It was in a Fall 2010 class on Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson that Gus Cohen decided he would study literature. Almost four years later, Gus would find himself rushing back to his host, Jenny’s, house, to write down the evening’s most thought-provoking ideas after another day-long conversation at the Transatlantic Walt Whitman Society’s 7th International Walt Whitman Week, which was held last summer from July 21st-26th in Bamberg, Germany. Gus, a second-year Literature Master’s student and president of the Graduate Student English Association (GradSEA), presented a paper titled “The Measureless Crudity of the States: Whitman’s Vision of American Literary and Imperial Production,” although the presentation itself felt almost like an afterthought after an invigorating week of discussion with a diverse group of participants that included several prominent scholars in American Literature.

“It was like a really great conversation in a graduate seminar class, except it lasted a whole week,” Gus recalls, as he explains how the conference’s various seminars would shape his conference presentation, his Master’s thesis, and his thinking as a scholar. Gus was particularly influenced by discussions about Whitman’s involvement in the physical act of printing and its significance to his writing, specifically his desire to create “something of a new American gospel” that would “prophecy an ideal American empire.”

Luckily for him, Gus loves “the grind of digging through boxes in the library” for research material; the prospect of uncovering “something no one’s seen in a hundred years” is what he lives for. The monastic enthusiasm with which Gus approaches his research goes a long way towards explaining not only his choice of profession, but also how he earned the Gladstein Professorship Funds for Studies in American Literature that allowed him to participate in Walt Whitman Week.

Dr. Brian Yothers, who taught that class on Whitman and Dickinson four years ago, is unsparing in his praise of Gus, with whom he has collaborated on a number of digital humanities projects, including the Melville’s Marginalia Online series. Gus, he says, “is not only extraordinarily diligent, but he has had useful insights as we’ve discussed Emerson and Melville.” Dr. Yothers’ words, and his various (continued on page 2)
“Between obscure architectural knowledge and the spirited, life-changing conversations of Walt Whitman Week, Gus Cohen gained much from his travels last summer, and he is quick to encourage others to follow suit and take advantage of resources such as the Gladstein scholarship, the Graduate School’s Dodson Research Grants, and the English Department’s Baker-Hernandez Grants for Graduate Student Research.”

Gus Cohen is not the only academic globe-trotter in the English Department. Dr. Marion Rohrleitner, Associate Professor of Literature, traveled across Europe in the Fall of 2014, visiting Austria, Germany, Spain, and France. Dr. Rohrleitner’s focus on this trip was to gather research for her upcoming book, tentatively titled Transnational Latinidades. This book is a forthcoming addition to Dr. Rohrleitner’s already prolific list of publications, which includes an interdisciplinary collection, Dialogues Across Diasporas: Women Writers, Scholars, and Activists of Africana and Latina Descent in Conversation; a monograph, Diasporic Bodies: Contemporary Historical Fiction and the Intimate Public Sphere; as well as scholarship in American Quarterly, Antipodas, Callaloo, El Mundo Zurdo 2, Interdisciplinary Humanities, Latino Studies, Inhabiting la Patria: Identity, Agency, and Antojos in the Work of Julia Alvarez, and in the Oxford Bibliographies in Latino Studies.

Transnational Latinidades will examine the production, translation, and marketing of Latina/o literature outside of the United States. Dr. Rohrleitner describes an active interest in and study of Latina/o literature in Canada and Western Europe, particularly in the European Union. She wishes to challenge the current conversation about Latina/os in literature, which focuses on production solely in the United States. She says, “While that’s justified in its emergence and genealogy, I think it’s really important to also think about Latino literature beyond the boundaries of the United States.” Furthermore, she is determined to examine how translations complicate and problematize Latina/o texts. Most translations, according to her research, have happened quickly because it is a popular market, and she suggests that a lot of these translations promote linguistic stereotypes about Latinas/os. (continued on page 8)
The establishment of a proper English department at the State School of Mines and Metallurgy, as UTEP was called during the 1910s, began in 1916 when Rabbi Maurice Faber, a member of the University of Texas Board of Regents, traveled to El Paso to inspect the two-year-old institution. While Faber found the engineering program in top shape, he lamented the lack of liberal arts courses for the engineering students, declaring it a “deplorable deficiency.” To remedy the situation, he added, “I would suggest that, at the least, a strong course in English be added to the present curriculum. The need of it is so obvious and selfevident [sic], that it is unnecessary to say anything more about it.” All University of Texas students, including engineers, according to Faber, needed better writing skills.

