English News

the newsletter of the CSUSB English Department

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Acknowledgments

What's New in the English Department



In September 2008, Juan Delgado takes over the helm as chair of the department, as Ron Chen steps down from the post after serving for five years. An alumnus of CSUSB, Juan earned his B.A. in English in 1983. He subsequently received his M.F.A. in poetry from UC Irvine, one of the most highly-regarded M.F.A. programs in the country. He joined the English department faculty as an assistant professor in 1988 and was promoted to full professor in 1995. His publications include three books of poetry and two chapbooks, as well as many poems in literary magazines and anthologies. He has taught a notably wide range of courses in the department, from Freshman Composition to graduate literature seminars, and he's recently served as a Special Advisor to the Provost and Interim Chair of the Communications Department. Please join us in wishing him the best as he assumes his new duties.

We will soon boast a new graduate program: a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Creative Writing. The program will begin accepting applications in October 2008 for admission to the inaugural 2009/2010 class. For more information about this exciting new program, see the main English Department website.

Continuing a now well-established tradition, the College of Arts and Letter's Outstanding Graduate Student for 2007/2008 was once again selected from our M.A. in English Composition program. This year's recipient was Sarah Antinora. With a dual concentration in Composition and Literature, Sarah completed a thesis entitled "Frank Zappa and Mikhail Bakhtin: Rabelais's Carnival Made Contemporary." She presented a distillation of her work at the 2008 Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA) Conference in San Francisco this last March. Sarah has been accepted into the doctoral program in English at the University of California, Riverside, and also awarded UCR's Chancellor's Fellowship. The fellowship, a multi-year financial package, provides a full tuition remission, medical coverage, and a $16,000/year stipend.



The department's Kellie Rayburn Memorial Award for the outstanding master's thesis went to Fiona "Freddie" Harris-Ramsby, shown at left with thesis adviser and graduate coordinator Jackie Rhodes. Freddie's thesis "The Habermas/Foucault Debate: Implications for Rhetoric and Composition" was completed last summer, and since then she has been teaching assorted courses at CSUSB, including composition and Shakespeare. And two "Honorable Mention" Rayburn Awards were made this year to two more outstanding thesis writers: Donna Secrakter, an alumna of our undergraduate program who opted for the composition concentration, (shown here with thesis adviser Mary Boland) and Ryan Murphy, who completed the M.A.'s literature concentration. Ryan's thesis was entitled "Pipe-Dream: Eugene O'Neill's Rhetoric of Tragedy" (Winter 2008) and Donna's was "Research, Writing, and Composition Technology: A Reconsideration of Invention and Process" (Spring 2008). Congratulations to all three.





In news from our department office, Andrew T. Castillo is our new Administrative Support Assistant (ASA), teaming with our able Administrative Support Coordinator (ASC), Dorothea "Dottie" Cartwright. An alumnus of our undergrad program and currently a student in the M.A. program, Andrew tells *English News*: "Although I was lured into this job by the dastardly duo of Chen and Cartwright during a massive faculty recruiting season, I'm glad to offer my services to the state of California. For the record, I have forgiven both Dr. Rong Chen and Miss Dorothea Cartwright for the near slave labor conditions they forced me to endure during faculty recruitment. With that said, I have enjoyed my time in the office and thoroughly enjoy the people I work with, with the exception of Kevin Moffett." (And yes, in case you're wondering, a sense of humor *does* help in his job).

Editor's note: Before turning to our other news, we'd like to take a moment to tell our readers about the Alliance for the CSU, a systemwide effort to persuade California lawmakers and the Governor to reduce catastrophic cuts to education spending. The Alliance for the CSU includes all those who care about the future of the state and its state university system: students, alumni, faculty, CSU staff, administrators, parents of CSU students, employers, church leaders, labor union members, and people who depend on and enjoy the many assets the California State University adds to our communities and cities. We hope our readers will join the English Department in supporting the Alliance. You'll find more information on the Alliance's website about simple activities you can do that can make a difference.

Greetings from the Chair



Welcome to another edition of *English News* put together by Professor Pigeon. Different from what I did for the previous issues of the newsletter (where I typically commented on the content of an issue), I will make a few observations about what the English Department has achieved in the past five years.

