Greetings to our alumni, current students, colleagues, and friends –

We’ve had an eventful year in the recently unified and newly renamed Department of Comparative Literature. Now fully settled into our new home in Dana Palmer House, we undertook a systematic review of both our undergraduate Literature Concentration and our graduate program in Comparative Literature. The year-long process provided an opportunity for extended discussion among student and faculty alike, and showed me (in my first year as department chair) an exceptional level of collegiality and willingness to pitch in and make things better. Our new name aptly expresses the department’s unity, even as we continue to strengthen the Literature concentration and the graduate program alike.

A total of thirty recommendations were adopted by the faculty this past semester, affecting every aspect of our programs. In general, our emphasis was on rebuilding our programs to meet students’ current needs and interests, eliminating requirements that no longer served a vital purpose, strengthening requirements where appropriate, and creating overall a coherent program of courses offerings both for our undergraduates and for our graduate students, including a better mix of broad-based and specialized courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. As we developed our recommendations for revision, the issue of language proved particularly noteworthy. In studying our Literature concentration, we found that our requirements assumed that students would take several courses in a language other than English, but then might never use their second language in their junior and senior tutorials and essays. What’s more, our requirements made it hard for concentrators to study any other language at all; yet we found that, in fact, half of our concentrators were actually trying to work in three languages. So we revised our requirements to allow for more variety in language study, and strengthened our guidelines on the use of language, to encourage our concentrators actually to use their developing linguistic skills.

Language emerged as an issue for our graduate students. More generally, we found that our program had led students to do most of their work in one or another language and literature, with few opportunities for full-scale comparative work; we’ve strengthened the comparative emphasis of the graduate program both in the first two years and in a new plan for doctoral orals in the third year (replacing the by now rather attenuated “Reading Check”). A major emphasis in our revisions to the graduate program

Chair David Damrosch
has been to strengthen faculty feedback and advising from the first year through the completion of the Ph.D., including the establishment of chapter meetings for students to discuss each chapter with their advisers, and a concluding dissertation defense.

Altogether, we should now have a program well shaped for the needs of students in the twenty-first century, and our current students have contributed very substantially to this process, as did very helpful responses from alumni we surveyed at the start of the process. It has been gratifying to see the level of enthusiasm and commitment that our students feel for the program. Typical comments from Lit concentrators read as follows:

• “I am so glad to have been a literature concentrator. The Literature department represents the perfect blend of art and ideas. It is exactly what I was looking for in a concentration.”
• “Concentrating in Literature is #1 on my list of college-related decisions I’ve never regretted.”
• “I love Lit!”

As for our graduate program, its attractiveness and vitality have been underscored for us this spring in our graduate admissions; having made offers to a total of ten extremely interesting and highly qualified students, all of whom had multiple offers from excellent programs elsewhere, we were pleased to have ninety percent of our offers accepted.

When not engaged in the joys of program revision, our faculty have been exceptionally active nationally and internationally; as a case in point, Karen Thornber has just been awarded the 2010 Anna Balakian Prize by the International Comparative Literature Association for the best book in comparative literature by a scholar under the age of forty. Elsewhere in the Newsletter you’ll find further news of faculty and alumni alike. Please keep in touch with us as you have further news, and do come by when you’re in the neighborhood; it will be a pleasure to see you.

David Damrosch
Chair
Empire of Texts in Motion


Comparative scholarship on East Asian cultural products has emphasized pre-twentieth century sinocentrism, twentieth-century fascination with the West, and early twenty-first century intra-East Asian popular culture flows. Studies of twentieth-century intra-East Asian relationships have emphasized geopolitical concerns. These dominant narratives obscure the vibrant intra-East Asian cultural and particularly literary transculturation that took place throughout the turbulent 1900s and continues into the new millennium. By the turn of the twentieth century, Japan’s military and economic successes made it the dominant power in East Asia, drawing hundreds of thousands of Chinese, Korean, and Taiwanese students to the metropole and sending thousands of Japanese to other parts of East Asia. The constant movement of peoples, ideas, and texts in the Japanese empire created numerous literary contact nebulae, fluid spaces of diminished hierarchies where writers grapple with and transculturate one another’s creative output, engaging in what Professor Thornber has termed readerly contact, writerly contact, and textual contact, intertwined modes of transculturation that depend to some degree on linguistic contact and often involve travel.

Drawing extensively on vernacular sources in Japanese, Chinese, and Korean, as well as in several European languages, *Empire of Texts in Motion* analyzes the most active of these literary contact nebulae: semicolonial Chinese, occupied Manchurian, and colonial Korean and Taiwanese transculturations of Japanese literature. It explores how colonial and semicolonial writers – from such literary leaders as Lu Xun, Yi Kwang-su, and Yang Kui to lesser known figures – discussed, adapted, translated, and intertextually recast thousands of Japanese creative works, both affirming and challenging Japan’s cultural authority. Such writings not only blurred distinctions among resistance, acquiescence, and collaboration but also shattered cultural and national barriers central to the discourse of empire. In this context, twentieth-century East Asian literatures can no longer be understood in isolation from one another, linked only by their encounters with the West, but instead must be seen in constant interaction throughout the Japanese empire and beyond.

Professor Thornber is currently completing her second book – *Green Paradoxes: East Asian Literatures and Environmental Ambiguities*. This monograph analyzes dynamics of ambivalence and ambiguity in a key intercultural literary network: drama, fiction, and poetry that discuss anthropogenic damage to the nonhuman. With her third book *Texts in Turmoil*, also in preparation, she is returning to the question of literary contact nebulae, but this time is focusing on these nebulae both within postwar (postcolonial) East Asia (China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan) and among postwar East Asia and South Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. In her scholarship she emphasizes how discovering and analyzing local, subnational, national, regional, and global networks and nebulae better illuminates the dynamism of the world’s cultural landscapes, and ultimately the complex texture of human experience, across time and space.
David Damrosch While settling in as department chair, he has continued work on various projects in comparative and world literature. During the past year he served as lead literary adviser for a 13-part TV/DVD/internet series called Invitation to World Literature, produced by Boston’s WGBH, due out in October. A new edited collection has just come out from Beijing University Press, co-edited with Chen Yongguo of Tsinghua University and doctoral candidate Yin Xing, who was a visiting researcher in our department this past year, under the title Xin Fang Xiang: Bi Jiao Wen Xue Yu Shi Jie Wen Xue Du Ben [New Directions: A Reader of Comparative and World Literature]. His 2009 book How to Read World Literature has just come out in Turkish translation; Chinese, Italian, and Vietnamese translations are also under way. His current book in progress is a survey of the state of the discipline of comparative studies, under the title Comparing the Literatures: What Every Comparatist Needs to Know.

