



FROM THE HEAD



Bob Hasenfratz
Department Head

Greetings,

I am very pleased to announce the launch of our new website (<http://english.uconn.edu>), made possible by the hard work of our Digital Committee. On the site, we introduce a new feature, "English Major: Facts and Fiction," which tracks studies and op-ed pieces about career prospects for English majors. A recent piece in *The Atlantic*, for example, argues that English majors are far more competitive on the job market than the usual stereotype allows.

Be sure to check out our calendar of events. We welcome guests and visitors at any talk, reading, or forum at any of UConn's campuses. Finally, if any of you alumni or alumnae have memories or anecdotes to share about your time with us as English majors (or since), please send them to Claire Reynolds at claire.reynolds@uconn.edu.

In this issue:

From the Head	1
Grad Landings	1
UConn Joins Folger	2
Notable Events	2
Recent Publications	3
Eminent Guest: Henrike Lähnemann	3
Awards, Honors, and Grants	4
Fulbrights	5
CWP Grants	5
Class of 2014: Krisela Karaja	6
AlumNews	7
Remembering Faculty	7

GRAD LANDINGS

Margie Housley (MA '14) will join the Notre Dame University PhD program next year.

D. Michael Jones (PhD '13) accepted a full-time three-year lectureship at East Tennessee State University.

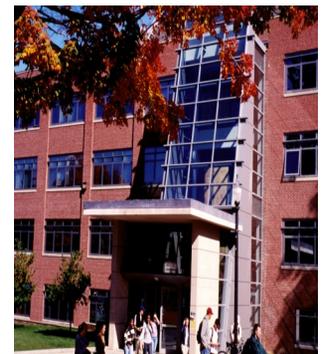
Jorge Santos (PhD '14) has a tenure-track position in 20th-century multi-ethnic US literature, specializing in Latino/a literature, at College of the Holy Cross.

Leah Schwebel (PhD '14) accepted a tenure-track position at Texas State University.

Amber West (PhD '14) is Senior Grant Writer for Girls Write Now, which provides digital media training, college prep, and mentoring to under-served high-school girls. She also leads the artist collective Alphabet Arts and is Artistic Director of the Puppets & Poets festival at Brooklyn's Bushwick Starr theater.

Editor: Claire Reynolds

Intern Assistant Editor: Cam Atzl



UConn Joins Folger

UConn has been invited to join the Folger Institute's consortium of more than 40 college and university members. The Folger Institute is a center for advanced study and collections-focused research in the humanities at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC. The consortium comprises some of the most prestigious academic institutions in North America and the UK—only a third of which are public. These include the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, and the University of Virginia.

"Being asked to join the consortium is a recognition of the strength of scholarship in the Medieval, Renaissance, and early modern periods at UConn," says Shirley Roe, Associate Dean for Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The Institute's scholarly programs provide researchers with guided access to the Folger Shakespeare Library, which is home to one of the world's largest collections of Shakespeare materials and other major collections of rare books, manuscripts, and works of art. Consortium members receive priority admission to the Folger Institute's highly competitive annual series of advanced seminars, workshops, and colloquia for faculty and graduate students. They are also eligible for tuition waivers and grants-in-aid to cover program expenses.

"The consortium includes the best Renaissance studies programs in the country, and their best students are being encouraged to apply," says Gregory Semenza, associate professor of English at UConn who participated in a Folger Institute seminar as a first-year PhD student. "People who participate in these programs say that it changes their lives dramatically, essentially impacting their careers and their connections with other people in the field."

Semenza notes that the library houses some of the most important historical documents in the world, including 82 copies of Shakespeare's First Folio—the first collected edition of 36 plays by Shakespeare, published after his death in 1623. "It gives us first-hand access to materials that cannot be reproduced in digital formats," he says.

To promote the consortium's benefits on campus, UConn has formed a committee that will vet applications to Folger Institute programs in Washington and plan Institute-affiliated guest lectures, seminars, and other events on the Storrs campus. The committee, consisting of representatives from several departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the School of Fine Arts, is housed in the Humanities Institute.

Semenza adds that membership in the Folger strengthens the entire spectrum of humanities offerings at UConn.

