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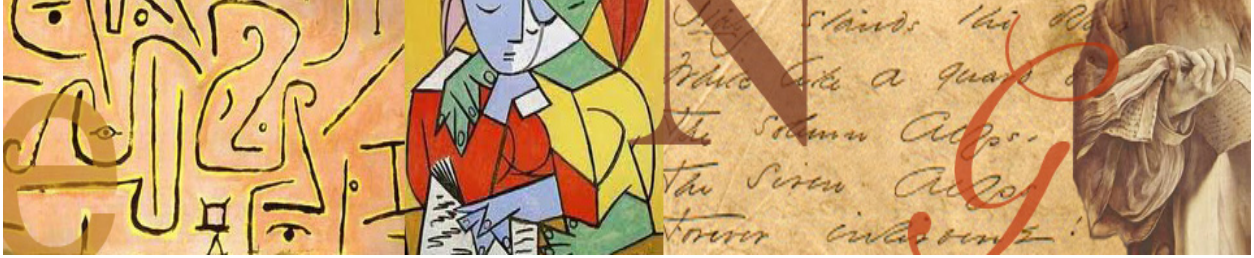
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## University of Rhode Island Department of English 2013-14 Annual Newsletter

### FACULTY NEWS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CAROLYN BETENSKY completed her book project, a translation and annotation (with Jonathan Loesberg) of Eugène Sue's 1843 *The Mysteries of Paris*. This book is under contract with Penguin Classics, with expected date of publication in 2015. Betensky also published two book reviews. Her review of Rae Greiner's *Sympathetic Realism in Nineteenth-Century British Fiction* appears in *Nineteenth-Century Contexts* 36.1 (2014), and her review of Rebecca N. Mitchell's *Victorian Lessons on Empathy and Difference* was published in *Victorian Studies* 55.4 (2013). Betensky gave two invited lectures this year: "The Spectral Working-Class Reader in *Les Mystères de Paris*" at the "Urban Mysteries: from the Mysteries of Paris to the American Noir" Conference (University of California, Santa Barbara, 2014) and "Envyng the Poor" at URI's English Faculty Lecture Series (2013). She delivered two conference papers: "On Getting Sick of Ideas: Failure in the Academic Field," part of a panel on Failure Studies, at the Modern Language

Association conference, Chicago (2014), and "The Will to Know in *The Life and Adventures of Michael Armstrong, Factory Boy*: Trollope contra Foucault," part of the North American Victorian Studies Association conference (University of Southern California, 2013).

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR STEPHEN BARBER's "The Weather in Proust," a review of Sedgwick's posthumous writings, appears in *Psychoanalysis, Culture & Society*, 18.4 (2013).

PROFESSOR MARY CAPPELLO's novella-length essay "My Secret, Private Errand (An Essay on Love and Theft)" was published in the Fall 2013 issue of *Salmagundi*. She published two additional pieces—"Shop-Door Bell," in *Tusculum Review* (Summer 2014) and "Merit Badge," in *Iron Horse Literary Review* (Summer 2013)—and a book chapter: "Wending Artifice: Creative Nonfiction" in the *Cambridge Companion to Autobiography* (edited by Maria diBattista and Emily Wittman). Cappello's interview with David Lazar appears in *The Conversant* under the title

["Voluptuously, Expansively, Historically, Contradictorily: Essaying the Interview"](#). "Disconcerting Pleasures; or, The Mysterious Unknowability of the Mind," Cappello's conversation with doctor/author, Christine Montross, will be posted to the [BLP \(Bellevue Literary Press\) Conversation Series](#) on May of 2014. At this year's AWP Convention in Seattle, Cappello gave two talks: "Lyric Essay as Perversion: Channeling Djuna Barnes" (part of the "Modernism and the Lyric Essay" panel) and "Courting the Peculiar: The Ever Changing Queerness of Creative Nonfiction." Cappello was a participant and presenter at [The Essay in Public](#), a day-long conference at Brown University.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR PETER COVINO's poetry collection, *The Right Place to Jump*, will be reissued in 2014 by New Issues Press. The collection received the Paterson Poetry Prize for Literary Excellence, and was reviewed in [Lambda Literary](#), [The Rumpus](#), and [The Volta](#). His poems, "Armies in the Blood: Disappearing Soldiers" and "Ecstatic Song" appear in *Witness* 27.1(2014); "Anterior (with Dictionary Chain)," "Not the Crisis of the Half Notes," "Sex with Art with Capitalized Prepositions," and "The Jungle So Far" were published in *Interim* 30.1&2 (2013) together with his translations of Italian poet Dario Bellezza. Additional translation work by Covino (poems by Ricardo Cordiferro and Efreem Bartoletti) is included in *Italoamericana: The Literature of the Great Migration, 1880-1943*, edited by Francesco Durante et.al. and published by Fordham University Press. Covino presented or participated in poetry events at the Mass Poetry Festival (Salem, MA), Regis College

