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The William Stafford Centennial

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From the Chair

“You Must Revise Your Life”:
The William Stafford Centennial

With a Symposium: Stafford at 100,
A Celebration and Reassessment
hosted by the English department
February 7-8, 2014
Smith Hall, Albany Quadrangle
Graduating Seniors

Majors

Jessica Alberg
Hannah Blacksin
Acacia Blackwell
Lindsey Bosse
Kevin Brown

Jordan Buysse
Garrett Chavis
Melody Conrad
Tristen Crispi
Colette Des Georges
Eleanor Embry
Marissa Fenley
Chelsea Garrett
Kayla Garrett
Alisha Gorder
Emily Guasco
Alexandra Hubbard
Amanda Joyce
Sarah Le Pichon
Marli Lee-McGarrah
Kathleen McGinley
Aaron Mower
Virginia O’Brien
Catherine Renner
Margaret Rose
Jonathan Satin
Lauren Sciarappa
Samuel Smith
Heather Spurling
Hannah Thompson
Samuel Tidwell
Lindsay Tilden
Henry Whittier-Ferguson
Gail Wilcoxen
Bryce Woodcock

Minors

Kayla Aronson
Magaly Coronado
Casey Emmerling
Melina Gandara
Noah Johns
Willa Keegan-Rodewald
Malinee Smith
Annalise Vine
Cosmo Zellman

News & Updates

Faculty Updates

Kurt Fosso resumed chairing the department this spring, having returned from leading the Scotland program. Currently, he is helping plan the William Stafford Centennial celebrations for 2014. Fosso’s short essay, “Blake’s ‘Introduction’ and Hesiod’s Theogony,” connecting the ancient Greek poet’s depiction of poetic investiture to the lead-off poem of Songs of Innocence, will appear this summer in the journal Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly.

Jerry Harp played the role of Egeus this past summer in a local production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream at Post5 Theatre. The production was directed by Caitlin Fisher-Draeger (‘12) and Erica Terpening Romeo (‘14). His forthcoming publications include the article “Clearest-Selved Spark: Walter Ong as Evolutionary Thinker” in Religion and Literature, an afterword to Thomas More’s Utopia in the second edition of the text from Yale University Press’ Nota Bene series, and poems in Subtropics and Sewanee Theological Review.

Will Pritchard spent 2011-12 on sabbatical in Vienna, researching an essay on starving poets in the eighteenth century. Pritchard’s article, “Pope, Richardson and Clarissa,” appeared in Literary Imagination, vol. 14, no. 2 (Summer, 2012). The essay considers Samuel Richardson’s novel in relation to Alexander Pope’s “The Rape of the Lock,” arguing that Richardson has deep affinities with Pope that critics have not hitherto identified.

Rishona Zimring’s Social Dance and the Modernist Imagination in Interwar Britain will be published this August by Ashgate Press. This summer, she participated in a four-week NEH institute, Making Modernism: Literature and Culture in Twentieth-Century Chicago, 1893-1955. She recently published an essay, “Mansfield’s Charm: The Enchantment of Domestic Bliss” in the 2012 issue of Katherine Mansfield.

Pauls Toutonghi is working on both fiction and non-fiction projects, and had a short story, “The Limit of the World,” in Epoch Magazine in January 2013. In March, Rohwolt Berlin will publish the German-language edition of Evel Knievel Days.

Kristin Fuje attended the annual meeting of the Northeast Modern Language Association in Boston this March, where she presented a paper titled “Human and Soiled: Internal and External Filth in Faulkner.” She is currently working on an article about Faulkner’s novel Mosquitoes.

Mary Szybist’s book Incarnadine, published by Graywolf Press, was released in February and she launched the reading tour at Powell’s City of Books. The tour took her to the City Lights Bookstore in San Francisco, Harvard’s Bookstore in Cambridge, and McNally Jackson Books in New York City, among other stops. Incarnadine was also featured on NPR’s website and reviewed in prominent literary reviews such as The Rumpus, the Los Angeles Review of Books, and Slate. In April, a book-warming was held at the Lewis & Clark College Bookstore.

