



## DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY NEWS

### English Department Faculty Search

The English Department is conducting a search for a new full-time faculty member in Antebellum American literature. Undergraduate and graduate students are strongly encouraged to attend the finalists' presentations next semester. Keep on the lookout for updates.

### May Term 2005 in Luxembourg May 15-June 11

The Leir Center Luxembourg-Clark University (LCL-CU) will once again offer the May Term during spring 2005 in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The LCL-CU continues its commitment to providing international perspectives and learning experiences for students and faculty. Three courses will be offered from May 15 through June 11.

Undergraduate and graduate students may enroll in one of three May Term courses—Sense of Place: Drawing in Luxembourg; Beyond Armageddon: Enmity to Amity in Europe; and Seeing the Light: At the Crossroads of Art and Science.

Applicants should submit the completed application with required transcript to the office of Study Abroad Programs no later than Friday, January 28, 2005.

### English Department Writing Contests

#### DEADLINE:

**Friday, March 18, 2005  
12:00 NOON—no exceptions**

Open to all Clark undergraduate students, including matriculated COPACE students

- Loring Holmes and Ruth Dodd Drama Contest (Prize: \$250)
- Prentiss Cheney Hoyt Poetry Contest (Prizes: \$50-\$250)
- Short Story Contest (Prizes: \$50-\$250)
- Leroy Allston Ames Essay Contest (Prize: \$250)

For further information, please check our website:

[www.clarku.edu/departments/english](http://www.clarku.edu/departments/english)  
or come to the English Department office.

### Chair's Tea

#### HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED TO MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

EVERYONE is welcome. Please join Professor Gertz **3:30-4:30 in her office** for this semester's last Chair's Tea: engaging conversation, tea and scones. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know Professor Gertz and to meet other English Department faculty, majors, and graduate students.

### Senior Honors Student

Kristen Small has been accepted into the senior honors program in English and will be working with Professor Betsy Huang.

### Inside this issue:

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## FROM THE CHAIR



*Where life comes to literature*

We've had quite a few stellar events this semester, and I hope you had the opportunity to come to at least a few of them. President John Bassett brought in Robert Pinsky, who gave a wonderful performance reading his own poetry. The Higgins School of the Humanities' African American Intellectual Series, organized and convened by Winston Napier, brought in two specialists on Hip Hop: Marcyliena Morgan and Tracy Sharpley-Whiting. And as much as I enjoyed these events, I have to confess I'm still partial to the events I organized: Harry Wu and Dan Piccuta, who discussed Mr. Wu's on-going battle for civil rights in the People's Republic of China, and Farideh Koochi-Kamali, who presented a fascinating talk on Women and Islam, focusing on Iranian women, Iran, and the Kurds. In addition to these events, we had our monthly Chair's Teas and a jam-packed, highly successful, and stimulating Alum and Chowder Fest.

If you weren't able to attend these events, do not despair. In Spring 2005, we will also have some events (in addition to the Chair's Teas) that may very well interest you.

As some of you know, we'll be searching for a specialist in Antebellum American literature. If all goes as planned, we'll be bringing our top three candidates onto campus in January and February. In addition to getting to know the Department and Clark, each of them will be giving a talk. Please do try to make one of the sessions in which the candidates meet with various groups (students, faculty) as well as the talks. Your input is very valuable to us. Especially students' reactions to the individual candidates help us gauge how good a candidate might actually be in the classroom.

While the events I've been describing were/will be faculty-generated, the English Department may also be involved in a student-conceived event. If all goes as planned, we will have a poetry and fiction workshop one day in February (we'll be sending news of these workshops as soon as possible). These creative writing workshops will be for students only, *and* they will mainly be organized and run by the Junior and Senior Representatives to the Chair, Nick Delaini (who'll be stepping in for Ksenia Varlyguina--who came up with the idea--since she'll be studying abroad in spring) and Susan Munroe. Please feel free to contact them (smunroe@clarku.edu; ndelaini@clarku.edu; kvarlyguina@clarku.edu) or me (sgertz@clarku.edu) if you'd like to help or participate.

There will be additional events in spring, but I did want to draw your attention to these two at this point in time.

Finally, I also wanted to ask the alumnae and alumni among you to send along news, keep us updated, and also, *please*, feel free to make suggestions about what you would like to see in the *English Times*. This request doesn't come out of the blue. I was working furiously in my office one glum November day, when a knock dislodged me from the task at hand, and I grumbled, mumbled my way to the door. Opening it, I was absolutely stunned and delighted to see one of my former students, Debbie (Hendel) Sonin from my very first class here at Clark. With her family no less. Put simply, we faculty love to hear from you.

All the Best,  
Have a Productive and Fruitful Close to your Semester,  
Happy Holidays,

SunHee Kim Gertz  
Professor and Chair of English

## DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY NEWS

### Fourth Annual Undergraduate Conference on Shakespeare

On April 16, 2005, the fourth annual undergraduate conference on Shakespeare in the New England area will convene at Holy Cross. Each year, this conference (initiated by our own Virginia Vaughan) is held at a different college or university and invites undergraduates from New England institutions to participate.

