



# Works Cited

*Department of English & Theatre*

## Going Forward, Accomplished Alums Look Back

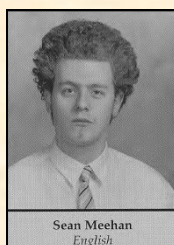
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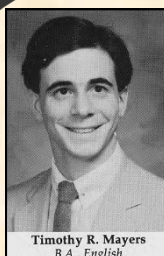
Recently *Works Cited* asked a quartet of accomplished veterans of the Department of English & Theatre to reflect on their time at Scranton in the '80s and '90s. Tim Mayers, associate professor of English at Millersville University and a 1988 Honors graduate in English and Philosophy, says, "The solid background in British and American literature I acquired, along with the opportunities to develop my creative and critical writing skills, were indispensable to my subsequent flourishing as a scholar and writer."

Also an Honors graduate in English and Philosophy and a Fulbright Fellow to India, Lisa Angelella, Class of 2000, recalls how much she "enjoyed the small community Scranton's English program offered. I was able to develop a strong relationship with several professors, and I really felt like I had a place. The program nurtured a confidence in me that encouraged me to aim high."

A newly-minted PhD in English



Sean Meehan  
English



Timothy R. Mayers  
B.A., English



Lisa A. Wamsley  
BS Psychology/English



from the University of Iowa, Angelella defended a dissertation titled "Alimentary

Modernism" that examines the social and political meanings of depictions of eating in texts by Joyce, Woolf, Mansfield, Cather, and Hemingway. "I appreciated the interest in philosophy and aesthetics at Scranton," she says. She mentions "sitting around the *Esprit* table debating what constitutes meaningful literature" as a favorite memory.

Professional actor Sean Meehan, soon to be seen in director Tony Scott's remake of "The Taking of Pelham 123" and recently featured in

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## Congratulations!

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Rich **Larsen**, Director of Theatre, has been promoted to full professor. P.J. **Scanlon**, adjunct professor, and his wife Tracy announced the birth of their son, Ian Patrick, in early February. Dale **Giuliani**, adjunct professor, was honored with the Provost's Part-time Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching. Katie **Burton**, adjunct professor, has been awarded a University Fellowship from Lehigh University and will begin study for the PhD in English in September. Anne **De Marzio**, adjunct professor, has received full funding from Temple University to begin the PhD in English program in the fall. Ana **Rojas** will continue as Lecturer for the 09-10 academic year. The department is pleased to welcome two new assistant professors in Fall 2009: Hank **Willenbrink**, dramatic literature and playwriting, and Teresa **Grettano**, composition and rhetoric. 📖



## Notes from the Chair

Everything's getting better. No, wait. Everything's getting worse.

Everything must be getting better, because But actually, everything's getting worse, because

- *The Simpsons* is still pretty cool. Matt Groening is doing everything that Jay Ward & Chuck Jones used to do, & it's still just as funny.
- there are lots of good novels I haven't read yet—by Philip Roth, Toni Morrison, Jhumpa Lahiri, Jonathan Lethem, & others.
- regime change has come to Washing-ton, but the fake-news hour on Comedy Central is still funny.
- the remake of *The Day the Earth Stood Still* actually turned out be worth seeing. Just like the original.
- Christopher Buckley (*Thank You For Smoking*, *No Way to Treat a First Lady*, *Boomsday*) has turned out to be a much better novelist than his father ever was.
- watching *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* on TV turned out to be a lot more fun than reading *Dracula*.
- for every *Simpsons*, there's a *Family Guy*. And an *American Dad*. And that *Twilight* thing. I know, it isn't a cartoon. It's still awful.
- for every *Catcher in the Rye*, there's a *Separate Peace*. And a *Da Vinci Code*. And that *Twilight* thing.
- some people seem to be taking Newt Gingrich seriously again. And I bet *he* likes *Twilight*.
- Vin Diesel. And the *Transporter* series. And *Twilight*, the movie.
- really, do you have to ask? I mean, an arrogant blood-sucking advocate for teen-aged abstinence? What's next? A mummy who rises from the dead to defend high school dress codes?
- for every *Buffy*, there's a *Van Helsing*. And a *Blade* trilogy. And that other thing.

