



Comparative Literature News Spring 2010

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Letter from the Director

2009-10 was a challenging year for humanistic, international, and comparative studies, and yet this year our Program has flourished. Comparative Literature as a field has always responded to global tension and concerns, and it continues to do so today.

After welcoming an exceptional entering class for Fall 2009, the Program hosted its annual graduate student symposium on the topic "Postcolonial Actualities: Past and Present." More than 120 scholars and students both considered the aftermaths of the imperial and colonial experiences of our world and celebrated the remarkable contributions of our late colleague to Comparative, Women's and Middle Eastern Studies. Professor Fernea's legacy of striving for a deep and respectful understanding of the Middle East was richly remembered through the contributions of the many distinguished speakers who participated in our conference and honored her memory. Most especially, however, it was embodied in the seriousness, originality and humanity of the diverse projects presented by the graduate students who will form the next generation of scholars.

Our students and faculty continue to excel, garnering many awards and honors once again this year about which you will read in the following pages. Another successful year of hosting the American Comparative Literature Association culminated in our annual meeting in April which attracted more than 1,800 participants to post-Katrina New Orleans to consider the topic of "Creoles, Diasporas, and Cosmopolitanisms" in this most appropriate of settings.

The Program remains a meeting place for people, languages, and cultures, and it is my hope that you will enjoy reading about the nature, range and distinction of my colleagues' accomplishments.

Elizabeth Richmond-Garza

A Note on Incoming Students

César Salgado, Graduate Advisor

Fluent in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Hebrew literatures, **Jonathan (Joe) Fleck** (BA in Comp. Lit., U Chicago 2008) will extend at UT his work on Latin American Jewish studies and translation theory. Having studied José Martí and Oscar Hahn as poet-activists, Joe is especially interested in the impact of "literature as an active force in society." With work on Third World film and modernist poetics, **Cory Hahn** (BA in Comp. Lit., U of Illinois 2007; MA in Comp. Lit., Penn State 2010) is interested in how emerging forms of digital expression interact with traditional literary forms. After perfecting her Arabic during a semester abroad in Jordan, **Katie Logan** (BA in English & Comp. Lit., Columbia 2009) focused on texts written by Arab women during the Lebanese Civil War for her BA thesis. She plans to improve her French and learn Hebrew at UT to integrate Palestinian, Israeli and Algerian topics into her research area. A Hermann Hesse scholar and enthusiast, **Brian Mothersole** (BA in English and German, Rice 2009) wants to explore "how literary culture responds to war, exile, home culture, and religion" in 19th and 20th C. Europe, North America, and Russia. He joins us after spending a year in Germany working as a middle school English teacher under a Fulbright scholarship. **Nathaniel Zingg** (BA in Literature, Yale U 2007) will focus on mapping European avant-garde and high modernist aesthetics across new arts media and postcolonial horizons. Nat spent a summer in Spain during which he worked on archival materials at the Fundación Federico García Lorca in Granada for his senior essay. **Vincent Robert-Nicoud** (BA Université de Neuchâtel 2007) will join us as a Fulbright MA Fellow from Switzerland. He has studied non-linear, combinatory textual practices in Old and Middle English and French medieval poetry, and is interested in the philosophical and theoretical implications behind integrating semiotic, linguistic, and mathematical tools in their analysis.

My thanks go to the CL faculty and staff who worked to recruit these students. The admissions committee consisted of: Karen Grumberg and Mohammad Ghanoonparvar (Middle Eastern Studies), Hannah Chapelle Wojciehowski and Neville Hoad (English), Naomi Lindstrom and Sonia Roncador (Spanish and Portuguese), Lynn Wilkinson (Germanics), and Alexandra Wettlaufer (French and Italian).

Note from GRACLS

Pearl Brilmyer, President

The Graduate Association of Comparative Literature Students continues to strengthen our presence on the UT campus by providing support for Comparative Literature students and holding conferences that attract students across university and beyond. GRACLS kicked off the 2009-2010 with a fellowship proposal writing workshop led by Professor Katie Arens. Here Comp Lit graduate students work-shopped drafts of fellowship proposals for fellowships like UT's annual Continuing Fellowship.. three of which went on to success in the Spring semester.

In October GRACLS held our Sixth-Annual Graduate Conference in Comparative Literature, "Postcolonial Actualities: Past and Present" organized by GRACLS officer Simone Sessolo. The conference featured a keynote address by Emily Apter entitled "Terrestrial Humanism and the Politics of Translation in the Work of Edward Saïd" and drew students from over 35 universities.

April took many GRACLS members to the 2010 American Comparative Literature Association Conference in New Orleans "Creoles, Diasporas, Cosmopolitanisms," where 19 GRACLS members presented papers. The conference team in New Orleans, led by UT Comp Lit Program Director and ACLA Treasurer-Secretary Elizabeth Richmond-Garza and ACLA Administrative Assistant Billy Fatzinger, found strong support from GRACLS members at registration and elsewhere behind the scenes.

Under the leadership of GRACLS conference organizer, Anthony Arroyo, GRACLS has begun planning the Seventh-Annual Graduate Conference in Comparative Literature, "Intimacy: Technologies of Feeling and Fantasy." This timely topic, rich with possibility for students in Comparative Literature, as well as Radio, Television and Film, Women's and Gender Studies, Queer Studies and other fields, is a recipe for productive cross-disciplinary discussion. David Eng from the University of Pennsylvania, an expert in the fields of Queer Studies, Asian Studies, and Masculinity Studies, will give the keynote address.

GRACLS Officers

President: Pearl Brilmyer

Treasurer: Marina Flider

Secretary: Anna Marin

Conference Coordinator: Anthony Arroyo

Undergraduate Courses

CL 305

Forbidden Romance in Modern Chinese Literature Since the Late Qing
Chien-Hsin Tsai

CL 315

Masterworks of World Literature
Topic: Global Literature and Culture
Elizabeth Richmond-Garza

CL 323

Intro to Arabic Literature
Samer Ali

The Qur'an
Hina Azam

Holocaust Aftereffects - Honors
Pascale Bos

Bulgakov's Master & Margarita
Tom Garza

Hebrew Lit in Translation and Arabic Media
Karen Grumberg

The Sacred and the Secular in Contemporary Jewish Literature
Karen Grumberg

Social Dramas of Henrik Ibsen
John Hoberman

Supernatural in Traditional Chinese Fiction
Chiu-Mi Lai

Hans Christian Andersen
Stine Nielsen

Twentieth-Century Drama
Elizabeth Richmond-Garza

Fictions of the Self and Other
Alexandra Wettlaufer

The Icon and the Sword
Michael Pesenson

Graduate Courses

CL 180K

Introduction to Comparative Literature:
Proseminar in Methods of Study and Research
César Salgado

CL 381

Jewish Contributions to 20th-Century French Masterworks
Seth Wolitz

Transcolonial Joyce
César Salgado

CL 382

The French Connection
Katherine Arens

Intersections of Theatre and Philosophy
David Kornhaber

CL 390

Literary & Cultural Theory Since 1900
Lynn Wilkinson

Please visit the Comparative Literature
Web site for more information:

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/progs/complit/courses/>

Degree Recipients

Fall 2009 - Spring 2010

Master of Arts:

Fall 2009: **Maxmilian Hinton**, "Curing Catholicism: Curanderismo and the Literary Manifestation of a Modern Mexican American Faith"; **Michal Raizen-Colman**, "The Re-Generation of Exile: The Orphan Figure in Israeli Literature as an Agent of Diasporic Imagination";

