



## DEPARTMENT NEWS

### ***English Majors— You're Invited to a Writing Workshop***

All English majors who want to improve their writing are welcome.

Meredith Neuman and Jennifer Plante will work with students on common errors and challenges in writing the English research paper.



#### **English Department Anderson House Leir I**

##### **Session 1**

Monday, February 11  
6:30-9:30 p.m.

\*Please RSVP to Engug@clarku.edu by February 4th for this session.

##### **Session 2**

Friday, February 22  
2:00-5:00 p.m.

\*Please RSVP to Engug@clarku.edu by February 15th for this session.



#### **Inside this issue:**

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\*So that we may better assist you, please tell us what aspect(s) of your writing you would most like to improve (be specific).

### **7th Annual Undergraduate Shakespeare Conference of New England Saturday, April 19, 2008**

Don't miss the Central Massachusetts Undergraduate Shakespeare Conference, convening this year on Saturday, April 19th, from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Worcester State College in Worcester, MA.

Students from various consortium institutions will present research projects and papers on the writings of William Shakespeare. The theme for the conference is "Shakespeare: The Natural, The Unnatural, The Supernatural"

Register and submit proposals online at [www.worcester.edu/Shakespeare/](http://www.worcester.edu/Shakespeare/)

Sponsored by: Colleges of Worcester Consortium, Inc.  
For more information, e-mail Dr. Sharon Yang, [syang@worcester.edu](mailto:syang@worcester.edu)

### ***Caesura Looking for Submissions***

*Caesura*, Clark's Literary Magazine, invites submissions (short stories, poetry, non-fiction). Submissions can be e-mailed to [caesura@clarku.edu](mailto:caesura@clarku.edu).

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

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### FROM THE CHAIR



Welcome back to the snowy “spring’ semester! I hope you all had a refreshing holiday and that you greet the New Year with enthusiasm. I’m glad to say I do, mainly because I was forced to take a holiday from WORK in late December when my brother from California and his wife were visiting. Instead of working, we went to the movies. Now normally I don’t have the opportunity to keep up with current films. During the summer when I have time, the pickings look pretty slim. When the good movies hit the theatres in late fall and winter break, I’m working under a research deadline or grading papers. But clearly I should go to the movies more often. It is such a joy to sit back in the dark and immerse yourself in another world, especially if the film challenges your imagination or tickles your funny bone. I saw three films in the last two weeks: *Atonement*, *Juno*, and *Charlie Wilson’s War*. Each was enjoyable, but in a different way.

My goal here is not to become a movie reviewer, but to pass on a suggestion from our undergraduate student representatives to the Chair, Matt Pettengill and Adam Kraus.

We propose that each faculty member in our department host a movie night in the Basement Lounge, show her or his favorite film, and lead a discussion afterwards. The Department will spring for soft drinks and popcorn. Perhaps some of you can suggest movies that you would like to see and discuss. If so, let your advisor know of your interest, and as soon as we can assemble a schedule, we’ll post it around Anderson House.

Now I suppose we had all better get back to work!

Have a great semester!

Virginia Vaughan

*Senior Representative to the Chair is Matt Pettengill*

*Junior Representative to the Chair is Adam Kraus*

### English Department Wassail Party in December



We’re on the web! [www.clarku.edu/english](http://www.clarku.edu/english)

Clark University, Department of English, 950 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01610

Undergraduate—phone: 508-793-7142, email: [engUG@clarku.edu](mailto:engUG@clarku.edu) Graduate—phone: 508-793-7630, email: [engMA@clarku.edu](mailto:engMA@clarku.edu)

## English Department Writing Contests

**DEADLINE: Friday, February 15, 2007, 12:00 NOON—no exceptions**

Open to all Clark undergraduate students, including matriculated COPACE students

- **Loring H. and Ruth Dodd Drama Contest** (Prize: \$250) Maximum of ONE one-act play, not to exceed 25 pages, per student. Entries must be in standard playwriting form.
- **Prentiss Cheney Hoyt Poetry Contest** (Prizes: \$50/\$100/\$250) Maximum of five poems per student.
- **Betty '79 & Stanley Sultan Short Story Contest** (Prizes: \$50/\$100/\$250) Maximum of ONE story per student, not to exceed 5,000 words.
- **Leroy Allston Ames Contest** (Prize: \$250) for best essay on the literature and/or history of England from 1750 to 1900. Maximum of ONE essay per student.

