

FALL 2013 NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the 2013-2014 academic year. Our department has experienced many changes since last spring. First, and most significantly, our department chair for the past six years, Beverly Voloshin, has completed her term. I am both honored and humbled at the prospect of attempting to fill her very big shoes. On September 26, staff and faculty members gathered for a lively lunch at the Vista room to give Bev our best wishes and deep gratitude for a job well done.

This fall, we also welcome Dr. Summer Star to our department. She is a specialist in Victorian literature and is currently teaching ENG 580: George Eliot and ENG 755: Victorian Poetry. In addition to the expertise she brings to our literature program, Dr. Star is also an engaging and friendly addition to our faculty. If you have not yet had a chance to meet or speak with her, I highly recommend doing so. You'll come away impressed and, no doubt, in a much better mood. We are also currently searching to fill a tenure track position in our linguistics program. Slowly but surely, we are beginning to rebuild after years of devastating cuts and I am quite optimistic about the future of our department.

On behalf of the Department and the TESOL program, I'm pleased to announce that Francisco Fogaça will be joining us from Brazil as a visiting scholar. He will be at SFSU starting Feb 10 until Dec 10, 2014, working primarily under the sponsorship of Maricel Santos.

We have an active and exciting year ahead of us this year. Here are two events I'd like to call to your attention. Mary Soliday is chairing and SF State's WAC program will be co-sponsoring the Northern California Writing Across the Curriculum Conference to be held on our campus on January 24, 2014. For more details see wac.sfsu.edu or email wac@sfsu.edu



Sugie Goen-Salter

Along with the LCA College, Comp & World Lit and Jewish Studies, the Department will also co-sponsor the conference: "Fault Lines of Modernity: New Contexts for Religion, Ethics, and Literature," which will take place on the SFSU campus on June 2-4, 2104. For more information, contact kmillet1@sfsu.edu. All friends and members of the English Department are cordially invited to attend both of these events.

Finally, let me follow Bev's example by expressing the Department's gratitude to our donors who continue to give generously in support of our students and the intellectual life of our department. For anyone interested in making a donation, I'm happy to report that the "Support English" page on our website has been restored.



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--Sugie Goen-Salter

DEPARTMENT NEWS

THANKS, BEV! On September 26th, staff and faculty members convened for a luncheon at the Vista Room to celebrate **Beverly Voloshin's** fine work as chair of the English Department. It was a wonderful event with delicious food, stimulating conversation, and much goodwill.



Left to right: **Bill Christmas, Geoffrey Green, Sugie Goen-Salter, Bev Voloshin, and James Warren Boyd.**



Bev Voloshin

The **Composition for Multilingual Students (CMS) program** created a Facebook page. Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/sfsucms>

STUDENT NEWS

Chris Wilson Simpkins (M.A. Literature) presented a paper, "Emotional Truth: Muriel Rukeyser and the Objectivists" at the Rukeyser Symposium 2013 in March. The event marked the centenary of Muriel Rukeyser's birth and celebrated her life and work.



Back Row, Left to Right: **Zebulah Baldwin, Bethany Qualls, Jesse Ataide, Jason Slavin, and Tobi Harper.** Front Row, Left to Right: **Magda Panunzio, Erica Eller, Alex Ford, and Katie Bierbaum.**

Graduate students from the English Literature program of SFSU took the 2013 Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PMLA) conference by storm. Fourteen students presented papers on diverse topics as the sublime aspects of *Hamlet*, to the representations of manliness in the *Maltese Falcon* and its film adaptations. In addition, the many social events held in and around the Bahia hotel gave our students a chance to meet presenters from all around the world. The conference was a success, and it provided our students an opportunity to show their creativity, erudition, and amiability.

Erica Eller (M.A. Literature) has started a monthly local Women's Reading Series called the Hazel Reading Series (hazelreadingseries.org) and she has been selected to speak about it on a panel entitled: *The Write to Network: Women Writers Empowering Women* at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference (AWP) in Seattle, February 26 through March 1, 2014.

Current M.A. TESOL student **Chris Washington**, Fall 2012 M.A. TESOL Grads **Joel** and **Heather Swenddal** (who now teach at RMIT University in Vietnam), and TESOL faculty member **David Olsner** joined **Deborah van Dommelen** and **Karen Wiederholt** of the SFSU Learning Assistance Center for a panel titled, "Applied Ethnography in Teacher Education: Insights and Opportunities," which is their ongoing collaboration combining research on tutoring and teacher training innovation.



Top row, left to right: **Yun Hye Ahn, Carol Flanagan, Amanda Simons, Jessica Gilleran, Graham Anderson, Yutian Luo** Front row, left to right: **Shoko Kita, Dion Zizak, and Priyanvada Abeywickrama** .