"Much of the focus now is on subjects like digital humanities and human rights, which have more obvious connections to more modern periods of history," he says. "It is easy to overlook earlier periods as a result, but if you invest in your foundational histories and literatures, there are huge payoffs."

—Brianna Diaz, *UConn Today*, 18 August 2014

Internships Featured

The English Department's internship program has been recently featured in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Writer Dan Berrett lauds Ruth Fairbanks's efforts in ensuring that student internships count as academic as well as career experiences by having students write one- or two-page reflections for each day of work.

Notable Events

The [51st Annual Wallace Stevens Poetry Program](#) in April featured Pulitzer Prize-winning poet [Paul Muldoon](#). Hailed by *The Times Literary Supplement* as "the most significant English-language poet born since the second World War," Muldoon has published more than 30 collections of poems. He currently serves as chair of the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton, where he is also the Howard G. B. Clark Professor in the Humanities.

Belfast novelist [Glenn Patterson](#) joined us for our 2014 [Elizabeth Shanley Gerson Irish Literature Reading](#) on April 8. Author of eight novels since 1988, Patterson also produces documentaries for the BBC and wrote the screenplay for *Good Vibrations*, a recent movie about the 1970s punk scene in Belfast. His habitual theme is reevaluation of the recent Northern Irish past, particularly "The Troubles." His most recent novels are *The Mill for Grinding Old People Young* (2012) and *The Rest Just Follows* (2014).

Professor [Kathleen Hill](#) of Sarah Lawrence College read on September 25 from her current project on the Brontës and discussed her novel *Who Occupies This House* (2010). Her book, the tale of a multiple-generation Irish-American family and the house they have lived in for more than a century, received notable critical acclaim in both the US and France; her short stories have appeared in multiple books.

[Janice Law \(Trecker\)](#) read from *Moon Over Tangier*, the third in her Francis Bacon series published by Mysterious Press. Her character Francis Bacon, is based on the great 20th-century British painter. In addition to being a prolific and talented author, Law is also an accomplished painter herself.

Local poet [Lisa Taylor](#), who has published four collections, held a poetry reading on October 14. Her work has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and she has been published in numerous national journals and anthologies. Taylor has conducted workshops in Ireland and the US. She has received a Surdna Arts Teaching Fellowship, enabling her to spend a summer in Ireland collaborating with Galway writer Geraldine Mills on *The Other Side of Longing*. Mills and Taylor delivered the joint 2011 Elizabeth Shanley Gerson Irish Reading at UConn.

On September 3, The Medieval Studies Program sponsored *Medieval Live*, a reading of magical duels, chilling steel fish, singing nuns, and desert haikus rendered from manuscripts for the digital projector and performed by faculty and students in the original languages of the medieval period. Translations were provided.

[Jared Demick](#) read from his debut book of poems, *The Hunger in Our Eyes*, on October 15. He has published poems in *BlazeVOX*, *Sugar Mule*, *Long River Review*, *OMEGA*, and *Gastronomica*. He also edits *The Jivin' Ladybug: A Skewered Journal of the Arts*.