Spring 2010: **Nora Eltahawy**, "Imagining Sittee: Constructions of Homelands and Grandmother Narratives in Arab American Fiction"; **Cynthia Francica**, "Performing Unreachable Bodies: The Politics of Encounter in Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*"; **Daniel Kahozi**, "Striking a Balance in African Societies: Interrelatedness of Tradition and Modernity in Diome's *The Belly of the Atlantic* and Sembene's *Moolade*"; **Julianna Leachman**, "Embracing the Other: Christian Cosmopolitanism in Tolstoy and O'Connor"; and **Fatma Tarlaci**, "The Invisible Dance: Persistence of the Turkish Harem in Oscar Wilde's *Salomé*"

Doctor of Philosophy:

Spring 2010: **Pilar Cabrera**, "*Altamente Teatral*": *Subject, Nation, and Media in the Works of Virgilio Pinera*; **Alexei Lalo**, *Representing Sexualities and Eroticism in the Russian Literature and Culture of the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries: A Contemporary Assessment*; **Aména Moinfar**, *In Search of Lost Geographies: Contemporary Literatures of (Mis)Education by Children of Exile and Immigration*; **Marina Potoplyak**, *Between Cosmopolitanism and Nationalism: Pring, National Identity, and the Literary Public Sphere in the 1920s Petersburg and Buenos Aires*

Prizes and Fellowships

University Fellowships

Continuing Fellowships

Nandini Dhar (2010-11)

Naminata Diabate (2010-11)

Elizabeth Erbezniak (2010-11)

McIlhany Endowed Presidential Fellowship

Daniel Kahozi (2009-2010)

Women and Gender Studies Dissertation Fellowship

Nandini Dhar (2010)

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowships

Michal Raizen-Colman (Summer 2010)

Roanne Sharp (2010-11)

Somy Kim (2010-11)

Mahyar Entezari (2010-11)

Fulbright Scholar Fellowship

Vincent Robert-Nicoud (2010-11)

Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (Germany)

Brian Mothersole (2009-2010)

Other Fellowships and Awards

Elizabeth Warnock Fernea Endowment Fellowship

Banafsheh Madaninejad (2010)

André Lefevere Master's Prize

Yekaterina Kotey (2009-10)

The Susan Sontag Prize for Translation

Roanne Sharp (2009-10)

Schusterman Israel Scholar Award

Michal Raizen-Colman (2009-10)

American Institute of Iranian Studies Award

Somy Kim (Summer 2010)

Harry Ransom Center Internship

Francisca Folch-Couyoumdjian (2009-2011)

Additionally, thanks to the generosity of the Office of Graduate Studies and the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, the Program has awarded 34 fellowships to students to assist in defraying the costs of presenting original scholarly work at national conferences and job searches.

Elizabeth Warnock Fernea Endowment Fellowship



Elizabeth Warnock Fernea devoted her life to greater understanding between the Middle East and the West. Herself an intrepid traveler, scholar filmmaker, and ambassador for intercultural exchange, Dr. Fernea was honored by friends, colleagues, and admirers upon her retirement by the creation of an endowment. It supports graduate research in Comparative Literature which focuses on the Middle East with a special emphasis on gender issues.

For six years, this endowment has funded advanced research students in our program, allowing them to undertake original archival research and to write up their research.

We are pleased to award to **Ms. Banafsheh Madaninejad** of Iran with the 2010 Elizabeth Warnock Fernea Endowment Fellowship. As an articulate spokesperson for human and women's rights in Iran and outstanding comparative scholar, Ms. Madaninejad has been invited to speak at dozens of schools, civic organizations, and public forums regarding the present and future state of democratic Islam. Ms. Madaninejad is precisely the kind of student Dr. Fernea would have encouraged, as the core of her career and life was a passion to bring cultures face-to-face. The Program in Comparative Literature remains deeply grateful to her for making it possible for us to continue this work.



Fernea Fellowship

Banafsheh Madaninejad

My first thought after having found out about the award should have been: Yippee more funds for baby-sitting fees to help finish the dissertation. Instead, I was left a bit awestruck by the sweet strangeness of it all. You see, Dr. Fernea was my first ever point of contact with UT. The first time I came to Austin for a visit, she was the one who showed me around campus. A professor of mine had introduced us. I got here feeling overwhelmed and was greeted by her sweet smile. She took me around campus and instead of piling on the advice, she just answered my questions with a serenity that put my mind at ease. She was loving, empowering. Here she is again, posthumously, holding my hand towards the finish line. It's an honor to somehow be connected with Dr. Fernea's name and good luck, after much wandering around that same campus, to have landed myself in UT's Comparative Literature department.



André Lefevere MA Prize

Yekaterina Cotey

I am honored to receive this award. What makes this award special for me is its association with André Lefevere. After I was introduced to his work in Dr. Richmond-Garza's seminar "World Literature and Globalism", I had a chance to further explore his contribution to translation studies. As a practicing translator, I found his insights very useful for my understanding of translation theory, while his practical suggestions have helped me to improve the quality of my own work. I would like to thank Dr. Livers and Dr. Kumzic for their useful suggestions, support, and patience with my Master's Report. Without their help, my project would have never taken shape. I am also very grateful to Dr. Salgado for providing information about this competition. I encourage the graduate students in Comparative Literature Program to participate in this competition next year and wish them the best of luck!

First Year Student Profiles (2009-10)

John Destafney received his B.A. in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His current interests are Latin American and Portuguese literature of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and their intersections with continental philosophy and English language literature.

Mahyar Entezari received his B.A. in German Studies from the University of California, San Diego. In 2004, Mahyar went to Oldenburg, Germany as a Fulbright foreign language teaching assistant. In 2005, he returned to California to teach English as a foreign language. He came to Texas in 2006 to study at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies in a three-year dual-language M.A. program focusing on Arabic and Persian. Presently he is studying Turkish with an interest in the confluence of Azeri and Persian cultures in modern Iran.

Marina Flider received her B.A. in English Literature and Comparative Literature from Wellesley College. Her research concentrates on 20th century Russian and Hebrew literature. In addition to her interest in Vladimir Nabokov and the works of Vladimir Nabokov, she is currently working on projects centering around post-zionist literature and kitsch.

Dusty Hixenbaugh received his B.A.s in English and Spanish from Southern Illinois University. In 2004, he studied Uruguayan literature at the Universidad Católica in Montevideo; from 2006 to 2009, he taught English and Debate to high school students in La Joya, Texas, as a member of Teach For America. At the SCMLA convention this upcoming October, he will present a paper about Christian traditions subverted by early Mexican American writers for feminist purposes.

Martino Lovato earned his B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Bologna and M.A. in Comparative Literature from the American University in Cairo. He is interested in historiographical and aesthetic perspectives from early modern to contemporary French, Italian and Arabic literatures.

Rachel Macaulay received her B.A. in Comparative Literature and in Spanish Language and Literature from Brandeis University. Her research interests include cross-cultural folklore and mythology of Imperial Spain and their role in the formation of community and national Spanish and American identities.

Maryam Shariati received her B.A. in English Language and Literature from Semnan University, Iran. While studying as a graduate student at the University of Tehran, she joined Fulbright to teach Persian at Brown University for two years. Her areas of research include gender studies, postcolonial theory, 19th and 20th century English and American literatures, contemporary Persian literature, and cultural theory, particularly questions of identity.

