

CLARK UNIVERSITY
ENGLISH TIMES

VOLUME VI, ISSUE 4

APRIL 29, 2003

DEPARTMENT NEWS

ENGLISH MAJORS

- Siobhan Allen
- Jacqueline Anto
- * Layla Coleman
- Patricia Conner
- * Emily Darling
- Emilie Desjardins
- Kyle Devitte
- Ross Edwards
- Alexander Goldberger
- * Lauren Goode
- Christine Holcomb
- Shahin Ismail-Beigi
- Adam Krauthamer
- Andrew Leader
- Christa Loggie
- Jeffrey Machado
- Margaret Majewski
- * Adrienne Mattern-Schain
- Emily McGinn
- Janet O'Brien
- Adam Peters
- * Christina Rizzo
- Leah Rosen
- Adam Schwartz
- Katrina Worrick

***Recipient of Departmental Honors**

ENGLISH MINORS

- Eric Greene
- Patrick Morris
- Sara Peddicord
- Amy Szetela
- Rebecca Wright

In Memoriam

Emily D. Anderson A.M. '29, a longtime major Clark supporter, died in Florida on February 23, 2003, at the remarkable age of 100. The English Department's building was named after Mrs. Anderson and her husband, Albert H. Anderson, in recognition of their generous support of the University. Although Mrs. Anderson wasn't able to visit the **Anderson House** once it became our home, she was delighted with the departmental album of photos and flyers we had given her. Clark's President John Bassett and Senior Vice President Tom Dolan '62, presented her with the English department album. President Bassett describes her in this manner: "Emily was a wonderful, erudite and sophisticated lady. Her ongoing and outstanding leadership support was most helpful and appreciated in so many ways. She was a very loyal and dedicated friend. Her death is a great loss for the entire Clark community."

A native of Massachusetts, Mrs. Anderson received a bachelor's degree from Wellesley College and a master's degree in economics from Clark in 1929. She taught at Commerce High School in Worcester. Mrs. Anderson also enjoyed bridge, and was an avid golfer who once won the Worcester County Women's Golf Championship. Emily D. Anderson was a

worldwide traveler and committed supporter of education.

**Rachel Thomasy Receives
The University of East Anglia
Exchange Program
Scholarship**

for an English major who wishes to study abroad with our partner institution in England, The University of East Anglia. Rachel Thomasy will be studying at UEA in Fall 2003.

**The English Department's
faculty and staff will host a
reception hour for graduating
English Majors & Minors and
their families
at Anderson House
Sunday, May 18
Immediately Following
Commencement**

Seniors—Don't Miss This!

Senior Brunch is served to graduating seniors by the Clark faculty, staff, and administration. This year's Senior Brunch is **Friday, May 9, 12:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the University Dining Hall**. The menu is not the traditional dining hall fare. Last year's menu included eggs benedict, stuffed French toast, cheese blintzes, fresh fruit and yogurt. **The wait staff will include Terri Rutkiewicz**

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Chair's Tea

This year's bi-monthly Chair's Tea has been a welcome site for lively conversations, tea, jam, double-cream, and scones. The majors, graduate students, and faculty who attended were never at a loss for words. If you missed the teas this past year, do try to make one of next year's teas. We'd love to see you there.

David Hahn Receives Anton Fellowship Award

The Anton Fellowship Program, created by a generous gift from Clark Alumni, Barbara J. Anton '56 and Thomas J. Anton '56, is designed to encourage and support the pursuit of original ideas, creative research, public service or enrichment projects by Clark undergraduate students. Anton Fellowships are awarded annually to approximately 10-12 students, enabling them to engage in independent study and/or travel in order to explore an intellectual interest that intrigues them or to undertake a public service project aimed at improving societal conditions. David will be studying Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and European art in museums located in England and Italy—someone has to do it.

Margaret Bethray One of Three Designated Alice Higgins Scholars for 2003-04

Margaret was awarded a program grant to help fund her research trip to the Orkney Islands.

WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

Prentiss Cheney Hoyt

Poetry Contest

- 1st: Margaret Bethray: "Bis Dat Qui Cito Dat," "Adeste Fidelis," and "The Wendy House"
2nd: Christina Rizzo: "Blood Oranges"
3rd: Kristen Bieri: "The Stairs"

Short Story Contest

- 1st: Gregory Dufresne: "The Matted Shroud"
2nd: Amanda Manley: "The Room in Miss Shelby's Basement"
3rd: Adrian Alexander: "Something to Do"

Loring Holmes & Ruth Dodd

Drama Contest

No prize awarded for 2003

Leroy Allston Ames Prize

No prize awarded for 2003

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. Check out

www.clarku.edu/departments/english

Academic Spree Day

Friday, April 25

English Department presentations

Tilton Hall Posters

Winners of the Short Story & Hoyt Poetry Contests (Sponsor Stanley Sultan)

- Margaret Bethray '04
- Christina Rizzo '03
- Kristen Bieri '03
- Gregory Dufresne '06
- Amanda Manley '05
- Adrian Alexander '05

- Layla Coleman '03: "The Relationship Between Power and Violence in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*" (sponsor Virginia Vaughan)
- Adrienne Mattern-Schain '03: "The Literature of Impoverishment: Sandra Cisneros's *The House on Mango Street* and Flannery O'Connor's 'Everything That Rises Must Converge'" (Sponsor James Elliott)
- Lauren Goode '03: "Lila's Garden: An Original Screenplay" (Sponsor James Elliott)
- Anton Fellows: Emily Darling '03 and Margaret Bethray '03 reported on their projects. Emily researched the Pied Piper legend in Transylvania, and Margaret dressed in Viking gear to relate of her findings in the UK.

GRADUATE STUDENT BUSINESS

Congratulations to four MA Candidates

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

Christopher Boone, March 21

“The Secular-Divine ‘Virgins’: Saint Mary Magdalene and Queen Elizabeth I”

Director: Virginia Vaughan

Lauren Fidler, March 24

“Like a Virgin: Images of Representation in the Mythological History of Joan of Arc”

Director: SunHee Kim Gertz

Mary Cadwallader, March 26

“Female Community in an Irish-American Novel: Mary Gordon’s *Final Payments*”

Director: John Conron

Mary Gever, March 28

“Mothering the Race: Re-definitions of motherhood in the Narratives of Hannah Crafts, Harriet Jacobs, and Frances e. W. Harper”

Director: Heather Roberts

Olga Malinovskaya, April 2

“Embedded Spaces in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*,”

You are welcome to take a look at Olga’s thesis, at

<http://olyamali.u25.acomhosting.com>

Director: SunHee Kim Gertz

Congratulations to the following Graduate Students who were accepted to Ph.D. programs:

Melanie Brezniak, University of Indiana-Bloomington
Nickesia Gordon, Howard University Communications and Culture program

Olga Malinovskaya, Oxford University

Xianghui Xing, Tufts University and State University of New York, Buffalo

FACULTY NEWS

Farewell to Imraan Coovadia

We wish Professor Imraan Coovadia well as he begins his new position in Fall 2003, at Adelphi College in New York City. He’ll be able to join his family there as well as start a new teaching career in creative writing.

Betsy Huang was Awarded the Edward Peck Curtis Award for Excellence in Teaching

by a graduate student, at the University of Rochester. She will soon be receiving her Ph.D. in English and American Literature and joining us in August as a full-time faculty member in the English Department.

Professor Jay Elliott to have a Story and Article Published

Jay Elliott’s story, “In the Zone,” will soon be published in *Elysian Fields Quarterly: The Baseball Review*. His article, “Doubling’: Sarah Orne Jewett’s *The Country of the Pointed Firs* as Artistic Bildungsroman,” is scheduled for publication in the June 2003 issue of the *Colby Quarterly*.

DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY NEWS

The following article was written for *The Scarlet* by communication and culture major **Lily Goldman**.

In one of the last stories Matt McAllester filed from Baghdad, he quotes an Iraqi soccer fan as calling out, “See you next week.” An elderly man replies, “If I’m still alive.” McAllester’s story ran in *Newsday*, a Long Island, New York-based newspaper, on March 14, 2003. Ten

days later, the *Newsday* staff did not know if Matt McAllester was still alive. He was an Iraqi prisoner.

McAllester arrived in Baghdad, Iraq before the inevitable coalition bombing of the city began. His co-worker at *Newsday*, Ellis Henican, memorialized McAllester in an editorial written during the ordeal, “Matt McAllester understood that the first rule of gripping war reporting is showing up at the war.”

