My first year in the Chair’s hot seat has taught me a great deal about many things, including the need to move fast when possible and slowly, with patience, when necessary. It’s been a busy year of learning a new job with welcome encouragement and invaluable advice from the department staff, especially from our skilled office manager, Terry Antonelli and from the Chair’s assistant, Mary White, who gently told me, at one particularly frantic moment, that it usually takes the staff at least a year to train a new chair. I also received a great deal of help from many of my colleagues, including previous chairs who have generously shared information about how to avoid some if not all pratfalls.

It’s been an exciting year on several fronts. Professor David Van Leer won the Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award for Undergraduate Teaching, and Professor David Simpson became the first holder of the English department’s first chaired position, the Gwendolyn Bridges Needham Endowed Chair in English Literature. Gwendolyn Bridges Needham was a professor in our department from 1937-1973, and co-authored a pioneering study of eighteenth-century women called Pamela’s Daughters. The chair honoring her life and work was funded by a generous gift from her brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Alice Bridges. Robert Bridges died last year, but his daughter Laura Bridges Ingham and three other members of his extended family, Cy Bridges, Jan Bardsley and Phil Bardsley, attended a Symposium on “New Directions in Eighteenth-Century Literature” held this past May (see story and pictures in this issue). Under the leadership of our Director of Undergraduate Studies, Frances Dolan, and with the steady help of our Undergraduate Advisor, Lynda Jones, a hard-working undergraduate studies committee presented the faculty with ideas for revising our curriculum. After discussing several different possibilities in the course of many faculty meetings, we ultimately voted to revise the curriculum in ways that will streamline our requirements; that will foster cooperation among new and veteran faculty about our teaching goals and methods; and that will allow us all to develop some appealing new courses for both majors and non-majors. Faculty were busily imagining ways of creating “new” courses; one colleague mentioned developing a course that would draw on his own passion for opera; another mentioned a course on Shakespeare and film, and I myself am fantasizing about offering a version of our long-standing Introduction to Poetry (English 45) course that would focus on ballads from the early modern story of “Mary Hamilton” (which exists in many versions including a recording by Joan Baez) through Bob Dylan’s “Boots of Spanish Leather.” My dream of teaching this particular course was inspired by hearing ballads hauntingly sung and incisively analyzed in the Voorhies Courtyard this past May during a performance staged by one of our graduating seniors, Michelle Tang Jackson. Michelle won a President’s Undergraduate Fellowship to create this dramatic performance as part of her honors essay on how early modern ballads represent women with “unbound” voices and erotic desires. The ballad-performance, which featured actors and dancers in period costumes passing out cider along with copies of early ballad-texts, was the culmination of Michelle’s honors project. It was directed by Fran Dolan, who also baked the gingerbread given by performers to the audience.

Scott Simmon, our Director of Graduate Studies for the last three years, has been working for much of the year on the “Self-Study” part of a review of our graduate program. He was pleased to turn over his baton (which we wish were a magic wand) to Claire Waters in July, 2007. Having led our efforts to recruit and admit a stellar class of Ph.D. students, in tandem with Creative Writing Director Pam Houston’s efforts to admit an equally stellar group of poets and fiction writers seeking the M.A. degree, Scott will now return to teaching courses and to his own research studies—and preserving—American films from the past.

Last summer, I met the new Dean of Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies, Jessie Ann Owens, and with almost indecent haste asked for her permission to conduct two searches for...
On May 11, 2007 the department held a symposium on “The New Eighteenth Century,” honoring Gwendolyn Bridges Needham, a former faculty member in our department and the co-author of Pamela’s Daughters, a pioneering feminist study of 18th-century literature and culture that was published in 1936. Our own Gwendolyn Bridges Needham Memorial Faculty Fellow, Professor David Simpson, offered opening remarks, and UCD French professor Julia Simon, editor of Eighteenth-Century Studies, and English professor Alessa Johns, book reviews editor, made introductions respectively to the two featured distinguished scholars of 18th-century literature: Laura Brown (Cornell University) presenting “Violent Intimacy: The Lady, the Literary Alterity,” and Felicity Nussbaum (University of California, Los Angeles) presenting “Between ‘Oriental’ and ‘Black, So Called,’ 1688-1788.” Laura Bridges Ingham, Gwendolyn Needham’s niece, attended the symposium, as did two other nieces, Cynthia Bridges and Janice Bardsley, along with Phil Bardsley, Janice’s husband. The symposium and the reception that followed it were made possible by funds given to the English Department some years ago by Gwendolyn Needham’s brother Rob-Bardsley, along with Phil Bardsley, Janice’s husband. The symposium and the reception that followed it were made possible by funds given to the English Department some years ago by Gwendolyn Needham’s brother Robert Bridges and his wife Alice Bridges. [See “Needham Endowed Chairship” announcement on p. 4.]

