

UC DAVIS

# Comparative Literature

## DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

### Greetings from the Chair!

The Department of Comparative Literature will celebrate its fortieth birthday this year. We are justly proud of our many graduates, both Bachelor and PhD recipients, who have gone on to successful careers in law, medicine, veterinary science, education (at all levels), and publishing. Thankfully, the department continues to thrive despite these difficult budget times for California. Last fall, we welcomed a new faculty member, Professor Noha Radwan, whose specialty in Postcolonial Literature (with a special emphasis on the Arabic world) has added to our already strong curriculum in postcolonial studies. In addition, three new graduate students joined us, Victoria White, focusing on Golden Age Spain, Megan Ammirati, Chinese reception of Shakespeare in the twentieth century, and Cloe Le-Gall Scoville, gender, French, and postcolonialism. We also were pleased to have Elizabeth Skwiot

return to graduate studies after she left with an MA when she joined the circus some years ago. Now, she has decided to finish her PhD, specializing in Latin-American literature. Our undergraduate classes continue to attract avid readers and budding intellectuals. Finally, in news for Fall, several faculty spent two weeks in India in December for a conference jointly sponsored by the French Institute in Pondicherry. All of these subjects will be featured in this newsletter.



Prof. Brenda Deen Schildgen  
Chair

### International Comparative Literature Conference in Pondicherry, India

A brief recap on this conference set in India where several UCD faculty attended in December 2010.

(More on Page 7)

### 2010 Study Abroad Programs: Students' Reflections

(More on Page 4)

### Welcome Dr. Noha Radwan!

The department welcomes Dr. Noha Radwan as the new faculty member.

(More on Page 6)

### Meet our new Peer Advisors

Jeralynn Betts and Kaitlin Danssaert serve as undergraduate student advisors this year.

(More on Page 3)

FALL 2010/ WINTER  
2011 ISSUE  
Volume 4, No. 2



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

List of Graduated Undergraduates	2
New Undergraduate Peer Advisors	3
Recap: Summer Abroad Programs in Germany, India, and Italy	4
New Faculty: Noha Radwan	6
Pondicherry Conference	7
New Graduate Students	8
Faculty News	9
Alumni News	10
Brújula	11
Outreach Events	11

## Congratulations to the following Undergraduates!

The department congratulates the following students who graduated this past summer and fall:

### **SUMMER 2010**

#### *Major:*

Diana Arkans  
Mallory Anna Emerson  
Aureliano Gonzalez  
Maureen Elizabeth Laughy

#### *Minor:*

Shanna Jeanette Bertain  
Courtney Michelle Brown  
Victoria Shao  
Grace Suryapurnama

### **FALL 2010**

#### *Major:*

Cassie McDonald  
Hilliary Powell  
Reyna Starr  
Nikko Tanaka-Pendleton

#### *Minor:*

Kelly Rose Archibald  
Dustin Johansen Murray  
Kevin Le Nguyen  
Catherine Ann Richards  
Jacey Rose Simon

## Staff News: Mandy Bachman, Yvonne Bohan, and Maria Saldaña-Seibert

### **New Staff**

The department welcomes Mandy Bachman and Yvonne Bohan as new staff members. Bachman comes in as the new graduate program coordinator, replacing the beloved Kay Green who retired last June after 30 years of service on campus. Bohan joins the staff as the business program assistant, replacing Jennifer Jimenez.

Both were not strangers on campus. Bachman served as an assistant to Kay Green before moving to the College of Engineering as the graduate program coordinator. Bohan, on the other hand, worked previously at the campus bookstore.

The department extends a warm welcome to Mandy and Yvonne!

### **Staff Award**

Maria Saldaña-Seibert, undergraduate program coordinator, was the recipient of the 2010 Diversity and Principles of Community Achievement Awards. This award is given by the Office of Campus Community Relations.



Associate Vice-Chancellor Rahim Reed, Maria Saldaña-Seibert, and former Provost, Enrique Lavernia

Maria now works as an Undergraduate Academic Advisor in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology.

## Visiting Scholar: Feng Xuefeng



The department welcomes Feng Xuefeng as a visiting scholar in the 2010-2011 academic year. He is a doctoral candidate in Chinese literature at Beijing Normal University. His research interests include Western literary theory and criticism, translation, contemporary Chinese literature, cultural studies, and East-West comparative poetics. Prof. Sheldon Lu serves as his faculty sponsor.

