

CLARK UNIVERSITY
ENGLISH TIMES

VOLUME VI, ISSUE 3

FEBRUARY 18, 2003

DEPARTMENT / UNIVERSITY NEWS

BETSY HUANG

We are thrilled that *Betsy Huang*, who plans to complete her Ph.D. in English and American Literature from the University of Rochester this semester, will join us at Clark in August. At Clark, she will be responsible principally for Asian American literature, although she also has interests in teaching other ethnic American literatures along with some science fiction and film courses. Those of you who've had the pleasure to hear her speak on Chang-rae Lee's *Native Speaker* or who spoke with her in other venues already know we're in for a real treat.

Welcome, Betsy!

**English Department
Writing Contests**

DEADLINE:

**Friday, March 14, 12:00 NOON –
No exceptions**

Open to all Clark undergraduate students, including matriculated COPACE students.

- Loring Holmes & 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 come to the English Department office.

**WIELDERS OF
THE WORD**

*Hosted by the English Department and
the Higgins School of the Humanities*

**Wielders of the Word I
Tuesday, March 18**

4:00 p.m.

**Workshop on Fiction
Anderson House
Adria Bernardi
and Edith Pearlman**

7:30 p.m.

**Fiction Writers Panel
Grace Conference Room
Adria Bernardi, Elizabeth Graver,
Edith Pearlman
and Lucy Honig**

**Wielders of the Word II
Wednesday, March 19**

5:30 p.m.

**Alum and Chowder Fest
Grace Conference Room
Jennifer Arneri '99
Brian Shactman MA '02
Howard Levy '68**

**Wielders of the Word III
Thursday, March 20**

4:00 p.m.

**Workshop on Poetry
Anderson House
Judith Hall & Howard Levy**

7:30 p.m.

**Poetry Readings
Grace Conference Room
Judith Hall & Howard Levy**

**Wielders of the Word,
I and III: WORKSHOPS**

We will reserve spaces for English majors for the *Wielders of the Word* workshops—one on fiction (March 18th) and one on poetry (March 20th). If you're interested, please contact Junior Representative to the Chair **David Hahn** for the fiction workshop or Senior Representative to the Chair **Christina Rizzo** for the poetry workshop, who can be reached at dhahn@clarku.edu and crizzo@clarku.edu respectively.

**Wednesday
March 19, 2003**

5:30 p.m.

Grace Conference Room



**Don't let the ALUM and
CHOWDER FEST
pass you by...**

**Wielders of the Word, II:
Alum and Chowder Fest**

Come meet English Department faculty and alums, who can talk with you about how they launched their careers. This year's alum speakers:

Jennifer Arneri, B.A. '99

Lawyer

Brian Shactman, M.A. '02

Sports broadcaster for Hartford's NBC affiliate

Howard Levy, B.A. '68

Poet and risk analyst

Chair's Tea

EVERYONE is welcome

3:30-4:30

Please join Professor Gertz in her office for engaging conversation, tea, and scones. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to meet our English faculty, majors, and graduate students. This semester's dates:

Thursday, February 20

Wednesday, April 2

Thursday, April 17

Higgins School of Humanities

Spring 2003 Lectures

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
For more information, call 508/793-7479

25 February, 7:30 p.m.

Lurie Conference Room

Higgins University Center

Kim Hall, "Strange and Severe Mastership": (not) Looking at Slavery in the Early Modern English Caribbean."

11 March, 7:30 p.m.

Grace Conference Room

Joseph Thompson, "Museums and Communities: The Business of Urban Revitalization."

12 March, 7:00 p.m.

The Grind

Higgins University Center

Alix Olsen, Slam-poetry artist,
Performing samples of her work

18-20 March

Wielders of the Word Festival

26 March, 7:30 p.m.

Tilton Hall

Higgins University Center

Ralph Melson, "False Papers: the Tension between Testimony and Story in a Holocaust Memoir."

1-6 April

Jefferson Academic Ctr, Rm 320

Eighth Annual Latino Film Festival

1 April, 7:30 p.m.

Grace Conference Room

Michel Crepu, "A French View of American Paradox."

10 April, 7:30 p.m.

Harrington House

130 Woodland Street

Lewis Gordon, "DuBois, Fanon and the Blues as Indication of Social Health."

FACULTY NEWS

Professor Fern Johnson

"Gendered Voices in Children's Television Advertising" by Professor Fern Johnson and Karen Young, was recently published in *Critical Studies in Media Communication*.

Professor Imraan Coovadia

Just out too is Professor Imraan Coovadia's article, "George Eliot's Realism and Adam Smith," which came out with *Studies in English Literature 1500-1900*.

Professor SunHee Kim Gertz

In January, Professor SunHee Kim Gertz's book, *Echoes and Reflections: Memory and Memorials in Ovid and Marie de France* was published by Rodopi Press.

Professor Winston Napier

Professor Napier is teaching the course *Harlem Renaissance Literary Culture*, February 13-27 at the *Worcester Art Museum*. A primary purpose of this class is to introduce

students to the emergence and development of Harlem Renaissance aesthetic thought as it evolved between 1920 and 1935. The class will include a tour of the special exhibition, *Harlem Renaissance and its Legacy*.