First-Year Writing

On July 1 the program title "Freshman English" changed to "First-Year Writing" (FYW). All courses, credits, waivers, and requirements associated with the First-Year Writing Program will be as they were for Freshman English. The name change is a result of conversations with students, faculty, and staff who found the previous name too limited to describe our students and the work they do in our courses.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Bedore, Pamela. *Dime Novels and the Roots of American Detective Fiction*.
- Bloom, Lynn, and Louise Z. Smith, eds. *Arlington Reader: Themes for Writers*. 4th ed.
- Breen, Margaret S., ed. and intro. *Critical Insights: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality*. 11 UConn faculty members, including Breen, contributed chapters to this volume.
- Brown, Pamela Allen, and Jean E. Howard, eds. *As You Like It: Texts and Contexts*.
- Capshaw, Katharine. "The Crisis Children's Page, The Brownies' Book, and the Fantastic." *Protest and Propaganda: W.E.B. Du Bois, The Crisis, and American History*.
- Coundouriotis, Eleni. *The People's Right to the Novel: War Fiction in the Postcolony*.
- Demick, Jared. *The Hunger in Our Eyes*.
- Fairbanks, A. Harris. "National Identity, Narrative Universals, and Guilt: Margaret Atwood's Surfacing." In *Cognition, Literature, and History*.
- Gorkemli, Serkan. *Grassroots Literacies: Lesbian and Gay Activism and the Internet in Turkey*.
- Higonnet, Margaret R. "At the Front." *The Cambridge History of the First World War, Vol. 3: Civil Society*.
- Hogan, Patrick Colm. "Emplotting a Storyworld in Drama: Selection, Time, and Construal in the Discourse of Hamlet." *Storyworlds Across Media: Toward a Media-Conscious Narratology*.
- . "Intertextuality and Allusion." *The Cambridge Handbook of Stylistics*.
- . "Postcolonial Humor, Attachment, and Yasujiro Ozu's *Early Summer*." *Cognitive Media Theory*.
- . "Stylistics, Emotion and Neuroscience." *The Routledge Handbook of Stylistics*.
- . With Frederick Luis Aldama. *Conversations on Cognitive Cultural Studies: Literature, Language, and Aesthetics*.
- Jacobus, Lee A. *Hawaiian Tales: The Girl with Heavenly Eyes*.
- Knapp, Kathy. *American Unexceptionalism: The Everyman and the Suburban Novel after 9/11*.
- Litman, Ellen. *Mannequin Girl*.
- Marsden, Jean. "The Problem With Inkle: A Study in Performance." *The Oxford Handbook of Georgian Theatre, 1737-1832*.
- Murphy, Brenda. *The Theatre of Tennessee Williams*.
- Pelizzon, Penelope. *Whose Flesh is Flame, Whose Bone is Time*.
- Recchio, Thomas. "Passion and Economics in *Jane Eyre* and *North and South*." *Critical Insights: Jane Eyre*.
- Roden, Frederick S. "Wild(e) Theology." *More Than a Monologue: Sexual Diversity and the Catholic Church*. Vol. 2: *Inquiry, Thought, and Expression*.
- Somerset, Fiona. *Feeling Like Saints: Lollard Writings after Wyclif*.
- West, Amber. "Making a Troublemaker: Charlotte Charke's Proto-Feminist Punch." *Routledge Companion to Puppetry and Material Performance*.
- Vials, Chris. "Broken Frames: The World War II Novel and the Legibility of Class in the U.S. Historical Imagination." *Class and the Making of American Literature: Created Unequal*.

EMINENT GUEST

Imagine a world without Microsoft Word. A world where the only way to save a document is to preserve the physical copy. Would you be more cautious of what you dispose of? Or would you, like the nuns of the Middle Ages, find creative ways to recycle your sacred manuscripts?

Weaving parchment manuscripts into the fabric of dresses as a way to recycle sacred documents was a popular craft among the nuns of the 15th century. These manuscripts were copied in German and Latin by nuns in various convents.

"Parchment is a very thin but very strong material, nearly inflammable," Chair of German studies in the School of Modern Languages at Newcastle University, says Professor **Henrike Lähnemann**. "It was the plastic of the Middle Ages. It could be formed and shaped into all different things."

Lähnemann, who has published five books and six essay collections, has one main focus in her study of manuscript fragments in medieval dresses: "What does it tell us about the devotional culture of the 15th century?"

To answer her question, she focused on one of the convents, Wienehausen, that was auspiciously preserved "in a sort of time warp." Wienehausen was a 14th-century convent that was home to various 13th-century statues and sculptures of the Virgin Mary and the Christ Child. Here, the sacred manuscripts written by the nuns "were woven into textiles for devotional purposes, such as to dress up religious statues or to be used in a production of the Passion Play," Lähnemann said. "Wienehausen was the center for the production of manuscript dresses, where the nuns used the parchment-lined garments to dress the sculptures of Mother and Child."

The garments were made of a fine woven silk called lampas, trimmed with rabbit fur, and decorated with various ornaments and applications. For this reason, the inscribed parchment, much sturdier than fabric, was used to line the dresses.

Today, Hartford's St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church, the oldest church in Connecticut, has statues of Madonna and Child behind the altar that are dressed for different occasions by groups of local church-goers, Lähnemann said.





AWARDS AND HONORS



Mary K. Bercaw Edwards was named *Extracts* editor for *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies*.