(Weston, MA), the Colrain Poetry Conference (Wilmington, VT), the NYU Bookstore (NYC), Books on the Square (Providence, RI), the Italian American Writers Association (NYC), and the Italian American Studies Association Conference (New Orleans, LA).

PROFESSOR KATHLEEN DAVIS's article "Timelines: Secularity, Modernity, and Conscience" is forthcoming in *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* as part of a special issue on Subaltern Studies. She also published "Intralingual Translation and the Making of Language" in *Companion to Translation Studies* (edited by Catherine Porter and Sandra Berman and published by Wiley-Blackwell) and "Old English Lyrics: A Poetics of Experience" in *Cambridge History of Early Medieval English Literature* (edited by Clare Lees and published by Cambridge University Press). Davis gave a number of invited lectures and keynote talks in 2013. "Time, Politics, Theology" (at Bowdoin College), "Medieval Being: Strategies Academic and Global" (at Harvard University's Medieval Studies Seminar), and "Temporality and the Constitution of Categories" at the International Workshop on Narratives of Secularization: Varieties, Contexts, Purposes (Monash Centre, Prato, Italy). In June, Davis will give a talk at UC Davis on "Periodization as a Global Strategy."

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR SARAH ERON's book, [Inspiration in the Age of Enlightenment](#), was published by University of Delaware Press in March of 2014. This project was supported by URI Center for the Humanities Subvention Grant.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR DAVID FAFLIK received an Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship from the Massachusetts Historical Society, in Boston, where he will be in residence in June 2015. His essay "Light Writing: Verbal, Visual, and Virtual Images in the STEM Classroom" was published in *Currents in Teaching and Learning* (2012-2013), and his review of Jack Turner's edited collection, *A Political Companion to Henry David Thoreau* is included in *boundary 2*'s online [Culture & Politics](#) project. In March, Faflik delivered a paper titled "A Critical Case for 'Little' History" at the biannual meeting of the Society for Nineteenth-Century Americanists (C19), held this year in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

INSTRUCTOR ABBOTT IKELER delivered two talks as part of his annual lecture series at the University of Bochum in Germany. "By No Means a Simple Copy: Byron's Manfred and Goethe's Faust" (2013) and "Romancing the Barbarous Past: Saxons and Normans in Nineteenth Century British Literature" (2014).

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR J. JENNIFER JONES won the 2014 URI Foundation Teaching Excellence Award." She also was awarded a Junior Scholar Faculty Fellowship by the URI Center for Humanities (2013) Jones published "Flanking Romantic Marriage," a review essay of Eric C. Walker's *Marriage, Writing, and Romanticism: Wordsworth and Austen After War*, in *Eighteenth-Century Life* 37.2 (2013). "Left Hanging: Sovereign Crisis and Wordsworth," Jones' review of Emily Sun's *Succeeding King Lear: Literature, Exposure, & The Possibility*

*of Politics*, appeared in *Studies in Romanticism* 52.1 (2013). In 2013, Jones participated in the Organizing Committee of the Annual North American Society for the Study of Romanticism (NASSR) Conference, where she chaired a panel on "Dreams and Digressions." Jones also assisted with the editing of *European Romantic Review*'s special journal issue on *Romantic Movements* 25.3 (2014).

INSTRUCTOR ROBERT LEUCI reports that his book *Fence Jumpers* will be republished in both trade paperback and ebook, his play *The Centurion* will be performed at Roger Williams theater, and a short story he wrote will be included in an anthology edited by Ann Hood. This summer, Andrew Pilkington, one of Leuci's URI students, plans to adapt one of Leuci's short stories to film.

