

SEEDING THE FUTURE

for Undergraduate Scholars in the Department of English



One student's father attended this year's NULC, saying that the experience "refreshed and reinforced my own feelings that education is indeed the way to construct a better society." Clockwise from far left: Alisha Allston, Ron Cole, Emily Cole, Jacob Leveton, and Melissa Tse.

Because of the success of this year's "Seeding the Future" event—the first Department of English fundraiser to benefit undergraduate initiatives—the tradition of undergraduate conference participation initiated in the spring of 2008 is likely to continue. Next year, English majors will once again be encouraged to travel to national academic conferences to present their work and to gain invaluable experience engaging in stimulating discussions with peers, fielding questions related to their scholarship, and networking with experts and enthusiasts in multiple fields of English studies.

In April of 2008 and again in 2009, with funding provided by ASU's Distinguished

Teaching Academy (DTA), a delegation of ten undergraduate students led by Professor and Chair Neal A. Lester presented at the Weber State University National Undergraduate Literature Conference (NULC) in Ogden, Utah. Another student presented her work at the 2009 Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) in San Francisco.

These students were profoundly impacted by their conference attendance. Elizabeth Dern says that the experience "helped . . . give me confidence in my ability as a writer. . . . The greatest worth in studying English is in the discussion of what is being studied as it leads to more critical thinking and more ideas generated."

Kassandra Maldonado enjoyed connecting with other students from across disciplines and regions at the conference: "In the modern age where the focus is not to be isolated but rather to be part of a global academic community, what could be more valuable than having ASU undergraduates visible in a larger community?"

Jacob Leveton's passion for British Romanticism was validated. He admits that participation in the conference "allowed me a space to finally find my voice as a scholar."

Thanks to the hard work and excellent coordination by Department of English Advancement Board members Beatrice

Gordon, Maire Simington, and Joan Berry, with assistance from Kristen LaRue, Outreach Coordinator, the fundraiser profited nearly \$5,000 to support student conference travel and participation in the coming year.

"Seeding the Future" took place on Saturday, April 18, 2009, at Changing Hands Bookstore in Tempe, and it was an unprecedented success with nearly 100 attendees—faculty, students, staff, and new friends. Highlights of the evening included a talk on small-scale agriculture, local foods, and strong communities by writer, folklorist, conservationist, and Department friend Gary Nabhan; and the premiere of the "What is English?" student film produced by department staff member and alumnus Phillip Karagas (BA 2000). The event also included locally grown and prepared *hors d'oeuvres* served by undergraduate English majors, all of whom have already benefited from conference participation. Undergraduate English majors are fortunate to be part of a department that values our contributions to academia and that nurtures our growth as scholars and citizens.

—GINGER HANSON

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What Is, What's Been, and What's Next for the Department of English

CHAIR'S CORNER

Even as the winds of change whistle about us and threaten to disrupt our best laid strategic plans for growth and re-building, the Department of English remains focused on what we can control—our vision of and our commitment to excellence on all fronts. The current atmosphere of fiscal uncertainty requires that we all tap into new energies as we continue to think more creatively about what we do and how we do what we do.



Neal A. Lester

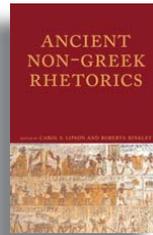
Amid this storm of unpredictability locally, nationally, and globally, we continue our forward movement:

- Our John Milton memorial event allowed faculty colleagues and alumni to salute the legacy of Professor Emeritus John X. Evans.
- The annual *Beowulf* Symposium brought together students, faculty, and community members for public performances and readings of *Beowulf*.
- With partial funding from the ASU Distinguished Teaching Academy, the second annual Writing Programs' Composition Conference was again coordinated brilliantly by our talented Instructors, and was expanded to include writing teachers on other ASU campuses and at local community colleges.
- Regents' Professor Alberto Ríos's *Capirotada: A Nogales Memoir* was the 2009 ONEBOOKAZ winning selection, read and discussed throughout the state in April.
- Our first department undergraduate fundraiser, "Seeding the Future"—coordinated by the Department Advancement Board—featured popular food author and ethnobotanist Gary Nabhan, and underscored our valued partnership with Tempe's Changing Hands Bookstore (see page 1).
- New community partnerships with the Black Theatre Troupe, the Arizona Humanities Council, Highland High School, and Phoenix College heightened the impact of our annual Shakespeare's Birthday Bash, this year called "Shaking up Shakespeare." Actor Harry Lennix returned as our special guest for the two-day event (see page 8).
- A National Writing Project grant launches the Central Arizona Writing Project under the direction of Professors of English Education Jim Blasingame and Jessica Early. The program will reach students and teachers throughout the Phoenix-metro public school system.
- Dr. Shirley Rose of Purdue University arrives as our new Writing Programs Administrator and as Professor of Rhetoric and Composition.

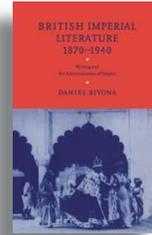
While we know not what tomorrow will bring, we know that our standards of excellence in teaching, research, and service rest on a strong foundation still very much in place today.

—NEAL A. LESTER

NEW BOOKS



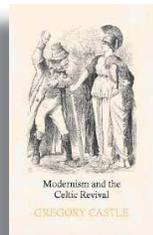
Roberta Binkley and Carol S. Lipson, eds.
Ancient Non-Greek Rhetorics.
Parlor, 2009.



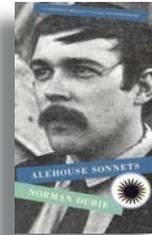
Daniel Bivona
British Imperial Literature, 1870-1940: Writing and the Administration of Empire.
Paperback. Cambridge Univ. Press, 2008.