Sarah Berry's "Rethinking Intertitles: The Voice and Temporality of Lyric Intertitles in *The Cry of the Children*" won *Literature/Film Quarterly's* Thomas Erskine Graduate Student Essay Award.

Ellen Carillo received the Provost's 2014 General Education Course Enhancement Grant.

Eleni Coundouriotis will serve a 3-year term as Chair of the Program Committee for the American Comparative Literature Association.

Jason Courtmanche received for CWP two \$20,000 National Writing Project grants for Teacher Leadership Development (see next page). He was also elected 2014-15 President of the Nathaniel Hawthorne Society.

Martha J. Cutter received a 2014-15 UConn Humanities Institute Fellowship to work on *Picturing Slavery: Illustrated Books and the Visual Culture of the Transatlantic Abolition Movement, 1820-1855*.

Joseph Darda was awarded the 2014-15 CLAS Graduate Fellowship.

Susanne Davis was the Spring 2014 Visiting Writer at the Roaring Brook School in Avon, Connecticut.

Jeremy DeAngelo and **George Moore** were accepted into the Folger Institute's 2015 spring seminar, "The Scale of Catastrophe: Ecology and Transition, Medieval to Modern." It is unusual for two members from the same institution to be accepted into the same seminar.

Anna Mae Duane won the Enduring Questions Grant for Spring 2014 from the NEH.

Sean Forbes's "Cashel Man" was the featured poem at the Academy of American Poets on March 17, 2014.

Gordon Fraser and **Christina Henderson** were awarded 2014-15 Humanities Institute Fellowships.

Tara Harney-Mahajan was elected Secretary of the Northeast Modern Language Association's Women's and Gender Studies Caucus.

Patrick Hogan's *How Authors' Minds Make Stories* was named a Choice Outstanding Academic Title for 2013.

Gregory Kneidel was elected President of the John Donne Society of America for 2014-15.

Joanna A. H. MacGugan received the Schallek Award from the Medieval Academy of America and the Richard III Society for her dissertation "Competing Authorities and Contested Spaces: Dying in Dublin in the Reign of Edward I."

Steve Mollmann received the 2014-15 R. D. Mullen Research Fellowship for archival research in the J. Lloyd Eaton Collection of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, and

Utopian Literature at the University of California, Riverside.

George Moore won the 2014 Aetna Graduate Teaching Award.

Brenda Murphy won the Eugene O'Neill Medallion at the Eugene O'Neill Conference in New London.

Fred Roden won the CLAS Excellence in Teaching Award for 2014.

Asia Rowe received a NEH grant to participate in the summer seminar, "Tudor Books and Readers: 1485-1603" at Oxford.

Matthew Salyer won a 2014 June/July Art Residency at the CATWALK Institute in Catskill, New York. He has also been nominated for the Pushcart Prize by the *Beloit Poetry Journal*.

Cathy J. Schlund-Vials was named series editor for *Asian American History and Culture*. She also has been invited to serve on the editorial board of UCLA's *Amerasia Journal*.

Jeffrey Shoulson was named the Ruth and Lillian Marino Chair at the Bread Loaf School of English.

Fiona Somerset was awarded a 2014-15 UConn Humanities Institute Faculty Fellowship to work on "The Implications of Consent." She was also selected for the NEH summer seminar, "Reform & Renewal in Medieval Rome" at the American Academy in Rome.

GRANTS

Professor **Greg Kneidel** is co-PI for a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in support of The Variorum Edition of the *Poetry of John Donne*. The award of \$270,000 is a three-year grant. Kneidel, who serves as the Associate General Editor and Textual Editor for the Donne Variorum, is partner on this grant with Professor Jeffrey Johnson from East Carolina University. The Donne Variorum, including its online component Digital-Donne (<http://donnevariorum.tamu.edu>), is an international collaborative research project involving more than forty scholars and is considered a project of extraordinary success and importance.

IDEA Grant winners **Emmanuel Oppong-Yeboah** ('15, English/Urban and Community Studies) and **Joseph Rosen** ('17) plan to create a literary journal that addresses existential questions through the art of curation. The journal will include poetry, prose, illustration, audio, film, and other mediums of expression. They will call it *Exsistentia*—"A literary journal run by genuine thought."