PROFESSOR NAOMI MANDEL was awarded a URI Center for Humanities Subvention Grant and a URI Project Completion Grant for her book project *Disappear Here: Violence After Generation X* (under contract with Ohio State University Press). Her outreach project, *Flipping the Script*, was a semi-finalist for a Rhode Island Innovation Fellowship Grant. Mandel participated in URI's English Faculty Lecture Series with "I am Jack's Revolution: *Fight Club* and Hacker Culture." Her first book, *Against the Unspeakable: Complicity, the Holocaust, and Slavery in America*, was reviewed in *Holocaust Studies* 18.1 (2013), and her edited book *Bret Easton Ellis: American Psycho, Glamorama, Lunar Park*, will be reissued as ebook by Bloomsbury in Summer 2014.

INSTRUCTOR KEVIN MCLELLAN's recent publications (poetry, prose, and drama) can be found in journals and books including: *2014 Poet's Market*, *American Letters & Commentary*, *Fourteen Hills*, *Hawai'i Review*, *Puerto del Sol*, *The Qouch*, *Ruminate*, *Sixth Finch*, *Sugar House Review*, and others. *Thrush Poetry Journal* nominated his poem "His interior, thickening" for a Pushcart Prize. He has work forthcoming in: *Gargoyle*, *The Journal of Compressed Creative Arts*, and others.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR JOSIE SIGLER was awarded a 2014 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Literature (Fiction) for *The Flying Sampietrini*, a novel taking place during the World War II occupation of Rome. URI's Center for the Humanities awarded Sigler a Research Grant for this project. Sigler also won a residency at the Millay Colony in New York.

PROFESSOR KAREN F. STEIN published two book chapters. "Surviving the Waterless Flood: Feminism and Ecofeminism in Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Oryx and Crake*, and *The Year of the Flood*" appears in J. Brooks's edited collection *Critical Insights: Margaret Atwood* (Salem Press, 2013), and "Inclusion and Exclusion in Some Feminist Utopian and Dystopian Fiction" is included in Sharon R. Wilson's edited collection, *Women's Utopian and Dystopian Fiction* (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2013). Stein presented "Post-Apocalypse, Post-Human: Some Recent Dystopias" at the annual NeMLA (Northeast Modern Language Association) conference in Harrisburg, PA, 2014.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RYAN TRIMM published "The Suburbs That Did It': Hanif Kureishi's *The Buddha of Suburbia* and Metropolitan Multicultural Fiction." This essay is forthcoming in *Hanif Kureishi: Contemporary Critical Perspectives*, Edited by Susan Alice Fischer (Bloomsbury Press, 2014). At a conference on Haunted Landscapes, Nature, Super-Nature and the Environment, held at Falmouth University, UK. (2014) Trimm presented "Witching Welcome: Haunting and Postimperial Hospitality in Hillary Mantel and Helen Oyeyemi."

PROFESSOR JEAN WALTON read from her memoir TIDELINES at "Peripheral Visions: The Centrality of Landscape on the Fringe," at the Surrey Art Gallery in British Columbia, Canada. Walton also presented "Creative Devolution: A Case of Reverse Peristalsis" as part of a panel on "the Modernity of Bodily Functions: Sleep, Sex, Elimination" at Modernist Studies Association, Brighton, UK (2013).

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR TRAVIS D. WILLIAMS published "The Dialogue of Early Modern Mathematical Subjectivity" in the Winter 2013 issue of *Configurations*. His review of Howard Marchitello's *The Machine in the Text: Science and Literature in the Age of Shakespeare and Galileo* appeared in *Notes and Queries* in June 2013. Williams presented two conference papers: "Managing Notational White in Early Modern Printed Mathematics," part of the Printed Mathematics in the Early Modern World conference held at All Souls College in Oxford (2013) and "Linguistic Nationalism and Euclidean Geometry in Early Modern England" at

the conference of the Renaissance Society of America in New York in 2014. At the Shakespeare Association of America's annual meeting at St. Louis in 2014 Williams led a seminar on "Evidence in Early Modern Drama Studies." Professor Williams has enjoyed a sabbatical year in 2013-14, during which he has conducted research in Berkeley, London, Budapest, at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., and at the Huntington Library in Pasadena, with support from URI's Center for the Humanities, the College of Arts and Sciences Hope and Heritage Fund, and the Office of the Provost's Faculty Development Fund.

## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

BETH ANISH hosted the New England regional meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS) at CCRI's Warwick campus (2013). The conference had about 70 attendees, including 45 panelists, and 3 plenary events. At this conference Anish also participated in a round table discussion on "Hyphenated Identities: The Many Meanings of Irish-American."

GREGORY BAGNALL participated at trans\*: Tufts Graduate Humanities Conference with a talk on "Inking Gender: Tattoos, Surgical Scars and the Transmasculine Body." He presented "Gamers' Choice and NPCs' Indifference: The Limitations Skyrim Places on Race and Gender" at the Queerness and Games Conference (University of California-Berkeley), and "Roleplaying Gender: Enacting Positive Identity Tourism in Video Games," at Gender Matters (Governors State University). "A regular kid and her

cradle-robbing, creature-of-the-night boyfriend': The Trouble with Normal in Buffy the Vampire Slayer," was presented at a conference on "Buffy to Batgirl" (Rutgers University-Camden). Bagnall's essay, "Trafficking in Virtual Queerness: Queering Gaming Technology and Design Philosophies," has been accepted for inclusion in a collection on Queerness and Games.

KENNA BARRETT, the recipient of a 2013-14 Graduate Fellowship, received an EGRA award, had a paper accepted at the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), and was accepted into the Dartmouth Summer Seminar for Composition Research (July-Aug 2014)

JILLIAN BELANGER is the recipient of a 2014 Ignite Award for Creative and Entrepreneurial Leadership. She organized a one-day humor symposium called "Open Mic, Open Minds: An Exploration of Social Issues Through Stand-Up." Belanger participated at the 4th Annual Humor Research Conference with a presentation on "Joking in Other Languages" and a poster on "Nelson Mandela's Use of Humor." She presented "Humor in the Classroom" at a conference on Urban Education at Roger Williams University, "Comedy Meets Media: How Changes in Media Have Affected Stand-up Comedy" at the URI Graduate Conference, and "Supporting ELL Students" at the RI League of Charter Schools' conference on Excellence in Education.

ANNA BRECKE's article "Top Hat, Fashion Magazine, and Shoppiness: Mary Elizabeth Braddon, Material Culture and the OED" was published in *The Victorian* 1.2. (2013). A blog post,

“Where have all the Buffys gone?: the Grimm and Supernatural absence of girls who Kick ass on TV” appears in *MP: an Online Feminist Journal*. Brecke presented “This is about us getting home to our loved ones: Enlightened Sexism in Grimm, Once Upon a Time and Beauty & the Beast” at the Popular Culture/ American Culture Association conference, “Where Have All the Buffys Gone?: The Grimm and Supernatural absence of girls who kick ass on TV” at the Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association, and “Reading Palimpsestically: the body of the governess in popular Victorian fiction” at the Victorian Popular Fiction Association (held at the University of London’s Institute for English Studies). At the Northeast Modern Language Association Brecke organized a section on “Victorian Saints and Sinners.” Brecke is a recipient of a Center for the Humanities Travel Grant and co-founder, together with Dr. Janine Hatter, of the Mary Elizabeth Braddon Association.

RACHEL BOCCIO will be presenting the paper "What Sort of a Man was Wakefield?: Privacy and Selfhood in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *Twice-Told Tale*" as part of a panel on “Surveillance and Privacy in Hawthorne” at the American Literature Association's annual conference in Washington D.C. This spring, Boccio participated in the Just Teach One Project. Coordinated by Ed White and Duncan Faherty, Just Teach One encourages the teaching of neglected texts. This semester's selected text was Sarah Savage's *The Factory Girl* (1814). Boccio taught the novel to a select group of students at John R. Manson Youth Institution in Cheshire, CT, and wrote an essay about the

experience. "Teaching *The Factory Girl* to Prison Boys" will appear on the American Antiquarian Society's Common-Place site: [www.common-place.org/justteachone/](http://www.common-place.org/justteachone/)

ASHTON FOLEY presented two papers: “The Victorian Woman as Prescribed by Medical Science,” (at PCA/ACA Annual Conference, Chicago, IL) and “Degeneration in *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*: Mental Illness or Individual Choice?” (University of Rhode Island Graduate Conference, Kingston, RI).

