Letter from the Director

The Program in Comparative Literature has had yet another very successful year in 2013-2014. We welcomed a new cohort of five graduate students who have studied at such diverse institutions as Rutgers, Florida State, and the Sorbonne in Paris. In September we held our annual Graduate Student Conference, at which papers were presented by some 37 participants both from UT and from universities around the country. The keynote address was given by Professor N. Katherine Hayles who is the Director of Graduate Studies of the Program in Literature at Duke University and who is one of the country’s leading scholars in the Digital Humanities, Literature, Science, and Technology, Science Fiction, and Critical Theory. Her well-attended keynote address, “Materiality, Narrative, Text,” brought together work on popular culture, on music, video, and games, on translation, trauma, and post-colonialism, on gender, space, and place, and on the digital humanities. Like many participants in the conference, she was concerned with linking traditional print culture to digital media as well as with experimental fiction and with the use of digital analysis to determine the meaning of texts. In short, her address epitomized the concern of the conference to go beyond the boundaries of disciplines and national traditions, bringing many disparate entities together in our increasingly global contemporary world, and thereby honoring the internationalist, boundary-crossing nature of Comparative Literature both at UT and around the world.

Bringing things together from all over the world is also what faculty and students in the Program were doing last year, whether they were studying at the Institute for World Literature, attending conferences around the globe, publishing books and articles on a host of topics ranging from the Middle Ages to contemporary film and popular culture while moving from the East to the West, and even taking the first steps to initiate a new program to teach world literature to inmates in the local Travis County jail. For next year two continuing students have won Comparative Literature Graduate Excellence Fellowships, a third had the distinction of winning a David L. Boren Fellowship for Hebrew study, and an incoming student will also receive a Comparative Literature Graduate Excellence Fellowship. Three continuing students have won Foreign Language Area Studies fellowships, and our six new students will all be awarded summer fellowships.

In this Newsletter we have reports from alumni who have been quite successful, in their different ways, during the years since they...
A Note from GRACLS
by Kaitlin Shirley

The 2013-2014 school year was yet another success for Graduate Comparative Literature Students (i.e. GRACLS). The levels of involvement across cohorts has been especially remarkable, and we want to thank old friends and new for their contributions to the organization’s projects.

We’ve been particularly invested this year in continuing to build a strong and interdisciplinary scholarly community within the bounds of the program. This community came out in full force at the tenth annual GRACLS conference, “What We Read: Materiality, Narrative and Text.” Featuring 37 participants from across the university and across the country, the conference brought together work on popular culture, music, and video games; translation, trauma, and (post)colonialism; gender, space, and place; and digital humanities. GRACLS members at every level of the program staffed the welcome table, presented sophisticated papers, and attended Dr. N. Katherine Hayles’ illuminating keynote address. The biggest thank you goes to our Graduate Coordinator Billy Fatzinger for helping Cory Hahn and Hannah Alpert-Abram’s throughout the process. We’re all looking forward to the return of the conference next fall, as organizers, Rae Wyse and Jamila Davey have invited Dr. Natalie Melas to campus to headline “Rethinking Comparison: Relationality, Intertextuality, Materiality.”

Our academic conversations have also continued in a forum developed by our illustrious former presidents Dusty Hixenbaugh and Katie Logan. Our roundtable series still offers the student body the opportunity to discuss theoretical frameworks as a community, but the installments this year also aimed to highlight the work that goes into getting a PhD at UT. We had a meeting about getting an article published and another meeting about the Qualifying Exams, with older students sharing their experience with the younger cohorts. Roundtables will continue this fall with an emphasis on both theoretical and practical issues.

Lest anyone think our year has been one of work alone, we’re immensely grateful to Destini Price, our current social chair, for all of the work that she puts into our happy hours, and to all of GRACLS for attending the poetry nights, which we began in 2012 and which will continue in the fall. GRACLS isn’t possible without the involvement of the community so I just want to thank everyone for all of their hard work and participation.

Wayne A. Rebhorn

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Program News

(2014 - 2015 GRACLS Officers)

President: Kaitlin Shirley
Secretary: Kim Canuette Grimaldi
Social Coordinator: Destini Price
Conference Organizers: Jamila Davey & Raelene Wyse
Committee Representatives: Yucong Hao & Chienyn Chi
**Undergraduate Courses**

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<td>C L 315</td>
<td>Masterworks of World Literature</td>
<td>Ernest Kaulbach</td>
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<td>C L 323</td>
<td>Squaring the Vienna Circle</td>
<td>Katherine Arens</td>
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<td>The Writer Within</td>
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<td>Feminism and Film: Women Filmmakers in Northern and Central Europe</td>
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<td>Jennifer Wilks</td>
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**Graduate Courses**

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<tr>
<td>C L 180K</td>
<td>Introduction to Comparative Literature: Proseminar in Methods of Study and Research</td>
<td>Samer Ali</td>
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<td>C L 381</td>
<td>The Cannibal Imagination from Columbus to Shakespeare</td>
<td>Hannah Wojciechowski</td>
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<td>Metropolitan Visions: Seeing, Subjectivity, and Modernity</td>
<td>Alexandra Wettlaufer</td>
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<td>Modernisms and Modernity, 1880-1925</td>
<td>Lynn Wilkinson</td>
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<td>C L 382</td>
<td>Theories of Transnational Cinema</td>
<td>Blake Atwood</td>
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<td>Cognitive Cultural Studies and Early Modern</td>
<td>Cory Reed</td>
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<td>C L 386</td>
<td>Arabic in Europe</td>
<td>Samer Ali</td>
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<td>Madness and Madmen in Russian Literature</td>
<td>Michael Pesenson</td>
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<td>C L 390</td>
<td>Literary &amp; Cultural Theory Since 1900</td>
<td>Tarek El-Ariss</td>
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Please visit the Comparative Literature website for course descriptions:

[http://www.utexas.edu/cola/progs/complit/courses/](http://www.utexas.edu/cola/progs/complit/courses/)
Elizabeth Warnock Fernea Memorial 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 five 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 sixth year of the award, the program has decided to use the available funds to supplement the studies of current students doing important work in Middle Eastern studies.

Thanks to the generosity of the Fernea Endowment and the College of Liberal Arts, we are able to supplement the studies of S. Pearl Brilmyer.

Dina Sherzer Endowment Fellowship

Thanks to the generosity of the Dina Sherzer Endowment, we are able to supplement the studies of Cynthia Francica, who will be conducting her dissertation research in Argentina. The Dina Sherzer Endowment also made it possible for us to supplement the studies of Flora Chuang, who was able to attend “Cinema in and outside China,” the 5th annual conference of Chinese Film Forum.

Dina Sherzer is a Professor Emerita in the Program in Comparative Literature and the Department of French & Italian. She has served as both the Director of Comparative Literature and as the chair of French and Italian. Her fields of specialty are 20th-century French literature and film and post colonialism. The Dina Sherzer Endowment supports graduate students in Comparative Literature who undertake work abroad, with a particular commitment to the encouragement of students who will be presenting their research at international conferences or whose research require them to consult archives and resources overseas.

