

the anecdote

Department of English, Comparative Literature, and Linguistics

December 2011



Photos courtesy of Joe Blair, English MA candidate

Alumni Profile

Cal State Fullerton's Creative Writing Club hosted the Creative Writing Night on Friday, November 4, 2011. Over eighty guests enjoyed an evening of readings and presentations from industry professionals including authors, editors, and creative directors from across the country. Alumna Corrine Jackson (MA, English, 2008) presented a short section of her forthcoming novel, *If I Lie* which will be published in 2012. Corrine is also working on and a young adult paranormal romance trilogy. The first book of this series, *Touched* will be published in 2012.

In a separate interview, Corrine shared some of her experiences at CSUF and offered advice to current students on how to get the most out of an undergraduate degree.

How did your experience at CSUF help you get where you are and do you have a fondest memory?

The greatest thing I learned at CSUF was how to analyze literature. I learned to read a text in layers and pull out different meanings. Every time I'm planning a new work, I utilize that skill. It has become an innate part of my writing, and it's made me a far better participant in my writing workshops.

What advice would you give to students who are currently working on their degree?

Enjoy your time at CSUF and become an active participant. It would be so easy to be a commuter student, especially since

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *the anecdote*—the biannual newsletter of the Department of English, Comparative Literature, and Linguistics. Perhaps because they are so busy with teaching, writing, and

doing research; perhaps because they are too humble; our students, faculty, and alumni seldom take time to let the world know what they are up to. With their silence in mind, we offer you this newsletter.

In its pages you will read advice from a recent (and successful) alumna, original student poetry, descriptions of faculty professional activity, and profiles of colleagues who have recently retired or recently joined our ranks. We've also included news about upcoming department events that we invite you to attend.

Please let us know if you have any ideas for future stories or any events that you would like to have announced.

I am grateful to Maria Hernandez Figueroa and Andalee Motrenec for their careful and creative work and to Dr. Lana Dalley for her steadfast guidance in the creation of the first of many issues of *the anecdote*.

Sheryl Fontaine

Study Abroad

Study Abroad in Paris

Sheryl Fontaine

Intersession 2012

Study Abroad in London

Joanne Gass

Spring 2012

Study Abroad in Ireland

Erin Hollis

Summer 2012

http://hss.fullerton.edu/hss/study_abroad.aspx



Alumni Profile Continued

many of the students work full-time. When I attended CSUF, I decided I wanted to be part of a community, even if it meant creating that community from scratch. Getting your degree isn't just about attending class and writing papers. It's an exchange of ideas and experiences, and a lot of that happens after class. Get involved in something.

And if you want to be a writer, I would suggest practice and discipline. So many people want to write a novel, but you have to treat it as a serious endeavor. Make time to write every day. Get better at your craft, and be willing to learn. Soak it all up, while you have people there to encourage you. Once you graduate, it will be harder because writing is definitely a solitary activity. Good luck!

Faculty in Action

Publications

Stephen Mexal

"Realism, Narrative History, and the Production of the Bestseller: The Da Vinci Code and the Virtual Public Sphere." *The Journal of Popular Culture* 44.5 ([October] 2011): 1085-1101.

"The Quality of Quantity in Academic Research." *The Chronicle Review*. 22 May 2011.

<<http://chronicle.com/article/The-Quality-of-Quantity-in/127572/>>.

Franz Mueller

Article "Speech Levels and Language Shift" has been accepted for publication in *Lacus Forum* 2012.

Conferences

Brian Michael Norton

Delivering a paper at the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting at Oxford in January 2012:

"Revisiting the Case for Virtue: Ethics, Subjectivism and the Formal Requirements of Happiness"

Stephen Mexal

Presented "Rediscovering a Lost Voice of the Overland Group: The Short Fiction of Noah Brooks."

Western Literature Association Annual Conference, Missoula, Montana, October 2011.