Christopher Johnson: This year saw two long-standing projects come to fruition: Selected Poetry of Francisco de Quevedo (A Bilingual Edition), which he translated and edited, was published by University of Chicago Press; and Hyperboles: The Rhetoric of Excess in Baroque Literature and Thought was published by Harvard Studies in Comparative Literature with Harvard University Press. He is currently finishing a book manuscript, entitled Memory, Metaphor, and Aby Warburg’s Atlas of Images. He also had the pleasure of organizing with Tom Conley a Radcliffe Exploratory Seminar on “The Encyclopedic Impulse in Early Modern Europe.”

Christie McDonald has been working on two collaborative projects both of which will be published in 2010. Rousseau and Freedom, edited with colleague Stanley Hoffmann (Cambridge), emerged out of a dialogue between literary thinkers and political scientists at The Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Study and Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy, in 2007, and explores the various concepts of and experiments with liberty throughout Rousseau’s work. French Global: A New Approach to Literary History (Columbia University Press), edited with Susan Suleiman, proposes to study the whole sweep of French literary history in a global perspective from the Middle Ages to the present.

John Hamilton His return to Harvard in 2009 began when he joined his colleague Marc Shell for the summer program in Venice, a perfectly relevant setting for their seminar on “Art and Money”. Back in Cambridge for the fall semester, he offered a course on “Music, Literature and the Voice”, which built upon papers he presented and published over the last couple of years, including a piece on Eichendorff and Pascal Quignard. He also held a graduate seminar on “Security”, which centered directly on his present book-length project: Securitas: A Comparative Philological Approach to Security Studies. The project’s theoretical core had been under development for some time: first in a seminar and conference at NYU; and then in an exploratory workshop at Radcliffe. His upcoming sabbatical year will be devoted to finishing the manuscript for publication. Scheduled talks at Barnard, Princeton, and Oxford will give him the opportunity to present some of the chapters. Otherwise, he will be revising talks recently given at Rice University (on Büchner), Yale (on “The Bull of Phalaris”), and Berlin (on Cicero and on Pythagoras) for publication in collected volumes; as well as making final revisions for the German translation of his book, Music, Madness, and the Unworking of Language.

Judith Ryan received an Alexander von Humboldt Research Prize in recognition of her scholarly achievements considered as a whole. The prize enabled her to spend Fall semester 2009 in Munich and had also supported a summer of further research in Heidelberg from June-August 2010. She has been working on two key chapters of Colonial Fever, a book in progress about colonialism in German-language literature from Goethe to Sebald. Her project examines works by major writers, many of whom treat colonial issues on the margins rather than at the center of their texts. A leading question of the study is whether or not the Germans, as relative latecomers to the “scramble” for colonies, followed a special trajectory as they reflected on the run-up to colonialism, colonialism proper, and the post-colonial aftermath. On December 2, 2009, she gave a talk and participated in a three-person panel at Heidelberg University on colonialism in Goethe’s Faust.

Susan Rubin Suleiman is returning from enjoying her sabbatical year at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, where she was the Shapiro Senior Scholar in Residence for 2009-10. She conducted two seminars for staff and fellows in December, and delivered the Annual Shapiro Lecture at the Museum on February 4: “Irène Némirovsky and the ‘Jewish question’ in Interwar France.” There was a nice crowd (the lecture had to be moved to the Museum’s largest auditorium!). A reception in the Museum’s “Hall of Witness” followed the lecture. Suleiman has completed two collective publication projects since last fall: French Global: A New Approach to Literary History (Columbia University Press, forthcoming August 2010), edited with Christie McDonald, studies the whole sweep of French literary history in a global perspective from the Middle Ages to the present. After Testimony: The Aesthetics and Ethics of Holocaust Narrative (Ohio
Karen Thornber’s primary areas of research and teaching are world literature and the literatures and cultures of East Asia. She is the author of Empire of Texts in Motion: Chinese, Korean, and Taiwanese Transculturations of Japanese Literature (Harvard 2009), which develops a new theoretical framework for analyzing literary interactions in the context of uneven power relationships, particularly colonialism. Last year she published articles in The Journal of Asian Studies, Contemporary French and Francophone Studies, and International Literary Quarterly, and chapters in the edited volumes Ecological Urbanism; Discontinuities and Displacements: Studies in Comparative Literature, and Literature and Literary Theory. She has an article forthcoming in Annual Review of Environment and Resources, and chapters forthcoming in the monographs City and Text in Colonial Korea; Japan-China Cultural Relations; Japan’s Natural Legacies; and Imag[ing] the War in Japan.

This past year she was on Junior Faculty Leave, funded by a Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Junior Scholar grant and completing her monograph Green Paradoxes: East Asian Literatures and Environmental Ambiguities. A third monograph, also in progress, is titled Texts in Turmoil, and examines postwar intra-East Asian literary relationships in the context of cultural flows among twentieth and twenty-first century East Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

Bill Todd just finished articles on post-War Soviet literary theory (English and Russian versions) and an article on the “thick journal” for a French volume on Russian Sites of Memory, also an article on “institutions of literature” for a French history of Russian literature. The high point of the year, academically and professionally, was two panels in honor of his work, arranged by Anne Lounsbery and Susan McReynolds, at the Boston AAASS convention. The high point personally was the birth of his first grandchild, Frida, in May 2009.

Rita Banerjee is a PhD Candidate, who is working on a dissertation entitled Understanding Modern South Asian Literatures Beyond the Postcolonial Paradigm, in which she examines the aesthetic and political concerns of modern Bengali, Hindi, English, and other South Asian literatures in the late colonial and post-independence periods. Her recent writing on the BP Oil Spill has been published by Poets for Living Waters, and Finishing Line Press will be publishing her first collection of poems, a chapbook entitled Cracklers at Night, in November 2010. For more details, see: http://www.finishinglinepress.com/NewReleasesandForthcomingTitles.htm

Svetlana Rukhelman is a Ph.D. candidate whose dissertation, entitled Narratives of Deception: A Study in Being Lied To, focuses on works by Nikolai Gogol, Henry James, Flannery O’Connor, and David Mamet. Together with Natalya Sukhonos she organized a panel (“Narrating the Mind”) at the 2010 ACLA conference in New Orleans. Natalya Sukhonos (PhD 2010) is finishing her PhD on play as consciously artificial construction in 20th century Latin American and Russian literature. Her research interests include 20th century Latin American, Russian, and Brazilian narrative; philosophies of play; aesthetics; humor; laughter; Odessa’s popular culture and literary production; irony; post-Soviet literature and culture. A version of her first chapter will be published this year by The Edwin Mellon Press, Ltd. in the volume “Comedy”. She also writes poetry in English and Russian, considers New York and Odessa her two cities of origin, and just celebrated her marriage to another writer this past June.
Frank Albers (PhD 1996) After finishing his Ph.D in Comp Lit in 1996, he returned to Belgium where he has been working as a translator, writer and academic. He has translated into Dutch several Shakespeare plays for the National Theater in The Hague (Netherlands), including *Hamlet, King Lear* and *Romeo and Juliet*. In 2006 he traveled across the US reconstructing the archetypical “beat journey” as described by Jack Kerouac in *On the Road*, which resulted in a book about America then and now, about the beats and his own memories of America. The book is called *Beatland* and was published in September 2007, on the 50th anniversary of *On the Road*. His next book is called *Shakespeare XL*. It offers a general, comprehensive introduction to the bard’s life and plays, something that has been conspicuously lacking in Dutch academic and literary writing. He has a tenured position at University College Antwerp, where he teaches Philosophy, Cultural Studies, American Cultural History and English Literature.

