

## DEPARTMENTAL AND PROGRAM NEWS

In addition to the new faculty mentioned in the last newsletter, the department will welcome **Mary Soliday** to our department and campus community in the fall. Mary completed her Ph.D. at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana in British literature, and has taught at the City College of New York since 1991. Over the years, she has established and administered several freshman English and Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) programs, and directed Writing Center and tutorial programs. Her book, *The Politics of Remediation* (University of Pittsburgh Press), received the 2004 Outstanding Book Award from the College Conference on Composition & Communication. She is currently revising her new book, *Everyday Genres for Studies in Writing and Rhetoric* (Southern Illinois University Press). She will coordinate SFSU's WAC program while teaching in the English Department.

The Department colloquium was enjoyed by both participants and attendees. The presenters, and their topics:

Emily Merriman	"Plain Style in T.S. Eliot's <i>The Waste Land</i> "
Ellen Peel	"Protean Metaphor in Narrative"
Laura Yim	"Foucault and 'The Fourth World': Notes on the Usefulness and Limitations of Power/Knowledge in Indigenous Studies"
Sarah Manyika	"Mr. Wonder" (short story)
Katherine Powell	"Letters to Authors"
Martha Klironomos	"British Women Travelers to Greece, 1880-1930"
Maureen Turner and James Warren Boyd	"Diverse Campuses, Not So Diverse Writing Centers: Struggles for Power and Ideology"

Word for Word's performance of "Sonny's Blues" on March 19<sup>th</sup> was received enthusiastically by nearly 400 English 214 students and faculty. For many students, the production was the first of its kind that they had attended. Tentative plans are under way to bring Word for Word back next year with a production based on some of Tobias Wolff's recent work. Many thanks to those who turned out to assist with ushering and ticket collection that evening: **Steve Arkin, Svein Arber, and Robin Meyerowitz.**

An adaptation of Jane Austen's *Lady Susan* was presented on April 26<sup>th</sup> as a staged reading by the Bella Union Theatre Company. The performance was hosted jointly by the department and by the Jane Austen Society of North America, Northern California chapter. Bella Union was founded in 2000 and is a program of Intersection for the Arts.

In the Literature program, **Loretta Stec** will fill in as coordinator for Bruce Avery during the fall while he is on sabbatical. Bruce sends thanks to those who assisted with promoting the summer semester offerings; enrollment in the literature courses is very strong.

And, Steve Arkin is exploring the possibility of a collaboration between the Literature program and the Alexander String Quartet.

Members of the M.A. TESOL faculty continue a collaboration that they began in 2006 with Portland State University's Lab School, a center for classroom-based research and professional development in Adult ESOL and university Intensive English Language Programs. **Gail Weinstein, Maricel Santos, Casey Keck and David Olsher** have completed training and certification to access the Lab School's full database of audio/video recordings of adult ESL literacy classes, teacher interviews, and related curricular materials. This certification makes SFSU one of the satellite research sites for the PSU data base, along

with the University of Odense in Denmark and Penn State here in the U.S. They have also participated in two collaborative projects with the Lab School on the development of video-based research and teacher training lessons (piloted over the last year in English 730). This spring, they conducted a workshop for their M.A. TESOL colleagues about the database. They are very excited about the collaboration already underway, and about the rich possibilities for using the PSU database to explore issues of classroom learning and language acquisition from a variety of research perspectives that are supported by their common interest in training teachers and fostering learning.

