Dear Colleagues,

Since its founding as a discipline in the early 20th century, Comparative Literature has often served as a peaceful and thoughtful response to international conflict, one which seeks through linguistic and cultural understanding to open dialogues and heal ruptures. This year, as we mark the fortieth anniversary of the summer of 1968, a defining year for both our world and our field, the Program here at the University of Texas, itself a child of the 1960s, has continued to flourish in a moment when transnational studies matter.

With students from all over the world coming together to undertake research in more than twenty languages and across history, our colleagues’ work here has been recognized, both locally and nationally, with numerous awards, a strong record of professional placements, and productive collaborative undertakings.

Our fall 2007 symposium considered the place of the humanities in a broader intellectual, disciplinary context, setting the stage for 2008 during which, under the guidance of Drs. Katherine Arens and Dolora Chapelle Wojciehowksi, an even more ambitious interdisciplinary conference is being planned to consider retrospectively the role of international politics, continental politics, and the student movement in the fashioning of our current field. Indeed this letter needs to finish by thanking Dr. Chapelle Wojciehowski for her service in mentoring our students as graduate adviser for the past two years and to congratulate all of our students and colleagues on the distinctions and accomplishments about which you will read in these pages.

Just as the national society, the American Comparative Literature Association, which is based in our program, has continued to grow and flourish, so too the local successes suggest a bright future for comparative interventions both within the academy and beyond.

Elizabeth Richmond-Garza
Incoming Graduate Students

It is a great pleasure to introduce you to our incoming students for fall 2008. From the seventy-five applications we received, the following people will be joining us: Ms. Fu-Ying (Flora) Chuang (M.A., Univ. of New Mexico; B.A., National Sun Yat-Sen Univ.); East-Asian literature and U.S. literature after 1865, minority discourses, feminist theory; Ms. Nora A. Eltahawy (B.A., American Univ. in Cairo); postcolonial literature, Arabic and Arab-American literature, minority literature; Ms. Cynthia Francica (M.A., Univ. Nacional de Cordoba; B.A., Inst. de Ensenanza Superior en Lenguas Vivas “Juan Ramon Fernandez”); gender theory, sexuality, race and identity, theories of resistance, feminist pedagogy, postcolonial theory, creativity; Mr. Maximilian E. Hinton (B.A., U.S. Air Force Academy); Mexican and Spanish literature, Mexican-American Borderlands studies; Mr. Daniel Migumbu Kahozi (License, Univ. of Kinshasa); African and African-American literatures, double consciousness, women’s roles; Ms. Julianna L. Leachman (B.A., Vanderbilt Univ.); American literature from the Depression, economic approaches to literary and cultural studies, travel literature; Mr. Sardar Muhammad (B.A., Int’l Islamic Univ., Islamabad); comparative study of English Romantic and Persian literatures, mysticism and literature; Ms. Jayita Sinha (M.Phil., B.A., Univ. of Delhi); comparative East/West medieval literature, literature and religion, women’s visionary literature; Mr. Franklin W. Strong (M.Ed., Univ. of St. Thomas; M.A., B.A., Univ. of Houston); English Renaissance literature, Caribbean Studies; Ms. Fatma Tarlaci (B.A., Kadir Has Univ.); literary connections between Turkish and European literatures, Orientalism and Occidentalism; Ms. Bhavya Tiwari (M.A., Jadavpur Univ., B.A., Univ. of Calcutta); colonial and postcolonial studies, modernism and postmodernism, comparative cultural studies. We welcome these new students to the program.

Thanks are expressed to the 2008 admissions committee: Drs. Katherine Arens, Thomas J. Garza, Mohammad Ghanoonparvar, Barbara Harlow, Michael Johnson, Chiu-Mi Lai, Lily Litvak, Naomi Lindstrom, Wayne Rebhorn, Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, Hélène Tissières, and Dolora Chapelle Wojciehowski.

Note from GRACLS

by Miguel Santos-Neves, President

As the fourth officially elected president of the Graduate Association of Comparative Literature Students (GRACLS), I wish to offer a preview of our plans for the coming fall.

The members of GRACLS, along with students from departments including English, Spanish and Portuguese, Anthropology, and Music, have been hard at work planning the fifth annual graduate conference, entitled “1968: A Global Perspective” to be held on October 10-12, 2008. Under the leadership of Dr. Arens and Dr. Chapelle Wojciehowski, the conference committee hopes to host an event that will capture the spirit of this unique year and its influences in the political, social, and cultural spheres. To this end, the committee has invited a distinguished group of keynote speakers that include Michael Hardt of Duke University and Kathleen Cleaver of Emory Law School. Michal Raizen-Colman and Dr. Chapelle Wojciehowski have been able to solicit considerable funds from various sources, such as the Texas Union Events CoSponsorship Committee, the Department of English, and the Program in Comparative Literature. All is in order for a dynamic and engaging conference that will allow our students to participate in the current international dialogue about 1968. We anticipate attracting a diverse group of scholars and graduate students from the University of Texas at Austin and beyond.

GRACLS counts on the continued involvement and commitment of students and professors alike, as all of us work towards strengthening our program.

GRACLS Officers

President: Miguel Santos-Neves
Treasurer: Lanie Millar
Secretary: Nandini Dhar
Conference Coordinator: Miguel Santos-Neves
Social Coordinator: Anthony Arroyo

Program News
## Undergraduate Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C L 315</td>
<td>Masterworks of World Literature</td>
<td>Elizabeth Richmond-Garza</td>
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<tr>
<td>C L 323</td>
<td>Crime and Punishment &amp; Czech Writers</td>
<td>Craig Cravens</td>
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<td>Decoding Classical Chinese Poetry</td>
<td>Chiu-Mi Lai</td>
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<td>Holocaust Aftereffects</td>
<td>Pascale Bos</td>
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<td>Major Works of Dostoevsky</td>
<td>Keith Livers</td>
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<td>Modern India and Literature</td>
<td>Mahboob Mohammad</td>
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<td>Modern Polish History and Culture</td>
<td>Gilbert Rappaport</td>
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<td>Nordic Light</td>
<td>Lynn Wilkinson</td>
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<td>Slavs in Western Imagination</td>
<td>Tatiana Kuzmic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Survey of Hebrew Literature, Bible to Present</td>
<td>Karen Grumberg</td>
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## Graduate Courses

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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>C L 180K</td>
<td>Introduction to Comparative Literature: Proseminar in Methods of</td>
<td>Lynn Wilkinson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Study and Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>C L 381</td>
<td>Aesthetic Modernism in East Asia</td>
<td>Yvonne Chang</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>African Literatures, Visual Images &amp; Music</td>
<td>Hélène Tissières</td>
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<td>Introduction to European Renaissance</td>
<td>Wayne Rebhorn</td>
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<td>Restoration to Revolution: 1968</td>
<td>Katherine Arens</td>
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<td>The Vampire in Imperial Literature and Culture</td>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
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<td>Nigerian Women Poets</td>
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<td>Lectures and Seminars</td>
<td>Samer Ali</td>
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<td>Holocaust Aftereffects</td>
<td>Pascale Bos</td>
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<td>Selfishness and (or as) Virtue</td>
<td>Karen Pagani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Travel Literature</td>
<td>Seth Wolitz</td>
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<tr>
<td>C L 390</td>
<td>Twentieth-Century Literary Theory</td>
<td>Katherine Arens</td>
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Please visit the Comparative Literature Web site for more information:

http://www.utexas.edu/cola/progs/complit/courses/
Degree Recipients
Spring 2007- Spring 2008

