

English Department NEWSLETTER

Department of English The University of Iowa

September 1989

The Department's honors and awards ceremony was held in late April. Below are excerpts, beginning with John Raeburn's remarks.

I am very pleased to welcome all of you to this occasion, at which we gather to honor the achievements of members of this department who have brought distinction to our common enterprise during the past year.

This celebration comes at a moment when the University of Iowa is in the Des Moines Register and other newspapers commanding headlines of a size that one would imagine would usually be reserved for the most critical moments in our national life, a cliff-hanging presidential election or a declaration of war or the discovery of a cure for cancer. But, as we all know, the immediate issue which stimulated these banner headlines is of infinitely lesser magnitude. Instead of announcing a momentous decision about the direction in which the nation is heading or heralding some magnificent human advance, these banner headlines center on the distinctly unmomentous question of whether a tiny handful of university freshmen can participate in varsity athletics or not. The magnitude of this journalistic attention is so out of proportion to the fundamental triviality of the issue that this great public brouhaha would be hilarious if it weren't so disturbing.

It's disturbing for at least two reasons. First, this dispute has nakedly exposed how in this university--and in plenty of others, too--the tail seems to be wagging the dog. Universities like this one were established to be institutions for providing training to the young people of the state, so that they could in time take up their rightful places as informed and responsible citizens; no one imagined that state-supported universities ought to exist in order to field athletic teams, with the academic functions of the university as a kind of window-dressing to give tone to intercollegiate sports.

When a couple of weeks ago the legally appointed chief executive officer of the university asserted his appropriate and mandated oversight over one part of it, a significant number of citizens of Iowa responded by arguing that he has overstepped his boundaries, and by exercising his responsibilities, that he has disfigured the appropriate role of the university which he presided over. According to this reasoning, there are some parts of the university which are too important to be subject to this kind of presidential scrutiny and the president ought to butt out of them. This attitude is all too painfully reminiscent of the way in which military establishments in many Latin American countries regard their legally-constituted civilian governments which supposedly exercise oversight over the armed forces. As long as elected civilians don't meddle with the military, democracy is reluctantly tolerated; but let the civilians have the temerity to exercise authority over or even criticize the generals, and a coup d'état will soon be in the offing. The football coach seems unlikely to storm the President's Office with his linebackers and interior linemen, but the hostility toward presidential oversight--that is, civilian oversight--partakes of this mentality.

A second reason why this brouhaha is disturbing is that, as reported by the Des Moines Register poll, one out of four Iowans, or a half-million people in the state, do not unequivocally believe that academic standards are more important than winning athletic teams. Put another and more comforting way, of course, three out of four Iowans would not sacrifice academic standards for a Rose Bowl invitation, but that 25% in a state which prides itself on its literacy and sensibleness cannot but give each of us pause. Who remembers the record of the basketball team in 1975 or even the names of most of the football players in the 1986 season? What real difference do these records and names make, aside from providing us with a few pleasant hours of diversion during the glorious Iowa autumns and the cold winters? What effect do those games won and lost make after any particular athletic season is finished?

And that brings us to our purpose today, because the people we honor at this gathering today will be making a difference next year and the year after that and ten years from now. I don't mean to belittle athletes or athletics, but their achievements are as transitory as a winning sequence of lottery numbers, and their touchdown passes or driving layups won't make a jot of difference to anyone, even themselves, six weeks after a season is over. The consequences of the achievements of those whom we honor today will resonate for years.

Gifted teachers insinuate themselves into the consciousness of their students, and those students, however hard they might try, will never quite be able to forget completely the spirit of what they experienced during those hours they spent with a master teacher. Superior students who have excelled at analyzing and interpreting complex problems of reading and interpretation, at recognizing the extraordinary and supple power of language to probe the mysteries of our lives on this planet, and at discovering the means to communicate clearly and artfully their own discoveries, these people will almost certainly change the very shape of the future. They may or may not someday see their own names in headlines, but they will unquestionably be the thoughtful, informed, and intelligent citizens without whom a democratic culture cannot survive, and they are precisely the persons for whom the forefathers and foremothers of this state established this university. Those whom we honor today, in short, are the real reasons for the continuing existence of the University of Iowa, and as citizens of this democratic community we will be the beneficiaries of their intelligent citizenship long after the cheers from Kinnick Stadium or the Carver-Hawkeye Arena are entirely forgotten.

The English Department faculty is a varied and talented one and this past year, as usual, their accomplishments are many. I want today to single out only a few of those whose activities have resulted in special distinctions.

Five or six faculty members are each year named Faculty Scholars after a searching competition among some of the university's most vigorous minds. These Faculty Scholars are engaged in significant research projects, and as an earnest of the university's commitment to such scholarly work they are provided one-semester leave from usual duties for three consecutive years to pursue their projects. It is a sign of the vitality of the English Department that once again in 1989-90 we will have three Faculty Scholars among our colleagues; I do not believe any other university department has had so many of its colleagues singled out for this honor.

