It has been a year since the English Department moved to 5057 Woodward, the Macca-bees Building, and faculty and staff are nicely settled into their new offices on the 9th and 10th floors. We share the building with Africana Studies, Humanities, Linguistics, Philosophy, Psychology, Registrar, Records, Registration & Scheduling and the University Division of Research and Sponsored Programs. The first floor houses a credit union, a bank, and a small gift and snack shop and we eagerly await the arrival of a restaurant. The journey from 51 W. Warren to 5057 Woodward was eventful from the beginning.

After months of looking at blueprints and planning, the move was finally scheduled for August 25-30, 2004, an inopportune time coming just a couple of weeks before the beginning of the Fall semester. While the move may have appeared effortless to absent faculty, it was accomplished only through the extraordinary efforts of the office staff, who remained undaunted by a series of obstacles starting on the first day of the scheduled move.

On the morning of August 25th, the Department was packed up, labelled, and ready to go. The only thing missing was the moving company. Unfortunately, someone at the University had neglected to inform the moving company that it had been awarded the contract—so the move was delayed to the following day. Staff members took advantage of this free time to walk some of their personal belongings over to the new building. Then during that night, the basement flooded at 51 W. Warren. (That the building never flooded in the 15 years we were housed there is merely some quirk of fate.) With no working elevators, the beginning of the move was delayed a second day.
Dear Friends of the Wayne State English Department,

Like many of you (most likely your children and grandchildren as well), I found myself counting the days this summer until July 16, the long-awaited release date of Book 6 of J.R. Rowling’s Harry Potter series, Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince. Probably like many of you as well, I found the book to be much better written than some of the previous volumes. And while Rowling stuck to her narrative convention of one school year per book, there were enough twists and turns to make this perhaps the least formulaic and most satisfying volume of the series.

I invoke the latest Harry Potter novel not as a prelude to a full-fledged review of The Half-Blood Prince but because my experience reading it this summer brought to mind some telling connections between the series and the evolving work of the Wayne State English department and of the profession of English more generally.

[NB: SPOILERS AHEAD!]

As I neared the end of Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, I was stunned, as were millions of Rowling’s readers, to discover that Dumbledore had been killed. How could that be? The Headmaster of Hogwarts School of Wizards and Witchcraft, Dumbledore was a pillar of strength for Harry and his friends, one of the most powerful and endearing figures in the series. Not willing to accept that he was really dead, I decided to get online and see what other fans were saying. I Googled “Harry Potter” and got something over 39,000,000 results. So I narrowed my search to “Dumbledore is not dead” and began to track down other opinions. Without going into great detail, let me say that there are many quite ingenious and careful readings online, dedicated to proving that Dumbledore has not really died. If you want a place to begin your own search, try http://www.dumbledoreisnotdead.com.

I make this point about my excursion into what has come to be known as the “blogosphere” chiefly because there is so much hand-wringing going on these days about the diminished role of reading and literature in the lives of today’s youth. Some people cite the Harry Potter books as exceptions to the rule that today’s children don’t read as much as we did when we were young, preferring to spend their time watching TV, playing video games, or surfing the Internet. Others cite the popularity of the series as evidence that children do and will read books that appeal to them. Whatever your position, what goes unnoticed in such discussions is the fact that the Harry Potter series, the first book of which was published in September 1998, has been virtually contemporaneous with the growth of the Internet. Indeed as the mountains of fan-created blogs, websites, and discussion lists available on the World Wide Web attest, reading the Harry Potter books is not an activity distinct from the use of new media but rather something that is part and parcel of today’s media landscape.

Because of this interrelation among print and audio-visual media, the Department of English at Wayne State, like English departments around the country, is increasingly working to build bridges between the study of reading and writing and the study of newer media like film, television, and the World Wide Web. Our Digital Literacy Initiative seeks to teach freshmen to meet the rhetorical challenges of writing for electronic media like email, PowerPoint, and the Internet, as well as for print. To teach these freshmen, our Graduate Teaching Assistants are learning to teach their courses in computer-based classrooms and to design their assignments to meet the demands of an increasingly technological workplace. We have recently revised our Ph.D. program to create concentrations in Film and Media Studies in addition to Literary and Cultural Studies and Composition Studies. And we are currently revising our undergraduate major to assure that all English majors are able to think critically about audio-visual media as well as print, and to express themselves clearly and persuasively in a variety of different print and electronic formats. The new major will also allow students to elect one of four concentrations: in creative writing, film and media studies, literary and cultural studies, and writing studies.

As we continue to modify our curricula and pedagogy to meet the needs of the twenty-first century, we also remain committed to preserving our traditional strengths. But in an increasingly interconnected world, in which the boundaries between traditional forms and genres are becoming more and more fluid, English departments are being challenged to meet the needs of a public whose interests in literature and culture move easily from print to electronic media. Indeed, like newspapers and magazines everywhere, this newsletter, too, is available as a print document and on the Web at: www.clas.wayne.edu/english.

Richard Grusin

—

Letter From the Chair
Once the move actually began, the process was further hindered because the Detroit Institute of Arts was simultaneously moving into their leased space on the third floor. This meant sharing the one freight elevator in the Maccabees Building. The compounded delay stretched the move to the weekend and two staff members graciously volunteered some of their weekend time to monitor the movers. Once everything arrived at 5057 Woodward, staff spent a week unpacking boxes and organizing the Department’s main offices and other common areas in order to be fully operational for the Fall semester.

Although the move was challenging, the Department clearly benefitted by the upgrade in both office and meeting space. In our new accommodations, we have multiple conference rooms, a spacious departmental library, a film screening room, and a generous-sized assembly room with adjoining lounge and kitchen area. Thanks to funding from our College, we were able to replace the 50-year-old furniture in our faculty, graduate student and staff offices. Nearly a third of our former offices at 51 W. Warren were dismal, interior rooms with no windows. Now all of our offices have windows with pretty spectacular views.
Designed by the world-renowned architect, Albert Kahn, the 197-foot tall, 14-story skyscraper is marked by Art Deco styling and steel-frame construction with reinforced concrete floors.

Kahn sought an alternative for the very tall and rectangular skyscrapers of the era, which resulted in a 14-story tower with subordinate flanks. There are four six-story wings at the corners of the major tower producing an H pattern.

Construction on the building was completed in 1927 as the world headquarters of the Knights of the Maccabees. This fraternal organization was founded in the 1870s as a life insurance group during a time when insurance wasn’t widely available to anyone but the wealthy.
The building’s exterior is made of limestone panels from an Indiana quarry. The biggest panel weighs 3,000 pounds.

From the top of the building, a radio antenna rises 450 feet into the air. From 1933-1954, the Detroit radio station WXYZ broadcast some of the most popular radio shows in the country, including *The Lone Ranger* and *The Green Hornet*, from their studios in the Maccabees Building.

In 1960, the building was sold to the Detroit Public Schools and served as its headquarters. On July 7, 1983, the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Sites. In 2002, Wayne State University purchased the building for office use and exterior and interior renovations began.
Emil E. Cardamone (B.A., 1949) received his law degree in 1959 from WSU. Mr. Cardamone practices law part-time and travels extensively with wife Margaret.


