English News

the newsletter of the CSUSB English Department

2008-2009

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A note from the editor: we're moving

English News has appeared in September for about the last decade to report the accomplishments of our department's faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends in the prior academic year. You may notice this issue, covering the academic year 2008-2009, is a bit belated. It is also the final issue of *English News*: we'll now be sharing news with our readers in a new blog, english@csusb (you'll also find a link to it on our department website).

What's New in the English Department

Along with the rest of the CSU, our department and campus have been facing very difficult times in the wake of an unprecedented and devastating $564 million state budget reduction to the 23-campus statewide CSU system. Looking back on 2008/2009 academic year, however, we still have much that's positive to report in this issue of *English News* about our faculty, students, alumni, and friends.

At the start of the 2008/2009 year, we welcomed four new tenure-track faculty: Glen Hirshberg (Fiction Writing; MFA, University of Montana); Chad Luck (18th and 19th-Century American Literature and Culture; Ph.D., Indianan University); Jessica Lewis Luck (Poetry and American Literature; Ph.D., Indiana University); and Karen Rowan (Composition Studies and Writing Center Studies; Ph.D., SUNY-Albany), each of whom has been a very welcome addition to our ranks.

The Kellie Rayburn Memorial Award for the best M.A. thesis for 2008-2009 went to James Ducat for his thesis "Is There a Male Victim?: Discursive Subjection in Representations of Female-on-Male Childhood Sexual Abuse," while an "Honorable Mention" award went to Heather Ann Law Davis for her thesis "Satire's Club: Reality, Reason, and Knowledge in *Joseph Andrews*." Jackie Rhodes and Ellen Gil-Gómez served as James Ducat's thesis advisors, and Jenny Andersen and Ted Ruml filled that role for Heather.

Congratulations are also in order for graduate student Jason Loan, named one of Crafton Hills Community College's three "Professors of the Year," a campus wide honor. Crafton Hills College faculty select the Professors of the Year based on their contributions to the college community, effectiveness as instructors, and service to students. Jason was also a Teaching Assistant in our TA program during 2008-2009.

Our new degree program, the M.F.A. in Creative Writing, admitted its first class for Fall 2009. Congratulations to the inaugural class of poets: Justin Elgar; Melissa Fowler; Sara Hastings; Bryan Henery; Joseph Huver; Orlando Ramirez Marsha Schuh; and Elisa Urmston, and to the fiction writers: Jeffery Logan Clark; Kevin Colpean; Nicole Comstock; Faith Dincolo; Gina Hanson; Valerie Henderson; James Hollwig; Jared Lively; Mark Muckenfuss; and Ashley Russell.

News from our department office

We very happily welcomed Charmaine Boucher to the newly-created post of Graduate and Special Programs Administrator, working on our two graduate programs (the M.A. in English Composition and the new M.F.A.) and our First Year Composition Program.

Faculty Features



Congratulations to Jackie Rhodes, promoted to the rank of professor, and to Mary Boland and Caroline Vickers, each awarded tenure and promotion to the rank of associate professor. Three cheers (or maybe nine cheers?)

Dave Carlson reports that he's in the first year of a three-year term on Faculty Committee for the CLEP American Literature Exam. He explains "the exam content is guided by the College Board (which is where my committee is "located" so to speak), while the exam itself (and prep materials) are published and administered by ETS. My job is drafting and evaluating questions, reviewing prep materials, and assessing the exam as a whole."



In May the newly-retired Bruce Golden was invited to introduce the Redlands Shakespeare Festival production of *Hamlet.*

Jim Brown received word that his new memoir, *Instructions on the Use of Heroin,* has received an advance from Phoenix Books in L.A., with an expected publication date of Spring 2010. Phoenix also plans to produce audio books of both *Instructions* and of Jim's earlier memoir, *The Los Angeles Diaries*.

Ron Chen is serving on the editorial board of *International Journal of Cognitive Linguistics*.

Glen Hirschberg received a "Professors Across Borders" grant to go to Russia to do research for a new novella and was invited by the Modern Book and Literature Centre and the St. Petersburg Writers' Union to give a series of readings and talks in September, based on the critical success of his recently translated novel (*The Snowman's Children*) and first collection *(The Two Sams*) there.

