

vernacular tongue, which characterizes Kelman's work." His use of the vernacular seems to be his trademark.

As the visiting professor he will be teaching one undergraduate course, English 181 (Special Topics); and one graduate course, English 241 (Seminar in Fiction Writing). Along with these courses he will be appearing on Thursday, March 1, 2007 in "A Conversation with James Kelman," which will be held at the Spartan Memorial Chapel

at 12:00 pm, free admission. "A Reading with James Kelman" will be held at the University Theater 7:30 pm the same day, free admission.

Our students will benefit greatly from



The Center for Steinbeck Studies

by

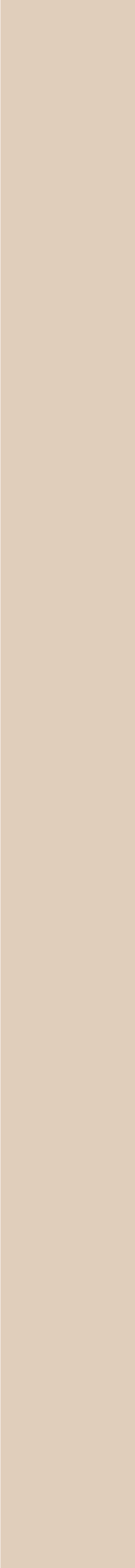
With over one and a half million items contained inside, San Jose State's Martin Luther King Jr. Library boasts of being the largest library on this side of the Mississippi. It holds not only an impressive collection of books, movies, and art; it also contains, with over forty-thousand pieces, the largest collection of Steinbeck memorabilia in the world.

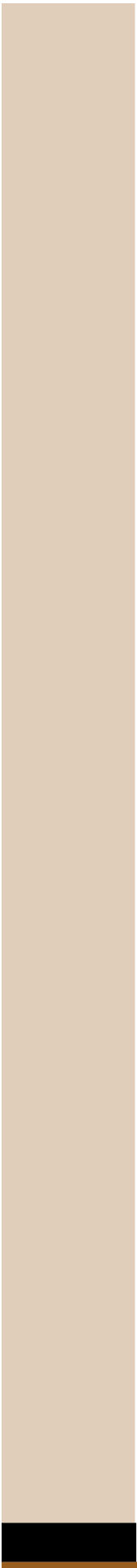
The Center for Steinbeck Studies, currently located on the fifth floor of our library, was founded soon after Steinbeck's death in 1968 by San Jose State Professor Martha Heasley Cox in 1971. Her purpose in establishing the center was to preserve Steinbeck's literary legacy.

The Center displays such objects as original letters written by Steinbeck, photos, films, manuscripts, painted portraits of Steinbeck, and posters from movies that were made from his books. Some of his personal belongings are also on display, such as a typewriter, a replica of a notepad with copies of his handwriting, and various prints of his books. The Center also contains more obscure items, such as a replica of a motor Steinbeck used in his travels through the Sea of Cortez, a device used by a friend of Steinbeck's for marine biology experiments (which is rumored to have also doubled as a distillery), and a bedpan once owned by his mother's family.

Martha Heasley Cox's contribution to preserving the memory of Steinbeck doesn't end with the Center. She also funds a program called The Steinbeck Fellows, which offers \$10,000 plus housing assistance as an award to each accepted applicant, for the purpose of completing a writing project. The program is not restricted to SJSU students, but is a national competition. The program supports creative writers of genres that were pursued by Steinbeck, and includes such categories as essays, short stories, novels, theatrical plays,

For twenty years the Center for
Literary Art's Major Authors Series has
been the most significant literary series
in the region, presenting Nobel Prize,
National Book Award, and Pulitzer Prize
winners to the community. Tes hs1000 M []0 d/GS1 GS1o.





the conversation or simply have a seat and hangout. There is no membership fee or application process.

“All we really require is enthusiasm and a desire to be a part of the group. We also ask that each member maintain their ‘active’ status by attending at least one ES event per semester and by volunteering two hours at an event or department tea,” says Perry.

The meetings for this semester will be held each third Wednesday of the month from 12am to 3pm in the Lounge. The meetings mainly focus, as Nathanael states, “on gathering ideas for ES events and then putting those ideas in motion.” Take time out to attend one of these meetings and see where it takes you. “The more people who attend the meetings, the more ideas to share, as well as more volunteers to do the work to get it done,” adds Nathanael.