Ruth Ingeborg Fuss (1953) shared her views about our 2004 Newsletter. While not particularly impressed with all our prose, she did enjoy reading “up-lifting, refreshing words like those on p. 15 on Dorothy Lynda Huson’s Memoriam by Ellen Barton.”

Samuel A. Golden, Professor Emeritus of English at Wayne State University, died on February 9, 2006, at the age of 96. A native of Boston, Professor Golden held degrees from Boston University, the University of Maine, and Trinity College, Dublin, where he received his Ph.D in 1954 and in 1965 was a visiting lecturer on American literature. Professor Golden taught in the English Department at Wayne State University from 1952 until his retirement in 1979. He was the husband of the late Elisabeth R. Golden. He is survived by his companion, Amy V. Richards, his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Maxine and Philip Russakoff of Skowhegan Maine, sister-in-laws, Phillis Russakoff of Skowhegan, Maine, and Ida R. Hoos of Brookline Massachusetts, special niece, Marcia R. Ellis, special nephew Theodore Casher, many other loving nieces and nephews, dear friends and former students.

Judith A. Goren (B.A., 1954; M.ED, 1972) received a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology in 1983 from Union Institute and University. Dr. Goren recently published Sharing the Journey: a Psychotherapist Reflects on her Work. A licensed clinical psychologist, Goren was in private practice in Oakland County for over 25 years. Her book is a collection of brief essays that combines a memoir of professional life with advice for the next generation of psychotherapists. She has also published three collections of poetry, as well as having poems that appeared in many literary journals for several decades. Goren and her husband, Bob (WSU Law School, 1955), have traveled extensively in Europe, Mexico, Central and South America, and the U.S. A few years ago, they visited retired WSU English professor Orville Linck, in Santa Fe, after an article about him appeared in the Alumni Newsletter. Linck, who recently passed away, was influential in encouraging Goren, when she was a freshman at WSU, to continue the writing of poetry, for which she is forever grateful. Goren and her husband reside in Beverly Hills, MI. They have three adult children and nine grandchildren.

David Hadbawnik (B.A., 1993) was recently awarded the Rose Fellowship to study for his MFA in poetry at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. For the past eight years, he has been active in the poetry scene in San Francisco, hosting readings, publishing, etc.

Bloomsday 2004

On June 15, 2004, myself, my wife Barbara and our about to be MSU freshman, Jake arrived in Dublin on the eve of the day that students and scholars of James Joyce refer to as Bloomsday. The day marks the celebration of the events of June 16, 1904, the single day in the life of Leopold Bloom, the protagonist of Joyce’s Ulysses. The trip was thirty years in the planning, beginning when I was a student of Professor Archie Loss when he taught Joyce at Wayne in 1973. All three of us enrolled as attendees in the symposium sponsored by the National College of Ireland June 16th began with a breakfast hosted by Guinness, the famous brewer of Guinness stout in front of the Joyce Centre at 35 North Great George Street in Dublin. Thousands joined together as musicians and those donning the attire of characters in the book, including Molly Bloom drank Guinness and feasted on breakfast sandwiches for a spectacular beginning to this great day.

Later in the morning we traveled by train to Sandymount, the town about twenty miles outside of Dublin where Martello Tower, the place where the book begins is located. Our visit to this literary shrine was capped by standing on top of the tower listening to passages of Ulysses read aloud by a Joyce enthusiast.

Another highlight of the trip was standing atop the Guinness brewery viewing Dublin through windows etched with Joyce’s own descriptions of these landmarks.

It was a great day for all of those who have cursed, labored over and been intrigued by the complexities of the novel and James Joyce.

Jules B. Olsman graduated from WSU as an English major in 1975. He is an attorney in Berkley, Michigan.

Donald Mager (Ph.D., 1986) finished a six-year appointment as The Mott University Professor English—a non-renewable endowed chair—at Johnson S. Smith University in Charlotte, NC. He has published two recent books of poems: Good Turns and The Elegance of the Ungraspable: Selected Poems from Four Decades, both by Main Street Rag Publishers. He completed a collaboration with composer Marc Satterwhite of a three act opera on the life of Anna Akhmatova, performed in Louisville during 2005. Last August, Mager was appointed Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and continues as Director of the Crutchfield Center for Integrative Studies.

Barbara Snover Miller (B.A., 1945) retired in 1989 after 26 years with The Blade.

Charles Sherman Mowbray (M.A., 1973) died following complications from bypass surgery, March 19, 2005. Mowbray was a supervising attorney with the UAW Legal Services Plan in Detroit. He is survived by his wife Carol and two adult sons: Orion (24) and Nicholas (19). Condolences may be sent to his home: 5460 Prairie View, Brighton, MI 48116 and contributions in his memory to the Community Unitarian Church in Brighton—Keystone Fund, 324 W. Main Street, Brighton, MI 48116.

Jules B. Olsman (B.A., 1975) received his law degree in 1979 at Detroit College of Law. He is President of Olsm, Mueller and James, P.C. Last June, Olsman, his wife and son went to Dublin “for the express purpose of participating in the Bloomsday centennial celebration. We actually registered as delegates with the National College of Ireland.”

Donna Parkhurst (M.A., 1996) is a full-time instructor of English at St. Clair County Community College. For those of you who remember Donna as the undergraduate advising assistant in the English Department, her boys are now teenagers: Ted, 17 and Zach, 13. Time flies!

Roslyn Yerman (BA, 1981) received her MSLS in Library Science in 1983 and has been employed at the Madison Heights Public Library from1987-95 as Head Reference Librarian, and as Library Director from 1995-present.
Undergraduate Degrees

Undergraduate Degrees Granted
Summer 2004

Note: Beginning in the Spring/Summer term 2004 Wayne State University began conferring degrees at the end of the Spring/Summer term. Prior to this, degrees were historically conferred twice each year, at the end of the Fall and Winter terms.

Joel Israel Berman
Erin Melyssa Boggs
Christopher M. Bolash
Stacy Lynn Butler
Alanna Megan Eichstaedt
Reshounn LaNise Foster
Amanda Lynne McDonald
Natasha Annette Reymond
Cormac Slevin
Paula Thomas

Undergraduate Degrees Granted
Fall 2004

Anmol Anand
LeJuana Monique Arrington
Michelle Carlisle
Sara Christian
Keisha Donald
Karine Fajardo
Henry Fischer
Amanda Freiberg
Katherine Hulme
Lekeisha Jennings
Stephen Lucas
Peter McMullen
Yvonne McNutt
Meeshia Rashid
Sara Sabbagh
Shonda Snoddy-Walker
Sarah Wilder
Gary Williams
Jaime Yung

HONORS

Konstantina Karageorgos
Shashi Thandra

Undergraduate Degrees Granted
Winter 2005

Melissa Asta
Craig Badynee
Julie Bates
Mary Fixler
Alison Hoslet
Ibrahim Khan
Regina Miller
Alissa Mobley
Kristine Peterson
Jaime Reimers
Angela Scavone
Danylo Terleckyj
Joseph Zakens

HONORS

Deborah Crow
Neal Klomp
Emily Pinneo

All-American Scholar Nominees 2004/2005 (Undergraduates)

The following students represent enrolled English majors earning the top G.P.A.’s in the Department of English. Each student on the list was nominated for inclusion in the Collegiate All-American Scholar program. Nomination to this program allows students to compete for a United States Achievement Academy Scholarship and have their names posted in a national directory of exemplary university students.