Katherine Hayles will be finishing her term as faculty scholar next year. She has recently completed her book which demonstrates how parallel but independent developments in contemporary science and literature stem from a radical reevaluation of the relation between order and chaos, and she will continue to explore the relationships between literature and science.

Cheryl Herr will be in the second year of her faculty scholarship next year, working on a project which examines the idea of space in Irish culture as it is embodied in visual, architectural, and literary art.

Huston Diehl will also be in her second year as a Faculty Scholar next year; she is working on a book which explores the relation between the iconoclastic impulses of Reformation England and the continued production of visual and theatrical images in spite of that iconoclastic ideology.

Let me mention yet another award won by a member of the faculty this year. Kathleen Diffley will be a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow this summer, working on her book on the literary response to the American Civil War.

This year has brought a rich harvest of university teaching awards to members of the department. This past fall Valerie Lagorio was awarded one of two Excellence in Teaching Awards by the university's Council on Teaching. A couple of years ago Professor Lagorio gave a Sloan Lecture to the department, and the introductory remarks to that lecture seem apropos here:

Professor Lagorio was born in Iowa City, but left for California while still an infant, to return only later at an age which she describes as "sometime between 40 and death." Inbetween her two stints in Iowa City, she led a staid and reclusive life as "Your Pal Val," a disk jockey in Honolulu; as "Olani, Queen of the Islands," hula dancing for lonely GIs at remote Army outposts; as a fledgling diva with the San Francisco Opera; and as "Chiquita Banana" in a memorable show called "Swing Time Fiesta." Unfulfilled by such a quiet and uneventful routine, she determined to sample life in the fast lane and become a medieval scholar. At an age when most people are beginning to stockpile Geritol, she completed a summa degree at the San Francisco College for Women and then, in a whirlwind three years, a Ph.D. at Stanford. She taught at her alma mater and at the University of Missouri in St. Louis before finally coming home to Iowa City in 1972. "Olani, Queen of the Islands" was reincarnated as one of our very best teachers; "Chiquita Banana" as one of our most active scholars, and "Your Pal, Val" as one of our most generous and inspirational friends and advisors to students. This department and this university have been fortunate to have her amongst us these past 17 years. She likes to refer to herself as an unclaimed treasure. A treasure she surely is, and a rare and valuable one, but she's hardly unclaimed--her friends and colleagues in the English Department jealously claim her, and honor themselves by the claim. Now, with this award for Excellence in Teaching, she is rightfully claimed by the entire university. It makes us very proud of her, and of ourselves, that she has been honored with this award.

It's jumping the gun slightly, but three teaching assistants in the department will be honored next week with university awards for outstanding teaching. Since these awards are still to be officially conferred, I will only mention the names of these superior teachers, but I wanted to use this occasion to say how proud all of us in the department are of these members of our community. They are: Rebecca Faery, Bruce Goebel, and Barbara Price.

The Iowa Journal of Literary Studies, edited and published by students in literature at Iowa, each year has a competition for the best work published in the magazine in the previous year. The poetry winner for 1988-89 is Dore Anderson for "Barely the Moon." This year's winner for best essay is James Connor for his work, "Always a New World," and the award for the best work of fiction went to Ingrid Hill for her short story, "We Go to Watch-a-milko."

Susan Lohafer presented Alumni Dissertation Awards and scholarships. Below are excerpts.

In a sense, all libraries are one library with branches everywhere, and it may happen that the rare book you need is in New York, or the manuscript page in California. For three years now, we have used a portion of our alumni gift fund for what we call "Alumni Dissertation Awards." These awards, offered on a competitive basis, are for doctoral candidates who are writing their dissertations and need financial support for travel to a special collection at another library. We are pleased to announce two winners this year.

The first is Jocelyn Bartkevicius, who is writing a dissertation on Virginia Woolf's view of, and use of, the essay form. It seems that six unpublished diaries, twenty-six volumes of Woolf's reading notes, and ten working notebooks for articles, essays, and reviews are all housed in the Berg Collection at the New York Public Library. All are essential to the writing of one dissertation--I think she plans to write only one--which promises to be a major contribution to Woolf scholarship and to our understanding of the art of the essay. The department joins me in wishing her every success as she travels into the mind of Virginia Woolf--and the subway system of New York.

The second winner is, in fact, a second-time winner. Delmar Arnold has been working for several years on Gary Snyder's long poem, Mountains and Rivers Without End. His study of Snyder's use of Chinese painting took him all the way to China, where he was living when he received this award last year. Now he only wants to go to California, to the library at Davis, where he will be able to read many of Snyder's manuscripts in preparation for interviewing the poet himself. In Mr. Arnold's words, "the poems develop ecological awareness by inscribing local natural phenomena within culture and reinscribing cultural values within a global sense of nature." He is currently in Baltimore, so once again we congratulate him in absentia and en route.