The next year, the school had its English department. In order to justify a full-time faculty position, instructors of English had to teach courses in economics, which, it turns out, was a common practice in the early twentieth century. One English professor even resigned his position to accept a job as an engineering economist for a mining corporation. By 1920, enrollment at the small school had quadrupled from 27 in 1914 to over one hundred, requiring the addition of a second instructor of English. This new second professor, Emmett Addis Drake, graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1883 where he majored in Latin, later earning his master’s degree in 1887 in the same subject. Drake taught Rhetoric and Oratory at Wisconsin for several years before moving on to the Missouri School of Mines and then the New Mexico School of Mines, where he was elected president of the faculty in 1908. In 1913, after the school dismissed him from the presidency, Drake traveled to El Paso, where in 1919, he joined the Texas School of Mines as an instructor of English. By 1921, Drake was head of the English department.

The 1920s was a period of rapid growth for the institution, as the small engineering school had by 1927 transformed into a regional college with a robust liberal arts program. Drake’s English curriculum followed the progressive model of the University of Wisconsin, with a balance between rhetoric and literature. Working with the dean of the school at the time, John W. Kidd, the two revised the graduation requirements for engineers with the addition of a second year of writing instruction. Kidd, himself a progressive, believed that engineers should possess above average writing abilities in order to persuade the public as to the value of their ideas and proposals. This second year writing requirement for engineers remained in place at UTEP for the next forty years before the school of engineering dropped it from the curriculum in the 1960s.

As Chair of the Department of English, I am pleased to be offering another installment of The Folio after having revived this annual tradition last Spring. The last year has been a productive and exciting one, and the following pages can only offer a taste of the many accomplishments we have to celebrate! Our website and Facebook page (English at UTEP) highlight many of these accomplishments, as does the College of Liberal Arts’ website.

The English Department’s three programs—Rhetoric and Writing Studies, English & American Literature, and English Education—continue to offer their students a variety of exciting opportunities while hosting events that have drawn leading scholars in these fields. This was a banner year for student organizations, as Frontera Retórica held its 9th Annual Spring Symposium and the Graduate Student English Association organized a highly successful Graduate Student Conference, which this year was connected to the Annual Literature Lecture.

Our faculty continues to thrive and produce outstanding scholarship. I would especially like to recognize Brian Yothers (Literature), a 2014 UT System Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award recipient, who was promoted to Full Professor; Ruben Espinosa, who was promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure; and Maryse Jayasuriya, who was named Associate Dean for Student Affairs for the College of Liberal Arts. Congratulations to each of them! I am also excited to welcome three new faculty members: Jennifer Clifton (RWS), Kaleb Heineman (RWS), and Pamela Herron (English Education). Special thanks go out to the faculty and staff who contributed to this newsletter, particularly Ana Diaz, Administrative Services Coordinator, and Randi Bossie and Paul LaPrade, Lecturers & Assistants to the Chair.

As another academic year draws to a close, I invite you to share in reflecting on the exciting work being done throughout the Department! Please visit our website for continually updated information and photos; you can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best Wishes,
Maggy Smith, Professor & Chair—Department of English
Dorrance D. Roderick Professor
msmith@utep.edu

Congratulations to our recently promoted faculty members!

Dr. Brian Yothers, recipient of the 2014 Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award, was promoted to Full Professor.