Jay Boyer
For Some Reason Comma She Laughed. OneAct Play Depot, 2009.



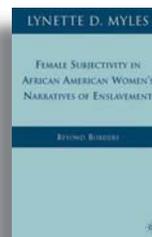
Gregory Castle
Modernism and the Celtic Revival. Paperback. Cambridge Univ. Press, 2009.



Norman Dubie
The Alehouse Sonnets.
Reissue. Carnegie Mellon Univ. Press, 2009.



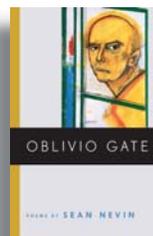
Elizabeth A. Hiscox
Inventory from a One-Hour Room.
Finishing Line, 2009.



Lynette D. Myles
Female Subjectivity in African American Women's Narratives of Enslavement: Beyond Borders.
Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.



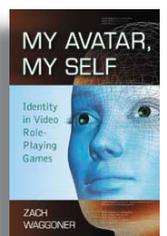
Melissa Pritchard
Devotedly, Virginia: The Life of Virginia Galvin Piper.
Charitable Trust, 2008.



Sean Nevin
Oblivio Gate: Poems.
Southern Illinois Univ. Press, 2008.



Alberto Ríos
The Dangerous Shirt.
Copper Canyon, 2009.



Zach Waggoner
My Avatar, My Self: Identity in Video Role-Playing Games.
McFarland and Co., 2009.

STUDENT STORIES

2008-2009 GRADUATE STUDENTS SHOW OFF RESEARCH

Graduate students presented, published, and earned numerous awards during 2008-09: Uthairat Rogers presented “Error Analysis of the English Articles and Other Errors in the Thai Speakers of English” at the 7th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities in Honolulu and Anita Chaudhuri, Subrata Bhowmik, and Tanita Saenkhum gave poster presentations in the Doctoral Forum at

We live in the present, we dream of the future and we learn eternal truths from the past.

—Soong Mei-Ling

the 2009 TESOL Conference in Denver. Saenkhum was also one of four recipients of a 2009 TESOL Albert H. Marckwardt Travel Grant, and collaborated with Associate Professor Paul Matsuda and graduate student Steven Accardi on a project that was accepted for the 2009 WPA Conference. Jenna Steigerwalt had an article accepted for the fall 2009 issue of *Shakespeare Bulletin*, a special issue edited by Associate Professor Ayanna Thompson. Heather Ackerman and Valerie Fazel presented at the 2009 Shakespeare Association of America’s 37th Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Marqueshia Wilson gave her first conference paper, “Narrative and Language as Mimetic Characterization: From Faulkner to Sapphire,” at the annual Peaks Conference in Flagstaff, and she reprised it for the 2009 ASU Southwest Graduate English Symposium. Chris Vasset presented at the 2009 Computers and Writing Conference in Davis, California. Ten ASU students presented at this year’s Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) in San Francisco: Brad Gyori, “Gender Fractals”;



Students attending 2009 CCCC in San Francisco dine out on a break. L to R: Kendall Gerdes, Brad Gyori, Ryan Skinnell, Natalie Martinez, Elizabeth Lowry, and Nicole Khoury. Photo/courtesy Ryan Skinnell

Kendall Gerdes, “Queer and Present Danger”; Nicole Khoury, “Muslim Women’s Interpretation of the Quran”; Andrea Alden Lewis, “The Cult of True Womanhood and Victorian Era Science”; Nicole Pfannensteil, “What Do They Do on MySpace?”; Elizabeth Lowry, “Feminist Rhetoric at the Time of the Spanish American War”; Ryan Skinnell, “The Logic of Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s Pathos” and “When the Archive Finds You”; Chris Vasset, “Technology and Democracy in TA Education”; Flurije Salihu, “It’s a Temporal, Temporal World”; and Judy Holiday, “Lillian Smith’s Intersectional Rhetoric.” Finally, Natalie Martinez, Judy Holiday, and Ryan Skinnell were accepted into the 2009 Rhetoric Society of America’s biennial summer institute in University Park, Pennsylvania.

—RYAN SKINNELL

HISTORIC STUDENT SOCIETY LEAVES ITS MARK ON CAMPUS

In 1900, Tempe Normal School juniors and seniors participated in the inaugural year of the Philomathian Society, a literary organization mandated

by Principal and later President, Dr. A. J. Matthews. The word *philomath*, according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, refers to “a lover of learning,” but unfortunately no

amount of devotion could prevent the first incarnation of the Philomathian Society’s slow fade into obscurity during the second decade of the 1900s. However, in 1921, nearly 30 female students organized around their shared passion for modern drama and breathed fresh life into the Philomathian Society; no male students were invited to join in the “love.” Members gathered to read and discuss the works of such greats as Ibsen, Shaw, and Lady Gregory. The Philomathian bench (shown in 1934 and 2007) was gifted to ASU in 1929 by the Philomathians and the Alumni Association. It still adorns Alumni Lawn today, sitting near the Language and Literature Building.

—GINGER HANSON



Vintage photo on left from University Archives Photographs, Arizona State University Libraries.



TAKING STOCK

REMEMBERING JOHN UPDIKE AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

“That’s why we went out to the Superstitions,” Professor Emerita Kay Sands reminded me. “He wanted to see the *real* desert!”

Acclaimed writer John Updike (March 18, 1932–January 27, 2009) was one of the first internationally known authors to visit the then-fledgling Creative Writing Program at ASU. The year was 1987, and Updike came to Tempe as a distinguished artist sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts.