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 e-mail the department at english@lclark.edu or write to:

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Portland, OR 97219
A Celebration of Life for Kristi Williams was held on Sunday, February 10 in Agnes Flanagan Chapel. Kristi had taught and worked at Lewis & Clark since 1982, and was currently serving as Associate Director of Academic Advising. Kristi attended Grinnell College, where she graduated with a degree in English. She went on to Brown University, earning a Master’s degree and a Ph.D. in English with a concentration in Victorian literature. Kristi taught at Tulane University in New Orleans, where she met her husband Ben Edwards. They moved to California and then to the Philippines, where Kristi taught and their son Jim was born. She came to Lewis & Clark after their move to Portland, where her scholarly interests became focused on the role gender, race, and class play in forming identity and in determining destinies. Kristi also had a strong appreciation for Native American writing.

Along with teaching English classes and courses in the Core program at Lewis & Clark, Kristi became deeply involved in academic advising and supporting students who were facing academic challenges or difficulties. She was a tireless advocate for students, and had a compassionate and caring way with all those she assisted.

Kristi was a beloved colleague and friend to many, and countless students have benefitted from her wonderful teaching and guidance.

Alumna working at Tavern Books

English graduate Natalie Garyet (’10) was recently hired as Managing Editor of Tavern Books, a Portland-based not-for-profit poetry publisher run by local poets Carl Adamshick and Michael McGriff. Tavern Books re-publishes books that have gone out of print, with an emphasis on poetry in translation. They also produce a monthly print subscription series, The Honest Pint, edited by Matthew Dickman. Each installment features a short prose piece by a contemporary writer on the work of a poet. The first issue, written by Albert Goldbarth, discussed the work of 17th-century poet Margaret Cavendish and featured original artwork of DC Comics artist Rick Geary.

Selected Notable Alumni

Kenzie Rowlett (’12) was one of just ten young poets from throughout the nation invited to attend the Bucknell Seminar for Younger Poets this past summer.

Sanne Stienstra (’09) is currently working as the Operations Manager at SCRAP, a creative reuse nonprofit. The mission of SCRAP is to inspire creative reuse and environmentally sustainable behavior by providing educational programs and affordable materials to the community.

Rosalie Moffett (’08), recent graduate of an MFA program at Purdue, won the “Discovery” Poetry Contest sponsored by the Boston Review and the 92nd Street Y Unterberg Poetry Center. She read from her poems at the Unterberg Poetry Center in New York City. Moffett will join Corey Van Landingham as a Stegner Fellow at Stanford University this fall.

Mark Rockswold (’06) co-founded the new SpringGun Press.

Heather Keane (’06) recently began her first paid position, designing children’s furniture and lighting at Pottery Barn Kids in San Francisco. She noticed immediately that in the world of design a compelling product must tell a story, and the lessons from her English major have been valuable in telling these stories.

Laurel Nakanishi (’06) recently completed her MFA in poetry at the University of Montana and is now on a Fulbright to create a writers’ center in Nicaragua.

Nick Lantz (’03) won the 2011 Great Lakes College Association’s Emerging Writers Award and is completing a reading tour.

Crystal Willer (’07) and Caitlyn Tyler (’06) are graduating from Washington University’s MFA program, in Saint Louis.
2012 Student Awards & Honors

Winner of The Jerry Baum Award & the 2012 SAAB Grant

Heather Spurling

**The Jerry Baum Award**

Heather Spurling’s seminar paper, “Patrilineal Preeminence in Absalom, Absalom!”, reveals how biblical allusions in Faulkner’s novella lend significance to father-son relations, showing them to be a driving force. The Jerry Baum Award was established in 2007 by the Department of English, alumni, family, and friends to honor the memory of beloved professor of English 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.

**A SAAB Grant**

Spurling admits having been disappointed by the fact that John Steinbeck is largely “out of vogue” and underrepresented in the collegiate curriculum. The SAAB grant she received this year enabled her to continue to investigate Steinbeck on her own but with an academic emphasis. Her research focused on *East of Eden*, set in the Salinas Valley, and especially on the novel’s reception among both critics and Salinas locals, enlisting archival study and local folklore.

