

Accents

Volume 9

Fall 2005

Newsletter of the Department of English at Arizona State University

Coming Home to English

As the signs read, this year's homecoming (October 27-29th) was "Not Your Typical Family Reunion." ASU alums who "Came Home to English" had much more than the football game to attend. Those making this possible included Dan Shilling (PhD 1987), who opened the weekend celebration at the University Club with his inaugural Alumni Lecture Series talk, "The Creative Economy and the Liberal Arts." Dan is the former Director of the Arizona Humanities Council and former Curator for Humanities at Prescott's Sharlot Hall Museum. The afternoon event was accompanied by acoustic jazz music from *The Luckys*, directed by Tony Groesbeck (BA 2000).



Artist Alexander Hughes's homage to Sylvia Plath was the focal point of the Art Gallery's south wall.

On Friday, returning alums attended the Homecoming lecture series, "Classes without Quizzes," presented by ten of ASU's most outstanding professors. Ayanna Thompson represented the English Department with "Can Queen Lati-

fah Save Shakespeare Studies?" Visitors also toured LL 316, which was transformed into an art gallery, displaying some thirty original pieces created by English faculty, staff, students and alumni.

Friday evening guests heard prelude and intermission music from Kevin Vaughn-Brubaker's (MFA 2001) *Mondegreen* band at "The Play's the Thing," readings from two of Professor Jay Boyer's plays. Cast members included Brandon Barrios, Philip Bernick, O M "Skip" Brack, Jr., Sarah Dean, Maureen Daly Goggin, John Guenther, Randel Helms, Kristen LaRue, Neal Lester, Thelma Shinn Richard, Rhonda Steele, and Johanna Wagner.

Accomplished authors spoke to English classes on Thursday and Friday, and on Saturday presented readings at the Piper Writers House. Those autographing books during the pre-game picnic in front of Old Main included Jorn Ake (MFA 1999), Kevin Haworth (MFA 1997), Rosemary King (PhD 2000), Ruth Ellen Kocher (MFA 1994 and PhD 1999), T. M. (Mike) McNally (MFA 1987), Irena Praitis (PhD 1999 and MFA 2001), Bonny Barry Sanders (MA 1983), Alan Tongret (MFA 1992), and Richard Yañez (MFA 2000).

Alums entered a drawing for dinner with Chair Neal Lester and Associate Chair Maureen Goggin. The winner was Irena Praitis, now an Associate Professor at California State University

at Fullerton.

Over 200 people signed the guest books for various English Department Homecoming events. Committee mem-



Alum Dan (PhD 1987) and Pam Shilling were among the Block Party revelers.

bers who deserve thanks for their creative management along with their hard work, include event coordinators Maureen Daly Goggin and Kristen LaRue; and the rest of the committee: Philip Bernick, James Blasingame, Jay Boyer, Dan Cutrara, Karla Elling, Christine Helfers, Patricia Murphy, Alleen Nil- sen, James Procaccini, Sherry Rankins-Robertson, Teryl Sands, Judith Van, Faye Verska, and Nan Zlotkowski.

Watch for announcements about next year's events, and plan to "Come Home to English" in 2006 when we promise to provide even more intellectual stimulation along with unabashed nostalgia and fun.

ENG 372 Students Challenge: "Define Yourself"

Professor Philip Bernick's Spring 2005 English 372 "Document Production" class didn't just raise the bar—they cleared it. Charged with designing a "look" for the Department of English, the students researched, developed, and finally, unveiled their final projects.

The product? A maxim to use in mar-

keting the Department of English (featured on T-shirt at right).

Inspired by the loaded word play, the 2005 Homecoming Committee used the slogan on new Department of English merchandise. "Define Yourself" T-shirts, pens and mugs are still available!

See page 11 for ordering information.



ASU ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Chair's Corner



This new academic year promises much excitement in the English department. A number of important initiatives will unfold as the department makes a more concerted effort to connect with its alumni, its emeritus professors, its undergraduate population, and its surrounding communities. First during Homecoming 2005, English hosted a number of activities and events to welcome back those affiliated with the unit for journeys down memory lane, and to help us think creatively about merging celebrations of the department's past with the energy connected to the unit's future possibilities. The inaugural Alumni Lecture Series continues with the Emeritus Lecture Series toward this end.

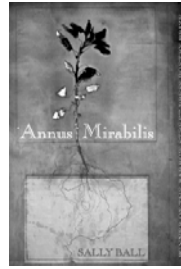
"Serving some 24,000 students per year, we continue to search for new and exciting ways to strengthen our programs . . ."

We are equally excited to be in conversations about international faculty/student exchanges with four Universities in other parts of the world—Moscow State Linguistics University (Russia), Jendouba University (Tunisia), Stellenbosch University (South Africa), and Royal Holloway University (London). These conversations promise invaluable opportunities for English department faculty and students to experience the world in new and interesting ways. Our hope is to have the first exchange in place within a year.

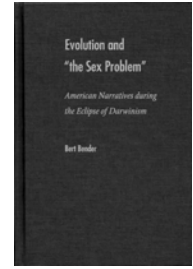
As this newsletter evidences, the English department is a vital part of the College and larger University. Serving some 24,000 students per year, we continue to search for new and exciting ways to strengthen our programs, to make our faculty and students' lives more satisfying and enriched, and to recruit others to help share the department's stories. Please feel free to join our conversations.