### RULES

1. All submissions must be the original work of the student. All entries must be unsigned. No handwritten or electronic entries will be accepted. TWO COPIES of each entry must be hand delivered to the English Department Office between February 1 and 15, 2008. Do not place entry/entries in an envelope.
2. On a separate piece of paper, write the title or first line of the entry, together with your name, year in school, e-mail address, campus box number, and phone number. Place this piece of paper in a sealed envelope and write the name of the contest on the outside of the envelope. Use a separate envelope for each contest. **Missing information will disqualify your entry.**
3. Both the unsigned entry and the sealed envelope must be dropped off at the English Department office by the deadline date.
4. NO entries will be returned. The English Department may present or publish winning entries. Contest winners will be invited to post their winning entries at Academic Spree Day.
5. If, in the opinion of the judges, none of the entries in a particular category is deserving of a prize, none shall be awarded.

For further information, please check our website: [www.clarku.edu/english/undergraduatecontests.cfm](http://www.clarku.edu/english/undergraduatecontests.cfm) or come to the English Department office.

### English Department Blog With Professor Jay Elliott

Jay Elliott has initiated a blog linked to the English Department website. As the list of contributing post-



ers grows, you will be able to see all kinds of interesting material directly and indirectly related to the Department, its faculty, staff and students. Log on and join the fun, enter whatever comments you want, and see what's happening around the English House. You can access the blog directly through

[clarkenglishblog.blogspot.com](http://clarkenglishblog.blogspot.com).

### Professor Emeritus Stanley Sultan To have book published

Emeritus Professor Stanley Sultan has completed his most recent book, *Three Histories of Modernist Writers*, and it will be published by the Edwin Mellen Press during the Spring.

Its 20-page double-column Index was compiled by Jennifer Plante, M.A. '00, Interim Director of the Writing Center, who had also compiled the Index for Professor Sultan's last book. During the process, your editor, Terri Rutkiewicz, was enlisted to translate Jen's PC drafts to MAC and send them to Stan's desk-top.

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## DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY NEWS

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### Higgins School of Humanities Faculty Lecture Series Difficult Dialogues

**Betsy Huang**

**Thursday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Razzo Hall, Traina Center for the Arts**

**“The Day After Tomorrow– Film Screening and panel discussion”**

*The Day After Tomorrow* is a roller coaster ride that boasts pulse-pounding action and special effects. After the screening, a panel of Clark faculty including **Scott Hendricks** (Philosophy), **Betsy Huang** (English), and **Stephanie Larrieux** (Screen Studies), will lead a discussion.



**Winfried Herget**

**Wednesday, March 19th at 1:30 p.m.**

**Leir I, Anderson House**

**“Contemporary American Literature”**

Emeritus Professor **Winfried Herget**, Universitaet Mainz, is considered to be one of the founders of American Studies in the German academic scene and is widely known and respected for his work. All are welcome to attend his presentation to the Department Colloquium.

### From English Major Samantha (Sam) Keefe

This past summer I wanted to do a bit of research to bulk up my resume, graduate school applications, and to have a good excuse not to work so many hours at my summer job that I hated so desperately. (I should note here that if you are an English major at Clark and want a great excuse to take fewer hours at your summer job—whoops, I meant to say “if you want to enrich your mind”—it’s very easy to get a professor to help you create a research project. You can even get paid for this project or do it for course credit.) I went to Professor Neuman, whom I was taking a class with last spring term and asked about doing a little research for her. She suggested I do some work in Boston at the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Doing research at any kind of historical archive as an English student may seem counterintuitive, but it’s actually something more people should consider. You can study the history and publication process of texts, you can study very old texts themselves, and you get to have the librarians at your beck and call. (Ok, that’s a bad reason to do anything, but it is kind of an ego boost.) All kidding aside, though, doing research at a historical archive offers one pretty awesome benefit: you are more likely to come up with your own original idea. You aren’t studying texts that are established in the canon. To borrow from Robert Frost, you’re taking the road less travelled. This gives you more freedom academically and you are more likely to be creating a research project nobody has ever done before. How’s that for an enriching research experience?

