



Jo Ann, at her retirement party, with Professor Emeritus Thanassis Maskaleris (center) and Professor Emerita Pamela Vaughn (right), former Department Chair

## NEW! Supporting MA Students through Teaching Opportunities

We are proud to announce that our Graduate Teaching program for MA students has gotten into full swing. We have had full-time TAs earning credits and taking pedagogy courses every semester for the past three years. This qualifies them to apply to teach undergraduate courses of their own, gaining financial support and invaluable experience through this step forward into literary professionalization.

Department of Comparative & World Literature  
San Francisco State University  
1600 Holloway Ave  
San Francisco, CA 94132  
<http://complit.sfsu.edu>

E: [wclit@sfsu.edu](mailto:wclit@sfsu.edu)  
P: 415-338-2068  
F: 415-338-2664

## Department News

### Better to Have Loved and Lost: Jo Ann's Departure

Jo Ann Perryman, who has been the office manager for the Department of Comparative and World Literature and the Department of Classics since the 1960s, retired in December 2013. She will now be able to devote herself full-time to some of her passions, such as snow-shoeing in the Sierras and hanging out with her granddaughters. The departments will miss her dearly!

### Stepping into Social Media

We are very pleased to announce the creation of our department's [Facebook](#) page. Please visit us there to follow events, read faculty postings on literary topics, discover and share new sources of literary criticism, news, and writing, and of course to keep in touch with past and present CWL affiliates: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Comparative-and-World-Literature-SFSU/437870686295238>

### The Reviews are In

Our graduate program underwent a comprehensive review this year, including scrutiny by two external consultants. The conclusion? That our students are "engaged and enthusiastic," and that our faculty "exceed expectations" in teaching and scholarly production. The report also highlights our commitment to "global engagement," our "strong collegiality," and our general "uniqueness" and "excellence" relative to other similar programs.

### Unnatural Narration: The CWL 2013 Colloquium

On November 20, 2013, Ellen Peel spoke on "Unnatural Narration by Constructed Bodies: Who Sees and Who Speaks with Our Head?" for our department's annual colloquium. The paper explored how constructed bodies sometimes make possible unnatural narration, narration not bound to the conventions of realism. A narrator of David Brin's *Kiln People*, for instance, says: "I saw him lie down with his head--our head--between the tendrils." Missed the talk but curious about unnatural narration? Look for posts coming up on our [Facebook](#) page.

## Student News

### Comparative Literature Students Association Update

The CLSA held a reading, and provided refreshments and advertising for Ellen's thesis talk and for the Annual Comparative and World Literature colloquium that took place last semester. They also hosted an event in honor of Shirin's book release, and will hold an end of semester gathering with the staff and contributors to Portals. The CLSA also had a hand in organizing the "Segundo Coloquio Anual Iberoamericano de Literatura, Política y Arte" held by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

### Comparatists in the Field

**Soumaya Boughanmi**, **Rebekkah Dilts**, **Regina Ponce**, and **David Boubion** all presented at one of the past two ACLA conferences.

**Indigo Eriksen**, currently an Associate Instructor of English at Blue Ridge Community College, recently received a NEH grant to pursue studies of the non-west.

**Doniella Maher** has been putting her SFSU credentials to good use, teaching at Cañada College, Chabot, and City College of San Francisco.

**Christy Rodgers** has been busy working on [What If? a Personal Journal of Radical Possibilities](#) (<http://christyrodgers.wordpress.com/>)

**Giovanna Montenegro** spoke at the two-day event on Medieval and Early Modern Minorities in the Mediterranean held here at San Francisco State University this winter. She finished her PhD in Comparative Literature at UC Davis in December 2013. Giovanna will also be participating in the NEH Seminar "Mapping Nature in the Americas" to be held at the Newberry Library in Chicago this summer.

**David De La Rocha** has recently presented at a conference on Nicaraguan poetry, Radical Reading Practices, A Symposium, at UC-Santa Cruz.

**Nili Yosha** finished a 3-year project creating films and radio programming with homeless youth in Portland, OR. She is now working on a documentary feature.

**Will Arighi** organized a panel on World Literature at the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association conference in San Diego, 2013, and he is currently working on a dissertation comparing late Spanish empire fiction from Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

### Onward in Comparative Literature

Some of our current MA students took an impressive step forward into (even) higher education this year with a 100% acceptance rate: six out of six students applying gained admittance into strong Ph.D. programs, most with multiple offers and all with financial support! Congratulations to **Nikita Allgire** (University of Southern California, Slavic), **Soumaya Boughanmi** (University of Kent, Early Modern Studies), **Rebekkah Dilts** (UC-Santa Cruz, Literature), **Chris Perry** (University of Oregon, Comparative Literature), **David de la Rocha** (as of publication, still deciding between the University of Washington-Seattle, Comparative Literature, or UC-Irvine, Spanish), and **Magnús Snaebjornsson** (UC-Davis, Comparative Literature)!

Our BA alumni have been going on to graduate programs in higher education as well, including the following: congratulations to **Laura Fennel** (Lund University, Sweden, MA in Literature, Culture, Media), **Annemarie Dompe** (University of Illinois, Library Information Science), and **Katie Lally** (UC-Santa Cruz, Literature Ph.D.)!

