

Volume 11, Issue 2

Summer-Fall 2016



RUSSELL SAGE COLLEGE

Carriage House Notes English and Modern Languages

The Sage Colleges

Russell Sage College
Sage College of Albany
Sage Graduate School

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and Modern Languages new website at
www.sage.edu/academics/programs-degrees/liberal-arts/english/

Nancy Cumo Retires

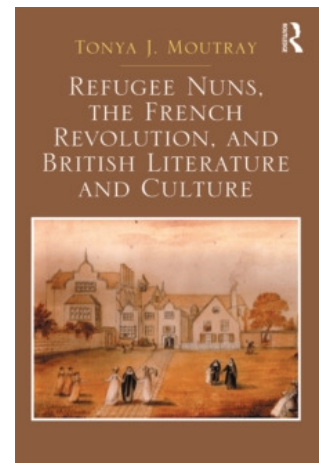


After 22 years at Sage, the last 15 as Administrative Assistant with English and Modern Languages, Nancy Cumo retired in May. She returned in June to dedicate a plaque to her daughter, RSC alum Tammy Cumo (2000) who has gone on to become a partner in the law firm of Gleason, Dunn, Walsh & O'Shea. The plaque is in Lafayette Courtyard, right outside Carriage House. Nancy looks forward to travel with husband Ricky in their new camper, time with her new dog, Little Guy, and extended time to spend with her family, especially grandkids Charlie and Emmie. The program thanks Nancy for her many years of fine service to the department and to Sage. Best of luck!

Spring 2017 Preview

Russell Sage welcomes two guest speakers in the Spring. Dr. Anna Battigelli, Professor of English at SUNY Plattsburgh, will give a lecture on a date to be announced. On April 12, for National Poetry Month, Sage will honor Sandra Beasley as the 2017 Carol Ann Donahue Poet. Beasley, author of several volumes of poetry and non-fiction including 2015's *Count the Waves*, is the winner of the 2009 Barnard Women Poets Prize for *I Was the Jukebox*. In 2011, she published *Don't Kill the Birthday Girl: Tales From an Allergic Life*, a cultural history of food allergy.

It is the program faculty's expectation that every English and Modern Languages major attend each program-sponsored event. It is vital that you show your support for our events.



Dr. Tonya Moutray's book, *Refugee Nuns, the French Revolution, and British Literature and Culture*, has been published by Routledge. In the study, Moutray shows how writers and the media negotiated the multi-valent figure of the nun during the 1790s, shaping British perceptions of nuns and convents during a time critical to their survival. The RSC library has a copy, and Dr. Moutray will give a lecture on the book in the Spring semester.

Welcome to Liz Romero



Welcome to Liz Romero, our new English and Modern Languages Administrative Assistant. Liz has a BA in English from SUNY—Albany and earned her MAT in English from Sage in 2007. She moved on from teaching to other lines of work, but her heart remains with language and literature. We're happy to welcome her to Russell Sage. Stop by her office to say hello.

15-16 Program Club Leaders

The Russell Sage Review: Editor, Annie Scordia

Medusa: The Writer's Community: President, Open

Sigma Tau Delta: President, Kelly Shanahan

Spanish Club: President, Kelly Clinton

The Quill: Editors-in-Chief: Kelly Shanahan and Sofia Berry

Get Involved! Contact these club leaders for details. New members are especially welcome.



Orientation 2016

SAGEFEST 2016!

Saturday, September 24

Sigma Tau Delta Used Book Sale

Tuesday, September 6, and Wednesday, September 7

11am-2pm

Buchman Pavilion

Proceeds to benefit flood victims in Louisiana

The Quill is Russell Sage College's student newspaper. It is currently looking for writers and other staff members. If interested, please contact the current editors Kelly Shanahan and Sofia Berry. The paper currently publishes every other Wednesday when classes are in session. Meetings are Tuesdays 4-5pm, French House Annex Moliere.

