

# *Ph.D. in Literature Program*

*Summer 2004*

## *Letter from the Director*

Dear Lit Program members,

Happy Summer! As our members, both faculty and students, go off in various directions for exciting travel and study (see below it seems a good idea to create ways in which we can keep in touch. This Summer Newsletter is the first edition of our Literature Program Newsletter, which we hope to make a standing feature of our Web page. Please feel free to send us new information about your doings; the Web version can be regularly updated. If your photo is not already on the page, please send us something we can use for a head shot. But we can use other images as well—as we know, the Web is iconic, etc. So—send us a summer snapshot, if you would like to share it!

Best wishes for sunny and important days—  
Margaret Doody

## *Looking into the Future*

Our most immediate source of excitement is the arrival of five new students who bring us the benefit of their talents, their diverse interests and their former experience in diverse colleges in different parts of the country. We look forward to seeing some of you on or near campus very soon, and will do all we can to help with housing and the settling-in process.

Our current students are ambitiously studying through the summer, many of them in fascinating overseas locations. We hope they will share their experiences with us on their return.

Preparation for the Qualifying Examination is beginning, and students are beginning to map out reading lists and committees. Most are also thinking already of the substance and design of the dissertation.

The Program expects to increase course offerings and diversity of faculty. The World Literature course on “Lives and Life-writing” will be taught by Martin Bloomer, Margaret Doody, Asma Afsarudding and Howard Goldblatt, and will deal with biography and autobiography in the Western, Middle Eastern and Chinese traditions.

New arrivals among the faculty this Fall will be warmly welcomed. We are happy to be able to announce that Maud Ellmann, currently at Cambridge University, has accepted an offer from Notre Dame! She will be working with the English Department and with Irish Studies; her association with Irish Studies connects her with our Program, in which she is much interested. Maud will be with us from January 2005.

## *The Story of 2003-2004*

The 2003–04 academic year was an exciting epoch in the history of the Ph.D. in Literature Program. If 2001–02 was the year of becoming an organizational reality, and 2002–03 a year of establishing ourselves as a functioning academic reality, 2003–04 was a year of maturation and growth. For the first time departments participating in the Program began to feel the benefit of having doctoral students available as teachers, and faculty came to appreciate the excitement and energy of working with gifted doctoral students.

### **MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

**Permission to Proceed Examination:** This involved work by both students and faculty. The students prepared reading lists unique to their areas of interest, formed exam committees, and worked closely with faculty members as they prepared for the examination. The examination posed a tremendous challenge: since the students were the first group to take the Permission to Proceed examination, they could not consult sample question papers from former years. For the faculty, the examination required the production of written question papers and follow-up in an oral examination—again, both without existing precedent. Both of these processes were closely monitored by the Director and Associate Director, who had final oversight over all written examination question papers (to ensure equity), and who sat in on the oral examinations administered by each individual committee.

Despite initial apprehension, all eight students who attempted the examination have passed. Participating faculty have been equally energized and excited by the intellectual challenges of the Program. As a group, the students are now well on their way towards their Qualifying Examination, many already working with a dissertation subject in mind.

**Language Examinations:** All of the Program’s students have successfully passed their primary and secondary language exams, and several are working comfortably in three of more languages including French, Spanish, German, Irish, Italian, Portuguese, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Japanese, Tagalog, and Arabic.

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# Student News

## Current Students



**Joan Arbery** is studying Oideas-Gael and attending the Irish Seminar in Ireland with the Keough Institute of Irish Studies. Also, she is presenting a paper "Conrad's London: Searching for Bodies in *The Secret Agent*" at the Literary London Conference:

*Representations of London in Literature An Interdisciplinary Conference* funded by the Robert E. Gordon Conference Presentation Grant Program. This fall she will be a TA for Collin Meissner.



**Douglas Ayling** is on leave for 2004–2005 to obtain a MSc in Social Anthropology at Oxford University, conceived as a component unit which will inform his overall investigation of contemporary Japanese culture and fiction.



**Daniel Colón** has traveled to Argentina to attend and do research at the Pablo Neruda's Centennial Celebration thanks to a Zahm Travel Grant that is funding the trip. This past winter break he traveled to Chile, to do research on Neruda, which was funded by a Tinker Foundation Pre-dissertation Travel Award. This fall he will be teaching Beginning Spanish I.



**Jessica Dougherty-McMichael** is studying Irish at Carraroe National University of Ireland, Galway and Oideas-Gael with the Keough Institute of Irish Studies. Also, she is undertaking a special studies of Native American Literature. This fall she will be teaching First-Year Composition.



**James Hussar** is taking Summer School courses in Hebrew and advanced Spanish funded by the Graduate School. This fall he will be teaching Beginning Spanish II.



**Charles Leavitt** is taking a Summer School course in Advanced Latin funded by the Graduate School. This Fall he will be teaching Beginning Italian I.



