

# CELEBRATION!

✦ BIRTHDAY of the BARD ✦

William Shakespeare Turns 443!



Dare  
Not  
Dally!

Mark Ye  
Your  
Calendars

**APRIL 23, 2007**

UNDER PATRONAGE of  
THE ASU DEPARTMENT of ENGLISH

## ***MERRIE FESTIVITIES***

READINGS of SONNETS & DRAMATIC PERFORMANCES

SYMPOSIA for AREA HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

A "Play in Scenes" - each scene staged by a different High School class

☞ More details will out anon! ☞

## The Chair's Corner

The English department is on the move, connecting with communities worldwide. Faculty continue to deliver lectures and to conduct research here and across the globe. We are negotiating details for faculty and student exchanges with universities in several countries. Locally, creative writing MFA students profoundly impact the lives of Mayo Clinic patients through creative work and undergraduates mentor valley students through service learning internships.



Our "Come Home to English" Homecoming 2006 highlighted the contributions of department friends, past and present. The Faculty Reading room was transformed into a stunning Art and Archives Gallery. In addition to costumes ranging from Alice Walker to *The Old Man and the Sea*, the lively "Evening of Wit & Folly" showcased remarkable talents of department members who paint, recite, dance, draw, sing, and play instruments. The celebration reminded us that creating and sustaining community helps us respond to the challenges that accompany our unit's and the University's dramatic evolution and redefinition.

Additionally, the new Department Advancement Board is working to help us better articulate our goals, mission, and identity to communities within and beyond the University. Board members Chris Benguhe (BA 1992), Bettie Ann Doebler (Emerita 1996), Babs Gordon (BA 1987, MA 1989, Emerita 2003), Dan Shilling (PhD, 1987), and Maire Simington (MA 1972, PhD 2003) bring energy and diverse expertise, resources, and ideas about present and future possibilities.

We have hosted a successful international conference, "Engaged Romanticism: Romanticism in Praxis" (November 2006), and a one-day "Slavery and Antislavery: A New Research and Teaching Workshop" (October 2006). We are planning a state-wide, all-day Shakespeare Birthday Bash in April 2007; the "PUSHing Boundaries, PUSHing Art: A Symposium on the Works of Sapphire" (February 2007); and a forum, "Academic Freedom in the English Classroom" (February 2007). All of this wonderful activity moves us toward new and exciting intellectual and creative exchange. I invite each of you to participate. The best is yet to come!

—Neal A. Lester

## Barbing with the Bard: Household Words<sup>1</sup> Invented or Bequeathed by Shakespeare

compiled by Lady Cornelia Wells

If, as good luck would have it,<sup>2</sup> all the world's a stage<sup>3</sup>  
upon which neither rhyme nor reason<sup>4</sup> rules,  
shall we—coming full circle<sup>5</sup> to the foregone conclusion<sup>6</sup>  
that there is then no method in the madness<sup>7</sup>—  
wish all our yesterdays<sup>8</sup> good riddance<sup>9</sup> into thin air?<sup>10</sup>

Or, remembering the good bard  
wrote more comedies than tragedies,  
shall we just lie low,<sup>11</sup>

laughing ourselves into stitches?<sup>12</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Henry V* (IV.iii)

<sup>2</sup> *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (III.v)

<sup>3</sup> *As You Like It* (II.vii)

<sup>4</sup> *As You Like It* (III.ii)

<sup>5</sup> *King Lear* (V.iii)

<sup>6</sup> *Othello* (III.iii)

<sup>7</sup> *Hamlet* (II.ii)

<sup>8</sup> *Macbeth* (V.v)

<sup>9</sup> *Troilus and Cressida* (II.i)

<sup>10</sup> *The Tempest* (IV.i)

<sup>11</sup> *Much Ado About Nothing* (V.i)

<sup>12</sup> *Twelfth Night* (III.ii)

## All the World IS a Stage, if You're Kristen LaRue



Kristen LaRue rehearses her role of 'Cassie' in Tempe Little Theatre's *A Chorus Line*.

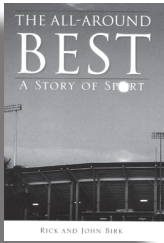
You saw her most recently as Nurse Ratched at the Come Home to English "Evening of Wit & Folly," and you hear from her every day if you read department email. Kristen LaRue, as Outreach Coordinator for English, is famous as a communicator, organizer, and force for cheer among us . . . but have you see her dance?

This fall, Kristen and her husband Jamie danced and sang in Tempe Little Theatre's presentation of *A Chorus Line*. As Cassie, Kristen was the lead, and "her presence illuminated the stage," said Alberto Ríos. "Her sense of character was impeccable." Kristen is a professional and community theater regular in the valley. Her love of acting and her life in academia have com-

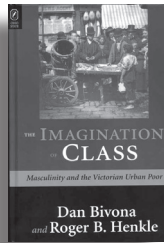
bined in a whirlwind this semester as she finishes a Master's in Music History. Kristen's head is as full of plans as it is filled with the medieval songs of Saint Godric of Finchale. She hopes to pursue a PhD in music or literature, but to find out which, we'll have to wait for act two.

