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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the revival of Divisional Notes! With this newly designed format, we will highlight many of the wonderful accomplishments of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

The Humanities and Arts have played a central role at City College since its founding in the mid-nineteenth century. We rest on a long line of distinguished scholars, public intellectuals, and creative artists. Still today, the City College faculty includes many renowned humanists in wide variety of fields. Alongside the distinction they have reached in the long-established disciplines like philosophy, English, and music (only examples! – I could cite many others), our faculty have worked at the forefront of new forms of knowledge and creativity in fields like the digital arts. Increasingly, the scholars and artists among us have brought a global perspective to their teaching and creative work. We educate our students and engage in our scholarly and artistic labors in connection with Harlem and New York City, and also with our state, country, and the larger world around us.

So please join with me in celebrating the accomplishments of all those connected to the Humanities and Arts at City College, past, present, and future!

With best regards,

Eric D. Weitz
Dean of Humanities and Arts and Professor of History

Volume 2013, Issue 1
Please welcome our new faculty to the Division of Humanities and Arts at CCNY! The 7 new regular hires mark the first stage of a multi-year effort to expand the number of full time faculty in the Division. In addition, we have hired one person in a three-year visiting position and one in a seven-year Distinguished Lectureship. And this year we are launching searches for 9 new full time faculty – one each in Art, History, and Jewish Studies, 3 each in English and Philosophy – plus another three-year visiting position, this time in Theatre and Speech.

Abby Kornfeld, Assistant Professor
Art and Jewish Studies
Abby received her Art History Ph.D. in 2013 from NYU’s Institute of Fine Arts. She works on Medieval Art and Architecture and Jewish Art and History, especially in medieval Spain. Her dissertation is “Out of the Margins: Toward a Reassessment of the Barcelona Haggadah.”

Cheryl Sterling, Associate Professor and Director of Black Studies
English and Black Studies
Cheryl received her Ph.D. in African Languages and Literature from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 2003. She is the author of *African Roots/Brazilian Rites: Culture and National Identity in Brazil* and numerous articles. Cheryl has been teaching at NYU, and is the founder and editor of *AfroBeat Journal.org*

Isabel Estrada, Assistant Professor
Foreign Languages and Literatures
Isabel received her Ph.D. in 2000 in Spanish Peninsular Literature from Columbia University. She has a book forthcoming, *El documental cinematográfico y televiso contemporáneo* and has published numerous articles and book chapters. She has taught most recently at Franklin and Marshall College.

Steve Wilson, Associate Professor
Music
Steve is a renowned jazz musician, composer, and arranger. He studied at Virginia Commonwealth University and has taught at Julliard, the Manhattan School of Music, CCNY, and many other institutions. He has performed widely in North America and Europe with his own ensembles.

Amr Kamal, Assistant Professor
Foreign Languages and Literatures
Amr Kamal is receiving his Ph.D. in Comparative Literatures from the University of Michigan. He has been hired in our position in French and Arabic. His dissertation is, “Empires and Emporia: Fictions of the Department Store in the Modern Mediterranean, from Saint-Simon to Robert Solé.”

Benjamin Vilhauer, Associate Professor
Philosophy
Benjamin received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 2000. He works on ethics, the history of philosophy, and free will theory. He is a specialist on Kant and has published numerous articles in leading philosophy journals.
Jennifer Tuttle  
Assistant Professor  
Theatre and Speech  
Jennifer received her MFA in Theatre/Acting from Wayne State University in 2004. She has acted on the New York stage as well as in numerous regional theaters. She has taught most recently at Minnesota State University in Moorhead.

Richard Boles  
Visiting Assistant Professor  
History  
Richard received his Ph.D. in 2013 in American History from The George Washington University. His dissertation is, “Dividing the Faith: The Rise of Racially Segregated Northern Churches, 1730-1850.” Richard will be teaching courses in colonial and early American history.

Chantal Akerman  
Distinguished Lecturer  
Media and Communications Arts  
Chantal is a renowned filmmaker with nearly 40 films to her credit. Her films have been shown at numerous international festivals. Her film, “Jeanne Dielman, 23 quai du Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles,” was ranked No. 36 by the British Film Institution’s list of the 100 greatest films ever.

All of these appointments will add depth and fresh perspectives to the teaching, research, and creative activity that go on in the Humanities and Arts at CCNY. We look forward to their many contributions!

