

Suffolk University English Department

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Alumni Update

An occasional, and foolish, question that we have all heard is: "But what can you with an English major except teach?" The wide ranging occupations of our former majors serve as an answer.

Our graduates have gone into a variety of professions. Several are in broadcasting. Greg Wayland ('69), a former editor of Venture, has until recently been a journalist with New England Cable News (Channel 14) and is now moving to Florida. Robert Gutro ('88), who lives in Atlanta, is a radio broadcast meteorologist at the Weather Channel Radio Network and has researched, written, and hosted a cable TV show, "Weather Wisdom," now used in several public schools. In addition, he was a technical writer for five years for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Washington, D.C.

Several of your former classmates are now attorneys or in the process of becoming such. Kerri Quintal ('96) has her own law offices in North Attleboro, a general practice with a focus on probate and family law. She is licensed to practice in the US Court 1st Circuit and the US Court of Appeals in the 1st Circuit. Theresa Manganello ('93) is a real-estate attorney in Hanover and was recently married. Her husband, Daniel Marini, is another Suffolk grad, currently the accountant of Quincy Municipal Credit Union. Deborah M. Silva ('89) graduated from Boston College Law School in 1992. She is now a partner at the law firm of Silva and Wagner where she specializes in employment law, including discrimination, sexual harassment, and wrongful termination. Anita Sharma ('95) is a law student at Suffolk and presented a paper at a national convocation of law students in February, with the theme "Law in a Changing Society." She won a competition with her topic: "Transgressing the Forbidden Territory of India's Caste System: The Interplay of Hindu Codes, International Treaties, and the Love Laws." This summer Anita did an internship at the US Embassy in Delhi, India, researching administrative issues.

A number of recent English majors are in graduate school or have just finished. Wendy Beth Russo ('96) is getting her Master's in English at Harvard. Meg Savilonis ('90) has been admitted with a fellowship to the University of Texas where she will pursue her Ph.D. in Theater. Caroline Eastman Walters (also '96) received her Master's Degree in Library and Information Science at Simmons College in June and is Acquisitions Librarian at Suffolk. Caroline reports that she is happy in this role and plans to stay with Suffolk indefinitely. John E. Sullivan III ('89) received his M.A. in English in 1995 at Umass Boston, was married last year, and is an editor in the Boston office of Bedford/St. Martin's publishing company. Our two treasured assistants in the English Department, Deanna Devanna Stanford ('95) and Ingrid Bandle Strange ('96), both earned their M.Ed. Degrees from Suffolk this Spring. On May 5, Ingrid's daughter, Sarah, was born.

Lenka Sobotova-Urbanova ('94) earned her M.A. in Czech and English at Charles University in Prague, is married, and now works as a publishing editor for Argo Publishers of the Czech Republic. In addition, she translates fiction from English into Czech and was last year awarded a prize for her translations.

Victoria Vest ('81) earned her M.A. in Reading Education from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton several years ago and has now moved back to Massachusetts. She is a reading teacher at Oakdale Elementary School in Dedham.

Patricia Beicher Scanlan ('83) is currently teaching Business Administration courses at Katherine Gibbs School in Boston.

Karen Perry Corr ('90) reports a year of "firsts" - her first time teaching Saturday courses at Suffolk ("their marathon length and interesting mix of students at once challenging, overwhelming and invigorating") and her first experience of motherhood - also challenging, overwhelming and invigorating. Harrison Hugh Corr was born on April 28, 1998. Karen taught two classes at Boston College as well: Literary Themes and the First-Year Writing Seminar.

Kostula (Connie) Kiriazi ('98) is Director of Administration at the New England School of English in Harvard Square. Emily Hegarty ('85), after serving as adjunct faculty at Suffolk, is now a full-time member of the English Department of Nassau Community College, New York. Frank Ciampa ('91) after graduation went back into the Marine Corps as a Surface-to-Air Missiles Officer, serving in Japan, Korea, and Cuba. He also worked with Cuban and Haitian refugees and now has finished class work for a Master's of Divinity at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. In June, Frank became a vicar at Trinity Lutheran Church, Islip, New York.

