Notes from the Chair

I’ve been at Tufts long enough to have taught students over five decades, from a dimly remembered time before computers, voice mail, e-mail, smart phones, and even I think photocopiers (I certainly remember using a mimeograph machine). I bought my first computer, a KayPro, in 1984; unlatched, it looked like a sewing machine and was about as portable, and as I remember, I had to start a new file every five or six pages or so, using mail merge on the Word Star program, or risk losing everything I’d written.

Twenty years later, I could save a whole book manuscript as a single file on my Dell desktop and MacBook Pro—which of course made indexing much, much easier; I could also cut and paste text over a range of several hundred pages.

Computers aren’t the only thing that’s new; Tufts itself has obviously gone through major changes since the 1970s. The constant in my time here, though, has been the liveliness and intelligence of Tufts English majors: I’ve taught many great Chaucer courses, but one of the top two or three remains English 110 in the spring of 1977.

Some of you have gone on to Ph.D. or MFA programs. Most have chosen careers in law, business, nonprofits, or government. We hope all of you share the feelings of our most recent gradu-

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New Faculty Appointments

The English Department is very excited to welcome two new faculty members this fall: Jess Keiser and Natalie Shapero.
New faculty continued from page 1

Jess Keiser  A native of Pennsylvania, and a former undergraduate English major at Tufts, Jess Keiser returns to the department after receiving his Ph.D. from Cornell University. His research concentrates on seventeenth- and eighteenth-century literature, and in particular the weird, wild satires of the period and their relationship to science. He is currently completing a book manuscript entitled Nervous Fictions, which focuses on figurative language in presumably literal accounts of the brain in the work of Milton, Cavendish, Swift, and Sterne. At Tufts, he'll be teaching classes about the early novel, satire, madness, philosophy and literature, and fictions of the mind.

Natalie Shapero is thrilled to join the faculty at Tufts. She comes to Tufts from Kenyon College, where she taught creative writing workshops while completing a writing fellowship. Natalie is the author of one collection of poetry, No Object; she is also a book critic and an Editor-at-Large of the Kenyon Review. Natalie's interests include poetry and poetics, as well as the intersections between law and humanities. Natalie enjoys teaching both workshops and literature courses, and she looks forward to bringing a diverse array of poets to campus for readings and discussions.

Notes From the Interim Chair continued from page 1

ates, who in an exit survey “praised the close relationship between the training they received in the analysis of literature (including close reading and formal analysis, literary history, and theory) and the development of their own writing skills.” One student “felt that the major prepared her well for ‘postgraduate studies in law, which will call for the ability to closely analyze a text, but also the ability to clearly communicate original ideas.’ Other identified strengths included a symbiotic relationship between creative writing and literature courses, a ‘smart and analytical’ but modest and supportive cohort, and inspiring faculty.”

That faculty, we’re delighted to announce, has two new members: Jess Keiser, himself a Tufts English major (2006), who comes to us as an Assistant Professor with a Ph.D. from Cornell in eighteenth-century British literature; and Natalie Shapero, Professor of the Practice in Poetry, who has a law degree from the University of Chicago along with her training as a poet at Johns Hopkins and Ohio State. We hope you’ll come back for a visit, to meet them and see the rest of us. If that’s not possible, please do send us an e-mail message for our next newsletter, so that (quoting Joe Litvak from the previous “Alumni Notes”) “your former teachers and classmates can find out what you’ve been doing, thinking, reading, or watching.” Our best to you all.
Dale Peterson has a new book out this fall: "Where Have All the Animals Gone?" (Bauhan Publishing, 2015)

Dale's 19th published book, this is the narrative of his travels across Africa and into Southeast Asia in search of endangered animals—particularly apes, elephants, and giraffes.

John Fyler taught at the Bread Loaf School of English this past summer (this year in Oxford). Professor Fyler's essay “Language Barriers” appeared in the July issue of Studies in Philology.

Nan Levinson authored War is Not a Game: The New Antiwar Soldiers and the Movement They Built (Rutgers University Press, 2014).

War Is Not a Game gives readers an uncensored, grunt’s-eye view of the occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan, while conveying the equally dramatic struggles that soldiers face upon returning home.

Grace Talusan was a 2015 Fulbright scholar to the Philippines in support of writing projects. While in Manila, she researched material for many stories, both fiction and nonfiction. She wrote every day beside fellow Tufts alum/English major Joanne Diaz (J’94), a poet and scholar, who accompanied her husband, Jason Reblando, on his Fulbright. She has published four pieces and has two essays forthcoming. To read them, visit:
http://muckrack.com/gracet09/portfolio

A feature about Grace appeared in the Manila Times: http://bit.ly/1T9Wu41 with photos from her husband, Alonso Nichols, Assistant Director of Photography at Tufts. His work can be found here:
http://alonsonichols.photoshelter.com/#!/index

David Valdes Greenwood: In the past year, my play The Mermaid Hour was presented as a staged reading at Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York; my play Raggedy And was a finalist for the ATHE Excellence in Playwriting Award and the Giant Cherries International Playwriting Award; and my play Bully Dance was nominated as Best New Play in the Boston IRNE theatre awards. This fall and winter, my play Vow Keepers will have a reading with Fresh Ink Theatre in Boston and Raggedy And will have a reading in London.

