ENGLISH PROFESSORS WIN DISTINGUISHED AWARDS

Colleagues of Dr. Hrach praise her for her work in three major areas: reading and assessing literature in translation with core curriculum students, analyzing the historical and cultural function of translated literature with upper-level students and managing culture shock in study abroad programs. They note that Dr. Hrach strives in her work to give her students a deep awareness of their place in the world through their work with literary translation. She is lauded for developing CSU’s first online version of World Literature, and currently teaches the course both online and in face-to-face classrooms, with enriching results in each delivery format. Dr. Hrach’s students are the most vocal advocates of her teaching techniques and the high standards of her classes, noting that her approach to true learning made literary texts meaningful for them in ways they could apply to their lives.

Dr. Nick Norwood’s third volume of poetry, Gravel and Hawk, won the Hollis Summers Prize in Poetry, a nationwide contest, and was published by Ohio University Press in 2012. His other books are A Palace for the Heart (2004), The Soft Blare (2003), and the limited edition, fine press book Wrestle (2007). Dr. Norwood has been awarded an International Merit Award in Poetry from Atlanta Review. In October, 2012, his poem “A.M.” was selected Poem of the Week by the PBS News Hour and published on its online blog Art Beat. At the Euroscience Open Forum, he has twice served as the sole poet to represent the United States (Munich 2006, Turin 2010). Norwood has also published critical articles, reviews, and interviews in peer-reviewed journals and scholarly books. He has recently given readings and master classes at The New School in New York, Ramapo College in New Jersey, and Texas A&M-Texarkana.
Welcome to the first edition of our department newsletter! Let me begin by thanking you for your interest in and support of our students, faculty, and alumni. What an exciting year this has been for us. Allow me to share some of the recent highlights with you. In late March, our department hosted the Southern Literary Festival, including readings by Tim O’Brien, Natasha Trethewey, Kevin Wilson, Dan Albergotti, and Madge McKeithen. During the festival weekend, we hosted both students from colleges and universities across the south and members of the Columbus community. Two of our faculty colleagues, Aaron Sanders and Patrick Jackson, have been tenured and promoted to Associate Professor. Pat McHenry, our recently appointed Interim Dean, was promoted to full Professor of English. Nick Norwood, Professor of English, received the university’s 2013 Faculty Research and Scholarship Award. The University System of Georgia Regents honored Susan Hrach, Professor of English, with the 2013 Regents’ Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award. Tom Delaney, part-time instructor of English, received one of the 2013 Outstanding Teacher of Writing Awards. Kristin Taylor (B.A. English, 2009) was awarded the 2013 College of Letters and Sciences Alum of the Year in the Humanities. Our literary journal, Arden, earned the second place award for literary journals at the Southern Literary Festival. We have graduates from every degree track pursuing further study at institutions such as University of California-Davis, James Madison University, and Clemson University. In addition to these notable accomplishments, you will find more information about the many other outstanding achievements of our faculty and students in the pages that follow. As you will see, this has been quite a productive and successful year for our department.

In the fall of 2012, Dr. Barbara Hunt, former chair and member of the department of English at Columbus State for more than three decades, officially retired. On behalf of the department and its many friends and supporters, I thank Dr. Hunt for her dedication and commitment to us. We wish her well in the next phase of life. Currently, she is working part-time as the coordinator of the university’s Complete College Georgia initiatives. We have named the new department library (located in Woodall 152) in her honor. When you are on campus or in Woodall Hall, drop by and see the Hunt Department Library.

This fall we are pleased to welcome a new tenure-track faculty member, Marlene Allen. Dr. Allen joins our department as Assistant Professor of English, focusing on Ethnic American literature. Her areas of research include African American literature, multicultural American literature, and African American science fiction and fantasy.

Please join me in thanking Aaron Sanders, Associate Chair, for designing the first edition of our newsletter. We are thrilled to share this wonderful news with our friends and supporters. Finally, allow me to offer my sincere thanks to those who support the department of English with generous contributions of your time and money. With your support, we will continue to be a thriving community of teaching, scholarship, and service. If you live in Columbus or find yourself returning to the area, please join us for readings and lectures. Visit our website (http://english.columbusstate.edu/) for a calendar of events. We would be pleased to see you!

Carmen Trammell Skaggs, Chair
The English Department at Columbus State University is seeking submissions for The Carson McCullers Literary Awards. Awards will be given in four categories: The Brick Road Greear Prize for Poetry, The Paul Hackett Award for Creative Nonfiction, The Orlene Jones Poulsen Award for Fiction, and The Naartjie Multimedia Award for Expository Writing. Each category will have four awards (two for CSU students and two for Georgia high school students): First Place includes $150 and publication in Arden, CSU’s award-winning literary journal and Honorable Mention winners will receive $100. Entries are due February 1, 2014, and winners will be announced in early March. On April 1 CSU will hold an Awards Reception and Dinner featuring poet and nonfiction writer, Sandra Beasley, during which the winners will receive their prizes.

Prose guidelines: 2,500 word limit, 12 point font, double-spaced. Poetry guidelines: up to three poems.

