



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Fall 2015

Letter from the Chair



The Fall 2015 semester has again been a semester of changes for the English Department. In Fall, we said goodbye to Irina Simon, our intrepid scheduler (among various other responsibilities too numerous to mention). Thankfully, she has not gone far, as Irina is now the scheduler for the entire LCA College. We congratulate her on her promotion and thank her for years of dedicated service to the department. Irina, we miss you, but we know the College is in good hands with you in the mix.

We have two new tenure-track faculty joining us this Spring: Robert Kohls (TESOL) and Anastasia Smirnova (Linguistics). Please join me in offering them a warm welcome to the Department.

I am also pleased to announce that the search for a new LCA Dean has successfully concluded and that Dr. Andrew (Andy) Harris will join the SFSU community in mid-July of 2016. We look forward to working with him and to moving forward on some exciting new projects and initiatives.

As always, I want to express the Department's gratitude to our donors who continue to give generously in support of our students and the intellectual life of our department. For anyone interested in making a donation, please click on the link to the "Support English" page on our website.

And last but certainly not least, I offer my (early) hearty congratulations to all of our graduates. We will celebrate them in grand style in at our second English Department Commencement Ceremony on May 26 in McKenna Theater, with a reception afterward in our department suite, HUM 484. All are welcome.

Sugie Goen-Salter

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Department News



Department Commencement – May 2015

Last spring, the department hosted its first annual commencement ceremony for all English BA and MA graduates. The ceremony was held in McKenna Theatre, where a mass of family, friends, peers, and faculty came together to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates. Graduates grinned as they crossed the stage, shook hands with professors, and embraced Dept. Chair Sugie Goen-Salter. The College Hood recipient, Lindsey Sivaslian, an M.A. TESOL graduate, gave a stirring commencement address, and professor Summer Star closed with a poetry reading of “The Waking” (1953) by Theodore Roethke. The ceremony was followed by a reception held in the English Department suite, where the celebration continued with food, drinks, and picture-taking. We wish our graduates all the best, and are excited to host our second annual commencement in Spring 2016!

Graduates on stage ready to receive their diplomas (*right*).



Our hard-working student assistants taking a break to snap a quick pic in the photo booth (*left*).

Faculty Collegial Coffee Hour

This semester, the department hosted its first series of collegial coffee hours for faculty to mix and mingle with one another over a hot beverage and snack. The initiative was led by Composition lecturer Patty Baldwin, and with the help of staff member Kitty Quinn-Friel, they successfully held three this semester. Due to the popularity of the event, there will be more hosted in the Spring by the new Lecturer Hiring, Appointments and Evaluation Committee.



Graduate School Fair

This past October, the English Department made its first appearance at the Graduate School Fair on campus, hosted by SFSU Graduate Studies and the Student Involvement and Career Center (SICC). The department was represented by our Graduate Programs Coordinator, Cynthia Losinsky, and M.A. TESOL graduate student Amanda Bent on the Quad, where many interested students stopped by to learn more about our programs.



Hybrid Writing Courses Gather Steam

Three new members joined the ENG 214 Hybrid Course team this fall to receive mentoring and begin teaching the course in the spring. Core members John Holland, Doreen Dieke, and Ron Richardson welcomed and mentored new members Dana Lomax, Martha Rusk, and Michael Shannon. In related news, all three core members, along with Professor Kory Ching and MA Comp grad Niki Turnipseed, will present their research on the course in a panel entitled, "More than the Sum: Faculty Collaboration in Designing and Teaching a Hybrid Writing Course," in Houston, TX in 2016. We wish them luck!

