



English Department Newsletter

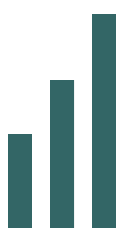
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UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE

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John Muthyala

~ USM's Reorganization Plan was recently approved by the Faculty Senate and President Selma Botman. Upon final approval by the Board of Trustees in May, the Plan will be implemented in AY 2010-11. The Plan involves dissolving several colleges, including the College of Arts and Sciences, and forming the College of Communication, Culture, and the Arts as well as the College of Engineering, Health Professions, Nursing, Science, and Technology; and the College of Public Service, Business, Graduate Education, and Social Work. As one of the largest units at USM, the English Department is poised to play a major role in shaping the structure and mission of its new College. In this academic year, its 19 full-time faculty and over 30 part-time faculty taught 2,181 students in 114 sections in fall

FROM THE CHAIR

2009, and 1,678 students in 83 sections in spring 2010. The total number of students taught in AY 2009-2010 was 3,859. The Department has an average of 222 majors enrolled each semester and graduates approximately 40 students each year.

This year has brought several student and faculty accomplishments: Brietta Hopkins won the Phyllis Lord and Audway Stuart Treworgy Scholarship, and Patricia Henges won the Dorothy Montgomery Scholarship in the College of Arts and Sciences. Elise Jensen won the Department's Barbara C. Jandebuer Scholarship, and Dawn Malkiewicz received the C. Elizabeth Sawyer Award. It is worth noting that last year two English majors won the Treworgy Scholarship and the Allan C. Rodway Scholarship. Clearly, our majors are competing well and being recognized for academic excellence in the university.

Our faculty continue to gain recognition for their achievements. We are delighted that this spring Lorrayne Carroll received the Maine Campus Compact's Donald Harwood Faculty Award for Service-Learning Excellence. Kathy Ashley's prolific record continues in the publication of several books in Medieval

Studies, and Jessica Anthony released her first book of fiction, *The Convalescent*. Lucinda Cole is mapping new disciplinary ground in the emerging field of animal studies, and Rick Abrams' scholarship on Shakespeare has been published in leading venues. From May 24-28, Nancy Gish will conduct the Provost's Summer Writing Seminar for faculty, which is designed to promote a university-wide writing culture. Justin Tussing will direct the Stonecoast Summer Writer's Conference. You can read about them and others elsewhere in this issue. The English Department co-sponsored with the Maine Arts Commission and the Maine Humanities Council two performances of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* on March 18 and 19. The play was presented by the Portland-based theatre group *Naked Shakespeare*, and post-performance discussions were lead by Benjamin Bertram and Nancy Gish.

At the Department social gathering on November 12, Kathleen Ashley and Jessica Anthony read from their brand-new publications, *Being a Pilgrim* and *The Convalescent*, respectively. On April 28, Shelton Waldrep and Justin Tussing conducted a workshop for graduating and current majors. The topic was preparing for graduate study.

The Department and the English Student Association are creating an alumni database to maintain contact information of English alums. We can send newsletters like this to inform you of the exciting things happening in the Department. If you are an alum, please contact Pam LaRiviere at harjula@usm.maine.edu or 207-780-4117.

Our Administrative Assistant, Pam LaRiviere, joined the department last summer, and, during this academic year, she brought stability to the everyday work of maintaining the office. Her dedication and solid organizational skills ensure smooth office workflow.

Thanks to our work-study students this year, Emma Burke (who designed this newsletter), Heidi Cox, and Joshua Lobkowicz. All helped to keep the office running smoothly.

This has been an exciting year, and we can look forward to yet another one. Thankfully, though, we have the summer to look forward to before the start of the next academic year. Wishing you a safe and happy summer!

John Muthyala
Department Chair

BREAKING NEW GROUND

Animal Studies

Professor Lucinda Cole's recent work includes the following: four articles ("Of Mice and Moisture: Rats, Witches, Miasma, and Early Modern Theories of Contagion"; "Scientific Revolution II: From Newton to Laplace"; "I'll do, I'll do, and I'll do: Vermin as Disease Vector in *Macbeth*"; "Posthumanist Measures: Elephants, Assessment, and the Return of Creativity"); an interview with leading scholars like Bruce Boehrer, Richard Nash, Donna Landry, Erica Fudge, and Robert Markley in "Speciesism: A Conversation Among Humanists and Post-humanists"; editing a special issue of *The Eighteenth-Century: Theory and Interpretation* titled "Animal, All Too Animal"; three reviews, and twelve conference presentations at national and international venues.