Prizes and Fellowships

Comparative Literature Graduate Excellence Fellowships
- Roanne Kantor (2014-2015)

Graduate School Summer Fellowships
- Marlena Cravens (Summer 2015)
- Rama Hamarneh (Summer 2015)
- Reinhard Mueller (Summer 2015)
- Sarah Ropp (Summer 2015)
- Amy Vidor (Summer 2015)

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS)

Other Fellowships and Awards
- 2014 National Security Education Program (NSEP)
- AAUW Austin Branch Scholarship: Roanne Kantor (2014-2015)

Prizes and Fellowships

2014 - 2015 Fulbright Competition

The 2014-2015 Fulbright U.S. Student competition opened May 1, 2014 and is open to graduate students, undergraduates who will have completed their degree by the beginning of the grant period (Sept. 1, 2015). The competition will close at 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time on October 14, 2014. The program is restricted to U.S. citizens. The grants are for study and research abroad, and are available for most countries. A number of countries also offer grants for those who wish to serve as English teaching assistants.

For more information visit http://us.fulbrightonline.org/home.html
First Year Student Profiles (2013-14)

Kimberly Canuette Grimaldi received her BA in English and History at North Carolina State University in 2009 after which she worked for a small publishing company as a website manager for websites in English and 17 other languages. Her recent research includes work on representations of disability in Arab and Persian literature.

Chienyn Chi obtained her BA at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, where she double majored in Chinese and English literature, with a minor in French. She is interested in the representation of otherness, and the savage in English literature. She hopes to explore postcolonial theory, psychoanalysis, and Diaspora studies in both modern Chinese and English literature.

Destini Price graduated from Hollins University in 2011 with a BA in English Literature and Classical Studies. She attended Florida State University from 2011 until 2013 where she received her MA in Ancient Greek and Latin. Along with her MA work at FSU, she spent the summer of 2012 in Athens, Greece at the American School of Classical Studies, and the summer of 2013 in Athens excavating at the Ancient Athenian Agora. At UT, she has continued studying classical literature, especially classical reception in Early Modern English literature.

Amanda Moore holds a BA in Comparative Literature from the Sorbonne-Nouvelle (Paris III) and a MFA from San José State University where she also taught English. Amanda works primarily in French but is training in Spanish and Haitian Creole. Her research at UT has focused on gender and migration in relation to the Afro-Caribbean diaspora and on the crime novel in the Francophone Caribbean. She is looking forward to participating in Florida International University’s Haitian Summer Institute and to traveling to Haiti.

Mark Smith holds a BA in English from The University of Texas and an MA in Slavic Language and Literature, also from UT. Mark is interested in looking at the politicization of youth and musical subcultures through the lens of Russian, Czech, and American literature. He plans to spend the summer of 2014 studying in Moscow.

Incoming Graduate Students
by Samer Ali, Graduate Advisor

I am delighted to introduce the CL incoming class of 2014-15, who constitute the best of the best of a large and international application pool. Let me also express my heartfelt thanks to the admission committee faculty for their unflagging service in reviewing and interviewing applicants.

A close look at the credentials of these students reveals that they are distinguished in the diversity of their educational backgrounds and of their global interests. Many plan to work in more than two languages and on regions beyond the usual North Atlantic.

Michael Reyes completed his BA at the University of California Los Angeles and plans at UT to study Spanish and French postcolonial literature of the Caribbean and Latin America.

Marlena Cravens has a Bachelor’s and Master’s degree from the University of Toronto and plans to study Spanish and English literature of the colonial and pre-colonial New World.

Sarah Ropp completed her BA from Goucher College and plans to study minority and children’s Dutch and Latin American literatures of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Reinhard Mueller obtained an MA from the University of Alabama and his “Staatsexamen” (MA equivalent) at Ernst Moritz Arndt Universität Greifswald. At UT, he plans to study literary theory and intellectual history focusing on English and German literature.

Rama Hamarneh completed her BA at the University of Pennsylvania and plans to study Arabic and French post-colonial literature and theory.

Amy Vidor holds a BA from the University of Southern California and expects in August 2014 to receive an MA from Columbia U. She plans to study English, French and German literatures of the early 20th century.
2013 GRACLS Conference Reflections
by Hannah Alpert-Abrams and Cory Hahn

The theme of the GRACLS 2013 conference was Materiality, Narrative, Text. The conference was held on October 11 in the Glickman Center at the new College of Liberal Arts building. Featuring 37 participants from across the university and across the country, the conference brought together work on popular culture, music, and video games; translation, trauma, and (post)colonialism; gender, space, and place; and digital humanities.

The conference began over the summer as a tumblr where we posted articles and projects related to our theme. Digital archives like the Wayback Machine and the Women Writer’s Project appeared alongside rare books from early moments in print history; we also featured new projects like the Pemberley Jane Austen fansite or Guy Laramée's book art that experiment with the limitations of the book as a physical object.

The conference was inspired by the groundbreaking work of Dr. N. Katherine Hayles, who attended the conference and served as our plenary speaker. Dr. Hayles' work on the meaning of materiality in the digital age provided a theme that allowed us to bring together print culture, pop culture, and digital humanities.

In her keynote address, Dr. Hayles spoke of material experiments in contemporary literature, from Marc Saporta's early Composition 1 to Robert Coover's Heart Suit. In Jonathan Safran-Foer's cut-out novel Tree of Codes, words are removed from an earlier, long-forgotten novel to produce a new text. Dr. Hayles argued that though this act of erasure produces a simpler novel than the original work, the form itself reflects the complex processes of clarity and disappearance present in the original text.

In Mark Danielewski's Only Revolution, Dr. Hayles used digital analysis of the text to identify the statistically improbable absence of certain words, like "or," from the novel. Her reading showcased the utility of digital analysis in conducting certain kinds of complex research that has important, even vital implications for our interpretation of the text.

Dr. Hayles' talk was a fitting conclusion to an exciting conference. In true comp-lit fashion, panels cut across national literatures and traditional disciplines, bringing together diverse methodologies and topics. While we were, of course, unable to attend all of the panels at once, we were inspired by the talks we did observe. An early-morning panel on Samuel Beckett, organized by students in the English department, brought attendees from within and beyond the university. A panel on archives and gender produced heated discussion, while in a panel on digitization and translation, we wrestled with the theoretical and practical difficulties of close textual analysis.

In keeping with our conference theme, the entire event, from inception to presentations and keynote address, is archived online on our tumblr, gracls2013.tumblr.com.

We are incredibly grateful for the support of a number of people in the process of organizing and producing the conference. We couldn't have done it without the help of our incredibly organized Graduate Coordinator, William Fatzinger, and our intrepid Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza. We are also grateful to the many professors who served as moderators: Dr. Omoniyi Afolabi, Dr. Katherine Arens, Dr. Jason Borge, Dr. Karen Grumberg, Dr. David D. Kornhaber, Dr. Naomi Lindstrom, Dr. Gretchen Murphy, Dr. Gabriela Polit, Dr. César A. Salgado, and Dr. Lynn Wilkinson. In thanks for their intellectual, financial and moral support, we would also like to recognize the following people: Judith H. Langlois, Dr. Douglas Biow and the Center for European Studies, Dr. David Birdsong and the Department of French and Italian, Dr. Kristen Brustad and the Department of Middle Eastern Studies, Dr. Elizabeth Cullingford and the Department of English, Dr. Thomas J. Garza and the Texas Language Center, Dr. Lisa Moore and the Center for Women's and Gender Studies, Dr. Mary Neuburger and the Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies and CREEES, Dr. Jill Robbins and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Dean of Liberal Arts Randy L. Diehl, Senior Associate Dean Richard Flores, Associate Dean Esther Raizen, and the Graduate Student Assembly.
International Conferences in Europe
by Flora Chuang

The two international conferences I attended have given me a clear picture of how my study of the Taiwan New Cinema is positioned in the western academia. It is very important to acquire this position in order to better address different audiences who are interested in Chinese-language cinema. With support from a Professional Development Award, the Taiwan Grant, and the Sherzer Fund, I was able to attend two international conferences during the 2013-2014 academic year and to address two different audience groups.

