NICHOLAS DAMES TO BE NEW DEPARTMENT CHAIR

This spring Executive Vice President Nicholas Dirks, following the unanimous recommendation of the faculty of English and Comparative Literature, named Professor Nicholas Dames, Theodore Kahan Professor in the Humanities, as the next department chair. He follows Dean E. Howard, George Delacorte Professor in the Humanities, who finishes her term on June 30.

A specialist in the nineteenth-century novel, Dames has interests in novel theory, the history of reading, and the aesthetics of prose fiction from the eighteenth century to the present. He is author of Amnesiac Selves: Nostalgia, Forgetting, and British Fiction, 1810-1870, which was awarded the Sonya Rudikoff Prize by the Northeast Victorian Studies Association, and of The Physiology of the Novel: Reading, Neural Science, and the Forms of Victorian Fiction. A famed teacher, Professor Dames was awarded Columbia's Presidential Teaching Award in 2005, and in 2008 he received a Gerry Lenfest Distinguished Faculty Award. His current book is a history of the chapter, from ancient prose fiction and manuscript Bibles to the modern novel.

Of his new appointment, Professor Dames says: “I’m thrilled to become chair at this time in the department’s history. We have managed, in strained economic times, to expand and strengthen our faculty; we’ve become committed to open, productive intellectual debate about important decisions, and we are, by every available metric, one of the country’s top literature departments.”

“There is work to be done in the next few years, of course. I anticipate our looking hard at how we structure our undergraduate major and course offerings and thinking about what we want literary study to be at this point in time. We have ambitious plans to improve our communications efforts and our

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MARIANNE HIRSCH TO HEAD MLA

The Department of English and Comparative Literature is honored to announce that one of its members, Professor Marianne Hirsch, has been elected to lead the Modern Language Association of America, the flagship professional organization for those who teach English, European, and other modern literatures from around the world. Elected by the membership as Second Vice President in 2011, Hirsch becomes First Vice President in January of 2012 and President in January of 2013. She and the other members of the Executive Council have fiduciary and administrative responsibility for the Association. Of her new position Professor Hirsch says: “As Vice President and President of the MLA of America I look forward to working with my colleagues in language and literature to protect and foster the critical capacities of the humanities in local and global contexts. At this moment of retrenchment and attack, when language departments are being cut and budgets trimmed, professional organizations like the MLA can serve as political advocates and as catalysts mobilizing support for the humanities as the cornerstone of a liberal arts education.” Previously Professor Hirsch had served on the Executive Council of the MLA (1992-95) and as editor of "PMLA", the scholarly journal of the Association (2003-06).


NOTED IRISH WRITER COLM TOIBIN JOINS THE DEPARTMENT

Colm Toibin, the Prize-winning novelist, short story writer, essayist, and critic, will join the Department of English and Comparative Literature as a Mellon Professor in the Humanities in January of 2012. He will teach two courses each spring for the indefinite future. In 2012 these will be an undergraduate class in Irish Prose and a graduate seminar on The Hidden Hero and the Secret Self: The Male Protagonist and Images of Masculinity in Fiction. Toibin will strengthen the department’s offerings in fields as diverse as Irish literature, comparative modern fiction, and the essay.

Toibin is acclaimed on both sides of the Atlantic for his depictions of the processes and perils of artistic creativity and the relationship between creativity and national and sexual identities. His deep understanding of these issues is most tellingly rendered in his 2004 novel, The Master, a psychological study of Henry James’s later years, and, in particular, the ways in which James managed artistically to transform traumatic encounters with nation and sexuality—the Civil War, the trials of Oscar Wilde, his own disastrous attempt to become a playwright—into an aesthetic of impersonality. The Master, which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize, was preceded by a critical study, Love in a Dark Time: Gay Lives from Wilde to Almodovar (2002), and has been followed by All a Novelist Needs: Colm Toibin on Henry James (2010). His rapidly expanding body of work includes at least six novels, three collections of short stories,

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COMMENTS

Any questions or comments should be addressed (with the subject heading “NEWSLETTER”) to Nicholas Dames, incoming Chair of English & Comparative Literature, at nd122@columbia.edu or to Iris Zhang, Newsletter Coordinator, at ibz2101@columbia.edu.
JUDITH BUTLER NAMED VISITING MELLON PROFESSOR

