**Margery Resnick Joins Literature Faculty**

Margery Resnick, one of MIT’s most honored teachers and a member of the Foreign Languages and Literatures faculty since 1978, joined the Literature Faculty beginning July 1, 2011. Her research interests include Hispanic literature and film; the literature and culture of post-Franco Spain; European fiction; contemporary international women’s writing and film; the cultural history of globalization; and the history of women at MIT. She has been awarded the Baker Award for teaching, the Omega Award for faculty service, the PanHellenic Teaching Award, and was named a MacVicar Faculty Fellow in 1995, MIT’s highest teaching award. She is the Literature Section’s sixth MacVicar Fellow. Her first class in the Literature curriculum this Fall will be “Globalization: The Good, the Bad, and the In-Between.”

**Arthur Bahr Promoted**

Arthur Bahr was promoted to Associate Professor beginning July 1, 2011. A specialist in medieval literature, his research deals with literary texts and with the legal, literary and political culture of medieval London. His first book, *Fragments and Assemblages: Forming Compilations of Medieval London*, is forthcoming by the University of Chicago Press. Professor Bahr, who came to MIT in 2007, regularly teaches courses in classical and medieval literature, foundations of western culture, and drama. In collaboration with colleagues in History, he developed a new interdisciplinary subject devoted to “Empire,” which has helped to revitalize the program in Ancient and Medieval Studies.

**Mary Fuller Voted Associate Chair of MIT Faculty**

Mary Fuller, Professor of Literature, was voted Associate Chair of the Faculty at the May 18th meeting of the MIT Faculty. Her duties during her two-year term will include assisting the Chair of the Faculty in coordinating the operations of Institute committees and working with the Provost and other faculty officers in setting the agenda for faculty meetings. The author of numerous articles and two books, Professor Fuller’s scholarship has opened new perspectives on the age of European exploration and colonization. She received the James and Ruth Levitan Prize in the Humanities in 2010.

**2011 Literature Prize Winners**

Jabe Ziino (‘11) received the 2011 Peter S. Donaldson Literature Prize for Excellence in Literature. The prize is awarded each spring to a Literature major who excels academically and is an engaging participant in the literary community at MIT. Jabe wrote his senior thesis on the novels of Evelyn Waugh, and plans to pursue graduate studies in English Literature.

Daniel Manesh (‘14), Noah Arbesfeld (‘13), and Lindsey Osimiri (‘14) are the first recipients of the Student Achievement Awards for superior work in 21L.004 Reading Poetry. This redesigned course is jointly taught by Professors Stephen Tapscott and Noel Jackson and by Kate Delaney, Lecturer in Literature.
MOBILE BEOWULF ALL DAY LONG

In the third annual Mobile Marathon, offered during the Independent Activities Period in January, Literature faculty, students, staff, and friends joined forces to read Beowulf out loud in its entirety. (The two previous marathons were devoted to Paradise Lost and Alice in Wonderland.) An audience at times as large as thirty moved through various MIT spaces, sharing the responsibility for reading all 3,182 lines of the poem. Though some intrepid souls were encouraged to read in the original Old English, most participants used Seamus Heaney’s acclaimed translation. The entourage moved from Building 14E to the East Campus lounge just as Beowulf himself returned home to Geatland from Denmark. An impromptu discussion of the poem followed the reading. The festivities concluded with a screening of Robert Zemeckis’s 2006 film version of Beowulf, whose considerable differences from the text everyone was then able to pinpoint—and even skewer. Professor Arthur Bahr supervised the event and intimidated some readers with his command of Old English.

EUGENIE BRINKEMA

LECTURES AT THE MFA

Professor Eugenie Brinkema was invited by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston to deliver lectures in two film courses in 2011. In the first course, a history of movie genres, her lecture, “From Caligari to Hostel,” focused on four key moments in the history of the horror film: German Expressionism in the 1920s; the stalker/slasher film of the 1960s and 70s; realism and independent horror in the 1980s; and postmodern horror of the last ten years. The lecture examined changing representations of violence, sexuality and monstrosity, and explored the genre’s aesthetics and style in examples ranging from high-art films to low-budget, gory fare. The second lecture, the finale in a course on American directors, centered on two controversial figures: Stanley Kubrick and Quentin Tarantino. This lecture, “The Violence of Style,” focused on the role rape, war, and violence play in their films and on the distinctive visual and aural style of each director. Professor Brinkema has been invited back to the MFA this fall for a course titled “Paris: Capital of 19th Century Art and Culture,” in which she will discuss how Paris has been imagined in movies from their birth in the 1890s to the present day.