On one of his classically terse postcard missives, Updike said he was researching the Sonoran desert for a new novel, and he’d like to go for a walk—somewhere guaranteed to have wildflowers. “Do you know your wildflowers?” he asked.

“Of course I do,” I lied. English Department chair Nicholas Salerno thought Dr. Kay Sands might know her wildflowers.

“Who else but Kay!”

On a clear March morning, Kay Sands, John Updike, and I drove Highway 60 East to the Peralta Trailhead at the foot of the Superstition wilderness. There, by the parking lot, was a friendly remuda of

From McNally and Stover’s 1987 *Hayden’s Ferry Review* interview:

“There’s a tendency to view most writers—especially when they come to Arizona State University or some such worthy place—as founts of wisdom who know something and who are in there writing away trying to say something; but often they are creatures of wonder and surprise, and they’re talking to themselves.

I’m just trying to announce with a sense of wonder and surprise that I’m here at all.”
—JOHN UPDIKE

rentable mules. Ranch maven, Charreada expert, and large animal trainer, Sands has a special affection for mules. “I was no hiker back then,” she said. She thought mules should do the walking, and besides, we all know mules have that nice Aaron Copeland gait.

“No.” Updike told her, “I’m not having any of *that*.”

“We just ambled,” Kay said. “It wasn’t so tough, but it did take a while.” About

half way up the Peralta, we stopped at a shady place, a glade, for lunch. Home-made sandwiches, water, cookies—simple stuff—and then came the questions about flowers. I knew that red one, the paintbrush. Then I was stuck. We were a thou-



John Updike (1932–2009) with Professor Emerita Kay Sands during their 1987 hike in the Superstition Mountains. Photo/Karla Elling

sand feet higher than my creosote-bursage range, and these flowers looked exotic.

Updike said his novel was about an Easterner, a woman who runs away to a religious commune in Arizona. The story of *S.*, published in 1988, is about Sarah Worth, a latter-day Hester Prynne who comes to love the desert and its denizens, in a way.

Combing Updike’s prose for specific hints about our Superstitions-hiking-day was futile. Some phrases like “gray-throated flycatchers that dip about in the lengthening lavender shadows” sounded right—along with Sarah’s general impressions of the land. It’s “mostly rock, red rock and sand, so you’re very grateful and aware of the slightest living thing—a lot of the desert flowers are almost microscopic, the size of pinheads practically.” Updike’s heroine also spends time in a glade sitting beneath a box elder—but isn’t a box elder a maple?

At ASU, Updike had the usual hectic schedule of a visiting writer: the craft lecture hosted by Jay Boyer, the reading, the interview by MFA candidates T. M. McNally and Dean Stover for the third edition of *Hayden’s Ferry Review*. Kay Sands remembered Updike’s modesty as we sat beneath Arizona sycamores in the Peralta glade, “He was worried that he wasn’t giving us enough for the money—

he was concerned about doing everything right.”

We finally reached the summit, the whole range of mountains near Canyon Lake and Weaver’s Needle before us. We snapped pictures and started down. Kay thought Updike was miserable walking downhill, but he never complained, even when showing us his raw, blistered heels after we’d made it to the parking lot. He did say, “I think the novel will have to be an Arizona of my mind.”

I had printed a broadside for Updike, a poem written for his daughter, and the edition was piled on the floor of my old orange van. The print wasn’t finished. I asked him to sign it *big* in the unfinished gap; but he said no, “Go home and get it done.”

If I’d known Updike had studied art at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art in Oxford, I’d never have dared a print. He graciously signed the finished edition before the next evening’s reading, then took a few prints home, and later cited Mummy Mountain Press in his *Collected Poems*.

Kay remembered how funny Updike could be—the game at lunch naming most-famous-author in each state. “Wasn’t Lew Wallace best in New Mexico?” And the birthday heart attack—in the glade he told Kay that he had turned fifty-five a few days before—“just a great age to have a heart attack.”

“Not *here*,” Kay yelled, her arms shooting up, “not *here*!”

—KARLA ELLING



John Updike at the top of the world, near Weaver’s Needle. Photo/Karla Elling

BIG QUESTIONS, SHORT ANSWERS FROM OUR EDITORS

Professor of English Melissa Pritchard and Department of English staff Kristen LaRue weigh in on heavy topics, each from her own vantage points: Pritchard, as an artist and teacher; LaRue, as historian and pragmatist.

What can we learn about our current economic situation from looking at the history of institutions—i.e. universities, other organizations, even states and nations?

MELISSA PRITCHARD: From both general and individual histories, we can gain valuable perspective and allay our natural inclination toward a “sky is falling” systemic response. History is a proven anodyne for panic and moral myopia. Through its lessons and greater proportions, we can find solutions, remedies, consolations.



Circa 1940s, soldiers march south on College Avenue at Tyler Mall, site of current Hayden Library. The fence on right was removed in the 1950s, making way for Language and Literature Building. Photo/Gilbert F. Brown Photographs, University Archives, Arizona State University Libraries.

KRISTEN LARUE: It is helpful to study the evolution of institutions for a perspective on current events and crises. To be very specific, our own Department of English here at ASU has a wonderful history written in the 1970s by Katharine C. Turner (the same Professor Emerita after whom an endowed chairship is named in our department), and one need only browse it to glimpse cyclical upheavals and changes. For example, in the 1930s, faculty salaries were cut 10% due to the Depression. One could argue a very close parallel between that scenario and the work furloughs of 2009. Also, in 1956-57 and again in the 1960s, ASU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences was restructured into different units and functions; programs were cut, others expanded. Striking similarities exist between those events and the massive, academic reorganizations taking place at ASU now.

What can we learn about ourselves from the current economic instability?

