



# CLARK UNIVERSITY

# ENGLISH TIMES

VOLUME VII, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 13, 2003

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

### English Department Faculty Search

The English Department is conducting a search for a new full-time faculty member in 19<sup>th</sup> Century British Literature, with demonstrated interest in 18<sup>th</sup>-century British literature, as well as in interdisciplinary approaches and/or literary theory. Undergraduate and graduate students are strongly encouraged to attend the finalists' presentations next semester. Keep on the lookout for updates.

### Chair's Tea

**EVERYONE is welcome**

Please join Professor Gertz **3:30-4:30** in her office on **October 16** and **November 21** for engaging conversation, tea and scones. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know Professor Gertz and to meet other English faculty, majors, and graduate students.

### The English Department Welcomes Betsy Huang

The English Department is proud to welcome **Betsy Huang** as our newest tenure-track faculty member. She comes to us from the University of Rochester, where she studied English and American Literature. She researches and teaches representations of ethnic and racial identities in 20<sup>th</sup>-century American literature and popular culture.

### Writers' Club For Students & By Students

Come and read your writing to other students and hear their commentary on your work. In return, hearing what other students are writing can be an inspiring experience. The group is open to all forms of writing and all students. We meet Wednesday evenings at 7:00 in the Anderson House basement lounge. Please contact Nicole Rabin at [nrabin@clarku.edu](mailto:nrabin@clarku.edu) for more information.

### Fall Convocation 2003 Awards

#### University Honor Societies

Gryphon and Pleiades

Christina Brown

Fiat Lux

Christina Brown

Cathryn Morse

Anton Fellows

Kriti Gaur

David Hahn

Margaret Bethray

#### Student Summer Research & Internship Awards

Higgins School of Humanities-Alice

Higgins Scholar

Margaret Bethray

#### Student Awards

Prentice Cheney Hoyt Poetry Contest

Margaret Bethray (first prize)

Short Story Contest

Gregory Dufresne (first prize)

Amanda Manly (second prize)

Adrian Alexander (third prize)

#### Faculty Awards

Outstanding Teacher Award

Heather Roberts

University Senior Faculty

Fellowship Award

SunHee Kim Gertz

Hodgkins Junior Faculty Award

Heather Roberts

### Did You Know...

The English Department's web site will soon have a Ms. Academic Manners button so students can learn about academic "dos" and "don'ts," such as how to request a letter of recommendation. Please check it out and give us your feedback.

### Shakespeare Film Festival

Professor Vaughan will be showing films in her Advanced Shakespeare class this semester. Videos will be shown **on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. in the Anderson House basement lounge**. Students and staff who are not in the seminar are nonetheless cordially invited to attend.

**23 October**

Roman Polanski's "Macbeth"

**30 October**

Michael Bogdanov's "Macbeth"

**6 November**

"King Lear" with Laurence Olivier

**13 November**

"King Lear" with Ian Holm

**20 November**

"Antony and Cleopatra" with Janet Suzman



## FROM THE CHAIR

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Hi Everyone,

By now (right around mid-terms, of course), you should be well enough settled with your classes and living situations to be able to take stock and become involved in any number of events, issues, and activities as well as study for your classes. At least, I hope so.

Assuming the best, I want to let you know that we have a few events scheduled for this academic year, which I hope you will plan on attending. For example, the Higgins School of the Humanities and the English Department are sponsoring a diverse and fascinating group of speakers; candidates for our new position in 19th century British literature will give talks to the Department in January and February; I will host monthly Chair's Teas; and we will celebrate our 4th annual Alum and Chowder Fest in March. I hope you'll attend these and other Department activities and that you will get in touch with me (sgertz@clarku.edu), especially if you have particular interest in one or more of the above.

But let me focus now on two student-generated events. The first one was initiated by one of our majors, Nicole Rabin (nrabin@clarku.edu), who would like to get a creative writing group together to meet weekly to read and comment on each other's writing. The initial meeting was already scheduled, but if you're interested, please let Nicole know. We are offering the English Department's "Undergraduate Salon" as a meeting place.