TWO ENGLISH MAJORS RECEIVE FULBRIGHTS

Two English majors have been awarded Fulbright Awards for 2014-15. Undergraduate Katie Loughrey ('16), an Honors student majoring in English and anthropology with a minor in digital arts, spent July 2014 at Nottingham Trent University on a United Kingdom Summer Institute Fulbright Award, and Krisela Karaja ('14), an Honors graduate who double-majored in English and Spanish literature, will spend eight months in Albania. "UConn had a good year," says LuAnn Saunders-Kanabay, assistant director of UConn's Office of National Scholarships & Fellowships and advisor for the Fulbright Program.

"It's an incredible calculation," says Saunders-Kanabay. "There has to be a match between what host countries want and the personal and academic attributes and experiences that those who apply can contribute." Last year UConn had a finalist but no recipient.

"Whenever I received an update about my application for a U.S. Student Fulbright Award, I sent an email to about 10 of my professors," says Karaja. "All my Spanish and English professors were so helpful." Karaja will use her Fulbright award to complete a project she began as an undergraduate, comparing the works of contemporary Albanian poets and their perspectives on nationalism and transnationalism. She initially visited Albania with support from a UConn Summer Undergraduate Research Fund (SURF) grant.

"On that first trip I called poets and scholars to network for possible future work, which made the Fulbright possible," says Karaja. She grew up speaking English while learning Albanian from her parents, who immigrated with her to America when she was two years old. Karaja was editor-in-chief of this past spring's issue of *Long River Review*, the annual UConn student-run literary magazine, as well as president of UConn's Albanian Student Association.

The Fulbright experience may have opened the door for Katie Loughrey, two-time UConn Presidential Scholar, to add a gem to her design portfolio only midway through her University career. Loughrey designed logos for the sites her Fulbright class visited; one of her British professors may include her design in his project to rebrand a historic park.

The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Program is an annual congressional appropriation to the State Department. Since its inception in 1946, approximately 310,000 scholars have participated.

"The Fulbright Program is an opportunity for students to engage with the world with the ultimate goal of creating mutual understanding," says Saunders-Kanabay. "They learn about themselves in the process."

—Lauren Lalancette, *UConn Today*, 15 August 2014

GRANTS FOR CONNECTICUT WRITING PROJECT

The Connecticut Writing Project-Storrs has been awarded two federal grants through the National Writing Project. These grants, totaling \$40,000, will fund writing education for Connecticut teachers and further the Writing Project's mission to improve writing and learning. The 2014-15 *Professional Development in a High-Need School Grant* (\$20,000) will support the design and delivery of a customized, intensive professional development program in a school where at least 50 percent of the students qualify for reduced or free lunch. The 2014-16 *Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) Teacher Leadership Development Grant* (\$20,000) will expand and develop teacher leadership to improve the teaching of writing and learning.

The High-Need School grant will be used in partnership with teachers at Metropolitan Business Academy in New Haven. Teacher-Consultants from the Connecticut Writing Project-Storrs and English and Social Studies teachers from Metro have been working together for the past two years to align practices in the teaching of writing with college-level standards and expectations, and recently have been working to convert senior English courses to college-credit-bearing courses. In the near future, all senior students at Metro will be able to take UConn Early College Experience English, which aligns with UConn's First-Year Writing courses, or a course that will align with a community college Developmental or Introductory Composition course. The Teacher Leadership grant will cover a two-year period and will provide funds for established Teacher-Leaders of the Connecticut Writing Project to run programs such as *Connecticut Student Writers* magazine, and it will provide research mini-grants to all new teachers participating in the CWP-Storrs Invitational Summer Institutes in 2014, 2015, and 2016. Any teacher from any discipline or grade level (pre-K through college) may apply to attend a Summer Institute. Fellowships from the Aetna Endowed Chair of Writing will be awarded to the most qualified applicants to attend the intensive, four-week institute. The mini-grants from the Teacher Leadership grant will complement these Fellowships and allow teachers to extend their summer research into a year-long inquiry project, the results of which will typically be presented at a local, regional, or national professional conference.





CLASS OF 2014: KRISELA KARAJA



If one word could translate recent UConn graduate Krisela Karaja’s story into words anyone can understand, it would probably be *translation*.

