

Wordsworth



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Research Collaborations

Collecting the Life of an Author

by Paul Merchant

Around 1998, when I'd been working with the William Stafford archives for a couple of years, and Vince Wixon and I had finished editing Stafford's prose collection *Crossing Unmarked Snow*, I was given a surprise bonus by Dorothy Stafford. I was able to afford a great treasure, a copy (in almost mint condition) of the first serial publication of *David Copperfield*, one of Stafford's favorite books, about which he had written eloquently in the volume Wixon and I had just edited. I was also able to purchase from the same British book dealer a disbound canto of Lord Byron's *Don Juan* in its first printing—one of my favorite long poems.

Reading those first chapters of *Copperfield* just as its first readers experienced it in May 1850, and meditating on the challenges of writing a novel in serial form, I began to think of collecting Dickens in early printings more systematically. The two complete *Copperfields* of 1850 – the first British and the German Tauchnitz in English – came along quickly, followed by early American printings in 1851 and 1852, the second a Christmas gift from Doug Erickson. Before long the whole printing history of that novel was in hand.

When Pauls Toutonghi began teaching *Hard Times*, that novel became a new focus. Its advertising slip of 1854 was the start, then portions of the New York serializations in two different journals, and an American selection for children, Sissy Jupe from *Hard Times*. A true first edition is still to be found, though we have the first illustrated edition of 1877. Other novels in their first editions, all bound from the original parts, include *Dombey and Son*, *Bleak House*, *Our Mutual Friend*, and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. The products of these years of collecting now reside in Special Collections, and a substantial selection is on display in the library to celebrate the bicentenary of Dickens' birth.



One of five displays from the Dickens exhibit in the library



Students and faculty gather in Smith Hall



A Birthday cake for Dickens at the celebration of his literary legacy



Musicians Kathryn Muller-Lorish and Hanzaburo Araki performed

Happy Birthday, Charles Dickens

by Pauls Toutonghi

Excited by the opportunity to celebrate the bicentennial of Dickens' birth, Paul Merchant and I decided to put together an exhibit that would showcase Watzek Library's impressive holdings – as well as Paul's own private library of manuscripts and editions of *David Copper-*

field. My role, from the English Department, was primarily as a sounding-board for ideas.

Since I was planning on teaching a Dickens course in the Spring of 2012, I was excited to help support my students' research interests with archival materials.

I was delighted by the beautiful work that Jeremy Skinner and Paul did with the exhibit cases, and I was happy to provide some of the text for the exhibit.

The cases came together in an astonishing way, spanning all the eras of Dickens' life, and providing illumination for a number of critical biographical issues.

My own interest lies in Dickens as an exemplar. His blend of wit and sorrow – and his ceaseless, boundless energy – is something I try to emulate. What a joy it was to assist in the assembly of this phenomenal resource.

Graduating Seniors

Majors

Marnina R. Bates
 Claire H. Burdick
 Emma B. Chandler
 Emily J. Cousins
 William H. Cross
 Karla L. Dechamps
 Molly E. Dickinson
 Nicholas L. Erickson
 Joshua S. Francis
 Sarah L. Gottlieb
 Erin T. Gravley
 Isabel F. Greiner
 Rachel B. King
 Warren R. Kluber
 Lynsey L. Lacher
 Lauren S. Lederman
 Christopher M. Leja
 Ryan M. Mooney
 Kelsey M. Morris
 Maya A. McOmie
 Thomas D. Moore
 Casey E. Newbegin
 Virginia C. O'Brien
 Olivia B. Reed
 Kenzie S. Rowlett
 Erin K. Ruprecht
 Richard E. Sames
 Laura R. Santos-Bishop
 Kathryn M. Simmons
 Colter A. Thomas
 Casey R. Twining
 Alexander S. Whistler
 Eric O. Wilton
 David A. Zilban

Minors

Sarah Burgess
 Claire Cushing
 Olivia Erlanger
 Stephanie Levine
 Sarah Patterson
 William Preston
 Lyndsey Romick
 Gareth Stacke
 Louise Trueheart

Lewis & Clark Visiting Writer Series

Fall 2011 / Spring 2012



Keith Scribner
September 13th



Diane Wakoski & Matthew Dickman
October 27th



Diana Abu-Jaber
October 4th



Julian Smith
January 31st

This academic year, the English department has hosted a bevy of talented writers. They have graced the Armstrong Lounge with their stories and words: from the engagingly heartfelt to the wondrous and hilarious.



