New Profs!

This fall, three new Assistant Professors join the Department of English. Anton Vander Zee (PhD, Stanford University), for whom “new” is somewhat of a misnomer, enters the tenure track as an Assistant Professor of American Literature and a Fellow in the Honors College after three years serving the College as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Poet Gary Jackson (MFA, University of New Mexico) joins the Creative Writing faculty from Central New Mexico Community College. Colleen Glenn (PhD, University of Kentucky), a film scholar, comes to us from Transylvania University.

As a way of introducing Folio readers to our new profs, I asked each three questions over email. Their responses follow, beginning on the next page.

- Mike Duvall
Anton Vander Zee

**Ignoring that this question presumes a life of leisure, what are you doing for kicks this summer?**

Aside from a brief trip up to Michigan to visit with family and the hosting of guests that often happens when one lives in what they call a “destination city,” the summer has mostly been a time for work. But summer work always unfolds at a different pace—I wouldn’t call it relaxing, but it is clearly distinct from the fast pace of the academic year. And Emily, my wife, is expecting in December, so the summer has been largely filled with the kinds of thoughts, anticipations, and tasks that I hope will prepare me for what’s to come.

**What research and/or writing projects do you have going right now?**

This summer I have been working on a range of writing projects—some are rather small-scale, and others are a bit too big to squeeze into a summer. On the small side of things, I’ve been writing copy for the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (NCA) website. I’ve had to learn a ton about the field—which included presenting at the National Association of Fellowship Advisors conference in July—and I was pleased to see how much my work with NCA aligns with my background in English and composition. I’ve been thinking and writing quite a bit, for example, about personal essay pedagogies, and how best to help students tell their stories in a dynamic, concise professional narrative.

I’m also working on a review of a book of poems called *Striven: The Bright Treatise* by a good friend and poet, Jeffrey Pethybridge. The book is so superb, so smart, that I don’t always feel equal to the task. Somewhere behind all of this is a book proposal that I’m assembling as I try to conjure whatever magic is required—and I’m paraphrasing the title of one of the many how-to tomes on the topic—to turn one’s dissertation into a book. The working title for that project, which is on Walt Whitman’s late poetry, the quiet influence of that work across the 20th century and beyond, and ideas of artistic late style more broadly, has the working title *The Final Lilt of Songs: Late Whitman and the Long American Century*.

**What are you most looking forward to about your new position in the Department of English?**

This question makes me feel like something of an imposter: I’m new to the position, but I’ve been around the College long enough to see the first class of 110 students I taught enter their senior year. But if I’m not necessarily new to the position, there still so much newness out there to be had: 5 College Way, a year old, still feels fresh, as does the arrival of Jonathan Heinen, the new Managing Editor of Crazyhorse; they’re renovating a building in the center of campus where my new NCA office will be; new colleagues in poetry and film are coming in; new programs and classes are being proposed for our undergraduate and graduate students. I suppose I’m most excited to join a group of colleagues committed (to borrow the famous modernist dictum) to “making it new.”

Colleen Glenn

**Ignoring that this question presumes a life of leisure, what are you doing for kicks this summer?**

I don’t have much time for kicks this summer, but when I do, I can be found playing Ultimate Frisbee, doing hot yoga, or catching a movie.

**What research and/or writing projects do you have going right now?**

Currently, I am finishing an article on Mickey Rourke that is my contribution to a collection on movie stars that I’m co-editing.

Mickey and I are in a death-match, and he’s winning!
What are you most looking forward to about your new position in the Department of English?

I’m looking forward to meeting my colleagues and students, designing and teaching new courses, and becoming part of the C of C community. It’s especially exciting to be able to help grow and develop the film studies program. Charleston: the food, definitely!

Gary Jackson

Ignoring that this question presumes a life of leisure, what are you doing for kicks this summer?

The ideal answer is that I’m spending time writing and organizing my second book (which I do enjoy, even when I don’t), squeezing some summer reading in (the comic *Hawkeye* by Matt Fraction is awesome, which was recommended to me by a few folks, including Conseula Francis), and affording a little time to travel and visit friends. I have, in fact, done all of these things this summer, but I’ve spent most of the summer prepping and planning and executing the move from Albuquerque, New Mexico to Charleston. So the breakdown is really something along the lines of 90% = moving, moving, moving; 10% = everything else. Though, does it count if I say that every year I dream of attending the San Diego Comic Convention that usually takes place in July? I haven’t been in over ten years (before Hollywood took it over), but every year I vow I’ll attend again…next year. Maybe.

What research and/or writing projects do you have going right now?

Currently, I’m working towards a second book, which must always feel a little daunting for poets, especially. Usually when I write, I think about the poem, singular. I try not to think in terms of a book. But then, after I’ve got about thirty or forty running all over my house, I have to start thinking about how well they get along with each other—that’s where I’m at now. And though I have some obvious threads I can work throughout the collection of poems (family, Korean-African-American mash-ups, sisters & daughters, superheroes, cultural & racial collisions, local & intercontinental diaspora), it’s still in the early stages, which is the most exciting stage for me: I can throw poems together, generate new ones, revise (more and more and more), move things around, see how the poems talk to each other, see how I can surprise myself with the dialogue they create, maybe instigate a fight or two between a few of ‘em—all that fun stuff.

What are you most looking forward to about your new position in the Department of English?

Now that I’m officially living in Charleston, I’m looking most forward to settling in a home (my wife and I are still very much in that living-out-of-boxes stage) and having some semblance of order in our home: forks in the kitchen drawers, a reassembled desk with a printer, and a television with the speaker bar connected (just in time for *Breaking Bad*).

I’m crazy excited about meeting and interacting with the poetry students this fall. The first class (or more accurately, the first semester of classes) is always exciting and I find myself equal parts eager and anxious for the first day to arrive, since I get my first glimpse of what students are interested in writing about. And those interests are so different depending on the region, cultural and socio-economical background of the students, and collective identity that forms out of any individual class. My creative writing students in Albuquerque were so different from my creative writing students in South Korea, and I loved it. I’m fortunate to be able to walk into these different classrooms and witness what these students bring to the table and try my best to foster whatever creative demands come from it. And hopefully the students will dig the various readings, techniques, and activities I throw back at them.
Jonathan Bohr Heinen joined the Department of English in the fall of last year, 2012, to serve as Managing Editor of Crazyhorse and to teach courses in writing. In addition, he also writes fiction and essays of his own. The following profile emerged from a conversation Jonathan and I had this summer in the Crazyhorse office suite in 5 College Way. We talked about his own writing, his work for Crazyhorse, and his teaching.

I caught Jonathan at an interesting moment in his summer, while he was just a bit preoccupied with two things: a story he was hammering into shape to read at an upcoming writer’s conference and the bruises and general battering he had sustained during jujitsu training the night before. It had been some time since he had done any sort of martial arts work; in fact, he’s just getting back into it after several years off.

While now it’s merely an avocation for Jonathan, there was a time when fighting, not writing, captured his energies and passion. Graduating early from high school and relocating immediately from his family’s home in Houston to the basement of a friend’s parents’ house in Denver, he dedicated his time to training as a boxer at a nearby gym. He delivered pizzas to support his training while he prepared and waited for a chance to get in the ring for real. He had no plans to the contrary—until, that is, his father surreptitiously got him accepted into Oklahoma State University and on a visit to Denver told him the news over dinner, demanding nothing, merely offering college as an option and offering to help him go, if he wanted. Jonathan’s trainers, trusted mentors with whom he shared the news, were absolutely forthright with him. As for his prospects as a fighter, they were not great; as for a chance to go to school, why would he pass on the opportunity? To deliver pizzas and hang out at the gym for the rest of his life? This was not what Jonathan wanted to hear, but he remains grateful for their honesty, which ultimately helped set him on the path to becoming a writer.

At OSU, Jonathan soon turned away from his first plan: to major in Political Science, preparatory to a career as a lawyer (maybe another form of pugilism?). His switch to the study of literature and writing was catalyzed, as it was for many of us in the discipline of English, by an engaged and gifted teacher, the right teacher at the right time. Through good fortune, he landed in a first year writing class taught by Aaron Gwyn, now a professor at the University of North Carolina—Charlotte, but at the time an MA student at OSU. Jonathan notes that before college, he himself “wasn’t much of a reader...ever,” but Gwyn got him into it, pointing him to writers like Hemingway, Morrison, and Faulkner, and helping him to begin “filling in the gaps” in his reading. Gwyn also encouraged Jonathan to come to a reading by novelist Jonathan Ames, best known for Bored to Death, which was a key event in his education. Reading and going to readings made him curious about the workings of narrative, and he found that he, too, wanted to write, to know more deeply about “how stories come together and what makes them happen.”

A BA, MFA, and PhD in English later, with time off in between degrees to reflect on his path and to press on with his reading, Jonathan continues his work as a writer at the College, both in fiction and in essays. His attention these days is on a novel, his first, a family narrative rooted in the Oklahoma Dust Bowl disaster of the 1930s, a slice of which he read at the Sewanee Writers’ Conference a couple weeks after our talk. Another piece from the manuscript recently ap-
peared in *Pilgrimage* under the title of “Removed.” His short fiction has also appeared in *The Florida Review*, *The Mayo Review*, *Arroyo Review*, and *Word Riot*.

Jonathan writes essays, he says, at particular times when he cannot make any headway on his novel. The less expansive form of the essay allows him to “actually finish a project, to complete a piece of writing, instead of seeing something so vast in front of [him] and saying something like, ‘man, this might take me another year.’” “I’m not a quick hand,” he notes, “as I make changes to a complete manuscript, it can be really frustrating to see how much work is left to do, so once I hit that wall and can’t go further with a section, I set it aside and breathe and just try to write something that’s whole.”

