



We die. That may be the meaning of life. But we do language. That may be the measure of our lives.

—Toni Morrison (b. 1931)

Long Winter . . . Good News

Although winter is usually considered a time of slowing and cessation, very exciting things have been happening in the English Department over the last month. As I sit down to write this column, I realize just how much has been going on and how many exciting events are planned in the English Department this winter. However, I am especially eager to announce the news that one part-time and two new full-time professors have just been hired and will be joining us next fall.

Professor Jed Mayer, a specialist in nineteenth-century literature and culture, will be coming to us from Christchurch, New Zealand, where he currently teaches at The University of Canterbury. Dr. Mayer will be offering courses in Victorian and late nineteenth-century literature, children's literature, as well as in the emerging field of human-animal studies.

Contents

New faculty introduction:
 Andy Schonebaum, p. 2
 Celebration of Writing, p. 2
Riverine, p. 3
 Poet Quraysh Ali Lansana, p. 4
 Around the Department, p. 4

Dr. Mayer will also be teaching the second part of the British Literature survey course (ENG 302).

He is joined by Claire Hero, also currently at The University of Canterbury, who will be teaching on a part-time basis, offering a course next fall in Australasian literature (ENG 393: The Literature of Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands). An accomplished poet, Professor Hero will also be teaching courses in composition and creative writing.

From Ann Arbor, Michigan comes Professor Jacqueline George, a specialist in English Romanticism. Dr. George received her doctorate last year from The University of Michigan, where she has also been teaching a variety of courses in English literature and composition, and advising undergraduates. Like Dr. Mayer, she too will be teaching the second semester of the British literature survey, as well as specialized courses in Romanticism, the novel, and other topics.

Very soon we hope to have good news on our final full-time search, a specialist in Composition and Rhetoric.

Finally, I would like to put in a plug for a new student-run creative writing club that goes by the witty name of "Word Play." Send a quick e-mail to Shana Krisloff at np.wordplay@gmail.com to find out when they meet and what they hope to accomplish!

I hope your semester is proving enjoyable, engaging, and productive. Look for another issue of *Works Cited* in late March, but in the meantime, please let the editors know your thoughts about our newsletter and anything you'd like to see in it by e-mailing us at this address: workscited@newpaltz.edu.

—Thomas G. Olsen, Chair of English

Upcoming Events

- Quraysh Ali Lansana poetry reading February 27
- Francine Prose on campus April 17
- *Our Town* at McKenna Theatre opens April 24

W O R K S C I T E D
 C U L T U R E
 T H I S
 S T R I P

New Faculty Introduction: Professor Andy Schonebaum

Andy Schonebaum joined the English department this past fall. He specializes in Chinese literature, followed distantly by a vague knowledge of Japanese literature, Shakespeare, and literary theory. When asked how he ended up devoting his (professional) life to the study of China (as when his parents ask every few months, “so they can tell their friends”), he responds, really it was a process of elimination. Andy was going to be a (medical) doctor, originally, and when that didn’t work out (too many bodily fluids, too much fluorescent lighting), he turned to secondary education, and inevitably, graduate school.

Hailing from Minneapolis, Minnesota, Andy started learning Chinese in the ninth grade. He has been living “back east” for the last 15 years though, going to college at Brown, living in China and Taiwan for the better part of three years, and spending the rest of the time in Man-



hattan. Andy received his Ph. D. at Columbia in 2004 and spent the next two years at Barnard College and then one of two years on a post doctoral fellowship back at Columbia.

Andy is currently working on two books, one an edited volume for the MLA series “Approaches to Teaching World Literature” on the 2,500 page *Story of the Stone (Dream of the Red Chamber)*, and the other his monograph on medicine and the Chinese novel. At New Paltz Andy has been teaching introductory Chinese, Great Books: Asian Classics, and Twentieth Century Criticism, but has hopes to teach courses on transnational forms (Cowboy, Samurai, Monk), cultural histories of medicine, and the Chinese novel.

