Mary M. Reda
1970-2013

On August 3, 2013, our department lost a beloved faculty member. Dr. Reda was an Associate English professor who served as Co-Director of the department’s Writing Program. Professor Reda began working at the College of Staten Island in 2002. She received both her bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in English from Boston College, and earned her Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Professor Reda authored *Between Speaking and Silence: A Study of the Quiet Student* and wrote numerous articles published in various academic journals. During her brief time in our department, she served on numerous search committees, as department chair, and worked closely with the adjunct faculty in the Writing Program. She was an incredible mentor and friend to both her students and her peers.

Thanks to the generous donations of the faculty and staff, a garden in front of our building was created in her memory. The Mary Reda Memorial Garden was dedicated during the department’s graduation ceremony. We continue to feel the loss of Mary and miss her presence in our halls and our classrooms. She is deeply missed.
In the fall of 2013, our department welcomed two new full time faculty members. Assistant Professor Lara Saguisag received her PhD in Childhood Studies from Rutgers University-Camden and her MFA in Creative Writing from The New School. Her research focuses on theories and histories of childhood, children’s literature, comics, humor and visual culture. Assistant Professor Jason Bishop joins our department, as well. He received his Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of California, Los Angeles, specializing in phonetics and phonology. His recent interdisciplinary research examines how the rhythmic and melodic properties of spoken English relate to individual differences in language comprehension, reading processes, and the autism spectrum. Professor Bishop will be director of the new CSI-CUNY Speech Lab, located in 2S-216a, which will be a general phonetics and laboratory phonology lab. A primary focus of the lab will be the investigation of speech prosody and will be opened by Fall 2014.
Women’s Center News

This year, the Bertha Harris Women’s Center, directed by Ellen Goldner, hosted the following yearly events: Take Back the Night, Holiday Gift Drive for Safe Horizon, and once again, the Women’s Center offered a Scholarship for Single Mothers with Financial Need. The center hosted two new CLUE-certified events. Swallow the Sun, was brought to our campus. This performance piece was created and presented by Liza Garza, a singer, songwriter and activist, whose music mixes traditional Mexican folk music, modern ballads and hip-hop rhymes. In April, Deanna Croce, Trainer and Outreach Manager of Safe Horizon’s Anti-Trafficking Program, led an informative anti-human trafficking workshop. The students in attendance engaged in a lively discussion about this issue, the law, social services, and legal remedies.

Schwerner Writer’s Series

This year the English Department hosted a group of incredible writers. Among these were poets Reginald Harris, Harmony Holiday, Jill McDonough, Erica Bernheim, Brian Tearer, Greg Tate, Amy King, Benjamin Grossberg, David Mills, Camille Rankine, Sejal Selah, Stephen Schottenfeld, Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie, Roger Bonair-Agard, Rich Villar, and Laura Swearingen-Steadwell. Many of these writers are performers, musicians, slam artists, and essayists. This was another successful academic year for the Schwerner Writer’s Series; it will continue to present talented writers to our English majors, the collective student body, and college community.
Jennifer Durando, an alumna of our undergraduate and graduate programs in English, joined our department as an adjunct lecturer in 2005. She is affiliated with the Verrazano School, FIRST program, and Macaulay Honors Program, having taught numerous composition and humanities courses for our department and within the Science, Letters, and Society program. This year, she was chosen as our department’s new Higher Education Assistant in the role of Senior Academic Advisor. As a staff member of the Center for Advising and Academic Success, Jennifer will oversee advisement of all of our majors. She will assist our department with serving our students’ needs, increasing student preparedness, retention, and graduation rates. After this year’s graduation ceremony, she was presented the Dolphin Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Member of the Adjunct Faculty by President Fritz. She is currently working on organizing various seminars for the fall semester that includes *Career Opportunities and the English Degree*, and *Graduate Studies for English Majors*. She is excited about her new position and the opportunity to serve our students in a greater capacity.

**Faculty Promotions**

Congratulations to Matthew Brim and Tyehimba Jess on their promotions from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor. Thank you for your dedication to our department.

For last year's words belong to last year's language
And next year's words await another voice.
And to make an end is to make a beginning.

