Faculty Publishing

The considerable research strengths of College of Arts and Letters faculty members are a central core of the intellectual climate of the university and the larger community. Faculty move their research and scholarship from the library, archive, lab and stage into print, publishing in a wide range of fields with some of the nation’s leading academic presses. Their observations of the world also find their way into fiction and poetry. Listed on the following pages are titles published since spring 2009.
SAFOI BABANA-HAMPTON, Department of French, Classics and Italian, “Open Correspondence: An Epistolary Dialogue” (by Rita El Khayat & Abdelkébir Khatibi – translated by Safoi Babana-Hampton, Valérie K. Orlando, and Mary Vogl), University of New Orleans Press, 2009


Beginning in 1970 with an engaging in-depth portrait of psychoanalyst and historian Erik Erikson in the pages of the New Yorker, and cresting, most recently, with a compelling book-length sketch of rock icon and songwriter Bruce Springsteen, Robert Coles has made the biographical profile his signature genre. This important volume pulls together for the first time a diverse cross section of Coles’ profiles, originally published in our premier magazines over the span of five decades but never before collected in book form. In these portraits, Coles finds a way to cross-fertilize his unique gifts: the interpretive dexterity of a renowned psychiatrist, the observational skills of an influential documentarian, and the empathic sensitivity of a great teacher.

Cooper has also been named General Editor of The Robert Coles Humanities in Public Life Book Series, MSU Press

DANIELLE NICOLE DEVOS, WRAC, National Writing Project with Elyse Eidman-Aadahl, and Troy Hicks, Jossey-Bass, 2010 “Because Digital Writing Matters,” a new book from the National Writing Project (NWP), looks at what educators, parents, and policymakers can do to help schools meet the challenges of new digital literacies and to equip students with the technology-related communication skills they need to thrive in school and in the global workplace.


This innovative, interdisciplinary collection of essays by scholars based in Europe and the United States offers stimulating approaches to the role played by religion in present-day South Asia.

JOSEPH FRANCESE, Department of French, Classics and Italian, “Perspectives on Gramsci: Politics, Culture and Social Theory,” Routledge, 2009

Antonio Gramsci is widely known today for his profound impact on social and political thought, critical theory and literary methodology. This volume brings together 12 eminent scholars from humanities and social sciences to demonstrate the importance and relevance of Gramsci to their respective fields of inquiry.
JOSEBA GABILONDO, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, “Vulgate of the Apocalypse,” Erein, 2009 (Winner Erein Prize for Narrative)


TODD HEDRICK, Department of Philosophy, “Rawls and Habermas – Reason, Pluralism, and the Claims of Political Philosophy,” Stanford University Press, 2010


GARY HOPPENSTAND, University Distinguished Faculty, “Stephen King (Critical Insights”), Salem Press, 2010


MATT MCKEON, Department of Philosophy, “The Concept of Logical Consequence,” Peter Lang, 2010


ELVIRA SÁNCHEZ-BLAKE, Department of Spanish & Portuguese, “Spiral of Silences, Beaumont,” 2009

“Spiral of Silences,” a novel, narrates an internal drama from Colombia’s recent history. Through a crafted narrative, three feminine voices weave the threads of a drama filled with historical events and individual stories, each one of them searching for hope.

KARL SCHOONOVER, Department of English - Film Studies, “Global Art Cinema,” Oxford University Press, 2010


This professional development guide offers insights and strategies about using pop culture in the first-year writing classroom. The edited volume includes essays by instructors who share details of their most effective class ideas and writing assignments. It is a resource for new teachers and for those interested in incorporating popular culture into their writing courses.


This book contains the insights of teachers who have used popular culture to inspire student writing. There is a progression in the book from teachers who introduced analysis of a few elements of popular culture, such as a song or movie, into a traditional writing class to those who host entire classes in virtual worlds such as Second Life. If you are looking to add popular culture to your own writing classroom, you will be able to choose the pace that you are comfortable with, whether it is taking baby steps or charging full speed ahead in leaps and bounds.
DAN STEEL, (co-edited with Francesco Guala), Department of Philosophy, “The Philosophy of Social Science,” Routledge, 2010
An outstanding, comprehensive and up-to-date collection of key readings in the philosophy of social science, covering the essential issues, problems and debates in this important interdisciplinary area.

Thompson’s book was the topic of an author/critics session at both the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society meeting in June, and the International Association for Environmental Philosophy in Montreal in October, and is scheduled for a similar session at the Association for Professional and Practical Ethics in Cincinnati in March.

Word Power is a text designed for courses that teach terms commonly found in the fields of medicine and allied health. The book’s linguistic approach focuses on the analysis of these terms which are derived largely from Greek and Latin roots. It is a nice alternative to rote memorization, because it helps the student understand the origin of the words they will use or come across everyday in their profession. “Word Power” also touches on some history of the medical language where medical terms, for instance, have entered the lexicon in non-scientific ways. Finally, “Word Power” will help the student translate Latin anatomical nomenclature, serving both as an aid to memory and as an aid to studying anatomy.


EDWARD WATTS (ed.), Department of English, “The Indian Hater and Other Stories,” Kent State University Press, 2010

HELENE CAROL WELDT-BASSON, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, “Postmodernism’s Role in Latin American Literature: The Life and Works of Augusto Roa Bastos,” an edited collection, Palgrave/ Macmillan, June 2010
Augusto Roa Bastos (1917-2005), winner of the prestigious Cervantes prize, is one of the most important Latin American writers of the twentieth century. This commemorative collection consists of articles by nine scholars reflecting upon the postmodern nature of the Paraguayan author’s literary production and his place in world literature. The volume includes articles on the author’s screenplays, his masterpiece, the dictator novel “I The Supreme,” his short stories, feminist approaches to Roa Bastos’s novels, reflections on the writer’s Guarani poetry, and a study of the complex, intertextual relationships between his novel “El Fiscal” and his other texts.