MP: When the myth of inexhaustible resources and the belief in the individual's right to an untrammelled progress towards ambitions and goals are abruptly curbed and curtailed, when the terrain radically shifts, the first thing that happens is one is faced with a reassessment of core values: What really matters? What do I really believe in, when faced with essence? From that, we can learn a great deal more about who we are, essentially, when stripped of excess and distraction.

KL: We can learn a lot about our own resilience and priorities during times of crisis, especially when the crisis becomes global and societal and not just local and personal. During this particular set of circumstances, I find myself wanting to isolate, plant

a garden, take care of my family when instead I should be reaching out to others to help lessen the impact of our shared economic troubles.

Do larger issues/questions of life—spirituality, environmental concerns, social issues—play into the current financial troubles? If so, are they causes or solutions?

MP: We are in for a bracing and crucial re-evaluation of lifestyle, philosophy, purpose, understanding of the individual self in relation to the larger human community and the larger human community in relation to all other beings, to the earth itself. It is a critical time for our species. Extinction is a possibility, and we are called not to panic or to contract in fear but to embrace the opportunity and challenge of aspiring to and living out our most selfless ideals, spiritual questings, ethical values. To live with less, and in greater community, to live at once with a more humble perspective of ourselves in the greater scheme of the universe, as well as with a more inspired and even joyful sense of service, these seem to me to be the great gifts offered us within the current global economic, environmental, and political crises. And as a writer and teacher, I see education and the arts as more crucial than ever for these entertain, intellectually enlarge, and connect us; teaching us to be



In 1968, forty English department faculty members protested the Vietnam War in on-campus, noontime silent vigil. Photo/University Archives Photographs, Arizona State University Libraries.



R to L: G. Homer Durham (ASU President 1960-69 and Language and Literature Building namesake); Martin Luther King, Jr.; Ralph Abernathy; an unidentified participant; Rev. Louis Eaton; and Msgr. Robert Donaboe. King addressed an audience of 8,000 at Goodwin Stadium, ASU, on the topic “Religious Witness for Human Dignity,” June 3, 1964. Later that year on October 14, King became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Photo/courtesy University Archives Photographs, Arizona State University Libraries.

more humane, to empathize, to have the courage to risk a greater, more collaborative love for the sake of balance, harmony, peaceful endeavor.

KL: I see the current crisis as a symptom of an overarching sense of discontent, which we have tried to remedy with material things. It seems that now is a good time to take stock, to be thankful, to make sacrifices and changes, and to know that things can and will be better tomorrow.



TAKING STOCK

WORD LOVERS' CORNER: PONDERING ASU'S OLD-TIMEY NAMES

One of those strange little things that only word lovers bother to think about is the difference between a word that is just a word and a word that becomes a name. Of course, generally when a word becomes a name, i.e. a proper noun, it gets a capital letter, but sometimes names change in more ways than that. Rather than denoting a whole class of things, names are assumed to denote just one specific thing. And when a proper noun is “borrowed” to serve as the name for someone or something else, the two usages often compete with each other like doppelgangers in fiction.

Probably no one understands this better than does Grady Gammage, Jr. When he returned to Phoenix in the mid-1970s after having attended college at Occidental and then law school

All history is a current event.
—John Henrick Clarke

at Stanford, he learned that the auditorium named after his father had become such a local landmark that when he would introduce himself—especially on the phone—people would respond with variations on, “Who do you think you’re kidding? That’s an auditorium—not a person!”

This doesn’t happen as often today partly because the auditorium is no longer the only prestigious gathering place in the Valley, and also because the son of President and Katherine Gammage is careful to include *Jr.* as he makes a name for himself as a local attorney and community and academic leader.

But still, there are plenty of other confusing names on campus. *Normal Avenue* shouldn’t be confused with *Normal Lane*, which is just the little driveway running south from University in between the backs of the Student Health Center and the University Club. *Normal Avenue* is on the other side of the campus and rates a regular street sign; it is far from being “normal” in that it is just one block long, running south from Apache Boulevard to 14th Street. Like the town of *Normal*, Illinois (now home to Illinois State University), its name came from the *Normal School*, which

in the 1800s was what teachers colleges were called.

The idea was that such colleges would serve as models and set the *norm* for public education.

ASU’s *Farmer Building* honors Hiram Bradford Farmer, a Latin scholar educated in upstate New York, who moved west in hopes that the dry climate

would be good for his wife Charlotte, who had a throat ailment. He was teaching in Prescott when in 1885 he was hired to be the first principal and the entire faculty of the Normal School. We like to think that Tempe’s *Farmer Avenue*, which most people call *Farmers’ Avenue*, was named for *both* of the Farmers because it was Charlotte who opened their home at 830 Farmer Avenue as a place for women students to live. We smiled when Professor Jim Blasingame, who grew up in Iowa and came to ASU nine years ago, told how on his first day on campus he was told to go to the Farmer Building for faculty orientation. When he asked directions, someone sent him to the *Agriculture Building* (now re-named *Discovery Hall*) on the south side of campus. Fortunately, someone else pointed him a couple of buildings north and west to the Farmer Building, but today that too could be confusing because while it is still called the Farmer Building, its entrance is now adorned with a big sign designating it as the *Mary Lou Fulton College of Education*.



The only structure at Tempe Normal School in 1901 called “The Original Building.”
Photo/University Archives Photographs, Arizona State University Libraries.

This May, *A. J. Matthews Center* on Cady Mall confused a crew from “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart” which came to campus for a feature story spoofing ASU’s intellectual climate. Under the pretense of asking about the decision not to award President Obama an honorary doctorate, they interviewed several students—who were mostly sitting around swimming pools—and then closed with an impressive photo of a classic building with *MATTHEWS LIBRARY* carved in the frieze above the Ionic columns. The reporter ended with a statement that “Even here in the library, we couldn’t find anyone studying.”