FACULTY BOOKS / ESSAYS

**Department of Art**


**Department of Art (continued)**


**Department of English**


Continued on Page 8
Thanks to the generosity of the Rifkind Family and the Winston Foundation, which support the Simon H. Rifkind Center for the Humanities and the Arts, the Division has established Humanities Enrichment Grants. The purpose of the award is to support faculty research and creative activity. We are pleased to announce the 8 grantees for 2013-14.

“Connoisseurship in the Mughal Empire”  
Associate Professor Molly Aitken-Zaidi  
Art Department

In preparation for her next book and future art history courses on art connoisseurship in the Mughal Empire, Prof. Aitken-Zaidi is conducting research at museums and archives in the United Kingdom and France. She is also learning Braj Bhasha, the literary vernacular language of the Rajput rulers.

“Abe Kōbō: The Writing of Community”  
Professor Richard Calichman  
Foreign Languages and Literatures Department

Prof. Calichman is researching his next monograph, “Abe Kōbō: The Writing of Community,” in libraries and archives in Japan. He will also interview Abe scholars in Tokyo. Prof. Calichman focuses on the centrality of Abe’s social theory to his literary corpus, which emphasizes community, society, and intersubjectivity.

“Spiritual Citizens: Central Asian Muslims and the Politics of Patronage in the Ottoman Empire, 1869-1914”  
Assistant Professor Lale Can  
History Department

For her book, “Spiritual Citizens: Central Asian Muslims and the Politics of Patronage in the Ottoman Empire, 1869-1914,” Professor Can is conducting research in the Ottoman archives in Istanbul. Her book manuscript is the first full-length study of social and political interactions between Central Asian pilgrims and Ottoman state and society. The project is also an innovative exploration of the tensions resulting from Ottoman attempts to create a secular, imperial form of citizenship and, at the same time, to promote the extra-territorial authority of the sultan among Muslim subjects of foreign empires.

“Islam and the European Nation-State: Balkan Muslims between Mosque and the State, 1908-1949”  
Associate Professor Emily Greble  
History Department

Prof. Greble is working in the remote archives of Novi Pazar, Serbia and surrounding towns to complete research on various occupation and local fascist regimes during World War II. She is striving to make sense of the complex laws and regulations that shaped Muslim lives, immigration patterns, education, and political movements for her upcoming book, “Islam and the European Nation-State: Balkan Muslims between Mosque and the State, 1908-1949.”

“The Education of Rebecca Rolfe”  
Associate Professor Elizabeth Mazzola  
English Department

For her upcoming book, “The Education of Rebecca Rolfe,” Prof. Mazzola is traveling to Jamestown settlement in Virginia and the John Carter Brown Library in Rhode Island to continue her research on the life of Pocahontas, especially her education, after her marriage to John Rolfe.

Outgoing MCA Chair Nancy Tag and some of her graduates at the 2013 Divisional Ceremony (Photo Courtesy Island Photography)
The Division of Humanities and Arts began a new and exciting summer research program in partnership with Stanford University. Ten of our most qualified students who are planning to earn doctoral degrees were selected to spend eight weeks on Stanford’s campus in Palo Alto, California. Each student was paired with a Stanford faculty member who mentors his or her individual research project. Students also participate in workshops to help them prepare for graduate school. Below are introductions of each student and their research topics.

**Clara Boothby** just graduated with a BA in English. Her research focuses on education and its view and manifestation in Victorian England, with expansion of education to the working classes.

**Jonathan Aguirre** is a graduate student earning an MA in Spanish. His research focuses on fascism from a transatlantic perspective through the literature of Southern Cone and Spain.

**Lucas Corcoran** just graduated with a BA in English. His research focuses on the work of Louis Zukofsky and the philological influence from William Shakespeare.

**Erwin Fernandez** just graduated with a BA/MA in History. His research focuses on constitutional law and its affect on privacy and marriage rights, with a focus on contemporary LGBT issues.

**Robert Dalva** is a senior earning a BA in Philosophy. His research focuses on how the brain’s pathways affect humans’ capacities to reason scientifically and make moral judgments.

**Tamra Lepro** is a senior earning a BA in English Literature. Her focus is on the work of James Boswell and his identities and how they relate to larger cultural changes in England.

