



DEPARTMENT OF
ENGLISH
 NEWSLETTER

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR:

For English majors and others, spring signifies renewal, rebirth, regeneration, and in the case of our newsletter, reconnection with graduates, emeritus faculty, and friends of our department.

Last year, planning the retirement gala for Gerry Locklin evoked discussions on the place of poets and writers in the history of Los Angeles. What evolved from these conversations is *Long Beach Celebrates West Coast Writers*, an almost week-long series of events honoring L.A. writers and some of our department's contributors to the L.A. writing scene. Along with readings by our students and faculty, there was a panel discussion featuring Carolyn See, novelist; David Ulin, Book Editor of the *L.A. Times*; and CSULB's Stephen Cooper, George Hart, Bill Mohr, and Alan Rifkin—writers and teachers whose particular interests center on L.A. and west coast writing. Our discussion was led by David Fine, emeritus professor and L.A. cultural and literary critic.

Steve Cooper, this event's organizer, envisioned that this homage to west coast writing would become an annual event sponsored by our department, with different themes, genres, and writers featured each year. "*Long Beach Celebrates . . .*" continues with this year's "*Writing Place in Southern California*." Noted L.A. writers of our land, geography, and environment will participate, and we invite you all to celebrate with us this first week of May. (See p. 3 for further details of this event).

Looking forward to my thirteenth year as Chair of this department, I am fortunate to have a first-row seat as our department garners increasing honors. We have the largest graduate program in English in the CSU. We have outstanding students, many of whom are completing Ph.D. programs throughout the country or have tenure-track positions at prestigious research institutions. We have produced some of the most successful graduates who are teaching high school or in community colleges. We have faculty who are excellent teachers, authors of books and journal articles, and regular presenters at national and international venues.

These honors follow on an established record of excellence, and I am always saddened to announce the passing of our fantastic emeritus faculty; in the very recent past, we have lost Ken Ames, Bob Bell, Blaze Bonazza, Charles Brooks, Helen

Gilde, Richard Lee, Louise Lubbe, Richard Lyon, Audrey Peterson, Mary Purcell, Charles Stetler, John Williams. The list grows longer each year — and this spring we lost another luminary, Eileen Lothamer. A formidable, fun-loving, brilliant faculty member, Eileen saw the realities facing our first generation students and the financial demands we as faculty were facing. Following others, like Bill Jaquith, Mary Purcell, John Williams, and Gerry Locklin, she established an endowment to benefit our students, our faculty, and our department. Each year we increase our student scholarships, and with her generosity, Eileen recognized the need for funding for faculty to complete their research, attend a conference, or organize a departmental retreat. We will celebrate faculty accomplishments at our first annual Authors' Reception this spring.

Many know the past through the awarding of a named scholarship at our annual graduation and awards banquet. When we present the William T. Shadden, the James I. Murashige, the Isabelle McCaffery Horn, the Beatrice and John Janosco, the Elizabeth E. Nielsen, or the Ronald Foote scholarships and awards, along with those named after our colleagues, we remember our patrons and friends and, we are thankful for their support and generosity.

Eileen Klink, Chair

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FACULTY PUBLICATIONS



STUDENT NEWS

MA students Lethia Cobbs and Margaret Karteron participated in the panel, "The Role of the (Un)said in Composition: (Words), Spaces, and Silence," at CSU Fullerton's 17th Annual Acacia Group Conference in March.

Kat Gilmore (MA) presented "Wright's Native Son: Revealing our American Racial Contract," which is part of her MA thesis, at CSU Northridge's "Politext: How Writers Respond to Political Issues" conference in March.

Catherine Hein (MA 06, MFA) published two children's stories in the LA Times, "How Sarah Sees Things" and "Bonjour, Odile," the second of which began a series. The newest installment, "Stay Awhile," appeared April 19, 2009.

