

## Literature Section

The dual mission of MIT's [Literature Section](#) remains unaltered: to cultivate a deep and abiding engagement with humanistic thought in an undergraduate population largely comprised of non-majors, and to contribute at the highest level to research in literary studies and related fields.

However, the events of 2019–2020 posed severe challenges to our pedagogic model, given its intense commitment to small-group teaching across all levels of the curriculum, as well as to our primary research methodologies, which often rely on physical access to archives and intense discussions with peers and collaborators at various public forums. COVID-19 abruptly suspended the normal order of daily business, plunging us into remote worlds of socially distanced teaching and research.

Our faculty and staff adapted admirably, responding flexibly to changing directives from the Institute in matters ranging from campus access to the shape of next year's academic calendar, striving all the while to maintain excellence in a rapid transition to online teaching. Regularly sharing teaching experiences over Zoom helped create a sense of a shared enterprise, but also made clear that our normative pedagogical goals could not be achieved; we thus re-thought our aims and practices to maximize what was achievable. The disruption is ongoing, as are our efforts to develop alternative pedagogies and research agendas in response.

A second challenge to our mission took a different form. The social crisis triggered by George Floyd's death at the hands of the police made urgent the need to seize this moment to develop concrete plans to foster diversity on all levels through amplifying representation of diverse voices in our curriculum, enhancing our visibility to the entire undergraduate body—including diverse perspectives in our administrative processes—and broadening the pool of applicants in future hires. While diversity has always been important to us, current social events have made it a priority upon which we have begun to act, and will continue to do so.

Finally, it is worth underscoring ongoing commitments that continue to bear fruit. Even as we look ahead to how future technologies might alter our present, we remain invested in learning from the past, other cultures, and other forms of media.

- The Ancient and Medieval Studies Program (AMS), largely supported by Literature and History, continues to establish itself through presenting a popular lecture series and expanding its faculty and curriculum.
- Literature extended its eagerly sought-after Independent Activities Period (IAP) study abroad program to the Southern Hemisphere, building on the prior success of classes in London and Madrid. Exposing a diverse group of students to the pleasures of literature and exploration alike, these subjects have proved to be important feeder classes for our regular curriculum. We hope to build on the successes of AMS and Literature Abroad in the years to come.

- This year we established a new track—the Literature and Film minor—in response to student desire for a literature-based minor with a greater focus on film and the contemporary world. Building on our strengths in the close reading of film, we gained Institute approval for a more systematic film analysis option that also encourages comparative work, both with other literature-focused subjects in our section and with film-focused subjects in related disciplines, such as anthropology, art, and comparative media studies.

### Literature and Digital Humanities

An Institute-wide initiative of great importance was the inauguration of the MIT Stephen A. Schwarzman College of Computing. Its founding posed for us the question of how we could contribute to the college's shape by informing it with our distinctive disciplinary perspective. How in turn might the college afford us opportunities to rethink our research and pedagogical imperatives?

Even before the social protests of 2020, Literature had seen in the college an opportunity to foreground issues of race and ethnicity in computing. In fall 2019, we initiated a speaker series that brought to campus early-career scholars at the forefront of the innovative use of digital technologies in the cause of social justice, in particular to explore the dynamics of memory, history, and social reconstruction in underrepresented communities. The college's call for proposals in turn led to a wide-ranging collaboration among Literature, History, Urban Planning, Architecture, and Theater Arts to propose a cluster on Humanism and Computing. The success of this proposal would lead to rich collaborations with other MIT departments as well as with the college. The academic year ended with the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) Digital Humanities Laboratory becoming an administrative part of our unit, boding well for such a future.

The establishment of the MIT Schwarzman College of Computing also made us take stock of our existing digital humanities initiatives and begin placing them on a more permanent, sustainable footing. Foremost is the [MIT Global Shakespeares Video and Performance Archive](#), which continues to be directed by Ford International Professor of Humanities and Professor of Literature Peter S. Donaldson and supported by the Literature Section's technology support specialist, Belinda Yung. They continue to work actively to enhance the site's video viewing and sharing capabilities.