Dr. Ruben Espinosa was promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure.

Dr. Maryse Jayasuriya was named Associate Dean for Student Affairs for the College of Liberal Arts.
Dr. R. Joseph Rodríguez was selected to receive the 2015 Excellence in Queer Scholarship Article Award, one of three annual prizes given out under the banner of the NCTE Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) Lavender Rhetorics Award. Dr. Rodríguez won the award for his article “There Are Many Rooms,” which appeared in Volume 6, Issue 1 of the Pennsylvania Literary Journal. This award is presented annually to three works—one book, one article, and one dissertation—published within the past two years that best make queer interventions into the study of composition and rhetoric. Dr. Rodríguez was announced as an award recipient on March 20th, 2015, during the 2015 CCCC Annual Convention in Tampa, Florida.

Ana Diaz, the English Department’s exceptional administrative services coordinator, was awarded the 2015 College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Administrative Support Award. This award is given to UTEP staff members who serve the university with outstanding dedication and distinction. Ana was honored at a reception on April 16th, 2015. Congratulations to Ana!

Dr. Mimi Gladstein was honored as the Grand Marshall at the Winter Centennial Commencement on December 13th, 2014. As Grand Marshall, she led the graduating class across the stage at the Don Haskins Center. During her time at UTEP, Dr. Gladstein has served as the chair of the English, Philosophy, and Theatre, Dance, and Film Departments, as well as serving as the first chair of the Women’s Studies Department. Furthermore, she has won multiple awards, including The American Book Award, Southwest Book Award, a Latino Book Award, and the University Distinguished Achievement Award for Service to Students. Serving as Grand Marshall is usually a distinction reserved for outstanding retiring faculty; however, Dr. Gladstein currently has no plans to retire. We look forward to her continuing contributions to the English Department.

Dr. Brian Yothers was a recipient of the UT System Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award for the 2014 academic year. This prestigious award is given to faculty “who have demonstrated extraordinary classroom performance and innovation in undergraduate instruction.” Upon accepting this award, Dr. Yothers said, “Successful teaching is never merely a matter of having the correct theory, however subtle: rather, teaching is an art that demands practice, patience, and a commitment to adapting to the needs of each class and indeed each student. The difficulty and the moral necessity of this task make my continuing quest to be a stronger teacher every single semester both a pleasure and a privilege.” Dr. Yothers was honored at a reception in Austin, Texas on August 20th, 2014.

We are excited to welcome two new faculty members to the Rhetoric and Writing Studies program, and one new member to English Education.

Dr. Jennifer Clifton
Assistant Professor
Rhetoric and Writing Studies
Dr. Clifton received her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Arizona State University. She has experience as a Communication Specialist with the US Navy and as an Assistant Teaching Professor at the University of Missouri, where she served as Director of the Missouri Writing Project. Her current scholarship puts theories and rhetorics of public life, deliberative arts, and situated action to work in contexts where globalization and transnational movement complicate the conditions and consequences of engagement in public life.

Dr. Kaleb Heinemann
Visiting Assistant Professor
Rhetoric and Writing Studies
Dr. Heinemann received his Ph.D. in Rhetoric & Professional Communication from New Mexico State University, where he managed the Design Center. He has experience in web development, entertainment productions, public relations, and teaching technical and professional communication. As a researcher, he has a keen interest in what stories do rhetorically, studying the reflexive connections between rhetorical choices, agency, and social conditions. His research incorporates narratology, multimodality, identity studies, regressive philosophy, theories on agency, and intercultural communication.