Ryan Johnson (BA Creative Writing) will be attending the MFA Program for Poets and Writers at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Rick Kilpatrick (MFA) has published eleven poems this year. In spring 2008, he was the recipient of the American Academy of Poets Honorable Mention for his poem "Mal Aria: Bad Air." Transcurrent Press will publish his chapbook of poetry, *A World Less Paved*.

Gerri Lawson (MA) will be presenting a paper entitled "Frank Miller's *The Dark Knight Returns* as 80s Noir and Utopian Subversion" at Brooklyn College's "Under the Influence: Politics and the Currency of Literature" in April.

In April, Irene Novac (MA) will present "'Like a right gipsy': Geography, Nationality, Race and Sexual Subjectivity in Antony and Cleopatra" at (Dis)junctions, the 16th Annual Humanities Conference, University of California, Riverside.

Deb Reed (MA) presented "Gretta and Eveline: Sorrowful Specters or Spirited Souls?" at CSU Fullerton's 17th Annual Acacia Group Conference. In April, she will present "Lear's Reclamation of Fatherhood" at UC Riverside's (Dis)junctions conference.

Danielle Squire (MA) presented her paper "Closeted Costume Fetish: Homosocial Desire and Dan Dreiberger" at CSU Fullerton's Acacia Group Conference in March.

LATER THIS SPRING, LOOK FOR OUR STUDENT PUBLICATIONS:

Riprap 31

Jeffrey Douglas, editor.

Our journal of creative writing.

Watermark 3

Jessica Drawbond and Geri Lawson, editors.

Our peer-reviewed, scholarly journal.

The Department of English will be honoring an impressive number of colleagues with recent or forthcoming book publications at a reception to be held on Thursday, April 23, from 12:00-2:00, in the patio room of the Karl Anatol Center.

Susan Carlile and Ruth Perry, eds., *Henrietta* (1758), by Charlotte Lennox (University Press of Kentucky, 2008).

Tyler Dilts, *A King of Infinite Space* (World Parade Books, 2009). [Novel]

Brian Finney, *Martin Amis* (Routledge, 2008); *English Fiction Since 1984: Narrating a Nation* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006).

Paul Gilmore, *Aesthetic Materialism: Electricity and American Romanticism* (Stanford University Press, 2008).

Lisa Glatt and Suzanne Greenberg, *Abigail Iris: The One and Only* (Walker Books/Bloomsbury USA, 2009). [Children's Novel]

Lloyd Kermode, ed., *Three Renaissance Usury Plays* (Manchester University Press, 2009); *Aliens and Englishness in Elizabethan Drama* (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

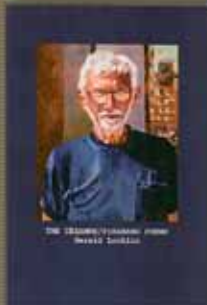
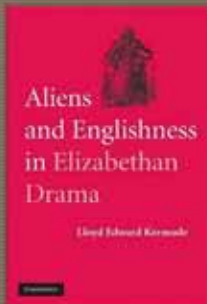
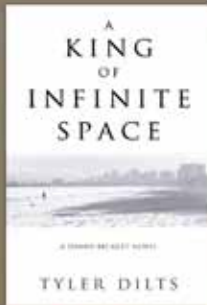
Beth Lau, ed., *Fellow Romantics: Male and Female British Writers, 1790-1835* (Ashgate, 2009), forthcoming in June. [Collection of scholarly articles]

Gerald Locklin, *The Cezanne/Pissarro Poems* (World Parade Books, 2007); *The Plot of Il Trovatore* (Kamini Press, 2008); *New and Selected Poems* (World Parade Books, 2008); *Wedlock Sunday, and Other Poems* (Liquid Paper/Nerve Cowboy Press, Austin, Texas, 2007).

Norbert Schürer, ed., *Sophia* (1762), by Charlotte Lennox (Broadview, 2008).