new colleagues this year; our department needs to hire at least two persons a year just to keep even with retirements (see stories in this issue about retiring faculty members Peter Dale and Clarence Major!). Dean Owens allowed us to search for two assistant professors. Thanks to the work of faculty on two search committees, chaired by Frances Dolan and Alessa Johns respectively, we succeeded in hiring two excellent new colleagues: Gina Bloom, who works on early modern literature and culture and who has a book just out from University of Pennsylvania Press, in a series entitled “Material Texts”: Voice in Motion: Staging Gender, Shaping Sound in Early Modern England; and Christopher Loar, who specializes in 18th-century literature and culture and who has just finished a doctoral dissertation at UCLA entitled “Savage Violence: Technology, Civility, and Sovereignty in British Fiction, 1682-1745.” We welcome Gina Bloom and Chris Loar to our faculty; we are also delighted to welcome Professor John Marx, who was hired as a modernist and postcolonialist in 2005-06 and who has been on fellowship this past year at Brown University. My “breaking in” period as chair has been mostly pleasurable and never dull. I enjoyed working with Tim Morton, who directed English 3, and with English Graduate Student Association representatives Ryan Poll and Catherine Fung. I also enjoyed working with and getting to know Chris Thaiss, the new Director of the University Writing Program. With a great deal of culinary help from Chris’s wife Jean, we held a memorable party for the English and UWP staff at my house in December. It was a great pleasure to work with other chairs of language and literature departments through an “assembly” of such chairs created by Dean Owens as part of her long-term planning process. Julia Simon, editor of Eighteenth-Century Studies (which regularly employs English graduate students as research assistants) and Chair of French and Italian, ably led our assembly and gave me invaluable advice on chairing. Anett Jessop, the editor of this newsletter, also helped me learn some of the ins and outs of my new job. I expect the educational experience to continue but I hope that the learning curve will not be quite so steep in the future as it was during my freshman year in a new job.

Margaret Ferguson is a scholar of Renaissance literature, literacy studies and feminist theory, and she has published extensively on these topics. She became department chair in July, 2006.
Professor David Simpson was the featured speaker for the 2006 Fall Faculty Lecture. Professor Simpson’s areas of research and teaching are Romanticism and literary theory. The following excerpt begins an article which will appear in Studies in Romanticism.

Throughout most of the performance history of The Merchant of Venice there would have been little or no motive to attend to the line I take here as my title. If the stage is crowded, with Shylock skulking somewhere in the background and Antonio indistinguishable from the other well-dressed gentiles, then the question is merely instrumental: where are the litigants? Perhaps it works also to establish the legal propriety of what is about to happen: plaintiff and defendant are bidden to stand forth before their judge, rendering the assembly both formal and performative. But there would probably be only one Jew, so the incident might be played as a joke; for how is it possible that Portia could possibly not see the difference between the engaging albeit anxious young man on one side of the stage and the bearded, spooky old figure in the black cape and yarmulke on the other?

In recent times we have had a more serious curiosity about Portia’s predicament, and more and more occasions to reflect on the similarity in difference that marks Shakespeare’s apparent attempt to preserve intact a binary distinction between the Christian and the Jew, the friend and the enemy, the self and the other. In particular, the relation of posited difference that recent and contemporary global-political alliances in the west have sought to maintain between the Jew and the Arab, with the Christian interpellating itself as the author and arbitrator of that difference (between democratic and terrorist/absolutist, friend and enemy, modern and primitive, civilized and barbaric), has been brilliantly investigated by Derrida and (in the spirit of Derrida) by Gil Anidjar, whose work underpins much of what I shall have to say today, and who has resolutely insisted on the west’s formative role in creating and exploiting notions of the Arab and the Jew as interchangeable instances of the enemy and therefore structurally identical and interchangeable in the imagination of the west.1