Master of Arts:


Doctor of Philosophy:

Summer 2007: Russell Cobb, Our Man in Paris: Mundo Nuevo, the Cuban Revolution, and the Politics of Cultural Freedom; Vessela Valiavitcharska, Rhetoric and Rhythm in Byzantine Homilies; Spring 2008: Chang Tan, Playing Cards with Cezanne: How the Contemporary Artists of China Copy and Recreate; Hyunjung Lee, Global Fetishism: Dynamics of Transnational Performances in Contemporary South Korea

Elizabeth Warnock Fernea Endowment Fellowship

Elizabeth Warnock Fernea has 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 four years now this endowment has funded advanced research students in our program, allowing them to undertake original archival research and to write up their research. For the fifth year of the award, the program has decided to use the available funds to enable us to bring several students to the program who would not otherwise have been able to join us in 2008.

We hope that our ability to supplement the Fulbright Fellowships of Mr. Daniel Migumbu Kahodzi of the Congo and Ms. Fatma Tarlaci of Turkey, and to partner with the government of Pakistan in making possible Mr. Sardar Muhammad's joining of the program for two terms of research, thanks to the generosity of the endowment and of the College of Liberal Arts, is precisely what Dr. Fernea would have desired. At the core of her career and life has always been a passion to bring cultures face-to-face, and the Program in Comparative Literature remains deeply grateful to her for making it possible for us to continue this work.
Prizes and Fellowships

Continuing Fellowships

Endowed Graduate School Fellowship
Marina Potoplyak (2008-9)

William H. Hildebrand Endowed Graduate Fellowship
Carlos Amador (2007-8)

University Continuing Fellowships
Pilar Cabrera-Fonte (2008-9)
Christopher Micklethwait (2007-8)

David Bruton, Jr., Graduate Fellowship
Aména Moinfar (2008-9)

Graduate School Fellowship
Li Yang (2007-8)

Pre-Emptive Fellowships

These fellowships are prestigious awards offered by the Graduate School to attract top quality graduate students to the university.

Cynthia Francica (2008-9)
Jayita Sinha (2008-9)
Somy Kim (2007-8)

University Fellowships and Awards

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Award
Anna Katsnelson (2007-8, extended summer 2008)

McIlhany Endowed Presidential Fellowship
Marina Potoplyak (2007-8)

William S. Livingston Outstanding Graduate Student Academic Employee Award
Andrea Hilkovitz (2007-8)

Liberal Arts Graduate Research Fellowship
Pearl Brilmyer (2008-9)

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowships
Somy Kim (2008-9)
Banafsheh Madaninejad (2008-9)
Michal Raizen-Colman (2008-9; 2007-8)
Johanna Sellman (2007-8)
Elana Thurston-Milgrom (Summer 2007)

Other Fellowships and Awards

American Association of University Women Austin Branch Doctoral Fellowship
Andrea Hilkovitz (2008-9)

Polish Ministry of Higher Education Scholarship
Marcin Rusinkiewicz (2008-9)

American Research Center in Egypt Fellowship
Christopher Micklethwait (Summer 2008)

Hubertus Scheibe Memorial Scholarship from the DAAD Alumni Society
Pearl Brilmyer (Summer 2008)

Dancinger Hebrew Studies Scholarship
Michal Raizen-Colman (2007-8)

POSCO Graduate Research Fellowship in Korean Studies
Hyunjung Lee (2007-8)

Outstanding Graduate Student Nominee, Western and Southwest Conferences of the Assoc. for Asian Studies
Hyunjung Lee (Fall 2007)

Gale Jewish Studies Excellence Award
Anna Katsnelson (Summer 2007)
Michal Raizen-Colman (Summer 2007)
New Student Profiles (2007-8)

Yekaterina Cotey earned her B.A. in English from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. She works primarily with Russian and English literatures of the long nineteenth century. Her interests include Pushkin and his poetic coterie, the nexus between folklore and nineteenth-century literature, the influence of Preraphaelites on the Russian Silver Age, and gothic narratives.

Francisca Folch Couyoumdjian received her B.A. in English Literature and Linguistics from Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. She is interested in English and Hispanic turn of the century and modernist literature. Her previous work as a dance critic also broadens her focus to include performance studies, especially ballet and opera.

Catherine E. Grazzini received her B.A. in Comparative Literature, with a minor in Italian, from the Pennsylvania State University. Her interests have been focused in Western European modernisms, the First World War, and twentieth-century critical theory. Recently she has become passionate about the intersections of technology, spatial theory, and literary practices.

Somy Kim earned her B.A. in Linguistics with a minor in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures from the University of California, Los Angeles and an M.A. in English Literature from DePaul University. She studied Arabic at the American University in Cairo and then continued her studies at Damascus University as a Fulbright student. Her interests include contemporary Persian and Arabic literatures and cinema, genre theory, and cultural studies.

Anna Marín earned her B.A. from DePaul University in Secondary English Education and her M.A. from San Diego State University in Comparative Literature. Her areas of interest include contemporary Latin American literature, U.S. neomperialism in Latin America and the Middle East, and literary views of nationalism within a globalized world in conflict.

Michal Raizen-Colman received a B.A. in French, a B.M. in Cello Performance, and an M.A. in Hebrew Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. Her interests include contemporary Hebrew, Arabic, and French literature from the Eastern Mediterranean and North Africa with a particular focus on exile writing, orphan narratives, and musical/literary crossover.
The Comparative Literature program successfully hosted its Fourth Annual Graduate Student Conference this fall, “Un(bound): The Humanities in Transition”. With the generous support of many UT departments and centers, including English, Middle Eastern Studies, Rhetoric and Writing, Slavic and Eurasian Studies, and Women’s and Gender Studies, our conference was a wonderful opportunity to debate current issues in literary and comparative studies and their place in the field known as “the humanities.” The conference culminated in a stimulating plenary address by Dr. Haun Saussy of Yale University, author of the 2004 report on the state of comparative literary studies for the American Comparative Literature Association. After an introspective look at our own students’ projects last year, this year we welcomed participants from a variety of literary departments and programs from other universities as well as representatives from a number of areas of study from within UT. We were able to add a new perspective to the panels this year with the addition of the generous help of our faculty moderators and graduate student respondents to each panel discussion.

An exciting addition to our program was a special session on professional development, during which we heard from Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, Dr. Jennifer Wilks, and Dr. Karen Grumberg. The panel members, all of whom hold degrees in comparative literature, presented their experiences and advice concerning the place of comparative work in national literature or area studies departments, moderated by our own Marina Potoplyak. Their discussion fit quite well into several of the debates carried on in the student panels concerning the nature of literary studies as well as the disciplinary boundaries of “comparative” work.

