As the English Department celebrates the 10th anniversary of the Lindsay J. Cropper Memorial Writers Series this spring, I’ve been invited to reflect on the history and growth of the Cropper Writers series. What a privilege it’s been to help this series evolve along with our changing department.

When it was first founded, the Cropper Series’ goal was to bring readers of high-quality prose and poetry to the USD campus twice a year in the Fall Semester. The reading series is now doubled: we offer two readings in both Fall and Spring semesters, and they’re integrated with the Cropper Undergraduate Creative Writing Contest (readers now serve as contest judges). We have also added the Barrie Cropper Memorial Lecture on Creative Writing (established in Fall 2011), in which a visiting guest writer speaks about the craft of prose or poetry. All students in Fall semester creative writing classes are required to attend the lecture as a common foundation for the year to come; this lecture alternates yearly between a poet and prose writer. While it targets beginning and intermediate creative writing students, USD students and faculty members from around campus have benefited from our guest writers’ insights. After our second Barrie Cropper Lecture, I received an email from Professor Avi Spiegel in the Political Science department. He said the lecture was near his office in the KIPJ, so he’d popped in to see what it was all about, and ended up staying for the entire thing because he was learning so much about writing! It’s a delight to see how writers’ thoughts on the craft can be helpful for all of us, even those of us who don’t call ourselves “creative writers”. Thank you all for your continued support of the reading series, and see you at our first spring semester event: poets Esther Lee & Gary Jackson read on Friday, Feb. 21, at 7:00pm in the Manchester Auditorium. We’ll announce the Cropper Creative Writing Contest winners after the reading! And mark your calendars for the big event with Maxine Hong Kingston on April 4!

Halina Duraj, PhD
Assistant Professor, English Department
Interim Director, Cropper Center for Creative Writing
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday, January 10, 2014 was Carla Petticrew’s 3rd year anniversary working in the English Dept. Carla is the Executive Assistant for the Department of English, and previously worked in the Music Dept. and the College of Arts & Sciences Dean’s Office since starting at USD in July 2009.

Wed, Feb 5, 12:00-1:30pm in UC Forum C: CID's 1st Wed Sweet Celebration: Archbishop Wilton Gregory. In celebration of Black History Month and in awareness of Catholic Social Thought, USD proudly welcomes Archbishop Wilton Gregory of Atlanta, GA. His lecture, “Our Diversity as Gift and Challenge,” begins at 12:30pm. Archbishop Wilton Gregory is a prominent black Catholic leader in the U.S. Church. He was named Archbishop of Atlanta in 2005 and formerly served as the president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Free boxed lunches served, please RSVP to http://sandiego.kintera.org/ccs. We hope to see you all there. Be sure to RSVP for you, your colleagues and friends! Co-Sponsors: Center for Christian Spirituality, Center for Inclusion and Diversity, Office of Public Affairs, University Ministry, the Black Student Resource Center, and the Council for the Advancement of Catholic Social Thought.

STUDENT NEWS

Danvera Scholarship: We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2014 Danvera Scholarship! The following English majors have been awarded a Danvera scholarship: Joie Coxon, Gabriella Sghia-Hughes and Shannon Wheeler. Congratulations to 2014’s recipients! The Danvera Scholarship is provided annually by the Danvera Foundation. Students must be: 1. majoring in English, 2. in good academic standing, maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or better, and 3. have demonstrated financial need. Preference goes to students who have exhibited leadership skills. More information on English Department scholarships available: http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/english/scholarships.php.

Tue, Feb 4, 4:00pm in Copley Seminar Rm: Introduction to Library Resources for Transfer Students. Designed for transfer students, this workshop will focus on introducing the many research resources and services available at Copley Library. Topics include finding books and articles, using library services, and more. Bring your questions. Presenter: Michael Epstein. More info: http://libcal.sandiego.edu/.

Thur, Feb 6, 5:00pm in Copley Seminar Rm: Cite This! Cite That! Citation Tools. So many citation tools: Mendeley, EndNote, Perrla, Zotero. What do they do? Which one is best for you? This panel discussion will help you sort out the options as you consider which tools to learn and use. So many citation tools: Mendeley, EndNote, Perrla, Zotero. What do they do? Which one is best for you? This panel discussion will help you sort out the options as you consider which tools to learn and use. Presenters: Amy Besnoy, Hugh Burkhart, & Lisa Burgert. More info: http://libcal.sandiego.edu/.