His essays, some yet to be placed, have tended to focus on themes of family history, boxing, and, more recently, on television, specifically on *The Sopranos*. His boxing essay, “Telegraphing,” which he describes as “about being an outsider in some way,” appears in *Cimarron Review*, and earned Special Mention in the *Pushcart Prize* anthology, and having read it myself, I can see why.

Jonathan was a shoo-in for the job as Managing Editor of *Crazyhorse*, coming to the College with a great depth of experience in editing and publishing literary reviews, experience that began even before he completed his undergraduate degree. As an assistant at OSU’s *Cimarron Review* he had his first experience in screening and reviewing submissions, corresponding with contributors, and some of the crucial, though hidden, clerical work that keeps a review up and running. As he went on to pursue his MFA and PhD, he stepped up to Managing Editor positions, first at *Blue Mesa Review* at the University of New Mexico, where he completed his MFA, and later at *Iron Horse Literary Review*, at Texas Tech, where he earned his PhD. These positions had him supervising readers and staff, managing contributor contracts and payments, and typesetting, copyediting, and proofreading issues, all laying the groundwork for the post he now holds at *Crazyhorse*.

Submissions to *Crazyhorse* last year topped 7,000, which vied for about 70 slots across its two annual issues. Additionally, submissions for the annual *Crazyhorse* prizes in fiction and nonfiction (just added last year) and the Lynda Hull Memorial Poetry Prize added up to about 1,500. In addition to dealing with this sheer avalanche of submissions (fortunately, electronic), Jonathan also manages relationships with vendors; designs, typesets, and proofreads each issue; manages the subscriber database and mailings; writes press releases and organizes PR efforts and advertising; and herds a flock of other details that need to be lined up for each print issue.

*Crazyhorse* will, of course, continue to publish a high-quality print journal under Jonathan’s editorship and may even add another issue to its annual calendar, but alongside managing its print production, he has been working on expanding *Crazyhorse* in the world of new media. Working with digital media specialists at the Addestone Library at the College, he has been overseeing an effort to digitize for online distribution *Crazyhorse’s* significant back catalog—no small feat, given its 52 years worth of material. Additionally, he is evolving plans for the website that would grow *Crazyhorse’s* online presence by offering features like a series of interviews of new and emerging writers, material that could add significant value for *Crazyhorse’s* readership and the community of writers, but which is not necessarily appropriate for the print journal.

Finally, as with all the faculty in the Department of English, Jonathan also arrived with significant teaching experience, particularly in academic and creative writing. At the College, he teaches Introduction to Academic Writing and an upper-division course of his own design, The Literary Magazine, Publishing & Editing, in which he leads students in an inquiry into literary magazines, considering the history of the genre and current practices (a write-up of the course appears in this issue of *Folio*). He also works with students in his role as faculty advisor for the College’s annual undergraduate literary review, *Miscellany*. The editors and he have been working on plans to develop activities—such as a marathon reading series—to bring students together outside of the classroom and build community.
Romanticism and Science

English 360 (Major Literary Themes)

British Romanticism is often taught as a “backlash” to the rational ideas of the Enlightenment. In an attempt to both complicate this view and think about how traditionally Romantic ideas like sublimity merged with scientific innovations, I designed this class. The course was designed around Richard Holmes’s popular *The Age of Wonder*: we began with exploration, reading traditional texts like Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s “Kubla Khan” and Thomas DeQuincey’s “Confessions of an English Opium-Eater” alongside Joseph Banks’s exotic (and sexy!) Tahitian travel diaries. We then moved to botany, looking at the influences of botanists on poets like Charlotte Smith, Percy Shelley, and Coleridge; this unit also included a visit to MUSC’s Porcher Medical Garden, where we looked at the types of plants that would have been known medicinally in the Romantic era. In our medicine unit, we read Frances Burney’s account of her 1811 mastectomy without anesthesia as well as Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, to which we returned in a unit about the soul and recent ideas of associationism. In our astronomy unit, we read about William Herschel’s discoveries and paired them with John Keats’s “On Looking into Chapman’s Homer,” Keats’s *Endymion*, and Jane Taylor’s “The Star” (which we know as “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”), and John Thelwall’s “The Star.” Our unit about flight—in this case, in the hot-air balloon—included Joanna Baillie’s “London.” In our chemistry unit, we learned about sublimation and used it as a metaphor for Percy Shelley’s “Adonais.” As we read these texts, we also read and discussed Holmes’s book.

Finally, we left Holmes’s book to embark on our last unit. Tied to our unit on the soul, this unit discussed cognitive neuroscience and the material brain through the lens of Alan Richardson’s article about Jane Austen’s *Persuasion* (which we also read). By the end of this class, we saw Romanticism as more than a focus on the imagination rather than reason. Through Holmes’s idea of “wonder,” we began to connect the two, thinking about the sublimity inherent in the most rational of processes.

--Kathy Beres Rogers
The Literary Magazine, Publishing, & Editing

English 395 (Special Topics)

By the time I designed this course, I’d spent a lot of time thinking about literary magazines. They’re interesting publications: not exactly books or commercial magazines or anthologies, but some amalgamation of all those things. Historically, they serve as the advance guard for literature and have debuted many of our most celebrated authors and characters. One of Sherlock Holmes’s earliest appearances was in *Lippincott’s*, many of Edgar Allen Poe’s stories first appeared in magazines and newspapers, T.S. Eliot’s “The Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock” was first published in *Poetry*, Hemingway first published in *The Double Dealer*, Thomas Pynchon’s first story appeared in the *Cornell Writer*, and more recent, award-winning writers—Edward P. Jones, Claire Vaye Watkins, Junot Diaz, and Jennifer Egan, to name a very select few—published, and continue to publish, their writing in literary magazines. On the first day of class, I asked my students a simple question: What are literary magazines and how do they contribute to the world of arts and letters? The class response was amazing. The students read several articles from *The Little Magazine: A History and Bibliography* and were soon enthusiastically entrenched in discussing these magazines, only to discover that these publications are as varied as the work each one tries to cultivate.

One of the things I love most about literary magazines, though, is that they lead so nicely into discussions of editing and publishing. Somebody has to decide what goes into those little magazines, send contracts to writers, typeset the manuscripts, correct the proofs, pay the printer, and distribute the issue to subscribers, right? Once students had a firm grasp of literary magazines, we began to read essays from *Editors on Editing*. The students soon understood that “editing” encapsulates a vast range of activities, like acquisitions and developmental editing and proofreading. Beyond reading articles and essays, several publishing professionals visited the class. Students got to talk to the Scott Peeples, editor of *Poe Studies*; Ruben Quesada, founding editor of *Codex* and poetry editor at *The Cossack Review* and *Bluestem*; Samuel Fox, who served as an intern at *The Paris Review* and is currently a literary agent; and Alyson Sinclaire, a CofC alum, former Farrar, Straus, & Giroux intern, and currently the PR director for *McSweeney’s*. The students were so curious and eager to learn how vast and nuanced publishing is.

This was the first class I taught at the College of Charleston, and I could not be happier with how it went. The students were exceptional. Throughout the semester, they worked through challenging material and wrote engaging papers that demonstrated impressive understanding of literary magazines, editing, and publishing.

--Jonathan Heinen
Theories of Teaching Writing

English 310

Last spring, I was fortunate to teach English 310: Theories of Teaching Writing for the first time. The course is relatively new: it was added to our curriculum when we changed our secondary education major and is a requirement for that track of the major. I am indebted to Chris Warnick, who taught the course for the first time a year before I did, and whose syllabus was invaluable as I planned my own section.

The course was broken into two halves. In the first half, students read foundational articles from the field of composition studies that address fundamental issues in the teaching of writing. We read articles about the importance of teaching the writing process, studies of how teacher comments impacted student revisions, articles about the difficulty students face when learning to write for the academy, and arguments both for and against teaching literature in writing courses.

Some of the things we read really surprised students by asking them to question commonplace assumptions about writing. Did you know that traditional grammar instruction (aka drill and kill, sentence diagramming, the kind your 7th grade English teacher tortured you with) has been shown by multiple studies to have virtually no effect on the quality of student writing? Did you know that the traditional advice about the placement of thesis statements and frequency of topic sentences is largely not true? (For example, Richard Braddock’s quantitative study of published writing shows that professional writers open a paragraph with a topic sentence only 13% of the time).

In the second half of the semester, we turned our attention to more current studies in the teaching of writing, particularly around topics that most impact our future teachers of English. We discussed how gender affects students’ performance in writing, as well as how students respond to their writing instructors. We grappled with the growing crisis around statewide education assessments and analyzed sample assessment materials. We also examined innovative programs that address writing in a highly relevant way for the 21st century.

Although the course is required for secondary education majors, the course is also useful for literature majors interested in graduate study (where they will undoubtedly teach writing), as well as creative writers who want to learn more about writing theory and their own writing process.

--Amy Mecklenburg-Faenger
Simon Lewis, with David T. Gleeson (Northumbria University)

**Ambiguous Anniversary**
The Bicentennial of the International Slave Trade Bans

*Ambiguous Anniversary* came out in 2012 following a highly successful conference in 2008 commemorating the banning of the international slave trade (by the UK in 1807 and US in 1808). The volume contains essays by some of the leading historians of slavery and the slave trade, including a foreword by James Walvin (Professor Emeritus of History at the University of York) and a lapidary account of the state-by-state US route to the banning of the international trade by another terrific scholar of the trade, Kenneth Morgan (Brunel University, UK). The remaining essays cover a wide range of topics including challenging new work on the internal slave trade as a kind of forgotten or overlooked continuation of the Middle Passage by an emerging young scholar, Greg O'Malley, and essays on women's experience as victims in the trade and children's experience by Inge Dornan and Wilma King, respectively. Altogether the essays indicate just how “ambiguous” an achievement the bans were—a kind of false dawn that seemed to represent the triumph of enlightenment thinking before a century of reactionary racism set in, hardening the institution and ideology of slavery in the South and leading in the end to the Civil War over the still unfinished business of achieving liberty and justice for all.