After two days of discussion, Dr. Saussy presented his address “A Nomination for Comparative Literature’s Patron Saint, if One Is Needed,” provoking a lively discussion which carried over into the post-conference reception. We were extremely grateful to our faculty moderators including Dr. César Salgado, Dr. Thomas Garza, Dr. Katherine Arens, Dr. Dolora Chapelle Wojciechowski, Dr. Samer Ali, and Dr. Lynn Wilkinson, as well as to our student respondents and volunteers including Pilar Cabrera, Naminata Diabate, Kate Grazzini, Somy Kim, Banafsheh Madaninejad, Anna Marín, Aména Moïnfar, Belinda Mora, Marina Potoplyak, Marcin Rusinkiewicz, Katerina Seligmann, Johanna Sellman and Simone Sessolo. Thanks to this year’s success, we are already looking forward to hosting our fifth annual conference this fall.

The Program in Comparative Literature also thanks the following sponsors for their generous support:

The College of Liberal Arts
Dean Randy L. Diehl
Senior Associate Dean Richard Flores

The Stiles Endowed Professorship

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

www.utexas.edu/cola/progs/complit/conferences/
Rewards and Challenges to Archival Research Abroad, or My Fulbright Year in Rio de Janeiro
by Anna Katnelson

Clarice Lispector once said “My first language was Portuguese. Do I speak Russian? No, absolutely not.” Lispector, who was born in the Pale of Settlement, is the subject of one chapter of my dissertation, and the purpose of my research at the Biblioteca Nacional and Casa de Rui Barbosa in Rio de Janeiro. While trying to have a truly Lispectorian experience in Brazil, I have also disregarded my native Russian, and embraced Portuguese, all the while trying to piece together her reasons for doing so and how this choice was reflected in her novels.

Unlike the U.S., Brazil does not have a contemporary influx of immigrants. It is very rare for Brazilians to meet foreigners who speak their language, or who are interested in their culture outside of fleeting periods of tourist enthusiasm. While during Lispector’s era immigration was an essential ingredient in the making of modern Brazil, the country has also always made a point of referring to citizens born in other countries as radicados in Brazil: our equivalent of the “naturalized” citizen in the U.S. In our social context, this concept rarely comes into focus unless one is discussing the constitutional requirements for running for president. However, in Brazil, Lispector and other cultural figures are never mentioned without their foreign-born origins being noted. This social attitude might reflect some of the angst Lispector felt constantly having to prove that she was Brazilian. Even after many years of living in Brazil she still spoke in a way that would mark her as a foreigner. Things have not changed much in the four decades since Lispector’s death, and regular Brazilians are just as shocked now as ever to hear a foreigner speaking Portuguese. “Fala bem,” they are fond of saying when a foreigner impresses them in Portuguese, but this is to some degree a left-handed compliment, as it always includes a healthy dose of surprise.

Archival research in Brazil presents challenges U.S. scholars might not be used to encountering, while on the other hand, the settings for research in Brazil make most university libraries in the U.S. appear with all the beauty of shoe boxes. Casa de Rui Barbosa is a beautiful mansion and museum that belonged to Brazil’s greatest lawyer and politician, and it holds the majority of Clarice’s archives. I spent the autumn of 2007 working in these archives and sometimes looking out on the gardens behind the museum where little monkeys, or micos as they are affectionately called, could be seen gallivanting on the trellises. While the experience was rich, it also initiated a series of changes I had to make in my approach to research. The archives would release documents only at pre-arranged hours, and sometimes it would take days between when the documents were ordered to when I could see them. Getting interviews has been tough as well. Although I have met many members of Clarice’s family (including her two grandchildren) only some of them have been interested in granting interviews.

As for becoming a carioca (native from Rio de Janeiro) this year, I have found time to learn how to samba, speak with a sotaque carioca, swim with my favorite tartaruga several days a week on Praia Vermelha, celebrate Reveillon on Copacabana, desfilar in at least 20 blocos during Carnaval, and eat many exotic fruits whose tastes rival their names—caqui, maracuja, and jaca. I have also been able to travel widely around Brazil for research (on Fulbright national travel stipends to Recife, Porto Alegre, and Sao Paulo) and separately for a freelance assignment of writing and updating four chapters about Minas Gerais, the Amazon, Bahia, and the Northeast for the Fodor’s Brazil 2008 travel guide-book.
Summer Fieldwork in Virginia and England
by Nandini Dhar

As a literary scholar in training, I have always treated the idea of moving beyond the realm of literary texts with caution. However, when I began to work on cultural representations of New World plantation slavery within a transnational and transoceanic framework, I was forced to confront the sheer weight of institutional history on the dominant models of Western history-writing. The complexities of cultural representations of slavery, and the problems posed therein by the intersections of race, class, and capital, compelled me to take more of a “public culture” approach. This meant supplementing literary studies and literary texts with the insights of other disciplines and forms of cultural expression, most notably visual cultural texts, and thereby placing them in a dialogic and dialectical relationship with literary texts.

With encouragement from Dr. Helena Woodard, particularly her graduate seminar “Re-covering Slavery,” which enabled me to draw up viable methodologies, and with the assistance of two grants (one from the Liberal Arts Graduate Research Fellowship from the University of Texas at Austin, and the other from the Social Science Research Council), I spent the summer doing fieldwork in the museums of Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia, and the slavery museum and exhibits in the cities of Liverpool, Bristol, and London, England. I feel deeply privileged to have been able to witness the inauguration of the First International Slavery Museum at Liverpool in person.

As a literary scholar, I was not trained academically to read visual artifacts, museum installations, or the spatial dynamics of exhibits. Nor was I trained to look into and read audience reception in a way that would make it an integral part of my own reading and interpretation of texts. Yet both at Williamsburg and England, I was struck by the importance of paying close attention to audience response, interacting with them, and talking to them to understand the ways in which the new slavery museums are interpellated within global public culture.

At the same time, the very nature of the museum exhibits and the performative dimensions of some of these exhibits required that I engage actively with the dossiers, performers, and curators—in short, the trained and semi-trained professionals who have primary responsibility for interpreting the archives of slavery and making them accessible to the public. That is, I wasn’t just close-reading and interpreting the “texts” themselves, I was also engaging actively with the processes of their production and consumption. This required me to extend the meaning of the literary text, and to engage with interdisciplinary approaches in fields I had no personal training in. In lots of ways, working with museum representations has changed my approach towards literary texts, and these days I often find myself navigating towards the processes of the artistic and material production of literary texts and their patterns of reception.
FLAS Fellowship for Language Study
by Somy Kim

Since continual and rigorous language study is such a principal part of our education and research in Comparative Literature, graduate students in our department are prime candidates for the Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship. A FLAS Fellowship will support me while I take advanced Persian language courses at UCLA this summer and Persian literature courses at UT during the 2008-9 academic year.

Of the eleven hours that are supported for each semester during the academic year, FLAS Fellowships require that students take at least one language and one area studies course. This fall I will be taking “Post World War II Political Writings in Iran” and “Arab Women Poets” in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies. The area studies requirement is relatively broad and includes courses on the histories and literatures of any of the countries within the recipient’s region of study. This fellowship will give me the time and opportunity to advance my language, literary, and cultural fluency of the Middle East, and thus will enhance my work on Modern Persian literature and Comparative Literary studies.