## Spring 2011 Course Offerings

- 140. *Literature of the Supernatural* (Kari Lokke)
- 152. *Literature of the Americas* (Neil Larsen)
- 167. *Dante* (Brenda Deen Schildgen)
- 168A. *Romanticism* (Scott McLean)
- 180. *20th Century Jewish Literature*  
(Visiting Instructor Shaul Setter)
- 195. *The Gothic* (Kari Lokke)
- 210. *The Courtesan Literature* (Archana Venkatesan)
- 390. *Teaching Comparative Literature in College*  
(Olga Stuchebrukhov)

## Meet the New Academic Peer Advisors



**Kaitlin Danssaert** is a fourth-year Comparative Literature Major, Education Minor from Solana Beach, California. As a lover of reading and writing, Kaitlin came to UC Davis with aspirations of becoming an English major, until she was inspired by the late Professor Marc E. Blanchard to continue learning Spanish and to expand her understanding of the world through literature. Kaitlin finds herself gravitating towards both the study of colonial literature and literature that deals with the exploration of the natural world.

After taking a year of Spanish at UC Davis, Kaitlin studied abroad in Córdoba, Spain where she immersed herself in the Spanish language and culture. Kaitlin is very passionate about the natural world around her and spent a month backpacking from Yosemite to the top of Mt. Whitney via the John Muir Trail during the summer of 2010. In her free time, she enjoys running, painting, cooking, playing Frisbee, spending time with friends and family, and taking naps in the quad. She plans to pursue a career in education after she graduates from Davis in June. Kaitlin is very interested in promoting the Comparative Literature Department at UC Davis!



**Jeralynn Betts** is a third-year student working towards her majors in both Genetics and Comparative Literature. On campus, she is the Public Relations officer of the Genetics Club, and the Vice President of the Draught Horse & Driving Club. She has also been involved with the UCD Polo Team, Sailing Team, and the Dressage Team. Despite the occasional accent, Jeralynn is California born and bred. Future plans will include graduate work, but please do not ask her to choose which field of study just yet! In her free time, she enjoys swimming, listening to music, playing the flute, drinking tea, and studying classical horsemanship.

*Feel free to visit them during their office hours in 812A Sproul Hall. Kaitlin holds hours on every Thursday, 2:10-3:10. Jeralynn holds hours on every Monday, 2:00-3:00.*

## Regina Dettmer as recipient of the Regents Scholarship



Regina Dettmer, a double major in Comparative Literature and Evolution and Ecology has received the prestigious **Regents Scholarship** for the 2010-2011 academic year. The Regents Scholarship is a merit-based award, where recipients are selected based on their academic achievements and personal accomplishments.

Apart from maintaining a stellar academic record, Regina is also actively involved in community

outreach through the Tzu Chi Collegiate Association, and the Team Davis Special Olympics Track program.

## Fencing Club

The sun awoke to the clash of blades on the 23rd of October. UC Santa Cruz echoed with the beat of steal on steal and the exultant cries of victory as the UC Davis fencing team fought for glory in the first NCIFL



(Northern California Intercollegiate Fencing League) tournament of the year. Three of our very own were amongst UCD's valiant warriors; Angel Weber, Jeralynn Betts, and David Vergona. When the dust had settled and the exhausted sun had once again wrapped himself in his starry blankets, the mighty Angel stood victorious as the first among the women novice foilists. The warriors of UC Davis also took home the silver in advanced epee, and the bronze in advanced foil.

Should anyone wish to witness the valiant splendor that is the UCD fencing team first hand, they shall fight once again in Berkeley on February 26th. For a more personal meeting, they can be found in Upper Hickey Gym on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00-9:00 in the p.m. Anyone with the desire to join the merry band and win their own glory should make their way to the above location in the first two weeks of spring quarter.

For more information, feel free to contact Jeralynn Betts at [jjbetts@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jjbetts@ucdavis.edu).