Bret Lott

**Letters and Life**
On Being a Writer, On Being a Christian

I've been teaching writing for almost three decades now, and through the years I've encountered many fellow believers in Christ who struggle, as I have and do, with the whole notion of what it means to be a Christian writer. What I've found is that, because the word Christian was never meant to serve as a modifier—one is a Christian, and a plumber; one is a Christian, and a dentist; one is a Christian, and a writer—the problem arises from the phrase “Christian writer” itself, as though there exists a different form of writing especially set aside for Christians. The problem, too, is that, by and large, much of the Christian world believes Christian writing ought to be a utilitarian practice.

But I'm more in line with Flannery O'Connor, who wrote, “St. Thomas Aquinas says that art does not require rectitude of the appetite, that it is wholly concerned with the good of that which is made. He says that a work of art is a good in itself, and this is a truth that the modern world has largely forgotten.” And I'm in agreement as well with Ingmar Bergman, who said, “Regardless of my own beliefs and my own doubts, which are completely without importance in this connection, it is my opinion that art lost its creative urge the moment it was separated from worship. It severed the umbilical cord and lives its own sterile life, generating and degenerating itself.”

I've written this book—part essay collection (*Letters*), part memoir (*Life*)—first as a means by which I might come to understand what I mean when I talk about being a Christian and a writer; I have also written it as an encouragement for the believing artist, for that person whose life is bound up in the quest to make art that “is a good in itself,” and is an act of creation given back to our Creator God.
Tell about Night Flowers
Eudora Welty’s Gardening Letters, 1940-1949

This book is a collection of wonderful letters—witty, lyrical, poignant, and profound, sometimes all at once in a single paragraph—as well as a record of close friendships, of life in the deep South, and of the artistic development of a great writer. During the 1940s, when Eudora Welty created some of her best-known works (A Curtain of Green, The Wide Net, The Robber Bridegroom, and The Golden Apples), she also wrote hundreds of letters to two close friends who shared her love of gardening. One friend was Diasmuid Russell, Welty’s literary agent in New York, and the other was John Robinson, a high school friend with whom Welty became romantically involved, and who was overseas for several years during World War II.

I became interested in these letters as a result of several research trips to Jackson, MS, where Welty lived most of her life. Her house and garden have become a museum, and most of her papers are a few blocks away in the Eudora Welty Collection at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. By the time I took my first trip to the archive in late 2007, I knew that Welty was a great letter-writer, but I did not realize how many letters she wrote and how often she talked about gardens and Nature to Robinson and Russell. Most of these letters were unpublished and only became available for study a few years ago, after Welty’s death in 2001.

Welty’s estate granted me permission to pursue a publisher for a book of these letters, and eventually I found myself in the surreal position of being Eudora Welty’s editor. I was fortunate to have the help of several student researchers (undergraduates Rachel Reinke and Crystal Frost, and graduate research assistants Maggie McMenamin, Will Murray, and Dana Woodcock), but the project seemed to get larger the longer I kept at it, alternately spellbound by Welty’s brilliance and overwhelmed by the sheer volume of material. The publisher (University Press of Mississippi) wanted the book to be around 250 pages, so I could only use about 20% of all the letters Welty wrote to Russell and Robinson during this period. My goal was to create a narrative—a story Welty did not write but one that I had the privilege of telling through these letters.

It’s hard to describe just how exciting it has been for me to eavesdrop on Welty’s daily life and see the evolution of stories and novels that I have loved reading and teaching for so many years. Because Robinson and Russell were the first readers of Welty’s work in progress in the 40s, Welty often discussed her fiction with them, sometimes referring to her gardening at the same time. Discussing her plans for her second collection of short stories, Welty told Russell, “I feel the way you feel always in spring, as if it might be possible to go in some place that is different, by a different way, and as if it would be easy to be far away and doing something spacious and free. People from the country are in the markets selling their jonquils and hyacinths, that are blooming before ours, and I long to speak out and ask them things.”

The discourse of gardening proved to be a kind of coded language, a way for Welty to think about her work in progress. In another letter, she wrote, “I planted 4 [camellia] seeds the other day, and in 4 or 5 years I can see what I’ve got—they never run true to seed and may be any kind of marvelous new thing.” Welty could have said the same thing about her stories and novels, for they gradually revealed their true identity to her as they were being written, much as a plant slowly reveals its appearance while the gardener helps it reach its full growth.

Many passages in these letters were, in effect, early drafts for scenes that would later appear in her fiction. Incredibly, Welty did not reread these letters, yet some passages are clear forerunners of some of the most beautiful scenes in her fiction. Only in hindsight can we see her letters as a record of a writer’s creative imagination leading her art in unexpected new directions. Welty wrote these letters to her friends, but their messages also reached the artist coming to life within her, emerging from beneath the surface, like the plants she tended in her garden.

Read more about the book here: http://www.upress.state.ms.us/books/1587
I fell into this book sideways. A long time ago, I wrote a short article for the Encyclopedia of the Irish in America, and I was hooked by the strange life of John England, the first Catholic Bishop of Charleston. He was from Cork, Ireland. A fiery champion of Catholic emancipation, this thorn in the side of the British Empire was more or less exiled to the missionary church at the Southern extreme of the U.S. He arrived on the Cooper River pier armed with a hatred of racism and a devotion to civil liberties. He opened a school for black children. He went to Haiti to negotiate a treaty between that black republic and the Vatican. Yet, as I discovered, the last accomplishment of his life was a series of letters that proved there was nothing incompatible between Christianity and slavery.

How could such a champion of human rights end up apologizing for this crime against humanity? Here, I thought, was the stuff of tragedy, and I was determined to find out the whole story.

The thread of causes took me back further and further, into the first days of English settlement. America's Longest Siege tells the story of slavery—the idea of slavery—as it evolved in the American South. Our founding fathers expected slavery to die a natural death in a couple of generations. After all, as everyone knew, it contradicted those truths on which our independence is founded—that all men are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable right to liberty. Historians tend to regard the founding fathers as naive. What noble idea, after all, could oppose the irresistible force of greed?

Well, what I discovered in my research was that the founders were right. Slavery should have died a natural death. It took a lot of hard work to sustain slavery in the United States. The ideas of equality and liberty were incredibly powerful, and only by dint of labor, the Machiavellian machinations of master politicians, and the negligence of people of good will could slavery last as long as it did. My book traces the course of these influences, the lives of a surprisingly few people and all of them from Charleston or somehow connected to the city. In fact, I originally conceived of the book as a biography of Charleston, as if a city, like a person, could live out a life of tragedy.

In a literal sense, the title of the book refers to the tragic end of Charleston as a city of any importance. Union troops laid siege to it beginning in July 1863. Twenty months later, when Charleston was hardly even a shell of its magnificent self, the weary Confederates trudged up Meeting Street and out forever. But the siege is also metaphorical. The trope refers to cultural warfare: how first the city was taken by the bizarre and novel idea that slavery was good for blacks and for whites; then how the whole state fell victim to this idea; and finally how the entire South surrendered. That ideological siege on the minds of white Southerners took nearly 40 years, beginning with the Denmark Vesey insurrection in 1822.

There's hardly a trace of literary criticism in the book—a dozen pages on the eminent novelist, William Gilmore Simms. But in a way, I feel like I've been training to write this book ever since I set foot in graduate school. Ideology, the relations of power inherent, embodied, and exercised in words, is the stuff of literary criticism. Likewise, every historical narrative is a work of creative non-fiction, whether the writer knows it or not. Every page of my book is historical narrative: the story of the worst idea ever to flourish in America, those who invented it and promoted it, those who did and those who failed to oppose it. I hope that the lives I write about inhabit the imaginations of my readers as vitally as any character in fiction.
1951-1960

William D. “Bud” Hilton ‘51 is now 83. After two years in the army during the Korean conflict, he was employed for 39 years with American Mutual Fire Insurance Co., serving as Senior Vice President, Sales for most of that time. He retired 20 years ago, and served 8 years on the foundation board, serving as Chair of the finance committee. He is a past president of the Cougar club and served 2 years on the alumni board. In 2002, he received the Alumni Award of Honor. Bud is also a past President of the Charleston Lions Club, Sales and Marketing club, and did public speaking both regionally and nationally.

Bud is an avid collector of hardback first editions and has donated many books to the college library, including to the special collection unit.

He has been married to the former Joyce Duncan for 56 years. She played baseball at the college and set a scoring record for one game, which may still stand. They have three children and six grandchildren, two of which have graduated from the college. Bud credits much of his success to his major in English and minor in History at the college.

Martha (Lanier Reeves) Cotten ‘51, a retired eating disorder specialist, is now a writer. As a Navy wife, she has been all over the world and worked in many professions: teaching, real estate, stints with Revlon and Lennox China, and she was a manager at Watergate. She has published two books, Cotten Tales: A Potpourri of Memories, Reveries, People, Places and Things I Have Loved and Penny Postcards: Unique Greetings from Dick Reeves, the latter of which she promises to send to the library where she “got started loving English!”