—Karla Elling

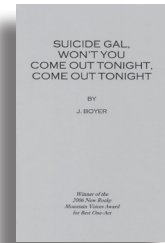
Faculty Book Publications



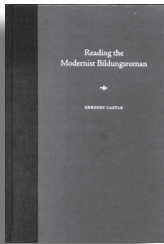
John Birk  
and Rick Birk  
*The All-Around BEST:  
A Story of Sport.*  
Xlibris, 2005.



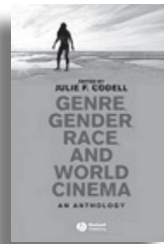
Dan Bivona  
*The Imagination of Class:  
Masculinity and the  
Victorian Urban Poor.*  
The Ohio State Univ.  
Press, 2006.



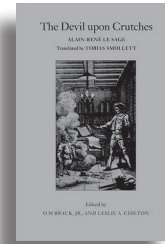
Jay Boyer  
*Suicide Gal, Won't You  
Come Out Tonight,  
Come Out Tonight.*  
OneAct Play Depot,  
2006.



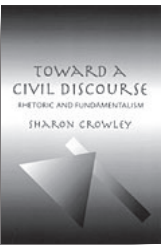
Gregory Castle.  
*Reading the Modernist  
Bildungsroman.* Univ.  
Press of Florida, 2006.



Julie Codell, ed.  
*Genre, Gender, Race, and  
World Cinema: An  
Anthology.* Blackwell,  
2006.



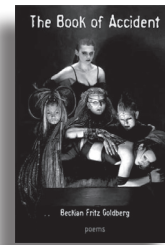
O M Brack and Leslie  
A. Chilton, eds.  
*The Devil Upon  
Crutches,* Alain René  
Le Sage. Trans. Tobias  
Smollett. Univ. of  
Georgia Press, 2005.



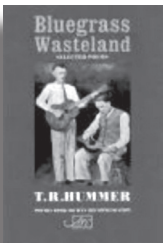
Sharon Crowley  
*Toward a Civil  
Discourse: Rhetoric and  
Fundamentalism.* Univ.  
of Pittsburgh Press,  
2006.



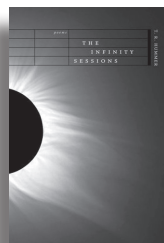
Bettie Anne Doebler and  
Retha M. Warnicke, eds.  
*A Sermon of Commemora-  
tion of the Lady Danvers,  
Late Wife of Sr. John  
Donne (1627) by John  
Donne.* Scholars' Facsimi-  
les & Reprints, 2006.



Beckian Fritz Goldberg  
*The Book of Accident:  
Poems.* Univ. of Akron  
Press, 2006.



T. R. Hummer  
*Bluegrass Wasteland:  
Selected Poems.* Arc,  
2005.



T. R. Hummer  
*The Infinity Sessions:  
Poems.* Louisiana State  
Univ. Press, 2005.



T. R. Hummer  
*The Muse in the  
Machine: Essays on  
Poetry and the Anatomy  
of the Body Politic.* Univ.  
of Georgia Press, 2006.



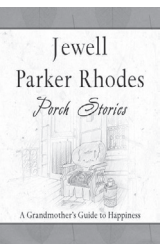
Peter Lehman, ed.  
*Pornography: Film and  
Culture.* Rutgers Univ.  
Press, 2006.



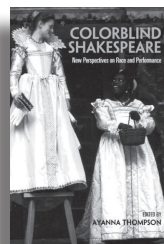
Joe Lockard and Mark  
Pegrum, eds.  
*Brave New Classrooms:  
Democratic Education  
and the Internet.* Peter  
Lang, 2006.



Helen Elizabeth  
Nebeker *Bittersweet:  
A Candid Love Story.*  
Acacia, 2006.



Jewell Parker Rhodes  
*Porch Stories: A  
Grandmother's Guide to  
Happiness.* Atria, 2006.



Ayanna Thompson, ed.  
*Colorblind Shakespeare:  
New Perspectives on Race  
and Performance.*  
Routledge, 2006.



Ely van Gelderen  
*A History of the English  
Language.* John  
Benjamins, 2006.

## News from the Programs: Stats & Chats

“Action is eloquence.”

—William Shakespeare, *Coriolanus*

### Linguistics/TESL Faculty Activities



The Second International Conference on Lao Studies May 3-6, 2007, will be hosted by ASU.

ASU's Linguistics /TESL faculty are involved in an intriguing array of projects this academic year. Karen Adams is organizing The Second International Lao Studies Conference to be held at ASU on May 3-6, 2007, and has helped to fund Tempe Historical Museum's award-winning "Proud Journey Home" exhibit. Dawn Bates, while researching traditional Lushootseed storytelling, is offering a graduate course, Grammar for Teaching English as a Second Language, for future teachers interested in exploring the complexities of the topic. Mark

James is studying how ESL students at ASU develop academic English writing skills, and is likewise studying how adult ESL

students in Phoenix develop language skills through computer-assisted language learning.