M.A. TESOL's Spring 2013 English 724: Curriculum and Assessment class gave a panel presentation titled "Curriculum and Assessment Development in Various Teaching Contexts" at the annual CATESOL conference in San Diego, Ca. (Oct 24-27 2013). They discussed the principles and practices of developing curriculum and assessments and then shared ideas and strategies used in their own curriculum design projects. The curriculum and assessment projects discussed were an ESP course for art students, an Adult ESL course, and an EAP course for law students.

FACULTY NEWS

Michael Krasny moderated "Modern Audiences/Classic Plays" at the 125th anniversary of Eugene O'Neill's birth at Tao House on September 22nd, organized by The Eugene O'Neill Foundation. Michael was also honored in October by the SPJ NorCal board for his work in broadcasting.

Along with four colleagues nationwide, **Tara Lockhart** co-founded a new open-access, peer-reviewed scholarly journal entitled *Literacy in Composition Studies*. The journal encourages scholars working at the nexus of these related fields to peruse the online fall for papers and consider submitting their research. Tara served as Senior Editor for the inaugural issue which launched at CCCC this March to rave reviews. The second issue is forthcoming this fall (late October) and can be accessed at www.licsjournal.org.

In a whirlwind September trip to England, **Bill Christmas** attended the Digital Miscellanies Index launch conference at St. Peter's College, Oxford; gave a paper entitled "Eighteenth-Century Soliloquy Poems" at the Bill Overton Memorial Conference on Eighteenth-Century Poetry at Loughborough University; and caught the Barnsley Nightingale (Kate Rusby) in concert at Manchester hours before returning home.

Dana Lomax wrote a new book entitled *Kindergarde: Avant-Garde Poems, Plays, Stories, and Songs for Children*. Here is a link to an article written in the Marin Independent Journal about the book:

http://www.marinij.com/ci_23827246/marin-poet-experiments-avant-garde-book-children?IADID=Search-www.marinij.com-www.marinij.com

Gitanjali Shahani's book review of Kasey Evans's *Colonial Virtue: The Mobility of Temperance in Renaissance England* (University of Toronto Press) was published in *The Spenser Review*, 42.2-3, 2013.

Ellen Peel gave a talk at the Comparative Literature Colloquium titled, "Unnatural Narratives by Constructed Bodies: Who Sees and Who Speaks with Our Head?"

In March, **Meg Schoerke** participated in the Muriel Rukeyser Centennial Symposium, at Eastern Michigan University, and delivered a paper, "'The Truth of Feeling': Emotion as Movement and Sentimentality as Stasis in the Poetry and Criticism of Muriel Rukeyser." In the summer issue of *The Hudson Review*, Meg published "Backward Glances," an omnibus review of Adrienne Rich's *Later Poems, Selected and New 1971-2012*; Daniel Hoffman's *Next to Last Words*; Gerald Stern's *In Beauty Bright*; and Frank Bidart's *Metaphysical Dog*. *The Hudson Review* featured the review on their website, <http://hudsonreview.com/2013/08/backward-glances/#.Ulb-hxY1aFl>

Loretta Stec presented a paper at the Rebecca West Society Conference at New York University in September 2013 titled, "Rebecca West and Emma Goldman: Anarchist Connections."

Bruce Avery played Polonius and the Gravedigger in *Hamlet* at the Coppola winery in Sonoma over the summer. Bruce also gave the Inaugural Lecture for Welcome Days at the beginning of the academic year, on Shakespeare's Sonnet 71.



Bruce performing in *Hamlet*.



Left to right: **Jenny Lederer**, **Teni Baroiant**, and **Irina Brodskaya**.

Jenny Lederer, lecturer in Linguistics, along with Irina Brodskaya and Teni Baroiant (M.A. Linguistics students), recently visited the Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians in Colusa, CA. In 2004 Jenny worked with the tribe to produce a phrasebook of their nearly dead language, Patwin, for use within the tribe. This year she and the MA students are partnering with the tribe to produce a language application program for smart phones and tablets in order to teach tribal members basic vocabulary and spark interest in revitalization of the language. Students and faculty interested in topics concerning curriculum development, the acquisition of a dead language, and technology

in language teaching should contact Jenny if they would like to find out more about the project. Jenny's especially interested in hearing from anyone in the department with experience in smart phone/tablet application development!

Sarita Cannon delivered a paper in May entitled "*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* as African Diasporic Literature" at the Frederick Douglass Institute Collaborative-Ghana Interdisciplinary Conference in Cape Coast, Ghana. Her article "Shattering the Binary: Teaching Critical Thinking Through John Okada's *No-No Boy*," was published in the Summer 2013 issue of *Asian American Literatures: Discourses and Pedagogies*. Sarita also participated in a roundtable discussion on the legacy of Chinua Achebe at the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco. **Sarah Manyika**, novelist and SFSU lecturer, facilitated the panel, which included scholars from UC Berkeley and Stanford.