“It [English Society] has changed my college experience from one of detachment to one of camaraderie,” claims Perry. “Getting involved with ES was one of the best things I ever did in college,” admits Weiglein. Hertzler adds, “I had the college experience that I always wanted because of the ES.”

The English Society welcomes you. Come unwind your mind or join in the discussion. As Nathanael confesses, grinning, “you have no idea how much fun can be had with the *Oxford English Dictionary*.” Come see what the English Society has to offer you.

Want to know what's going on?

To Receive important announcements from the Department Office and our Chair, Scott Rice, please sign up for the English Department listserv. Announcements include upcoming performances/ events, English Society activities, general graduation information, and scholarship opportunities. To sign up, send an email message to: listspr@du.edu. In the body of the text, type the following: [name] [your last name]. Replace the bracketed information without the brackets. We will only acknowledge your successful sign up. You can unsubscribe any time you wish.

Our beloved Judy Reynolds has retired, and the English Department has a new librarian, Toby Matoush.

Toby grew up in Ashland, Oregon, the home of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. She has a BA and MA in Japanese Literature and Language, and she is fluent in Japanese. She has done quite a lot of research in her career, but her favorite research topics have included contemporary Japanese female authors, women in Japanese popular culture, Japanese folklore, and gender studies. Currently, she is working on a translation of *Cruel Fairy Tales for Adults* by the Japanese author Kurahashi Yumiko. Toby has been writing all her life, and although she has mainly written poetry, she is currently branching out into short stories.

An experienced librarian who can help in many different ways, Toby is very excited about working with all English majors, and offers research assistance to students primarily in English, Comparative Literature, and Foreign Language courses. (If she's not available and a student needs help with database researching, the second floor of the library is the best place to go; on this floor there are reference librarians ready to help anyone who is willing to ask for it.)

Toby is also excited about working with the faculty. She is willing to provide Library Research Classes for Literature and English Classes when requested.

For English 1B and 100W, Toby can coordinate, schedule, and teach the class session that involves the library. If faculty members need the use of any books or films on English literature and/or related subjects for their classes, they can contact Toby and she can order them for the library. Toby can also make arrangements for a faculty reading to take place at the King Library. Her services are also available to any faculty member

who needs help finding library resources on a subject or would like advice on using the databases.

To the whole English Department, Toby suggests checking out the SJSU Research English Page for English and Comparative Literature Resources, which is located at www.sjlibrary.org. Once at the

website, select SJSU Research Topics, select English, and go from there. Both students and faculty should take full advantage of all the services that Toby has to offer.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library houses a variety of different collections, has designated "quiet floors," and offers accessible technology that is useful to English majors.

The Lower Level of the library contains a wide assortment of little-known treasures. This semester there are two new scanners for scanning books, periodicals, and microfilms; once students have scanned an item they can send the copied item to their own email for future use. Also in the depths of the lower level are government publications, historical children's collections, and historical texts from the State of California. The periodical section ranges from our own *Spartan Daily* to well known newspapers like the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *San Jose Mercury News*. There is also an area called the SJSU Student Computer Service Center where a student with a student ID can check out laptops for up to four hours.

Another useful level is the third floor where there are various collections ranging from language to sociology, including the Dr.

C04ur hourcre a snirde technologyoserviand faculty

Writing = \$\$\$\$

by

Want tons of money and recognition for your most prized writing? As English majors we all know that the hard work we invest in writing takes heart and soul and many sleepless nights, but it's all worth it in the end when we have a kicka\$\$ piece of writing. So don't be modest; take some credit. Put your writing out there and get noticed. Make some major moolah. Here's your chance.

We're incredibly lucky to have amazing scholarship and award opportunities available within the SJSU English Department. Departmental awards are given via two roads: by student application and by faculty nomination.

Scholarships that students may apply for, which include the James Phelan Creative Writing Awards, cover a wide range of writing genres, styles, and topics, including creative nonfiction, fiction, poetry, familiar essays, humor and satire, reminiscences, critical essays, reviews, short stories, and literary criticism. There's something for everybody. Last year the Phelan Awards alone handed out a total of \$2,500 to student winners. Start thinking now about what you're writing in your classes this year, and about what types of things you want to submit.

