NEW ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CONTEMPORARY LIT AND MEDIA

Eugenie Brinkema will join the Literature faculty starting July 2010 as an Assistant Professor of Contemporary Literature and Media. Brinkema received a BA in Film Studies from Yale 2002 and an MA in English from SUNY at Buffalo in 2004. She received her PhD in Modern Culture and Media from Brown University in May. While at Brown, her areas of specialization have included Film Theory and Criticism; “Body Genres”; Violence, Horror, Extremity and Trauma; Critical and Cultural Theory; Psychoanalysis and Continental Philosophy; and Gender and Sexuality Studies.

We look forward to Eugenie’s joining the faculty and her participation in the teaching activities and communities of both the Literature Section and Comparative Media Studies (CMS) program.

RUTH PERRY NAMED TO THE FRIEDLAENDER CHAIR

Professor Ruth Perry will hold the Ann Friedlaender Professorship in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Science beginning July 1, 2010. This Professorship was established in 1992 in honor of former SHASS Dean, Nan Friedlaender. Professor Perry is the fourth recipient of the chair, which she received because of her outstanding record of scholarship and teaching.

Perry is well known for her work on eighteenth-century literature and culture, with special emphasis on the influence of gender on categories of literary analysis. Most recently, she has turned her attention to the significance of traditional oral culture in the Scottish Enlightenment. In addition to receiving MIT’s highest teaching award, the Margaret MacVicar Faculty Fellowship, she has been the recipient of many prestigious awards, including fellowships from the NEH, NSF, Ford Foundation, ACLS, Guggenheim Foundation, and the Institute for Advanced Studies in Edinburgh. She founded the MIT Women’s Studies program in 1984, the Boston-wide

PETER DONALDSON RECEIVES THE FORD FOUNDATION CHAIR

Professor Peter Donaldson, former Head of Literature (1990-2005) has been awarded the prestigious Ford Foundation Professorship in the Humanities. Professor Donaldson’s early research culminated in Machiavelli and Mystery of State (1988). Since then he has been an international leader in establishing the study of Shakespeare on film as a serious interdisciplinary field, and has, as head of MIT’s Shakespeare Electronic Archive, also been a pioneer in the development of educational software and digital collections of texts, illustrations and video resources. Recent projects include Shakespeare Performance in Asia, which includes 25 complete productions from Japan, Taiwan, Singapore and the People’s Republic of China; Global Shakespeare in Performance, which will include additional collections from India, Brazil and the Arab World in its first phase, to launch this year; and a Global Shakespeare in Performance curricular initiative with MIT professors Diana Henderson, Janet Sonenberg, Jay Scheib, Shankar Raman and international collaborators. “I never thought, when I first joined this faculty, that I would be doing the work that I’m doing now -- the distinctive culture of MIT has made it possible, and I’m grateful to the dean and the Ford Foundation for this award, which will help me to sustain and extend our work on Shakespeare in the digital age.”

2010 LITERATURE PRIZE WINNERS

Literature announced the 2010 Literature Prize Winners at the last Monday Tea of the term on May 10th. This year the Literature Prize will be shared by Anneke Schwob, a double major with course 21S, and Seohyung Kim, a double major with course 18.

The Literature Prize is awarded to a graduating senior for outstanding academic work and contributions to the Literature community.

(Continued on page 4 - Perry)
**Lit Happenings**

**Two Literature Faculty Promoted in Rank**

Literature is pleased to announce the promotion of Mary Fuller to the rank of Full Professor in Literature, beginning July 1, 2010. As Professor James Buzard, Head of Literature, writes, Mary “is a colleague we value enormously for her excellent scholarship, critical acumen, educational innovations, and positive energy. She is widely recognized as a leading voice in the study of Early Modern travel, exploration, and cultural contact, and her work (two books and numerous articles) has had significant international and interdisciplinary impact. She is also an excellent teacher and displays great creativity and initiative in interdisciplinary teaching collaborations both within and beyond SHASS.”