Linda Bacchi ('93), now Linda McGovern, recently earned her MA in Interdisciplinary Studies at Lesley College, combining psychology and English. Her study was "The Archetypal Orphan," tracing the development of the orphan theme in literature, and she worked closely with Suffolk's Professor Mandl in her researches. Linda is in the editorial department of The Atlantic Monthly. Frank McGovern ('93) and Linda last year launched a web magazine, Literary Traveler (<http://www.literarytraveler.com>). Each season, they travel to a new destination to explore the literary imagination. They visit important literary sites, provide information on literary tours, and create a newsletter listing literary events. They recently began an internship program. The McGoverns encourage your submissions.

Brenda Shannon ('84), formerly proprietor of a bed-and-breakfast, lives in Franconia, New Hampshire, and is a craftswoman and aspiring artist. For several years, she made hand-painted canvas rugs, "floor cloths." Four of her rugs were included in a 1996 book on the subject. Brenda is now taking lessons in oil from renowned painter Ralph Stone Jacobs, and is also a member of the Frost Poetry Workshop. The house of the late Robert Frost is just down the road from the home Brenda shares with her daughter. Seven year-old Ruby wishes to become a poet and artist, like her mother.

Along with success comes a reputation for wisdom. -Euripides, Hippolytus

Faculty Update

Faculty members frequently have the opportunity to travel - thanks to teachers' extensive vacations. Chairman Tony Merzlak was in England last summer; he made a nostalgic return to the Lake District - suitable for a professor who teaches Romantic poetry - and saw a performance at the new Globe Theatre, Bankside, London. Marilyn Jurich and her husband were in sweltering Spoleto, Italy, for a Writers' Symposium in July. Ann Hughes and her husband were also traveling in Italy last summer. Bob Johnson and his wife were in London during part of the Christmas holidays with their son and daughter. Gail Coffler and her husband visited Spain during spring break and took a look at Suffolk's campus in Madrid.

Marlene McKinley travels several times yearly to Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia, accompanying her husband, composer William Thomas McKinley. She remarks that three of her four daughters-in-law have internationalized her family: one is from Poland, another from Ireland, and a third from Cuba.

Two members of the department combined international travel with literary conferences, or gave lectures abroad. Tom Connolly was co-chair of "O'Neill Bermudiana," the Eugene O'Neill Society's 4th International Conference held in Bermuda in January. At the same conference, Bette Mandl delivered a talk: "Art as Gift in the Early Plays of Eugene O'Neill." In September, 1998 Tom gave his paper "Tragedy is Un-American: Happy Endings in American Drama and Literature" at the 25th Annual Conference of the Polish Association for American Studies in Ustron, Poland. The paper will be published in the proceedings of the association. In March of this year he gave two lectures in the Czech Republic: "Bring Him Back Alive! Eugene O'Neill and the Theatre of Today" at Charles University in Prague, and "Streetcar on a Hot Tin Roof: Tennessee Williams and Post-War American Theatre" at the University of West Bohemia in Plzen.

Several spoke at conferences in the United States. Three members of the department attended the International Association of Fantasy in the Arts, held in Florida in March. Marlene McKinley delivered a paper: "Lilith: The Mother of Female Tricksters - Lily Sanimile in Charles Williams' Descent into Hell." Marilyn Jurich gave a poetry reading, and Gerald Richman read his paper, "Fantasy in the Middle Ages: Heaven, Hell, Purgatory, King Arthur, and Chaucer's Wife of Bath." Suffolk hosted the New England Popular Culture Association's conference in November, at which Marilyn Jurich presented a paper: "The Female Trickster - Known as Trickstar - as Exemplified by Two American Legendary Women, 'Billy' Tipton and Mother Jones." Nina Allen presented three papers, "Gendered Travel Writing: The Case of M. F. K. Fisher," at Snapshots Abroad: A Conference on American and British Travel Writers and Writing, University of Minnesota, November 1997, "Illustrating The Grapes of Wrath: The Making of an American Classic," at the Annual Conference of the Modern Language Association, Toronto, December 1997, and "The American Scene According to Emily Faithfull, Victorian Feminist," at Writing the Journey: A Conference on American, British, and