"Why the past five years?" you wonder, "That Stalin five-year plan thing?" No. It's just that after serving as Chair, I am stepping down after five years of service. I am therefore asking your indulgence for a moment of reflection.

As an academic department, an important yardstick for accomplishment is curriculum, and we have done well in developing curricula for our students and community. There is the English Teacher Preparation Program, the only one in the Inland Empire that prepares English teachers for the State of California, although its acronym, ETPP, is not everyone's pet. (Try to pronounce it and you will see how its rhyme places it among the best of tongue-twisters.) There is the First-Year Composition Proposal, aiming to help freshman students become better writers, although its fate was still up in the air—it is yet to be approved by the administration—at the time this text was written. There is the MFA in creative writing, whose approval by the administration is more certain—they like it, in part because they like the sound of it: "terminal degree!" All three of these are heavy-duty sort of curricula, each of which will have—the ETPP has already had—important and far-reaching benefits for our students and the community we serve.

Another yardstick for the quality of a department is its faculty. We, again, fare well. First, we added 12 new tenure-track faculty members in the past five years, including the newest members—Chad Luck (American

literature), Jessica Luck (American literature), Glen Hirshberg (fiction writing), and Karen Rowan (rhetoric and composition studies)—who begin their career at CSUSB in Fall 2008. Be reminded that 12 is about the average size of a department at CSUSB.

No less important for the functioning of a department is the office support staff, and we've got capable staff for sure. There's the perpetually helpful and able Dottie; and there's the newly-added Andrew Castillo. Between the two of them, the office operates like a machine, with the only difference that this machine has all that's good in human beings.

With a set of top-quality curricula, a dedicated faculty, and an able staff, what would you get in return? Outstanding students! And outstanding students we've got, lots of them. While they are here with us, they excel in their academics and involve themselves in a great many activities on campus. They win prizes and awards from the university and the college. They present their research at national conferences—this past year alone, eight graduate students presented 13 papers. Upon their graduation, they go into a great variety of careers in both the local community and the world beyond. Many of them get accepted into first-rate graduate programs all over America. We are proud of them. I, the outgoing chair, am proud of them. I thank them for providing me with a sense of purpose, a purpose that has proven most helpful during times of challenge.

Having been in academia for more than two decades, I may have earned the right to claim that I know something about English Departments; I even know something about university academic departments in general. From what I know, I believe that the English Department at CSUSB is among the best there is. When I said “we are good” at department meetings, I meant it. We are.

Lastly, I am happy to entrust the running of the department to the steady hands of an able Juan Delgado, who starts chairing in September 2008. With Juan at the helm, the English Department will only become better and stronger.

Ron Chen

Faculty Features

Our faculty had a busy year of professional and personal accomplishments.

Jackie Rhodes' work will be entering the canon: an excerpt from her book, *Radical Feminism, Writing, and Critical Agency* (SUNY Press, 2005) has been selected for inclusion in the *Norton Anthology of Composition Studies*, edited by Susan Miller (University of Utah) and scheduled for publication in March 2009.

Brenda Glascott was named a Finalist in the 2008 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Promising Research Award Competition. Brenda was selected for her dissertation, entitled *Evangelical Literacy and the Public Sphere: American Tract Society LIterature and Nineteenth-Century Constructions of Literacy.* The work " examines stories of transformation integral to representations of nineteenth-century American evangelical literacy instruction: transformations of literacy students -- particularly women -- into Christians and transformations of literate Christians into critics of authority. This history is valuable not only for what it tells us about the past, but it also sheds light on the assumptions we make today about the transformative potential of literacy education."

Kim Costino and Sunny Hyon received Honorable Mention in the *Journal of Second Language Writing* award for the best article published in that journal in 2007. Their article is titled "'A Class for Students Like Me': Reconsidering Relationships among Identity Labels, Residency Status, and Students' Preferences for Mainstream or Multilingual Composition."

Carol Haviland has signed a contract with Utah State University Press for the publication of *Who Owns This Text: Plagiarism, Authorship, and Disciplinary Cultures* , eds. Carol Peterson Haviland and Joan Mullin (UT Austin), to be published in December 2008.

