel's new book *Desiring China*. The review, "Queering Chineseness, Unthinking Neoliberalism," was published in the 2008 issue of *GLQ*.

We would like to include your news!! Please email your news and accomplishments to bezimbalist@ucdavis.edu.

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2007-2008 RETIREMENTS



MARIJANE OSBORN



Reflecting on Marijane Osborn's retirement, Brad Busbee wrote:

" I was a little caught off guard when I got the invitation and email announcing Marijane's retirement, probably because I have trouble thinking about UC Davis without thinking about Marijane. And so, it has taken me almost the entire month since to figure out what I might possibly say about such a wonderful scholar, teacher, mentor and friend in only a paragraph or two. After all, this is a lady who not too long ago boasted that she could swim the length of the Davis Community pool while wearing chain mail armor—we are still waiting for you to do that, Marijane. This is someone who once commissioned a reconstructed Viking ship to follow Beowulf's sea journeys across the dangerous waters between Sweden and Denmark, a trip she completed and wrote a book about. This is someone who kept an astrolabe on her office desk to show students and to consider while conducting research—she wrote a book about the astrolabe, too. And this is someone who has taught and researched in places as far flung as Alaska, Belfast, California, Edinburgh, Hawaii, Lancaster, New York, Oxford and Reykjavik. Marijane Osborn has an active, eclectic mind: she's a scholar of medieval texts, a poet, a translator, and a screenplay writer. And she is a teacher.

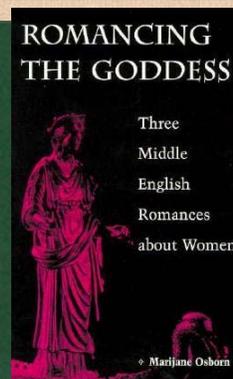
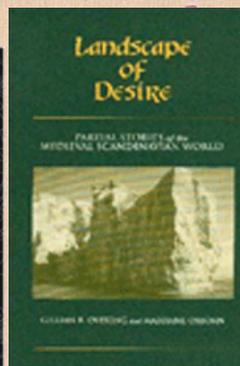
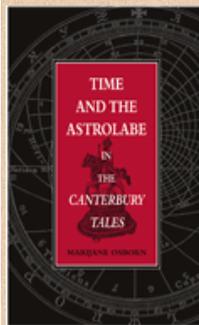
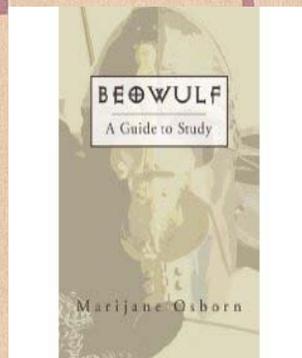
Those of us who have had the good fortune to be in her classes know first-hand how Marijane gathers together knowledge and enthusiasm in order to bring language and literature to life. Gillian Overing (currently Professor of English at Wake Forrester and one of Marijane's first students) sent the following account of her first encounter with Marijane:

Four British undergraduates look on, slightly bemused, skeptical, nonetheless interested, as the American Professor, Marijane Osborn, takes over the Beowulf class to fill in for a professor on leave. She is unusually enthusiastic, full of a sense of discovery; she has brought to class a collection of pictures and prints, some quite rare, of artistic renderings of the Grendel-kin. "Isn't this Swedish one fascinating?" she questions, unrhethorically, looking directly at the student she is addressing. Well, yes, it is, the student replies. And so, under her tutelage, the cultural world of the poem unfolded throughout the rest of that Spring term. . .

For those four students, of whom I was one, and for many of Marijane Osborn's students before and since, the study of Beowulf and of Old English has been transformed, and seeing the Anglo-Saxon world through her eyes has been a transformative experience.

As a student at the other end of Marijane's career, I have had a similar inspiring and transformative experience. In the fall of 2000, Alessa Johns asked me to invite a professor to our graduate professionalization class, so I called Marijane and requested a meeting. Like my fellow classmates, I was pleasantly surprised when she arrived equipped with show-and-tell items, such as her astrolabe, some pictures of rune stones and Nordic landscapes, and an image of the Beowulf manuscript. I knew then that, to her, literature and language and life were inseparable, and that she was right: words are living things. She continually reminded me and others of this point as we studied Old English and wrote dissertations under her guidance. And today, I realize that her impact on me continues: as I write these words, I am sitting in the waiting room of the manuscript collection at Royal Library of Denmark, where in an hour or so I'll be sitting in front of a particular medieval manuscript I've only had a chance to read about before. It is for moments like these, ones of discovery that we study and train and hope for, that I would like to thank Marijane Osborn. Marijane, you have been an inspiration to us. Thank you for that. I hope you enjoy retirement! And I'm looking forward to your making that armor-clad swim, the next time I'm in Davis."