It is now my pleasure to announce five scholarship awards, each one established in honor of a person, or persons, who loved, practiced, and inspired in others a life of reading and writing.

Helen K. Fairall Scholarship: Laurence R. and Helen Keffner Fairall established a scholarship fund for students in creative writing, modern literature and languages, journalism, and political science. This range of interests is not surprising. Laurence Fairall started out as a reporter for the Des Moines Register, became its city editor, and then, in 1921, established his own advertising company. His talents were not only verbal but graphic: over 50 of his pen-and-ink drawings appeared in The New Yorker. Helen Fairall also began as a reporter with an interest in the arts. She worked for the Des Moines Tribune, then became Music Editor for the Des Moines Sunday Capital, contributing, as well, to the Register's Sunday book review department. She and her husband travelled widely, but clearly felt at home in Iowa. To be eligible for a Fairall scholarship, a student must have been either born in Iowa or graduated from Iowa schools.

I would like now to acknowledge the current holder of the Fairall scholarship, since we were not able to do so last year. Clair James is a graduate of the Ames public school system. Like the Fairalls, he crosses boundaries. With an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering, he is now a doctoral candidate in English, taking courses not only in literature but in philosophy and history. The two literary periods in which he plans to concentrate are the medieval and the contemporary, both shaped by an apocalyptic vision, by a changing balance between certainties and undertainties. Mr. James plans a specialization in the area of Science and Literature, but may also build on his editing experience with the Iowa Journal of Literary Studies and Mystics Quarterly. We join Mrs. Fairall in extending our best wishes to this Iowa scholar.

The Ruth Gulden Holsteen and Charles Sophus Holsteen Memorial Scholarship. In making this award, we have two generations to thank: a son and daughter who established this scholarship to honor a mother and father. Both parents grew up in Burlington, attended Burlington junior college, then came to the University of Iowa. Mr. Holsteen majored in Political Science, Mrs. Holsteen in English. After graduation, they continued their studies in the Boston area, he earning an MBA from Harvard, she a Library Science degree from Simmons. Eventually they moved to Chicago, where Mr. Holsteen worked for United Airlines for 28 years. His son, Jon Holsteen, remembers his parents as having "a high regard for English literature and speech and for expressing oneself well." We might like to remember that the Holsteens were co-editors of a literary magazine in junior college, and that, in a long-ago precursor to this awards ceremony, Mrs. Holsteen won a \$10 prize for describing Old Capitol in "50 words or less."

This year, the scholarship--a little more than \$10--goes to Carolyn Jacobson, a junior whose own high regard for the written word is evident in her study of Victorian and contemporary literature and the essay form. Continuing the tradition of interest in literary magazines, she works with Professor Hamilton on The Iowa Review. You can find her also in the EPB Computer Center, where she reminds us that the processed word is still the telling word. Ms. Jacobson looks forward to a career in college or university teaching, and this summer will hold a "Younger Scholars" research grant from NEH. We congratulate her on winning the Holsteen Memorial Scholarship, and wish her continued success.

Margaret Leuz Einsphar Scholarship. Established by her son, this scholarship honors an Iowa City native who graduated from the University of Iowa, Phi Beta Kappa, in 1912. After a brief period teaching in Burlington, she moved to Odebolt, in Sac County, where she became a teacher of English and Latin. With her she took a love of the English Romantic poets, the Latin playwrights, and the book itself as a link between past and present, Iowa City and Odebolt. She established the first Carnegie library in her town, and started a Great Books discussion group in the forties. Born before 1900, she was a lifelong Iowan who traveled in the many countries of the mind.

The scholarship in her name goes to Iris Lee, a sophomore English major who was born on this side of the century but the other side of the world, in Singapore. Her goal, she says, is "to read and study English prose and poetry in their various genres from the Middle Ages to the present." She plans to go on to graduate school, continuing a special interest in the English novel and expository writing; she is also thinking about teaching English as a second language. We join with the family of Margaret Einsphar in wishing her every success on the road ahead.

Louise Propst Herring Scholarship. Last year, Professor Louis Herring, retired chair of the English Department at Upper Iowa University, established a generous scholarship fund for a student in this department. She herself earned three degrees here between 1929 and 1932. During the thirties, she worked as a writer and editor, and during the war years in the forties, she moved to Washington, D.C. to put these talents to use for, among others, the American Red Cross. She now lives in Tucson, Arizona. From there she sends her good wishes to, as she says, "undergraduates of high purpose and promise, who plan to teach and who value the English Studies as a preparation for life."

I am happy to announce that Kirstene Diehl is this year's winner of the scholarship. Born in Iowa City and graduated from West High, she is now a junior honors student with plans to teach on the college level. She cares about both sides of the literary work, the creative process which brought it into being and the role it plays as, in her words, "a vehicle for ideological, cultural and even historical communication." She is looking forward to writing an honors thesis on fiction as non-objective prose. We congratulate her on the fine record she has already achieved, and warmly encourage her in her plans for the future.