Roanne Sharp earned her B.A. in Comparative Literature from the University of California, Los Angeles. She works on 20th century Latin American and South Asian literature, global reception and issues of translation. Roanne was recently honored in Buenos Aires, where she was awarded the Susan Sontag Prize for her translation of Juan José Saer's *La Mayor*.



First Year Students (L-R): Maryam Shariati, Rachel Macaulay, Dusty Hixenbaugh, Roanne Sharp, Mahyar Entezari, Martino Lovato, Marina Flider, and John Destafney

2009 GRACLS Conference

by *Simone Sessolo*

On October 16-17, 2009, The Program in Comparative Literature held the Sixth Annual Graduate Comparative Literature conference entitled "Postcolonial Actualities: Past and Present." The conference, interlaced with a three-day symposium celebrating the intellectual legacy of Professor Elizabeth (BJ) Fernea, focused on how the immigrant flux of colonized populations between urban spaces of former colonizing countries and colonies has reformed the politics of literature, sociology, art, and culture in the cities of former colonial powers.

The aim of the conference was to create discussions investigating how major cities of former empires and colonies have become the stage of hybridity, multiculturalism, and new social dynamics. The joint effort with the event celebrating the life and work of Dr. Fernea expanded the horizons of the conference to specific areas such as: women's studies, Middle Eastern literature, the art and practice of film making, and a commitment to the social and political changes in the Middle Eastern and North African region.

The conference, although smaller in scale than the one of the year before on the 40th anniversary of 1968, was broad in topics and worldly in its participation. 58 graduate students and faculty presented their original work. Participants came from both American and international universities, including speakers from Canada, China, France, Germany, South Africa, and Turkey—attesting the relevance of the Comparative Literature Program at UT Austin in an intellectually global stage.

The plenary keynote speaker for both events was

Dr. Emily Apter, Professor of Comparative Literature and French at New York University, and author of *The Transatlantic Zone: A New Comparative Literature* (2005) and *Continental Drift: From National Characters to Virtual Subjects* (1999). The topic of her plenary address was "Terrestrial Humanism and the Politics of Translation in the Work of Edward Said."

The Conference ended with a Roundtable discussion on "Professionalization and the Job Market" moderated by Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, including Dr. Wayne Lesser (Graduate Adviser for the English Department), Dr. Tarek El-Ariss (Assistant Professor in Middle Eastern Studies), Dr. Karen Pagni (Assistant Professor in French and Italian), and two of our finishing students, Pilar Cabrera Fonte and Marina Potoplyak.

The committee would like to thank a number of people and organizations that made the Postcolonial Actualities Conference possible: Dean Randy Diehl, Senior Associate Dean Richard Flores, Administrative Assistants Geneva Walton and Joseph Ackers, and the College of Liberal Arts; Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies Victoria Rodríguez; Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, Director of the Program in Comparative Literature and Distinguished Teaching Associate Professor in the English Department; Dr. César A. Salgado, Graduate Adviser in the Program in Comparative Literature and Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese; Billy Fatzinger, Graduate Coordinator in Comparative Literature.

The complete conference program can be found on the program's Web site:

www.utexas.edu/cola/progs/complit/conferences/

Greetings from Cairo!

by Johanna Sellman

Those of you studying Arabic literature will be well-aware of the significant investment in time and energy necessary to embark on the joys and challenges of juggling the various registers of Modern Standard Arabic, colloquial, and Classical Arabic that the literature demands of its readers. This is why I whole-heartedly recommend enrolling in a program like the Center for Arabic Studies Abroad (CASA)! I don't think it would be an exaggeration to say that the CASA program is near obligatory for students in the field of Arabic studies who are not native speakers of Arabic. That said, each cohort of students comes from fields as diverse as history, law, anthropology, and literature. CASA alumni number over 1350, and although since its inception in 1967 the vast majority of these are graduates of the Cairo program, CASA now boasts an additional location in Damascus, Syria.

The CASA program is structured around three terms. In the summer, students divide their time between Egyptian or Syrian colloquial Arabic and Modern Standard Arabic. The Fall term is equally intensive and a third, listening class is added. In addition to the regular assignments, students read an Arabic novel every weekend and regularly attend lectures on contemporary issues in culture and society. The spring term is more freely conceived, with students taking one required class in writing and several electives which are chosen based on the student's interests and areas of specialization.

Personally, other than having the opportunity to experience Cairo for a full year and benefit from the CASA

program, other highlights include attending the annual Cairo bookfair and translating for an organization that provides legal aid to Iraqi refugees living in Egypt. Attending colloquial poetry events and theater has broadened my perspective on Arabic literature as has the opportunity to take a class on literary criticism in the Arab world from a critic active in the Egyptian literary sphere.

If you are considering applying to the CASA program, consult the website: <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/casa/>. Applicants selected for the program generally receive full funding, which includes a monthly stipend and a roundtrip ticket to Cairo or Damascus. A heads up to those considering applying to CASA: participation in the program counts as one year of UT funding for students in Comparative literature, so plan accordingly!

The Center for Arabic Study Abroad

The Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) was established in 1967 to offer intensive advanced Arabic language training at the American University in Cairo, Egypt. Since its inception, CASA has trained more than 1,350 American college level students, graduate students, and professors specializing in various areas of Middle Eastern Studies.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/casa/>



Translation

by Roanne Sharp



My voice trembled as I reviewed my speech one last time in the bathroom at the PROA foundation in Buenos Aires. In a minute I would take my seat amidst five scholars who knew more about the writings of Juan José Saer than anyone else in the world

(later I would watch their cameo appearances in a Saer documentary released the year I started studying Spanish!). Was I really about to stand alongside them and attempt to answer the question “Can Saer be translated” in the affirmative? I knew when I won the Susan Sontag Prize for Translation that I would have to translate a book; I never realized I would become its champion.

I believe translation is an essential practice for Comparative Literature students for at least one very obvious reason: no one knows more about language and literature than we do. Through my work, I realized that translation is also essential to teach us about reading. One of my mentors liked to say “a critic can choose to ignore parts of a book that don’t fit his theory; a translator has to deal with every word.” I agonized over every word in *La Mayor* in two languages; no other reading experience can compare. As I seek publication, translation takes on another new light: advocacy. This process is more complex and exciting than I ever imagined, and, in contrast to the lonely hours working between keyboard, dictionary and text, it is a highly interpersonal one, bringing me into contact with fellow translators, editors, and literary organizations. I’m pleased to say I convinced the crowd in Buenos Aires that Saer can be translated, and this summer, I’ll try convincing the crowd at Oxford’s Iberian Studies conference. Translation needs more advocates. I invite you to join me in becoming one.

Defense and Jobs

by Pilar Cabrera



One morning in September of 2009 Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza helped me understand that the best time to defend my dissertation was that semester. With a depressed job market, the advantage of mentioning in my letters that I already had a date for my dissertation defense was an important one.

sertation defense was an important one.

I had to work at a much faster pace, but the idea of having a wider margin of time before graduation to make corrections helped me feel more confident when writing. Still, it was hard to combine working in my dissertation with the job search. I found it very useful to have a weekly calendar marking the days to mail each application. It was also very useful to look at cover letters from friends in my field who had recently gotten tenure-track jobs. An important thing that I learned is that you can never start writing the syllabi for potential courses too early. Think of graduate and undergraduate courses alike. During the campus visit at the college in the Midwest where I was finally hired (yes!) they asked me which senior level course I could team-teach with a faculty member from the sciences. I did not expect that question, but luckily I had often thought of a course that explored different ideas about nature found in literature. They liked the idea.