JAMES BUZARD LEADS

SINGAPORE HASS PROJECT

Professor James Buzard, Head of Literature, has been appointed to oversee the development of a curriculum in humanities, arts and social science for MIT’s partnership with the new Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD). Professor Buzard has enlisted faculty from the various HASS departments at MIT to revise old subjects or prepare new ones to be included in the SUTD curriculum, which officially launches in April 2012. He and Postdoctoral Fellow Ghenwa Hayek have developed a new introductory sequence for first-year students (“World Civilizations and Texts”) featuring foundational writings from literature, mythology, philosophy, religion, and social thought from around the world. Dr. Hayek will pilot the sequence this coming academic year at MIT as a special version of Literature’s established 21L.001 and 21L.002 sequence, which is usually limited to the traditions of the Western World.
Wyn Kelley Elected to Lead Melville Society

Wyn Kelley, Senior Lecturer in Literature, has been elected President of the Melville Society for 2011. Her election recognizes 20 years of scholarship, innovative work in the use of digital technologies for teaching and research, and public outreach projects. The author or editor of four books on Melville, Dr. Kelley has been an active member of the Society since 1996. She has worked in various editorial capacities on the society’s journals, *Extracts* and *Leviathan*. In 2001, she helped to found the Society’s Cultural Project in collaboration with the New Bedford Whaling Museum. The Project maintains a scholarly archive at the museum and sponsors conferences, lectures and exhibits.

Melville Electronic Library

Dr. Kelley has pursued her interest in digital humanities at MIT and in extensive work with the Melville Electronic Library (MEL), where she is Associate Director. Housed at Hofstra University, MEL is a digital archive and interactive editing site, which offers storage and workspaces to support the reading and editing of printed texts, graphic materials, and manuscripts. With funding from the National Endowment of the Humanities, John Bryant, Director of MEL, has developed an innovative tool called Text Lab, which aims to provide “fluid-text” editions of literary works—that is, sites that display multiple versions of a text (manuscript, print, variant editions, illustrations)—as well as sources and adaptations in other texts and media. “Rooms” in the Library display tools for visualizing Melville’s voyages, the art he viewed and collected, the Civil War battles he studied, and other historical and geographical contexts for understanding his works. The project will generate tools for creating social networks—discussion groups, classrooms, teams of scholars and editors—growing out of the work generated by the site.

Melville Conference to Be Held at MIT

Aiming to encourage collaboration with MIT’s HyperStudio, Kelley and Bryant have arranged for MEL’S annual workshop meeting to be held at MIT this October. MEL’s team of about twenty scholars, programmers and Melville partisans will join MIT faculty and staff from Literature and CMS for two days of brainstorming and practical demonstrations.

MIXIMIZE, New Editing Tool

Bryant, a Professor of English at Hofstra, will open the conference at a colloquium on Thursday, October 13 with a presentation about MEL’s recent initiatives. On Friday, Kelley and Kurt Fendt, director of the MIT HyperStudio, will discuss their collaboration on MIXIMIZE: Editing for Readers, a classroom application of the “fluid text” principles developed at MEL, which will allow students to view texts with sources and multimedia adaptations in a single workspace. The Kelley-Fendt project has been supported by grants from MIT Alumni Class Funds and the SHASS Fund for Teaching and Learning. The MIT HyperStudio has produced award-winning digital humanities projects, including innovative computer programs for language education.
**MIT 150:**
**UNDER THE DOME**

Literature faculty and staff participated in the Institute Open House celebrating MIT’s 150th birthday on April 30th. Among the highlights: Peter Donaldson demonstrating the Shakespeare Electronic Archive; Ruth Perry singing some of the ballads she teaches in her popular MIT course on the ballad as a cultural form; and William Donaldson, visiting lecturer in Literature, displaying his rare professional talent on the Highland bagpipe. In a duet of Spanish poems and their English versions, Literature’s newest professor, Margery Resnick, read from the original Spanish and Stephen Tapscott followed with his own translations of Pablo Neruda, Angela Figurera and other Latin American and Spanish authors. The Literature station, in a tent adjacent to Kresge Auditorium, seemed especially popular with children. The section distributed almost 2,000 copies of classic literary texts—in sturdy, inexpensive Dover editions—to eager visitors of all ages. The section also ran an ongoing raffle offering literary-themed prizes such as pop-up books, boxed sets of notable fiction series, audio books, and film DVDs.

**GHENWA HAYEK TRANSLATES
VOICES OF THE ARAB SPRING**

Ghenwa Hayek, newly-appointed Postdoctoral Fellow in Literature for 2011-12, has been translating OpEd essays by Arab writers for The New York Times. Her most recent translation, published on August 25, was “When Libya Grew Wings” by the Libyan poet Khaled Darwish. She received her PhD in Comparative Literature from Brown University in 2010 where she wrote her dissertation on social and political dislocation in contemporary Lebanese fiction. Dr. Hayek also holds degrees from the University of Leeds and the American University of Beirut, and taught undergraduate courses at the latter school before and during her doctoral studies. This fall she will teach a new, globalized version of 21L.001-02, “World Civilizations and Texts,” developed in collaboration with Professor James Buzard who is supervising the creation of a new curriculum in humanities, arts and social science for MIT’s partnership with the Singapore Institute of Technology and Design.

**JACKIE BREEN RECEIVES
2011 SHASS INFINITE MILE AWARD**

Jacqueline Breen, the Administrative Officer in the Literature Section, was awarded the 2011 SHASS Infinite Mile Award for Great Ideas this spring. The Great Ideas Award is presented to an individual whose willingness to think creatively generates positive change. Jackie has been the Literature AO since 2007. Prior to that, she was the AO in the Center for Environmental Health Sciences at MIT.

**AMELIA CHANG: PHI BETA KAPPA**

Amelia Chang (’11), a double major in Literature and Biology, has been inducted into the MIT chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the national collegiate honor society. Amelia begins graduate studies this fall in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences Program at Harvard.