GOING PROFESSIONAL: JOB PLACEMENTS 2008

With MLA interviews and campus flybacks now behind them, seven USC English graduate students have landed tenure-track positions across the nation, as well as one postdoctoral fellowship.

First to hear good news was Michael Blackie, Ph.D. 2004, and current assistant director of the Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics. He will assume a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Biomedical Humanities at Hiram College’s Center for Literature, Medicine, and Biomedical Humanities; the position is a perfect match for his research interests in literature and medicine. One of his responsibilities will be the editorial of the Literature and Medicine book series published out of Kent State University Press. Blackie's dissertation, “Rest Cures: The Narrative Life of a Medical Practice,” was directed by Joseph Boone.

The recipient of three job offers, Jennifer Kwon Dobbs has accepted a tenure-track position in the English department at St. Olaf College in Minnesota as a specialist in poetry and literature. Earning her Ph.D. in our Literature and Creative Writing Ph.D. track, Dobbs is a poet whose creative component of her dissertation, “Paper Pavilion,” won the White Pine Press Poetry Prize in 2007 and was a finalist for the New Issues Press Prize in Poetry. The literary component of her dissertation is “Notebooks from a Missing Person: Essays through Transnational Adoption.” Her dissertation was directed by David St. John with Viet Thanh Nguyen.

Marci McMahon is thrilled to announce she’s accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professorship in multiethnic literature in the English department at Texas-Pan American. Located in the Rio Grande Valley and the alma mater of Gloria Anzaldua, the university boasts an strong cohort of faculty working on Chicano/a literature and border studies.

MICHICHEL GORDON JOINS DEPARTMENT

English is delighted to announce the hiring of Michelle Yvonne Gordon as an Assistant Professor beginning fall 2008.

Michelle is putting the finishing touches on her dissertation, “Bringing Down Babylon: The Chicago Renaissance, the Black Arts Movement, and African American Freedom Struggles, 1936-1953,” at the Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, where she has been working under the direction of Susan Stanford Friedman and Craig Werner. Reminding us that the Harlem Renaissance was not an isolated phenomenon, this exciting grassroots literary history explores the interdependence of black Chicago’s literary and freedom movements through the radical cultural work of movement writers Richard Wright, Lorraine Hansberry, Margaret Walker, Theodore Ward, and Gwendolyn Brooks.

No stranger to large cities (having grown up in Atlanta), but as yet unfamiliar with the West Coast, Michelle is very excited to tackle the “culture shock” of Los Angeles—“especially all the dance, music, food, and human diversity that will surround me,” she says. The first item in that list isn’t incidental: Michelle has danced her whole life, and has developed an expertise in West African and Middle Eastern dance over the last few years. She’s already checked out the “amazing dance classes” offered throughout the city.

Other hobbies include photography, hiking, traveling, and gardening (one of the things she’ll miss in Madison is the garden she’s been cultivating for years). Given the fact that this year was the snowiest Wisconsin winter on record (besting the last record by 30 inches of snow), we wager that she will quickly adapt to our southern California climate.

cont. on p. 2
GOING PROFESSIONAL - cont. from p.1

Michelle Gordon

McMahon reports that she was particularly impressed by the caliber of students with whom she engaged in her teaching demonstration on the work of Sandra Cisneros. McMahon’s 2007 dissertation, directed by Teresa McKenna, was titled “Domestic Negotiations: Chicana Domesticity as a Critical Discourse of US Literature and Culture.”

The English department at DePaul University in Chicago will be welcoming Jennifer Conary in the fall as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. A specialist in the Victorian period, Conary worked with Jim Kincaid on her dissertation, “Beautiful Lost Causes: Quixotic Reform and the Victorian Novel,” and she is excited to be teaching courses on Jane Austen in literature and film and on women, romance, and the novel come September. Conary was so dedicated to getting this particular job that she attended her campus visit and delivered her job talk only a month after suffering a brain hemorrhage, and defended her dissertation less than three weeks after undergoing brain surgery. She is currently resting in order to recover from the trauma of both the job market and the craniotomy, the job market having been the more stressful of the two.

Unhae Langis will be starting next year as an Assistant Professor at Slippery Rock College in Pennsylvania. A specialist in early modern literature, Langis finished her dissertation, “Disciplined Passion: Virtuous Moderation in Shakespearean Drama,” under the direction of Bruce Smith. She looks forward to teaching literature again—composition, introductory to literature, and, of course, Shakespeare.