Literary translation, says Karaja, is a challenging endeavor because the translator carries the responsibility of not only delivering an author’s message, but also interpreting the cultural background of a word or phrase.

“I like the process of translating poetry because there are so many ways to tackle it,” says Karaja. “There’s no such thing as a literal translation because an expression in Albanian might not have the same cultural baggage if it were just translated word-for-word in English.”

Karaja, a double major in English and Spanish, spent much of her undergraduate career bridging the gap between language and literature by composing English translations of poems and academic essays originally in written Albanian or Spanish. Born in Albania, Karaja moved to the United States when she was two years old and is a native Albanian speaker. She is also fluent in Spanish.

“My interest in language and literature stems from a natural desire to integrate my knowledge of the Spanish, English, and Albanian languages,” says Karaja. “I’ll be reading a really great text in Albanian that isn’t very well-known in English, and think, ‘Wouldn’t it be great if I could translate and share this?’”

Throughout her undergraduate years at UConn, Karaja explored her cultural roots by working as the Poetry and Translations Editor for the *Long River Review*, UConn’s student-run literary magazine, as well as through her various leadership roles in the Albanian Student Association.

“Coming to UConn has really helped me to tap into that

identity,” says Karaja. “I was able to merge the social aspect of my culture, through the Albanian Student Association, with my academic work in translation.”

As a Fulbright Scholar, Karaja will return to Albania in fall 2014 to study the Albanian literary landscape.

Karaja has worked closely with Assistant Professor-in-Residence Darcie Dennigan of the Department of English, with whom she has taken four classes, and Dennigan guided Karaja on the translation of six poems by Albanian poet Luljeta Lleshanaku. This March the *Susquehanna Review*, an undergraduate international literary magazine, published two of the translations.

“Translations require a confidence in your abilities to manage a bunch of different elements all at once,” says Karaja. “To be selected is such an honor.”

Dennigan is excited to see that the *Susquehanna Review* is recognizing Karaja’s hard work.

“I am always impressed by Krisela’s scholarly work ethic,” says Dennigan. “She also really appreciates translation as an art form.”

Working as Editor-in-Chief at the *Long River Review* has also taught her the humility of being selected or rejected from literary magazines.

“It’s not always matter of if your work is ‘good’ or ‘bad’,” says Karaja. “Sometimes it’s just all of the stars aligning in terms of what kind of work the staff is looking for and what kind of room they have to work with.”

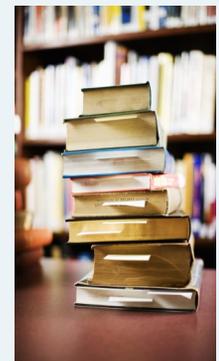
Karaja is considering obtaining her teaching certificate and teaching at a school, or working in publishing before going to graduate school. She’s also using her editorial skills to develop a blog and possibly an online literary journal. Ultimately, she would like to earn her PhD in English and teach at a university.

“I’m just as excited for Fulbright as I am for all of these possibilities,” says Karaja. “I would really like the opportunity to try something new and different.”

—Samantha Ruggiero (’14), *UConn Today*, 16 May 2014

SUPPORT ENGLISH

We are grateful for the generosity of our many donors—students and their parents, faculty, staff, and others—which allows us to fund scholarships and bring a rich array of learning opportunities to the community. You may donate to the English Department on the secure giving page for [CLAS](#); click “Other Gift Designation,” and type in English Department and the [specific fund](#), if any.





Vicki Baker (BGS '90; MA '93) is a computer tech and teaches English at Three Rivers Community College. "I have so many fond memories of bright moments in the dim halls of Arjona, though most of my professors have moved on."

Keith Chasse ('92) is a Learning Solutions Specialist with Pearson. "In my career in publishing, I have been sales representative, marketing manager, acquisitions editor, and publisher, and now I'm a learning solutions specialist. I live in Mason (Cincinnati), Ohio. I am Founder and President of the UConn Alumni Association, Cincinnati Chapter. Quite surprisingly, we have about 300+ UConn Alumni in the Cincinnati area and have combined events with the Columbus and Louisville chapters."