Fall at Theater Institute at Sage

- October: *Yours*
- November/December: *Alice in Wonderland*

Coming in April:
Alan Alda's *Radiance*



Important Dates

- Fall Semester Classes Begin: August 29
- Last Day for Add/Drop: September 2
- Mid-Semester Break: October 8-11
- Last Day to Withdraw from Fall Course: November 18
- Thanksgiving Break: November 23-27
- Last Day of Classes: December 9
- Spring 2017 Classes Begin: January 17

Medusa

Medusa is Russell Sage's campus-wide creative writing and poetry club. We meet each week to discuss both student and faculty produced work, as well as the poetry of published authors. Our meetings take place in the Poetry Room of the library, which affords us the opportunity to explore the works of many poets, and to further our understanding of poetry. Under the guidance of Dr. Kelley, we learn to critique our work and share it with other creative writers in a relaxed and encouraging environment. As a community of writers, we participate in the EML Spring Poetry Blitz, and present "Wild Women of Poetry," which supports the annual "Girl Stuff" drive for the YWCA in Troy. Medusa is currently looking for new members and executive council leaders! Questions? Interested in joining? Please contact Dr. Kelley kellee@sage.edu

DCUR

The **Kathleen A. Donnelly Center for Undergraduate Research** is located in the basement of the Shea Library. With Dr. David A. Salomon as its Director, the Center can help students with any aspect of their research, from planning to writing, from posters to presentations, from proposals to publications. Please stop by!

English and Modern Languages Faculty: What We Did With Our Summers

Prof. Matthew Klane

I spent my June in Belfast, Maine working to finish a poetry manuscript, running up and down hills, and watching the NBA Finals with strangers. The rest of my summer was spent on out-of-my-element house projects (roofing a shed, remodeling our kitchen), travels to see friends and family, and reading volumes of Karl Ove Knausgaard's *My Struggle*. Many end-of-summer nights have been devoted to watching *Stranger Things* on Netflix (see: photo).



Dr. Tonya Moutray



Dr. Moutray with her parents Barry and Sandra Schwab overlooking the Mississippi River in Hannibal, Missouri.

My summer went by very quickly. Between teaching a summer course at RSC and traveling to see family in Nebraska, Florida, and Missouri, there was little time to stop and smell the roses. But there was some time for that. I discovered an interest in rose gardening while at home and spent some time planting and tending five rose bushes alongside other varieties, such as daffodil, tulip, peony, and lily. I hope you will check out my new book in the stacks at the Shea Learning Center: *Refugee Nuns, the French Revolution, and British Literature and Culture!*



Reunion 2016

English and Modern Languages Faculty: What We Did With Our Summers

Dr. Kate Kagan

It has been very productive and great summer. I have taught foreign languages courses. All students enrolled in these classes were very motivated. Some of them decided to go abroad in August and master their level of proficiency. It took most of my time coordinating and creating these courses to be intensive and appealing to all students. I also spent time on developing new courses' for Fall 16, reviewing and analyzing data collected in 2015-16 to see how to improve the classes that I teach, reading and researching professional literature to prepare for the upcoming conferences. I was able to attend two very helpful workshops for foreign language teachers.

We tried to have some family fun and travel a little bit. At the end of June we flew to Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. We learned that the nickname of the city is "Bride of Atlantic." One day we took kids on tour and visited Fort San Felipe that was built in 1564. It's one of the oldest in the New World. It was built to protect Puerto Plata from pirates' invasion, and later it served as the prison. The boys and I went to Damajagua Cascades, 27 Waterfalls. It was a wonderful trip! When we returned, we decided to plan to visit something special every single weekend. So far we have been to Howe Caverns, Saratoga National Museum of Dance, Clark Art Museum and Williams College Museum of Art, Adirondack Museum, MoMA, Bronx Zoo, and Fort Ticonderoga.