Mark Bradshaw Busbee received his Ph.D. in Medieval Literature from UC Davis in 2005; his dissertation, completed under Marijane Osborn's advisement, is titled "N.F.S. Grundtvig's Interpretation of Beowulf as a Living Heroic Poem for the People." He is now an assistant professor at Florida Gulf Coast University.



KARL ZENDER



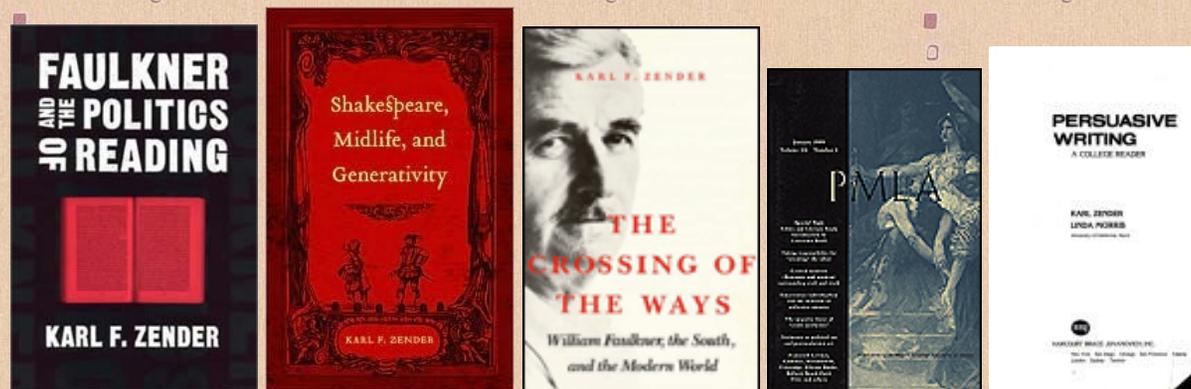
An Excerpt from Michael Hoffman's Remarks on Karl Zender's Retirement—Tuesday, June 3, 2008

I've been looking forward to this day for seven years, to welcome Karl Zender into the delicious irresponsibility of retirement. I want to organize my remarks around our long friendship and to offer some insights into Karl that might surprise you, including a few silly moments that he and I have shared. (Jack Hicks once referred to us—lovingly, of course—as the odd couple.) In the

process, I want to stress Karl's accomplishments as a teacher and scholar and, especially, his contributions to the campus and to the English department. Let's start at the beginning. Karl comes from a working-class family in Southern Ohio, and he's proud of his origins. Here's a passage from his first book on William Faulkner, which is dedicated to the memory of his parents: "My father came to this country from Germany in 1927; my mother grew up in the hills of southern Ohio. Neither went past the eighth grade in school. They did not read Faulkner, but they appreciated such beauty as their circumstances afforded them, and they loved wit and the play of ideas. I will always be in their debt." After completing his physics major at Case Tech, Karl changed his mind about becoming a scientist and turned to literature. He took his masters degree at Western Reserve and his doctorate at Iowa, where he specialized in Renaissance literature and wrote a thesis on revenge tragedies. His first teaching job was at Washington University in Saint Louis. Like a lot of us from that generation, Karl didn't get tenure at his first position, and he came to California in 1973 to find a fresh port in the storm and create a new career. After all, you can't knock the climate. What makes Karl's coming to Davis unusual is that he was appointed as a lecturer to run the Subject A Program, which was then administered out of the English department. From the start he was a good administrator, and when the director of Composition retired a few years later, Karl succeeded him. Karl was an excellent director of composition; by the time he'd been here less than a decade he'd had a major impact on two important writing programs that served the campus. Then, in 1980, he and Linda Morris—who had taken over Subject A from Karl—proposed a program to foster writing across the curriculum. This was the Campus Writing Center. I have a special affection for that unit because I was then an administrator in what is now the Provost's Office, and we were able to fund it within the English department. If I'm not mistaken, we are one of only two UC campuses with an upper-division writing requirement, and the Campus Writing Center was instrumental in implementing it. More important, in my view, was that the Center established writing across the curriculum as being essential to undergraduate education at Davis. Along with the Composition Program it has evolved into the University Writing Program. As Emerson says in "Self-Reliance," "an institution is the lengthened shadow of one man."