In addition to his work on the new M.F.A. program, Kevin Moffett was a visiting writer at Cal State University San Marcos, and gave readings at Quimby's Books in Chicago, the Hotel Bar in Los Angeles, as well as Skylight Books and the Santos Union, as part of Glen Hirshberg's Rolling Darkness Revue. A short story, "One Dog Year," originally published in *Tin House*, will appear in the *Best American Short Stories 2009,* edited by Alice Sebold and Heidi Pitlor . Other stories appeared in McSweeney's, The Lifted Brow, and Five Chapters (http://www.fivechapters.com/2009/the-birdman/).

Julie Paegle's collection of poems*, torch song tango choir*, will be published by University of Arizona Press and appear in Fall 2010. Her "Estuary and Divide" was chosen by Mark Doty

for inclusion in *Helen Burns Poetry Anthology: New Voices from the Academy of American Poets 1999-2008*, while "What the Fire Forgot" will be anthologized in the Heyday Books anthology *No Place for a Puritan: Literature of the California Deserts.*

We heard from Elinore Partridge, who is clearly finding much to enjoy in her retirement. She writes "You can report that I've been walking my dogs three miles every day, hiking around the mountains, and have been out in my sea kayak off the SoCal beaches every week. We are just leaving for a week-long boating and camping trip on a wilderness stretch of the Green River in Utah. My writing right now consists of editing a newsletter for a local community group and somewhat sporadically keeping a journal." You can find email addresses to reach Elinore and other professors emeriti on the department website.

Luz Elena Ramirez founded an interdisciplinary faculty writing group that meets monthly to discuss works in progress, conference papers, and creative projects.

Jackie Rhodes was named Interviews Editor for *Composition Forum*: *A Journal of Pedagogical Theory in Rhetoric and Composition*, now in its 20th year of publication.

New Arrivals



A big welcome to two more honorary department members: daughter Bryn Ella joined the Sanders clan on November 22, arriving at 2:40 a.m. while Joe was driving to the hospital. Congratulations to Melendra, Joe and Bryn's brother Sage.



And very exciting news arrived from our friend and former colleague, Alexandria LaFaye, who tells us "On July 2nd, I received a late night phone call from an adoption agency who was looking for a adoptive family for a baby born that night! My answer was yes--to heaven and back. Three days later, I was in Ohio taking care of my newborn daughter, Adia Margot LaFaye, 7 lbs, 8 oz, 20 inches." Warmest congratulations to Alexandria and Adia.

Worth Reading

Jenny Andersen

While my teaching of course focuses on fiction, since my critical orientation to teaching literature is historical, I love to read history and nonfiction in my spare time. Here are some books I'd recommend:

Douglas A. Blackmon, *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II* (Doubleday, 2008). Amazingly documented cases of the use of prison labor in the South after Emancipation, written by a *Wall Street Journal* reporter.

Serge Schmemann, *Echoes of a Native Land: Two Centuries of a Russian Village* (Vintage, 1999). Written by a former *New York Times* bureau chief in Moscow. His research into family history going back several generations provides a fascinating account of the tectonic shifts in Russian politics and society over the last two centuries. Plus, it's full of great maps and photographs.

Alfred Lubrano, *Limbo: Blue-Collar Roots, White-Collar Dreams* (Wiley, 2005). I just ordered this from amazon.com on the recommendation of a friend. Written by the Italian-American son of a bricklayer who went on to attend Columbia University and become an award-winning journalist.

David J. Carlson

I've been reading several things by the Canadian science fiction writer, Robert Sawyer. Specifically, I've read *Calculating God* (which is an alien-encounter story that addresses the debate between evolutionary biology and intelligent design) and *Hominids* (the first book in a trilogy that considers an alternative evolutionary "tree" where Neanderthal man becomes the dominant primates), both published by Tor Books. It is a bit unusual to find a major science fiction writer extrapolating from the biological sciences, as opposed to physics or engineering, which makes Sawyer's work a refreshing change of pace for a genre fiction reader like myself. I'd also note that he writes about the debate between evolution and faith in a way that is fair to both. For readers interested in the intersections of science and religion, his books are worth a look.