Someone should have told him that regardless of what’s carved in stone there, that building hasn’t been a library since the 1966 opening of *Hayden Library*, which is named after Charles Trumbull Hayden, the founder of Tempe and the first President of the Board of the Arizona Territorial Normal School.

Something else we’re wondering is whether ASU’s *Secret Garden*, which is the enclosed courtyard between *West Hall* and *Dixie Gammage Hall*, accessible only through an underground passageway, should still be called *The Secret Garden* now that the groundskeepers, who apparently grew tired of having to guide people to the entrance, have painted signs on the sidewalk with arrows pointing to “Secret Garden.”

—ALLEEN AND DON NILSEN

► Spoiler Alert! Below is the solution to the puzzle on page 10.



GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

LITERATURE FACULTY RECRUIT STUDENT SCHOLAR FROM SICHUAN UNIVERSITY

When Department of English Chair Neal A. Lester and Professor Jewell Parker Rhodes guest lectured in a graduate seminar at Sichuan University in June 2007, one student in particular was spellbound by their treatment of Toni Morrison's novel *Beloved*. Cheng Chen vividly recalls the experience: "I was moved and inspired by the genuine beauty in this book. Their teaching made the story sparkle." Lester recalls that Cheng "fully grasped my



Cheng Chen

efforts to connect narratives and storytelling to Morrison's aesthetics" and Rhodes, noting that the entire experience was "heart-warming," remembers Cheng's terrific enthusiasm.

Today, Cheng is a graduate student at ASU, serving as a Teaching Assistant, and enrolled in our doctoral program in English.

Cheng is deeply stimulated by the "amazing" intellectual climate in this English department. One of her first discoveries was author Jung Chang (a former doctoral candidate at Sichuan University), whose books *Mao: The Unknown Story* and *Wild Swans*, are banned in China. Furthermore, faculty members here are far more open-minded

► Read about more Department of English global engagement: english.clas.asu.edu/internationalengagement

than Cheng had anticipated: she is "relieved and grateful" to encounter so much tolerance.

What advice would she give her friends back in Sichuan about studying at ASU? "I would tell them that ASU is a challenging place for study and research. The library is wonderful."

Indeed, a search of Hayden Library databases reveals hundreds of articles about Jung Chang and her books. Happy reading, and welcome to ASU, Cheng!

—SALLY WOELFEL

THE FUTURE OF SECOND LANGUAGE WRITING: NOVEMBER 5–7, 2009

From November 5–7, the Symposium on Second Language Writing will be held at Arizona State University. This international conference will explore the future of second language writing, with talks by recognized experts and half-day workshops on error feedback and plagiarism. Conference topics will include the future of second language writing, assessment, English as a Foreign Language (EFL) writing in schools, and the interface between second language acquisition and second language writing.

This will be the first year that the gathering is held at ASU. Purdue University has hosted the annual conference since 1998, except in 2007 when Nagoya Gakuin University in Japan sponsored it, attracting more than 340 participants from 26 countries. Co-chairs Paul Kei Matsuda, Associate Professor of English at ASU and 2008-2009 Interim Director of Writing Programs, and Tony Silva of Purdue University founded the

► More information about the 2009 Symposium on Second Language Writing is available online: sslw.asu.edu

conference as a way to develop a scholarly community and to bring together second language writing specialists from around the world. This interdisciplinary field is inextricably connected with applied linguistics, composition studies, modern language studies, education, rhetoric, and TESOL.

I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate.

—Arthur Wing Pinero

Symposium co-chair Matsuda expects 200–300 people from around the world, and notes that while the economy may curb attendance because of reduced travel funding, a weaker dollar

may actually encourage participation from other countries. In these times, the key issues we face relate to our changing circumstances, especially globalization of the economy, dominance of English, rise of new technologies for written communication, and recognition of multilingualism. According to Matsuda, second language issues span all aspects of writing instruction, and teachers must be able to "work effectively with all students who find themselves in the classroom—regardless of language backgrounds."

The conference will also consider the controversial and inconsistent use of the term "generation 1.5," which refers to students educated in U.S. secondary schools, but whose native language is not English.

Matsuda became involved in second language writing because of his own experience: "When I was enrolled in the first-year writing course as an international student, I struggled because my writing teachers and writing center tutors were unfamiliar with issues surrounding second language writing. Later, I became a writing tutor so that I could change writing center practices."



Paul Kei Matsuda (center) chats in between sessions of the 2008 Symposium on Second Language Writing, held at Purdue University. Photo/courtesy Paul Kei Matsuda

—KARYN RIEDELL

OUTREACH

“SHAKING UP SHAKESPEARE” BRIDGING COMMUNITY AND CAMPUS

The Department of English welcomed the return of actor Harry Lennix April 23–24 in celebration of Shakespeare’s 445th birthday. Recently recognized for his roles in television’s *Dollhouse* and major motion pictures like *State of Play*, Lennix built his career on the stage with live performances, including Shakespeare’s *Othello*, *Julius Caesar*, and *Titus Andronicus*. In 1999, Lennix reprised his performance of Aaron the Moor for Julie Taymor’s film *Titus*, and he is set to play Macduff in the

Shakespeare–In Scenes,” and attending the Black Theatre Troupe’s performance of *Revenge of a King* (a hip hop adaptation of Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*). The next day Lennix took part in several student and faculty discussion sessions, including “Is Hip Hop Keeping the Classics Current?” with fellow panelists Professor Camilla Westenberg from Phoenix College and David Hemphill, Executive Director of the Black Theater Troupe. Facilitated by Ayanna Thompson, the event drew a full house of students, staff, and fac-



Actor Harry Lennix (shown with Ayanna Thompson) explored the adaptations and interpretations of Shakespeare’s plays from an actor’s perspective.