2016 HERA Conference Call for Papers

The Humanities Education and Research Association [HERA] has released a call for papers for its eighth conference, 23-26 March 2016, in New Orleans. Since HERA, a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization, was founded and remains headquartered in the Bay Area, SFSU faculty and graduate students have played a highly significant role in its past conferences, and in its refereed, peer-reviewed journal, *Interdisciplinary Humanities*. Call for proposals is now open at www.h-e-r-a.org/

Study Abroad Seeks Applicants

Gain a wider world-view and study English abroad next year! English majors have options in Australia, Canada, Italy, Ghana, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. Literature majors are encouraged to consider a new program at the University of Dundee in Scotland. Attend an Information Meeting (Mondays at 10, Tuesdays at 11, and Wednesdays/ Thursdays at 2) and browse the SF State Abroad [program database](#) to learn more.

Apply now for fall 2016 programs. Winter Break is an ideal time to submit an [online study abroad application](#). Fall deadlines are February 1st for CSU IP and March 1st for SF State Exchange Programs. Submit early to get feedback on your application and give professors time to recommend you. The Office of International Programs will remain open until December 22, 2014 and reopen January 6, 2015. Please refer to the [website](#) for additional details. The office is located in Building C of the Village at Centennial Square (between Student Services and Humanities Building).



Award-winning Cake with a Kick!

Winner of the 2015 English Department Holiday Bake-Off, Tara's Sherry Bundt Cake, is easy, moist, pretty and delicious! Congratulations to **Tara Lockhart** for her scrumptious, Sherry-infused dessert!

Tara's Sherry Bundt Cake

1 pkg yellow cake mix
1 pkg instant lemon pudding
4 eggs
2/3 cup vegetable oil
1 cup plus a splash of sherry
1 1/2 tsp nutmeg
1 1/2 tsp cinnamon

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Beat all ingredients together until smooth.
3. Grease and sugar a Bundt cake pan.
4. Bake for 35 minutes (or a bit longer) until the top is golden and a knife/cake tester comes out clean.
5. Cool 15 minutes in pan, then cool on wire rack.
6. Dust with confectioner's sugar.

Staff Updates



As the new ETC Staff Coordinator and Composition Lecturer, **Tyler Heid** handles the day-to-day operations of the ETC. He earned B.A.s in English and Psychology from U.C. Davis, after which he planned to chase winter around the world teaching skiing. When that plan was cut short by an injury, he spent several years abroad teaching English instead. He returned to earn his Master's in English Literature at SFSU and is currently serving as a lecturer in Composition.

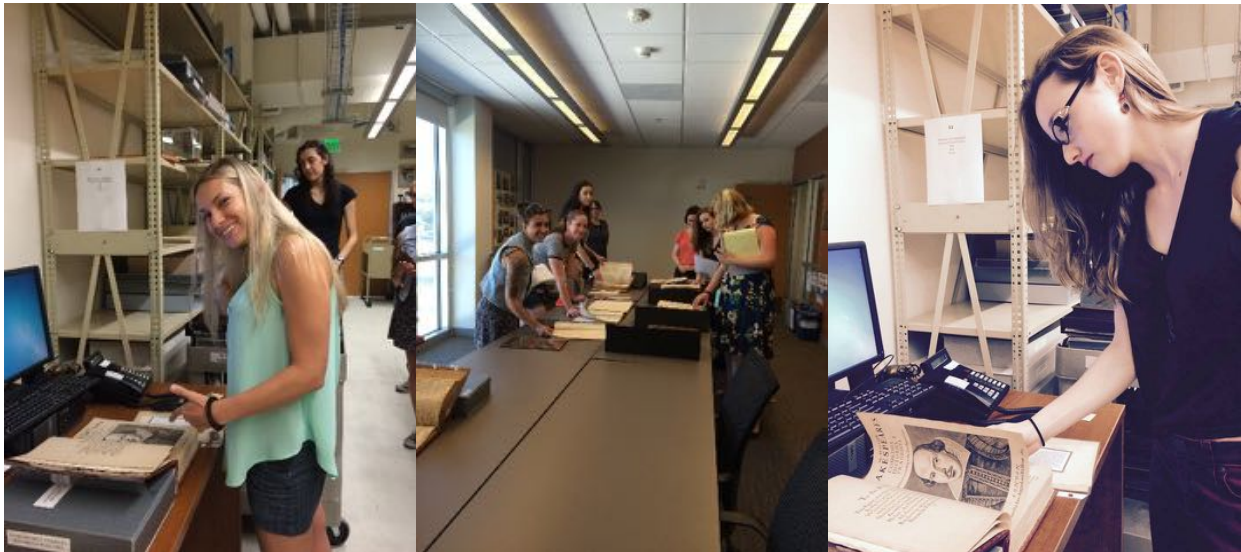
Kitty Quinn-Friel joined us in March of this year, initially handling the scheduling while Irina Simon was on leave. Now, she is in her newly-created full-time AOC position working as the Office Coordinator for the Undergraduate Writing Programs. She is assisting Tara Lockhart, Lisa Heyer, and Neil Lindeman handling communications and paperwork for and with lecturers in the Composition, CMS, and TPW programs. Previously, she worked for the Humanities Department in the Humanities Resources Room.



