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 2013.

**THOMAS LOVIK**  
(and Douglas Guy, Monika Chavez)  
Department of Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian and African Languages,  
*Vorsprung*, Heinle, 2011

*Vorsprung* is an innovative and lively first-year program that uses a five-skills approach, emphasizing the acquisition of communicative as well as cultural competence without sacrificing attention to formal accuracy.

**MONICA LEAL DA SILVA**  
Department of Romance and Classical Studies  
*A Crise, a Família e a Crise da Família* (in Portuguese) (*The Crisis, the Family and the Family Crisis*)  
If the absence of family planning generates poverty, a drastic drop in the birth rate also generates economic and social problems. To understand how we got here and find a way out, we must not only talk about money, but establish responsibility, which requires ethical reflection on family and work. This is the theme of this essay.

**ARTHUR VERSLUIS**  
Department of Religious Studies, “*American Gurus–From Transcendentalism to New Age Religion*,” Oxford University Press, 2014

By the early 21st century, a phenomenon that once was inconceivable had become nearly commonplace in American society: the public spiritual teacher who neither belongs to nor is authorized by a major religious tradition. From the Oprah Winfrey-endorsed Eckhart Tolle to figures like Gangaji and Adhyashanti, there are now countless spiritual teachers who claim and teach variants of instant or immediate enlightenment. *American Gurus* tells the story of how this phenomenon emerged.
Arthur Versluis
Light—its symbolism pervades the world’s religions. There has even developed a modern religion of light whose practitioners refer to themselves as “lightworkers.” Buddhists aspire to enlightenment; Christians and other mystics seek illumination. But what are the meanings of light in religion? Surprisingly, this is the first and only book to explore this profound subject. From the ancient standing stones of England and Europe to the now lost religion of Manichaeism, from Pythagoras and Plato to the present, Religion of Light provides an unforgettable introduction to light and to our consciousness of light. Religion of Light is the second in a trilogy of books that began with The Mystical State.

Arthur Versluis
Editor: “Journal for the Study of Radicalism,” MSU Press, Volume 7, Numbers 1 and 2, Spring and Fall 2013; Volume 8, Number 1, Spring 2014
This journal engages in serious, scholarly exploration of the forms, meanings, representations, and historical influences of radical social movements. With sensitivity and openness to historical and cultural contexts of the term, it loosely defines “radical,” as distinguished from “reformers,” to mean groups who seek revolutionary alternatives to hegemonic social and political institutions, and who use violent or non-violent means to resist authority and to bring about change. The journal is eclectic, without dogma or strict political agenda, and ranges broadly across social and political groups worldwide, whether typically defined as “left” or “right.”

TRIXIE G. SMITH
(and Allison D. Smith
with Holly Hamby)
Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures, “Building Bridges through Writing.” Fountinehead Press, 2014
Building Bridges through Writing is an introductory composition text that covers the general writing process while dealing with the specifics of writing, conducting research, and documenting sources in the different disciplines of the academic community. It is designed to help students improve all of their writing, from freshman composition to general education courses to senior-level courses in their majors.

Trixie G. Smith
(with Allison D. Smith)
Why bring pop culture into the composition classroom? It’s something students know and can get passionate about, and it also functions as a bridge to academic culture and concerns. This second edition focuses on students’ relationship with pop culture—such as film, television, social networks, and advertisements—and how this relationship can help them become better critical thinkers, readers, and writers. Students learn to listen to viewpoints that differ from their own, summarize their views effectively, compare and contrast, and present their ideas in a way that creates a continuing conversation of ideas.
ROB ROZNOWSKI

What should an actor be thinking on stage? This overlooked, important question is the crux of this new book that combines psychological theory, practical exercises, and a wide-reaching examination of inner monologue in various forms including film, musical theatre and comedy. The inner monologue is that “stream of consciousness” or “inner voice” that constantly echoes in your head. This revolutionary new book tames and harnesses that voice to be used as a powerful tool in acting. Written in an accessible tone, the book assists actors, directors and educators in their quest for deeper, more thoughtful acting and is a perfect supplement to traditional actor training.