## Comparative Literature Summer 2010 Abroad Programs: Students' Reflections and Photos!

### Palaces of the Gods: Texts, Temples, and Tombs (Pondicherry, India)

On our way to Agra, we had a conversation about our top five favorite moments on our India summer abroad trip. I remember saying one of my favorites was the Chidambaram temple in Tamil Nadu, South India. Looking back a few months later, Chidambaram is still one of my favorite memories. I remember waking up on the bus—it was very early in the morning—to the pitter-patter of rain and the voice of Professor Venkatesan telling us to remove our *chupals* and get ready to run inside. Our professor worried we would miss the morning service (*puja*). We ran from the comfort of our bus into the muddy streets of Tamil Nadu. Due to the pouring rain, the power had gone out on the block. But to our surprise, we ran back in time, to a time without electricity, without the outside world to interfere. We ran into Chidambaram to find ourselves in a place and time so raw and beautiful and unique to India. Cows mulling in the rain, splashes of color at every turn, old inscriptions on the walls, clanging bells to awaken the gods, the smell of milk being poured on Shiva's head, burning incense, and, of course, Shiva with leopard pants. There is no better way to learn than to visit the actual site you have been studying. If we hadn't been studying Shaivism for the past few weeks, we probably would have thought Shiva was wearing 80s punk pants. But now we knew the iconographic importance of the tiger to Shiva. And now, I carry the sensory overload in my memory forever. India for me, was a constant blast of visual, auditory, and educational information, and I wouldn't trade that month for anything.

**JESSICA BRAY**

*Jessica Bray is a Middle East/ South Asian Studies major and will graduate from UC Davis in Spring 2011.*

Professor Archana Venkatesan will offer *Palaces of the Gods: Texts, Temples and Tombs* in India this summer. The program runs from July 22 - August 22, 2011. For more information, please contact Prof. Venkatesan at [avenkatesan@ucdavis.edu](mailto:avenkatesan@ucdavis.edu) or the Main Office at 530-752-1219.



### Renaissance Florence and the Birth of Modern Europe (Florence, Italy)

The question I get now is, "What's life like after Italy?" I hardly know where to start: rolling vineyards, swimming in the Mediterranean beneath a purple sunset, Michelangelo's David, Galileo's doorstep, Brunelleschi and Botticelli, missed trains and misplaced apartment keys. Firenze. How could there be life anywhere else? Yet here I am back in Davis, in my third year of my Comparative Literature and Evolution & Ecology double major, once again over my head in academics and athletics and extracurriculars. What is life like after Italy? "A lot of memories," I reply. "And a lot less pasta."

I am leaning out the window of my little room on the top floor of our apartment building. The street is narrow, so narrow I can almost touch the apartments on the other side. Out of the open windows hang laundry, men, and women alike. Borgo la Noce. Later when I order *noce gelato*, I learn that I live on Walnut Street. We have our own gelateria, our own piazza complete with pub, panini shop, and covered market. At night we sit beneath the great stone buildings in the hot summer air listening to contemporary bands play country or Paul McCartney.

Our days are spent exploring the city and, for the more adventurous, greater Italy. We walk the streets Dante walked. We visit his favorite haunts, his hiding places, the empty tomb erected by the city that came to regret exiling one of their greatest geniuses. We are guided by the most brilliant of professors, Professor Brenda

The *Birth of Modern Europe* will be offered again this Summer 2011. For more information, please contact Prof. Brenda Deen Schildgen at [bdschildgen@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bdschildgen@ucdavis.edu) or the Main Office at 530-752-1219.

Schildgen, a Dante and Renaissance scholar. Our last night we watch the sun set over the red roofs, watch the light drain from the sides of the Duomo and the misty line that is the Arno. Lovely little Florence — Renaissance city, mother of modern Europe, my city now too.

**REGINA DETTMER**

*Regina Dettmer is a double major in Comparative Literature and Evolution and Ecology.*



## Comparative Literature Summer 2010 Abroad Programs: Students' Reflections and Photos!



### The Roaring Twenties in Germany (Berlin, Germany)

After everyone had a rocky arrival and we all settled into our apartments in Kreuzburg, Berlin became the most enjoyable place. On our first week we went on a walking tour of Berlin with an amazing tour guide. We saw cathedrals, museums, the Berlin Wall, a Jewish memorial, and many old Nazi buildings. The most memorable part of that tour was when we all stood on the ground above Hitler's bunker. Later on that week we went to Weimar and visited the Buchenwald concentration camp which was thought provoking and depressing.

On a happier note, all of us enjoyed experiencing Berlin's great night life. I think it was better that we were a small group of thirteen because that enabled us to all get to know each other very well. There is always something new to do in Berlin, whether it is sightseeing, going on a bike ride, or going to a beer garden for the afternoon. Berlin is a place anyone can go and find somewhere to fit in. After travelling to other countries and being a foreigner there, I realized that I felt more at home in Berlin than any other places I have visited, and I hope to go back some day!