T.S. Eliot
Lock up your libraries if you like; but there is no gate, no lock, no bolt that you can set upon the freedom of my mind.

— Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

**Adjunct Faculty Publications and News**


**Professor Barry Sheinkopf:** His self-publishing house, Full Court Press, released its 150th title. These have included books in both hardback and paperback as well as in eBook format; have ranged in genre from nonfiction (memoirs, exposes, histories) to fiction (novels and short story collections as well as collections of essays) and poetry and children’s books. Their authors include those who have never published before as well as commercially published writers who have concluded that, with traditional publishers cutting more and more corners in their relationships with authors, self-publishing is a more economically attractive option for them. Their books have appeared with black-and-white as well as color interiors, and in a range of size formats. All of them adhere to their central commitment to produce books that emulate commercial products in all respects—editing to the Chicago standard, personalized design of interiors, and high-quality manufacturing.
STUDENT NEWS

Dr. Jason Bishop's students Nicole DiMeglio and Juliana Colon were awarded an Undergraduate Research Fellowship Award by Dean Sussman for their work in the Speech Lab this summer and fall. [http://jbbishop-speechlab.weebly.com/people.html](http://jbbishop-speechlab.weebly.com/people.html)

Several of Dr. Michael T. Schuyler's students have presented essays written for his classes at both CSI's Undergraduate Research Conference (URC) and at a national organization's regional gathering. After presenting "Face Value: Identity, Status, and the High Society Stock Market of Eighteenth-Century England in Frances Burney's *Evelina*" at the URC last April, Janine Gagliardi presented the same work at the annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Popular Culture Association in Atlantic City, New Jersey this past November as part of the panel titled *Social Problems of the Heroine: Moll Flanders, Evelina, and Adopted Romance Heroines* (Subject area: Novels, Then and Now). Joining her on that panel was another of Professor Schuyler's students, Todd Stein, who presented "*Moll Flanders*: An Extraordinary Tale about an Ordinary Criminal." And, at the same meeting, yet another of his students, Erin Fu, presented "*Fantasia*: One Woman's Survival Guide to the Use of Vernacular" as part of the *Surviving Insubordinate Narratives: Franzen's *Freedom*, Djebar's *Fantasia*, and Rydberg's *Labyrinth* panel (Subject Area: Novels, Then and Now). More recently, he had the pleasure of chairing a panel for this year's URC on which two more of his students presented their work. At that meeting (which had quite a turn-out with nearly 30 English majors attending), Lynn Matteo discussed "The Failed Golden Rule of Marlowe's *Edward II*" and Natalie Tombasco offered "*She Stoops to Conquer* Class-Consciousness."

Jenna Jankowski, Macaulay Honors student, English major in Dramatic Literature, and recent graduate was profiled in the Newsmakers section on *cstoday*, the college’s electronic news forum. Jenna’s academic and professional work is highlighted.
Frank Battaglia has finished his last academic year for our department. I wanted to know more about what brought Frank to this major, profession, and ultimately to the College of Staten Island and working for CUNY. His reflections, as shared with me, appear below— in his own words. JD

**Reflections from Frank Battaglia: English, CSI, and Retirement**

I hadn’t expected to go to college, but got a full-ride scholarship in engineering. I took Electrical Engineering because it offered the most electives. I did well, but decided I wanted to study “human values,” and didn’t like that university. So I transferred, and ended up an English major at La Salle; then an M.A. at Duke and, at 24, a Ph.D. from University of California, Davis.

I taught composition at Davis. Then, I was an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. I taught undergraduate courses in contemporary lit and graduate classes in Old English before coming to Staten Island Community College in the heady years after CUNY had adopted OA, “open admissions.” Every NYC high school graduate could enroll; tuition was still free. Collective bargaining by CUNY’s instructional staff became one resource for building a public university.

The English department (SICC, then CSI) had informal recurring meetings for years (e.g., the Orange Basement) about how to make OA work. One lesson I took away: returning student writing by the next class was important. Committing to that standard – which I’ve never fully met any semester – changed my teaching – fewer dizzying highs or bottomless lows, but a palpable sense of making a difference.