## Fall 2014 Class Offerings

- CWL 210, Reading Beyond Boundaries: Graduate Teaching Assistant
- CWL 230, World Literature: Dane Johnson, Ellen Peel, Michael Hoyer
- CWL 250, Fables and Tales: Mark Calkins
- CWL.260, Myths of the World: Mark Calkins
- CWL 270, Fantasy and Fiction: Chris Weinberger
- CWL 400, Approaches to Comparative Lit: Dane Johnson
- CWL 420, Psychoanalytic Approaches: Mark Calkins
- CWL 424, Multicultural Middle Ages: Shirin Khanmohamadi
- CWL 430, Heroic Tales of the Mediterranean: Kitty Millet
- CWL 432, Comparative Japanese Fiction: Chris Weinberger
- CWL 437, Holocaust and Literature: Kitty Millet
- CWL 800, Intro to Grad Studies in Comp Lit: Dane Johnson
- CWL 825, Advanced Study in Comp Lit: Shirin Khanmohamadi

For course descriptions, please visit <http://www.sfsu.edu/~bulletin/courses/cwl.htm>

## Faculty News

### Mark Calkins

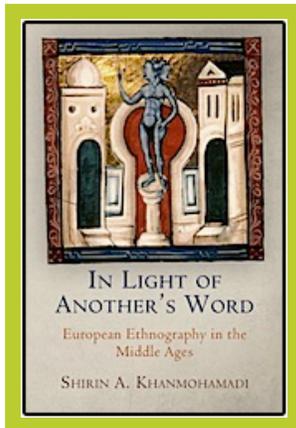
Mark recently published an article on Marguerite Duras in *(a) the journal of culture and the unconscious*, and he continues to run his Proust discussion group at the Mechanic's Library in San Francisco.

### Dane Johnson

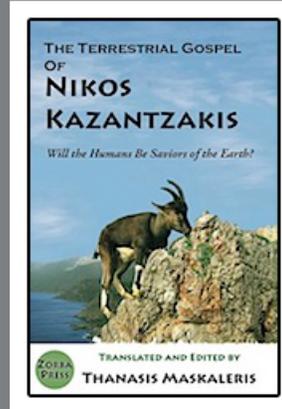
Dane's last published piece was a perspective on "Theoretical Cross-Pollination in Latin America" entitled "Monstrous Mapping: A/Typical American Journey through the Re-mapping of the Americas" (<http://brujula.ucdavis.edu/235/>). More recently, he had the following two paper proposals accepted for the 2013 International Comparative Literature Association Congress: "INCOMPARABLE, COMPARATIVE FAULKNER, or *Absalom, Absalom!* through the regional, national, universal, transnational, international, transcultural, crosscultural, post/colonial, global prism" and "Selling 'the Use of the Useless': Listening to the '99%' Read World Literature in San Francisco."

### Shirin Khanmohamadi

Shirin's study of premodern ethnographic poetics, [\*In Light of Another's Word: European Ethnography in the Middle Ages\*](#) was recently published in The University of Pennsylvania Press' Middle Ages Series (2013). While on research leave in Spring 2014, she worked on a new project, the place of Arabic culture in medieval European literary expressions of 'translatio imperii et studii', the transfer of empire and learning from east to west.



### Thanassis Maskaleris



Thanassis, professor emeritus of Comparative and World Literature and founding director of SF State's Modern Greek Studies Program, maintains an active research life in retirement. He recently published *The Terrestrial Gospel of Nikos Kazantzakis: Will the Humans Be Saviors of the Earth?*, a new

collection of essays and excerpts focused on the nature-centered writings of the Greek poet, put out by Zorba Press in 2011.

### Ellen Peel

On March 27, Ellen presented "Frankenggenre: Narratives of the Constructed Body" at the annual conference of the International Society for the Study of Narrative, being held at MIT. The paper claims that narratives involving bodies such as robots, cyborgs, people with eating disorders, and figures imagined to be women--although seeming disparate--in fact have similarities of form and theme that unite them in a burgeoning genre.

### Chris Weinberger

Chris spent the fall of 2013 working on the manuscript for his book *Ethics of Metafiction*. He argues for attention to the ethical value of formal experimentation in "peripheral" traditions of the novel. His recent publication, "Critical Desire and the Novel: Ethics of Self-Consciousness in Cervantes and Nabokov" (*Narrative*, Fall 2012), lays some theoretical groundwork for this project. Another chapter of the book, which turns to modern (1868-1945) Japanese novels to find points of reconciliation among cognitive and affective theories of novel alterity, is forthcoming in *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique* in 2015.

## Alumni News

Please let us know how you are doing! We would love to include your news in our next newsletter. Submit your news to [wclit@sfsu.edu](mailto:wclit@sfsu.edu). Also, please let us know how we should contact you in the future (email, snail mail, etc.).

## Donate to the Department

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the Department of Comparative and World Literature. Tuition and fees have been climbing precipitously in recent years. We would be especially grateful for donations to support scholarships for graduate students and fellowships for students who need to pursue language study. You can mail a check, payable to the San Francisco State University Corporation, and listing the Comparative & World Literature Fund on the notation line, to:

Andrea Rouah, University Development  
1600 Holloway Ave, ADM 153  
San Francisco, CA 94132

Or you can donate online at <https://www.applyweb.com/public/contribute?s=sfuhuman>

Department of Comparative &  
World Literature  
San Francisco State University  
HUM 377  
1600 Holloway Ave  
San Francisco, CA 94132