WOMAN IN THE WILDERNESS
The opening lines to the preface of Nancy Bunge’s book chronicling the letters of one of her ancestors, Harriet Wood Wheeler, are as enticing as they are absent of critical detail. They read, “The basic plot of a story my father told when I was a child went like this: an ancestor in my family walked from Wisconsin to Washington, D.C., helped the Indians, and then died as a result of his efforts.”

Anyone with a love of history and mystery has to love the built-in challenge in that story line. Is it true? Is it factual? Who was this person? Why did he walk to Washington, D.C., to help the Indians? And how did he die? As famed radio broadcaster Paul Harvey used to intone, it begs the question, “What is the rest of the story?”

Bunge notes that, over the years, the “tale seemed more and more improbable, but also persistently fascinating.” By 1995, she had learned that the man in question was her great-great-grandfather, a missionary to the Ojibwe Indians named Leonard Wheeler. How Bunge learned “the rest of the story,” though, proved to be a 15-year labor of love: love of writing, written correspondence, research, the interview process and a really good story.

“I was driving to Duluth one summer for a writing workshop, and happened to stop in Marquette, Michigan, for the night,” says Bunge. “Realizing that I had nothing with me to read, I stopped into a local store and found a book about the Chippewa of the area. In it were stories about Leonard Wheeler, and I realized that I was going to be driving through Odanah, Wisconsin, the town that he founded with the Ojibwe.

“Just west of town, I came upon a highway marker about him that told about how the U.S. government had tried to remove the Ojibwe from Wisconsin, and Leonard Wheeler had stood with the Ojibwe and successfully resisted their removal.”

From there, Bunge’s journey took her to Bayfield, Madeline Island and Ashland, Wisconsin, and stops in local museums and libraries, always in search of more information on Leonard Wheeler. She learned, for instance, that some people said that Leonard had tried to make the Indians into gentle men farmers, but that this was not true. She also learned that one of the Wheelers’ sons, E.P. Wheeler, had been the first president of Northland College, and she found a book, “Unnamed Wisconsin” by J.N. Davidson, and “devoured its biography of Harriet Wheeler.”

LETTERS & DOCUMENTS
The next summer, Bunge returned to Madeline Island. “I called the curator at the museum on Madeline Island and asked if he had any papers for the Wheelers, and he said, ‘Sure.’ When I showed up to look at it, I was directed to a bunch of dress boxes full of letters and documents,” says Bunge. “They included letters to his father in Vermont, and I wrote a paper on them. These letters detailed over time how all tides had shifted dramatically for the Ojibwe ‘heathens,’ and how Wheeler began railing against the government on the Indians’ behalf.”
At one point, the government told the Ojibwe in northern Wisconsin that they had to go to Sandy Lake, Minnesota, to pick up their annuities,” says Bunge, “But, when the Ojibwe got to Sandy Lake, there was no money, and bad food made them sick. When the money finally did show up, it wasn’t as much as they had been promised.”

Bunge says that the weather turned cold, so the trip back to Wisconsin was tough – and as a result of all these problems, hundreds died. The Ojibwe refused to go back to Minnesota, so the government withheld their annuities for two years. The government then deeded the Indians reservations in northern Wisconsin, but then “forgot” and tried to sell off part of the reservation at Lac Courte Oreilles.

At this point, Leonard Wheeler took matters into his own hands.

LONG JOURNEY TO STOP SALE
“He strapped on a pair of snowshoes and, with an Indian guide, walked a couple hundred miles to catch a train to Washington, D.C. to remind them of the treaty they had signed with the Ojibwe,” says Bunge, “and, as far as I can tell, he stopped the sale. The trip ruined his lungs, though, and he was never well again.

“This was the story I had heard from my father as a child. And not only was it true, it was downright heroic.”

Enthused to find considerable written communication between Wheeler’s wife, family and friends, Bunge began to focus her research on Harriet Wood Wheeler. She knew that while there is a wealth of letters and correspondence by American men of this era, there is a dearth of material from a woman’s perspective.

While on sabbatical from 2003-2004, Bunge photocopied all of the correspondence for Harriet Wheeler that was held by the Wisconsin Historical Society in Ashland, Wisconsin, and spent a year at Harvard Divinity School, where she had access to Harvard’s and other area archives, libraries and museums and found “invaluable materials” that filled out Harriet’s early life in New England.

As Bunge notes in the preface to her book, “I believe the letters proved irresistible to me because I love people’s voices. Much of my research has involved interviewing writers, so I have spent hundreds of hours transcribing words and then doing my best to edit them into compelling sequences.

“I approached these letters like a very long interview. I transcribed all of them, and then went through the 560-page initial manuscript, repeatedly, cleaning out the dull or repetitive material until the letters fell into a fascinating narrative.”

And in the end, that’s precisely what “Woman in the Wilderness” delivers. From Harriet’s August 30, 1840, letter to her parents foreshadowing leaving her family to begin missionary work with her spouse Leonard Wheeler; to the succession of letters detailing the severe physical and psychological challenges of missionary life in the wilderness; to Harriet’s final uplifting missive in July 1892, the Wheelers’ story is one of hard work, determination, faith, honesty, and devotion to God, family and friends.

Reading the correspondence in “Woman in the Wilderness” feels very much like being dropped into the lives of the Wheelers, their family, friends, and the Ojibwe Indians with whom they all lived and interacted. It is a rare, unvarnished and fascinating look into the frontier life of an ordinary, yet extraordinary, American woman.