The University Committee for Written English Proficiency hosted this year's SFSU-Community College Conference on Friday, March 14. The conference, "Sharing Goals and Strategies: Composition at SFSU and Community Colleges," drew about 60 participants, including instructors from SFSU and from many local community colleges. Presenters from among current and former departmental faculty were **Sugie Goen-Salter** (Teaching Integrated Reading and Writing), **Lisa Heyer** (Assessing Freshman Composition Essays in Multilingual Classes), **Deborah vanDommelen** (Literature-based Writing in Sophomore Composition Classes), and **James Boyd** (Teaching Sentence and Paragraph Focus).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Commencement reception on May 24 – the Department will host a reception for graduates and their families and friends immediately following the main ceremony in HUM 111. All faculty are welcome to attend—your presence means a great deal to our graduating students!**

**Also, we are going to host a departmental gathering to honor students in English who have been the recipient of honors and awards this year. This will take place on Thursday, May 22 in HUM 203, 3-5 p.m. Again, we encourage faculty to come and enjoy this more personal tribute to our students for their achievements.**

### FACULTY AND STAFF ~ NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

**Maricel Santos** has been a post-doctoral research fellow this spring with the S.F. State Center for Health Disparities Research and Training. Her research project is focused on adult ESL learners and teachers as agents of change in health care. Maricel has also co-edited a book with Kathleen M. Bailey entitled *Research on English as a Second Language in U.S. Community Colleges: People, Programs and Potential*. The book will be released later this year by the University of Michigan.

**Jasmine Kitses** will pursue a Ph.D in the English Literature Department of UC Davis, concentrating on 20th-century American Literature, especially Beat Literature, Women's poetry and contemporary poetry.

**Gitanjali Shahani** attended the Shakespeare Association of America meeting in Dallas, Texas, where she participated in a seminar on "Figure, Form, and Color: Race and Genre in Early Modern Literature." She has been invited to convene a seminar at next year's Shakespeare Association of America meeting in Washington D.C. on "Shakespeare and the Postcolonial Condition."

**Katherine Powell** is writing a history of the Haight Ashbury that is due to be published this year by Arcadia.

**Michael Krasny** recorded a twenty-four lecture course, “Short Story Masterpieces,” for The Teaching Company that will be out in their June catalogue. He also finished a textbook, *Sound Ideas*, with UC Berkeley Professor Maggie Sokolik that McGraw-Hill plans on publishing as a lead title in January. His book, *Off Mike: A Memoir of Talk Radio and Literary Life* (Stanford University Press) went into a second printing; and, Michael discussed his book when he was the featured speaker for the Friends of the J. Paul Leonard Library’s annual meeting.

On May 6th, **Bruce Avery** led a workshop sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Faculty Development on “Practical Pedagogy: Teaching Complex Language to the 21st Century Student.” The session focused on examining practical methods to engage young people in complex literary texts.

**Ellen Peel** participated in two conferences during the latter portion of the semester. At a meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Ellen discussed analogies between translation and the construction of bodies in a talk entitled “The Magic of Translation: ‘The Sand-Man.’” She also gave a presentation to the Society for the Study of Narrative Literature on “Protean Metaphor in Narrative.”

**Sarah Manyika** has two short stories coming out in June, and a novel in September. “Mr. Wonder” will be included in *Women Writing Zimbabwe* (Weaver Press), and “Girlfriend” is to be published in an anthology entitled *Fathers and Daughters* (Ayeibia Clarke Publishing). Sarah’s novel, *In Dependence*, will be published by Legend Press.

As previously reported, **Patty Baldwin, Helen Gillotte-Tropp, Sugie Goen-Salter and Joan Wong** will soon have new textbook out with Pearson, *Composing for Success: A Student’s Guide to Integrated Reading and Writing*. The authors will donate the proceeds from the sales of the book to the Jan Gregory Postsecondary Reading and Composition Scholarship fund.

**Meg Schoerke** sat on a panel on teaching poetry at the spring meeting of the CSU English Council, and gave a talk entitled “Pattern and Variation: Teaching the Changes.” She and her fellow panel members also led a workshop on poetry pedagogy.