Beth Binggeli, Ph.D. 2005, has received a prestigious two-year postdoctoral appointment from the University of Chicago in Cinema Studies and English. Binggeli’s dissertation, “Hollywood Dark Matter: Reading Race and Absence in Studio Era Narrative,” chaired by Carla Kaplan and Tania Modleski, has thus far resulted in publications in African American Review and Cinema Journal. At Chicago she will teach graduate and undergraduate courses on film adaptation, censorship, the Harlem Renaissance, and Studio Era Hollywood history.

Memo Arce, who spent this year on a postdoctoral fellowship at Bowdoin College, will now be starting as an Assistant Professor at the University of Texas-Arlington. His dissertation, “A Nation in Uniform: Chicano/ Latino War Literature and the Construction of Nation 1951 – 1976,” was directed by Teresa McKenna.

Currently a second-year visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee, Frank Mabee, Ph.D. 2005, will be moving to Fitchburg State College in Massachusetts, where he has accepted a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor of British Romanticism. His teaching will range from MA-level graduate seminars and upper-division 18th and 19th century literature courses to sophomore surveys, and first year seminars. Mabee’s dissertation, “The Pastured Sea: Maritime Radicalism and British Romanticism,” was directed by Margaret Russett.

This splendid placement record marks the third and final year of Associate Professor Rebecca Lemon’s term as English Placement Director. Lemon reports that of 15 serious job candidates seeking positions this winter, 13 students had a total of approximately 47 interviews at the MLA and 16 flybacks. The department extends its heartfelt thank-you to Lemon for her superb directorship and stellar record.

Contact us or visit our web site: PhD in Literature, Fruiz@usc.edu PhD in Literature and Creative Writing, cwphd@usc.edu http://www.usc.edu/dept/LAS/english/ (213) 740-2808; Fax (213) 741-0377 Newsletter Editors: Joseph A. Boone, Nellie Ayala-Reyes, Kathryn Strong
Professor Susan McCabe is still breathing deep sighs of relief after having co-organized and hosted (with Elyse Blankley from California State University, Long Beach) the annual Modernist Studies Conference 9, held in Long Beach in November 2007. It was a wonderful success, and Professor McCabe credits student help—both from USC students and CSULB students—as ensuring that success. The tireless Amaranth Borsuk, who designed and maintained the website and continued to provide enormous help throughout the conference, including audio visual trouble-shooting, proved that her poise in a crisis is pure genius. The talents of Brookes E. Little, her counterpart from CSULB were in high demand at the registration desk and with audio-visual. The other graduate volunteers from USC and CSULB made up a substantial hum of support, stalwart dedication, and modernist collaboration.

Keynote addresses to capacity audiences were delivered by English’s distinguished visiting professor Marjorie Perloff on Concrete Poetics in Brazil and elsewhere in the post-avant-garde 1950s and their relation to 21st century internet innovations for making concrete poetry visually apprehensible; by English Professor Joseph Boone on queer modernists appropriating Arabic, Persian, Ottoman literary forms to deliver their own subversive, bawdy messages, a lecture accompanied by visual images from sixteenth-century Ottoman illustrations to Taliban photographs; and Univ. of Pennsylvania Professor Thadious Davis on Visual Science in Harlem.

Over 650 registrants engaged in either seminars, roundtables (feminism and international were key ones), or panels ranging across topics related to modernism and geography and visual culture. Many USC English department professors and students were aboard for the ride: graduate students Jessica Bremmer, Amaranth Borsuk, and David Tomkins, recent Ph.D. Annalisa Zox-Weaver, and adjunct Michael duPlessis organized panels and presented papers. Graduate students Cody Todd, Jeff Solomon, and Mariko Dawson Zare also presented papers or participated in seminars. Professors pulled their weight as well, with Bill Handley and David Lloyd adding their moderating skills to the proceedings.

There was a screening of the 930 Borderline, complemented by Andrew DuBois from Toronto, who played music of the period and discussed the appropriation of African-American sound in mainstream performance as well as inter-racial collaborations. Professor McCabe arranged an interdisciplinary panel, loosely dubbed Visual Culture and Modernism, for a standing room only crowd, which included short provocative responses by Ruben Gallo (Comparative Literature and Spanish, Princeton), Vanessa Schwartz (History, USC), Michael North (English, UCLA), Ed Dimenberg (Cinema, Architecture) and Nancy Perloff (Getty Curator).