My major project for retirement is to finish the book *BEOWULF – The War God Goes to Church* that I’ve been at a long time. I’m continuing to make presentations or get things in print which advance the research agenda its part of. Two papers this year have proposed that patriliny was consolidated for English speakers in the formation of the kingdom of East Anglia during the first half of the sixth century: “Wrist clasps, scutiform pendants, and patriliny – a hypothesis,” at Gender and Medieval Studies 2014, University of Winchester, UK, January; and “Early Anglo-Saxon elite female jewellery – a patrilineal marker?” at Womanhood in Anglo-Saxon England conference, Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies, University of Manchester, UK, April.

I will miss regular connection with the College’s English department, a group trying to truly do the work we get paid for, as we struggle together for a better world. ---Frank Battaglia
Lectures, Conferences, Grants, and Other News

Professor Frank Battaglia: Two papers this year have proposed that patriliny was consolidated for English speakers in the formation of the kingdom of East Anglia during the first half of the sixth century: “Wrist clasps, scutiform pendants, and patriliny – a hypothesis,” at Gender and Medieval Studies 2014, University of Winchester, UK, January; and “Early Anglo-Saxon elite female jewellery – a patrilineal marker?” at Womanhood in Anglo-Saxon England conference, Centre for Anglo-Saxon Studies, University of Manchester, UK, April.

Professor Kelly Bradbury: “Personal Learning Networks and Intellectualism: Ideologies, Pedagogies, Technologies,” presented at the Conference on College Composition and Communication. Indianapolis, IN, Mar. 2014. Honor: Invited to be a member of the Editorial Board for Journal of Teaching Writing, beginning Fall 2013

Professor Matthew Brim: Received tenure and promotion to associate professor, selected as Co-editor of WSQ: Women’s Studies Quarterly, published by the Feminist Press, received a PSC/CUNY grant for his proposal, "Queer Office Hours," and elected to serve on CUNY-wide University Advisory Council on Diversity. Scholarly talks and panel discussions: Modern Language Association annual convention, "James Baldwin’s Queer Utility" and invited panelist. Live Ideas: James Baldwin THIS Time! New York Live Arts

Professor Ashley Dawson: Editor, The Journal of Academic Freedom (2012 - present) Editor, Social Text Online (2010 - present), and curated dossiers on the Social Text website: One Year After Sandy (Fall 2013).

Professor Frederick Kaufman: Lectures: PEN America Festival of Voices; Yale University; Columbia Business School; Hammer Forum in Los Angeles; International Journalism Conference in Perugia.


Professor Lara Sagiusag: received a Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Marshall Fishwick Travel Grant, a Children’s Literature Association Faculty Research Grant and a PSC-CUNY Research Foundation Grant to support her research for her book project, which is tentatively titled Drawing the Lines of Innocence: Constructions of Childhood and Citizenship in Progressive Era Comic Strips. She presented papers at Princeton University's invitational conference on children’s literature in September 2013 and the PCA/ACA annual conference in April 2014. This summer, she will begin a three-year term as a member of the Diversity Committee of the Children's Literature Association.
Professor Sarah Schulman: was nominated for two Lambda Literary Awards for The Gentrification of The Mind: Witness to a Lost Imagination (U of Cal Press) and Israel/Palestine and The Queer International (Duke University Press), which also received a nomination from the American Library Association. She is a Mellon Fellow to the Grad Center, and proudly served as faculty advisor for CSI Students for Justice in Palestine. She played the role of filmmaker Shirley Clarke in Stephen Winter’s answer film to her 1967 classic Portrait of Jason. The piece will premiere at international festivals next year. Her play ROE VERSUS WADE had readings at New York Theater Workshop and Theater J. Her play THE LADY HAMLET will have a reading at Toronto’s Buddies In Bad Times Theater as part of World Pride celebrations. She is a consultant for National Advisory Board: Jewish Voice for Peace, University of Toronto, Robert Giard Acquisitions Advisory Board, and Lambda Literary Emerging Writers Workshop, Los Angeles.


