

2013

Department of English 2012-2013 Annual Newsletter

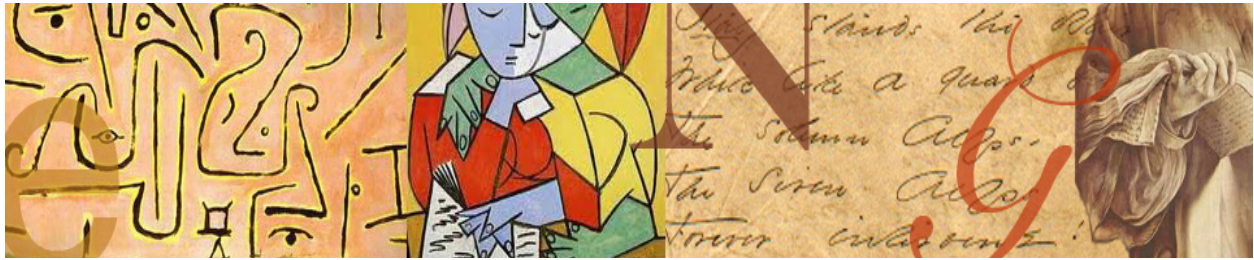
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University of Rhode Island Department of English 2012-13 Annual Newsletter

Faculty News

Instructor Talvi Ansel's poems were published in *The Cincinnati Review* (winter 2013), the anthology *The Hide-and-Seek-Muse: Annotations of Contemporary Poetry* by Lisa Russ Spaar (Drunken Boat, 2013), and the Alhambra Poetry Calendar. She has work forthcoming in *The Kenyon Review*.

Associate Professor Stephen Barber was awarded the 2012 URI Teaching Excellence Award and was nominated for the 2012 FCCE Lifetime Achievement Award. A previous publication of his--an entry on Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick in the

second edition of *The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism* (2005)--was selected for reprint (with catch-up additions) in *Contemporary Literary and Cultural Theory: The Johns Hopkins Guide* (2012). His review of Sedgwick's posthumous writings (*The Weather in Proust* [2011]) is forthcoming in *Psychoanalysis, Culture & Society*. In 2012 he presented a paper on Woolf and ancient philosophy at the annual ACLA conference.

Instructor Elisabeth Bell saw four publications in *FlashPoint*, Spring 2013, Web Issue 15.

<http://www.flashpointmag.com/>: "Stepmother: Robert Coover's Metaphorical Toy Box: Aleatory – No, Relentlessly Ludic – Yes"; "The Notorious Hot Potato: A publication chronology and a bibliography of critical essays and books on *The Public Burning*"; "The Neverending Story of Pinocchio"; and "Hyperboxes, Hyped Boxes, Über-Boxes," on *The Grand Hotels* (of Joseph Cornell).

Associate Professor Carolyn Betensky is completing a translation (from the French, in collaboration with Jonathan Loesberg of American University), as well as an introduction

and annotation, of Eugene Sue's 1843 novel *The Mysteries of Paris*. The translation is under contract with Penguin Classics. She delivered the keynote address ("Envyng the Poor") at the Precarious Lives conference, co-sponsored by the University of Freiburg and the Université de la Sorbonne in Freiburg, Germany in June 2012. She presented "Dickens' Chickens" at the North American Victorian Studies Association conference, University of Wisconsin at Madison in September 2012; "The Fergusonian Field" at the Nineteenth-Century French Studies Association conference, North Carolina State University, in October 2012; and "The Jolly Roast Beef of England: Satire, Slaughterhouses, and the Cultural Logic of Dissociation in Dickens's Monument of French Folly" at the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference, University of Virginia, in March 2013.

Instructor Rosendo Brito self-published *A Voz Bucolica do Cipreste* in Portuguese and then translated it into English

as *The Bucolic Voice of the Cypress*.