**ERIN HAFEMAN**

*Erin Hafeman is a Communication major, and will graduate in Spring 2011. Prof. Gail Finney led this program in Berlin.*

### Abroad in Bologna, Italy: Charles Ellis

I was studying in Bologna, Italy, the oldest university in the West. It was thrilling to imagine one's self walking almost literally in the footsteps of giants like Dante, Petrarch, Luigi Galvani, and Pasolini. Two of my courses were in literature: one in Dante criticism and philology, and another in contemporary Italian literature. The latter course was especially concerned with the direction that literature is heading in the age of the Internet - a question that I think we are all asking. Apart from studying I had done considerable traveling. My family lived in the countryside of western Sicily, by the sea, very close to the famous saltworks. So I had been to Sicily several times, riding, shooting, harvesting olives, and generally enjoying my time here. Besides Sicily, I visited various parts of Tuscany, to Rome, to Ravenna, to Mantova, to the Piedmont, and to Venice, seeing whatever I could see and usually staying with whatever cousin of mine lives nearby.



*Charles "Carlo" Ellis is a third-year Comparative Literature major and studied in Italy last fall. In this photo, Carlos was at the Greek-and-later-Roman theater of Taormina.*

### Other Undergraduate News!

- **Vincent Ruggiero**, a fourth-year double major in Comparative Literature and German, is currently studying in Germany. He is planning to graduate in Summer 2011.
- **Ehsun Forghany**, a fourth-year double major in Comparative Literature and International Relations, is studying in Amman Jordan. He will graduate in Spring 2011.
- **Gabrielle Lampert**, a third-year Comparative Literature major is spending the year at the University of Barcelona.
- **Spring 2011 Commencement Ceremony** will be held on June 12, 2011 at the UC Davis ARC Pavilion. For more information, visit [www.ls.ucdavis.edu/commencement/](http://www.ls.ucdavis.edu/commencement/).



## Comparative Literature Welcomes New Faculty: An Interview with Prof. Noha Radwan



Last fall, the department welcomed its newest faculty member, Professor Noha Radwan who specializes in Modern Arabic literature and cultural studies. Born and raised in Egypt, Professor Radwan completed her undergraduate education at the American University in Cairo. She

then joined the Near Eastern Studies department at UC Berkeley where she earned her doctorate in 2004. Before joining UC Davis, Professor Radwan taught Arabic literature and Islamic Civilization in the department of Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures at Columbia University for five years. She also taught a year-long course on the classic texts of the European Literary canon, which is a part of Columbia University's core curriculum.

Being a graduate of the UCB, Professor Radwan is obviously not new to the UC system or to California but this is her first time in a Comparative Literature department. "I really like literature," explains Professor Radwan and adds a favorite quote from Derrida, "Literature is the most interesting thing in the world, maybe more interesting than the world." Talking about the move from Area Studies to Comparative Literature, she expressed her desire to work with scholars "who do literature from all over the world rather than study the history and culture of just one region."

When it comes to her teaching philosophy, Professor Radwan hopes to impart this "passion for literature" to her students and also for them "to understand that studying literature is not an ivory tower activity, that it has something to teach us above how we conduct and understand our lives" Speaking specifically about her area of expertise, her aim is to allow students to see "what constitutes Arabic literature and what connects it to other literatures from around the world." As a goal for her courses, she envisions "mapping out the intellectual movements, challenges and accomplishments in the Middle East through thematic readings of literary texts."

On what made her decide to join UC Davis, Professor Radwan spoke of the "generous and welcoming attitude of the department faculty," as well as the "exciting potential for growth at UC Davis." Colleagues are always talking about new courses and even about a minor in Arabic. "It's really nice to tread on pristine territory," the Professor admits as she underscores the room for flexibility that the department allows and also the prospect of being part of the developing Arabic program at UC Davis.

Professor Radwan's research has focused primarily on drawing connections between the spoken register of Arabic and the literary register which is based on Classical Arabic.

Her book, which is currently under review, examines Colloquial poetry that uses the spoken register and yet follows the literary conventions of Classical Arabic. She speaks of the "large and fascinating corpus" of colloquial Arabic poetry, which has remained largely untranslated because of the "traditional bias in academia which favors Modern Standard Arabic." Further down the road, Professor Radwan would like to teach poetry from this Colloquial corpus alongside other Arabic and non-Arabic poetry.