Patty Seyburn, *Hilarity* (New Issues Press, 2009). [Poems]

Charles Webb, *Amplified Dog* (Red Hen Press, 2006). [Poems]



LONG BEACH CELEBRATES WRITING PLACE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH BANQUET

We cordially invite all students, alumni, friends, and family to our annual English Department Graduation, Scholarships, and Awards Banquet, which will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2009, from 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the El Dorado Park Golf Course Event Center (2400 Studebaker Road, Long Beach, CA 90815). The evening will start with a cash bar and continue with a buffet dinner. The event will conclude with the presentation of twelve scholarships and awards, including for the first time the Gerald Locklin Writing Prize, and students will be honored for College of Liberal Arts distinctions and Department of English achievements. For further information and tickets, please contact Prof. Norbert Schürer (562-985-4213, nshurer@csulb.edu) or Prof. Lloyd Kermode (562-985-4212, lkermode@csulb.edu).

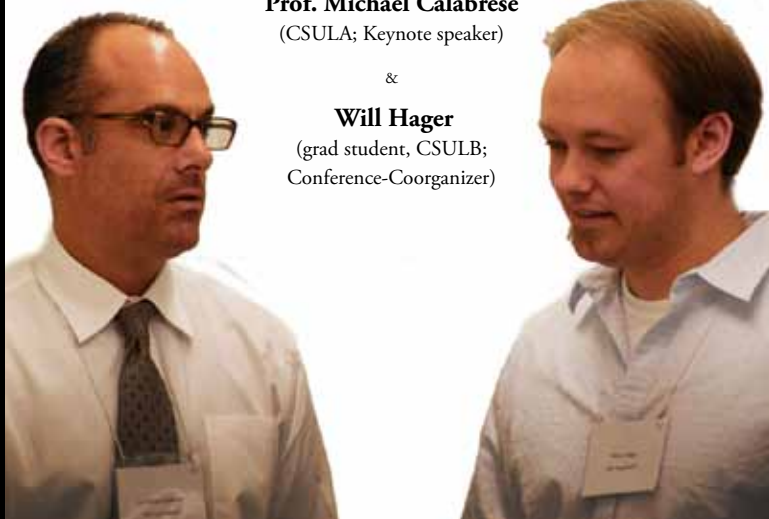
THE POLITICS OF COMMUNICATION: INAUGURAL GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE FOR MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES.

The Inaugural CSULB Graduate Student Conference for Medieval and Renaissance Studies was held at CSULB on Saturday, November 15, 2008. The conference was co-organized by MA students Shawn Moore and William Hager and featured papers presented on a broad range of topics in Medieval and Renaissance Studies by CSULB MA and MFA students William Kammfer, Melanie Buckowski, Deborah Reed, Janelle Brunner, William Hager, Shawn Moore, and Eileen Novak. Panels were chaired by Dr. Nhora Serrano (Comparative Literature), Dr. Lloyd Kermode (English), and Dr. Marie Kelleher (History) with closing remarks by Dr. Eileen Klink, chair of the English Department.

Prof. Michael Calabrese
(CSULA; Keynote speaker)

&

Will Hager
(grad student, CSULB;
Conference-Coorganizer)



The theme of this year's *Long Beach Celebrates* is "Writing Place in Southern California." There will be two nights of readings, May 5-6. (Both events are 7:00-9:00 pm in the Pyramid Annex conference center.) The first night will feature readings by and discussion with three environmental writers who focus on Southern California: Jennifer Price, William Fox, and Bradley Monsma. Southern California as a writer's place will be the topic on the second evening, and D.J. Waldie and California Poet Laureate Carol Muske-Dukes will read and discuss their work.

Jennifer Price received her PhD in History from Yale University and is currently an independent scholar and writer living in L.A. She has published *Flight Maps: Adventures with Nature in Modern America*, which investigates the culture of nature in the trade of exotic feathers for women's hats, the plastic pink flamingo, and "wilderness" stores in suburban malls. Her forthcoming book is called *Thirteen Ways of Seeing Nature in L.A.* Price is also a member of the Los Angeles Urban Rangers and a tour guide of the mighty LA River.