Thur, Feb 6, 6:00pm in Copley Seminar Rm: Amazing Copley Library Race! Explore, discover, and find what is in the library! Race through the library to answer the clues provided. One of our most popular events with new students! Come join in on the fun. Presenters: Lorelei Sterling and Kelly Riddle. For more information: http://libcal.sandiego.edu/.

Mon, Feb 10, 1:00-2:00pm at Tu Mercado: Conversations With Carmen. Students! Meet with Carmen Vazquez, USD’s Vice President of Student Affairs at this open conversation event. All students welcome.
Class open, space available! Add before Wed, Feb 5th!

**Spring 2014 Courses:** the English Dept. has had several inquiries from majors about the seeming lack of Spring courses that can meet **period-based distributional requirements**. There are, in fact, several ENGL 494’s that can count:

- For **Literature before 1660**: Sanskrit, Old English, or Literature of the Crusades may count.
- For **Literature between 1660-1900**: Romantic Radicals may count.
- For **Literature from 1900 to Present**: New Storytelling: Learning from the Cyborgs may count. Please see Dept. Chair, Dr. Cynthia Caywood, in the spring, and she will take care of the paperwork.

Also, there are **two NEW “D” Courses**, just designated:

- ENGL 225D-03 & -04: Food & Asian/Amer Literature (CRN #1388 & #3609)
- ENGL 225D-05 & -06: Chicano/a Art, Literature & Feminisms (CRN #3610 & #3611)

Course descriptions for these courses —and all English courses for Spring 2014— may be found at: [http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/documents/english/2014_Spring_Course_Descriptions.pdf](http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/documents/english/2014_Spring_Course_Descriptions.pdf)
The SURE (Summer Undergraduate Research Experience) program allows USD undergraduates to engage in an independent research or scholarly project during the summer. SURE is a student-oriented program – students identify a faculty mentor and topic of inquiry and formulate a project proposal in collaboration with their faculty mentor. Visit http://www.sandiego.edu/ugresearch/students/on_campus/sure/ for information on how to write and submit a SURE application or email ugresearch@sandiego.edu.

The McNair Scholars Summer Research Program identifies and prepares eligible, high-achieving undergraduate USD students for graduate study leading to the doctoral degree through involvement in research and other scholarly experiences. Visit http://www.sandiego.edu/mcnairscholars/ for more detailed information on this well-resourced training program, including student eligibility and expectations or email mcnairscholars@sandiego.edu. Applications for SURE and McNair Scholars will be accepted starting Feb. 1 through Feb. 13, 2014, at 5:00pm.

"People don't notice whether it's winter or summer when they're happy."
—Anton Chekhov
NEW! **English Web Site Page on Student Career Assistance:** Now up on the English web site is our new page for students! It covers: Jobs, Internships, Volunteer Work, USD Career Services workshops, Writing Contests, Publication Opportunities, Articles/Career Advice, Etiquette Tips, and English Alumni careers. Take a look at it at: [http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/english/internships-careers.php](http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/english/internships-careers.php). Check back often for updates on events and new postings. If you are an Alumni, please share your career status with us and we’ll post on this page — send to: english@sandiego.edu.

**Fri, Feb 7, 12:30pm in Serra 215: Job Search Workshop.** For more information, please contact Career Services at [http://www.sandiego.edu/careers/](http://www.sandiego.edu/careers/) or 619-260-4654, or visit Hughes 110.

**Fri-Sat, Feb 7-8, Senior Seminar: 24 Hours for the Rest of Your Life.** This seminar is designed for Seniors in preparing for their last year of college as well as the transitions which follow, & for those:

* Unclear on what to do after graduation
* Undecided on whether or not to attend graduate school
* Unsure on how they will find happiness and joy in their new career
* Interested in learning from the experiences of recent USD alumni
* Curious how to find meaningful work, healthy relationships, and life-giving community
* In search of an extraordinary life

Flyer: [http://www.sandiego.edu/um/retreats/senior-seminar.php](http://www.sandiego.edu/um/retreats/senior-seminar.php). For more information about the Senior Seminar, please contact Mark Peters at (619) 260-2265 or markp@sandiego.edu. Sponsored by University Ministry, Student Affairs, USD Alumni Association and Career Services.