Thomas Pruiksma
February 22nd



John Beer
April 10th



Jeff Sullivan
March 12th



Cary Howie
March 22nd



Jésus Barquet
April 5th

Faculty News & Updates

Rachel Cole

Rachel Cole's article "Rethinking the Value of Lyric Closure: Giorgio Agamben, Wallace Stevens, and the Ethics of Satisfaction" appeared in the March 2011 issue of *PMLA*, the journal of the Modern Language Association of America.



Kurt Fosso

Kurt Fosso will be in Glasgow, Scotland in the Fall, leading a group of LC students. His essay "Blake's 'Introduction' and Hesiod's *Theogony*" is forthcoming in *Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly*, and a review of Alexander Regier and Stefan H. Uhlig's collection, *Wordsworth's Poetic Theory: Knowledge, Language, Experience*, will appear in an upcoming issue of *Studies in Romanticism*.



Kristin Fujie

Kristin Fujie has greatly enjoyed her first two semesters of teaching at Lewis & Clark. She plans to attend the annual conference for the American Literature Association this May and looks forward to devoting her time to research this summer. She is currently working on an article about William's Faulkner's novel *Flags in the Dust*.



Jerry Harp

Jerry Harp has had several recent publications. His poem "Trellis" appeared in *Pleiades*, and "The

Report" and "The Creature in Thrall" appeared in *Fulcrum*. His article "Ong, Evolution, and the Method of Dialogue," appeared in *Explorations in Media Ecology*, and he was a keynote speaker for Media Literacy Week at St. Louis University. He also read at a poetry reading with Mary Szybist at Fontbonne University.



Mary Szybist

Her second book, *Incarnadine*, will be published this coming year by Graywolf Press. An essay, "There interposed a _____: Reflections on Poetic Drama," is forthcoming in *The Writer's Notebook II*, by Tin House Books, and her poems recently appeared in *The Kenyon Review* and *Ploughshares*. This spring she traveled to Laos and Cambodia to begin research for her next book.



Rishona Zimring

Rishona Zimring's recent and forthcoming publications include a review of Susan Gubar's *True Confessions: Feminist Professors Tell Tales Out of School*, and an article entitled "Mansfield's Charm: The Enchantment of Domestic 'Bliss.'" She will be speaking about ballet, folk dance, and British culture at a conference at Brown University in June, and plans to contribute an essay to a special journal issue in honor of the 100th anniversary of the first performance of the Russian Ballet's "The Rite of Spring."

2012 Student Awards & Honors

The Dixon Award – Jordan Buysse



Jordan Buysse

This year's award goes to junior English major Jordan Buysse, for his proposed research of James Joyce. Buysse plans to travel to Trieste, Italy to participate in the 14th Annual Trieste Joyce Summer School. Buysse was inspired to travel to Trieste after reading *Years of Bloom*, a book written by the founder of the summer conference. Buysse is interested in how Joyce's experience in Eastern Europe emerges as metropolitanism in his novel *Ulysses*. Upon Buysse's return to Lewis & Clark, he will describe his experiences and research to the department and campus in a formal presentation. The Dixon Award was established in 2002 by the Dixon Family Foundation. Each year a junior English-major applicant is awarded a \$2,500 research and travel grant to enrich his or her current studies in preparation for the senior year and beyond.

The Jerry Baum Award – Claire Burdick



Claire Burdick

This year's recipient is senior English major Claire Burdick, for her paper "A Poet's Epitaph: Wordsworth's Epitaphic Poetics." Her essay investigates, in part, the force of pastoral genre in a rather overlooked and undervalued poem in Wordsworth and Coleridge's *Lyrical Ballads* of 1800. The Jerry Baum Award was established in 2007 by the Department of English with alumni, family, and friends to honor the memory of professor of English R. Jerold Baum. The recipient is always a senior whose seminar paper addresses the relationship between literature and history and is recognized as outstanding by the English faculty.

Senior Fiction Prize



Eleanor Embry

This year's winner of the Lewis & Clark College Fiction prize is English major Eleanor Embry, for her short story "The Day The River Overflowed." Embry is also a writer of poetry. The Fiction Prize was judged by author David Wolman. The winner receives \$100.00 and recognition at the Honors Convocation.

Senior Poetry Prize



Molly Dickinson

This year's winner of the American Academy of Poets' Prize is English major Molly Dickinson, for her poem "Great Blue Heron, Dance With Me." The Poetry Prize Contest is held at 177 undergraduate institutions annually. All the winners will be listed in the summer issue of the Academy's journal, *American Poet*.

Honorable mentions:

Garrett Chavis – "Mistletoe"
Claire Burdick – "Tops and Pots"

Honors Recipients



Karla Dechamps

Karla Dechamps received honors for her thesis, "Implications of Identity: The Green Knight of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight." Her essay explores the implications of legitimizing the Green Knight as a knight proper.