Students may submit once in each category. There is no entry fee (students must either be registered for classes at CSU or attend a Georgia high school). Entries will be accepted from November 15 - February 1 and will be submitted as Word or PDF documents through CSU’s website: english.columbusstate.edu

These awards are named for Carson McCullers who was born Lula Carson Smith in Columbus, Georgia, on February 19, 1917. Most famous for her novels The Heart is a Lonely Hunter, Reflections in a Golden Eye, The Member of the Wedding, The Ballad of the Sad Cafe, and Clock Without Hands, McCullers was also a playwright and a short story writer. Her small but significant body of work includes five novels, two plays, twenty short stories, over two dozen nonfiction pieces, a book of children’s verse, a small number of poems, and an unfinished autobiography. She died in 1967 at age 50.

For further information about the awards, please contact: Dr. Carmen Skaggs, Department Chair, English at 706-569-2583 or skaggs_carmen@columbusstate.edu.
A member of the Science Fiction Writers of America and the Science Fiction Research Association, **Dr. Joe Francavilla** has been teaching film and literature in the English Department of CSU since 1987. He published the CSU literary journal *The Spectrum* in 1990 and 1991, the forerunner of *Arden*, and his poems and stories have appeared regularly in *Arden* since the first issue in 2000. Nominated for the Regents Teaching Award and twice nominated for the CSU Educator of the Year, Professor Francavilla in 2011 edited a book of criticism, *Harlan Ellison: Critical Insights* from Salem Press, and published a collection of his poems and stories, *Poems & Prose & Things* from New Plains Press. His criticism has been published on authors such as Franz Kafka, Edgar Allan Poe, Ray Bradbury, Dorothy Parker, William Carlos Williams, Harlan Ellison, Thomas Disch, Robert Silverberg, Philip K. Dick, and on films such as *Planes Trains and Automobiles, The Heart is a Lonely Hunter, Bringing Up Baby, City Lights, Citizen Kane, Blade Runner,* and *This is Spinal Tap.*

During the 2012-2013 academic year, **Dr. Courtney George** has been busy presenting her work in varying places and for varying purposes. In the fall of 2012, she gave a presentation titled “Carson McCullers in Columbus and Beyond” at the Columbus Museum, and then presented a paper titled “Carson McCullers and the Global South” at the Southern Women Writers Conference at Berry College in Rome, Georgia. She also organized a panel on Carson McCullers at the South Atlantic MLA (and currently is in the process of organizing another McCullers panel for this fall’s SAMLA in Atlanta). In spring of 2013, Dr. George was invited to present her essay, “What Would the Music Be Like?: Revolutionary Music in Alice Walker’s Meridian” on the Gendered Blues Subjectivities and Racial Politics across Southern History panel at the Modern Language Association (MLA) in Boston. Then, in February, she traveled to Pittsburgh to give a keynote lecture about McCullers’ *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* for the community’s Big Read programming. Dr. George also wrote the introduction for and helped to guest-edit a special section about Carson McCullers and her influence for an upcoming edition of the journal *ANQ.* In between her travels, she also managed to teach several courses—including a senior-level course on Carson McCullers and Richard Wright and an interdisciplinary studies course on the writers of the 2013 Southern Literary Festival that was hosted here at CSU.

**Dr. Shannon Godlove** joined the CSU faculty in Fall 2012 as the English department’s new specialist in medieval literature. Her research focuses on the intersections between religious identity and conceptions of authorship in Anglo-Saxon poetry and homilies, however she also publishes in the related fields of Latin, Old Norse-Icelandic, and Middle English literatures. Her most recent article, “The Elevation of the Apostles in Cynewulf’s Christ II: Ascension” will be published in the journal *PQ: Philological Quarterly* in December 2013. In October 2012 she presented a paper entitled “Fated Voyages: Translating the Trope of the Perilous Sea Journey in Anglo-Saxon Missionary and Apostolic vitae,” in a panel organized with fellow CSU faculty members Dr. Daniel Gullo and Dr. Susan Hrach at the 38th Conference of the Southeastern Medieval Association (SEMA) in Gulfport, Mississippi. Dr. Godlove also attended the annual International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan in May 2013, where she organized and chaired a panel on the topic “Words and Deeds in Insular Culture” and presented her research on the historical and political significance of the Breton setting in Chaucer’s “Franklin’s Tale” in a session on the theme, “Chaucer and the ‘Celtic Fringe’: Revisiting Geographic and Cultural Margins.” Since her arrival at CSU, Dr. Godlove has been collaborating with Dr. Daniel Gullo in the department of History to develop CSU’s exciting new interdisciplinary program in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and will be serving as faculty coordinator of the undergraduate Medieval and Renaissance Certificate, and faculty and student research workshop in 2013-2014.

**Dr. Susan Hrach** has been named the sole recipient of the USG Regents’ Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award for 2013, the highest honor for faculty at Georgia’s public colleges and universities. She is the first faculty member from CSU to win this statewide award, which recognized her efforts to raise students’ global awareness through teaching literary translation and leading summer study abroad programs. She taught World Literature in Florence with Dr. Pat McHenry in 2012 as part of the CSU-in-Italy program, taking students to visit a hilltop Etruscan settlement in Volterra, Tuscany, and the ruins of Ostia Antica outside of Rome in tandem with their reading of ancient lyric and epic texts. After an enjoyable experience reading Christopher Marlowe’s translations
of Ovid’s Amores with her 2011 Selected Authors Capstone students, Dr. Hrach shared their insights at the South Central Renaissance Conference. She also presented a paper on metaphors of desire in early women’s poetry at the Southeastern Medieval Association Conference as part of a panel with Dr. Shannon Godlove and Dr. Daniel Gullo. She was thrilled to return this spring to the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC, to participate in a seminar on early modern women’s education. Dr. Hrach’s article on using translation as a focus for early world literature courses will appear in the fall issue (14.1) of the journal Pedagogy: Critical Approaches to Teaching Literature, Language, Composition, and Culture. She is particularly pleased to be following in Dr. Jim Owen’s footsteps by serving as the new Director for CSU’s Faculty Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning.

