ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jonathan Deschere and Iain Bernhoft will serve as Graduate Representatives for calendar year 2010.

All graduate students are encouraged to attend meetings of the Graduate Student Organization (GSO). At meetings, GSO members discuss and vote on policy issues (like student health care, housing, childcare, and print quotas) and plan social functions across departments and colleges and even with other universities. Student eligibility for GSO travel grants depends on departmental representation, and while Iain and Jon have kindly volunteered to fill this role for the 2010 year, the more English students in attendance, the better represented we will be and the larger voice we will have. If you would like to attend, meetings will be held at 5:30pm in CAS 200 on the following dates:

Monday, February 8
Monday, March 2
Monday, March 22
Wednesday, April 14

Applications for GSO (Graduate Student Organization) travel grants for fall 2010 conferences will be due June 15. GRS students are invited to submit applications for conferences being held in the upcoming semester – meaning that you may apply for funding for conference participation before you know whether or not you’ll be presenting. Example: you may apply in the spring for a conference being held in the summer or fall; if you are awarded the grant, you will receive reimbursement for travel expenses up to $500 once you return from the conference and present receipts. If you receive the travel grant and are not selected to present at the conference, the grant will simply go to another applicant.

The first meeting of the semester will focus on pedagogical theory. We will discuss two short (~20 pages total) essays in the 2009 issue of Profession (available through the BU library website). Rita Felski’s “After Suspicion” and Mark Edmundson’s “Against Readings” each offer provocative arguments about our approach to literary texts in the undergraduate classroom. Please send an RSVP to deschere@bu.edu if you would like to attend.

Willing Suspension Productions, the English Department’s Early Modern Theatre company, will be putting on Thomas Middleton’s The Changeling this coming spring, March 31-April 2. Come support fellow graduate student directors Liam Meyer, Matt Stokes, and Kristin Bezio; graduate student actors Emily Gruber and Jon Deschere; and graduate student producer Holly Schaaf.

The Boston University Literary Symposium will be meeting monthly through the spring semester. We welcome all interested parties to join us to discuss current issues in theory and pedagogy. All meetings will begin at 2:30 and are held in the BU Pub. Refreshments are provided courtesy of the BU Humanities Foundation. Please contact Jonathan Deschere at deschere@bu.edu to RSVP or with any questions. The schedule for this semester:

Friday, Feb 5th
Friday, March 19th
Friday, April 16th

“NOW, WHAT I WANT IS, FACTS.”
--THOMAS GRADGRIND, HARD TIMES
UPCOMING GSO EVENTS

GRAD NIGHT @ THE FROG POND ICE SKATING RINK

WHEN: WED., FEB. 10
TIME: 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
WHERE: Frog Pond, Boston Common, 84 Beacon Street
HOSTED BY: The Boston Graduate Leadership Organization (BGLO), a collaborative effort among the graduate students at Bentley, BU, BC, Suffolk, MIT, Tufts, Babson, Brandeis, Emerson, Harvard, & Northeastern

BGLO will pay the admission for the first 350 students (one guest will also be covered and please bring your student ID). Skate rentals are priced at $8 (or you can bring your own if you have them). Prizes will be awarded throughout the night, and the snack bar will be open.

The first GSO Professional Development Panel will be held Wed., Feb. 17, from 5 to 6 in CAS 200. The discussion will be on organizing, running, and chairing conference panels. Emily Ronald, Co-Sponsored Events Chair, hopes to make these panels a regular “Third Wednesday” event throughout the semester; she is currently seeking panel participants and ideas.

Job Talk
Wednesday, Jan. 27

Joseph Rezek, UCLA

Grad Meet-and-Greet
3pm in the Graduate Lounge

Lecture
5pm in the Seminar Room

CONFERENCES

Iain Bernhoft will present a paper tentatively titled “Martin Delany’s Transnational Archaeology” at the NeMLA Conference in Montreal on April 9. He received a departmental travel grant to attend. Last November he participated in a seminar on Modernist Sincerity at the MSA conference (also in Montreal), and presented a paper entitled “Practical Sincerity in Conrad’s Political Novels.”

Sheila Cordner will be presenting a paper titled “Reading Mary Oliver into a ‘schoolhouse/of little words,/thousands of words’” at the 2010 Northeast Modern Language Association in Montreal. She has received both a GSO travel grant and a departmental travel grant to attend.

Mary Kuhn gave a talk at the Tufts English Graduate Conference on October 29, 2009, entitled “‘A look put on on purpose’: Performing Genre in E.D.E.N. Southworth's The Hidden Hand.”


PROSPECTUSES

Sheila Cordner had her prospectus approved in January: “Privileged Outsiders: Exclusion as Innovation in Nineteenth-Century Women Writers” (Professors Brown and Henchman).

Emily Field had her prospectus approved in November: “Transethnic Collaboration: American Literature beyond the Black-White Binary” (Professors Patterson and Lee).

Holly Schaaf recently had her prospectus approved: “‘A Kind of Language Between Us’: Opaque Minds in the Fiction of Virginia Woolf, Elizabeth Bowen, Flann O’Brien, and Samuel Beckett” (Professors Riquelme and Fogel).
FACULTY NEWS

Professor Carroll published his edition of Shakespeare's Love's Labour's Lost in October, in the New Cambridge Shakespeare Series.

