The UCR English Department is committed to the study of English and American literatures and cultures. Our work is oriented by literature and by the question of the literary, even as it expands to consider a wide range of texts. Oral traditions, material objects, visual culture, performance art, and soundscapes figure in our scholarship alongside more traditional and other innovative forms. A broad and diverse understanding of English and American literature includes everything from medieval lyrics to film and digital media; from the plays of Shakespeare to the work of Louise Erdrich, Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, and Toni Morrison; from poetry by Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz to novels by Mary Shelley, James Joyce, or the poetry and prose of Cherrie Moraga or Gloria Anzaldúa.

A wide range of critical formations shape our practice. To name only a few: archive studies; Asian American Studies; Black Studies; Feminist and Queer Studies; Hemispheric Studies; Latina/o Studies; Native and Indigenous Studies; Postcolonial Studies; SFTS (Science/Speculative Fiction and Technology Studies); and Transatlantic Studies. Literature, furthermore, is not only what we study; it is what we write. Our department has a history of supporting innovative critical practice across a range of formats, including experimental criticism, creative non-fiction, poetry and curatorial work.

Both our undergraduate and graduate programs are structured around principles of justice and equality, and we pride ourselves that our own innovative research demonstrates these principles, as does our commitment to imaginative pedagogy. We take the meaning of instruction and mentorship seriously: the integrity of the faculty-student relationship is at the heart of our work. We show our broad range of interests and rich research profile in everything we do, and we share those interests with our students. Our teaching anchors our scholarship. As a department, we are committed to valuing the ways that teaching, service and scholarship inform and support each other.
TINA FELDMANN RETIRES AFTER THIRTY-FIVE YEARS IN THE DEPARTMENT

THIS IS WHAT GEORGE HAGGERTY SAID AT HER RETIREMENT PARTY:

Tina has been in the English Department since 1981.

She has worked with dozens of chairs and graduate advisors and hundreds of students, and she has made a difference to every one of them.

We joke that Tina is the one in the office with the long memory: that’s no joke. I went in last week to ask her about a student I thought had finished nearly twenty years ago. “Oh,” Tina said, “she never completed her degree.” And she did that without looking at anything. Later when we checked, it turned out she was right.

Over the last 25 years Tina has become what I would like to call the spiritual center of the department, our soul. Of course we are not a religious school and such language can be suspect: so let me explain myself. Tina is the person who reminds us to be our very best selves. She reminds us why it is important to give; if we lose someone dear to us, she helps to organize memorials and she reminds everyone how important it is to attend; Tina also makes sure that her office is a safe space for the graduate students, and she offers them counseling far richer and more helpful than what her job description calls for; she remembers birthdays and anniversaries and helps us all to remember them too.

The English Department will be a sadder place without Tina. She has held us together through different chairs and different MSO’s or FAO’s, and she is always ready to remind us what we are doing here and why the well-being of every single graduate student is of crucial importance to us all. She makes sense of rules and regulations because she knows how and why they were conceived and what purposes they serve. She also knows how the lives of graduate students are better because of them.

But most of all I want to offer Tina my personal thanks. She and I have been in the department for almost exactly the same period. We have grown closer professionally and personally over the 35 years we have known each other, and I can say that I know very few in the university with the integrity and deep commitment that Tina has had. Again and again she reminds me what it means to be a member of the University of California, Riverside. She has great love for the English Department, and we all love her in return.

Sawyer Seminar Report

Sherryl Vint

The Speculative Fiction and Cultures of Science program hosted a Mellon-funded Sawyer Seminar during the 2015-2016 academic year. It was led by Sherryl Vint and Nalo Hopkinson. This Seminar on Alternative Futurisms brought scholars, writers, and artists to our campus to explore the intersections between ethnic identity and futuristic speculation. We fostered a dialogue about diverse ethnic visions of the future and explored the power of speculative fiction as a tool for social change. As part of this research program we hosted two conferences, provided the venue for the North American premiere of Mexican sf film Los parecidos (The Similars by Isaac Ezban), and seeded a number of ongoing research collaborations. An archive of all our events and activities can be found at the Alternative Futurisms website.

