

Wordsworth

The Department of English Newsletter ~ Summer 2011



Announcing New Faculty Member



The Department of English is pleased to introduce new tenure-track faculty member, Kristin Fujie, who will join the department this fall.

Dr. Fujie received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 2010. Her specialty is 20th century American literature with an emphasis on Modernist fiction. She is especially interested in issues of gender and race,

particularly as they relate to the work of William Faulkner, who is the focus of her current research. At Lewis & Clark she will offer courses in 20th and 21st-century American literature and also will teach in the College's core program, *Exploration and Discovery*.

Susan Kirschner Retires

On March 29, 2011 the Department of English celebrated Senior Lecturer in Humanities, Susan Kirschner, and her over four decades of service at Lewis & Clark. Please join us in thanking her for her immense contributions to the department as a teacher, colleague, and friend.



Riley Johnson, Rena Ratte Winner



English graduate Riley Johnson is this year's recipient of the College's highest academic honor, the Rena Ratte Award. A Pamplin Society member, Riley also received the Department's Jerry Baum Award for top senior essay as well as the 2010 Hillary and Adam Dixon research-travel award.

Congratulations, Riley!

FACULTY NEWS

John Callahan is putting the finishing touches on his new novel called *The Learning Room*. He will be reading from the novel on Saturday, June 25th during Alumni Weekend, before turning his attention to editing *The Selected Letters of Ralph Ellison*.

Rachel Cole is currently pursuing "initial research" for a book chapter on Henry James and personhood. She is also considering writing a paper on Clint Eastwood's character in Sergio Leone's "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"--a character whose peculiar penchant for cigars suggests a new vision of Western man, centered around satisfaction rather than progress.

This year **Kurt Fosso** took the reins of chairing the English Department. In fall of 2012 he'll lead the Scotland program to Glasgow, where he hopes to steal some time for research and good scotch. His revisionist essay "Oedipus Crux: Reasonable Doubt in *Oedipus the King*" is forthcoming in the journal *College Literature*.

Karen Gross has been making literary and artistic pilgrimages and enjoying sunshine and good wine in Italy while leading the Overseas Program in Siena. In June she will participate with other LC professors in a faculty exchange at the University of Bamberg.

Jerry Harp's book *For Us, What Music? The Life and Poetry of Donald Justice* was released by University of Iowa Press in December 2010. Jerry also wrote the introduction to Clarence Miller's *Humanism and Style: Essays on Erasmus and More* (Lehigh University Press).

Will Pritchard will be on sabbatical leave for 2011-2012. He will be spending the year in Vienna, Austria with his wife (Mo Healy, History Department) and their two children.

Mary Szybist has been invited to the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center for a four-week residency to complete her poetry collection *Incarnadine*. Mary also has two poems forthcoming in *The Kenyon Review* and *Ploughshares*. She will be on sabbatical for 2011-2012.

Pauls Toutonghi is currently writing a piece on his recent trip to Egypt, to be published in *Harper's Magazine* this summer.

Rishona Zimring is on sabbatical until January 2012. She is currently writing on social dancing and the literary imagination in interwar Britain. In March, she traveled to the UK to conduct research and give a paper at Cambridge entitled: "Mansfield, Flirtation, Modernity." Rishona also delivered the 2011 Baccalaureate address at LC.

Professor Emeritus **Micha Grudin** and her husband, Robert Grudin, have co-authored *Boccaccio's Decameron and the Ciceronian Renaissance*, to be released in 2012.

ANDREW LYLE RECEIVES HONORS

On April 27, 2011, faculty and students gathered in the Manor House to hear a presentation by 2011 English Honors recipient Andrew Lyle. The talk was based on his honors thesis, "Customs and Customers in Two Novels by Hawthorne."

Heartiest congratulations to Andrew for his exceptional work, outstanding talk, and unflinching dedication to the honors project.



2011 DIXON AWARD

English majors Warren Kluber and Casey Newbegin are winners of the 2011 Hillary and Adam Dixon Award. The \$2,500 travel award is granted annually to junior English majors wishing to conduct research associated with their English studies.



Drawing upon her archival experience in Watzek Library's Special Collections, Casey will peruse the personal papers of Leonard Woolf (Virginia Woolf's husband) at the University of Sussex in Brighton. Among the questions Casey hopes to answer: How did Leonard's support, care, and criticism during Virginia's mental illness affect her writing?



A double major in English and French, Warren will travel to Gambia, Mauritania, and rural parts of Senegal to explore how local oral traditions, especially those of the story-telling *griots*, relate to the African novel: to its "context, influences, and heritage."

Applications for the 2012 Dixon Award will be accepted in November.