In October 2013, I visited Manchester, the United Kingdom, to attend “Cinema in and outside China,” the 5th annual conference of Chinese Film Forum. Cornerhouse was the venue for the conference and it also screened Cape No. 7 and You are the Apple of My Eye, two Taiwanese bestsellers in recent years. It is interesting to note that an art house theater prefers these box office hits to artistic works. According to Dr. Chan, one of the conference organizers, it is easier be in touch with the release companies to discuss the screenings of the bestsellers from Taiwan. I was there to present a paper about the reception of Taiwanese films during post-martial law Taiwan and intended to offer some understanding of how films such as Cape No. 7 and You Are the Apple of My Eye has become widely received in Taiwan to an English audience. Other presentations about Taiwan cinema focus on Ang Lee, and the emerging trend of tv and film production in recent years. It is impressive how the conference covers a wide variety of topics about Chinese cinema in different regions during different historical periods.

In January 2014, I attended “Watersheds,” the 6th annual conference of Australian Studies held at the University of Barcelona, Spain. Although this conference has been held regularly in the past years, it is the first time that the organizing committee decided to include a panel about Taiwan as well as two papers dedicated to the contemporary Chinese cinema. Our panel addressed the development of Taiwan’s queer literature and film, and how the rise of Taiwan’s queer studies corresponds to the rising awareness of Taiwan as having a unique culture. It is not surprising that the majority of the audience remained silent after our presentations, except a same-sex couple. They expressed their gratitude and their surprise to see how queer studies has entered the mainstream, literary, and film productions, while it continues to be oppressed in Australia. They even walked up to us in private and introduce themselves. Their welcoming gestures truly made me experience how Taiwan is recognized in Australia’s homosexual communities.

The two international conferences have brought me to further consider what “Asia” or “East Asia” means to western audience groups, by which China has continued to receive intensive attention. China seems to have replaced Japan and become a new focus for western scholars/students to understand East Asia. This shift of focus from Japan to China brings Taiwan into the focal point of discussion because the history of modern Taiwan has embodied the interplay between these two imperial powers within the region. With this understanding of Taiwan’s positioning in mind, I continue this investigation of what it means to contextualize Taiwan in East Asia and how this investigation can contribute to the understanding of English-speaking audiences who are interested in Chinese cultures.
I heard about the Institute for World Literature first when I was working as a Graduate Student Assistant to the ACLA in 2010 and was immediately intrigued. As a dedicated comparatist, I am interested in exploring new directions in literary studies as well as studying regional and national literatures from a global perspective. Therefore, upon realizing that following the initial sessions in Beijing (2011) and Istanbul (2012), the third summer session would be held at its headquarters at Harvard University, I seized this unique opportunity to attend seminars run by preeminent scholars with great excitement.

Djelal Kadir, Professor of Comparative Literature at Pennsylvania State University, and Mads Rosendahl Thomsen, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature at Aarhus University, taught the two different seminars I attended. The stress of the former seminar was on the relationship between literature and the world through the study of “primary texts” and how the field of World Literature is defined by such institutional constructs. The latter explored the relation between authenticity and enchantment as a mechanism that influences the circulation of world literature. Over the course of the month, I was exposed to the most recent critical and theoretical approaches to world literature, as well as the ongoing changes and challenges of the field, including the relation between world literature and comparative literature, the uses and abuses of translation, and the challenge of including small literatures, among others.

This intensive yet stimulating program was also supplemented with enriching professional panels which discussed topics such as pedagogy, designing syllabi, the job market, and publishing as well as plenary lectures given by noteworthy figures such as Homi Bhabha, Emily Apter, and Gish Jen who focused on issues of global literary creation and circulation. One other rewarding component of the program was the affinity group sessions where the entire group of participants were divided into sub-groups on the basis of a common general theme to share their research projects directly together. This dynamic forum fostered an inspiring and constructive atmosphere for discussion and collaboration. Furthermore, participants benefited both from numerous resources on/off campus including the Widener Library, one of the largest book repositories in the world, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and Isabella Stewart Gardener Museum in Boston, as well as the opportunity to expand their personal and professional networks.

The multidisciplinary nature of the IWL training provided me with an extra impetus to develop my dissertation project and an excellent network for future collaborations. I am extremely grateful to The Program in Comparative Literature for having supported me with the Elizabeth Warnock Fernea Excellence Endowment. It would have been impossible for me to experience such a stimulating environment otherwise or to benefit as deeply from the experience without the intellectual generosity of my hosts at Harvard University.
Experiencing (Again) the Rich Culture of Jordan
by Katie Logan

On my last day in Amman during the summer of 2013, I wandered the now familiar streets of the Balad (downtown), trying to locate a small bookstore I’d heard was just around the corner. It turned out, of course, that “just around the corner” meant knowing exactly which building had the small, winding staircase that led to a second floor shop crammed with books from floor to ceiling. With the stack of books in my arms growing ever taller, I peered randomly into one haphazard pile only to notice the exact book I’d been seeking all summer in a myriad of bookstores, a Mahmoud Darwish collection from the 1980s that every store had assured me was now out of print. I expressed my surprise while the owner nodded nonchalantly: “We have everything.”

Much like that tucked away shop, my time on the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) truly has had everything; it’s been filled with the pursuit of established interests and the discovery of new ones, both during my academic year on fellowship at UT and my summer abroad. FLAS enabled me to spend the summer in Jordan at Qasid Institute studying advanced Arabic, which meant that I spent most of my classroom time debating an intense assortment of current events and learning how to speak more fluidly about the texts, authors, and ideas I study. The fellowship’s impact, though, extended beyond daily classes and homework assignments. I explored literary culture in Amman, reconnecting with old professors and classmates from my last stay in the country, joining book clubs, attending lectures, and visiting the aforementioned slew of bookstores, activities that taught me a great deal about how the works I study (or which works I study) are discussed elsewhere. My studies in the Jordanian dialect also made it possible for me to develop close relationships with people I met throughout the city, especially with my building manager and his three young children, who spent many of the hottest afternoons of Ramadan visiting my apartment, helping me with homework and playing with my roommate’s cat. Travels outside the city reminded me of Jordanian generosity in the form of barbecues with my

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FLAS Fellowship Award Information

The highly competitive Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and assists meritorious graduate students undergoing intensive training in modern languages and related area or international studies.