KIM EVELYN was awarded a Graduate School Fellowship, a URI Center for the Humanities Graduate Research Grant, and a Department of English Excellence in Teaching Award. In February, as part of the Graduate Colloquium in the Department of English, she delivered a talk on “Speaking Home and History: Zadie Smith’s *White Teeth* and Narratives of National Belonging.” Evelyn served on the Department of English Graduate Committee as a Graduate Representative and has recently started working with the Literacy Volunteers of Washington County.

MEGHAN J. FAIR earned second place in The Graduate Nancy Potter Critical Essay Contest for "The Courage of Truth in Virginia Woolf's *Three Guineas*." She participated in URI's Online Teaching Fellows program, and continues to serve as managing editor of [the URI Graduate Student blog](#).

REBEKAH GREENE was nominated for the “Access-Friendly Teaching Faculty of the Year” Award by the Worcester Polytechnic Institute Office of Disability Services in Spring 2014. At

the Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies of the Western United States (VISAWUS) 2014 conference she will present “A “taste in common”: Questioning the Collector’s Role in *The Woman in White*.” Greene continues to serve as an annotator for the Research Society of Victorian Periodicals (RSVP) Bibliography, a position she has held since 2011, and as a reviewer for the journal *Victorian Network* (a position she has held since 2009) She was invited to serve as a judge for the 2013 Boston Globe Scholastic Writing Awards in the Personal Memoir, Short Story, Senior Portfolio, Poetry, Journalism, and Drama categories. Greene co-chaired (with Anna Brecke) a roundtable session at the 2014 NorthEast Modern Languages Association (NeMLA) conference in Harrisburg on the topic of “Victorian Saints and Sinners,” and co-chaired (with Jessica Gray) a NeMLA panel session on “Robert Burns and His Nineteenth Century Literary Heirs.” Greene’s review of Megan Gannon’s *Cumberland* (2013) is forthcoming in the *Ocean State Review*.

BEAZLEY KANOST received URI’s Center for the Humanities Excellence Award for outstanding achievement in the study of the Humanities. Her essay, “The Agitating Power of Civil Rights Cool in ‘Going to Meet the Man’” appears in *James Baldwin: Challenging Authors*, edited by A. Scott Henderson and P. L. Thomas. Kanost also won a Research Grant from URI’s Center for the Humanities to support her travel to the Shirley Clarke archives at the University of Wisconsin. She presented “Whose Cool? The Direction Truth Takes in Portrait of Jason” at The University of Rhode Island Center for the Humanities and English Graduate

Colloquium, and participated, with Clarissa Walker, in a round table discussion on “Representing Race: Negotiating Critical Distance and Necessary Investment” at the New England American Studies Association Conference.

ROSALEEN KEEFE’s edited volume, [\*Scottish Philosophy of Rhetoric: Selected Philosophical Writings\*](#), was published by Imprint Academic in 2013 as part of their series on Library of Scottish Philosophy.

J. C. LEE successfully defended her dissertation *Opting in Online: Participants’ Perceptions of Knowledge Construction in Public Forum Communities* and accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Developmental Writing at California State University at Northridge, a position she will begin in Fall of 2014. Together with Nancy Caronia, Lee, who served as Interim Director of URI’s Writing Center, piloted The Writing Center’s Tutor to Go series for extended walk-in tutoring during exam weeks, and coordinated The Writing Center’s Interdisciplinary Nitty Gritty Writing Time Workshop Series. Lee presented “Complicating Digital Citizens’ Credibility: Experiential Knowledge and Self-Instruction in Digital Citizenry” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication (2014), “Leading Institutional Change: URI’s Writing Center Forges New Alliances to Diversity the Center and Promote its Inclusion on Campus” at Northeast Writing Center Association (NEWCA) (2014), “Opting-in Online: Self Motivated Knowledge Making and Literacy Development through Public Online Forums” at the Writing Research



Across Borders Conference at the Université Paris-Ouest Nanterre la Défense in Paris, France (2014). She organized and/or moderated “Think Tank: Basic Writing” at CCCC (2014) and “The Most Diverse Place on Campus: Why Writing Centers Are Necessary” at University of Rhode Island’s Diversity (2013).