Student News

Field Trip to Sutro Library

Professor Gitanjali Shahani's Shakespeare seminar met for a session on early modern print culture in the Sutro Library. Students **Emily Farris, Lauren Cirina, Rhonda Sharrah, Amil Amin, Katie Brandt,** and **Daniela Price** spent a long afternoon in the archive examining one of the few remaining copies of Shakespeare's First Folio and discussing the print history of individual plays therein.



Images of Emily Farris, Lauren Cirina, Rhonda Sharrah, Amil Amin, Katie Brandt, and Daniela Price.

MA TESOL Shout-Outs:

- ❖ Congratulations to the MA TESOL graduating class for hosting a very successful **MA TESOL Conference**, "Dynamic Learning Communities: Inspiring Our Craft," which was held in the Humanities Building on Friday, December 4 and included 11 presentations. (For more details see the conference Website: <https://matesolfall2015.wordpress.com/>)



Kudos to Spring 2015 MA TESOL graduates

- ❖ **Lindsey Sivaslian**, whose paper, “Two heads are better than one: A collaborative curricular innovation for peer feedback” was selected as the winner of the annual 2015 CATESOL Graduate Student Research Award.



- ❖ Congratulations to MA TESOL students who presented at the LESLLA (Low Educated Second Language and Literacy Acquisition) 2015 Symposium this fall, including Lea Gabay, who presented her

paper, “I Raise My Voice: Creating an Online-based EFL Curriculum to Promote Self-Authoring Among Female Students in Afghanistan,” and Lina Jurkunas, who presented her paper, “The ‘Good Language Learner:’ Reexamining ‘Exceptionality’ in the LESLLA Field”

- ❖ Congratulations also to MA TESOL students and graduates who presented at the 2015 Annual CATESOL Convention in Anaheim, including current students, Deirdre Hallman, who presented her paper “Comprehension, Meaning-Making, and Writer Authority: An Inquiry Into Paraphrasing” and Iyaka Ihara, who presented her paper “Drama Re-visited: Dealing with Identity Tensions.” MA TESOL graduates included Chloe Fane (Spring 2015), who presented her paper “A Process Approach to Academic Speaking: Meeting Challenges with Mini-Presentations,” Lindsey Sivaslian (Spring 2015), who presented her paper, “Two Are Better Than One: Peer Feedback for Low-Proficiency Writers,” and Julia Schulte (Spring 2012) and Moena Mukai (Spring 2015) presented on a panel, “Non-Native Language Educators’ Issues Workshop—Rebuilding the NNEST.”



Faculty News

The English Department welcomes **Dr. Jim Gilligan**, *English Education*

During his career in education, Jim has taught English at the high school and undergraduate levels, he has taught teacher education courses, and he has supervised teacher candidates in English education. Most recently, he has served as the Asst. Director of the Office of Field Experiences at Purdue University for the past eleven years. Having recently completed his PhD at Purdue, Jim is excited to join the English Department faculty at SFSU. He's looking forward to getting acquainted with the outstanding students and faculty at SFSU, teaching challenging courses, and developing a scholarly agenda focusing on English/Language Arts teacher education and LGBTQ issues in education.



