

Suffolk University English Department Newsletter

Stuart Millner, Editor

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Anthony Merzlak, Chair

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

Well, greetings from Suffolk's new student residence hall, 10 Somerset (around the corner from the Sawyer Building)! Readers of a certain age may remember when Suffolk had no student dorms and intrepid souls rented basement apartments on the North Slope of Beacon Hill... With the advantage of dorm space, Suffolk is expecting its largest freshman class ever.

Faculty Activities and News

The old order changeth, making way for new...Blair Bigelow, who began teaching at Suffolk in 1965, will be retiring this June. He sends best wishes to all his former students.

Also, Fred Wilkins, who continued to teach part-time after his official retirement, has relinquished his role as editor of the Eugene O'Neill Review and his teaching duties. The new editor of the highly respected journal, which Fred created and which is published at Suffolk, will be Alexander Brietzke, the vice president of the Eugene O'Neill Society.

Peter Caputo had great success with his new course on mythology. He continues to administer the Writing Center program and has selected the second group of Writing Center Scholarship recipients: James Blandino, Nathan Gamache, Pamela Olson, and Anne-Marie Ormond (and, continuing into her second year in the scholarship program, Kathleen Chretien).

Lisa Celovsky has been busy during her leave of absence: concentrating on the poet Sir Philip Sidney, she published a review article in the Sidney Journal and read papers at the Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo, Michigan, and at the Sidney Estate in Kent, United Kingdom. She judged costumes at the University of Tennessee Renaissance fair (the winner was dressed as Mary, Queen of Scots), and next spring, will offer an Archer Seminar on "Shakespeare in Performance in Boston."

Gail Coffler continues to chair the Fulham/Corcoran Merit Scholarship Committee (even during her recent sabbatical). She published an important essay on "Billy Budd" in Four New Essays on "Billy Budd" and is a consultant and contributor to the final volume of the definitive edition of Melville. She and her husband, Melville scholar Walter Bezanson, had to cancel a trip to Hawaii, but she did make time to visit her children and grandchildren in Illinois and Minnesota.

Tom Connolly's most important contribution occurred in June: Miranda Connolly was born and joins the family of Tom, mother Milena, and two-year-old Trevor. Tom was

promoted to associate professor, capping a busy year. He published twenty-four articles in the Oxford Encyclopedia of Theatre and Performance. His book, *Studies in English and Irish Theatre...* went into a third edition. As a visiting professor at the University of Ostrava in the Czech Republic, he lectured on Emerson and Thoreau, and was awarded a grant to participate in the Critics Circle of the Wang Center to give high school students a chance to practice theatre criticism.

Kathleen Grathwol was promoted to associate professor. She presented papers at the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference in New York and at the Suffolk Seminar Series, was the honored inductee of the History Honor Society, and is preparing two articles for publication. During a Cape Cod outing, two-year-old Caitlin Grathwol captained a small boat—for about two minutes!

Marilyn Jurich traveled with husband Joe and daughter Joscelyn to Croatia and discovered the village of Juriche, where the family located one remaining relative in the community. She gave a poetry reading at the International Association for Fantasy, in Florida, and will read a paper, "The Chapbook as Literature of the Fantastic in an Age of Reason," at the Eleventh National Congress on the Enlightenment.

Bette Mandl continues to offer Writing Across the Curriculum workshops, this year on the topic of plagiarism. She presented a paper at the Modern Language Association in New York and then traveled to Tours, France (Psst. Are we still allowed to say "France"??), to present a paper and then to chair a session on O'Neill and women.

Fred Marchant gave a well-attended poetry reading to an enthusiastic audience at Suffolk to mark the publication of his latest volume of poems, *House on Water, House in Air*. He was also honored for twenty years of teaching at Suffolk. Among his many activities, he read selected poems for the Cambridge Poetry Readings at the Advocate and was one of a dozen well-known poets to read for the thirtieth anniversary celebration of Agni Magazine. His Creative Writing Program sponsored a reading by poets from Rwanda, Northern Ireland, Vietnam, and Bosnia. He was also a moderator for a PEN New England panel on "A Discussion of Freedom of Expression in the United States."