Nickia Bell
Zainab Boxwala
Helen Callow
Alicia Chmielewski
Lisa Christy
Robin Coleman
Deborah Crow
Brandi DeArth
Ian Drife
Tiffani Eaton
Jayann Farkas
Mary Fixler
Eric Ford
Rebecca Gramlich
Denis Haziri
Jerusha Herman
Sara Higgerson
Erica Holloman
Stephan Johnson
Christopher King
Neal Klomp
Elizabeth Latty
Vytuatas Malesh
Helen Mauser
Robert McGraw

Phi Beta Kappa Inductees 2004-2005

Sara Christian
Henry Fischer
Mary Fixler
Amanda Freiberg
Gary Williams
Jaime Yung
Michael Peter
Shashi Thandra
Special Undergraduate Awards

Each year, the Undergraduate Studies Committee selects three students to be recipients of the Department of English Special Undergraduate Awards. Competition for the Service Award, Graduating Senior Award and the Essay Award is open to students in the English, Film and Linguistics programs. This year’s winners were, respectively, Jessica Rivait, Jaime Reimers and Philip Wagner.

Jessica Rivait earned the undergraduate service award due to her many hours of community service. Her commitment to service began in her early years as a Brownie Girl Scout and continued through elementary and secondary school. While a student at WSU, Jessica has been the Alternative Spring Break Coordinator and Public Relations Chair for Project Volunteer/Students of Service. Some of her volunteer activities included street clean ups in the City of Detroit, bench-painting at Belle Isle, collecting money for women’s shelters, restoring a playground, painting homes with Habitat for Humanity, working for Focus: HOPE and participating in the “Just Zoo It” run for organ/tissue donation. She also writes articles for the university’s student newspaper The South End.

A senior-level English major, Jessica was recently accepted into the AGRADe program, an accelerated master’s program that gives qualified undergraduates the opportunity to earn graduate credit while completing their bachelor’s degrees. Jessica plans to eventually earn her Ph.D. in English with emphases in Composition and Rhetoric. She is especially interested in service learning. Her current project explores the relationship between local media and non-profit and student-based community service organizations, examining how the media interprets community problems and incorporates user-centered approaches in presenting news stories.

Jaime Reimers attained the top grade point average of graduating seniors in the Department of English for the 2004/2005 academic year. This award is presented annually to a graduating English major not currently participating in the Departmental Honors Program. Jaime spent her junior year at Trinity College in Dublin where she excelled in literary studies. She returned to Wayne State in September 2004 where she continued to demonstrate superior scholarship and began working for the Thomson Gale Publishing Corporation in Farmington Hills. Jaime graduated with distinction in May with a 3.95 G.P.A.

Jaime worked as a camp counselor over the summer and will begin the Master of Arts in Teaching program through the College of Education at Wayne State this fall. After earning her secondary teacher certification, Jaime would like to either return to Dublin to simultaneously teach and earn an advanced degree or to pursue a career in publishing.

Philip Wagner’s essay, “Wuthering Heights and Abismos de pasión: Subversion and Subjectivity in Novel and Film,” earned the 2005 Department of English Undergraduate Essay Award. In his essay comparing Emily Bronte’s novel and Luis Bunuel’s film, Philip combined masterful writing and excellent research which contributed to a well-deserved “A” in English 5250 (19th Century Literature) during the fall 2004 semester. To be eligible for the essay competition, submissions had to be composed during the 2004/2005 academic year in conjunction with a 5000-level English course.

Between classes and his part-time job, the junior-level Film Studies major writes screenplays and has produced short video narratives for presentation at small film festivals. After graduation, Philip plans to pursue a master’s degree in film production. His long-term goal is to teach at the college level while continuing his screenwriting career.
Student News

The inaugural year of the Students’ Association of Graduates in English (SAGE)* was successful on many fronts. With the help of a volunteer executive team including Joy Burnett (President), Justin Prystash (Vice-President), Victoria Abboud (Secretary), Jennifer Roderique (Treasurer), Nicole Wilson (Member-at-Large), and Jen Boyd (Member-at-Large), SAGE became a recognized organization within the university, has a valid constitution, and is able to obtain funding from WSU’s Student Council for large-scale public events. Our efforts permitted us to invite Geoffrey Sirc (Professor of Composition, University of Minnesota) to speak on campus and we hosted two publisher days where local textbook publishing companies showcased their wares and interacted with our department’s instructors to determine student and instructor needs. Aside from professional and academic activities, SAGE also organized a few social events where students and faculty alike could head into the wilderness for a day of hiking and horseback riding and/or enjoy local restaurants and bars while playing “Pub Golf” (graduate student Tara Hayes’ invention). With this first organizationally challenging year behind us, we look forward to encouraging more student-faculty-university interaction and welcome the new team. More information about SAGE and its activities can be found on the official website: http://www.english.wayne.edu/sage.

*Thanks to graduate student Linda Mercer-Learman for creating the acronym.

Victoria Abboud and Joy Burnett

Graduate Student News

Jane Hoehner is a native Detroiter who returned to the city in 1990 after graduating from Indiana University with a major in English and a minor in Theatre. While working with the Matrix Theatre Company—and at various Detroit restaurants—in 1991, she began her publishing career by joining Gale Research, where she held a number of editorial and acquisitions positions. In 1995 she won a scholarship to attend the Publishing Institute at the University of Denver, where she was exposed to scholarly publishing, a facet of publishing which especially intrigued her. In 1999 she began working at the Wayne State University Press as the acquisitions editor, developing various subject areas within the Press’s publishing list, including film and television studies, regional studies, and childhood studies. It was during this time that she began working on her M.A. degree at Wayne, focusing primarily on film and cultural studies. In 2002 she became the Press’s first woman director, and the second-youngest press director in the country. Having completed her degree in May 2005, Jane contemplates, on occasion, applying for the doctoral program at Wayne, having greatly benefited from her graduate studies in the English department. Increasing the visibility of the Press and of scholarly publishing in general is important; Jane recruits for the Publishing Institute and fosters an internship program at the Press for students in diverse disciplines at Wayne. The Wayne State University Press publishes about 40 books each year, as well as 6 journals, and will celebrate its 65th anniversary in 2006. To get more information on the Press and the books they publish, visit their Web site at http://wsupress.wayne.edu/index.html

From left: Nancy Shattuck, Joy Burnett, Julie Arrigo, Erik Marshall, Heather Blankenheim

From left: Nancy Shattuck, Joy Burnett, Julie Arrigo, Erik Marshall, Heather Blankenheim
Rumble Fellowships 2005-2006
Tamara Emerson
Linda Learman

DeRoy Doctoral Fellowship
Ellen Donaghy
B.A., University of Maine
M.A., Western Illinois University

