

Suffolk University English Department Newsletter

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The day shall not get up so soon as I / To try the fair adventure of tomorrow

Well, if the theme of the last newsletter was the Year of the Retirees, then perhaps the theme for this edition is the Year of the Children. Future Suffolk English majors are being born to our faculty. The new arrivals include Trevor Connolly (son of Tom and Milena), Caitlin Grathwol (daughter of Kathleen and Jim), and, due in October, a second child for Karen and Kevin Corr. Not to be outdone, the senior faculty, including grandparents Blair, Bette, Gail, and Marlene, have been welcoming grandkids.

New Faculty Complete Their First Year at Suffolk

To fill the chairs (though never the shoes!) of Profs. Hughes, Johnson, and Wilkins, Suffolk hired three new faculty and here is our chance to introduce them to you.

Lisa Celovsky (PhD, Univ. of Toronto) comes to Suffolk by way of the Univ. of Tennessee and is the department specialist in Renaissance studies, bringing a fresh approach to Sidney, Spenser, and the writers of the 1590s (including Shakespeare). Her dissertation examined masculinity in *The Faerie Queene* and the *New Arcadia* as part of her interest in rituals, knighthood, chivalric codes, tournaments, and gender analysis. Suffolk has granted her a one-course released time award for fall 2001 to pursue studies leading to publication. Last fall, she presented a paper, "Early Modern Literary Tournaments," at the conference, "Power and Pageantry in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance."

Quentin Miller (PhD, Univ. of Connecticut) previously taught at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota but is very familiar with the Boston area, having received his A.B. from Boston College. His specialty is contemporary American literature. Having written many articles on James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, Bobbie Ann Mason, and other contemporary writers, he has just celebrated the publication of his book, *John Updike and the Cold War*. Other accomplishments: he finished one novel and has begun a second, chaired panels on prison literature for the Northeast Modern Language Association, and just completed teaching a new course at Suffolk on prison literature. And, yes, he too has received a released time grant to pursue his research.

Rich Miller (sounds like a law firm: Celovsky, Miller & Miller!), with a PhD from Bowling Green State University, comes to us from a teaching position at Texas A&M University near the Texas-Mexican border, so he is fully prepared to contribute to Suffolk's emphasis on cultural diversity. He will act as the department's expert on approaches to teaching composition. His new (and well-received) course on advanced composition (Eng 201) is a harbinger of changes to come. He joins our resident computer

maven, Gerry Richman, and both will be continuing the department's experiments in the use of computers in research and presentation in freshman English classes. He presented a paper on teaching composition to different ethnic communities at a meeting of the College Composition and Communication Conference.

Special Events

Although students still rush to their jobs after classes, the department's special events continued to attract a goodly number of majors, minors, and other interested students (and faculty). Peter Caputo hosted two coffee hours for majors and Marlene McKinley arranged an open house for majors and prospective majors. As the guiding spirit of the honor society, Sigma Tau Delta, Prof. McKinley and her corps of officers hosted noted critic Christopher Ricks as guest speaker at the society's initiation ceremony. Other guest speakers, co-sponsored by the department, included David Ferry, who read from his translation of Gilgamesh, and Eamon Grennan of Vassar, who read from his poetry. The overwhelming success of the year, however, was Fred Marchant, reading to a large and appreciative audience from his new volume of poetry, *Full Moon Boat*. One additional event deserves notice: Suffolk hosted a celebration of Rosalie Warren's 100th birthday. In her honor, the departments of English, History, and Philosophy announced that they would co-sponsor an annual lecture with guest speakers chosen by the three departments.

Faculty Activities and News

Blair Bigelow, ever the sturdy proponent of typewriters in the age of computers, sends his greetings and would be pleased to hear from, or be visited by, former students. He remains an Un-deconstructed modernist.

Gail Coffler continues as chair of the Fulham/Corcoran Scholarship Committee and, with Tom Connolly's assistance, arranged for Suffolk to host the Nathaniel Hawthorne conference for the 150th anniversary of the publication of *The Scarlet Letter*. In addition to her usual courses, she has joined the Integrated Studies faculty for freshmen.