Along with GRE scores, transcripts, and three references, the FLAS Fellowship selection committee requests a statement of purpose that shows how the study of the language is important to the applicant’s future academic and professional goals. For me, the success of my future as a researcher and educator of Middle Eastern literature greatly depends on my ability to continue improving my language fluency in Persian and Arabic. However, while Persian is my main language concentration, many students have received the FLAS Fellowship for languages that are related and necessary, but not central, to their studies.

The FLAS Fellowship is administered by the U.S. Department of Education and awarded to various language and area studies centers at universities nationwide. I received my award from the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at UT. The application through this center is open to graduate students from any discipline desiring to study Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, or Turkish, at any level. Fortunately, there are also other centers that receive FLAS funding, like the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, the South Asia Institute, and the Institute for Latin American Studies. Graduate students of Comparative Literature would benefit greatly from applying for this fellowship, which aims to support graduate students striving to attain the superior literary and cultural fluency necessary to conduct accurate and nuanced research.

**FLAS Fellowship Award Information**

**Academic Year:**
$15,000, plus tuition and fees for 11 hours

**Summer:**
$2,500, plus tuition and fees for an intensive language course

**Deadline:**
Varies, but generally mid-December

**E3W Professionalization Opportunities**
by Naminata Diabate

Naminata Diabate reads from Wole Soyinka’s “Your Logic Frightens Me, Mandela” during “Nobel Poets,” a Poetry on the Plaza event at the Harry Ransom Center.

When Drs. Barbara Harlow and Neville Hoad invited me to interview Dr. Bernth Lindfors and serve as section editor for the *E3W Review of Books*, I underestimated how much it would benefit my professional experience and training.

As section editor of the African section for the *E3W Review of Books*, I faced the challenge of giving voices
to the myriad writers and languages that characterize the African continent. The challenge was all the more intellectually stimulating as this year’s issue celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the E3W concentration. So, while celebrating the founders of the program—Bernth Lindfors, Barbara Harlow, Wahneema Lubiano and Ramon Saldivar—the section attempted two tasks: to pay homage to the writers and texts that launched the study of African literatures as a discipline in the United States; and to allow sufficient space to foreground current debates in the field of African literatures.

The limited space available to achieve these tasks was the first editorial challenge. Which texts and authors should be featured? In keeping with the diversity of the continent, reviewers needed to cover an extremely varied ground. However, the initial response to the call for reviews represented only Anglophone Africa, eliding the literary production of Francophone and Lusophone Africa. My solution was to encourage reviewers whose interests include Lusophone Africa to contribute a review. In addition, requesting review copies from publishers could be frustrating as several emails or letters were sometimes necessary to elicit books. A final challenge was coordinating the review process between the reviewers and the editors. Friendly email reminders encouraging both parties to respect the deadlines usually sufficed.

In sum, the experience gained was worth every minute I invested in the project. The challenges I outlined should not deter anybody from undertaking such a project, as each challenge was a learning opportunity. I also benefited from Dr. Harlow’s experience and Jeremy Dean’s dedication and professionalism. Together, they made a dream team for my professionalization.

Working as a Graduate Assistant to the ACLA
by Andrea Hilkovitz

Among the many and varied employment options available to students in the Program is working as a Graduate Student Assistant to the ACLA. Since 2002, the Secretariat of the ACLA has been based at UT Austin, and the University has generously funded two students per year to assist the Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza.

Though student assistants typically work for the ACLA for two consecutive years, I have had the opportunity to work for the ACLA for three years, first in 2003-4 and again from 2006-8. The student assistants are responsible for a wide variety of tasks throughout the year, from updating the ACLA Web site and maintaining the membership database to tracking nominations for the annual book award and administering board elections.

By far the largest and most important duty is to help the Secretary-Treasurer organize and run the annual conference in coordination with each year’s conference committee. Because the Secretariat is responsible for handling many of the logistics for an annual conference with more than 1200 participants from around the world, the spring semester is filled with activities such as updating the conference Web site, designing the conference program, tracking conference registrations and memberships, designing and printing name tags, and staffing the registration table.

Through this position, I have had the opportunity to develop a number of professional skills, including web and print design, that have already proved beneficial to my career. I have also been able to travel to the annual meeting, where I have delivered papers and made important contacts in my field. In short, working for the ACLA has been an invaluable experience that I would recommend to any student.

For my service to the ACLA, I was selected as the recipient of a 2008 William S. Livingston Outstanding Graduate Student Academic Employee Award. I was honored at a reception held at the Four Seasons in May attended by Vice President Juan Sanchez, Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies Victoria E. Rodriguez, Dean Randy Diehl of the College of Liberal Arts, and Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza.
Teaching Spanish at UT Austin

by Pilar Cabrera and Anna Marín

Being in a Comparative Literature Program often gives us the opportunity to teach in foreign language departments. The Department of Spanish and Portuguese is only one of many possible teaching destinations for Comparative Literature graduate students. We came to this department from very different backgrounds and language experiences: Pilar is a native speaker from Mexico, and Anna has Colombian roots and grew up as a native English speaker. In the Spanish Department we have faced different challenges and have also found much satisfaction.

Pilar Cabrera

I started to teach Spanish in the fall of 2002, when I was in my first semester in the Comparative Literature Program. Six years later, I am still excited about teaching Spanish, and I continue to learn from the experience of every new semester. When I started to work as an Assistant Instructor in this program, my supervisors emphasized using only Spanish during our classes. I was then teaching Spanish 506, the first semester course, and using only Spanish in class with my students was often very difficult. But this helped me to learn to rely more on visual aids and gestures. And it was very satisfactory to see the students’ pride in understanding the spoken language and in producing it with ever more ease.

In the last two years, with the incorporation of Rafael Salaberry as Director of the Language Program, there have been important changes in the teaching methodologies of the Department, and also in the books we use. All of these changes seek to allow the students to be more active in the process of language acquisition. Although we continue to use mostly Spanish in the classroom, some of our activities now include letting the students deduce or induce Spanish grammatical rules in English. This has made the students more aware of language processes and has elevated the level of our classes. We also now incorporate more written and spoken samples taken from a wider variety of sources: movies, television, the internet, literary texts, etc. I think that the best of all these changes is that they have reaffirmed among instructors the notion that experimentation is an essential element of the language classroom.

Anna Marín

The 2007-8 academic year was not only my first year at UT, but also teaching Spanish. As a non-native speaker, I was worried that my authenticity in the classroom as a language instructor would be compromised. Fortunately, I found the exact opposite to be true. I was able to share my own experiences as a Spanish learner, emphasizing that not too long ago I had occupied the same seat as my students in a foreign language classroom, providing demonstrable proof that their efforts could achieve great results with Spanish.