Edward M. Wise Dissertation Fellowship 2005-06
Tara Hayes

Graduate Professional Scholarship Recipients 2005-2006
Ethriam Brammer
Joy Burnett
Gregory Lattanziol
Stacy Muszynski
Thomas Trimble
Stephanie Wilhelm

Summer Dissertation Fellowships 2005
Tara Hayes
Carl Larrivee

Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship 2005-06
(funded by the estate of Ella Montroy)
Kelly McDowell

School of Criticism and Theory
Tuition Fellowship Cornell University Summer 2005
Ryan Dillaha
Justin Prystash
Sarah Ruddy

Garrett T. Heberlein Excellence in Teaching Award
Jennifer Roderique

German-American Fulbright Award
Erik Mortenson

New Graduate Teaching Assistants 2005-2006
Wilkie Collins
B.A., M.A., Oakland University
Jill Darling
B.A., University of Detroit Mercy
M.A., Colorado State University
Renuka Gusain
B.A., M.A., University of Delhi
Joseph Hakim
B.A., Wayne State University
Mary Karcher
B.A., M.A., University of Toledo

Cara Kozma
B.A., Evergreen State College
M.A., Portland State University

Michelle Kustarz
B.A., University of Detroit Mercy
M.A., University of Toronto

Kimberly Lacey
B.A., Oakland University

Sarah Ruddy
B.A., M.A., University of Maine

Cynthia Spires
B.A., San Diego State University

Austin St. Peter
B.A., University of Detroit Mercy

Shashi Thandra
B.A., Wayne State University

Nicole Wilson
B.A., Oakland University
M.A., Wayne State University

Denise Yezbick
B.A., M.A., Eastern Michigan University

M.A. Degrees

M.A. Degrees Granted
December 2004

Cynthia M. Banks
“Ceremonies in Dark Places” Committee: John Reed and Todd Duncan

Nicole Castle
“Welcome to the Machine” Committee: Chris Leland and Janet Langlois

Brian L. Frazier
Committee: Bill Harris and M. L. Liebler

Scott A. Hollifield (Thesis)
“DISAPPEARING MEN: A Novel in Training” Committee: Chris Leland and John Reed

Patricia Zammit
“Half-Rome, Other Half-Rome and Tertium Quid: The Presence of the Third Person in Robert Browning’s “The Ring and the Book” Committee: John R. Reed and Michael Scrivener

Joanna Ziemek
“Panamanian West Indians, their influence on prominent figures of the Harlem Renaissance” Committee: Janet Langlois and Donna Landry

M.A. Degrees Granted
May 2005

Cynthia Bayon
“HE KNOWETH MYN ENTENTE.” Committee: Elizabeth Sklar and Ken Jackson

Rebecca Couyoumjian
“Power and Panopticism: the Disciplining of Docile Bodies” Committee: Dana Seitler and Todd Duncan

Sara Faraj (Thesis)
“Mapping Gendered Nations: Reading Reconstruction in the works of Nuruddin Farah and Dambudzo Marechera” Committee: Sheila Lloyd and Donna Landry
M.A. Degrees

Leigh Grant (Thesis)
“Taming of Elsewhere”
Committee: Chris Leland and Chris Tysł

Jane Hoehner
“The Postmodern Polysemy of Asterix”
Committee: Jerry Herron and Ross Pudaloff

Sarah James (Thesis)
Creativity and Control: A Comparative Study of Sylvia Plath and Manuel Puig”
Committee: Jorgelina Corbatta and Todd Duncan

Keiko Morikawa
Committee: Renata Wasserman and William Harris

Paul Narkiewicz
“Mary Wollstonecraft, Slavery and Abolition”
Committee: Michael Scrivener and John R. Reed

Justin Remeselnik
“A Collection of Short Stories”
Committee: Chris Leland and Bill Harris

Comparative Literature

Lanfranco DeGasperis
“Death of Galeazzo: An English Translation”
Committee: Anca Vlasopolos and Raffaele DeBenedictus

M.A. Degrees Granted August 2005

Gail Essmaker
“Textual Intercourse: The Commingling of Bawdy and Religion in The Honest Whore Plays and As You Like It”
Committee: Ken Jackson and Elizabeth Sklar

Linda Brender
“Writing at Riverside Health Services: An Ethnographic Study in Entrepreneurial Communication”
Committee: Ellen Barton (Advisor), Richard Marback, Frances Ranney, Thomas Naughton

M.A. Degrees Granted May 2005

Scott Peller
“Revising the Worker: Fordist Ideology and the Fiction of ‘Proletarian’ Counter-Hegemony”
Committee: Kathryne Lindberg (Advisor), Henry Golemba, Cynthia Erb, Jackie Byars

M.A. Degrees Granted August 2005

Doris Runey
“Ionel Teodoreanu’s Lorelei: A Praxis in Translation and Film Adaptation”
Committee: Anca Vlasopolos (Advisor), William Harris, Christopher Leland, Andrea DiTommaso

Ph.D. Degrees

Ph.D. Degrees Granted December 2004

Kimme Nuckles
“Non-Traditional Students: Age as a Factor in the Composition Classroom”
Committee: Ellen Barton (Advisor), Richard Marback, Ruth Ray, Michael Adonizio

Susan Beckwith
“Fractured Voices, Failing Bodies: Being Narrative from Victorians to Today”
Committee: Barrett Watten (Advisor), John R. Reed, Renata Wasserman, Richard Raspa

Julianne Newmark
“Sites of American Literary Neonativism: 1899-1933”
Committee: Jerry Herron (Advisor), Ross Pudaloff, Renata Wasserman, Santiago Colas

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Academic Job Tracks

Susan Beckwith
(Ph.D., 2004)
Visiting Assistant Professor
Oakland University

Linda Brender
(Ph.D., 2004)
Professor
Macomb County College

Elizabeth Ferszt
Instructor
Ferris State University

Julianne Newmark
(Ph.D., 2004)
Instructor
University of New Mexico

Ann Nichols
Assistant Professor
Rochester College

Kimme Nuckles
(Ph.D., 2004)
Dean of General Education
Baker College

Ojay Johnson
Tenure-Track Assistant Professor
Johnson C. Smith University
Charlotte, NC

Jennifer Roderique
Special Lecturer
Oakland University

Doris Runey
(Ph.D., 2005)
Visiting Assistant Professor
Oakland University

Cynthia VanSickle
Tenure-Track Instructor
McHenry County College
Crystal Lake, IL
Scholarship and Writing Award Recipients

The list below describes the qualifications for individual scholarships and announces the recipients in each category.

**The Gilbert R. and Patricia K. Davis Endowed Merit Scholarship**
This scholarship was established to recognize, encourage, and reward the scholastic achievement of degree-seeking, part-time students who are majoring in English at Wayne State University.

Suzette Smith
Martha Waters

**The Albert Feigenson Endowed Scholarship**
This scholarship is for full-time undergraduate and graduate students in English or Music who maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point and demonstrate financial need.