To defend in the fall helped me very much. I was invited to several interviews, and the references to my already-approved dissertation started them on a very positive note. I am not likely to run a marathon in my life, but I am sure that my semester of Fall 2009 did not require less effort and endurance. I survived, however, and it was worth it.

Lessons from Teach For America

by *Dusty Hixenbaugh*



Teach For America should, but doesn't, provide its alumni "I Survived..." T-shirts like the one my dinosaur-obsessed friend sported in the 1990s, when he returned from Universal Studios.

In the Texas-Mexico border-town where, for three years, I taught ninth- and twelfth-grade English, schools are not amusement parks, and students certainly are not oversized animatronic reptiles. I'd like to say that because I was their teacher my students learned how to read, how to write, how to love to read and write, but about this I can only speculate.

What I do know is, because I was their teacher I learned a yellow-schoolbusful of lessons I continue to put to use now, as a student and Teacher's Assistant at the University of Texas.

When I say I survived Teach for America, then, I mean amongst other things that I've learned to appreciate the rare opportunity I've been given to be a student again, to read books for a living, to drink a beer on Wednesday nights and sleep in on Thursday mornings.

I've learned that grown men and women must be told to put their phones away, to haul their ten-pound textbooks to class. And most important of all, I've learned that every undergraduate in my discussion sections, even the one whose grandfather has expired three times in one semester, is a success story. After all, for every student fortunate enough to be accepted into, and able to afford, a university education, there are many others who have already and forever been initiated into the workforce, who never graduate from high school.

Respect, humility and gratitude -- Now, that's a T-shirt I'd proudly wear.

Job Hunting

by *Marina Potoplyak*



As an active job seeker this year, I was pleasantly surprised by the number of attractive academic jobs despite the fact that budget cuts affected most universities and colleges at some level. While there were indeed fewer tenure-track offerings and several search cancellations, "optimizing" trends such as an increase in

non-tenure track offerings, requirements to teach two foreign languages at once, and expectations to conduct online courses in addition to traditional ones figured prominently this year. Given the competitiveness of the academic job market, it is critical to start familiarizing oneself with it a year or two before one actually becomes an active job seeker. Fortunately, the Program in Comparative Literature at UT sponsors a series of events for its job-seeking graduate students, including workshops on résumés, cover letters, and other application materials, mock interviews, and mock job talks. The information and feedback I have received at the workshops and mock job talk helped me tremendously as I prepared for my interviews.

The MLA also offers a variety of resources designed to assist graduate students with professionalization and job search. In addition to the regularly updated Job Information List, it offers a wealth of career advice at http://www.mla.org/career_resources. The Committee on the Status of Graduate Students in the Profession, specifically assembled to address the professional and intellectual issues that affect graduate students in literary studies, is another source of information and support for job seekers. During the 2009 convention in Philadelphia, the committee co-hosted over a dozen professionalization panels for graduate students and junior faculty. As a UT representative at the breakfast meeting organized by the committee, I had a chance to discuss common concerns with a dozen doctoral students in literature programs from around the country. The committee invites graduate students to share their concerns and ideas via e-mail (csgsp@mla.org). For more information, visit http://www.mla.org/comm_grad.

Opening of Department of African and African Diaspora Studies

by *Naminata Diabate*



In anticipation of the opening of The Department of African and African Diaspora Studies, the Warfield Center for African and African American Studies and several UT faculty members working on Africa instituted the Workshop Series in African Studies. One of the goals of the workshops is to

stimulate conversations pertaining to African studies by facilitating the presentation of works on Africa by both students and faculty in a somewhat informal though organized platform. It is an honor for me as a graduate student to be vested with the responsibility of coordinating the Workshops. My tasks consist of gathering biographical information of all UT faculties working on Africa, scheduling the events and presenters, and sending out announcements. Since its creation in Fall 2008, the series has successfully presented workshops by several professors including Neville Hoad, Barbara Harlow, Moyo Okediji, Ruramisai Charumbira, Veit Erlmann, Catherine Boone, Jemima Pierre. After a year of successful organization and as the Workshops gathered momentum, I was invited to also manage the listserv with Dr. Ruramisai Charumbira, introduce presenters and facilitate the Q&As with History graduate student Charles Morgan.

Coordinating the Workshops in African Studies gives me the opportunity to interact with faculty and students from diverse disciplines such as Art History, Musicology, History, Government, Anthropology, Theatre and Dance, etc. This exposure to a wide array of disciplines, often outside the immediate scope of my primary field of interest in Comparative Literature, has been crucial in expanding my own scholarly engagements and furthering my interdisciplinary learning experience. Additionally it has refined my public speaking and organizational skills.

To augment the presence of African studies on UT campus is immensely gratifying in itself, which is made even more exciting with opportunity to work under the supervision of as fine a scholar as Prof. Omi Osun Joni L. Jones, director of the Warfield Center for African and African American Studies.

Publication

by *Francisca Folch-Couyoumdjian*



I recently published a book called *Sara Nieto: vida de una bailarina estrella* (*Sara Nieto: Life of a Star Dancer*) the biography of a beloved Uruguayan ballerina who was popular in the 1980s and 90s in Chile. The project, on which my co-author, Marisol Calderón, and I

worked for several years, finally came to fruition last December, published by El Mercurio-Aguilar press. This account is a creative rendering that weaves as faithfully as possible the facts gathered through extensive research and interviews with artists, family members, and the dancer herself—an attempt that has to negotiate how the capricious reconstruction of memory alters the past. My research started out as a way to record the extraordinary journey that created our very first étoile dancer, but soon broadened into a search to capture what was a Golden Age for Uruguayan and Chilean ballet, of which there are few written documents. As one dancer urged us rather melancholically: “It is important to remember the names of our culture, so that they do not become mere empty sounds for future generations.” In the usually less textually dependent dance world, this anxiety is especially poignant. My hope is to contribute to the making of cultural history in my country and also to reveal some of the secrets of the South American dance stage and its fleetingly shining stars.

Graduate Student Association

by Anna Marin



The Program in Comparative Literature, compared to the rest of the University of Texas at Austin, may be small in size but its voice is strong and equally heard thanks in part to the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA). The GSA, one of four elected student leader-

ship organizations, represents the principal interests of graduate students across the university. Each department or program receives one vote to ensure equal representation of all graduate students.

During the 2009-2010 academic year, in their bi-monthly meetings, the GSA has effectively taken on university legislature for gun control, to mediate in the debate around the Cactus Café, to secure graduate student housing, to argue for continued health insurance for fellowship recipients, among many other topics. We have also welcomed Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Esther Raizen, to discuss gender equality in faculty and administrative positions, as well as hear her overwhelming support for graduate student representation and activism. As the elected representative for the Program of Comparative Literature, I have also sat on a committee to initiate socially responsible investment, and to amend university contracts with companies responsible for human rights violations.

Representatives have the opportunity to serve in multiple committees of representation, and have the responsibility of being ambassadors for their program or department among the larger graduate student population. It has been with great enthusiasm that I serve on the GSA to ensure that the graduate students of the Program of Comparative Literature continue to be heard among their peers.

Job Placement News

Pilar Cabrera has accepted a position at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota as an Assistant Professor beginning Fall 2010.

Li Yang has been appointed as an Assistant Professor of Chinese in the Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures at Lafayette College beginning Fall 2010.