Florence (LaRoche Wilson) Brady ‘51 worked for Eastern Airlines for a very brief time after graduation before resigning and working as a copy editor for radio station WMTA and, a little later, serving as an assistant editor at the Institute of Local Government at Penn State University, where her husband was enrolled as a student. After her husband graduated and took a position teaching and coaching in a nearby school district, Florence began teaching English to seventh, eighth, and ninth graders. She went on to teach in a high school reading effectiveness program, as well. When her family, now including children, relocated to Asheville, NC, she served as a private reading tutor for a second grade student with a learning disability, which opened up the next phase of her career: she earned a certification in teaching children with learning disabilities, taught first through third graders as a reading resource instructor, and was, in 1984, awarded the first Teacher of the Year Award by the North Carolina Association for Children with Learning Disabilities. She retired in 1987 and now lives in Alabama, where she does volunteer work for the Foley Literacy Council, having served on the board, and where she is now teaching adults with reading problems.

Paul Weidner ‘55 for twelve years was the Producing Director of the Hartford Stage Company (CT); his professional stage work has also been seen in New York, on Broadway and off-Broadway, and in WNET’s Theater-in-America series. He has guest-directed in major regional theaters and abroad.

A Peace Corps volunteer in the Ivory Coast and Zaire from 1980-82, he holds an MFA from Yale University (Drama), where he also taught in the French department and later led a seminar in theater directing. He taught in New York University’s Graduate Acting and Directing Programs.

Currently he is a docent with the Museum for African Art, New York City, conducts a primary-school program allied to the Brooklyn Museum of Art, and works with ACT NOW, a political action committee.

His novel, Memoirs of a Dwarf at the Sun King’s Court, was published by Terrace Books, Wisconsin, in 2004, and his “A Tale Told by an Idiot” appeared in The Long Story literary journal in 2012.

1961-1960

Stephen Langton Thomas ‘62, two months after graduation entered Navy OCS, receiving his commission in December 1962. He served in various capacities afloat and ashore, including two years as operations officer and navigator of an ammunition ship in Vietnam, and two deployments as officer in charge of a special operations advisory team, also in Vietnam. After leaving the Navy, he worked at the Veterans Administration Regional Office in Columbia for 20 years, retiring as a disability rating specialist. His writing and communications skills, he points out, earned him several public service awards, as well as a number of special assignments, the most significant of which involved belonging to the work group that wrote the requirements for the VA’s first automated medical information exchange system. After retirement, he worked with DAV as a volunteer department service officer until serious health problems forced him to give it up.

He notes that in 1962 the BA (and possibly the AB) required Greek and Latin. As he did not take either of the classical languages, his degree in English is a BS.

Frances (Wilder) Townsend ’64 taught high school Social Studies at Summerville High School for 27 years. Her husband, Evans Townsend, and she raised two children,
Evans and Alicia. After retiring from teaching she worked for 10 years with AmeriCorps. She has been on the Dorchester Two Board of Trustees since 1998.

**Franta Jan Broulik ‘67** retired from Johnson & Johnson in 1996 and is working part-time at Lambertville Library for fun. She has traveled to most of Europe, Japan, the Philippines, Cuba, Antarctica, Australia, Canada, Mexico, Costa Rica, Guyana, Argentina, Chile, and Brazil. Her next trip, to the northern Andes of Ecuador, scheduled for June 2013, will be for birdwatching.

She has done much volunteer work, including serving on the Board of Trustees of her local Audubon chapter, leading birding walks, serving as an officer of Delaware Valley Music Club and as President of Solebury Farmers Club, helping to start Town Watch, and serving in the Lambertville Historical Society (former President, Vice President, and editor of newsletter).

She is a member of three book groups, one of which she started and leads. She published a chapter in a book about sweeteners while she was working at Johnson & Johnson as Director of Regulatory Affairs and Information Services.

**Mary Louise Beshere ‘69**, with her husband, Richard Powell, is enjoying retirement in Fountain Hills, AZ.

**William Keith Pillow, Jr. ‘69** is happily retired from his last working post in the Public Information Office at the SC Department of Education. He spends time as a reading mentor with third-grade elementary students, as a Rotary Club member, as a “house husband,” and as a voracious consumer of detective/crime fiction. Someday soon he plans to starting Facebooking and Twittering, once he has a sufficient stockpile of social media news and opinions to share.


### 1971-1980

**Diana Kaczor ‘71**, worked at Woman’s Day magazine and *Mother Earth* News magazine in the 1970’s, earned an MA in Philosophy from University of North Carolina in 1979, worked as analyst at General Electric Aircraft Engines, studied at New England School of Photography in Boston, served as a research programmer at University of North Carolina, 1992-2011, and is now retired.

**Donna Maria Florio ‘74**, after 17 years with *Southern Living Magazine*, was laid off in January, as part of a corporate-wide downsizing at Time, Inc. However, she “saw this as an opportunity to take a few months off and to think about Act III.” Currently, she is partially retired, partially a freelance writer, with a “dash of house-flipper thrown in,” and she plans to keep exploring future prospects. “Much like when I left the College,” she says “the world is before me and I plan to make the most of it.”

**1981-1990**

**Leigh (Jones) Handal ‘81** helps save lives every day as Director of Philanthropy & Partnerships at Pet Helpers, 1447 Folly Road, Charleston, SC. She lives on James Island with husband Chris, 17 rabbits, and their Golden Retriever, Rusty.

**Jeanmarie Lifchez ‘81** is the owner of Star Music Co.

**Ann Currie (Purcell) Williams ‘81** works as a data analyst at US Courts.

**John Mark Hunter ‘82** is Professor of Education at Tennessee State University in Nashville. Some of the things that keep him occupied are serving as the department’s Doctoral Program Coordinator, working as Principal Investigator of an NSF research grant, and introducing doctoral students to Plato and learning theory. His wife and he have sent two kids off to college and have been doing university tours this spring for their third.

**David W. Newton ‘83** is Department Chair and Professor of English at the University of West Georgia.

**Stephen N. Mallett ‘84** expanded on his College of Charleston English degree with a Masters Degree in Library Science from Kent State University. He has spent 23 years in a variety of library environments, including public, corporate, and academic libraries.

**Sonya Renee Houston ‘86** is Senior Producer at CNN.

**Natalie (Parker) Bluestein ‘87** is the managing partner at Bluestein & Douglas, LLC, a Family Law firm located in Charleston, SC.

**John Paul Samonds ‘87** is Associate Dean of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College at the University of Mississippi.

**David Christopher Kahle ‘88** is Simulation Operations Manager in the Portland Nursing Department of Underwood typewriter at the old Post Office museum downtown
Karen Leigh Stokes ‘88 began work as an archivist cataloging manuscripts at South Carolina Historical Society and continues to work with this wonderful manuscript collection to the present day as a processing archivist. Having been immersed in so much South Carolina history, she developed a deep interest in the tumultuous period of the 1860s and has published a number of articles and books on the subject.

Her first non-fiction book was Faith, Valor and Devotion: The Civil War Letters of William Porcher DuBose (USC Press, 2010), which was followed by South Carolina Civilians in Sherman’s Path (History Press, 2012), A Confederate Englishman: The Civil War Letters of Henry Wemyss Feilden (USC Press, 2013), and The Immortal 600: Surviving Civil War Charleston and Savannah (History Press, 2013). Her first work of historical fiction, Belles: A Carolina Love Story, was published by Ring of Fire Publishing in 2012. In March 2013, she was awarded the Tandy R. Willis Award for Most Promising Writer at the Upcountry Literary Festival at USC Union.

Wayne Dean Mitchell ‘89 is Owner/President of Dean’s Automotive.

Glenn Allen Shedd ‘89 is a self-employed solo practitioner attorney in his hometown of Fort Payne, Alabama.

Kevin Craig ‘90 has accepted a tenure track position with Baruch College, SUNY, won the graduate student research award for Clemson’s College of Business and Behavioral Studies, and expects to defend his dissertation in December.

1991-2000

Jennifer Laurin (Bayliss) Parker ‘92 earned her Masters in Counseling from the University of Tennessee 1997 and reports that she is “blissfully living on Sullivan’s Island, with her husband, Edward F. Parker III, and her two boys: Adam, 15, and Gavin, 9.”

Karen Virginia Gallagher ‘92 is Day Program Director at the Colleton County Disabilities and Special Needs Board.

Anne (Cocke) Caraway ‘93 lives in Memphis, TN with her husband and two sons - Caleb and Lucas. Anne works part-time at The Marston Group, PLC, an accounting firm, where she is the Director of marketing, PR, and event planning. Anne has just completed a 12-year term of volunteer work with the Junior League of Memphis and is now a Sustainer member. Anne spends a lot of time driving her two boys back and forth from competitive baseball practices and tournaments, as well as volunteering for the boys’ school. In other big news, the Caraway family will spend this Christmas in Australia, with dear friends!

Catherine Mitchell (Hedgepath) Dingle ‘93 is a Partner/Shareholder with Thompson & Henry, P.A.

Kimberley Lain Finney ‘93 teaches 7th grade English at St. Andrews Middle School in Columbia, SC. She earned a paralegal certificate from Midlands Tech, earned a teaching certification through an alternative certification program, and earned her M. Ed. from Southern Wesleyan University. She was a paralegal for 10 years before she started teaching, which she has been doing for 13 years.

Heather Allison (Nidiffer) White ‘93 has been married for 17 years to Bradley White (University of Alabama) and has two children, Henry (13 yrs.), and Elizabeth (9 yrs.). Raising her children has been her primary focus and full-time job for many of the past years, but she began substitute teaching at her neighborhood elementary school about six years ago, and reports that she loves it. She and her husband are very active in their community and in their church, and she enjoys teaching adult Sunday School, working with the children and youth ministries, and is the President of the United Methodist Women’s chapter at our church as well.