2010-2011 ENGLISH GRADUATES

Adlai Arnold
Aukeem Ballard
Sam Barber
Kelby Behm
Wilson Brown
Tyler Cannon-Reese
Robin Cedar
Caitlin Cochran
Kaitlyn Demien
Sophia Diaz
Natalie Eagan
Alexandra Hebler
Jessica Holmes
Riley Johnson
Dallas Jones
David Kroman
Andrew Lyle
Belle Mahoney
Rhea Manley
Chris Millard
Anna Moore
Nathan Moyer
Sarah Osborne
Hannah Palmer
Tony Pelton
Eric Perman
Catherine Polityllo
Luke Rife
Alexandra Roberts
Duncan Robertson
Rachel Sims
Matthew Stahlman
Emma Towne
Noelle Valentine
Kelst Villareal
Benjamin Wallin
Yvonne Zheng

POETRY PRIZE

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2011 Academy of American Poets Prize. Sophia Diaz for "Fifteen Minutes Left of Soccer Practice and I Find the Viewmaster on the Backseat in the Car," and Emma Towne for "Discourse." Honorable Mention went both to Catherine Polityllo for "Fifth Grade Teacher" and to Kelsi Villareal for "Finding My Prince Charming, Age 15."



Professor Mary Szybist, Robin Cedar, and Luke Rife at the Senior Poetry Reading on April 19, 2011.

FICTION PRIZE

The 2011 winner of the 3rd Annual Lewis and Clark College Fiction Prize is Jessica Holmes. Her story "Today" was selected by the writer Don Waters, who said that Jess "clearly demonstrate[s] something real and serious about the human condition -- while not being afraid to make you laugh."



Professors Pauls Toutonghi and John Callahan at the Senior Poetry Reading. - earlier in the semester the two also gave a shared fiction reading from their respective novels as part of the English department's visiting speaker series.

SAAB GRANTS

English majors Molly Dickinson and Emily Guasco are recipients of 2011 SAAB grant funds.

In August, Molly will travel to Scotland to conduct research at the University of Glasgow's Special Collections on the early career of James Hogg. She will examine the extent to which Sir Walter Scott, Robert Burns, and other writers nudged Hogg to fit in with the newly revived Scottish identity.

Emily will travel this summer to NYC and Connecticut to pursue research on the poet Frank O'Hara. She will visit three archives to explore the interplay of the visual arts, theater, and poetry in O'Hara's life and work.

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PROFESSOR'S POEM MADE INTO PUBLIC MURAL

Mary Szybist's poem "All Times and All Tenses Alive in This Moment" was chosen by Poetry Paths to be painted on the lobby ceiling of The Pennsylvania College of Art & Design.

Founded by the Philadelphia Alumni Writers House at Franklin & Marshall College, Poetry Paths seeks to bring inspiring poetry and visual art into people's everyday lives. The completed pieces will be installed in neighborhoods from March 2011 through December 2011. More information about the project can be found at www.poetrypaths.org.



Pennsylvania College of Art & Design

CHAIR'S NOTE



*This 2010-11 academic year, our departmental life extended from Palatine Hill to Sienna, where Karen Gross led an overseas-study program. We bid farewell to our colleague, Susan Kirschner, who retired at the end of fall semester, and welcomed to the fold a new Americanist, Kristin Fujie. Our majors read and wrote, traveled overseas, and won a bevy of awards, including the College's top honor, the Rena Ratte Award. One 2011 graduate will head off to Columbia University's creative-writing program, another to the Library of Congress, and yet another to Germany via a Fulbright. We welcomed back an alumnus, Emory University's Rudolph Byrd ('75), for a campus lecture on "The Death of the Essential Black Subject: Marlon Riggs's *Black Is, Black Ain't*." Another English alum, Adam Bradley ('96, Assoc. Prof. UC Colorado at Boulder), co-edited *The Anthology of Rap*. Along with calling back to campus our professor emeritus and poet, Vern Rutsala, the Writers Series featured the poets Kevin Prufer, John Casteen, and Geoffrey G. O'Brien; and fiction writers Lee Montgomery, Erin Ergenbright, and Don Waters. Our own John Callahan and Pauls Toutonghi shared the bill in a reading of their new fiction. In addition, the writer Bill Deresiewicz gave a standing-room-only talk on *A Jane Austen Education*. Our faculty published books, essays, and poems, pursued research, traveled far and wide, and, of course, taught a great group of students. We also received the welcome news that Assistant, now Associate, Professors Rachel Cole and Karen Gross received tenure and promotion. My English colleagues and I count ourselves lucky to belong to so vibrant a department, with such impressive majors past and present.*

Best wishes to all of you, near and far.

Kurt Fosso

Send us your news...

We want to hear from you! Drop us a line to let us know what you've been up to, where you're living, and what plans you're making. You can write or e-mail us personally or forward along information to the department at english@clark.edu. We always love to hear from you.