Professor Mary Cappello gave invited talks at the University of Pennsylvania's Medical School, Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery where she presented "Chevalier Jackson's Endoscopic Art," as Distinguished Visiting Professor; as guest speaker for the Hartford Medical Society; for Hasbro Children's Hospital Grand Rounds in Pediatric Otolaryngology; and for Rhode Island Hospital's Grand Rounds in Gastroenterology. She served as Keynote Speaker for the 6th Annual Foreign Body Pediatric Airway Endoscopy Course, The Center for Pediatric Airway Disorders and Center for Simulation, Advanced Education and Innovation, at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) where she delivered a talk titled, "'To Make the World Foreign Body Conscious': New Wonders from the Chevalier Jackson Archive." She was recently nominated by a group of physicians to be made an honorary member of the ABEA

(American Bronchoesophagological Association). Cappello served as Keynote Speaker alongside Ann Cvetkovich and Lois Weaver for the 4th Annual Sexuality Summer School, University of Manchester (June 2012), *Homophobia and Other Aversions* where she delivered a talk titled, "*Vice Viscera: The (Dis)gustatory Implications of Aversion*," and where she led a workshop for an international cadre of graduate students in attendance, with novelist Patricia Duncker as discussant, "Discursive Autobiography": Writing Against, From, Toward or About." While in the UK, she also presented her work alongside that of Professor Jean Walton where together they presented "Top and Tail Talks" for the Graduate Program in literary and cultural studies as well as Medical Humanities constituents at Birkbeck College. Cappello also delivered work alongside a group of UK-based scholars and artists at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Pathology Museum and Gallery for a project titled, "Foreign Bodies? Self-Injury, Surgery and Performance."

Subsequently, she was invited along with other experts to discuss particular specimens in the U/College London's newly plumbed Pathology Collection in the Royal Free Hospital Pathology Museum, Hampstead. The resulting films, directed by Paul Craddock and moderated by Sarah Chaney, with the support of the Wellcome Trust, appear here:

<http://damagingthebody.org/downloads/2012-panel-discussion-films/extraordinary-eaters/>.

In February 2013, Cappello was hosted by Lauren Berlant at University of Chicago where she gave an illustrated reading, "On Aversion and Interest" in U/Chicago's Center for Gender and Sexuality Studies' New Queer Writing Series. In March, she helped celebrate Visiting International Writer/Scholar, Dacia Maraini's presence on the URI campus by delivering "Dimmi! Senti! Sicily as Point of Departure, and Point of Return." Cappello's literary nonfiction appeared this year as "Flow," a guest essay for *Bending Genre: Toward a Theory of Creative Nonfiction*, April

2013, <http://bendinggenre.com/>; "Flower Power," in *Heide Hatry: Not a Rose* (new work by Heide Hatry), Milan and New York: Charta, 2012: 182-185; "Contact," in Jacqueline Stacey and Janet Wolff, editors, *Writing Otherwise: Experiments in Cultural Criticism*, University of Manchester Press, 2013: 34-44; and, "Propositions; Provocations; Inventions," in Nicole Walker and Margot Singer, eds., *Bending Genre: Essays on Creative Nonfiction*, Continuum Press, 2013: 65-73. She also composed essays at the invitation of artists and curators for exhibit catalogs: "Rituals in Transfigured Time (After Maya Deren)," to accompany an exhibit at the Paul Robeson Galleries, Rutgers University, Newark, "What cannot be cured must be endured," Anonda Bell, Curator and Director, August 2012 to January 2013. Newark: Paul Robeson Galleries: 40-45, and, "Reading Room," to accompany an Installation by Peter Eudenbach, *To Arrive Where We Started* at the Redwood Library and Atheneum, Newport, RI,

July 15 to June 30th, 2013: 14-19. Cappello's Annual *State of the Art of Nonfiction* Review essay for *Water~stone Review* appeared in Fall 2012 as "Writing the Past in the Future: Memoir, Fictive Nonfiction, and Graphic Poetry." An excerpt from her book *Called Back* was included in Lambda Literary Foundation's *25 for 25: An Anthology of Works by 25 Outstanding LGBT Authors*—an e-book designed to honor authors who have inspired the next generation of LGBT writers. Professor Peter Covino and Mary Cappello carried out an hour-long discussion of beauty and the aesthetic principles that drive their work and research itineraries for URI's "Beauty Salon." In April, Cappello taught a creative nonfiction studio at Frequency Providence titled, *Archaeology of the Actual* on writing objects and place. On May 6th, 2013, she will present *Experiments in (Medical) Nonfiction: Between Writing and Drawing* for the Physician as Communicator Series, Warren Alpert School of Medicine, Brown University.