The methodology employed by the linguistics program led by Professor Salaberry is in direct contrast with how I was taught the language, and at first teaching was difficult, as I had to invent ever more interesting and challenging activities for my students to help them discover the rules and structures on their own. The inductive method offers an alternate and updated perspective that has greatly enhanced not only my own pedagogical practices, but has reminded me of the process of discovery I once went through during my own language acquisition. Students are most excited about the inclusion of authentic materials, and assignments have included watching films, finding articles at the Latin American studies collection at the Benson library, and engaging in authentic conversation with native speakers in Austin. The classroom is also more lively, as the students work in groups to figure out how to conjugate verbs, organize sentences, and choose between various past tenses.
New Comparative Literature Faculty


Michael A. Johnson, Assistant Professor of French. Graduate work at Emory University. Languages: French, Latin, Italian, and Spanish. Research interests: medieval European literature and culture, classical and medieval rhetoric, sexuality, allegory, and the reception of Ovid in the Middle Ages. Recent publications: “Reading the Sex out of Ovid in Alan of Lille’s De planctu Naturae,” “Sodomy, Allegory and the Subject of Pleasure,” and “My Lady Dumps: Peaches, the Troubadours, and Excremental Ideology Critique.”

Keith Livers, Associate Professor of Russian. Graduate work at the University of Michigan. Languages: Russian, Polish, Czech, and German. Research interests: Russian and Soviet prose of the 1920s and 1930s, Russian postmodernism, body studies, conspiracy studies, contemporary Russian cinema, and Dostoevsky. Recent publications: Constructing the Stalinist Body: Fictional Representations of Corporeality in the Stalinist 1930s, “Andrei Platonov as Literary Critic: Embodying the New Man,” forthcoming in Russian Literature (2008), and “‘Empty Is My Native Land’: The Problem of the Absent Center in Aleksandr Zel’dovich’s Moscow,” accepted for publication by The Russian Review.


Karen Pagani, incoming Assistant Professor of French Literature and guest of the Program. Graduate work at the University of Chicago. Languages: French and Italian. Research interests: long eighteenth-century French literature and philosophy and the interplay between literary, theological, and philosophical discourse, the eighteenth-century French novel, Diderot and Alembert’s L’Encyclopédie, and eighteenth-century
aesthetics, with an emphasis on music. Recent publications: “Unfinished Sympathy: Secularization and the Problem of Forgiveness 1650-1810,” currently in manuscript.


National Humanities Center Fellowship
by Alexandra Wettlaufer

Coming to the end of my academic year as a Florence Gould Foundation Fellow at the National Humanities Center, I look back on one of the most productive and indeed the most intellectually exciting periods of my life. Founded in 1978, the Center is the only major independent institute for advanced study in the U.S. devoted entirely to the support of the humanities. The 35 scholars in residence this year come from a wide variety of disciplines ranging from Classics and Philosophy to History, English, Anthropology, and Art History. Housed in a fabulous modernist building with private studies surrounding a sunlit atrium that serves as a dining room, the Center is located in the woods of the Research Triangle Park in Durham, North Carolina. One of the central principles of the NHC is the importance of scholarly exchange, so the fellows eat lunch together every day, creating an intellectual community that most of us have not enjoyed since graduate school. Whether talking about our projects, the election, African politics, or, okay, gossip, we have forged deep and nurturing friendships on a personal level that enrich and are enriched by our participation in a variety of seminars (Vernacular Languages; Interdisciplinary Studies; Philosophy and Emotion), public talks, and my personal favorite, movie nights, where scholars present films from their fields of interest. Every other Wednesday we gathered for dinner, a movie, and discussion, and we saw films from Turkey, South Africa, Senegal, and China as well as France, Britain, and the U.S.

This year I have been working on my manuscript on the figure of the female painter in 19th-century culture and novels in France and Britain. The NHC has three resident librarians, and one of the innumerable joys of working there is their ability to find almost any book, article, or image you can imagine and deliver it to your office the next day. The proximity of Duke, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and NC State offers not only unparalleled libraries but also the diverse dynamics of three world class universities at our doorstep. In this setting, surrounded by colleagues from Australia, Germany, Africa, and the finest American universities, I have accomplished more in nine months than I could have possibly imagined. The luxury of being fed breakfast and lunch every day, working in an office overlooking the forest, with books delivered, photocopies made, and friends down the hall has allowed me to complete the bulk of my manuscript...
Spending 2007-8 as a Rome Prize Winner at the American Academy
by Jorie Woods

In the fall of 2006, I learned that I’d been nominated to apply for a Rome Prize at the American Academy in Rome. I did have a new project that I’d been thinking about, and the possibility of focusing on it in Rome was irresistible. I was fascinated with the tradition of ethopoeia, a type of highly emotional speech written in the voice of a famous literary character, that schoolboys had been assigned in the classical and late antique periods and also in the Renaissance. I’d become especially interested in the speeches for women characters (taken from texts written by men) that boys wrote and presumably performed in class: What words might Medea have said before killing her children? Or, What words might Andromache say looking at the dead body of Hector? My application was called *Weeping for Dido: Male Authors and Female Emotions in the Medieval and Renaissance Classroom*, and I said that I wanted to look at a large number of 14th- and 15th-century manuscripts, mostly in the Vatican Library, of popular Latin school texts like the *Achilleid* of Statius and Virgil’s *Aeneid*, for evidence of how teachers approached particular speeches by women.

In January I received word that I was a finalist for a Rome Prize in Renaissance and Early Modern Studies and would be flown to New York for an interview. The interview went well, and there I was on September 3, arriving at the extremely impressive entrance to the American Academy on the Janiculum, Rome’s highest hill. (We learned later that J.P. Morgan, who was one of the trustees of the AAR, had approved of this site because it was higher than the French Academy.)

Things were a bit rocky at first: I arrived exhausted from finishing my book manuscript two days before, I lost my purse somewhere between the airport and the Academy, I had a cataract that made certain kinds of reading painful, and the Vatican Library had closed with almost no warning a couple of months before I arrived—for three years! But, of course, everything worked out. I found other libraries to work in, new and unexpected kinds of evidence, and a community of scholars and artists of all sorts who made life here a joy and encouraged me to do other things besides read.

The Rome Prize is not my first residential fellowship, but it’s the one I always dreamed of. And it exceeded my expectations. I learned how classical texts were taught five hundred years ago, how scholars and artists interact today, and, of course, much more about myself. Sometimes people here talk about when they will return “to real life.” For me, this is real life. I am most myself when lost in a manuscript, trying to figure out what earlier teachers thought of my favorite passages in the *Aeneid*. How did they talk about Dido’s angry words to Aeneas when she finds out that he is leaving her? What did they say about her suicide? And why were some of them more interested in earlier speeches, such as Dido’s first words to Aeneas or when Venus tells her son Cupid how to make Dido fall in love, to “breathe into [her mouth] / Your secret fire, and poison her unobserved.” Doesn’t everyone want to know?
Anthony Channell Hilfer, Iris Howard Regents Professor of English Literature at the University of Texas and a member of the Comparative Literature faculty, died Friday, April 11th, in a two-car accident in Austin, Texas, at the age of 71.

Hilfer's work on popular genres, especially crime fiction and film noir, has expanded the intellectual and cultural horizons of students and scholars since the 1960s. Hilfer's influential book *The Crime Novel: A Deviant Genre* (University of Texas Press, 1990) not only offered rich insights into American literature but also expanded our understanding of what texts might be called “literary.” Hilfer’s experiences of growing up in Hollywood inspired an interest in film which complemented his concern with contemporary literary theory, culminating in his thoughtful critique of intellectual dogmatism, *The New Hegemony in Literary Studies: Contradictions in Theory* (Northwestern University Press, 2003).