Poetry Reading Friday, February 21 7:00 p.m. by Dr. Lea Graham

and Mike Land. at Emmanuel d'Alzon Library, first floor, at Assumption College, 500 Salisbury Street, Worcester.

In Memoriam...

It has been nearly a year since Charles S. Blinderman's memorial service and the establishment of the *Charles S. Blinderman Undergraduate Research Fund*. The fund was established by Clark University with the blessings of Charles' family and was made possible upon a generous donation from a long-time friend of Professor Blinderman

The fund will serve as a lasting memorial to Charles' years of elbow teaching with undergraduates, who worked with him in his scholarly activities. Each year the endowment hopes to provide one or more students who share Charles' interdisciplinary interests with funding for summer research.

If you wish to contribute to this fund, please make checks payable to Clark University and send to: The Charles S. Blinderman Endowment Fund, c/o the English Department, Clark University, 950 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01610.

ENGLISH MAJOR NEWS

Margaret Majewski, a Clark English major is currently fulfilling her teaching practicum at South High Community School in Worcester, by teaching three classes of tenth and eleventh graders. While teaching a unit on poetry, she assigned her students to write their own poems, similar to the style of Willie Perdomo's "See Saw." Among the many wonderful poems the students wrote, these three by tenth grade Goddard Scholars students Emily McKee, Thuy Nguyen, and Chantay Smith are re-printed here.

See-Saw

By Emily McKee

Two years and a little more,
Playing on my see-saw.
See a stranger in the mirror
Saw myself suffering.
Trying to match that immortal reflection,
Yet failing every time.

My distorted image
Blinded my mind
Weakened my heart.
Hourglass figures,
Flawless faces...
That was the only image I was able to see clear.
Yet I, myself was merely a blur.

I go up in a rage,
And come down
In a rainstorm.
I go up in a rage,
And come down
In a rainstorm.

I go up in a rage
Filled with Emptiness
And a shallow satisfaction
Knowing that the rainfall
Will pour down like hail soon.
My see-saw is an addiction
Up down,
Up down.
As long as my legs push me up,
I will continue to tumble,
Yet twice as far.

I go up in a rage,
And come down
In a rainstorm.
I go up in a rage,
And come down
In a rainstorm.

See-saws trap you
In a back and forth dream.
Never to be let out of your endless nightmare.
You have to be pushed off
Into reality,

Shatter that mirror
In which you hold so true.
Build yourself a canvas,
Paint the real you.

Roller Coaster

By Chantay Smith

As the ride begins
I'm excited and happy
Riding on this roller coaster
Get me going crazy
I became lazy.
Roller is the name
Coaster is the game
Here we go with the same oh same

My feelings are always the same
Others never complain
Men just say it's PMS
Women say it's a lot of stress
Men sway their hands in the air
And enjoy the ride
Women don't really care
They keep their heads at their side

I go around in a loop
And come down in a swoop.
I go around in a loop
And come down in a swoop.

I do my regular routine
Going to a fro
Just making a big scene
Hoping I don't start to scream
The ride is almost over
Just a couple more of...

...I go around in a loop
And come down in a swoop
I go around in a loop
And come down in a swoop.

Now I'm at the amusement park
I'm on the roller coaster
It's tall and dark
But now I don't
Make any kind of a scene
And I don't dare scream.

See Saw
By Thuy Nguyen

Spent four months
And a few weeks
Sitting on my see-saw
See if I could hang on
Saw that I have already slipped

Never thought that we weren't
Meant to be
But now things are changed
We have grown so far apart

We blow up in flames
And simmer down
In a pile of ashes
We blow up in flames
And simmer down
In a pile of ashes

I go to the computer
And start to type
My mind unfolds on the screen
I run through memory land
And think of all the tears and giggles
Of all the nights and afternoons

We blow up in flames
And simmer down
In a pile of ashes
We blow up in flames
And simmer down
In a pile of ashes

So many letters
I wanted to give you
But always too afraid to reveal my
feelings
I guess that's what broke us apart
All the screaming and crying
Arguments and disagreements

We blow up in flames
And simmer down
In a pile of ashes
We blow up in flames
And simmer down
In a pile of ashes

I tell myself
That we both will overcome
This obstacle
Maybe we won't go through the gates
together
But we'll see each other on the other side

Alice Higgins Scholar Program

WHO? To all Junior majors in the humanities—English, Foreign Languages, History, Philosophy, and Visual and Performing Arts.

WHAT? The Alice Higgins School of the Humanities Steering Committee has designated a fund of \$5,000 annually to support undergraduate honors thesis research and undergraduate independent research projects in the Humanities.