A highlight of the conference was the elegant reception held aboard the Queen Mary ship in its Art Deco Queens Salon. In keeping with the decor, this reception was accompanied by live jazz musicians. The ship has sailed on, and McCabe vows never to arrange such a large conference again. Those who attended, however, are inexpressibly pleased that she organized this one.

Professor McCabe requests the contributions of all the student volunteers be recognized here. Those from CSULB donating their time were: Shaheera Ali, Kristy Bertrand, Matthew Davis, Tyler Dilst, Linda Franco, Funk, Keith Garton, Jade Hidle, Tess Hotchkiss, Geri Lawson, Cristy Rose Smith, and Ruth Stroud. From USC, the conference volunteers were: Ruth Blandón, April Davidauskis, Laura S. Fauteux, Genevieve Kaplan, Will Nedved, Stephen Park, Michael Robinson, Marie Smart, Jeff Solomon, Kathy Strong, Trisha Tucker, and Mariko Dawson Zare.

The Department of English is pleased to invite you to a Poetry Reading with STANLEY PLUMLY
Distinguished Professor & Director of the MFA Creative Writing Program, University of Maryland

Monday, April 28, 2008
4:30 pm
Doheny Memorial Library 240

Major Publications:
Old Heart, New Heart (2008), Professor of Poetry, Indiana University Press

Reading is open to the public.
SENIORS COMPLETE HONORS PROJECTS

Viet Nguyen, Director of Undergraduate Studies, arranged for English Senior Honors students to present thesis topics on Monday, April 21 to the general public. As the summaries, below, indicate, their intellectual and creative projects ranged far and wide, but two intriguing trends might be noted: projects taking up the intersection of science and literature, and projects grounded in Early Modern archives.

In “Retelling and Recreating Adam and Eve in Science Fiction,” Kaelin Burns argues that, while science often appears aligned with the secular, many science fiction texts turn to originary stories of the Judeo-Christian tradition, especially those of the Eden and the fall, in order to imagine new creation-myths involving the body, gender, and narrative-making itself.

Edmund Mieskowsk explores the inner workings of language that make fiction possible, and how fiction is like and unlike nonfiction, in “How to Make Sense of Nonsense: An Exploration of the Problem of Reference in Fictional Texts.”

Varoujan Movsesian’s “Architecture and Apocalypse in the City of Angels” examines the literary depictions of Los Angeles in light of Romantic conceptions of the natural sublime. A discussion of the literary-scientific culture of the Victorian era, with an emphasis on the emergence of evolutionary theory, informs Sadaf Nejat’s “The Literary-Scientific Culture of the Late Nineteenth Century and its Relationship with Natural Theology: Representations of Science and Scientists in the Victorian Era,” which explores the ways in which the conjunction of literary and Darwinian cultures affected nineteenth-century fiction.

Allison Norman’s “Above the Salt: Salt and Hierarchies of Sensory Experience in Seventeenth-Century England” uses a theological/philosophical tract written in 1612 advocating the substitution of salt for compost as a point of entry into seventeenth-century English scientific and cultural consciousness; her project focuses on aspects of dining, medical treatment, constructions of the natural world, and visual displays of objects in particular. “Photogénie,” Alexandra Pelly’s creative project, is an exploration of cinema through poetry.

The constant evolution of translations of the Greek novel in Renaissance England is the subject of Emily Shearer’s “Translation and Reimaging of the Greek Novel in Early Modern England,” which tracks not only its impact on its surrounding contemporary literary culture but the status of the novel-in-translation as a genre unto itself.

“Feminism in Romance Remakes” is the title of Chassica Soo’s exploration of the continuities between classic romance novels like Jane Eyre and Pride and Prejudice and contemporary revisionary fictions like Rebecca and Bridget Jones’s Diary; novels that transform the romantic archetypes and notions of femininity established by their female predecessors.

Jennifer Strachan wins the prize for the longest (and most playful) thesis title: “A Great Danger to Our State: Being a Most True and Accurate Discussion of Popular Anti Catholicism During the Reign of Our Most Gracious Sovereign of Blessed Memory, Queen Elizabeth. In Which the Most Learned Author Considers the Development of anti Catholic Opinion into Paranoia, and the Change of Catholics from Heretics to Traitors. With a Very Excellent Consideration of the Role of Papist Plots in Developing this Widespread Anti Catholic Paranoia. Also with a Discussion of the Role of this Phenomenon in Developing a New British Identity. And Finally a Section on the Most Gracious Person of Our Dread Sovereign Queen Elizabeth, and the Legacy of Anti Catholic Opinion After Her Death. Never Before Published.”