Traditional approaches in literary studies examine the representation of animals in

literary texts, but Professor Cole's approach is thoroughly interdisciplinary as it studies the history of the relationship between humans and the natural environment. Her emphasis on animals (elephants, mice, rats, or vermin) that compete with humans for food in the context of climate change opens up such promising lines of inquiry that she is often invited to collaborate with people from the sciences in various academic venues. Professor Cole's work is breaking new ground and she is emerging as a major voice in the emerging field of animal studies.



Lucinda Cole



Richard Abrams
"late Brando period, trending toward eurotrash"

Rereading Shakespeare

Professor Abrams recently published "Rereading Shakespeare: The Example of Richard Brathwait" in *Shakespeare Survey*, generally recognized as the premier British Shakespeare journal, and "Oldys, Motteux and 'The Play'rs Old Motto': The 'Totus Mundus' Conundrum Revisited" in *Theatre Notebook*, the most important journal for British theatrical history. Perhaps the first to throw light on a notoriously obscure passage in the Preface to the Shakespeare First Folio, Professor Richard Abrams argues that the Folio editors describe a situation in

which "Friends" of Shakespeare's most gifted readers can be counted on to interpret Shakespeare's plays to fans with mere theatrical interest in Shakespeare. Professor Abrams identifies Richard Brathwait as one of those "Friends," who is situated at the center of a group of Shakespeare readers.

A centuries-old tradition holds that Shakespeare's Globe Theater bore the visible motto, "*Totus Mundus Agit Histrionem*" (the whole world drives/acts the player). Tiffany Stern sought to discredit this tradition and Professor Abrams, in the same journal that Stern published (the organ of the British Society for Theatre Research), now seeks to reinstate it. He persuasively argues that Shakespeare's (and his colleagues') plays were performed under a rubric relevant to the name of the theater in which they were performed. Professor Abrams' work on Shakespeare continues to be widely cited.

MAINE CAMPUS COMPACT AWARD WINNER



Lorrayne Carroll

Congratulations to Professor Lorrayne Carroll for receiving the Maine Campus Compact's Donald Harvard Award for Faculty Service-

Learning Excellence. Professor Carroll was one of three Maine professors honored for making public service an integral part of their teaching. She and her students partnered with numerous sites where students tutored English language learning adults from immigrant/refugee

populations; worked with children in a Headstart program; facilitated a senior citizen reading group; participated in an English conversation class; or assisted in citizenship classes and after-school programs. As a project scholar for the Maine Humanities Council and as a former Board President of Literacy Volunteers, Carroll worked with several local community organizations in the area of literacy. As one of five National Civic Scholars appointed by the National Campus Compact for a three-year term, Carroll delivered papers at the International Conference on Civic Engagement and Service Learning in Ireland and at the Association of American Colleges and Universities conference in Providence,

RI in 2005. With the other four National Civic Scholars, she helped to design an online toolkit for integrating civic engagement with historical research and teaching, and she designed and facilitated workshops at Champlain and Middlebury Colleges and the University of Maine at Farmington. Additionally, she is a Northern New England Campus Compact faculty consultant who has co-designed and facilitated a two-day "Engaging Democracy Through the Humanities Institute." "In all of these venues," shares Professor Carroll, "I have argued through my research, teaching, and service for the efficacy — intellectual, civic, and pedagogical — of service learning and community action."

IN THE SPOTLIGHT~PROFESSOR KATHLEEN ASHLEY



Kathy Ashley

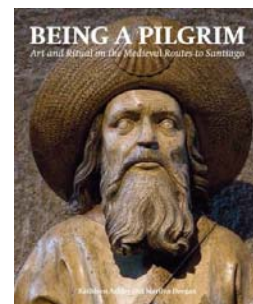
Professor Kathy Ashley's reputation in medieval studies rests upon a continually expanding effort devoted to exploring the role of social and cultural rituals in shaping the politics of identity in the late medieval world. Her recent publication [Being a Pilgrim: Art and Ritual on the Medieval Routes to Santiago](#) (2009) traces the iconography and ritual along the medieval pilgrimage routes to Santiago de Compostella, historically the most well-travelled pilgrimage destination (including Rome and Jerusalem) in Europe. She also

published an edition of the medieval morality play [Mankind](#) in the Medieval English Texts Series. The play is glossed, annotated, and has a bibliography and a long introduction surveying and analyzing the critical reception of the play. In addition to several articles in reputed journals, another book by Ashley titled [The Cults of Saint Foy and the Cultural Work of Saints](#) is forthcoming this year.