The second event was envisioned by our Senior and Junior Representatives to the Chair, David Hahn (dhahn@clarku.edu) and Susan Munroe (smunroe@clarku.edu). For April 7th (April 14th, in case of inclement weather), David and Susan want to organize a group reading of a short novel, possibly *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. The idea is that individuals will volunteer to read the novel aloud from beginning to end for half-hour or hour segments. We could start at about 11:30 and go on to early evening. Susan and David plan to hold the event on the green around Red Square. So, please get in touch with them if you'd like to participate, suggest another novel, or have any additional suggestions about a reading.

Finally, if you would like to organize an event that may be of interest to majors and minors (the current political situation, for example, seems to be a fertile area), let me know. Perhaps, we can help.

All the Best for a stimulating semester,

SunHee Kim Gertz  
Professor and Chair of English

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## DEPARTMENT / UNIVERSITY NEWS

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### Movie Screening of "Who Killed Vincent Chin?"

Thursday, October 30 at 6:00 p.m.

### Dana Commons Multicultural Center Resource Room

This Academy-Award nominated film relates the stark facts surrounding the 1982 killing of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American auto engineer, by Ron Ebens, a Chrysler Motors foreman. The film documents the details of the fight between the two men that led Ebens to bludgeon Chin to death with a baseball bat, as well as the ensuing trial in which Ebens was let off with a suspended sentence and a small fine. An outraged Asian-American community organized an unprecedented civil rights protest, in which Chin's bereaved mother, brought up to be self-effacing, successfully led a nationwide crusade for a retrial. **This event is organized by the Asian Culture Society and co-sponsored by the English Department. Professor Betsy Huang, English Department,** and members of the ACS will facilitate a discussion following the screening.

# DEPARTMENT / UNIVERSITY NEWS

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## New Areas of Specialization

Because of student interest, in April, the English Department agreed to add three new *Areas of Specialization* to the major:

*Specialization in Creative Writing or Journalism* (Advisors: Professors Elliott and Gertz)

*Specialization in Drama and Theater* (Advisors: Professors Vaughan and Gertz)

*Specialization in Community Service* (Advisors: Professors Roberts and Gertz)

While you can get more details from your advisor about any of these new *Areas of Specialization*, the one that is not immediately obvious is the last one, so just a few words about it:

Because students have expressed an interest in community service, we started looking at the possible relationship between community service and our major. We started with the idea that any desire to participate in community service probably has narrative origins; the wish to help others, the hope to change society--these goals are conveyed to us by stories. So, there is a strong, if not obvious, link. But in order for majors to help others in an effective manner, in addition to the Department's core courses, we thought it would be important for those who specialize in community service to get some grounding in public policy, modes of action, as well as ethnic literature. That's the rationale for the required courses. For the internship, we hope to tailor students' interests with a variety of community services through Adriane van Gils' office. We could see, for example, literacy programs becoming very important.

In any case, we hope that you will be interested in all three of these *Areas of Specialization*. Any feedback you can give us would be appreciated (sgertz@clarku.edu).

## Work-Study Students

Edie and Terri are very happy to have three highly capable work-study students in the English Department office: **Deirdre Gleason, Sarah Nelson, and Christy Tavarez.** **Lydia Bennett** is studying abroad this year at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

## Junior and Senior Representatives to the Chair

Junior: Susan Munroe  
Senior: David Hahn

## Senior Honors Students

The following students have been accepted into the senior honors program in English: **Michelle Astor** with advisor Heather Roberts, **Jennifer Archibald** with advisor Heather Roberts, **Margaret Bethray** with advisor Virginia Vaughan, **Joseph Flis** with advisor Virginia Vaughan, **Bridget Martin** with advisor SunHee Kim Gertz. **Cathryn Morse** with advisor James Elliott, **Sarah Ralston** with advisor Heather Roberts, and **Edward Soufer** with advisor SunHee Kim Gertz.

## Verene Parker, Univ. of East Anglia Exchange Student

The English Department is hosting **Verene Parker** from the United Kingdom during 2003-2004, as part of a special arrangement with the University of East Anglia.