Tara Hayes

**The Louise Heck-Rabi Endowed Scholarship in Dramatic Writing**
This Louise Heck-Rabi Dramatic Writing Competition, established to honor the memory of a Wayne State University alumna, is sponsored by the Department of English through The Louise Heck-Rabi Endowed Scholarship in Dramatic Writing. Playwrights submit new works in late May for judging. In the fall of each year, the Department of Theatre’s students and the playwrights under the guidance of a guest facilitator engage in a workshop of staged readings. The competition ends with a full production of the revised versions of select plays at the Studio Theatre in March of the following year. This competition is open to undergraduate or graduate students who have an interest in dramatic and creative writing.

**1st Place**
Ian Drife
Justin Vidovic

**2nd Place**
Andrew Huff

**3rd Place**
Michael Anthony
Tony Bozzuto
Chris Roady

**Honorable Mention**
Lisa Betz
Emily Glad
Chad Nelson
Christopher Williams

**The Thomas R. Jasina Endowed Scholarship in English**
This scholarship was established to honor the memory of Thomas R. Jasina, a Wayne State alumnus and prolific creative writer. This scholarship was created to allow others to pursue their passion for writing and knowledge, to recognize scholastic achievement, to encourage continued progress, and to provide assistance to students in financing their education in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. This scholarship is for full or part-time graduate students in English.

Joy Burnett

**The Dustin Rose Memorial Scholarship**
This scholarship was established in memory of Dustin Rose by his family and friends. Dustin, 25, was a victim of a random act of violence in 2002-- the same week he had decided to return to finish his undergraduate studies in English. This award recognizes scholastic achievement, encourages continued progress, and provides assistance to students in financing their English program through the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Students may be enrolled full-time or part-time at the undergraduate level. Recipients will be selected on the basis of scholastic achievement.

Helen Callow
Gayle Mazurkiewicz
Sara Pfaff

**The Doretta Burke Sheill Endowed Memorial Scholarship**
This scholarship is available to full or part-time junior, senior and graduate students in English who demonstrate financial need and high scholastic achievement, character and leadership.

Victoria Abboud
Melissa Ames
Renuka Gusain
Sarah LaBeau
Gregory Lattanzio
Steven Sosnoski

**The Stephen H. Tudor Memorial Scholarship in Creative Writing**
This scholarship honors the memory of Professor Stephen Tudor, who was a member of the English Department’s creative writing faculty for almost thirty years. This award is for full or part-time undergraduate and graduate English students who demonstrate high achievement in creative writing.

Loretta Tatem
Scholarship and Writing Award Recipients

The Dennis Turner Endowed Memorial Scholarship
This scholarship was established to honor the memory of an extraordinary scholar and professor of film in the Department of English. It is established to recognize scholastic achievement, to encourage continued progress and to provide financial assistance towards their education in the Department of English at Wayne State University. The scholarship is open to full-time undergraduate students majoring or demonstrating a strong interest in Film Studies.

Matthew Piper

The Pearl A. Warn Endowed Scholarship in English
This scholarship has been established for female students, 27 years and older, who are returning to university studies. This scholarship honors the memory of Pearl Warn who served as the English Department’s Academic Services Officer from 1973 through 1986, and was also a doctoral student in English, completing course work and qualifying exams. Students may be enrolled full-time or part-time at the graduate or undergraduate level, although preference will be given to graduate students. Recipients are selected on the basis of scholastic achievement, promise for the future, and financial need.

Brandi Dearth

The Joseph J. and Mary E. Yelda Endowed Merit Scholarship for English
This scholarship is endowed by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph & Mary Yelda to promote academic excellence, to assist students who otherwise may not be able to attend Wayne State University, and to encourage high scholastic achievement. To be eligible, students must be enrolled full-time at the undergraduate level in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and have declared English as their major or indicated a desire to major in English.

Alicia Chmielewski
Robin Coleman
Carol Ann Dunning
Elizabeth Latty
Vytuaus Malesh
Matthew Pfaff
Matthew Piper
Rose Sherman

The Agnes Bruenton Award
This award was established by Esther Broner, former professor in the Wayne State University English Department and now an internationally known writer. The competition is named for the black feminist, Agnes Bruenton. This award is open to black writers only. Students may be enrolled full-time or part-time at the undergraduate or graduate level.

1st Place (Fiction)
Sherina Sharpe, “Harry Winston”

2nd Place (Poetry)
Thomas Park, “My Black Porches”

3rd Place (Fiction)
Sorilbran Buckner, “Oreo”

Honorable Mention (Poetry)
Tantinda Rutledge, “Thoughts, Visions & Testimonies”

The John Clare Award in Poetry
This competition is named for the English Romantic poet. Students may be enrolled full-time or part-time at the undergraduate or graduate level. The competition is sponsored by the Academy of American Poets in New York and is subsidized by a grant from Mr. & Mrs. Michael Becker. The award is given each year for the winning entry in poetry.

1st Place
Leigh Grant, “Organum”

2nd Place
Nancy Shattuck, “Father’s Days for Boys”

Honorable Mention
Matthew Pfaff, “pressure, fragmentation”

The Phillip Lawson Hatch, Jr. Memorial Award
Established to recognize achievement and to encourage continued progress in the expression and investigation of ethnicities, the Phillip Lawson Hatch, Jr. Memorial Award is awarded each year for the winning entry in the genres of drama, fiction or poetry. This award has been endowed by Ms. Nigelle Hatch in order to recognize students for the best creative expressions of ethnic experience.

1st Place (Poetry)
Abbas Bazzi, “Apparition Palestinian”

2nd Place (Poetry)
Thomas Park, “My Black Porches”

Honorable Mention (Fiction)
Sherina Sharpe, “Soul”
Scholarship and Writing Award Recipients

The Judith Siegel Pearson Award
This award was established in memory of a former student in, and faculty member of, the Wayne State English Department. This award is given each year for the winning entry in a specific genre with its prime emphasis on women’s issues. This year the award was for poetry. The prizes are sponsored by Dr. Pearson’s parents, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney and Naomi Siegel.

1st Place
Nita Penfold,
“Stigmata”

2nd Place
Nancy Shattuck,
“Father’s Days for Boys”

3rd Place
Carol Carpenter,
“Wicker Chair” & “Coreopsis”

Honorable Mention
Jeanette Barnes
“Piano Bar”

The Frank Tompkins Award
This competition, originated in 1941, was named for the first professor of English at Wayne State University, Frank Tompkins. It is the oldest of the writing competitions. Awards are given in the following genres: poetry, fiction, drama, and essay. Students may be enrolled full-time or part-time at the undergraduate or graduate level.