Undergraduates are encouraged to submit papers (15-minute reading limit, translating into ca. 8 pages) to Holy Cross on the topic of "Shakespeare and the Art of Human Kindness." In the past, our English Department graduate students have also been invited to moderate the sessions.

So, if you're interested in delivering a paper, submit a proposal of about 300 words to (or if you're interested in moderating a session, contact):

Professor Helen Whall  
Box 142 A  
College of the Holy Cross  
Worcester, MA 01610-2395  
**Deadline: February 12, 2005**

**Jake Selinger Receives the University of East Anglia Exchange Program Scholarship** for an English major who wishes to study abroad with our partner institution in England, the University of East Anglia. Jake will be studying there Spring 2005.

### Junior and Senior Representatives to the Chair

Senior: Susan Munroe

Junior: Ksenia Varlyguina, who will be studying abroad spring semester. Nick Delaini will be the new Junior representative.

### First Hervey Ross Oratorical Contest

Alumnus Hervey Ross is sponsoring the first oratorical contest at Clark University. The contest is focused on the art of public speaking and the oratory and is open to all Clark students. The theme of this first contest is "Speeches from the American Politic."

#### Guidelines:

Students will present a 6-8 minute speech originally performed by an American political figure. This includes candidates for office, as well as those involved in political movements. Any speech originally performed pre-1964 is acceptable.

#### Submission:

Contact Professor Gino DiIorio by December 20 via email at [gdiiorio@clarku.edu](mailto:gdiiorio@clarku.edu). You must include your name, address, email address, phone number, and two speeches you are considering for your presentation. Please pick your first and second choices.

If needed, a preliminary round will be held Tuesday, February 8 in Little Center. The final presentation will be held Tuesday, February 22 in Atwood Hall.

#### Prizes:

1st prize: \$500  
2nd prize: \$300  
3rd prize: \$200

*Have a great break!*

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## FACULTY NEWS

### William G. Tapply Receives Rave Reviews

**more  
information on  
Professor  
Tapply is  
available on the  
web at  
[www.williamgtapply.com](http://www.williamgtapply.com)**

According to an article by Hallie Ephron in the September 26, 2004 edition of the *Boston Sunday Globe*, "William G. Tapply writes about fly fishing so seductively in 'Bitch Creek' that even I, who have the attention span of a gnat, wanted to drive up to the little tidal creek he describes emptying into Casco Bay, find the stripers in some nervous water along the edge of the

eelgrass in the shallow water,' and begin false-casting, whatever that is."

If you were reading through the October 6-19, 2004 edition of *The Improper Bostonian*, you would have also come across Mr. Tapply in an article on mystery writers.

Pick up the fall 2004 edition of *Clark News* and once again you will be reading about Mr. Tapply. Editor

Judith Jaeger, has this to say: "For most writers, one book published each year represents a steady career and reason to be proud. With the release of six books this year, Clark English instructor, William Tapply has reason to celebrate."

### Lea Graham Receives Award, Has Article Published, and Presents at Conference

Lea Graham is the recipient of the Francis A. Kinnicutt Award, which is awarded through the Worcester Art Museum to women artists specifically for the purpose of travel and furthering their craft. Ms. Graham will be traveling to Costa Rica next summer to spend a month writing as part of an artists' colony.

Ms. Graham wrote a critical article, "Out of the Ordinary: The Collaboration of Michael Anania and Ed Colker," which will be published by Samizdat Press in an anthology on the work of the poet, Michael Anania.

Ms. Graham also presented her paper, "Cows and Cars and Tall Tales: The Com-

mon West in the Poetry of Thomas McGrath and Andrew Suknaski" in September at the "Prairies" Conference at the University of Manitoba. While there, she chaired a panel as well at the request of Dennis Cooley, a well-known Canadian poet.

### Sione Aeschliman has Article Published

Sione Aeschliman's article on audience analysis, "The Misdirected Letter: An Argument for Acknowledging Audiences," recently appeared in the *Minnesota English Journal*.

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## GRADUATE STUDENT BUSINESS

### Spring 2005 Colloquia Schedule

All colloquia are held at 2:30 p.m. in Leir Seminar I, unless otherwise noted.

#### February 9

Matthew Brown  
Stephanie Kader  
Zhifang Wu, Visiting Professor

#### March 2

Trisha Wooldridge  
Jordan DeMaio  
Shiva Aliabadi

#### March 30

Graduate Student Council  
Multi-disciplinary Conference

#### April 6

Marina Mertens  
Meghan Gayton  
Jean-Paul Breaux

#### April 27

Joe Flis  
Sascha Zivkovic  
Sebastian Fett

#### Graduate Student Council: President—

**Shiva Aliabadi**

#### Representatives—

**Jan Herbst**

**Sascha Zivkovic**

#### Graduate Reps. For

#### Department meetings:

**Jordan DeMaio**

**Trisha Wooldridge**

## ALUMNAE/I NEWS

### Congratulations to Rebecca Mackay, MA '96

Rebecca was married last year and recently received her Ph.D. from Binghamton University. Her dissertation was on painting and the Victorian heroine.