Awards by faculty nomination are given for outstanding academic excellence in a number of different categories:

- Scholarly achievement as an undergraduate major in English and Comp. Lit.
- Scholarly achievement as a graduate student in English & Comp. Lit.
- Scholarly Achievement in the writing and study of poetry
- Scholarly achievement in Chaucer or Middle English
- Scholarly Achievement in the study of the language of Beowulf or Old English

So work extra hard in class and show those professors what you're really made of.

The deadlines for student entries and faculty nominations won't be set until early in the Spring 2007 semester, but it's not too early to start writing. All of the awards require students to be registered for six or more units; and some awards require students to have completed a minimum of

24 semester units at San Jose State University.

Don't hesitate to take advantage of all the scholarship money that the English Department is offering. English majors are supposedly poor. Let's rebel. The amount of money that can be made on a single scholarship can range anywhere from \$75 to a cool \$1,000! Can't you just smell the sweet scent of cash?

With so many opportunities, there's no time for excuses or for doubting yourself. The potential is there! Check out the impressive array of award opportunities. The English Department Office is located in the Faculty Office Building, room 102. There you will find all the information you need about applications: deadlines, eligibility requirements, procedures, and a lot more. Also, right across from the Department's office, you'll find a bulletin board displaying last year's winners. Visit the English Department's website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/depts/english/award.htm> for contact information and a comprehensive listing of all of the Department's awards.

Go that extra mile! Take a chance! Earn those big bucks! Not only does applying give you the opportunity for personal growth and money, but winning a scholarship or an award adds some pizzazz on a resume, inviting further opportunities for future writing successes.

For many of us, our primary goal is to graduate from San Jose State University and find a rewarding career. Often our peers earn their degrees, and we never see them again. On the last day of class we wish them success, and hope that they find a use for their English degree, whether it is teaching, editing, or writing; and occasionally we wonder how they are surviving out there in the “real world.” If Daisy Luu is an example of what SJSU English major graduates are doing today, then we have nothing to fear.

Some of you might remember Daisy because not only was she a student here at SJSU, but she was also the smiling face behind the front desk of the English Department office for almost a year. Daisy received her B.A. in English, accompanied by a Certificate in Technical writing in 2002; she then earned a M.F.A. in Creative Writing in 2005.

She “just got lucky,” she says, when, while working as Administrative Assistant for the English Department, she received a job posting for a Technical Writing Internship at Lam Research Corporation, a supplier of wafer fabrication equipment. She faxed her resume and got the job. As an Intern, she was trained by a Senior Technical Writer on Adobe FrameMaker, and began to write user guides and installation manuals.

Armed with this technical writing experience on her resume, she “got lucky again.” Her internship was ending, and she answered a few ads for Technical Writers. She faxed her resume to TeleNav, a company who provides turn-by-turn GPS navigation for mobile phones and got a call back that same day.

Today, she writes release notes, pocket guides, quick-start guides, and website guides for TeleNav. While this might not be the type of creative writing that Daisy intended to do, she says she is “ultimately happy just writing.” She also says that “the respect is nice.” She feels that she receives more respect than she would have had as a teacher, but she is sometimes frustrated when she wonders if anybody is actually reading the instructions she is writing.

It's refreshing to hear that someone with a passion for words is writing manuals and guides. Few things can be as frustrating as attempting to decipher and follow poorly written directions. I am sure that those who are reading her instructions are thankful for her ability to communicate those directions effectively.

Daisy, who chose to be an English major because of her “love of languages,” says that she still gets a shiver down her spine when she reads or writes something good. Her education at SJSU taught her “How to write for specific types of audiences. How to respect deadlines, think critically, and take criticism.” All of these are important in technical writing, where, according to Daisy, “people edit your work, and you've got to be willing to revise it, even take out sections that you've worked hard on.” Her skills have served her well because the technical writing field can be a financially rewarding one. According to Daisy, the initial salary of a technical writer might be as little as \$35,000 a year, but within five years he or she can make as much as \$95,000 a year.