Andy and his partner, Chava, have a very friendly pit-bull, Myobi, and are expecting their first child in April.

Usage Tip: *Fewer* vs. *Less*

Fewer refers to items that can be counted. *Less* refers to general amounts. For example:

“If we had less statesmanship, we could get along with fewer battleships.” (Mark Twain)

Join Our Celebration of Writing!

This spring, the SUNY New Paltz campus will celebrate the pleasures of creating and sharing writing of all kinds as it honors outstanding writing by New Paltz students. The Writing Board, which is sponsoring the event, encourages submissions from students in all disciplines, including science, technology, social science, art, history, education, or other disciplines where writing provides a necessary analysis tool. Critical reviews of arts and cultural activities are welcome, as are social and political analyses, news stories, book reviews, and science reports. Of course, creative fiction, drama and verse, literary analysis, nonfiction, and memoir/autobiography are also encouraged.

Participants will read excerpts of their writ-

ing, and gift certificates will be awarded for the best writing in each category. Selected writing will be published in the Writing Board newsletter as well. This is a fabulous opportunity for students and faculty to gather outside of the classroom, enjoy refreshments, and experience the diverse ways in which students are excelling at the craft of writing.

The Celebration will take place on Thursday, April 24, from 4-6 p.m. at the Honors Center. Those interested in participating should send hard-copy submissions of no more than fifteen typed, double-spaced pages to Joann Deiducibus in JFT 702A by April 4. For more submission information, go to www.newpaltz.edu/WritingBoard/#events.

Authors' Birthdays in February

- 1 Langston Hughes
- 2 Ayn Rand
- 7 Sinclair Lewis
- 7 Charles Dickens
- 7 Laura Ingalls Wilder
- 9 J. M. Coetzee
- 10 Charles Lamb



Ha Jin 21

21 Anais Nin



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow 27

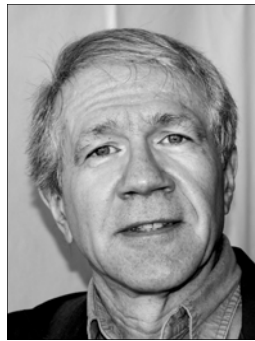
- Judy Blume 12
Wallace Stegner 18
Toni Morrison 18
Victor Hugo 26
N. Scott Momaday 27
John Steinbeck 27

Reading and Writing the Hudson Valley: *Riverine*

From Westchester to Albany, and from Millbrook to Woodstock: *Riverine* collects the creative work of writers from the Hudson Valley. Its headspring and editor, Laurence Carr, characterizes its contents as both “reflective” and “edgy”—its poetry accessible but penetrating, its prose strong and “carrying a bite.”

“It’s funny how an anthology creates itself,” mused Carr about the anthology he has created. In the most rewarding artistic fashion, Carr’s latest project seems to have left its mark on him as surely as he shaped its contents. He has seen over thirty of his own plays and theater pieces produced throughout the U.S. and in Europe, yet the work that speaks to him at this moment is the one produced by and about the region in which he lives and works, teaching Creative and Dramatic Writing here at SUNY New Paltz. All of the work contained in *Riverine* was written by Hudson Valley writers and the collected work certainly imparts a sense of the region that inspired it. “I didn’t want to show only the idyllic Hudson River School approach,” Carr points out, “but I wanted to reflect the Valley as it really is, with a whole spectrum of emotions. These are the pieces that spoke to me.”