## Higgins School of Humanities

### Fall Events Series 2003

**FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

### African American Intellectual Culture Series

**28 October**

7:30 p.m. Harrington House  
Ethelbert Miller, Director, African American Research Center, Howard University: "Islam and African American Poetry"

**10 November**

7:30 p.m. Lurie Conference Room  
Anthony Browne, Assistant Professor, Department of Africana and Puerto Rican/Latino Studies, Hunter College, CUNY: "Sociology, Hip Hop and the Post Civil Rights Era"

### Higgins Modern Poetry Series

**6 November**

7:30 p.m. Grace Conference Room  
Robert Cording, English Professor And James N. and Sara O'Reilly Barrett, Chair of creative writing at Holy Cross College: Reading from his work

## Cathryn Morse receives the Gertrude and William Brodie Endowed Award

Through the generosity of the Brodie and Golub families and their friends, the Gertrude and William Brodie Endowed Award has become a means for recognizing an exceptional English major every year. In remembering Gertrude and William Brodie with this award, the donors hope to focus their dedication to furthering scholarly excellence to all levels of society in one of the academy's critical disciplines.

# DEPARTMENT / UNIVERSITY NEWS

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## New / Rare Courses For Spring 2004

### **ENG 143 Terrible Beauty: Art of Tragedy** **TF 2:50-4:05, Mr. Bastien**

Examines the historical evolution of tragedy and its central place in Western literary expression. Beginning with the three classical examples, Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, we trace tragedy through Roman closet drama (Seneca), Renaissance masters (Shakespeare), and European interpretations (Racine, Schiller), to both modern experimental tragedy (Miller) and modern attempts to revive the classical model (Eliot).

Crosslisted under TA143.

### **ENG 270 African-American Novel of Satire** **W 6-9pm, Mr. Napier**

Offers a survey of the emergence and development of the African American satirical novel from 1936 to the present. Students will have the opportunity to study selected works which black writers have produced to critique with disparaging humor the absurdities of inter-racism, intra-racism and other forms of social folly and injustice. As such students will explore how black novelists use satire to produce socio-cultural commentary in a manner theoretically distinct from that located in the traditional black protest novel.

### **ENG 207 Writing the Novel II** **F 1:25-4:25, Mr. Tapply**

The second semester of this two-semester will focus on regular productive writing. At the end of the course, students will have completed a significant beginning to their novel. Students are not required to take both semesters, but if they choose to take only the second one, they need permission of the instructor.

### **ENG 276** **Ethnic America: Literary & Theoretical Perspectives** **M 2:50-5:50, Ms. Huang**

Investigates the ways in which the "American" and the "ethnic" continue to be perceived as mutually exclusive identity categories in contemporary American fiction. Despite the nation's longstanding history as a nation of immigrants and its forecasted future as the most multiethnic and multilingual country in the world, America continues to resist the incorporation of its ethnic populations through overt and covert means of division, estrangement, and alienation. Students will read a wide range of texts by "ethnic" and "non-ethnic" writers and theorists to explore the ways in which the nation's ethnic constituents are continually changing its social, political,

and cultural landscapes as well as the definitions of its national identity.

### **ENG/COMM 252 Cultural Discourses of Advertising** **MW 12:00-1:15, Ms. Johnson**

The course focuses on the ways in which the verbal text of advertising draws upon, circulates, and creates new cultural codes. Patterns and codes of "verbal imaging" that structure ads will be explored in the context of visual properties and intertextualities making up the larger discourses of advertising. Emphasis is on the relationship of advertising text to larger cultural discourses and ideology. Prerequisite: COMM 101

## Communication Majors Scholarship Opportunity

Full or part-time students majoring in a communications field are currently invited to apply for two \$500 scholarships. The Society of Professional Communicators (SPC), a Worcester-based independent association for communication professionals, is offering its first-ever Elaine Cencak Memorial Scholarship to benefit the future communicators in the Worcester College community.

Criteria for applying are as follows: Applicant must:

- be a full or part-time college student *majoring* in a communications field
- be currently enrolled as a sophomore, junior, or first-semester senior
- attend a member institution of the Colleges of the Worcester Consortium
- cannot be a current member of the Society of Professional Communicators

All applications must be returned by Friday, November 21st. Both winners will also receive a one-year free membership to SPC, providing the opportunity to explore an array of career paths and the chance to find an internship or employment upon graduation.

