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 or write to:

Lewis & Clark English Department
MSC 58
0615 SW Palatine Hill Rd.
Portland, OR 97219

Newsletter Staff:

Project coordinator & designer
Emma Post

Contributing writers:
Francis Donnelly
Zane Pais
Emma Post
Will Pritchard

Special thanks: Debbie Richman

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 Sundquist 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

Continued on page 2
Kurt Fosso is currently writing on "Blake's Equines of Instruction" for a proposed volume on Beasty 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: Animal's 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 Corderidge 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 Petrarach 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 Pleides, 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.

Lizzy Acker is working as the Web Editor for Willamette Week in Portland. Kathleen Antonioli 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 University. 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.
2015 Student Awards & Honors

Dixon Award Recipients Emile Dultra and 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.

Jerry Baum Award Recipient 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.

Senior Fiction and Poetry Prize Awards

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.”

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.”

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.
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 Fu-jie – 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 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.