Walter Scott knew something of this syndrome. He might also have known something about the interdependence and arguable identity of Shylock and Antonio. In his 1790 edition of Shylock Edmund Malone had noted an English translation of the seventeenth-century Italian historian Gregorio Leti’s anecdote of the life of Pope Sixtus V, in which the Pope himself played Portia’s role as the judge, and where the threatened debtor was a Jew and the cruel creditor determined on full payment was a Christian.2 In this version of the story Antonio was the Shylock figure, implacable in his desire for the pound of flesh. There is no evidence that Shakespeare knew of this variant (whose first known publication came well after his death), or that it was true, but it appealed to Maria Edgeworth, who used it in her fascinating philosemetic novel Harrington published in 1817– in other words before Ivanhoe (1819) and Scott’s later Crusader tales, The Betrothed and The Talisman (published together in 1825). The debate about the so-called Jew Bill of 1753 and the very public conversion of Lord George Gordon to Judaism, along with a few notorious criminal trials involving Jews, kept the issue of Jewishness very much alive in public and political circles before the French Revolution; thereafter they were inevitably implicated in the ‘loyalty test’ mentality that was directed at all persons who could be associated with the foreign.3 For the most part they passed it, and somewhat sympathetic literary portraits of Jews were put abroad by Thomas Dibdin and Richard Cumberland, as well as by Byron in his Hebrew Melodies, the product of his cooperation with Isaac Nathan, who had as first offered the job to Scott, who declined.4 Scott was indeed no avowed philosemitist, but the popular success of Ivanhoe was significantly owing to its portrait of a complex romantic heroine in the Jewess Rebecca. Michael Ragussis has argued persuasively that both Harrington and Ivanhoe were careful and conscious responses to and rewrites of the plot of Shakespeare’s Merchant of Venice, which had previously functioned in the literary tradition as the embodiment of conventional antisemitism.5 As such they were also countering the conservative identification of Jews with revolution (virulently apparent in Burke’s Reflections in 1790) and, in Scott’s case, undermining the myth of racial synthesis and inclusion (always under the rubric of Englishness) put about by the nationalist historians and to some degree in Scott’s own other novels, those which seem to anticipate and celebrate the happy union of England and Scotland after 1707.

The Crusader novels which are the subject of this essay are almost bound to be at least somewhat odd at odds with the positive modernization narratives of the Waverley novels, if only because they are set in dim and distant times, long before any whiggish justification of commercial and political union between England and Scotland could be argued to have become clearly emergent. The Talisman, indeed, can be seen to have rather a cynical take on the demise of a Scotsman in the early middle ages: Sir Kenneth’s experiences by no means reflect well on the character or career of Richard Plantagenet, who had also been far from heroic in Ivanhoe.6 True, the culture of civility in modern life, with its commitment to the nonviolent or minimally violent resolution of social conflict, is endorsed more or less explicitly, albeit by way of the negative, in Scott’s critical portrayal of the chivalric violence of the middle ages; but there is no narrative developing an account of how we got from then to the now of the early nineteenth-century. Too many transitions and interruptions would have to be explained in order to defend a gradualist model of steady-state evolution; the benefits of commerce and integration do not really become a historically convincing theme until after the Restoration of 1660. The crusader novels are full of what one critic has called “carnivalesque heteroglossia”, and which one might prefer to see as a variety of dictions, interests and identities that are never reconciled within a permitted space or an enduring historical formation.7 Diversity, as we now call it, is in other words not gathered up within any emerging socio-political unit (for example a nation state) that can be imagined as containing or incorporating its components into a peaceable kingdom. Instead it persists in the form of discordant ethnic fragments unincorporated either into politically tolerant entities or into the more spontaneous harmonies of an evolving civil society. Saxon and Norman, English and Scottish factions do indeed hint at something of the accommodations to come much later in history, but even these are rudely and inefficiently sketched; the Jew and the Arab figure much more intransigently as incarnations of the other who is in the first instance (which we must soon complicate) also the enemy.

NOTES:
2 There is a good account of the sources in James Shapiro, Shakespeare and the Jews (NY: Columbia UP, 1996), 123-25.
4 Katz, 347; Endelman, 274-78. For a more skeptical and (I find) convincing account of Cumberland, see Judith W. Page, Imperfect Synagogues: Jews and Judaism in British Romantic Literature and Culture (NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004), 34-40.
6 For a fine reading of The Talisman as an analysis of variously successful subaltern responses (including the Scottish) to English dominance, see Caroline Cracken-Flesher, Possible Scotlands: Walter Scott and the Story of Tomorrow (Oxford and NY: Oxford UP, 2005), 118-27. Judith Wilt, Secret Leaves: The Novels of Walter Scott (Chicago and London: U of Chicago P, 1985), 178-84, also argues that the deserts of Palestine sustain discussions of both the British and Scottish landscapes.
The Department of English has recently received its first endowed Chair. The position was initially established as an endowed fellowship in memory of Robert Bridges’ sister, Gwendolyn Bridges Needham, who was a professor of eighteenth-century literature at UC Davis from 1937 to 1973, and whose co-authored book *Pamela’s Daughters* was a pioneering work of scholarship about representations of women in eighteenth-century English culture. The fellowship has now grown sufficiently to become, in accordance with the donor’s wishes, the Gwendolyn Bridges Needham Endowed Chair in English Literature. It will be held by Professor David Simpson, a distinguished scholar with wide-ranging intellectual interests and an abiding fascination with the poetry of William Wordsworth. Professor Simpson has authored or edited thirteen books, among them *Romanticism, Nationalism, and the Revolt Against Theory; The Politics of American English, 1776-1850*; and, most recently, 9/11: *The Culture of Commemoration*. The English Department is delighted to contribute to the growing strength of the humanities at Davis through the establishment of a Chair that honors the teaching and research interests of Professor Needham. Dean Jessie Ann Owens commented: “We are so pleased to be able to add one more well-deserved accolade to Professor Simpson’s already long list of achievements; he brings luster both to UC Davis and to the distinguished memory of Gwendolyn Bridges Needham.”