This is a good description of Karl's impact on how writing is taught at Davis. But I can speak of one accomplishment there more easily than others, and that is the hiring of David Simpson and Margie Ferguson, two appointments that have had an immense influence on the department and on its future. While doing his administrative work, Karl published steadily, including a number of first-rate articles on Faulkner (one of which appeared in PMLA), and he was able to move to a regular academic senate appointment. Some of these essays formed the basis of his first book on Faulkner, which Rutgers published in 1989: *The Crossing of the Ways: William Faulkner, the South, and the Modern World*. Focusing mostly on novels that Faulkner wrote late in his career, such as *Intruder in the Dust*, *Requiem for a Nun*, *The Town*, and *The Mansion*, Karl showed how Faulkner reacted in his fiction to the disappearance of the traditional South and to an emerging, de-regionalized America. The book was well received by reviewers and established him as a writer of genuine merit. If you haven't read any of his work, you should know that Karl's prose is thoughtful, elegant, and absolutely clear. It's a model of academic writing. The second book on Faulkner, published by the LSU Press in 2002, was begun while Karl chaired the department and completed during the years immediately afterward. It's a work of recuperation and reconciliation, a reading of Faulkner's major fiction in light of the political rejection of it that had taken place in the name of poststructuralist and postmodern theory. Typical of Karl, he read the theory and he re-read Faulkner, producing a book that reappraises those aspects of Faulkner's work that recent critics had challenged (namely his representations of sex, gender, class, and race) and he shows how one can read Faulkner outside the extreme interpretations that had almost censored him out of the classroom.

I'll conclude with two brief observations. First of all, Karl is ending his career on a high note, with a book coming out this year on Shakespeare, again with LSU, the fruits of teaching Shakespeare courses yearly. It's a personal book, the kind an established scholar can write at the end of a career, in which reflections on ageing mix with shrewd observations about such matters in the plays. The readings of works like *Macbeth* and *Antony and Cleopatra* are splendid. There are many things for which I admire Karl; but this is one thing for which I envy him. What timing! The other observation takes us back to the beginning of my talk. And that is my welcoming Karl to the delicious irresponsibility of retirement. Well, not quite. After seven years of our going to upscale lunches every month, of basketball games and baseball games, of reading books together that we have chosen simply because we want to read them, I figured that Karl was ready for the good life. He once told me that the reason I enjoy retirement so much is that I have no superego. I thanked him for the compliment. But what have we heard? It seems that Karl has been recalled to work in the dean's office, drafting personnel letters. Can you imagine? He finds drafting personnel letters more delicious than experiencing the good life with me. I ask you, "What can you do with such a man?"



Laura Maestrelli (MA '02) reflects on her Advisor and Mentor Karl Zender

"Although Karl never taught any graduate seminars, those of us grad students lucky enough to have encountered his teaching in other forums – in my case, as the T.A. for his undergraduate Shakespeare survey – knew all too well what our fellow graduate students were missing. His impeccably organized lectures. His prolific and varied publications on everyone from Shakespeare to Faulkner. His tremendous respect for his students and the craft of teaching.

But maybe most significantly, I pitied my fellow graduate students for missing out on Karl's unbridled, even boyish, enthusiasm for the language and literature he had been teaching and writing about most of his life. As I listened to his lectures and watched him lead class discussions, I remember thinking to myself with a mixture of admiration and incredulity, "Here's a man who still clearly loves his job." Though he had been teaching many of those same plays and novels for years, his enthusiasm for their artistry and power clearly hadn't diminished – and it was nearly impossible not to be affected by his infectious zeal for them. Karl somehow managed to elegantly illuminate and explain the complexities of the books and plays he was teaching while simultaneously convincing his students how much fun they were to read.

With all of those fond memories in mind, I am left here pondering Karl's retirement. I must confess that I wasn't sure this day would ever come. He always seemed to have some kind of excuse for putting off his retirement another quarter – a deferral which, admittedly, was a boon to his students and colleagues alike. And while I'm happy that Karl will now be able to put the "briars of this working day world" behind him, I can't help but feel sorry for the future undergraduates who will never get to listen to one of his illuminating lectures on Hamlet... or struggle to decipher his nearly illegible but always astute marginal essay comments... or listen to one of his stories about growing up in the hills of southern Ohio. I was lucky enough to have benefited from a variety of the different hats Karl has worn throughout his career – teacher, scholar, mentor, and in the 5 years since I completed my Masters degree, good friend. For all of those, I am tremendously grateful."