This last academic year was eventful for Dr. Patrick Jackson in a variety of ways. In the spring, he headed a successful search committee for a new Americanist professor and he played a small but proud part contributing to the Southern Literary Festival. In March, he presented a paper at the CEA conference in Savannah titled “From Songbirds to Birds of Prey: Wilfred Owen and the Flight of Romanticism.” In February, he was a reader for the McCullers House Faculty Reading Series, and from April to June, he was the Site Director for the Spencer House in Oxford, England. Over the course of the entire year, he had the pleasure to teach a wide array of classes, including a senior and graduate level class on the sonnet, and he continued being the advisor for the university newspaper The Saber and a co-advisor for the English Department’s honor society, Sigma Tau Delta. In addition, he was an instructor for CSU’s GRE Preparation Course in both the fall and spring semesters. He finished the year by earning tenure and a promotion to Associate Professor.

In March 2012, Dr. Seon Jeon presented her research article titled “Communicative tasks and L2 pragmatic development” at the Georgetown University Round Table on Languages and Linguistics in Washington. During the summer 2012, Dr. Jeon participated in Chonnam National University’s International Summer School and taught a course called “Exploring contemporary linguistic and cultural issues in America” to an international audience in Kwangju, S. Korea. As she continued to work as the director of TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), Dr. Jeon was invited to join GA 2020 English Learner Coalition Vision Team in the spring 2013. In this team, Dr. Jeon collaborates with diverse leaders across the state from business, government, the nonprofit sector and philanthropy in order to address the academic needs of the increasing population of English language learners in the state.

Dr. Judi Livingston has enjoyed a productive year collaborating with colleagues and working with students. In July 2012, she accompanied two English faculty members and two English majors to the annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha conference in Oxford, Mississippi. In August 2012, she and Professor Erin Bentley of CSU’s Teacher Education department received grant funding from the Faculty Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning to create small-group Professional Learning Communities for Composition faculty members. These PLCs met regularly throughout the year, enabling participants to share information and evaluate their teaching methods. In February 2013, Professor Livingston and Professor Eliot Rendleman attended the Southeastern Writing Center Association conference in Ft. Lauderdale and co-presented their initial findings on a quantitative research project that studies the impacts of mandatory Writing Center visits and Writer’s Journals on First Year Composition students. They are currently drafting an article for submission that details this project. Professor Livingston has a forthcoming book review in Composition Forum.

Dr. Joseph P. McCallus published his third book, The MacArthur Highway and Other Relics of American Empire in the Philippines (Potomac Books) in 2010. The work examines how the United States has influenced modern Philippine culture. After its release, he was interviewed on the nationally syndicated radio program, the John Batchelor Show. In 2011, McCallus was presented the College of Letters and Sciences Researcher of the Year award. He is now working on a book-length project that examines the memoirs of American servicemen in the Philippines from 1898 to 1905. An article resulting from this research is forthcoming in The Bulletin of the American Historical Collection, titled “Forgotten Stories of a Forgotten War.” McCallus has presented material from this research at the 2013 College English Association conference and for the department’s faculty lecture series.

Dr. Patrick McHenry has led student groups to Italy to study the great medieval writers Dante and Boccaccio, and to England to study the writers of Oxford. In his classes on campus, he has introduced students to Shakespeare, Milton, Marlowe, and many other Early Modern authors. He is a cinema buff, interested in any film of Charlie Chaplin, John Sayles, the Coen Brothers, or Michael Winterbottom. McHenry is the author of A Milton Herbal, published as an issue of the Milton Quarterly, and is now under contract to produce a new edition of Thomas Kyd’s The Spanish Tragedy, a sixteenth-century play that had an enormous influence on the English stage, especially on Hamlet. McHenry earned his Ph.D. in Renaissance English Literature at Ohio University. He has served CSU in a number of roles, including Acting Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, Chair of the Art Department, and Chair of the Math and Philosophy Department. He now serves
as Interim Dean of the College of Letters and Sciences.

**Professor Joe Miller** joined CSU’s English Department in August 2011 as an Assistant Professor of creative nonfiction and journalism. In November of that year his essay “Born Again and Again” was published in *New Letters* and subsequently nominated for a Pushcart Prize. In May 2012 his short story “Conquest [Translation]” was published by *DeComp* and also nominated for a Pushcart Prize. In May 2013 *The Rumpus* published his essay about the Mother’s of Invention’s albums *Freak Out!, Absolutely Free* and *Cruising with Ruben and the Jets*. His essay “The Black Saint and the Bestselling Writer” will be published by *The Missouri Review* in its fall or winter edition. He is currently at work on a memoir.

**Natalia Naman** is a playwright whose work has been produced and presented in New York, Boston, New Jersey and Philadelphia at such establishments as The Cherry Lane Theatre, Lark Play Development Center, Boston Center for the Arts, Company One, NYU, Princeton University, HERE Arts Center and Boston Playwrights’ Theatre. She received her BA in English and certificates in Theatre and African-American Studies from Princeton University. She holds an MFA in Dramatic Writing from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. Natalia is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America.