**David Van Leer Wins 2007 Distinguished Teaching Award**

The UC Davis Distinguished Teaching Award Committee recognized Professor David Van Leer’s manifold accomplishments with a 2007 Undergraduate Teaching Prize. In the words of the committee: “Professor David Van Leer is an accomplished scholar and teacher whose courses, ranging from the Puritans to the Broadway musical, engage and inspire students. Van Leer’s career demonstrates wide-ranging and constantly changing interests, deep erudition, robust curiosity, and bold innovation.

Van Leer’s colleagues and students particularly value his trailblazing in creating and teaching courses in gay and lesbian fiction and in queer film at the University of California at Davis. Many students praise Van Leer’s ability to create a safe atmosphere in the classroom, in which students can express their views and explore their differences. Beyond the classroom, Van Leer has established an impressive record of national and international pedagogical contributions. In 1993 he organized a conference on gay and lesbian film, which drew non-academics as well as faculty members and students. As a result of his national reputation for erudition, Van Leer was chosen to serve on the Advisory Board for the GRE English Subject Examination at the Education Testing Service, a test required by graduate schools that serves the pedagogical function of helping to shape the literary canon students are expected to master. Finally, in 2006, Van Leer was invited by the U.S. State Department to deliver a series of lectures to programs in Literature and English in Thailand. Presented to a mixed audience of undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty, these ten lectures explored the pedagogical issues associated with teaching gender, sexuality, race, and multi-ethnicity. These lectures also introduced innovative techniques for classroom use of media; especially film, television, popular music and advertising. This lecture series demonstrates Van Leer’s international reputation; he is admired for his scholarship and his success in adopting new teaching techniques.”

The official citation for David Van Leer’s award was compiled by Frances Dolan from texts written by Professor Dolan herself and by Joanne Diehl, Margaret Ferguson, Beth Freeman, Trish Moran, and the MANY students whom Lynda Jones contacted and coordinated.

**New Faculty Introductions:**

**Mark Jerng and Parama Roy**

**Mark Jerng** recently received his Ph.D. from Harvard University; he joined the English department in 2006. His research interests include kinship studies, critical race theory, theories of multiculturalism, narrative and the novel, and intersections between psychoanalysis and literature. He is completing a book manuscript that traces a genealogy of transracial adoption stories in American literature from the 1820’s to the present; he is working on a second project on a narrativity of need and human rights. He teaches courses on Asian American literature, critical multiculturalism, kinship and family, and human rights narratives. He is the recipient of a Harvard University Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship, the Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, and an Honorary Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship.

**Parama Roy** earned her Ph.D. at the University of Rochester and then taught in the English Department at the University of California at Riverside from 1989 through 2006. Parama held a fellowship at the University of California Humanities Research Center in Fall 2006; she was in the seminar “Eating Cultures: Race and Food.” She has written widely in postcolonial theory and literature; Victorian studies; feminist studies; cultural studies; appetite, consumption, and taste/food studies. Her book publications include *Indian Traffic: Identities in Question in Colonial and Postcolonial India* (University of California Press, 1998) and the upcoming coedited volume, with Manali Desai and Piya Chatterjee, *States of Trauma* (New Delhi: Zubaan).

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: [http://wwwenglish.ucdavis.edu/faculty/faculty.html](http://wwwenglish.ucdavis.edu/faculty/faculty.html)

**New Staff Introductions**

**English Department welcomes two new staff members:**

**Paula Goldston** joins the department as an Assistant Program Coordinator in support of the English Department, as well as the Humanities, Nature and Culture, and Medieval and Early Modern Studies programs. Paula has worked on campus for the last six years, and before that for a music and video distribution company in Woodland, California.

**Tara Porter** steps into the Graduate Programs office as a Program Advisor. Before her hire, Tara was instrumental in helping found the “Friends of English,” which endeavors to raise money to fund both graduate and undergraduate student research and also to provide its members with a host of literary offerings throughout the academic year. Tara is a graduate student herself at California State University, Sacramento where she is completing her English Composition M.A. Her thesis is a national survey on the presence and components of Writing Across the Curriculum programs across the U.S. and is co-directed by UC Davis’s own Christopher Thaiss, director of the University Writing Program.