Timothy Attanucci (AB 2003) is currently pursuing a PhD in German Literature at Princeton University with a dissertation on geo-poetics in the 19th century and the Austrian writer Adalbert Stifter. In addition to this work on a poetics of the earth sciences, he has published articles and given talks on Kafka, Stifter, Flaubert and Robert Walser. Thanks to a DAAD research scholarship, he spent the academic year 2008-09 at the Humboldt University in Berlin, where he is a member of the PhD-Net “The Knowledge of Literature,” an international colloquium co-organized by the Germany Departments of UC-Berkeley, Harvard, Humboldt, and Princeton University.


Patrick Blanchfield (AB 2005) is in his third year of his five year engagement as a Woodruff Scholar PhD Candidate in Emory University’s Department of Comparative Literature, where he is pursuing dual citations in the joint Comparative Literature and Graduate Division of Religion program and in the university’s Psychoanalytic Studies Program. Simultaneously to this, he is in his second year of clinical training at Emory’s Psychoanalytic Institute. His work focuses on phenomenology, psychoanalysis, pedagogy, and questions of interdisciplinarity and universality. He particularly focuses on (1) apophasis and the theological turn in phenomenology; (2) Lacanian psychoanalysis and integrations of Buddhism in psychoanalytic practice; and (3) phenomenology, the philosophy of science, and problems of conceptual change. His most recent award is the Julian Gomez award, offered by the Atlanta Foundation for Psychoanalysis and the Atlanta Psychoanalytic Society, for a theoretical paper on Buddhism, psychoanalytic interdisciplinarity, and Oedipus.

Margaret Bullitt-Jonas (AM 1977, PhD 1984) moved straight from Comparative Literature to ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church. All those years of reading Dostoevsky and Tolstoy affected her! She served as Priest Associate at a parish in Amherst, Mass. Her memoir, *Holy Hunger* (Vintage, 2000), tells the story of growing up at Harvard, recovering from an eating disorder, and discovering the spiritual longing behind addiction. Her second book, *Christ's Passion, Our Passions* (Cowley, 2002) reflects on the power of Christ’s last words from the cross. She has also published articles in such journals as *The Boston Globe Magazine*, *Comparative Literature*, *Comparative Literature Studies*, *Cowley*, *Episcopal Times*, *Fellowship in Prayer: Human Development*, *Review for Religious*, *Self Magazine*, *The Sign*, *Spirituality & Health*, and *Stanford Magazine*. She has published book reviews in *Anglican Theological Review*, *Presence*, and *Russian Review*, and her work is included in anthologies of sermons, religious essays, and prayers. She is working on another book, a spiritual memoir of climate activism, and is very interested in how to awaken herself and others to the sacredness of the natural world, which human beings seem bent on destroying. Her Website is *holyhunger.com*.

Monique-Adelle Callahan (PhD 2008) is a recent graduate of the department. She specializes in modern poetry in the Americas with a particular interest in the comparative trans-hemispheric study of the diaspora of African peoples throughout the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Her work also focuses on how theories of language can be applied to sociopolitical and cultural history. Her book, *Between the Lines: A New World Poetry in the Shadow of Slavery*, is forthcoming with Oxford UP. Other recent publications include: “Transnational Black Icons in the Poetry of Frances Ellen Watkins Harper: Brazil’s Zumbi and Cuba’s Maceo,” In: *Loopholes and Retreats: African American Literature in the Nineteenth Century*. (Lit Verlag Feb. 2009: 59-80); “Race and Redemption in Cristina Ayala’s ‘Redención’ and
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James Carmichael (AB 2001) is a student at the University of Chicago, where he is pursuing a joint MA in International Relations and MBA as the Gary S. Becker Distinguished Fellow. His most recent full-length play, Stomp and Shout (an’ Work it All Out) was produced by the Babel Theatre Project in New York in 2008 and was nominated for seven Innovative Theatre awards (and then went 0-7 on awards night).

Jack W. Chen (PhD 2002) is in his fourth year as assistant professor in UCLA’s Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. His book, The Poetics of Sovereignty: On Emperor Taizong of the Tang Dynasty, will be forthcoming from Harvard Asia Center in 2010. He also has forthcoming articles on coinage in early China (positions), historiography and gossip (Journal of Asian Studies), and the representation of silent reading (Journal of the American Oriental Society). He is starting his next book, which will examine anecdotes and social networks in the Shishuo xinyu.

Catherine Crisera (AB 1994) worked in broadcast journalism in New York City for 8 years, including stints at all three major television networks, first in Sports and then in News. She won an Emmy Award in 1998 for her work on a documentary-style feature that was part of CBS Sports’ 1998 Winter Olympics coverage. She has since retired to raise her three children in her hometown, San Francisco.

Catherine Corman’s (AB 1996) first book, Joseph Cornell’s Dreams, was published by Exact Change Press in 2007. Her second, Daylight Noir, was published by Charta Art Books in 2009.

Leslie Dunton-Downner (AB 1983, PhD 1992) is author of The English is Coming!, a book about the globalization of English, published by Simon & Schuster in 2010. In recent years, she’s served as dramaturg for Boston’s Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, and produced CDs of music from Tajikistan for the French label Buda Musique. Previous books, co-authored with Alan Riding, are Opera and Essential Shakespeare Handbook, both translated into numerous languages.

Monica Eav (AB 1999) is working as an immigration lawyer for the Law Office of Robert D. Ahlgren and Associates, a small private law firm in Chicago, Illinois. Her work involves helping families immigrate to the United States, helping individuals apply for citizenship, and defending against deportation. These days her most creative writing involves legal briefs seeking to persuade the U.S. Immigration authorities to keep a family united.

Allyson Nadia Field (PhD 2008) is currently in her second year as an assistant professor of Cinema and Media Studies at UCLA. In her first two years, she had taught several graduate seminars and two undergrad lectures and it’s been very challenging but totally fun for her to come up with new courses! Last Spring, she taught an undergrad lecture class on African American Cinema and had a blast. In terms of research, she is working on her manuscript Filming Uplift and Projecting Possibility on African American uplift films of the 1910s and the film production of Expository Writing Program. She lives in Manhattan and works as a freelance editor and dissertation coach.
Brian Gatten (AB 2001) is currently working towards a PhD in English at the University of Texas at Austin. His research is on historical trends in European drama, particularly the roots and development of realism and similarities between non-realistic theater in the 20th century and the medieval period. He has published on Beckett (Texas Studies in Literature and Language, Spring 2009), and Brecht’s connection to medieval theater (Mediaevalia, Summer 2008). He also writes plays and is currently shopping around a couple of scripts if anybody’s interested.