Edwin Ford Piper Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship was established by Janet Pressley Piper, in memory of her husband, Edwin Ford Piper, who had been a professor at the University of Iowa. She first came to Iowa in 1926 on a research fellowship, having already won the National Poetry Contest in 1922. She was an instructor here until two major events changed her life. In 1939 her husband died, and in 1940 she received the "Doctor of Letters" degree, for which she wrote the first creative dissertation accepted for the doctorate at Iowa. After brief stints elsewhere, Dr. Piper began a 38-year teaching career at Sam Houston State Teachers' College in Huntsville, Texas. In 1944, she was part of an institute sponsored jointly by the US and Mexican governments, an effort to work toward intercultural understanding. In a colleague's words, she has always been "a champion of liberal human studies."

This year, the scholarship goes to Menah Pratt, in the MA in Literary Studies Program. Like Dr. Piper, she has broad and generous goals toward which she is moving through the study of language and its arts. Her interests are in working with minority communities. "Specifically," she writes, "I believe young artistic and scientific talent must be developed and nurtured, allowing the sparks to explode before the hardships of life smother the creative impulse." That is a belief we can all share, perhaps with added fervor today. Fifty years after the death of Edwin Ford Piper, his wife--and the department they both loved--together celebrate the tradition of liberal human studies. We hope that, with the help of Menah Pratt--and everyone else named here today--the next fifty years will strengthen that tradition.

Professor Raeburn continued.

Those of us who have been in the English Department for more than a few years know that some of the best teaching done in this building is by 90--some graduate students serving as teaching fellows in the General Education in Literature Program. If we can believe student evaluations of teaching--and I think we should--the overall quality of instruction in literature to students in the General Education in Literature Program is unusually high.

In 1986 we began to recognize superior teaching achievement among our graduate student teachers with awards named after the two of our colleagues who had been most instrumental in giving shape to the program, Professor W.R. Irwin and Professor John Gerber. We meant with the institution of these awards to recognize particularly successful graduate student teachers, and to honor these distinguished emeriti colleagues as well.

Because Professor Irwin could not be there, Professor Ed Folsom, director of the General Education in Literature Program, presented the 1989 W.R. Irwin Award for Excellence in Teaching. His remarks follow.

When I first came here in the mid-1970s, one of the initiation rituals associated with membership in the department involved playing tennis with Bob Irwin. He played tennis the way he did everything else, with understatement, surprising pauses, odd twists on expected expressions, quiet wisdom, impeccable manners, straightfaced humor, and wonderful effectiveness. The humor was what got me; he was one of the few people I know who could intentionally tell jokes with a tennis racket. And the humor was always telling: he won quietly, almost as if by accident, again and again. As a young Americanist, used to playing tennis with earnestness, straightforward shots, and a cowering, swaggering and absolutely false confidence, I of course associated Bob Irwin's quirky style with his specialty, 18th-century British literature. For me, the patterns of neoclassical thought remain most effectively traced out by Bob's elegantly unpredictable and always canny movements on a tennis court.

I always wondered what it would have been like to take a course from Bob Irwin. Only recently have I begun to realize that I did take a course from him, again and again, on the tennis court and in the conference room and at informal gatherings. He is a masterful teacher, pulling you effectively into his game, breaking you out of your preconceived patterns, nudging (and sometimes judging you) with his humor, leaving you to ponder the ways that subtlety can change the world. He was not a teacher who blasted lives open, but rather one who shaped lives gently, and then gave much of the credit to you and to luck.

In presenting the Irwin Award for excellence in teaching, I know Bob--who once directed this program--would want me to use this occasion not only to honor a single individual, but to recognize too the overall level of excellence of instruction in the General Education in Literature Program. I read the teaching files every term, and I am convinced that there cannot be a more effective faculty of teachers in this university than the group we are blessed with in this program. With damn little help from anybody except themselves, this group of dedicated teachers performs an amazing service to this college and to its students. It's a huge program, and while my position forces me often to dwell upon the relatively few problems I enjoy having this opportunity to stand back and survey the overall accomplishment of our TAs--it's a vast, green fertile field of fine teaching, so fine that it is, I think, nearly impossible to single out special performances. The winners of our teaching awards today are certainly deserving people, but we need to keep in mind too that they are representative and not unique: their outstanding performances have grown in a field that produces such excellence with remarkable frequency, with a frequency and a consistency that does not always allow us to honor it individually and in detail.

The winner of the Irwin Award is Jocelyn Bartkevicius. Jocelyn taught in the General Education Program for three years, from 1985 through 1988, teaching Interpretation of Literature, Narrative Literature and the Literary Presentation of Women. She served as a Program Assistant, actively shaping the program in many ways. Reading her file of evaluations begins to resemble listening to a wonderfully sonorous choir singing a hymn of praise and gratitude. I'm particularly struck by the craftsmanship of her teaching materials--syllabuses and hand-outs and writing assignments that I can imagine students hanging onto and coming back to years later and continuing to learn from. They are materials that are a verbal exfoliation of the directions and goals of the courses she has taught, and they are materials that present and future directors and program assistants will borrow to pass on as models to new instructors in the program. I'm pleased to present the 1989 W.R. Irwin Teaching Award to Jocelyn Bartkevicius.