Dave Carlson was invited to speak on "The Pragmatics of Literary Nationalism" at the Michigan State University Center for Indigenous Law and Policy Annual Conference in East Lansing , as a follow up to having given an invited presentation on his book (at the Center last Spring). He was also an invited participant for the SEA President's Plenary Roundtable, "More Materials into Play: How Can We Make More Native Materials Accessible?" at the "Prophetstown Revisited: A Summit of Early Native American Studies" conference, sponsored by the Society of Early Americanists (SEA) in West Lafayette, Indiana in April.



Caroline Vickers received a grant from the Research Infrastructure in Minority Institute Program, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health, to fund her project, "Healthcare Narratives among Latino Immigrants in Central City San Bernardino." Jose Morones, an undergraduate student on the Linguistics track in the English Department, has worked as her Research Assistant. "We have collected 100 hours of conversational data in the context of a sewing cooperative in Central City San Bernardino," says Caroline, "and we have learned to sew!" Caroline, Jose, and Wendy Smith presented their research in Washington, D.C.

Ron Chen became a member of the Board of Consultants for China International Cognitive Linguistics Forum.

Our creative writers (both rookies and veterans) have been busy. First-year professor Kevin Moffett is the recipient of a prestigious National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship this year. His stories have been published recently in *Harvard Review, Columbia: A Journal of Literature and Art,* and *New Stories from the South: The Year's Best*. You can read a sample of Kevin's work on the NEA website.

Glen Hirshberg, who joins us in Fall, has been awarded a Shirley Jackson Award for his novella, "The Janus Tree." Juan Delgado is at work on a new collection of poems, and published several poems in *Bear Flag Republic: Prose Poems and Poetics from California* (Greenhouse Review Press).

Jim Brown reports that his memoir, *The Los Angeles Diaries,* has been optioned for film and play rights by Art Monterastelli, co-producer and writer of "The Hunted" and several other movies. Additionally, Jim's both at work on a new novel and collaborating on an anthology with the working title *On the Brink,* by and about writers dealing with addiction, alcoholism, depression and suicide. Jim has also been busy helping to plan the MFA program, and speaking to local writers' clubs and at book festivals. And he's been featured in *Esquire*, with an interview as well as a short story in their "Napkin Fiction" series.

Under the guidance of poet Julie Paegle, the Creative Writing Club brought out a second annual anthology, centered around the theme of "Metamorphoses," and hosted three very successful student readings throughout the year. Kevin Moffett and Julie hosted a publication workshop attended by seventy five students. The Club was also excited to visit with guest writers Bei Ling, Bret Antony Johnston and DeWitt

Henry. Julie also tells us "Kevin Moffett, Steve Lehigh and I were proud to join students Victoria Tulacro and Angela Thomson-Brenchley (both since headed to UCR's MFA program) and Logan Clark in representing CSUSB and The Pacific Review at the AWP Bookfair in Manhattan during January 2008."

Paula Priamos reviewed Erin McGraw's *The Seamstress of Hollywood Boulevard* in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and she's completed her memoir, *The Shyster's Daughter.*



Joe Sutliff Sanders was asked in August to be the new graphic novels columnist for *Teacher Librarian*, an international journal for school librarians. His columns started appearing in the February issue of this year. And with Dr. June Cummins of San Diego State University, Joe co-founded a new southern California Children's Literature Group. "We had our first meeting in March in San Diego," Joe says, "drawing faculty, librarians, and graduate students from across the region."

Jean Arnold received a "Volunteer of the Year Award" from the San Bernardino County Library system in May 2007 (for work done in the Wrightwood Branch).

Congratulations to grad students Gina Hanson, Jason Loan, Aldo Lewis, Mandy Taylor who will be teaching assistants under the guidance of TA Coordinator Mary Boland this year. Gina also earns a big round of applause as one of the 23 recipients of the 2008-2009 William Randolph Hearst/CSU Trustees Awards for Outstanding Achievement, which were given to one student at each of the 23 campuses of the California State University system.

