



## DEPARTMENT NEWS

### Faculty Search is Over

The English Department has concluded the search for a new full-time faculty member in antebellum American literature and will be welcoming **Meredith Neuman** as our newest tenure-track faculty member in the fall. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles.

### Clark University Undergraduate Writing Workshop to be Held April 23

Like to write? Like to learn? Now's your chance to spend a day writing and learning. Junior and Senior Representatives to the Chair, Nick Delaini and Susan Munroe have organized this day-long event of learning and creative writing.

The poetry and fiction workshops will be conducted by Professors Jay Elliott, Lea Graham, Adria Bernardi, and Lee Rudolph.

Breakfast, lunch, and refreshments will be provided.

For this event, however, you must register.

**REGISTRATION** will be held in the University Center **March 28-April 1** or by contacting Nick (x2226) or Susan (x2245). There is a \$5 registration fee.

The workshop is open to 40 undergraduates on a first-come, first-served basis...so register early!

This event is supported by the English Department, the Higgins School of Humanities, and Student Council.

### Chair's Tea

EVERYONE is welcome. Please join Professor Gertz **3:30-4:30 in her office Thursday, March 24 and Tuesday, April 26** for 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.

### Professor Stanley Sultan "Retiring"

Please join the English Department in honoring Professor Sultan on Wednesday, April 20. The celebration will be held in the Winton Faculty Dining Room, Higgins University Center, from 4-6 p.m.

Of course, we all know Professor Sultan can't give up teaching so easily, so he will still be teaching one course each Fall semester for the next two years.

### Jennifer Williamson to Attend Fourth Annual Undergraduate Shakespeare Conference

Jennifer Williamson's paper has been accepted for the consortium-wide Undergraduate Shakespeare Conference being held April 9 at The College of the Holy Cross.

### Inside this issue:

- 1
  - New Faculty Member Meredith Neuman
  - Undergraduate Poetry/Fiction Workshop
  - Professor Sultan Retiring
- 2
  - From the Chair
- 3
  - Higgins School of Humanities Events
- 4
  - Faculty News
  - Alumnae/i News
- 5
  - Graduate Student Business

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## FROM THE CHAIR



*Where life comes to literature*

As many of you know, the English Department had launched an international search to hire a scholar in Antebellum American literature this year. I am very happy to inform you that we were successful in hiring the candidate whom we--and quite a few of the top experts in the field--consider to be the top junior scholar in her area of expertise in the nation. If you were able to meet Meredith Neuman during her on-campus interview, you certainly are aware of her intelligence, sense of humor, enthusiasm, and other engaging qualities. Let me give you some additional information.

Very unusual for an Americanist, Dr. Neuman received her B.A. in Classical Languages and Literature from the University of Chicago before turning to American literature for her Ph.D., which she earned from UCLA's English Department in August 2004. Her dissertation is entitled, "Publishing Prophecy: Experience and Exegesis in Seventeenth-Century New England Sermon Literature." Currently, she is doing research at the Clark Memorial Library in Los Angeles on an Ahmanson-Getty Postdoctoral Fellowship.

While these facts are impressive, more impressive still are the types of comments made by her many referees. While I am not able to quote any individual scholar in full or identify any of them for you, I will give you a sampling of their comments. One, for example, wrote, "She can certainly teach all of American literature down to 1900, with enthusiasm and authority ... [Moreover,]... she's one of the two or three more serious and best qualified Early Americanists whose work I have [read] in thirty-five years of graduate teaching." Another scholar writes, "Ms. Neuman brings to her work that special blend of scholarship and human understanding that characterizes the best cultural historians." I had been particularly intrigued by this comment, "I have not seen this degree of intellectual radiance in a long time," until I met Dr. Neuman. Then I saw what this referee means. And while we are thrilled that "Ms. Neuman is an uncommonly gifted and thoughtful critic," we are equally happy that, "Meredith Neuman's approach to undergraduate education is like a Frank Gehry building. She believes in teaching the fundamental structures of literature--prosody, genre, conventional devices, historical context--but she uses innovative teaching methods and applies the latest concepts of history, literature and culture."

I encourage you continuing English majors and graduate students to introduce yourselves to her and take her courses when she settles in at Clark in August 2005. And for alums returning to campus, drop in and welcome her to the English Department community.

Professor SunHee Kim Gertz  
Professor and Chair of English

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## DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY NEWS

### Higgins School of Humanities Spring Events Series 2005

**March 24 MAP ART**

4:30 p.m. **Traina Center for the Arts**

In conjunction with the special Gallery exhibition *Mapping*, artist and writer **Denis Wood**, author of *The Power of Maps*, will speak on the relationship between maps and contemporary art.

**March 29 Willem Klooster**, Assistant Professor of History

4:30 p.m. **Lurie Conference Room**

Professor Klooster asks whether Dutch America was a model of toleration in the 17th and 18th centuries; he focuses on the religious minorities who settled in the New World in large numbers, to escape religious persecution in Europe.

**April 10 Americans who tell the Truth**

4:00 p.m. **Traina Center for the Arts**

Painter **Robert Shetterly**, will discuss the series of over sixty portraits he has created over the last three years, portraits of Americans who have distinguished themselves by speaking out with honesty and courage in service of tolerance, civility, justice, and compassion.

**April 11 On the Open Space of Democracy**

7:30 p.m. **Traina Center for the Arts**

Award-winning environmentalist, writer, and naturalist Terry Tempest Williams offers a personal perspective on the ethics and politics of place, spiritual democracy and the responsibilities of citizen engagement.