I've also been reading a lot of poetry. Rather than offering a "review" of my own, though, let me just recommend a few titles that I read this year. I've really enjoyed Benjamin Alire Sáenz's *Dreaming the End of War* (Copper Canyon Press, 2006), Li-Young Li's *Book of My Nights* (BOA, 2001), and two books in translation by the Swedish poet Lars Gustaffson—*Stillness of the World Before Bach* (New Directions, 1988) and *A Time in Xanadu* (Copper Canyon Press, 2008). Finally, for any masochists out there, Herman Melville's book-length epic poem, *Clarel: A Poem and a Pilgrimage in the Holy Land*, is just out in a paperback edition from Northwestern University Press. It's actually a pretty interesting read, if you take it slowly. 18,000 lines of iambic tetrameter isn't something you read over your corn flakes. (I'm only about ¼ of the way through it, myself.)

Joe Sutliff Sanders

Alan's War: the Memories of G.I. Alan Cope, a graphic memoir by Emmanuel Guibert and translated from the French by Kathryn Pulver (First Second, 2008). An understated and subtly structured 300-page comic about the constant self-reinvention of a man who was a quiet part of world history (and who, bizarrely, used to live in Redlands).

Chad Luck

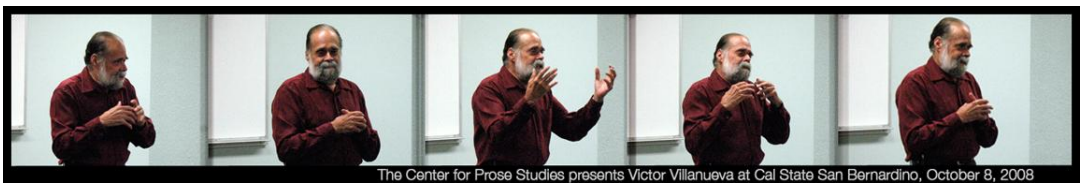
I've been listening to a 2004 album entitled *Leviathan* by the sludge metal band Mastodon. It's a concept album based on Melville's *Moby Dick* and includes songs with titles like "Seabeast," "Blood and Thunder," and "I Am Ahab." It will blow your mind into pieces. Literally. Highly recommended.

Caroline Vickers

Homegirls: Language and Cultural Practice Among Latina Youth Gangs, by Norma Mendoza-Denton (Wiley Blackwell, 2008). This is an excellent book based on many years of ethnographic work among Latina youth gangs in California. The book focuses on language use and bodily practices in constructions of gender and expressions of social affiliation among teenage girls in these youth gangs. Also, Norma was my professor at the University of Arizona.

Gatherings

Just a few of the events from throughout the year:



In October, the Center for Prose Studies brought scholar Victor Villanueva to campus, with the help of funds from the department, the college, and from the University's Diversity Committee and Intellectual Life Committee.



In March the CCCC (the College Conference on Composition) in San Francisco once again boasted a good-sized contingent of current students, alumni, and faculty, shown enjoying breakfast together here.

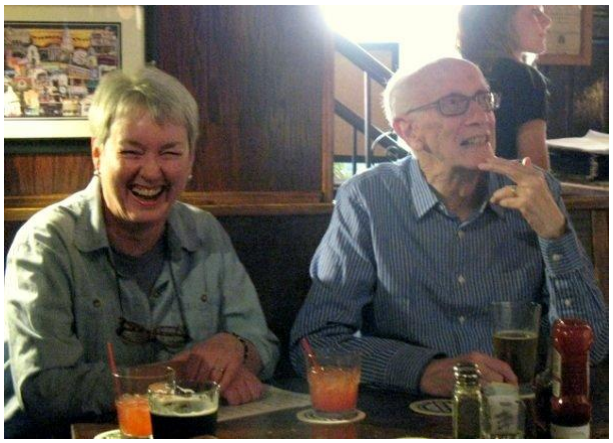


May brought a visit from scholar AnaLouise Keating (shown at left with Ellen Gil-Gómez). Keating's most recent book is *Teaching Transformation: Transcultural Classroom Dialogues* (Palgrave Macmillan 2007). Her work investigates the connections between women of color—in terms of gender, sexuality, and race/ethnicity—and their identities. Her latest book continues her exploration of the varying connections between language, sexuality, and gender from specifically multi-cultural, multi-racial, or "transcultural" approaches. Keating's visit was sponsored in part by the English Department and LuGS, the Language, Gender and Sexuality group of the Center for Prose Studies.