Lana Dalley

Presented papers at two conferences: the Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States and the Pacific and Ancient Modern Language Association conferences. Selected secretary of the Victorian Studies Interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States.

Sheryl Fontaine

Sheryl Fontaine will be delivering a paper at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in March 2012: "The Step Daughter's Karma: The Creative Synergy of Conflict"

Events

2012 Acacia Conference

An Ethical (Re) Orientation

March 3-4, 2012

For more information contact:

theacaciagroup.csuf@gmail.com

Measure for Measure

Spring 2012

Cal State Fullerton, Halberg Theater

mafigueroa@fullerton.edu

Student Poetry

The World's Changed

"He walks through the door
Smiling in his new paisley shirt..."
The room ends their conversations in
unison
With eyes staring from every angle.
Sweat streams down his emotionless face
As he takes a deep breath,
And gets a chill
From the sense of unwelcome.
"...The store clerk lifts the sign
Whites only..."
His heart races softer than a whisper
Alarmed
Panicked and unsteady.
"...He stands alone
And stares down the shotgun barrel."

The world changes like the seasons
Without warning
As humans' nature adapts

Springing forth a new voice:
"I Have a Dream"
Blooming in beauty bestowed with
New growth
Towards the pursuit of happiness.
As the soiled become fruitful
A rose stems from a seed
The world stands as one
Unique by difference
And develops into what seems like summer's perfection

The World's Changed Cont.

Like nature at its peak.
But the heat waves bring high humidity
The richest grass turns peridot
Life dries out
And begins to fall.
Clouds touch the ground;
Leaves descend softer than a whisper,
Segregating amongst themselves
Green from red.
Tears stream down the faceless sky
Slowly shivering
As the droplets turn to sleet.
The streets flood with snow
And the trees wither
From the chiseling breeze
of the cold, heartless winter.
We are all "equal";
The world's changed.

By: Gary Guymon

'Beyond All Reason, Hope'

Hope is a strange, optimistic fool
An unwashed martyr's child
Alone but never lonely
A stubborn weed amongst roses

Hope is a hand outstretched
to the hardened criminal
Blind to every prejudice
Enemy to only self-pity

Ignorant of reason,
Hope smiles upon the leper
Kisses the broken heart
Swings past the trees
Childlike to touch the clouds

The beauty of it lies thus;
Hope learns nothing,
But stands to gain everything

By Jiovanna Eugino

Patriotism

She rises and falls with the waves
As they crash upon her bow
The sun has not yet risen completely
And she is grateful to be
The occuli in the storm and
Figurehead on a ship of the line
At sea, that inspires
Bravery to face death without purpose
The cold of her skin is a smooth
Suckling honey on the tongue
She is the mortar, a brick within the
Skeleton of a wall
The martyr of a thousand mighty men
And to her they, Hail!
Like a thousand giant ships ready to set sail.
Her beauty is lost only on the death
Of the men whose minds beheld her.
Yet...
Eternity is in the rising of the moon
And even it does not forget her.

She is the pride she holds so high
The mast which reaches toward the sky
The flag which lays low without the breeze
She is majestic and powerful in all her grace
Cannons cannot touch the ease with which
She moves through translucent blue waters
They have not the air to lay her bare
Wind taunts, but she remains still, despite
There is a naked truth held captive in her smile
She hides Motives tainted by her soldiers blood

Knowing that which men die seeking to know
Why they lie their heads on soil each night?
And for her they toil each night
She smiles as they lay weapon to chest,
Arm to weapon
And all to the ground
She watches silently as they take their waking fall for her,
And so they fight before her,
Die before her,
And lye before her
Still she smiles.

By Andalee Motrenec

Retirees

The Department of English, Comparative Literature, and Linguistics thanks our retiring faculty for their years of dedicated service to the department and the university. We sincerely wish them happy and fulfilling years of retirement!

