2015

Department of English 2014-2015 Annual Newsletter

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FACULTY NEWS


ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CAROLYN BETENSKY submitted the final version of a 1392-page translation from the French (with her collaborator from American University, Jonathan Loesberg) of Eugene Sue's 1843 blockbuster novel The Mysteries of Paris. It will be published in December 2015 by Penguin Classics. She published a book chapter, “Envying the Poor: Contemporary and Nineteenth-Century Fantasies of Vulnerability,” in Narrating Poverty and Precarity in Britain (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2014), edited by Barbara Korte and Frederic Regard. At the British Studies Association conference at Bates College in October 2014, she moderated a panel organized by three of her magnificent graduate students (Barbara Farnworth, Ashton Foley, and Beth Leonardo). In April 2015, she hosted the annual conference of the Northeast Victorian Studies Association on the Providence campus: with the theme "Victorian Accidents," the conference drew a distinguished lineup of speakers and over seventy registered attendees. She continues to serve as Book Review Editor for the journal Psychoanalysis, Culture & Society.

PROFESSOR MARY CAPPELLO is the recipient of the URI Foundation’s Scholarly Excellence Award for 2015. Her new book, Life Breaks In: A Mood Almanack, an experimental work of literary nonfiction, is under contract with the University of Chicago Press. Cappello’s essay, “My Secret, Private Errand (An Essay on Love and Theft)” (Salmagundi, Fall 2013) enjoyed the honor of being named a Notable Essay of the Year in Best American Essays 2014. This past Spring, Cappello served as the John and Mary Esposito Visiting Faculty Fellow in Italian-American Culture and History at U/Mass, Dartmouth where she visited classes in Sexuality and Literature, and Multi-Disciplinary Studies, and where she made a public presentation, “Improper
Documents/Unsung Art: Making Literary Nonfiction from Italian/American Experience.” She was also hosted in BYU’s Reading Series where she spoke on “Audacity of Form” with classes in the history of the essay and creative nonfiction and gave a public reading, “Of Clouds and Moods.”

Cappello made a return visit to Brown University’s Warren Alpert School of Medicine this Spring for their Physician as Communicator program where she delivered a reading excerpted from her new work on mood, and led a workshop for physicians-in-training, “Writing What You Witness and Feel.” “Lyric Essay as Perversion: Channeling Djuna Barnes,” a presentation for AWP 2014, appears at TriQuarterly on-line. In the November 2014 issue of The Conversant, poet and Associate Professor Peter Covino and Mary Cappello interview each other on the matter of “beauty” in their work and the work they love to read; on anti-beauty, un-beauty, disruptive beauty, and uncontained beauty in poetry and the essay. The conversation was recorded at the University of Rhode Island in December 2012, by Justin H. Brierley for The Beauty Salon, a radio program that explores everyday aesthetics in and around Rhode Island. Cappello’s contributions to “Courting the Peculiar,” a series of essays, sound texts and performances on creative nonfiction as a queer genre with Barrie Jean Borich, Ames Hawkins, and Kate Bradford, appears in the inaugural issue of the on-line journal, Slag Glass City.

INSTRUCTOR NANCY CARONIA was appointed Lecturer and Freshmen Advisor in URI’s Honor Program AY 14/15 and completed first year as Committee Member on the MLA Italian American Discussion Group. Her book, Personal Effects: Essays on Culture, Teaching, and Memoir in the Work of Louise DeSalvo, co-edited with Edvige Giunta appeared with Fordham University Press in 2015. She authored the introduction to Louise DeSalvo’s Casting Off (Bordighera Press, 2014).


ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR PETER COVINO’s poem “Closer” was recently featured on the Academy of American Poet’s Poem-a-day web site. “The Conformist” and “To Whom it May” appear in the spring 2015 issue of the Western Humanities Review; his collaborative broadside poem “Bystander(s)” with Christopher Stackhouse and artist Julie Schumacher will be featured at the Center for Books Arts in NYC in June 2015. Spalancare” (“Wide Open”) and “Medicine of Language” appear in Embroidered Lines and Cut Threads: Women’s Domestic Needlework in the Italian Diaspora,
University of Mississippi Press, 2014.
Ten poems by Italian poet Dario Bellezza translated by Peter Covino
including “Glamour,” from “Nothingness,” and “Notes for a Novel
in Verse” appear in the spring 2015 issue of Witness XVIII.1
http://witness.blackmountaininstitute.org
; three translations of Bellezza’s poetry also appear in the spring issue of the
Colorado Review, including “To Hart Crane” and from “Praise for the Male
Body.” Covino’s essay “The Poetics of Trauma: Intertextuality, Rhythm, and
Concision in Louise DeSalvo’s Vertigo and Writing as A Way of Healing” is
included in the volume Personal Effects: Essays on Memory, Culture, and Women
in the Work of Louise DeSalvo.” Ed. Nancy Caronia and Edvige Giunta, from
Covino was a featured presenter in the
Brown University Literary Arts Program
and an audio recording of his reading is available at:
http://www.brown.edu/academics/literary-arts/writers-online/authors/peter-covino. Covino was also the keynote
presenter at the University of Utah Honor’s Program Orientation; and he
gave lectures and public readings at the Colrain Conference on Poetry, and at the
Italian American Studies Association Conference in Toronto, among other
venues.