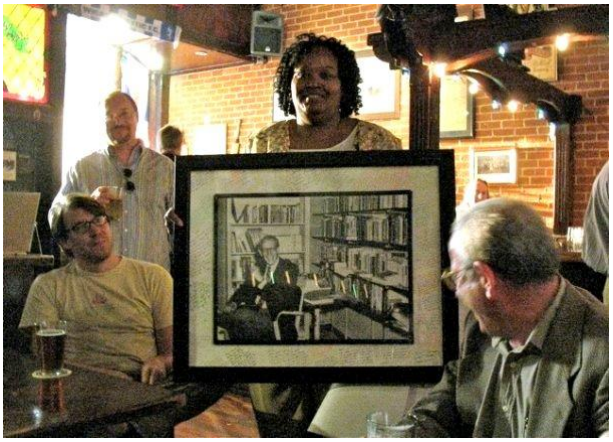


When June arrived, it was time to mark the end of the academic year and honor Carol Haviland as she entered the Faculty Early Retirement Program. A crowd of well-wishers gathered in the Chens' backyard to honor Carol and to thank her for her service to the department.





And June brought us another milestone to mark, the end of Bruce Golden's time as a FERPer (and his 44th year at CSUSB). An overflow crowd of friends and well-wishers gathered at the Falconer pub in Redlands to toast Bruce and Vik at the start of this latest adventure.



Selected Faculty & Graduate Student Professional Activities

Books

Carol Peterson Haviland and Joan A. Mullin, eds. *Who Owns This Text: Plagiarism, Authorship, and Disciplinary Cultures*. Logan: Utah SUP, 2009.

Luz Elena Ramirez, ed. *The Encyclopedia of Hispanic-American Literature.* New York: Facts on File, 2008.

Articles and book chapters

Mary Boland and Carol Peterson Haviland

"Studying with Fieldworkers: Archaeology and Sociology." In *Who Owns This Text: Plagiarism, Authorship, and Disciplinary Cultures* (see above).

Rong Chen

Yaning Nie and Rong Chen. 2008. WATER metaphors and metonymies in Chinese: A semantic network*. Pragmatics and Cognition* 16.3: 492-516.

Chad Luck

"Re-Walking the Purchase: *Edgar Huntly*, David Hume, and the Origins of Ownership." *Early American Literature* 44.2 (2009): 271-306.

Jessica Lewis Luck

"Sound Mind: Josephine Dickinson's Deaf Poetics." *Mosaic: A Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature*. 42.1 (2009).

"Entries on a Post-Language Poetics in Harryette Mullen's *Dictionary*." *Contemporary Literature* 49.3 (2008): 357-82.

Renée Pigeon

"Academic Investigations." *In-Between: Essays in Literature and Criticism* 15.1 (2006): 71-79 (published 2008).

Jacqueline Rhodes

"'Substantive and Feminist Girlie Action': Women Online." Norton Book of Composition Studies. Ed. Susan Miller. New York: W.W. Norton, 2008. [Originally published in *College Composition and Communication* 54 (Sept. 2002): 116-42].

Karen Rowe

"All the Best Intentions: Graduate Student Administrative Professional Development in Practice." *The Writing Center Journal* 29:1, 2009.

Ted Ruml

Entries on Akenside, Cibber, Fielding, Goldsmith, Gray, and Richardson, in the "18th-Century Online Encyclopedia: Enlightenment and Revolution." <http://www.enlightenment-revolution.org>

Joe Sutliff Sanders

"Young Adult Science Fiction" *Routledge Companion to Science Fiction*. London: Routledge, 2009. 442-450.
"Comics Studies 101." The Science Fiction Research Association Review. 284 (2008): 4-7.
"Spinning Sympathy: Orphan Girl Novels and the Sentimental Tradition." *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* 33.1 (2008): 41-61. Reprinted in *Children's Literature Review* 137 (2009): 110-123.