BETH LEONARDO presented “Earsplitting Silence: Exploring the Proliferation of Social and Gender Bias in Mike Nichols’ *Working Girl*” at URI’s 2014 Graduate Conference, and won a URI Graduate School Tuition Scholarship for the 2014-2015 academic year.

RACHEL MAY’s book, *Quilting with a Modern Slant* was published with Storey LLC. *Quilting with a Modern Slant* has been reviewed in the *LA Times* and *Chicago Tribune*, and is featured on [marthastewartliving.com](http://marthastewartliving.com). May has toured 15 cities to promote this book, which has sold approximately 10,000 copies to date. Her sewn images and fiction “Very Quiet,” appear in *1913: A Journal of Forms* (2013); “Sea Series,” a collaboration with Ariella Ruth, appears in *Yew Journal*, and “Otherwise Known As” appears in *Michigan Quarterly Review* (2014) where May’s work is featured on the cover. May published an interview with John Yau in the *Los Angeles Review of Books* (Oct. 27, 2013). Her work received an Honorable Mention in the Ninth Letter Fiction Contest, and May was a Finalist for the Les Figues book contest, the Gold Line Press chapbook contest, and the Tin House Writers Conference Fiction Fellowship. May co-curated “Unbound: Artists & Quilters Redefine the Quilt” at Babson College (Nov-Feb, 2013-2014).

She is commissioned to illustrate, with sewn images, two novellas from Jaded Ibis Press.

MICHELE MEEK presented “The Politics and Aesthetics of Consent in A.M. Homes’s *The End of Alice* and Emily Prager’s *Roger Fishbite*” at the Northeast Modern Language Association in 2014. Meek is co-editor, with Minhae Shim and Erin Trahan, of [\*The Independent's Guide to Film Distribution\*](#), which saw its second edition in 2014.

SARA MURPHY received her certification in thanatology (CT) through the governing body of the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC). Murphy’s attendance at the annual ADEC conference was supported by a grant from the Weyker Foundation. At the Northeast Modern Language Association (2014), Murphy collaborated with URI alum Don Rodrigues to present a panel on “Power, Privilege, and the Politics of Recoherence,” and presented “Ruptures and Recoherence in Radical Feminist Pedagogical Writing and Praxes.” The panel included current and former URI graduates Brittany Hirth, Dr. Laurie Carlson, and Judah-Micah Lamar.

JAY PETER’s essay “Speak White: Language Policy, Immigration Discourse, and Tactical Authenticity” was published in *College English* (2013). He presented “Tierra Contaminada: Contaminated Ground and Access to Place” at the 2014 Conference on College Composition and Communication in Indianapolis, IN. He will participate in the Rhetoric Society of America’s RSA14: Border Rhetorics conference with “Materialist Rhetoric and the Indeterminate Material

Environment" and "Immigrant as Rhetorical Border Crosser: A Case Study of Francophone New England."

Renewed" at MATSOL Conference (2014).

JENNY PLATZ presented "Post-Apocalyptic Survival Guilt and Female Adolescence in *The Last of Us*" at NEMLA 2014. She published "The Woman in the Red Dress: Sexuality, Femme Fatales the Gaze, and Ada Wong" in Nadine Farghaly's edited collection *Unraveling Resident Evil: Essays on the Complex Universe of the Games and Films* and "Tamara de Lempicka, Glorificus, and the Modern Woman" in *Slayage* (May/June 2013).

GABRIEL E. ROMAGUERA participated at NEMLA with "Dungeons and Diasporas: Experiences Teaching a Novel with Spanglish in an Intro to Literature Course" and as moderator of a roundtable discussion on Pedagogical Approaches to the Literature of the Caribbean Diaspora. He also participated at Western PR TESOL with a paper on "Outside the Margins: Going Beyond the Standards of Storytelling" (2014). At Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico in 2014, Romaguera gave a talk on "Following the @Author: Exploring Authorial Performances in Contemporary Serial Fiction."

KAREN SHEA presented "Looking Inward to See Others More Clearly: Using Literacy Event Analyses to Foster Self-Discovery and Open-Mindedness in the Multicultural Classroom" at CCCC (2014), "Connecting Rather Than Colliding: When American and Chinese Rhetorical Styles Meet in the University Classroom" at Johnson & Wales University Faculty Symposium (2014), and "Writing About Writing and Speaking About Speaking: ESL Topics