—Neal A. Lester
Chair, Department of English

Faculty Publications



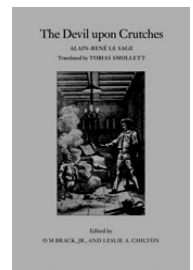
Sally Ball. *Annus Mirabilis: Poems.* New York: Barrow Street Press, 2005.



Bert Bender. *Evolution and "the Sex Problem": American Narratives During the Eclipse of Darwinism.* Kent, OH: Kent State Press, 2004.



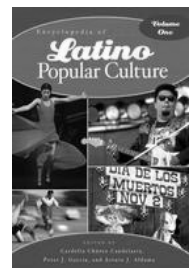
Jay Boyer. *Five New York Biker Chics, Out of Control.* Saskatchewan, Canada: One-Act Play Depot, 2004.



O M Brack, Jr. and Leslie A. Chilton, eds. *The Devil Upon Crutches.* Alain René Le Sage, trans. Tobias Smollett. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2005.



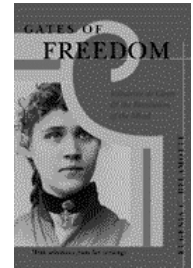
O M Brack, Jr., ed. *The Yale Edition of the Works of Samuel Johnson, Volume XVII: A Commentary on Mr. Pope's Principles of Morality, or Essay on Man.* New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2005.



Cordelia Chávez Candelaria, Arturo J. Aldama and Peter J. García, eds. *The Encyclopedia of Latino Popular Culture.* Westport CT: Greenwood, 2004.



Julie Codell and Laurel Brake, eds. *Encounters in the Victorian Press: Editors, Authors, Readers.* New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.



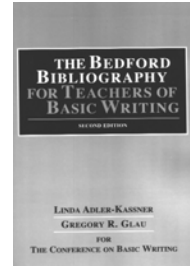
Eugenia C. DeLaMonte. *Gates of Freedom: Voltairine de Cleyre and the Revolution of the Mind.* Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2004.



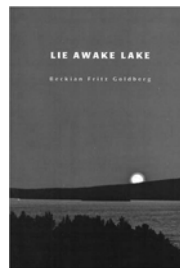
Bettie Anne Doebler and **Retha M. Warnicke**, eds. *A True Guide to Glory' by John Barlow, 1619. Funeral Sermons for Women 1601-1630.* Ann Arbor, MI: Scholars' Facsimiles & Reprints, 2004.



Norman Dubie. *The Mercy Seat: Collected and New Poems 1967-2001.* Port Townsend, WA: Copper Canyon Press, 2005.



Linda Adler-Kassner and **Gregory R. Glau** for the Conference on Basic Writing. *The Bedford Bibliography for Teachers of Basic Writing, Second Edition.* New York: Bedford/St. Martins, 2005.



Beckian Fritz Goldberg. *Lie Awake Lake: Poems.* Oberlin, OH: Oberlin College Press, 2005.



Peter Lehman and **Arthur M. Eckstein**, eds. *The Searchers: Essays and Reflections on John Ford's Classic Western.* Contemporary Approaches to Film and Television Series. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2004.



T.M. McNally. *The Goat Bridge.* Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2005.



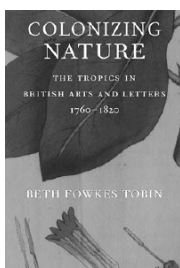
John Ramage. *Twentieth-Century American Success Rhetoric: How to Construct a Suitable Self.* Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 2005.



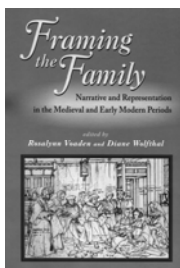
Jewell Parker Rhodes. *Voodoo Season: A Marie Laveau Mystery.* New York: Atria, 2005.



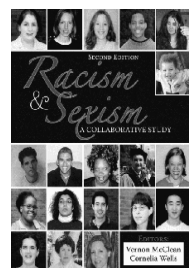
Jeannine Savard. *My Hand Upon Your Name: Poems.* Granada Hills, CA: Red Hen Press, 2005.



Beth Fowkes Tobin. *Colonizing Nature: The Tropics in British Arts and Letters, 1760-1820.* Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004.



Rosalynn Voaden and **Diane Wolfthal**, eds. *Framing the Family: Narrative and Representation in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods.* Tempe, AZ: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 2005.



Vernon McClean and **Cornelia Wells**, eds. *Racism & Sexism: A Collaborative Study.* Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt, 2005.

New Faculty Bring Intellectual Diversity to Department

DoVeanna Fulton, associate professor, comes to ASU after teaching at the University of Memphis for the past four years, but her interests and travels have



DoVeanna Fulton

taken her all over the world. Dr. Fulton earned her PhD in American Studies at the University of Minnesota. Her interdisciplinary focus on Black women's writing and oral tradition in cultural representations led to a teaching career as close to her alma mater as Wayne State in Detroit and as far away as Jimma, Ethiopia. She taught in Ethiopia with the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help because she wanted to immerse herself in African culture. Dr. Fulton recently won a prestigious Educational Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship from the American Association of University Women. With this year-long leave support, she will continue researching African American activism as connected to temperance, inequality, and slavery. She has discovered a temperance novel written in 1860 that she believes may add to the recognition of African American voices in early American literature.

Dr. Fulton spends her "spare time" with her 19-month-old son, Israel, who loves to go to museums and playgrounds. She says that moving to ASU from a college of 24,000 comes as a big change, but one that she welcomes because of the "opportunities to work collaboratively

with professors from other departments."