Stephanie Gibbs (AB 1999) published a co-authored book, with her tutors, based on translation work completed for her honors thesis, with Routledge in 2001: René d’Anjou’s fifteenth-century Livre du coeur d’amours espris (Book of the love-smitten heart). The work of translating a medieval French allegory into English sparked her interest in how English translators during the Middle Ages undertook the challenges of translation. She began exploring this field during a year spent at the University of Cambridge as the Lionel de Jersey Fellow of King’s College London in 2003-2005 and with the aid of short-term grants from the British Academy (2007/08) and a Huntington Library Mayers fellowship (2009). She is currently an assistant professor of medieval literature in the English Department of the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and she is preparing a monograph on Authorship, Allegory, and Translation in Late Medieval France and England that will appear as a part of the Gallica (French Medieval) series of Boydell & Brewer.


Emily A. Haddad (PhD 1997) has been chair of the English Department at the University of South Dakota since 2005.

Mulaika Hijjas (AB 1999) received her PhD in Malay literature from the School of Oriental and African Studies, in the University of London, in 2007. She spent a year in Norwich as the David T.K. Wong Fellow in creative writing, working on a probably unpublishable novel set in contemporary Indonesia. In 2009 she was awarded a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship at SOAS, to research didactic literature for women from the Malay manuscript tradition. She teaches modern Indonesian literature, for which she reads up one day ahead of the students, and is a managing editor of the journal Indonesia and the Malay World, where she turns her extensive experience of rejection letters to good use. Her articles have been published in IMW, Tenggara, and The Journal of Southeast Asian Studies, and the book based on her PhD thesis is forthcoming from the National University of Singapore Press this year.

Jocelyn Holland (AB 1995) After completing her Ph.D. in German at Johns Hopkins in 2003, she received a joint appointment in the Department of German and the Program for Comparative Literature at UC Santa Barbara. She has been working there since then and received tenure in 2009. Her research focuses on the intersections of European literature, science, and technology in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Her book projects include German Romanticism and Science: the Procreative Poetics of Goethe, Novalis and Ritter (Routledge 2009) and Key Texts of Johann Wilhelm Ritter (1776-1810) on the Science and Art of Nature (Brill, 2010).

Diana Horn (PhD 2006) has published three novels: In the Image (Norton 2002), The World
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to Come (Norton 2006) and All Other Nights (Norton 2009). They have received many national awards and honors, including two National Jewish Book Awards and placement on many “Best Of The Year” newspaper lists around the country, the latter two as “Editor’s Choice” in the New York Times Book Review. They have also been translated into eleven languages. In 2007, she was selected by Granta Magazine as one of the “Best Young American Novelists,” a list published once each decade. She also writes frequently for the popular press. Two years ago she co-edited an academic book, Arguing the Modern Jewish Canon (Harvard 2008), and she has contributed to several academic journals and anthologies. She taught for several years at Sarah Lawrence College as an adjunct, and she lectures frequently at universities around the country and the world on subjects related to her academic work in Hebrew and Yiddish literature. She looks forward to returning to regular teaching when her three children are older (her eldest is 4). In the meantime she is working under contract from Norton on her fourth novel.

Hsuan L. Hsu (AB 1998) teaches American literature at U.C., Davis. His book, Geography and the Production of Space in Nineteenth-Century American Literature, will be published by Cambridge University Press in 2010. His most recent articles are “Vagrancy and Comparative Racialization in Huckleberry Finn” and “Three Vagabonds of Trinidad” (in American Literature) and “The Dangers of Biosecurity: The Host and the Geopolitics of Outbreak”.[http://www.ejumpcut.org/currentissue/Host/index.html]

Carmen James (AB 2008) is currently at Teachers College, Columbia University getting her masters in Philosophy and Education and she is teaching full time as an assistant Kindergarten Teacher at Riverdale Country Day School. In terms of her research, she has been researching the importance of having a curriculum of aesthetics in education for developing individual notions of the self that play a critical role in building engaged citizens in our society. Specifically, she is looking at the role poetry can play in education to develop a sense of agency and alternative ways of knowing in school age children.

Olga Kamensky (AB 2008) is currently in Israel, working on a creative writing project with the support of a Fulbright fellowship. In the fall, she returns to Harvard for a J.D.

Sarah Kberman (AB 2002) received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory from the University of Pennsylvania in Summer 2010. Her dissertation looks at American modernist authors who use song, chant, and oral repetition to advocate for underrepresented populations in formally experimental ways. Her recent and forthcoming publications include “Call It Sleep and the Limits of Typicality” (Journal of Modern Literature, Winter 2010) and “Authentic Imitation: Modernist Anthologies and the Pedagogy of Folk Culture” (Arizona Quarterly).

Esther Klein (AB 1997) is currently working at the University of Illinois-Chicago as Coordinator of Asian Studies, as well as teaching Chinese language and Chinese history. She recently completed a PhD dissertation on the first century BC Chinese historian Sima Qian. In 2006-2007, she received a Fulbright IIE grant to study in Beijing. Her areas of interest include pre-modern Chinese literature and historiography, and ancient Chinese philosophy.

Lauren Klein (AB 2000) is currently pursuing her PhD in English at the City University of New York. She is currently appointed Instructional Technology Fellow at the Macaulay Honors College, CUNY; previously, she taught in the English Department at Brooklyn College, CUNY. She plans to defend her dissertation, Matters of Taste: Eating, Aesthetics, and American Identity, 1732-1865, in early 2011.

Melissa Lee (AB 2003) is currently working as a producer in Los Angeles, producing independent feature films. Her first feature, Dear Lemon Lima (dir. Suzi Yoonessi), premiered last summer at the Los Angeles Film Festival and she is currently in post-production on her second feature, Circumstance (dir. Maryam Keshavarz).

Anne Lounsbery (PhD 1999) is an Associate Professor of Russian Literature and Director of Graduate Study in the Department of Russian & Slavic Studies at New York University. Her main focus is 19th C. Russian prose, though she also teaches a number of graduate seminars with Comp Lit content. Her first book came out in 2006 in Harvard UP’s Comp Lit series (Thin Culture, High Art: Gogol, Hawthorne and Authorship in 19th-century Russian and America). She has just received a 12-month NEH grant that she will use next academic year to finish her close-to-done new book, Life is Elsewhere: Symbolic Geography in the Russian Novel. She publishes articles regularly, mostly on 19th C. Russian topics with a “comparatist’s eye.” For the past few years she has also been working closely with NYU’s administration and with the Departments of Comparative Literature and History to develop PhD opportunities for students interested in Russian culture. She welcomes inquiries about the new Interdisciplinary Specialization in Russia (ISR) PhD track that has grown out of this initiative.