Judith Butler, the noted critic, philosopher, and feminist theorist, will visit the Department of English and Comparative Literature in spring of 2012 and spring of 2013 as the Wun Tsun Tam Mellon Visiting Professor in the Humanities. She will teach courses in Philosophical Fiction, Comparative Modern Literature, and Critical Theory, including Feminist Theory. Professor Butler is currently the Maxine Elliot Professor in the Department of Rhetoric and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley. An active university citizen, at Berkeley she has been Co-Director of the Critical Theory Program; Chair of the Department of Rhetoric; and Chair of Women’s Studies. She is also world-famous for her critical and philosophical studies which range from her often-cited early book, Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity, published in 1990 and now translated into at least twenty-five languages including Chinese, Dutch, and Turkish, to her recent study, Frames of War: When is Life Grievable? She has published ten books and countless articles and essays and has been honored by fellowships and prizes from institutions around the world. Professor Butler was trained in Philosophy at Yale University, but her impact has been felt in many disciplinary sites including law, literature, politics, and gender and sexuality studies. She has consistently taken up some of the most vexed and pressing issues facing the humanities and social sciences including the performativity of gender, hate speech and censorship, academic freedom and new challenges to it, the medical treatment of intersex persons, torture and state violence, how one develops an ethics that starts from and acknowledges the limits of the subject’s self-knowledge, and the role of social frames, including those provided by the media and by photography, in determining whose lives are recognized as worthy to be grieved.

The recipient of a three-year Andrew Mellon Distinguished Achievement Award in 2009, Butler is currently working on two collaborative research projects: “Why War?” and “Translating Feminisms.” Colleagues at Columbia look forward to joining this work. English Department member Mari-anne Hirsch, currently Director of Columbia’s new Center for the Critical Analysis of Social Difference, says that she looks forward to having Butler participate in the Center’s working groups as well as in the intellectual life of the English Department. “To the department she brings her groundbreaking work in literary theory. Books like Giving an Account of Oneself, Antigone’s Claim, Precarious Life, and Frames of War all resonate greatly with the interests of faculty and students alike—interests in literature and philosophy, ethics, psychoanalysis, history.”

Of the appointment, current chair Jean E. Howard says: “Judith Butler is a world-class intellectual and a deeply ethical person. We are all excited that she will be part of our community during the next few years. Her work is used by many of our students, and she will be a wonderful departmental interlocutor.” At the end of her two years as a Visiting Professor, Butler will have the option of remaining permanently at Columbia as a full-time faculty member.

DEPARTMENT INVOLVED IN BOOMING FIELD OF NARRATIVE MEDICINE

Now in its fifteenth year, the Narrative Medicine program at Columbia University has grown from a one-woman project into a program with an extensive array of offerings including a Masters of Science degree through the School of Continuing Education. The founder and director, Rita Charon, started to explore the inter disciplinary aspects of medicine and literature while studying for a Ph.D. with the Columbia English Department. She had already completed a degree from Harvard Medical School. While at Columbia, she met Professor Maura Spiegel, Associate Professor of English at Columbia University and Barnard College, and together they co-edited the Journal of Literature and Medicine, marking the beginning stages of an exploration of the intersection between these two fields.

Professor Charon experimented with different ways to bring literature into the medical arena. She organized reading groups and also asked students and practitioners to keep “parallel charts.” The standard medical chart contained patient information, but the parallel chart was a place for practitioners’ information—their thoughts, responses, and feelings.

The program formally kicked off in 2000 when it received a grant from the National Endowment for Humanities, which was used to organize a workshop to bring people together to talk about the relationship of literature, medicine, and narrative. The interest the conference garnered was overwhelming. Attendees came from a diverse range of backgrounds, both intellectually and geographically, and the success of the conference led others to experiment with teaching literature in a medical environment and to use the analysis of narrative to help doctors communicate more deeply with their patients and to build trust. With so much interest in evidence, the need for a formal program became obvious to ensure that proper training practices were followed.