And Freddie went to Shakespeare camp: Fiona (Freddie) Harris-Ramsby was selected as a participant in the American Shakespeare Center 's NEH Summer Institute, “Shakespeare's Blackfriars Playhouse: The Study, the Stage and the Classroom," a five-week Institute for college teachers, which gave her the opportunity to explore how an understanding of the playing space and the playing practices illuminate the text through practical experience with the Center's re-creation of Shakespeare's Blackfriar's Playhouse, a Globe II "footprint" and stage mock-up and their resident Equity troupe, as well as the expertise of eight prominent scholars of early modern drama.

Two more little reasons to celebrate:





Our six new tenure-track faculty members weren't the only new arrivals in 2007-2008. We also welcomed Marco Gabriel Costino Hogan, born April 11 to Kim Costino and Nika Hogan, and Huxley Johnson (shown here

with mom Tara McDonald Johnson) who suprised Tara and Jason by arriving four weeks early on May 1. Congratulations to the new parents!

Finally, our congratulations and good wishes go to:



Jackie Rhodes and Aurora Wolfgang, one of the first couples to wed on June 17 at the Hall of Records in San Bernardino, to the cheers of their friends and the whirring of reporters' cameras.

Jenny Andersen, promoted to the rank of Professor, and Kim Costino, who received tenure and promotion to associate professor rank.

And Peter Schroeder, whose "FERP-er" (Faculty Early Retirement Program) days ended in March, and who has begun his "real" retirement after 43 years at CSUSB (well, not quite yet actually, as a glance at the Fall '08 schedule shows he'll be teaching World Lit I).

Worth Reading

Each year, we ask faculty to share what they've been reading recently. This year's response offers a particularly eclectic choice of titles.

Fiona Harris-Ramsby: I have been reading Naomi Klein's most recent book *The Shock Doctrine*, which presents a terrifying and eye opening account of the rise of disaster capitalism. Here's a blurb from the jacket:

> Based on breakthrough research, *The Shock Doctrine* explodes the myth that the global free market triumphed democratically. Disaster capitalism—the rapid fire corporate reengineering of societies after they are reeling from shock—did not begin with September 11, 2001. In this courageous new book, Klein traces the intellectual origins of disaster capitalism back to the University of Chicago 's economics department under Milton Friedman, whose influence is still found around the world. The Shock Doctrine draws new and surprising connections among economic policy, “shock and awe” warfare and covert CIA experiments in electroshock and sensory deprivation.

This is truly a remarkable book and a thought provoking study for those of us who are fascinated with the relationship between language and meaning. Indeed, Klein explores the language that allows for questionable economic policies to be made into legislation in countries that are reeling from the after affects of natural or man made “shock treatment.” Specifically, Klein discusses Pinochet's military coup in Chile in the 1970s, Margaret Thatcher's exploitation of the Falkland's war (following the economic advice offered by her mentor Friedrich Hayek) and the maneuvers made by those who wished to capitalize on the devastation left by the tsunami in South East Asia and Hurricane Katrina.

Nothing sums up the book quite as well as the following: Friedman wrote "Only a crisis—actual or perceived—produces real change." These changes however, as Klein points out in this compelling read, are made at the expense of the lives of the hundreds of thousand of civilians who, in a collected state of shock, are left with no other alternative than to accept the economic polices that their leaders have to offer.



Dave Carlson: Dr. Seuss. *There's a Wocket in My Pocket. The Thinks I Can Think. Green Eggs and Ham, Marvin K. Mooney Will You Please Go Now* etc, . etc. Need I praise these great books, which constitute most of my pleasure reading now? (At left, Dr. Seuss fan Clare Carlson celebrates her first Halloween).

Beyond that, I can recommend a few things I've read for pleasure.

Clifford Simak's *City*. A collection of stories linked into novel form published in 1952. The book's premise is that the tales are "legend's" passed on by the earth's dominant species, dogs, about a creature known as "Man," now lost from history. The book starts off as an exploration of the effects of suburbanization (what happens to humanity when we disperse from cities), but turns into a sobering reflection on the trajectory of human history. There are many books from the 1950s that do this kind of thing (Arthur C. Clarke's *Childhood's End*, for example). Simak's book may not be the best of them, but it is an interesting read.