Last fall, Professor Radwan taught COM 151 (Colonial and Post-Colonial Experience in Literature), which included novels from the Middle East and Africa in her course syllabus. She currently teaches a course on ethnic writers. Her experience so far has been very positive and she is all praise for the undergraduates whom she has found to have an "amazingly sound intuition about the texts."

The department is fortunate to welcome another learned scholar to its outstanding faculty as Professor Radwan brings not just her expertise as an Arabist but also an enthusiasm and passion for literature and pedagogy to our community.

*This story is written by PhD candidate Sayyeda Razvi. She also earned her bachelor's degree in Comparative Literature and Economics here at UC Davis.*

### Prof. Radwan in Egypt

*Professor Noha Radwan was in Cairo during the historic, peaceful revolution that began in January 2011. She was interviewed extensively by various media outlets including Democracy Now, The New York Times and Capitol Public Radio about her experiences in Egypt. She contributed this reflection of her time in Egypt to the Comparative Literature Newsletter.*

On January 25, a group of college age Egyptians issued the rallying cry. They took to the streets at the risk of their own lives. Their demand was an end to police brutality and human rights abuse. They were soon joined by millions in a nonviolent uprising, which 18 days later brought a thirty years' old dictatorship to its end. I left UC Davis on January 27th in response to a call from my parents. My sister was in the protests and the police were shooting. She was only mildly injured, I learned upon arrival, but I was glad to join her at this historic moment. Upon my return, MESA gave me and others a chance to discuss the events with the Davis community at a Teach-in held on February 8th that attracted an enthusiastic full house.

## Pondicherry Conference: December 17-18, 2010

*Tamil and Tamil Akam at the Crossroads: An International Conference in Pondicherry, India*

The Department of Comparative Literature, the Davis Humanities Institute and the French Institute of Pondicherry hosted a two day International Conference on *Tamil and Tamil Akam at the Crossroads* at the French Institute of Pondicherry, India on Dec 17-18, 2010.

The objective of the conference was to examine Tamil Nadu as an example of a geographical space where multiple cultures met, exchanged, and absorbed from outside, while Tamil maintained until recent times its unique ancient traditions. To bring together an international cadre of scholars who work in diverse disciplines that focus on a single region, is to create new knowledge as is the way of any innovative conference. The fourteen scholars participating in the event bring a range of disciplinary perspectives to the idea of Tamil and Tamil Akam as a crossroads of cultures and a locus of international exchange in both the arts and sciences.

In keeping with this broad theme, the event brought specialists in South Asian languages and culture into conversation with specialists in the fields of medieval and modern Europe. Professors Brenda Schildgen, Kari Lokke, Gail Finney and graduate student, Kristen Bergman represented the UC Davis Comparative Literature department, while Professor Allison Coudert represented the Religious Studies Program. Professors Sumathi Ramaswamy (Duke University), Vijaya Nagarajan (University of San Francisco), S.Armstrong (University of Madras), S.A.V.A Nayagar (K.M.C Center for Post-graduate Studies) and Dr. P.Perumal (Saraswathi Mahal library) enriched the proceedings with their specialized knowledge in South Asian languages, literatures and history. Professor Indira Peterson, David B. Truman Professor of Asian Studies at Mt.Holyoke College delivered the keynote address on "Scientific Dialogues in Nineteenth-Century Tanjore: King Serfoji II's Initiatives in Enlightenment and Indic Knowledge Systems."

The event was attended by a number of young and upcoming Indian college students, who brought liveliness and enthusiasm to the event. The conference was widely covered in the Tamil and English language press.

Further information on the conference can be found at: <http://pondicherry.ucdavis.edu>



Left to right: Balamurugan, Kristen Bergman, Vijaya Nagarajan, Keynote Speaker Indira Peterson, and Allison Coudert



Keynote Speaker  
Indira Peterson



Gail Finney, Archana Venkatesan, and  
Brenda Deen Schildgen



M. Kannan and Brenda Deen Schildgen



Kari Lokke



French Institute of Pondicherry



Conference Participants



## Meet the New Graduate Students

The department welcomes the four new graduate students. We are pleased that these talented students have accepted our offer to join us this year. It was a competitive year as we received a talented pool of applicants.