McAllester wanted to show up in Iraq as a journalist. He had previously been to Iraq on assignment in 2000 and has been *Newsday's* Middle East bureau chief since 1998.

Yet, in 2003, on the brink of the second Gulf War, McAllester could not receive the proper press credentials to enter Iraq. So he entered the country as a journalist preparing to cover only the activities of human shields. After all, as his editor, Dele Olojede explained, McAllester had a “fierce passion for getting stories on the plight of the underdog or people who are under the gun.” For this passion, McAllester spent eight days in prison.

In the early hours of March 25, 2003, McAllester was in his Palestine-Meridien hotel room. The Baghdad hotel advertises 24-hour room service, a hairdresser, massage, and secretarial services, among its perks, which is likely why it was chosen to be the safe house for Western journalists. At 1 AM, he was finishing a story when there was a knock on his door. Waiting in the hallway were ten “intelligence sorts” from the Iraqi government.

The Iraqi authorities entered the room McAllester was sharing with his *Newsday* colleague, Moises Saman, and searched the equipment the journalists had with them. After securing all the interesting electronics, the Iraqis packed up McAllester's and Saman's equipment. Then they, along another Western journalist and American peace activist staying in the hotel, were led out of the hotel in handcuffs. The Iraqis took the Westerners out of the hotel through the back freight elevator. McAllester was under arrest, the guards said.

They stuffed him into a truck, which took him to Abu Ghraib prison. An Australian newspaper reports McAllester as remembering the truck's driver mumbling, “We kill, we kill.” Along with being the largest prison in the Arab world, Abu Ghraib is also infamous for its guards' maltreatment of inmates. Upon arrival at the prison, McAllester's “luggage” was “checked.”

One broad-shouldered guard harshly pulled the drawstring of his black fleece jacket around his waist “for no apparent reason.” His fleece was taken and he had to undress down to his boxers. The Iraqis took his watch and his bottle of water. The guards interrogated him, attempting to force him to sign a form in Arabic, CNN reported. Instead, McAllester wrote in English, “I was not sent here by the CIA or the Pentagon and I'm not from any mission.” Finally, the Iraqis gave him a set of blue-and-white “prison pajamas” and “flip-flops,” and two blankets.

McAllester was led to a 6” by 10” cell on the right hand side of a hallway of prison cells, where he would stay, alone, for the next eight days. Whenever the large guard walked past, McAllester avoided making eye contact. He slept on the cell's cold, concrete floor. A

small fluorescent strip light lined the ceiling. It stayed on 24 hours a day. Guards played pool at the end of the hallway every night, he remembers in a story written on April 3.

McAllester's imprisonment began during a dust storm. With daylight the second day, McAllester could see that dust had seeped through the bars of his one small window. The dust was “everywhere.” Because of the storm, the Iraqis gave him a third blanket; he was not sure if the Iraqi prisoners got extra blankets.

Meanwhile, in New York, the *Newsday* staff realized two of their reporters were missing. Henican later noted, “Just when it mattered most, a whole newspaper full of reporters and editors couldn't answer the five basic W's of their craft: Who? What? Where? When? And why? Especially why?” McAllester's and Saman's friends and family began to search for help. Saman's family contacted their West Bank relatives in an effort to connect with the Arab world where their relative was supposed to be.

In Baghdad, McAllester could feel the coalition's bombs exploding in and around the city. He was “terrified” that he might be killed or tortured, like some of the other prisoners. Later he told MSNBC that he “feared for his life every second.” At the same time, he was bored—there was nothing to do in his small concrete cell. Sometimes he would stare at the navy blue strip that decorated the walls.

For reassurance, he would tap on his adjoining wall with another captured Western journalist, Molly Bingham. When they thought the guards weren't looking, they would have quick conversations. Once, McAllester nodded at the Iraqi across the hall.

Three times a day, food was passed through the bars to McAllester. He passed his plastic bowl and mug through to receive whatever the guard was handing out. The meals were meager and unvarying. He received bread, processed cheese, and rice consistently. At lunch, he got a potato or tomato, and beans. In the evening, he got broth and a hunk of chicken.

Sometimes, he could bum a cigarette of one of the guards who spoke a little English. They were “beautiful” extra-long, super-thin Pine cigarettes. McAllester had become a heavy smoker under the stress of staying in war-imminent Iraq.

