

# 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

## **From the Chairman...**

This is a time of exciting changes for your college. Suffolk's new high-rise, state-of-the-art dorm opened last fall, joining the Tremont Street dorm in our transition to a significant resident student population. This fall we enroll our largest freshman class ever, of well over a thousand students. They will take some of their courses in classrooms with advanced technological facilities. Email and internet instruction are becoming commonplace, as are courses where Suffolk instructors in Boston teach students in Spain and Senegal. But, as you know, Suffolk is about people, not just space and numbers. Last year our college appointed a new dean, Dr. Kenneth Greenberg, Distinguished Professor of History. I look forward to the same excellent relationship English has long enjoyed with our new leader. Dean Greenberg has initiated the biggest curriculum revision in a generation. The new curriculum will feature a four-course load for CAS students, but these will be enriched and enhanced courses. The college is also creating a new honors program, in which English will play a major role. These changes seek to take our college to the next level of excellence. We are also launching an extensive review of our English major and minor. A new "gateway" course will be introduced next year as a first course for English majors, preparing them to study our field. We also have a new course in literary theory, and an ever-expanding track in creative writing. This year we will have our first full-time visiting appointment in creative writing, along with some famous poets and writers who will come to Suffolk. So a great deal has changed since you graduated. But one thing has not changed. The

English faculty remain committed to our students and their success. I hope you have good memories of your English professors. I also hope you will keep in touch, by email or a visit when you're on Beacon Hill. We remember you fondly. Tony Merzlak/Chair

## **Faculty Activities and News**

The department has seen some personnel changes this summer. Blair Bigelow had two retirement parties: one at Suffolk and a rollicking one at Ryles Jazz Club. Kathleen Grathwol, our professor of 18th century literature, is moving with her family to Washington, D.C. And Lisa Celovsky's husband, Joe, a Renaissance scholar in Tennessee, has accepted a position at UMass/ Amherst (so they immediately began house hunting).

Faculty have been busy, as usual. Peter Caputo celebrated twenty years at Suffolk. He awarded Writing Center scholarships to Adrienne Franceschi, Leland Solon, and Brian

Sullivan. Lisa Celovsky attended a medieval congress in Kalamazoo and has an article on *The Faerie Queene* appearing soon in *English Literary Review*. Ed Clark spent several weeks on a sentimental journey to Holland, Germany, Paris and England, countries he last visited after World War II. Gail Coffler and husband Walter have been traveling to see relatives in Minnesota and Illinois, and just celebrated the publication of her book on Melville's allusions to religion with a trip to the south of France. Tom Connolly, who just received tenure, sends regards from wife Milena, Trevor (age three) and Miranda (age one). He traveled to Vienna to research an article on Viennese theater, which he presented at a conference and which will be published in *Nineteenth-Century Theatre*. Ann and Philip Hughes vacationed in Sicily and, home again in Maine, adopted a half chihuahua/ half Maltese terrier puppy, Truman. Marilyn Jurich presented papers at the International Association of Fantasy, Dania, Florida, and at UCLA; published two articles on the fantastic; and published two poems in an online journal, *Trickster's Way*. Among Fred Marchant's many accomplishments, in addition to founding the Poetry Center, are the publication of poems in several journals and his appearances on panels and in leadership roles in workshops. Bette Mandl's sabbatical sent her into a new area of research, the representation of the mind in modernist writing and contemporary neuroscience, resulting in an article published last month. She sends greetings from her fourth grandchild, Dana, the first girl in four tries, says Bette. Quentin Miller, just promoted to associate professor, published two textbooks and has two more in the works, plus a collection of essays on prison literature and articles on American authors. Rich Miller, combining his two areas of expertise, composition and computers, has published online writing process aids. Gerry Richman, another computer expert, saw his first online article ("Adam, Eve, and Abdiel") published in *Early Modern Literary Studies*. His annotated bibliography of works of fiction set in Boston is always in progress. Da Zheng, pursuing his research into the popular travel writer Chiang Yee, has contributed an introduction to a new edition of Yee's 1937 volume of travels in Lakeland.