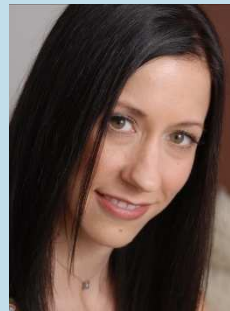
Cloe Le Gall-Scoville is from San Francisco. She majored in English and History at UC Irvine and earned her M.A from UC Santa Cruz. Her research interests include post-colonial literatures written in French and English, feminist and postcolonial theory and translation.



Victoria White is from Sacramento originally. She completed her undergraduate work at a small liberal arts college called Whitworth. She works in English and Spanish, and is improving both her French and Italian. She focuses mostly on Early Modern (especially Cervantes), and is considering the DE in Critical Theory. She lives in Davis with her husband Geoff and their orange cat Apollo.



Megan Ammirati graduated from the College of William & Mary with a BA in English and Chinese as well as a minor in Theatre. Her previous research focused on nostalgia in Chinese tragicomic adaptations of Shakespeare.



Elizabeth Skwiot is a returning Comparative Literature graduate student. She started the program in 2002 and finished her M.A. in 2004 to pursue a career as an aerial performer. Her training and performance experience led her to found Aerialates ([www.aerialates.com](http://www.aerialates.com)), a business based in Minneapolis that she still manages remotely. She is thrilled to be back in Davis to finish her Ph.D. and will take her exams this coming Winter and Spring. She studies Latin American, US Latino/a, and Italian literature; she has also declared the DE in Feminist Theory and Research. Elizabeth enjoys living in Davis with her significant other, Scott, and her Rottweiler, Mason.

## MLA Graduate Student in the Profession

The MLA's Committee of Graduate Students in the Profession (CSGSP) hosted an exciting array of roundtable sessions and workshops at the 2011 Modern Language Association Convention in Los Angeles, CA from January 6-9 2011. Grad students, alumni, and current faculty from our program participated in the following sessions: a) Our committee (Giovanna Montenegro, UC Davis; Luziris Pineda Turi, University of Houston) along with the Committee on the Literatures of People of Color in the United States and Canada held a workshop entitled *Graduate Students of Color: Strategies for Success* that discussed relevant data, offered faculty and graduate student perspectives, and offered a discussion of strategies for success that Grad students can deploy as they start academic jobs. The workshop was held from 1:45-3:00 p.m. in the Olympic 2 at the J. W. Marriott Hotel. b) *International Students and Junior Faculty: Shaping the Professional Landscape* (Giovanna Montenegro, UC Davis; Jens Kugele, Georgetown Univ. presiding) was a roundtable that was primarily interested in the ways international students and younger scholars raise important questions for the academic community beyond questions of cultural displacement and identity. Alumni Dr. Fei Shih also participated. The roundtable was held from 8:30-9:45 a.m. in the Atrium 2, at the J. W. Marriott Hotel. c)

*Now What? After the MLA Convention* (Monica Jacobe, Princeton, presiding) This session explored what job seekers can and should do in the weeks after the convention, covering such topics as campus visits, continuing the search, and shaping a career trajectory. Professor Gail Finney also participated.

## Achievements / Presentations

David Dayton has received a fellowship through Chung Hsing University's Taiwanese Literature Department for Spring 2011.

Anna Björk Einarsdóttir, graduate student, received a scholarship from the American-Scandinavian Foundation for 2010-11.

Elisabeth Lore presented her paper "Le Créole in Defense of Women" at the colloquium "Antillanité, Créolité et Littérature Monde," which took place at the University of the West Indies in Barbados on October 14-15, 2010.

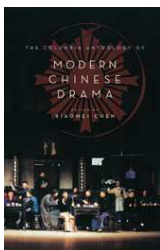
Giovanna Montenegro passed her qualifying exams last September.



## A Busy Year for the CompLit Faculty!

The faculty has been active inside and outside the classroom pursuing new opportunities and earning accolades.

### Books



**Xiaomei Chen (Affiliated Faculty)** wrote the critical introduction to *Columbia Anthology of Modern Chinese Drama* (Columbia Univ. Press, 2010)

### Published Article(s)

**Jocelyn Sharlet**, "A Garden of Possibilities in Manuchehri's Spring Garden Panegyrics" *Journal of Persianate Studies* Vol. 3 (2010), 1-25.

### Awards & Honors

**Michelle Yeh (Affiliated Faculty)** is the new director of the UC Davis component of the systemwide Education Abroad Program. She also serves as the campus director for Non-UC Study Abroad.