**Academic Year Awards:**
$15,000, plus tuition and required course-related fees up to $18,000 per academic year.

**Summer Awards:**
$2,500, plus tuition and fees for an intensive language course (up to up to $5,000)

**Application Deadlines:**
Vary, but generally mid-December
extended former host family in the hilly forests of Dibeen and several nights of fast-breaking during Ramadan with an elderly sheikh and his eleven adult children, one of whom happened to be married to an American neighbor of mine and who had invited me to spend the week with the family in Wadi Mousa outside of Petra.

In the midst of these incredibly positive experiences, my time on FLAS in Jordan made painfully apparent the way current turmoil throughout the Arab world directly and indirectly impacts communities across the region. My language program welcomed students from Egypt following the protests of June 30th. The increased presence of Syrian refugees, both in camps outside Amman and in the city itself was palpable. As a comparatist, I think we have to develop our language skills in such a way as to engage with a culture from a multiplicity of perspectives--social, literary, political, philosophical--they all inform one another and a careful attention to that dynamic makes us better, more thoughtful readers and thinkers. My life on FLAS this summer taught me to navigate a bookstore one day, to engage in complex conversations about refugee issues the next, and to joke about my poor cooking skills the day after that. All are invaluable experiences that will find their way into my research and encourage me to continue developing a linguistic and literary relationship to the Arab world.

I was reading an article about a program at the University of Virginia where students teach Russian literature to inmates at a juvenile facility. In the article, a young man, who had been taking the Russian literature course, tells an anecdote about a time he was hassled by another inmate and instead of his usual response, he tossed a copy of The Death of Ivan Ilyich at him and said, “Come back to me when you’ve finished reading it, then we’ll talk.” Inspired by this article in the Washington Post, GRACLS has begun working toward a program teaching World Literature in jail. We are collaborating with the Travis County Sheriff’s office and the Travis County Corrections Facility to develop this program. Due to the nature of the facility as a pre-trial center and the average length of stay being only three months, we will be teaching month-long courses focusing on one text. After surveying a variety of GRACLS members, we have put together a list of texts that we would like to teach that include such masterpieces as Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment, Zadie Smith's White Teeth, Aeschylus' Agamemnon, and many more. This August, we plan to do a trial run with Balzac's Le Père Goriot, a 19th century novel about a young man's struggle with crime and amorality. These courses would promote, above all else, critical thinking, self-reflection, and compassion. The program will help GRACLS share their passion for teaching and literature with people in jail, who might not otherwise have access to these kinds of courses. This kind of work not only promotes a sense of community and service, but helps us to see the real world relevance of what we do.
On Translating Giovanni Boccaccio’s *Decameron*

*by Dr. Wayne A. Rebhorn*

In the early years of the past decade I had the opportunity to translate *The Prince*, together with other works by Machiavelli, for the Barnes & Noble Classics Series. This happy experience of turning an Italian masterpiece into readable modern English led me to propose a much more ambitious project to the editors at W. W. Norton and Co.: a new translation of Giovanni Boccaccio’s *Decameron*. This fourteenth-century work laid the foundation for the subsequent development of Italian prose and shaped as well the framed short story collections in verse and prose that have continued to appear in the West since that time. Fully expecting that I would finish my *Decameron* in just two or three years, I signed a contract in 2006, only to discover, once the work began in earnest, that the challenges of turning Boccaccio’s text into readable modern American English were far greater than I had imagined. Not only is Boccaccio’s Italian some 700 years old, but his *Decameron* is written in a host of styles, including especially challenging Latinate sentences in the narrative portions of the text, a variety of colloquial registers for his characters’ speech, bits of doggerel rhyme, and songs in an elevated poetic language that are sung at the end of each of the ten days of storytelling. The result of my labors finally appeared in September of 2013. So far, the reviews of my translation, including a lengthy article in *The New Yorker* of November 11, 2013, by Joan Acocella, have been quite favorable, and I am happy to report that Norton will be bringing the book out in paperback in December, with my Norton Critical Edition of Boccaccio’s *Decameron* scheduled to follow in September of 2015. For those who are fascinated by things medieval, such as its numerological systems, let me end by noting that 2013 was Boccaccio’s 700th birthday, that I turned 70 that year, and that it took me seven years to complete my translation. That’s 7-7-7, which is, when all is said and done, much better than 6-6-6!

TransLatin Joyce: Global Transmissions in Ibero-American Literature

*by Jonathan Fleck*

I’ve had the pleasure to read *TransLatin Joyce: Global Transmissions in Ibero-American Literature*, released in early May 2014 and edited by Brian L. Price, César A. Salgado, and John Pedro Schwartz. Collaborating with Comparative Literature’s resident Joycean are two UT-Austin doctoral alumni, now professors. While at UT, both participated in Dr. Salgado’s “Transcolonial Joyce” graduate seminar, an experience that clearly had a profound impact on their career paths and literary passions. Dr. Price received his PhD in Spanish and Portuguese in 2007 and went on to become an Associate Professor of Spanish at Wake Forest University, and will now start as Associate Professor at Brigham Young University. He has a manuscript in progress that investigates rock music culture in Mexican literature. Dr. Schwartz graduated from the Department of English in 2006. He then taught as an Assistant Professor at the American University of Beirut, was a correspondent in Syria for Foreign Policy, and has published on Western and Middle Eastern museum and literary studies.

The new edited volume argues for the “TransLatin appeal” of James Joyce. The Irish writer’s fiction has been revisited, reactivated, and repurposed at the intersection of culture, aesthetics, political agendas, and social struggles in key moments in the Iberian Peninsula and Latin America. These Joycean confluences are not restricted to the past tense: TLJ expands the idea of translation to elucidate the never-finished projects of translatin’ Joyce. Like Stephen Dedalus’ ambiguous artistic education, moreover, the story of Joyce in the Ibero-American world is not one-sided. TLJ convinces us that future Joyce scholarship cannot ignore the author’s afterlife in Spanish and Portuguese.

On a personal note, reading TLJ in Spring 2014 brings me back to Fall 2010, to the storm-tossed beginnings of my graduate school Odyssey. That first semester, I took an iteration of Dr. Salgado’s seminar “Transcolonial Joyce.” I launched into a provocative syllabus, translilingual seminar discussions, and rigorous demands to refine of my own readings and writings. The challenges I faced and the growth I experienced that first semester have affected my progress more than I could have known at the time. Latin American Joycean novels have reappeared in subsequent papers and on my Qualifying and Comprehensive Exam lists, and the seminar’s theoretical approaches expanded my perception of the possibilities of Comparative Literature. My future work will be strengthened and encouraged by considering how the TransLatin framework invokes “wave theory” to treat the nuances of translation, transmission, and cross-cultural connections. In my currently-in-the-process-of-being-written Prospectus, Joyce and the hydrological vision of the TransLatin framework will be making waves off the coast of Brazil.