John Raeburn continued:

When I became chair of the department four years ago, I was awed and humbled that I had been chosen to occupy the position that John Gerber so superbly filled for 14 years between 1962 and 1976. It wasn't just that he was a good chair in the administrative sense, although he was certainly that. It was during Professor Gerber's chairmanship that the department so flourished that it began to enjoy the national stature of which it is still the beneficiary. Equally or more important, though, Professor Gerber was a good chair in another sense, in what can only be called a moral sense. He fortified and enhanced a tradition of decency and fair-mindedness and community which makes Iowa's English Department uncommon if not unique among similar institutions. Many more times than once in the past four years when I've been faced with some decision or another, I've asked myself, "What would John Gerber have done?" and asking and answering that question unfailingly provides wise guidance. Thirteen years after his retirement, the men and women who work in this department continue to owe an enormous debt of gratitude to John Gerber. This good department is even now largely his handiwork.

To present the John C. Gerber Award for Excellence in Teaching, it is a privilege to introduce to you Professor Gerber.

Professor Gerber introduced the recipient of the award, Sarah Witte.

Sarah Witte was born in Muscatine, Iowa.. She received her B.A. with a major in English from Creighton University in 1979, her M.A. in English from Marquette University in 1983 (her thesis was on "Njal's Saga: A Distinction of Covenants"), and is now writing her doctoral dissertation on "H.D.'s Egyptian Vision" (directed by Dee Morris). She has published on Dante, Mrs. Gaskell, and H.D. Her major areas of interest are Anglo-American modernism, American Sentimental, Regional, and Realist Literature, and Anglo-American autobiography. In the General Education Program, she has taught Interpretation of Literature, Literature of the Theatre, Comic and Tragic, Epic and Tragic, American Lives, and Forms of Comic Vision. She has been a TA in the program since 1984.

Sarah Witte's students, in their evaluations of her courses speak most eloquently of her: "GREAT! Enthused, very interesting, prepared, honest with us, thought-provoking. Best teacher I've ever had!" "Sarah was this class. It flowed in her blood. She thrived on teaching us." "Fabulous!! It made me soul search." "It was a great class. I enjoyed missing Cosby Show for it." "The teacher was phenomenal: very fair in her gradings, always thought-provoking in class." "Sarah Witte seemed very prepared, interested in the class, and made it fun for students. Because she seemed to enjoy the course, so did we."

Professor Raeburn continued:

When Professor Fred McDowell retired in 1985, his students and colleagues wanted to commemorate his distinguished career at Iowa as a teacher and scholar of modern British and American literature, and to that end several hundreds of them contributed to a fund which would honor him. The Frederick P.W. McDowell Graduate Scholar is a Ph.D. student specializing in British or American literature, 1850-1950, who has at his or her disposal the annual proceeds from the invested endowment to support travel important to his or her professional development. This travel might be to a research library to work in specialized collections and/or to a scholarly conference to present the results of the scholar's research. This award, then, honors and emphasizes Professor McDowell's own commitment to scholarly enterprise.

Professor McDowell presented the award. Following are his remarks.

In 1985 when I retired I was profoundly moved and gratified that my former students and colleagues had seen fit to honor me by establishing the Frederick P.W. McDowell Graduate Scholar Fund, the income of which would be used annually for an outstanding graduate student to attend a professional meeting to deliver a paper or to pursue his or her work at a research archive. I was totally unaware of the fund-raising activities that had been going on for months before my retirement, and to say that I was surprised when I learned about it would be an impossible understatement. My first reaction on hearing of the award was that of unbelief and the feeling that I was all too unworthy of such an honor. Upon maturer reflection, however, I could not think of a better way in which I would wish to be remembered after my cessation of active teaching in the department.

I would now like to pass in review the history of the awards, to let you know its recipients to date and the uses to which money from the fund has been put. There is some purpose in making this review which I hope will become apparent by the time I have finished my remarks.

The first award in 1986 went to a former student of mine, Brian Shaffer, to enable him to go to the Midwest Modern Language Association meeting and deliver a paper on the relationship between Goethe's Elective Affinities and James Joyce's play, Exiles. Brian subsequently published this paper in 1989 in the James Joyce Quarterly.

The second award in 1987 went to Chrys Mitchell for attending the national James Joyce association conference in Milwaukee to deliver a paper on an aspect of Joyce's imagery in Finnegans Wake.

The third award in 1988 went also to a former student of mine, Nancy Reincke, to prepare a paper for professional delivery on the connection between sexism and war in the work of modern British women writers, including Virginia Woolf, Elizabeth Bowen, Jean Rhys, and Doris Lessing. Perhaps this award owed something to Nancy's vigorous participation in a seminar she had had with me on Virginia Woolf.