— Jody DeRitter

## Alums Look Back

(Continued from page 1)

an Off-Broadway production of O'Neill's "Mourning Becomes Electra," sounds a different note. "My time at Scranton (I know my old pros won't want to hear this!) wasn't really about the academics. That was secondary. For me it was a time to find out who the hell I was and what the hell I was doing. Those years opened my mind to a world and a sense of self that wasn't possible prior to coming to campus."

A 1997 graduate with a major in English and a minor in Theatre, with many hours logged on stage and behind the curtain as a member of the University Players, Meehan says, "Knowledge is courage, they go hand in hand. The more you know the stronger you become and the steadier you walk in your shoes. You work on it every day for your whole life, but that was the start of it for me, right there at Scranton." Meehan holds an MFA in Acting from Trinity Repertory Conservatory in Providence, R.I.



Meehan



Mayers



Wamsley Coyne



Angelella

Assistant professor of psychology at Suffolk University in Boston, Lisa (Wamsley) Coyne says, "I'd be very happy to see my own children go to Scranton." A triple major in English, Philosophy, and Psychology with an MFA in poetry from the University of Florida and an MA and PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Mississippi, Coyne graduated in 1993.

Remembering her days in the English department in St. Thomas Hall, she mentions several important interactions with faculty members. "One professor, in response to my whining about something, told me to 'Just suck it up!' Seriously, that was good advice. Another time I yawned rather dramatically in Dr. Whittaker's class and said something like, 'It's not that I'm bored, I'm just tired.' He responded, 'It doesn't matter. It's just rude!'" She notes how thrilling it was to have dinner conversations and post

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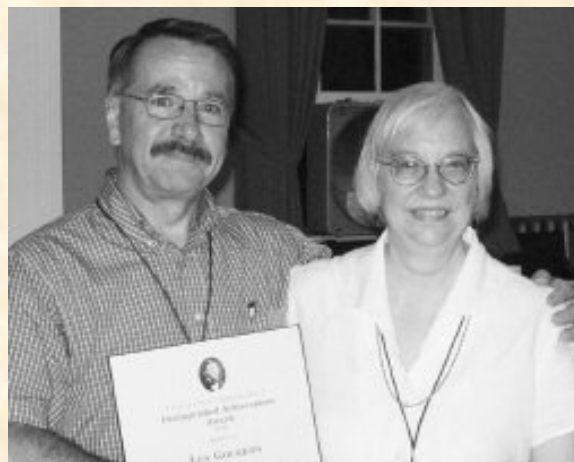


## Distinguished Achievement Award to Gougeon

Len Gougeon, professor and distinguished university fellow, has received the 2008 Distinguished Achievement Award from the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society. The Society's Fall 2008 Emerson Society Papers notes that Gougeon's first book, *Virtue's Hero: Emerson, Antislavery, and Reform* (UGeorgiaPress 1990), "has had as profoundly positive an effect on our understanding of Emerson as any book published in the last thirty years." The publication also commends his book co-edited with Joel Myerson, *Emerson's Antislavery Writings* (Yale UP 1995).

According to the Society, his most recent book, *Emerson & Eros: The Making of a Cultural Hero* (SUNY Press 2007), "looks into territory that other scholars have left alone" and "plots Emerson's intellectual and artistic development against the narrative of Joseph Campbell's hero archetype." The presentation of Gougeon's award, which included a certificate and a bronze medal, was made at the annual Society meetings in Concord in summer 2008.

"It was a surprise," explains Len, "not something I was expecting. In fact, my wife Deborah missed the presentation because we hadn't known it was in the offing at the end of a session of papers. She was back at the hotel. Oh well."



*Former President of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, Phyllis Cole presents Len Gougeon with a medal and certificate signifying the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society Distinguished Achievement Award. Picture originally appeared in Volume 19, Number 2, Fall 2008 of the EMERSON SOCIETY PAPERS.*

An aspect of the award ceremony that amuses Gougeon in the retelling came when the presenter of the award, having stood at the podium to laud Gougeon's decades-long contributions to the field, reached into her bag to present him with the medallion and handed him instead a wrapped half-eaten power bar. "When she gave it to me I thought, Gee, this feels a little light for a medal, and then I unwrapped it and thought, Hmmm." 📖

## Onwards & Upwards

Siobhan **Casey**, English '09, begins study for an MFA in poetry at Chatham University in Pittsburgh in Fall 2009.

Sherly **Daceus**, Psychology/Theatre Minor, '09, will attend the Adler School of Professional Psychology in Chicago in pursuit of a Psy.D. in clinical psychology.