—Stephanie Serrano
PhD student, English

Southwest Studies expert and assistant professor Susan Scarberry-Garcia joins us from Colorado, where she taught at Colorado College and earned her PhD from UC Boulder in Comparative Literature, specializing in American Indian Literature. In both teaching and research, she champions an interdisciplinary, cross-cultural approach, drawing out connections between literature and performance art. In doing so, she particularly emphasizes "roots literatures," or literatures springing from past and ongoing oral traditions.



Susan Scarberry-Garcia

In exploring Native literatures, she prefers to work with Native authors and artists on projects of mutual interest; this philosophy inspired her collaboration with N. Scott Momaday and Andrew Wiget in Siberia, as well as more current collaborative projects, including a photographic essay. Her ongoing research projects have brought her to Arizona repeatedly, and she is thrilled to have a more permanent connection with the state and ASU. She was initially introduced to ASU in 1978 when Professor Kay Sands invited her to campus to meet Leslie Marmon Silko just after *Ceremony's* publication. Dr. Scarberry-Garcia is excited to create new ties with

ASU's Department of English, expressing particular interest in serving as a contributing member to our progressive curriculum and in working with ASU's diverse student body.

—Jennifer M. Santos
PhD student, English

Mark James joins the ASU English department as an assistant professor of English. From the University of Toronto (PhD 2003) and more recently the University of Puerto Rico in Mayaguez, he specializes in Teaching English as a Second Language.

Dr. James approaches his research from both practical and theoretical perspectives. Broadly speaking, he is interested in issues related to curriculum, teaching, and learning in second language education. His current research focuses on instructional methods and language learning processes and outcomes. He grounds his work in contexts such as language support for international students at North American universities.

Dr. James is currently teaching English 107, English for Foreign Students, and English 500, Research Methods in Linguistics. His teaching philosophy emphasizes experiential learning that is focused on problem-based activities rather than lectures.



Mark James

—Thomas Skeen
PhD student, English

Graduate Scholars of English Happenings

Now in its fourteenth year, the Graduate Scholars of English Association (GSEA) counts as members nearly one-fourth of English graduate students; its goal is to have one-half by the close of 2006. GSEA advocates for graduate students, builds bridges between students and faculty, represents ASU through publications and conference presentations, and helps with various community-based projects. Professional development workshops held this fall were presented by faculty members on such topics as preparing vitae, letters of application, conference presentations, and teaching portfolios. The group also sponsors mock interviews and through its travel grant programs helps students get to conferences to present their work and to advance ASU's visibility.

Spring 2006 GSEA will help host the Southwest Graduate English Symposium (February 25-26) and the Graduate Lin-

guistics/TESL Symposium (set for April 7). Both events are in their twelfth year, and GSEA volunteers are needed to serve as panel chairs and to assist in other ways. Graduate students from all over the country and outside of the U.S. have already proposed papers for the first meeting. To get involved in conference preparations, please contact one of the committee members: Sean Bolton, Stacey Jackson, Cindi Knight, Christy Kuehn, Natalie Martinez, or Stephanie Serrano. Proposal deadline for the Linguistics/TESL Symposium is February 14. Committee members include Shannon Berry, Fify Juliana, Mei-Ching Ho, Agustini Nolasname, and Nichole Nicholson.

For an event calendar and more information about GSEA, visit the GSEA website www.asu.edu/clubs/gsea.

—Johanna Wagner
PhD student, English, GSEA President

English Department Integral to New Interdisciplinary BA in Film and Media Studies

Four core faculty members from

ASU's new multidisciplinary BA in Film and Media Studies are "at home" in the English Department. Professor and Director of the Film and Media Studies Program is Peter Lehman, author of *Blake Edwards, Running Scared: Masculinity and the Representation of the Male Body* and *Thinking about Movies: Introduction to Film*



Peter Lehman



Aaron Baker

Studies. He is also the editor of *Close Viewings: An Anthology of New Film Criticism and Defining Cinema*. Associate professor and Comparative Literature area coordinator Aaron Baker is editor of *Out of Bounds: Sports, Media,*

and The Politics of Identity and author of *Contesting Identities: Sports in American Film*. Associate professor Paul Privateer is author of *Inventing Intelligence: A Social History of Smart*. Lecturer Daniel Cutrara, a former Jesuit priest with an MFA in Film Production/Writing from USC, is the author of two scripts for which producers have secured rights, *Gypsies* and *Kali Danced*.



Paul Privateer



Daniel Cutrara

The BA in Film with a concentration in Film and Media Studies, inaugurated this fall, includes multidisciplinary course work not only from departments throughout the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), but also in

the Herberger College of Fine Arts, where a related concentration in Film and Media Production is being planned. The new degree program is housed in CLAS's Undergraduate Programs Office.

The founding of the Center for Film and Media Research and the launching of the new degree program were celebrated in September at several events with filmmaker Blake Edwards, described as "one of the most important filmmakers in the history of American cinema." Edwards has more than fifty films to his credit, including such hits as *The Pink Panther*, *Victor/Victoria*, and *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. As a Distinguished Fellow of ASU's Center for Film and Media Research, Edwards is planning on teaching a class at ASU.

—Cornelia Wells
Instructor, English

English Department's New Lecturers Enthusiastic

Cajsa Baldini is originally from Stockholm, Sweden, where she completed her undergraduate work at the University of Stockholm. She recently received her PhD in Literature from our Department, and joins the teaching faculty eminently prepared by our own in-house specialists in 18th- and 19th-century literature. While Cajsa's research focuses on 19th century drama and poetry, her teaching interests span the 17th-19th centuries on both sides



Cajsa Baldini

of the Atlantic, as well as computer-mediated teaching and classroom technology. When the spring semester is over, she regularly flees the toasty Arizona climate to work with the Arizona State Summer Program in Florence, Italy.