Margaret Ferguson published “Conning the ‘Overseers’: Women’s Illicit Work in Béhn’s ‘The Adventure of the Black Lady,’” *Early Modern Culture: An Electronic Seminar 5* (Spring 2006): 18 pars. http://emc.eserver.org/1-5/ferguson.html. Her article, “‘With All Due Reverence and Respect to the Word of God’: Apha Behn as Skeptical Reader of the Bible and Critical Translator of Fontenelle’s,” is forthcoming this summer in *The Emergence of the Female Reader, 1500–1800* (The University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007). In addition, Margie gave the Distinguished Shakespeare Lecture at Ohio University in October, 2006; a paper on “Literacy and Early Modern Education” at a History of Education Conference at the University of Ottawa in October; and a paper on “Education of Husbands” at the Attending to Women Society meeting in College Park, Maryland, in November. In December, at the MLA, she presented a paper at a session on literacy focused on her book, *Dido’s Daughters: Literacy, Gender, and Empire in Early Modern England and France*. In addition, Margie organized the symposium “The New Eighteenth Century,” which was held on May 11, 2007, and also a lecture by P.A. Skantze (University of Missouri Press, to be released in the fall). A paper on “Due Reverence and Respect to the Word of God: Apha Behn as Skeptical Reader of the Bible and Critical Translator of Fontenelle’s” was to thoroughly enjoy her first year of retirement!

Elizabeth Freeman has been a UC President’s Research Fellowship in the Humanities this year, working on her book manuscript *Time Binds: Essays on Queer Temporalities*. She edited and wrote the introduction to “Queer Temporalities,” a special double issue of *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, vol. 2/3 (Winter/Spring 2007), and has essays published this year or immediately forthcoming in *South Atlantic Quarterly*, the *Blackwell Companion to LGBTQ Studies*, and the anthology *Keywords of American Cultural Studies*.

Peter Hays, professor emeritus, announced that Kent State Press has taken over distribution of his “Teaching Hemingway’s ‘The Sun Also Rises’” from a closed University of Idaho Press. This coming winter, Kent State will publish the next in the series, “Teaching Hemingway’s ‘A Farewell to Arms,’” which has an essay by Peter in it. In addition, Peter will have an essay in the MLA’s forthcoming *World Approaches to Teaching “The Great Gatsby”*. His manuscript, “Arthur Miller’s ‘Death of a Salesman,’” will be published in early winter by *Continuum Modern Theatre Guides*, a British series on modern playwrights.

Mark C. Jerng had an article, “Recognizing the Transracial Adoptee: Adoption Life Stories and Chang-ree Lee’s *A Gesture Life,*” published in *MELUS* (Summer 2006). He presented at a special session on Adoption and Religion at the MLA 2006, and was an invited speaker at the national Adult Korean Adoptee Conference in San Francisco. In addition, he was elected as an executive board member of the national organization Alliance for the Study of Adoption. Mark’s dissertation was awarded the Helen Chohate Bell Dissertation Prize for Outstanding Thesis at Harvard University and he was chosen to be a Davis Humanities Institute Fellow for 2007-08.


Sandra McPherson was featured as the final reader at San Jose State’s 150 Year Legacy of Poetry in April 2007. Her book, *Expectation*, was released in the fall. Linda notes that her “major accomplishment was to thoroughly enjoy [her] first year of retirement!”


Marijane Osborn co-edited, with John D. Niles, *Beowulf and Lejre* (Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 2007). The book analyzes the impact upon Beowulf studies of the recent excavations of major early medieval hall sites near Lejre in Denmark. This location is thought to be where the Beowulf poet imagined the great hall Heorot that Grenadel attacks.

Riché Richardson’s book, *Black Masculinity and the U.S. South: From Uncle Tom to Gangsta*, was released this February from the University of Georgia Press. It was named “Book of the Month” in April 2007 by the *Georgia Informer*. Riché presented lectures at Troy University, the University of Montevallo, and UC Davis. In addition, she was featured for her quilting in the *Davis Enterprise*.

Catherine Robson won, in 2006, the North American Victorian Studies Association’s 2005 Donald Gray Prize for the best essay in the field of Victorian studies for “Standing on the Burn-ins” *Days: Poetry, Performance, History* (PMLA 120 (2005): 148-62). She published a chapter entitled “Historicising Dickens” in *The Palgrave Guide to Charles Dickens*, ed. John Bowen and Robert L. Patten (Palgrave, 2006). Catherine served as the Program Director for the University of California Dickens Project’s annual conference for 2006 and 2007, and co-ordinated a symposium on Victorian Genres which was held in August 2007 in Santa Cruz. She gave talks at Duke University, the University of Leicester, and Birkbeck College, and was awarded a fellowship from the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin for 2008-09.