In "Accounts of Lives" in [A Companion to Medieval English Literature and Culture. C.1350-1500](#), Professor Ashley extends post-structuralist concepts of the constructed self to hagiography or writing of saint's lives, demonstrating how the use of multiple subject positions in the life

narratives, whether written by individuals themselves or by monastic biographers, can be used to produce agency in manipulating conventions within a dominant ideology. Her interest in first-person narrative also extends to the writing of conduct texts as "The French Enseignement a Philippe and Enseignement a Isabel of Saint Louis" in [Medieval Conduct Literature: An Anthology of Vernacular Guides to Behaviours for Youths, with English Translations](#). In this work Professor Ashley translates and historically contextualizes, within the 13th century tradition of conduct literature, letters of advice written by King Louis XI of France to his son

and daughter. Professor Ashley's extraordinary output reflects a wide range of scholarly interests including medieval hagiography and life writing, conduct literature, ritual practice, iconography and mural painting, women's social agency through charity, and medieval cultural history.



Phyllis Lord and Audway Stuart Treworgy Scholarship Brietta Hopkins



Being chosen as a recipient of the Phyllis Lord and Audway Stuart Treworgy Scholarship is a great

honor for me and I am immensely grateful to have been selected. With the help of this award, I shall be able to finance my studies in the upcoming year as well as participate in a USM student exchange program in England this fall. I am currently in the process of selecting classes at the University of Winchester where I will be studying the works of William Shakespeare and other famous British writers. Upon receiving my scholarship acceptance letter, I found myself reflecting on my experiences here at USM and feeling especially thankful for all of the positive relationships I have formed with my professors and

peers within the English Department. Whether I was chatting with a fellow student before class or discussing future plans with my advisor, I have always felt a strong sense of community within the department, which has provided me with the confidence and support I needed in order to achieve my goals. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people at USM who have touched my life and changed me for the better and to wish other students the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

Dorothy Montgomery Scholarship Patrcia Henges



As my 47th birthday quickly approaches, I find myself a very non-traditional

student. For this small feat I am extremely proud because I always

believed that one was never too old to learn and I am finally "walking my talk." I am considered a senior and I am working on a Bachelors Degree as an English Major. I hope to continue on and achieve a Masters in Library Science when I finally accomplish my BA.

I graduated high school and went immediately into local law enforcement where I spent the next 20 years working for the state government in various positions. The last 8 of those years I was also working a second part-time position. I finally met the love of my life and within six months quit both jobs and moved over 250 miles away. One of my few possessions I took with me in my big move was my small collection of over 1,400 books. This new hobby of mine turned into a business venture as we opened a bookstore/coffee café called [Another Bookstore](#). After a few years, I wanted to return to school, so the entire business was turned over to the board of directors, and it is with a small measure of pride to know this

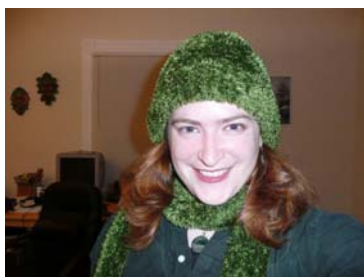
non-profit is still operating today.

It was a very easy decision for me, when I returned to school again, to become an English Major. This is only my second semester here at USM, but I am enjoying myself very much. My professors seem very knowledgeable and have been very helpful in guiding me in my studies, and I am looking forward to many more enjoyable classes. One thing my continuing education allows me at this point in my life, is to show my ten-year old daughter that education is extremely important, and I can only hope that my "walking my talk" enforces the idea of continuing education with my daughter. I am very grateful to USM and to my spouse and daughter for their continued support.

Cont. on next page

Barbara C. Jandebeur Scholarship

Elise Jensen



My experience as an English major at USM has been an overwhelmingly positive one. I have had multiple professors who have challenged me more, and encouraged me to be more engaged with the material, than I ever had before. I have con-

sistently felt that I was really seen and heard, and treated as a future scholar, rather than just a face in a crowd. In addition to being with wonderful teachers, I have had immense personal support from several professors during my time here. Dr. Gish, Dr. Abrams and Professor Sholl have been particularly supportive during various times when life outside the university had thrown hard things my way.