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STUDENT CAREER ASSISTANCE

TheDailyConfidential.com: Looking for USD Writers! Work for a USD startup that is looking to give article and blog writers free exposure for their work! You will have your own section on our site and your articles will be featured on the front page! We have limited space for writers and you must have examples of previous writing. For more info contact: Josh@thedailyconfidential.com or 619-944-0697, or Leeran@thedailyconfidential.com or 858-603-3160.†

UC Berkeley Comparative Literature Undergraduate Journal opportunity for publication. We are one of the few undergraduate journals in the nation exclusively dedicated to undergraduate research in the field of languages and literature. As such, this is an extraordinary opportunity for students to become published before they reach graduate school. Articles do not have to be written this past semester; we do ask for students to have been undergraduates when they wrote the paper. All of the information about submission guidelines, deadlines, and such can be found on our website www.ucb-cluj.org. The Spring 2014 issue deadline is January 31, 2014. What constitutes “Comparative Literature” (because many students are concerned about whether their piece is appropriate)? We construe “comparative” broadly to include: Interdisciplinary work (Is the paper concerned with more than one medium? Film? Art? Literature? Philosophy?); Work that deals with more than one author/director/etc.; Certain “readings” of literature -- i.e. Hegelian readings of Frankenstein; and Articles that deal with more than one novel/poem/film/etc. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Puja Iyer, Editor, directly at berkecluij@gmail.com.†

The Artifice: The online magazine The Artifice covers a wide spectrum of art forms (including Film, Anime, Comics, Literature, Arts, etc.). It is collaboratively built and maintained by the writers. The platform has an established audience of millions. We are currently expanding and we would like to provide an opportunity for your students to join our team of writers. If this is something of interest, please email Alyson Burston at alysonbur@ttframes.com. The Artifice: the-artifice.com.†

Summer 2014 Teaching Opportunity: The Institute of Reading Development is seeking candidates for summer 2014 teaching positions. We seek applicants with an undergraduate degree or higher from any discipline. We provide a paid training program and comprehensive on-going support. Summer teaching positions with the Institute offer the opportunity to:

* Earn more than $6,000 during the summer. Teachers typically earn between $500 and $700 per week while teaching.
* Gain over 500 hours of teacher-training and teaching experience with a variety of age groups.
* Help students of all ages develop their reading skills and ability to become imaginatively absorbed in books.

The Institute is an educational service provider that teaches developmental reading programs in partnership with the continuing education departments of more than 100 colleges and universities across the United States. Our classes for students of all ages improve their reading skills and teach them to experience absorption in literature. We hire people who:

* Have strong reading skills and read for pleasure
* Have a Bachelor's Degree in any discipline
* Are responsible and hard working
* Have good communication and organizational skills
* Will be patient and supportive with students
* Have regular access to a reliable car

We invite you to submit an online application and learn more about teaching for the Institute at our website: http://institutofreadingdevelopmentteachingjobs.com/.†

† Disclaimer: Paid and unpaid internship or job opportunities, and other information posted here for informational purposes only. The postings do not constitute an endorsement by the University of San Diego of the opinions or activities of the internship, job opportunity or information posted.
Cynthia Caywood, Halina Duraj, Fred Robinson, & Stefan Vander Elst attended the MLA (Modern Language Association) Annual Convention held over January 9-12, 2014. They participated in candidate interviews for the English Dept.’s open Poetry faculty position.

Thur, Jan 30, 4:30-6:30pm at The Cosmopolitan Hotel and Restaurant, Old Town: New & Junior Faculty Social. Located in the heart of Old Town, The Cosmopolitan Restaurant & Hotel is the ideal setting for USD’s new and junior faculty to meet and mingle. A special patio area has been reserved for us, complete with an appetizer buffet and refreshments. Free parking is available in the lot adjacent to the restaurant. It is accessible from Juan Street, just north of Mason Street. Register at: http://www.sandiego.edu/cee/events/registration.php.