Roy Major just completed a year-long sabbatical studying first language attrition in Brazilian immigrants to the United States, and his article "Identifying a Foreign Accent in an Unfamiliar Language" will appear in *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*. Don Nilsen recently designed a PowerPoint presentation for Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams's *Introduction to Language* (8th ed., 2007). Both Don and Alleen Nilsen were awarded the "Distinguished Service Award" at the Arizona English Teachers Association convention, and were named Co-Presidents of the American Name Society, an affiliate of the Linguistic Society of America. Elly van Gelderen presented a paper on how changes in language are related to its origins at the "Cradle of Language" conference in Stellenbosch, South Africa, in November.

—Roy Major

### Both Innovation and Tradition Define ASU Literature Program

The Literature Program in the Department of English is characterized by a variety of literary periods and approaches to literature—from Beowulf to Tom Wolfe. We are especially fortunate this year to host distinguished visiting professors, including Thomas Roche and Robert Sturges (see profiles pages 6 and 7), as well as major conferences. In November, ASU was the site of the International Conference on Romanticism which featured speakers from all over the world in addition to some from our own department. The annual Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Conference, to be held in February 2007, will focus on "Masculinities and Femininities in the Middle Ages and Renaissance." ACMRS continues to bring exciting lecturers to campus and to publish new research under the Center's imprimatur.

The Literature program also boasts the Antislavery Literature Project, an online resource directed by Joe Lockard with an emphasis on the analysis and dissemination of literary and



historical documents. We are now happy to host a cluster of professors whose main interest is in film and media studies; their presence in the department provides rich and provocative avenues for the study of social and cultural texts. As the department expands, we are welcoming new faculty who bring with them diverse interests and backgrounds. The literature program continues to redefine itself with innovative practices of reading, writing, and interpretation, and to put new forms of textual production—including electronic—literally, at our fingertips.

—Gregory Castle

### Creative Writing: A Changing of the Bard

#### ORIGINAL, SIGNED BROADSIDES

Typeset by Karla Elling  
Mummy Mountain Press

OPENING BID: \$50 EACH



Typeset on handmade paper by book artist Karla Elling, these original broadsides feature signed work by: Norman Dubie, Ai, Ron Smith, Alberto Rios, and others . . .

T. R. Hummer, the new Director of Creative Writing, arrived in July to take up his new post (see profile page 6); simultaneously, long-time fiction faculty member Ron Carlson departed to assume his new post at UC Irvine, taking with him our best wishes and regret. So far in 2006, faculty have produced a rich crop of new work. In addition to recent publications by Alberto Ríos, Cynthia Hogue, Beckian Fritz Goldberg, Jewell Parker Rhodes, Jay Boyer, and T. R. Hummer, the staff and faculty have been terrifically involved in other exciting literary endeavors. For instance, Alberto Ríos was featured on *The News*

*Hour with Jim Lehrer* in August, and Karla Elling produced new literary broadsides on her printing press for English's "Evening of Wit & Folly" silent auction in October.

Readers sponsored by Creative Writing and The Virginia G. Piper Center have included Zadie Smith, Alice Fulton, Michael Chabon, Alicia Ostriker, Ben Bova, and Lucille Clifton. In September, there was such an excellent welcoming party at Melissa Pritchard's house that nobody remembers it.

—T. R. Hummer

## A Word from Rhetoric and Composition

As we near the tenth anniversary of our PhD in Rhetoric/Composition and Linguistics Program, it seems an appropriate time to reflect on that program as well as on our MA in Rhetoric and Composition program which is just slightly older. Our flexible graduate programs at both the MA and PhD levels are designed to help students pursue a variety of scholarly interests and to encourage inter- and transdisciplinary scholarship. Our students are trained to engage in a wide range of methods (empirical, historical, theoretical, and hermeneutical) across a broad array of scholarly objects (literacy; technology; culture; oral, print, and digital discourse; visual rhetoric, material culture, and pedagogy). Currently, there are 56 doctoral students in our PhD program, of which 17 are ABD and 7 are in the doctoral exam process, and there are 12 graduate students in our Rhetoric and Composition MA program. We have graduated over 30 PhD students and 20 MA students. Our programs prepare students to enter into multiple academ-

ic, public, non-profit, and corporate sectors; perhaps this is one reason that our placement rate for graduates has been 100%.

Our research faculty are active scholars whose publications are highly visible in local, national, and international venues. This year, for instance, Professor Sharon Crowley has been invited to give the Jim Berlin Memorial Lecture at Purdue University, and will be one of ten scholars from around the country who are participating in the Rhetoric Society of America's Summer Institute in 2007. Even as we bask in the accomplishments of our faculty and our students—many of whom are also already active, published scholars—we also look forward to future challenges in scholarship and pedagogy that will make us prominent participants in a new American university. —Maureen Daly Goggin



## ASU English Education Garners Honors at Regional, National Conferences



Jack Gantos (left), prominent YA literature author and AETA Conference keynote speaker sits with Bryan Gillis, an ASU English Education graduate student.