William Fox has published books on topics ranging from Antarctica, the Great Basin, Nevada's Black Rock Desert, and Las Vegas, as well as numerous books of poetry. He has been the recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship and a National Science Foundation grant, and was a visiting scholar at the Getty Research Institute. In *Making Time: Essays on the Nature of Los Angeles*, Fox writes about the La Brea tar pits, the antennae on the mountain peaks that surround L.A., and the Forest Lawn cemetery, among other things.

Bradley Monsma received his PhD from the University of Southern California and he teaches English at CSU Channel Islands. His book, *The Sespe Wild: Southern California's Last Free River*, describes his adventures in and reflections on this wilderness less than fifty miles northwest of downtown L.A.

D.J. Waldie is the Public Information Officer for the city of Lake-wood and a contributing writer at Los Angeles Magazine. His book *Holy Land: A Suburban Memoir* received the California Book Award for nonfiction in 1996, and his most recent book is *Where We Are Now: Notes from Los Angeles* (2004). Waldie's books about Los Angeles and suburban Southern California have been widely praised and anthologized.

Carol Muske-Dukes is a professor at the University of Southern California and is currently California's Poet Laureate. She writes fiction and nonfiction as well as poetry, and among her many books are *Married to the Icepick Killer: A Poet in Hollywood* (essays), *Sparrow* (poems), and *Life After Death* (novel). As Poet Laureate, Muske-Dukes will sponsor what she calls "A Magic Schoolbus," which "will travel throughout California, carrying poets, artists and actors to our beleaguered public schools."

For more information, please visit <http://www.westcoastwriters.org>

**ALUMNI AND STUDENTS:
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH AND TELL US ABOUT YOUR CURRENT ACTIVITIES, FUTURE PLANS, AND PROFESSIONAL OR PERSONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS. SEND AN EMAIL TO PROFESSOR GEORGE HART AT GHART@CSULB.EDU.

IN YOUR EMAIL, PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, YOUR CSULB DEGREES AND WHEN THEY WERE CONFERRED, AND YOUR ADDRESS. LET US KNOW IF WE CAN INCLUDE YOUR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN A FUTURE NEWSLETTER.

ALUMNI NOTES:

Dev Kumar Bose (MA 06) is a student in the Rhetorics, Communication, and Information Design (RCID) doctoral program at Clemson University. In February 2009, he helped organize and host the 2nd Annual Carolina Rhetorics Conference.

A King of Infinite Space, a novel by Tyler Dilts (MA 99, MFA 01), will be published in April 2009 by World Parade books.

Martha Evans (MA 08) has recently published an article on two plays by Jean-Paul Sartre in *Comparative Literature & Culture* (<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clc-web/vol10/iss3>).

Noelle Leiblic's (BA 03, MFA 05) short play, "Everything I Do," was performed at the Elephant Theater in Los Angeles, February 2009.

"Sandstorms," an excerpt from Kristen-Paige Madonia's (MFA 05) novel-in-progress, recently appeared in the *Sycamore Review*. Kristen-Paige has held several prestigious writing residencies recently, including one at Millay Colony of the Arts in April.

Shawn Moore (MA 08) has been selected for the Graduate Dean's Honors List and he will probably go to study medieval literature at the University of New Mexico.

Ellie Valenzuela-Mendoza (MA 08) has been offered a fellowship from the University of Iowa to pursue a PhD in American Studies with a literature emphasis.

Cory Youngblood (MA 07) began a tenure-track position at East Los Angeles College in fall 2008.

You can help us fund scholarships and student activities, bring writers and lecturers to campus, and continue our outreach efforts by making a tax-deductible donation to the Department of English.

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If you would like to make a donation, you can make your check payable to CSULB Foundation Friends of English and send it to the following address, or you can contact Mr. Fitzgerald directly.

HOWIE FITZGERALD, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
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