

# Wordsworth



The Newsletter of Lewis & Clark's English Department

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## JOHN CALLAHAN

by Zane Pais

Taking a class with John Callahan, the Morgan S. Odell Professor of Humanities, and having access to the letters of Ralph Ellison, previously unseen by students, was truly a great way to end my four years at Lewis & Clark. Seminar-style classes like the one John led are hard to come by, even at Lewis & Clark, so we always looked forward to discussing the reading as we filed into the Heritage Room of Watzek twice a week.

I had concerns, initially, about reading Ellison's unpublished letters. He is a literary giant, and I feared that my enjoyment of the letters would distort my analysis of his books (*Flying Home*, *Invisible Man*, *Juneteenth*, et al.). Well, they did feed into my analysis of his work, but in an elegant way. They show the evolution of an artist: from a boy with cramped handwriting, writing to his mother from the State Training School for Negro Boys in Boley, Oklahoma, to a man who viewed letters as an art form and wrote multiple drafts even for the simplest communications. This habit of fastidious revision will ring a bell for those familiar with *Three Days Before The Shooting*, his unfinished second novel, which he worked on and tirelessly revised for over forty years.

Studying

Ellison without John Callahan, would have been very different.

John had the pleasure of personally knowing Ellison for many years, and he is Ellison's literary executor. Among many other duties that come with his title, John edited and posthumously published Ellison's second novel, *Juneteenth*. (John is also a novelist himself; *A Man You Could Love* was published in 2007, and his second novel is already completed.) He is currently working on an edition of Ellison's letters.

Professor Callahan is retiring this year, and he had both his Yeats and Ellison classes over for spaghetti with an impressive homemade sauce at the end of the semester. We lounged, ate, drank wine and discussed literature. I realized then how John makes his classroom feel as casual as chatting with a friend, creating an environment where discussions are lively and literature can be explored with a passion. His students will always remember him, and we thank him for his immense contributions to Lewis & Clark, and American literature as a whole.



John Callahan

## We want to hear from you!

Drop us a line to let us know what you've been up to, where you're living, and what plans you're making. You can email the department at [english@lclark.edu](mailto:english@lclark.edu) or write to :

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## THE RALPH ELLISON SYMPOSIUM

by Francis Donnelly

In February, the college hosted the Ralph Ellison Symposium, with many preeminent Ellison scholars from around the country in attendance. The symposium was held in commemoration of the centennial of Ellison's birth. Presenters came from institutions as far-flung as Columbia University, Oklahoma University, Haverford College and University of Pennsylvania, among others. The symposium was a meeting of professors, community members and students with a shared fascination with Ellison's life and work. Professor Eric Sund-

quist of University of Tennessee at Knoxville performed in depth literary analysis, Professors Morel of Washington Lee University and Professor Beavers of University of Pennsylvania gave more political perspectives, and a panel Friday afternoon provided biographical sketches of Ellison himself. The overarching theme of the symposium was the continuing relevance of Ellison's words to the modern world.

For the final address on Friday evening, 1990 National Book Award Winner Charles Johnson, professor emeritus at the University

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# FACULTY NEWS & UPDATES

**Kurt Fosso** is currently writing on “Blake’s Equines of Instruction” for a proposed volume on *Beastly Blake* for Palgrave Press. His chapter examining William Wordsworth and “Animals” was published this year in Cambridge’s *Wordsworth in Context*, and another essay, “Of Asses and Men: Animals in Wordsworth’s Peter Bell,” will soon appear in *Wordsworth and the Green Romantics: Affect and Ecology in the Nineteenth Century*. Next year Fosso will be on sabbatical, which he’ll devote in part to writing about ravens (and the occasional albatross) in Coleridge and company and to rereading Keats’s poetry and letters.

**Karen Gross** has published two articles, one on John the Evangelist in Pearl the other on Francis Petrarch and art. She will be giving three papers at different conferences this summer: one at Kalamazoo on medieval understandings of generosity, one in London about illustrated Apocalypse manuscripts read as science manuals, and one in Siena about St. Francis.

**Jerry Harp**’s poems appear in the current issue of *Image*, and a poem is forthcoming in *Pleiades*, which will also carry his feature, which he edited and introduced, about T. S. Eliot’s “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock.” His article “Liberal Arts, Multivalence, and Global Communications” is forthcoming in *Academe*, and his essay “Robert” is forthcoming in *December*.