PROFESSOR KATHLEEN DAVIS’s article, “Timelines: Secularity,
Modernity, and Conscience” was published in South Asia: Journal of
South Asian Studies in a special issue on subaltern studies (2015). Her book
chapter, “Intralingual Translation and the Making of Language,” was published in the Companion to Translation Studies
(Ed. Catherine Porter and Sandra Berman, 2014). Another chapter, co-
authored with Nadia Altschul, entitled, “Orientalizing Chile and India in the
Age of British Militarized Mercantilism” is forthcoming in the Oxford Handbook to Victorian Medievalism (2015), and “Periodization
and ‘The Medieval Globe’: A Conversation between Kathleen Davis
and Michael Puett,” co-authored with Michael Puett, is scheduled to appear in
print in July 2015 in The Medieval Globe. Most significantly, Davis’ article,
“Theory in Time” is forthcoming with PMLA this May, 2015. Professor Davis
was invited to give two keynote addresses in the fall of 2015, one for the
NYU Graduate Student Conference, entitled, “Sovereignty and Metaphor,”
and another for the Annual New England Medieval Conference, entitled, “Slow
Catastrophe.” Additionally, she was invited to present “‘Secular’ Time,
Periodized Time, and Disciplinary Histories” at the International Seminar:
International Relations and the (Re)Invention of History in Rio de
Janiero (2014) and “Timelines: Secularity, Modernity, and Conscience”
at the University of California Davis (2014).

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR SARAH ERON presented “Misrecognition: The
Case of Evelina,” at the annual American Society for Eighteenth-
Century Studies. She gave a talk entitled, “Thinking Matters?: Novel Ideas” at URI and is scheduled to present
“Crusoe’s Time of Mind: A Novel Event of Self-Consciousness,” at the Defoe
Society in Bath, England this July. Eron’s book Inspiration in the Age of
Enlightenment was published by University of Delaware Press in March
of 2014.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DAVID FAFLIK received a Mellon Fellowship from the Massachusetts Historical Society, and will be in residence there for the month of July 2015 as he furthers the research for a book project on New England Transcendentalism. He has also been asked to contribute a chapter on “Transcendentalism” to an edited collection, *Henry David Thoreau in Context*, that is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press.

INSTRUCTOR HAL HAMILTON announces the Cannes debut of the documentary film “Steve McQueen: The Man and Le Mans,” on which he served as script consultant. Hamilton was a consultant and stunt driver on the original 1971 film, “Le Mans,” and played driver Chris Barnett in the film. Hamilton, an instructor of English and film media, is currently working on the upcoming WGBH American Experience documentary, “The Muckrakers.”

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR J. JENNIFER JONES published “The Art of Redundancy: Sublime Fiction and Mary Shelley’s The Last Man” in the *Keats-Shelley Review* and “Beyond Burke’s Precedent and Back Again: Longinus and the Romantic Sublime” in *Neophilologus* (2015). She was the Associate Editor of a special issue of the *European Romantic Review*, entitled *Romantic Movements* (edited with Jonathan Mulrooney in 2014). Also in 2014, Jones was the recipient of the URI Teaching Excellence Award. In January 2015, she presented “Romanticism, Consolation, Wordsworth” at a special division panel on “Romanticism and Translation” at the MLA convention.


PROFESSOR NAOMI MANDEL’s book review of C. Namwali Serpell’s *Seven Modes of Uncertainty* is forthcoming in *Studies in the Novel*. Professor Mandel won a subvention grant from the URI Center for the Humanities for her forthcoming book *Disappear Here: Violence After Generation X*. Significantly, she was recently invited to join the advisory board of *PMLA* where she will serve a three-year term during which she will evaluate submissions to the journal in the field of critical theory and make recommendations to the editorial board regarding publication.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JEAN WALTON
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR TRAVIS D. WILLIAMS’s essay “Mathematical Enargeia: The Rhetoric of Early Modern Mathematical Notation” will be published by Rhetorica: A Journal of the History of Rhetoric in 2016. He recently presented on “Failure of the Imagination in the First Player's Speech” at the Shakespeare Association of America annual meeting in Vancouver, and will present on “Imagination, and Reading the Third Dimension in Early Modern Geometry” at the sessions of the British Society for the History of Mathematics, part of the Mathematical Association of America MathFest, in Washington, DC, in August.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