Heather Love (AB 1991) is Associate Professor of English and Gender Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of Feeling Backward: Loss and the Politics of Queer History (Harvard University Press, 2007), some of which was written while she was a Woodrow

**David Lurie** (AB 1993) is Associate Professor of Japanese History and Literature in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at Columbia University. His first book, *Realms of Literacy: Early Japan and the History of Writing,* will be published by the Harvard University Asia Center in Spring 2011.

**David Maier** (AB 1997) currently works for Novartis Pharma in the United Kingdom and Switzerland. Since graduation, he served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, earned an MBA at Cornell, and worked as a corporate strategy consultant with L.E.K. Consulting in Boston and Shanghai. Years ago, he received the gift of an English translation of Fernando Pessoa poems while deployed aboard the USS Nassau in the Mediterranean and was blown away. It’s enough to make David want to learn Portuguese, though he is unfortunately too distracted to actually do so.

**Sarah Manguso** (AB 1997) teaches in the graduate writing program at Columbia. Her most recent book is the memoir *The Two Kinds of Decay* (FSG, 2008).

**Tim Markey** (PhD 1996) teaches classics and classical tradition at Brunswick School. After seven years there, he is proud to see so many of his students go on to major in classics and English at fine colleges and universities: Amherst, Penn, Stanford, and Princeton to name just a few. Stanford University honored Tim by awarding him a teacher tribute, in 2007. Twice returned to Paris at the Bibliothèque Nationale, Bibliothèque Mazarine, and Bibliothèque Sainte Genève, Tim is at work, thanks to grants from Brunswick school, on an edition with translation and commentary of Henri Estienne’s *In Virgilianas et Nasonianas imitationes Theocriti observationes* (1579), a lost classic of the classics. “I still lament the loss of Wendell Clausen. I miss Jim Engell and Greg Nagy: I hope at least some of their constant generosity to me displays itself in my teaching. The unforgettable example of their humanity is close to me now as I write this.”

**Alexandra J. McCormack** (AB 2000). After graduation in 2000, she attended Harvard Law School (Class of ’03). Then she joined Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in New York City, where she is now a seventh-year associate in the Mergers and Acquisitions group. At Skadden, she focuses on domestic and cross-border business combinations and corporate and securities law matters for public and private companies.

**Bernadette Meyler** (AB 1995) is currently a Professor of Law and English (by courtesy) at Cornell University, where she teaches and writes on constitutional law, law and literature, and the history of the common law. As a Mellon/LAPA Fellow in Law and Humanities at Princeton University for the 2009-10 term, she is working on two book manuscripts; one addresses *Theaters of Pardoning from Shakespeare to Kant* and the other is entitled *Common Law Originalism: Accepting the Constitution’s Contested Meanings.*

**Katie Model** (AB 1998) is a doctoral student in Cinema Studies at New York University. She is writing her dissertation on denial in documentary interview films about the Holocaust and the Vietnam and Iraq wars. Her essay “Gender Hyperbole and the Uncanny in the Horror Film: The Shining” will appear in the forthcoming book *Gender and Genre,* editor Christine Gledhill, University of Illinois Press. Katie recently moved from New York to San Francisco.

**Jackeline Montalvo** (AB 2005) has been an Associate Editor at Doubleday (Random House) since 2008. Prior to that she served as editor and publicist at Knopf’s Vintage Español imprint, where she edited the Spanish-language editions of Junot Díaz’s Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* and Carlos Eire’s National Book Award-winning *Waiting for Snow in Havana.* Her rather eclectic list of projects at Doubleday ranges from literary and upmarket commercial women’s fiction to narrative nonfiction in the areas of memoir, women’s issues, psychology, pop culture, science, and travel. Recently published and forthcoming titles include *After the Fall* by Kylie Ladd, a debut novel which follows the origin and fallout of an unexpected affair as told through the eyes of two young, seemingly perfect married couples; *What a Difference a Dog Makes* by Dana Jennings, a heartwarming tale of the life lessons imparted by his beloved family dog during Jennings’s battle with cancer; *Parallel Play* by Tim Page, a memoir about growing up gifted and unknowingly struggling with Asperger’s syndrome; and *Mom Still Likes You Best* by Jane Isay, which examines the new and changing relationship between adult siblings. Jackie is on the planning committee of the AAP’s Publishing Latino Voices for America Task Force. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Jackie now lives in New York City.

**Patrick Morrissey**’s (AB 2004) collection of poems, *Transparency,* appeared in a handmade edition from Cannibal Books in 2009. Recent poems of his have been published in *New American Writing,* *Colorado Review,* *Denver Quarterly,* *Typo,* and other journals. His essay “One Thing,
A Thousand Things: Reading John Taggart” appeared in the Fall 2008 edition of Harp & Altar, and a new essay, on the pastoral in recent American poetry, will appear in Harp & Altar in early 2010. He teaches literature and writing at Friends Seminary in New York City and is working on a full-length collection of poems.


Tulita Papke (AB 2006) is now enrolled in a teacher’s certification program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She hopes to be teaching by January 2011. She has discovered a passion for sharing the excitement of literature and language with students who struggle in school. She is passionate about the teaching of reading, and teaching in general. You can reach her at mpapke@gmail.com. Students Katie Deutsch, John Kim, Rita Banerjee, Thomas Connolly with Helena Connolly.

Peng Hsiao-yen’s (PhD 1997) new book titled Dandyism and Transcultural Modernity: The Dandy, the Flaneur, and the Translator in 1930s Shanghai, Tokyo, and Paris was published by Routledge in July 2010. This book views the Neo-Sensation mode of writing as a traveling genre, or style, that originated in France, moved on to Japan, and then to China. The author contends that modernity is possible only on “the transcultural site”—transcultural in the sense of breaking the divide between past and present, elite and popular, national and regional, male and female, literary and non-literary, inside and outside. To illustrate the concept of transcultural modernity, three icons are highlighted on the transcultural site: the dandy, the flaneur, and the translator. Mere flaneurs and flaneuses simply float with the tide of heterogeneous information on the transcultural site, whereas the dandy/flaneur and the cultural translator, propellers of modernity, manage to bring about creative transformation. Their performance marks the essence of transcultural modernity: the self-consciousness of working on the threshold, always testing the limits of boundaries and tempted to go beyond them. To develop the concept of dandyism—the quintessence of transcultural modernity—the Neo-Sensation gender triad formed by the dandy, the modern girl, and the modern boy is laid out. Writers discussed include Liu Na’ou, a Shanghai dandy par excellence from Taiwan, Paul Morand, who looked upon Coco Chanel, the female dandy, as his perfect other self, and Yokomitsu Riichi, who developed the theory of Neo-Sensation from Kant’s the-thing-in-itself. and Lawrence Rhu (AM 1975, PhD 1987) recently published his second book, Stanley Cavell’s American Dream: Shakespeare, Philosophy, and Hollywood Movies (New York: Fordham UP, 2006). In 2008 he was appointed to the Todd Chair in the Italian Renaissance at the University of South Carolina, where he is a Professor of English. He is currently working on a translation of Baldassar Castiglione’s Il libro del cortegiano for Hackett Publishing and various essays, mainly on Shakespeare. His edition of William Shakespeare, The Winter’s Tale is forthcoming from Cengage.