“Transcolonial Joyce” will be re-offered in Spring 2015, and will only be enriched by the existence of TransLatin Joyce. The structuring concepts, the methodologies, and the inspiration of the seminar and book will continue to shape Comp Lit and to help forge the intellectual consciousness of graduate students for years to come.
Alexandra Wettlaufer awarded 2014-15 Guggenheim Fellowship
by Dr. Alex Wettlaufer

As a 2014-15 Guggenheim Fellow, I plan to complete my manuscript, “Reading George: Sand, Eliot, and the Novel in Britain and France, 1830-1900,” a study in which I examine the complex relationship between Aurore Dupin Dudevant (1804-76) and Mary Ann Evans (1819-80), better known to the world as George Sand and George Eliot. Perhaps the most influential women writers of the nineteenth century, Sand and Eliot were consistently compared to one another by critics and readers of their day, and from book reviews to obituaries the two were linked not only as popular female authors, but also as avatars of the ethics and aesthetics of their respective nations. Yet despite these longstanding connections, surprisingly little critical attention has been focused in recent years on the textual relations between this pair of pseudonymous Georges. Indeed, while it is generally acknowledged that Mary Ann Evans adopted the name George Eliot in tribute (at least in part) to George Sand, and that these unconventional women similarly led unconventional lives—living with lovers and supporting themselves as writers, embracing their roles as moralists while serving as inspirations for the feminist movements they eschewed, writing novels that destabilized the marriage plot and celebrated the legitimacy of labor and rural life in France and Britain—they are now considered almost exclusively within the context of their own national literatures: Sand is read and analyzed within the nineteenth-century French literary tradition and Eliot within the British. This study seeks to examine the transnational context within which their works were first produced and consumed in order to come to a better understanding not only of Sand’s and Eliot’s individual bodies of work, but also of the ways in which nineteenth-century artistic identity, reading, gender, and the novel were constructed in a dialectic conversation between France and Britain.

As Bourdieu, Casanova, and others have shown us, every work of art takes its place and derives its meaning within the larger configuration of the field of cultural production, a transnational field that asserts its own values, distinctions, and economies across the borders of languages and states. For the novel, a social form which functioned as an ideological model for constructions of political, national, and gendered identities, international dialogues, though less often considered, are nonetheless also constitutive of essential meaning. In the case of Sand and Eliot, these textual relations deepen our understanding of the cross-cultural gender politics of reading and writing in France and Britain during the period: for readers on both sides of the Channel, the female novelist is first a woman, then French or British, and difference is doubly inscribed in the international reception of women’s novels. Where in the 1830s Sand was as renowned for her audacious lifestyle as she was for her fiction, within a decade she was established as an influential voice of progressive politics and social idealism in the European field of cultural production. Eliot, beginning her career in the 1850s as a Realist, was at once personally and politically more conservative than her French consoeur, sharing Sand’s commitment to the poetry of the quotidian and a desire for social equity but not her taste for radical change and revolutionary politics. Eliot's novels, with their deliberate and readily recognized evocations of Sand (as noted by nearly every critic of the day), thus enter into a delicate dialogic dance where meaning is generated through the interplay of similarity (in plot, themes, characters, tropes) and difference (in approach, voice, endings) that establishes Eliot's simultaneous proximity to and distance from Sand, while at the same time gesturing to a shared identity, across national borders, as female authors engaged in giving voice to silenced subjects—ambitious young girls, unhappily married women, unremarkable clergymen, peasants, and laborers—and privileging a common humanity, outside of class, gender, or nation, at the core of their tales. Indeed, following Rancière’s conception of the politics of aesthetics, this pair of female authors singly and collectively helped alter “le partage du sensible” as together they reconfigured constructions of authorship and subjecthood in the European novel, and by extension, society. During my tenure as a Guggenheim Fellow, I plan to spend much of 2015 doing research in Paris and London and will return to teaching at UT in January 2016.
Sometimes You Get Lucky

by Allen Miller

I loved my time in Austin. My wife and I look back on it fondly. UT gave me invaluable preparation and fostered my intellectual growth in more ways than I can count. I owe a deep debt to the program and its faculty.

I am currently Vice Provost, Director of International Affairs, and Carolina Distinguished Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature at the University of South Carolina. After writing my dissertation with Wayne Rebhorn at the University of Texas in 1989, I began my career at Drury College where I taught French, Latin, and World Literature. In 1991, I moved to Texas Tech University where I became Assistant Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature. While there, I served as Director of Comparative Literature, published my first single-authored book, and co-founded the interdisciplinary journal *Intertexts*. In 1998, I moved to the University of South Carolina from Texas Tech University. I was hired to direct the Program in Comparative Literature and was appointed Associate Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature. Under my leadership, the Program moved from the forty-seventh ranked PhD program one of the the top twenty-five.


I’m very lucky in a lot of ways. When I was an undergraduate at Washington University, I asked my professor, Kevin Herbert, where should I go to graduate school. He said “UT Austin, they have a great Comp Lit Program and a Great Classics Department.” I was pretty naïve and my family was in no way academic so I did not question his advice. I applied to only one place for grad school. I guess you could say it worked out pretty well.

Hook’em Horns.

Profile of an Alumna: Adria Frizzi

Adria Frizzi was born in Rimini and grew up in Milan, Italy. She received a Laurea Summa Cum Laude in Foreign Languages and Literatures from the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore of Milan, an M.A. in Comparative Literature from the Pennsylvania State University, and a Ph.D., also in Comparative Literature, from the University of Texas at Austin. She has been a Lecturer of Italian in the Department of French and Italian at the university since 1988, where she has taught a variety of language, literature, and culture courses, including “Italian Women Writers,” “Italy: Tradition and Change,” and “Latin American Literature into Film.” Her research interests include Latin American and Italian modern and contemporary fiction; film and literature; cultural studies; Italian women writers; and translation theory and practice. As a translator, working primarily with Portuguese, Italian, and Spanish, she has had a distinguished career.

Among the works she has translated are: *Nine, Novena*, by Osman Lins (Los Angeles: Green Integer Press, 2010); *Stories from the Copan Building* by Regina Rheda. *First World Third Class and Other Tales of the Global Mix* (Austin: The University of Texas Press, 2005); *Whatever Happened to Dulce Veiga?* by Caio Fernando Abreu (Austin: The University of Texas Press, 2000); and *The Queen of the Prisons of Greece* by Osman Lins (Normal, Illinois: Dalkey Archive Press, 1995). Her *Whatever Happened to Dulce Veiga?* was a Finalist for the PEN USA 2001 Literary Award for Translation.
This year the annual ACLA Conference was held at New York University, March 20 - 23, 2014. A number of Comparative Literature faculty and graduate students participated in the conference as presenters and panel organizers.

**Carlos Amador,** “The Outside of The Rural: Albertina Carri’s La rabia and Animal Violence” in the seminar, “Animals as Cultural Capital.”

**Kimberly Canuette Grimaldi,** “The War Machine: Chaos, Deformity, and Disability in Betool Khedairi’s Absent and Hoda Barakat’s The Stone of Laughter” in the seminar, “Burning Capitals: Representations of Violence in Modern Arabic Literature.”

**Jonathan Fleck,** “‘Na Minha Fala’: Negotiating Linguistic Capital in Macunaíma and in The Little Grammar Book of Brazilian Speech” in the seminar, “Writing Spaces in the University.”

**Marina Flider,** “Spatial Tyranny and Literary Anxiety: Writing Russia’s Capitals from Moscow to St. Petersburg and Back Again” in the seminar, “Divided Capitals and the Capital of Division in East Central Europe.”

**Dr. Thomas Garza** “Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears: The Rise of a C(cap)ital City” in the seminar, “Balkan and Eurasian Metropoles: At the Center and Periphery of Capital.”