Michael Pesenson, Assistant Professor of Slavic and Eurasian Studies. Graduate work at Yale University. Research interests: medieval East and South Slavic literatures, Russian baroque literature and culture, nineteenth century Russian literature and culture, early Russian opera and theater, apocalyptic themes in Russian literature, literary dystopias. Recent publications: "Antichrist at the Gates: Apocalyptic Discourse in Russia Surrounding the Napoleonic Invasion of 1812." (Russian Review); "The Sibylline Tradition in Medieval and Early Modern Orthodox Slavic Culture." (Old Testament Apocrypha in the Slavonic Tradition. Ed. L. DiTommaso and C. Boettrich. Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism); "Nicolae Milescu Spafarii's 'Khrismologion' and 'Skazanie o Sivillakh': Prophecies of Power in Late Seventeenth Century Russia." (Religion and National Identity in Russia and the Soviet Union: A Festschrift for Paul Bushkovitch). Current book project: Antichrist in Russia: Images of the Apocalypse in Russian Literature and Culture from the Middle Ages to the 'Silver Age'.



David Kornhaber, is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Texas at Austin. He received his Ph.D. in 2009 from Columbia University and his A.B., summa cum laude, from Harvard College in 2002. He served as Assistant Editor of *Theatre Survey* from 2007-2008 and as an Affiliated Writer with *American Theatre* from 2005-2008. In addition to his academic publications on drama, he has served as a contributor to the Theatre section of *The New York Times* and as a theatre critic for *The Village Voice*.

Chien-hsin Tsai's focuses are in Modern Chinese literary and cultural studies, with particular interests in literature as ground of representation as well as sensorium; Sinophone studies; and colonial literature from Taiwan in Chinese and Japanese alike.

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Matt Cohen, Matt Cohen is an associate professor in the Department of English. He is the author of *The Networked Wilderness: Communicating in Early New England* (U of Minnesota P, 2010), a study of intercultural communication interactions in colonial America. He is a contributing editor at the Walt Whitman Archive, where with Rachel Price he edited a digital version of the first book-length translation of Whitman's poetry into Spanish, *Álvaro Armando Vasseur's Walt Whitman: Poemas*. He has published translations and critical essays on American literature in Spanish translation in *PMLA* and *Modern Language Studies*.



Barbara Harlow: The seminar has, over the years, drawn students from various disciplines – including Comparative Literature, but also History, Government, Anthropology, and yes, even Law. This past fall, however, our roster combined equal representation from both literary studies and law, a combination that I would like to think enhanced critical thinking across not only disciplines but also professional obligations. Students of literature, that is, need to understand that "human rights" is not just a rhetorical flourish but a political responsibility. In turn then, it is no less interesting to note the influence of literary critical methodologies on the practices of international human rights norms and their conflicted implementation, whether through the

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Interview with Professor Barbara Harlow

by *Anna Marin*



This year Comparative Literature and its affiliations celebrated a new joint venture between the disciplines of literature and law. In the Fall 2009 semester, Professor Barbara Harlow, Louann and Larry Temple Centennial Professor of English Literature and affiliated

professor in Comparative Literature, offered a variant of her long-standing course "Literature and Human Rights." In coordination with her Fall 2009 appointment as interim Director of the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice, Professor Harlow adapted the course for both literature and law students. As a student in the course, I had a chance to ask Professor Harlow about this opportunity:

Anna Marin: You have been teaching the course "Literature and Human Rights" for about 10 years. What changed this semester with its cross-listing between the Department of English and the School of Law?

Barbara Harlow: The seminar has, over the years, drawn students from various disciplines – including Comparative Literature, but also History, Government, Anthropology, and yes, even Law. This past fall, however, our roster combined equal representation from both literary studies and law, a combination that I would like to think enhanced critical thinking across not only disciplines but also professional obligations. Students of literature, that is, need to understand that "human rights" is not just a rhetorical flourish but a political responsibility. In turn then, it is no less interesting to note the influence of literary critical methodologies on the practices of international human rights norms and their conflicted implementation, whether through the

power of testimony, in the contested realities of narrative reconstructions of abuses and violations of human rights, both individual and collective, and the imperative of historically grounded analyses.

AM: Did the appointment at the Rapoport Center change in any aspect the way the course was arranged or taught that semester?

BH: The main challenge was, I think, logistical – the coordination with the Rapoport Center’s Human Rights Happy Hour speaker series. That challenge, however, brought its own rewards – as we had the opportunity to hear from presenters who raised questions regarding the Cold War version of human rights (Sarah Snyder), torture and universal jurisdiction (Lisa Hajjar), child soldiers (Murhabazi Namegabe), and the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa (Gillian Slovo). Especially dynamic in this regard were the extended – and shared – written comments on the part of all the students in the class, comments that so positively enriched both the “happy hours” and our own class discussion. Especially fascinating for me was the diversity of opinion among us – and the ability of our colleagues and classmates to respond sensitively to that diversity, differences that did not at all break down along disciplinary lines either.

AM: In the course, we read classic human rights texts, such as the *Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen* (1789) and the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948). We studied contemporary human rights theory and criticism. We also analyzed literature from *Notre Dame of Paris* by Victor Hugo to prison testimonies from Guantánamo to stories of child soldiers in Sierra Leone. What text elicited the most surprising response given the mix of literature students and those from the School of Law?

BH: To be sure, the historicity of human

rights as exemplified in the Hugo reading is invariably striking, but our last class on readings relating to US policy – initiated under the Bush administration, but continued just as egregiously under Obama as well – on the “war on terror” and the Guantánamo Bay detention facility, was particularly provocative!

AM: If this collaboration continues for future course offerings, would you include other sorts of texts?

BH: I do hope that the already long-standing collaboration continues. Certainly I will continue to offer the course on a regular basis, although perhaps not cross-listed again, since it was really just a most opportune coincidence that made the Fall 2009 occasion possible. That said, the Rapoport Center’s Human Rights Happy Hour speaker series remains, and I would hope to reference its presentations more directly in future syllabi. The Rapoport Center is a uniquely vital forum for cross-disciplinary engagement at UT – especially around issues that are of critical importance for a politically responsible study of literature. As for “sorts of texts,” indeed the interdisciplinary mix remains crucial – reading both “literary” and “legal” briefings, reports, narratives, historiographies – but the curriculum is ever-changing, in no small part in response to the pressures of current events. No canon here, that is. But even so, and in other words, the questions of torture, death penalty, political asylum faced by Pierre, Esmeralda, and Quasimodo and told of by Victor Hugo in *Notre Dame of Paris*, are also our own. And “human rights” continue to generate still more questions for contemporary writers: genre and genocide, for example, or literature in an age of truth commissions, not to mention the persistent “question of Palestine” and its ramifications for refugee law, military occupation, international law, etc. I think that the next time I

Continued on next page

offer the course, I will include on the syllabus of required reading the Goldstone Report (“Human Rights in Palestine and Other Occupied Arab Territories: Report of the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict – September 2009) and the controversy – including Israeli obfuscation and obdurate refusal to acknowledge its own complicity in “gross human rights violations.”

Finally, I really do want to emphasize the great contribution that the Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice, under the leadership of its founder and director, Karen Engle, has made to the politically responsible, critically engaged, and interdisciplinarily sensitive endeavors – including our course together – on the campus of UT Austin. I look forward to seeing many more students of literature (from CL to Law) at the happy hours!