Marlene McKinley last year began the Sigma Tau Delta Lecture Series, in honor of retired English faculty, with a reading by famed poet Grace Paley, who read selections from her many publications to a large and appreciative audience. That event was to honor Dr. Fred Wilkins.

This year, on October 21, Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr., chair of the African American Studies Department, will be the guest speaker. On this occasion, the honoree will be Dr. Edward Clark. Marlene received an award from Oxford University, where she lectured on C.S. Lewis and Tolkien. At the recent Sigma Tau Delta initiation ceremony, Marlene and Fred Marchant invited poet and novelist John F. Deane to be the guest speaker and to read from his poetry.

Tony Merzlak, responding to the recent cooperative agreement between Suffolk and Dean College, has been traveling weekly to the hinterlands, as has Dave Gallant, to teach

an evening course at Dean. And speaking of teaching away from the Boston campus, several English faculty, including Kathleen Grathwol, Nina Allen, Ketlin Celestin, John Mulrooney and Diane Harper, have enjoyed teaching at the Dakar, Senegal, campus.

Quentin Miller has been publishing essays on a number of American authors in American Writers, American Classics, the Encyclopedia of American Studies Online, African American Review and the Review of American Fiction. He traveled to San Diego to present a paper on post-humanism. Finally, he sends a sprightly hello from six-year-old Brennan and four-year-old Owen!

Rich Miller and his wife Christine welcomed the birth of Alison Skye Miller in May. He continues to offer writing workshops for English faculty, gave a presentation on “The World of Online Publishing,” and created and organized The Center for Teaching Excellence so that faculty can exchange ideas for improving college teaching.

Gerry Richman celebrated twenty years of teaching at Suffolk. He continues as head of Integrated Studies and of the freshman writing assessment group.

Da Zheng received tenure this year. His activities include a visit to China for a symposium. While there, he visited universities in Beijing, Xiamen, and Guangzhou, and had an article on writer Chang Yee published in China. On his return to Suffolk, Da lectured on the Hong Kong poems of Chang Yee.

Special Events

To mark the passing of beloved Suffolk student and centenarian Rosalie Warren, Suffolk held a memorial service with Kenneth Greenberg as speaker. During the same month, the Rosalie Warren Lecture Series in History and Literature presented Boston Globe columnist and novelist James Carroll on “History, Literature, and the Calendar of Peace.” Other events this year included the Venture Magazine student-faculty poetry reading, and the department’s annual Open House.

Yet More Faculty News

Nina Allen presented a paper on “Travels in Hong Kong” at the national conference of the Popular Culture Association in New Orleans.

Karen Corr, Suffolk English major who went on to graduate school at Boston College and now teaches Saturday courses for the department, sends greetings from five-year-old Harrison, eighteen-month-old Molly, and husband Kevin (Suffolk Law, '92).

Carol Dine designed a new course, Image to Word: Writing on Art, for NESAD-SU students who wish to fulfill their requirement by writing about the works of painters, sculptors, printmakers, and art historians. With a grant from the St. Botolph Foundation, she made a second visit to the van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam to write poems based on the artist’s images. Carol’s poetry and selections from her memoir, Places in the Bone, appear in the spring issue of The Bitter Oleander.

Anne and Philip Hughes traveled to southern Italy last winter, and enjoyed the sunny weather of Naples and Amalfi while Boston was experiencing its old-fashioned winter.

Alumni/ae News

Lisa (Bailey) Arvoy, '92, writes that she has two-year-old twins, lives in the Midwest, and is applying for a graduate degree in guidance counseling.

Christina Dent, '00, has finished her MA at UConn and has been teaching composition at UConn and at Manchester Community College.

Mary Duffy, '84, sent the news that she had returned to school for her RN degree and is now enrolled in a graduate program in public health.

Jaime Costigan, '03, has left for two years in the Peace Corps. She will receive her assignment when she reaches Morocco.

Robert Gutro, '88, a meteorologist, leads NASA's Earth Science News Team, reporting on research on climate change.

Joseph Sgroi, '03, was admitted to the MA in English program at UMass Boston.

Francis McGovern and Linda Bacci are parents of twin daughters and manage a website, "The Literary Traveler," mentioned in the New York Times travel section.

Allan Caggiano, '99, passed the bar exam and is working for one of Boston's top law firms. He graciously attributes much of his success to Drs. Merzlak and Coffler.