Nancy Trumpfeller

Nancy Trumpfeller began her teaching career forty-six years ago at a middle school in St. Louis, Missouri. Her assignment was to teach writing and literature to six periods of eighth grade students. Needless to say, she was “baptized in fire” that first year. However, she probably learned more about teaching that year than the rest of the years put together. In June of that stressful first year she married and moved to southern California. Besides teaching at El Dorado High School in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD), she continued her education at Cal State University, Long Beach. She retired from PYLUSD in 2003 and began her career at Cal State Fullerton (CSUF) teaching future English teachers. Nancy leaves CSUF with mixed emotions. She loves helping future teachers, but also loves traveling, reading, cooking, entertaining, and gardening. She looks forward to the leisure time to enjoy her hobbies.

Robert Singer

Bob Singer received his Bachelors degree from California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) in English in 1995 and his Masters degree (also in English) in 1996. Prior to attaining his degrees, he was a cross-country truck driver for seventeen years but had to switch careers due to epileptic seizures which prevented him from driving transport trucks. He returned to school, enrolling at Santa Ana Community College, hoping to become an accountant or a CPA. It was there that one of his professors inspired him to teach English. He transferred to Cal State, Fullerton and specialized in writing and rhetoric. Bob enjoyed taking courses with instructors that included Sheryl Fontaine and Joanne Gass. He began teaching at CSUF immediately after graduating and taught for various departments such as Computer Science, Business, and English. Now that he is entering retirement, Bob will take it easy and travel across the United States with his wife Anna. His first trip will be to Washington D.C. where he hopes to explore the capital as much as possible. An avid skier and snowboarder Bob plans to spend a lot of time in the mountains.

Department Holiday Party



Faculty Profile

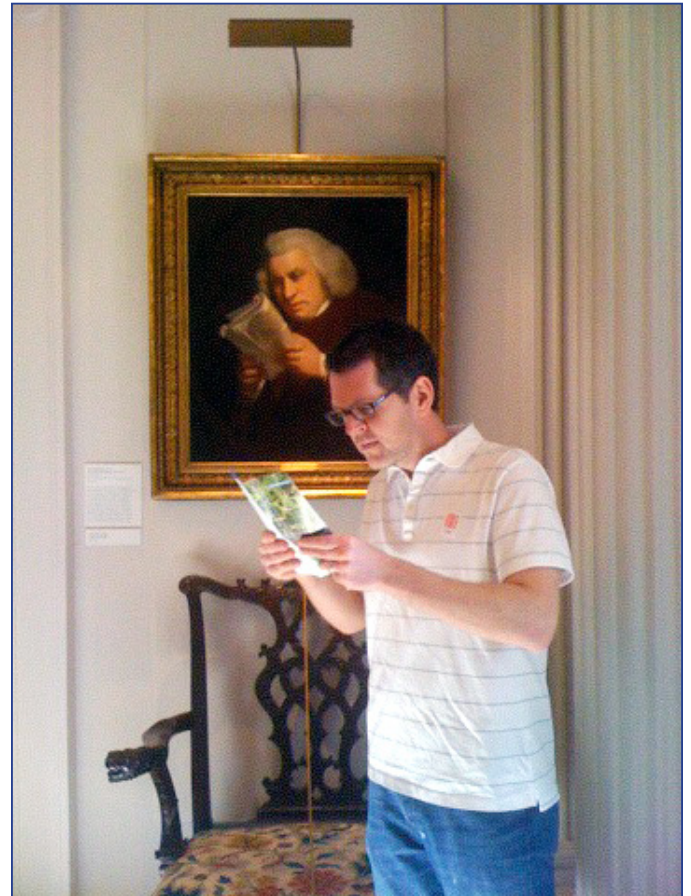
Brian Michael Norton

Mike received a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from New York University in 2006. His research is rooted in eighteenth-century English and comparative literature, focusing especially on the novel, the Enlightenment, ethics, and the essay. He is particularly interested in intersections of forms and ideas in the period. After teaching five years at CSUF as a fulltime lecturer, this is his first year on the tenure track.