Anglophone Travel Writers and Travel Writing at the University of Pennsylvania, June 1999. In August 2000, she will present a paper, "Eyewitnessing History: John Steinbeck and Thomas Hart Benton in the Depression Era," at a festival titled From Manuscript to Masterpiece: John Steinbeck and the Arts, at the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, California. In April, Da Zheng delivered a paper at the Asian-American Studies annual conference, held this year in Philadelphia: "Home Construction: Chinese Poetry in Chiang Yees's Travel Literature." A new course he developed, Asian-American Literature, was offered for the first time in 1998.

Kathleen Grathwol chaired a panel in March at the annual American Society for 18th-Century Studies, held in Milwaukee. Her panel had the intriguing title "Newly Lewd: Recent Work on Female Transgression."

Recent faculty publications include Gail Coffler's "Melville's Greeks and Romans: The Politics of Melville's Classicism," in *Melville Among the Nations*, selected papers from the Melville International Conference held in June 1997, in Volos, Greece, Bette Mandl, "Women's Movement: The Personal as Political in the Plays of Wendy Wasserstein," in *Wendy Wasserstein: A Casebook*, edited by Claudia Barnett (Garland Press, 1999), and Da Zheng, "I Will Sing with You Our Song: Representations of Asian Americans," in *The Dolphin*, 28 (1998). The recent issue of *The Eugene O'Neill Review*, Fred Wilkins, editor, achieved a coup: the first publication ever of Edna Kenton's *Provincetown Playhouse Diary of 1916 and subsequent years*. Ms. Kenton, business manager of the Provincetown Players, relates the initial experiences of O'Neill and others on the tip of Cape Cod, as American drama was being born. Marilyn Jurich's book, *Scheherazade's Sisters: Trickster Heroines and Their Stories*, was published by Greenwood Press in 1998; her article "The Pseudo-Cosmographies of Stanislaw Lem" appeared in *Utopian Studies*, 9.2 (1998). Nina Allen's article "Women Travelers: 20th Century" will be published in *The Literature of Travel and Exploration*, London: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2001.

During this past year Bob Johnson has published a number of poems in a dozen magazines and in the *Christian Science Monitor*.

Fred Marchant has published his poems in *Tampa Review*, *AGNI*, *America*, and *Ploughshares* among other journals. He also published an essay, "When Rain Blackens the Sky: War Poets of Vietnam," in *Humanities Magazine*, a publication of the National Endowment for the Humanities. He continues to teach in the Summer Creative Writing Workshops at the Joiner Center, UMass-Boston.

Tom Connolly ('83), now an Assistant Professor of English here at Suffolk, has also been appointed Visiting Professor of American Literature and American Studies at the University of Ostrava in the Czech Republic. The English Language Theater of Ostrava performed his play "Little Innocence" or *The Daughter of an Engineer*, which he also directed. The drama was performed in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, and Germany, and had its American premiere at Suffolk's theater in November of 1998. His book *British Aisles: English and Irish Drama from Medieval through Modern Times* has been published by the University Press of Ostrava. Tom has just been asked by CBS

News' "Sunday Morning with Charles Osgood" to serve as consultant for their special segment on Eugene O'Neill, aired in conjunction with the Tony Awards in the spring of 1999.

This newsletter was written by Ann Hughes of the English Department at Suffolk University. If you have any comments regarding this newsletter, please contact the English Department. For inclusion in the next newsletter, the editor would appreciate information about your own activities, any professional or family news that you are willing to share. We hope to hear from you!