The application form can be downloaded from the SPC website, [www.spcgroup.org](http://www.spcgroup.org).

SPC established the scholarship to commemorate its fiftieth anniversary, which was celebrated during its 2001-2002 membership year. The award is named for Elaine Cencak, who devoted her energies to promoting and firmly rooting SPC in Central Massachusetts. Its 70 members include freelancers as well as communicators who work within for-profit and not-for-profit organizations. Visit its web site at [www.spcgroup.org](http://www.spcgroup.org) for more information.



## Fall 2003 Departmental Colloquia/ Higgins Lecture Schedule

Colloquia are held at 2:30 in Leir Seminar I unless otherwise noted.

**15 OCTOBER**

**Higgins lecture**

**Leir Seminar I 2:30**

Professor Udo Hebel, University of Regensburg, Germany, “‘Tangible Republic’ to Imperial Spectacle: The Hotel worlds of Steven Millhauser’s *Martin Dressler: The Tale of an American Dreamer* (1996)”

**28 OCTOBER**

**Higgins lecture**

**Harrington House 7:30**

Ethelbert Miller, Howard University, “Islam and African American Poetry”

**29 OCTOBER**

**colloquium**

Jay Elliott TBA

Bill Tapply will read from his work-in-progress

**5 NOVEMBER**

**colloquium**

Pre-professional meeting

Denise Robertson, Graduate School, on formatting the thesis Mary-Jo Arn (Medieval Academy) Professional Journals—What are They: and How to Submit Articles

**6 NOVEMBER**

**Higgins lecture**

**Grace Conference Room 7:30**

Robert Cording, Holy Cross College, will read from his work.

**10 NOVEMBER**

**Higgins lecture**

**Lurie Conference Room 7:30**

Anthony Brown, Hunter College CUNY, “Sociology, Hip Hop and the Post Civil Rights Era”

**19 NOVEMBER**

**colloquium**

Emily Darling tentatively on the Lord of Misrule

Carle Johnson, Worcester County Poetry Association, on Robert Frost

Lea Graham “So the Walls”; a reading of her own poetry

## Graduate Reps. for Department Meetings

Matt Gilbert and Jordan DeMaio

## Graduate Student Council Reps.

Shiva Aliabadi and Nicole Ming

## Returning

## DAAD Scholar

## Natalie Mühlberger

Natalie is a returning DAAD Scholar and is also a teaching assistant this year. The Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (German Academic Exchange Service) is Germany’s elite international organization, somewhat akin to our Fulbright Commission. Their students are expected to become leading scholars and professionals. The DAAD sponsors their time abroad in order to deepen their knowledge and experience base as they complete their graduate degrees.

## Returning Graduate Students

\*\*Matthew Gilbert

\*\*Natalie Mühlberger

Michael O’Sullivan

\*\*Laura Putnam

## New Graduate Students

Daniel Alford

\*Shiva Aliabadi

\*\*Jean-Paul Breaux

Emily Darling

\*Jordan DeMaio  
Susaye Gayle  
Marybeth Gordon  
Jessica Kosowski  
Nicole Ming  
Holly Moren  
Bassanti Pathak  
Kristen Sixbey  
Christina Wagner  
Chengcheng Wang  
Ashlye Warner

\*\*Teaching Assistant

\* Lector

## Fulbright Scholars Bassanti Pathak, & Christina Wagner

Bassanti and Christina are two of our incoming graduate students, who are sponsored by the German-American Fulbright Commission. The German-American Fulbright Commission is a bi-national agency funded by the U.S. and German governments serving to promote academic and cultural exchange between Germany and the U.S.A. Their grantees are scholars of high achievement and have been selected to make valuable academic and cultural contributions to their American host institutions.

## Congratulations to Olga Malinovskaya

who passed her oral exam and received her degree at commencement May 22, 2003.

## Congratulations to The Following MA Candidates

who passed their oral exams and will be receiving their degrees in October 2003:

**Nickesia Gordon**  
**Sadie Virtue**  
**ZhenNing Mao**  
**Xianghui Xing**



## Professor SunHee Kim Gertz has been named the University Senior Faculty Fellow for 2003-04

Her award was presented at fall convocation by Dean Nancy Budwig of the Graduate Studies and Research Office. The criteria for receiving this award are excellence in teaching and excellence in scholarship.