Andrew Valdez’s “The influence of Medieval Spanish Stories, Myths, and Legends upon the Worldview of the New World Spanish Conquistadors” shows how the influence of the Spanish conquest of the American continents, from geographic worldview to representations of the “other,” has roots in stories, myths, and legends about the Iberian Peninsula that emerged after the fall of the Roman Empire—especially those concerning the re-conquest of Spain from Islamic forces.
WELCOME THE NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

This year’s group of incoming graduate students is as diverse in their interests as they are strong in their scholarship. Please welcome them warmly! To help us all get to know them, here are brief introductions to this bright and energetic group:

**Neil Aitken.** Neil recently completed an MFA in Creative Writing at UC Riverside and is currently serving as the editor of *Boxcar Poetry Review*. A former computer games programmer, he is particularly interested in representations of technology in contemporary poetry and film. More information can be found on his website: <www.neil-aitken.com>.

**Josh Bernstein.** Josh is originally from Chicago. He’s writing a novel about the Israeli Army, and his main interest, outside of fiction-writing, is Marx. At one time, he had planned on being a visual artist (portrait painting), but he decided to go where the money is, and write fiction.

**Meghan Boyle.** Meghan received her BA in Literature from UC Santa Cruz and an MA in English from Syracuse University. Her primary field of interest is popular culture, a field which encompasses her current topics of intrigue: tourism and representations of global space, and horror in literature and film.

**Matt Carrillo-Vincent.** Matt has just returned to California from the east coast where he studied English and Gender Studies in an interdisciplinary humanities MA program at New York University. He is currently interested in twentieth-century conceptions of masculinity in literature and pop music, especially in emo/scene subcultures.

**Pamela Cheong.** Pamela completed her BA (Hons) in English at the National University of Singapore and hopes to watch as many films as she can over the next few years. Like a true blue Singaporean, she partakes in the pleasures of gastronomy. She is mainly preoccupied these days with the piano. Occasionally, she can be found exploring pockets of Los Angeles with her camera.

**April Daviauksis.** Originally from San Francisco, April received her BA at UC Berkeley in English and Women’s Studies and more recently finished a Masters in English Literature at San Francisco State. She wrote her thesis about ambivalent maternity in modernist texts written by women. In addition to her interest in female-authored texts, she also explores the Gothic, feminist and queer theory, and American literature.

**Penelope Geng.** Penelope is a native of Toronto, Canada, and she enjoys tea, cheesecake, and Renaissance literature.

**Brett Gordon.** Brett is a first-year student in the English Program, having recently received his MA from New York University. His major areas of interest include Westerns and other genre cinema and literature, studies of banditry and guerilla warfare, and Irish literature.

**Genevieve Kaplan.** Vieve has a BA from UC Santa Cruz, an MFA from the University of Iowa, and she spent the last few years teaching composition and writing courses at a variety of academic institutions before happily landing in the doctoral program at USC. She edits and publishes the Toad Press International Chapbook series, which focuses on contemporary translation.

**Arunima Paul.** Arunima completed her M. Phil. in English at the University of Delhi in 2006. She conducted a comparative study of the popular Indian women’s magazine, *Woman’s Era*, across two periods as part of her M. Phil. dissertation. Her research interests include the intersections of gender and religion and the figure of ‘the New Indian Woman’ in contemporary, popular Indian television.

**Jessica Piazza.** Jessica received a BS in journalism from Boston University and a Master’s in Creative Writing from the University of Texas at Austin. Her creative and academic interests focus on poetic music and prosody, classic metrical structures in modern contexts, and the way various manifestations of obsession affect and inspire creative work. She is founding editor of *Bat City Review* and co-founder of the Speakeasy Poetry Series in New York City. She was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York.

**Michell Ward.** Michell is a first year in the literature program with an emphasis in film and cultural studies. Her recent work includes research on not only genre and the contemporary horror film, but also the spectatorial practices in online fan communities.