She has always enjoyed running (and of course, running in beautiful Charleston), but has within the past year added cross-fitness training to her weekly running and strength training regimen. She and her husband recently completed their first Spartan Race at a venue south of Atlanta, and they are looking forward to competing again at another cross-fit competition in August and have even gotten their kids on board. They are enjoying working with a trainer and building muscles and self-awareness right alongside them.

They recently travelled to Charleston for the Alumni Affair and had a blast eating at wonderful restaurants, sightseeing, and visiting with old friends. Their other travels have been to local venues, and they enjoy hiking in the Smoky Mountains, parasailing and swimming in Perdido Key, Florida, and taking day trips to various Civil War and Atlanta points of interest in North Georgia.

Danielle (Staudenmayer) Madole ‘93, since graduating, has moved to Chicago and co-founded an invite-only recruitment firm with her husband, which has clients in markets all over the country. She also started a jewelry line called 37th & Cast, which will formally launch in summer 2013.

John Yeomans ‘94 for the past 15 years has been
a residential homebuilder and is currently in charge of construction for Sea Island Habitat for Humanity based on John's Island. Charlotte Feran (CofC '95) and he were married in 1996, have three daughters, and reside in Summerville, SC. They enjoy travelling, as well as sailing in and around Charleston harbor.

Melissa (Mehl) Turner ‘96 graduated with a Master of Arts in Teaching from Charleston Southern University in 2006 and taught 9th grade English for five years, one year in South Carolina and four years in Maryland. Currently, she is a stay-at-home Mom, homeschooling her four-year-old daughter and two-year-old son.

Ana Maria Kimsey ‘97 is a CD Planner with the City of Raleigh, NC.

Ronald Carroll “Ron” Plunkett, MA ‘97 is retired and a Life Member of both the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi and the William Gilmore Simms Society, a member of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, Vice President of the Patriots Point Foundation, Secretary of the Castle Pinckney Historical Preservation Society, Secretary of St. Alban's Chapel Society, and Charter Organization Representative for Troop 519, Boy Scouts of America, Holy Cross Church.

Ray Edward Tanner ‘97 is Brigade Retention NCO with the South Carolina Army National Guard. He taught high school for six years in Berkeley County, an enriching experience. He left the school system to become a recruiter for the military in ‘05.

Denise (White) Johnson ‘98, MA ‘00 completed a PhD in Medieval and Renaissance literature at Georgia State University. She is currently Senior Lecturer in the Department of English at Kennesaw State University.

Kathryn (Moore White) Kellet ‘98 is Director of Sales, Northeast and MidAtlantic for Arcadia Publishing in Mount Pleasant, SC. June 2013 marks her 15th year with the firm, which is the nation's leading publisher of local and regional history, with more than 8,000 titles in print. After serving as Director of Publishing for six years, she moved into her current role in October 2011.

Emelie (Kent) Agosto ‘99 is a paralegal with Krawcheck & Davidson, LLC.

Cherith Hope (Kintigh) Stoner ‘99 is an English teacher at Emerald High School in Greenwood, SC.

Derrick Le’Van Williams ‘99 is an attorney with the law firm of Mickle & Bass in Columbia, SC.

Adam Ellwanger ‘00, MA ‘03 is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Houston - Downtown. His most recent article, “Apology as Metanoic Performance: Punitive Rhetoric and Public Speech,” appeared in Rhetoric Society Quarterly. In fall 2013, he begins a stint as Graduate Director for the new MA in Rhetoric and Composition at UHD.

2001-2011

Katherine Ann Walker ‘01 this May began working as Associate General Counsel at the College of Charleston.

Elizabeth L. Williams ‘01 reports that after “several underpaid years working as a newspaper copy editor and two equally impoverished years as a middle-school Latin teacher, [she] returned to school.” In 2008, she earned an MA in Library & Information Science at the University of South Florida in Tampa and remained in Tampa, taking a position in the newly formed Knowledge Services Organization of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, where she has worked for five years in various knowledge-management roles. She remains an active member of the Tampa chapter of the CofC Alumni Association and serves on the board of directors of Bluebird Books, a mobile literary-arts project and nonprofit group.

Staci Denise (Dillard) Koonce ‘02, after spending several years as a high school educator and United State Senate employee, began a career in arts administration in 2009. She now serves as the Vice President of Education for the Peace Center for the Performing Arts in Greenville, SC, whose nationally acclaimed Peace Outreach Program serves approximately 60,000 patrons annually through programs that create enriching and lasting experiences in the arts. Staci has participated in Lincoln Center Institute’s International Educator Workshop, is active with the John F. Kennedy Center’s Partners in Education program, and has participated in the Association for Performing Arts Presenter’s Emerging Leaders Institute. In Greenville, she has recently been recognized as one of Greenville Magazine’s Best and Brightest Under 35 and as aYWCA Dream Catcher.

Karl Benjamin Chandler ‘03 is Director of Major Gifts at the University California, Los Angeles.

Susan Carter (Worrell) Dandridge ‘03 is the senior editor of Charlie Magazine, senior blogger for The Scout Guide Charleston, and owns a boutique pilates studio, Exhale Pilates.

Katherine Scott Crawford, MA ’04, reports that this past year has been a big one: her first novel, Keowee Valley, an historical adventure set in the Revolutionary-era Carolinas, was published by a small press and received praise from writers like Pat Conroy, Ron Rash, Adriana Trigiani, Philip Lee Williams, Tommy Hays, and more. It was reviewed in The Huffington Post’s HuffPost Books, and was picked by the Southern Literary Review as a September Read of the Month. She spent most of fall 2012/winter 2013 traveling around the Southeast, speaking to book and history groups, libraries, and at literary festivals and writers’ conferences. She will pick back up with book travels in August, when she serves as the Artist-in-Residence at The Reserve at Lake Keowee and then as an author presenter at the 2013 Carolina Mountains Literary Festival.

She just finished her critical thesis semester at the Vermont College of Fine Arts, where she is working toward a MFA in
Writing (fiction). She notes that she has “had the opportunity to study under some wonderful writer-teachers, including Connie May Fowler and Clint McCown, and [she] traveled to Puerto Rico in January for a study-abroad residency.

“But the biggest news of all for my family,” she says “was the birth of our second child on May 1st: a baby girl named Willoday Tiger Dodson. We’re calling her ‘Willa,’ and she’s changed our whole world!”

**Megan Prewitt Koon, MA ‘05** teaches junior and senior English with a major focus on American Literature as well as Creative Writing and Film courses at St. Joseph’s Catholic School, Greenville, SC. She has earned the school “Teacher of the Year” Award two times and was the 2009 South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) Upper School Teacher of the Year. She has a beautiful daughter in kindergarten who loves to read, and she looks forward to making more time for writing in the future, with hopes of publication in literary and scholarly fields.

**Shannon M. Madden ‘05, MA ‘09** just completed comprehensive exams for the PhD at the University of Oklahoma and passed with honors and is working on her dissertation, which will focus on the environmental and ethical implications of digital culture. She currently serves as Assistant to the Directors of First-Year Composition and in the fall will be co-teaching a graduate class about the theory and practice of first-year writing pedagogy.

**Katherine Harrison “Katie” Riddle ‘05** is living and working in Denver, CO. She and her husband are expecting their first child in the fall. She is a writing instructor and Assistant to the Director of Gender & Women’s Studies at the University of Denver.

**Jon Sealy ‘05** is a freelance writer in Richmond, Virginia, where he is happily married to English alum Emily Oye Sealy, who is a recently minted lawyer. His first novel, *The Whiskey Baron*, is forthcoming from Hub City Press in spring 2014.

**David J. Callenberger ‘06** worked for a year as an archaeologist in Northern California and Nevada. From 2007-2009, he earned a Masters in Professional Studies from Cornell University. Finally, in 2010 he began the graduate English program at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where he also teaches courses in Introduction to Composition and Introduction to Modern Literature in the Twentieth Century.

**Jamaar Divine Chavis ‘06** works at Boeing Interiors Responsibility Center.

**Marla Katrice (Cochran) Robertson ‘06** was recently married (on the Cistern) and has migrated from a student support services position with the College to her new position in the Budget and Payroll Services Department. She is “walking proof,” she say, “that core transferrable skills developed and perfected through English major coursework are integral in ANY position in which you must communicate with others.”

**Annie Christel (Kadala) Harrison ‘06** had been working at a middle school for three and a half years, but in February of 2013 started as the Reference and Instructional Librarian at Davidson County Community College in Thomasville, North Carolina. “It’s been fun,” she says, “reminiscing about English major days as [she helps] students write their first research papers of their college careers.”

**Nathaniel James Cochran ‘07** earned an MA in Liberal Arts at St. John’s College in Annapolis, MD, and a Master of Politics at the University of Dallas. He was married on August 11, 2012 and moved to Virginia in September 2012.

**Ashley-Ann (Dorn) Woods ‘07** recently moved back to the Charleston area after teaching in New Orleans, LA, and earning an MA in American Literature from the University of New Orleans. Her husband is on active duty in the Coast Guard, and they have one daughter, Lexia, who is five. She is currently working as a Military Enrollment Specialist for Trident Technical College and working as an adjunct instructor for the University of South Carolina.

**Alexandra Walsh Gibney ‘07** is a 2011 graduate of the University of Oregon School of Law and is currently working as an attorney in Portland, Oregon.

**Renee Lee (Greenan) Gardner, MA ‘07**, finished her PhD in English at the University of Western Michigan, published a book review in *Modern Fiction Studies*, and has an article, “Subverting Patriarchy with Vulnerability: Dismantling the Motherhood Mandate in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved,*” forthcoming in *Women’s Studies*. Renee has an adjunct appointment to the Gender and Women’s Studies at Western Michigan University starting in the fall.