Professor H el ene Tissi eres to Launch French Program at Kawara State Univeristy



H el ene Tissi eres who teaches Francophone African literatures in the Department of French & Italian, finished her second book entitled *Cr ations et d fis au S n gal: Diop, Sembene, Diadji*. It is about the works of three Senegalese figures: Boubacar Boris Diop, novelist, Ousmane Sembene, writer and filmmaker, and Iba Ndiaye Diadji, art critic. It examines how they position themselves to question social norms, political or religious absolutes, international prerogatives. In Senegal, where the practice of Maslaa regulates people’s exchanges and promotes tolerance and politeness, this study shows how these writers confront taboos (role of women, corruption, social inequalities), while unsettling norms. This brings her to discuss the role played by rappers in Senegal in particular Didier Awadi, presenting the different approaches created to confront the problems faced.

H el ene Tissi eres will be in Ilorin, Nigeria from January to July 2011 as she has been asked to help set up the French language and literature program at the newly created Kwara State University. This coming May 2010 she will be attending as usual the Dakar biennale of art and participating in the debates organized.

Attention Alumni:

The Newsletter welcomes contributions from alumni about any aspects of your post-UT Austin lives and careers. The newsletter’s goal is to celebrate the achievements of students and faculty currently in the program and at the same time, share important news about our alumni.

It is your successes and undertakings which have made this such a strong program, and we would like the opportunity to congratulate your publicly.

Please send your news for publication in the 2011 newsletter to the Program’s email address:

complit@austin.utexas.edu



Hülya Yıldız (Ph.D., 2008) is working as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Foreign Languages at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey, where she received her B.A. and M.A. degrees.

During her first year she taught a variety of courses including English Literature, Advanced Writing and Research Skills, and Comparative Literature. She also designed a new graduate level course entitled Postcolonial Theory and Literature for the English Literature Graduate Program. The course was well-received by the Faculty Council of the University, and she will start teaching it in Fall 2010. For the Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 semesters, she has been appointed as a faculty member at the Northern Cyprus Campus of the Middle East Technical University to contribute to the growth of the newly-established Program in Teaching English as a Foreign Language.

Her dissertation, "Literature as Public Sphere: Gender and Sexuality in Ottoman Turkish Novels and Journals," received the Outstanding Dissertation Award in Humanities and Fine Arts in 2009, University of Texas at Austin and was nominated for a national Distinguished Dissertation Award given by the Council of Graduate Schools. Her recent publications include an article on "Limits of the Imaginable in the Early Turkish Novel: Non-Muslim Prostitutes and their Ottoman Clients," which will be published in the special Turkish Literature issue of *Texas Studies in Literature and Language*.



Hyunjung Lee (Ph.D., 2008) was appointed as an assistant professor in the Division of English at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. She is currently working on a monograph which deals with the representation, reception, and consumption of Broadway musical productions in contemporary Asia.

Focusing on different ways of incorporating and reproducing Broadway productions in current Asian context, her research attempts to explicate various outlooks of Broadway as an American cultural hegemony in the region.

Lee has published journal articles on theatrical performance and on global culture in *Situations: Cultural Studies in the Asian Context* (Fall 2008), *Korea Journal* (Fall 2009, volume 49, no. 3), and in *Theatre Research International* (Spring 2010, volume 35, no. 1) and has a forthcoming article in the *Journal of Popular Culture* in 2011.

Lee has just organized a workshop entitled "International Workshop on Colonial Modernity and Beyond: the East Asian Context" 12-13 March 2010, sponsored by the English Division at NTU. This meeting had Tani Barlow, Aihwa Ong, and Chen Kuan-Hsing as keynote speakers as well as other prestigious scholars such as Leo Ching and Allen Chun as presenters. The participants of this workshop had shared valuable time together discussing various ideas in explicating variable and contested features of East Asian modernity in relation to its simultaneous experiences of colonization and modernization in Asian countries. Lee is planning to put together an edited book as a follow up of this meeting.

ACLA 2010

As usual, members of the Program in Comparative Literature were well represented at the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, which was held the first weekend of April in New Orleans, Louisiana. Ten faculty members and twenty-two students read papers and in some cases also moderated and organized seminars. Among those who presented papers were:

Carlos Amador: "Genocide, Biopolitics, and Hope in *El Eternauta*"

Anthony Arroyo: "Minor Cosmopolitanism: Brazilian and Catalan Literature in Franco's Spain"

Pearl Brilmyer: "The Marriage of Limbs in Thomas Hardy's *Return of the Native*"

Nandini Dhar: "Re-Locating the Quotidian, Re-Claiming Agency: Intersection of Trauma and Anti-Colonial Environmentalism in *Belinda's Petition*, 1782"

Eric Dodson-Robinson: "Barbaroi: Language, Violence, and Values in the Creation of the Hellenic Ethnic Identity"

Francisca Folch: "Spectacular Orientalism: Finding the Human in Puccini's *Turandot*"

Cynthia Francica: "The Queer Body as a Visual Archive in Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*"; Moderator for "Green Literature"

Thomas Garza: "Revisiting the Russian Island: From Zamyatin's *We* to the Strugatsky's *The Inhabited Island*"

Karen Grumberg: "Of Sons and Mothers: Autobiography and the Specters of Diaspora in Amos Oz and Albert Cohen"; Moderator for "Writing Diaspora and the Shifting Grounds of Middle Eastern Literatures"

David Kornhaber: "From Imitation to Action: Nietzsche's Epistemology of the Actor"

Alexei Lalo: "Precursors of Lolita: the Adolescent and His/Her Sexualized Body in Russia's Erotic Writing of the Silver Age"; Moderator for "Utopian/Dystopian Creoles: Migrating Out of the Real"

Julianna Leachman: (Assistant to the ACLA), "Embracing the Other: Ivan Ilych's Christian Cosmopolitanism"

Anna Marin: "Revisiting the Violence of Displacement: Suicide Missions in Saher Khalifeh's *Wild Thorns*"

Chris Micklethwait: "Indigenous Cosmopolitanism of Occupied Haiti: La Revue Indigène and Les Griots"

Lanie Millar: "The Aesthetics of (Dis)content: Postwar Politics in *The Hero and Kangamba*"

Michael Pesenson: "Re-imagining the Past: The Dystopian Visions of Tatyana Tolstaya's *Slynx* and Vladimir Sorokin's *Day of an Oprichnik*"



UT Austin Comp Lit students Bhavya Tiwari and Cynthia Francica moderate the ACLA seminar "Green Literature" at the Monteleone Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Michal Raizen-Colman: "My Mother Tongue, My Warm Home: The ibn 'arab and Family Allegory in Eli Amir's *Yasmin*"; Moderator for "Writing Diaspora and the Shifting Grounds of Middle Eastern Literatures"

Sonia Roncador: "Servant Bodies in Motion: Servitude and Immigration in late 19th-Century Brazil"

César Salgado: "Oppiano in Moncada: Figuring Insurgency in Orígenes and Lezama Lima"

Miguel Santos-Neves: "Gilberto Freyre, William Faulkner, and the *Color-line*"

Maryam Shariati: (Assistant to ACLA), "(Dis)placement, Identity and Language in Golshiri's *Mirror with Doors* and Amirkhani's *Homeless*"

Roanne Sharp: "Edible Blackness: Cannibalism, Dialect and Oral Desire in Caribbean Literature"

Jayita Sinha: "At Home with Hinduism: Christopher Isherwood's *A Meeting by the River*"