HanaRae **Dudek**, English '09, will enroll in the Masters Program for Speech-Language Pathology at Bloomsburg University in Fall 2009.

Jennifer **Lewis**, English/Philosophy, Biology Minor '09, and current editor of *Esprit*, will attend Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in the fall.

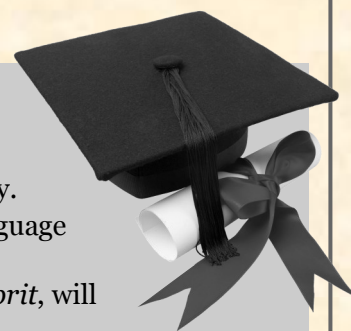
Megan **LoBue**, English '09, has been named an alternate for a teaching Fulbright to Germany.

Heather **Lucas**, English/Theatre, History Minor '09, will begin study for an MA in Theatre at Villanova University in the fall.

John **Sondej**, English/Latin/Honors '08 and last year's editor of *Esprit*, begins study for an MA in English at Georgetown University in September.

Sarah **Suwak**, English '09, will be heading to Prague for a five-week program with OxfordTEFL for certification to teach English as a second language.

Ashley **Teatum**, English/Communication/Honors '09, has an editorial internship with the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre Yankees.



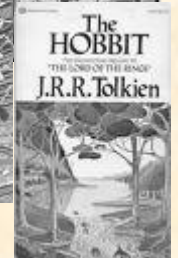
Now that Malia and Sasha are in the White House, *Works Cited* asked Department of English & Theatre members to recommend favorite childhood books!



**Matthew Vita, English / Philosophy '09 & Editor of *Aquinas*—**

My parents and grandparents read to me all the time when I was little. I remember *The Giving Tree*, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, and *Where the Wild Things Are* as favorites. Once I began reading longer books, I devoured the Goosebumps series by R. L. Stine. My favorite was *Shocker on Shock Street*. I

read *The Hobbit* in middle school, but I probably should have read it earlier. I never read many comics, but I always loved the occasional Spider-Man when my mom gave into my begging at convenience stores, and my dentist always had a special issue about Peter Parker's war on plaque.



**Heather Lucas, English/Theatre, History Minor '09, — “Hansel & Gretel”**

was my favorite because I would imagine my brother and me in that situation. I loved the brother/sister relationship and wanted my big brother to watch out for me the way Hansel did for Gretel. And he did

and does. There's no one I'd rather have looking out for me if we ever get lost in the woods, wind up at a magical candy house, and are threatened to be eaten by a creepy hag! Yeah, my brother is aces!

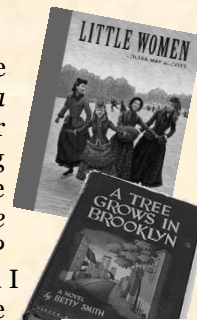






**Denise Fulbrook, adjunct professor**—Hmm. . . As someone with a three year old son who is immersed in the world of *Strega Nona*, *The Paperboy* and *Pontoffel Pock*, I might have an easier time getting the Oncler to listen to the Lorax than remembering what I read at that age or knowing what might fly with the preteen/post toddler set. Does *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* lose its magic at age seven? Is ten too young for *Little Women*? Did a tree grow in Brooklyn for me at nine or thirteen? When did I get lost in *The Secret Garden*? If Sasha and Malia were three

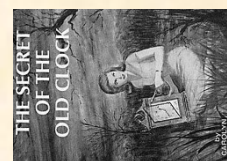
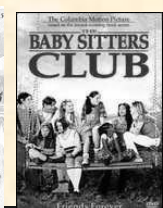
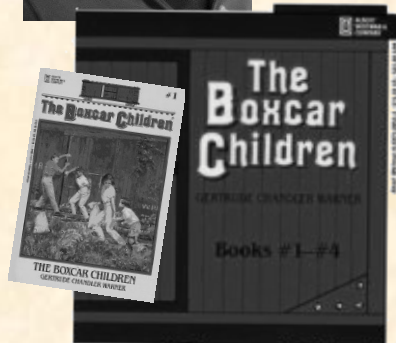
year old boys I'd feel in the know. I'm pretty sure they've heard about that Potter kid, so the best I can do is to suggest that they dip into some nonsense verse—a literary treat for any age and just about any situation—be it mimsy or slithy—and seemingly just right for two young girls who have landed in some version of a real and beautiful, horrifying and fantastic wonderland of their own. To rephrase Roald Dahl's famous remark about men and nonsense, "A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest women." Sasha, Malia . . . Lewis Carroll, Edward Lear, Jack Prelutsky, and Shel Silverstein are on their way! Maybe your family can make history anew as the two of you try your hand at writing some brillig nonsense of your own?