His work as an anthology editor and as the long-time co-editor of *Texas Studies in Language and Literature* attests to his collaborative and collegial career. His years of energetic writing produced multiple shorter pieces, and his in-progress ecocritical project challenged us to see the world as more than a fiction. With degrees from Middlebury College, Columbia University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he has taught at the University of Texas at Austin since 1963.

Hilfer is survived by his wife Jane Periman Koock Hilfer, his son Thomas Haley (Tom) Hilfer of Harper, Texas, and by Jane's daughters and their families: Kathryn and George Hillhouse and their children, Sam and Henry, of Austin, Texas, and Molly and Hunt James and their children, Maddie and Miles, of Tampa, Florida.

His dark and infectious sense of humor, his clear and precise theoretical insights, and his warmth and collegiality will be greatly missed by his colleagues and his students in the program whose lives he so greatly and generously enriched.

*Photo by Ave Bonar*
Russell Cobb (Ph.D., 2007) was recently offered a tenure-track position as an assistant professor in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies at the University of Alberta. He will teach one upper-division class in Spanish and one upper-division class in English each semester. He will be moving to Edmonton in June, and he is very excited—and intrigued—about living and working in Canada. Before accepting this position, Russ worked at the Houston Press on a Village Voice Media fellowship.

Vessela Valiavitcharska (Ph.D., 2007) accepted a tenure-track position as an assistant professor at the University of Maryland in College Park. She is a member of the Comparative Literature and Rhetoric and Composition faculty groups in the English Department. During her first year she had the exciting opportunity to teach three upper-division courses in her areas of research, which were very well received in the department: a course on classical and medieval composition, an introduction to classical rhetoric, and a course on medieval ekphrasis. The English Department at Maryland is a very welcoming place, with many opportunities for inter-departmental collaboration, and currently Vessela is involved in the joint English-Communication Rhetoric Minor. When she is not on campus, she spends time at the Dumbarton Oaks Library in Washington, D.C., which is the best place for research in Byzantine studies. With departmental support, she will devote her whole summer to revising her dissertation into a book manuscript.

Vessela's dissertation, *Rhetoric and Poetics in Byzantine Homilies*, focused on issues of style and rhythm in Byzantine and Old Slavonic oratory. She was nominated by the Program in Comparative Literature at UT Austin for the ACLA's Charles Bernheimer Prize, which recognizes the best dissertation by a student in a department or program of Comparative Literature. Her dissertation was also nominated for and received two prestigious awards: the 2007 American Society for the History of Rhetoric Dissertation Award and the Byzantine Studies Junior Fellowship from the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library.

Attention Alumni:

The Newsletter welcomes contributions from alumni about any and all 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 to share important news about our alumni.

It is your successes and undertakings which have secured us a national ranking of 21st in the country according to the National Research Council’s survey, and we would like the opportunity to congratulate you publicly.

We encourage you to share your accomplishments with us. Please send your news for publication in the 2009 newsletter to the Program’s email address:

complit@ccwf.cc.utexas.edu
**ACLA 2008**

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 last weekend of April in Long Beach, California. Seven faculty members and twelve students read papers and in some cases also organized seminars. Among those who presented papers were:

**Carlos Amador**, “Lamentation and Arrivals: Negative Affect, Ugly Feelings, and the Return of the Exile” (Chair); “El Asco (Disgust): Casestanos Moya’s Return Home in Anger”

**Anthony P. Arroyo**, “Bombing the Neo-Baroque: City, Sound and Revolutionary Violence”

**Andrij Bamber** (Assistant to the ACLA, Graduate Student in the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies), “Dumas’ Diary’ and Tolstoy’s ‘Tome’: Visioning the Caucasus via Travelogue and Novel”

**Pilar Cabrera Fonte**, “Virgilio Piñera’s Cuban Family Portraits”

**Ann L. Cvetkovich**, “Depression: A Public Feelings Project and its Archives”

**Nandini Dhar**, “Non-Western Living Epics and Myths: Memory, Community and Identity” (Co-chair); “Fractured Affinities, Gender and Epic Community in ‘Chandrabati Ramayana’”

**Michael A. Johnson**, “The Improper Name: Translatio in the Roman de Silence”

**Christine I. Kanz** (Visiting Scholar), “Mobility and Creativity in texts by Lou Andreas-Salomé and Else Lasker-Schüler”

**Anna M. Marín**, “Looking Back: Politics and Displacement in Contemporary Colombian Literature”

**Johanna B. Sellman**, “Storytelling on Trial: The Politics and Aesthetics of Interrogation in Kana and her Sisters and Talk of Darkness”


**Lynn R. Wilkinson**, “Ingmar Bergman’s Sawdust and Tinsel: Modernism, Montage, and the Auteur Film of the 1950s”

For the remaining papers, please see “News in Brief” below.

**Samer Ali** was promoted to Associate Professor by the Department of Middle Eastern Studies. His book, *Arabic Literary Salons in the Islamic Middle Ages: Poetry, Public Performance, and the Presentation of the Past*, is forthcoming from University of Notre Dame Press.

**Katherine Arens** published five articles this year on topics ranging from Kristeva and Enlightenment Linguistics to the performance of academic roles in today’s universities. Her article on Walter Benjamin appeared in the January 2007 issue of *PMLA*. She was included in the 2007-8 editions of *Who’s Who in America* and *Who’s Who in American Education*. Her work on curriculum led to special invitations to present at the 2007 MLA and American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages conventions, and she was invited to deliver a keynote at Brown University on content-based instruction. This spring she presented on Balkan national identity at the Council for European Studies, on Goethe at the South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, on Schnitzler at the Modern Austrian Literature and Culture Association, and on fin-de-siècle science at Oxford University.
Pearl Brilmyer received the Hubertus Scheibe Memorial Scholarship from the Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) Alumni Society, which will fully fund her to attend an intensive language course in Düsseldorf this summer. She was also awarded a Liberal Arts Graduate Research Fellowship to conduct an ethnographic study in Hamburg, where she will interview individuals identifying as nonmonogamous or polyamorous about their personal conceptions of sexual/emotional commitment and relational longevity.

Daniela Bini, who is in her fifth year as Chair of the Department of French and Italian, recently published the entry “Giacomo Leopardi” in Encyclopedia of Italian Literature and the essay “Reticence, a Rhetorical Strategy in Othello/Otello: Shakespeare, Verdi-Boito, Zeffirelli” in the journal Italica. In the last year she was invited to speak at the University of Padua, the University of Pennsylvania, Texas A&M, and Texas Tech. Daniela was elected Vice President of the Associazione Internazionale di Lingua e Letteratura Italiana and to the MLA Executive Committee of the Division on 20th-Century Italian Literature. Her proposal for a Graduate Program in Italian Studies received the approval of the Board of Regents. She was bestowed the title of Cavaliere (Ordine della Stella della Solidarietà Italiana) by the President of the Italian Republic in 2007.

Marc Bizer has been awarded a Research Grant from the Renaissance Society of America for his project, “An Epic Longing: Homer and the Politics of Authority in Renaissance France.”

Kai-man Chang presented a paper titled, “Disrupting Boundaries of Desire: Gender, sexuality, and globalization in Tsai Ming-Liang’s Films” at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies.