If Lawrence Ellis had to define himself with an "ist," "folklorist" would



Lawrence Ellis

be his first choice (his specialization is Native American oral traditions), but "oral traditionist" is a bit unwieldy, and, adds Dr. Ellis, "somewhat redolent of dentistry." As a second generation Arizona native, he is a rarity among Eisenhower-era baby boomers, and rarer still as a BA through PhD alumnus of ASU. Larry's teaching interests lie in American literature, specifically in the role folklore and folk performance play in our fiction, poetry, and oratory. He is presently working on a collection of tales, oral histories, and family legends of the Creek/White/Cherokee mixed bloods of the western Florida Panhandle. He likes sheep dogs (although he doesn't own one), fine wines (although he can't afford them), and long walks in the desert.

Camille Newton is originally from Buffalo, NY. She lived in Lake Charles, LA, for four years and in Louisville, KY, for nine years before coming to Arizona. She earned a BS from Cornell University and an MA from McNeese State University. She received her PhD in English/Rhetoric and Composition from the University of Louisville, and her

research and teaching interests include rhetorical theories of identity construction, teaching-assistant education, and writing program administration. She enjoys travel, cooking, and interior design.



Camille Newton

Teryl Sands completed her PhD in Composition, Rhetoric, and Linguistics this past summer at ASU. Her focus in teaching and research is effective use of technology in writing instruction, technical communication, assessment of effective teaching and learning, and computers and composition. Teryl feels honored to join the English Department as a Lecturer in Composition and Rhetoric. In addition, she is a mom to two great kids and enjoys volunteering at Madison Rose Lane Elementary School.



Teryl Sands

—Cajsa Baldini
Lecturer, English

News from the Programs

English Education: Students and Faculty Receive Accolades



Alleen Nilsen

English Education students and faculty have been active in scholarship this past year. In May 2005, Professor Alleen Nilsen was awarded the International Reading Association Arbuthnot Award, given annually to an “outstanding college or university teacher of literature for children and teenagers.”

Later, the October 7-8 meeting in Tucson of the Arizona English Teachers Association with keynote speaker Gary Soto, featured the participation of ASU students. Students from professor Jim Blasingame's young adult literature class who helped the audi-

ence “unearth meaning” from such books as Soto's *Buried Onions* included Megan Hoover, Caitlin Horrocks, David Pegram, and Rebecca Sandhoff. Patricia Jimenez discussed some thirty young adult books with Hispanic characters and settings and showed a video of her Sunnyslope students discussing Soto's books.

Other talks by students included April Brannon on developing ecological literacy in the English classroom, Katherine Mason on cooperative learning in college composition classes, and Bryan Gillis on collaborative writing strategies for elementary classrooms. Wendy Kelleher was presented an “Emerging Leadership” award because of her work as editor of *Connections*, the organization's newsletter.

—Wendy Kelleher
PhD student, English Education

Writing Programs / Rhetoric and Composition: Doing the Numbers

In line with the recent *ASU Insight* headline that “the Tempe campus boasts the nation's largest enrollment,” the 188 teachers in Writing Programs have been busy teaching more students than ever before: this fall, we have 9,123 students in 488 class sections. As always, Writing Programs is involved in (seemingly) every aspect of the university, from Service-Learning to Rainbow sections, from *Stretch Program* classes to Campus Match sections, to special sections of ENG 301 for College of Business

students (offered in traditional, hybrid, and online environments).

Writing Programs offers so many sections of writing classes because President Crow's “Project 85” initiative calls for (starting in the fall of 2004) all 100-level writing and math classes to be capped at 19 students. Initial statistical results indicate that more students now pass our 100-level classes, more continue from fall-to-spring, and student evaluations are better for 100-level classes, for Professors, Lecturers, Instructors, and

Teaching Assistants. Our students, then, not only are succeeding at a higher rate, but their evaluation numbers indicate that they appreciate the smaller class sizes.

Finally, this fall—thanks to Department Chair Neal Lester and Associate Chair Maureen Goggin—we have the return of *Writing Notes*, our in-house newsletter, capably edited by Assistant Director Jen Clary-Lemon.

—Greg Glau
Director, Writing Programs

Linguistics / TESL: Teaching English, Learning Compassion

At the start of each semester, new ASU students begin the Masters in Teaching English as a Second Language (MTESL) Internship. They divide into teaching teams, plan lessons together, and visit local community centers where they teach ESL classes. Nervousness is palpable on the first day. There is often no common language among interns and students. For some interns, this is their first time teaching English; for some students—adults from the greater Phoenix area—this is their first time learning English. Over time, this initial nervousness dissipates. In its place, trust emerges, allowing those who might otherwise never have gotten to know one another to share experiences, cultures, and ideas.

As an AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer working with the Internship, I got to know two particular members of the Fall 2004 ESL class. When I met Mohamed Salat and Fatuma Mahat, their ambi-

tions were clear: to learn to speak, read, and write English; to find employment; and to start a new life for their children. It was not until later in the year, when Mohamed and Fatuma shared some of their experiences with me, that I began to understand these ambitions in the context of the obstacles that this family had already overcome.