**Michael Friedman, professor**--One of my favorites is *The Pushcart War* by Jean Merrill, originally published in 1964, but released in several new editions since then. It concerns a conflict between New York City's pushcart peddlers, a diverse and multi-ethnic collection of street vendors, and "The Big Three," the bosses of the three major trucking companies that are running the pushcart peddlers off the street. The peddlers learn to put aside their differences to unite in a pea-shooter campaign that cripples the mammoth trucks by shooting pins in their tires. Eventually the pushcart vendors attract public support for their efforts and laws are passed to limit the size and number of trucks on the road. It occurs to me now that this book may have begun my preparation for union work.



**Sherly Daceus, Psychology / Theatre Minor '09**--I enjoyed the American Girl book series, especially the ones about Addy. I also enjoyed Babysitter's Club books because of the girlishness of it all. I liked the Boxcar Children books and Goosebumps. I also liked some of The Hardy Boys books, but not Nancy Drew.







## Foursome Do Us Proud in Twin Cities

Sigma Tau Delta members Joe Koivisto, Megan LoBue, Alison Swety, and Ashley Teatum presented invited critical and creative work at the national convention in Minneapolis-St. Paul in late March. They gave papers on various Restoration and Modern literature topics; Swety read a short story as well. Chapter president and vice-president Teatum and

Koivisto, respectively, enthused about the Midwest. "Loved Dinkeytown!" says Ashley. "Good food and cold weather--perfect!" reports Joe. Alison is delighted to have seen "the Mississippi River for the first time!" "Our work was well-received by the audience," Megan affirms. "The convention was a pleasant, encouraging experience, and we did the department and the chapter proud." 📖

## Players Present Another Successful Season

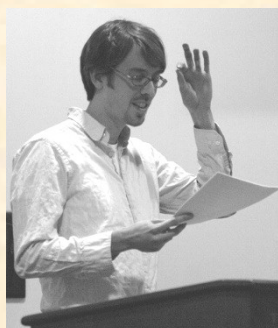


The Player's mid-season production of Shaw's *Pygmalion* on the main stage of the Royal Theatre packed the house for successive weeks in December. Next up this spring is Chekov's *The Seagull*.

## URS Concludes 25<sup>th</sup> Season

The University Reading Series concludes its 25<sup>th</sup> season with a reading by poet Marie Howe on Thursday, April 30, at 8 pm in the Studio Theatre of McDade Center for Literary and Performing Arts. A Guggenheim and NEA fellow, Howe has authored three collections of poems and teaches at Sarah Lawrence College and Columbia University. She will read from her latest collection, *The Kingdom of Ordinary Time* (Norton 2008), and from new work. She will also meet in several informal gatherings with students in the Writing program. "We're delighted to welcome her to campus," says John Meredith Hill, professor. "Students have read her work and are excited to meet her."

An enthusiastic response greeted Seth Sawyers who spent an afternoon and evening on campus in mid-February. An essayist of growing reputation teaching at a UMaryland campus, Sawyers read excerpts from his memoir in progress to an audience of fifty-some students and faculty. Author of



anthologized essays originally published in *River Teeth*, *Fourth Genre*, and other journals, Sawyers met with students from several Writing classes for a Q & A on the afternoon of his arrival and gathered with a dozen students for a spirited post-reading conversation about creative nonfiction and the

future of the essay in the digital age. "It was great to be able to bring Seth to campus, as several students in my beginning and advanced nonfiction workshops had come upon his work and found it to their liking," explained Joe Kraus, associate professor. "He was a wonderfully accessible and enthusiastic guest."