If the idea of writing for instructional rather than entertainment purposes interests you, or if you just have to find a way to pay off those student loans, Daisy recommends getting to know publishing software such as FrameMaker, and an image capturing tool like Photoshop or SnagIt and then check out what what companies are looking for in a technical writer at websites like www.monsterjobs.com, www.craigslist.org, or www.hotjobs.yahoo.com; and you can contact

Grant-Writing Alumna

by

Many San Jose State University students who have received their BA in English have taken interesting paths in their careers. This can certainly be said of Tanja Nathanael, a recent San Jose State University alumna, who has taken a road less traveled by becoming a grant writer. Her success story is a testament to the variety of careers that are open to English majors.

After obtaining her BA in English from San Jose State, Tanja didn't want to start a teaching career just yet. She had had a bad experience when she had to teach in a classroom filled with a bunch of "Bart Simpsons." "What other options were opened for her?" she wondered.

Well, after reading a notice about a grant-writing position, and with a recommendation from Bonnie Cox, a professor at San Jose State University, Tanja applied for the job. The Steinway Society, the non-profit organization that had posted the grant-writing job, hired her.

What exactly is a grant or a grant writer? A grant writer basically writes a grant document, called a "grant proposal." It's a document that asks a funding agency (a city, a company, a foundation, etc.) for money to bring something special (such as certain types of art) into the community. A grant proposal is therefore a document that is both informative and persuasive.

Tanja, now one of these grant writers, works for the Steinway Society, which, she explains, is a non-profit organization trying to get the art of piano music into the Bay Area. This organization doesn't profit money-wise when it receives money to bring piano music to the Bay Area.

In fact, Tanja has recently been part of a group effort to bring piano music into downtown San Jose. She excitedly elaborated how they have just asked for and received support from the city. This was all done through grants that Tanja helped write.

For the time being, Tanja enjoys grant writing. It's something different;

something a bit creative; and something that helps the community, which is a good thing.

Grant writing does, of course, have a downside that Tanja hates. Deadlines! "But what writing job doesn't?" she concedes. While she does enjoy writing, grants also have to be researched, and they have to be written within a tightly specified time frame. Because of this, her grant writing has to be done more quickly than when she writes stories.

Nonetheless, she feels fortunate to have landed the job, and enjoys working with grants. It's a rewarding experience for her because it's for a good cause and

brings something good into

the community (not to mention that it pays the bills).

Although she works full time writing grants to bring piano music into the community, Tanja is still with us at San Jose State, as she is currently enrolled in the MA

English Graduate Program. Her favorite subject is folklore; she is obsessed with folklore. In fact, she still wants to teach one day, and she hopes that career will include teaching a college-level course in folklore.

How how this alumna spends her time amazes me. Not only is she a graduate student with a full-time grant-writing position, but she is also a full-time mother, raising a son. Being a mother, student, and writer is stressful, yet she endures, proving that it is possible to have it all—just bit by bit.

"It's something different; something a bit creative; and something that helps the community, which is a good thing."



Spring 2007 Course Descriptions

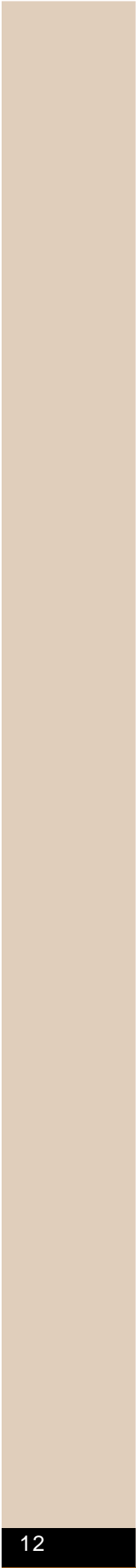
Shakespeare! Chaucer! Milton! The three GREATEST writers in the English language—and all in a single course! Plus one of the scariest monster stories ever: *Beowulf*. What more could an English major want? Join us in a lively romp over a thousand years of English literature. You'll love it!

Something for everyone in the greatest hits of Brit Lit for the past two-hundred-odd years, covering the Romantics, Victorians, Modernists, and Postmodernists, their poetry, fiction, drama, and prose.