Raymond Waddington, professor emeritus, published an article, “Pietro Aretino, Religious Writer,” in *Renaissance Studies* (2006). He was an invited speaker at conferences and symposia in three countries: Ottawa, Canada; Arezzo, Italy; and Leeds, U. K.


Karl Zender’s essay, “William Faulkner, New Orleans, and Europe,” is forthcoming in the proceedings of a conference held at the University of Vienna in September, 2006. His most recent book manuscript, *Answering to the Weight: Shakespeare, Malise, and Genericity*, is under contract at Louisiana State University Press, with anticipated publication in 2008. Karl taught this spring quarter in London as part of the Education Abroad Program.
GRADUATE DIRECTOR SCOTT SIMMON STEPS DOWN

After three years’ service to the English Department, Scott Simmon completed his term as Director of Graduate Studies in May, 2007. Professor Claire Waters is taking over the position.

Professor Simmon earned his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. at UC Davis. He was recruited back to the department after having worked as curator of film programs at the Library of Congress, where he founded the Library’s first cinema exhibition space. His achievements there included a co-authored report for the National Film Preservation Board on the state of American film preservation, submitted to Congress in 1994. For the National Film Preservation Foundation, he curated Treasures from American Film Archives (called by The New York Times “the best DVD set of the year” in 2000), More Treasures from American Film Archive, and Treasures III: Social Issues in American Film (released October 2007), which make available on DVD films preserved by the major U.S. film archives. Simmon’s writings include books on directors King Vidor and D.W. Griffith. His most recent book, The Invention of the Western Film, won the 2003 Theatre Library Association Award, given for the year’s “best English-language book about recorded performance.”

2006-2007 PLACEMENT NEWS

Sean Allen, National Taiwan University
Jim Barilla, University of South Carolina at Columbia
Ann Bliss, UC Merced
Brad Busbee, Florida Gulf Coast University
Bryrne Gray, English, UC Davis
Jennifer Hoofard, Mills College
Christian Kiefer, American River College
J. Samaine Lockwood, University of the Pacific
Andrew Majeske, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, NYC
Andrew Strombeck, Wright State University
Karma Waltonen, University Writing Program, UC Davis

GRADUATE STUDENT UCD & DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

FRIENDS OF ENGLISH RESEARCH AWARDS
OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD
Alysia Garrison (PhD)
Monica Storss (MA)

GLOBE THEATRE EXCHANGE TO LONDON
Andrea Lawson, Tara Pedersen

DISSERTATION QUARTER FELLOWSHIPS
Steve Blevins, Seth Forrest, Jessica Howell, Colleen Pauza, Tara Pedersen

SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS
Shellie Banga, April Boyd, Ann Jacobsen, Jessica Jordan, Tony Magagna, Chris Schaberg, Kendra Smith, Melissa Strong, Kara Thompson

2006 DAVID NOEL MILLER SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY PRIZE
Andrew Hageman

2007-2008 CHANCELLOR’S TEACHING FELLOWSHIP
Kendra Smith, working with Professor Claire Waters on “an innovative course exploring medieval literature and early conceptions of national identity.”

PROFESSORS FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAM FELLOWSHIP
Kara Thompson

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING AWARD
Jenni Halpin, Lynn Langmade

2007 SMALL GRANTS
Sharada Balachandran-Orihuela, Melissa Bender, Jason Dunn, Tiffany Gilmore, Darcy Irvin, Anett Jessop, Sarah Juliet Lauro, Ryan Page, Vanita Reddy, Poonam Sachdev, Daniel Thomas-Glass, Mary Ellen Williams, and Barbara Zimbalist

2006-2007 Ph.D.s AWARDED

Jeffrey Smith: “The Hazards of Mimesis: Imitation and the Production of the Self in Late Nineteenth-Century American Fiction”
Candace Taylor: “A prudent ferventnesse or a fervent prudence”: Reading Prudence in Classical, Patristic and Medieval Texts
Karen Wilson: “Marriage and the Problem of Evil in Works by John Milton and Margaret Cavendish”
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

In June, eleven creative writing graduate students (eight fiction writers and three poets) received their M.A. degrees. For Fall 2007, seven fiction writers and five poets were admitted to the M.A. class of 2009. In June, we celebrated the career of award-winning poet, fiction writer, and anthologist Clarence Major, who retired this year (see article p. 11).

We honored the publication of three books from former M.A. students: Christien Gholson’s book of poems, On The Side of the Crow (Hanging Loose Press), and two novels, Shawna Ryan’s Locke 1928 (El Leon Literary Arts) and Spring Warren’s Turpentine (Grove Press). Shawna Ryan was also the recipient of the 2006 Maurice Prize for Fiction, which included the $5,000 prize, generously provided by novelist John Lescroart. We are especially excited that John has permanently endowed this prize to assist UC Davis writers for years to come. June graduate Cora Stryker won first place in the U.C. Poet Laureate contest held earlier in the year. The Elliot Gilbert Prize Contest, established for current graduate students, awarded first place to Ben Jahn in Fiction and first place to Patricia Killelea in poetry.