My research project at the Massachusetts Historical Society began with very broad guidelines: I wanted to learn about early American Magazines. After poking around in some books about that topic, I narrowed my subject down to a profile of the first *Worcester Magazine*. You should take a few things away from this story: 1. You don’t need to know exactly what you are researching when you walk in the door of an historical archive. The research process is about developing your topic as you go. 2. You can study stuff that’s local and relevant to you, just like studying *Worcester Magazine* was interesting to me as a temporary Worcesterite. 3. Think small, not big. Your

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topic doesn't have to be earth-shattering for your research to be intriguing and relevant.

To take a peek at my research, click on the link located on my entry on the English Department Blog: [clarkenglishblog.blogspot.com](http://clarkenglishblog.blogspot.com). If you think you'd like to give researching at an historical archive a shot, check out the guide I created to the etiquette and the research process you should use when you go to one. And remember, you don't have to suffer long hours at that boring summer job—just ask a professor to pay you a little moolah to do research at an historical archive. I guarantee you won't have to ask anyone if they'd like fries with that!

## FACULTY NEWS

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### Virginia Vaughan Reads Her Essay as Part of the Worcester Woman's History Project

On Thursday, Feb. 7, English professor and department chair Virginia Mason Vaughan will read her essay, "Making Shakespeare American," from "Shakespeare in American Life," a catalog she co-edited with Alden Vaughan, at the Worcester Public Library.

Professor Vaughan's reading will be part of a Worcester Women's History Project/Women in Print event, held from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. in the Saxe Room in the Main branch of the Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Square, Worcester. For more information, call Judy Finkel at 508-767-1852.

### James Dempsey Publishes Chaucer Translation



English professor James Dempsey recently published "The Court Poetry of Chaucer" (The Edwin Mellen Press 2007), a side-by-side translation.

The literary magazine *Diner* interviewed him on the subject and positive reviews of the book include one by Bob Williams of *TheCompulsiveReader.com*: "With the original easily available, the reader can with only slight adjustment connect to the original. If Dempsey's version is a crutch, it is a comfortable and useful one. The versification is consistent and its occasional use of phrases with a modern topical allusions is amusing, a kind of sly wit that Chaucer would appreciate."

Dempsey was also featured in Pulse magazine's "Focus on Faculty" section in the November issue.

### Lisa Kasmer Awarded Visiting Fellowship

English professor Lisa Kasmer was awarded a visiting fellowship at Chawton House Library in Hampshire, England, during the spring 2008 semester. The fellowship provides access to the Chawton House Library—which includes one of the largest collections of early English women's writing—and accommodations in England, as well as academic support from the University of Southampton.

During her fellowship, Kasmer will complete research on her book project, "Novel Histories: British Women Writing History, 1760-1840." She will also give a talk on her research and participate in other academic activities at the University of Southampton.



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## NEWS FROM OUR ALUMS

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**Jason Feifer, B.A., '02**, is associate editor of *Boston* magazine, previously working for the *Worcester Telegram and Gazette*, *New York Times* and *Washington Post*. Jason has offered for any students interested in journalism to feel free to contact him at [jfeifer@bostonmagazine.com](mailto:jfeifer@bostonmagazine.com)

**Sarah Lennox, M.A., '08**, will be presenting her thesis research at the 2008 NEMLA convention in Buffalo. Sarah is presenting research on Victorian approaches to physiognomy.

**Laurie Ousley, B.A., '97**, was recently made Director of Liberal Arts at Trocaire College in Buffalo, New York. In addition, Laurie has written numerous articles and has recently completed a book.