**Dr. Nick Norwood** was the program director for CSU’s hosting of the Southern Literary Festival in March of 2013 and co-chair of a special task force created to overhaul the CSU Faculty Handbook. In November, he gave his Rite of Passage Lecture, having been promoted to the rank of full professor. Following the publication of his third full volume of poetry, *Gravel and Hawk*, in March 2012, Nick made a number of public appearances, including at the Other Words Conference in St. Augustine, Florida, The New School in New York City, Ramapo College in New Jersey, Texas A&M University-Texarkana in Texas, and multiple venues in Columbus. Nick’s poem “A.M.” was featured on PBS News Hour’s Art Beat blog in October, his poem “Hawk” on Poetry Daily in February, and his poem “Jarring Honey” on Garrison Keillor’s *Writer’s Almanac* on NPR in May. Other poems were accepted and/or appeared in *Shenandoah, Blue Collar Review*, and *Ilanot Review: an Israeli Journal of Creative Writing* in English. Nick gave a paper at this year’s American Conference for Irish Studies in Chicago in April: “Leaning ‘well beyond the plumb’ of His Native Language: Seamus Heaney and the International Style.” He partnered with Professor of Classical Guitar Andrew Zohn on a collaborative project that culminated with a performance of poetry and guitar by his Advanced Poetry Writing students and Professor Zohn’s guitar studio at the McCullers Center in May. Nick was the winner of the university’s Faculty Scholarship Award, presented in April. And he is the co-director of the European Council study abroad program in Waterford, Ireland, which runs from June 21 to July 25.

In fall 2012, **Dr. Eliot Rendleman**, director of the Writing Center, became the coordinator of the Faculty Writing Fellowship. This particular fellowship, among others sponsored by the Faculty Center, is intended to assist faculty members with their efforts to use writing as a means of improving student engagement and learning in their courses. Dr. Rendleman meets several times during the academic year with 4 - 5 faculty members from across the disciplines to facilitate the implementation of new writing assignments into their curricula. The culmination of their innovative pedagogy took center stage at the Celebration of Student Writing, an event that showcased the process and products of the fellows’ spring classes. This year’s Celebration saw over 100 faculty members and students in attendance to view the hard work of the fellows’ students. Also, in fall 2012, he was published in *Writing Lab Newsletter*. His peer-reviewed feature article, “Lexicography: Self-Analysis and Defining the Keywords of Our Missions,” encourages writing center colleagues to reflect formally on the key terms found in their writing center discourse, and it shares a method for such a reflection. One associate editor commented, “This is not only interesting and useful but—to me—unusual—I haven’t seen the terminology problem handled this way before.” Currently, Dr. Rendleman is working on a study with Dr. Judith Livingston to investigate the effects and practical application of a mandatory writing center visit policy.

In December of 2010, **Dr. Jim Owen** happily returned to his former role as a full-time Professor in the Department of English after having taken an unexpected detour into university administration. He teaches courses in Romantic Poetry and Prose, Restoration and 18th-Century British Literature, Modern World Literature, and Writing for the Major. Next spring, he will teach a capstone course focusing on the works of Jane Austen. For the past three years, Owen has served on the Board of the College English Association, a national organization devoted to scholarly study of both the practical and the theoretical issues faced by members of our profession. Over the past six years, Owen has been a reader for the Advanced Placement test for Literature and Language. Owen’s most recent conference presentations have focused on the intersections between British literary works of the late 18th Century and the growing complexity of the legal code, particularly as laws were developed to protect the properties of the rich at the expense of the freedoms (and lives) of the poor. In his spare time, if Owen is not walking his dogs in Lakebottom Park, he peers out at the world through a screened porch in Wilkes County North Carolina, where he is an active member of
the Wilkes Acoustic Folk Society, an organization devoted to the preservation of hillbilly culture and music. He and his wife Yvonne keep bees, hence fulfilling Owen’s life-long goal of living in a bee loud glade.

Over the course of the last year Professor Rose-Holt has participated in and presented her work at several conferences as well as developed strategies and methodologies to further her instruction of students in her First Year Composition classes. She was awarded The Susan M. Cochran Memorial Scholarship for Faulkner Studies last summer and spent the week immersed in academic discussion of the theme, “Fifty Years after Faulkner.” In the fall of 2012, she presented her paper, The Narrator in The Ballad of the Sad Café as Symbolic Synecdoche at a Carson McCullers panel at the South Atlantic MLA conference. She taught courses that explored varying cultures, regions, and societies, and created an interdisciplinary course examining the intersection of Southern culture and the mainstream popular culture. Ongoing, her research follows ways to enhance the experience of composition students, and to that end, she has partnered with Eliot Rendleman in a study to judge the efficacy of mandatory visits to the CSU Writing Center, and the effect their attitude about mandated visits has on their relationship with their own writing. Further, she is developing alternative curriculum in her 1102 classes that explores unconventional ways to teach students about writing, and to foster transfer between written registers.

During the past year, Dr. Dan Ross had an article published, delivered two papers at national conferences, was accepted to nine different production companies. The pilot, based on his novel, Whispers of Heavenly Death, was developed in partnership with the TV producer Robert Palm (Miami Vice, American Gothic, Law & Order, and others). Though a deal was not reached, the project remains in circulation, and Aaron is working on another pilot script called Missionaries. Aaron’s story, “I Dream of Alan Arkin,” was featured in Summer 2012 issue of The Carolina Quarterly, and his story, “Things Are Kind of Different Now,” is forthcoming in Soundings East.