Presentations

Jean Arnold

"Writing Against Empire: Victorian Fiction Speaking Unspeakable Violence," PAMLA (Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association). Pomona, California, November 2008.

Margaret Doane

"The Presence of Absence, the Absence of Presence: The Drama of Memory in *Housekeeping.*" Western Literature Association. Boulder, Colorado, October 2008.

"'For the Love of Dad': Female Orphans' Commitments to Their Fathers in Cather's Novels." The Willa Cather International Seminar. Chicago, Illinois, June 2009.

Joel Harris

Poster presentation, "The Memoir Project." CATESOL Regional Los Angeles Conference. Losa Angeles, California, October, 2008.

Carol Peterson Haviland

Carol Haviland et al. "Going Up for Full: A Roundtable and Workshop," International Writing Centers Association Conference. Las Vegas, Nevada, October/November 2008.

Carol Haviland et al. "Conference Roundtable: A World of Writing Centers." International Writing Centers Association Conference. Las Vegas, Nevada, October/November 2008.

Carol Haviland et al. SIG: Faculty Development. International Writing Centers Association Conference. Las Vegas, Nevada, October/November 2008.

Nathalie Singh-Corcoran and Carol Peterson Haviland, Co-Chairs, International Writing Centers Collaborative at CCCC. San Francisco, California, March 2009.

Sunny Hyon

Evaluative Lexis in Tenure and Promotion Letters: Constructing Faculty as Communicators, Stars, and Workers. American Association of Applied Linguistics Conference. Denver, Colorado, March 2009.

Chad Luck

"Owning and Owing: Simms' *Woodcraft* and the Phenomenology of Debt." American Literature Association Annual Conference. Boston, Massachusetts, May 2009.

Luz Elena Ramirez

"Dryden's Americanist Imagination and the Use of History in *The Indian Emperor*." Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies. San Diego, California, March 2009.

Jacqueline Rhodes

"Viewmaster." Multimedia installation. Computers & Writing 2009. Davis, California, June 2009 (with Jonathan Alexander).

"Delicious Moments in Queer Composition." Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC). San Francisco, California, March 2009.

"Being Graphic: Fetish, Identity, and Writing the Graphic Novel." Southwest Texas Popular Culture Association/American Cultural Association Conference. Albuquerque, New Mexico, February 2009 (with Ellen M. Gil-Gómez).

"An Illegitimate Profession: How Composition Bastardizes New Media Scholarship." Modern Language Association (MLA). San Francisco, California, December 2008 (with Jonathan Alexander).

"Multimedia[ted] [E]visceration: A Queer Critique." Multimedia installation for (1) Seventh Biennial Thomas R. Watson Conference on Rhetoric, Louisville, Kentucky, October 2008; and (2) Futures of Writing Conference, Irvine , California, November 2008 (with Jonathan Alexander).

Ted Ruml

"Johnson's Use of the English Bible in the Dictionary." American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting. Richmond, Virginia, March 2009.

Joe Sutliff Sanders

"Girls' Novels and the End of Mothering." Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association. Claremont, California, November 2008.

"Reinventing Subjectivity: China Miéville's *Un Lun Dun* and the Child Reader." Children's Literature Association. Normal, Illinois, June 2008.

"'The World Opens Up': Children's Literature Brushes the Sublime." Panel participant and moderator. International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts. Orlando, Florida, March 2008.

CCCC Report:



In addition to presentations by current faculty and students listed above , Sarah Antinora (M.A. 2008), last year's Arts & Letters Outstanding Graduate Student, now working on her Ph.D. at UC Riverside, presented "The Daily Show and Colbert Report: The Need for Satire and Parody in Composition Classrooms." Brian Bailie, finishing his doctoral coursework at Syracuse, presented "300 and the Trope of Disability" as part of the session on Narrating Telepresence: Rearticulating the Voice of the (Dis)Abled. And Nicole Khoury, now working on her Ph.D. at Arizona State University, presented "Muslim Women's Interpretation of the Quran: Articulating the Available Arguments." (Alums Sarah Antinora and Frances Suderman at left).