Bill Christmas's most recent essay, "The Verse Epistle and Laboring-Class Literary Sociability from Duck to Burns," will appear in *A Cambridge History of Working-Class Writing* (forthcoming, 2016). He has also been hard at work with his students on a digital humanities project titled "Poetical Scavenger: A Digital Miscellany of Eighteenth-Century Poems." The fruits of their labors can be viewed at

Jennifer Arin's essay "Adrián de Sevilla" has won an X.J. Kennedy Nonfiction Award; the winning essay will appear in the Winter '15 issue of *Rosebud* magazine. She also has been invited to give a poetry reading and book signing at the AWP Conference in Los Angeles in Spring '16, and has written a couple of brief pieces this fall for *Moulinart* (the Belgian company which owns the rights

In March, at "21st Century Moore: A Conference on the Work of Marianne Moore," University of Houston, **Meg Schoerke** presented a paper, "'A labyrinth of pleasure': Landscape, Natural History, and Poetic Process in Marianne Moore's 'An Octopus' and Lorine Niedecker's 'Lake Superior.'"

In the Autumn 2015 issue of *The Hudson Review*, **Meg Schoerke** published "Elegy in the Neo-Shadow: Forms and Variations," and omnibus poetry review of *Barely Composed*, by Alice Fulton; *The Beauty*, by Jane Hirshfield; *Elegy for a Broken Machine*, by Patrick Phillips; and *Whose Flesh is Flame, Whose Bone Is Time*, by V. Penelope Pelizzon.

This fall, while on leave from teaching, **Bev Voloshin** has been studying traditional art methods and materials and continuing research on interconnections between literature and visual arts. *Pictured here: a still life and a portrait in silverpoint on panel prepared with gesso sottile.*



A still life (*above*) and a portrait (*above*) in silverpoint on panel prepared with gesso sottile

Geoffrey Green presented a paper at the international conference on "Writers/Scholars in the University" at the University of Gdansk. His essay on Vladimir Nabokov and the idea of the University will be published in the conference book from Peter Land. He also read from his fiction book, *Voices in a Mask*. In addition, he conducted research in Vienna at the Sigmund Freud museum and the new literature museum, where he was honored to be in the presence of two Kafka manuscripts, *Ameika* and *Letter to My Father*.



Geoffrey Green with distinguished novelist and National Book Award winner John Barth (*above*) at the Johns Hopkins University Peabody Library conference and exhibit opening, "Lost & Found in the Funhouse: John Barth" - in celebration of the Review of Contemporary Fiction Festschrift on John Barth.

MA TESOL Faculty presented at the CATESOL Convention: **Priya Abeywickrama, David Olsher, and Maricel Santos** presented "Revisiting the Practicum Experience in TESOL Teacher Education." **Maricel Santos** additionally presented her paper "In search of a health literacy research agenda in the LESLLA field" at the LESLLA.

Practicum-palooza! **Priya Abeywickrama**, **David Olsher**, and **Maricel Santos** (TESOL) are guest editors of a special theme section of the upcoming 2015 *CATESOL Journal* (Volume 27, Issue 2) "Revisioning the practicum experience in TESOL Teacher Education". The special theme section includes 10 articles that promote dialogue and reflection about the practicum experience as a unique growth activity. Included in the collection is a feature article "Beyond 'Empty Verbalism': How Teacher Candidates Benefit From Blogging About a Tutoring Practicum" by former TESOL faculty member **Kathy Howard** (now with CSU San Bernardino), and a reflective essay "Discovering Aspects of Teacher Identity Through Volunteering in the Noncredit ESL Classroom" authored by current TESOL student, **Lina Jurkunas**. Please check out the [CATESOL Journal website](#) for the issue which will be posted in December 2015!