Associate Professor

Peter Covino's new poetry collection *The Right Place to Jump* was published this Fall 2012, and has been featured on the *Huffington Post*, *NPR*, and *The Rumpus*. The collection also received a 2013 Paterson Award for Literary Excellence. Recently, he was also an invited speaker at the Black Mountain Institute for International Writing, where he gave readings at the University of Nevada Reno and at the University of Nevada Las Vegas that included presenting a paper from a forthcoming essay on Russian Futurist poet Velimir Klebnikov, entitled "Whose Voice Is It Anyway': Avant-garde Poetry and the Challenges of Looking and Perception." He also gave recent readings at California Lutheran University, Northern Arizona University, Arizona State University, the Public Library in Salt Lake City, Hofstra University, Elms College, and for the Poetry Society of America at the New York Botanical Gardens, among others. Prof. Covino's recent poems and translations appear in the fall 2012 *Connecticut Review*, on *Verses Daily*, the *2Bridges Review* and,

this spring, *Interim* will be doing a twenty-page feature of his most recent work. His essay "Queering an Italian American Poetic Legacy" was also published this fall 2012 in *Who's Yer Daddy: Gay Writers Celebrate Their Mentors and Forerunners* from U of Wisconsin Press; and a more recent essay on Inaugural Poet, Richard Blanco, appears in the *Lambda Literary Review*: <http://www.lambdaliterary.org/features/01/09/richard-blanco-inaugural-poet-an-appreciation/>. Currently, Prof. Covino is in residency at La Macina in Greve in Chianti, (Tuscany) Italy. This summer he will be Visiting Artist/Scholar at the American Academy in Rome.

Professor Kathleen Davis has been awarded the 2013 Advanced Career Faculty Research Excellence Award for Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities. In 2012, she published two essays, "Time, Memory, and the Word Hoard" in *A Handbook of Anglo-Saxon Studies*, ed. Renée Trilling and Jacqueline Stodnick. Oxford: Blackwell Press, and "Cross-Dressing the Rose: Sly Allegory in *Sea*

of Poppies" in *History of the Present*, as well as the encyclopedia entry "Old English Poetry" in *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*. Ed. Roland Greene and Jahan Ramazani. Princeton: Princeton University Press. She also published a review of James Simpson's *Under the Hammer* in *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*. So far in 2013, she has published "Old English Lyrics: A Poetics of Experience" in *Cambridge History of Early Medieval English Literature*, ed. Clare Lees. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Her essay "Intralingual Translation and the Making of a Language" will be out shortly in the *Companion to Translation Studies*. Ed. Catherine Porter and Sandra Berman. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. Professor Davis has been traveling nationally and internationally to give invited lectures. In January 2012, she gave the keynote address at the "Medievalisms in the 21st Century" Magdelene College Festival Conference, Cambridge, UK; in April 2012, she presented "Imagining the Past Globally: Questions and Possibilities for the Now and the Future" as

closing plenary speaker at the Conference on The Medieval Globe: Communication, Connectivity, and Exchange, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and in June of 2012, she read "Periods of Sovereignty: Secularization, and the Constitution of Law" at the Laws of Periodization: Making Time in Law and History Scholarship conference at Birkbeck University of London. In February 2013 she presented "Medieval Being: Strategies Academic and Global" at the Medieval Studies Seminar at Harvard University. Later in 2013 she will be giving lectures at U California Davis, Monash University, Italy, Bowdoin College, and The Huntington Library.

Assistant Professor

Sarah Eron published two articles in 2012: "Genius, Muse: Inspiration and Invocation in Fielding's *Tom Jones*," in *The Eighteenth-Century Novel*. 9 (2012): 25-49; and "'Bound... By Their Narrowing Perceptions': Sympathetic Bondage and Perverse Pity in Blake's *Book of Urizen*," in *Blake: An Illustrated*

Quarterly. 46.3 (2012): 1-26. She has also given a number of talks over the past year: she read "Romanticism, Enlightenment, and The Methods of Modern Authorship" and participated on the roundtable session "Redefining Romanticism in the Eighteenth Century" at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies conference in Cleveland, OH, in April 2013; she delivered "Elegy and Example: Pope's Essay on Criticism" at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies conference in Cleveland, OH, in April 2013; she presented "Fielding's Muse: Inspiration, Genius, and the Dialogic Novel" at the Northeastern America Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies conference at Wesleyan University, October 2012, as well as "The Catastrophic Sublime: Barbauld's Spirit of Genius and the Romantic Return" at the American Comparative Literature Association at Brown University in March 2012. Also in March 2012, she read "Secular Enthusiasm" at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century