During the 1992 civil war in Somalia, Mohamed and Fatuma were forced to leave their home and flee to a refugee camp in Kenya. They spent twelve years in camps before being accepted for resettlement to the U.S. in July 2004. When describing this time in their lives, Mohamed and Fatuma speak of progress. The two worked as volunteer community leaders to improve living conditions in their camp. When harsh sun and wind caused curtains around latrines to disintegrate, Mohamed and Fatuma organized a group to make hundreds of new, durable curtains by weaving them out of

reused plastic bags. When swarms of bees attacked refugees, Mohamed and Fatuma coordinated construction of a beekeeping area which drew bees away from the camp and generated a profit when honey was collected and sold.

Mohamed and Fatuma carry with them the hope and patience of those who have overcome unthinkable obstacles. I am thankful for the chance to have met them and to become a part of a relationship that has been both eye-opening and soul-stirring.



Fatuma Mahat with Anne Clark

—Anne Clark,
former AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer
Department of English

News from the Programs

Creative Writing: The Art of Cultural Activism

The Creative Writing Program has been involved in a number of initiatives this fall, some beginning to come to fruition and others catalyzed by events having to do with community engagement and outreach. MFA candidates Katie Cappello, Beth Staples, and Diana Park organized a benefit for survivors of Hurricane Katrina, an evening of New Orleans food, jazz, and poetry, held on September 23. In addition, Karla Elling and Alberto Ríos, along with MFA candidate Sheilah Britton, continue their work at the Mayo Clinic Hospital through the "Humanities in Medicine" program, bearing witness through poems for Palliative Care patients.

Faculty in the CWP have a twenty-year track record of such community outreach, a fact dramatically illus-

trated in at least two instances: one, by the reading given September 16 by alumnus Rigoberto González, who mentioned at his moving reading sponsored by the Piper Center, that he thinks of himself not only as a writer, but also as a "cultural activist."

A year after writing an article on the international conference on the Lost Boys of Sudan, held in 2004 in Phoenix, Melissa Pritchard initiated what may well turn into a monthly potluck. She hosted fifty of the 450 young men from Sudan currently living in the Phoenix metropolitan region, as well as students and faculty from the CWP, and community volunteers working at the Lost Boys' Center. The evening under the full moon and beautiful palms celebrated the



2005-2006 Creative Writing Program students and faculty

capacity of the human spirit to survive unspeakable harm, while also acknowledging the continued local, national, and global struggle to stop harm to children.

—Cynthia Hogue
Interim Director, Creative Writing Program

Literature: Presenting Multi-Cultural, Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives

Oprah's Presentation of Hurston Literary Classic a Teaching Moment for ASU

Generally, college students are not encouraged to watch television—professors would prefer that they keep their noses inside books instead—but a movie that aired Sunday, March 6, 2005 was an exception.

Organized by Neal Lester, professor and chair of the Department of English, with co-sponsorships from the ASU Film and Media Studies Program, the Department of History, the Women and Gender Studies Program, the African and African American Studies Program, Co-Curricular Programs, and Chandler-Gilbert-Community College, the telefilm showing of Zora Neale Hurston's Harlem Renaissance novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* drew nearly 100 stu-

dents, faculty, and community attendees from across the valley. The event took place in the ASU Memorial Union and included discussions led by English professors Aaron Baker, Angelita Reyes, and Neal Lester.

While the ABC network film starring Halle Berry, Michael Ealy, Ruben Santiago-Hudson and Ruby Dee met with mixed critical reviews from this ASU audience, the broadcast created an excellent teaching moment; it was the first time this literary classic was produced for the general viewing public. Free movie posters were provided by HarperCollins, while Bedford, Freeman & Worth, and Allyn & Bacon/ Longman publishers provided food and drinks. ABC/Channel 12 highlighted the event in its late evening news.

—James Hathaway / Neal Lester

A Tradition of Excellence

The English Department offers a wide variety of courses in British, Irish and American literature and culture. Our award-winning faculty participate in professional conferences and publish their works in books and journals that find their way to libraries all over the world.

We also strive to host important conferences at ASU. For instance, the Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies annual meeting will be held February 17-19, 2006 on the Tempe campus. The meeting, hosted by Hank Keithley and O M Brack, will bring together approximately eighty scholars interested in all aspects of the eighteenth century. Plenary speakers will be Professor Joseph M. Levine, Syracuse University, and Professor

Devoney Losser, University of Missouri, Columbia.

Also in 2006 (November 9-12), the International Conference on Romanticism will hold its annual meeting on campus. Plenary speakers for this conference are Alan Bewell, University of Toronto and Stephen Behrendt, University of Nebraska.

We expect that many students and faculty will participate in both conferences in a variety of capacities. Through this, the Literature faculty and students will continue the tradition of excellence as ASU evolves into the New American University.

—Gregory Castle
Professor, English



In Memoriam: A Department Grieving Together

Marianna Brose (1929-2005) | Gary Walker (1956-2005) | Eugenia DeLamotte (1951-2005)

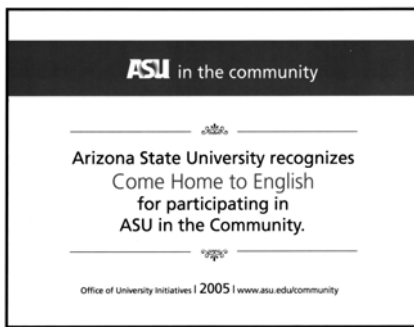
On June 27, Marianna Brose, professor emerita, died after a brave struggle with emphysema. For more than 35 years, Marianna taught Shakespeare and other literature courses here in the department.