“Is Hip Hop Keeping the Classics Current?” panelists engaged in energetic discussion. L to R: David Tinsley, Harry Lennix, David Hemphill, and Camilla Westenberg.



Highland High School students Tim Green, Jr. and Daniel Bitter performed a condensed, hip hop version of *Much Ado About Nothing*, and ASU student Katherine Cook interpreted a passage of *Macbeth* through modern dance.

What’s past is prologue...

—William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*

2010 film *Macbeth* (*The Caribbean Macbeth*). In addition to performing Shakespeare, Lennix is interested in critically examining race and maintaining the integrity of the Shakespearean text in twenty-first-century reproductions.

Lennix’s participation in the Department of English’s annual Shakespeare event began with a faculty and student viewing and discussion of *Brave New Voices* (HBO documentary of spoken word teen poets), followed by judging the English Club contest, “Shaking up

ulty to ASU’s Lyceum Theatre for a lively conversation on colorblind casting, hip hop, and Shakespeare adaptation, appropriation, and production. Unlike appropriations and adaptations such as *Revenge of a King*—which have their own artistic value—traditional Shakespeare productions, Lennix argues, must “use the words in the exact order as Shakespeare wrote them.” It is the language, he states, “that has substance” and is the essence of the Shakespeare experience.

—VALERIE FAZEL

ENCOURAGING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO “WRITE YOUR TICKET”

Jessica Early, Assistant Professor of English, conducts a writing intervention at a Phoenix-area public high school. Assisted by English Education doctoral students Cynthia Nicholson and Arturo Valdespino and honors undergraduate Sarah Slagle, Early’s outreach project, “Write Your Ticket to College,” supports underserved, college-bound students in writing their admissions essays and in applying to four-year colleges. Fifty multiethnic high school seniors from two high school English classes are participating. While most are English Language Learners (ELLs), all come from low-income families in high-risk communities and will be the first in their families to apply to college.



Jessica Early

Early has constructed this intervention study in part because of the startlingly high dropout rates among multiethnic students

in Arizona, and because a disproportionately small number of Arizona’s multiethnic students attend and graduate from four-year universities. While improving the education of ELLs is highlighted as a national priority, there is still need to develop effective instruction to assist these students with high stakes writing tasks and to bridge the divide between high school and college.

After admission to the project, students participate in a five-week writing workshop. The workshops are devoted to writing successful college admission essays, including introductions, dialogue and detail, audience awareness, and conclusions. During the final week, students are visited by a panel of ASU undergraduates who answer questions about applying to college, writing admission essays, and college life. The research team plans to follow-up on how many students applied, gained admission, and ultimately attended four-year colleges and universities. These study results will help future teams assist students in “writing their own tickets” to college and in life.

—SARAH SLAGLE

ROMANTICISM SCHOLAR AS 2009 FLETCHER LECTURER

The 2008-2009 Ian Fletcher Memorial Lecture took place April 22 and featured Dr. Anne K. Mellor, Distinguished Professor of English and Women's Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. With a career that spans four decades, Mellor has authored, co-authored, or edited nearly a dozen major works in late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century British literature, and has received several prestigious academic awards. Professors Mark Lussier and Dan Bivona, specialists in Romanticist and Victorian literature, respectively, were



Anne K. Mellor

responsible for hosting Mellor at ASU. In her lecture "Mothering Monsters: Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*," Mellor offered several pathways to understanding the 1817 work, which, she stated, is "a novel about what happens when a man tries to have a baby without a woman and clearly it all goes wrong." Mellor suggested that Shelley's own "anxieties about giving birth" and her suspicion of a

The past is for inspiration, not imitation, for continuation, not repetition.

—Israel Zangwill

historical "patriarchal fear of independent female sexuality" are evidenced in the author's biography and in the novel. Mellor also pointed out passages wherein

the influences of major scientists during Shelley's time—Erasmus Darwin, Sir Humphrey Davy, and Luigi Galvani—can be traced. Mellor noted that the novel counters male-centered approaches to science by Mother Nature's harassment of Victor Frankenstein via the elements and illness, through which she ultimately retrieves what Frankenstein tries to take from her. Finally, Mellor presented the overall message of the novel: "Civilization can only be improved by people who value and cooperate with nature," and who take care to nurture or "mother" all of our relationships, both human and environmental.

—GINGER HANSON

▶ Video of the 2009 Ian Fletcher Memorial Lecture featuring Anne K. Mellor is available at vimeo.com/4378028

NEW STAFF

MARGO ARROYO :: Office Specialist [Main Office]

Margo Arroyo has lived in Arizona for a little over three years and is originally from nearby New Mexico. She holds a bachelor's degree in economics with a specialization in government from New Mexico State University. She has been working at Arizona State University for over three years, beginning in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions in January

2006 and working in the English department since September 2008. Currently, she is taking classes and plans to start a graduate program in nonprofit leadership and management in summer 2009. Arroyo's interests include traveling, reading, attending sporting events, and going to movies.