Moira Di Mauro-Jackson chaired panels at the 2007 and 2008 SCMLA conventions and at the 2008 Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium (CALICO) conference. At the 2007 SCMLA convention, she delivered a paper titled, “Language and Myth: Yeats & Césaire: Mythology as Representation of a Natural Identity and Literature,” and at the 2008 CALICO conference, she gave a paper on “ICT and the Reversal of Authority Legitimation and Power Representation.” Moira also presented papers on French cinema at the Texas State French Film Festival and Symposium and at Huston Tillotson’s La Journée Internationale de la Francophonie.

Alan Friedman published his book Party Pieces this year. His previously published book, Fictional Death and the Modernist Enterprise, was also reprinted in paperback by Cambridge University Press.

Thomas J. Garza presented a paper entitled “Importing MTV: On the creation of a visual identity for Russian rock music” at the ACLA annual meeting in Long Beach as part of the seminar he chaired: “Cultural Journeys: In and Out of the Balkans, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia.” He presented “Rockin’ Russian: Music videos for Russian language and culture instruction,” at the 2008 Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium (CALICO) conference in San Francisco. This paper summarized work on a two-year project to develop web-based materials for Russian instruction at the University, funded by the Liberal Arts Instructional Technology Services.
John M. González published a full-length study on the origins of Mexican-American literature during the 1930s titled *Border Renaissance: The Texas Centennial and the Emergence of Mexican-American Literature* (forthcoming from the University of Texas Press).

Barbara Harlow has returned to Austin from Cairo, where she served as acting chair of the Department of English and Comparative Literature at The American University in Cairo from 2006-7. She chaired a panel on “War and Conflict in Art and Literary Genres” at the 2008 Africa Conference, and she presented a paper titled “Tortured Thoughts” at the 2008 meeting of the ACLA in Long Beach, California. As part of the 20th anniversary celebration of the formation of the Ethnic and Third World Literature program at UT Austin, she was honored as one of the co-founders of the program in the *E3W Review of Books* and at the annual Sequels Symposium.

Geraldine Heng published an article, “An Experiment in Collaborative Humanities: Imagining the World, 500-1500 CE,” in the Spring-Fall 2007 issue of the *ADFL Bulletin*, the journal of the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages. She was elected to the MLA Executive Committee of the Division on Comparative Studies in Medieval Literature.

Andrea Hilkovitz received a 2008-9 doctoral fellowship from the Austin Branch of the American Association of University Women. She is also the recipient of a 2008 William S. Livingston Outstanding Graduate Student Academic Employee Award for her work as an assistant to Dr. Richmond-Garza, Secretary-Treasurer of the ACLA. Andrea presented a paper at the annual meeting of the ACLA in Long Beach titled “I decompose but I composing still’: The Narrative Work of Death in *Solibo Magnifique* and *Traversée de la mangrove*” and published a review of Gene Andrew Jarrett’s *Deans and Truants* in the Spring 2008 issue of the *E3W Review of Books*.

Anna Katsnelson presented a paper entitled “Sisters, Writers: the Lispectors’ Contribution to 20th-Century Brazilian Literature” at the Fulbright Regional Seminar in Buenos Aires in April. She received an extension to her Fulbright-Institute for International Exchange Fellowship in Rio de Janeiro for the summer of 2008. Anna was married in September 2007. She and her husband spent the 2007-8 academic year in Brazil.


Heather Latiolais delivered a paper at the British Women Writers Conference, “Gender and Genre, Domesticity and Dandyism: Fashion and Mrs. Henry Wood’s *Easy Lynne*.”

Ingrid Lelos published an article entitled “The Spirit in the Flesh: John Wesley and the German Hymn” in the November 2007 issue of *Covenant Quarterly*, a journal that features work on Pietism. She also looks forward to the publication of her article entitled “The Sufferings of a ‘Captive Maid:’ Jane Hoskens and the Quaker Reformation,” slated to appear in the July 2008 issue of *Early American Literature*.

Wayne Lessser received the 2008 Outstanding Graduate Adviser Award offered by the Graduate School in conjunction with the University Co-op.

Naomi Lindstrom published “El convento y el jardín: la búsqueda de espacios alternativos en *Sab*” in
Decimonónica, “Iphigenia by Teresa de la Parra: Woman between Paris and Caracas,” in Unfolding the City: Women Write the City in Latin America (Lambright and Guerrero, eds.), “Latin American Jewish Writing in the U.S.: An Examination of Categories” in Modern Jewish Studies, “Reeditions of Nineteenth-Century Novels and the Fictionalization of Audiences” in Chasqui, and “Sobre la labor dramática de Nora Glickman” in Claves en el teatro de Nora Glickman (Bausset, ed.). While participating in the XIII Congreso Internacional de Investigaciones of the Latin American Jewish Studies Association in Buenos Aires, she was designated to manage the LAJSA Web site (http://www.utexas.edu/cola/orgs/lajsa/), which launched in September 2007 and is sponsored by the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies.

Banafsheh Madaninejad received a summer 2007 CASA fellowship for three month's study in Egypt and was recently awarded 2008-9 FLAS and CASA fellowships. She gave a series of lectures about Islam at the Presbyterian Mo Ranch Assembly’s yearly Elder Hostel retreat and also lectured about Iranian Shi’ism at Texas State University. She presented a paper at the 2007 GRACLS conference entitled “The New Islamic Hermeneutics of Muhammad Mujtahed Shabestari” and also presented a paper entitled “Rumi as Exegete” at the Essentials of Rumi’s Thought conference held at the University.

Christopher Micklethwait received a summer 2008 fellowship from the American Research Center in Egypt to continue his research in Cairo on Egyptian modernist literary magazines. He will present a conference paper on Mexican avant-garde literary magazines of the 1920s in Le Mans, France, in June.

Lanie Millar delivered a paper titled “Terra Sonâmbula as Postcolonial Literature” at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference and a paper titled “Colonial Resistance Through Gender Portrayal in Rayuela” at the annual meeting of the ACLA in Long Beach, California.


Marina Potoplyak (Alexandrova) presented the paper “Book Publishing and the Arrival of Alternative Modernity in Russia and Argentina” at the annual meeting of the ACLA in Long Beach, California. She also organized a professional development panel at the 2007 GRACLS conference. She received the 2007-8 McIlhany Endowed Presidential Fellowship and an Endowed University Fellowship for 2008-9 to work on her dissertation.


Michal Raizen-Colman received a 2008-9 FLAS fellowship for the study of Arabic. She is also the recipient of a Gale Jewish Studies Excellence Award for summer 2007 and a 2007-8 Dancinger Hebrew Studies Scholarship. Michal attended the 2007 National Association of Professors of Hebrew International Conference on Hebrew Language, Literature, and Culture in Sydney, Australia, where she presented the paper “The Re-Generation of Exile: the Orphan Narrative in Eli Amir’s tarnegol kaparot.” In June 2007 she traveled to Paraguay, where she celebrated her wedding. She presented “Memories of Our Future: The Poetic Idiom of the New Levant” at the 2007 GRACLS conference.
Wayne A. Rebhorn published (with English Professor Frank Whigham as his co-editor) George Puttenham's *Art of English Poesy* at Cornell University Press. Before this edition, Puttenham's important work of Renaissance poetics had never been completed edited, modernized, and annotated. He is also busy working on a new translation of Giovanni Boccaccio's *Decameron* for which he has a contract with W. W. Norton & Co.