POETRY
1st Place
Thomas Park,
“Better Days”

2nd Place
Gregory Lattanzio,
“As When Breeze Sutures Taste”

3rd Place
Nancy Shattuck,
“Appalachian Trail”

Honorable Mention
Shelby Liebler,
“Tears of the Trail”
& “The Hours of Life”

FICTION
1st Place
Sherina Sharpe,
“Soul”

2nd Place
Vytautas Malesh
“How Things Are Done”

3rd Place
Ryan Ennis
“Streets”

Honorable Mention
Michael Lesniak,
“Little Billy”
Margaret McGuire
“The Tattooed Woman”
Stacy Muszynski
“Passing Through”

DRAMA
1st Place
Todd Day, “An Honest Living”

2nd Place
Matthew Pfaff, “Artifice”

3rd Place
LuCretia Crawford, “Letting Go”

Honorable Mention
Ebony Ahmad
“American Housewife”

ESSAY
1st Place
Andrew Barrett
“The Flesh Made Word: Madame Bovary & The Linguistic Optimism of Flaubert”

2nd Place
Matthew Pfaff
“Through a Glass Darkly: Veils of Self in Modernity and After”

3rd Place
Roger Johnson
“Hannibal Lecter and the Ludovico Technique: A Clockwork Courtier”

Honorable Mention
Angela Pham
“Patriarchal Values & Masculinity”
Nicole Castle

Justin Vidovic (left) was awarded second place in the Louise Heck-Rabi playwriting competition for his play Sheepish Love. The play will be fully produced by the Wayne State Theatre Department and will run six nights in February and March at the Studio Theatre.
In April, the Department of English conducted its second annual Writing and Scholarship Awards Ceremony in the Welcome Center Auditorium located right next door to our new office building. Prior to 2004, the year-end event was held exclusively for writing awards and coordinated by Dr. Bernard Levine on the Department’s premises. Over time, as the number of departmental scholarships and awards increased, student, donor and faculty participation flourished as well, and the ceremony began to outgrow the Department’s Conference Room. This year’s attendance was greater than ever before, and the 120-seat Welcome Center Auditorium was filled to standing room only.

To begin the ceremony, Department of English Chair, Richard Grusin welcomed awardees and their supporters and introduced Dean Robert Thomas of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Creative writing professors Carla Harryman, M. L. Liebler and Chris Tysh then presented Writing Awards certificates to 33 winners in the areas of drama, fiction, poetry and essay writing. These competitive awards were open to all of the WSU student community.

Immediately following the writing awards, Dr. Christopher Leland individually recognized the 2005 recipients of the Loughead-Eldredge and Stephen H. Tudor creative writing scholarships, and Graduate Director Ross Pudaloff presented certificates to the eight graduate student recipients of the Doretta Burke Sheill, Albert Feigenson, and Thomas R. Jasina Scholarships. The certificate presentation portion of the ceremony was capped off by Associate Chair, Elizabeth Sklar, who handed out 14 full and part-time scholarship certificates to undergraduate English majors and awarded three special achievement awards to superior undergraduate English majors in the areas of service, research essay writing, and superior scholarship by a graduating senior.

The ceremony concluded with readings by several students from selected excerpts of their award-winning pieces. Some highlights included two gutsy and down-to-earth poems by Thomas Parks, a soulful short story by Sherina Sharpe, and an impressive essay on Madame Bovary by Classics major, Andrew Barrett. For the finale, audience members were treated to an enactment of the humorous play “An Honest Living,” performed by playwright Todd Day and his brother Matt along with creative writing professors Bill Harris and Carla Harryman, using metal chairs and a bullhorn as “improvised” props.

Afterwards, students and their families had the opportunity to meet with donors and faculty at a reception in the Welcome Center lobby. Reflecting on the experience, attendees unanimously agreed that the event was an encouraging, as well as entertaining, experience for students and supporters alike. The only thing lacking was more room for audience seating. As a consequence, the Department is resolved to locate a more spacious venue for our ever-expanding Writing and Scholarship Awards Ceremony next year.
What Would Judith Do?  
Why WSU Has a Writing Competition in Her Name.  
by Sid & Naomi Siegel

In the 25 years since Judith’s sudden death, our world at large has not healed itself, as she and we would have wished. Meanwhile, we pondered where and how her spirit, love and energy could still have an impact beyond her cherished classrooms.

Judith’s son, Nathaniel, now 32, typifies those who, like his mother, thrive in diverse studies, are at home in the world of ideas, love language, and never stop learning. At Wayne State University and later, at Washington University, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and the St. Louis Museum of Art, Judith was a scholar, writer and caring teacher of writing, literature, film and the new women’s studies. Had she been granted more years, she surely would have been hands-on, addressing a host of social, literary and artistic causes. For example, as editor of St. Louis Museum of Art’s fundraising “The Artist in the Kitchen,” she tested every recipe herself.

Among her effects we found that she made many contributions to African relief funds as well as to local charities—significant when we remember that her Ph.D. then earned 70 cents to a man’s dollar. Our society, as today, was undergoing great changes; writers and marchers dramatized the aspirations and clashes of millions. Effective communication remains a galvanizing force to be understood, managed—and enjoyed. In the Babel of today’s multi-media opportunities, we are reminded that, after all, “in the beginning…there is the word.”

Imagine then that this writing competition serves as “seed” to those whose capital is ideas. Expressed through poetry, essay, story, journal, novel, scholarly paper, news/feature or public address, their ideas circle our globe and connect us. Ask our WSU committee about the wide-ranging postmarks they find on entry envelopes. After each writer’s solitary effort, comes a mutual reward. Their voices have many accents; all are welcome.

To WSU faculty, readers, judges, entrants, winners and supporters who have made this writing competition possible, our family and friends are grateful. Our judges have recognized such budding talent as novelist Tama Janowitz and many more exciting and penetrating writers. Novelist Esther Broner, Judith’s early mentor; Kathy Zamora, Margaret Maday and Robert Hellar of WSU; Judith’s friend, Professor Robert Eberwein, of Oakland University; alumnus Stanley Lewin and many others have helped us grow this event.

Recognizing that an “invitation without borders” requires considerable planning and effort by the WSU English Department faculty and staff, we are pleased that the Judith Siegel Pearson Memorial Writing Competition knows no geographical or philosophical boundaries. We think Judith would have approved.

(from left): Carol Carpenter (Judith Siegel Pearson winner), Sid & Naomi Siegel and Nancy Shattuck (Judith Siegel Pearson winner)
I was pleased and honored to receive the First Annual Thomas R. Jasina Scholarship on April 15, 2005. The generosity and kindness of the Jasina family has left a great impression on me, and receiving this scholarship and meeting the family was an experience I’ll not soon forget. It is my hope that many future graduate students will enjoy the same benefit and support from Mr. Jasina’s legacy, and this gift to the Department of English.

Mr. Jasina’s family attended the spring awards ceremony at the Welcome Center. Representing him were his mother, sister, brother, sister-in-law, and nephew, and they were incredibly open and eager to talk about their beloved Tom and his hopes for this scholarship. Through our conversations, I learned that Tom Jasina was a vibrant, curious, and intelligent person, and many things to those who knew him – writer, avid bird watcher, devoted son, brother, uncle, friend. It was my privilege to meet the Jasina family. As I complete the last few semesters of my graduate studies, this scholarship will be especially appreciated. Through the past five years at WSU, I’ve enjoyed the support of a graduate teaching assistantship. As I am nearing the completion of my PhD studies, however, I am compelled to search for additional funding opportunities. I feel privileged to find support for my studies through Mr. Jasina’s legacy.