I've been reading a lot of poetry recently, too. I could recommend many things here, but let me just mention two.

A.R. Ammon's first book, *Ommateum*, with *Doxology* (1955) just came back into print. The speaker in these poems is a figure called "Ezra," and the pieces are simultaneously "mythic" and precise. I don't know of anything quite like these poems coming out of the 1950s.

> So I said I am Ezra
> and the wind whipped my throat
> gaming for the sounds of my voice
> I listened to the wind
> go over my head and up into the night
> Turning to the sea I said
> I am Ezra
> but there were no echoes from the waves
> The words were swallowed up
> in the voice of the surf
> or leaping over the swells
> lost themselves oceanward

I'd also recommend the Swedish Poet Tomas Transtromer's *The Great Enigma* (a new translation of his collected poems.) I don't read Swedish, so I can't speak for the accuracy of the translations, but this book reveals Transtromer as one of the most interesting crafter of images that I've ever seen. He's worth a look.

Joe Sanders: Jeff Lemire's terrific Essex County trilogy (beginning with Tales from the Farm), a subtle bit of magical realism set in a depressed town of southwest Ontario. The third volume will be out later this year. Megan Whalen Turner's Attolia books (beginning with *The Thief*, which is really good, and continuing with *The Queen of Attolia*, which is incredible).

Kevin Moffett: For the past year-and-a-half I've been proselytizing for *Black Swan Green*, a novel by David Mitchell set in late-eighties Great Britain. It's a coming-of-age story, in a sense, one that lingers in and pesters the mind long after the last page.



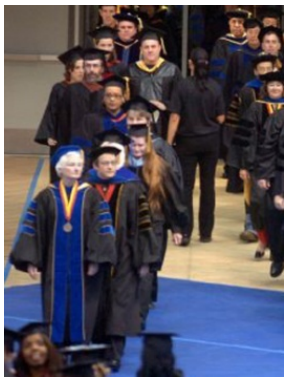
Sunny Hyon: You may have heard this author interviewed on NPR: A.J. Jacobs, editor-at-large for Esquire. His book is called *The Year of Living Biblically*, and I am enjoying it very much. In it, Jacobs, who never practiced a religious faith, chronicles his year-long experiment to follow as closely as he can both the Old and New Testaments. Outwardly this involves--among other things--growing a very long beard, wearing all-white clothes (none of which are of "mixed fibers"), and bringing his own chair wherever he goes in public. Inwardly, his experiment leads to interesting, insightful reflections on life, human interactions, and faith. Jacobs is a very good writer; he is both funny (some parts of the book are very funny) and thoughtful, even tender.

Renee Pigeon: I recommend Bill Bryson's *Shakespeare: The World as Stage*, an entry in the "Eminent Lives" series. I've always found Bryson entertaining (especially *A Walk in the Woods* and *Notes on a Small Island*). In this book (intended for the general reader), I enjoyed Bryson's lucid take on the "anti-Stratfordian" claim that someone else (Bacon, Oxford, Elizabeth I) wrote the Bard's works:

> . . .it needs to be said that nearly all of the anti-Shakespeare sentiment--actually all of it, every bit--involves manipulative scholarship or sweeping misstatements of fact. Shakespeare 'never owned a book,' a writer for the *New York Times* gravely informed readers in one doubting article in 2002. The statement cannot be refuted, for we know nothing about his incidental possesions. But the writer might just as well have suggested that Shakespeare never owned a pair of shoes or pants. For all the evidence tells us, he spent his life naked from the waist down, as well as bookless, but it is probable that what is lacking is the evidence, not the apparel or the books.

Gatherings

A few of the events that marked the 2007-2008 academic year for us.



In December, Carol Haviland and Jackie Rhodes led the faculty processional at the commencement ceremony.



Feburary brought writer Bret Anthony Johnston back to visit us from his new post at Harvard.





Also in February, Julie Paegle and son Connor enjoy a baby shower for Kim Costino and Nika Hogan; Renee Pigeon, Mary Boland and moms-to-be Kim and Nika listen to the results of the haiku-writing contest.