**Cheston Knapp** was awarded a 2015 Oregon Literary Fellowship in nonfiction and is using the cheese

from that to do some research in Germany this summer. He’s long been at work on a collection of essays, some of which are about nostalgia and skateboarding, professional wrestling and the nature of pain and experience, and what UFOlogists can teach us about scientific truth.

**Michael Mirabile** recently published articles on the authors Don DeLillo and Nathanael West. This summer he will be working on a number of research projects regarding links of post-World War II American fiction to forms of mass media such as film and television.

**Megan Pugh** just completed her book *America Dancing: From the Cakewalk to the Moonwalk*, which Yale University Press will publish in November. After a fulfilling year as a visitor in the English department, Megan is happy that she can stick around L&C, first as artist-in-residence at the Fir Acres Workshop in Writing and Thinking this summer, and then as an instructor in the E&D program. Her poem “Running in Place” appeared in the spring issue of *Better*.

**Don Waters** will spend the summer tightening the final bolts on a memoir about fathers, sons, and surfing. He hopes to conduct much of this work on the Oregon coast, where he’ll be searching out new surf breaks. Last fall he was awarded a Lannan Foundation Fellowship to work on the book, which he did in Marfa, Texas. He continues to write for the San Francisco Chronicle and root for the Liverpool Football Club.

**Rishona Zimring** will spend a month this summer at Chicago’s Newberry Library exploring its archives of 20th-century dance performance and pedagogy, as part of a project that investigates the way dance fostered intercultural exchanges in the first half of the century. She has three new essays forthcoming in 2015: “(Re-)making a Scene: Acoustic Space and Modernist Interiority in Larkin, Rhys, and Brophy;” “Rethinking Mansfield Through Gaudier-Brzeska: Monumentality and Intimacy;” and “Prufrock for the 21st-Century.” This spring she received a Lorry Lokey Faculty Excellence Award, given by the college for inspired teaching, rigorous scholarship, demonstrated leadership, and creative accomplishments



## STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS

**Lizzy Acker** is working as the Web Editor for *Willamette Week* in Portland. **Kathleen Antonioni** earned a Ph.D. in Romance Studies from Duke and is now an Assistant Professor of French at Kansas State University. **Claire Askew** will begin the M.F.A. program in creative writing at Washington University in St Louis, fall 2015. **Nicolette Boehland** graduated from Harvard Law School and is working as a Research Consultant on Syria at Amnesty International. **Kathleen Burckhardt** is earning an M.A. from Publishing Program at Simon Fraser in Canada. **Jordan Buysse** is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in English at the University of Virginia. **Molly Dickinson** is entering the M.F.A. program at the

University of Michigan. **Marissa Fenley** will begin the Ph.D. program in English at the University of Chicago in fall, 2015, focusing on modernism and performance studies. **Emily Guasco** will begin the M.F.A. program in creative writing at UCLA in fall, 2015. **Jessica Holmes** received her M.F.A. from the University of Washington and is entering the English Ph.D. program there. **Allison Hutchcraft** got her M.F.A. at Purdue and is now teaching at UNC-Charlotte. **Chris Keady** is leaving the registrar’s office and enrolling at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. **Warren Kluber** is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in English and Theater at Columbia U. **Sarah le Pichon** is entering the Ph.D program at the

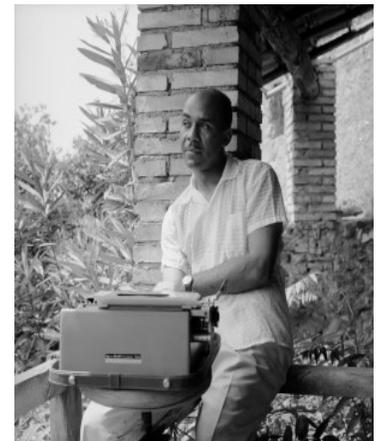
University of Texas. **Marli Lee McGarrah** is working as a music licenser for Rumblefish. **Thomas Moore** will be entering Marquette’s master’s-degree program in English and American Literature. **Nate Moyer** is beginning the Masters of Public Administration program at the University of Washington. **Casey Newbegin** is pursuing a degree in Information Studies at the University of Texas School of Information. **Margaret Rose** is completing her interdisciplinary M.A. in humanities at U of Chicago and is working this summer at the Illinois Humanities Council. **Mariam Said** is staying at Lewis & Clark and entering the Education school

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of Washington, spoke about meeting Ellison when he received the prestigious award. Johnson urged the audience not to read Ellison’s *Invisible Man* on a “surface or pedestrian level,” and emphasized the thematic struggle to “live authentically.”