Professor Christina Tortora: Talks: July 2013 “A multiple-grammars approach to intra- and inter-speaker variation in verb movement in English questions,” talk given at the Syntax and Variation Workshop, at the 2013 Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute, July 6-7, 2013, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan; June 2014 “On the relationship between second and third person: a view from subject clitics in Piedmontese,” invited Keynote to be given at the 8th Cambridge Italian Dialect Syntax Meeting (CIDSM8), Department of Linguistics, University of Padua, Italy; March 2014 “Variation in Appalachian verb forms: evidence for a general past,” invited talk given at Yale University (Department Linguistics), New Haven. [co-authored with graduate students F. Blanchette and T. O’Neill]; February 2014 “Evidence for the non-finiteness of English ‘present’ and ‘past’ verb forms,” invited talk given at the NYU Syntax Brown Bag, Department of Linguistics, New York University; September 2013 “Variation in Appalachian verb forms: evidence for a general past,” talk given at the Fifth International Conference on the Linguistics of Contemporary English (ICLCE5), University of Texas, Austin. [co-authored with graduate students F. Blanchette & T. O’Neill].

In August 2013, Professor Tortora gave the Faculty Keynote Address at the College of Staten Island’s Inaugural Freshman Convocation

“Try not to become a man of success. Rather become a man of value.”
— Albert Einstein

BABY NEWS

The English Department welcomes its newest family member, Jack Michael Bohnenstiehl, into its family. Professor Kelly Bradbury welcomed her baby boy on October 14, 2013 weighing 7lbs 11 ounces. Congratulations!
FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Books and Articles


Professor Ava Chin: Her food memoir Eating Wildly: Foraging for Life, Love, and the Perfect Meal (Simon & Schuster) was published May 2014. Eating Wildly reveals how foraging and the DIY-food movement helped her to heal up from the wound of an absent father and the loss of the grandparents who raised her, as well as taught her important lessons in self-reliance. The Village Voice wrote that Eating Wildly "throws wide a window into a fascinating New York—nee, American—story, that's thrillingly voyeuristic to read and unbearably human," Kirkus called it "A delectable feast of the heart," and Vogue named it one of "Spring's Best Food Books. The Huffington Post called Professor Chin one of "9 Contemporary Authors You Should Be Reading."
Endnotes: English Department Newsletter


**Professor Frederick Kaufman:** Magazine: 6,000 word piece in *Harper’s Magazine*, "The Man Who Stole the Nile", Television (commentary and hosting): Al-Jazeera America; Vice; CUNY-TV, Television (producer): The Food Network; Vice and Radio: NPR’s RadioLab.


**Professor Christopher Miller:** is pleased to announce that he got a contract for his book, *Surprise: The Poetics of the Unexpected from Milton to Austen*. It’s forthcoming from Cornell UP in Spring 2015. A paper he presented at a conference on "Milton in the Long Restoration" at the Stanford Humanities Center in April will appear in a collection under contract with Oxford UP.


**Professor Sarah Schulman:** The 25th anniversary edition of her novel *AFTER DELORES* was published. She is also publishing an investigative journalistic piece "Blame Canada: Why the land of arts funding, health care and recycling is in the forefront of HIV Criminalization” in Slate Magazine. Her essay "Pro-Family Ideology and The Queer Community of Friends" appeared in prettyqueer.com. "Witness To A Lost Imagination" appeared in *AFTER HOMOSEXUAL: The Legacies of Gay Liberation*, a tribute volume to Dennis Altman.

**Professor Patricia Smith:** 2014 Guggenheim Fellowship, $50,000, for "What Breath Gives Back," a project combining dramatic dialogue with 19th century photographs of African Americans; The 2013 Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize for "Shoulda Been Jimi Savannah," chosen as the most outstanding book of poetry published in the United States in the previous year; The Phillis Wheatley Award, granted by the Quarterly Black Review, for "Shoulda Been Jimi Savannah."; The Robert L. Fish Award from the Mystery
Writers of America for "When They Are Done With Us," chosen as the best debut story in the genre. The story was featured in the crime fiction anthology "Staten Island Noir" (which she also edited) and appeared in Best American Mystery Writing 2013.