**Dr. Karen Grumberg,** “Dark Jerusalem” in the seminar, “Spectral Cities”

**Cory Hahn,** “Nelson Pereira dos Santos’s Tenda dos Milagres: Historiography, Censorship, Mediation” in the seminar, “Realism and Visual Culture: Shifting Modes of Narrative Truth.”

**Yucong Hao,** “Literature as Method: Regretful Farewell and Dazai Osamu’s Asianism” in the seminar, “Cultural Capital in an Era of Paradigm Shift: East.”


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**THE 2015 ACLA CONFERENCE AT the University of Washington:**

The American Comparative Literature Association’s 2015 Annual Meeting will take place at the Sheraton Seattle in Seattle, Washington.

Seminar Proposal Deadline: September 1, 2014
For more information: acla.org
Dr. Gabriela Polit, “Fictions of the Real” in the seminar, “Capitalizing (on) Violence in Latin America.”

Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, “Oscar Wilde’s Final Personality, or the Queerness of the Non-Place” in the seminar, “Gender, Sexuality, and Geopolitics: New Affinities/New Comparisons.”

Dr. César Salgado, “Ciclón in a City of Censors: Targeting Obscenity in Batista’s and Castro’s Havana” in the seminar, “(Un)Consecrating Havana.”

Franklin Strong, “Baroque Harlem: James Weldon Johnson’s Spanish Tinge” in the seminar, “The Harlem Shuffle.”

Fatma Tarlaci, “A Turkish Understanding of World Literature” in the seminar, “Comparative World Literatures 2.”

Bhavya Tiwari, “Worlding Comparative Literature’s Theory” in the seminar, “Theory as Genre.”

Dr. Jennifer Wilks, “La Negrura: Race and Apocalypse in Junot Díaz’s “Monstro” in the seminar, “Apocalypse Now: The End(s) of Capitals in Contemporary Literature and Film.”

Dr. Samer M. Ali published two articles in the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam and Women*, “Literary Salons” and “Medieval Court Poetry.” He organized a Roundtable at the Annual Convention of the Modern Language Association in Chicago about the academic dimensions of the BDS movement, which was attended by 400 people. He serves on the MLA’s Delegate Assembly, the Delegate Assembly Organizing Committee and the Executive Council. This year, he was invited to give four talks at home and abroad, at The Ohio State University, the University of Michigan, the University of Exeter, and Georgetown University, on the politics and poetics of the Arabic humanities (adab) in the 10th century.

Dr. Daniela Bini, after eight years of chairing the Department of French and Italian, spent a sabbatical year writing six essays, three of which may be part of her next book project. She has realized, however, she enjoys more writing essays on a variety of topics. She published “High and Low Art, Inadequacy of Words, Self-Referentiality in Pasolini’s *Che cosa sono le nuvole*?” in *Italica*, and “Operatic Appearances in the films of Marco Belloccchio” in *Esperienze Letterarie*. She gave a keynote address on Pier Paolo Pasolini’s Poetry at the University of Pennsylvania, and was invited to Duquesne University in Pittsburgh to give the lecture: “Aida and Amneris: The Angel Cry,” as part of the celebration of Giuseppe Verdi’s 200th Birthday. A week later she gave a keynote address “Leopardi’s Foresight” at Trinity College (Hartford) at a symposium organized for the publication in English of Giacomo Leopardi’s entire *Zibaldone*. In addition to continuing to serve on several editorial boards, she just became a member of that of *Romance Notes*.

Dr. Marc Bizer gave four conference papers (two invited): on Indecision in Early Modern French Literature Du Bellay, Hercules, the politics of friendship in Montaigne. He completed a chapter on “Poetry and Modernity” for the *Cambridge Companion to French Literature*. In December he was recommended for promotion to the rank of full professor, effective September 2014.

Pearl Brilmyer will take up her post as Assistant Professor of English at the University of Oregon after completing one year of a post-doctoral fellowship at the Institute for Cultural Inquiry in Berlin, Germany. Her article “The Natural History of My Inward Self: Sensing Character in George Eliot’s Impressions of Theophrastus Such” recently appeared in *PMLA*. A second article on Eliot, entitled “Plasticity, Form, and the Matter of Character in *Middlemarch*” has been accepted for publication in *Representations*. 
Flora Chuang presented two conference papers, “Observations of the recent Taiwanese Films: A Case Study of Yee Chin-yen’s Blue Gate Crossing” and “Watershed of Taiwanese Cinema: The Legacy of New Taiwan Cinema and Beyond.” She was the recipient of a Dina Sherzer Fellowship in Spring 2014 and the Taiwan Grant in Spring 2014.

Jamila Davey was awarded a Foreign Language and Areas Studies Fellowship from the Center for European Studies for the study of French language and literature during the summer of 2014 and the 2014-15 academic year.

Jonathan Fleck presented a paper at LAJSA 2013 entitled “Contrapuntal Identities in Elisa Lispector’s No Exílio” and a paper at the 2014 meeting of the ACLA entitled “Na Minha Fala’: Negotiating Linguistic Capital in Macunaíma and in The Little Grammar Book of Brazilian Speech.” Additionally, he received a Tinker Fellowship for summer research in Brazil.

Marina Flider received the NSEP Boren Fellowship. She will be researching and studying Hebrew in Tel Aviv next year.

Mike Flynn’s article “Goodbye to a River of Tears” will be published in the Spring 2014 edition of Southwestern American Literature. The article argues that violent trauma informs and shapes the text of Texas writer John Graves’s Goodbye to a River (1960) to a larger extent than has been noted by other critics.

Francisca Folch-Couyoumdjian received the excellence in teaching award at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. She gave a talk on “Shakespeare in the Chilean Opera and Dance Stage” at the cultural center Gabriela Mistral, as well as at the Universidad de Chile.

Cynthia Francica has presented a paper titled “Belleza y Felicidad: Photocopying the Digital Turn in Buenos Aires” at the MLA annual convention, which took place in Chicago this January. She will be participating in NYU’s Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics ‘Encuentro’ conference in Montreal this upcoming June, and she has been awarded a LILLAS Argentine Studies Award and a Comparative Literature Sherzer fellowship to conduct dissertation research this summer.

Dr. John Morán González presented papers at the 2014 ACLA conference and the Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage Advisory Board meeting.

Comparative Literature Association Annual Convention, “From perestroika to Putin: A brief history of LGBT rights and laws in Russia” at the Human Rights Law Society, “A new Macho: Russian masculinity in contemporary culture” for the UTexas QUEST program, “Terrorism in Boston: The Chechen connection” for the University Dean’s Scholars Program, “Tweeting for Proficiency: How Using Social Media Can Benefit Language Learning” for the Texas Language Center, and “Virtual Cultures: Preparing Students for Advanced Proficiency through Cultural Literacy” also for the Texas Language Center.

