



# Works Cited

*Department of English & Theatre*

## Adjunct Professors Enhance, Enrich

Hardworking adjunct professors bring a wide range of teaching and writing experience and interesting personal histories to the classroom and play a significant role in the Department of English & Theatre. Says department chair Jody DeRitter, "Our adjunct professors teach courses in composition every semester and sometimes sections of introductory theatre, literature and applied writing as well. They're creative, dedicated, and effective teachers and writers, well-liked and respected by their students and their colleagues. Among the current corps of adjunct professors are several who have taught in the department for many years. Others have been with us only a few years, but all of them contribute to the department's tradition of providing quality instruction."

Some professors with adjunct status in the department are tasked with additional responsibilities at the University, such as President Scott Pilarz, S.J., Charles Kratz, Dean of Weinberg Library, Brian Conniff, Dean of CAS, Mary Engel, Director of Fellowships Program, Andre Oberle, Director of CTLE, and Mary Burkhart, Writing Center Coordinator. Professors Emeriti Ellen Casey, John McInerney,


and Richard Passon continue to serve the department as adjunct professors. The other current adjuncts are Glenna Dagher, Anne DeMarzio, Denise Fulbrook, Dale Giuliani, Richard Hickey, Patricia Lawhon, Mark Nolan, Eva Polizzi, and P.J. Scanlon.



"I think I hold the record for most years of service to the department as an adjunct," says Prof. Patricia Lawhon. "I began teaching many years ago up at Keystone Jr. College before I had finished my M.A. degree. Here in our department I've taught courses in composition and introductory literature for 32 years." P.J. Scanlon began teaching in 2003. "I did my B.A. in English at Penn State, my M.A. here," says Scanlon. "Len Gougeon directed my thesis and furthered my interest in Thoreau. Like Thoreau, I enjoy reading,

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Congratulations!

Ana **Rojas**, with us for the past two years as a lecturer, is now an assistant professor in the department. As we say "Welcome back!" to Ana we say "Thank you and farewell!" to our department colleague and university president, Father Scott **Pilarz**, S.J., who becomes the new president of Marquette University in Fall 2011. Beth **Sindaco**, faculty specialist, has completed coursework for her MBA at the Kania School of Business and looks forward to participating in graduation ceremonies in May. Bonnie **Markowski**, faculty specialist, has been appointed to the Luzerne County Board of Elections. 

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### Inside this issue:

Notes from the Chair	2
University Reading Series	2
Sigma Tau Delta	2
Caridad Svich	3
CLOSE READING	3
Theatre Production	4



## Notes from the Chair

### A Description of Another Morning

*an updated urban-academical pastoral  
(with apologies to Jonathan Swift)*

Just after sev'n, when few are here to see 't,  
the sun leaps up, then slides down Linden Street.  
Within the hour, groundskeepers, cooks, & clerks  
arrive, & set about their daily work.  
Outdoors, the men disperse with their machines,  
their ear protection, goggles, & caffeine.  
Indoors, the office workers pray to Jesus:  
*Lord, save us from our bosses' bright ideas.*  
(Meanwhile, the dorms their languid silence keep;  
while some folks work for pay, some pay to sleep.)

Some others hope this still-young day to seize—  
professionals, with graduate degrees!  
Librarians, with knowing, wistful looks,  
remember when research required books.  
Administrators strategize again  
to plan to meet, or else to meet to plan.  
At last the teaching faculty appear—  
awake, & (mostly) happy to be here.  
November's tough, though not too tough to stand.  
And students lag with cellphones in their hands.

— Jody DeRitter

## URS Hosts Two Writers in Fall Term

Poet Martha Serpas and poet and essayist Judith Nichols were guests of the University Reading Series in late September and late October respectively. Serpas's visit to campus, ably arranged and coordinated by Teresa Grettano, lecturer, commemorated the fifth anniversary of Katrina's arrival on the Gulf Coast. A native of Louisiana, former colleague of Teresa at the University of Tampa, and currently professor of poetry in the University of Houston's graduate and undergraduate creative writing program, Serpas read poems from her most recent collection, *The Dirty Side of the Storm* (Norton 2006) as well as new work to an appreciative audience in the DeNaples Center on September 22. The next day she met with student poets in Jay Hill's WRTG 216 for a Q & A. "Thanks to Teresa's efforts," Hill said, "our student poets were able to meet informally with Martha for a thought-provoking conversation about contemporary American poetics." That evening in the Moskovitz Theatre Serpas hosted a rough-cut screening of a documentary about the coastal wetlands, "Veins in the Gulf," written, directed, produced and edited by two film professors,

friends of Serpas, who accompanied her to campus. Their presence and the screening of their film was made possible by the University Task Force on Sustainability. During her stay on campus she also met with students in the Theology department.