Alumni and Other Friends



We were saddened to learn of the sudden death of James S. McVicker (B.A. '02) in April 2009. James was long a favorite both of faculty and of his fellow students, first as an undergraduate (pursuing a History major and English minor) and later as a student in the Literature Concentration in the M.A. program.

Bruce Golden shared the following note from John Garcia (BA '01, MA '05), now pursuing his Ph.D. at UC Berkeley: "I have been teaching for the past two years in Berkeley's Rhetoric department (including my own course on "self-reliance" in Benjamin Franklin, Emerson, and Melville). Also, I am teaching a course in Critical Thinking at San Quentin Prison this summer. This is part of the Prison University Project, the only accredited college program for prisoners in the state of California. It is entirely staffed by volunteer instructors, including a large number of Berkeley grad students. We'll be studying Kant, Marx, Nietzsche, J.L. Austin, Foucault, Thomas Jefferson, and Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*."

Joshua Gutierrez (B.A. '09) was accepted to the prestigious "Teach for America" program, and will spend two years in New Mexico working with low-income middle-school students.

Alba Cruz-Hacker's collection of poems, *No Honey for Wild Beasts*, was published by Plain View Press. Alba was the College of Arts and Letters Outstanding Undergraduate Student for 2005, as well as a McNair Scholar. She received her M.F.A. in Creative Writing from UCR in 2007, and was awarded the UC Riverside Poet Laureate Award.

The very busy Eric von Mizener shared recent news with Ted Ruml: "In addition to my work as vice chair of the Moreno Valley Arts Commission, I completed my Master of Professional Writing degree at the University of Southern California this May. I also host a monthly poetry reading at the TAG

Art Gallery in Moreno Valley. This last has lead to my being named the new on-air host of the Poets Cafe program on KPFK 90.7 FM. Among my first guests will be fellow CSUSB poets B.H. "Pete" Fairchild, Alba Hacker and Mary Copeland."

More of our M.A. grads are on their way to Ph.D. programs: Robert Cedillo (2008), doctoral program in rhetoric and composition, University of Nevada, Reno; Freddie Harris-Ramsby (2007), doctoral program in rhetoric and composition, University of Utah; and Joel Kilpatrick (2007), doctoral program in English, University of Tulsa. Yalin Lee and Paule Chau, both recent graduates of the M.A. in Composition-TESL Concentration, have also been accepted to Ph.D. programs: Yalin to the Second Language Acquisition and Teaching program at the University of Arizona, and Paule to the TESOL and Composition program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Congratulations to all.



Congratulations to Diana Ramseyer (M.A. '01), who earned her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership (Higher Education Emphasis from Argosy University. Her dissertation is entitled "Evaluation of Written Student Learning Using Accuplacer at Riverside Community College." Diana is shown here with her proud family: son Ben Young, mother Hazel Ramseyer, and daughter Erin Young. And Diana tells us that friend and fellow alumnus David Ramsey (B.A. '96, M.A. '98) returned from Japan to successfully defend his dissertation and be awarded his Ph.D. from Miami University of Ohio.

Good news from Andrea Hammock, who added a Post-Secondary Reading Certification from CSU Fullerton to her B.A. ('00) and M.A. ('05) from us. She's now an Assistant Professor of Reading and English at Mt. San Jacinto College. And Andrew and husband Bill Moseley (B.A. '00) welcomed a son into the world, Casey Moseley, on 3/19/08. Bill teaches English at SIATech (a technology charter school) in San Bernardino. Congratulations to Andrea and Bill!





And we heard from Krista Wagner (M.A. '08), who says she has been teaching Freshman Composition at Community Christian College in Redlands.

Write to us

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

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Bruce Golden and Jackie Rhodes for their help with this and many other issues of *English News*. And don't forget to check the new blog for recent news: english@csusb

English News Editor: Renée Pigeon
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