Terry Antonelli

Margie Ferguson reflects on Terry Antonelli's Retirement

Terry Antonelli knows UC Davis from many different perspectives; she studied Psychology here at UC Davis and soon thereafter (in 1971) started work as a clerk in the Biochemistry department. Later, she worked in Sproul Hall, where she met Vita Simonsen, and after a few years, was running 25 programs, including Comparative Literature and Religious Studies. Professor Seth Schein wrote that Terry was his guide into UCD culture--"she took the scales off my eyes," he wrote in a message sent at the time of Terry's retirement in June 2007. The image of Terry as a demystifier is a resonant one for the many teachers of reading and writing who have worked with her over the years. I'd like to add, however, that Terry not only demystifies; she also remystifies when it's necessary. She never holds grudges, which is one of her many virtues as an administrator. Quick to forgive, quick and deft with accounts, a master problem solver, Terry might be described as an ironical Polyanna; she sees everyone and everything in the best possible light even when she knows better. She was and is my friend, and she was the best possible guide I could have had into the job of a department chair.

Terry came to the English department as our MSO in 1994; more recently, and with her typical grace and pizzazz, she took on the tasks of administering other units in Voorhies including the University Writing Program, Nature and Culture, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and the Davis Humanities Institute. Carolyn de la Peña, the Director of the DHI, wrote the following about Terry: she has been "amazingly supportive of the DHI. She knows the answer, apparently, to every question I can think up. She answers the phone with cheer. She finds answers for me-- pronto--and is right back on with the followup. . . She helps because she wants to, because she enjoys people and likes solving problems. . . She makes everyone feel valued (and she really likes my hair)!"

I'd like to relay some of the comments that the Voorhies Staff made about Terry as their MSO. "When she comes in at 9 a.m., usually with a big cup of coffee in her hand," says Lynda Jones,

"Terry is already thinking and talking a mile a minute. She greets everyone by name and there is never a morning when there is any doubt about the different energy level on the hall after Terry arrives! She will stop and talk to you about what you're doing no matter what is on her mind; she never makes you feel that you are interrupting her even though she must sometimes feel irritated by the hundred interruptions she deals with daily." Another staff member says that Terry "never makes you feel that you've made her miss a deadline." "How Terry gets as much done as she does with her incredible open-door policy is a kind of a mystery, one we'll all be remembering for a long time." Mary White notes that Terry changes gears really fast and everyone sometimes has to ask her to slow down; she always does that graciously, but then, within a few hours, she is back to Terry-speed and someone will say slow down again. There is kind of an interesting pattern to our days. She makes us all enjoy the day more than we would if she weren't here; in fact, when she isn't here, I've found myself wondering why I'm starting to nap in mid-afternoon. Terry is a tonic, a life-elixer!" Moreover, as another member of the staff remarks, "Terry doesn't know the word 'no.' If you come to her with a request, she will always and with a certain glee set to work to see how your request might be fulfilled."

Karl Zender, one of the many chairs who worked with Terry, said in his remarks at her retirement party that she DID "know no," and sometimes said it to him; but most of us would say, as her staff does, that she always starts by seeing how she can say yes to requests that have a shred of rationality to them. I'll give the last word to a staff member who wants to remain anonymous with a story that illustrates the fact that Terry isn't perfect even though she is almost so. "We called Terry requesting an interview with the Davis Enterprise. The caller wanted to know how she treated her staff. Little did she know, until the caller dissolved in laughter, that it was one of her staff members on the line. Terry was so easy to fool!" But she of course has the last laugh, playing with her husband Tony on the golf course instead of answering the phone at all.

Vita Simonsen



Margie Ferguson reflects on working with Vita Simonsen:

"The idea for a three-in-one retirement party, honoring Vita Simonsen, Terry Antonelli, and Marijane Osborn, is not an idea drearily dictated by impending budget cuts, but is rather a typically Terry Antonelli idea of how we can have fun, mixing staff and faculty colleagues and bringing everyone together for a big party that will end in time to let people go out to dinner with their families. I'm delighted to be celebrating three amazing women colleagues. Each has been at Davis a long time. Vita came to work in the Chancellor's Office in 1967, Terry came as a clerk in Biochemistry in 1971 and Marijane came as a faculty member in 1981.

Vita wasn't initially very keen on having a public celebration because, as she says, she is not exactly retiring but is rather "moving on in her life," expecting--as has indeed transpired--to work part time in Voorhies. We are delighted that she 's not REALLY retiring because this gives us a chance to continue to benefit from the grace and competence she displays everyday as the Personnel Officer for English and the University Writing Program. She has been on the Voorhies' units' staff since 1990 as our "gateway" person, the person who helps all of our new hires--faculty, staff, graduate teachers, exchange students, visiting lecturers--enter smoothly enough into the vast electronic and paperwork systems of this university so that they can get paid in a timely way. Vita welcomes people into the Voorhies community with truly amazing efficiency and kindness. She does critical tasks in a quiet, unflappable way that Terry, Chris Thaiss, I, and now Darla rely on--and for which we're truly grateful."