**Georges Montillet** is taking two Summer School courses: "Plato before the Republic" and "American Religious Imagination", funded by the Graduate School. This fall he will be teaching Intermediate Latin.



**Catalina Perez-Abreu** is taking a Summer School course in beginning Italian II funded by the Graduate School. This fall she will be teaching Beginning Spanish II.



**Maria Valenzuela** is studying Filipino (Tagalog) in the Advanced Filipino Abroad Program (AFAP) at De la Salle University in Manila, Philippines. Funding comes from a Fulbright-Hayes Scholarship.

This fall she will be a TA for Spanish.

## Incoming Students

### Gretchen Busl

Gretchen is finishing a BA in Romance Languages at Mount Holyoke College, which gave her a research fellowship to spend the summer of 2003 studying Italian in Perugia. Gretchen's languages include French, Italian and Latin. She is interested in medieval literature.

### Harry Karahalios

Harry has a BA from the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, and an MA in English from De Paul. He has taught as an EFL instructor, as well as working as an adjunct at De Paul. His languages include Spanish, Italian and modern Greek. His interests incline to the modern and postmodern. Harry is interested in film, and has founded a Greek Film Festival.

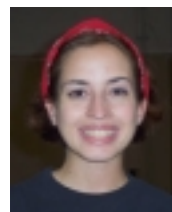
### Stephen Little

An award winning student and published poet, Stephen has a BA in English from the University of Dallas and is completing an MA in Eastern Classical Literature at St. John's College, Santa Fe. He has studied Italian in Perugia, and is interested in Dante and Greek epic. His languages include Italian, Latin, Greek, Occitan and Sanskrit.



### Abigail Palko

Abigail has a BA in English and French from Chestnut Hill College and an MA in English at Rutgers. Abigail has taught grade school and high school and at college level, and has participated in an NEH summer seminar. Her primary interest in the relation of French and Francophone literatures, with a secondary interest in Irish literature, and a focus also on Caribbean studies.



### Marianne Peracchio

Marianne is currently an intern at the American Embassy in Paris. She has a BA from Grove City College. Languages include French and Spanish, and she would like to learn Italian and Russian. She once served as an intern at a US embassy, but is more interested in writing and directing plays. She has written a comedy which was produced in a One Act Festival.

# Faculty News

## ASMA AFSARUDDIN

**Associate Professor, Fellow of Institute The Classics,  
Inst. for Intl. Peace Studies**

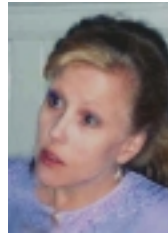
I spent the past academic year on sabbatical in London and Cairo. In the fall, I was a visiting scholar at the Centre of Islamic Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. I gave invited presentations on topics as diverse as concepts of legitimate leadership and political authority within Islam, depictions of medieval women scholars in Arabic biographical literature, and the nature of jihad at the London School of Oriental and African Studies, the Institute of Oriental Studies at Oxford University, the Institute of Isma'ili Studies in London, the University of Leeds, Michigan State University, East Lansing, and the Eastern Mediterranean University in Famagusta, Northern Cyprus.

I am currently working on two monographs, one dealing with the early history of Muslims and the other with the changing perspectives on jihad and martyrdom in Islamic thought. I continue to serve on the editorial boards of the *Encyclopedia of Medieval Islamic Civilizations* (Routledge, forthcoming) and the *Bulletin of the Middle East Studies Association*, (Cambridge University Press).



**JOSEPH BUTTIGIEG**  
**The William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of  
English.**  
**Modern British, literary theory**

Joseph A. Buttigieg is now completing the third volume of his integral critical edition in English of Antonio Gramsci's *Prison Notebooks*. A volume of essays on EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY which he edited with Professor Thomas Kselman (of the History Dept.) was published earlier this year by the University of Notre Dame Press. This past year, Professor Buttigieg conducted seminars on various aspects of Gramsci's work at the City University of New York and at the Univ. of California at Santa Cruz. In May he gave a talk on Gramsci's concept of civil society at a symposium hosted by the University of Nanjing in China. He is also continuing to edit the "Reading Gramsci" book series for Pluto Press.



## KRISTINE IBSEN

**Professor and Liaison to the Chair for the  
Program in Iberian and Latin American  
Studies**

This past academic year my book: *Memoria y deseo: Carlos Fuentes y el pacto de la lectura* was published by the Fondo de Cultura Económica. I was also the On-site director for

Notre Dame International Study Program in Puebla, Mexico in Fall 2003. This summer I am hoping to continue work on my fifth book. Provisionally entitled *Imperial Dreams: Maximilian, Juárez and Modernity*, this cross-disciplinary study examines literary and artistic representations of the Second Empire of Mexico.