Native American oral literature, colonial narratives, poetry, and autobiographical writings plus the greats of the romantic period: Emerson, Thoreau, Fuller, Poe, Melville, Hawthorne, Whitman, Dickinson. High points: Tyler's play *The Contrast*, Rowson's novel *Charlotte*, Douglass's Narrative, Melville's *Billy Budd*. Two exams, one paper.

Survey of American literature. Emily Dickinson to the present.

In this course, we read, discuss, and write poetry, creative non-fiction, and short fiction. During class, we discuss craft by focusing on "reading like a writer." We also engage in in-class writing activities and writing workshops to respond to each others' writing. Several published writers will visit



Learn how to write proposals, resumes and job application letters, instructions and procedures, reports, abstracts, and executive summaries. Learn how to analyze prospective readers and write to meet those readers' needs. Learn how to work collaboratively to create a document for a real client on campus, at a non-profit organization, or a

This course studies multicultural literature by immigrant, culturally under-represented, and Native-American writers. Specifically, we will read works by African-American, Asian-American, Chicano, Latino, Islamic-American, Jewish-American, and Native American writers. We will explore varied representations of and responses to ethnicity in the cultural context of a diverse country. The theme for the semester will be "Crossing Borders." We will examine how matters of ethnicity, cultural displacement, cultural expression, cultural repression, racism, and anti-Semitism are explored in the genres of fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, film, and drama. We will read the following authors: Sherman Alexie, James Baldwin, Louis Erdrich, Allen Ginsberg, Jessica Hagedorn, Khaled Hosseini, Garrett Hongo, Gish Jen, Maxine Hong Kingston, Li-Young Lee, Andrew Lam, Toni Morrison, Bharati Mukherjee, David Mura, ZZ Packer, Ishmael Reed, Adrienne Rich, Gerald Stern, Louis Alberto Urrea, Luis Valdez, Alfred Vea, and Lois Ann Yamanaka. Besides reading these works for their literary values, we will also examine how these works facilitate the construction of self-identity and cross-cultural understanding. Prerequisites: completion of lower-division GE core; for students who began continuous enrollment at a CCC or a CSU in Fall 2005 or later, completion of or concurrent enrollment of a 100W course is required.

This discussion course invites readers who like to write (and vice versa). Readings will be drawn from interesting, well written English Tc0-0eWp

For Spring 2007, we'll be reading six or seven outstanding modern novels by women, all dealing with dysfunctional families as a theme, including most of the following: Willa Cather, *My Antonia* (1918); Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse* (1927); Buchi Emecheta, *The Joys of Motherhood* (1979); Keri Hulme, *The Bone People* (1983); Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club* (1989); Isabel Allende, *The House of Spirits* (1993); Ronit Matalon, *The One Facing Us* (1995); Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things* (1997). This is the sort of great literature that may make you want to go home and hug a parent (or child). Contact the instructor with your preferences from among those novels listed, or to suggest another title.

There is necessity and there is style. People confuse the two. Writers never should. If you have a story to tell, you find a way to tell it. But what if a way to tell it does not exist? There are different kinds of stories. Some concern the stories themselves. The writer needs to tell a story about the story, of the difficulty experienced in telling the story. Some stories press so hard they cannot be told. The short fiction of Ralph Ellison, William Saroyan, Erskine Caldwell, Meridel Le Seur, Tillie Olsen, Zora Neale Thurston, Isaac Bashevis Singer will provide a basis. Among other "foreign" English-language writers we shall consider Ming Sher (*Spider Boys*), Sam Selvon (*Lonely Londoners*), Duncan McLean (*Bucket of Tongues*) and Amos Tutuola (*My Life in the Bush of Ghosts*). Students should expect to essay around the arguments and do their best to produce two stories (or plays).

Chair's Message

by

This coming spring will be the twenty-fifth anniversary of our Department's Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest, an international literary parody competition that challenges entrants to compose bad opening sentences to imaginary novels. The BLFC was inspired by Edward George Bulwer-Lytton who began his 1830 novel *Paul Clifford* with the immortal opener, "It was a dark and stormy night" and then rambled on for 51 more words. Entries come from all over the world, and each year the results are covered by entities like

©

The *Department of English and Comparative Literature Newsletter* is written and produced by students in English 129.

Copy Editor
Layout & Design
Production Coordinator
Production Technician
Proofreaders
Instructor