October 6 and 7 were big days for English Education students because it was the weekend of the Arizona English Teachers Association meeting held at the Pecos campus of Chandler/Gilbert Community College. Professor Jim Blasingame, president of AETA, was program chair, which may have had something to do with how many ASU students and faculty participated. G. Lynn Nelson hosted “Open Mic Readings” while honorees included Wendy Kelleher, Kristen LaRue, David Pegram, and Don and Alleen Nilsen.

Graduate students presented on a variety of topics ranging from pop culture views of English teachers to the creation and use of WebQuests and PowerPoints. Presenters included Lisa Arter, Kathleen Bohling, April Brannon, Thamina Christensen, Anjanette Darrington, Kathy Deakin, Bryan Gillis, Wendy Kelleher, Jessica Majewski, Corrine McCawley, David Pegram, Brian Taylor, Rebecca Sandhoff, Tricia Sindel-Arrington, Thomas Valengavich, and Marlinda White-Kaulaity.

The week before Thanksgiving some of these same students and faculty members traveled to Opryland in Nashville, Tennessee, to make presentations and to receive awards at the National Council of Teachers of English annual convention. —Alleen Nilsen

## Writing Programs: Growth No Obstacle to Quality

Writing Programs continues to grow. For fall 2006, we have:

- 196 teachers teaching Writing Programs classes
- More sections than ever before—512 sections compared to 488, fall 2005
- More students than ever before—9580 students this fall compared to 9123, fall 2005.

In addition, the lower class size (19) for our 100-level courses continues to produce positive results:

- Pass rates are higher for WAC 101, ENG 101, and ENG 102 than they've been over the pre-

vious seven academic years.

- The continuation rates—students taking ENG 101 in the fall followed by ENG 102 the subsequent spring—are higher than they've been over the previous five years.
- Student evaluation numbers are better for all ranks of faculty than they've been for the previous twelve semesters.

Writing Programs is also offering eight sections at the downtown campus with three of our advanced Teaching Assistants both teaching there and working in their writing center. —Greg Glau



Fall 2006, ASU English began supporting the new ASU Downtown campus by coordinating and staffing composition classes there.

## New Faculty & Staff

“Thy friendship makes us fresh...  
And doth beget new courage in our breasts.”

—William Shakespeare, *Henry VI*

Distinguished Visiting Professor Thomas P. Roche spent the majority of his academic career at Princeton University, where he became Murray Professor of English Literature, Emeritus in 2002. Born in 1931 in New Haven, Connecticut, Roche attended Yale University as an undergraduate, where he studied under Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren. After a brief stint as a schoolteacher, Roche attended Cambridge University, where he worked with C. S. Lewis. He then completed his doctorate at Princeton, writing his dissertation on Spenser.

Roche is the co-founder and co-editor of *Spenser Studies: A Renaissance Poetry Annual*. His books include *The Kindly Fire: A Study of the Third and Fourth Books of the Faerie Queen* (1964), *Petrarch and the English Sonnet Sequence* (1989), and, most recently, *Petrarch in English* (2005), an anthology of English translations and poems inspired by Petrarch. He is

currently at work on a history of the iconography of the muse from Hesiod to Milton. His other current projects include a history of the Princeton English Department and a book on Shakespeare.

Roche began his ASU residence as Visiting Professor last spring and will be staying through the end of this academic year. He is currently teaching Shakespeare for English majors and a graduate seminar on Petrarch and the English Sonnet Sequence.

—David Boyles



Thomas Roche (right) with Bo Smith, a new ASU English Faculty Associate.



The ASU English Department extends greetings to T. R. Hummer, the new Director of the Creative Writing Program. Hummer has a strong background in publishing, having served as editor-in-chief of well-known journals such as *The Georgia Review* and *The Kenyon Review*. He is also an accomplished poet who has published in *The Atlantic Monthly* and *The New Yorker*. Poetry buffs can check out his collections of poems, which include *Walt Whitman in Hell* and *Bluegrass Wasteland: Selected Poems*.

Hummer speaks highly of ASU's Creative

Writing faculty and looks forward to working with them to enhance graduate and undergraduate course offerings. Outside of work, he enjoys hanging out with his five-year-old daughter and reading the works of his favorite poets, including Robert Penn Warren and Alice Fulton.

Music lovers should know that Hummer is an accomplished saxophonist and enjoys jazz and blues. He started out as a rock 'n' roll musician in the 1960s and would like to get back into the music world one day. Until then, the music world's loss is ASU's gain! —Michael Jung

Sally Ball, Senior Lecturer, came to Arizona seven years ago after teaching at the Universität Stuttgart in Germany and having been program coordinator of the International Writers Center at Washington University in St. Louis. Her first book, *Annus Mirabilis* (2005), was selected by Ellen Bryant Voigt for the Barrow Street Press Poetry Prize. In 2006, Ball became the associate director of Four Way Books, an independent press based in New York City.