## Colby Quarterly Publishes Article by Professor Elliott

Professor James Elliott's article, "Doubling": Sarah Orne Jewett's *The Country of the Pointed Firs* as Artistic Bildungsroman" was published in the June 2003 edition of *Colby Quarterly*.

Professor Stanley Sultan's book, *Joyce's Metamorphosis*, was favorably reviewed in English Literature in Transition: 1880-1920.

## Congratulations to Heather Roberts

Who was elected to UAB in April. As a member of UAB, Prof. Roberts will be able to help shape undergraduate curricular issues.

## From *The Union Leader*, Manchester, NH, September 27, 2003: Mystery Author in Town

About a dozen devotees of New England novelist William Tapply's Brady Coyne mysteries were treated Thursday night at Londonderry's Leach Library to a preview by the author from his latest entry, *Shadow of Death*, coming out in November (St. Martin's Minotaur). The Coyne series centers around a Boston civil attorney who has a wealthy clientele and an uncanny knack for landing himself in the middle of murder investigations, always at his own peril. A former lifelong Massachusetts resident and now retired high school history teacher, Tapply, 63, moved with his family to Hancock last year. Tapply is also a contributing editor for *Field and Stream* magazine and teaches writing at Clark University in Worcester. *Shadow of Death*, about a female U.S. Senate candidate, her allegedly philandering husband and a private investigation into his activities that turns deadly, is Tapply's 20<sup>th</sup> novel. /

David Lazar, Union Leader Correspondent

## Criticism Publishes Article by President Bassett

President John Bassett's review on Karl F. Zender's *Faulkner and the Politics of Reading* was published in the Winter 2003 edition of *Criticism: A Quarterly for Literature and the Arts*.

# ALUM NEWS

**Congratulations to Patricia Nugent**, BA '97, who received her MSIS degree from the University of Texas at Austin in August. She also presented to the Society of Southwestern Archivists conference in the spring.

## New Arrivals

Congratulations to Tim and Laurie (Ousley) Otterson who welcomed their new son, Nels Rodger, to the world on May 21, 2003.

Congratulations to Barbara and Holger Haaf who received their package of "Joy" August 31, 2003.

Joy was also welcomed home by her big brother Merlin.

## Don't Miss Felice (Thoma) Bochman's Fall Fresco Exhibition at the Sherborn, MA Library

The Sherborn Library in Sherborn, Massachusetts (30 minutes west of Boston) is featuring the works of fresco artist Felice (Thoma) Bochman MA '95. A variety of portraits, landscapes and design elements, all executed in the beautiful and demanding medium of buon (or true) fresco will be on display. **Opening**

**reception is Saturday, October 18 at 3:00.** The show runs **October 16 – November 15.** Call 508-650-9592 for more information, or visit the web site at [www.bostonbuonfresco.com](http://www.bostonbuonfresco.com)

## Matt McAllester visits Clark University

Matt McAllester, MA '02, UN correspondent for *Newsday*, came to campus in September to give a public lecture on his experiences in Saddam's prison in March of last year and his reflections on the war and its aftermath.



## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FACULTY

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

(on leave - Fall 2003)

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

### **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.

### **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, 20<sup>th</sup> 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 2004)

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." Professor Vaughan is also Director of The Higgins School of Humanities.

### **Louis Bastien, Ph.D.**

Intro to Literature & Composition  
Intro to Medieval Literature  
Literature of the Fantastic

### **Erin Boutin, M.F.A.**

Expository Writing

### **Tim Connolly, M.A.**

News Writing

### **Jim Dempsey, M.A.**

Feature Writing

### **Ann Geller, Ph.D.**

The Essay: Reading & Writing

### **Lea Graham, Ph.D.**

Expository Writing

Creative Writing: Poetry  
English Poetry I

### **Diane Moul, Ph.D.**

Intro to Literature & Composition

### **Marsha Nourse, M.A.**

Expository Writing

### **Jen Plante, M.A.**

Expository Writing  
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

### **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.