I’m still writing for the Huffington Post, with featured posts including a widely linked post on the same-sex marriage ruling. I appeared on the Real Simple podcast to talk about family travel. And I recently finished a Middle Grade novel, Into the Drift, which is in submission.
More Faculty News, Publications and Current Work

Working on *Sharing the Earth* was both exciting and challenging because it brought together areas of interest each of us had long been involved in. One of us had a lot of expertise in world literatures and the other in environmental justice issues. So it allowed each of us to develop areas that were new. Collaborating was also fun. There was a lot of give and take but none of it contentious. Putting the book together made us realize that we don’t do nearly enough collaborative work in the humanities.

The idea for the anthology came from teaching our course “Environmental Justice and World Literature,” and seeing that there was no anthology out there that could be used in courses such as ours. But the book is also designed for the general public. It gives an excellent introduction to and overview of creative environmental justice literature globally—fiction, poetry, essays, testimonials, manifestos, and collective narratives. We hope it reaches a broad audience both inside and outside the classroom!

![Sharing the Earth book cover](image1)

Modhumita Roy, Associate Professor, and Elizabeth Ammons, Harriet H. Fay Professor of Literature and their work, *Sharing the Earth: An International Environmental Justice Reader*, University of Georgia Press, 2015

What are YOU doing now?

Have you written a book? Did you pursue another degree? Did you major in English then become a Doctor? Airplane pilot? Scuba instructor? Professional musician?

We want to hear about it!

Send us an e-mail at English@tufts.edu and tell us what you’re doing now!
Read: the Tufts English department faculty

**Jonathan Strong, Lecturer**
The Judge’s House (Quale Press, 2015);

**Lisa Lowe, Professor**
The Intimacies of Four Continents (Duke University 2015)

**Natalie Shapero, Professor of the Practice**
No Object (Saturnalia Books, 2013)

**Shahriar Mandanipour, Censoring an Iranian Love Story: A Novel**
(Vintage, 2009)

Alan Badiou and **Joseph Litvak, Professor**
Ahmed the Philosopher: 34 Short Plays for Children & Everyone Else
(Columbia University Press, 2014)

**Joe Hurka, Lecturer**
Before: A Novel (Thomas Dunne Books, 2014)

**Rebecca Kaiser Gibson, Lecturer**
Opinel: Poems (Bauhan, 2015)
Tufts Graduate Student Degree Awards and Job Placement, Spring 2014—Present

The past 18 months have been full of extraordinary achievement for our graduate students. With dissertations spanning six centuries, touching upon various topics ranging from religious poetry to phenomenology to scientific writings, Tufts students have contributed to a rich and diverse academic community. The job market for English students has been fiercely competitive for many years, but at Tufts we are pleased that our graduate students are finding success. Under the guidance of the Job Placement Director, Modhumita Roy, graduate students were hired for academic positions at institutions across the United States.

The following graduate students have recently defended their dissertations:

**Jackie O’Dell** (March ‘14) “Network Anxieties: Fantasies of Literary Autonomy in Contemporary Literary Culture”

**Cheryl Allison** (April ‘14) “Creatures of Habit”

**Jenny Howe** (April ‘14) “Monstrous Femininity and the Female Body in Medieval Chivalric Romance”

**Ruth Mareike Stanitzke** (April ‘14) “Modernism Short-Circuiting: Reading Against Aesthetic Integrity”

**Jacob Crane** (April ‘14) “Hazardous Crossings: The Transatlantic Figure in American Print, 1784 - 1855”

**Jennifer Deren** (January ‘15) “Unstable Sympathies in the 19th-Century British Novel, 1814-1853”

**Katie Sagal** (April ‘15) “Experimental Women: Reclaiming Women’s Scientific Work in the Long Eighteenth Century”

**Gregory Schnitzspahn** (April ‘15) “Disordered Appetites: Female Flesh in the Works of Thomas Middleton”

**Molly Hildebrand** (March ‘15) “Mind the Gap: The Visual Arts, the Reader-As-Viewer, and Identity Critique in Early 20th-Century American Women’s Writing”

**Terence DeToy** (May ‘15) “It’s All in the Family—Metamodernism and the Contemporary (Anglo) ‘American’ Novel”


**Gila Ashtor** (April ‘15) “Textual Love: Theorizing a Relational Phenomenology”

**Claudia Stumpf** (April ‘15) “The Road to Excess: Writing Trauma in Sentimental and Gothic Texts, 1745-1810”

The following graduate students have recently secured job placement:

**Sara Hasselbach** (G ‘15) Post-Doctoral Fellow of English, University of California, San Diego

**Kristen Bennett** (G ‘13) Teaching Fellowship in early modern literature, Visiting Assistant Professor, Stonehill College

**Laurel Virginia Hankins** (G ‘11) Assistant Professor of Early American and Transatlantic Literature, University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth

**Lauren Byler** (G ‘11) Assistant Professor of Victorian Literature & Culture at California State University, Northridge

**Ashley Taylor Shelden** (G ‘09) Assistant Professor at Kennesaw State University

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