Dr. Karen Grumberg was awarded the Jean Holloway Award for Excellence in Teaching for 2014. This Spring, she presented a paper at the ACLA on “Dark Jerusalem” and was a participant in the Harrington workshop here at UT, “Place Memory, Place Politics: Cultural Perspectives on the Local and Locality,” where she discussed the Gothic cityscape in Hebrew literature. She was invited to present a paper on alternative visions of Israeli identity at a colloquium on “Israel in the Middle East” at Indiana University at Bloomington. As part of an ongoing Oslo/Austin grant awarded to the Departments of Middle Eastern Studies and East Asian Studies, she will spend the first two weeks of May teaching Hebrew literature to advanced Hebrew students at the University of Oslo in Norway.

Dusty Hixenbaugh shared his dissertation research at conferences including ACLA, C19 (Society of Nineteenth Century Americanists), and the Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda bicentennial at Florida International University. This summer, he will work with UT’s Department of Rhetoric and Writing to develop a new textbook and lessons for the RHE 306 course.

Roanne Kantor’s article “Chasing your (Josie) Bliss: The Troubling Critical Afterlife of Pablo Neruda’s Burmese Lover” was accepted to the journal Transmodernity: A Journal of Peripheral Cultural Production of the Luso-Hispanic World. She also presented a portion of this article at the Latin American Studies Association annual meeting in May.

Dr. David Kornhaber received a Raymond Dickson Centennial Endowed Teaching Fellowship from the College of Liberal Arts at UT Austin, and he served as guest editor for a special issue of the journal Modern Drama on the topic of drama and philosophy. He presented his most recent work at the annual conferences of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education and the American Society for Theatre Research.

Julianna Leachman presented papers at four conferences this year: “Humility, Grace and the Virtue of Hope in Venedikt Erofeev and Fyodor Dostoevsky” at the 2013 SWCCL Conference; “The Word Became Filth: Platonov’s Happy Moscow” at the 2013 GRACLS Conference; “Denial and the Diabolical in Flannery O’Connor’s Stories” at the 2013 SCMLA Conference; and “Constant Inappropriateness’: National Identity and Otherness in Dostoevsky’s The Idiot” at the 2014 AATSEEL Conference.

Naomi Lindstrom published “La narrativa profética y apocalíptica en una trilogía de Mario Satz” in Hispanic Journal, “El discurso anómalamente visionario de Mario Satz” in Arquivo Maaravi, and “Angelina Muñiz-Huberman: Scholarship and Enchantment” in the collection Critical Approaches to Jewish-Mexican Literature. She presented papers at the XVI Conference of the Latin American Jewish Studies Association, the World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, and the annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies. In 2013-2014 she served as Acting Director of the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies and starting in Fall 2014 will be Executive Director.

Katie Logan presented work at the Middle Eastern Studies Association Conference in New Orleans; the Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies Graduate Conference at Columbia University; and the Women and Gender Studies Annual Conference at UT Austin. In May, she will travel to Norway as a recipient of the Oslo-Austin Graduate Research Fellowship to present a paper at the Oslo International Graduate Students Conference on the Spatial Turn in Literary Theory.
News in Brief

Martino Lovato presented a paper entitled “Notes Towards a Mediterranean Literature” at the International Comparative Literature Conference (ICLA). He received the Comparative Literature Graduate Excellence Fellowship for the academic year 2013-14, and has been working on his dissertation as an Invited Researcher at the Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l’Homme, in Aix-en-Provence.

Amanda Moore was awarded a summer FLAS by LILAS to study Haitian Creole at Florida International University. The FIU program includes a two-week trip to Haiti where students will spend time in Jacmel, Cap Haitien, and Port-au Prince. She will be traveling to Mérida, Mexico at the end of May to present a paper at the Caribbean Studies Association’s Annual Conference.

Michal Raizen is a newly appointed Assistant Professor of Comparative and Modern Mediterranean Literatures at Ohio Wesleyan University.

Dr. Wayne A. Rebhorn published his translation of Giovanni Boccaccio’s Decameron with Norton in September, 2013. The translation has garnered many positive reviews, and in one of them, which appeared in The New Yorker, Joan Acocella summarized her judgment by saying that if readers “want the true, mixed, fourteenth-century book that Boccaccio wrote, choose Rebhorn.” Norton will be bringing the translation out in paperback in December of 2014 and the Norton Critical Edition of the work the following fall. Rebhorn has also published an article on “Renaissance Rhetoric in Politics” in The Oxford Handbook of Rhetorical Studies. In the fall of 2013, he appeared at the Texas Book Festival in a session on “Reviving the Classics” and later gave an invited lecture, “Working with Style: On Translating Boccaccio’s Decameron,” at the Casa Italiana of New York University and at the conference, Boccaccio at Yale, at Yale University.

Dr. Cory Reed recently published an article, “Staging the Page: Performing Technologies of the Book in Massenet’s Don Quichotte,” and a book chapter titled “Science, Instrumentality, and Chaotics in Early Modern Spanish Drama,” in Brill’s A Companion to Early Modern Hispanic Theater. He is revising a book manuscript titled Cervantes and the Aesthetic of Instrumentality: Science, Technology, and Agency in Don Quijote. He presented “Cognitive Contexts of Theatrical Performance in Don Gil de las calzas verdes” at the Association of Hispanic Classical Theatre/Out of the Wings symposium in Bath, England, and was co-organizer for the Fourth Texas Cervantes Symposium here at UT.

Elizabeth Richmond-Garza was awarded a President’s Associates Teaching Excellence Award for 2013-14 in recognition of her multimedia teaching especially in large required classes like “Masterworks of World Literature” and her signature course “Modernity, Anxiety and the Art of the Uncanny.” Additionally she has been awarded a research appointment from the Provost’s office for spring 2014, a summer research fellowship from the English Department for summer 2014, and a research appointment from the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts for Fall 2014. She presented a paper at the 2014 ACLA annual meeting at New York University entitled “Oscar Wilde’s Final Personality, or the Queerness of the Non-Place.” Her article, “Translation if Blind: Reflections on Narcissus and the Possibility of a Queer Echo,” will appear in the May 2104 Special Issue of Comparative Literature Studies, “The Gender and Sexual Politics of Translation: Literary, Historical, and Cultural Approaches.”

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 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 2015 newsletter to the Program’s email address: complit@austin.utexas.edu
Dr. César A. Salgado presented conference papers on crime networks in Caribbean archival fiction, censorship in 1950s Cuban and US journals and academia, and visions of early post-Soviet Cuba by exile filmmakers at the MLA, the ACLA, and Tulane’s Radical Caribbeans and by invitation at York University’s Hispanic Caribbean Dialogues. He helped organize panels to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Revista Orígenes at the CUNY Graduate Center, ACLA, and LASA. He published essays on Martín Espada, José Lezama Lima, and Virgilio Piñera in scholarly collections, and consulted F. O. Matthiessen’s papers at Yale’s Beinecke Library in March. With two former UT students, he co-edited and wrote the introduction to TransLatin Joyce: Global Transmissions in Ibero-American Literature (Palgrave MacMillan), which features his article “Detranslating Joyce for the Cuban Revolution: Edmundo Desnoes’s 1964 Edition of Retrato del artista adolescente.”

Maryam Shariati read her paper on trauma and history at the 2014 Emerging Scholarship in Women’s and Gender Studies held at UT. Her book review of Shahla Talebi’s Ghosts of Revolution: Rekindled Memories of Imprisonment in Iran (2011) appeared in H-Memory Network and her article on Athol Fugard is forthcoming in the Blackwell Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Studies. Last summer, Maryam attended the third annual meeting of the Institute for World Literature at Harvard University through the generosity of the 2013 Elizabeth Ferean Fellowship. She also received the Quaid-E-Azam Scholarship in the fall of 2013.