The Tomales Bay workshops in October 2006 enjoyed another sell-out crowd with a wonderful guest faculty that included T.C. Boyle as our keynote speaker. We anticipate another great conference in 2007 with Joy Harjo, Heather McHugh, Howard Norman, and others on board.

PAM HOUSTON

JUNE 2007 CREATIVE WRITING M.A.s CONFERRED

Scott Bransford, “Jericho Halfway: Stories”

Michael Clearwater,
“A Gaze With Which You Keep Them”

Mischa Erickson, “Above White”

Dylan Godwin, “The Animal I Go To”

Ben Jahn, “North of What Matters”

William Kaufman, “Transit Mundus”

Krista Keyes, “The Nature of Misbehaving”

Reema Rajbanshi, “Sugar, Smoke, Song”

Ashima Sood,
“India Gate: Stories and a Novella”

Cora Stryker, “So-Called Science”

Naomi Williams,
“The King’s Voyage and Other Stories”

2006-2007 CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

INA COOLBRITH MEMORIAL PRIZE AT UC DAVIS
Equal placement:
Alice Choe, Henry Reneau, Michelle Tang Jackson

PAMELA MAUS CONTEST IN CREATIVE WRITING
First Place Fiction: Michelle Tang Jackson
Second Place Fiction: Carmen Lau
First Place Poetry: Uyen Hua
Second Place Poetry: Brian Ang

POET LAUREATE AWARD AT UC DAVIS
Equal placement:
Naomi Adiv, Gabrielle Myers, Cora Stryker

DIANA LYNN BOGART PRIZE
First Place: Dahlia Grossman-Heinze
Second Place: Koji Frahm
Third Place: Michelle Tang-Jackson
Honorable Mention: Ginger Kitty Liang

CELESTE TURNER WRIGHT POETRY PRIZE
First Place: Michelle Tang Jackson
Second Place: Naushad Ulhaq
Honorable Mention: Kristen Judd, Susan Calvillo

2007 MAURICE PRIZE IN FICTION
First Place: Elizabeth Chamberlin (MA 2006) for her novel “These People, they Crawl All Over the Place”


Alysia Garrison presented a paper, “Beckett’s creaturely life,” at the Samuel Beckett Centenary at the University of Northampton in November. She also presented “Translator, spy, world humanitarian: Beckett’s comparative imagination and transfigurative politics” at Figures of Comparison in the Humanities and Social Sciences, a CCLS conference at Columbia University in March. In June, she will deliver a paper on Agamben, language and sovereignty at “Between Language and History: Experience and Literature in The Work of Giorgio Agamben,” a conference at the University of London. Alysia attended the School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University in summer 2006, and had a scholarship to attend the Seminar in Experimental Critical Theory, “Cartographies of the Theological-Political,” at the University of California, Irvine in summer 2007. She won the Friends of English Outstanding Research Award.

Andrew Hageman won the David Noel Miller Scholarship Essay Prize for best graduate student seminar paper for his contribution, “David Lynch Performs the Un-Heimlich Maneuver During Breakfast at Winkie’s: The Uncanny Ecology of Mulholland Drive.” His conference presentations include: “From Fenyang to The World: Ecocriticism and Jia Zhangke’s Socio-Cinematic Landscapes “ at the Spaces of Conflict Film Conference hosted by SFSU (November, 2006); and “Herzog and Treadwell Lost in the Grizzly Gaze: Grizzly Man and Eco-Cinema” at the Film & History Biennial Conference in Dallas, TX (November 2006). He chaired a panel on cinema and ecology and presented his paper, “Projecting Systems of Ecology: An Ecocritical Reading of Cybernetsics in Popular Cinema,” at the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference, Spartanburg, SC (June 2007).

Lynn Langmade was awarded the UCD Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award in March 2007 for excellence in teaching on the UC Davis campus; this award is co-sponsored by the Graduate Council, the Office of Graduate Studies, and the Teaching Resources Center. Lynn is the first graduate student at Davis to win the award for teaching in the University Writing Program. She was also awarded a UCD Teaching Development Grant, with Gretchen Braun, in order to develop the first pedagogical reference text for over 80 English TAs and University Writing Program first-time instructors.

Kendra Smith was awarded a Department of English Summer Dissertation Fellowship for Summer 2007 and the Chancellor’s Teaching Fellowship for 2007-2008. She presented a paper, “Feminine Performance and Translation in Sir Gawain and the Green Knight,” at the 42nd International Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI (May 2007). Kendra was also awarded a Spring 2007 Travel Fellowship through Graduate Studies.