On a chilly March afternoon, we gathered in the Chens' backyard to mark the end of Peter Schroeder's five years as a "FERPer" in the Faculty Early Retirement Program and the start of his "real" retirement, noshing on cheese sandwiches and bananas in honor of what Chair Chen assured us was the unvarying Schroeder lunch menu.

Ellen Gil-Gomez and Bruce Golden share a joke at June's Rayburn Award ceremony.







The self-proclaimed "Lame Duck" Chair Ron Chen received the department's thanks for a job well done (and some ducks of his very own) in June, as Spring quarter and his five years of service as department chair came to an end.

Faculty and Graduate Student Professional Activities

PUBLICATIONS

James Brown
"Missing the Dead." *Ploughshares: The Literary Journal at Emerson College*, Spring 2008.

"Dirty Moves." *Fathers and Sons and Sports*. Intro. Mike Lupica. New York: ESPN Books, 2008.

David J. Carlson
"Crèvecoeur's Letters from an American Farmer." *Oxford Handbook of Early American Literature*, ed. Kevin J. Hayes, Oxford 2008.

"Democratic Readers: John Neal's Rachel Dyer and the Assault on Precedent." *Early American Literature* 42.3 (Fall 2007).

Ron Chen and Sunny Hyon
"Faculty Evaluation as a Genre System: Negotiating intertextuality and interpersonality." *Journal of Applied Linguistics* 2.2: 153-184.

Margaret Doane
"'Do Talk to Me': Violent Deaths and Isolated Survivors in Cather's Novels," *Violence, the Arts, and Cather* , ed. Merrill Skaggs and Joseph Urgo, Fairleigh Dickinson Press, 2007.

'The Fear of the Tongue, that Terror of Little Towns': Gossip in Cather's Nebraska Novels," (with CSUSB alumni Joseph Nieto III), in *Heritage of the Great Plains*, Spring 2008, XL:2.

[Review] *Cather Studies 6: History, Memory, and War*, ed. Steven Trout. *Great Plains Quarterly*, Spring 2008.

Brenda Glascott
[Review] Bronwyn T. Williams, ed., *Identity Papers: Literacy and Power in Higher Education*. Logan: Utah State University Press, 2006. Composition Studies 36.1 (2008).

Sunny Hyon
Convention and inventiveness in an occluded genre: A case of retention-promotion-tenure reports. *English for Specific Purposes*, v. 27. no. 2. 2008.

Paula Priamos
"The Point of Point-of-View" in *Naming The World and Other Exercises for the Creative Writer,* ed. Bret Anthony Johnston, Random House, 2008.

Joe Sutliff Sanders
“Spinning Sympathy: Orphan Girl Novels and the Sentimental Tradition.” *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* 33.1 (2008): 41-61.

[Review] *Black Superheroes, Milestone Comics, and Their Fans*, by Jeffrey A. Brown. Science Fiction Studies 34 (2007): 312-3.

Caroline Vickers
Second Language Socialization through Team Interaction among Electrical and Computer Engineering Students. *Modern Language Journal*, v. 90, Issue 4, 2007.

PRESENTATIONS

Jean Arnold
“The Gift of the Diamond: Exchange of a Colonial Object in Victorian Domestic Culture," North American Victorian Studies Association, Vancover, Canada, October 2007.

Tiffany Brook
"The Social Function of Gate-keeping and Mentoring: A Genre Analysis of Moves and the Use of 'I' in Peer-reviews of Journal Article Submissions." Writing Research Across Borders Conference. 22-24 February 2008. UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA.

Ron Chen
“Ground-before-Figure as a Linguistics Motivation: Evidence from the Existential Construction.” 10th International Cognitive Linguistics Conference, Krakow, Poland, July 2007.

Kim Costino
(With Mary Boland) “Researching the Meanings of Writing and Literacy: Revisiting the Borders of Remediation in the CSU,” Writing Research Across Borders Conference, Santa Barbara, February 2008.

Margaret Doane
"The Treatment of Childhood in the Short Stories of May Stewart Doane," Western Literature Assn. Conference, Tacoma, Washington, October 2007.

Brenda Glascott
“Citizen, Slave, or Technocrat? Metaphors for Professional Writing Students and Civic Virtue.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, New Orleans. April 2008.