Winner of The Dixon Award

Taylor Willau will travel to Massachusetts to study Ralph Waldo Emerson. Her interest in transcendentalist writers was sparked by Professor Rachel Cole’s course on pre-Civil War American literature where she became intrigued by Emerson’s idea of being connected to a certain moment that is in turn connected to a specific space. In Massachusetts, Taylor will explore Emerson’s own connection to the spaces in which he was writing, and examine his diaries, letters, and sermons housed in the Harvard library. She will also visit Boston Proper, Concord, and of course, Walden Pond. Taylor will give a presentation of her research this coming fall.

Honors Recipients

Jordan Buysse

Buysse’s honors thesis focuses on Woolf’s portrayal of subjective experience and the ways in which she articulates the experience of perception in both her short fiction and the novel *Mrs. Dalloway*.

Sarah Le Pichon

Le Pichon’s thesis explores Henry James’ conception of relationships in terms of his development of spatial images, which parallels the development of the characters in his work.

Marissa Fenley

Fenley’s thesis examines imagi-native spectatorship in Virginia Woolf’s essays and fiction, focusing especially upon Woolf’s representations of observing a theatrical scene.

Lewis & Clark College Fiction & The Academy of American Poets Prize Awards

Kevin Brown is this year’s winner of the Lewis & Clark College Fiction Prize, for his piece “Rain.”

This year’s winner of The Academy of American Poets (AAP) Prize is Malinee Smith (’13), for her poem “Seventeen in the Sierra Nevadas.”

Honorable mention for the AAP prize was awarded to Heather Spurling (pictured above) for her poem “On a Train to Cinque Terre.”

Student Updates

Current students Hannah Thompson (’13), Marissa Fenley (’13) and Daniel Calfo (’14) were chosen to present their poems at the upcoming NUCL conference at the University of Portland.

Current student Erica Terpening-Romeo (’14) along with Lewis & Clark alumna Caitlin Fisher-Draeger (’12) recently co-founded the Anon It Moves Theatre Co. The company produces non-traditional interpretations of classical works, particularly Shakespeare.

Terpening-Romeo is also co-authoring with Professor Jerry Harp a book about *Romeo & Juliet*.
Dear Friends of English,

What a good year it’s been. Our phenomenal Writer’s Series brought to campus the writers Lois Leveen, David Wolman, and Jonathan Raymond; and poets Jennifer Grotz, D. A. Powell, Crystal Williams, and Karen Holmberg. In addition, we hosted the author Hillel Schwartz, an encore performance of Johnny Stalling’s solo version of King Lear; and a “Dialogue,” sponsored by the Mountain Writers Series, between poets Tess Gallagher and Alice Derry.

We greeted, via two book warmings, Paul Toutonghi’s second novel, Evel Knievel Days, and Mary Szybist’s second book of poems, Incarnadine. For our Faculty Colloquium series, Andrea Hibbard spoke about her research on the intersection of colonial adventure narratives and the sensational 1884 trial of Dudley and Stephens, two British sailors stranded at sea en route to Australia, and later put on trial for killing and eating the ship’s cabin boy! That’s not to mention all of the other exciting work being published and presented by our department’s faculty (for a glimpse, see the “Faculty News” section on page 2). Student presentations included Heather Spurling’s SAAB talk on John Steinbeck and the Salinas Valley, the Senior Fiction and Poetry Readings, our 2013 Literary Review launch, and honors defenses by Jordan Buysse, Marissa Fenley, and Sarah Le Pichon--Sarah also having been a finalist for the College’s most prestigious academic honor, the Rena Ratte Award.

We continued our planning for this coming February’s William Stafford Centennial celebrations--Stafford being a former professor of our department and the College’s most famous faculty member. Karen Gross spent the year on a sabbatical, which included time in Cambridge, and in the fall I led the Scotland overseas program, situated in Glasgow with travels in the Highlands and to the Borders. Rachel Cole will take her sabbatical this coming year, and I’d add was nominated, as was Kristin Fujie, for the Pamplin Society’s Teacher of the Year.

The year brought us wonderful news from our alumni (hello out there!) and of course all the rewarding work of teaching our wonderful students in the English department.

Best wishes to you all,

Kurt Fosso