Alumni News

At her yoga studio Professor Loretta Stec was happy to run into former MA student **Jamie Stock** who is a full-time faculty member in the English Department of DeAnza College in Cupertino and has a son who is just turning one.



MA Linguistics: Recent Grads Put Their Linguistic Training to Use

Just as fall classes resumed this year, Jenny Lederer had an opportunity to meet up with two Linguistics grads, **Allison Lopez** and **Hannah Phinney** (class of 2013).

Over drinks in downtown Berkeley, Lederer learned that Hannah works as an annotator for a semantics-based ontology at the International Computer Science Institute (ICSI) in Berkeley, "My current job as research assistant on the FrameNet project at ICSI came about as a progression from

the concepts I learned in the MA Program's Semantics course, as well as from work I did on one of my two culminating squibs." Hannah reflected on her MA experience, "I find the work at ICSI incredibly interesting and challenging, and am so happy to be a part of the team there, contributing to an enterprise I believe in. And I'm grateful to the SF State Linguistics Masters Program for preparing me for such work."



Allison Lopez and Hannah Phinney

Allison explained the relationship between her current position as College Prep English Program Coordinator at the Prison University Project in San Quentin State Prison and her SFSU training: “A lot of the students I work with enter the college

classroom believing there is a right and wrong way to speak and write... Instead of reinforcing this belief by teaching them solely how to write in an academic register, we teach them to consider language across multiple registers and in different social and cultural contexts... Students learn to see value in all language registers and dialects and bring exciting observations to the classroom!” She adds, “ I don't know how I would have approached this job without a background in linguistics –I'm using what I learned to help them relate to language, and students are finding it just as exciting as I am.”

Lederer noted, “There’s nothing more rewarding as an instructor [than] to see your students succeed on their chosen paths after graduation and apply classroom concepts to new settings, spreading those same skills and ideas to others! Very proud of these two!”

Sharing Knowledge and Saving Lives

MA TESOL alum **Betsy Chafcouloff** ('90 graduate) is featured in this Fall’s SFSU Magazine, as shares her story of working at a local health facility in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Click here to read the article: http://www.sfsu.edu/~sfsumag/archive/fall_15/sharing-knowledge.html

A Very Refugee Thanksgiving

MA TESOL alum **Jackie McNabb** is featured in an article published on OZY that highlights an ESL class she is currently teaching in Oakland, California at the English Center. Click here to read the article: <http://www.ozy.com/true-story/a-very-refugee-thanksgiving/66186>

Future English Major

Elena Stardust Suazo Faber is Composition lecturer **Matt Suazo's** new baby daughter. She was born Wednesday, November 18th weighting 8lbs 9oz and 21 inches. Congratulations Matt and family!



In Memorium

IN MEMORIUM

Dear Colleagues,

With great sadness, I write to inform you that our colleague **Wendall Douglas** passed away on Monday July 20, 2015. Wendall was a long time lecturer in the English Composition Program (2005-2015) and a 2006 MA TESOL graduate. In addition to being a delightful and beloved colleague, Wendall was well appreciated by the scores of students privileged to have him as their instructor. The most consistent phrase students used to describe Wendall was as a “great mentor” who made learning fun and challenging at the same time. He will be greatly missed by all of us in the English Department.



July 28th was also Wendall's 37th birthday, a bittersweet reminder of the temporal nature of our corporal existence.

Thank you all.

Rest in Peace, Wendall...

Written by Sugie Goen-Salter, Chair of the English Department

We hope to see you all at our **Second Annual English Department Commencement Ceremony** on Thursday, May 26, 2015!
More details to come in the Spring.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Ms. Anita Christine Malign

Mr. John F. Piccarella

Ms. Kathy Malcomson

Dr. and Mrs. John M. Green

Ms. Dorothy Jewel Sernaker

Ms. Miriam Kaminsky

Mr. Simon Dobjensky

If you have any newsworthy items about yourself or others to share with the department, please send your submissions to us at engdept@sfsu.edu.



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