Which brings me to 1989 when the award again goes to Brian Shaffer. Since he won the award twice, it is only fitting that I give you a bit of his history as well as his current plans for using the proceeds of the fund. He will be going to Philadelphia this summer to deliver a paper at the National James Joyce Conference, "Discontent and Its Civilization: Rereading Joyce's 'Paralyzed' Dubliner," seeing his subject largely in terms of Freudian theory.

I had Brian as a student in his first year with us in 1984-85 (my last year of teaching), and he is now in his terminal year as a graduate student, expecting his Ph.D. degree this year, having done a thesis, "Presenting Civilization: Texts and Contexts of Conrad, Joyce, and Lowry," under the direction of Professor Cheryl Herr. Brian came to us Magna Cum Laude from Washington University in St. Louis as a philosophy major. He has had a four-year Graduate College and Department Fellowship from 1984 to 1988, and he has been a graduate assistant this year in the General Education program. He has had three major articles published (on Joyce, Conrad, and Shakespeare) and has written a dozen or so reviews and review-articles. The wonder arises as to when Brian has had time to work on his dissertation.

I cannot emphasize too much how happy I am that a former student of mine has again achieved this award, and that this student has achieved it for the second time, unbeknownst to me until I received the announcement last week in my mail. It is a strong sign of Brian's talent and distinction that he has won this award a second time in the face of strong competition.

Let me also say that this award is not limited to my former students or restricted to James Joyce studies, but that any qualified graduate student is eligible for the award for any subject in the whole area of Modern British and American Literature. The fact that Joyce has figured in three of the four awards so far does indicate, however, his overpowering presence in modern literature, a presence that becomes more authentic and formidable with the passing years.

Without further preliminaries, let me heartily congratulate Brian Shaffer on again winning the Frederick P.W. McDowell Graduate Scholar Award.

The John C. McGalliard Essay Award was named in honor of a former faculty member, a widely known scholar and teacher of Old English, Old Norse, Old Irish, Chaucer and other medieval subjects at this university for more than forty years. The award was established in his honor by his former student, Professor Dolores Warwick Frese of the University of Notre Dame. This year the award went to Kelly W. Otto for his contribution on medieval drama, "Hilarius' Historia de Daniel Representanda: Translation and Analysis." The project was a translation and commentary which make available a Latin play never before translated into English.

The Kuhl Shakespeare Prize is awarded each year for the best undergraduate essay on Shakespeare. The award is named after Earnest P. Kuhl, a long-time member of the department and was established by Mrs. Betty Kuhl Belting in honor of her father. This year's recipient was Ken McFarlane for his essay, "Edward III: The Image in the Mirror of All Christian Kings."

During 1988-89 graduate students in the Department of English were an unusually active group. Below is a list, admittedly incomplete, of some of their activities.

Suzanne Araas-Vesley's Note on Gertrud Kolmar's use of Walt Whitman will be published in the Walt Whitman Quarterly Review. Her interview with N. Katherine Hayles will appear in the forthcoming Iowa Journal of Literary Studies.

Dora Azariah presented a paper in November at the 58th South Atlantic Modern Language Association meeting at Washington, D.C.

Julene Bair gave a paper, "The Odyssey of Erec et Enide," at the Medieval Association of the Midwest conference at Cleveland State University in October.

Jocelyn Bartkevicius' short story, "Why Men Spit on Sidewalks," appeared in the Spring 1989 issue of Iowa Woman.

Anne Bartlett attended the 27th Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo, Michigan and gave a paper, " 'Watchful Eyes and Listening Ears': Reading and Visions in Hildegard's Scivias."

Vince Casaregola published "Literacy, Technology, and 'Mediacy'--Redefining Our Terms for a Post-Literate Age" in a recent Bulletin of Science, Technology & Society. He gave a paper, "Building Bridges in a Stormy Climate" at the 1988 MMLA conference and another, "The Researcher Redefined: Alternative Approaches to Research in Composition" at the 4C's 1989 convention.

JoEllyn Clarey gave a presentation, "Why They Live at the P.O.: Ordinary Objects and Refracted Images in Eudora Welty's Fiction," at the 1989 meeting of the Society for the Study of Narrative Literature.

^{Crockett} Bryan gave two papers during 1988-89: "The Mist and the Wilderness: Protestant Paradox in The Duchess of Malfi," at the Central Renaissance Conference in Kansas City in April; and "Venus Unveiled: Lydgate's Temple of Glas and the Religion of Love," at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo in May.

Tom Dean is the author of a regular "Current Publications" column in Frank Norris Studies. At the MLA meeting in December he gave a paper, "'Maimed beyond Recognition': The Production and Reception of Erich von Stroheim's Greed" at the annual meeting of the Frank Norris Society. Two articles have been accepted for publication in Frank Norris Studies: "The Critical Reception of Erich von Stroheim's Greed," and a review of Barbara Hochman's Frank Norris, Storyteller.