ANNA BRECKE’s article “The Occult, the Female Body, and Disrupted Domestic Space in Victorian Popular Fiction” was published in volume 42 of the Victorians Institute Journal in 2014. Anna presented “Protect Teenage Girls at all Costs: Selfie, tumbler feminism and the media devaluation of girl culture” at the Popular Culture Association/ America Culture Association, “Constructing Femininity: Language and Material Culture in Mary Elizabeth Braddon’s Later Novels and OED Citations” at the Nineteenth Century Studies Association, “The Occult, the Female Body and Disrupted Domestic Space in Victorian Popular Fiction” at the Victorians Institute, and “From Trash to Treasured: Confession and Redemption in Victorian Popular Fiction” at the Victorian Popular Fiction Association. She co-chaired the women's studies session at the MAPACA annual conference. Anna also participated in MEBA’s launching of a series of events that collaborate with the ICVWW and the VPFA annual conferences.

RACHEL BOCCIO presented a paper entitled “The Castle and the Road: Spatiotemporality in Edgar Allan Poe's ‘The Fall of the House of Usher’” at The Poe Studies Association’s Fourth Annual Conference (2015). This June, Rachel will attend the Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth College. She will present work from her current dissertation project at a special session on antebellum slave narratives. Her paper is titled “Subversive Spaces: Captivity, Humanization, and the Co-opting of Freedom's Fictions.” This is Rachel's second time attending the institute.


AMY FOLEY was awarded a URI Center for the Humanities Research Grant for a chapter of her


REBEKAH GREENE’s essay “Playing with the Past: Using Google Books and Archival Artifacts in the Literature Survey Classroom” is forthcoming in Motivating Millennials: How to Promote Active Reading in an Online Era, edited by Natalie Mera Ford and Christy Rieger. Rebekah presented “A ‘taste in common’: Questioning the Collector’s Role in The Woman in White” at the Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States (VISAWUS) Conference (2014), “Unpacking Our Library and (Re)arranging a More Mobile Home: Creating and Curating Knowledge with Fanny and Margaret Stevenson” at the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Association Conference (2015), and “He Brought a Harpoon to a Gunfight?!?: The Big Country and Terror in a Texas Town” at the Mid-Atlantic Popular Culture Association Conference (2014). She was also selected for the Creativity Faculty Fellows program at Bryant University for the 2014-2015 year.

JENNA GUITAR’s book chapter, “Glee Goes Gaga: Queering Concepts of High School Identity,” was published in Glee and New Directions for Social Change in January 2015. She presented “The Originals: A Pop Culture Examination of Colonial Discourse” at the National PCA/ACA in New Orleans, LA.


BRIDGET HEANEY presented on a General Education Writing Rubric at
The Conference on College Composition and Communication (2015).


SARAH KRUSE was a 2014-2015 recipient of the University of Rhode Island Graduate School Fellowship. In 2014, she received a URI Center for the Humanities Graduate Research Grant to conduct archival work at the Beinecke Library at Yale University on the Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas papers and the Mina Loy archive. In 2015, she has been invited to write for the blog at Harvard’s Woodberry Poetry Room at the Lamont Library and was solicited by *Anomalous Press* for an Oulipo project. Her essay “These Things I Have Not Seen Have Become Me” appeared in *Anomalous Press*’s most recent issue. Sarah’s nonfiction essay “On Reading Being and Time: A Notebook” was published the Winter 2015 issue of *Hotel Amerika*. Her essay “Birds over Water: After Simone Weil’s *Gravity and Grace*” was featured in the Spring 2015 issue of *Propeller Quarterly*. In February, Sarah presented her paper “Simultaneity and the Color of Grammar: Stein, Wittgenstein, and the Avant-Garde” at the *Louisville Conference of Literature and Culture since 1900*, in Louisville, KY. She also presented her creative nonfiction at Louisville. As managing editor of Barrow Street Press, Sarah coordinated and orchestrated Barrow Street Press’s off-site reading at AWP 2015 in Minneapolis featuring Claudia Keelan and Donald Revell, Meg Day, Doug Anderson, Kevin McLellan, and Soraya Shalforoosh. Sarah is currently planning a Barrow Street Press Reading at Poets House, New York City, for May 13, 2015. This spring Sarah received the URI Center for Humanities Graduate Student Excellence Award for her scholarship. She was also the recent first place recipient of the English Department’s Critical Essay Contest and
Nancy Potter Poetry Contest. This summer Sarah has been invited back to teach again in the Honors College at the University of Massachusetts in Boston.