Responding to an invitation from Joe Kraus, a lifetime friend and former Granville, OH, neighbor, Judith Nichols, adjunct professor of English at Vassar College, gave a mixed genre reading of new work to an appreciative audience in DeNaples on Wednesday, October 20; earlier in the day she met with students in Joe's WRTG 214 (Creative Nonfiction). "Several of our students in the Writing program were able to talk with Judy at dinner before the reading," Kraus reported, "and others enjoyed a post-reading chat with her about a range of subjects. It was a fine afternoon and evening all around." 📖



## Sigma Tau Delta News

On Sunday, November 14, the Mu Omicron chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the national English honorary society, inducted 13 new members: Caitlin **McCarthy**, Danielle **Torres**, Susan **Krogulski**, Matthew **Aubertin**, John **McGill**, Kristen **Fenocchi**, Kira **Wagner**, Roseanna **Cleary**, Bradley **Wierbowski**, Kaytlin **Roholt**, Kimberly **Loyden**, Deirdre **Reedy**, and Joseph **Rizzi**. Earlier in the week, the chapter hosted a reception for first year students currently declared or interested in declaring a major in English or Theatre. 📖



## Adjunct Professors

(Continued from page 1)

writing, and life in the out of doors. Splitting firewood on a crisp autumn afternoon gives me real pleasure," he says. "As a grad student I also studied with Dan Fraustino. Both Len and Dan inspired me, and it's a pleasure to teach in the same department." Prof. Scanlon is at work on an M.S. in Secondary Education.



Teaching high school English was Dale Giuliani's passion for thirty-five years, twenty-five of those years in the Pocono Mountain School District. "I wanted to be an English teacher since I was in elementary school—and that was a while ago," reports Prof. Giuliani. "For many years I taught year-round. Only recently have I known what it is to have a summer away from the classroom. I enjoy teaching more than anything else." Another adjunct with more than thirty years of teaching experience in the public system, Rich Hickey says, "I took my undergrad degree and two grad degrees from the University, so it's a pleasure to teach at my old school. In addition to teaching a variety of high school English classes I directed a number of school plays. That makes the Department of English & Theatre a good fit for me." Glenna Dagher also enjoys teaching in a university setting. "I came up through the ranks, so to speak, as a teacher in elementary, middle, and high schools." Most students at the University are focused on getting a good education, she says. "They actually want to learn. How lovely!"

Mark Nolan, recent addition to the corps of adjunct professors, came to the department last year from a career in marketing communications. "Agency life doesn't allow a writer to revise extensively due to pressures of time and budget, so it's rather pleasant to return to an academic setting. I tell my students it's a privilege to have the time to write and revise, reflect and revise, research and revise." Professor Nolan appreciates the many advances in communication technology available to teachers and students since his days as a student. He has a BA in English from Villanova and an MS from Boston University. "E-mail and Angel," he says, "provide efficient means of communication with students about their work. Upgrades in classroom technology make it easy to share written work for peer review and to access outside resources for useful information in a timely fashion."

Eva Polizzi, with a Master's degree from the University of Pecs, Hungary's oldest university, enjoys teaching, especially when questions of grammar and usage arise. "As is the case with many people who come to English as a second or third language, I was an attentive student of English grammar and usage. That's sometimes not the case with native speakers. Once I was giving my students a quick lesson on gerunds and one of them accused me of making it up, the entire notion!" She likes teaching ESL classes as well as traditional composition classes. "As a non-native speaker, I appreciate the challenge of acquiring of a new language." A former student at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, Polizzi, a weaver, sometimes brings her textile experience to the classroom. "Weaving and writing, there's a connection, I think. You don't have to be a Penelope to fashion a good paragraph, but attention to detail, whatever the endeavor, is always a good thing." 📖