**Emily Merriman** gave a presentation in April on Alan Moore’s graphic novel *From Hell* at a conference on Religion in Comic Books and Graphic Novels hosted at Boston University. She has a book chapter on Geoffrey Hill and Gerard M. Hopkins out this May in *Ecstasy and Understanding: Religious Awareness in English Poetry from the Late Victorian to the Modern Period* (Continuum Literary Studies). In early July, she will present a paper on Geoffrey Hill and the context of pedagogy at a conference devoted to Hill at Keble College, Oxford. An essay review of six poetry collections from Salt Publishing will appear in the spring issue of *Salamander*, a journal affiliated with Suffolk University. The review, entitled “Mind the Gap,” considers contemporary developments in transatlantic poetic form and diction.

**Irina Simon** participated in a publication of the California Writing Project at UC Berkeley. She edited the Russian version of a booklet for parents and guardians entitled *Because Writing Matters: Helping Your Children Become Confident, Skilled Writers, In and Beyond School*.

**Virginia Ramos**, our graduate programs assistant, will leave to pursue a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at Stanford University. During the summer, she will be on a research internship at Stanford in conjunction with her fellowship from the CSU Pre-Doctoral Program for 2007-2008.

**Tom Scovel** gave the address at the annual Phi Beta Kappa initiation. His topic was “Universality and Uniqueness in Human Languages.”

Several of our GTAs will graduate this May: **Gia Barilari, Kelly Hagen, and Maya Watson** in Composition; **Pam Hughes** in TESOL; and, **Erica Halk** in Literature.

**Beverly Voloshin** was co-organizer of the Fulbright Institute on American Studies for German University Teachers, held on our campus last September, co-sponsored by the Departments of History and English, and funded by the German Fulbright Commission. The topic was “American Values—Contested Values.” She also gave a talk on sacred violence in *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. She is serving on the organizing committee for the 2008 Fulbright Institute, the topic of which will be “American Political Culture.” She is also working the Robert Cherny, Professor of History, on initial plans for a master’s program in American Studies in International Perspective.

## NEWS ABOUT CURRENT AND FORMER STUDENTS

**Kelly Hagen** (M.A. Composition candidate), will accept a full-time position as a Developmental English Specialist/Instructor at MiraCosta College in Oceanside, CA.

**Jessica Young** (M.A. Literature candidate) has had a paper accepted for the November convention of the Midwestern Modern Language Association, for the section on “Re-writing Women.” Jessica will discuss “Transatlantic Politics: Re-envisioning Jane Austen’s Fanny Price in Harriet Wilson’s *Our Nig; Sketches in the Life of a Free Black*.”

**Minta Zlomke** (M.A. Literature candidate) will present a paper entitled “The Devil is in the Details: Evolving Notions of the ‘Other’ in an Age of Expansion” at the University of Maryland’s Graduate Conference in Medieval and Renaissance Studies. The conference is interdisciplinary, and this year’s focus is on mutability.

**Jessica Gonzalez** (now Jessica San Luis; B.A. Literature), has been accepted into the University of San Francisco Law School.

**Mark Lieu** (M.A. TESOL, 1985) was recognized in the most recent CATESOL News (March-April 2008) not only for his longstanding service to CATESOL but also for being the first ESL expert to serve as President of the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges.

**Nathan Ladd** (B.A. Literature, 2008) has been publishing his poetry: two poems in the spring 2008 edition of *Ghoti* (ghotimag.com), four poems in issue 5 of *Foam:e* (foame.org), and one in issue 5 of *Opium Magazine* (144A Diamond Street, #2 Brooklyn, NY 11222).

**Jodi Schorb** (M.A. Literature) went on to complete her Ph.D. in English, with an emphasis in feminist research and theory, at UC Davis. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English at the University of Florida, where her teaching and research interests include early American literatures and cultures. She has taught classes on captivity and prison narratives, literature and sexuality, American literatures of cross-cultural contact, and the American gothic tradition.

*Failure* by **Philip Schultz** has won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. Schultz studied English literature and creative writing here in the 1960s and, as he said to an interviewer, “started a poetry reading series at the I and Thou Café on Haight Street that became quite a scene, with Allen Ginsberg, Michael McClure, Richard Brautigan all reading there, along with many S.F. State students and teachers.”