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FRIENDS OF ENGLISH



What are the Friends of English?

The Friends of English encourages alumni and community members to stay connected to the English Department and to the reading and study of literature. “Friends” will be invited to attend scholarly talks and readings by our own sterling creative writers, and receive our annual departmental newsletter. In return, “Friends” will be helping the department continue to achieve distinction by supporting graduate and undergraduate fellowships and awards, supporting faculty and student research, and sponsoring public lectures and readings. For more information on how to become a member, visit the Friends of English website [here](#).

We are sincerely grateful to the following individuals for their contributions to Friends of English (including gifts to the department) during the 2007-2008 academic year:

Nora Ann McGuinness
Peter Horton
Donald Thomas
Jane Reed
Sue Walther Jones
Timothy Flynn
Stephanie Spanja
Emily Artiano
Poonam Sachdev

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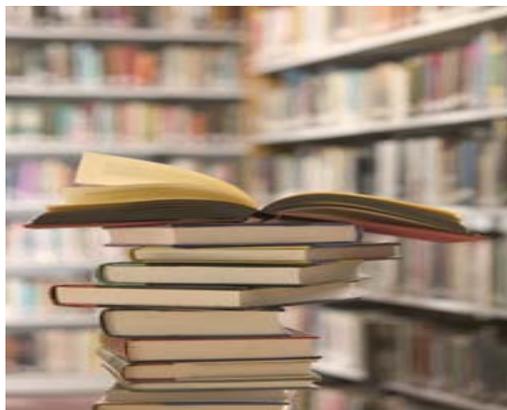
Welcome to the new electronic format of the UC Davis English Department Newsletter! We hope you will find this site informative and up-to-date. Please let us know if you would like to share your news with the English Department community by emailing us at: bezimbalist@ucdavis.edu

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English Department Newsletters

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Upcoming Events

To Be Announced

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This year's
Tomales Bay
Writer's
Workshop
will be held
October
22nd-27th,
2008

The
application
form is
available on
the UCD
Extension
[website](#)

The 2008 Tomales Bay Writer's Workshops

The Tomales Bay Workshops, directed by Pam Houston, brings developing writers from across the country together with the UC Davis Creative Writing Program, top published writers from around the nation and publishing industry professionals. Participants enjoy five days of writing, readings, conversation and contemplation--all atop a hill overlooking Tomales Bay, in gorgeous Point Reyes National Seashore. Highlights include intimate evening receptions with faculty authors and publishing professionals, as well as readings by fellowship winners, conference participants and UC Davis Creative Writing Program graduate students; the conference closes with the announcement of the year's Maurice Prize winner and a sunset patio reception with local wine and oysters straight from the bay. A collaboration between the UC Davis English Department, the UC Davis Creative Writing Program and UC Davis Extension, The Tomales Bay Workshops are directed by Pam Houston, who hand-picks each year's faculty and presenters. The Workshops welcomes published and unpublished participants in the areas of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction/personal essay. Fellowships are available each year, and information about these is available at the [UCD Extension website](#).



Alumni Experience

"Going to Tomales Bay was such a gift. The experience felt so balanced and complete: I enjoyed the camaraderie with other writers, but also got to spend time alone; I got helpful feedback on existing work but also wrote new stuff. Then there's the beautiful setting, simultaneously grand and intimate. The place just nourished me as a writer and as a person -- and has the best food I've eaten at any conference."

--Naomi Williams, Tomales Bay '06

"Aside from the serene beauty of Tomales Bay, its bright weather and all the fine food, I was most enthralled by my workshop. Listening to a week's worth of Heather McHugh's insights on poems, ranging from ones written by Nobel Prize winners to ones by my fellow students, was beyond instructive. It was as though I had been given a higher vantage point from which to take in poetry's landscape. I was high off that refined writing air for a month."

--Masin Persina, Tomales Bay '07

"I didn't go to Tomales Bay to read...workshops and conferences are good for giving other, more experienced eyes a chance to read you. Pam Houston has set up as perfect a situation for that process as you're going to find anywhere. She seems to know every writer now typing in America, so she gets the best workshop leaders. And it's very extremely effing beautiful out there in Tomales Bay. If you can get the dough together, I wouldn't think twice about signing on up. I've got poems and stories and essays to write. Don't you?"

--Jason Morphew, Tomales Bay '07