**Erika Blythe Lund ‘07** is working as a freelance writer. She finished a MA degree in Literature at the University of Colorado in 2010, married in 2011, and is looking forward to completing a PhD in the future. For right now, she is spending a lot of time at home with her daughter, Aurelia Blythe, born February 2013.

**Daniel James Powell ‘07** has several Graduate Research Assistantships as part of his doctoral training at the University of Victoria in Victoria, BC, Canada; primarily he works within the Electronic Textual Cultures Lab.

**Zachary James Turpin, MA ‘07**, is about to begin his second year as a PhD candidate at the University of Houston, where he is having entirely too much fun. He is co-president of the Graduate English Society, his wife is pursuing a PhD in political science, and his one-year-old son, Jack, currently loves popsicles more than anything in the world. In his “free” time, Zack helps his wife fall asleep by lecturing her on the finer points of Zen.

**Erin Marie Walsh ‘07** is entering her second year as a 4th grade teacher at Devon Forest Elementary School in Goose Creek, SC.

**Erin Leigh Workman ‘07** is a Lecturer at the University of Maine.
Celeste Star DeVera ‘08 just graduated from the MEd in Languages program at the College with a Spanish concentration. Her next big adventure is moving to Quito, Ecuador to begin teaching 10th grade English Literature at the American School. She will be there for 2 years to start off and then indefinitely thereafter. She says that she is “beyond thrilled!”

Jax Lee Gardner ‘08 published an article in the Journal of Lesbian Studies and also became a birth doula.

Audra (Hammons) Turkus ‘08, is living in Denver, CO and is beginning her 3rd year as a language arts teacher at Littleton Academy, a charter school in Littleton, CO.

Joseph Alan Hasinger ‘08 continues his work at the Department of Defense, teaches classes here and there at Trident Technical College, and tries to find time to write. His son, Aldan Bishop, was born June 25, 2012.

Stokely James Klasovsky ‘08 earned an MFA at Bowling Green State University and earned a Masters in Library and Information Sciences at Kent State University, where he is currently a Senior Education Consultant. He worked in collaboration with the Kent Faculty Professional Development Center and the Kent Writing Commons to carry out student and faculty workshops and tutoring in diverse areas, including research, information literacy, assessment practices, and online learning systems. He also researched and wrote newsletters for University faculty members on topics such as metacognition, cloud computing, and university accreditation processes. Stokely volunteers at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Kent, Ohio.

Kathleen Carroll “Kate” Rogers ‘08 earned an MA in Classics in 2011 at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Since then she has been working toward a PhD in Classics. While in graduate school, she has taught a variety of Classics courses as a TA, including introductory and second year Latin, Roman and Greek Civilization, and Classical Mythology.

Eleanor Pleasants Smeallie ‘08 works for the Public Broadcasting Service as Assistant Director of Content, PBS Education.

Gale Marie Thompson ‘08’s book, Soldier On, is forthcoming in 2014 from Tupelo Press, and she has two chapbooks out: Expeditions to the Polar Seas (Sixth Finch) and If You’re a Bear, I’m a Bear (H_NGM_N). A poem of hers was printed in the Best New Poets 2012, judged by Matthew Dickman. Other poems and reviews can be found in places like Volt, Southeast Review, Octopus, Coconut, Better: Culture and Lit and iO:Poetry. She is the creator and editor of Jellyfish Magazine, works at the Georgia Review, and teaches composition and creative writing at the University of Georgia in Athens.

Braden Tennesen Trainor ‘08 is currently the Operations Officer for Provost Marshal’s Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. He lives in Chatan, Okinawa with his wife and daughter, Monica, who is 12 years old.

Cara Amiee (Wideman) Walters ‘08 is Regulatory Affairs Technician with Jack Link’s Beef Jerky in Minong, WI.

Joseph Bowling ‘09 is a third-year PhD student at the CUNY Graduate Center and an adjunct instructor at Queens College. He currently runs the Early Modern Interdisciplinary Group at the Graduate Center and is a copyeditor for Renaissance Quarterly.

Jennifer (Crosby) Burgess, MA ‘09 has very much enjoyed teaching Freshman Writing at CofC for the past few years and gaining valuable teaching and professional experience. She now looks forward to beginning her PhD and getting to know a new city with her husband and three children.

Ryan Graudin ‘09, after graduating from the Creative Writing Concentration in English, has two young adult books coming out in 2014. All that Glows (HarperTeen, 2/11/14) is about a Fae who’s forced to guard the Prince of England. The Walled City (Little, Brown, Fall 2014) is about three teenagers fighting to survive and escape a lawless, walled city. She currently lives in Charleston with her husband David and moonlights as a wedding photographer. You can follow Ryan at http://ryangraudin.blogspot.com.

Kanta’ Haynes-Lawrence ‘09 works as Executive Administrative Assistant to the Director at the

Spoleto ’13 students at Castellucio, elevation 4700 feet, in the Parco Nazionale de Monti Sibilini.
Kelley Eileen Sirko, MA 09 went to USC for her MLIS, which she finished in 2012. She moved back to her hometown of Nashville, TN soon after graduating and, after taking a little time for herself, she began to work at the Metro archives as a volunteer. After some time, a job position opened up that she was able to apply for. She reports, “I absolutely love my job, and I’ve had the opportunity to work on some great projects and get some great experience in the field. History is everywhere, and I’ve been finding it in some of the most unexpected places.”

Chris Willoughby ‘09 is a PhD candidate in history at Tulane University. His dissertation is tentatively entitled Treating the Black Body: Race and Medicine in American Culture, 1800-1861. It focuses on constructions of race in antebellum medical education. He is currently touring the U.S. completing his dissertation research and may be appearing in a city near you.

Andrew Payne Albenesius ‘10 moved to Southern California for a while and worked as an intern for a music company in Los Angeles called Stampede Management, who specialize in publishing music and managing artists, most prominently, Snoop Dogg. After 9 months, he moved back to Aiken, South Carolina, and got a job as an editor with Woodward White Inc./Best Lawyers LLC (http://www.bestlawyers.com/), which is the company that publishes The Best Lawyers in America. They also have an international division, which publishes peer-review directories in a number of other countries. He works in the international division as an International Coordinator, doing research, fact-checking, and external communications. On the side, he is a songwriter and sings and play banjo and guitar in The Derelict String Band (https://www.facebook.com/TheDerelictStringBand). They play folky-bluegrass music at bars and festivals throughout the greater Augusta, GA area.

Caitlin Gregg “Cat” Buckley ‘10 volunteered in Tanzania (teaching English to nursery school children), attended the Columbia Publishing Course, and moved to New York. Since May 2012, she has been working for the articles editor at Vanity Fair magazine, where a fellow CoFC graduate, Mary Alice Miller ‘12, sits down the hall in the production department.

Robert Truman “Trey” Cherry ‘10 works as a brewer at Starr Hill Brewery.

Alison Nicole (Filosa) Paul ‘10 is Reference Librarian/Research Librarian at the Addlestone Library at CoFC and is interning at the Gibbes Museum of Art in the Public Programming and Special Events Department. She was married December 18, to a fellow 2010 CoFC graduate. They lived in Savannah, GA, while he earned his MAT at SCAD, and they now live in Walterboro, SC, where he is the art educator at Hendersonville Elementary. In her free time, she has been involved in Bikram Yoga, has learned to play the ukulele, and also writes poetry and songs, and plays and records music. She has volunteered at the Savannah Children’s Book Festival, LILA’s Poets in the Schools Program, and several Hendersonville Elementary School functions.

Molly Lewis ‘10 recently earned her Masters degree in English while pursuing her PhD at the George Washington University in Washington, DC. She is now entering her third year of the PhD program in the English department.

Jenna Lyles ‘10 is the SC Field Organizer for Southerners On New Ground, a southern regional queer liberation organization and is a founding organizer with Girls Rock Charleston. Her English degree is, she says, despite all cautioning and doubt from the general public about English degrees, crucial to her “real job” in the “real world.”

Cassandre Ann “Cassie” Mandel ‘10 currently works in publicity with the imprint Dutton at Penguin Group, USA.

Ian Gordon Ross ‘10 has been working in EMS as an Emergency Medical Technician since shortly after graduation. He worked for a private company called Carolina Medcare, then moved on to MUSC Medcare and Berkeley County EMS. He started work for BiblioLabs, LLC in August, 2012 as a Device and Web QA Assistant. After several months, he was promoted to Editorial Assistant and Associate Curator, which is where he is today. He notes that he is enjoying using his degree, and of course, is still loving the life in Charleston, and says “Hope all is well, guys.”

Mallory Gibson Brown ‘11 is Director of Public Relations at Richmond County Schools in Richmond County, NC.

Jessica E. (Ellis) Duggan ‘11 is currently the Editorial Manager at BiblioLabs, a local hybrid media-software company.

Jennifer Lynn (Hess) Graham, MA ‘11
is English Instructor and Academic Program Coordinator at Trident Technical College.

**Meaghan Kennedy Kelly ‘11** is currently working in Raleigh, NC at a small, independently-owed peer review management company as an editorial assistant for *BMJ Case Reports* medical journal and PLOS (Public Library of Science) scientific journals. She will be married in November this year to her boyfriend of six years. Plans for grad school are still in the future, because, as she notes, “I can’t see myself sitting in a cubicle for the rest of my life.”

**Morgan Mercedes (Marzolf) Wiegand ‘11** is a Legal Intern with Marketing Research Association in Washington, DC for the summer. She recently married 1LT Kyle Wiegand on October 13, 2012 at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist on Broad Street in Charleston. Kyle, who attended the Citadel, and she met during her junior year at the College of Charleston.