In May 2012, Dr. Carmen Skaggs and two Senior English majors, Marshall Callaway and Carlos Velázquez, represented Columbus State at the Willa Cather Spring Conference and Symposium in Red Cloud, Nebraska. Prof. Skaggs and Mr. Velázquez presented papers at the symposium. At the end of the fall term, Prof. Skaggs accepted an appointment as Chair of the English Department. In January, she spent a week at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Center for Holocaust Studies in Washington, D.C., participating in the 2013 Jack and Anita Hess Faculty Seminar: “Teaching about the Holocaust: History, Memory, and Memorialization.”

She was able to incorporate much of what she learned at the seminar in the spring term study abroad program she co-directed with Dr. Mariko Izumi, Associate Professor of Communication, in Berlin, Germany: “Memorializing the Holocaust.” Dr. Skaggs has two forthcoming publications: “The Transporting Power of Opera: Mignon in Willa Cather’s The Professor’s House” forthcoming in The Explicator and “A House of Freaks: Performance and the Grotesque in Carson McCullers’s The Ballad of the Sad Café” forthcoming in ANQ: A Quarterly Journal of Short Articles, Notes, and Reviews.

In the Spring and Fall of 2012, Professor Scott Wilkerson served as a poetry judge and featured reader at the Chattahoochee Valley Writers’ Conference, and was named Contest Chairman for the 2013 conference season. In October, 2012, Wilkerson lectured on Alexander Pushkin’s poetry for the Academic Decathlon series at Hardaway High. That same month, New Plains Press published his second collection of poems, Ars Minotaurica, the art for which was conceived and created by CSU art student, Joshua Jarrett. This collaboration was profiled in the pages of CSU’s IMPACT magazine. Wilkerson published, in the November issue of the Alabama Writers’ Forum, the first review of Pulitzer-Prize nominated poet Hank Lazer’s collection N18(Complete). In December, Wilkerson was named a Guest Dramatist by The Eclectic Company Theatre in Los Angeles, which produced his one-act play, Still Life with Apocalypse. In January 2013, Wilkerson’s book Ars Minotaurica was included in the syllabus for Pulitzer Prize-nominated poet Sue Walker’s graduate seminar at the University of South Alabama where he later appeared as Visiting Artist. In February, his play Seven Dreams of Falling was optioned by the historic Lillian Theatre’s Elephant-Stage Studio for a Summer-2013 World Premiere. In March, Wilkerson gave a Playwriting workshop at the Southern
Literary Festival, hosted triumphantly on the CSU campus. Throughout the Spring, he read from *Ars Minotaurica* at venues in Georgia, Alabama, and North Carolina. In June 2013, his play *Seven Dreams of Falling* played to full houses, garnering rave reviews in the *LA Weekly* and *The Huffington Post*.

In March 2012, **Crystal Woods** began coordinating a project to bring together the campus’s citation and anti-plagiarism resources into one website. This resource will be called Project(CITE) and will launch in January 2014. In May of 2012 Prof. Woods visited the library archives at the University of Delaware to research early drafts of the play *Death of a Salesman*. Her findings will become the basis of a scholarly article. In July 2013 Ms. Woods was selected to attend the annual Faulkner Conference at the University of Mississippi in Oxford. Ms. Woods has one forthcoming publication. *Gravity*, a collection of poems, will be published in the fall by New Plains Press.

**NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT**

**Dr. Marlene Allen** joins us as an Assistant Professor of English, specializing in ethnic American literature. She received her BA in English from Georgia Southern University and both her MA and PhD in English from the University of Georgia. Prior to her appointment at CSU, Dr. Allen served as Assistant Professor of English at Fayetteville State University in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Dr. Allen’s research focuses on African American literature, including African American science and fantasy fiction. She is co-editor of a recently published collection of interdisciplinary essays: *Afterimages of Slavery: Essays on Appearances in Recent American Films, Literature, Television, and Other Media*.

**ENGLISH FACULTY 2013-2014**

Courtyard George, Sundi Rose-Holt, Patrick Jackson, Joe McCallus, Kyongseon Jeon, Jim Owen, Pat McHenry, Joe Miller, Shannon Godlove, Crystal Woods, Nick Norwood, Nancy Moore, Scott Wilkerson, Susan Hrach, Joe Francavilla, Dan Ross, Aaron Sanders, Eliot Rendleman, Marlene Allen, Judith Livingston, Carmen Skaggs
The purpose of the scholarships is to provide support for an outstanding student in each of the four tracks of the English Major: English Literature, English Creative Writing, English Professional Writing, and English Secondary Education. The ability to provide financial support for incoming students will enable our department to recruit and to retain exceptionally well-qualified and talented students. Track-specific Scholarships: 1) English Literature Scholarship, 2) English Professional Writing Scholarship, 3) English Creative Writing Scholarship, 4) English Secondary Education Scholarship. Our goal is to secure a total of $6,000 annually through gifts made by our alumni, friends, current and retired faculty, business partners, civic/community groups and others. If you would like to designate a gift to one of these scholarships, please contact Dr. Carmen Skaggs at 706-569-2583 or skaggs_carmen@columbusstate.edu.
NICK NORWOOD
GRAVEL & HAWK
OHIO UNIVERSITY PRESS
WINNER OF HOLLIS SUMMERS PRIZE 2012

“Gravel and Hawk has a pervasively appealing genuineness in the fidelity with which Norwood honors, and reflects on, the textures and personalities of his youth in rural Texas. Filled with insights both sweet and wry, this book delivers a rich sense of a past deeply examined.”