Ball has taught at ASU for five years, and continues to teach poetry workshops, courses

in twentieth century American poetry, women's literature, and editing and publishing. Ball has worked with ASU to create internships with Four Way Books for MFA students, two of whom are participating this year. Both are annual positions that consist of editing and fundraising for the press. This fall was the first offering of her editing/publishing course for MFA students, a course combining discussion of issues and practices in publishing and editing with practical experience.

—Ginny Pannabecker



After growing up in St. Louis, Missouri, “the gateway to the West,” Visiting Assistant Professor Heather Maring says that living in Arizona is like having stepped through that gateway. A poet and lover of literature, she has two areas of expertise: medieval English poetry, with a special emphasis on the study of oral traditions, and creative writing (poetry). After earning her doctorate, she briefly worked for the Intangible Heritage Section at UNESCO in the summer of 2005. Initially pursuing degrees that emphasized creative writing, Maring eventually found herself

interested in the medieval era. As soon as she heard John Foley, an expert in oral traditions (and later her mentor), speak, she was “hooked,” and “there was no turning back” for her.

Maring's motto in life is “Give away what you want, take what you don't want; everything is open.” In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, visiting with friends, reading newspapers, practicing French, and learning new skills. Next semester, Maring will teach *Beowulf* and *Medieval Literature in Performance*.

—Fifi Juliana

The English Department welcomed new staff in 2005/2006: Sarah Curtis, Melissa Johnson, Petie Roberts, and Sheri Schmidt.



From left: Petie Roberts, Sarah Curtis, Melissa Johnson, and Sheri Schmidt

Sarah, the department's Coordinator, is in charge of payroll and assists the Chair with hiring and leave matters. The best thing about working for the English Department, she says, are the people: staff and faculty who create a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

Melissa, Office Specialist, comes to ASU from Oregon, where she finished her coursework for a master's degree in history from Portland State University. Her studies focus on

American intellectual and religious history, and she hopes to complete her thesis while learning the English Department "ropes."

Petie, the new Office Assistant, is the first to greet students and faculty who come to the main office or call for help. Petie enjoys the diversity of ASU's academic environment and is glad there's "always something new" going on in the department.

Sheri, Administrative Assistant, came to English from the Graduate Education program and manages scheduling and textbook orders, among other things. What Sheri likes best about working in the English Department is all the "energy and excitement" around her.

All four cite the Department's spirit of cooperation and everyone's ability to depend on one another as big pluses, too. Certainly, the English Department is lucky to have such a team.

—Rossana Lhota

A love of Shakespeare's works inspires Bradley Ryner, a Visiting Assistant Professor at ASU. Ryner grew up in Alexis, Illinois, before attending Monmouth College. He obtained his MA and PhD at the University of Delaware, studying English language and literature. While working on his dissertation, Ryner spent two months researching at the British Library in London. His specialty is seventeenth-century drama.

As early as high school, Ryner performed in community theater and worked on lighting and

other technical duties in the theater. For him, acting brings literature to life, so the theatrical side of drama is of special interest to him. It is no surprise, then, that Ryner's current assignment involves teaching eighteenth-century Restoration drama (English Drama: 1660-1800) and Shakespeare. Ryner also likes the work of lesser-studied dramatists, Richard Brome and Philip Massinger. Ryner's article on *The Battle of Maldon* appears in the latest issue of *English Studies*.

—Kathryn Andrzejczak



Robert Sturges is a Visiting Professor of Medieval Literature at ASU this year. His home is the University of New Orleans, where he is University Research Professor of English. His other positions have included teaching at MIT and Wesleyan University. His PhD in Comparative Literature is from Brown University. Sturges' interests include: medieval literature (especially Chaucer), comparative literature, the Bible as literature, critical theory, gay/lesbian/queer studies, and opera. His published works include *Medieval Interpretation: Models of Reading in Literary Narrative, 1100-1500* (1991); *Chaucer's Pardoner and Gender Theory: Bodies of Discourse* (2000); and

*Dialogue and Deviance: Male-Male Desire in the Dialogue* (2005). Along with Elizabeth Urguhart, he is working on the *Middle English Pseudo-Augustinian Soliloquies*. His most recent essay is "The Pardoner in Canterbury: Gender, Class, and Urban Space in the Prologue to the Tale of Beryn" (*College Literature*, Summer 2006). He is currently constructing essays on the political theories of Giorgio Agamben. Sturges lives near ASU with his partner, Jim Davidson, an artist and art conservator, and their five cats. A wine enthusiast, he is keen on Robert Altman movies, novels by Morag Joss, and the TV show *Project Runway*.