The highlight of Fall quarter events was our opening conference, Revising the Past, Making the Future (http://sawyer.ucr.edu/conference.html) hosted at UCR’s downtown Culver Center. The conference attracted approximately fifty presenters and double that number as attendees from the US, the UK, Canada, and Mexico, and featured a keynote by Canada film scholar Barry Keith Grant. It successfully brought together voices from across the various traditions we sought to put into dialogue, and was an ideal opportunity for UC Riverside graduate students to present their work to some of the field’s major scholars. We were also able to collaborate with another UC Riverside grant (from the Getty Foundation) to curate an art show on Latin American art with sf themes, and to include three of the artists commissioned to produce new work for that upcoming show as part of our conference panel.

During Winter quarter, we hosted author Walter Mosley, whose oeuvre includes a number of speculative works, as a writer in residence. Mosley’s science fiction books, including Blue Light (1988), Futureland (2002) and The Wave (2005), explore themes of social justice and systemic racism in near-future settings. During his time at UC Riverside, Mosley ran a masterclass for MFA students and gave a lecture on navigating the publishing industry that was included in UCR’s prominent Writer’s Week series.

We wrapped up the seminar series in Spring quarter with two prominent events, the first a conference on Queer Futurities, generously funded by the Department of English’s Bredbeck lecture series, and a final conference entitled Narrating the Future. This wrap-up conference featured a keynote address by queer studies scholar Mel Y. Chen and a plenary talk by filmmaker and artist Alex Rivera, whose film Sleep Dealer (2009) has transformed our understanding of the possibilities for sf film. The final conference featured the research supported by the grant and conducted by the four scholars it funded, postdoctoral fellow Brian K. Hudson and graduate students Stina Attebery, Kai Cheang, and Taylor Evans.
Last October, the Department of English was among the co-sponsors of a conference on academic freedom held at UC Riverside in response to recent efforts by various organizations to interfere with the freedom of both faculty and students to research, teach and study. Though focused now on the question of Palestine, these attacks are reminiscent of previous political attacks on academic programs like LGBT and Gender and Sexuality studies, to both of which the English Department has historically been committed. While only a few of these recent assaults have succeeded, and most have been found to be spurious or unfounded, they are intended to place academics engaged in public scholarship on the defensive and to create a climate of fear and hesitation whose effect will not only be to silence criticism of Israel but to create a generally chilling atmosphere for dissenting voices on campus. The impact of the assault on academic freedom will not be confined to the issue of Palestine and Israel.

For several years, academics, students, and engaged individuals globally have seen a marked rise in attacks on scholarship and teaching that express, or even merely include, perspectives critical of the State of Israel and its occupation of Palestine. These attacks have included the denial or withdrawal of tenure from academics; efforts to sanction or suppress the activities and even existence of organizations like Students for Justice in Palestine or the Muslim Students Association; attempts to censor or even “eliminate” classes deemed to be “biased” against Israel and to prevent speakers from appearing on campus; and threats to individual students and professors. They have provoked malicious personal attacks via social media on individuals who have criticized Israel publicly or engaged in organizing for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS). These attacks have directly affected both students and faculty at UC Riverside, which made this campus a fitting location for the conference.

The conference was attended by faculty from throughout the UC system and beyond, including speakers from UCLA, Berkeley, Santa Cruz, and San Diego, as well as the University of San Francisco and even the University of British Columbia. Faculty represented a wide range of disciplines, from English, Comparative Literature and Rhetoric to International Relations, Anthropology and Middle Eastern Studies. Several community groups also took part, including a panel that hosted speakers from Jewish Voice for Peace and Palestine Legal, organizations that had both recently released extensive reports on campus climate and attacks on free speech. In addition to faculty panels, graduate and undergraduate students from various organizations across the state presented their own experiences. With at least 50-60 participants on each day, the conference was well attended and both days provoked invigorating and lively discussion of the issues. Certainly the high quality of the papers, which reached beyond the immediate question of academic freedom to consider how we reflect and act upon situations of conflict and controversy, suggested that critical intellectual discourse flourishes in an atmosphere of open and unconstrained debate.