We are also delighted to announce the promotion of Sandy Alexandre to Associate Professor in Literature, beginning July 1, 2010. Professor Buzard commented that “Sandy is a brilliant and dynamic colleague doing adventurous work of deep moral gravity” in the field of African-American literary and cultural studies. “She is an inspired teacher and an always willing and able performer of service to MIT and to the profession.”

**Mary Fuller Awarded Huntington Fellowship and SHASS Levitan Prize**

Mary Fuller will be spending the 2010-11 academic year at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, as a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow. In addition, Professor Fuller was also awarded the MIT-SHASS Levitan Prize which is awarded annually as a research fund to support innovative and creative scholarship in the humanities.

Mary works on early modern travel writing: first-person accounts of European voyages and travels beyond the boundaries of Europe during the centuries just before and after Columbus. Her project for next year is to finish writing a book about Richard Hakluyt, a contemporary of Shakespeare’s, who promoted and invested in overseas voyages and is most famous for collecting and publishing thousands of pages of narrative and other documents about English travel before 1600. Besides its expansive geographical reference to regions stretching from the Canadian Arctic to the Straits of Magellan, and from West Africa to Sri Lanka, Hakluyt’s work presents the challenge of dealing with an author whose real work was managing and cross-linking the information of others rather than generating content himself. This treatment of old information in an

(Continued on page 3—Fuller)

**Shankar Raman Receives Radcliffe Institute Fellowship**

Associate Professor of Literature Shankar Raman has received a Fellowship from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study for the academic year 2010-11.

The mission of the Radcliffe Institute is to create an academic community where individuals can pursue advanced work in any of the academic disciplines, professions, or creative arts. While in residence at Radcliffe Professor Raman will continue work on his book, tentatively entitled "Before the Two Cultures: Literature and Mathematics in Early Modern Europe."

**Literature Major wins Rhodes Scholarship**

Ugwechi Amadi (2010), a double major in Literature and in Brain and Cognitive Sciences, was selected to receive a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University, where she will continue her laboratory work in the M.Sc. program in Psychology. Amadi has been a Burchard Scholar in the Humanities at MIT and, in addition to her work in Literature, has done extensive lab work on post-traumatic stress disorders with middle school students in MIT’s STEM mentoring program. She also founded the Brain and Cognitive Sciences pre-freshman orientation program and was President of the Brain and Cognitive Sciences Society.

The Rhodes Scholarship is awarded annually to 32 students from the United States. This year, MIT had its highest number of successful applicants - 3 - and ranks very well overall, with a total of 43 Rhodes Scholars since the program began. Amadi is MIT’s second Rhodes Scholar to major in Literature. The first was James Eli Adams ‘77, who is now a Professor of English at Columbia. According to Prof. Peter Donaldson, Ugwechi’s Literature advisor, “Ugwechi has been a superb student at MIT, committed to contributing to the world through research, and service, highly successful in her scientific field, and deeply engaged with the humanities. She wears her learning lightly and makes it seem easy. We wish her every success at Oxford and in her career.”

Ugwechi says that “overall, I’m just very excited—and, I’ll admit, a bit nervous!—for the wonderful opportunity ahead.”
New Initiatives

GLOBAL SHAKESPEARE

Global Shakespeare in Performance is a collaborative project involving Literature Professors Peter Donaldson, Shankar Raman and Diana Henderson (Dean for Faculty Support and Curriculum) and Theater Arts Professors Jay Scheib (2009 winner of Time Out's Best Director in New York award) and Janet Sonenberg (Head of Theater Arts).

The group is developing an interdisciplinary approach to Shakespeare that will combine literary and performance perspectives in the context of the extraordinary growth of Shakespeare productions throughout the world in the digital age. From Kurosawa's Throne of Blood to Maqbool, recent versions of Shakespeare's films have been regarded as among the finest versions of Shakespeare's plays. YouTube now lists over 60,000 Shakespeare videos, with over 4,000 for 'To be or not to be' alone. The MIT Shakespeare Project is now making video records of complete productions available on the web, beginning with Asia (http://web.mit.edu/shakespeare/asia) and has pioneered tools for using digital video in education.