JAMES SEATON

This book offers a history of literary criticism from Plato to the present, arguing that this history can best be seen as a dialogue among three traditions—the Platonic, Neoplatonic, and the humanistic, originated by Aristotle. There are many histories of literary criticism, but this is the first to clarify our understanding of the many seemingly incommensurable approaches employed over the centuries by reference to the three traditions. Making its case by careful analyses of individual critics, the book argues for the relevance of the humanistic tradition in the 21st century and beyond.

SAULO GOUVEIA

Gouveia’s book studies the first steps of the movement in Brazil and some of its texts. Its first part explains how modernists produced a meta-discourse that legitimized their own work, and how state cultural policies assured their canonization by disseminating overviews, anthologies, and histories of Brazilian Modernism throughout the educational system. The second part looks at aspects of Brazilian Modernism that were overlooked by this totalizing narrative. Its three chapters examine the ambiguous relationship with modernity expressed in themes of Paulista identity and hegemony in the works of Paulo Prado, Mário de Andrade, and Oswald de Andrade.

BUMP HALBRITTER

Halbritter draws upon Erika Lindemann and her pioneering work in A Rhetoric for Writing Teachers, as well as the educational theory of John Dewey, the multi-literacy theory of Stuart Selber, and the design philosophy of Robin Williams. This book looks for ways to use the creation and critique of audio-visual texts as a means for realizing a variety of learning goals for writing students. The authors establish the theoretical foundation for that work and discuss, in depth, the material demands of working with audio-visual assets that writing teachers have not typically been trained to use: microphones, video cameras, and peripheral technologies for collecting, storing, and exchanging audio-visual information.
HELENE CAROL WELDT-BASSON

Current scholarship on Latin American historical fiction has failed to adequately take feminism and postcolonialism into account. In this collection of essays, noted scholars use these important contemporary discourses as a starting point for a new definition of the Latin American historical novel that includes four categories: fiction about the search for national identity, magical realism, narrative with historical intertextuality, and symbolic historical fiction. These categories show how the novel evolves through a new emphasis on women and the colonial subject in key texts by Claribel Alegría, Edgardo Rodríguez, Juliá Cristina, Peri Rossi, Reinaldo Arenas, Antonio Benítez-Rojo, Ana Teresa Torres, Tomás Eloy Martínez, Ana María Gonçalves, and Mario Vargas Llosa.

SUSAN M. GASS

Now in its fourth edition, this bestselling introductory textbook remains the cornerstone volume for the study of second language acquisition (SLA). Its chapters have been fully updated, and reorganized where appropriate, to provide a comprehensive yet accessible overview of the field and its related disciplines. To reflect current developments, new sections on using learner corpora, semantics and morphosyntax (within formal approaches to SLA), sociocultural approaches, gesture, priming research, and chaos theory have been added. Students will also find expanded discussions of heritage language learning, bilingualism, pragmatics, and much more. The redesigned fourth edition of Second Language Acquisition provides new pedagogical tools that encourage students to reflect upon the experiences of second language learners.

ANNE VIOLIN-WIGENT
(and Jessica Miller, Frederique Grim)

Sons et sens presents a unique cultural approach to French pronunciation for English-speaking students. Each chapter presents a new cultural topic, such as the French education system, vernacular French, and cooking in the francophone world, in order to enhance students’ pronunciation skills within the context of French and francophone culture. Phonetic explanations and rules throughout the textbook are anchored in recent research on French phonology, reflecting contemporary French as well as elements of nonstandard variation from around the francophone world. The authors’ approach derives from current research on second language acquisition and pedagogy as well as contemporary research on French linguistics—especially sociolinguistics.

CHRISTINA TRAISTER
Department of Theatre, (Various titles and dates), Audiobook narration, 2013.

Individual and series audiobook narration including works by: Robert Pobi, Kristin Bair O’Keefe, Daniel Judson, Cara Hoffman, Barbara Annino, Lisa Jackson, and Allison Winn Scotch.