--Mark Halliday, final judge, Hollis Summers Poetry Prize and author of Keep This Forever and Jab

SCOTT WILKERSON
ARS MINOTAURICA
NEW PLAINS PRESS

“The varied investigations in Ars Minotaurica are vigorous, frightful, and full of wit. Carey Scott Wilkerson is a genius.”

--Alan May, author of Dead Letters and Tracking Systems

CARMEN SKAGGS
OVERTONES OF OPERA IN AMERICAN LITERATURE FROM WHITMAN TO WHARTON
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

“Overtones of Opera is well written, free of jargon and pretentious theory, and does not overreach. I am impressed by the clarity of expression and argument, its skillful contextualization of a series of excellent analyses of texts referencing the American opera as well as the imaginative worlds created within several key operas . . . Skaggs brings light to carefully selected and always pertinent texts by American authors ranging from Poe and Whitman to Henry James and Edith Wharton.”

--George Monteiro, author of Stephen Crane’s Blue Badge of Courage
JOSEPH FRANCAVILLA
CRITICAL INSIGHTS: HARLAN ELLISON
SALEM PRESS

“A valuable addition to academic libraries supporting literature students both at undergraduate and at graduate levels.”
--Library Journal

JOSEPH MCCALLUS
THE MACARTHUR HIGHWAY & OTHER RELICS OF AMERICAN EMPIRE IN THE PHILLIPINES
POTOMAC BOOKS

“Joseph McCallus presents a wide-ranging and frank view of the Phillipines and the U.S. colonial legacy. Using as a base Gen. Douglas MacArthur’s route during the 1944-45 liberation campaign, McCallus weaves into this extremely interesting read multifaceted aspects of the American impact on the Phillipines, past and present . . . . This work will spark discussion and debate--the hallmark of a successful book”
--Ricardo T. Jose, professor of history, University of the Phillipines

JOE MILLER
CROSS X
PICADOR

“Irresistible . . . Miller begins breezily but is soon deeply invested in the Central squad’s mission to not only master the debate game on its own terms but revolutionize it with flashes of poetry and hip-hop wordplay . . . . If all these kids could run things, Miller implies, imagine what could get done.”
--Elle
Columbus State University’s Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians is pleased to announce the 2013 Marguerite and Lamar Smith Writing Fellow, Anzhelina Polonskaya. Polonskaya is the first international writer to take up residency at the Smith-McCullers house, joining us from the Moscow region in Russia. From September to December, she will work and reside in the childhood home of celebrated American writer Carson McCullers. She is the eighth recipient of this competitive fellowship named for McCullers’ parents and inspired by McCullers’ experiences at the Bread Loaf Writer’s Conference and the Yaddo Arts Colony in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Anzhelina Polonskaya was born in Malakhovka, a small town near Moscow. Since 1998, she has been a member of the Moscow Union of Writers, and in 2003, Polonskaya became a member of the Russian PEN-centre. Polonskaya has published translations in many leading world poetry journals, including World Literature Today, Descant, Modern Poetry in Translation, Poetry Review UK, The American Poetry Review, and International Poetry Review, Boulevard, The Iowa Review, The Massachusetts Review, Prairie Schooner, Barrow Street, The Journal, and Poetry Daily. Polonskaya’s work has also been translated into Dutch, Slovenian, Latvian, Spanish and other languages.

In 2004, an English version of Polonskaya’s book, A Voice, appeared in the acclaimed Writings from an Unbound Europe series by Northwestern University Press. This book was short-listed for the 2005 Corneliu M. Popescu Prize for European Poetry in Translation and for the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) prize for literature in translation. In 2011, the “Oratorio-Requiem” Kursk, whose libretto consists of ten of Polonskaya’s poems, debuted at the Melbourne Arts Festival. In addition, Paul Klee’s Boat, a bilingual edition of her latest poems, has just been published by Zephyr Press.

Polonskaya continues to live and work in Malakhovka. While at the Smith-McCullers house, she plans to work on a new collection of poetry and perhaps a collection of short stories. While visiting, Polonskaya will also give a public reading on November 21 at 7 pm at the Columbus Public Library.

The Marguerite and Lamar Smith Fellowship contributes to the Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians’ mission to preserve the legacy of Carson McCullers, nurture American writers and musicians, educate youth and foster the literary and musical life of Columbus, the State of Georgia, and the American South. The Center, based at the McCullers house on 1519 Stark Ave., presents educational and cultural programs for the community, maintains an archive of materials related to the life and work of McCullers, and provides fellowships for emerging writers like Anzhelina Polonskaya.

For more information on Polonskaya and the fellowship, as well as other events and opportunities afforded by the Center, go to http://www.mccullerscenter.org or contact Courtney George, director of the Center, at 706 565-4021 or by e-mail: george_courtney2@columbusstate.edu.

2006 Melanie Fallon
2007 Mylene Dressler
2008 Kelly Hayes-Raitt
2009 Selena Anderson
2010 Jessica Garratt
2011 David Samuel Levinson
2012 Evan James
2013 Anzhelina Polonskaya
Lito Velázquez
BA English (Creative Writing) 2012.
For the past several months Lito has worked as a technical writer at TSYS. He recently moved to California where he will pursue a two-year MA in English with an emphasis in Creative Writing at UC Davis.