The field of narrative medicine produces a multi-tiered impact on the medical community, the practice of medicine, and more broadly on the level of healthcare provided. First, the program provides help and support for the extreme stress that caregivers experience everyday. As part of the program, graduate students fulfill a practicum where they run four to six workshops supervised by faculty at different sites, including hospitals, prisons, pre-med classes, and post-baccalaureate pre-med classes. Professor Spiegel also runs writing workshops for the staff of the NYU Bellevue Program for Survivors of Torture.

At another level, their work with practitioners helps medical providers to develop the listening skills for more in-depth medical care. Professor Spiegel says, “It is important to develop listening skills, to be present and mindful, to recognize the kind of story and what’s missing. One of the problems [that we address] is when patients are non-compliant with medications. How to change that dynamic so the patient feels connected to the process is, in our view, really impacted by how physicians interact with patients.”

Founder and director Professor Rita Charon points out, “The better I [as a doctor] am at listening, the better I am at my clinical practice. What does clinical practice involve? What am I doing to become a receiver for the patient? If it’s a sick person...” (continues on page 6)
CRAWFORD AND ADAMS RECEIVE COVETED LENFEST DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARDS

In 2005 Columbia trustee Gerry Lenfest established the Lenfest Distinguished Faculty Awards to "honor exceptional teaching in the Arts and Sciences, recognizing faculty who demonstrate unusual merit across a range of professional activities including scholarship, university citizenship, and professional involvement. The awards place a primary emphasis on the instruction and mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students." Since these awards were created, faculty in the Department of English and Comparative Literature have won an exceptional number of them, testimony to the department's longstanding commitment to excellence in both teaching and scholarship. Past departmental winners include Jenny Davidson, Farah Griffin, Robert O'Meally, Nicholas Dames, Sharon Marcus, and Brent Edwards.

In 2009-10 and then again in 2010-11, two more faculty members, Professor Julie Crawford and Professor Rachel Adams, joined the number of those honored by this prestigious award which comes with a stipend of $25,000 for each of three successive years. Both Crawford and Adams are noted young scholars and exceptional teachers. Crawford works in early modern English literature, and her first book, Marvelous Protestantism: Monstrous Births in Post-Reformation England, learnedly examines the ways in which early modern popular culture participated in religious debates in the decades following the Reformation. Focusing in part on stories dealing with monstrous births such as headless children or infants born with a ruff of skin around their necks, Crawford argues that Protestant preachers and printers used such popular narratives and images to warn their readers and listeners against particular sins. In doing so, they contrived their own critique of Catholic culture for its investment in images, icons, and the material signs of God's intentions and unconsciously acknowledged that the break between pre- and post-Reformation culture was less absolute than many have imagined.

Crawford's new book, Women and the Politics of Literary Production in Early Modern England, which will be completed this summer, demonstrates Crawford's interest in the centrality of women as cultural actors and agents. Her book situates women writers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries firmly inside political and social networks from which it was once assumed they had been excluded. Crawford argues that coterie culture was crucial to the development of Protestant politics and alliance in early modern England, whether one is talking about the extended network around the Sidney family or the radical Protestant coterie surrounding the Hoby family in Recusant-dominated Lancashire. In these coteries, she shows, women were valued participants. They were not only writers, but patrons, readers, commentators, and interlocutors with powerful public figures; and they helped to shape the genres in which Protestant polemic was developed and the arguments that it advanced. The study of women's writing in early modern England has sometimes

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ACTIVITIES

After Hours with Professor James Shapiro

Filling the lecture room to maximum capacity, the popular After Hours talk hosted by the
Columbia Journal of Literary Criticism drew a large audience, fans both of Shakespeare and of Pro-
Fessor James Shapiro. Larry Miller Professor of English and author of five award-winning books, Professor Shapiro spoke about his latest one, Contested Will: Who Wrote Shakespeare? (2010). As Professor Shapiro explains, the phenomenon of reading Shakespeare as autobiographical work is a relatively modern occurrence that did not exist in the playwright's life. That said, there has been (and continues to be) much written on the question of who actually wrote the plays commonly attributed to Shakespeare. Many theories have been advanced as to other possible authorship candidates—Francis Bacon and Edward de Vere among others.

