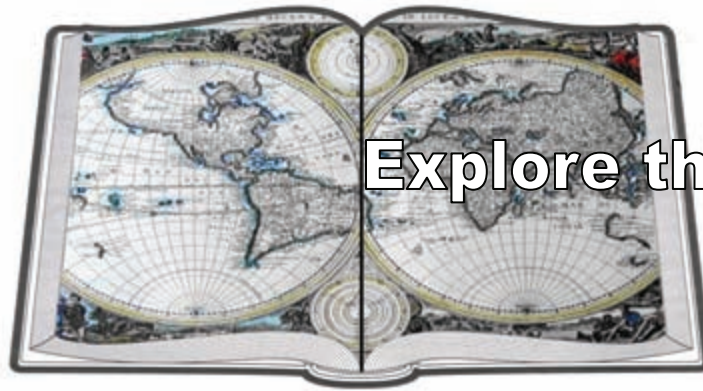


Friends of Comparative Literature



Explore the World

I Ask My Mother to Sing Li-Young Lee

She begins, and my grandmother joins her.
Mother and daughter sing like young girls.
If my father were alive, he would play
his accordion and sway like a boat.

I've never been in Peking, or the Summer Palace,
nor stood on the great Stone Boat to watch
the rain begin on Kuen Ming Lake, the picnickers
running away in the grass.

But I love to hear it sung:
how the waterlilies fill with rain until
they overturn, spilling water into water,
then rock back, and fill with more.

Both women have begun to cry.
But neither stops her song.

A Word from the Department Chair Robin Pickering-Jazzi

This year I would like to highlight the extraordinary achievements the Comparative Literature faculty have to their credit in published and forthcoming scholarship. Michelle Bolduc's book manuscript, *The Medieval Poetics of Contraries*, was accepted for publication by the prestigious University of Florida Press; Peter Paik, Kristin Pitt, and Jian Xu have produced innovative articles on theology and politics, the literature of the Americas, and New Chinese Cinema. While garnering international recognition, their research directly benefits students and the UWM community, informing the many new courses taught. So please join me in applauding these impressive accomplishments.

New Comparative Literature Program Fund

Comparative Literature is growing at UWM! We've experienced an increase in students at all levels, including a 40% increase in majors, and nearly a 30% increase in graduate students concentrating in Comparative Literature. The Roy Arthur Swanson Scholarship in Comparative Literature has been an integral part of demonstrating our commitment to undergraduate students. Because Comparative Literature is growing so quickly, we have decided to create a Comparative Literature Program Fund, which would (among other things) provide financial support to the very fine graduate students who have come to study here at UWM from all corners of globe, from Oshkosh and Madison to Mongolia and China. Thank you for your continuing supporting!

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News from the Coordinator Michelle Bolduc

First, let me introduce myself as the new Program Coordinator. I am still relatively new to UWM, having moved here in 2004 from a similar position at the University of Arizona. Despite the chilly climate of winter in Wisconsin, I have found UWM in general, and Comparative Literature in particular, to be a dynamic and vibrant (and yes, even quite warm) community! As Coordinator, I hope to foster and strengthen Comparative Literature's ties with the greater Milwaukee community. Throughout the year we'll be hosting various events, at which you are all warmly welcomed to attend. Please plan on coming to one or more: you'll not only get to know the new faculty and students, but you'll have the chance to see old friends and colleagues (and that will warm the cockles of your heart!)



Select Spring Course Offerings

Did you know that if you are 60 years old or better, you can audit a course at UWM for free? Please join us!

Comparative Literature 350: "Angels and Angelology" Angels have been traditionally understood as messengers from the divine. Traditionally depicted as beings of striking beauty and uncertain gender, they occupy a mysterious middle ground between human beings and the divine. In this course we will be studying the literary and cinematic representations of these supernatural figures, as well as their significance in the mystical theologies of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Zoroastrianism as guides to the spiritual universe hidden from ordinary perception. Angels have also been used in the Middle Ages to understand the dynamics of free will as it unfolds across time. The course will also examine the angelic characteristics of the entities

that emerge in the fantasies of an age of high technology: cyborgs, clones, artificial intelligence, and sentient machines.

(Peter Paik)



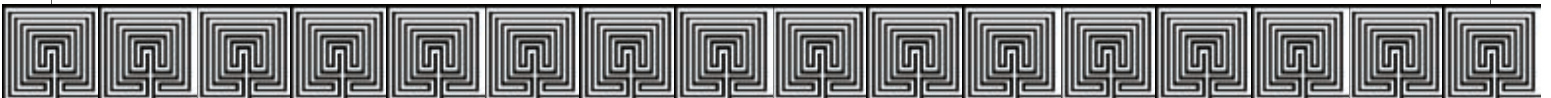
Comparative Literature 360: "New Chinese Cinema" will examine the formal innovations of Chinese film of the last twenty years, and its relationship to cultural history. (Jian Xu)

Profile of an Auditor: Carolyn Muchalla



"Being able to audit classes is a terrific opportunity. I'm currently auditing two classes: Comp. Lit. 320, Medieval Romance, and Comp. Lit. 410, Autobiography. I enjoy Medieval Romance because as an English major, I loved this material. And in autobiography, I'm getting to read all the autobiographies I've always wanted to read, but never would have done so on my own. The students in class are youthful, and many have very interesting things to say. I went back to school when I was 50 to get my Masters, and now, going back after retirement,

I've realized what a different perspective I have. I read literature differently now than I did, with all this experience of life, and it's an amazing opportunity."