**Alexis Landau** received her B.A. from Vassar College in Comparative Religion and her M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Emerson College. She is currently at work on her first novel, and she harbors critical interests in the intersections between modernism, narrative desire, and Orientalism.
RECENT HONORS AND AWARDS: FACULTY

The English Department has been awarded a number of accolades and recognitions over the past year, from the USC Phi Beta Kappa Prize for best book published in the humanities to Radcliffe and NEH.

The USC Parents’ Association awarded Emily Anderson a Teaching and Mentoring Award in 2007. Emily won her award for her Thematic Option Core 102 class titled “Recognizing Realizations.”

Joseph Boone spent November and December 2007 in Bogliasco, Italy in residence as Fellow of Philosophy at the Liguria Study Center for the Humanities and Arts. In May he will be in residence at the Durrell School of Corfu, Greece, where he has been invited to moderate, with Sheryl Hite, the Institute’s summer seminar, “Investigations of Modern Love.”

Alice Echols was a Visiting professor in the Rutgers English Department, Winter 2007.

The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) chose Ruth Forman’s Young Cornrows Callin Out the Moon as a poetry selection for its 2008 Notable Children’s Books in the Language Arts.

Vicki Forman, who received the Bread Loaf’s Bakeless Prize in Creative Nonfiction, 2008, for her memoir, This Lovely Life, was selected as a Bread Loaf Fellow for summer 2009.

Chris Freeman served as consultant and commentator for Chris and Don: A Love Story, a documentary by Tina Mascara and Guido Santi about Christopher Isherwood and Don Bachardy. www.saphilis-store.com

Chris and Don
a love story

Newly elected to the Board of Trustees of the Shakespeare Association, of America, Heather James was also appointed to the Editorial Board of Shakespeare Quarterly. She held a USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute Faculty Fellowship for fall 2007.

Rebecca Lemon continued her new book on Early Modern addiction while on a USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute Faculty Fellowship in 2007.

Recipient of an NEH Fellowship for 2008-9, David Lloyd also served as Visiting Keough-Naughton Institute Senior Faculty Fellow and Visiting Distinguished Professor of Irish Studies at University of Notre Dame in spring 2008. His play, The Press, which received funding from USC’s Visions and Voices program, had a staged reading at 24th Street Theater February 29 and March 1, 2008.

The University of Utah Press awarded the Agha Shahid Ali Prize to Susan McCabe’s new volume of poetry, Descartes’ Nightmare (2008). She also received a travel grant to continue research on her Bryer biography from the Center for Feminist Travel.

Viet Nguyen has received a fellowship from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard for the academic year 2008-2009. Recently he was appointed as Contributing Editor for the Heath Anthology of American Literature, Sixth Edition, as well as appointed to the Advisory Board of the the Encyclopedia of Asian American Literature, Greenwood Press.

Meg Russett won the USC Phi Beta Kappa Book Prize for Best Book in the Humanities for Fictions and Fakes: Forging Romantic Authenticity, 1760-1845. April 2008.

Bruce Smith, elected to the Delegate Assembly of MLA, continues to serve on the Committee on Scholarly Editions.

Karen Tongson received an Honorable Mention in the Woodrow Wilson/Andrew W. Mellon Junior Faculty Fellowship competition, 2008-2009. She also received a USC Provost’s Arts and Humanities Initiative Grant for “Records y Recuerdos: Music and Memory in Queer East L.A.,” 2007-2008, which included a series of talks and theatrical productions (The Barber of East L.A. by the Butchlalis de Panochtitlan, dir. By Luis Alfaro) and an art exhibit of Hector Silva’s work.

WIGGINS’ SHADOW CATCHER CATCHES ON

Newly tenured full Professor of English Marianne Wiggins’ latest novel, The Shadow Catcher, which was featured in the last newsletter, has continued to gather accolades. This spring it was nominated both for two prestigious awards: the 2007 National Book Critics Prize and the 2007 Los Angeles Times Best Fiction Award. Congratulations to Marianne both on her tenure and her nominations!


Aimee Bender, Willful Creatures, Japanese edition.


_____Poetry and essays, American Poetry. Forthcoming.


_____“Raising Poetry to a Higher Power” and


Other poems forthcoming in Conjunctions, Georgia Review, Gulf Coast, Poetry, New American Writing, and TriQuarterly.


_____“Bryher & the Melancholy of Money,” selected from conference for collection by International Assoc. of University Professors, Univ. of Lund Press, Sweden. Forthcoming.


Recent Publications: Faculty - cont. on p 8


—, “Ballad Futures” in Ballads and Broadsides in Britain, 1500-1800 (Ashgate 2009).