Molly Dickinson

Molly Dickinson was awarded honors for her thesis, "Redefining the Lay-Mystic: *Pearl* and Vernacular Theology," which argues that *Pearl* contains a liberal image of lay worship and vernacular theology, poised on the eve of the Protestant Reformation.



Casey Newbegin

Casey Newbegin received honors for her thesis, "These Frail Vessels: Three Heroines in George Eliot and Henry James." Her essay in part explores James' response, in *Portrait of a Lady*, to Eliot's *Middlemarch*.

2012 SAAB Grant



Casey Twining

Casey Twining received a SAAB research grant this year to travel to the Elizabeth Bishop archives at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY. As part of this project, she set up a library display of Bishop's drafts and journal entries. SAAB supports students who are conducting self-motivated research that adds depth to existing courses at Lewis & Clark.

Alumni Updates

In Memoriam: Rudolph Byrd, 1953-2011



**Rudolph Byrd,
Ph.D.**

The Lewis & Clark English department regrets the passing of an esteemed alumnus, Professor Rudolph Byrd ('75), who was the Director of the Program of African American Studies at Emory University. This past February, at Lewis & Clark's Alumni Honors Banquet, Professor Byrd was posthumously awarded the title of Distinguished Alumnus. The year before, Byrd had spoken at Lewis & Clark on "The Death of the Essential Black Subject: Marlon Riggs' "Black Is, Black Ain't." Professor Byrd was Lewis & Clark's first African American recipient of the Rena Ratte Award, and went on to receive a Ph.D from Yale. He was the founder and director of Emory University's James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference, founding co-chair of

the Alice Walker Literary Society, and the author of some dozen books. At the time of his passing, he had just finished writing a series of lectures, to be presented at Harvard, on race and sexuality. He was also in the midst of several other projects, including a biography of author Ernest Gaines, a monograph on the early novels of Alice Walker, and, in collaboration with Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., an anthology of African-American poetry. Professor Byrd died on October 14th, 2011. He was 58 years old.

Recent grad to pursue MFA



Riley Johnson

Rena Ratte Award Winner, Pamplin Society Fellow, Baum essay winner, and English major, Riley Johnson ('11) has been accepted into the Iowa Writers' Workshop, a 2-year MFA program that culminates in the submission of a creative thesis. Johnson's intellectual contributions and creative achievements at the College impressed all the faculty with whom he studied and worked while pursuing his degree. Mary Szybist said of him, "I have every faith that he is going to go on to write things that will astonish and humble us all." He plans to earn a Ph.D. in literature, and to pursue a career as a professor of English literature.

Ann Dobyms to speak at PBK induction ceremony



Ann Dobyms

This May, English alumna Ann Dobyms ('68) returned to Lewis & Clark's campus to be inducted into Phi Beta Kappa as an honorary member. Dobyms is Professor of Rhetoric and Medieval Literature in the English Department at the University of Denver, where she teaches classes on argument, Chaucer, the Pearl Poet, and Malory. She is the author of *The Voices of Romance: Studies in Dialogue and Character* and co-author of several others. Professor Dobyms also helped to

establish the LC English Department's Baum Essay Award.

In her Phi Beta Kappa speech, Dobyms recalled her matriculation at Lewis & Clark in the mid 1960s, notably "the nagging sense that I ought to be doing something that mattered: day-to-day, in my life and in my occupation." Through teaching, she found a lifelong career that offered her "a way to do something that mattered," including "talking about issues that are complicated" and that require us "to make ethical judgment about how to live in the the world together." This year's

PBK English inductees include Jordan Buysse ('13), Emily Guasco (Dec. '12), and Lyndsey Romick ('12).

Selected Notable Alumni

Nicolette Boehland, Investigation Team, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission. B.A. English and International Relations, Lewis & Clark College, 2005. Student at Harvard Law School. Interned at the US Embassy in Brussels, and awarded a US State Department Scholarship for Arabic and a Fulbright Fellowship for independent research.

Terry Engebretsen, Associate Professor of English and Interim Director of American Studies Program, Idaho State University. B.A. English, Lewis & Clark College, 1973; M.A., English, Portland State University,

1975; Ph.D., American Studies, Washington State University, 1982.

Allison Machlis Meyer, Assistant Professor of English, Assumption College. B.A. Lewis & Clark College, 2001; M.A. University of Idaho, 2004; Ph.D. University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, 2010. Committee on Institutional Cooperation Summer Institute in Advanced Graduate Studies, 2008.

Hannah Palmer, Teacher, Teach for America. B.A. English, Lewis & Clark College, 2011.