Gary Walker, who came to the ASU English program in 1996 and completed his PhD in the spring of 2004, passed away on July 30. Gary was a Teaching Associate for five years while in the PhD program and then taught as a Faculty Associate in the department.

Eugenia Caroline DeLamotte, an English professor, died on August 22, 2005 after a courageous fight with lymphoma. "Genie" came to ASU in 1994 and was a much-accomplished teacher-scholar.



English Department's Reach Far and Wide



The Department of English was acknowledged for its varied outreach programming at an Office of University Initiatives ceremony on November 29, 2005. The gathering celebrated the unveiling of the new "ASU in the Community" website, which features the university's community engagement activities.

Included in the English Department's highlighted programs were the following: the "Come Home to English" project (see page one for story), Creative Writing's Community Writers Workshop, the Alumni Lecture Series, the Faculty Emeritus Colloquium Series, English Education's Multicultural Child & Adolescent Literacy Project, the Douglas/Marana Prison Book Drive, MTESL's Adult and Family Literacy Project, the ASU/U of A Faculty Exchange Lecture Series, and the Young Adult Writing Project.

Visit the website at: www.asu.edu/community.

Institute for Humanities Research Encourages Electronic Engagement

The newly-minted ASU Institute for Humanities Research (IHR) funded two "high-tech" projects: "The Antislavery Literature Project" and "Engaging Radio."

According to Project Director Joe Lockard, the goal of the Antislavery Literature Project "is to increase public access to a body of literature crucial to understanding African American experience, United States and hemispheric histories of slavery, and early human rights philosophies." IHR funding enabled Lockard and collaborators to further develop a website which provides document digitization, text annotation, and online publishing for 18th and 19th-century texts. The site averages some 500 visitors a day, and has been featured at the University of Pennsylvania's "Online Books Page." The project operates in cooperation with the Eserver at Iowa State University, and obtains its digitization work from India. As both a research and teaching site, it



Joe Lockard

provides texts that would otherwise be unavailable for classroom or public use.

Local affiliated researchers working on the project include April Brannon (English) Chouki El Hamel (History), Stephen Marc (Photography), Elizabeth McNeil (English), Sharon Kirsch (ASU-West), Michael Stancliff (ASU-West), Angelita Reyes (African and African American Studies), and Alyce Nadine, an independent graphic artist. Non-ASU affiliates come from Harvard University, Iowa State University, University of Haifa (Israel), University of Iowa, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill; Trinity College; and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Visit the project web page at:

<http://antislavery.eserver.org>.

ASU English assistant professors Philip Bernick and Jennifer Parchesky are participating in a trans-disciplinary research group investigating the materiality of radio. Other ASU participants



Jennifer Parchesky

in the Engaging Radio Project include David Birchfield (ISA/AME); Prasad Boradkar (School of Design); Daniel Gilfillan (Languages and Literatures); Gwyneira Isaac (Anthropology); and Torin Monahan (School of Justice and Social Inquiry). The group project explores "the social, cultural, and material experience of radio" and plans to share their findings through exhibitions, sound productions, publications, and a website. The project is based on the idea of radio as a "vehicle of expression" and a medium for mass-communication. Bernick describes the project as "looking at how radio engages us as consumers, observers, listeners, and then, how we engage it—by looking at its history, its currency, and its future."

Visit the project's academic portfolio at: www.public.asu.edu/~dgilfill/radio

—Kristen LaRue
Outreach Program Coordinator, English



Philip Bernick

New Members Fill Out English Department Staff

Ruth Johnston is the Administrative Secretary for the Writing Programs office. Before taking this position, she worked in the Financial Aid office for five years. She is enjoying her time in Writing Programs because her previous job was more behind the scenes, processing loans.

Prior to moving to Arizona in December 1999, Ruth and her family lived in Bourbonnais, IL for 22 years. She has two children, a daughter, 30, who lives in Illinois with her husband and two sons, and a 26-year-old son who lives here. In Illinois, Ruth worked at Kankakee Community College as the secretary in the Financial Aid Office and worked with the Foundation Board of Directors. There she processed paperwork for the annual scholarship program and for veterans attending school. Ruth was the recording secretary for the Alumni Association at the school.

Ruth loves to cook and bake. Music is also a big part of her life. She has been a song leader in her church for over 25 years and has sung at weddings, funerals and a variety of shows.

—Kirsti Cole
PhD student, English

Bonnie Rigmaiden, a familiar face we've seen either in the English Education office (afternoons) or in the new sixth floor Film and Media Studies office (mornings), has been an ASU employee for almost 14 years. She has lived in Arizona for forty years and for much of that time has been an administrative assistant.

A Mesa resident, Bonnie is a grandmother three times over, and one of her two daughters promises another grandchild soon. She says that her kids and her grandkids play a major part in her life, making the perfect balance to the right job in the right place.

—Wendy C. Kelleher
PhD student, English Education



L to R: Nan Zlotkowski, Ruth Johnston, Bruce Matsunaga, and Bonnie Rigmaiden

While finishing his dissertation, Bruce Matsunaga is filling a one-year position as the department's technical support person. He helps faculty members create webpages, navigate MYASU, and problem-solve various kinds of software. He designed the template for the main English Department websites and now assists unit coordinators with their individual sites.

Bruce earned his Literature degree from Cal State at Stanislaus and then completed his MA here. For his PhD dissertation, he is doing ecological criticism on the writing of Romantic poets William Wordsworth and John Keats. He recently presented a paper on Wordsworth and his relationship to nature at the Rocky Mountain MLA meeting in Coeur d'Alene, ID.