—, “Dot Dot or Dash: A Strange SOS from Prospero’s Island” in Shakespeare without Boundaries (Univ. of Delaware Press 2009).


ZOX-WEAVER WINS UNIVERSITY-WIDE DISSERTATION PRIZE

AnnaLisa Zox-Weaver has won the coveted USC College Doctoral Research Prize for best dissertation written in the Humanities for 2008. Her dissertation, titled “Seeing Through Evil: Women Modernist and Their Fascist Dictators,” was directed by Joseph Boone. The last winner in English of this prize was MaryBeth Tegan in 2007.

CREATIVE WRITING MOSES COMPETITION WINNERS

The Graduate Director of the Program in Literature and Creative Writing Susan McCabe announced the winners of the 2008 Edward W. Moses Graduate Writing Competition.

In poetry first place went to Genevieve Kaplan, second place to Josie Sigler, and honorable mentions to Saba Razvi and Amy Schroeder.

First place in fiction went to Katherine Karlin, John O’Toole received second place; and Alexis Landau received honorable mention.

Judges of the 2008 competition included Molly Bendall, Aimee Bender, TC Boyle, Vicki Forman, and Dana Johnson. McCabe extends her thanks to all the judges and the entrants who submitted their work.

ENGLISH SCORES TWICE IN “WONDERLAND”

Two graduate students placed in this year’s USC Wonderland Award: Erika Wenstrom for her essay, “Trembling Boundaries in Wonderland,” and Jonathan Hamrick for his short story, “April out of the Echo Phone: A Story in a Sentence.” The Wonderland Award is funded by G. Edward Cassady and Margaret Elizabeth Cassady, who donated to USC Library their archival collection of materials related to Lewis Carroll, and the award is designed to encourage creative use of the collection. Entries this year included stories, films, photos, installations, pottery, drawings, in addition to literary criticism. Congratulations to Erika and Jonathan!


"I Dream My Father on the Shore." Sou'wester. 2007

AMARANTH BORSUK, "To Death (the Pine-Eater)." ZYZZYVA, Spr. 2008.

STEPHAN CLARK, "Vladimir's Mustache" (short story), Ninth Letter, Spr./Sum. 2007.


"The Reno Hotel" Creative nonfiction, Salt Hill. Forthcoming.

"Notes From an Underground Station" creative nonfiction, Noô, 8. Forthcoming.


Jennifer Malia, "Using Action Research to Teach Counterarguments in University Composition Courses" CATESOL Journal. Forthcoming.


Poem. Indiana Review (Summer 2007).


"The Third Breast of Hilda Von Why" (short story). SPECS.


Women as Hamlet.

Women's Studies.

Women's Studies.

The New Delta Review.

Twentieth-Century


"After Interdisciplinarity," Rev. essay on Jonathan Ellis's Art and Memory in the Work of Elizabeth Bishop, Brian M. Reed's Hart Crane After His Lights, and Lytie
Congratulations to our students who have received 2008 summer research and conference awards:

Alice Bardan, College International Conference Travel Award.
Stacy Lettman, College Diversity Enhancement Summer Stipend.
Jennifer Malia, Provost International Summer Travel Award.
Eric Rawson, College Summer Dissertation Research & Writing Award.
Robert Stefanek, College International Summer Field Research Award.

Seven other students have received English Department Summer Grants: Yetta Howard, Bryan Hurt, Tiffany Knight, Bonnie Nadzam, Saba Razvi, Josie Sigler, and Jeffrey H. Solomon.

SUMMER RESEARCH AWARDS

Congratulations to our students who have received 2008 summer research and conference awards:

Alice Bardan, College International Conference Travel Award.
Stacy Lettman, College Diversity Enhancement Summer Stipend.
Jennifer Malia, Provost International Summer Travel Award.
Eric Rawson, College Summer Dissertation Research & Writing Award.
Robert Stefanek, College International Summer Field Research Award.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS: GRADUATE STUDENTS - cont. from p. 10


Rory Lukins, USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute Dissertation Fellowship
Title: Passionate Forms, Formative Passions: Affect, Genre, Poetics and the Passions in Early Modern English Literature.
Chair: Bruce R. Smith

Ruth Blandon, LAS Final Year Dissertation Fellowship
Title: Trans-American Modernisms: Travel Writing, Intertexts, and Transcultural Dreamscapes.
Chair: Susan McCabe