John Briggs was the 2015-2016 president of the Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers. During his tenure he led the Association’s move from Boston University to Catholic University of America, where it has strengthened its finances and enlarged its membership. The next annual ALSCW conference, at the University of Dallas in 2017, will feature Bob Dylan’s lyrical biographer and eminent literary critic, Christopher Ricks, as the keynoter.

Robb Hernández had a year’s fellowship at UCLA:

During his faculty residency at the Institute for American Cultures/UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center, Robb Hernández completed his book manuscript, Finding AIDS: Archival Body/Archival Space and the Chicano Avant-garde and submitted it for review. With CSRC support, he also presented works in progress at Pratt Institute, Manhattan College, Cal State L.A., Latino Art Now in Chicago, and L.A. Queer Biennial II. He co-edited a special dossier for Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies entitled, “The People of Paper/La Gente de Papel: Rethinking Aztlán’s Printed Matters.” The forthcoming collection examines the material agency of paper in literature and art history ranging from the textual regimes of Spanish colonial authority in the production of the US/Mexico borderlands to contemporary debates of “having papers” in immigration discourse. He concluded his summer by giving a guest lecture/tour of the Latino cultural dimensions of Art AIDS America—a historic exhibition surveying over thirty years of artists’ responses to the AIDS pandemic—at the Bronx Museum of the Arts in July.

Photo Credit: Lauren Click for Bronx Museum of the Arts
Over the last three years Professor Andrea Denny-Brown has developed the “Medieval Manuscript Digital Archive,” a digital collection of rare medieval manuscripts for teaching and research purposes. With the help of UCR’s Instructional Innovation Grant and two consecutive Innovative Use of Information Technology in Teaching grants, she has worked with curators, conservators, and digital design specialists at the Huntington Library to create complete, user-friendly digital versions of important medieval manuscripts for use in teaching UCR graduate and undergraduate students. This archive is the primary material for hybrid courses Denny-Brown has designed to teach skills for understanding medieval manuscripts and also skills in the digital humanities. In courses such as ENGL 151T, “Hacking the Medieval Manuscript,” and ENGL 260, “The Multimodal Manuscript,” students learn how to analyze, edit, and digitally curate rare literary materials in new and emerging digital environments, such as the brand new viewing platform Mirador (http://iiif.github.io/mirador/) and the exhibition site Omeka (http://www.omeka.net). In addition to the time spent developing the digital archive, students in these courses also learn about medieval manuscripts through hands-on exercises based in materials at UCR Special Collections and the Huntington Library.

Students learn how to read medieval manuscripts digitally, using The Medieval Manuscript Digital Archive

UCR graduate students Cody Hoover and Mariam Galarrita page through a large medieval antiphonal

UCR undergraduate students in Denny-Brown’s course 151T: “Hacking the Medieval Manuscript” examine medieval manuscripts at UCR Special Collections

Undergraduate students are assigned to “make” their own manuscript quires by hand, to better learn the artisanal processes behind of medieval manuscript production
Weihsin Gui reports on Placement:

The English department’s job placement advising team, currently consisting of Weihsin Gui and Emma Stapely, provide informational sessions on various topics (sometimes with guest speakers) tailored to specific aspects of the academic job search, such as applying for jobs at liberal arts and community colleges, and applying for postdoctoral fellowships. In addition to reviewing and editing application materials, the job placement advisors also conduct mock interviews and organize mock job talks and teaching demonstrations, offering constructive feedback to ensure job seekers are well prepared for the actual events. The graduate workshop in professionalization matters (ENGL410) allows ABD grad students to learn about how to make the most out of academic conferences, how to search and apply for external funding, and also to circulate and develop work-in-progress with an eye to publication.

The Department Makes Two Exciting Hires This Year

Mark Minch emerged from the Indigenous Studies Search and comes to us a one of several faculty appointed in this field. Dr. Minch received his Ph.D. in the Rhetoric Department of the University of California, Berkeley in 2014. Since that time, he has been awarded the prestigious Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Native American Studies at Wesleyan University. He has also been awarded an equally prestigious postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for the Humanities at Tufts University, where he will finish revising his dissertation for publication. Dr. Minch (Susanville Indian Rancheria) is a rising star in critical Native American Studies and rhetoric and his work would complement, strengthen and enlarge the growing and dynamic field of Native American and Indigenous Studies on campus generally and in the Department of English in particular. We are delighted to welcome Professor Minch to UCR.