Dr. Martha Ann Selby was awarded the 2014 A. K. Ramanujan Book Prize for Translation by the South Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies at an awards ceremony in Philadelphia on March 28th. The award is given biannually to the best translation from any South Asian language. Dr. Selby was recognized for her 2011 book, Tamil Love Poetry: The Five Hundred Short Poems of the Ainkurunuru, published by Columbia University Press.

Franklin Strong completed his article “El acoso, Sirens and Carpentier’s Joyce,” which has been accepted for publication by the Latin American Literary Review. He presented papers at the 2013 Conference on the Harlem Renaissance at Paine College and at the ACLA’s annual meeting in New York, where he also co-chaired the panel “The Harlem Shuffle” with Marilyn Miller of Tulane University.

Fatma Tarlaci presented “A Turkish Understanding of World Literature” at the American Comparative Literature Association, New York University, New York, in March 2014 and “A Positive Approach to Literary Globalization” at the International Comparative Literature Association, Université Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV), Paris in 2013. She also published a book review, Selçuk Altun The Sultan of Byzantium, World Literature Today 87.4 (2013)


Dr. Lynn Wilkinson presented three papers: “Cosmopolitan Corinne: Germaine de Staël, Anne Charlotte Leffler, and the Emergence of the Woman Intellectual” at the Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium in Richmond, Virginia; “Coppet, Copenhagen, Cosmopolitanism: Georg Brandes Reads Germaine de Staël” at the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association in New York; and “Rewriting Staël: Anne Charlotte Leffler’s Italian Novels” at the annual Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference in Houston. She is currently working on several projects, including a study of women intellectuals.
CL Proseminar: Professional Strategies for Comparatists in Field Studies

Scheduled Meetings:

August 30  Visit by Prof. Esther Raizen (Middle Eastern Studies), Associate Dean for Research in the School for Liberal Arts.

September 6  Prof. Tola Mosadomi (Middle Eastern Studies). Topic: “The Rise to Eminence and the Challenges faced by Eminent Yoruba Women: Implications for Women and Gender Studies”.

September 13  Prof. Alex Wettlaufer (French and Italian, Associate Director Plan II Honors). Topic: “Surviving and thriving in Graduate School”.


September 27  Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza (Comparative Literature, English) “Translation Is Blind: Reflections on Narcissus and the Possibility of a Queer Echo”

October 4  Prof. Thomas Garza (Texas Language Center, Slavic and Eurasian Studies). Topic: “Applied Literature and Teaching language and Culture”.

October 18  Prof. Wayne Rebhorn (English). Topic: “The New Historicism”.


November 1  Prof. Katie Arens (Germanic Studies). Topic: “Death of Theory as a Professional Identity”.

November 15  Prof. Sabina Hack. Topic: Film/Cinema.

November 8  Prof. Ann Cvetkovich (English and Women’s and Gender Studies). Topic: Gender Studies.

November 22  Prof. Chien-hsin Tsai (Assistant Prof. of Chinese)

December 6  Conclusion

This was a wonderful and engaging Fall 2013 proseminar and I am grateful to all seminar participants for their carefully constructed interventions. The students were delighted with the wide selection of topics discussed which not only addressed the way they should strategize to get the most out of their studies at UT, but also offered a multitude of approaches regarding literature, film and art. A truly inspiring term.

Dr. Héléne Tissieres
Rethinking Comparison: Relationality, Intertextuality, Materiality

26 - 28 September 2014

Keynote Address by Dr. Natalie Melas, Cornell University

Édouard Glissant theorizes relation as a way of rethinking contact between cultures and languages in a global context. He coined the term tout-monde – in English, whole world – to conceptualize the condition of existing in a world characterized by the simultaneous presence of all cultures. Through tout-monde, Glissant destabilizes notions of distinct languages, cultures, and identities. His concept of relation opens up these categories to a principle of continuous transformation. Engaging Glissant’s ideas, Natalie Melas asks how relation can be used to reexamine comparative studies. In her book All the Difference in the World, she writes that the concept of relation shifts our focus “from ‘what do you compare?’ to ‘on what grounds do you compare?’” She seeks a method that recognizes the impossibility of fixed sites of comparison and that consciously avoids the “normalizing and generalizing” tendency that comparative work always risks enacting.

The 11th Annual Graduate Conference in Comparative Literature invites papers and panels that reflect on these questions and explore contemporary comparative practices. We seek contributions that problematize the grounds of comparison and introduce strategies and concepts to grapple with the complexity of studying cultural objects. We welcome engagements that interrogate Comparative Literature’s status as a discipline and as a set of practices dealing with questions of translationality, untranslatability, world literature, and telepoesis. We encourage research that examines intertextuality as a tout-monde of texts wherein “discrete” texts signify meaning always in relation to a world of prior and future texts. We invite work that considers the materiality of texts from the perspective of the encounters and relations that shape their physical existence. Finally, we encourage projects that investigate how comparative practice makes it possible to work across disciplinary boundaries. For example, how does the concept tout-monde enable us to reframe inquiries that investigate the intersection of the modern and the medieval while pushing us to rethink these categorizations?

We encourage contributions that address literary, visual, and/or oral texts. Possible topics include (but are not limited to):

● State of the field
● What is Comparative Literature?
● Comparing across time, space, and place
● Comparative Literature and Area Studies
● Poetics as transformation
● Generic interrelatedness/boundaries
● Language as Creolization or a mixing of languages
● Identity as rhizomatic, performed, and shaped in relation
● Representation as relationality and/or referentiality
● Affects of Comparison
● Cultural production within markets of consumption
● Global/local relations in cultural products
● Reading as translation

The deadline for individual abstracts and panels is 15 June 2014. All proposals should be submitted via email as a Word document to graclsconference2014@gmail.com. Panel proposals may include 3 or 4 speakers. The panel organizer(s) must email the proposed title, topic, moderator (if available), and presenters for the panel. All members of the panel must also submit their abstracts via email.

For additional information about the conference, please contact the organizers Raelene Wyse and Jamila Davey at graclsconference2014@gmail.com or visit UT’s Program in Comparative Literature website: http://www.utexas.edu/cola/progs/complit/.
Job Placement News

Carlos Amador has signed a contract as an Assistant Professor of Spanish and Culture Studies at Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan.

Pearl Brilmyer accepted a position as Assistant Professor of English at the University of Oregon.

Naminata Diabate accepted an Assistant Professor position in the Comparative Literature Department at Cornell University.

Francisca Folch-Coyoumdjian is working as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the English Department at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

Maryam Shariati will teach Persian at U of Wisconsin-Madison Summer 2014.

Michal Raizen accepted a position as Assistant Professor at Ohio Wesleyan Comparative Literature.

Attention Alumni:

The Program in Comparative Literature welcomes contributions about any aspects of your post-UT Austin lives and careers. The newsletter’s goal is to celebrate the achievements of students and faculty and 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 you publicly.

Please send your news for publication in the 2015 newsletter to:
complit@austin.utexas.edu