Michael Cucher, Marta Feuchtwanger Merit Award
Title: "Riding with the legacy of Emiliano Zapata: The production of revolution, counter-revolution and everyday life in the Americas."
Chair: John Carlos Rowe

Katherine Karlin, Marta Feuchtwanger Merit Award
Creative Writing: "Freedom of Information."
Chair: Rebecca Lemon

Anupa Srinivasan, Moses Dissertation Fellowship
Title: Critical: "Posthumous Births: New German Short Stories 1899-2007."
Chair: Aimee Bender

Elizabeth Park, English Dissertation Fellowship
Title: Beyond the Victory Garden: War, Femininity, and Women of National Concern.
Chair: Tania Modleski

Michael Robinson, English Dissertation Fellowship
Title: A Gentle Obsession: Book Collections, Literary Curiosities, and Sexual Deviance in Nineteenth-Century Britain.
Chair: James Kincaid

Robert D. Stefanek, English Dissertation Fellowship
Title: Spying and Surveillance in the Early Modern State and Stage.
Chair: Bruce R. Smith

Mariko Dawson Zare, English Dissertation Fellowship
Title: Noisy Modernists: The Sound of Narrative Experimentation.
Co-Chairs: Joseph Boone and Bruce R. Smith

DISSERTATION FELLOWS - cont. from p. 11, col. 2

Jennifer Malia, W.M. Keck Foundation Fellowship, Huntington Library. (2 month Fellowship)
Title: Anarchists & Revolutionaries: Gothic Terror and Terrorism in Literature.
Chair: James Kincaid

Jeffrey M. Solomon, LAS Final Summer Dissertation Fellowship
Title: Fabulous Potency: Authorial Personae and Queer Identity.
Chair: Susan McCabe

Hande Tekdemir, LAS Final Summer Dissertation Fellowship
Title: Collective Melancholy: Istanbul at the Crossroads of History, Space and Memory.
Chair: Meg Russett

Once again, the English PhD program has proved its mettle as a near-record number of 13 students have been awarded an assortment of dissertation fellowships for the coming year. We wish all these students the best in finishing their intriguing and varied projects!

Award recipients include:

Lucia Hodgson, The Graduate School - Anna Bing Arnold Fellowship and LAS Final Year Dissertation Fellowship
Title: Childhood of the Race: The Lockeian Child in Transatlantic American Discourses of Slavery.
Chair: Carla Kaplan

Rory Lukins, USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute Dissertation Fellowship
Title: Passionate Forms, Formative Passions: Affect, Genre, Poetics and the Passions in Early Modern English Literature.
Chair: Bruce R. Smith

Ruth Blandon, LAS Final Year Dissertation Fellowship
Title: Trans-American Modernisms: Travel Writing, Intertexts, and Transcultural Dreamscapes.
Chair: Susan McCabe

Michael Cucher, Marta Feuchtwanger Merit Award
Title: "Riding with the legacy of Emiliano Zapata: The production of revolution, counter-revolution and everyday life in the Americas."
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Title: Spying and Surveillance in the Early Modern State and Stage.
Chair: Bruce R. Smith

Mariko Dawson Zare, English Dissertation Fellowship
Title: Noisy Modernists: The Sound of Narrative Experimentation.
Co-Chairs: Joseph Boone and Bruce R. Smith
CREATIVE WRITERS HAVE THE LOUDEST VOICES?

USC’s Ph.D. in Literature and Creative Writing Program recently saw the fifth installment of The Loudest Voice, an ongoing series that pairs established authors with emerging L.A. writers, and is directed by USC graduate students. This evening of fiction readings featured acclaimed author Trinie Dalton. Joining Trinie was our own Jeff Solomon and Katherine Karlin. Trinie Dalton lives in Los Angeles. She is author of Wide Eyed (Akashic), A Unicorn Is Born (Abrams), and co-editor of Dear New Girl or Whatever Your Name Is (McSweeney’s), an art book based on confiscated high school notes. As a journalist, she writes about music, art, and film. She has an MFA from Bennington Writing Seminars and teaches fiction writing at various colleges.

Jeff Solomon has an MFA from UC Irvine and is a doctoral student in English and Gender Studies at USC. His most recent publications include the short story “Best Friend” in Harrington Gay Men’s Literary Quarterly and the article “Young, Effeminate, and Strange: Early Photographic Portraits of Truman Capote” in Studies in Gender and Sexuality.