Felicia Harris
BA English (Professional Writing) 2010. Felicia earned a master’s degree in Health and Medical Journalism and Mass Media Studies at UGA where she is pursuing her doctorate. She is the doctoral intern for new media with University Housing, co-managing social media channels, website, and other publicity.

Emma Estrella
BA English (Literature) 2011. Emma Estrella moved back to her home state of California where she began a Master’s program in Creative Writing at the University of California in Davis, CA where she also teaches writing and is co-chair for fig+axle, the graduate student reading series.

Kenneth Lawrence
BA English (Secondary Education) 2009. Kenneth earned his M.Ed. from CSU in 2012. He is in his fourth year of teaching American Literature and coaching basketball at GW Carver High School. He plans to pursue a doctorate in Education so that he may become a principal or superintendent one day.

Katie Burnett
BA English (Literature) 2009. Catherine (Katie) Burnett recieved her Masters of Library and Information Science from Florida State University. She is currently a librarian at North Columbus Library. Her article, “What it Means to be a Librarian” was published in the 2012 Georgia Library Quarterly.

Eric Maxwell
BA English (Professional Writing) 2011. Eric Maxwell lives in Atlanta where he works as an administrative assistant at the international civil law firm Troutman Sanders, LLP. He drafts and edits memos, letters, and legal pleadings that are submitted to the courts. Eric loves his job.
THE SOUTHERN LITERARY Festival is an organization of southern colleges and schools founded in 1937 to promote southern literature. Each year a different school hosts the Festival—which is, in effect, an undergraduate writing conference that entails writing workshops in fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and playwriting, a writing competition in those areas as well as in formal essay and literary-arts magazine, and a venue in which the participating students, faculty, and general public attend readings by well-known writers. Columbus State University hosted the Festival in 2013 to great success in cooperation with The Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians, the Columbus Public Library, and Artbeat.

The SLF has an illustrious history. Robert Penn Warren, then a professor at LSU, was one of the founders. He spoke at the conference on a number of occasions, as did Eudora Welty, Katherine Anne Porter, and Flannery O’Connor, who won an award at SLF as an undergraduate and later headlined the conference as a nationally prominent writer.

The Festival ran from Thursday evening, March 28, to
Saturday noon, March 30, the last weekend of Uptown Columbus’s Artbeat. Tim O’Brien, the award-winning novelist and short story writer, read at the Festival, as did the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and current U.S. Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey, the rising-star novelist Kevin Wilson, the acclaimed poet Dan Albergotti, and the creative nonfiction writer Madge McKeithen. Wilson, Albergotti, and McKeithen also conducted writing workshops in their respective genres. Trethewey and Albergotti answered questions about poetry during a panel discussion on Saturday morning, and all five writers attended a reception at the Smith-McCullers House on Friday afternoon.

Some 200-300 people attended the Festival—undergraduate writing students and sponsoring faculty from their respective institutions and members of the community.

CSU collaborated on this project with the Columbus Public Library to the extent that the Library chose to make Tim O’Brien’s *The Things They Carried* the Columbus area’s Big Read book for 2013. Henry McCoy, Programming and Communications Coordinator for the Library, received an NEA Big Read grant for the project, which entailed 10 book discussions and several special events, one of which was Tim O’Brien’s public appearance at the Springer Opera House. Further, Terry Irvin, CSU Director of Basic Studies, selected *The Things They Carried* as the freshman common reader for 2013, which involved those incoming students in this event in an exciting and rewarding way, as Tim O’Brien addressed CSU students directly during an on-campus presentation and book-signing at noon on Friday, March 29—the day of his public reading. And finally, Jennifer Gray, English teacher at Hardaway High School, Sandy Shorey, English teacher at Columbus High School, Ronnie Dalton, a liaison with the Fort Benning community, and Marshall Callaway, a CSU creative writing student and former Editor-in-Chief of *Arden*, the school’s literary-arts magazine, were all members of the steering committee and worked to promote the event among their respective constituencies. Tim O’Brien’s appearance involved the larger community and brought more attention to CSU’s efforts with regard to the Carson McCullers Center and to the teaching and promotion of creative writing, and the university as a whole.
R. BARBARA HUNT retired November 30 of 2012 after spending 37 years teaching at Columbus State University, 11 ½ of which she served as the English Department Chair. Dr. Hunt came to Columbus in 1975 after turning down several offers from other universities. In the beginning she did not like Columbus at all and planned to stay only a few years. Now she can’t imagine living anywhere else.

Many students have had her as a professor in their Early American Literature courses, myself included, as well as in English 1101 and 1102 courses. She teaches African American Literature, Shakespeare, and sometimes, whatever courses are left over to teach. One year she even taught the Studies in the Novel course on Kurt Vonnegut. Since I had taken her Early American Lit course, I was curious to see why she found the time period so fascinating. She said those writers are not “current and not as likely to be picked up,” writers such as “Anne Bradstreet and Benjamin Franklin tell us a lot about America back then and it’s important not to forget these writers and their culture.”