According to Professor Donaldson, "We live in a world in which Shakespeare is being re-interpreted by major theater artists from Brazil to Taiwan, often in more vital and innovative ways than in London, Stratford or New York. We need to understand how Shakespeare is changing world theater and how the global, digital culture of our time is changing Shakespeare. MIT is the perfect place to do this." Fall term subjects that will be part of the Global Shakespeare initiative include: 21L.009 Shakespeare; 21L.010 Writing with Shakespeare, 21L.435/ CMS.840 Shakespeare, Film and Media, 21M.611 Foundations of Theater Practice and 21M.703J/CMS.403J Media and Methods: Performing. The Global Shakespeare Initiative is sponsored by the SHASS Fund for Teaching and Learning.

(Continued from page 2—Fuller)

old medium has some very modern analogues.

Over the summer, Mary will be taking a class on mapping before 1800 at the London Rare Books School and working on a few smaller writing projects. Next summer, pending approval of the proposal, she hopes to be conducting an NEH Summer Seminar for College Teachers on campus at MIT. The seminar will bring together faculty from the disciplines of literature, history, archeology, and the history of science to talk about interdisciplinary approaches to the multifaceted phenomenon of the early modern voyage. On her return to regular teaching in fall of 2011, she will again be teaching a freshman advising seminar with Lindy Elkins-Tanton from EAPS, focusing on scientific expeditions, past and present.

AMSTERDAM/MIT FACULTY EXCHANGE

Prof. David Thorburn has just returned from the Netherlands after a semester as a Visiting Professor in English at the University of Amsterdam.

Dr. Thorburn had changed places with University of Amsterdam professor Gene M. Moore, who was a Visiting Professor in Literature for the Spring term. During his stay at MIT, Professor Moore taught 21L.433 Film Styles and Genres and 21L.315 Prizewinners.

The exchange was a pilot project aimed at establishing a permanent arrangement under which Dutch professors of literature and media would regularly switch places with their MIT counterparts.

The project grows out of Thorburn’s experiences as a Fulbright Professor in the Netherlands three years ago. “I discovered a vibrant community in Utrecht and in Amsterdam of literary and media scholars,” he said. “Opportunities for humanists to study in Europe have been diminishing, making our project especially timely.”

VISITING LECTURER FROM SCOTLAND

DR. WILLIAM DONALDSON

During the Spring term Dr. William “Willie” Donaldson joined us as a Visiting Lecturer. Donaldson taught 21L.007 World Literature with Professor Mary Fuller and 21L.435 Literature and Film: The Vampire in Fiction and Film.

Dr. Donaldson will join us again next year to teach World Literature in the Fall and 21L.430 Popular Culture and Narrative in the Spring. Raised in Aberdeenshire, Willie attended Aberdeen University where he graduated with an MA and PhD. He has published in the field of popular culture, with emphasis upon traditional music and the ideal of national identity from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. His books have won numerous awards and include Popular Literature in Victorian Scotland (1986), The Jacobite Song (1988), The Language of the People (1989), and The Highland Pipe and Scottish Society (2000).

Dr. Donaldson worked for many years with the U.K.’s Open University; his courses included graduate literature, centered on bibliography, book history, textual editing and contemporary literary theory. He is currently at work on a study of popular song and the construction of national identity from the seventeenth century to the present. With three other players Dr Donaldson helped establish the first world bagpipe-playing endurance record at the University of Aberdeen in 1969.