—Cynthia Simmons

Caibo Zhang comes to ASU from a satellite campus of Shangdong University in Weihai, northeastern China. A Visiting Scholar focusing on American literature studies, she is particularly interested in African American literature. Her current favorite text is *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. In China, her main focus was teaching English, but after returning from ASU, she will expand into teaching American literature. Her goals at ASU are twofold: first, to gain knowledge of American literature

course content, but more importantly, to observe how that content is taught. For Professor Zhang, gaining an experience in American culture is an essential aspect of her time at ASU. "When you are here and can feel the people, you can really get a sense of the culture. A lot of things [about American culture] cannot be found in books." What drew her to ASU? "One of my colleagues recommended ASU's English Department to me. . . . It is a very good department, as long as you can endure the Arizona heat." —Jessica Guyette



## Outreach

“Put forth thy hand, reach at the glorious gold:  
What! is’t too short? I’ll lengthen it with mine.”  
—William Shakespeare, *Henry VI*

### Poesía del Sol - The Poetry of the Sun: A Mayo Clinic/ASU Creative Writing Partnership

#### The Pitcher and the Catcher

Crouched behind a leather mitt, you catch  
What is thrown at you: my illness,  
My rough history of curveballs.

Your hand quick, closes on every throw.  
We are like this: the pitcher and the catcher—

Our arms strong and gloved, reading  
The red spin of thread, arc of the ball,  
Your toss, an always gentle return.

What you don't know is the soft cradle  
Of your own hand, how part of every throw is me  
Landing in the webbed netting of your mitt,  
The worn leather landing of another knuckleball.

We are like this, Dayton, unshocked  
By the gravity of what flies between us  
By what lands with a pop in the hand,  
And in every release, another catch.

“The Pitcher and the Catcher,” Poesía del Sol, 2006

The Creative Writing Program of the Department of English is dedicated to enriching the lives of students and the larger community through programs that encourage artistic innovation through collaboration and the written word. At Mayo Clinic Hospital, ASU Master of Fine Arts students and alumni compose poems based on conversation with a patient at bedside. The resulting work of art is printed in the hour following this meeting, then matted and presented to the patient.

Regents' Professor Alberto Ríos and Program Manager Karla Elling oversee the project, along with C J Kennedy of the Mayo Humanities in Medicine Program. MFA alumni Sheila Britton and Douglas S. Jones currently work at the hospital with MFA poetry candidate Tina Hammerton.

The mission of the Mayo Clinic

Center for Humanities in Medicine integrates the arts, history, and ethics in the medical environment, supporting the Mayo Clinic ideal that the needs of the patient come first. *Poesía del Sol* pairs authors and print-makers with palliative care patients at Mayo Clinic Hospital, bringing comfort through conversation, poetry, and the fine arts.

At first, the MFA students “may not know how to prepare for spending time with the terminally ill,” as Doug Jones said. “There is no easy way about it.” However, when the poet sits down with a patient and starts talking, “all the bustle and medical routine fade out of mind. This teaches what is sacred—not space or even the body, but human connection and interaction. Art makes a visible difference to those most in need.”

—Karla Elling

### Human ‘Writes’: Slavery and Antislavery Workshop Held at ASU

The Antislavery Literature Project, a digital archive of abolitionist literature directed by ASU English's Joe Lockard, recently sponsored an important roundtable entitled “Slavery and Antislavery: A New Research and Teaching Workshop.” Held at ASU on October 13, the gathering was co-sponsored by the ASU Institute for Humanities Research, and included interdisciplinary presentations on slavery ranging from antebellum topics through contemporary human trafficking. Scholars from English, Social Science, Art, Music, and History provided new perspectives on this trans-historical issue and confirmed that art is a form of revolutionary witness.

The opening session featured Harvard professor Timothy McCarthy, who spoke about antislavery protest literature, and ASU professor Angelita Reyes, who discussed slavery’s vernacular artifacts. ASU

photography professor Stephen Marc, who created the photographic montage featured on the workshop poster, travels across the United States documenting Underground Railroad sites. His presentation included photographs of tunnels and safe houses where escapees hid.

The workshop culminated in a panel moderated by ASU’s Melissa Pritchard on contemporary slavery and trafficking in India and Sudan. William Mawwin moved the audience by recounting his experience as a slave child in Sudan where he had to endure daily beatings and starvation. He hopes to raise awareness by collaborating on a documentary film about his experience.

“Most people don’t realize that slavery still exists,” states Joe Lockard. “Slavery has changed its form over time; it’s there, we just don’t hear about it. There are 27 million slaves in the world today.”

—Sheila Luna

**Slavery & Antislavery**  
A NEW RESEARCH AND TEACHING WORKSHOP

Friday, October 13, 2006

8:45 a.m.—1:30 p.m.  
Memorial Union Building  
Arizona State University, Tempe campus



Emerita Uses Literature to Reflect Society



View from Richard's Stellenbosch flat.



From left: Thelma Shinn Richard with Cape Town consultant Esther Carmickle-Ramusi and Cheryl Johnson.

Professor Emerita Thelma Shinn Richard has extended the reach of distance learning at ASU with her course, *Postcolonial Mirrors: African American and Southern African Women Novelists*. The course, which Richard originally co-constructed with Dr. Anne H. Gagiano while a Fulbright Senior Lecturer at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, in 2000, was intended to be a unique “global classroom” where ASU students would interact with students at U of S. Richard offered an updated online version of the course at ASU in spring 2006. Awarded a Fulbright Senior Specialist Grant, she returned to South Africa at the request of the U of S English Department Chair, Professor Dirk Klopper, to assist U of S in developing its own comparative American and South African literature courses.