**Claire Waters (Affiliated Faculty)** received a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies.

### Invited Talks

**Sheldon Lu** (pictures below) delivered the keynote address at the international conference "Cosmopolitics, Memory, and Visual Media in the 21st Century" at the University of Hong Kong in June 2010. He also gave a presentation at the 5th Sino-American Comparative Literature Symposium: "Comparative Literature in the Phase of World Literature," co-organized by Harvard University and Shanghai Jiaotong University, in Shanghai, China, August 2010.

In collaboration with National Chung-hsing University in Taiwan, Sheldon Lu organizes an international conference on "Space and Time

in Chinese-language Cinema," held at UC Davis, November 5 and 6. Some 30 scholars from the US, Taiwan, and other parts of the world present papers at the event.

**Seth Schein** lectured at Columbia University, Princeton University, and Swarthmore College on "Divine and Human in the Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite," and at Princeton. He led a seminar/workshop on his commentary-in-progress on Sophocles' *Philoctetes* (lines 542-627, the so-called False Merchant scene).



## From Page 8: Presentations

Emelie Coleman, Kristen Bergman and Sayyeda Razvi put together a panel entitled "Translation in Colonial Space: Language and Colonization in South Asian Literary Culture" for the Annual Conference on South Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in October. Emelie presented a paper entitled "Persian as 'Source' Literature: Interrogating the Story of Translation"; Kristen presented on "Translation, Conversion and the 'Ambidextrous Subject': A. Madhaviah's *Clarinda* as a Social Reform Novel"; Sayyeda presented a paper enti-

### New Graduate Program Director!

**Prof. Sheldon Lu** has been appointed as the new graduate faculty advisor. He replaced **Prof. Juliana Schiesari**, who served in the position for the last four years. She was on sabbatical last fall and resumed teaching in the winter.

tled "Urdu as the In-Between: Language and the Politics of Translation in Colonial India."

## Class Notes!

**Haomin Gong's** (PhD '08) book, *Uneven Modernity: Literature, Film, and Intellectual Discourse in Postsocialist China*, based on his dissertation, has been accepted for publication by the University of Hawaii Press. It will appear in the series "Critical Interventions" edited by Prof. Sheldon Lu.

**Elena Shapiro's** (MA '10) book, *13 rue Therese*, has been translated into French, Italian, Russian, and Portuguese. Her novel will be published in 2011. You can read the review at <http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/books/2011/01/a-paris-soujourn-at-13-rue-threse.html>

**Elizabeth Wing-Paz** (PhD '07) currently teaches at the University of San Francisco for the Comparative Literature and Culture Program and will also teach for the Saint Ignatius Institute there in the Spring. As a busy adjunct instructor, she also teaches at Berkeley City College. While Elizabeth enjoys teaching at each school for different reasons, she hopes the job market picks up so that she can find something more secure. Aside from work, she is very busy at home with two kids and social life. Elizabeth and her family spent this past summer in Buenos Aires and look forward to another trip—who knows where—next summer.

## Brújula: New Website and Updates



Staff have digitized Volume 7, and they are in the process of archiving past volumes while we finish the editing process of Volume 8 and 9. Ted Geier, Brian Davisson, & Giovanna Montenegro are among Comparative Literature Graduate Students that continue to work on *Brújula*.

Volume 8 entitled, *Manifestations of Popular Culture in Latin America*, will feature an article by Dr. Debra Castillo, Cornell University, entitled "Meruane and the Borg." The *Topographies* section will include an interview with Dr. George Yudice, University of Miami by Graduate Students Nicholas Sanchez, Comparative Literature, and Ingrid Lagos, Cultural Studies.

The *Enfoques* section will also feature articles from Professors and Graduate Students from the US and Latin America. They are: "Del panamericanismo al nacionalismo: relaciones cinematográficas entre México y Cuba," authored by María de la Cruz Castro, Professor at the Tecnológico de Monterrey; "Writing Back to the Island: Revisionist Historiographies in Dominican-American Fiction" by Kiley J. Guyton Acosta, PhD Candidate in the Department of Spanish & Portuguese at the University of New Mexico; "What is 'Popular About Mass Culture?: Santiago en 100 Palabras and Chilean National Literature" by Jane Griffen, PhD Candidate in the Department of Comparative Literature at the University of California, Irvine; and "Diásporas de Libertos e Afro-Descendentes no Pos-Abolição no Brasil" by Lucia Helena Oliveira Silva, Professor of African History at the Universidade Estadual Paulista Júlio de Mesquita Filho (UNESP) in São Paulo, Brazil.