# STUDENT HONORS AND AWARDS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH UNDERGRADUATE HONOREE

**LEAH BURNS** *Literature*

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT

**KELLY HAGEN** *Composition*

**ANNA RICH** *Linguistics*

**SARAH MANGIN** *Literature*

**MARTIN DOERNER** *TESOL*

**CHEO MASSION** *TESOL*

ASW SCHOLARSHIP

**STEPHANIE CONRAD**

DEBRA PLOUSHA MOORE & JOHN E. MOORE JR. SCHOLARSHIP

**ELIZABETH WILLIAMS** *Composition*

JIM BROGAN – JACK POST SCHOLARSHIP

**ANN GARASCIA** *Literature*

**SCOTT ROOS** *Classics*

JAN GREGORY POSTSECONDARY READING AND COMPOSITION  
SCHOLARSHIP

**EMILY KURLAND** *TESOL*

JIM KOHN SCHOLARSHIP

**ESTEFANY GIEHM**

**NAN TANG**

**MASAKO YAMADA**

**VICKY YU**

JIM WHEARTY PRIZE

**STEPHANIE CRABTREE**

**AARON HATCH**

MAURICE AND ELLANORE BASSAN ENGLISH DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP

**SARAH MANGIN**

R. JOEL DORIUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**MINTA ZLOMKE**

RANDALL NAKAYAMA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**RYAN JENKINS**

**JESSICA YOUNG**

TESOL/GANT SCHOLARSHIP

**QU CHEN**

**KEIKO HAZAMA**

**WYNN NEWBERRY**

**HAE SUNG YANG**

PHI BETA KAPPA

**TIFFANY WEI-TING YEE** *Language Studies*

## *Salve atque vale*

**Jim Brogan** and **David Renaker** both joined the department's Literature faculty in 1967, and are retiring at the end of this year. We are grateful to Steve Arkin for composing these tributes to Jim and David:

*Jim Brogan came to San Francisco State College (as it then was) in the fall of 1967. He received his Ph.D. from Yale University where he had written a dissertation on Dickens and Thackeray under the supervision of Martin Price. He began as a teacher of nineteenth-century fiction here, but as the years passed and his personal commitments changed, he re-defined himself as both a teacher of gay literature, a writer of fiction and autobiography, and as a partner in a committed gay relationship with Jack Post that has lasted over thirty years.*

*Like many people who were young faculty members during the student-faculty strike at San Francisco State, Jim found himself moved by and drawn to the position that serious change was overdue in academic life and that greater inclusiveness for many marginalized groups was worth fighting for. He supported the faculty union and walked a picket line all through the very cold and very wet winter of 1968-69.*

*After the strike, Jim's teaching began to reflect his broadened view of the classroom. He introduced courses on "The Visionary Child," on gay themes in literature and film, and began a close collaboration with the Human Sexuality Program on campus. He published articles about his teaching in various journals, wrote and published Jack and Jim in 1981, and his first novel, Casey: The Bi-Coastal Kid in 1984. He continued to travel throughout the world with an active interest in the way the AIDS crisis was being handled in Asia and Europe, as well as in the U.S., and he remained a very popular adviser and mentor in the English Department.*

*Individuals rarely receive credit for helping to change the culture and focus of a department. Jim Brogan has had a profound influence on his department and on this university. As he retires fully it is appropriate that the University thank him for his work and wish him well in the years to come.*

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*On page 2 of an updated Curriculum Vitae submitted in September 1981, David Renaker points out that between the Spring of 1976 and Fall of 1977, a sabbatical leave, he "researched and wrote twelve essays, totaling 227 pages or about 56,000 words. Seven of these essays were later published." This is undoubtedly the department record for scholarly effort while on sabbatical, and it is a measure of David's intellectual energy, his extraordinary range, and his discipline as a scholar that he could accomplish so much. (He may also hold the 20<sup>th</sup>-century record for publication in Notes and Queries!)*