Aileen Robinson (AB 2008) is currently a graduate student in the Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama at Northwestern University and is pursuing research interests in 19th century popular theater.

Alberto Ribas (PhD 2007) was hired as Assistant Professor by the Modern Language Studies department in Cal State San Marcos in 2007. He teaches general literature, contemporary Latin American literature and culture, and also serves in the Global Studies program. Recently he has published scholarship on Mexican literature and cinema in the Afro-Hispanic Review, Hispanic Research Journal, and Romance Notes (forthcoming). His most recent work consists of a critique of Carlos Fuentes’s views on multiculturalism and he is currently working on the narrative works of the young Tijuana writer Heriberto Yépez.

Linda Haverty Rugg (PhD 1989) went on to take her first position as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literature at Ohio State University. Her first book, Picturing Ourselves: Photography and Autobiography, was published by the University of Chicago Press in 1997 and...
won the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Best Book in Comparative Literature from the MLA in 1998. In 1999 she took a tenured position as Associate Professor in the Scandinavian Department at the University of California, Berkeley, where she is now serving as Chair. At present she is finishing a book on cinematic auteurism and self-projection, and is co-editor of the third volume of a four-volume English-language history of Nordic Literature. Other research interests include race and whiteness in cultural representation and ecocriticism.

Mari Ruti (PhD 2000) is Associate Professor of Critical Theory at the University of Toronto English Department, where she teaches contemporary theory, continental philosophy, psychoanalysis, and gender and sexuality studies. She is the author of Reinventing the Soul: Posthumanist Theory and Psychic Life (2006) and A World of Fragile Things: Psychoanalysis and the Art of Living (2009). She has recently completed a manuscript entitled The Summons of Love. And she is working on a new book called The Singularity of Being: Lacan and the Immortal Within.

Vanessa Ryan (AB 1997) is now Assistant Professor of English at Brown University, specializing in 19th-century British literature and culture. She is finishing a project on the pivotal role played by fiction in mid-nineteenth-century debates about the new sciences of the mind. Before starting her position at Brown, she enjoyed being back on campus at Harvard as a Junior Fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows. This past Spring, she was a Visiting Professor at The Courtauld Institute of Art, London, where she was co-teaching an interdisciplinary course, drawing on literature, art history, and history of psychology.

Rasheed Sabar (AB 2005) is a portfolio manager for the hedge fund Ellington Management Group. They theorize on what makes stocks move, and then implement their theories, buying and selling thousands of stocks to capture profit opportunities arising from market irrationalities. He finds his training in literature extremely valuable for this endeavor: the basic skill of interpretation—converting a large amount of information (either textual or numerical) into a coherent story—is essentially what he does every day. Further, the study of psychology and philosophy implicit in the study of literature help him gain perspective on human behavior that is also extremely valuable for his job.

Christopher Sachs (AB 2000)’s photography is the fabricated visual diary of a fictional life based on his own. The images are a personal record of fantasy, memory, loss, and nostalgia. Within this world of dreams, he leaves space for the viewer to create and project their own narrative. He questions the way we experience images based on their context. He blurs the lines between personal work, documentary, fiction, fashion, portraiture, advertising, and pornography. His imagery is about the worship of cruel power: the beautiful and violent eroticism of a future already here. He has lived in Madrid, Spain, where he first began to explore portraiture and street photography. He later worked in New York as assistant to fashion and advertising photographers, and has made regular trips to Asia. His photography has been published in Rolling Stone (Japan), WestEast Men (Taiwan), Vision (China), been commissioned by fashion designers and record labels in New York and Tokyo, auctioned at charities, and held in private collections in New York. He is currently working on a series of artist books, entitled Magazine.

Michael Sanchez (AB 2007) is currently a PhD student in the Art History department at Columbia University, focusing on modern and contemporary art.

Greg Scruggs (AB 2008) is a research associate at the Penn Institute for Urban Research, a university-wide institute at the University of Pennsylvania that deals with local, national, and international urbanization. His focuses are urban sustainability (especially urban agriculture), informal settlements, best practices, and global urbanization. He recently co-authored a report on urban agriculture in Philadelphia for the city’s Redevelopment Authority, as well as a report to the United States Geological Survey on the inclusion of housing statistics in the National Atlas. Greg traveled to Nairobi in January to represent the IUR at a UN-HABITAT experts group meeting on the World Urban Campaign and 100 Cities Initiative. He also attended World Urban Forum 5 in Rio de Janeiro in March and presented, along with his team at the Global Urban Commons (a research unit inside the IUR), on their best practices research. Finally, he will move to Rio de Janeiro in December to pursue a Fulbright study/research grant to study best practices in favela upgrading.
Alumni News & Information

and work for the American Planning Association as their coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Miryam Segal (AB 1993) is an alum of the Literature Concentration (and was a visiting Assistant Professor at HDS in 2007-8) and received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Berkeley. Her book, New Sounds in Hebrew Poetry: Poetics, Politics, Accent, was published in Spring 2010. Nancy Sultan (PhD 1991) is a Professor & Director of Greek & Roman Studies, Illinois Wesleyan University, and has been there 17 years! Her website is http://www.iwu.edu/classics. Her recent awards include the APA Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2009. Her most recent publication is “Jacqueline Kennedy and the Classical Ideal” CB 84.2 (2008). She teaches Greek, Classical Mythology, Greek & Roman Comedy, Greek Tragedy, Bronze Age Aegean Archaeology, Classical & Hellenistic Art & Architecture, “World of Ideas” Humanities, Sex & Gender in Ancient Greece/Rome. She also runs a monthly lecture/performance series called “The Ides.” Greg Nagy was their keynote “Ides of March” presenter last year! This year they will host the “Theatre of War” project director Bryan Doerries. Her current project is Dramaturge for IWU’s production of Aristophanes’ Lysistrata. She has also published plays and fiction including: No Goodbyes: Winner, 2009 Heartland Theatre One-Act Play Competition (cash prize & staged reading) Pas de Deux: Winner, 2007 Heartland Theatre 10-minute Play Festival Competition. Directed by Lori Adams. June-July 2007, Normal Illinois. Money Matters: Produced by Heartland Theatre’s “Young at Heartland Senior Acting Workshop,” Summer 2007. The Waiting Room: 10-minute play produced by Adam Miller, BFA in Theatre Arts Honors Thesis, April, 2006. She has two children: Phil, age 21, junior at IWU majoring in Diplomatic Studies (Asia); Nina, age 15, freshman in high school, plays clarinet in the marching band and concert band. She would love to hear from classmates! Find her on Facebook!