Professor Shapiro's interest in popular appropriations of Shakespeare brings his work into a domain beyond the traditional boundaries of academic scholarship. He is currently working with Hollywood director Roland Emmerich on the upcoming Shakespeare movie, "Anonymous," and in London, he is coaching the Royal Shakespeare Company as a sort of scholar-on-call. "It is very exciting," he says about his career and jokes, "in the great game of rock-paper-scissors, movies beat books," referring to the

event, featured speakers are invited to share thoughts on their field and career. In this vein, Professor Shapiro reflected on his career in academia and observed, half tongue-in-cheek, "Your first book is really your PhD. When you get to my age, you realize that your best work happens from 40 to 50; after that, you're really coasting on reputation. So I leave it to you guys."


The CILC in its Ninth Year

Now in its ninth year, the Columbia Journal of Literary Criticism (CILC) has brought a number of renowned intellectuals to campus, including Stanley Fish, Louis Menand, Slavoj Žižek, Mary Beard, and Tony Grafton. In addition to organizing lectures, the Journal also conducts in-depth interviews covering a broad range of topics. Past interviewees include Elaine Scarry, Caroline Levine, and Franco Moretti. These events are in addition to the popular After Hours discussion series, typically held

(continues on page 5)
THE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES TWO NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

Matthew Hart joined the Department this year after five years of teaching at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he was jointly appointed in the English Department and the Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory. He received his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania and specializes in 20th- and 21st-century Anglophone culture, with an emphasis on modernist poetry, contemporary British fiction, political theory, and the visual arts.

His first book, *Nations of Nothing But Poetry: Modernism, Transnationalism, and Synthetic Vernacular Writing*, examines the works of twentieth-century British, Caribbean, and American poets and presents a new theory of the “synthetic vernacular,” which reinterprets modernist writing via the tension between local and transnational forms of expression and belonging. For example, Hart observes that the poetry of Hugh MacDiarmid, although comprised of unquestionably Scottish words, combines them in a way that no Scot naturally would. Thus, while this amalgamation possesses an element of universality, crossing borders of time and geographic locality, Hart argues that MacDiarmid also reaffirms Scottish culture within an English-dominated British state. His poetry is thus “synthetic” on many levels—in that it is not typical Scottish language, rather it was created or man-made, in how it synthesizes or combines words, and finally in how its final product belies a world that has not reconciled the tension between the local and the transnational.

Professor Hart’s current research focuses on extraterritoriality in an increasingly globalized world. His forthcoming book will study recent British literature, art, and political discourse. This work is a departure from his first book, but will still center on the ways in which the nation-state continues to survive, if not thrive, in a transnational environment. One example of this, Professor Hart points out, can be found in the British Memorial Garden in lower Manhattan. It is in fact the only September 11th memorial dedicated solely to the losses of a particular nationality. Furthermore, the visual detail of the memorial, tracing the outline of the British Isles, is symbolic of stamping or marking a piece of American soil with the image of another nation.

Professor Hart currently teaches an undergraduate lecture titled “Late Modernism,” which involves readings from the “after-life” of Modernism in the early 20th century, and the introductory Core requirement, “Masterpieces of Western Literature and Philosophy,” popularly known as “Lit Hum,” which he enjoys and finds a refreshing change of pace from his research. He is also preparing to teach a graduate seminar titled “Extraterritorial Transnational Culture and the Politics of the State,” which will examine the representation of the state in contemporary fiction, the design of public space, fine arts, works of architecture, and photography, including Melanie Friend’s images of immigration detention facilities in England. Professor Hart explains, “Her photographs intentionally don’t show people in them, both reflecting and pointing out the movement of these detainees, who are neither here nor there, but really sort of in limbo. They travel to this country [England], and they often haven’t been convicted of a crime, but are still detained and held in this facility. So this space really becomes a legal and cultural grey area.”

Cristobal Silva, who is the newest addition to the Department, holds his Ph.D. from New York University and is a key member of the department’s early American literature faculty. Silva completed his undergraduate studies at the University of California-Berkeley, where he was a double major in English and Mathematics. His quantitative background shaped his interest in science and medicine.