Tom Connolly was delighted at the publication of his new book, *George Jean Nathan and the Making of Modern American Drama Criticism*. Among his various public lectures on the topic of the book was a presentation for the college's seminar series.

Marilyn Jurich has been traveling, to Florida and Virginia, to give both a poetry reading and lectures on "Children Stranded 'Among those Dark Satanic Mills'" and "The Mindless Body and Disembodied Mind in the Jewish Short Story." She also published "Tricks, Trickstars, and Tricksters..." in the collection *Trickster and Ambivalence...*

Bette Mandl celebrated her twentieth anniversary as a full-timer last September. In February, she presented a paper on "Women and Contemporary Drama" at the conference of the Society of the Study of Women Writers in San Antonio, and continues to encourage a college-wide emphasis on writing by means of her Writing Across the Curriculum Committee.

Fred Marchant was another professor who traveled hither and yon to read from and promote his new book, *Full Moon Boat*. Although technically on sabbatical from teaching, he somehow ended up teaching one course, his poetry workshop.

Gerry Richman, busy as ever guiding the Integrated Studies program, published "Poet and Scop in Beowulf" in the journal *In Geardagum*.

Da Zheng just completed his one year sabbatical leave, during which he did research for a biography of Chiang Lee, a Chinese-American artist, poet, and travel writer; presented papers at conferences in New York, Dublin, and Hong Kong; and published two papers, on Bharati Mukherjee's "Father-ing" and on "Chinese Poetry and American Landscape in Chiang Lee's Travel Writings."

In Memory

The faculty experienced their share of sadness this year. Prof. John Colburn passed away after more than five decades on the Suffolk faculty, a teacher known for his warm heart, inquiring mind, and athletic zest for life.

Adjunct Faculty Activities

Nina Allen gave a lecture and slide presentation on "Eyewitness History: John Steinbeck and Thomas Hart Benton..." at the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, CA. Sylvia Charshoodian reminds us she is a docent or guide at the DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, offering tours primarily to schoolchildren. Karen Corr sends greetings from husband Kevin (Suffolk Law) and three-year-old Harrison. Carol Dine, nominated for Faculty Member of the Year, is seeking a publisher for her memoir, *Places in the Bone*, and has published poems in *Salamander*, *The Bitter Oleander*, and the *Clay Palm Review*. During spring break, she traveled to L.A. to visit her son, a screenwriter. Finally, Dave Gallant ('85) has been promoted to Director of Undergraduate Advising, as well as continuing as an adjunct professor of English

Alumni/ae News

Prof. Coffler informs us that Brian Shea received a Master of Divinity degree from the Harvard Divinity School, that Tina Dent is at the University of Connecticut, and that Jessica Nadeau is a member of the Creative Writing Program at Emerson. Kerri Quintal writes from North Attleboro that she is practicing probate/family law, criminal defense law, and business consulting. She recently taught an e-commerce course at Fisher College. Fernando Ramos, since his days at Suffolk and B.C. Law, has become a Special Agent with HUD, investigating white-collar crime for the Office of Inspector General. He is a member of the HUD/OIG Combat EMT team and a New England recruiter for his section. Novelist Nancy Zaroulis (from Dr. Vogel's tenure as chair) has begun a new mystery series under the pen name Cynthia Peele; the first novel is *The Death of Colonel Mann: A Beacon Hill Mystery*. Helen Abdallah Donahue wrote a gracious note to Ann Hughes on the occasion of Prof. Hughes's retirement and passed along the good wishes

of Greg Wayland of NECN. We received an enthusiastic letter from '47 grad Bob Reilly. His résumé contains a host of published works and awards. He remembers being a very busy student, with a wife, children and a day job; he would leave home at 6:30 A.M., and after attending Suffolk evening school, arrive home at 1:30 A.M. Finally, we send belated congratulations to Jim Behrle, who loved Suffolk so much that he remained a student for years...and years...and years. When he graduated, the faculty saluted him, the Suffolk Journal said goodbye, and the owners of The Red Hat probably wept.

P.S. You all know that Chair Tony Merzlak dearly loves to live near Harvard Square, but after decades in the same apartment, he knew it was time to make The Big Decision and move. So last month he made the decision. He bought a condo... two blocks closer to Harvard Square. Veritas.