Being awarded the Jandebeur scholarship means a great deal to me. Since returning to college, I have worked harder, with greater focus, than I have ever worked on anything in my life. It is an amazing feeling to have that effort formally recognized.

Provost's Summer Writing Seminar

May 24 - 28, 2010

Directed by Nancy Gish

For more information, contact:

ngish@usm.maine.edu

Stonecoast Summer Writer's Conference

July 18 - 24, 2010

Directed by Justin Tussing

For more information:

http://usm.maine.edu/stonecoast_wc/

What our alums are doing...

Erin Elizabeth Finn is pursuing her Masters in Library Science at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Erinn Ridge has been accepted into Lesley University's Clinical Mental Health Counseling program.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS & NEWS

Ann Dean's "Turf Battles, Subcultures, and Procedural Technicalities: Multiple Pathways toward Assessment at the University of Southern Maine," with Susan McWilliams, will appear in Coming to Terms with Student Outcomes Assessment: Faculty and Administrators' Journeys to Integrating Assessment in Their Work and Institutional Culture (Ed. Peggy L. Maki, Stylus, 2010).

Annie Finch had three publications released this year: Eve in the Classic Contemporaries Series from Carnegie Mellon University Press; Among the Goddesses from Red Hen Press; and the CD version of Calendars from Tupelo Press. She delivered the opening reading at the first biennial conference of the Association for the Study of Women and Mythology and read at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books.

Nancy Gish was the University Trustee Professor for 2008-2009. Her research in Scotland has produced groundbreaking work on T.S. Eliot as publisher, as well as new work on Scottish Drama presented in Montreal, Florence, and Malta.

Bud McGrath's article "Brian Friel: From Nationalism to Postnationalism" is forthcoming in A Companion to Irish Literature (vol 2. Ed. Julia Wright. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell). He revised and completed a book length manuscript Language, Identity and Nationalism: Ireland's Field Day Theatre Company and an article "Settler Nationalism: Ulster Unionism and Postcolonial Theory."

Professor McGrath served on two dissertation committees for graduates in the Departments of English at University of Miami (FL) and University of Texas at San Antonio. He was asked to serve on two advisory boards in Portland: the American Irish Repertory Ensemble and the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts. He is also serving on the planning committee for Portland's first Bloomsday Celebration, sponsored by the Maine Irish Heritage Center. Professor McGrath received a Center for Technology Enhanced Learning (CTEL) grant to develop an online course in Irish drama for the 2010 summer session.

Betsy Sholl's Rough Cradle placed second in the Maine Book Awards. She was the featured poet in Image Magazine, and her interview appeared in Brilliant Corners, a Journal of Jazz and Literature. Her new poems are out or forthcoming in Best American Poetry, Field, Image, Ploughshares, Cerise, and Solstice.

Tamara Szafranski participated in the first annual International EAPRIL conference in Trier, Germany, in November 2009, where she presented her research on Vygotskian theory, and its relevance to university education. She attended USM's 2010 Pineland Scholarship and Research conference and presented a talk entitled "Bridging the Gap: Education, Popular Culture, and Technology."

Shelton Waldrep's recent scholarship includes The Dissolution of Place: Architecture after Postmodernism (Ashgate, forthcoming, just put under contract), and "The Persistence of the Dandy in Contemporary Culture: On David Bowie, Subcultures, and Resistance" (commissioned essay). Catalogue accompanying the exhibit 'Sur le dandysme aujourd'hui' at the Centro Galego de Arte Contemporanea in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Text translated into Spanish and Galician. Edited by RMS La Asociación, Madrid, forthcoming. He read Barry Hannah's Short Story "Water Liars" at Celebrate Dead Writers Event, University of Southern Maine, April 5, 2010, and presented "Bond's Body: *Casino Royale* (2006)" at the American Comparative Literature Association's Annual Meeting, New Orleans, April 2, 2010.

Erika Waters' forthcoming publications include "By Creating We Think, A Conversation with Tessa Ransford," World Literature Today (March/April, 2010); "Witnessing HIV/AIDs in Jamaica: Hope's Hospice by Kwame Dawes," The Caribbean Writer (vol. 24, 2010); "We Know Blows: Patricia Powell's 'The Fullness of Everything'" (Review), The Women's Review of Books; "Anthologies as Canon Formation," in The Routledge Companion to Caribbean Literature in English, (Ed. Alison Donnell and Michael Bucknor. Routledge, Taylor & Francis); Kittery to Bar Harbor: Touring Coastal Maine (Arcadia Publishers, 2010.)