The Department English and Theatre  
& World Languages and Cultures  
with a grant from the Office of Equity and Diversity present:

**Contemporary Latino/a Theater**  
an evening with **Caridad Svich**

Wednesday, Nov. 10  
7pm

Studio Theatre  
McDade Center for Literary  
and Performing Arts

## CLOSE READING

Jennifer Lewis, English/Philosophy '09 and former editor of *Esprit*, is editor-in-chief of *Inside Out*, Thomas Jefferson University's new literary magazine. The first issue appeared in late Spring 2010, and Lewis has a poem, "For Gertrude," in the inaugural issue. She is currently in her second year of med school at TJU. A new book by Len Gougeon, professor, titled *Emerson's Truth, Emerson's Wisdom: Transcendental Advice for Everyday Life*, was published this year by American Transcendental Books. He also has articles in three books published this year: "Transcendental Politics and Economics" in *The Oxford Handbook to Transcendentalism*, (OUP), "Only Justice Satisfies All': Emerson's Militant Transcendentalism" in *Emerson for the Twenty-First Century: Global Perspectives on an American Icon* (UDelaware Press), and "Fortune of the Republic" in *Critical Companion to Ralph Waldo Emerson* (Infobase Publishing). He presented a talk on "Cultural Conflict: Thoreau, Great Britain, and the American Civil War" to the Research Seminar Series at the University in



(Continued on page 4)

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380

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or as an attachment in Word format to:  
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## CLOSE READING (Continued from page 3)



April. This past summer he spent a week working in the Southern History Collection at the library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Ron **Spalletta**, English '04, former editor of *Esprit* and recent MFA in Creative Writing (Poetry) from Emerson, had a poem, "Blank Villanelle," published in *Slate* in August. Katie **Slattery**, English/Criminal Justice/Honors '02, a lawyer with the NYC Department of Education, is a litigator for the Special Education Unit. Caitlin **McGrath**, English '04, is executive assistant in marketing & sales for The Bostonian Group, a consulting firm in Beantown. John Meredith **Hill**, professor, has a poem, "Race Point," in the Fall 2010 issue of *The Gettysburg Review*. His poem, "Mentor," appears in the Winter 2010 issue of *The Hopkins Review*, and a poem titled "Morning in the Studio" appears in *Shoes*, a themed chapbook published by the Butternut Gallery in Montrose, PA. Susan **Mendez**, assistant professor, has an essay titled "The Fire Between Them: Religion and Gentrification in Ernesto Quinonez's *Chango's Fire*" in *CENTRO*, Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies (Spring 2011, Vol. 23, No. 1) at CUNY-Hunter College. Laura **Milunic**, English & History '09, is a second year student in the MLS program at St. John's University in Queens and works as a full-time graduate assistant in the library there. Hank **Willenbrink**, assistant professor, designed sound for choreographer Johanna Meyer's dance piece, "Stroll," at the Southern Theatre in Minneapolis in July. He co-directed "The Appointment," a theatre piece performed at NYU in September. In early October he made a presentation, "Scaring the Jesus into You," for the ORS Friday seminar series. Andrew **Calogero**, Theatre '10, has



been hired as Asst. Stage Manager at The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey. Rachael **Miller**, Theatre '04, recently completed costume designs for *The Diary of Adam and Eve*, *The Lady With All The Answers*, and *Under Milk Wood* at the Electric Theatre Company, in Scranton. Anthony **Mercado**, Theatre Minor '09, is putting the finishing touches on his studies at the Stella Adler Acting Conservatory and Eileen **Patterson** ('09) is doing the same with her studies at AMDA. Congratulations to Erin **Simko Renz**, Theatre Minor, Box Office Mgr, '10, on her recent nuptials and recent hire at North Pocono High School, where she will be directing a Spring '11 production of *You Can't Take It With You* by Kaufmann and Hart. 📖



The cast of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, University Players, Fall 2010 from L-Hank Willenbrink, Colin Holmes, Eric Lutz, Kiley Lotz, Peter Alexander, Camille Reineke, Vanessa Relvas, Matt Smeltzer, Jason Mannion, and Shane Hall