Since Dr. Hunt has been here for the past 37 years, I imagined there were many changes she was able to see and be a part of. I had to ask if Howard Hall has always smelled. She says that it smelled even worse back then! Apparently when it would rain it would flood the building. Luckily, Howard Hall is the next on the agenda for a major renovation. Back then, when Columbus State was known as Columbus College, the Woodall Building was the center of the campus. Woodall was the original library, the Administration’s Office, Human Resources, Financial Aid Office, etc. She stated that a lot has changed and technology has had the greatest impact. We think registering for classes is frustrating now but in the 70’s students had to line up in the Lumpkin center, in lines leading to every class they wanted to take. They would reach the end of the line, to a table where a teacher would have to manually sign them up for a class, and after that class was secured you went on to the next line. So online registration, with all its difficulties, is a step up. Also Dr. Hunt notes things such as the smart boards, PowerPoints, projectors, the web, and more are very helpful teaching tools. They have enhanced learning and engagement in courses.

I wanted to know what exactly a department head did. I knew they handled the D.E.R. but I could not figure out what else there was to do. Well they do a lot. They handle holds with registering for classes, they write the schedule for students to register, handle the course rotation, any need for money has to be viewed for things such as the upcoming Southern Literary Festival, scholarships, and the list goes on. Dr. Hunt
took over the position in 2001 when Dr. Ross stepped down. She says the job has its stresses. She has had to switch from thinking like a professor to thinking like a Department Head at a moment’s notice to fix real problems, then go back to class to fiction characters. It has been announced that Dr. Carmen Skaggs, Ph.D. will be the new department chair and Dr. Hunt says she has a lot of faith in Dr. Skaggs.

As the Department Head, she not only had the job of leading over the English department, and her classes, she was also on the faculty senate, something she believes to be very important to be informed and to be a voice in your community. Dr. Hunt believes that you have got to stand up for what you believe in. Dr. Hunt says it has nothing to do with disliking or liking the administration it is about principles. She has found success here and has been happy with everything she has participated in. Along with her other accomplishments, she was also the director of the Honors program at one point in her career.

I asked her if the type of students that she has had over the years have changed and she said no. Her response was that it has always been the same and that an English professor gets students who try those who do not try, excuses, as well as some brilliant writers. However, she does feel that her students have changed her over the years. “Maybe I’ve learned compassion,” she laughed, saying she was not as hard as she used to be. She has really loved the people she has had the opportunity to work with at CSU and that she was very lucky to have wonderful colleagues. Dr. Hunt says that she is not sure about her plans for retirement. She knows that she is going to do a major clean out, maybe a yard sale, and a lot of relaxing. Volunteer work at the public library is also an option. She said that it has just been a wonderful experience, she has had a lot of opportunities here, and the university is growing, and there was just so much to see.

THE POE (PATRONS OF ENGLISH) SOCIETY

We welcome your interest in the Department of English. If you are a graduate of our program, we would like to include any recent news or accomplishments in the next edition of the newsletter. Please send your updates to englishalums@columbusstate.edu.

If you would like to make a donation to the department of English, please visit our website at http://english.columbusstate.edu/ and click on the “Online Giving” link. You may designate your gift to the Department of English by selecting the “other” button under the “College of Letters and Sciences” tab and indicating your preference.
fall 2013 events calendar

Friday, September 13th (1:30 p.m.): CSU English Department Faculty Lecture Series featuring Dr. Marlene Allen.

Thursday, September 19 (5-7 p.m.): Drop-In Welcome Reception for the 2013 Marguerite and Lamar Smith Writing Fellow, Anzhelina Polonskaya.

Thursday, September 26-Saturday, September 28th: Chattahoochee Valley Writers Conference featuring a keynote by Shay Youngblood. Most events held at the Columbus Public Library, 3000 Macon Rd. Find more details and the full schedule here: http://www.chattwriters.org/.

Thursday, October 17th (12:30 p.m.): Freedom Riders Speaker Series featuring Charles Persons, Simon Schwob Library on CSU’s Main Campus. Co-sponsored with CSU History and Geography Department.

Thursday, October 17th (7:30 p.m.): CSU Student Reading and Recital Series. Co-sponsored with the CSU Schwob School of Music.

Thursday, October 24th (12:30 p.m.): Freedom Riders Speaker Series featuring T.K. Thorne, Simon Schwob Library on CSU’s Main Campus. Co-sponsored with CSU History and Geography Department.

Friday, October 25th (1:30 p.m.): CSU English Department Faculty Lecture Series featuring Dr. Susan Hrach.

Thursday, November 7th (12:30 p.m.): Freedom Riders Speaker Series featuring Dr. Thomas Aiello, Simon Schwob Library on CSU’s Main Campus. Co-sponsored with CSU History and Geography Department.

Friday, November 8th (1:30 p.m.): CSU English Department Faculty Lecture Series featuring Dr. Judith Livingston.

Thursday, November 14th (7:30 p.m.): CSU Student Reading and Recital Series. Co-sponsored with the CSU Schwob School of Music.

Friday, November 15th: An Afternoon with Poet Steve Gerhke. Talk at 4 p.m. and Reading at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 21st (7:00 p.m.): Reading with Anzhelina Polonskaya, the Columbus Public Library auditorium at 3000 Macon Rd, Columbus. Reception immediately following at the Smith-McCullers House.

Unless otherwise noted, all events are FREE at the Smith-McCullers home at 1519 Stark Ave in Columbus (31906). For more information, please contact the Center at 706-565-4021 or mccullerscenter@columbusstate.edu.