On the evening of April 1<sup>st</sup>, novelist Adam Mansbach read from his new novel in progress to an audience of more than fifty people in the Heritage Room of Weinberg Memorial Library. Mansbach's visit to campus was jointly sponsored by the URS and the Weinberg Jewish Studies Institute. This well-published and award-winning novelist met with several dozen students in the Writing program in the afternoon for a Q & A. After the evening reading, Mansbach fielded a dozen questions from enthusiastic listeners about his writing habits, his experiences in a graduate writing program, and the inner workings of the contemporary publishing industry. "It was a wonderful day-long encounter for our students," said Kraus, "as Adam has massive street cred and a personal history that embraces much of the best and most controversial aspects of the American scene." Mansbach will join the teaching faculty of the new MFA program at Rutgers University-Camden in the fall. 📖



## Alums Look Back

(Continued from page 2)

-reading get-togethers with guest writers in the University Reading Series. "I got to meet poet Stephen Dunn, whose work I was crazy about!" Coyne recently co-authored a book, *Parenting with Mindfulness and Acceptance*, to be published in Fall 2009.

Having written the lead essay in the January 2009 issue of *College English* devoted to Creative Writing, Millersville professor Mayers says, "Sad to report my novel, the winner of the 2008 Paradigm Novel Prize, is looking for a new publisher because the sponsoring press has gone out of business!" Better news is that his (*Re*) *Writing Craft: Composition, Creative Writing, and the Future of English Studies*, published by UPitt in 2005 and issued as a paperback in 2007, continues to enjoy critical and commercial success. Mayers, whose English Honors thesis was a collection of poems, has an MA from Binghamton University and a PhD from the University of Rhode Island.

With several silver screen credits as well as appearances in episodes of "Law & Order" and "As The World Turns", Meehan has had principal roles in productions of the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Bread Loaf Theatre, and other companies. "I've been able to work with noted playwright Israel Horowitz (father of Ad-Rock of the Beastie Boys!) on new plays under development. He's become a mentor, one of several I've been fortunate to have, beginning with Scranton's director of theatre, Rich Larsen."

With a recent publication in the December 2008 issue of *James Joyce Literary Supplement*, Lisa Angelella looks forward to getting more writing done and to gaining a tenure-track position. Lisa Coyne anticipates tenure and promotion at Suffolk University and will devote part of this summer to writing a young adult novel set in County Clare, Ireland. "I studied with poet Michael Longley at Trinity College, Dublin, my junior year and worked for a year as an editor with an Irish company in the late '90s, so I'm knowledgeable about the country and immensely fond of it. Of course I also married someone with an Irish heritage, my husband John, a fellow Scranton grad." 📖

## CLOSE READING

Michael **O'Steen**, associate professor, directed a reading of the new play *Aporia* for the National Playwrights Program at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. The public performance took place in Philadelphia in mid-January. He also presented a workshop on musical theatre performance at the KCACTF. He directed the fight sequences for the recent Players' production of *Columbinus* in the Royal Theatre. He directs the Players' current run of Chekov's *The Seagull* in the Royal Theatre. Eileen (**Tamerlani**) **Anderson**, English/Writing & History Minor '02, published a story, "Snow Blanket" in the January 2009 issue of *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*. She completed her MA in Fiction Writing at Johns Hopkins University last year. She is at work on a novel. Rachel **Chibnik**, English/



Theatre Minor '07, completed an MA in Educational Theatre from NYU in December. She is doing two plays, *With This Ring* and *Five Tellers Dancing in the Rain* in Atlantic Highlands, NJ. In June she will have a performing role in *Men Are Dogs* at the American Theatre of Actors on West 54<sup>th</sup> St. The June 18<sup>th</sup> performance will be discounted for friends and families of the cast and crew. Recent publications by Len **Gougeon**, professor, include "Victorian Culture and the Rise of American Liberalism" in *Nineteenth-Century Prose*, 35 (2) 2008 and "Emerson and the Re-Invention of Democracy: A Lesson for the Twenty-first Century" in *New Morning: Emerson in the Twenty-first Century*, eds. Michael Broderick and Arthur Rothstein (SUNY Press 2008). In January he was one of fifteen invited scholars from across the nation to participate in a three-day colloquium in Indianapolis on "Maimonides and Free Will" sponsored by the Liberty Fund. On the weekend of Lincoln's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday, he delivered a lecture on "In the Heat of War: Lincoln, Emerson and 'The fortune of the Republic'" to a Saturday morning audience of more than 100 people in Weinberg Memorial Library. On May 9, Gougeon will make a presentation on Emerson and Frederick Douglass at a "Live and Learn Workshop" in Carlisle, PA, sponsored by the Cultural and Heritage Program of the Commonwealth of PA. He will address an audience variously engaged in the teaching of American history and culture. In anticipation of her course "Women and Film," Susan **Mendez**, assistant professor, screened