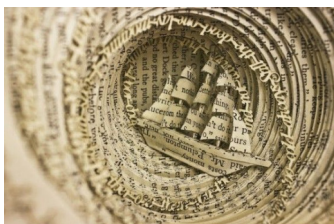


Dr. Shealeen Meaney

I started off my summer at the American Literature Association conference in San Francisco where I presented my research on American women's narratives of traveling through pre-partition India. Following the conference I stayed in California and visited with family and friends for a while before returning to New York to begin research for a new project on contemporary women's travel writings about India. I am looking forward to sharing some of this work for the first time at the National Women's Studies Association conference in November. Between bouts of research I enjoyed kayaking and camping in the Adirondacks and visiting local sites like Edith Wharton's home The Mount, where I ran into RSC English major Kelly Shanahan who is a tour guide there.

In July I traveled to Barbados with my mother, snorkeling and learning about the history and culture of this small Caribbean nation. If you are interested in Barbados, I recommend checking out *Sugar in the Blood* by Andrea Stuart, which I read while there. It traces one family's history from the 17th century colonization of Barbados right up to the present. Of course, Barbados is also the homeland of several authors I taught last semester, including post-colonial theorists George Lamming and Kamau Braithwait, so I was always looking for echoes of their work while there.

In August I headed back west to Santa Barbara and then on to the South Pacific - a completely new territory for me. As a typical literature professor about to encounter a new part of the world, I steeped myself in books about the region by Herman Melville, Somerset Maugham, Jack London, and J. Maarten Troost. If you're interested in fiction of the South Pacific, I'd start with Maugham! We spent nearly two weeks scuba diving, learning about Maori culture, and exploring the beaches of Rarotonga, the largest of the Cook Islands (a country best known to Americans as the site of *Survivor*, Season 13).



EMPAC, RPI's Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center, is just up the hill from Russell Sage College and hosts an eclectic lineup of films, performances, and lectures each semester, many of which are free. Check it out at empac.rpi.edu.

English and Modern Languages Faculty: What We Did With Our Summers

Dr. David Salomon

I spent most of my summer attending conferences, doing some consulting, teaching, and spending time with my family. After a week at Manhattan College for a conference in June, I worked with Scarsdale High School teachers for a week in July. I taught in a critical thinking course for the new CSTEP students and taught an online Short Story course in July and August. I had some writing projects to finish up, and signed a contract for a new book on the history of the sin in the Western world (to be published in 2018), which I have begun working on. An essay on anger in the Bible will come out this fall, and an essay on faculty evaluation that I co-wrote with two colleagues from the New American Colleges and Universities was just published in a new book. In August I and my family spent four days in NYC doing some sightseeing and catching up some old friends. I caught up with the novelist Tama Janowitz (right bottom), whom I'd been out of touch with for about 30 years. In addition to a trip to the top of the Empire State Building (right top), which I hadn't done since I was a kid, we went in search of some significant television landmarks (like the "Elementary" brownstone and Richard Castle's apartment building). The rest of the summer was spent catching up with projects around the house, trying to unwind, and getting ready for the fall semester. By the way photo was taken by Phoebe, as I still stink at selfies.



Dr. Elizabeth Kelley

Summer is often a time to visit with family and indulge in what we love to do. Dr. Kelley enjoyed completing and renewing several writing and portrait art projects, devoting most of her time to researching newly digitized collections of Civil War diaries, letters, maps, newspaper articles and military record archives, in preparation for her fall class, Faulkner and The Lost Cause. In the process, she also found a few primary source story-starter gems of her own, and wrote several historical fiction vignettes for inclusion in her novel in progress.





Students in Dr. Salomon's Spring 2016 Shakespeare course visited Middlebury College in Vermont to see Shakespeare's First Folio, which has been on tour celebrating the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.



Sofia Berry was awarded the 2016 Carriage House Award for excellence in English.



Students in Dr. Salomon's Spring 2016 Medieval Literature course visited The Cloisters in New York City, the Metropolitan Museum of Art's collection specializing in European medieval architecture, sculpture and decorative arts.

Study Abroad!

There are some truly incredible opportunities for study abroad. Take advantage of them while you can. Your undergraduate years are the ideal time to go abroad, earn credit, and have an eye-opening cultural and intellectual experience. And you can study just about anywhere in the world. It's not as expensive as you might think. Have a look at the Sage Study Abroad homepage at <https://www.sage.edu/academics/study-abroad/>

Or visit with Dr. David Salomon, Faculty Director of Study Abroad (salomd@sage.edu).