Another real focus of the weekend was Lewis & Clark’s newest professor emeritus, John F. Callahan. Callahan is Ellison’s literary executor, meaning he is responsible for the compilation, editing and posthumous publishing of Ellison’s works. As moderator Marc Connor, of Washington and Lee University, put it, “the goal of the weekend is to thank John Callahan as profusely and often as possible.” The community of Ellisonians all paid

respects to the distinguished faculty member, with a particularly moving address by alumnus Adam Bradley (’96), a former student and collaborator of Callahan’s and now a professor at UC Boulder. He spoke of his personal relationship with Callahan and his literary affinity to Ellison (he has also published a book on Ellison, entitled *Ralph Ellison in Progress* [Yale UP 2010]). Callahan’s current students, enrolled in his class on Ellison’s letters, participated in a roundtable discussion on Saturday afternoon with the symposium’s presenters. Afterwards, Callahan closed the symposium with a final address, speaking about the overwhelming importance of reading and learning from Ellison’s texts.



# 2015 STUDENT AWARDS & HONORS

## DIXON AWARD RECIPIENTS EMILE DULTRA AND EMMA POST



Emma Post

The Dixon Award was established in 2002 by the Dixon Family Foundation, thanks to the generous efforts of alumni Hillary ('99) and Adam ('01) Dixon. Each year a junior English major is awarded a \$2,500 research and travel grant to enrich his or her current studies in preparation for senior year.

Two English majors received the Dixon research-travel award this year: Emma Post and Emile Dultra.

Emma Post is headed to the University of Glasgow's Special Collections in Scotland to do research on the country's first national poet, Edwin Morgan. She will be comparing his sixteen scrapbooks, assiduously compiled over his lifetime, with his later and more famous work in concrete and visual poetry. She will also be working with his longtime friend and distinguished poetry professor, Alan Riach.

Emile Dultra will go to the Harry Ransom Center in Austin, TX. She plans to conduct research on the manuscripts, essays and letters of Ezra Pound and Gertrude Stein. She is interested in investigating the connections both authors had to radical political ideologies, as well as their experiences as American expats who lived in Europe during wartime. She is excited about the opportunity to travel to a different part of the country, and research such influential and inspiring writers.



Emile Dultra

## JERRY BAUM AWARD RECIPIENT ZANE PAIS



Zane Pais

This year's recipient of the Baum Award is Zane Pais for his paper titled, "Hello Darkness My Old Friend: Mystic Dionysian Implications in *St. Erkenwald* and *Patience*." In his paper he

The Jerry Baum Award was established in 2007 by the Department of English, alumni, family, and friends to honor the memory of beloved professor R. Jerold (Jerry) Baum. The recipient is a senior whose senior-seminar paper addresses the relationship between literature and history and is recognized as outstanding by the English faculty. A \$250 prize accompanies the award.

## Graduating Seniors

William Aime  
Gabriel Albano  
Seraphie Allen  
Jacob Bartman  
Tessa Belanger  
John Bosha  
Annabel Carroll  
Caitlin Degnon  
Sierra Enright  
Ailee Feber  
Colin Fuller  
Kaiya Gordon  
Ivi Anna Hathaway  
Cierra Higgins  
Emma Joss  
Sarah Koch  
Kelly Lammers  
Blue Lassiter  
Rebecca Lill  
Marc Matchak  
Raquel McNeff  
Emma Miller  
Elena Naaktgeboren  
Lam Nguyen  
Aron Ouzilevski  
Zane Pais  
Kathryn Pierce  
Emma Post  
Lily Reiner  
Kevin Ryan  
Mariam Said  
Maria Saracino-Lowe  
Rebecca Schulman  
Dylan Stringer  
Lilian Tuttle  
Emily VanKoughnett  
Bryn Werner

## SENIOR FICTION AND POETRY PRIZE AWARDS



Emma Joss

The 2015 Lewis & Clark College Fiction Prize is awarded to Emma Joss, for her story, "Wet Dream."