## CATHERINE PERRY

**Associate Professor; Liaison to the Chair for  
the Program in French and Francophone  
Studies; Fellow, Nanovic Institute for  
European Studies; President, Conseil  
International d'Études Francophones (CIÉF)**

As President of the international Francophone Studies association CIÉF (Conseil International d'Études Francophones), I have been busily preparing the program of our annual conference, to be held this year in Liège, Belgium, 19-27 June. In October I will present a paper on violence in the work of Marguerite Duras and J.M.G. Le Clezio at the Rocky Mt. MLA and in November I will give a paper on Anna de Noailles and her cousin Marthe Bibesco at Dartmouth.

Forthcoming are two invited essays: 1) in English, "Sensual Deviations and Verbal Abuse: Anna de Noailles in the Critic's Eye," for a collective volume, to be published in the UK; 2) in French, on André Gide and Anna de Noailles, for another collective volume, edited by Pierre Brunel, Sorbonne University. I have also been invited by Johns Hopkins University Press to write an introduction (in English, of course) for a bilingual edition of poems by French women from the 19th through the mid 20th centuries, translated by Norman Shapiro.

# Faculty News Continued



**MARGARET DOODY**  
Director, Ph.D. in Literature Program  
John and Barbara Glynn Family  
Professor of Literature

My new mystery novel, *Poison in Athens*, has just been published (May 6) in the UK. I have been invited by the student members of the Oxford Union at Oxford University

to address them on the subject of my "Aristotle" novels on June 8. In mid-July I will be a speaker at a conference on "Eighteenth-Century Narratives" at the University of Exeter, England. I am working on a book on Venice and the fifth novel in the "Aristotle" series.



**COLLIN MEISSNER**  
Associate Director, Ph.D. in  
Literature and Assistant Professor  
for American Studies

This past academic year I completed an article "The Matter of Perception: American Girls and English Ghosts" which will be published in an MLA volume on teaching Henry James. I am completing an article for Palgrave Press

which is publishing a guide to Henry James. This piece, titled "Money Matters in Henry James," is also part of my book project "Capital Crimes: the Role of Money in American Literature and Culture."



**DAYLE SEIDENSPINNER-NUNEZ**  
Department Chair, Fellow of Institute,  
Professor Romance Lang & Lit, Nanovic  
Inst. European Studies

I am currently attending a conference in Madrid on Los Conversos and the History of Spain, 1248-1500, where I am reading an invited paper on "The Converso as Monster:

Reading the Libro del alborayque." I have an article, "Historicizing Teresa: New Documents Regarding Sor Teresa de Cartagena," coming out soon in the spring issue of *La coronica* (an MLA publication), and will be giving an invited lecture in Mexico City next September on the same topic. This summer I plan to continue work on a book project on the conversos and Trastamaran Spain.

# Visiting Faculty



**ZYGAMUNT G. BARANSKI**  
2004 Distinguished Visiting Professor of  
Dante and Italian Studies

Serena Professor of Italian and Head of the Department of Italian in the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages at Cambridge University. Co-sponsored with the Department of Romance Languages and the Medieval Institute.

Professor Baranski is one of the world's authorities on Dante, medieval poetics, and modern Italian literature, film and culture. Recent books include *Chiosar con altro testo. Leggere Dante nel Trecento*. (Florence: Cadmo, 2001); *Dante e i segni. Saggi per una storia intellettuale di Dante* (Naples: Liguori, 2000); *Cambridge Companion to Modern Italian Culture* (Co-editor Rebecca West. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001); *Pasolini Old and New. Surveys and Studies*. (Editor. Dublin: Four Courts Press, 1999).

Professor Baranski's visiting professorship at Notre Dame during the fall of 2004 is co-sponsored by the Devers Program in Dante Studies, the Medieval Institute and the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. He is scheduled to teach a graduate seminar titled "Dante's World of Books" and an undergraduate course on Italian film: "Italian Cinema: The Realities of History."

## Calendar

### SUMMER 2004

- June 17: Summer School Web enrollment begins
- June 22: Summer School courses start (unless a different date is listed)
- Aug. 5: Last class day of Summer School
- Aug. 6: Summer School Final examinations

### FALL 2004

- Aug. 17–Sept. 1: Web enrollment (Enrollment and Registration for classes are separate tasks)
- Aug. 16–20: Instructor Training, Romance Languages (not for new students)
- Aug. 20: Graduate Orientation & Registration
- Aug. 24: Classes begin
- Aug. 24: Mass (formal opening of school year)
- Sept. 1: Last day for course changes
- Oct. 16–24: Mid-semester break
- Oct. 25: Classes resume
- Oct. 29: Last day for course discontinuance
- Nov. 10–Dec. 1: Registration for spring semester 2005
- Nov. 25–Nov. 28: Thanksgiving holiday
- Nov. 29: Classes resume
- Dec. 8: Last class day
- Dec. 9–12: Reading days
- Dec. 13–17: Final examinations
- Dec. 20: All grades due in Registrar's office by 3:45 p.m.