I began my graduate studies at WSU part-time in 1998, earning an M.A. in American and British Literature in May 2001. I enrolled in the Ph.D. program that fall semester. I completed my qualifying examination with a primary emphasis in late 19th/early 20th century American literature on March 9, 2005, with the support of my committee – Professors Renata Wasserman (chair), Robert Aguirre, and Michael Scrivener. My upcoming dissertation project will explore how authors of late 19th and early 20th century American and British fiction (primarily 1854-1940) produced new ways of thinking about the human body, machines and technology, and their complex systems of interaction, collision, and violation under industrial capitalism. The fictional texts that most interest me for this project include the novels of Charles Dickens, Rebecca Harding Davis, Jack London, Frank Norris, Theodore Dreiser, Upton Sinclair, John Dos Passos, and Aldous Huxley. Emile Zola’s texts figure prominently in my work as well, as the French father of literary naturalism directly influenced the work of American novelists such as Norris. Other historically important texts for this project include the socioeconomic theories of Thorstein Veblen, Frederick Winslow Taylor, and Henry Ford, among others. I will also glean insights from and make sustained arguments with 20th century contributions to gender and body theory, including the works of Michel Foucault, René Girard, Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, and Elizabeth Grosz.

I offer my sincere thanks once again to the Jasina family for their support through this endeavor.

Sincerely,
Joy Burnett
Ph.D. Candidate

(from left): Lawrence Jasina, Barbara Czerniewski, Kevin Connor, Kathy (Jasina) Connor, Joy Burnett (awardee) and Joan Jasina
Honors and Awards

**Andrew Mellon Foundation Teaching Fellowship**
Robert D. Aguirre won a year-long fellowship from the Andrew E. Mellon Foundation and the Public Goods Council at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. The fellowship brings scholars to Ann Arbor to work on and teach from the university’s research collections.

**National Science Foundation**
Linguistlist (Anthony Aristar) was awarded a $750,000 grant to develop a new map-oriented system for the analysis of language in its cultural context. The grant will be shared between WSU and Eastern Michigan.

**National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 2005-06**

**Fulbright Awards, German-American Fulbright Commission**
Barrett Watten, Fulbright Lecturer in Tuebingen, Fall 2005
Erik Mortenson, Junior Lecturer in Erlangen, 2005-06 academic year

**2006 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)**
Ellen Barton for the best article on “Methods of Teaching Technical/Scientific Communication”

**Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts in New York**
Carla Harryman, $10,000 grant

**National Endowment for the Humanities 2005 Summer Stipend**
Ken Jackson for work on his book project, *Shakespeare, Abraham, and the Abrahamic*

**Poet Laureate/Book Award**
Michael Liebler was named St. Clair Shores Poet Laureate. He also received the Paterson Book Award for Literary Excellence for his 2004 book/CD *The Moon A Box*.

**WSU AWARDS**

**Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor**
Gwen Gorkelsky
Ken Jackson

**Gershenson Distinguished Faculty Fellowship**
Barrett Watten for his book project *The Poetics of Modern Authority: From Fordism to Distributed Authorship*

**Board of Governors’ Faculty Recognition Award**
Richard Grusin for his book *Culture, Technology, and the Creation of America’s National Parks*

**Keal Faculty Fellowships**
Ljiljana Progovac for “Compounds, Headed and Headless”
Dana Seitler for “Down on All Fours: Atavism & American Modernity”

**Sabbatical Leaves 2005-06**
Cynthia Erb (Winter 2006)
Christopher Leland (Winter 2006)
Dana Seitler (Fall 2005)
Barrett Watten (Winter 2006)

**Humanities Center Summer Grants**
Robert Burgoyne, “Global Vernaculars: Film and Media Studies,” $7,450
Sarika Chandra for “Dislocalism: Re-Assessing Americanism in the Age of Globalization,” $8000
Michael Scrivener, “Habermas and the Cosmopolitan Ideal,” $8,000
Robert Aguirre  

Gwen Gorzelsky  

Carla Harryman  

Ken Jackson  

Margaret Jordan  

Arthur Marotti  

Frances Ranney  

Barrett Watten  

Donna Landry  

Janet Langlois  

Gerald MacLean  


Martha Ratliff  

Ellen Barton  


Henry Golemba  

Gwen Gorzelsky  


Faculty News

Michael Scrivener


Selected Journal Articles

Robert Aguirre

Ellen Barton

Robert Burgoyne

Carla Harryman

Gerald MacLean
“Strolling in Syria with William Biddulph,” Criticism 46:3 (Summer 2004), 415-439

Arthur Marotti


Jeff Rice

“The 1963 Composition Revolution Will Not Be Televised, Computed, or Demonstrated by any Other Means of Technology.” Composition Studies. (Spring 2005).


Kirsten Thompson

Michael Scrivener


Steven Shaviro


Anca Vlasopolos


“Replicas,” “Edging Closer,” “you are brave but in this one thing,” Perigee Magazine 2, 6 (www.perigee.com, Sept. 2004).


Lisa Ze

Lisa Ze has been appointed Assistant Professor in African-American literary and cultural studies, with 25% of her assignment in the Department of Africana Studies. Winters, whose scholarship circulates within African-American and trans-Atlantic communities, defended her dissertation, a study of the tragic mulatto figure in Afro-diasporic literature and culture, in May 2005.

Dennis Childs

We are pleased to announce that Dennis Childs has been appointed Assistant Professor in African-American literary and cultural studies effective Fall 2006, so that he can accept a prestigious University of California President’s Postdoctoral Fellowship for 2005-06.

Dennis Childs is a rising star, who has already published an important article on the contemporary prison system as a form of neo-slavery. He defended his dissertation, a study of the carceral system in nineteenth- and twentieth-century African-American literature and culture, in May 2005.

In addition to his promise as a scholar, Childs brings to Wayne State University a strong commitment to the engaged university. He has valuable teaching experience at Berkeley at the undergraduate level. He, too, will add to our teaching strengths and also serve as a mentor for undergraduate and graduate students in African-American literary and cultural studies.

We look forward to his arrival in Fall 2006.

Programs and Events

Abraham’s Legacy Conference

Ken Jackson

On Friday, April 15, 2005 the English Department, with assistance from the Office of the Provost, the Humanities Center, the Program for Religious Studies, and the Departments of Romance Languages and Literatures and Near Eastern and Asian Studies sponsored a one day conference titled “Abraham’s Legacy” that addressed issues related to the ancient patriarch of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam from an interdisciplinary perspective. The co-organizers, Gerald MacLean and Ken Jackson, were grateful to have three visiting speakers present: David Loewenstein, the Marjorie and Lirn Teifenthaler Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and renowned scholar of radical religious and political thought in the age of Milton; Andrew Wheatcroft, Director of the Center for Publishing Studies, University of Stirling, Scotland, author of many popular books on the Ottoman empire and its relationship to the west; and Nabil Matar, Professor of English at Florida Institute of Technology, author of several books on Islam and early modern English culture. Ken Jackson and Thomas Abowd, assistant professor of Anthropology at Wayne, also offered presentations. The crowd was small, but informed, and the conference extraordinarily productive.
Programs and Events

The DeRoy Lecture Series
Steven Shaviro

As the Helen DeRoy Professor of English, one of my duties is to organize a public lecture series discussing questions that will be of interest to members of the Department. The 2004-2005 DeRoy Lecture Series brought a number of scholars and artists from various disciplines to the Wayne State English Department to address issues in cultural studies and theory.