### Marc Zagelbaum has Three Papers Accepted

Marc presented his first paper, "The Confused Mindset: Hitchcock's Interplay of Illusive Distortions, Terror Formations and Psychological Transformations in *Vertigo*" March 3, 2005 at the Fifth Annual Conference of the Graduate Humanities Forum, *Collecting the Unconscious Reflections on Sleep and Dreams* held at the University of Pennsylvania.

Marc will present his second paper, "The Disastrous Dream of Capitalism: F. Scott Fitzgerald's Use of Ambivalence and Irony in *The Great Gatsby*," at the Marxist Reading Group's 7th Annual conference, *Grave ReMarx: The Accumulating Dead*. The conference is being held March 24-26 at the University of Florida.

Finally, Marc will present "Transforming the Oedipal Order of Humanity: Ralph Ellison's Reformulation of Freudian Psychology in *Invisible Man*," his third paper, at Penn State University's conference, *Celebrating the African American Novel: Critical Visions and Revisions of its Past and Present*. The conference is being held April 1-2.

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## FACULTY NEWS

### Professor Tapply to Speak at Goddard Library

Professor Tapply will be speaking at Goddard Library **April 7 at 7 p.m.** on the art of writing. For more information, contact Rachel Shea at the library (793-7582).

### Professor Tapply Featured at a Book Signing/Reading

At a reading held at Tatnuck Bookseller on March 22, Clark faculty member, Bill Tapply, was featured with two other mystery writers. He read from and signed copies of his two latest novels, *Second Sight* and *Bitch Creek*.

### Professor Vaughan has New Book Coming Out

*Performing Blackness on English Stages, 1500-1800* will be coming out in May by Cambridge University Press. Her book examines early modern English actors' impersonations of black Africans.

### In Memoriam: Professor Emeritus Jesse Cunningham Clark University English Department 1957-1975

Professor Cunningham had an unusual academic trajectory, earning her first Ph.B. from the University of Chicago in 1948, followed by her A.M. degree in 1952, and finally a Ph.D. in 1969. She was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and received a special fellowship in the Humanities from the University of Chicago. Her area of expertise was the Victorian era.

Professor Cunningham was described by one of her Chairs, William H. Carter, Jr., as "an unbelievably hardworking, conscientious teacher and committee woman." A former student, Dr. Louis Bastien, who participated in her *Brontes and Hardy* seminar, writes that she "was fascinated with English fiction and her enthusiasm for the material came through in her classes. She was always unassuming, decent, and jovial. She was always also approachable; she received you with good grace and good humor. . .She was also a kind of pioneer. . .she was the first female professor of this department (she even won the "Man of the Year" award once!)."

## ALUMNAE/I NEWS

### What you're doing...

Let us know what **you're** doing.  
Send us an email and we'll include  
your news in our next issue.

**Andrew Leader, BA '03**, is an underwriting assistant in the insurance industry for H.T. Bailey, a company specializing in underwriting difficult-to-place, moderate to high hazard risks that other markets are unwilling or unable to consider.

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To find more information  
about Professor Tapply  
and his whereabouts,  
check out his website at  
[www.williamgtapply.com](http://www.williamgtapply.com)

## GRADUATE STUDENT BUSINESS

### Spring 2005 Colloquia Leir Seminar I 2:30 p.m.

April 6

Marina Mertens,  
Jean-Paul Breaux  
Meghan Gayton

April 27

Joseph Flis  
Sascha Zivkovic  
Sebastian Fett  
Stephanie Kader

### Stephanie Kader Invited to Two Conferences

Stephanie Kader served as a panelist earlier this month at a Fulbright conference, *Achieving Gender Equity in Education and the Workplace*. The conference was held in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Her paper on Fandom and Feminist Science Fiction was accepted at WisCon, the feminist Science Fiction Conference in Madison, Wisconsin. The conference will be held Memorial Day weekend.

*Graduate Reps for department meetings are Jordan Demaio and Trisha Wooldridge.*

### Congratulations to MA Candidates Barbara Haaf and Shitao Liu

who passed their oral exams and will soon be receiving their degrees:

**Barbara Haaf**, “Willa Cather’s *My Antonia*—a Literary Impressionism”

**Shitao Liu**, “Between Wor(l)ds—Chinese Language and Culture in *The Woman Warrior* and *The Joy Luck Club*”

*Graduate Student Council Reps are Jan Herbst and Sascha Zivkovic.*

## DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY NEWS

### First Hervey Ross Oratorical Contest is Held at Clark University

Alumnus Hervey Ross sponsored the first oratorical contest at Clark University February 22 at Razzo Hall. The contest was focused on the art of public speaking and oratory and was open to all Clark students. The theme was “Speeches from the American Politic, pre-1964.”

English Major, Susan Munroe won third prize by presenting Patrick Henry’s speech from 1775, “Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death.”

### Congratulations to Marc Zaglebaum

who was accepted to the MA programs at Binghamton University, SUNY Buffalo and SUNY Stony Brook.

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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

### Louis Bastien, Ph.D.

Intro to Literature & Composition  
Drama in the Western Tradition  
Mythopoetics

### Michael Eldridge, Ph.D.

Documentary Writing

### Anne Geller, Ph.D., Director of the Writing Center & Writing Program

Writing Out Loud

### Lea Graham, Ph.D.

Writing on Travel  
Intro to Literature & Composition  
English Poetry I

### Diane Moul, Ph.D.

Intro. to Literature & Composition

### Jen Plante, M.A.

Writing: The Beats  
Intro to Literature & Composition

### Heather Roberts, Ph.D.

Intro to Literature & Composition

### 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 Literature & Composition  
Women Writers II

### **Emeriti Faculty**

#### **John Conron, Ph.D.**

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

#### **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 call Allison Schei at 508-421-3785 for an appointment.

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

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