Katherine Karlin’s fiction has appeared in North American Review, ZYZZYVA, Other Voices and elsewhere. She won a 2007 Pushcart Prize for her short story “Bye-Bye Larry.” A Ph.D. candidate in the Program for Literature and Creative Writing here at USC, she has contributed over 60 theater reviews and arts features to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Los Angeles Daily News.

Loudest Voice takes place at The Mountain Bar (473 Gin Ling Way, between Broadway and Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012). There is no cover and street parking is available on Broadway, Hill and College Streets. If you missed this reading and want to make sure that doesn’t happen again, contact Amaranth Borsuk or Bryan Hurt via the email address: theloudestvoice@gmail.com or through the series’ website http://theloudestblog.blogspot.com/

OVERACHIEVING UNDERGRADS

The department's undergraduate students have been proving that they gather no moss. Even a representative sampling of their achievements is impressive. Casey McAlduff, a junior majoring in Creative Writing, won the Grace Ford Salvatori Community Service Award and the Desiree Benson Community Service Award last spring for work through one of the Joint Educational Project’s programs, USC Readers PLUS. The Mortar Board “Torch & Tassel” chapter has honored Dione Surdez with a Transfer Recognition scholarship. Emily Zietlow, a senior creative writing major has worked as an editor for AngeLingo, an online multidisciplinary journal sponsored by the College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences for the past two years. AngeLingo is entirely student-run, and has published several English majors in the past, including Anna-Marie Mc Lemore, Jared Chausow, Julia Wang, and Michael Kroesche. Graduate Diana Arterian and senior Allison Norman have also served as editors for the journal. Christina Reed, who graduated a few years ago, entered the USC film program and also recently published a short story in The Santa Monica Review.

Ryan Bubalo is working on his MFA at Ole Miss, studying with Barry Hannah, and Anne-Marie Jeter is working on her MFA at Cal Arts. Paul Legault, who has published poems in Field and Pediades, is now in grad school at the University of Virginia studying with Pulitzer poets Charles Wright and Rita Dove, among others.

USC WRITERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Cecilia Woloch and Aimee Bender haven’t just been spending their recent time writing their own work, they’ve also spent time thinking about how to make writing resonate within the community. To that end, they’ve won a grant from the USC Center for Excellence in Teaching/Fund for Innovative Undergraduate Teaching for their “Writer in the Community” course. Working with USC’s Joint Educational Project, the duo has developed a course that will place undergraduate writing students into community schools. Once there, the undergraduates will mentor elementary students, helping young Angelinos find their creative voices through poetry and short stories. Woloch will teach the poetry version of this class for this first time in Spring 2008, and Professor Bender will teach a fiction version in Fall 2008.

FALL 2007 DISSERTATION DEFENSES


Chris Freeman, "We Have to Say We’ve Been Here’: Paul Monette and the Making of an Activist.” Los Angeles Queer Theory Conference, UCLA. Oct. 2007.


Heather James, Shakespeare’s Othello, Plutarch, and Foucault.” Claremont Graduate Univ. Oct. 2007


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Reading, Loyola Marymount University, Apr. 2008.

NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS - cont. from p. 5

Suraj Shankar received his M.F.A in Creative Writing at Wichita State University and is now in his first year in the creative track of the PhD program. He’s interested in all kinds of fiction, especially works about the intersection of cultures, and his critical interests are in post-modern studies, especially post-colonial and multicultural literature.

First-years also include: Gina Conti and Kiana Green.


Amaranth Borsuk, “‘There have been pictures here’: Spirit Photography and H.D.’s Tribute to Freud.” Modernist Studies Association Conference. Long Beach, CA. Nov. 2007.


______, “The Theory of Historical Costs: Idealism, Politics, and the (Mis)Representation of the Past in Cather’s ‘The Professor’s House and Warren’s All the King’s Men.’” History and Theory Graduate Conference. UC Irvine. Apr. 2007.


Marcy McMahon, “Chicano/a Movement Popular Culture: Patssi Valdez’s Performances of Glamour and Domesticity in the Los Angeles Cityscape.”


______, “Transnational Domesticity: Fabiola Cabeza de Baca Gilbert’s Travels in Mexico, Spain, and Portugal (1951-1967).” Latin cont. on p. 16
RECENT CONFERENCES/READINGS: GRADUATE STUDENTS
- cont. from p. 15