Our adjunct professors have been productively busy this year, too. Nina Allen published an article, "Women Travelers, Twentieth Century," in *Literature of Travel and Exploration*. Lilly Roberts won the Lynda Hull Memorial Poetry prize from *Crazy Horse* magazine and was invited to present her work at a conference in Vancouver next March. Ingrid Strange, who received her BA from Suffolk and then joined the department as secretary and (after earning a master's degree) as adjunct professor, has moved her family to a lovely home in Maine. She will continue her association with Suffolk as the publication coordinator of the *Eugene O'Neill Review*. And to end this segment, we are happy to announce that Carol Dine, in addition to publishing several poems on the art of Van Gogh in the spring issue of *Boulevard*, as well as other poems in *Salamander* and *Sojourner Anthology*, has had her memoir, *Places in the Bone*, accepted for publication by Rutgers University. It is scheduled to appear in January. Congratulations!

## **Special Events**

The main event, hands down, was Marlene McKinley's Sigma Tau Delta Lecture Series presentation in honor of Emeritus Prof. Edward Clark: the guest speaker was Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., chair of the Department of African and African-American Studies and

W.E.B. DuBois Professor of the Humanities at Harvard. In the same vein, two noted authors will speak at Suffolk this autumn, Maxine Hong Kingston and Seamus Heaney, as the result of another major event: the establishment of the Suffolk Poetry Center, owing to the efforts of Fred Marchant. The center will have its own room in the new library and has already begun to sponsor literary events including appearances by poets Naomi Shihab Nye, Thom Ward, and Jennifer Barber. Other speakers included Ploughshares magazine editor Don Lee, and Ben Evett, artistic director of the Actors' Shakespeare Project. Quentin Miller nurtured the First Annual Prize for Excellence in Freshman Writing. This year's winners were Daniela Wong-Chiulli, Irina Tolstova, and Jake Hess. Always well attended are the annual student-faculty poetry and prose readings, the Sigma Tau Delta (English Honor Society) initiation ceremony, and the Open House for Majors (hosted by Rich Miller, with special appearances by English alumnae who spoke about the jobs they currently hold). Finally, Tom Connolly invited Dassia Posner and her Luna [Puppet] Theater to present an adaptation of Gogol's "The Nose," and Dillon Bustin, executive director of the Emerson Umbrella Center for the Arts, adapted Emerson's poems into songs (with guitar accompaniment). Now, to close out this section, herewith the most important production of the year, the birth of John Stanford (aka Peewee) to proud parents, staff assistant Deanna and husband Mark Stanford. Hurrah!

## **Alumni/ae News**

We received notes from Joyce Coluntino and Louise Pepe Litchfield. We also learned that Andrea Grilli Chatfield (1982), now an attorney in New Hampshire, traveled in 2002 with husband Scott to Bucharest to bring home their new son, Brendan. Patricia Nagy Butler lives in Wichita with her husband, a flight test engineer, and works for a software development company. Anna Bitgood Horner ('00), married to Jerry Horner, is a writer and editor of Realtor and CPA news services in Maryland. Serena Agosto-Cox ('00) recently married Christopher Cox and was an editor and writer for a newsletter in Maryland. She has published two poems, with a third on the way, and is currently working on a book of poetry. Recently, Blair Bigelow spoke with alumnae Clare Thompson and Julianne Bohannon, the latter married to the Boston Globe's David Mehegan (a Suffolk alumnus). Gail Coffler reports that Frank Mortimer, now a reporter in Foxboro, attended and reported on the marathon reading of Moby-Dick at the New Bedford Whaling Museum. Tina Dent ('00) earned her MA in English at U-Conn and has moved back to Boston to enter Emerson's MFA program in creative writing and to work as an adjunct professor in our department. Speaking of degrees, James Fleming ('02), a teaching assistant in the department for two years, will enter the PhD program in English at the University of Florida on a full fellowship. Michelle Lyons ('90) is working for the Lynn Housing Authority and Neighborhood Development. Attorney Kerri Quintal of North Attleboro has added to her many activities participation in the Shadow Program, allowing law students to spend a day at court under the supervision of an attorney. Finally, we received a letter from Patricia Brown, who earned her BA (in English), MBA, and JD degrees at Suffolk and retired in 1992 as Associate Law Librarian Emerita. She was one of the women in the Girls Professional Baseball League (the basis of the movie, A League of Their Own), all of whom were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Recently she has published two articles and a book (entitled *A League of My Own: Memoir of a Pitcher for the All-American Girls Baseball League*). Certainly a productive retirement!