Fuson Wang emerged from the UCR-Huntington Library Search and comes to us a one of several faculty appointed in this field. Fuson Wang received his B.A. at Stanford University and his Ph.D. at UCLA in 2014. His letters of recommendation are impeccable; his teaching evaluations are strong; and his writing sample was both beautiful written and compelling. Even more impressive, he won over a diverse search committee of faculty from three departments as compellingly as he won over the English Department, who voted unanimously to approve his appointment. We are delighted that Fuson Wang will be joining our department and the College and that he will be representing us at the Huntington Library.

Faculty Achievements and Publications

John Briggs delivered the presidential address at the 2016 annual conference of the Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers. He also gave the lead lecture, on the philosophical status of rhetorical invention, introducing a three-day conference on the relevance of rhetoric for the Great Books curriculum of Great Hearts schools. Great Hearts is an association of charter schools enrolling 13,000 lottery-enrolled students.

Adriana Craciun was in residency at the Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh, as a Fulbright Visiting Professor. At IASH, she conducted research for her new book, Arctic Enlightenments. Arctic Enlightenments focuses on the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in the High Arctic and its links to earlier Enlightenment and nineteenth-century efforts (textual, archival, experimental) to extend botanical life into deep time. While on this Fulbright, Craciun was able to visit Svalbard and present her research there, as well as at the University of Edinburgh, the University of the Highlands and the Islands, the University of London, and the University of Glasgow. In Edinburgh she conducted archival research at the National Museum of Scotland, the University of Edinburgh, and the extensive collections and herbarium of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

Adriana Craciun’s Writing Arctic Disaster: Authorship and Exploration (Cambridge University Press, 2016) was short-listed for the Michelle Kendrick Book Prize given annually by the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Adriana Craciun and Simon Schaffer co-edited The Material Cultures of Enlightenment Arts and Sciences (Palgrave, 2016)

Kimberly Devlin and Christine Smedley co-edited a volume entitled Joyce’s Allmaziful Plurabilities: Polyvocal Explorations of “Finnegans Wake.” It was published by the James Joyce Series at University of Florida Press (2015).

Jennifer Doyle was invited to curate a feminist performance art series for The Broad Museum in Los Angeles. Her program, “The Tip of Her Tongue,” was inaugurated in November 2015 with a performance by Karen Finley. Other artists featured in this series include Martine Syms, Jibz Cameron, Cassils, Xandra Ibarra, Tanya Tagaq, Juliana Snapper and Boora Yoon. The series was named by Artforum as a highlight in its 2016 review of the year in performance. She continues her work with Human Resources Los Angeles, an art space in
Chinatown, Los Angeles.

John M. Ganim is the 2015-16 President of the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA). He delivered the Presidential Address at the 114th Annual Conference of PAMLA in Pasadena on November 11. The conference was held from November 11-13, and featured over 300 papers and presentations, some of them by UCR graduates and faculty.

Weihsin Gui recently co-edited a 2016 special issue of the journal *Interventions on Singaporean Literature* in the context of neoliberalism and globalization, in which he has an essay on the novels of Singaporean-American writer Fiona Cheong. Gui’s essay on global modernism in the work of Malaysian and Singaporean authors Wang Gungwu, Lloyd Fernando, and Lydia Kwa has been accepted for publication in *Singapore Literature and Culture: Current Directions in Local and Global Contexts*, an essay collection forthcoming from Routledge in early 2017. Gui has also been invited to be the contributor for the Southeast Asia section of the Year’s *Work in English Studies*, an important bibliographical reference work published by Oxford Journals.

George E. Haggerty’s new book, *Queer Friendship: Male Relations in the English Literary Tradition*, will be published by Cambridge University Press.


Stephen Sohn was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor.

James Tobias’ special issue of the journal *Music, Sound, and the Moving Image*, on musical innovation in audiovisual media with attention to digital technologies, was published in January 2016 by Liverpool University Press. Dr. Tobias was also named to the editorial board of the innovative web-based journal for African-American and Afro-diasporic film and video, *Liquid Blackness*, produced by Georgia State University in Atlanta GA.