Fatma Tarlaci: "The Literary and Political Macro-Narrative in *Snow* by Orhan Pamuk"

Bhavya Tiwari: "Comparative World Literature in India"; Moderator for "Green Literature"

Chien-hsin Tsai: "Fictional (Dia)Grammatology: Modernist Writings from Contemporary Taiwan and Image-Text"

Lynn Wilkinson: "Gender, Spectatorship, and Freud's Reading of Ibsen's *Rosmersholm* and *Little Eyolf*"

Jennifer Wilks: "Reading the Caribbean in Junot Díaz's *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*"

Daniela Bini, completing her sixth year as chair of the French and Italian Department, just published "*Intersezioni culturali: Pasolini tra cinema e sceneggiata, tragedia classica e teatro dei pupi, Modugno e Pirandello*" in *Civiltà italiana e geografie d'Europa* (Edizioni Università di Trieste, 2009). Last July she interviewed in Rome the film director Giuseppe Tornatore --a contribution for a forthcoming volume on contemporary Italian filmmakers, and the theater and movie director Maurizio Scaparro for a forthcoming essay. She delivered the keynote address "Pulcinella: un pensiero meridiano" at the XX international conference of the Associazione Internazionale di Studi di Lingua e Letteratura Italiane at University of Pennsylvania, and was also invited to give the lecture "The Legacy of Fellini's Vitelloni in Italian cinema" at the Western Pennsylvania Symposium of World Literatures, in Pittsburgh. What made her most proud was being nominated by the students and receiving the Liberal Arts Council Teaching Award.

Douglas Biow published a book, *In Your Face: Professional Improprieties and the Art of Being Conspicuous in Sixteenth-Century Italy* (Stanford UP, 2010).

Yekaterina Cotey presented a paper entitled "Between Vampire and Upry: Vampiric Theme in Pushkin's Literary Legacy" at the 2009 SCMLA convention in Baton Rouge. She also co-authored a paper "The Motif of Possession as a Factor in Cultural Conflict in Pratchett's Discworld Novels" with Evgeniya Kanchura, Kiev National Linguistic University. The paper was presented at the conference "Multiculturalism and Perspectives in Literary Anthropology" in Chernivtsi, Ukraine, and submitted for publication. She also presented her paper, "Salvation or Stagnation? Constructions of Childhood in *The Brothers Karamazov*" at the 2010 ACLA conference in New Orleans in April.

Naminata Diabate published her interview with novelist and poet Frieda Ekotto in the Winter/Spring 2010 of *Journal of the African Literature Association (JALA)*. She also presented two papers "Frieda Ekotto's Chuchote Pas Trop (Do Not Whisper Too Much): Reframing the African Discourse on Homosexuality" at the 36th Annual African Literature Association Conference at the University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, March 10-14, 2010; and "The Ambivalence towards the African Woman's Body: Jean Pierre Bekolo's *Les Saignantes* (2005) and the Mevounjou" at the Africa Conference 2010: Women, Gender, and Sexualities in Africa at UT Austin.

Nora Eltahawy co-authored and co-edited a collection of oral narratives titled *Voices in Refuge: Stories from Sudanese Refugees in Cairo*, published by the American University in Cairo Press in 2009. She has just completed a translation of Ghada Abdel Aal's *I Want to Get Married*, and her translation is scheduled to be published by the University of Texas at Austin Press in the fall. A terminal master's student at UT, she is moving to Chicago in September to enroll in Northwestern's Ph.D. English program.

Elizabeth Erbeznik published a book review in the journal "Nineteenth-Century French Studies" and presented papers at the Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium and the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference. She and her husband are looking forward to the birth of their daughter in June.

Alan Friedman received the UT Civitatis Award, "conferred upon a member of the faculty in recognition of dedicated and meritorious service to the University above and beyond the regular expectations of teaching, research, and writing." He also edited the following journals with Charles Rossman: "News of Ulysses: Readings and Re-Readings." *Texas Studies in Language and Literature* 51.4 (Winter 2009); "Biographical Joyce." *James Joyce Quarterly* 45.3/4 (February 2009); "De-familiarizing Readings: Essays from the Austin Joyce Conference." *European Joyce Studies* 18. (Editions Rodopi: Amsterdam and New York, 2009); "Samuel Beckett in Austin and Beyond." *Texas Studies in Language and Literature* 51.1 (March 2009). Additionally, he published the essay, "Samuel Beckett Meets Buster Keaton: Godeau, Film, and New York." *Texas Studies in Language and Literature* 51.1 (March 2009): 41-46.

Thomas J. Garza (Slavic and Eurasian Studies) was named a UT Regents Outstanding Teacher in September 2009, and was the recipient of the DIIA Burnt Orange Apple Award for Outstanding Work in Pedagogy in November. In fall 2009, the Dean of Liberal Arts appointed him director of the newly-established Texas Language Center, which supports the teaching and learning of languages other than English across the campus.

M.R. Ghanoonparvar, Professor of Persian and Comparative Literature, published a book, *The Neighbor Says: Nima Yushij and the Philosophy of Modern Persian Poetry*, and also translations of two novels, Davud Ghaffarzadegan's *Fortune Told in Blood* and Mohammad Reza Bayrami's *The Tales of Sabalan*. He also received the American Institute for Iranian Studies Lois Roth Persian Translation Prize for his University of Texas Press book, *Translating the Garden*, and the Encyclopedia Iranica Lifetime Achievement Award for *Contributions to Persian Cuisine*.

John Morán González published his first book, *Border Renaissance: The Texas Centennial and the Emergence of Mexican American Literature* (University of Texas Press, 2009). He was also awarded El Premio Letras de Aztlán by the National Association of Chicana/o Studies-Tejas Foco for outstanding scholarly contributions to the understanding of the Mexican-American experience in Texas. He presented his paper, "Chicano Narrative, the

Dialectics of Difference, and the Project of Recovery” at the 2010 ACLA conference in New Orleans in April.

Somy Kim participated in the panel Translations of Tradition in Modern Arabic Literature at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association in Philadelphia where she presented her research on Muhamad Muwaylihi’s Hadith ‘Isa ibn Hisham. Her book review of Kamran Rastegar’s *Literary Modernity Between the Middle East and Europe* will be published in the forthcoming issue of the *Journal of Arabic Literature*. In May she will be presenting her paper, “Mapping Dystopia in Ebrahim Golestan’s *Mud Brick and Mirror*” at the International Society for Iranian Studies conference in Santa Monica, California. For the summer 2010 and the academic year 2010-11 she has been awarded the Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship.

Naomi Lindstrom published the article, “El discurso profético, apocalíptico y mesiánico de Jacobo Fijman.” *CiberLetras* 22 (December 2009). She also translated Helena Parente Cunha’s short story, “The Traffic Light,” which can be found in Alexis Levitin, ed. *A Traveler’s Literary Companion to Brazil*. Additionally, she presented her paper, “Out of the Archive and Into View: On-Line Resources for Sephardic and Latin American Jewish Studies” at the 41st Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies in Los Angeles.

Tim Moore has published articles this year on Music, Terence, and Roman Theater in the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome*, as well as an article on ancient musical performance in the journal *Philomusica*. He has delivered invited papers on music in Roman comedy, ancient and modern musicals, and the Roman historian Livy.