One night, McAllester wrote later, “The clicking of the pool balls...stopped.” He could hear running feet, probably boots, and shouting in the hallway. A few cells down, he heard a body fall to the concrete, and a new, fearful voice shouting. McAllester heard his hated guard's harsh voice barking in a new tone of aggression. He heard “that slightly resonant sound of flesh and bone giving way to something very hard that was moving fast.” The beating did not stop.

McAllester curled away, onto his left side to avoid seeing the beating. He was afraid of making eye contact with the guards, or having them see him watching. He was afraid of receiving the same treatment. McAllester stayed “motionless” throughout the violence. Now he regrets this; “journalists are meant to bear witness,” he wrote. “But I turned away and chose not to see a thing.”

When the beating was finally over, the guards dumped the beaten man back into his cell. “With each breath he made a sort of crying sound,” McAllester remembers. Yet, each breath meant that the man was still alive. Without his watch, McAllester could not be sure how long the beating lasted. Saman, two cells down from McAllester, reported the next day that there was blood on the floor. But the Iraqi prisoner was still alive.

In New York, Saman’s West Bank relatives had successfully rallied the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to release McAllester and his imprisoned colleagues. With pressure from the West, a chain of international commands in the Arab world also freed the Westerners. Arafat talked to his former ambassador to Iraq who talked to the head of the Iraqi military intelligence who ordered the Abu Ghraib guards to release the

Westerners, CNN reported. They had a sense that freedom was coming on Monday because the guards told them phrases like “you go home.”

On Tuesday, April 1, McAllester, Saman, Bingham, and the peace activist were suddenly released. The Iraqis stuffed them into a Chevrolet Suburban and drove them the 300 miles to the Jordanian border. At 9PM Jordanian time, McAllester was freed. First, he phoned his sister, Janey, in London, and then Olojede in New York. “We are fine. We are well,” he told Olojede.

Coming out of customs, McAllester discovered that the “world’s media seemed to be aware of” his ordeal. It was “disconcerting.” His sense as a journalist was stripped away during his imprisonment, along with his sense of self. “In the second-by-second struggle to survive, I could unhesitatingly betray the very essence of human solidarity and a deposit of guilt could be made on my soul,” McAllester wrote two days later.

Now home in Edinburgh, Scotland he reflects on his eight-day trauma. “It wasn’t much fun,” he says, his voice slightly breaking. He pauses, “Our freedom was taken away.”

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Visiting Scholar

Professor Pu Shaoxian

Professor Pu Shaoxian teaches English in the Department of Foreign Languages of Dali College in Yunnan Province of China. A visiting scholar to our English Department, Professor Pu will be here for a year to research modern American poetry, particularly that of Robert Frost. His office, the Scholars Room, is located in Anderson House. You may leave a message for him with the Department office (793-7142).

Professor Pu’s work in progress compares the poetry of Robert Frost with that of Luxun, a well-known Chinese writer. The project is sponsored by the Yunan Education Council of China. Each year the Council launches a research fund program of higher education, selecting fifty teachers among hundreds of university applicants and sending them

abroad for academic research in countries pertinent to their areas of interest.

English Department

Fall 2003 New/Rare Courses

ENG 146 **Oliver Twisted: The Literature of the Fantastic**

This course investigates the development of the idea of the fantastic in both modern and postmodern fictions. From the theoretical considerations of such critics as Todorov, we read through texts that exemplify the variegated modes the fantastic can take, from the “ghost story” (Blackwood), fantasy (Ursula Le Guin), science fiction (Ballard), and fairy tale (Angela Carter), to “magical realism” (Marquez), the utopian/dystopian novel (Atwood), and the “experimental” fiction of Borges, Calvino, and Barthelme. **Mr. Bastien**/Offered every other year.

ENG 206 **Writing the Novel**

This course is for students who are serious about writing a novel. In a workshop format, we will explore the elements of long fiction (character, plot, theme, setting, etc.), writing styles and techniques, and issues such as giving and receiving criticism, revising, and overcoming writer’s block. The first semester will focus on assembling the universal elements of fiction into an integrated concept for a novel. Students are not required to take both semesters. **Mr. Tapply**/Offered every other year.