BETH LEONARDO presented “Victorian Mean Girls: Exploring Female Enmity in George Eliot’s Mill on the Floss” at the Northeast Conference on British Studies, “A Combination and a Form: Exploring the Gross and Scope of the Logic of Hendiadys in Shakespeare’s Hamlet” at Literary Exteriors, the Boston College Biennial English Graduate Conference, and participated in the URI Graduate student conference with, “Possibilities in Discourses of Hamlet: A Roundtable.” Beth won third place in the Graduate Division of The Nancy Potter Short Story contest for “The Fighting Irish.” She received an excellence in service award for her contributions to the URI English department. After recently earning her M.A. in English at the University of Rhode Island alongside a certificate in Gender & Women’s Studies, Beth was recently accepted into URI English Department’s PhD program with a TAship for the Fall of 2015.

LAURA MARCIANO’s poetry manuscript, Mall Brat, is forthcoming with Civil Coping Mechanisms Press in early 2016.

RACHEL MAY recently accepted a tenure-track position at Northern Michigan University as an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, Nonfiction. Rachel’s Quilting with a Modern Slant was named “Best Book of 2014” by Library Journal and Amazon.com. She published “Americans Abroad: A Review of Prague Summer,” in Necessary Fiction (2014), “Illuminated Poems: A Conversation with Matthea Harvey,” in The Southeast Review online (2014), and “My Hand a Needle: A Stitched Statement,” in Volta, an online journal. Rachel’s book, The Benedictines: A Novel, is forthcoming with Braddock Avenue Books in June 2015; her book, The Experiments: A Legend in Pictures & Words, is also forthcoming with Dusie Press, (May 2015). This past year Rachel was awarded a Center for Humanities grant to travel to Charleston to conduct archival research on a Providence-Charleston family with ties to the rum and sugar trades in the West Indies. Rachel presented “Teaching with Literary Journals,” at the AWP conference (2015). She organized a panel “Sewing is Writing is Body is Sewing,” at the inaugural Naropa University [Dis]embodied Poetics Conference. Rachel read at the Anthology Series at Brown University and also delivered eight talks in Massachusetts and Rhode Island at quilt guilds and historical societies. She has been invited to participate in the Ardis James Q.S.O.S. Scholar Program of the Quilt Alliance. Rachel worked as an illustrator for Women Born with Fur & Out from the Pleiades (Jaded Ibis Press, December 2014).

Language Association (2014). She was a recipient of the URI Center for Humanities Graduate Grant Award for “A Dangerous Girl or a Girl in Danger?: Shifting Sexual Agency in Narratives about Amy Fisher.”

SARA MURPHY organized a discussion panel titled “Peter Weir’s Dead Poets Society 25 Years Later: Meditations on Melodrama, Trauma, Solidarity, and Suicide” for the Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association Conference in Baltimore in November, where she presented her work, “Dead Poets Society and the American Culture of Suicide.” In March, she was the invited speaker at a university-wide talk for the annual awareness week of the URI chapter of the National Nursing Fraternity, Alpha Tau Delta, where she presented “Breaking Silence: Perspectives on Contemporary Suicide.” Also in March, she presented, “Suffering in Silence: The Stigma of Superheroism in Suicidality for the End-of-Life Population” at the American Comparative Literature Association Conference in Seattle in April, she successfully defended her PhD dissertation, “Toward a Psychosocial Understanding of Suicide in American Literature and Culture of the 1990’s,” directed by Professor Martha Elena Rojas. Most recently, she was elected to the Credentialing Council of the Association for Death Education and Counseling. Following commencement, she will continue her work as an instructor in the Honors Program and the Thanatology Program while conducting grief and suicide education seminars and intervention programs for school districts, corporate venues, and governmental organizations.

JASON PETERS completed his doctorate in English with a specialization in Rhetoric and Composition in April. In March, he won an URI Enhancement for Graduate Research Award to conduct archival work at the Bibliothèque et Archives Nationales at Laval University in Québec. Also in March, he presented a paper on archival research methods at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Tampa FL. This coming year, he will begin a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor of English at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

JENNY PLATZ presented “Class Mobility, Screwball Comedies, Consumerist Identities, and Overboard” at the MAPACA Conference (2014) and “Anya's Failed Screwball Romance in Buffy the Vampire Slayer” at the Joss in June Conference (2015).

GABRIEL E. ROMAGUERA is currently working at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus where he chaired the first academic popular culture conference on the island, “From Imagination to Creation: How Popular Culture Redefines and Restructures Our Reality.” In November, he presented “Not Just a Game: A Defense of Gaming’s Place in the Webcomics’ Canon” in Riverside California as part of the 112th Annual Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association Conference. He also presented, “Towards a Nonchronological Continuity: The Case of Atomic Robo as the Exception to Comic Book Serialized Storytelling” in New Orleans Louisiana as part of the 45th Annual PCA-ACA National Conference in March. His article, “Waiting for the Next Part: How
the Temporal Dimensions of Digital Serialization Have Changed Author-Reader Dynamics,” is forthcoming for *Networking Knowledge.*