WHY? To encourage honors and independent research in the Humanities. Say you want to explore archives in Texas to research the Hispanic response to the Spanish-American War; or you want to produce a booklet of your poetry, based on an independent study with your English professor. Or you'd like to produce a video as part of your honors work or independent study. The Alice Higgins Scholar program may be able to provide financial support. Last year the Higgins School chose three Alice Higgins Scholars. Lauren Goode (English) received funding for work on an original screenplay, Christina Rizzo (English) attended a summer poetry workshop, and Natalia Karoway-Waterhouse (Studio Art) used Higgins funding to assemble a photography portfolio.

HOW? Each applicant must write a brief proposal (1-2 pages) outlining the purposes of the project and include a detailed budget. In addition, you must provide a letter of support from the faculty member who will be supervising your research, as well as a grade transcript. Based on the strength of their proposals and academic record and the amount of funds requested, up to three applicants may be designated Alice Higgins Scholars in the Humanities for the following academic year.

WHEN? Applications will be due on **Friday, March 21**, at the Higgins School of the Humanities office, 2nd floor of the Carriage House. Funds will be available beginning June 1, 2003.

MORE INFORMATION: Virginia Vaughan, Director of the Higgins School of the Humanities, will be happy to answer any questions that you have about this opportunity. Please feel free to contact her at Vvaughan@clarku.edu or at extension 7641 or 7144.

GRADUATE STUDENT BUSINESS

Graduate Representatives for Department Meetings

Olga Malinovskaya
Dagmar Lonien

Graduate Student Council Representatives

Sadie Virtue
Natalie Muhllberger

Colloquium Refreshment Coordinator

Xianghui Xing

Spring 2003 Departmental Colloquia

14 FEBRUARY

Himilce Novas, Bill Tapply

28 FEBRUARY

Nickesia Gordon, Karsten Fitz

11 APRIL

Sadie Virtue, Olga Malinovskaya

18 APRIL

Adam Greenberg, Dagmar Lonien,
Xianghui Xing

Melanie Brezniak who passed her oral exam December 6 and will soon be receiving her degree. Her thesis is entitled, *"The Natural Vocation of Women": Deviant Maternity in Nineteenth-Century British Fiction.*

FROM THE CHAIR

The New Year has already proven to be quite busy, especially with the wonderful contributions to our program made by the four short-listed candidates applying for our new position in Ethnic American literature. As you know, we are very happy to welcome Betsy Huang as a result of our search.

The position in Ethnic American literature was actually approved last year. At that time, the Department had agreed that this position, among other things, would help even more to reflect our student body in what we teach. In addition, we hope that new and different conversations about and centered in literature will be encouraged by our new hire--not only about Ethnic American literature, but also about the whole range of literature. For what a new field can offer is not merely knowledge; it can also offer the opportunity to look at the traditional, the already known, from different perspectives. We look forward to such conversations.

Watch out for announcements for a variety of events-it promises to be a good semester. And please send me feedback about them, about what you'd like to see happen, and/or about items of interest either directly to me sgertz@clarku.edu or through our Junior and Senior Representatives to the Chair, David Hahn dhahn@clarku.edu and Christine Rizzo crizzo@clarku.edu .

Have a good semester!

SunHee Kim Gertz

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FACULTY

John J. Conron, Ph.D.

Professor of English. Professor Conron researches and teaches 20th-century American literature (painting, photography, architecture and landscape architecture, literature and film) and relations between American art and culture.

Imraan Coovadia, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of English. Professor Coovadia studies 18th- and 19th-century British literature and culture. He is particularly interested in intersections between literary texts and concurrent developments in politics, sociology, and economics.

James P. Elliott, Ph.D.

Associate 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.

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.

Winston Napier, Ph.D.

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

Heather Roberts, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of English. Professor Roberts specializes in the study of pre-1865 American literature, history and culture. Her research explores the role of fiction in cultural production.

Stanley Sultan, Ph.D.

(holding no classes - Spring 2003)

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.

Andrea B. and Peter D. Klein '64 Distinguished Professor, 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 seventeenth century to the present. She teaches courses in Shakespeare at the introductory and advanced level in addition to the seminar "Studies in the Renaissance."

Jim Adams, M.A.

Expository Writing
Writing Race, Eth. & Am. Ident..

Louis Bastien, Ph.D.

Intro to Literature & Composition
Intro to Shakespeare
Fabulae: Genre of Romance
Mythopoetics

Jim Dempsey, M.A.

Feature Writing II

Anne Geller, Ph.D.

Literacy, Learning, Writing

Lea Graham, Ph.D.

English Poetry

Diane Moul, Ph.D.

Intro to Literature & Composition

Himilce Novas, A.B.D.

Introduction to Screen Writing

Jen Plante, M.A.

Intro to Literature & Composition

Bill Tapply, M.A.T.

Expository Writing
Creative Writing: Fiction
Writing for Magazines

Lucilia Valerio, Ph.D.

Intro to Literature & Composition
Introduction to Women Writers II

David Williams, M.A.

The Essay: Reading & Writing

Office Hours

There are copies of faculty office hours outside the lounge and seminar room I. Please help yourself.

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).

Emeriti Faculty

Jesse C. Cunningham, Ph.D.

History of the novel

Serena Hilsinger, Ph.D.

Modernist literature and women writers.