Pamela Herron
Lecturer
English Education
Pamela Herron received her M.F.A. in Creative Writing/English from Chatham University. She is a published writer who has taught courses for the Asian Studies, Humanities, and Religious Studies Programs as well as the English Department. Her research includes Confucianism/Daoism with application in the modern world, China/Chinese immigration, cultural identity, sustainability, and literature for young readers. She writes poetry, fiction and creative non-fiction, and in 2013 she published En l’air: A collection of poetry created in the air.
Transnational Latinidades within the next two years before publishing it. She says her work is already informing her classes and pedagogy; she is currently teaching a literature and film class that focuses on German and Austrian literature and translation. She is also hoping to teach a special topics course in the Fall semester that deals with issues of translation of Latina/o literature. Dr. Rohrleitner is quick to note that her research was made possible by a Career Enhancement Grant by the Provost’s Office: “I got research leave in the fall, which is part of this new initiative by the Provost’s Office to enhance research in the humanities. I was very lucky to get that grant.”

As part of her research, Dr. Rohrleitner has investigated connections between Latina/o literature and cultural factors in Western Europe. She asserts that much of the interest in Latina/o literature in Austria and Germany stems from political factors; she says, “There’s some interesting discourse and intersection between the German student movement of the late 1960s, and both Chicano and Puerto Rican civil rights movements.” Furthermore, Dr. Rohrleitner examines the unusual level of interest in US-Mexico Border Studies in the European Union. She says, “Interest in border studies is getting bigger and bigger in the West and the European Union in large part because the European Union is also called Fortress Europe and the boundaries of the European Union are being militarized much like the US-Mexico border...when German, French, Spanish readers read about Latina literature, there’s a sense of recognition.”

Dr. Rohrleitner’s research has led her to speak at a variety of venues in Europe and America. She remarks: “While she was abroad, Dr. Rohrleitner gave several invited talks. On June 13th, 2014, she spoke at the Europa Universität Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder in Germany on “The Futures of Latina/o Literatures: Queering, Cyborging, and Translating the Borders,” and conducted a multilingual workshop in the B/Orders in Motion research series at Vienna on June 13th. She also gave an invited talk at her alma mater, the Leopold-Franzens-Universität in Innsbruck, Austria, on October 20th, 2014, titled “Queering Aztlán: Key terms and recent trends in Chicana/o Literature and Art.” Using her travels as a basis for her research, Dr. Rohrleitner hopes to finish a monograph for Transnational Latinidades within the next two years before publishing it. She says her work is already informing her classes and pedagogy; she is currently teaching a literature and film class that focuses on German and Austrian literature and translation. She is also hoping to teach a special topics course in the Fall semester that deals with issues of translation of Latina/o literature. Dr. Rohrleitner is quick to note that her research was made possible by a Career Enhancement Grant by the Provost’s Office: “I got research leave in the fall, which is part of this new initiative by the Provost’s Office to enhance research in the humanities. I was very lucky to get that grant.”

The UTEP English Department has had, and will continue to have, an ongoing presence overseas in the form of summer abroad classes. Last summer, Dr. Tom Schmid, Director of Literature, offered a class titled “Walking with Wordsworth: Romantic Literature in the Lake District.” Dr. Schmid and a cohort of students travelled to the Lake District, an area which “inspired numerous Romantic-period writers, including William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Robert Southey, Anne Radcliffe, John Keats, Walter Scott, and Thomas De Quincey.” Furthermore, for the past several years, Dr. David Ruiter has led summer trips to London for both graduate and undergraduate students. This year, Dr. Ruiter and Professor Daniel Chacón will offer a course titled “Literature & Theatre in London & Paris.” Students will travel to both London and Paris, and will enjoy a variety of cultural activities, including a Globe Theatre Workshop and a visit to Maison de Victor Hugo. These summer travel opportunities, as well as the work being done abroad by both faculty and students, serve to enrich our already vibrant department. With the ongoing support of faculty, staff, alumni, donors, and university administration, the UTEP English Department will continue to make an international mark in the fields of Literature, Rhetoric and Writing Studies, and English Education.

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The featured student speakers for this event were Sara Bartlett Large and recent graduate Dr. Vietthang Pham. Sara discussed her doctoral research in a presentation titled “Possible Lives: Identity Performances of Mongolian Youth,” and Viet reflected and built on her dissertation in a presentation titled “The Rhetorical Making of a Personhood: A Continuing Journey.”