ENG 279 **Fictions in Asian America**

With particular emphasis on the multiple meanings of “fiction,” this seminar examines the ways in which the Asian American identity is constructed, imagined, and contested in American literature

and popular culture. Texts for the course include a wide range of works by writers, filmmakers, and critics of Asian and non-Asian descent to reflect the broad scope of cultural, historical, and theoretical perspectives on Asian American representations. Analyses will focus primarily on how texts and films produced within the last decade maintain or challenge established boundaries of the Asian American identity. Students must also attend scheduled film screenings and actively participate in the online class discussion list. **Ms. Huang**/Offered every other year

ENG 282 Studies in 19th-Century American Literature

This course has evolved into historical analysis of canonized and non-canonized American works from the second half of the 19th century. Historical contexts will be

examined to explore the progression of interpretations directed at these works up to the present time. **Mr. Elliott** / Offered periodically

From the English Major Handbook

Three new areas of specialization

Area of Specialization: Community Service

Faculty Advisors: Heather Roberts and SunHee Kim Gertz

- * two courses in Ethnic American Literature
- Modern Political Literature
- IDCE 131: Local Action, Global Change (Laura Hammond)
- Govt 154: The Politics of Public Policy in the U.S. (Brian Cook)
- A Service Internship (Laurie Ross and Adriane van Gils)

Area of Specialization: Drama and Theater

Faculty Advisors: Virginia Vaughan and SunHee Kim Gertz

- Introduction to Shakespeare
- Shakespeare from Page to Stage
- TA 144: Drama of the Western Tradition OR new course on Tragedy
- TA 112 The Creative Actor (Ray Munro, Gino DiIorio)
- two other courses approved by the Faculty Advisors

Area of Specialization: Creative Writing or Journalism

Faculty Advisors: Jay Elliott and SunHee Kim Gertz

- a poetry course
- one additional genre course
- four creative writing or journalism courses approved by the Faculty Advisors

FROM THE CHAIR

It's been a truly eventful academic year, beginning in corporate scandals and culminating in a war that is not yet over and whose outcomes we cannot yet ascertain. This year's geopolitical unrest has affected our lives in numerous ways, from our concerns about people and victims embroiled in the war to experiencing a variety of professionally unsettling circumstances. Our lives seem vulnerable and uncertain, but even in this gloomy and frightening framework, we can also rejoice in individual stories, such as Clark English M.A. Matt MacAllester's release from an Iraqi prison, where he had been held for eight days after having been arrested for his journalistic activity in Baghdad during the war.

Like Matt, at the *Wielders of the Word* event this March, novelists, poets, and professionals attested to the importance of becoming deeply familiar with literary texts. Not only does reading literature offer insights, knowledge, and solace, the English major *per se* allows individuals to acquire critical analytical skills along with the ability to express significant themes in writing, skills that are crucial in many different professions of today's world. Moreover, as the speakers attested, our love for literature allows us to create spaces that help us understand our world and our places in it.

In these times, for example, it's important, I think, to dedicate ourselves even more strongly to one of our stated goals--to internationalize the department. To that end, the agreements we made with a variety of European universities, the Fulbright Commission in Berlin, and the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (an institution similar to the Fulbright Commission) have allowed us to welcome some of Europe's best international students to our MA program. Soon, we hope, we'll be bringing international undergraduates studying in Luxembourg to our department as well. Clark English majors, on the other hand, can rely on our program with the University of East Anglia, for which we have a scholarship award, as well as on our London Internship Program to gain different, but similar, kinds of insights abroad. Ideally, studying with intelligent international students, whether here or abroad, will allow us to deepen our perspectives on literature as well as our understanding of the world.

Consonant with our goal of internationalizing the department is our attempt to understand how the US and its literature have evolved through the contributions of many nations, a fact that many may wish to marginalize in the rush to war. Thus, we are particularly happy that, joining our Department this coming Fall and complementing the Franklin E. Frazier Professor Winston Napier's area of expertise in African American literature, will be our new hire, Assistant Professor Betsy Huang, who specializes in Asian American literature and ethnic literary theory.

As we look back on tumultuous times, we can also, thankfully, pick out bright spots, instances that allow us to look forward to an enriching year. Have a wonderful summer, and keep in touch.

SunHee Kim Gertz
Chair, Department of English

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FACULTY

John J. Conron, Ph.D.

(on leave Fall 2003)

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 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."

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
Mythopoeics

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 Leir Seminar 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.