**James Smith, M.A., '91**, is an associate professor in the English and Irish Studies Program at Boston College. Jim has recently published a book titled, *Ireland's Magdalen Laundries and the Nation's Architecture of Containment* (see below).

**Tina Tuminella, M.A., '01**, Has recently become engaged and is planning a September wedding. The matron of honor will be another alum, **Monica Hiller Gebell, M.A. '97**. Tina is currently the Assistant Director of Alumni Relations at Washington and Jefferson College, her alma mater.

### *Writers Among Us* Boston College Readings

Featuring Alumnus James Smith, M.A. '91

Reading from *Ireland's Magdalen Laundries and the Nation's Architecture of Containment*



Tuesday, February 5, 2008  
7:00 pm  
Boston College  
Gasson 305, Chestnut Hill MA

"Smith reads from his new work, a study of the controversial workhouses where socially marginalized and so-called 'fallen' women and girls were confined throughout the 19th and 20th centuries in Ireland. The *Irish Times* called the book 'balanced and compassionate, sensitive to the injustices done to these women in the laundries but scrupulous in terms of historical and archival research.'"

Marianne Bolger, vice consul for the Consulate General of Ireland in Boston, will provide an introduction to the reading.

Visitor parking in Commonwealth Garage / area map at [www.bc.edu/campusmaps.com](http://www.bc.edu/campusmaps.com)  
for more information, please email [carlisll@bc.edu](mailto:carlisll@bc.edu) or call 617-552-4576

Sponsored by Boston College Magazine and the Irish Studies Program

## Susan Munro, B.A. '05, is on the move again

From Susan: **Happy New Year: Santiago Style**  
December 29, 2007

Hey there - it's that time of year again...the time when Susan kicks the dirt from her heels and stuffs her life into a backpack and sets out in search of newer and greater adventures. This time, it's South America. I leave New Hampshire tomorrow morning for sunny Santiago de Chile! Yippee! I have a return ticket from Mexico City and a year in which to use it...it's gonna be good. I'm hoping to do some writing, improve my Spanish, and spend time hiking and volunteering up and down the Cordillera de los Andes from Patagonia all the way up through Ecuador and beyond. I'm starting the trip with a good kiwi friend, Angus, and after New Year's in Santiago, will head to Pucon to his uncle's farm. After that, the plans are vague, and the time frame depends on how far I can make my \$

## UNIVERSITY NEWS

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### Fourth Annual Hervey Ross Oratorical Contest: Call for Entries

Clark's Annual Oratorical Contest, sponsored by Hervey Ross '50, is focused on the art of public speaking and oratory.

The year 2007 marked the bicentenary of the abolition of slavery in the U.K. The theme of this year's contest is "Equality, Justice, Freedom."

#### Prizes

1st prize: \$500  
2nd prize: \$250  
3rd prize: \$100  
Audience-favorite prize: \$150

#### Eligibility

The competition is open to all Clark undergraduate students.

#### Guidelines

Students present a 5-7 minute speech originally performed by any public figure, domestic or international. This includes candidates for office as well as those involved in political movements.

#### Submission

Interested students **should contact Professor Gino DiIorio by Feb. 15 at [GDIORIO@clarku.edu](mailto:GDIORIO@clarku.edu) and include your name, address, e-mail address, phone number and two speeches being considered for presentation. Please pick your first and second choices, as we do not want students performing the same material.**

There will be a preliminary round to reduce the field to a final eight contestants. The preliminary round will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 27, in Atwood Hall.

The final presentation will be held on the evening of Tuesday, April 8, in Razzo Hall.

The speech does not have to be memorized. Students may use note cards for their presentation. Multimedia, slides and sound effects are not permitted. There will be a microphone for students who decide to use it. This is not the time to perform an imitation of a historical figure. Rather, students will be judged on their presentation and interpretation skills.

There will be a panel of at least three judges whose decision will be final. Students submitting applications will be kept apprised of developments and other guideline issues as they come up.