Fri, Feb 7, 2014, 1:00-4:00pm in UC Forums A/B/C: 9th Annual Technology Showcase: Innovation Celebration! Technology • Food • Prizes! Enjoy panel discussions and presentations by faculty and students. Networking, fun, photo booth, refreshments! Explore Technologies on the Floor: visit the various displays in the Tech Expo and enjoy demonstrations by our exhibitors. Fun, food, drinks and networking with colleagues and IT team! Talk with faculty that are using innovative technologies in their teaching and find out how you can too. Keynote speaker, Dr. Rob Robinson, Solutions Director at Blackboard, “Hybrid & Online Courses,” at 12:00-1:00pm. Meet the CIO & IT Advisory Committee (ITAC) at 2:00pm at the Steelcase exhibit. Presented by Academic Technology Services. Learn more at: http://bit.ly/usdtechshowcase.

Welcome back Joe McGowan & Abe Stoll from sabbatical during Fall 2013 semester! Please note: Dennis Clausen and Mary Hotz are on sabbatical during Spring 2014 semester.

Halina Duraj’s book, The Family Cannon, has been published this month! The Family Cannon, a short story collection, is available from publisher Augury Books and can be purchased on Amazon. Augury Books held a launch party for The Family Cannon in New York City on Friday, January 24, 2014. The launch party, held at Berl's Poetry Shop in Brooklyn, was complete with readings, drinks, and irresistible new books for sale. "With quiet astonishment, Halina Duraj explores the mysteries of love and madness, offering her readers the secret salvation of story," said Melanie Rae Thon, author of The Voice of the River and In This Light. "Between a father’s reinvention of himself, a mother’s perplexing fidelity, and a woman’s navigation of the complexities of betrayal, we discover the exquisite pleasures of a world restored and redeemed through Duraj’s luminous gaze, the loving attention and tender playfulness of an extravagantly passionate imagination.” Read an excerpt from Duraj’s The Family Cannon at http://augurybooks.com/2014/01/16/halina-duraj-preview-read-excerpt-from-the-family-cannon-then-pre-order/. Congratulations, Halina!

“If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?”

—Percy Bysshe Shelley

David Hay taught Intersession 2014 abroad for the English Dept, teaching “London Plays in Production.”

“English Dept Newsletter”

FACULTY NEWS

Volume 6, Issue 10

Page 7
ALUMNI NEWS

Kimberly Curto Athans, 1995 (English undergrad) & 2000 (SOLES), has been teaching at the secondary and post-secondary levels for 17 years. She is also currently pursuing her doctorate in literacy at Sam Houston State University. She has been in Texas since 2001, but she and her family are planning on returning to San Diego within the next year. (Fun fact: she also went to grad school with Jericho Brown at the University of Houston!)

Alumni, what is your career status? Update us! We have a new Student Careers Assistance webpage with an “Alumni” section on it and would love to know what you are doing so we can share with current students to show them where an English degree can take them. Please submit to: English@sandiego.edu. Thank you! http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/english/internships-careers.php

BE BLUE, GO GREEN

USD became the first institute of higher education in California to join the State Electronics Challenge (SEC), a national environmental stewardship program. The challenge supports the university’s commitment to sustainability through its continued conservation and recycling efforts demonstrated through the Office of Sustainability’s wide array of programs and initiatives, including the USD Electronics Recycling Center. USD joins 129 participant organizations in 36 states in the State Electronics Challenge, which assists colleges and universities, state, regional, tribal, and local governments to reduce the environmental impact of their office equipment. This is just another milestone in the history of the USD Electronic Recycling Center (ERC), formerly the E-Waste Collection Center, since it opened in April of 2011. Over the past several years, the ERC grew from a small-scale student start-up to a full-scale operation collecting over 420,000 pounds of e-waste in 2013, marking a 238 percent growth from 2012. To date the ERC has diverted over 600,000 pounds through resale, reuse, and recycling. In 2013, over 4,800 people visited the ERC to drop off their electronics or purchase gently used electronics at discounted prices. The ERC is excited to join the SEC and continue to be at the forefront of the electronic waste revolution. Visit ERC’s website at: http://www.sandiego.edu/ewaste/ and contribute to the cause today! For more information about the SEC, including a list of Partner organizations, visit www.stateelectronicschallenge.net.

COMMUNITY

Did You Know?

Did You Know? Fridays are Torero Blue Days! Wear your BLUE to show your Torero Pride! Wear your USD t-shirts, sweatshirts, ball caps, etc., or just wear the color BLUE every Friday.

Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face.”
—Victor Hugo