Monica Storss’s poem, “Chiaroscuro,” appears in a recent (Spring/Summer 2007) edition of the *Suisun Valley Review*.

Cora Stryker won first place in the U.C. Poet Laureate contest.

Melissa Strong received a Graduate Research Award from the Consortium for Women and Research, a Marshall Fishwick Research Grant from the Popular Culture/American Culture Association, and an Ethel O. Gardner Scholarship from the P.E.O. Foundation for the 2007-2008 academic year.


*Graduate Student Publications & Achievements*
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM CITATION WINNERS
including Honors thesis titles for those students who participated in the Honors program

Angela Adams
Maria Alvarado, “Diamonds and Pearls” and “Toads and Serpents”: An Analysis of the Virgin/Whore Archetype in Mexican and Chicana Culture

Scott Anderson, A Devilish Dream. Satanic Romanticism in Mark Twain’s The Mysterious Stranger

Emily Artiano
Loren Bridges-Robaugh

Marie Burcham, Wearing Red (creative writing)

Hillary Campanella

Anne Clarke, The Duchess of Malfi: A Unique Portrayal of Widows in Early Modern Drama

Elizabeth Cornwall

Gina Faridniya, Trading California (creative writing)

Chelsea Foster, “Small Choice in Rotten Apples”: Gender Roles as a “Chosen” Performance

Amanda Gariepy, Testing the Limits of Narrative: The Fragmentation of Character and Plot in Thomas Pynchon’s Gravity Rainbow

Michelle Guerin

Jennifer Gulick

Ashley Guy, Jane Austen’s Views on Female Education

Christina Harrington, “Words Walking Without Masters, Walking Altogether Like Harmony in a Song”: Voice and Identity in Their Eyes Were Watching God

Erin Hawkes, George Eliot’s Web: Music as Social Unity in Middlemarch and Daniel Deronda

Norma Heninger, The Destruction of the National Fantasy of Hope Leslie by Pseudo-Incent and Racism

Uyen Hua, naming gets tired (creative writing)

Kimberly Hudson

Jessica Jackson, The Sexual Merchant: Chaucer’s Wife of Bath and the Preservation of Domestic Spaces

Christina Kelleher

Zoe Kemmerling

Carmen Lau, Magic: Stories Cobbled together from the Scraps of Fairytale, History, Myth and Current Culture (creative writing)

Jeffrey Leach

Alicia Leupp

Alec Levine, The Media of Madness: HP Lovecraft and Messages as Artifacts

Monika Lynch

Parisa Manteghi

Christopher McDonald

Christina Miller

Alycia Raby, In the End, Neither One Will Evade (creative writing)

Loralee Simonitch

Rachel Slotnick, A Senior Thesis, or Something Like It (creative writing)

Zoe Snyder

Rosa Threlfall

Nicole Tollefson

Vanessa Uhlig, The Singing Bird, the Dying Body, the Narrative Machine: Deferral Through Storytelling Amidst Technological Uncertainty

Rebecca Wan

Ryan Willingham, The Ragged Edge (creative writing)

Elizabeth Wright
ALUMNI BULLETIN

Pati Poblete (BA 1993) was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in journalism for her San Francisco Chronicle editorial series on California’s foster care system. Currently, Poblete serves as deputy editorial editor of The Honolulu Advertiser; before that, she worked for seven years as an editorial writer and columnist at the Chronicle. She has a new book entitled *The Oracles: My Filipino Grandparents in America* (Heyday Press, 2006).


James Van Pelt (M.A. 1990) recently published his first novel, *Summer of the Apocalypse*, with Fairwood Press. His second collection, *The Last of the O-Forms and Other Stories*, is currently a finalist for the Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award.

Mark Wisniewski (M.A. 1991) won the 2006 Tobias Wolff Award in fiction for his short story “Stricken,” and he was awarded a 2006 Isherwood Foundation Fellowship in fiction to support his work as a novelist. He also took first place in the 2006 Evil Genius Series Contest, and as a result his book of narrative poems, *One of Us One Night*, was published by Platonic 3Way Press.

DEAR ALUMNI:

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 Mary White at mjwhite@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!

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CLARENCE MAJOR

Victorian Critic and the Idea of History

(Har -

tions include:

nineteenth-century. He taught courses in Ro-

literature, literary theory, and philosophy in the

interests include the relations between British

fiction, as well as edited anthologies of litera-

criticism, poetry, fiction, short stories, non-

of Colorado, University of Washington, How-

essays and Criticism

June 1999). His other recent books include

Nature Transfigured: Science and Literature,

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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 will 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.

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We are sincerely grateful to the following individuals for their contributions to Friends of English (including gifts to the department) during the 2006-2007 academic year.

John Lescroart, Honorary Friend of English
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