**Kaitlin Marie McKnight ‘11** moved to Charlotte, NC shortly after graduation and obtained a position with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library system. Her current project is an all-ages writer’s group at her branch. She is considering going to graduate school at UNC for a MLIS degree to become a full time Librarian. She also notes that “[she] would love to come back and work for a library in Charleston!”

**Stephen Meyerink ‘11** is currently attending Washington University in St. Louis as a graduate student in Japanese language and literature and hopes to teach English in Japan via the JET Programme after completing his MA. His interests include translation and writing, and he is involved in the video games industry as a freelance translator, writer, and as the managing editor of RPGFan.com’s music section.

**Sharon Alexandria “Alex” Percival ‘11** completed her Masters in Political Management at the George Washington University in July of this year. After almost two years at the media consulting firm 76 Words, she decided it was time to explore new opportunities. She was selected as a digital media intern for VOX Global’s summer internship program. VOX Global is a bipartisan public affairs and strategic communications firm in Washington, D.C. At VOX, she works on conceiving, launching, optimizing, and reporting on digital advertising campaigns. Her background in English, she reports, has definitely been an asset in the public affairs field, and she is excited to see what the future holds. At the conclusion of her internship, she was hired as an Associate Producer as part of the digital team at VOX. In her new role, she’ll be developing online advertising solutions for a variety of VOX’s clients.

**Jessica Marie Riggs ‘11** is still working as a technical writer for Savvee Consulting, Inc. in North Charleston. She has been at her job for over a year now and has been promoted to a Level 2 Technical Writer. She is enjoying the work (“editing documents for a living is pretty cool”) and continuing to learn things beyond technical writing. She lives in Goose Creek but is saving for a down payment on her first house. She notes that it is hard to find time to write creatively while working full-time, but she writes when she can.

**Samantha Rae Verlotta ‘11** works at BoomTown!, a software company in downtown Charleston on Rutledge Avenue that creates websites and provides leads management tools to real estate agents and brokers all over the US (and in Canada). She says, “I absolutely love BoomTown!’s company focus on culture and values—they emphasize a healthy balance of work and play and provide an environment that allows me to really learn and grow however I want. For example, when I told them I’d be interested in helping out with press releases, they jumped right on it and allowed me to experiment outside of my ‘job description’.” She is also helping to organize her company’s new volunteer efforts.

**Alexandra Elise Daley ‘12** works for an independent publishing company called CreateSpace, and she does freelance bookkeeping on the side. She does minor graphic design work and manages Kindle ebooks at CreateSpace. “It is awesome,” she reports. Also, she has had two poems published: “Knowing” is being published by *Emerge Literary Journal* for their June issue and “Silence” is being published by *The Oklahoma Review* this May. She says, “while we’re not engaged yet, my boyfriend is the love of my life and we are currently looking for a place to live.”

**Grace Marjorie Evelyn ‘12** after graduation drove across the country to Denver, where she is currently living and working in PR and marketing as Brand Communications Coordinator for Vladimir Jones (http://vladimirjones.com/). She works with both regional and national clients in the health care, energy, and tourism industries. Her boyfriend is the CofC Alumni President for the Denver Chapter, so they have a lot of friends there who also went to CofC. She has “big travel dreams” that she plans to put into action after a few years of work experience (“and saving!”). She would also love to attend graduate school in the next few years.
Suzanne Marie La Spisa ‘12, after a long hard job search and moving back home to New Jersey, landed a six month temp job with Omega watches that launched her into her permanent job as Marketing Coordinator for The Swatch Group US, Hamilton Division. “This past year has been one of the most trying of my life,” she says, “with the economy the way it is, looking for your first real world job can be incredibly discouraging. Finally with my big girl job (yay benefits & paid vacation!!) I feel like I am finally achieving all the things that CoC prepared me for.”

Faculty Notes, 2012-13

Kathy Beres Rogers was able to get away this summer for some much-needed hiking in Asheville, NC, and her entire family (including the two-year-old) visited New York City. She attended a seminar at West Virginia University entitled “Science and the Romantic Imagination” (led by Dr. Richard Sha). She also finished her article about service learning in literary studies, entitled “The Boldness of Imagination: Illness Narratives outside the Classroom,” which will be published as part of MLA’s “Approaches” series. She also just finished an article about obsession in Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein (entitled “Like Lichen on a Rock: Obsession and the Sublime Idea in Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein”).

John Bruns moved back into his office at 72 George St., after a long exile. Now, along with colleagues Joe Kelly, Bill Russell, Terry Bowers, and Tim Carens, he enjoys the newly renovated digs. He team-taught a course with Tim Carens in the Fall of 2012, ENGL 370: The Melodrama – Moving Tales, Moving Pictures. With a generous grant from the School Humanities and Social Sciences as part of its curricular innovation initiative, John and Tim developed an interdisciplinary course that took the melodrama as a way to consider past and present attitudes toward sexuality, the class system, the institution of marriage and the family, and racial identity. During this same term, John was also involved in a national search for the Film Studies Program’s new hire. In March, John attended the Society for Cinema and Media Studies conference in Chicago where he presented a paper entitled “De-Arrangements: Space and the Spielberg Screen Child.” He also published an essay on Hitchcock in Clues: A Journal of Detection (McFarland & Co.) and wrote an introduction for the new edition of his book Loopholes: Reading Comically, which is due out later this year. He was proud to participate in a National History Day project with Mackenzie Fowler, an 8th grader at Moultrie Middle School. Mackenzie’s documentary on the transition from silent to sound cinema in the late 1920s won 1st prize at the South Carolina State competition in March and earned her a spot at the annual Kenneth E. Behring National History Day contest at the University of Maryland, College Park campus outside Washington, DC this June. But one of the happiest moments in John’s professional career came in April when he spoke at the retirement gala that was held in honor of James R. Kincaid at the University of Southern California. Kincaid was the chair of John’s dissertation committee and he continues to be a lifelong and very dear friend.

In summer 2012, Tim Carens became Director of the MA program in English and Director of the British Studies minor on the same day, appointments involving challenging new varieties of work that have kept him tremendously busy over the past year. Still, he has made some advances in the scholarly projects that reside in increasingly dusty piles on his desk. An essay that is very near completion, “Idolatrous Reading: Subversive Fantasy and Domestic Ideology,” focuses on warnings to young women about the dangers of becoming devoted to romantic novels and poems. Female readers were urged—projecting a threatened middle-class’s domestic ideology—not to ignore their duties within the domestic sphere as they become imaginative devotees of extravagant plots involving class ascension and all-encompassing love.

Carens has also been pursuing an emerging interest in 19th-century depictions of the gentlemanly hobby of angling. On a research trip to London last spring, he discovered a vast trove of literature and prints on the subject. He is particularly interested in the ways that representations of angling work to construct a variety of middle-class masculinity grounded in gentlemanly sport and pastoral reflection. The literature includes many amusing textual and visual satires, such as the print on the left, poking fun at an urban dandy whose effeminacy goes hand in hand with a misguided strategy for catching trout. In March 2013, Carens delivered a paper on this subject at the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies conference in Charlottesville, VA.

In the late spring and early summer, he edited an online anthology of 19th-century children’s literature for BiblioBoard. The anthology includes early editions of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, Treasure Island, Peter Pan, and many other well-known and some largely forgotten books. The anthology makes it possible for modern readers to use their computers and tablets to see the pages—often with original illustrations—
J. Michael Duvall added to his list of courses taught a first-year seminar on Mark Twain and a course on American regional and local color writing of the late 19th century. He presented a paper in Boston at the annual convention of the American Literature Association, “‘How I Became a Socialist’: or Not: Socialist Conversions, Capitalist Reversions, and Desire in Progressive Era Fiction.” He also edited a Biblioboard anthology, *Assimilation, Americanization, Alienation: African American, Native American, and US Immigrant Writing*, featuring writing by Asian and European immigrants, African Americans, and Native Americans from the late 19th century through the turn of the 20th. He was also elected Faculty Secretary, a three year appointment for which he received numerous expressions of congratulations and condolences: catch his scintillating senate minutes at the Faculty Senate website.

Julia Eichelberger delivered several conference papers, including one at a Eudora Welty conference, where her former SURF collaborator, Crystal Frost ’12, also delivered a paper on Welty’s influence on the Irish writer Elizabeth Bowen (this grew out of an independent study Crystal did with Joe Kelly). She has also been working as a Faculty Administrative Fellow for the Provost’s office, researching ways the College could provide more equitable pay and better professional development for our adjunct faculty. In May 2013, she was thrilled and relieved that her book on Welty’s gardening letters was finally published (see Julia’s write-up, above). She just about went out of her mind, she notes, when the book was reviewed in the *New York Times* in June in an essay on several recent gardening-related books and was then listed as an Editor’s Choice book. She has loved teaching Southern literature and postwar American poetry as well as first-year writing, but is also really looking forward to a sabbatical in Spring 2014. She hopes to continue her research on Charleston writers, as well as working with more of Welty’s unpublished letters. She’s also looking forward to a couple of trips to Mississippi this fall, both to promote the book and to see her daughter, who is teaching in the Delta for Teach for America. She expects to continue keeping score for the Hacks softball team, getting out in the kayak whenever it doesn’t seem like too much trouble, and marveling at the brilliance, hilarity, and dedication of all her English Department colleagues.