Marina Potoplyak defended her dissertation, “Between Cosmopolitanism and Nationalism: Print, National Identity, and the Literary Public Sphere in the 1920s Petersburg and Buenos Aires,” in February 2010. During the 2009 MLA convention in Philadelphia, she participated in the meeting organized by the Committee on the Status of Graduate Students in the Profession.

Guy Raffa was awarded a Raymond Dickson Centennial Endowed Teaching Fellowship (2009) and received a Humanities Research Award (2009-12) for his book-in-progress, *Dante’s Bones and the Making of Italy*. He published a book-essay, “Eco’s Scientific Muse,” in *New Essays on Umberto Eco* (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

Elizabeth Richmond-Garza (English) was named a UT Regents Outstanding Teacher in September 2009. She organized and oversaw the 1,800-participant American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans in April 2010. She remains a member of the MLA delegate assembly and of the executive committee of the CAOs of the ACLS. She has joined the Coalition on the Academic Workforce as the ACLA representative. She presented papers at both the MLA and the ACLA on Oscar Wilde and queer theories of translation.

César A. Salgado was invited as a speaker at the University of Puerto Rico Institute of Caribbean Studies’ Conference Series in March. The paper he read, “Giotto in the Tropics: Arturo A. Schomburg’s Unfinished Book on Black Atlantic Painters” is part of a manuscript in progress on the politics of archival fashioning in the Caribbean. He read parts from another chapter, “The ‘Biblioteca’ as Subaltern Archive: Documentary Politics in Domingo del Monte and Alejandro Tapia,” at the Latin American Studies Association Congress in Rio last summer. In April he gave papers on Cuban writer José Lezama Lima at the New Orleans ACLA panel “One Hundred Years of Lezama Lima” and at Brown University’s Transatlantic Studies Conference. He was invited to present his research on pre-Revolutionary Cuban intellectual politics at the UCLA Caribbean Studies Conference *The 1950s in the Caribbean* in January. His essay “CubaRícan: Efectos de la capilaridad colonial” appeared on the online journal *La Habana Elegante* last fall.

Franklin Strong’s translation of Gonzalo Celorio’s essay “Alejo Carpentier: Letra y solfa del barroco” was pub-

lished in *Revista Barroco* 3.2 (Fall 2009). He also presented his paper “¿Quién me va a llorar?: History and the Musical Archive in Alejo Carpentier’s ‘Oficio de tinieblas’” at the 2010 ACLA conference in April.

Jeffrey Walker presented papers at the conferences of the National Communication Association (Chicago, November 2009) and the International Society for the History of Rhetoric (ISHR, Montreal, July 2009). He was elected to the ISHR Council in July 2009, and in Fall 2009 began his tenure as Chair of the Department of Rhetoric and Writing. He also completed two book manuscripts -- a scholarly monograph on ancient rhetorical education, and a co-authored textbook (with Mark Longaker) on rhetorical analysis, both under contract -- both of which he hopes will be out in 2010-11.

Lynn Wilkinson was visiting professor of literature at Mälardalen University in Sweden in Fall 2009. Her essay on Strindberg’s Chamber Plays appeared in *The Cambridge Companion to Strindberg* (2009), and her article “Playful Performances: Ingmar Bergman’s Bildmakarna and Film Authorship” in *Tijdschrift voor Skandinavistiek* 30:1 (2009). Her book manuscript *Anne Charlotte Leffler and Modernist Drama: True Women and New Women on the Fin-de-siècle Scandinavian Stage* will be published this year in the series Studies in Nordic Literature and Film, and she has been invited to give two talks on Leffler this May, one at a conference on Leffler at Stockholm University and one at Södertörn University, also in the Stockholm region. This past year, she also gave three talks: “Gender, Spectatorship, and Freud’s Reading of Ibsen’s *Rosmersholm* and *Little Eyolf*,” at the 2009 meeting of the ACLA; “The Story of a Landscape: Fårö in Ingmar Bergman’s *The Passion of Anna*,” at the biennial conference of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment; and “Ingmar Bergmans Gycklarnas afton och stumfilmen” (Ingmar Bergman’s Sawdust and Tinsel and Silent Film”), at a meeting of The Humanities Seminar at Mälardalen University. This spring, she will present “Hedda’s Progeny: Three British Adaptations of Hedda Gabler,” at the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies conference at UT; and “Before Inferno: Anne Charlotte Leffler and Frida Uhl in London – Another Modernity, Another Modernism,” at the annual conference of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study at Seattle.

Hannah Wojciehowski’s book *Globalization and Group Identity in the Renaissance* (provisional title) will be published next year by Cambridge University Press. Her edition of Shakespeare’s *Cymbeline*, part of the New Kittredge Shakespeare Series, is also scheduled to appear next year. An essay on the film “*Slumdog Millionaire*” and the psychology of empathy is forthcoming in the next issue of *Image [&] Narrative*. An essay on the triangulated friendship of Thomas More, Peter Giles, and Desiderius Erasmus will appear in *Discourses and Representations of Friendship, 1500-1700*, ed. Daniel Lochman and Maritere Lopez, scheduled for publication by Ashgate in 2011.

Li Yang presented a paper entitled “Migrating to the Mainstream: Analyzing Wang Xiaoshuai’s *In Love We Trust*” at the Association of Chinese and Comparative Literature’s Biannual Meeting in Beijing in June 2009. She also accepted the offer from Lafayette College as an Assistant Professor of Chinese in the Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures in March 2010.



Back Row: (L-R) Cynthia Francica, Bhavya Tiwari, Roanne Sharp, Fatma Tarlaci, Julianna Leachman, Jayita Sinha; Front Row: Raul Ariza-Barile

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Seventh Annual GRACLS Conference

Intimacy: Technologies of Feeling and Fantasy

October 1-2, 2010

University of Texas at Austin

Keynote Address by **David Eng**, University of Pennsylvania

Abstract Submission Deadline: July 15, 2010

The theme of the Seventh Annual Graduate Conference in Comparative Literature at UT Austin springs from a meditation on the intimacy engendered by the porous border and the intimate relationship of Texas with Mexico. This notion of a division as the condition for intimacy pervades theories of human relation from Freud's "narcissism," Lacan's "extimacy," and Jean-Luc Nancy's "inoperative community" to Derrida's "hospitality."

Recent work in fields like queer studies, affect theory, urban studies and critical race theory have shown that realms of intimacy are not neutral, entirely private, or beyond investigation. For this reason, our conference is proud to unite groups from different areas to explore what for some is a concept and others, a feeling or fantasy.

This conference will provide an opportunity to interrogate the relationship between literature and spaces of intimacy, such as the defining of homes, communities and nations in and through art and other media. As has been illustrated by the last decade's explosion of social media technology, the history of media technology is also the history of the evolution of intimacy. For this reason, we especially welcome analyses of the function and representation of intimacy in literature, science, politics, and visual art.

Submit your abstract of 150-250 words in an email (no attachments) to intimacyconference2010@gmail.com along with a brief biographical statement (max 250 words) that can be used to introduce you. Please put ABSTRACT: INTIMACY 2010 in the header of your email.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Changing conceptions of the home and the body
- Intimate relationships to environments or technological prostheses
- Inter subjectivity in our current global, transnational, post-human context
- Queer textual and technological intimacies
- The role of cities and public spaces in defining community
- Media technology and the redefining of the intimate
- Intimacy/extimacy in psychoanalysis
- Interracial relationships and miscegenation laws
- Hospitality and welcoming
- Intimate reader-writer relationships like reading publics
- Literary theories of sympathy/empathy