Jennifer Seo (AB 2003) is currently pursuing a dual MD/JD degree. She has completed three out of four years of medical school at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and is currently in her second year of law school at Columbia Law School. She will be returning to her fourth year of medical school after finishing her JD studies. She is interested in primary care, bioethics, health policy, and reproductive rights. Nancy Sultan (PhD 1991) is a Professor & Director of Greek & Roman Studies, Illinois Wesleyan University, and has been there 17 years! Her website is http://www.iwu.edu/classics. Her recent awards include the APA Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2009. Her most recent publication is “Jacqueline Kennedy and the Classical Ideal” CB 84.2 (2008). She teaches Greek, Classical Mythology, Greek & Roman Comedy, Greek Tragedy, Bronze Age Aegean Archaeology, Classical & Hellenistic Art & Architecture, “World of Ideas” Humanities, Sex & Gender in Ancient Greece/Rome. She also runs a monthly lecture/performance series called “The Ides.” Greg Nagy was their keynote “Ides of March” presenter last year! This year they will host the “Theatre of War” project director Bryan Doerries. Her current project is Dramaturge for IWU’s production of Aristophanes’ Lysistrata. She has also published plays and fiction including: No Goodbyes: Winner, 2009 Heartland Theatre One-Act Play Competition (cash prize & staged reading) Pas de Deux: Winner, 2007 Heartland Theatre 10-minute Play Festival Competition. Directed by Lori Adams. June-July 2007, Normal Illinois. Money Matters: Produced by Heartland Theatre’s “Young at Heartland Senior Acting Workshop,” Summer 2007. The Waiting Room: 10-minute play produced by Adam Miller, BFA in Theatre Arts Honors Thesis, April, 2006. She has two children: Phil, age 21, junior at IWU majoring in Diplomatic Studies (Asia); Nina, age 15, freshman in high school, plays clarinet in the marching band and concert band. She would love to hear from classmates! Find her on Facebook!

David Schaberg (PhD 1996) is Professor and Chair of the Department of Asian Languages & Cultures and Co-Director of the Center for Chinese Studies at UCLA. He has published articles on early Chinese literature, historiography, and philosophy as well as Greek/Chinese comparative issues in Early China, Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies, and Comparative Literature. He is author of A Patterned Past: Form and Thought in Early Chinese Historiography, Harvard East Asian Monographs 205, which was awarded the 2003 Association for Asian Studies Levenson Prize for Books in Chinese Studies (Pre-1900 Category). His recent projects include a translation of the Zuozhuan (with Stephen Durrant and Waiyee Li) and a history of early Chinese oratory.

Sarah Stevenson (AB 1991) is an Associate Professor of English at the College of Mount Saint Vincent, in Riverdale, NY. As Director of the Core Curriculum, she is currently spearheading a major revision of the college’s core requirements. Her current area of research involves modern drama’s complex relationship to the visual arts, and she is a board member of the American Theatre and Drama Society.


Maxim Tarnawsky (PhD 1986) is working on a monograph about the Ukrainian novelist Ivan Nechui-Levytskyi and preparing the next issue (no. 3) of Ukrainian Literature: A Journal of Translations (www.UkrainianLiterature.org).

Bubul Tiwari (AB 1999) is a 2008 recipient of a PhD in South Asian Languages and Civilizations from the University of Chicago. Her digital, multimedia dissertation explores Indian visual culture of the last two thousand years; it traverses ritual, classical dance-drama, folk theatre, sculpture, film and television narratives and creates a new version of the Hindu epic, the Mahabharata. Maha Multipedia: The Mahabharata reworked in mixed media for a nine night performance is a meditation on narrative and form, as well as the search for individual identity in the haystack of history. It was the first entirely digital dissertation at the University of Chicago and only the third of its kind in the US. Bulbul is currently working on turning this project into a wiki and online digital archive. This dissertation won an “Emerging Scholar” award from the University of Michigan’s Humanities Institute in 2009. Bulbul has also worked in the film industries of New York and Mumbai in various capacities. In 2002 Bulbul produced and shot her own documentary about the lives of Indian truck drivers, Carriers. The film was screened at festivals around the world before it ended up on European TV. She is currently a post-doctoral fellow at Stanford University.

Kathryn A. Tuma (AB 1991) is Assistant Professor of Modern Art and the Second Decade Society Chair in the Department of History of Art at Johns Hopkins University. Tuma has previously been the recipient of...
Multiple fellowships, including the Mary Davis Predoctoral Curatorial Fellowship and the Samuel H. Kress Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellowship, both at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; and the Janice H. Levin Fellowship in the Department of Painting and Sculpture at the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Prior to her appointment at Hopkins, Tuma was Associate Curator of Historical Drawings at the Drawing Center in New York, where she collaborated on exhibitions of the work of Agnes Martin, Eva Hesse, Nasreen Mohamedi, Giuseppe Penone, Richard Tuttle, and Zoe Keramea. Tuma’s interests include both nineteenth- and twentieth-century art. She has lectured and published on numerous artists, including Paul Cézanne, Pablo Picasso, Barnett Newman, Agnes Martin, Isamu Noguchi, Jasper Johns, Cy Twombly, Eva Hesse, Giuseppe Penone, as well as Victorian nature photography. Tuma has also published on a wide range of contemporary art, most recently the work of Terry Winters. She is currently completing a book on the late work of Cézanne: Metaphor and the Shape of Space: Cézanne, Lucretius and the “Atomic Hypothesis.”

Miriam Udel (PhD 2008) is assistant professor in the German Studies Department and the Tam Institute of Jewish Studies at Emory University. She is working on a monograph about the relation of modern Yiddish and other Jewish fiction to the Bildungsroman. She has shared pieces of her research on this topic at Emory’s Comparative Literature conference last October and at the recent Association for Jewish Studies meeting in Los Angeles. She was one of two presenters at a seminar on Yiddish literature sponsored jointly by Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. She also participated last May in an early career workshop held by the American Academy of Jewish Research.