Studies conference in San Antonio, TX. In August, Professor Eron is scheduled to present "The Sympathetic Mind: Pitiful Sublimity in Rousseau's *Julie*" at the North American Society for Studies in Romanticism conference in Boston, MA. An alumna of Brown University, she was invited to speak on a panel hosted by their English Department in March 2013 about her experience in academia and about the process of becoming an English professor since receiving her undergraduate degree at Brown.

Assistant Professor

David Faflik's book *Boarding Out: Inhabiting the American Urban Literary Imagination, 1840-1860* (Northwestern University Press) appeared in the fall of 2012. Professor Faflik delivered a talk on this same work at URI's Center for the Humanities Festival in March 2013. Faflik published several articles this year as well. His essay "Deep Thought, Shallow Aesthetic: Reading Surface Meaning in Thoreau" appeared in the March 2013 issue of

American Literature, and "A Nobel Sport: The Raceless Football Rhetoric of Mandela, Obama, and Martin Luther King Jr." featured in the November 2012 issue of the *Journal of Sport & Social Issues*. More recently, Faflik has been the recipient of a Faculty Research Grant from URI's Center for the Humanities. He will use this award to facilitate summer archival research at the Gannett Foundation Photographic Study Center, at Rochester's George Eastman House, and Syracuse University Library's Special Collections Research Center (SCRC). This research is in support of Faflik's current book project, on nineteenth-century urban American reading practices.

Instructor Angel Green has been awarded a 2012 Robert and Margaret MacColl Johnson Fellowship by the Rhode Island Foundation. The advertisement for the Fellowship reads: "The Robert and Margaret MacColl Johnson Fellowship Fund, established at the Foundation in 2003, provides up to three \$25,000 artist

fellowships each year, rotating among composers, writers, and visual artists on a three-year cycle. In all three disciplines, the fellowships will be awarded to emerging and mid-career Rhode Island artists whose work demonstrates exceptional creativity, rigorous dedication and consistent artistic practice, and significant artistic merit. This December, the Rhode Island Foundation notified Dr. Angel Y. Green of the University of Rhode Island that she was awarded a 2012 MacColl Johnson Fellowship for her writing."

Professor Naomi Mandel was invited to give two talks in 2013: "9/11 After Generation X," at the University of Arizona, Tucson, in February, and "Violence After Generation X," at Haifa University, Israel, in May. She will deliver "'I was (not) there': Fiction after 9/11," at The Flaming Apple: Aesthetics Post 9/11 conference in May, in Israel. Mandel also participated in an African American Studies Consultation Group, sponsored by the

University Programs division of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. The group of about 15 scholars is part of a USHMM initiative to reach out to African American studies to promote scholarly collaborations on topics of mutual interest.

Instructor Kevin McLellan was runner-up for the 2012 Stephen Dunn Poetry Prize, and Split Oak Press will publish his chapbook, *Shoes on a wire*. He has recent or forthcoming poems in journals and books including: *2014 Poet's Market*, *About Place*, *American Letters & Commentary*, *Body Electric* (anthology), *The Chariton Review*, *Ilk Journal*, *Interim*, *Ocean State Review*, *Poetry Northeast*, and *Vinyl*.

Professor Karen Stein's latest book, *Rachel Carson*, came out in 2012 from Sense Publishers in the *Challenging Authors* series edited by Paul Thomas: <https://www.sensepublishers.com/media/1457-rachel-carson.pdf>. She continues to serve on the editorial boards of the *Challenging Authors*

series at Sense Press and *Margaret Atwood Studies*; she also serves as a manuscript reader and reviewer for Ashgate Press; *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*; *Margaret Atwood Studies*, *African American Review*. She has taught a course on Rachel Carson in 2013 for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Rhode Island.

Associate Professor Ryan Trimm published "Taking You Back: Region, Industry, and Technologies of Living History at Beamish" in the *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, 15:4 (August 2012): 528-546. He also presented two papers: "Living On and Belated Selves: Afterwardsness in the Novels of Will Self," at the Will Self and the Art of the Contemporary conference at the University of Roehampton, London, UK, in March 2013, and "Bestowing Debt: Troping Cultural Heritage" at the Modern Language Association conference in Boston in January 2013.