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## GRADUATE BUSINESS

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### From the Director of Graduate Studies in English



Writing from Europe in December 2007, and projecting what it might be like in February 2008, when you get your next issue of *The English Times*, I know I hope you had a good start and that 2008 will be an excellent year. I'm struck, aided by the distance and a less hectic frame of mind, by how well universities in general thrive, and how much energy is expended on the mission of higher education at Clark in particular. Most particularly, it is somewhat amazing, and wonderful, how well Clark's English Department is doing, especially considering its small (read "intimate") size. I mean, after all, universities (still) don't make much business sense from a hard numbers point of view.

As much as there still needs to be done to improve the institution, higher education is, in a sense, a modern miracle. For centuries, advanced education was more contained--there were established canons for the privileged, who could feel secure in having "mastered" knowledge and how to acquire it. When upstarts like Socrates came along, he may have enchanted his students, but his apparent privileging of thinking and searching for wisdom certainly did not please the authorities in Athens. Such tensions have probably always defined the path to knowledge. When Ovid, who had done his Grecian study abroad tour as part of his advanced education, didn't dance to Augustus's tune in Rome (we're not exactly sure which tune the emperor couldn't abide), he was exiled. In the Middle Ages, systems looking a bit more like our European universities emerged, but, like Abaelard, a number of free thinkers had to recant or suffer the anger of the Church. When the Lollards demanded that the Bible be translated into English in the fourteenth century, they found somewhat more tolerance and were clearly more influential, partly because of social changes, partly because of English traditions, and partly because of the patronage of educated nobles, such as Edward III's son, John of Gaunt. Universities in the U.S. started out, like Clark, as graduate schools, similar to their European counterparts. More recently, U.S. universities opened up for members of lower socio-economic classes, who found support through various government programs led by idealistic, knowledgeable (wise) people. More recently still, we suggest that mastery of a single canon is no longer the measure of an educated individual; in addition to a body of knowledge, thinking and learning are. Painted with a large brush, this is, I believe, an evolution that went well.

With the freedoms we have nowadays, it behooves us to remember how important higher education is--to challenge not just to challenge, but to become adept at the art of how to think and to learn. With such valuable possibilities available for so many different kinds of people, we should remember that higher education is indeed a privilege, but also a responsibility. It is important, having partaken of this privilege, that we assume the responsibility of helping to improve our societies. I hope we will.

Have a great semester!

SunHee Kim Gertz

*Josh Flaccavento and Nikki Rabin are the graduate reps. to department meetings*

*Zac Bellino and Josh Flaccavento are reps. to the graduate student council meetings*

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**Spring 2008 English Department Colloquia  
Anderson House  
Leir I**

**February 6, 1:30 p.m.**

[SunHee Kim Gertz](#), Professor, Submitting Articles or Conference Papers

**February 13, 3:00 p.m.**

[Hyeyoung Kim](#), Graduate Student, TBA

[Jay Elliott](#), Professor of English, TBA

**February 20, 1:30 p.m.**

[Christoph Lanzen](#), Graduate Student, TBA

**March 12, 3:00 p.m.**

[Dayoung Chung](#), Graduate Student, TBA

[Josh Flaccavento](#), Graduate Student, "The Fall of the Fourth Wall"

**March 19, 1:30 p.m.**

[Michelle Simon](#), Graduate Student, TBA

[Winfried Herget](#), Professor, TBA

**April 2, 3:00 p.m.**

[Nicole Dellasanta](#), Graduate Student, TBA

[Stanley Sultan](#), Professor, TBA

**April 9, 1:30 p.m.**

[Dania Dwyer](#), Graduate Student, TBA

[Jenny Provo](#), Graduate Student, "Postcolonial-Irish Americans"

[Jackie Penny](#), Graduate Student, TBA

**Congratulations to the Following M.A. Candidates  
Who Passed Their Oral Defenses and Have Received Their Degrees:**

**Sarah Lennox**, September 12, 2007, "My Dear—Don't Look so Ugly!": Physiognomy and Gender Transgression in *The Mill on the Floss* and *The Woman in White*"