“It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation.”
— Herman Melville

**Congratulations Peter Miller on being recognized by President William Fritz at the Convocation for 45 years of service to the College of Staten Island.**

We thank you for all you have done for our department.
The Department of ENGLISH proudly presents its
CLASS of 2014
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR GRADUATES!

| Kristen Adamo                  | Aminta Fredericks          | Amanda Rodriguez        |
| Christine Agnello              | Christina Frisca           | Brittany Rogan         |
| Rachel Amado                   | Vincent Garcia             | Taylor Ropas           |
| Jeremy Anderson                | Jonathan Glazer            | Beth Scannapieco       |
| Candice Ayala                  | Lauren Glennon             | Joseph Seegitz         |
| Amal Ayth                      | Brittany Gottlin           | Rostislav Sherman      |
| Felicia Balzomo                | Patrick Granata            | Shira Shvartsman       |
| Karen Batalitzky               | Amana Hamdan               | Brittany Sinodinos     |
| Anisa Bekteshi                 | Colleen Hartie             | Denise Speziale        |
| Danielle Biagini               | Rebecca Hayes              | Natalie Tombasco       |
| Robert Blancke                 | Zeinab Imam                | Julie Tsaruhas         |
| Stacey Bostwick                | Jenna Jankowski            | Allison Tse            |
| Brittany Bowler                | Candace Johnsen            | Christine Vecchio      |
| Thomas Burke                   | Ashley Journey             | Jessica Viola          |
| Ashley Caesar                  | Edward Khaymovich          | Daniel Volis           |
| Jena Caputo                    | Hana Kil                   | Stephanie Walcott      |
| Theresa Caputo                 | Seong Kim                  | Brittany Weintraub     |
| Chris Carregal                 | Christina Kneeter          | Lillian Werner         |
| Michelle Carrique              | Stephen Krauska            | Mika Wright            |
| Jeffrey Cassorla               | Cynthia Lanzi              | Ejona Xhihani          |
| Allison Cespedes               | Emmanuel Lathouris         |                         |
| Laura Ciccarello               | Katie Mahoney              |                         |
| Shawn Corcoran                 | Kevin Mascarinas           |                         |
| Antonino Cruciata             | Susan Massara              |                         |
| Jennifer Cruz                  | Erika Mazzarella           |                         |
| Jezel Cuomo                    | Catherine Mcglashin-Hopkins|                         |
| Andrea Curry                   | Yolanda Minardi            |                         |
| Heather Dalton                 | Alec Montalvo              |                         |
| Anthony D’Antuono              | Andrea Moretti             |                         |
| Amanda Rae Davis               | Jenesis Muniz              |                         |
| Ellen Dempster                 | Narimen Nassar             |                         |
| Stephanie Dimarco              | Maisaa Othman              |                         |
| Dana Dipalo                    | Sharifa Othman             |                         |
| Rachel Divirgilio              | Dahlia Panelli             |                         |
| Danny Duong                    | Stephanie Parathyras       |                         |
| Anthony Duran                  | Corinne Paris              |                         |
| Ashley Endall                  | Katie Perkins              |                         |
| Mohammad Fares                 | Teresa Pulcrano            |                         |
| John Ferrara                   |                          |                         |

Graduate Degree

January 2014
- Clyde Marin
- Elizabeth Murphy
- Rosemary Palividas

June 2014
- María Acuna-Nasralla
- Donna Brogna
- Danielle Bacigalupo
- Jessica Catalano
- Maria Meister
- Lenka Rohls
Congratulations Class of 2014.
“It does not do to dwell on dreams and forget to live.”
— J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

**Attention:**
Faculty, Students, Alumni, Friends

We would like to hear from you!
Send us any interesting news you would like to share with us. We are able to continue our work teaching, learning, and growing because of your support.
We hope that you will be able to join us for some of our department’s sponsored events in the future.
Endnotes Editor: Jennifer Durando

Check out our website: [http://www.csi.cuny.edu/departments/english/](http://www.csi.cuny.edu/departments/english/)

Or follow us on twitter: [@ENGDeptCSI](https://twitter.com/ENGDeptCSI)
Or facebook: College of Staten Island-English Dept. [https://www.facebook.com/#!/EnglishDeptCSI](https://www.facebook.com/#!/EnglishDeptCSI)

Send us an email: csi.endnotes@gmail.com