Professor Jean Walton's article "Media Activists for Livability: An NFB

Experiment in 1970s Vancouver," appeared in the Summer 2012 issue of *Jump Cut: A Review of Contemporary Media*, (54 Summer 2012). In the early 1970s, the National Film Board brought its Challenge for Change Program to a troubled suburb on Canada's West Coast, putting cameras into the hands of disenfranchised residents. The land use battles that ensued complicated Vancouver's image as the Shangri-La of the North. The article may be accessed here: <http://www.ejumpcut.org/currentissue/JeanWaltonNFB/index.html>. In May of 2012, Walton presented part of the most recent chapter of her work on peristalsis and modernity: "Creative Devolution: A Case of Reverse Peristalsis" at the University of London, Birkbeck, UK. She also led a workshop on "Hysteria and the Gut" at the *Sexuality Summer School, 2012: Homophobia and Other Aversions*, University of Manchester, UK. At the March 2013 Society for Cinema and Media Studies conference in Chicago, on a panel exploring "Disembodied voices in the Documentary Soundscape," Walton

delivered a paper on feminist filmmaker, and founder of the NFB's Studio D, Kathleen Shannon, titled "Animating Voices, Onscreen and Off, in Kathleen Shannon's *Working Mothers*."

Assistant Professor Travis Williams

published "The Earliest English Printed Arithmetic Books" in *The Library* in June 2012 and "Procrustean Marxism and Subjective Rigor: Early Modern Arithmetic and Its Readers" in the collection "*Raw Data*" is an *Oxymoron*, edited by Lisa Gitelman and published by the MIT Press in 2013. Williams co-edited, along with Russ McDonald (Goldsmiths, University of London) and Nicholas Nace (University at Binghamton), *Shakespeare Up Close: Reading Early Modern Texts*, published by the Arden Shakespeare in 2012. He co-authored the introduction and contributed his own essay, entitled "The Story of O: Reading Letters in the Prologue to *Henry V*." A review by Williams of *Playing Dirty: Sexuality and Waste in Early Modern Comedy*, by Will Stockton (University

of Minnesota Press, 2011) appeared in *Psychoanalysis, Culture and Society* in 2012. A review of *The Machine in the Text: Science and Literature in the Age of Shakespeare and Galileo*, by Howard Marchitello (Oxford University Press, 2011) is forthcoming in *Notes and Queries*. *Configurations* will publish Williams's essay "The Dialogue of Early Modern Mathematical Subjectivity" in 2013. Williams contributed his paper "Hyperbolic Multiplication: Rhetoric and the Female Mathematician in *The Merchant of Venice*" to the Harvard Shakespearean Studies Seminar and to a seminar at the annual meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America in Toronto. He presented "Printing the Third Dimension in the Renaissance" at the MLA Convention in Boston.

Graduate Student News

Gregory Bagnall presented "Developing a 'Countercoherence'"

Model: Exploring the Problem of the DSM-IV's Reform of GID" at the Gender Matters conference at Governors State University in April 2013. He also presented "Game, Y U No Teach Me Things?: When the University of Rhode Island Ram Becomes a Rabbit(hole)" at Southwest/Texas Popular Culture/American Culture Association's 34th Annual Conference in February 2013.

Kenna Barrett was awarded a URI Graduate School Fellowship for 2013-14 while she works on her dissertation project "Automated Essay Scoring and the Computationalist Paradigm: Assessment Revisited." Her article, "Where Professional Writing Meets Social Change: the Grant Proposal as Site of Hospitality" will appear in the Spring 2013 issue of *Composition Studies*. Kenna delivered a talk at the CCCC Convention in Las Vegas in March 2013 entitled, "Rhapsody and Jeremiad in Nonprofit Texts."

Nancy Benson presented a paper at the CCCC 2013 Conference in March

entitled "Framework for Success: A Writing about Reading Self-Study for First-Year Composition Students."

Rachel Boccio presented "The Economic Definition of Education and the Devaluing of the Humanities in the Public University" on a roundtable on Early American Studies in the Neoliberal University at the Society of Early Americanists 8th Biennial Conference. The conference was held February 28th through March 2nd in Savannah, Georgia. Rachel will be attending the Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth College, June 17-13 2013.