Richard packed her bags, including difficult-to-obtain American texts donated at ASU, and returned to South Africa for five weeks this past June. There she conducted workshops on teaching the online version of her course and presented a paper, “Through Postcolonial Mirrors to a New Millennium,” at the international conference, “Forging the Local and the Global,” hosted by U of S. Richard also participated in discussions with the University of Stellenbosch’s International Programs Office concerning future student and faculty exchanges with both ASU and with universities in Southern California. Richard was pleased to take advantage of this important opportunity and says, “I am hoping that others at ASU will become interested in helping develop comparative literature courses or in faculty or student exchanges in the future.” Her experiences demonstrate how ASU’s English Department can play an important and exciting global role in bridging tremendous gaps—both geographic and scholarly—in the study of comparative literatures.

—Kathleen Hicks

Retirement

“Then go thou forth,  
And fortune play upon thy prosperous helm...”  
—William Shakespeare, *All's Well That Ends Well*

Helms Takes His Leave

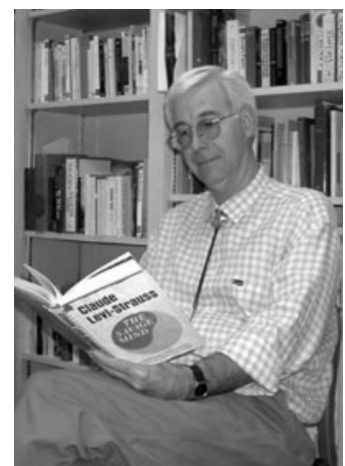
Randel Helms earned his PhD from the University of Washington in 1968 after graduating *magna cum laude* from the University of California, Riverside. After seven years as a professor at UCLA, he made his way to Arizona State in 1976. His mission at ASU, from the start, was to teach his courses in *The Bible as Literature*. His teaching load also included courses in the English Romantic Poets and seminars in Romanticism. I was fortunate enough, as a graduate student, to take three classes with Dr. Helms and later to have him direct my dissertation.

Helms is most proud of the five books he’s written over the course of his career: *Tolkien’s*

*World* (1974); *Tolkien and the Silmarils* (1981); *Gospel Fictions* (1988), which is listed as a very important book by the Skeptic Society; *Who Wrote the Gospels* (1997); and *The Bible Against Itself: Inner-Biblical Conflict and Revision* (2006).

What are his plans for retirement? Helms, who lives in Fountain Hills, hopes to travel more and to tend his garden. Those of us who were fortunate enough to have studied under him at ASU will certainly remember his probing questions in class, his keen intellect, and his gracious way with students and colleagues.

—Jonathan Drnjevic



## In Memoriam: A Tribute to James Green



A pencil sketch of James Green, done for The Saturday Magazine of The Scottsdale Progress in the 1980s.

The recent passing of James Green was a great loss to the extended Creative Writing community at Arizona State University. Professor Green taught Modern American figures for both English majors and creative writing graduate students. We received numerous phone calls over the last several weeks from middle-aged poets and fiction writers lamenting Jim's passing. Jim's dedication to our young poets was equal to his devotion to Stevens, Pound, and H. D. The exponents of information that he carried with him regarding convection voices in Eliot's *The Wasteland*, his knowledge of the suffering of Hilda Doolittle during the firebombing of London, and the passages from Stevens and Frost which he recited from memory—all this weighty glamour of

tradition and the individual talent was at his fingertips. The man had great poise.

Jim invented a tradition here of a Modernist scholar who was willing to roll up his sleeves, take up the red pencil, and offer his best criticism of a student's most recent poem. He had brilliant instincts as a writer and editor, and selflessly donated time and physical energy to the creation of our MFA Program in Creative Writing. Jim was the sweetest of gentlemen—compassionate, easy-going, and with a profound compass for three hundred years of poetry written in the English language. Here, as an English department, we express to his children our gratitude for the gift of their unique and splendid father.

—Norman Dubie and Jeannine Savard

## Word Lovers' Corner: The Intertextuality of Lemony Snicket

Lemony Snicket is the pen name of author Daniel Handler, who undoubtedly spent a goodly number of hours in English classes before writing the thirteen books in *A Series of Unfortunate Events*. These popular kids' books tell the story—actually many stories—of the Baudelaire orphans Violet, Klaus, and Sunny, and their never-ending struggle to keep Count Olaf (a distant relative) from stealing their trust fund fortune.