—KAGNARITH CHEA

SADA GILBERT :: Academic Success Specialist [Undergraduate Advising]

Sada Gilbert is a recent transplant from the ASU Department of Philosophy, where she served as the graduate program coordinator. Citing the opportunity to work more closely with undergraduate students, she was eager to accept the advising position with the Department of English. Gilbert earned her bachelor's degree in American Studies at Brandeis University in Massachusetts, after which she returned to her



native Arizona. Recently, she earned a master's degree from the Northern Arizona University (NAU) Sustainable Communities Program. During her time at NAU, she also taught as adjunct in the Women's and Gender Studies Department. Though she claims never to have done anything exciting like camping in Africa or scaling Everest, Gilbert is interested in continuing her education, possibly in a sociology PhD program, sometime in the future, with a focus on how television helps to ignite feelings of caring and empathy in children.

—RYAN SKINNELL

TINA NORNGREN :: Office Assistant/Receptionist Sr. [English Education]

Tina Norgren is a native New Englander who says one "couldn't pay her to shovel snow," and hence has been an Arizona resident for over thirty years. Norgren's husband Keith is an ASU alumnus, (BSE, mechanical engineering, 1982), and they are proud that three of their four children graduated from ASU this May! Norgren was previously an Administrative Assistant in the ASU Center for Learning and Teaching Excellence, and she is currently wrapping up her sixth year of service in the ASU Parents Association (ASUPA), which included a year

spent as ASUPA President. While volunteering for ASUPA, she presented talks at dozens of undergraduate orientations, traveled to Seattle and San Jose to recruit and register incoming students, and served annually on the Professor of the Year and other award selection committees. Norgren enthusiastically embraces her new position, stating that "everyone in the department has been very kind to me and I feel comfortable here."



—GINGER HANSON

SPRING THINGS, BY ALBERTO RÍOS

Answers on page 6.

ACROSS

- 3 Dr. King, initially
- 5 Strunk's Periodic Table of Style?
- 11 Two-line rhymers
- 14 Bother
- 15 Small operation
- 16 Progress
- 17 One kind of Muslim
- 19 New, to begin with
- 20 Light; abbr.
- 21 Short advertisement
- 22 Where ASU's WPA murals are located (2 wds)
- 23 Figures of speech
- 25 Long dashes
- 26 Motor neuron disease; abbr.
- 27 User Interface Language; abbr.
- 30 Eggs! Green Eggs!; abbr.
- 31 Not Cheese Whiz—the other one
- 32 First ASU football team name

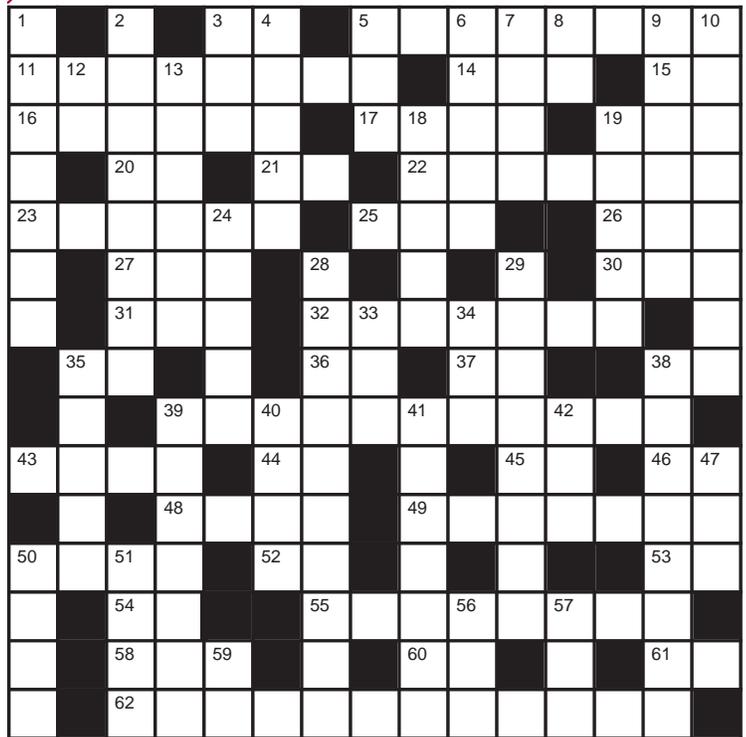
- 35 A liquid balance
- 36 Right; abbr.
- 37 Either...
- 38 Kansas, to the USPS
- 39 Not Schenectady, NY
- 43 What *higher* education can't do right now
- 44 American League; abbr.
- 45 Osteoarthritis; abbr.
- 46 *Nota bene*
- 48 A kind of colon
- 49 How a convocation comes to be
- 50 It should thicken, given time
- 52 Each; abbr.
- 53 Our higher kind, in short
- 54 Artificial intelligence; abbr.
- 55 ASU mascots before Sun Devils
- 58 Dynamite
- 60 A short dash
- 61 Emergency Room; abbr.
- 62 Our ASU national literary journal

DOWN

- 1 What nerve?! It can be a pain in the behind
- 2 A day off?
- 3 Modern Language Association; abbr.
- 4 Whose swan is that?
- 5 How S is spelled
- 6 Not the goods
- 7 Honey wine
- 8 Former
- 9 What is being done to the line
- 10 Some feet, with two stressed syllables
- 12 Off antonym

- 13 Some chickens become this (2 wds)
- 18 Our Mr. Durham did not write *The Odyssey*
- 19 Some stool pigeons name these
- 24 Memorable homage
- 28 Some narrators
- 29 ASU undergraduate literary journal
- 33 Over the counter; abbr.
- 34 What Austin Powers is
- 35 An old vial
- 38 This 1984 ASU visitor flew over the cuckoo's nest

- 39 39-line poem
- 40 What people used to do to that tune?
- 41 Irritation can raise these
- 42 Cavity; abbr.
- 47 A strange fellow?
- 50 Points of view; abbr.
- 51 Swear this
- 56 Let's not fail; abbr.
- 57 Either or, but you need two of these
- 59 No corn on this baseball Cobb