Nancy Caronia won an Italian American Studies Association (IASA), Dissertation Research Award for 2013, as well as the 2013 URI Diversity Award for Graduate Student Excellence. With Edvige Giunta, she co-edited *Personal Effects: Essays on Culture, Teaching, and Memoir in the Work of Louise DeSalvo* (Fordham University Press, forthcoming 2014). She wrote the introduction to Louise DeSalvo's *Casting Off*, (Bordighera Press,

forthcoming 2014). Her essay "Food, Frenzy, and the Italian American Family in Anne Bancroft's *Fatso*," appeared in the *Italian American Review* 3.1, 2013. Her book reviews include a review of *Sometimes It Snows in America* by Marisa Labozzetta. *Voices of Italian Americana* (VIA). Forthcoming, 2013; of *Sweet Hope* by Mary Bucci Bush. VIA. Forthcoming, 2013, and of *American Woman, Italian Style: Italian Americana's Best Writings on Women* edited by Carol Bonomo Albright and Christine Palamidessi Moore. *Journal of American Ethnic History* 32.2, 2013. Caronia was invited to read "Don't Eat the Neighbors!: Images of Gender and Race in Colson Whitehead's *Zone One*" at the Diversity Brown Bag Discussions, sponsored by the University of Rhode Island Multi-Cultural Center, Kingston, RI, in April 2013. Her conference presentations included "The Violence of Displacement in Bernadine Evaristo's *The Emperor's Babe*," NEMLA, Boston, MA, 2013; "Reading Mary Bucci Bush's *Sweet Hope*: A Roundtable Discussion

with Mary Jo Bona, Nancy Caronia, and Kathleen Zamboni McCormick," at the IASA, hosted by Hofstra University in 2012. She served as panel moderator and respondent on "Women, Memory, and the Quotidian: A Memoir Reading with Edvige Giunta, Joanna Clapps Herman, and Agnes Rossi," also at the IASA in 2012.

Rebekah Greene has given three talks this year. She was invited to speak to Professor Scott Shumway's BIO 111 class at Wheaton College in November 2012 on the topic of "*The Origin of Species* and the Victorian Literary Response: Tennyson and Hopkins." As a recipient of a Center for Humanities graduate research grant, she was invited to present "Buttons, Books, and Coats: The Shifting Nature of Things in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped*" as part of the 2013 URI Humanities Festival. Greene also presented "Nazis on Skis!: Images of Canadian Resistance in World War Two Propaganda" as part of the Film and History division at the 2013 PCA/ACA conference in Washington, DC.

Furthermore, Greene received a Routledge *Annotated Bibliography of English Studies* research grant for her work on Victorian adventure literature (summer 2012), work which will be completed during summer 2013. She continues to serve as a bibliographer for both the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals, as well as the Crusades Project, in addition to working as a peer reviewer for the MLA-indexed *Victorian Network*. Additionally, an encyclopedia to which she contributed an article on Congressman David Crockett and an article on the *Crockett Almanacs*, the *Encyclopedia of the Environment in American Literature*, has finally been published (2013) by MacFarland. Outside of the academy, she was selected, in both 2012 and 2013, to serve as a judge for the *Boston Globe/Scholastic* writing awards (<http://www.artandwriting.org/>) and recently auditioned for the *Jeopardy!* television program for the third time. During 2012-2013, Greene served as a Visiting Instructor in the Department of English at

Wheaton College.

Sarah Kingston

presented a paper entitled "'Sick bodies are of no use to the King': Insomnia in Ford Madox Ford's *Parade's End* and Siegfried Sassoon's *Memoirs of an Infantry Officer*" at the Ford Madox Ford Society conference at the University of London in September 2012. For travel to the conference, she received funding from Hope and Heritage and an Enhancement for Graduate Research Award.

J. C. Lee published "Contemporary US-American Satire and Consumerism" in *Comparative Literature and Culture* (CLCWeb). In addition to presenting her dissertation project, "Opting-In Online: Participants' Perceptions of Knowledge Construction in Public Forum Communities" to the Research Network Forum (RNF) at the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), Lee has presented "New Media Multimodal Genres: Defining Conventions of Online Forums" at the New England Modern

Language Association (NeMLA), and "The Rhetoric of Science among Experientially Self-Trained Hobbyists" as part of URI's English Graduate Colloquium.