- Janet Delwiche read a paper at the Second Annual Graduate Conference on English Studies in Milwaukee, "Contested Borders: Rethinking English Studies."
- Rebecca Faery gave two papers. At the MLA meeting in December she participated in a session on "Reading Living American Women Novelists," and gave a paper, "Multiple Narrative Perspective in the Fiction of Louise Erdrich." She also gave a paper in April at the meeting of the American Culture Association/Popular Culture Association.
- Bruce Goebel presented a paper at the meeting of the Twentieth-Century Literature Conference at the University of Louisville in February. In April he presented a paper at the American Culture Association/Popular Culture Association meeting, "Lionel Trilling: Dialogue, Dialectic, and the Art of Criticism."
- Jessie Grearson participated in a panel at the Minnesota Council of English Teachers in April. Her paper was titled "Responding as Reading."
- Bernice Hausman presented two papers. At the UI Conference of Women Against Racism she presented "Anti-Semitism in Feminism: Rethinking Identity Politics." At the Conference on Feminism & Representation at Rhode Island College in April her paper was, "Representing the Afro-American Woman Writer: Authorship, Tradition & Black Feminist Criticism." A forthcoming publication is "Words Between Women: Victoria Ocampo & Virginia Woolf" in In the Feminine Mode: Critical Essays on Hispanic Women Writers, Eds. Carol Maier & Noel Valis, to be published by Bucknell University Press.
- Ingrid Hill's story, "Siege with Swans and Starlight," is in the Spring 1989 issue of Iowa Woman.
- Clair James attended the Graduate Student Conference on English Studies in Milwaukee in October and gave a paper, "The Imperfect Enjoyment of Male Power: Aphra Behn's 'The Disappointment.'" In October he also attended the Society for Literature & Science Conference in Troy, New York and presented a paper, "Self-Characterization of a Scientist: Stephen Hawking in A Brief History of Time."
- Mary Janell Metzger also gave a paper at the Graduate Student Conference on English Studies in Milwaukee: "Where To Start?: Liberation Strategies in a Rhetoric Classroom." In April she gave a paper at the Conference on Feminism & Representation at Rhode Island College, "'Oedipal With a Vengeance': Of Desire, Violence and Narrative in Louisa Valenzuela's 'Fourth Version.'"
- Bruce Mills participated in a session on "The Literature of Slavery" at the Mid-American American Studies Association in Omaha in April. His paper was "The North American Review, Slavery, and Lydia Maria Child, 1818-1835."
- Benjamin Moore presented a paper, "Opposition of Discourses & Narrative Coherence in Defoe's Journal of the Plague Year," at the meeting of the Western American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies at Berkeley in February. In March he went to the University of Kansas for the meeting of the Mid-American Medieval Association at presented a paper, "Pilgrimage & Narrative Order in The Book of Margery Kempe." At the International Conference on Narrative Literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in April he gave a paper, "Governing Discourses: Problems of Narrative Authority in Defoe's Journal of the Plague Year." His article, "'The Nun's Priest's Tale' as an Interrogative Text: Chaucer's Invitation to Examine Patriarchal Christianity," is forthcoming in the Iowa Journal of Literary Studies.

Barbara Price presented a paper on Hilary Masters at the Missouri Philological Association's "Celebration of Missouri Writers" in Kirksville in March.

Nancy Reincke was recipient of the Kathleen Gregory Klein Award given by the Women's Caucus for Popular Culture of the Popular Culture Association & American Culture Association for her essay, "Antidote to Dominance: Women's Laughter as CounterAction." This is an annual contest for the best unpublished essay on feminism & popular culture or American culture. She presented this essay as a paper at the Midwest Modern Language Association panel on Women and Humor in St. Louis in October.

Susan Rieke's book of poetry, Small Indulgences, was published this summer by BKMK Press in Kansas City.

Ruth Smalley's article, "Crossing the Gulfs: The Importance of Master-Servant Relationship in Dickens' Bleak House," is forthcoming in The Dickensian. A review of Mary Poovey's Uneven Developments: The Ideological Work of Gender in Mid-Victorian England will be published in Victorian Periodicals Review. At the Midwest Feminist Graduate Student Conference she gave a paper, "At 'Home' and in Fiction: Dickens' Work at Vrania Cottage and His Presentation of Fallen Women in the Novel."

Brian Shaffer presented a paper, "'Civilization' Under Western Eyes: Lowry's Under the Volcano and Conrad's Heart of Darkness" at the meeting of the Midwest Modern Language Association in St. Louis.

Saadi Simawe's article, "Toni Morrison: An Annotated Bibliography of the Criticism on Her Fiction: 1974-present," has been accepted for publication in the Afro-American Literary Forum. "The Flood," a chapter of a novel in progress, is forthcoming in Alightirab Al-Adabi (Arabic literary journal, London). Also forthcoming is a review of Modern Arabic Literature, ed. Roger Allen, in The Iowa Review.