TO DONATE TO LITERATURE, GO TO http://tinyurl.com/lit-donations
Lit Happenings (Continued)

**POET KEVIN McLELLAN PUBLISHES**

Kevin McLellan, an Administrative Assistant II in the Literature Section since 2008, has recently had his first book of poetry published. Round Trip, a chapbook of collaborative poetry published by Seven Kitchens Press, was entirely co-authored by female poets.

The experience of writing and publishing a book of collaborative poetry has led Kevin to appreciate the degree of accountability demanded by collaboration: he says of collaborative poetry that it requires “a heightened level of consciousness of the actual creation. It’s a shared product, thus the investment that one makes is not only for oneself, but also for another person.”

Eager to continue this co-creative process, Kevin is currently working on a companion volume to Round Trip, which will feature poetry entirely co-created with male poets.

**INA LIPKOWITZ TO PUBLISH**

A Lecturer in the Literature Section for more than ten years, Ina Lipkowitz is publishing her first book with St. Martin’s Press. The Barbarian Appetite: Romans, Christians, Conquerors, & the Unlikely History of our English Food Words is due out in late 2010/early 2011.

The Barbarian Appetite stands at the crossroads of many of Ina’s interests: comparative languages and literature, biblical studies, and the anthropology of cuisine. Firmly convinced that words, whether in poetry, novels, or everyday speech, suggest far more than they say, she has extended to the words of the kitchen the same sort of examination she encourages her MIT students to give the language of novels (whether they’re by Jane Austen or Helen Fielding), poetry (whether by Shakespeare or AA Milne), and the Bible (whether in Hebrew, Greek, Latin, or one of its many English translations).

(Continued from page 1—Perry)

Graduate Consortium in Women’s Studies in 1991, and was elected president of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in 2000. She has authored and edited eight books and served on the editorial boards of a number of scholarly journals.

On learning that she was being named the Ann Fetter Friedlaender Professor of Humanities, Perry said “This is indeed an honor for me and for my colleagues in the literature faculty at MIT. It testifies to the enduring value of literature to our students and the important role the humanities play in our school and our society.”

**MISERY’S FIEND FRANKENSTEIN**

The Literature Faculty’s 2009-2010 Martin Luther King Visiting Scholar Ricardo Pitts-Wiley staged a highly imaginative and well-attended production of his play Misery’s Fiend: Frankenstein on April 16 and 17 in Killian Hall. Working with MIT student actors and with members from his Mixed Magic Theater company of Pawtucket, R.I., Pitts-Wiley, who frequently adapts classic literary works for the stage, brought Mary Shelley’s famous monster to new dramatic life with three actors embodying three sides of the monster’s personality who lope around the stage and among the audience on creaking stilts. Borrowing from one of the major influences on Shelley’s novel - Coleridge’s "Rime of the Ancient Mariner" - the play presented the tragic creator Victor Frankenstein as doomed to repeat his tale until he has purged himself of his crime against the natural order. The April 16 performance was followed by a panel discussion featuring MIT Literature Faculty members James Buzard, Mary Fuller, and Noel Jackson, along with Pitts-Wiley and members of the cast. Often regarded as a cautionary tale about the unforeseen ethical challenges that may arise from scientific breakthroughs, Shelley’s story is one that all MIT students should encounter; Pitts-Wiley’s adaptation offered them an exciting new form in which to do so.

**OTHER NOTABLES**

Professors Fuller, Hildebidle, Jackson and Tapscott received Alumni Class Funds for a project to redesign the Literature Section’s CI-H subject 21L.004—Reading Poetry. The funding will allow the faculty to develop and pilot a substantially redesigned, collaborative and expanded version of 21L.004.

Shankar Raman spent part of his summer in Washington, DC finishing up his Folger Shakespeare Library Short-term Fellowship. He conducted primary research on 16th and 17th century mathematics.

2010 Literature Major Matt Lord received a Peter J. Eloranta Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship to travel to Macerata, Italy this summer to present at the Transatlantic Walt Whitman Association (TWWA) International Whitman Week 2010 Seminar and Symposium.

**Lit News**

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