

# Wordsworth



Lewis & Clark College ~ Department of English Newsletter ~ Spring 2009

READING & LECTURE SERIES	FACULTY NEWS
<p><b>March</b> 5th-7pm-D.A. Powell Poetry Reading, Manor House, Armstrong Lounge</p> <p><b>April</b> 2nd -7:30pm-Mark Edmundson, Council Chambers 16th-3pm-John Isles and Kristen Hanlon Poetry Reading, Pamplin Room 21st-7pm-Student Poetry Reading, Manor House Armstrong Lounge 27th-7pm-Literary Review Reading, Manor House Armstrong Lounge 28th-7pm-Student Fiction Reading, Manor House Armstrong Lounge</p> <p><b>May</b> 10th-8am-Senior Commencement Breakfast, Miller 4th Floor Lobby</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Events are free &amp; offer a great opportunity to mingle with faculty. <a href="http://www.lclark.edu/dept/english/specialevents.html">www.lclark.edu/dept/english/specialevents.html</a></p>	<p><b>Karen Gross</b> recently published an article entitled <i>Scholar Saints and Boccaccio's Trattatello in laude di Dante</i> in the Italian issue of the journal <i>MLN</i>. This essay argues that in his biography of Dante, Boccaccio transforms the poet into a saint, and not just any saint, but Thomas Aquinas, the first person canonized for almost solely intellectual accomplishments. There are several reasons why this is suggestive, not least of all because it challenges contemporary Dominicans critical of the study of poetry: by making Dante resemble in his life the supreme Dominican theologian, Boccaccio is having the defense mirror the prosecution.</p> <p><b>Jerry Harp's</b> poem <i>Houses</i> has been chosen by David Wagoner for <i>The Best American Poetry 2009</i>. It is published yearly so look for Jerry's poem in the fall. Visit their website at: <a href="http://www.bestamericanpoetry.com/">http://www.bestamericanpoetry.com/</a></p>
<p><b>JESSICA CARTWRIGHT'S DIXON AWARD EXPERIENCE</b></p>	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">   </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <p>Left above and below: Mansfield's drawing and home; above right - photo of Jessica Cartwright</p> <p><i>Jessica Cartwright</i> won the Dixon Award last year. Here's what she had to say about her experience.</p> <p>"Thanks to the Dixon award, I was able to spend a week during the month of April in Wellington, New Zealand studying the work of Katherine Mansfield at the Alexander Turnbull National Library. Mansfield is a prominent modernist author from New Zealand, and the library there contains the largest collection of her unpublished letters, journals, and manuscripts. Working in conjunction with Amy Waitling, a librarian at the Turnbull Library, I was able to dive into the papers of Mansfield and spend time lingering in her journal pages across the years of her young adult life before her untimely death at age 34. This gave me insights into the complicated and troubled character of Mansfield, which played such an integral role in her writing style. In addition, I got the opportunity to visit the birthplace of Mansfield, also in Wellington, which has been transformed into a little museum in her honor. Many of her short stories are set in this home so it was rewarding to see the places and objects she describes with such care and detail."</p>	<p><b>Kurt Fosso</b> will present a paper in April at the ACTC (Association of Core Texts and Core Programs) conference in Memphis: "A Prophet's Task": Oracular Evidence and Royal Guilt in <i>Oedipus the King</i>." This is a follow-up to a paper Kurt gave on <i>Oedipus</i> at last year's conference.</p> <p><b>Susan Kirschner</b> has an article, <i>Amplified Learning</i> published in <i>Inside Higher Ed</i>, Oct 3, 2008. <a href="http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2008/10/03/kirschner">http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2008/10/03/kirschner</a>.</p> <p>She will also be presenting <i>Editing Alice Walker: the Life and Writings</i> (with Evelyn White) at the symposium, <i>A Keeping of Records: the Art and Life of Alice Walker</i> at Emory University in Atlanta on April 24th. The symposium commemorates the opening of the Alice Walker archive to researchers and the public.</p> <p><b>Mary Szybist</b> has been winning significant national awards and fellowships for her poetry. So far this year, Szybist has received a National Endowment for the Arts grant -- as well as the prestigious Witter Bynner Fellowship. The Witter Bynner was a \$10,000 grant that came along with a reading at the Library of Congress. On Feb. 26th of 2009, Mary read in the Montpelier Room on the sixth floor of the Library's James Madison Building.</p> <p>As Poet Laureate Kay Ryan said: "Mary Szybist's lovely musical touch is light and exact enough to catch the weight and grind of love. This is a hard paradox to master as she does." Szybist is now at work on her second book of poems, which is tentatively titled <i>Incarnadine</i>. "These grants are a boost of adrenaline to the writing process," said Szybist. "As I've worked on my current manuscript for the last few years, I have cycled through periods of faith and doubt, both about the poems and the project as a whole. To have the NEA select my work for this distinction is a great gift of validation."</p> <p>Read more about Mary and listen to a podcast of her poems on the English website at <a href="http://www.lclark.edu/dept/english/">http://www.lclark.edu/dept/english/</a></p>
<p><b>Kim Greenberg - Student Employee Finalist</b></p>	
<p>Kim Greenberg, our English, History and E &amp; D student employee was one of only six to be chosen as a finalist for the Student Employee of the Year award. After an engaging speech by Alison Walcott (the Dept. of History Assistant), Julio de Paula, Dean of the College, presented Kim with her award at a special Student Recognition ceremony on April 16 in Smith Hall.</p>	<p><b>Rishona Zimring</b> will present "No Room For More: Virginia Woolf's Escape from London to Scotland, 1938" at the Annual Conference on Virginia Woolf in New York City in June.</p>