“Neither Civic nor Public: A Viral Mode of Discourse in an Age of Faith.” Research Network, Rhetoric Society of America, Seattle, May 2008.

Fiona Harris-Ramsby
“The Habermas/Foucault Debate: A Gateway to Critical Thinking," Conference on College Composition and Communication, New Orleans, April 2008.

Carol P. Haviland
"What Do Our FYW Courses Say about Us as WPAs?" Conference on College Composition and Communication, New Orleans, April 2008.

"International Writing Across the Curriculum and Writing Center Intersections," Ninth International WAC Conference, University of Texas, Austin, May 2008 (with M.A. students Chloe de los Reyes and Robert Cedillo).

"Collaborating Across Borders: Forming International Writing Center Partnerships," European Writing Centers Association Conference, Freiburg, Germany, June 2008.

Jenni Keys
“The Making and Shaping of Racialized Bodies in Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Zenana Narratives” The Sixth International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities, Fatih University, Istanbul, Turkey, July 2008.

“Crisis in Empire: White Women, Brown Men, and the Imperial Gothic in Fin de Siècle Zenana Fictions," 2nd Annual Oceanic Popular Culture Association Conference, Honolulu, May 2008.

“Navigating the East/West Divide: Empire, Solidarity, and Sisterhood in Victorian Women's Travel Narratives to/from India," RMMLA, Calgary, October 2007.

Jacqueline Rhodes
"DIY Texts: Students and the Future of Writing," 2007-2008 Humanities and Technology Lecture Series: Technology, Translation, and Transformation, University of California, Irvine, January 2007.

Joe Sutliff Sanders
(Panel participant and moderator) ’The World Opens Up’: Children’s Literature Brushes the Sublime,” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, March 2008.

“Frances Hodgson Burnett’s Two Happy Endings,” The Modern Language Association, Chicago, December 2007.

Caroline Vickers
Learning to Sew in Spanish, Annual Meeting of the American Association for Applied Linguistics (with Jose Morones and Wendy Smith), Washington D.C., April 2008.

Graduate Students' Presentations

We are exceptionally proud this year of our graduate students in the M.A. in English Composition program, who presented thirteen papers at professional conferences in the span of a few short months.

Sarah Antinora
"Issues of Ecopoetics: The Appropriation of the Nature Conservation Movement for Hawaiian Sovereignty," 2008 Oceanic Regional PCA/ACA Conference, Honolulu, May 2008.

"Frank Zappa Illuminated Through Bakhtin's Theory of Carnival" at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA) Conference, San Francisco, March 2008.

"Don´t Call Me a Chick: The Consequences of Chick Lit" at the 29th Annual Southwest/Texas PCA/ACA Conference, Albuquerque, February 2008.

James Ducat
"Discursive Subjection in Representations of Female-on-Male Childhood Sexual Abuse" at (dis)junctions 2008, UC Riverside, April 2008.

Katie Kacarab
"Self-Affirmation and Identification in Academic Settings Through Personal Writing" at the Significations 2008 Conference, Cal State LA, April 2008.

Louise Kling
"Looking Through the Bent Backed Tulips in a New Way" at the SynText/Synthink Conference: Literature into Life, Loyola Marymount University, April 2008.

Jason Loan
"Rhetorics of the Banal: Revisioning `Vernacular Video´" at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA) Conference, San Francisco, March 2008.

"This Video Could Be Your Life: Amateur Video as Critical Discourse" at the Conference on College Composition & Communication, Research Network Forum, New Orleans, April 2008.

Megim Parks
"Raspberry Swirl: Feminine Voice/Style/Linguistics in the Lyrics of Tori Amos" at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA) Conference, San Francisco, March 2008.

"Educational Rhetoric in Harry Potter" at the Midwest PCA/ACA Conference, Kansas City, October 2008.

Anne Prows
"An Excellent Thing in a Woman: A Daughter´s Voice in Tragedy" at the 2008 Literary Visions Conference, Brigham Young University, March 2008.

"Family Dynamics: A Study of Patriarchal Relationships in Shakespeare´s Tragedies" at the Boundaries Crossed: English in the Age of Interdisciplinary Studies Conference, University of Tulsa, March 2008.