Additionally, Dr. Javier Herrera, art critic and librarian at the Filmoteca Española (Madrid), unearths unpublished letters between Luis Buñuel, the Spanish film director, and Luis

Alcoriza, the Mexican film director and screenwriter. These will be featured in the *Archivo* section.

Graduate Students Brian Davisson (Comparative Literature) and Karina Zelaya (Spanish) are co-editing Volume 9 entitled "The Beginnings of Central American Narrative". Volume 9 will be our first volume published entirely online.

Finally, *Brújula* is now preparing to accept papers for Volume 10, an issue dedicated to Brazil. Dr. Robert Newcomb, Assistant Professor of Luso-Brazilian Studies, will be co-editing Volume Number 10, dedicated to Brazil, with Jesus Ernesto Ortiz-Díaz, PhD Candidate in Spanish and Portuguese at UC Davis.

*Brújula: revista interdisciplinaria sobre estudios latinoamericanos* has a new web page, please check it out at <http://brujula.ucdavis.edu>.

## Comparative Literature Winter Social

**WHEN:** Monday, February 28, 2011,  
2:00 - 3:30 PM

**WHERE:** Sproul Hall, Room 912

Join us for tea, hot chocolate, delicious baked goods and fabulous conversation at the Comparative Literature Winter Social. Hosted by our peer advisors, Kaitlin and Jeralynn, the event is an opportunity to get to know other Comparative Literature majors, and your peer advisors as well. Bring your friends, your favorite books and music, and join us for a break from the cold. For further information, you can get in touch with Kaitlin at [khdanssaert@ucdavis.edu](mailto:khdanssaert@ucdavis.edu) or Jeralynn at [jjbetts@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jjbetts@ucdavis.edu).



## Fall 2010 Welcome (October 14, 2010)



(In the front: Ph.D. candidate Megan Ammirati chatted with a student.)

The Comparative Literature hosted its annual Fall Welcome for students, staff and faculty on October 14, 2010. Photo Credit: Charles Anderson.



(In the front: New faculty member, Prof. Radwan; In the back: Prof. Brenda Schildgen with a student.)

## Preview Day (October 16, 2010)



Preview Day introduced prospective students, their families and school counselors to the UC Davis campus. About 2,000 were expected to attend.

(Clockwise, starting from top left:



PhD candidate Joshua Waggoner discussed the program with prospective student and parent; Peer Advisor Kaitlin Danssaert and Staff Advisor Maria Saldaña-Seibert posed for the camera; poster of the Comparative Literature Undergraduate Program.)





## ATTENTION ALUMNI

We would like to hear from you!  
Please keep in touch with the  
Department of Comparative  
Literature by sending your news and  
updates to one of the following:

- E-mail Prof. Archana Venkatesan  
at [avenkatesan@ucdavis.edu](mailto:avenkatesan@ucdavis.edu)
- Mail to this address:

Department of Comparative  
Literature, 213 Sproul Hall, One  
Shields Avenue, Davis, CA  
95616

Items may be edited for clarity and  
space purposes.

**Visit our website!**

**[complit.ucdavis.edu](http://complit.ucdavis.edu)**

## SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT

Your charitable, tax-deductible gift to the Department of Comparative Literature is greatly needed and appreciated. Your support will be used for the highest priority projects in the department to support both undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, programs, and facilities.

The department currently offers the following awards: *The Amy Lee Memorial Essay Prize* and the new *Marc Blanchard Undergraduate Travel Award*.

For more information, contact Prof. Brenda Deen Schildgen at [bdschildgen@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bdschildgen@ucdavis.edu).

This Newsletter is published twice a year by the Department of Comparative Literature of the University of California, Davis.

Editor/Faculty Adviser:	Prof. Archana Venkatesan
Staff Adviser:	Joey Y. Almario
Undergraduate Representatives:	Jeralynn Betts '12 Kaitlin Danssaert '11
Graduate Representatives:	Christopher Tong
Designer:	Joey Y. Almario

**Contributors:** Charles Anderson, Jeralynn Betts, Jessica Bray, Regina Dettmer, Charles "Carlo" Ellis, Erin Hafeman, Sheldon Lu, Giovanna Montenegro, Sayyeda Razvi, and Archana Venkatesan



We now have a Facebook group that you can join! It is a great way to meet fellow comparatists and stay updated on upcoming events!

You can follow the link to join:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=141304226988&ref=ts>