One secret to the books' success is that they are enjoyed by adults as well as children; Handler's clever use of names communicating one thing to children and another to adults might have something to do with this. For example, the names Klaus and Sunny Baudelaire might remind adults of Claus and Sunny von Bulow. The names of their best friends, Duncan and Isadora Quagmire, could make adults think of Isadora Duncan, while Uncle Monty, a herpetologist, might remind adults of Monty Python. For English majors, the more exciting allusions are to literary figures, as in this sampling:

**Herman Melville:** When a worker gets his leg mangled in *The Miserable Mill* (*Book the Fourth*), his fellow workers give him a coupon for fifty percent off a cast at Paltryville's Ahab Memorial Hospital. In *The Wide Window* (*Book the Third*), the hurricane that sweeps Aunt Josephine away is named Herman, while in *The Grim Grotto* (*Book the Eleventh*), the children have to escape in a miniature submarine named the Queequeg. In *The Austere Academy* (*Book the Fifth*), the Baudelaire children are on a school team that wears Herman Melville shirts, while the villain, Count Olaf, wears an Edgar A. Guest shirt.

**Edgar Allan Poe:** The incompetent bank official from Mulctuary Money Management named Mr. Poe appears in every book and has two sons named Edgar and Albert. The



*Vile Village* (*Book the Seventh*) is centered, both literally and figuratively, around the great Nevermore Tree, home to “a murder of crows,” which Snicket compares to “a flock of geese, or a herd of cows or a convention of orthodontists.” Knowledgeable readers can hardly keep from being reminded of Edgar Allan Poe's “quoth the raven nevermore,” while really knowledgeable adults are probably amused that the children's last name is Baudelaire, the same as Charles Baudelaire, the poet who translated Poe's works into French.

**J. D. Salinger:** A villain almost as bad as Count Olaf is named Esmé Squalor from the title of J. D. Salinger's short story, “To Esmé with Love and Squalor.” Her husband is Jerome, which is Salinger's given name. An extra little joke is the address of the Squalors' penthouse: 667 Dark Avenue, just one off from the Sign of the Beast.

**T. S. Eliot:** Violet was named for “The Violet Hour” in Eliot's *The Wasteland*, a book the Baudelaire parents loved and one that the children use to decipher a coded message. In *The Austere Academy* (*Book the Fifth*), they attend the Prufrock Preparatory School, named after Eliot's “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock.”

Virginia Woolf, George Orwell, Sappho, Gustave Flaubert, James Thurber, and Robert Frost, along with a mysterious Beatrice (perhaps Dante's true love), also make surprising appearances in the books, published by HarperCollins between 1999 and 2006.

—Alleen and Don Nilsen

## Student Clubs Renew English Spirit of Involvement

The Graduate Scholars of English Association (GSEA) is now in its fifteenth year, and its members work hard to keep our organization relevant to all English Department graduate students. GSEA has four specific goals: 1. Encourage opportunities for graduate student service and involvement (this helps make graduate concerns more visible and helps build our *vital*); 2. Supply graduate students with professional development opportunities; 3. Assist graduates in maneuvering their way through their respective programs; and 4. Create a supportive atmosphere for graduate students within the department.

Many students have taken advantage of both our travel grant program and our ongoing professional development series led by Professor Duane Roen and other volunteer faculty. In addition, for the second year in a row, GSEA will award an honorarium in our Colloquium Series, where graduates compete to present their work in front of peers and faculty.

New this semester, GSEA's Outreach Coordinator is directing a department-wide donation drive for the Thomas J. Pappas School for the homeless. We hope this effort will grow into a university-wide project with donation bins placed across campus. —*Johanna Wagner*

The English Club at ASU works to develop a sense of undergraduate community in the English Department and to plan events and initiatives benefiting those students. In addition, we are thrilled to announce our effort to resurrect the student-run literary magazine *Marooned*, and are currently assembling a staff for the Spring 2007 issue.

We were excited to judge the literary costume portion of the English Department's Homecoming "Evening of Wit & Folly" on October 20. We gave two best costume awards: second prize went to "Ben Franklin" (who oddly happened to know all the dance steps from Michael Jackson's "Thriller" video), and first prize to "Sylvia Plath" (who arrived post-mortem, complete with 1950s-style oven range).

The English Club is on Blackboard, so any student interested in joining or wanting to see what the Club is about is welcome to check out the site; enrollment is open to all! —*Ryan Lepic*



*Undergraduate Sarah Wray, as Ben Franklin at ASU English "Evening of Wit & Folly" on October 20.*

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*accents on* **ENGLISH**

NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Coming Events . . .

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| "Getting Acquainted with Bram Stoker"<br>Alan Johnson, Professor Emeritus<br>LL316, 3:15 p.m.            | January 31, 2007  |
| "PUSHing Boundaries, PUSHing Art"<br>A Symposium on the Works of Sapphire<br>ASU Tempe campus, times tba | February 28, 2007 |
| Alumni Lecture Series<br>Robert Stahr Hosman, PhD 1969<br>LL 316, 3:15 p.m.                              | March 8, 2007     |
| Glendon & Kathryn Swarthout Awards in Writing<br>Richard Katrovas, Poet<br>University Club, 7:30 p.m.    | April 17, 2007    |
| Shakespeare's Birthday Bash<br>William Shakespeare Turns 443!<br>ASU Tempe campus, times tba             | April 23, 2007    |



"Be great in act, as you have been in thought."

—William Shakespeare, *King John*