### Matthew McAllester, MA '02, in Iraq

Our thoughts are with *Newsday* staff correspondent, Matthew McAllester who has returned to Iraq reporting the news.

### Dana Perkins, MA '93, Plays Dracula

Dana Perkins received a rave review in the October 15, 2004 edition of the Worcester *Telegram & Gazette* for his performance as Dracula at the Stageloft Repertory Theater in Sturbridge, MA. According to James A. Karis II, *Telegram & Gazette* reviewer, "Regardless of the creative liberties taken by the playwrights, a successful 'Dracula' depends on a convincing performance by the actor in the title role, and this show has one. On Sunday, Dana Perkins' Dracula was suave, but also vulnerable—making the fiend an almost pitiable figure. The actor put his own mark on the role, wearing a goatee and avoiding the obvious (albeit immensely entertaining) overacting of the screen's most famous Count, Bela Lugosi."

*Alumnae/i, send us an e-mail and we'll include your news in the next issue.*

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## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FACULTY

### James P. Elliott, Ph.D.

Professor of English. Trained as textual editor in the field of American literature, Professor Elliott has been associated with the Edition of the Writings of James Fenimore Cooper for twenty years.

### SunHee Kim Gertz, Ph.D.

Professor of English, Department Chair. Professor Gertz's research and publications are concerned with semiotics and western European literature in the late Middle Ages. She also researches links between Asian and European literatures.

### Betsy Huang, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of English. Professor Huang researches and teaches representations of ethnic and racial identities in 20<sup>th</sup>-century American literature and popular culture.

### Fern L. Johnson, Ph.D.

Professor of English. Professor Johnson is a sociolinguist specializing in the study of gender, race, and culture in language and is also Director of the Communication and Culture program.

### Lisa Kasmer, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of English. Professor Kasmer's research and teaching interests center on 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century British literature, gender studies, postcolonial studies, and print culture.

### Winston Napier, Ph.D.

E. Franklin Frazier Chair, Associate Professor of English. Professor Napier specializes in critical theory, 20<sup>th</sup> century African American literary culture and African American philosophy.

### Stanley Sultan, Ph.D.

*(on leave - Spring 2005)*

Professor of English. Until recently, Professor Sultan's scholarly interest was largely in the poetry, fiction, and drama of modernist writers. In the past few years he has devoted more attention to critical theory, literary history, and theoretical issues in literary history.

### Virginia Mason Vaughan, Ph.D.

*(on sabbatical AY 2004-05)*

Professor of English. Professor Vaughan specializes in Renaissance literature, especially in Shakespeare, but as a cultural historian, she is also interested in appropriations of Shakespeare's texts from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present. She teaches courses in Shakespeare at the introductory and advanced level in addition to the seminar "Studies in the Renaissance."

### Sione Aeschliman, M.A.

Expository Writing

### President Bassett, Ph.D.

William Faulkner

### Louis Bastien, Ph.D.

Intro to Lit and Composition

Major British Writers

Intro to Medieval Literature

### Tim Connolly, M.A.

News Writing

### Jim Dempsey, M.A.

Feature Writing

### Peter Erickson, Ph.D.

Advanced Shakespeare

### Anne Geller, Ph.D.,

**Director of the Writing Center & Writing Program**

Expository Writing

### Lea Graham, Ph.D.

Writing on Travel

Creative Writing: Poetry

English Poetry I

### Diane Moul, Ph.D.

Intro. to Lit. & Composition

### Jen Plante, M.A.

Expository Writing

Intro to Lit. & Composition

### Leeore Schnairsohn, M.F.A.

Expository Writing

### Claire Schomp, M.A.

Expository Writing

### Bill Tapply, M.A.T.

Expository Writing

Creative Writing: Fiction

Writing the Novel I

### Lucilia Valerio, Ph.D.

Intro to Lit & Composition

Women Writers I: pre-1900

### Emeriti Faculty

#### John Conron, Ph.D.

20<sup>th</sup>-century American literature

#### Jesse C. Cunningham, Ph.D.

History of the novel

#### Serena Hilsinger, Ph.D.

Modernist literature and women writers.

### The Writing Center

is located in Corner House. The Writing Center offers assistance with writing for any class in any discipline, at all stages of the writing process (trying to understand a writing assignment, brainstorming, composing, getting unstuck, writing, revising, seeking citation information, editing, proofreading).

### The Center for Community Engagement and Volunteering (CEV)

is located on the first floor of Corner House. The Center assists students in finding a community service placement suitable for a particular class requirement or personal interest. Office hours are 9-5, Monday through Friday. Stop by for the "Coffee and Tea with the CEV" any Wednesday between 1-4, or

***There are copies of faculty office hours outside the front lounge. Please help yourself.***

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