William F. Dougherty ('88) has published two books of poetry and served as a newspaper editor, critic, lecturer, reviewer, and speechwriter. He taught at UConn, Central Connecticut, the University of Hartford, Teikyo-Post University, Manchester Community College, and Eastern Connecticut State. He has published poems in *The Wallace Stevens Review*, *North American Review*, *Romantics Quarterly*, and the *International Who's Who in Poetry*. From 1960-81, he served as the chief editorial writer of the *Waterbury Republican-American*, *The Hartford Times*, *New Bedford Standard-Times*, and *Nashua Telegraph*. He now lives in West Hartford.

Kathleen Short Fox ('63) offers thoughts on her undergraduate years and where they led her: "I cherish those undergraduate years and the exploration of meaning and symbolism. I have gone on to 37+ years of practice as a clinical social worker. Starting as a case worker after graduation, I earned an MSW from NYU, and have a long career of working with people with psychiatric disorders. I graduated in 1963 with a major in English literature and a minor in history. I eventually found myself working for the Connecticut Department of Public Welfare, first for the aged and disabled and then for Aid to Families with Dependent Children. I was a stay-at-home mother for ten years and returned to social work in the mid-seventies. Since then I have worked in the field of mental health as a clinician, administrator, and clinical and organizational consultant. Now in my seventies, I have two children, three grandchildren, and have been married for fifty years to the man I met at UConn, who is a graduate of the School of Engineering."

Kyle Potvin ('87, English/French) writes, "What a great idea to create *The English Channel*. I often wondered what was happening at my alma mater. The newsletter is inspiring! Ten years ago, I started Splash Communications, LLC, a consultancy of communications specialists. It was one of the first virtual PR firms in the industry. We've worked with amazing companies and organizations including Domino's Pizza, Jersey Mike's Subs, Oldways, the Whole Grains Council, the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, and more. My first collection of poetry, *Sound Travels on Water*, was published in November 2012 by Finishing Line Press. My work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Measure*, *The Huffington Post*, *JAMA*, *Blue Unicorn*, *Alimentum*, and on *BBC's World Update*, among others, and I was named a finalist for the 2008 Howard Nemerov Sonnet Award."

Lewis Turco ('59) used his military money for a BA from UConn and an MA from the University of Iowa. Teaching at UConn and Fenn College after graduation, Lewis founded and directed what is now the Cleveland State University Poetry Center, attracting the attention of SUNY Oswego's English Department chair Erwin Palmer. As director and professor at Oswego, he shaped student authors for 31 years, retiring in 1996. He has published fifty-two books, chapbooks, and monographs, along with hundreds of poems, stories, plays, and essays that are testaments to his prolificacy. He read with Dennis Barone at the Co-op bookstore last year under the sponsorship of the English Department. He now splits his time between Dresden, Maine and Oswego.

REMEMBERING FACULTY

John Abbott, Professor Emeritus and former Head of the English Department, passed away on July 18, 2014. John was a scholar with interests ranging from 18th-century literature to 20th-century fiction. After earning his PhD at Michigan State, he joined the department in 1964 and retired in 2003.

Roger B. Wilkenfeld (1938-2013) taught in our department from 1963 until his retirement in 2011. A specialist in the poetry of John Milton and 19th- and 20th-century English and American verse, he published primarily on Milton and Victorian poetry and fiction. He died October 4, 2013.

Kenneth G. Simpson (1943-2013), two-time Neag Distinguished Professor of British Literature at UConn, taught undergraduate and graduate students in classes focusing on Scottish literature, including an honors section of 18th-century British literature. In 1999 Simpson was also the first UConn "Scholar-in-Residence," living among undergraduates in the South Campus dormitory complex. "His students loved him," says Emeritus Professor Lee Jacobus.

Joan Joffe Hall (1936-2013), the first woman to be hired in a tenure-track position in the Department of English at Storrs, died after a 17-year struggle against cancer. She arrived at UConn in 1963 and taught here until her retirement thirty years later. Roger Wilkenfeld recalled, "I always marveled at her extraordinary discipline, and how she combined her passion for teaching with her commitment to her own writing. She was a woman for all seasons. Her legacy to the Department is powerful and enduring."

Jack Davis, a Romanticist and Proust specialist, taught English in our department for thirty-three years (1956-1989). His death on October 17, 2012, left many colleagues with fond memories of a man who was "an embodiment of what the Renaissance valued as a humanist."