This year's winner of the Academy of American Poets Prize is Kaiya Gordon for her submissions, "Self Portrait (So Much Depends)"; "Checking in with Kaiya"; and "City of 10,000 Buddhas."

Honorable mention went to Annabel Carroll for her submissions, "To an Icon"; "Annabel Lee" and "Not a Very Bad Mistake."



Kaiya Gordon

## DOROTHY BERKSON WRITING AWARDS

This year, two English Majors shared the Dorothy Berkson Award for Writing in Gender Studies. Each year the award recognizes written achievement focused on gender and authored by a senior.

Annabel Saliba Carroll received the award for her academic paper entitled, "The Role of Illness in the Works of Virginia Woolf." Emma Post also won for her collection of poetry, "We Begin Our Tour of the Female Muse."



Annabel Carroll and Emma Post

Both winners were honored at a reception that celebrates Professor Berkson's contributions to Lewis & Clark College and the excellence of current students who study gender through written expression.

# A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

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This has been a year of transition for the English department, a year of comings and goings. First of all, the department chair has a new occupant and this letter a new author. Last summer Kurt Fosso concluded a triumphant four-year term as chair and handed me (Will Pritchard) the keys to departmental wine cellar and humidor. There have been no major crises this year, and with several former department chairs still on hand, there have been plenty of elders for me to ask for guidance. One of those former chairs, Rishona Zimring, was chosen by the college this year as one of the first recipients of the Lorry Lokey Faculty Excellence Award.

In addition to a change at the top, we had several professors – Lyell Asher, Rachel Cole and Kristin Fugie – on sabbatical for some or all of this year. We also had two more professors leading overseas programs this spring: Andrea Hibbard in Australia, and Pauls Toutonghi in Morocco. And in the fall Mary Szybist was teaching at the Iowa Writers' Workshop in Iowa City. Luckily for us, in addition to our regular adjuncts, Mike Mirabile and Cheston Knapp, we had two excellent visiting professors teaching in the department. Megan Pugh offered courses in American literature and culture both semesters, and Don Waters taught fiction-writing this spring. Don will continue on next year, as Pauls begins a year-long sabbatical. And Kurt, promoted to full professor this spring, will also be on sabbatical in 2015-16.

So perhaps every year is one of transition, since someone is always returning from or embarking upon a sabbatical, and the perennial exchange of graduating seniors for entering freshmen also never ceases. We graduated a stellar bunch of majors this past year, including a record six students who earned honors in English. They were balanced by batch enrollments and strong performances in English 205 and 206, so we have faith in our rising majors as well. We are offering some exciting new courses next fall, including two new senior seminars: one on “World Literature in Dialogue” (taught by Rishona Zimring) and one on “The Literature of American Slavery” (taught by Rachel Cole). In the spring, Karen Gross will be teaching a new course centered on a single medieval manuscript recently acquired by Watzek Special Collections. The English curriculum, too, is undergoing continual modification and renovation.

The big change, the most monumental departure, is that John Callahan is retiring after forty-eight years at Lewis & Clark. His final year here was glorious and valedictory, with his bringing to campus a centennial symposium on Ralph Ellison in February and his teaching farewell courses in the spring on Yeats and on Ellison. After the semester ended, we gathered as a department to celebrate him, and we presented him with a first edition of Yeats' *Last Poems and Plays* and a bottle of Redbreast Irish whiskey. In the accompanying card, I inscribed the final lines of *King Lear*: “The oldest hath borne most: we that are young / Shall never see so much, nor live so long.” It seems safe to say that none of us will ever again see a career as varied, as splendid and as long-lasting as John's.

At the farewell breakfast for the graduating seniors on the morning of commencement, John spoke a bit about his coming to Lewis & Clark back in 1967 and then concluded by reciting the ending of Yeats' “Dialogue of Self and Soul,” in which the poet declares, “I am content to live it all again / And yet again.”

I am content to follow to its source  
Every event in action or in thought;  
Measure the lot; forgive myself the lot!  
When such as I cast out remorse  
So great a sweetness flows into the breast  
We must laugh and we must sing,  
We are blest by everything,  
Everything we look upon is blest.

May we all feel that way when we reach the end.