Professor Silva specializes in colonial and eighteenth-century American literature and culture, transatlantic literature, narrative, and medicine. His forthcoming book, *Miraculous Plagues: An Epidemiology of New England Narrative, 1616-1721*, studies early colonial-era medical writing, sermons, novels, and poems that consider the basic question of why some people get sick while others do not.

Professor Silva explains his approach to epidemiology as “not just as a field of medical science and statistics but as a story about diseases—how they appear and disappear... Epidemiology is a relatively modern medical science that really arose in the late 19th and early 20th century—Louis Pasteur was integral. Today, theology and medicine are separate fields. But early writing blended what are really disparate fields.” Professor Silva’s work crosses borders in many ways and sits at the intersection of scientific and social spheres. “I look at quarantining and protecting borders in medical terms and social terms. The intersection of science and society is where literary criticism comes in,” he says.

Professor Silva is currently at work on his next book, *Republic of Medicine: Epidemiology and the Atlantic Slave Trade*, which (continues on page 5)

PROFESSOR PAUL STROHM RETIRES

Paul Strohm retired from the Department of English and Comparative Literature at the end of the academic year 2009-10. Paul came to Columbia in 2003 from the University of Oxford, where he was the J.R.R. Tolkien Professor of English Language and Literature. Best known for his wide-ranging textual and cultural analyses of medieval and early modern England, Paul was deeply appreciated as well for his contributions to faculty governance, his support for the Writing Program, and his teaching in all levels of the curriculum from Literature Humanities to graduate seminars on topics such as Court Culture, Tudor Drama, and Anger Speech.

Paul’s first book, *Social Chaucer* (1989), conjoined the study of theory, history, and literature to envision in newly historicized terms how Chaucer, his works, and his times were inseparably commingled. Paul went on to publish several more books on the ways in which writings of all kinds speak to their times, not just reflecting on historical conditions but constituting and shaping them. His most recent book, *Politique: Languages of Statecraft between Chaucer and Shakespeare* (2005) originated as the Conway Lectures in Medieval Studies at the University of Notre Dame.

Although retiring from regular teaching, Paul continues as Professor Emeritus at Columbia University as well as Senior Research Fellow of St. Anne’s College, Oxford and Discretionary Member of the Oxford Faculty of Language and Literature. With several publications in press or promised, Paul has an eventful transatlantic retirement in view. The Department wishes him the very best and hopes to see much of him in the future.
ENGLISH STAFF MEMBER DONATES FAMILY PAPERS TO COLUMBIA LIBRARY

The Rare Book & Manuscript Library is delighted to announce that the papers of noted American composer Ulisses S. Kay (1917-1995) are being processed this summer through the Library's graduate student internship program. Kay, who studied with Otto Luening at Columbia, was a prolific and important composer of contemporary symphonic, chamber, and choral music. He also wrote five operas, the most substantial and last of which, Jubilee (1976) and Frederick Douglass (1991), were based on themes from African-American history.

Highlights of the collection include a large number of Kay's scores in manuscript, a substantial collection of press cuttings relating to performances of Kay's works and those of his colleagues, diaries from his student years, and notes for speeches on numerous topics. His correspondence includes letters from William Grant Still and from his wife Barbara Kay during her periods of imprisonment on death row in the notorious Parchman Prison as a Freedom Rider Civil Rights activist.

The Library is very grateful to Virginia Kay and her family for donating these important papers and scores to the Columbia University Libraries. Virginia is pictured here presenting flowers to the noted Russian composer, Dimitri Shostakovich on his visit to the USA in 1959, following her father's visit to the USSR. The picture was published in the Amsterdam News and the New York Times. Stay tuned for further announcements of an exhibition and concerts from the collection to come.

THE CILC IN ITS NINTH YEAR

The CILC in Its Ninth Year, and an annual faculty panel discussion bringing professors from the Department to share their thoughts on current methodologies, practices, and approaches to literary criticism.

With all these events, it is no wonder that it has taken two very busy editors to run the CILC this year. Seniors Anna Feuer and Justin Vlastis joined the publication in their sophomore year and worked in different capacities respectively as Managing and Production Editors. They love what they do and have recently published the Journal's ninth issue.