—Wendy C. Kelleher
PhD student, English Education

Nan Zlotkowski is the new Office Assistant/Senior Receptionist in the main office. Her duties include dealing with student questions, training student employees, and keeping the Department Chair's calendar. For faculty, she holds the keys and assists with equipment check-out.

Before Nan came to work for ASU, she worked eight years for Mesa Public Schools, most recently as Registrar/Secretary for Mendoza Elementary in East Mesa. She has lived in Arizona for eighteen years, but confesses that her "heart belongs to the Midwest." She attended Northern Illinois University in DeKalb and especially at this time of year yearns for fall colors and Notre Dame football. She loves to decorate and on the weekends enjoys working on projects.

Nan has been married for 25 years and has two children: a daughter who is an Early Childhood Education major at ASU, and a volleyball-playing son who is a junior at Red Mountain High School.

—Johanna Wagner
PhD student, English

A Favorite Staff Member Retires

No doubt many of you have noticed that after 11 years in the English Department's Main office, Kay Dingman has retired. Before she was hired by ASU, Kay worked for a number of years with Mesa Public Schools as a reading aid. In 1989, she became a receptionist in what was then called the ASU Academic Advising Center. In 1994, Kay moved to the English Department as an Administrative Secretary, advancing through the years to Administrative Assistant, and finally to Office Supervisor. As the Office Supervisor, Kay took on a variety of duties, but among her favor-

ites were working on the employee searches each fall, working with the various English Department committees, coordinating itineraries for campus visits, and meeting prospective hires. She truly enjoyed all aspects of her work.

In retirement, Kay says she enjoys having her days free and is spending time with her grandchildren. She is expecting her first great-grandchild in October. Her three Papillion dogs and her Persian cat keep her company while she enjoys her hobbies: reading, swimming, and playing cards. She is active

in her Home Owners Association where she has served as a member of the Board and as Secretary for the last three years.

Kay seemed to always have the answers to our many questions, and we will miss her knowledge and her quiet efficiency.

—Johanna Wagner
PhD student, English



New Emeritus Faculty with 04-05 Retirees

After fifteen years as a Rhetoric and Composition professor at Montana State University, John Rammage decided he was ready for a change. He traded in his snow shovel for a bottle of sunscreen and relocated to Arizona. Dr. Rammage has been at ASU ever since, and despite his retirement last year, he is still researching and working with students.



His research interests include rhetorical theory, Kenneth Burke, writing program administration, and argumentation. He is currently working on a book about teaching argumentation with graduate students Jennifer Clary-Lemon, Zac Waggoner, and Mike Callaway.

Before retirement, Rammage taught several courses, including the class that prepares new teaching assistants to

teach composition, and he characterized teaching this class as a “unique challenge.” He also taught undergraduate courses, and found English 217: Reflective Writing to be particularly interesting. By teaching students to reflect on their experiences, he was given “a glimpse into other people’s lives,” and said that he enjoyed the opportunity to help students write about topics they normally wouldn’t.

Currently, Rammage can be found in the corridors of the English Department and the stacks of the library, still researching and still working with graduate students.

—April Brannon
PhD student, English

After a 40-year tenure at ASU as a Professor of English, Del Kehl might well be ready for some serious rest and relaxation. Not so! He’s eager to continue writing about American literature and is excited to have more time to read a variety of authors, including Turkish novelist Orhan Pamuk. Pa-

muk’s writings are of particular interest to Kehl since his recent trip to Turkey and Greece. An avid traveler, he also plans to take a Caribbean cruise in the coming months and looks forward to traversing the U.S. to spend time with his four grandchildren. When not traveling, reading, or writing, Kehl anticipates volunteering at a local library and at a homeless shelter. Although he misses his interactions with faculty and students at ASU and values the experiences he has had here, he looks forward to pursuing other interests and opportunities.



—Jennifer M. Santos
PhD student, English

Our distinctions do not lie in the places we occupy, but in the grace and dignity with which we fill them.

—WILLIAM GILMORE SIMMS

Word Lovers Corner: Waiting for the Readers of *Harry Potter*

We have something in common with the University of Arizona’s coach Lute Olsen. Just like he scouts 12-year-olds in hopes of grooming them for the U of A basketball team, we are eagerly waiting for adolescents now reading *Harry Potter* books to enroll in our linguistics classes because they will have a head start in understanding the richness of English and how much we owe to Latin roots.

J. K. Rowling uses Latin roots to create the names for many of her characters as well as the spells they cast. For example, *Ludovic Bagman*’s first name comes from *ludere* (“to play”) as seen in such words as *ludicrous*, *to delude*, and *to elude* someone, which is appropriate to his job as head of the Department of Magical Games and Sports. Professor *Pomona Sprout* teaches herbology. Her first name is the same as that of the Ro-

man goddess of fruit and of an American city in one of the most fertile parts of California. The Latin meaning of *pomona* is “apple,” as in such English words as *pomegranates* (“apples with grains or seeds”) and *pommels*, which are the apple-shaped handles on western saddles.

In Book Five, the Ministry of Magic sends the mean-spirited *Dolores Umbridge* to replace the beloved Professor Dumbledore. She gives herself the title of “High Inquisitor,” which fits well with the meaning of “to doubt or suspect” in the phrase *to take umbrage* (from Latin for “shade” or “shadow”).



This is exactly what the students do with her even though they probably do not realize that her first name comes from *dolor*, (“pain”) as in *doleful* and in the name of the *Via Dolorosa* (“the way of pain”) that Christ walked in Jerusalem.