Sarita getting a drum lesson at the market in Accra.

Shakespeare's Birds: **Mary Ann Koory** and **Linda Swanson** teamed up for an intersection of dramaturgy, poetry, and birding at Marin Shakespeare Company's Forest Meadows Amphitheatre on September 14. Mary Ann, dramaturg for this summer's production of *The Spanish Tragedy*, gave a talk on Shakespeare's metaphorical representation of birds, which followed a bird walk led by Linda, an avid birder, at this beautiful riparian habitat and setting. This was part of Marin Shakespeare Company's pre-play dinner & talk series, and Mary Ann and Linda look forward to presenting this event again next summer.



Bev Voloshin is serving on the planning committee for the Fulbright Institute on American Studies for German University Teachers; the Institute is sponsored by the German Fulbright Commission and will be hosted by San Francisco State in late September 2014. She also went to Washington recently to lobby for Congressional support for the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations; there she met, among others, Rep. John Lewis of civil rights fame (see photo).



Ronald B. Richardson has published a book titled *Narrative Madness*, which is available at narrativemadness.com or on Amazon. He has also had an excerpt called "Narrative is Memory, Memory is Narrative" published in the post-beat pre-apocalyptic *Sensitive Skin Magazine*. "Although I hesitate to use the word, it is, on the whole, a brilliant work," noted Michael Krasny, and Geoffrey Green wrote, "Thoroughly innovative . . . insightful, provocative, and, in the best sense of the word, scholarly."

NEW ARRIVALS

Wendall Douglas and his wife Nicole welcomed their daughter Tatiana Douglas on August 22nd. She weighed 6 pounds and had a height of 19 inches. Congratulations Wendall and Nicole!



Tatiana Douglas

STAFF UPDATES

NEW FACES

Anika Doria is the new Program Assistant for the CMS Program. Anika grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area where she later attended SF State and obtained her bachelor's degree in Psychology in 2010. She was a former student assistant for the Communication Studies department and the College of Humanities and is happy to be returning back to SF State.

Tyler Heid is the new department front office assistant. Before joining the MA Literature program, he earned degrees in Psychology and English from UC Davis. When he's not reading, he's probably playing soccer, mountain biking, or praying for a heavy snowfall in Tahoe.

Daphne Wang is the new student assistant in the Composition Office. She is currently a sophomore working on her B.A. in English Literature and plans to teach in Japan after graduation. During her free time she enjoys reading, exploring San Francisco, and trying new foods. Daphne is looking forward to meeting and getting to know everyone in the department.



English Department Student Assistants, Left to right: Tyler Heid, Daphne Wang, Ger Vang, and Shelby Steinfeld.



English Department Staff, Top row, left to right: Lisa Poehlmann, Sugie Goen-Salter, Katie Bierbaum, and James Warren-Boyd. Bottom row, left to right: Anika Doria, Paloma Mathern, Irina Simon, Cynthia Losinsky, and Ernie Vasquez.

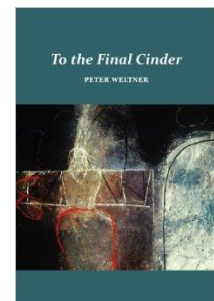
ALUMNI NEWS

Former student **François Vigneault** (who finished his B.A. at Reed College in Oregon) is now employed by Scout Books in Portland. He generously donated 100+ copies of two illustrated little books in the 'American Shorts' series he edits to Loretta Stec's students: Gilman's *The Yellow Wallpaper* and Chopin's *The Story of an Hour*. Big thanks to François and best wishes on his future endeavors.

Along with **Tara Lockhart**, former MA Composition students **Galin Dent** and **Jennifer Saltmarsh** co-wrote and published a hybrid, multi-vocal essay entitled "Between the Classroom, the Page, and the Profession: The Value of the Hybrid Essay in Graduate-Level Learning." Readers can find the essay - which argues that more kinds of flexible writing should be a part of MA programs and that writing at the graduate level should be given more time, attention, and dedicated teaching - in the online, peer-reviewed journal *Enculturation* (<http://www.enculturation.net>). Galin Dent now teaches at community colleges in the same rural area of CA where he grew up; Jennifer Saltmarsh is pursuing her PhD in Composition at the University of Pittsburgh.

EMERITUS NEWS

Peter Weltner's twelfth book, the seventh of poems, *To the Final Cinder*, was published September first by BrickHouse Books in Baltimore, MD. Linda Gregg has written of the book, "I feel breathless and sad that the world I live in doesn't care or is avoiding the size, scale, bounty, moral rigor, and passion of our lives that can be found here." On July 30th of 2013, Peter and his partner, Atticus Carr, together for nearly three decades, were married beneath the rotunda of San Francisco's City Hall.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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