GSEA NEWS

GSEA Elections resulted in the following governing board:

President: Miranda Steege
Miranda is a third year student in the English program who studies Victorian literature and culture, and queer theory.

Vice President: Hannah Manshel
Hannah Manshel is a fourth year student in the program working on early- and 19th century American literature. Her dissertation project will use Puritan religious and literary thought as critique of 19th century literary sentimentality.

Treasurer: Sarah Buckner

Photo credit: Weihsin Gui
Sarah is in her second year in the program, working in 20th and 21st century African American Literature and Women's literature.

OTHER NEWS:
This fall, GSEA teamed up with our Director of Graduate Studies, Andrea Denny-Brown, to organize a writing retreat near the end of the quarter. A group of English grad students spent two full days sitting quietly in a room together, sharing food and writing. GSEA plans to hold similar retreats each quarter.

GSEA also sponsored a faculty panel at (dis)junctions entitled "Object Choices." Drs. Jayna Brown, Robb Hernandez, David Lloyd, and Stephen Sohn shared stories about how they decided what they study, the paths their work has taken, and any surprises or obstacles they have encountered along the way. They spoke about the need to pursue what feels most urgent and important, even when faced with personal or professional resistance.

GSEA will be organizing a pedagogy panel early in winter quarter.

GRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Rebecca Addicks-Salerno has traveled to Italy to examine eighteenth-century wax and plaster models of dead bodies corrupting in their coffins. These amazing figures are useful in Rebecca’s research on Ann Radcliffe and science.

Laurence Dumortier has been publishing essays on websites such as The Hairpin for the past two years. One of them was selected as a “Notable Essay” in Best American Essays 2016.

Emily Mattingly started teaching as an Assistant Professor in Liberal Studies at the University of the Arts, Philadelphia, where she is also Director of the First Year Writing Program. Here is her faculty page:
http://www.uarts.edu/users/emattingly

GRADUATE STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Kim Devlin

Over the past year, we awarded twelve “Friends of English Publication Awards,” with a $300 prize for each from our funds of donations. Below are the winners, their essay or volume title, and their publication venues.

Stina Attenbury, “Zombie Tapeworms in Late Capitalism: Accelerating Clinical and Reproductive Labor in Mira Grant’s Parasitology” (Medical Humanities, 2016).


Ezekial Crago, “Advocating Incredulity: Orson Welles, Film Noir, and the Suspension of Belief” (Interdisciplinary Humanities, 2016).


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**DEPARTMENT PARTY AND AWARDS**

Kim Devlin and her husband Bill Dahling once again hosted our end of the year party. It is always a delightful event with pot luck fare, a sizzling barbecue, and ample beverages for young and old. This event always includes faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergrads, and we use the event to celebrate the year and to award achievement within the department. We distribute awards to graduates and undergraduates alike. Here are some of the winners:

**Undergraduate Essay Contest Winners:**
- Jill Hoo – “A Story A Story: Caribbean Myth and History in the Poetry of Anne Sexton”
- Michael Gillis – “The Paradox of Intersubjectivity in ‘Nausicaa”

**Michael Chesney Award:** Elizabeth Boutigian

**Friends of English Junior Award:** Austen Au

**Friends of English Senior Award:** Christi Ehrmantrout

**English Department Service Award:** Ashley Simon

**Emory Elliott Award:** Kristen King

**Graduate Essay Contest Winners:**
- Jose Alfaro - 1st place for “Engañame; or The "Non-Arriving" Latino in Melville's Benito Cénero"
- Hannah Manshel - 2nd place for "Feeling the Ghosts: Haunting and the Law in M. NourbeSe Philip's Zong!"
- Courtney Scuro - 3rd place for "How History Feels: Affective Temporality and the Landscapel(s) of Romantic Appeal in Sir Walter Scott’s Kenilworth"

**Emory Elliott Award:** Hannah Manshel

**Stephen Cullenber Award:** Taylor Evans

**Outstanding TA Award:** Daniel Ante-Contreras

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Thanks to everyone!

George Haggerty
Distinguished Professor and Chair