**Jane Lindelof**, November 7, 2007, "Undoing Uncertainty: Expressions of Anxiety in Puritan Writing"

**Emily McGinn**, November 9, 2007, "Toward a Literary Universe: The Convergence of Non-Linear Science and Narrative Theory in Jorg Luis Borges's *El Aleph*, *Funes el memorioso* and *El jardín de senderos que se bifurcan*"

**Bei Zhang**, December 11, 2007, "Asian Images in Advertising and the Crisis of Asian American Identities"

**Graduate Student Council Announces Sixth Annual Multidisciplinary Conference**

The Sixth Annual Graduate Student Multidisciplinary Conference will be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2008. A call for papers and posters is issued to all Graduate Students in every department to present their research at this event.

If you wish to present a paper or poster please submit your proposal online at <http://www.clarku.edu/students/gsc/index.html?index2.html&2>.

For complete details on how to apply for a travel award (which requires you to present at the Graduate Student Multidisciplinary in April) please visit <http://www.clarku.edu/students/gsc/index.html?index2.html&2>. The deadline for submission of proposals is February 4, while the deadlines for application materials concerning travel awards are February 4 and 11 respectively.

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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 over twenty years.

### SunHee Kim Gertz, Ph.D.

Professor of English, Director of Graduate Studies in English. 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.

(on sabbatical AY 2007-2008)

Professor of English. Professor Johnson is a sociolinguist specializing in the study of gender, race, and culture in language.

### Lisa Kasmer, Ph.D.

(on sabbatical AY 2007-2008)

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.

### Stephen Levin, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of English. Professor Levin specializes in contemporary British and postcolonial literature, transnational cultural studies, and critical and literary theory.

### 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.

### Meredith Neuman, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of English. Professor Neuman teaches and researches in the fields of early and nineteenth-century American literature.

### Virginia M. Vaughan, Ph.D.

Professor of English, Department Chair. 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.

### Jessica Bane-Robert, M.F.A.

Introduction to Literature  
Expository Writing  
Writing: Sense of Place

### President John Bassett, Ph.D.

Not teaching AY 2007-08

### Louis Bastien, Ph.D.

Introduction to Literature  
Major British Writers II  
Mythopoeics

### Adria Bernardi, M.A.

Creative Writing: Fiction

### Gino DiIorio, M.F.A.

Director, Theatre Arts Program

Playwriting

Advanced Playwriting Workshop

### Michael Eldridge, S.A.G.

Introduction to Screen Writing

### Jennifer Gjulameti, A.B.D.

Introduction to Literature

### Ethan Myers, M.A.

Introduction to Literature

### Jen Plante, M.A.

Interim Director of the Writing Center

& Writing Program

Writing: The Beats

### Aimee Sands, M.F.A.

Expository Writing

### D. L. Stephenson, Ph.D.

Culture and the News

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

Advanced Fiction Writing

### Lucilia Valerio, Ph.D.

Introduction to Literature  
Survey of Women Writers II

### Scott Zoback, M.A.

Writing for Magazines

### Emeriti Faculty

#### John Conron, Ph.D.

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

#### Serena Hilsinger, Ph.D.

Modernist literature and women writers.

#### Stanley Sultan, Ph.D.

Poetry, fiction, and drama of modernist writers, as well as critical theory, literary history, and theoretical issues in literary history.

### The Writing Center

The Writing Center is located on the first floor of Corner House. Free one-to-one assistance for all members of the Clark community. Any writing. Any level. Any discipline. They'll work with you at any stage of the writing process. To make an appointment, call 508-793-7405 or visit [www.clarku.edu/writing](http://www.clarku.edu/writing) to learn more.

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

The 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-Friday. You may also contact Micki Davis, CEV Program Coordinator, at 508-421-3785 or [cev@clarku.edu](mailto:cev@clarku.edu).

Editor: Terri Rutkiewicz

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