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IN MEMORIAM

A FEW LAST WORDS ON JONATHAN MARSHALL (1924-2008)

Together, Jonathan and Maxine Marshall were a force for the greater social good. In an interview with the *Jewish News of Greater Phoenix* in January 2003, Jonathan said of his and Maxine's humanitarian efforts: "We wanted to help make this corner of our world a better place. We live here. We want to be a catalyst." While Jonathan's vision broadly benefited ASU as a whole, it was the Department of English that benefited specifically through the generous creation of The Maxine and Jonathan Marshall Chair in Modern and Contemporary Poetry. As conceived by Jonathan and Maxine Marshall, this endowed chair would be for a poet-critic who would teach literature to creative writing students and would span disciplinary boundaries between Creative Writing, English Education, and the PhD program in Literature.

After I assumed the Marshall Chair in 2003, I came to know Jonathan deeply through his writing and long history of public works. I am ever mindful that Jonathan's vision for the Marshall Chair meant that funding would be shared with students and colleagues and would sponsor programs in social awareness and

community outreach. As I learned of Jonathan and Maxine's philanthropic projects, I have tried to live up to their vision. In their name, ASU has sponsored courses in the "Poetics of Witness" (beginning with the testimonies of Holocaust survivors archived at Yale University), co-sponsored visiting poets with Jewish Studies, and helped to facilitate a panel at a Symposium in Peace Studies, sponsored by ASU's Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict.

In November 2008, just a few weeks before Jonathan died, the Creative Writing Program, Department of English, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences sponsored a book party to announce Jonathan's newly published memoir *Dateline History: The Life of Journalist Jonathan Marshall*. Family and friends read chapters that Jonathan had chosen—chapters on losing his first dog, on playing baseball, on meeting his beloved wife, Maxine, and on becoming friends with Barry Goldwater despite political differences. After the readings, many offered heartfelt, impromptu remarks about Jonathan's contributions as the *Scottsdale Progress* publisher, as the Democratic senatorial candidate who ran, albeit unsuccessfully, against Goldwater in 1974, and as a philanthropist in the Valley for over forty years. With the "Jonathan Marshall Book Party," as we came to call it, we wanted to thank as well as to honor Jonathan for all that he had given to so many. Department of English Chair, Neal A. Lester, put it this way, "Jonathan and Maxine, we thank you for your vision and commitment to excellence and for your steadfast championing of social justice." The book party was not only timely, it allowed Jonathan to feel how warmly he was held in our hearts in the ASU community.

Jonathan Marshall was a great man, which is to say, he had the soul of greatness. His generous, forthright presence is so deeply missed in our lives.

—CYNTHIA HOGUE



The cover of Jonathan Marshall's 2008 memoir, celebrated at a book opening party at ASU in November.

IN HONOR OF BARBARA RASNICK (1932-2008)

Humanist, New Yorker, dog lover, life-long scholar, teacher, and mentor—these are some of the wonderful ways we'll remember our dear friend and colleague Dr. Barbara Rasnick. After her first career as a chemist in New York City, Barbara came to Arizona to pursue her PhD in English (earned 1989) and began teaching in our department in 1986.

Once you saw beneath her curmudgeonly demeanor, you found a warmhearted, humorous, and irresistible person who actively cared about her students and her community of colleagues. If you needed a book, a definition, a movie recommendation;



Barbara Rasnick. Photo/Lutfi Hussein

advice on teaching, caring for your dog, sightseeing in New York, or a little word of encouragement, Barbara was ready to help. She brought us souvenirs from New York, photographs of historical sites, and treats for the holidays. She remembered our children, pets, and special interests. Barbara had the most eclectic collection of books, pictures, figurines, movies, stuffed animals, and mugs in her corner of our shared office. Ancient Egypt, the Yankees, Sherlock Holmes, Jack Russell terriers, and, of course, Shakespeare all cohabited happily at her desk. That office is hallowed ground for those of us who were close to Barbara and who learned so much from her over the years. And Barbara's positive impact on the lives of her students can still be found in the thank-you cards she received, copies of the letters of recommendation she wrote, and the stories we all continue to share. Barbara is greatly missed.

—HEATHER HOYT

accents on ENGLISH

NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY



*In three words I can sum up everything
I've learned about life: it goes on.*

—Robert Frost

*Poet Robert Frost (seated) visited the ASU
Department of English in 1958, giving
class talks and delivering a lecture. Harry
Wood (ASU Art Department) displayed
his portrait of Frost during a luncheon.
Photo/courtesy Karla Elling.*

COMING EVENTS . . .

- “Translating and Mapping: Rethinking Literature in the Age of Globalization”** **October 1–3, 2009**
35th Southern Comparative Literature Association Conference
ASU Downtown Phoenix campus, more information TBA
- An Evening with Leslie Marmon Silko, novelist and poet** **October 8, 2009**
*Simon Ortiz and Labriola Center Lecture on
Indigenous Land, Culture, and Community*
Heard Museum (2301 N. Central Ave.) Phoenix, 7:00 p.m.
- SILVER: ASU’s Creative Writing MFA Program Enters Its 25th Year** **October 15–November 30, 2009**
Letterpress Exhibit by Karla Elling
Hayden Library, Entrance Level, ASU
- “The Future of Second Language Writing”** **November 5–7, 2009**
Symposium on Second Language Writing
Memorial Union (MU) ASU Tempe campus
- “Re-Fusing Di-Vision”** **November 14, 2009**
2nd Annual English Club Undergraduate Conference
ASU Tempe campus, more information TBA