"The Magdalene Sisters" and led a discussion of the film on February 25 in Brennan Hall. She has also been facilitating a Feminist Film Series in Spring '09. On Thursday, April 30, she gave a talk, "This Bridge Called Feminism," at the Women's Center lunch series of talks on the life and work of feminist thinkers. Rebecca **Beal**, professor, presented a paper, "Pandarus' 'Brother': Calkas as Rhetorician" at the 16<sup>th</sup> biennial congress of the New Chaucer Society in Swansea, Wales, in July 2008. John Meredith **Hill**, professor, has a poem, "Hubba-hubba," forthcoming in the *Hopkins Review*. His poem, "Lunch in the World," will appear in *TLS* later this year. The December Players' production of Shaw's *Pygmalion*, directed by guest artist Rosie **Hay**, featured Samantha **Morales**, Theatre/History '11, Michael B. **Flynn**, Theatre '10, and Anthony **Mercado**, History/English & Int'l Studies Minor '09, in principal roles. Designers included Stephanie **O'Brien**, Theatre '09, lighting,

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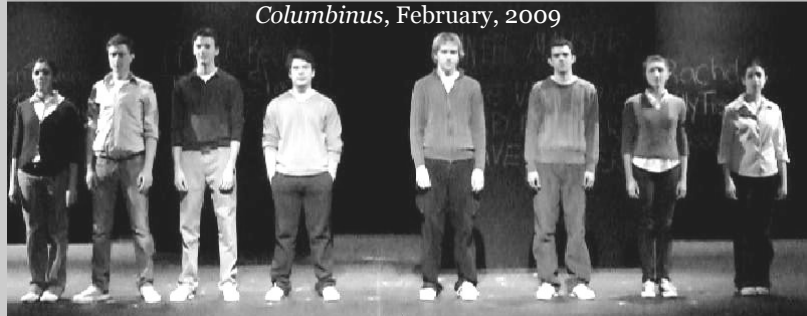
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Lynn Scramuzza

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## CLOSE READING (Continued from page 7)



*Columbinus, February, 2009*



and Caitlin **Burke**, Theatre '10, costumes. Theatre Technical Director Pru **Skinner** designed the set. Crystal **Hernandez**, Theatre '09, was stage manager. The recent February-March production of *Columbinus* was directed by guest artist Bob E. **Gasper** with scenic design by Rich **Larsen**, lighting by Jonathan **Allen**, professional lighting designer, sound by Conway **Rowe**, and costumes by Je **Tellier**. Ron **Spalletta**, English '04 and former editor of *Esprit*, will defend his MFA thesis, directed by noted poet Gail Mazur, at Emerson University in Boston in late April. Denise **Fulbrook**, adjunct professor, has published an article about a class she designed around a semester-long study of Bleak House called "*Curating Bleak House*," in *MLA Approaches to Teaching Literature* (MLA 2009). She also adapted the story of Chicken Licken for *Nozone*, a zine published by Nicholas Blechman, the art director for the New York Times Book Review. The zine is a non-profit venture that gathers influential designers, illustrators, and cartoonists in the art and publishing world to comment upon a common topic. For this issue, the theme was "forecasting"—about environmental as well as socio-political change we can expect. On April 10, Michael **Friedman**, professor, presented a paper at the 2009 Shakespeare Assn. of America conference in Washington, D.C. entitled "*Spinning off A Midsummer Night's Dream in Moby Baby?*" The paper is based on collaborative research done with Stephen **Whittaker**, professor. Friedman has signed a book contract with Manchester University Press to produce a second edition of the volume devoted to *Titus Andronicus* in the Shakespeare in Performance Series. His contribution will focus on English and foreign language films and stage productions of the play during the past twenty years. He has received an Internal Grant from the University to visit theatrical archives in England, Canada, and the U.S. In honor of Women's History Month, the Jane Kopas Women's Center invited Whittaker to lead a discussion of Toni Morrison's new work, *A Mercy*, on March 4 and 11. He has a review, "On the Procrustean Couch," of Gerald Doherty's *Pathologies of Desire: The Vicissitudes of the Self in James Joyce's "A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man"* in the Fall 2008 issue of *James Joyce Literary Supplement*. In June he will present a paper, "The Rage of Caliban: The Shakespearian Demiurge in Joyce's 'The Sisters'" at the North American Joyce Conference in Buffalo. 