*David received his B.A. from Pomona College in 1963 and his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1967. Before graduating from Pomona he went to art school at the Art Students League in New York and is an accomplished painter. He arrived at San Francisco State in 1967 with the ten other new teachers hired by Caroline Shrodes. He quickly established himself as the person to go to with questions about sources, with half-remembered poems, and with questions of all sorts that only a capaciously stocked mind could answer. His teaching focused on Milton and on the Renaissance, but he was also involved in working out a NEXA course on "Cosmologies and World Views." He branched out further into new department courses on the impact of printing and on Vladimir Nabokov. He also finished a 60,000 word manuscript on the origins of pornography.*

*When it became clear that the age of the web site was upon us, David developed his own, "The Atheist's Web Site," and he has published a great deal of original scholarship online while engaging in lively debate with the people who have met and been challenged by his work there.*

*Clearly, David Renaker is an outstanding scholar. Miltonists know his work and, in some cases, have been chastened by it. Students of Swift know his work and in at least one case, have cribbed from it. Students of sufficient seriousness and strength have found in him the kind of teacher who lights up dark corners and defines what intellectual discovery can be.*

*David's colleagues have known for years that our department had an unusually gifted scholar. Ours is not a Ph.D.-granting program and so David's work wasn't aided and abetted by young researchers in training. He pushed on anyway and over the forty years he has worked in this institution he has shown us how much can be found in libraries by those who are truly brilliant explorers.*

Two of our long-time lecturers in Composition are retiring as well. Many thanks to Gayle Davies for this next tribute to **Pam Altman**, who first joined the department in 1983, and to Jo Keroes for the following passage about **Susan Bronstein**, here since 1982.

*The sight of the ebullient Pam Altman was one that brought smiles to faces at SFSU for 25 years. But come next fall, we'll have to do without it. Pam is retiring. Admired for her expertise at multiple levels of teaching—ESL, basic, undergraduate, and graduate—Pam was instrumental in forming the Intensive Learning Program, in which she trained and advised many instructors new to this field. Whenever faculty members were newly assigned to teach a basic writing course, they were referred to Pam, our basic writing expert, whose warmth welcomed them and whose wisdom guided them. Always generous with her time, she willingly shared key principles and learning strategies regardless of her other responsibilities.*

*In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Pam served the university in multiple ways. As Coordinator of the Graduate Essay Test (GET), she worked with professors and students from a range of disciplines to help students meet the writing proficiency requirement for their programs. In this role, she established, disseminated, and explained procedures, ones often dependent upon her ability to negotiate bureaucratic obstacles, while she maintained University standards. She also served actively on several committees: CWEP, University Literacy Committee, English Composition Committee, JEPET Committee.*

*Over the years Pam published several books used widely in Bay Area colleges as well as other colleges nationwide. Many rely upon her Sentence Combining Workbook, designed as a sentence-level skills text for basic writers. Pam also was co-editor of Fog City Fundamentals and co-author of Integrations: Reading and Writing for College Success.*

*It was Pam's habit, when you ran into her in a hallway with a student, to introduce the student in a way that bestowed extraordinary specialness and value upon the person. For that one instant, the student felt like the most important person in the world.*

*Every teacher hopes to leave behind some sort of legacy. Pam does. And we will miss her more than she could ever know.*

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*Susan Bronstein is retiring. She had hoped to slip quietly out the door without fanfare, but we can't let her leave without mentioning her contributions to her English Department students and colleagues. Since joining the Composition faculty in 1982, Susan has taught the full range of its course offerings, including helping to solidify English 200, our critical thinking class, when it was brand new. Over the past few years, she has focused particularly on English 214, relishing the pleasures and challenges of teaching students how to read closely and write analytically about literature. She has generously mentored new instructors and forged close collegial relationships throughout the department. We wish her well, of course, but we will miss her.*