Rachel May published a review of *The Sociology of Diagnosis*, Annemarie Jutel, *Disability Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 33, No. 1 (2013), <http://dsq-sds.org/>. Her "Shapes Like Leaves," Fiction & Sewn Images, will be published in the *New Delta Review*, Summer 2013. She was a finalist for the Fiction Scholarship for Tin House Writers' Workshops 2013. She presented a paper, "Why Do I Love this Trash? Postfeminists and 'Golddiggers' in the Docusoap *Real Housewives*," at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association conference in Washington DC in March 2013. She also presented "A Rhetorical Analysis of 'Modern' Quilt blogs" at the Association of Cultural Studies conference in Paris, France, in July 2012 and was a panelist for "The Future of Quilting" event at The New England Quilt Museum, in August 2012.

Barnaby McLaughlin

presented a paper, "I Can Haz an Electric Cheezburger: Animals, Empathy, and the Internet," at the Harvard/MIT "Navigating a Multispecies World" Conference in April 2013. He also won a \$500 travel award to present the paper "Poodles Maketh the Man: Companion Species and American Identity in John Steinbeck's *Travels With Charley*" at the John Steinbeck Society of America's annual conference hosted by San Jose State University in May 2013.

Michele Meek

was awarded an Enhancement of Graduate Research Award from the Graduate School at URI. She presented her related research "Seduction, Rape, and Voyeurism in George Lippard's *The Quaker City* and Reports of the Heberton-Mercer Case" at the 2013 College English Association Conference. Her book review of Cindy Hing-Yuk Wong's *Film Festivals: Culture, People, and Power on the Global Screen* was published in the March 2013 edition of the *Journal of Popular Film and Television*.

Sara Murphy ran a workshop titled "Do the Dead Check Facebook?: Grieving in the Age of Social Media" at The Humanities and Technology Camp at Vanderbilt University in November. In March, at the Northeast Modern Language Association Conference in Boston, she presented a paper titled "I still feel - kind of temporary about myself: Psychosocial Approaches to Suicide and Integrity in *Death of a Salesman*." Additionally, she organized a roundtable panel featuring department alumnae Jenn Brandt, Eva Jones, and Don Rodrigues, entitled "Gendering the Houses of Higher Education: Traditions and Transitions in Colleges, Programs, and Classrooms" at the Gender Matters Conference in Chicago in April, at which she also presented her work, "'I Don't Feel Safe Here': Embracing Faculty-Student Initiatives to Expose Campus Rape Climates." In the fall, she was re-elected as a Graduate Liaison to the Department of English. This spring, she was a recipient of the Weyker Endowment of

Thanatology through the Program of Thanatology in support of her design and execution of Honors Program courses in death and dying at the University of Rhode Island.

Jenny Platz published an essay in the December 2012 issue of *Enthymema*. Her essay was titled "Return to the Grindhouse: Tarantino and the Modernization of 1970s Exploitation Films." She also presented "The Weirs' Painful Musical Nostalgia in Freaks and Geeks" at the 2013 PCA National Conference.

Karen Shea presented "I Think I Know What You Mean: Using Think-Aloud Protocols to Assess L2 Learners' (Mis) Understandings of Teacher Comments."

Clarissa Walker conducted an interview with Harvard Law Professor Charles Ogletree for the 2013 Black History Month events. Ogletree, who is acknowledged as a mentor to Michelle and Barack Obama, discussed multicultural classrooms, mentorship and pedagogy and "Post-Racial America in the Age

of Obama." <http://www.uri.edu/news/releases/?id=6524>. In addition, she presented research entitled "When the Dance is Over: The Evolution of the African Diaspora Blogger" at the 2013 NAAAS (National Association of African American Scholars) Conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. A featured speaker of the URI Multicultural Center 2013 Diversity Brown Bag discussions, she presented a talk in April on "The Exoticization of the Garifuna in Central America" at the Hardge Forum.

Kara Watts attended the NeMLA 2013 Convention in Boston in March, presenting a paper on American landscapes in literature titled "An American Dwelling Place: The Literary Landscapes of James and Jewett" on the "Landscape and Literature: Human/Nature Intersections" panel. She was granted funding from the Hope and Heritage Fund to attend.