Outgoing Chair Jean Howard gives Professor Dames her warmest endorsement. "Nick is going to be great in this job. He's a wonderful scholar with a clear sense of the high standards that make a department great, and he has a vision for the future. He is also fair-minded and has the requisite tenacity to see things through to their conclusion. That may, in fact, be the modern department chair's most essential virtue. We are lucky he will be taking up this position."
PROFESSOR CRAWFORD AND PROFESSOR ADAMS (continued from page 3)

been a duty-driven and dreary affair in which women were presented as beleaguered defenders of their sex whose lives and cultural productions were largely confined to a domestic arena. Crawford, by contrast, argues that while women faced some material constraints attendant on their gender, they nonetheless found ways to play important public roles in the cultural and religious struggles of their time.

As a teacher, Crawford has developed a large and enthusiastic student following for her courses in Shakespeare, Milton, early modern women’s writing, the Renaissance marvelous, pre-modern sexuality, and a number of other seminars and lectures at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. She has served as Director of Undergraduate Studies at the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, as a longstanding member of the Undergraduate Committee in the Department of English & Comparative Literature, and next year, as Director or that important committee. At the same time she has served on an impressive number of graduate oral examination and dissertation committees. As one awed graduate student commented: “she teaches graduate students to be scholars.” Blessed with an infectious enthusiasm for the scholarly life, Crawford is a magnificent teacher in the best traditions of the Department.

Crawford’s colleague, Rachel Adams, is equally talented. Already a recognized leader in the field of American literature and culture, she published Slideshow U.S.A.: Freaks and the American Cultural Imagination in 2001. This book both reveals and critically explores the centrality of the freak show in American cultural life as well as its symbolic role in revealing the contradictions of a nation that radically affirms equality as it produces and maintains inequalities resulting from unexamined assumptions about “the normal” and its value. Among other cultural productions, her book examines actual freak shows, as well as films such as Tod Browning’s 1930s’ Freaks, novels by Toni Morrison and Carson McCullers, and photography by Diane Arbus. Extravagantly praised as a “virtuoso critical performance,” Slideshow U.S.A.’s Jargon-free and lucid prose style has made it an unusually widely-read critical study.

Adams followed up on that first book with a quite different second project, Continental Divides: Remapping the Cultures of North America, in 2009. This book looks beyond the boundaries of the nation to explore intersections between the cultures of Mexico, the U.S. and Canada as apparent in those writers who manifest what Adams calls “a continental consciousness.” For her this category not only includes a writer like Jack Kerouac who was born in Canada, lived in New England, and visited extensively in Mexico, but also many indigenous peoples whose “tribal internationalism” exists outside any national paradigms of belonging. In the book she writes about two border-crossing Native American novelists, Leslie Silko and Thomas King, as well as about North American crime narratives that defy national borders, about the vibrant Latino culture emergent in Canada, and about the beatnik-like counterculture in Mexico, La Onda, which rejected the folkloric indigeneity of official Mexican culture in favor of a complex dialogue with U.S. modernity.

An institution builder, Adams has been a crucial faculty member in the American Studies program. At the moment she is working with other faculty to establish an undergraduate concentration in Disability Studies. She is also working on two new books, one on the representation of cognitive disability in American culture and the other on the role of food in the American cultural imagination.

There are reasons that the Columbia Department of English and Comparative Literature is ranked among the top five programs in the nation. Professors Crawford and Adams are two of them. We have a faculty noted both for its groundbreaking scholarship, and for its ability to translate that scholarship into classes and programs of extraordinary interest to our students.

NARRATIVE MEDICINE (continued from page 2)

telling me how they feel, I can’t get away with a list of questions. So it becomes a very different relationship between doctor and patient as listener and receiver. We try to get an angle on what do sick people go through and what do clinical people go through as they try to treat them.”