These pieces, ranging in genre from memoir and short story to microfiction and poetry, take note of the Valley, reflecting it, springing away from it into farther flung imaginative landscapes,



and at times digging down deep. Kenneth Salzmann’s poem “The persistence of ashes” pays homage to the life that preceded his and tended the rose bushes that were passed from one to the other; our own Sarah Wyman’s “Popinjay in the Japonica” vividly paints a

downed popinjay as metaphor for the quiet man-ace buried even in the calm loveliness of country living. Alongside lesser-known authors lie the works of widely known ones; *Riverine* has the distinct honor, for example, of publishing for the first time poetry by Valerie Martin. In this way it represents the wealth of our region, not only in its varied geographical and natural beauty, but also in the richness of artistic talent tucked in its hills and along its winding waters. Carr points out that the seventy-eight writers represented here are hardly an exhaustive group, and hopes another anthology of Hudson Valley writers will follow this one, bringing with it its editor’s sense of the shape of this landscape.

Carr credits David Appelbaum, SUNY faculty member and founder of Codhill Press, as the “driving force” behind this project. The book, now in its second printing, can be found at the SUNY bookstore, as well as in major independent bookstores and libraries of the region. Carr will be organizing readings from the collection in various locations this spring; look for detailed announcements in future issues of *Works Cited*.



Quraysh Ali Lansana Reads from His Poetry



On Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., poet Quraysh Ali Lansana will give a reading in the CSB Auditorium. The Director of the Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Black Literature and Creative Writing at Chicago State University, Professor Lansana will be reading selections from

They Shall Run: Harriet Tubman Poems, *Dream of a Word*, and *Greatest Hits: 1995-2005*, among other collections. Mr. Lansana is an Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing at CSU, and editor of Glencoe/McGraw-Hill's *African American Literature Reader* (2001). His work appears in journals and magazines across the

country and internationally, and he is the recipient of various awards, including the 2006 Securing the Future Award from ETA Creative Arts Foundation; the 2000 Poet of the Year Award, presented by Chicago's Black Book Fair; and the 1999 Henry Blakely Award, presented by Gwendolyn Brooks. Lansana will be joined by community poet, Georgia A. Popoff, who is a performance poet, educator, editor, and spoken word producer. She has toured both the west and east coasts extensively and is currently the Writer in Residence for the Middletown, New York school district.

The reading is free and open to the public, and it is co-sponsored by The Departments of English and Black Studies, The Office of the Provost, the Honors Program, and Major Connections.

Around the Department

Library Adds Sage Premier Database

Sage Premier is a collection of 452 peer-reviewed, full-text journals in education, linguistics, philosophy, history, communication/media, psychology, sociology, and other fields. Limit your search to "Sage content available" to find material specific to this database.

Looking for a Good Book to Enjoy?

Try our library's leisure reading blog, easily found at newpaltzreads.blogspot.com, or linked to the Sojourner Truth Library website (lib.newpaltz.edu). This blog features books contained in the STL collection and recommended by members of the SUNY New Paltz commu-

nity. Check out the blog to find a great book to read, or to report on your own favorites: simply e-mail the librarians at askref@newpaltz.edu to recommend a book, and they will post it to our library blog.

Hudson Valley Writing Project Events

Mark your calendars for three HVWP seminars: March 8: A Fresh Look at Academic Writing and Assessment; March 13: Writing Across the Curriculum: Strategies for Understanding Content; April 5: Supporting English Language Learners as Writers. For more info, contact Jacqueline Denu at 257-2811.

Footnotes

1. The last day a student can submit work to complete a course graded "I" is **March 5**.
2. The graduate comprehensive exam will begin at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, **April 5**, in JFT 1010. Those planning to sit the exam this spring must register with Professor Kempton (257-2728).
3. Registration for summer classes begins on **April 14**. Look to next month's issue of *Works Cited* for a list of available undergraduate and graduate courses.
4. The twentieth annual Graduate Symposium, "Holocaust Lit: History, Memory, Representation," will be held the afternoon of **April 28**.

Works Cited is published approximately four times per semester by the

English Department
SUNY New Paltz
JFT 714
600 Hawk Drive
New Paltz, NY 12561

It is also available online:
www.newpaltz.edu/english/workscited.

For questions, ideas, and contributions, please contact Mary Holland at workscited@newpaltz.edu or in JFT 206.

Next issue: March 24
Submission deadline: March 14