Our favorite example is the *Den-saugeo!* curse, which causes people’s teeth to grow uncontrollably. *Augēre* means “to increase” and has given English such words as *augur*, *auxiliary*, and *augmentative*. *Dens* or *dons* means teeth and has given us *dentist*, *orthodontist*, and *dentures*. *Mastodons* (“breast-teeth”) were named because of the shape and placement of their tusks, while the *heterodontosaurus* got its name from being a dinosaur with different kinds of teeth—incisors, molars, and canines.

—Don and Alleen Nilsen
Professors, English

Leaving a Legacy of Inspiration

Leaving a legacy by donating in a loved one's name cultivates a lifetime of inspiration and support for future generations. The generosity of donors enables the English Department to offer prestigious awards to students. Award monies vary and can be used for students' tuition, books, and research.

The Wilfred A. Ferrell Memorial Fellowship is an endowment from former Director of Graduate Studies and English Department Chair Wilfred Ferrell, who sought to strengthen our English graduate program. It is awarded annually to a PhD student.

The George and Collice Portnoff Endowed Fellowship in Comparative Literature is awarded to a graduate student working in two literatures in the original languages, not including English. Collice Portnoff was a former English Department chair.

The Anatole Creative Writing Scholarship honors Jules J. Anatole, a lifelong learner and inspiring individual, and is

given to an undergraduate student in creative writing.

The John Doebler Memorial Award for Renaissance Studies is presented annually at the Southwest Graduate Literature Symposium. John Doebler was a former English professor at ASU. The gift is from his widow, Bettie Anne Doebler, an English Department professor emerita.

The *ASU Eddie Dyer Memorial Writing Scholarship* was recently established by Cindy Dyer in honor of her husband, Eddie. Beginning Spring 2006, it will be awarded annually to an undergraduate English major with an emphasis on written expression.

The Nick Ivins Memorial Literature Scholarship, established in memory of Nick Ivins (BA English 2004), is given to an English literature senior with a special interest in Irish studies.

Dorothy and Alvin Kirsner's gift makes possible the *Esther Frank Memorial Poetry Reading* in honor of Esther



Megan Faragher (left), 2005 Nick Ivins Memorial Literature Award recipient, with the Ivins family.

Frank, Mrs. Kirsner's sister and a former creative writing student at ASU.

The Katharine C. Turner Scholarship supports graduate student recruitment. Professor Katharine Turner, a faculty member in literature, is also credited with starting ASU's Creative Writing Program.

—Sheila Luna
Graduate Program Coordinator, English

Friends of the Department of English

Please take a moment to join the **Friends of the Department of English** by completing and returning this form. Membership benefits are outlined under each membership level.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Email Address _____

2005-2006 Sustaining Membership (\$250.00) _____
Annual subscription to *Hayden's Ferry Review*, invitations to Department lectures and receptions, a signed book, and a special print.
Benefit Value \$60.00

2005-2006 Sponsor Membership (\$100.00) _____
Annual subscription to *Hayden's Ferry Review*, invitations to Department lectures and receptions, and a signed book.
Benefit Value \$35.00

2005-2006 Regular Membership (\$50.00) _____
Annual subscription to *Hayden's Ferry Review* and invitations to Department lectures and receptions.
Benefit Value \$10.00

Please direct any additional contribution to:
Hayden's Ferry Review.....
Lamberts' Memorial Rare Book Fund....

Total.....

Please make checks payable to ASU Foundation/Friends of English. Funds will be deposited with the ASU Foundation, a separate non-profit organization which supports ASU. Fees and contributions are tax deductible.
LENGP6D 30AMLEN0003

Mail to: Friends of the Department of English
Arizona State University
PO Box 870302
Tempe, AZ 85287-0302

Order "Define Yourself" t-shirts and mugs from:
www.asu.edu/english/homecoming/merchandise.html

T-shirts are \$15.00, mugs are \$8.00, and pens are free with each order. If you would like them shipped to you, be sure to include your address with \$2.50 shipping and handling. Make checks payable to ASU Foundation.

Accents

is published by the
ASU Department of English

Coordinated by: Faye Verska
Executive Editor: Alleen Nilsen
Design Editor: Kristen LaRue
Artwork: Karla Elling
GSEA Editor: Johanna Wagner
Photography: Bruce Matsunaga and Alleen Nilsen

Please visit our website: www.asu.edu/english

Accents

Newsletter of the Department of English at Arizona State University

Coming events . . .

Emeritus Colloquium Series, ASU Department of English

Thelma Richard with Barbara Levy: LL 316, 3:15 p.m.

January 25, 2006

Alumni Lecture Series, ASU Department of English

Nancy-Jo Merritt: LL 316, 3:15 p.m.

Nikki Buchanan: LL 316, 3:15 p.m.

February 23, 2006

March 30, 2006

Ian Fletcher Memorial Lecture

Jerome McGann, Victorian scholar

University Club, 7:00 p.m.

March 27, 2006

Faculty Colloquium Series, ASU Department of English

Susan Scarberry-Garcia: LL 316, 3:15 p.m.

March 29, 2006

Glendon & Kathryn Swarthout Awards in Writing

Lee L. Abbott, Fiction Writer

MU Turquoise Rm 208F, 7:30 p.m.

April 18, 2006

Graduation Reception & Awards Ceremony, ASU English

MU Turquoise Rm 208F, 3:00 p.m.

May 10, 2006