Professor Brian Massumi (Communications, University of Montreal) spoke about the role of fear in public life in the wake of 9/11. Since the attacks, and especially since the government’s response in the form of the Patriot Act and other restrictions, a low-key sense of dread and insecurity has been woven into the texture of everyday life, and has affected American culture on all levels. Massumi analyzed the ways in which these changes have occurred, and their deleterious effects upon democracy and public life.

Professor Erin Manning (Art and Film, Concordia University) spoke about the “politics of touch” in the tango. Manning approached this topic on a number of levels. She spoke about her own experiences as a tango dancer, about the history of the tango as a dance form, originating in Argentina in the early 20th century, but now being popular internationally, and about the depiction of tango in Wong Kar-wai’s recent film Happy Together. And she talked about how touching one’s dance partner (even if he/she is a stranger), leading and being led in the dance, and so on related to ethical and political issues about identity, otherness, and the possibility of nonviolent contact.

Igor Stromajer (internet and performance artist, Ljubljana, Slovenia) and Professor Bojana Kunst (Philosophy, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia) spoke about two of Stromajer’s recent conceptual art works. One piece allowed an audience to interact with Stromajer over the Internet, mostly via mobile phones; the other involved setting loose some robots in the famed La Scala opera house in Milan, and broadcasting their movements live over the Net. Stromajer described the pieces and provided visual and sonic documentation; Kunst discussed how the pieces explored issues of intimacy and desire, the body and the mind, and presence and absence, in the Age of the Internet.

Religion in the Americas Conference
Arthur Marotti

Professors Arthur Marotti and Renata Wasserman, as Directors of the Religious Studies and American Studies Programs, organized a conference for April 22, 2005 on “Religion in the Americas.” This was the third annual conference for the Religious Studies Program. Outside speakers included Stanley Fish (Univ. of Illinois-Chicago), who spoke on “Is it Good for the Jews?” — a discussion of right and good in the law, focusing on the Terry Schiavo case. Andrew Chesnut (Univ. of Houston), in “Competitive Spirits: Latin America’s New Religious Marketplace,” dealt with the competition of evangelical religion with Roman Catholicism in Latin America, primarily Brazil. Patricia Voekel (Univ. of Georgia) spoke on “The Religious Origins of Mexican Modernity.” Wayne State speakers included two faculty from the English Department: Ken Jackson (“Levinas and Impossible Forgiveness in ‘Angels in America’”) and Ross Pudaloff (“‘Representing a Christian Nation’: Mordecai Noah and the Jewish Problem in the Early National United States”). Other Wayne faculty presenting papers included Guerin Montilus (“African Caribbean and Latin American Religions, In Search for a Model: Syncretism, Dissimulation, or Chaos?”), Barry Lyons (“Whose Awakening? Liberation Theology and Land Reform in Highland Ecuador”), and Ronald Brown (“The Effect of Interfaith Contact on Religious Pluralism and Support for Interfaith Alliances among Black and White American Christians”), the last of whom co-authored and co-presented the paper with his son, R. Khari Brown, who is on a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Chicago and is joining the Wayne State faculty this coming academic year. The conference was well attended and the papers, which stimulated lively discussion, were of high quality.
Department of English faculty member M.L. Liebler and three Wayne State University students travelled to Russia in May 2005. This unique tour, funded in part by WSU’s Undergraduate Research and Global Education Outreach Grants, gave our students a first-hand look at life and culture in the former Soviet Union. Their travels took them to the world famous Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, to Moscow’s Red Square and the Kremlin, and then deep into Siberia by Trans-Siberian Train to Novosibirsk, Russia. In Novosibirsk, they visited cultural sites and studied for one week with English-speaking students at the world-renowned Novosibirsk State University in Akademgorodok, Siberia.

During this time, Liebler taught courses at Novosibirsk State University such as American Studies, English Literature from Whitman to Ginsberg, The Vietnam War through Literature, and The History and Culture of Detroit. In Siberia, Liebler also gave several poetry readings from his recent chapbook (newly translated into Russian) and performed with acclaimed Woodstock musician Professor Louie, producer for The Band.

The three WSU students will present papers at the WSU Undergraduate Research Conference in November on various aspects of Russian culture, politics and history based on their three-week study abroad tour. The students are Rebecca Gramlich (English Honors), Noah Morgan (pre-Biology) and Lucy Seefried (Sociology).

M. L. Liebler is the current Faculty Advisor for “The City Life” group in the new Living & Learning Communities at Wayne State University. This spring was a very busy time for the poet-musician-instructor, both at home and abroad. In April, M. L. received local and national accolades when he was named the first Poet Laureate of St. Clair Shores and was awarded a Paterson Literary Prize for Arts Achievement for his newest book, The Moon A Box (Western Michigan University Press, 2004). He received a 2005 WSU Faculty Global Education Grant which helped fund his travel to Russia in May, and in June he taught and gave readings at Ludwig Maximillian University and University of Stuttgart in Germany.
New Arrivals

Helen Ditouras’ son Mason indulges in some sofa surfing.

Henry is the latest addition to Ken Jackson’s family.

Welcome Roxanne! Steven Shaviro’s second daughter.

Cannon Schmitt and Dana Seitler’s little one, Beckett, enjoys playing on the slide in New York City.

Alfreda Minus is the new Receptionist at the English Department. She is an Electrical Engineering major at Lawrence Technological University and has been working for Wayne for several years.

Katie A. Gutowski has been our Accounting Assistant since April 6, 2005. Katie is enrolled in the Business Administration program here with a focus in Management.
Richard Grusin and the faculty, staff and students of the English Department are grateful to our alumni and friends for their generous contributions. Donations to the Department of English are used to benefit our students, both undergraduates and graduates. We provide scholarship money, book vouchers, travel support for conferences, prize money for an array of student writing competitions and entirely fund a student publication, *The Wayne Literary Review*.

The donor Honor Roll recognizes gifts made during the period of June 2004 through May 2005. Gifts made after this period will be listed on the next Honor Roll. Every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of the following list. If an error or omission has occurred, please send an e-mail to Margaret Maday at ac7243@wayne.edu.

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**Dr. Marilyn L. Williamson**

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Dr. Elizabeth Sklar  
Mrs. Angeline K. Thorner

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☐ DEPT. SCHOLARSHIP FUND 222829

☐ TERRY KING FELLOWSHIP 061899

☐ TOMPKINS AWARDS 060265

☐ STEPHEN TUDOR SCHOLARSHIP 061909

☐ DENNIS TURNER LECTURE 066972

☐ PEARL WARN SCHOLARSHIP 061978

☐ Other acct. __________________________
**Tell us what’s new?**

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**College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

**Department of English**

**5057 Woodward**

**Detroit, MI 48202**