The 2004 Winners of the Roy Arthur Swanson Comparative Literature Scholarship

Winners: Lacy Krause and Matt Levine

Lacy Krause writes, "I was very pleased to be a recipient of the Roy Arthur Swanson Merit Scholarship in Comparative Literature last year. Being an independent student supporting myself through college, scholarships like this one are vital to my ability to continue my education. Receiving this scholarship allowed me to take a summer course, something I otherwise might not have been able to do. I thoroughly enjoy being a student in this major, and a scholarship like this one specifically intended for Comparative Literature students encourages myself and other students to study in this field. Thank you!"



Matt Levine writes, "Last spring I received the Roy Arthur Swanson scholarship for Comparative Literature at UW-Milwaukee. Since receiving this, I've been able to purchase books for various classes, including anthologies on the Harlem Renaissance, political critiques detailing revolution and universalism, and the writings of William Blake. Using the scholarship to buy such books allows me to spend personal money on research and readings to further my own personal interests in comparative literature, which of course allows me to incorporate the two – schoolwork and personal studies – to hone the fields I'm truly interested in. It is of course a challenge for any college student to pay his or her way through school *and* be able to pursue his or her own interests in the arts and literature; the Roy Swanson scholarship is absolutely imperative in allowing its recipients to do this."

"We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time."

- T.S. Eliot

Comparative Literature Fall Open House

On Tuesday afternoon, November 15th, an intimate group gathered for the Comparative Literature Fall Open House and Faculty Showcase. This reception featured refreshments and an engagingly informative discussion of a medieval manuscript, which all clearly enjoyed.



Upcoming Events

In February, Robin Pickering-lazzi will read from her most recent translation of the Italian novel *Suspicion*, by the internationally award-winning author Laura Grimaldi, at a private Shopping Night at Schwartz's Books on Downer Avenue. Music, food, and good conversation await you!

In April, Assistant Professor Peter Y. Paik will discuss the representation of war in science fiction at the Spring Comparative Literature Faculty Showcase. Don't miss it!

Check us out on the web!

<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/FICL/CompLit/index.html>

Faculty Notes

Michelle Bolduc received an Art and Humanities Travel Award from the Graduate School to examine an early fifteenth-century manuscript at the J.P. Getty Museum in Los Angeles as a part of her on-going study of medieval manuscript production and reception in Southern France, an place of intriguing cultural—Arabic, Hebrew, French, Occitan, Italian—crossroads. Her article “Transgressive Troubadours and Lawless Lovers? Matfre Ermengaud’s *Breviari d’Amor* as a courtly apologia,” appeared in *Discourses on Love, Marriage, and Transgression in Medieval and Early Modern Literature*, edited by Albrecht A. Classen (Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies vol. 278; Tempe, Ariz.: Arizona Studies in the Middle Ages and Renaissance, 2004. 65-83).

Fr. Michael Fountain is currently teaching a course on the “Nazis in Western Europe” as well as literature to retirees as a community outreach endeavor at Cardinal Stritch University. He coordinates the Holocaust Resource and Information Project.

Cary Henson, who is currently teaching the 20th-Century Humanities course, also teaches courses on Genocide, Critical Theory, Film, and 20th Century World Literature at UW-Oshkosh, where he received the university’s distinguished teaching award in 2003.

Peter Paik’s essay, “The Pessimist Rearmed: Zizek on Christianity and Revolution” appeared in *Theory and Event* 8:2 (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press), June 2005. He organized a panel to discuss the anime film *The End of Evangelion*, which brought three international scholars (Brian Ruh, Wendy Goldberg, and Paul Malone) working in the field of Japanese popular culture to UWM on November 5, 2005. He gave a paper titled “The Political Theology of Science Fiction” at the Midwest MLA in November, and will give a presentation entitled “Representing the Unjust War” at the MLA Annual Convention in December in Washington, DC.



Kristin Pitt’s article, “Disappearing Bodies: The Nation and the Individual in José de Alencar’s *Iracema*,” will be published in the January/June 2006 edition of the *Latin American Literary Review*. In 2005, she has given papers at the conferences of the American Comparative Literature Association, the North Central Council of Latin Americanists, and the Midwest Modern Language Association, on authors Reinaldo Arenas, Owen Wister and Ricardo Güiraldes, and Maryse Condé. She has also developed several new courses, including an interdisciplinary seminar for first-year students on literature and the environment.

While taking care of her 95-year old mother continues to be her major occupation, **Rachel Skalitzky** helps to plan the Comparative Literature luncheon each semester with over-62 auditors, who continue to contribute generously to the RASCL scholarship fund and support the Comparative Literature program.

Roy Arthur Swanson is the recipient of *Cygnifiliana*, a Festschrift compiled and published in his honor by several of his colleagues and former students, and edited by Chad Matthew Schroeder, his former student and teaching assistant at UWM. Professor Swanson has also recently published a review of a Modern Language Association text on Proust; the review appeared in *The International Fiction Review* 32 (2005), and his essay “Critical View on Rhinoceros,” appeared in Harold Bloom’s recent edition of *Eugène Ionesco* (2003).

Jian Xu’s article “Representing Rural Migrants in the City: Experimentalism in Wang Xiaoshuai’s *So Close to Paradise* and *Beijing Bicycles* is forthcoming in *Screen* vol. 46, no. 4 (winter 2005).

News from the Holocaust Resource and Information Project

The Holocaust Resource and Information Project, in conjunction with the Holocaust Education and Resource Center (HERC), is planning a Spring Movie Series that will take place throughout the Spring at UWM. The schedule for this coming Spring is:

Feb 7, 2006	“Rosenstrasse”
February 28, 2006	“Unlikely Heroes”
April 18, 2006	“Daring to Resist”

This movie series is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Michael Fountain at fountain@uwm.edu.