Elliott Vanskike attended the Twentieth Century Literature Conference at the University of Louisville and gave a paper on Roland Barthes's Le Plaisir du texte.

Mary Vermillion presented a paper, "Buried Heroes: Southerne's Adaptation of Behn's Oroonoko," at the meeting of the Western American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies at Berkeley in February. In March she went to the Mid-American Medieval Association meeting at the University of Kansas and gave a paper, "Waves, Women and Wyrd: Images of the Other in Beowulf."

Nancy Williams published an article, "Research as a Process: A Transactional Approach," in the current issue of the Journal of Teaching Writing. She gave a presentation at the Conference on College Composition & Communication meeting in March, "Establishing Communication Networks in the Classroom." At the 1988 Iowa Council of Teachers of English meeting she gave a paper, "Phallic Readings of The Mill on the Floss: Reaction and Re-vision."

Sarah Witte's paper at the American Culture/Popular Culture Association conference in St. Louis in April was "Anne Sophia Stephens' Malaeska: At the Margins of Gender and Geography."

Jim Connor's volume of short stories, God's Breath, was published last year by Paulist Press.

The students listed below defended their dissertations during 1988-89 and received the Ph.D. degree.

- Peter Blair. "William Carlos Williams: Paterson and a Culture of Immediate Reference." Chair: Sherman Paul.
- Daniel Campion. "Running on the Surrealist Ticket: The Extravagant Peter De Vries." Chair: Ed Folsom.
- Vincent Casaregola. "Inventions For Voice: Stylistic Experiment in Elizabethan Prose Fiction." Co-chairs: Richard Lloyd-Jones & Oliver Steele.
- David Dobler. "The Novels of John le Carre." Chair: Bill Murray.
- Robert Grunst. "Faraway Business: Stories and Essays about Problematics in Story Telling." Chair: Carl Klaus.
- Robert Helgeson. "Access Points of African Fiction." Chair: Peter Nazareth.
- Edward Huffstetler. "The Voice from the Burning Bush: Spiritual Faith and the Religion of American Primitivism." Chair: Robert Sayre.
- Linda Myers. "'May as well be a rainbow': The Fiction of Toni Morrison."
- Carl Rosser. "Faculty Perceptions of Foreign Student Writing." Chair: James Marshall.
- Peter Schock. "The Romantic Myth of Satan." Chair: John Grant.
- Brian Shaffer. "Representing Civilization: Text and Contexts of Conrad, Joyce, and Lowry." Chair: Cheryl Herr.

The students listed below successfully completed comprehensive examinations for the Ph.D. during 1988-89:

Robert Antoni, Jocelyn Bartkevicius, Pamela Bourjaily, Bryan Crockett, Thomas Dean, Janet Delwiche, Martin Klammer, Tsuey-Fen Esther Lee, Dara Llewellyn, James McKean, Benjamin Moore, Margaret Nielsen, Nancy Reincke, Ruth Smalley, Laurel Sparks, Randall Svoboda.

The students listed below received the MA degree during 1988-89.

Victoria Carlson-Casaregola (MA/W), Jacqueline Foertsch, Lizabeth Gehring (MAT), Janice Held, Hee Won Lee Hong, Diane Horton (MA/W); Charles Johns (MAT), Martin Klammer, Rita Knight (MAT), David Kucharski (MA/W), Coleen Maddy, Mary Ellen Malloy, Kimberly Malmberg, Michelle Mustybrook (MAT), Geoffrey Pope, Dixie Saylor, Alice Schmidt (MAT), Dana Shugar, Douglas Staton (MAT), Susan Veach (MAT with Distinction), Shawn Vernon (MA/W) Lori Jan Walburg, Mark Wilson (MA/W)

The students listed below received the MFA degree during 1988-89.

Mary Adams, Jon Asmundson, Ned Balbo, Rosemary Bensko, Stacy Bush, K. Christensen, Justin Cronin, Stacy Doris, Mario Duarte, George Eklund, Gary Eller, David Evans, Tim Flanagan, Greg Galloway, Max Garland, Allen Gee, Maureen Gibbon, Helen D. Glancy, Bonnie Gordon, Kevin Gordon, Charles Hauck, Richard Hill, Janes Hynes, Debra Immergut, Robert Ivry, Wayne Johnson, Lisa Koger, Miriam Kuznets, Douglas Larsen, Fred Leebron, Paul Mandelbaum, Bruce March, John Marks, John McNally, Jeannette Miyamoto, Paul Mooney, Brighde Mullins, Gregg Palmer, Yossi Pinto, James Poolos, Randall Potts, Conan Putnam, Kathryn Rhett, Kathleen Sheldon, Jack Simons, Constance Spasser, Brenda Squires, Sally Stepanek, Valery Varble, Gretchen Wahl, Chester Wiener.