



DEPARTMENT / UNIVERSITY NEWS

Chair's Tea

EVERYONE is welcome
December 5
3:30-4:30

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

**Studying Abroad or
Interning
Next Semester?**

Remember, we welcome hearing from you while you're studying abroad or interning. Please contact Terri (508-793-7142), or simply e-mail trutkiewicz@clarku.edu, if you would like to submit a "foreign correspondent's" viewpoint to *The English Times*.

**Junior and Senior
Reps to the Chair**

Junior **David Hahn** and Senior **Christina Rizzo**, the Junior and Senior Representatives to the Chair are trying to get interested students to form an English Club and may be contacting you soon. If you're interested, you can reach them at dhahn@clarku.edu and crizzo@clarku.edu respectively.

ALUM NEWS

Congratulations to Jennifer Arnieri, '99, who just graduated from law school and passed the bar exam.

FACULTY NEWS**Professor Imraan
Coovadia's**

first novel, *The Wedding*, just came out in paperback, which comes as no surprise to us. The novel was the runner-up for the *Sunday Times Fiction Award* in July, South Africa's highest literary prize, as well as a finalist (one of six) for the *Connecticut Book Award*, to be announced this month, and also a contestant for the *IMPAC Dublin International Literary Award*.

Professor Jay Elliott
Will read his story
"Aunt Ruth"
Wednesday, 19 January,
2:00-4:00 p.m.
Tatnuck Bookseller
335 Chandler Street
Worcester, MA

Professor Elliott will be joining a group of authors who are reading their pieces from a new book, *KnitLit: Sweaters and Their Stories*. After the readings, all the contributors, as well as the editor, will sign copies. For more information, please visit KnitLit's website at www.knitlit.com.

**Tower Hill Botanic
Garden Lecture Series
Tuesday Evenings at 7:00
January 14**

James Dempsey

"A Person. A Place. A Plant"

For more information on this lecture by one of our journalism faculty, call the Tower Hill Botanic Education Office at 508-869-6111.

**May Term 2003
in Luxembourg
May 11 -June 7**

Undergraduates may again study in the heart of western Europe in 2003, during Clark University's May Term in Luxembourg. By offering three courses in Munsbach, in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the *Leir Center in Luxembourg-Clark University* continues to help develop international perspectives for Clark faculty and students. Applications are due in the Office of Study Abroad Programs by **Thursday, January 30**.

The courses offered this term are **Cultural Psychology of Urban Living**, taught by Clark's Professor and Chair of Psychology, Jaan Valsiner; **France and Germany: From Enmity to Friendship**, taught by Professor Eckhard Bernstein of Holy Cross; and **Retreat for Actors**, taught by Clark's Theater Professor Ray Munro. Contact the Study Abroad Office (793-7363) for more information.



Graduate Representatives for Department Meetings

Olga Malinovskaya
Dagmar Lonien

Graduate Student Council Representatives

Sadie Virtue
Natalie Muhlberger

Colloquium Refreshment Coordinator

Xianghui Xing



FROM THE CHAIR

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have passed, and many of you still studying at Clark will be cajoling yourselves to prepare for your final exams and papers.

To be sure, there are reasons enough to be distracted, for those of us still at Clark, as well as for our alums. As tensions mount geopolitically (surely exacerbated by the rumors of war sounded in the media) and more businesses lose ground, our lives may seem less firm and more subject to caprice, especially if we personally are affected by the vagaries of what we call “the economy.” When even United Airlines is on the brink of bankruptcy, for example, we may find ourselves agreeing with Chaucer’s Egeus, who had seen much change in his life, both good and bad, only to proclaim that the world is a thoroughfare of woe, and we are but pilgrims journeying back and forth in it. Or, as stated in the far more poetic original: Egeus “. . .knew this worldes transmutacioun, / As he hadde seyn it change bothe up and down,/ Joye after wo, and wo after gladnesse, / [he seyde] . . .” This world nys but a thurghfare ful of wo,/ And we been pilgrymes, passyng to and fro.” (*The Knight’s Tale*, 2839-2849).

It never ceases to amaze me, though, how even in the darkest times, writers never cease to write, artists never cease to create. And just as with Chaucer, many of them don’t create as their “job”; they create in addition to working in other more or less money-making positions. Perhaps more astounding, their audiences don’t cease to be moved by their efforts--it may actually be that literature and art are even more necessary in such times, for communication of values beyond the day-to-day does seem more critical. Some may label our participation in the arts as an indulgence or an escape, but I think there’s more than that involved. Whether we read or view *The Lord of the Rings*, for example, we may very well “indulge” or “escape” from our tasks for a few hours, but we may also very well emerge with a strengthened sense of our commitment to certain values which we cherish, such as (I know the terms sound antique, but I find them nonetheless appropriate:) the battle of good and evil.

It is important, to be sure, to be attentive to the darker notes heard nowadays, as registered in our own individual lives as well as in our world. But to be able to function effectively, it is just as important, it seems to me, to make sure we listen to other tones as well. It helps me to remember, for example, that Egeus’ voice, as poetic and convincing as it is, is only one among the many in Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*. Moreover, I find it an enrichment that even a 21st-century movie-maker can find inspiration from *The Knight’s Tale* to translate it into a more optimistic mix of medieval and contemporary mores.

So, good luck with your final papers and exams. Let me know if you enjoyed part 2 of *The Lord of the Rings*, and don’t forget the last Chair’s Tea of the semester: Thursday, December 5th!

SunHee Kim Gertz
Chair of English



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FACULTY

[John J. Conron, Ph.D.](#)

(on leave - Fall 2002)

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.](#)

(on leave - 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

[Louis Bastien, Ph.D.](#)

Intro to Literature & Composition
Intro to Medieval Literature

[Tim Connolly, M.A.](#)

News Writing

[Jim Dempsey, M.A.](#)

Feature Writing

[Lea Graham, Ph.D.](#)

English Poetry

[Hillary Joyce-Scott, M.F.A.](#)

Expository Writing

[Peggy Kocoras, M.A.](#)

Intro to Literature & Composition

[Diane Moul, Ph.D.](#)

Intro to Literature & Composition

[Jen Plante, M.A.](#)

Expository Writing

[Bill Tapply, M.A.T.](#)

Expository Writing

[Lucilia Valerio, Ph.D.](#)

Intro to Literature & Composition
Introduction to Women Writers

[Chris Weinmann, Ph.D.](#)

Expository Writing

[David Williams, M.A.](#)

Expository Writing
The Essay: Reading & Writing
Creative Writing: Poetry

[Bernie Kaplan, Ph.D.](#)

Professor emeritus of psychology
Interpretation of Dreams

[Lawrence Langer, Ph.D.](#)

Strassler Distinguished Visiting
Professor in the Strassler Family
Center for Holocaust and
Genocide Studies

Voices from the Holocaust

Office Hours

There are copies of faculty office hours outside seminar room II. 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.