Professor Chodat has an article coming out in Contemporary Pragmatism this spring, entitled "Explanation and Evolution: Biology, Pragmatism, Aesthetics."


Professor Green will be moderating a meeting on Illuminated Manuscripts and International Commerce in Fourteenth-Century Europe at the 15-19 July 2010 Congress of The New Chaucer Society in Siena.

Professor Henchman gave a talk at the Yale 18th- and 19th-century colloquium on "Astronomy and Narrative Space in Dickens and Hardy." She also has a short article coming out this spring on "The Telescope as Prosthesis" in a special issue of the Victorian Review on prostheses.

Professor Jarrett recently received the Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellowship from BU’s Humanities Foundation, which will enable him to go on leave in fall 2010. He just published a co-edited book, The Collected Novels of Paul Laurence Dunbar; two essays, “Douglass, Ideological Slavery, and Postbellum Racial Politics” in Professor Lee’s Cambridge Companion to Fredrick Douglass and “Law, Parody, and the Politics of African American Literary History” in the journal NOVEL; and a book review in the journal American Literature.
Professor Riquelme edited and contributed an essay to a collection on T. S. Eliot that appeared in October 2009 in the *Critical Insights* series just initiated by EBSCO/Salem Press; it’s both a book and an electronic subscription resource. In May and June he delivered lectures and talks on Wilde & Eliot, Modernist Authenticity, and the Composing of Wilde’s *An Ideal Husband* at the American Literature Association, the English Department Graduate Colloquium at UC-Santa Barbara, and the Wilde Archive Conference at the Clark Library of UCLA. For MLA 2009, he organized and chaired a large session on *Why Teach Literature Anyway?* for the Division on the Teaching of Literature.

Professor Siemon announces the publication of the Arden 3 edition of *Richard III* (October 2009) and the New Mermaids third edition of Christopher Marlowe’s *The Jew of Malta* (September 2009). He delivered a lecture for the Philosophy Dept at DePaul University on “Symbolic Violence: Shakespeare, Bakhtin and Bourdieu” in October, and will present papers at the Shakespeare Association of America in Chicago in April and at the International Association of University Professors of English in Malta in July. He will be co-directing the year-long seminar in “Researching the Archive” at the Folger Library in Washington, D.C., with Professor Keith Wrightson, 2010-11.

Professor Smith, in conference activities, organized a panel on melodrama for the 2009 American Comparative Literature Society annual conference, where he also presented a paper on British shipwreck melodramas; and he organized a panel on modernist theatre at the 2009 Modernist Studies Association annual conference, where he also presented a paper on the play *Woyzeck*. This past September, he was an invited speaker at a DAAD-sponsored conference at Cornell, where he spoke on the German-American cyber-artist Tamiko Tiel. His publications during the period include a review of A. M. Gibbs’ biography *Bernard Shaw: A Life*, which appeared in *Modern Drama*. Alongside his critical writing, he has been keeping busy with two editing projects: a new edition of the collected works of Georg Büchner, and an essay collection entitled *Opera and Modernism*.

Professor Winn published a short essay on J. S. Bach’s flute sonatas in the liner notes to a new recording of these works by Cleveland Orchestra principal flutist Joshua Smith and harpsichordist Jory Vinikour (Delos Records, B002LJPGMA).

**Dissertation Abstract**

Anna Boyagoda

“BEING THERE TOGETHER”: REPRESENTATIONS OF COMMUNITY IN THE POETRY OF ERIC ROACH, DEREK WALCOTT, WALLACE STEVENS AND ELIZABETH BISHOP

This dissertation examines representations of community in the poetry of four twentieth-century poets: Eric Roach, Derek Walcott, Wallace Stevens, and Elizabeth Bishop. These poets, two West Indian and two American, not only responded to community as it is conventionally delimited by nation, class, race, or region, but also explored ideas of community from a perspective encouraged by economic and cultural globalization. In doing so, they modeled new ways of thinking about community in a genre that has been dominated by concerns with subjectivity since the advent of European Romanticism. Chapter One focuses on the Tobagonian poet Eric Roach, whose evocations of village life are complicated by concomitant meditations on a poet’s relationship to community. A Christological conception of sacrificial love undergirds Roach’s hopes for a federated regional community and then, recast in darker terms, drives his laments over its failure. Chapter Two reads Derek Walcott’s *Omeros*, written long after federation, as an exploration of the declining sufficiency of the local as a source of belonging for the cosmopolitan artist from a small society. In transgressing geographic and historical boundaries, the poem describes a flexible and inclusive community structured on the human capacity for sympathy. Chapter Three considers a subtler transgression of geographic boundaries, reading Wallace Stevens’s longing for foreign things as a part of his search for a “supreme fiction,” for a unifying object of belief. Through his foreign correspondence and collection of exotic objects, the poet found a way to order and control the pressures of an increasingly interconnected world, a way not dependent on the premise of a center. Chapter Four turns to Elizabeth Bishop and her more immediate experience of interconnected worlds. A concern with the ethical and epistemological implications of national borders features in Bishop’s Brazil poems. In her last volume, however, she focuses on borderless experiences of community. The common experiences and coincidences of vision in these later poems convey potential unities that disregard, without rejecting, the criteria for traditional forms of community. The conclusion argues that these four poets imagined community as something intimately constituted even while responding to its potential for enlarged form.