Cynthia Spence
"Rhetoric in United States Presidential Inaugural Poetry," the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA) Conference, San Francisco, CA, March 2008.

Passings

Robert Lee

Retired professor Robert Lee died on April 16 at his home in Santa Cruz. A native of Oakland, Bob attended UC Riverside and received his Ph.D. from the University of Oregon. A specialist in Joyce and Orwell remembered by Peter Schroeder as "an uncompromising truth-teller," he taught at CSUSB from 1968 until his retirement in 1992. His interest in American art and literature led him to create and teach our capstone GE class, “Ideas in American Culture.” He also helped found, and for some years directed, the University Advising Center. In 2004, Bob and wife Gloria Tovar Lee made news when they endowed a chair in Shakespeare and established an art scholarship at Bob's alma mater, the University of Oregon.

Martha Plender

One of the mainstays of our Palm Desert Campus, Martha Plender died on May 23 after a brief illness. She is remembered for us by Margaret Doane:

With the death of Martha Plender, the CSUSB English family has lost one of its most remarkable spirits. Martha taught full time in the English department at UCR while also teaching part time at the Palm Desert campus. She certainly was one of our most versatile instructors, teaching Romantic and Victorian Lit., Women Writers, American Lit, Shakespeare, Studies in the Novel, all the Analysis courses, 306, and several interesting Senior Seminars. I chaired the Part-time Faculty Evaluation Committee for many years and was always dazzled by Martha's SETEs: students lavished praise on her great teaching abilities and care for them as people. Several years ago, she won the award for most outstanding professor at the Palm Desert campus.

Martha was brilliant and humble, very calm, extremely witty, very connected to others. Her death is a great loss for the Palm Desert campus as well as for the larger CSUSB English department.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Palm Springs Desert Museum, 101 Museum Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92264.

Alumni and Other Friends

We are saddened to report the death of two alumni: Ryan Black (BA '01), proprietor of the Unified Ride bike shop in Lake Arrowhead, died July 22, 2008. Lance Shoji Willey (BA '94), who taught second grade in the Corona-Norco school district for several years, died November 25, 2007.

Paule Chau (MA '07), who earned her M.A. in the TESL concentration of our M.A program, began an instructor position this Fall 08 at Central Washington University, where she will be teaching ESL and American studies courses for Japanese international students majoring in business, law, and international relations.

Jean Gillingwators (MA '86) owns and operates the Blackbird Press, Upland, CA, 91786. She is publishing a handmade book entitled *Beauty* by B.H. (Pete) Fairchild. The book features a long narrative poem about the abstract idea of beauty, and the story takes place in a machine shop in Kansas.

Jenni Keys (BA '01) reports that "for the most part, this past year I've been teaching, writing, and conferencing. I'm hoping that this time next year I'll be able to report that I have turned in my A.B.D. for a Ph.D." Jenni has been teaching at CSUSB while pursuing her Ph.D. at UCR, and has been a busy conference presenter--see the list under "Faculty Professional Activities."

Recent Grads

June grads Victoria Tulacro and Angela Thomson-Brenchley were accepted into UCR's MFA program with full tuition waivers and TA-ships. Victoria will be studying poetry writing and Angela will be focusing on fiction writing.

March grad Vanessa Downs, one of our McNair Scholars, will be pursuing a graduate degree at Cal Baptist University.

Congratulations to Eric Atkinson, another June grad, who was this year's first place S. Randolph Edmonds Young Scholar winner at the annual Black Theatre Network conference held in Lake Buena Vista, Florida for his paper "On the Down Beat: Comparing Expression, Improvisation, and History in Bop and Hip-Hop Theatre." Eric enters the M.A. in English Composition program this Fall.

Write to us

Thanks for writing--we really do want to hear from you! Send an e-mail with your news & digital photos to rpigeon@csusb.edu, or write to: Professor Renée Pigeon, Dept. of English, CSUSB, 5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino, CA 92407-2397. Please remember that when you contribute to the University's Annual Fund, you can designate the English Department to receive your contribution. And please add your voice to the Alliance for the CSU.

Acknowledgments

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