Ximena Vengoechea (AB 2008) is currently a first-year graduate student at Johns Hopkins University pursuing a joint Ph.D. in the Humanities Center (Comparative Literature track) and the History of Art Department, where she is working with Professors Michael Fried and Jacques Neefs. Her concentrations are French modern art, French realist literature, and intersections of image and text in contemporary visual culture. Her gap year before starting grad school led her to working at a gallery in Paris, where she worked this past March at the Volta Fair. She will also be working at the Armory Show’s sister fair during New York Art Week. Academically, her latest research involves a book of poems by Mallarmé illustrated by Matisse, the original of which is currently housed at the Baltimore Museum of Art. She researched in the Matisse Archives and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France this summer in Paris, and will be presenting her research in September 2010 at a conference in Genetic Criticism and Forms in Normandy.

Heidi Weiskel (AB 1997) is finishing her PhD in marine ecology at UC Davis this year. She has been studying the effects of nutrient pollution on invasive species success in estuaries out in California and has been fortunate to have her work supported by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency throughout her graduate school career. Starting in the fall, she will begin a postdoc project investigating the importance of upstream resources being delivered to key estuarine species that in turn support coral reef communities. These questions are particularly important to answer in the tropics, where freshwater streams are often diverted for agricultural or urban uses, leaving the estuaries at risk. One would think it would be fairly straight forward that these habitats are connected but in fact we know very little of the details of this connectivity. That is what her postdoc will focus on. This work will either be along the Gulf Coast of the U.S. or in Panama (location TBD). In addition, she was awarded a grant recently to explore further related postdoctoral research in Cuba. She traveled there in November 2009 to set up two projects. So, she will be even busier once the dissertation is completed! She still loves reading French literature, and is using Spanish every day in her research as well as her Harvard-honed writing skills!

Jenny Weiss (AB 1999) is completing her doctoral dissertation on American detective fiction at The Graduate Center, City University of New York. She has also been working in publishing for over ten years and is currently the editorial manager at an education company.

Dan M. Wiley (PhD 2000) is Assistant Professor of Irish and Irish immigration studies. He holds a Ph.D.
Eriu (AB 1998) After The ths (AB 2004) Soon after by Shin’ichiro (AB 1983, PhD and (AB 2005) UCLA. Her graduate thesis film, M.F.A. Film Directing program at moving to Los Angeles to attend the her first short film in Singapore before Miranda Yousef lived abroad, shooting in Literature from Harvard College, receiving her B.A magna cum laude intersection of literature with other arts.

Yoshikata Yamamoto (AB 2008) is currently in Tokyo doing research on The Traffic of Clouds by Shin’ichiro Nakamura, a 20th-century novel that weaves together writings by a 17th-century Japanese Buddhist hermit and the story of a fictional Jewish-Shanghainese film actress from Hong Kong. He is also trying his hand at an experimental novel of his own in Japanese.

Paloma Yannakakis (AB 2005) is currently finishing a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at Cornell University. The recent recipient of an Interdisciplinary Mellon Writing Group Grant on “Human Rights and Cosmopolitanism,” she is currently spending the year in Paris researching the work of Henri Michaux. Her research focuses primarily on 20th-century French and Latin American literature (of Chile, Mexico and Argentina), the body politic, and the intersection of literature with other arts.

Miranda Yousef (AB 1998) After receiving her B.A magna cum laude in Literature from Harvard College, Miranda Yousef lived abroad, shooting her first short film in Singapore before moving to Los Angeles to attend the M.F.A. Film Directing program at UCLA. Her graduate thesis film, “Collectibles,” won the award for Best Director, Women’s Category, at the prestigious Directors Guild of America 2008 Student Film Awards, and is currently playing at film festivals all over the world. In addition to her film work, Miranda’s theater credits include the world premieres of the political dramedy “Holy War and the Headless Horseman” (Francis Ford Coppola One-Act Play Festival), and “American Monsters 2” (Lodestone Theatre Ensemble), a suite of twisted fairy tales which garnered Miranda critical acclaim for her direction. After several years working for the Sundance Film Festival’s programming department, Miranda moved into a career as a feature documentary editor. She has worked as an editor on several features, including Academy Award nominee Kirby Dick’s OUTRAGE (Magnolia Pictures); 2008 Sundance Film Festival favorite I.O.U.S.A (dir. Patrick Creadon; Roadside Attractions); and 2008 IDA Audience Award winner FOOD FIGHT (dir. Chris Taylor).

Oussama Zahr (AB 2004) Soon after graduating from Harvard in January 2005, she started to work at Opera News magazine, where she is now the managing editor. She also contributes freelance writing on opera to the classical music section of The New Yorker’s “Goings On About Town” listings.

Marina van Zuylen (AB 1983, PhD 1990) is Professor of French and Comparative Literature at Bard College. She is the author of Difficulty as an Aesthetic Principle and Monomania: The Flight from Everyday Life in Literature and Art. She enjoys writing about the maladies of modern life—boredom, attention deficit disorder, fatigue, laziness—and has been working (at a pleasurably slow pace) on her new book about philosophical idleness. She was recently awarded one of Princeton’s Stanley Kelley Distinguished Visiting Professorships in the Department of French and Italian. She misses her friends from Comp. Lit. and the Lit. Concentration.

Editorial Information

Editor: Rita Banerjee
Advisor: David Damrosch
Design: Rita Banerjee

Thanks to:

We would like to extend a special thanks to Wanda Di Bernardo and Isaure Mignotte for their invaluable help in helping us gather information for this newsletter, and for helping with the proofreading and layout process. Thanks also to Sally Livingston for helping copyedit this issue.

And thanks to all the faculty, students, and alumni who sent in their profile, news, and photos for this edition of the Comp Lit Newsletter!

If you would like to be part of the 2011 Newsletter Editorial Board, please send an e-mail to Wanda Di Bernardo, Isaure Mignotte, or David Damrosch at:

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Thanks for reading and see you in the next issue!

-Rita Banerjee, Editor
Submission Guidelines

Dear Faculty, Students, and Alumni:

The Department of Comparative Literature and the Literature Concentration at Harvard University publishes an annual newsletter during the Spring or early Fall Semester of each year.

If you would like to participate in the 2011 Newsletter, please send us a personal profile, describing the current research work you are conducting, any awards or accolades you have received, your most recent publications, fields of interest, and any other information worth sharing. The profile need not be long - from a sentence or two to a long paragraph. Please submit your profile as a third person narrative.

Attention all alumni, please include your class year, degree information, and most recent contact information (i.e. e-mail or phone) where we can reach you in case editorial questions arise. In addition or as an alternative to providing faculty, student, or alumni profile, you can submit an article related to the field of Comparative Literature, departmental proceedings at Harvard, or to your own area of research and writing. All articles submitted to the newsletter should be between 250-500 words long. Please submit a photo of the author or text mentioned with article if possible.

Please e-mail all profiles, news updates, and articles to Wanda Di Bernardo and Isaure Mignotte by February 15, 2011 at:
dibernar@fas.harvard.edu
mignotte@fas.harvard.edu

The deadline for the 2011 Newsletter will be February 15, 2011!!

David Damrosch with Orhan Pamuk during last fall’s Norton Lectures

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