Continued on Page 7
“Claiming Sovereignty of Algeria: Health Care, Humanitarianism, and International Organizations”
Assistant Professor Jennifer Johnson Onyedum
History Department
Prof. Onyedum is conducting research in archives in Algeria and Switzerland on how decolonization tested the limits of humanitarianism. The research is for her book manuscript, "Claiming Sovereignty of Algeria: Health Care, Humanitarianism, and International Organizations."

“Bones of Contention”
Professor Andrea Weiss
Media and Communications Arts Department
Prof. Weiss is interviewing key individuals for her production of a documentary film exploring the theme of historical memory in post-Franco Spain, especially pertaining to Spanish lesbian/gay history and its denial during the long years of dictatorship. While in Spain, Prof. Weiss will teach in the CCNY Study Abroad program at the Universidad de La Rioja.

“Ivo Van Hove: A Major Theatre Artist and His Work.”
Professor David Willinger
Theatre and Speech Department
Prof. Willinger is traveling to Belgium and Holland to interview the major theatrical personage, Ivo Van Hove, and to conduct archival research on Van Hove’s use of performance space and stage lighting and his views on gender. Willinger is writing, “Ivo Van Hove: A Major Theatre Artist and His Work.”

President Lisa Staiano-Coico addressing graduates in the 2013 Divisional Ceremony (Photo Courtesy Island Photography)
View of the graduates in the 2013 Divisional Ceremony (Photo Courtesy Island Photography)
TEN TOP STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN STANFORD SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

Waylon Smith is a senior earning a BA in Philosophy. His research focuses on philosophy and psychology to understand the nature of love in romantic and other personal relationships.

Ariana Shirivani just graduated with a BA in Art History. Her research focuses on Griselda Pollock’s gendering-of-Impressionist spaces theory through Modern works such as Cremorne Gardens.

Sameeh Muhammad is a graduate student earning an MA in English Literature. Her research focuses on medieval literature, and how JRR Tolkien and CS Lewis’s views comments on it affect the larger literary canon.

Samina Sirajuddowl is a senior earning a BA in History. Her research focuses on liberation and other historical movements in Bangladesh, with emphasis on cultural identity.

The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA) is one of the premier theatre schools in Great Britain. The Division of Humanities and Arts has begun to forge a close relationship with it. Last January, one of LAMDA’s faculty members offered an exciting master class on Shakespearean acting to over 70 Theatre students and faculty. This summer, thanks to the generosity of alumna Patricia Hill [’76] and the City College Fund, 3 of our students are spending up to 8 weeks at LAMDA. They will experience the intense training in Shakespearean drama for which LAMDA is renowned. And the generosity of the Rifkind Family will enable outgoing Theatre Department Chair Eugene Nesmith to spend two weeks at LAMDA as an artist-in-residence.

Many thanks to our generous donors!

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Many thanks to our generous donors!
Department of English (continued)


Department of Foreign Language & Literature


Department of History (continued)


Department of Philosophy


LAMDA ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Theatre & Speech Professor Eugene Nesmith is the first recipient of CCNY Rifkin Artist-In-Residence Program to go to London’s Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA). He observed their summer program, and engaged in dialogue with faculty, students, and administrators about American training methods, how cultural differences impact upon training, and about possible future collaborations with CCNY.
**FACULTY AWARDS & GRANTS**

**Department of Art**
- **Associate Professor Becca Albee** was awarded the Ellen Battell Stoeckel Fellowship to attend the Norfolk Yale Summer Art Program.
- **Assistant Professor Marit Dewhurst** was awarded a $18,000 grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Studies (IMLS) via the Art Education Partnership (AEP) to conduct a literature review of empirical, outcomes-based museum education research.

**Department of English**
- **Lecturer Doris Barkin** presented, “Cuckolds and Codpieces in Shakespeare’s Two Gentlemen of Verona: Early Modern Anxieties in Male Potency” at the New Jersey College English Association, 36th Annual Spring Conference entitled, “Man to Man/Man to Woman: Masculinity and Gendered Relationships in Literature and Culture.”
- **Professor Laura Hinton** was the coordinator for the Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture 2013: “A Tribute to Adrienne Rich.”
- **Professor Elizabeth Mazzola** presented, "What Happened to Rebecca Rolfe" at the University of Miami’s Twentieth Annual Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque Symposium.