One of the rising stars in the field, Alvan Ilkoku, focuses his attention on another aspect of literature and medicine—studying the role of literature in malaria policy in Africa. Mr. Ilkoku, like Professor Rita Charon, is the holder of multiple academic distinctions, including Columbia’s coveted Presidential Teaching Award in 2010. While an undergraduate, he pursued pre-med studies but wrote his thesis in literature. Shortly before graduation, he was accepted into Harvard Medical School, but deferred his acceptance for three years, while completing two Master’s degrees in England, one in the History of Medicine and another in the History of African Literature. True to his dual interests in medicine and in literature, Mr. Ilkoku connected with Professor Rita Charon. Columbia University followed naturally for Mr. Ilkoku, given his interests in how literature works in tandem with medicine and given his interests in postcolonial studies, where Columbia has deep strength.

Mr. Ilkoku is currently completing a Ph.D. in the English Department and taking up a position at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine as an Assistant Professor of Bioethics and Medical Humanities.

Mr. Ilkoku explains, “Bioethics is an area of medicine that intersects with history, philosophy, and law. Therefore, it is important for literature. [We try to answer the question] how does paying attention to texts help us answer ethical questions? [My study focuses on] how the writing of healthcare affects the writing of healthcare policy. [Similarly], how does chart writing affect the practice of medicine. I take my study of literature, and texts, and words to study policy, philosophy, and law.”

These pioneers share a vision of the future—one in which patients can receive a better quality of care. Professor Charon says, “[I hope] to make healthcare better and change the face of it, to bring into medicine what’s been more and more missing. [I want doctors] to be empathetic! To be open! To listen! To affiliate!”
GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS AND PLACEMENTS

The department is extremely pleased to announce placement results for the last two years. Professors Marianne Hirsch and Sarah Cole did spectacular work as this year’s Placement Directors. Listed below are names of those students who got jobs and their places of employment.

2009-2010 PLACEMENT RESULTS

- TENURE-TRACK POSITIONS
  - Patricia Akhimie  Rutgers University- Newark
  - Mbongiseni Buthelezi  University of Cape Town
  - Zayd Dohm  Northwestern University
  - Avishhek Ganguly  Rhode Island School of Design
  - Rishi Goyal  University of Arizona Medical School
  - Adela Ramos  Pacific Lutheran University
  - Richard So  University of Chicago
  - Jenelle Troxell  Texas A&M University
  - Penny Viagopoulos  Texas A&M International University

- VISITING POSITIONS
  - Bina Gogineni  Skidmore College

- POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS
  - Karen Emmerich  Princeton University
  - Derrick Higginsbotham  Columbia University, Core Fellowship
  - Christine Nadir  Wellesley College
  - Joanna Scutt  Columbia University, Core Fellowship

2010-2011 PLACEMENT RESULTS

- TENURE-TRACK POSITIONS
  - Musa Gurnis  Washington University
  - Alvan Ikoku  Albert Einstein College of Medicine
  - Ondrea Ackerman  Oklahoma State University
  - Emily Lordi  University of Massachusetts, Amherst

- VISITING POSITIONS
  - Ruth Lexton  Bates College
  - Alice Boone  Haverford College
  - Christine Varnado  SUNY, Buffalo

- ADJUNCT POSITIONS
  - Nathanael Farrell  Washington University
  - Mary Kate Hurley  Writing Program, Cooper Union

- FULL-TIME POSITION
  - Alyssa Meyers  American Museum of Natural History

NATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS RECEIVED 2010-2011

- Minou Arjomand  DAAD Research Grant
- Joseph Carmatori  Javits Fellowship
- Jessica Fenn  Helen Ann Mins Robbins Fellowship
- Kathryn Fore  Javits Fellowship
- Royden Jay Kedischuk  Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
- Emily Lordi  Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African-American Studies
- Sonali Thakkar  Irmgard Coninx Foundation in Berlin

NATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS RECEIVED 2011-2012

- Emily Cersensky  Council for European Studies
- Anna E. Clark  Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship
- Jean-Christophe Cloutier  Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Fellowship
- Jang Wook Huh  Honjo Scholarship Award
- Jarvis McInnis  2011 Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship
- Kathryn Trebuss  Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Fellowship

GIVING TO THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Gifts from alumni and friends enable the department to provide special support for students and faculty.
To make a gift to the department, please use the link below:
https://giving.columbia.edu/giveonline/?schoolstyle=327
You may also write to the incoming Department Chair, Nicholas Dames, at nd122@columbia.edu