His forthcoming book, *Fiction and the Philosophy of Happiness: Ethical Enquiries in the Age of Enlightenment* examines the novel's participation in eighteenth century "enquiries after happiness," an ancient ethical project that acquired new urgency with the rise of subjective models of well-being in early modern and Enlightenment Europe. He makes the case that the new understanding of happiness not only supplied the genre with one of its most paradigmatic plots—the individual's search for personal fulfillment—but that the novel form provided a uniquely valuable means of exploring the problem on the level of the particular, in the details of a single individual's psychology and unique circumstances. His most recent publication is an article entitled "Emma Courtney, Feminist Ethics and the Problem of Autonomy," which will be appearing in *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation*. Mike is also presenting a paper on the ethics of happiness at the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (BSECS) Annual Meeting at Oxford University in January 2012.

Mike's future research plans include looking at the formal development of the essay, a much understudied genre in literary studies. He is especially interested in the essay's attention to lived experience, its emphasis on the personal, ordinary, commonplace and quotidian. How do these things—which, at face value, promise to be rather dull—become subjects of interest? What does it mean to value the ordinary? Another project will take a formalist approach to the literature of the Enlightenment. Instead of thinking of ideas as simply the content of literary texts, what happens if we also consider the ideational value of form? How does form signify? And how would a formalist reading of key Enlightenment texts change our understanding of Enlightenment itself?

While in the UK for the BSECS conference, Mike and his wife will be traveling in England and Scotland. In addition to Oxford, they will visit London, Bath, Edinburgh,



and tour the Scottish Highlands and Hebrides. He is most excited about getting to stay in the house of his all-time favorite writer, Laurence Sterne, located in a small village just outside of York. By "house" he means a renovated barn on the property, poorly insulated, and freezing this time of year. He intends to gloat about this for the rest of his life. As far as hobbies go, Mike describes himself as an obsessive dabbler. In recent years, he has brought "great energy and no particular talent" to a wide variety of interests: photography, drawing, piano-playing, swimming, running, opera-going, museum-visiting and wine-tasting. He spends most of his free time hanging out with his wife and dog, going for walks, and watching movies on demand.

Added Courses for Spring

| Schedule Number | Class Number | Class Section | Class Title | Days | Time | Room | Faculty |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|--|------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 21174 | English 300 | 4 | Analysis Literary Forms | TTH | 11:30-12:45 p.m. | MH 465 | Novak |
| 16114 | English 303 | 4 | Structure Modern English | W | 4:00-6:45 p.m. | KHS-104 | Sawicki |
| 16540 | English 324 | 1 | African American Literature | MW | 2:30-3:45 p.m. | UH-246 | Mugambi |
| 15932 | English 327 | 1 | Asian American Literature | M | 4:00-6:45 p.m. | H-426 | Shen |
| 20928 | Linguistics 369 | 1 | Language, Sex Roles, and the Brain | TH | 4:00-6:45 p.m. | LH-303 | Schneider-Zioga |
| 20972 | Linguistics 442 | 1 | Changing Worlds: History, Semantics, and Translation | T/TH | 11:30-12:45 p.m. | SGMH-2051 | Operstein |
| 18953 | English 384 | 1 | The European Novel | MW | 4-5:15 p.m. | MH 552 | Kelman |

Writing Tip

“Think of your writing process as if it were an hourglass: you’ve got to funnel all the big ideas in your head through the narrow waist of language, so they can then expand back to full size in your reader’s mind.”

Garrett Ehring

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Scholarships

Scholarships for Undergraduate Students

JEVID Scholarship in English

Kimberly Anne Holloway Scholarship

Application deadline is in early April 2012.

For more information,

Visit: <http://www.fullerton.edu/financialaid/scholar/hssbody.pdf>



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