Heather Robbins, Rights and Reproduction Volunteer at Seattle Art Museum. B.A. English, Lewis & Clark College, 2007. Currently enrolled in a Library and Information Sciences program at the University of Washington.

Christopher De Santis, Professor of English and director of graduate studies at Illinois State University. B.A. English, Lewis & Clark College, 1989; M.A. Afro-American Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1990; Ph.D. American and African-American Literature, University of Kansas, 1997.

An interview with collaborating professors Kurt Fosso and Jerry Harp

English major Sara Balsom sits down with professors Kurt Fosso and Jerry Harp to discuss their upcoming article "J. Hillis Miller's Virtual Reality of Reading."

Sara Balsom: So tell me about the foundation of this article. Where did the idea originate?

Jerry Harp: This article really got started with Kurt and me sitting after hours talking about literary theory. Those conversations started generating ideas, and at some point we decided to read J. Hillis Miller's book *On Literature*.

SB: And why specifically did you land on that book?

JH: For one thing, it was Miller's most recent book. For another, he was talking about this idea of literature pre-existing its being written down, almost like it's a Platonic form, and we thought, "That's an awfully strange attitude for a deconstructionist."

Kurt Fosso: A real enigma.

JH: It really was. Because what's being deconstructed if not the metaphysics of presence? And what is the metaphysics of presence if not Platonism? It seemed utterly strange, and we found ourselves asking, "What is he getting at?" That became the starting point of our article.

SB: And in reading your article, I found myself thinking about times when I've read something and it makes sense in this eerie déjà vu sort of way. So I'm wondering, to what extent do you two believe in this pre-existing literary world? Have you had any personal experiences with it?

JH: Well, I certainly believe in the pre-existence of the literary object, at least in the way we've made sense of it in the article. Language is a shifting structure that exceeds any one consciousness, and the possibilities of any number of literary works exist already in this structure. We speak language, but it also speaks us. It pulls the mind outward into possibility and creation.

KF: One point we make in the article is this notion that representation can give this uncanny sense that in some way what you're reading is a reflection of something else; imitation, in performance, tends to invoke that. You can't read and not get some

haunting sense, maybe not of a whole virtual world, but of something... beyond.

SB: In the article you mention the "trope of tropes" of literary representation. To me this reflexive nature of literary criticism seems almost as baffling as the idea that literature reflects itself –



M.C. Escher, "Drawing Hands" (lithograph, 1948)
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KF: That's Miller's favorite figure, prosopopeia – to make a face. It's the trope of giving voice, and for him the figure that leads to the absent and the dead. We think it also points toward poesis as performance, and toward why readers feel invested in literary works in the ways they do.

SB: So have you two enjoyed collaborating on this article?

KF: Yeah, it's been fun working together to sort out Miller's sense of the virtual. We've really enjoyed it, and the whole process of writing collaboratively....

JH: Yeah. You know, there was a moment when I was pointing out to Kurt a sentence that needed to be clarified, and he looked at it and said, "That's your sentence, Jerry." So we truly lost track.

KF: That's right, although at a certain point it may be that anything unclear would have to be the other person's.

JH: [Laughing] Yes. It's the principle we'll stand by: anything that remains unclear – is Kurt's.

KF: Exactly. No, it's been really interesting. I had never collaborated with anyone before.

JH: I had never written anything in collaboration. I had edited in collaboration, but this is the first time I collaborated on writing.

KF: We end up ... sort of taking different pieces of it, occasionally even operating with slightly different trajectories, and then trying to get it all to work together. There were chunks that Jerry or I wrote that went out, because, well, we were trying to make an essay! We were trying to make art out of it, in a sense. So, you know, we had to murder a few virtual darlings along the way.

"J. Hillis Miller's Virtual Reality of Reading" by Kurt Fosso & Jerry Harp will be published in the September 2012 issue of College English.

We want to hear from you!

Drop us a line to let us know what you've been up to, where you're living, and what plans you're making.

You can write or e-mail the department at english@lclark.edu

Two Student-Professor Research Collaborations

Kurt Fosso & Emily Guasco

Kurt Fosso and English senior Emily Guasco (Dec. '12) spent a part of this year researching depictions and descriptions of crows and ravens in late eighteenth-century British literature and natural history, for Fosso's work-in-progress on Samuel Taylor Coleridge's fable-like poem of animal revenge, "The Raven."

Rishona Zimring & Casey Newbegin

Rishona Zimring and English senior Casey Newbegin ('12) collaborated with Watzek Special Collections to produce an exhibit focused on the visual work of two artists, E. McKnight Kauffer and Gwen Raverat, set within the broader context of cultural history, the avant-garde, other visual artists, and literary examples of modernism's fascination with travel, speed, and transportation. It will be on exhibit Fall 2012.