The UTEP chapter of The Society for Technical Communication (STC) is completing its first year, during which it held a variety of lectures and other events for students and faculty interested in the study and practice of technical communication. For more information on how to get involved, contact Chapter President Melanie Salome at mrsalome@miners.utep.edu.
Dr. Isabel Baca's book chapter "Finding the Right Partners for Service-Learning Courses" has been published in The SAGE Sourcebook of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement by O. Delano-Oriar, M. W. Penick-Parks, and S. Fondrie.


Dr. Lucia Dura was on the editorial team for a special issue of Rhetoric, Professional Communication, and Globalization Vol 6 (2014) on Spanish and English in the Americas.

Pamela Herron’s flash fiction "Harley ‘Hog’ Hill" was published in the UK Paragram Anthology Remember. Her flash fiction "42 Days" was short-listed for the 2014 Aesthetica Creative Writing Prize and published this month in their Aesthetica Creative Writing Annual 2015. Two of her poems, "And I think of China" and "North of Kowloon" were selected for publication in February in the UK Lost Tower Publications anthology Journeys Along the Silk Road.


Dr. Joe Orih’s chapter, "Making Music Fit for Kings: Reforming and Gendering Music in Samuel Rowley’s When You See Me, You Know Me" was published in Gender and Song in Early Modern England, eds. Leslie C. Dunn and Katherine R. Larson (Ashgate, 2014).


Dr. Tom Schmid’s essay, "When You See Me, You Remember: Aesthetica Creative Writing An..." was published in The SAGE Sourcebook of Rhetoric and Writing Studies program, a member of the Texas A&M Consortium of University Presses.


Consuelo Carras

As a third year doctoral candidate in the English Department’s Rhetoric and Writing Studies program, I have been given amazing opportunities that will allow me to be a competitive candidate when I enter the job market. One such opportunity came to me in the Spring semester of my first year as a doctoral student when Dr. Meredith Abcaran of the Literature and Communication program invited me to collaborate with her on a co-edited book project that concentrates on making visible Latinas’ work in the food industry. For three years prior, I had taken a variety of food studies -focused literature classes with Dr. Abarca, and after the initial shock of being asked to work with her, I accepted. A little under two years after signing the book contract, I am happy to say that Latinas’ Presence in the Food Industry: Changing How We Think About Food is in production with the University of Arkansas Press with a release date of late 2015 or early 2016. As of this writing, it has been a month since the final full manuscript was sent to the press. After a bit of reflection, I am eternally grateful to Dr. Abarca for trusting in me as a doctoral student to complete such an extensive project and for giving me the opportunity to have this experience and gain this knowledge while in my doctoral program. The book project consists of eleven chapters, with one co-editor authored chapter and ten outside contributing chapters, and a co-editor authored introduction. The chapter Dr. Abcar and I co-authored is a starting point for my current dissertation research. As those reading this who have had the opportunity of putting together an edited collection will know, it is no easy task. Having had the opportunity to experience the process firsthand, however, has allowed me insight into the world of publication while allowing me to truly understand the time, energy, and dedication such a project entails. This, in turn, has served to further prepare me for my dissertation and for the scholarly work I will continue to do after graduation.

Consuelo Carras Salas

Contributing Writer: Consuelo Carras Salas

The UTEP English Department is proud of all the students who have presented papers and research at conferences:

Lou Herman and Gina Lawrence presented at the International Writing Center Association Conference in Orlando, FL, October 20-November 1, 2014.
Rebekah Grado, a graduate student in literature, presented at the South Asian Literary Association Conference in Vancouver, Canada, January 7-8, 2015.
Isela Maier, Julie Rivera, Margarita Mediña, Libbett Tinoco, and Gina Lawrence, presented at the Ethnographic and Qualitative Research Conference in Las Vegas, NV, February 9-10, 2015.