Novelist Bill Belcher read from his novel *Lay Down Your Weary Tune* in Spring 2016.



Novelist Elizabeth Brundage returned to RSC in the Spring to read from her new novel, *All Things Cease to Appear*.

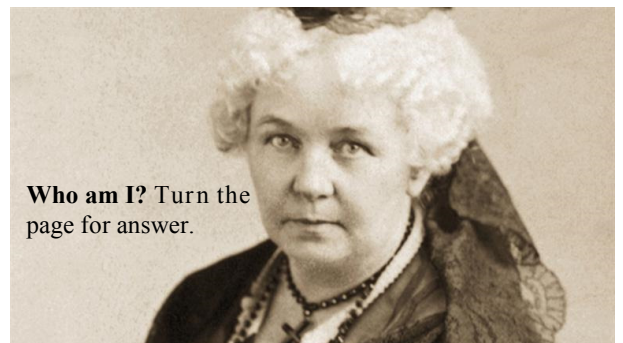


The New York State Writer's Institute at the University at Albany features a dynamic list of authors, readings, and films. See the complete Fall schedule at <http://www.albany.edu/writers-inst/>.

Language Study at Sage

The Sage Language Acquisition Program (SLAP) is now the Culture and Language Acquisition Program (CLAS). In an agreement with and with the support of Rosetta Stone, Sage is offering French, Italian, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Russian and Portuguese. Please contact Dr. Kate Kagan (kagane@sage.edu) for more information, or visit www.sage.edu/clas.

Internships can be a vital part of your education and can often lead to a permanent job upon graduation.



Who am I? Turn the page for answer.



In 1905, Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage published “Opportunities and Responsibilities of Leisured Women,” in which she outlines her philanthropic philosophy.

2016 Carol Ann Donahue Poet Sandra Lim (right) participated in RSC’s Blackout Poetry event as part of National Poetry Month.

Did you know . . .

Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage’s largest gift was \$10 million to establish the Russell Sage Foundation in 1907.



Facebook Groups

RSC English Alums should join the Facebook group: “Russell Sage College Alums.”

There is now a Facebook group for “English and Modern Languages at Russell Sage College.”

Writing Studio

Don’t forget the Writing Studio is available for any kind of writing assistance. Relocated to the third floor of the new Shea Library, the Studio has posted hours and tutor schedules outside the office. The Writing Studio will reopen after classes resume. To make an appointment, call 244-6737 or stop by. Visit them on the web at www.sage.edu/writingstudio.

Who am I? Elizabeth Cady Stanton was an American suffragist, social activist, abolitionist, and leading figure of the early women’s rights movement. Her Declaration of Sentiments, presented at the Seneca Falls Convention held in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, is often credited with initiating the first organized women’s rights and women’s suffrage movements in the United States.^{[1][2]} Stanton was president of the National Woman Suffrage Association from 1892 until 1900. In 19?? She gave a speech on the steps of our own Gurley Hall where a plaque commemorates the event.



The Harry Potter books are distributed in over 200 territories, are translated into 68 languages and have sold over **400 million copies** worldwide.

Carriage House Notes is (unless otherwise noted) written and designed by Prof. David A. Salomon to whom any questions or comments should be directed. Contact him at 518-244-3118 or salomd@sage.edu.

16-17 Program Directory

- Dr. Kate Kagan. Modern Languages Program Coordinator (kagane, x2238, Carriage House #3)
- Dr. Elizabethe Kelley (kellee, x4586, Carriage House #7)
- Mr. Matthew Klane (klanek, x4559, French House Annex)
- Dr. Tonya Moutray, English Program Coordinator and Department Chair (moutrt, x2406, Carriage House #5)
- Dr. Shealeen Meaney (meanes, x2404, Carriage House #1)
- Dr. David A. Salomon (salomd, x3118, French House Annex)
- Ms. Liz Romero, Admin. Asst. (romere, x2237, Carriage House)