Elizabeth Richmond-Garza continued in her sixth year as director of the Program in Comparative Literature and in her fifth year as Secretary-Treasurer of the American Comparative Literature Association, whose annual meeting of more than 1,200 participants she organized in Long Beach in late April with the invaluable assistance of Susan Harwood Kaczmarczik, Andrij Bamber, and Andrea Hilkovitz. She continued her service for the ADFL job market workshops at the 2007 MLA meeting and offered a special 4-week multimedia interdisciplinary seminar through the UT Odyssey Program on “The Age of the Romantics: Day into Night” in spring of 2008. She delivered scholarly papers at both the MLA annual convention, “Mother Knows Best: Boris Eifman's Ruskii Gamlet and Chaika,” and at the ACLA’s annual meeting, “Heart Attacks and Severed Heads: Intermediate Sexualities in Chekhov and Wilde.” She was selected as a Piper Professor of 2008 from a national pool of applicants by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation.

Marcin Rusinkiewicz received a Ministry of Higher Education scholarship administered by the Biuro Uznawalności Wykształcenia I Wymiany Międzynarodowej (Bureau of Accreditation and International Exchange) for a 2008-9 study visit to the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. He will receive a tuition waiver and a small stipend while he takes classes and conducts research in Poland.

César A. Salgado read papers last summer at the Caribbean Studies Association Conference in Salvador da Bahia and in the panel he chaired at the International James Joyce Conference held at UT in June. In August 2007 he was invited to lecture on 19th-century Puerto Rican writer and activist Lola Rodríguez de Tió at the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina. In the fall he presented papers at the Latin American Studies Association Conference in Montreal and at the “Asian in Latin America: Across Four Continents” conference sponsored by UT’s Center for Asian American Studies. This spring he read papers at Tulane’s “Virtual Caribbeans” conference and in the panels he chaired at FIU’s Cuban Research Institute Conference in Miami and CUNY’s Bildner Center conference, “A Changing Cuba in a Changing World.” Recently he edited and prologued *La tumba de Buenaventura Roig: Selected Poems/Poemas selectos*, a bilingual anthology of the work of “Neo-Rican” poet Martín Espada for Terranova Editores in Puerto Rico. He joined Espada for a series of public conversations, book presentations, and poetry readings at the University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras in May 2008.

Hélène Tissières published a book entitled *Ecritures en transhumance entre Maghreb et Afrique subsaharienne* at L’Harmattan in 2007. It dismantles established barriers between North and sub-Saharan Africa as well as between different art forms, in particular literature and visual images. It shows that many contemporary African writers dismiss borders and wander between locations, cultures, and art forms. She also published an article on Congolese writer Pius Ngandu Nkashama in *Pius Ngandu Nkashama: trajectoires d’un discours* (L’Harmattan, 2007) and an article on Tunisian filmmaker Nouri Bouzid in *Présence Francophone*.

Alexandra Wettlaufer received a Florence Gould Foundation Fellowship from the National Humanities Center in North Carolina to support her book project, “Sisters in the Arts: Representing the Female Artist in Painting and Literature, 1830-1860,” for the 2007-8 academic year.

Dolora Chapelle Wojciehowski will be stepping down this summer after serving for two years as Graduate Adviser for Comparative Literature. The opportunity to work with the exceptional students and faculty of the Program has been a great pleasure to her. She received an FRA grant from UT to take a leave of absence this fall while she finishes her book on early modern group identities. This summer she will deliver a paper entitled “Mirrors of the Mind: What Italian Neuroscience Can Teach Us About Narrative Ethics, and Vice Versa” at the American Association of Italian Studies Conference in Taormina, Sicily. Her essay “The Queen of Onor and her Emissaries: Fernão Mendes Pinto’s Dialogue with India” will appear in the collection Emissaries in the Early Modern World: Mediation, Transmission, Traffic, 1500-1700, eds. Charry and Shahani (Ashgate, 2008).

Dafydd Wood published the article “Apollinaire’s Late Lyrics” in the anthology of essays Dialogism and Lyric Self-Fashioning: The Voices of a Genre, ed. Blevins (forthcoming, Susquehanna UP). His article “Adaptation of the Orpheus in Myth in Five Operas” was accepted for publication in the journal The McNeese Review. He was also solicited by Stephen Cushman to contribute the article on “Sound” to the new edition of the Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics.

Jorie Woods received the 2007-8 Paul Mellon Post-Doctoral Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome for her research project, “Weeping for Dido: Male Writers and Female Emotions in the Medieval and Renaissance Classroom.”

Hülya Yildiz presented a paper in the panel, “Gender in the Public Sphere, Art, Literature: Late 19th Century” at the annual conference of the Middle East Studies Association in Montréal. An extended version of her paper will be published in an edited volume on Ottoman Women’s Movements and Print Cultures, eds. Aprahamian and Rowe (University of Texas Press). She also contributed a book chapter on “Ottoman Women’s Education and Fatma Aliye Hanım (1862-1936)” to Dominant Culture and the Education of Women, ed. Paulk (forthcoming from Cambridge Scholars Publications).

### Job Placement News

Hyunjung Lee has been appointed as a lecturer in the Asian Studies Department at the University of Texas at Austin for spring 2009. She will be teaching two undergraduate courses (one upper-division and one lower-division) entitled “Women in East Asian Contemporary Literature” and “Korean Theatre and Film in the Global Era,” both of which will be cross-listed with the Program in Comparative Literature.

Matthew Russell has accepted a position as visiting lecturer in Comparative Literature and faculty adviser in the Learning Technology Center at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee.

Chang Tan has accepted a tenure-track position in the Humanities and Social Sciences Department at Harvey Mudd College. She defended her dissertation in April.
Fifth Annual GRACLS Conference

1968: A Global Perspective

October 10-12, 2008

Keynote Speakers: Kathleen Cleaver, Yale University & Emory Law School; Daniel Ellsberg; Michael Hardt, Duke University; Kristin Ross, New York University

The year 1968 has become a central myth for the twentieth century, the purported moment of origin for “the present”—for current politics, culture, and academics.

This conference commemorates the 40th anniversary of 1968 by calling for a reassessment of its local and global impacts, its icons, myths, and images, the traces and absences left in its wake, and the intellectual and cultural legacies that we are still working through, as the collective memory of participants fades into a post-memory of still-incomplete projects of modernization, globalization, and liberation.

The conference aims to create interdisciplinary discussions of the many different 1968 experiences and projects that can be recovered in global, national, and international frameworks. Flashpoints, major players, artistic responses in all media and genres, and (re)theorizings of 1968 and its legacy are all possible themes for conference participation. Participation is open to scholars from all disciplines and national/cultural studies areas, and at all levels.

Proposals are invited for 20-minute papers that explore the repercussions of this important year and that draw connections between 1968 and the present politically, culturally, and socially.

Deadline for the submissions of abstracts:
June 15, 2008

For more information about the conference, including submission instructions, please visit the conference web site:

http://www.1968conf.org/