**Department of Foreign Language & Literature**
- **Associate Professor Laura Callahan** presented, “Facework in female to female service encounters between native and non-native speakers of Spanish in the U.S.” at the 1st International Pragmatics Conference of the Americas/5th International Conference on Intercultural Pragmatics (AMPRA) in October 2012.
- **Assistant Professor Vanessa K. Valdes** presented, “Celebrating Our Fullest Selves: The Diasporic Vision of Ntozake Shange” at Barnard College’s Africana Studies Program’s 20th Anniversary: The Worlds of Shange Conference.
- **Associate Professor Araceli Tinajero** participated in multiple conferences speaking about Latin America and Asia and her book *Kokoro: A Mexican Woman in Japan*, including at the Embassy of Japan in Mexico.

**Department of Media & Communication Arts**
- **Professor Nancy R. Tag** formally launched City College’s new program in Branding + Integrated Communications (BIC) at their first Curriculum Summit in January 2013.

**Department of Music**
- **Lecturer Ruth Albert Spencer** was awarded her third ongoing grant from the New York Council on the Humanities to help her continue to give her lecture/recitals entitled "Johannes Brahms: His Life, His Loves, and his Music" focusing on some of the women in Brahms’ life and how they inspired his music.

**FACULTY CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

**Department of English**
- **Professor Carla Cappetti** was honored with the Fulbright Scholar Award for 2013-2014 which will allow her to teach, deliver lectures, and continue her research in Italy.
- **Assistant Professor Andras Kisery** was awarded the 3-year Andrew B. Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in Critical Bibliography at the Rare Book School of the University of Virginia, which will help him participate in collaborative research projects, visits to the RBS for training, and funds for a conference or symposium to be organized at City College. Kisery was also named the Francis Bacon Foundation Fellow at the Huntington Library in San Marino, CA.

**Department of Media & Communication Arts**
- **Professor David Davidson** was honored with the 2013 Pioneer for the Arts award from the Riant/Black Experimental Theatre for his 25 years of documentary filmmaking focusing on African-American arts and culture, including "Cissy Houston - Sweet Inspiration", "The Dancing Man - Peg Leg Bates" and "A Place Out of Time - The Bordentown School".

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The 56th Annual New York Emmy® Award for an Arts: Program Feature/Segment was awarded to Professor Jerry W. Carlson (MCA) and CUNY TV for a segment entitled *Nueva York: Fernando Pérez* on April 14, 2013 at the Marriott Marquis Times Square.
Department of Art

- **Associate Professor Hajoe Moderegger’s** work was included in the exhibited entitled, “Free Enterprise: The Art of Citizen Space Exploration ‘The backup tapes from Moon and Mars’ and ‘Buzz Cut’” at the UCR ARTSblock/the California Museum of Photography from January—May 2013.

- **Professor Ina Saltz** had eight photographs included in the Signs for Sounds (Harley Gallery touring exhibition) in the United Kingdom during February 2013.

- **Lecturer Tom Thayer’s** work was included in the exhibition entitled, “Baseless Legion of Architects Rent Asunder” at the Eleven Rivington gallery in New York, NY from February—March 2013.

- **Professor Annette Weintraub’s** work was included in the exhibition entitled, “Slide Stories: Brutalism” is a segment of a project entitled, “AR2View” created and supported by members and programs in the College Art Association. View at [http://v1b3.com/?page_id=974](http://v1b3.com/?page_id=974).

Department of English

- **Professor Linsey Abrams** is the librettist of Rappaccini’s Daughter, an opera composed by Michael Cohen and based on the short story by Nathaniel Hawthorne. A partial scene and aria, orchestrated for piano, harp, flute and soprano, was performed, in a concert entitled, “Sounds of the Angels,” at the Enlow Recital Hall at Kean University on March 4, 2013.

STUDENT THESIS PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

**Ady Chng** graduated with a BFA in Electronic Design & Multimedia (Department of Art) in May 2013. His senior thesis focused on branding & packaging design thé, a new herbal tea line that promotes eco-friendly, agriculture sustainability, and natural high quality tea. To learn more about his project and view more images, visit [http://www.behance.net/gallery/Branding-Packaging-Design/9011897](http://www.behance.net/gallery/Branding-Packaging-Design/9011897).