Susan Farrell continued her work on American writers Kurt Vonnegut and Tim O’Brien over the past year. She published an article called “Vonnegut and Religion: Daydreaming About God” in a new collection of essays about Vonnegut that is part of Salem Press’s Critical Insights series. She had another Vonnegut article, “A Convenient Reality: Kurt Vonnegut’s Mother Night and the Falsification of Memory,” accepted for publication in the journal *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*. This article explores Vonnegut’s treatment of the Holocaust, the 1961 Adolf Eichmann trial, and the way trauma affects memory. Currently, she’s working on an article called “The Homefront and the Frontlines in the War Novels of Tim O’Brien.” This essay is slated to appear in a new collection of essays focusing on fiction of the Vietnam War. She’s excited to be going to Trujillo, Spain the second half of the fall 2013 semester to teach a class on Hemingway and
Joe Kelly published a biographical article on James Joyce in the James Joyce Quarterly, another article in the Simms Review about slave ideology in two novels by the Southern writer, William Gilmore Simms. In July 2013, his book-length study of slave ideology in the American South, America's Longest Siege: Slavery, Charleston, and the Slow March Toward Civil War, was published by Overlook Press (see Joe's write-up, above). He won the College's Distinguished Service Award, in part for his work as co-director of the President's Commission on Diversity, Equity, Access, and Inclusion. But the highlight of his year was his study abroad class in Ireland, which just concluded in August 2013.

Simon Lewis had two articles published in the spring: “The Transnational Circulation of Dissent: Olive Schreiner and the Colonial Counter-flows of Unitarian Free-thinking,” in Safundi, and “Postmodern Materialism in Abdurazak Gurnah’s Dottie: Intertextuality as Ideological Critique of Englishness,” in English Studies in Africa. With Lindsey Green-Simms (Visiting Assistant Professor at CofC 2010-11), Simon co-edited a special issue devoted to 21st-century African writing of the Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies. Volume 1, Number 1 in the new series of the journal, the issue contains essays on writers from Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and South Africa, as well as some really interesting reflective pieces on the impact of changes in publishing and digital technology by writers and critics covering new writing from Kenya and Zimbabwe (among other countries). The issue is rounded out by a series of comprehensive review essays on new work about African women writers, South African writers, Francophone African writers, and criticism of African film. Also, with David T. Gleeson of the University of Northumbria (and a former Director of the Program in the Lowcountry and Atlantic World at CofC), Simon edited Ambiguous Anniversary: The Bicentennial of the International Slave Trade Bans (see Simon’s write-up, above).

Bret Lott gave readings in Florida, Indiana, North Carolina, Australia, Switzerland, and Israel (the last of which included readings sponsored by the State Department and the American Consulate in Ramallah and the West Bank); published new fiction in The Gettysburg Review, new nonfiction in Virginia Quarterly Review, Image, and New Ohio Review; published a new book of nonfiction, Letters and Life: On Being a Writer, On Being a Christian (see Bret's write-up, above); made the annual excursion to Spoleto, Italy for the summer study abroad program in English and a side trip from Israel to Jordan, where his wife, Melanie, and he visited Petra and stayed in a Bedouin camp in Wadi Rum, where at night they saw more stars than they could have ever imagined. Bret’s publisher produced a book trailer for Letters and Life. Finally, he and Melanie were blessed by the arrival of their second grandchild, Oliver Holmes Lott, in July. Quite a year!

Amy Mecklenburg-Faenger was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. Her essay (written collaboratively with Henri Rix Wood and Lori Ostergaard) "Making Space for Writing: High School Girls’ Writing Clubs, Newspapers, and Literary Magazines, 1897-1930" was accepted for publication in an edited collection. Over the summer, she worked with Dr. Chris Warnick and Dr. Patrick Bahls (a mathematician at University of North Carolina-Asheville) on a study of revision practices in student writing in mathematics. She is really excited that six students from her graduate course on Feminism and Composition had papers accepted for the Feminisms and Rhetorics conference and will be presenting their work this September.

Scott Peeples reached a new level of geekdom this summer by seeking out nearly every spot where Edgar Allan Poe lived. The “Magical Misery Tour” rolled through Richmond, Charlottesville, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston — preparation for a new writing project on Poe and place.

Poems from Emily Rosko’s third manuscript, Weather Inventions, were featured in New Orleans Review and were published in Antioch Review and Another Chicago Magazine. She presented a short paper, “Voice, Acting,” on a special session roundtable, Early Modern Contemporary: Poetry, Tradition, Innovation, at MLA in Boston. In the spring, she served as the Maxwell Visiting Writer at Columbia College and read her poetry in the Litchfield Tea & Poetry Series, the Shark’s Parlor Reading Series in Columbia, and the Piccolo Spoleto Sundown Poetry Series. She also co-organized the Tongues Aflame Poetry Reading Series at Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, which ran in conjunction with Lesley Dill’s “Poetic Visions” exhibition and featured CofC student poets, Charleston community poets, and regional poets.

William Russell taught a senior seminar on early modern epic poetry in the spring that culminated in a visit to the Charleston Battery for some primary research on the wine-dark sea (see the photo on the left, in which a rapt Chris Cimorelli listens as Joseph McKinley recites a favorite passage). He meanwhile continued to pursue his own research on early modern poetics and rhetoric, and the idea of the critic in early modern England, which led to a conference presentation on sixteenth-century English humanist Gabriel Harvey and an article, published in Studies in Philology in the fall, on Ben Jonson.

Meg Scott Copeses returned from a summer trip to
Greece in 2012 with editorial inspiration for *Illuminations Literary Magazine*. Volume #29 would treat all things Greece—classic and contemporary, real and imagined. She and her graduate assistant extraordinaire, Kristina Held, spent the year reading submissions of poetry, fiction, memoirs, vignettes, and articles about Greece. In addition to her philhellenism, Dr. Scott Copses continues to love her teaching, her writing (with new poems out in *The Ithnol Review* and *The Mom Egg*), her current research on the fusion of composition and creative writing pedagogies, and her new-ish hobby, dance classes!

**Myra Seaman** was promoted to Full Professor; she published a co-edited collection, *Dark Chaucer: An Assortment* (available as a free download, as are all punctum books); and the journal she co-edits, *postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies*, won the Association for Learned Professional Society Publishers Award for Best New Journal, 2012 (selected from among journals across all academic disciplines). In April she published an article in *Pedagogy* on "Medieval Prime Time: Entertaining the Family in Fifteenth-Century England—and Educating Students in Twenty-First Century America" (centered on a course she taught in Spring 2011), and in December an essay on "Disconsolate Art" in *Dark Chaucer*. She was part of a roundtable on Inventing New Journals at the Modern Language Association meeting in Boston in January and presented a paper at the Middle Ages in the Modern World conference in St. Andrews, Scotland, in July on "Representing Reenactment." She presented a related paper on her new project on medieval reenactment—"Medieval Drag, or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the SCA"—at the BABEL meeting in Boston in September, a conference she co-organized and for which she also co-organized a panel called "Will It Blend?: Equipping the Humanities Lab." She co-organized two BABEL Symposia on Critical/Liberal/Arts, the first at University of California, Irvine in April and the second at the CUNY Grad Center in September. She taught two new courses, ENGL 309: English Language: Grammar and History in the Fall and ENGL 361: Medieval Textualities (a manuscript-based course closely connected to her ongoing research project) in the Spring. Her biannual marathons continue, including Savannah and Kalamazoo marathons this fall and spring. Having sold her house and sent her daughter off to college, she is spending the 2013-14 year on sabbatical in Brooklyn and Portland, where she will be writing the book she has been researching, on and off, for years: *Objects of Affection: The Book and the Household in Late Medieval England*.

**Catherine Thomas** presented work on *Manga Shakespeare King Lear* at the 2013 Shakespeare Association of America conference in Toronto and on teaching with the popular graphic archives at the 2012 Popular Culture Association in the South conference in Nashville. Her article, "(Un)sexing Lady Macbeth: Gender, Power, and Visual Rhetoric in Her Graphic Afterlives," was published in *Upstart Crow: A Shakespeare Journal* in January, and her co-edited collection (with Dr. Jennifer Feather, UNC-Greensboro), *Violent Masculinities: Male Aggression in Early Modern Texts and Culture*, will be published by Palgrave Macmillan in November. This coming academic year, she is looking forward to reprising her first year seminar, "Shakespeare and the Comic Arts," and upper-level literature in history course, "Gender and Sexuality in Early Modern Literature and Culture." Work aside, she and her husband are busy chasing their new kitten, Nessie, who seems to have a penchant not only for pouncing on her big sister cats, but also for sitting on and pawing at books and Kindles when others are trying to read them.

**John Warner** recently optioned the film rights for his novel, *The Funny Man*, to PhD. Productions. He’ll be using the fall semester and holiday break to write the screenplay adaptation, with a hopeful starting date for filming in the latter half of 2014. Over the summer he finished the manuscript for a novel for middle-grade readers, *Bigfoot Girl*, which is about a female half-human, half-yeti who is navigating a difficult passage through junior high. That manuscript, as well as a collection of short fiction, is in search of a publisher. The *Best of McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, a compilation drawn from the first 15 years of the popular humor-oriented website, will be published in March with John as co-editor along with Christopher Monks. In July he spent two days at the Vermont College of Fine Arts low-residency MFA program as a visiting writer, and in August, seven days on a 12 passenger ship sailing the inside passage of Alaska. He's prepared to bore you to death with pictures. In October he'll be delivering a guest lecture to the graduate students in Design Criticism at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. In the Spring he's very much looking forward to teaching a Learning Community course pairing English 110 with Biology 112 and getting started on a new novel for adults about a high school football team that mysteriously collapses into a comatose state during a game with their arch-rival.

**Chris Warnick** was on sabbatical for part of last year. Besides trying (unsuccessfully) to improve his banjo playing, he continued his research on 1970s-era writing textbooks and co-founded the journal *Literacy in Composition Studies*, which published its inaugural issue last March. He is currently trying to cope the Pittsburgh Pirates’ first playoff berth in over twenty years.
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