Drawing on the experience gained from designing online global performance and study modules to accompany our Shakespeare subjects, the Literature Section launched its first massive open online course (MOOC). Aply supported by our postdoc Michael Lutz (funded through an MITx grant) and Research Associate Mary Erica Zimmer, Professor Diana Henderson led the transition of the existing MITx residential module, Global Shakespeares: The Merchant Module, onto the open-access edX platform. Launched in March 2020, 21L.010.x Global Shakespeares: Re-Creating the Merchant of Venice had by June 30 enrolled over 2,100 participants in more than 120 countries.

A companion project co-sponsored by the Council for the Arts at MIT worked in tandem with the MOOC: the 43-minute documentary [Filming with Shakespeare: The Merchant in Venice](#), directed by Cathleen Nalezty, 21E (Literature and EECS) class of

2016, co-produced by Professor Henderson and the Literature Section. Dramatizing the opportunities afforded by MIT's combination of resources and global partnerships, this video also spotlights Literature's commitment to innovative pedagogy and research. It premiered in the fall of 2019 with two public screenings, and has been included in the Admissions Office's arts and humanities outreach programming.

### **News, Awards, and Honors**

The Literature Section had a productive year. Some highlights for the year include:

- Professor Shankar Raman was appointed as the new head of Literature effective July 1, 2019. Shankar in turn appointed Diana Henderson as the associate head of Literature, with the brief of focusing on community outreach and pedagogy.
- Associate Professor Sandy Alexandre received a Bose research grant for her project *Muses to My Gears*, which undertakes a comprehensive investigation and production of technologies described in a broad range of works of speculative fiction. Hers is the first SHASS project to have won this award.
- Associate Professor Stephanie Frampton was promoted to tenure effective July 1, 2019 and accepted the Frances A. Yates Long-Term Fellowship at the Warburg Institute, London.
- Stephanie Frampton was also appointed as the new director of the SHASS Digital Humanities lab. Her directorship begins on July 1, 2020, when the financial management and administrative oversight of the lab will be transferred to Literature.
- Professor Mary C. Fuller was named a 2020 MacVicar Faculty Fellow.
- Associate Professor Marah Gubar was awarded a 2020 Teaching with Digital Technology Award from the MIT Office of Digital Learning, which is a student-nominated award. She was selected as a winner from more than 200 nominees.
- Diana Henderson was successfully nominated as the Arthur J. Conner (1888) Professor, commencing July 1, 2020.
- Senior Lecturer Wyn Kelley and Lecturer Joaquin Terrones piloted a Global Literature class during IAP 2020 in which they brought 20 students to Brazil for three weeks.
- Joaquin Terrones received a 2020 Levitan Teaching Award. This award recognizes instructors within SHASS for excellent pedagogy and mentorship.
- Professor David Thorburn published his first book of poetry, *Knots*.
- Belinda Yung was a 2019–2020 recipient of the SHASS *Unsung Hero Infinite Mile Award*.
- Lauren Clamon, a class of 2020 literature major, was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa national honor society.
- Ivy Li, a class of 2020 literature major, was awarded a 2020 Fulbright Scholarship.

## Personnel

This year, in addition to 17 faculty members and one senior lecturer, the Literature Section included one visiting assistant professor, seven lecturers, two visiting scholars, two teaching assistants, one research associate, and eight administrative and support staff.

The joint Literature and History Section search for a lecturer I in Greek Studies to support the Ancient and Medieval Studies program culminated in our hiring Alexander Forte, who will join MIT in fall 2020.

## Visiting Scholars

- Misty De Barry was a postdoctoral fellow jointly appointed by Literature and Women's and Gender Studies (WGS). She has accepted a two-year visiting lecturer appointment in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Dartmouth College, where she will also be a scholar-artist in residence with the Consortium for Race, Migration, and Sexuality.
- Anandi Rao, our diversity pre-doctoral fellow, completed her dissertation, "In the Name of Shakespeare: (En)Gendering India Through Translation," and graduated with a doctorate in comparative literature from University of California at Irvine. She is moving on as a postdoctoral fellow at New York University in Shanghai, China.
- Kyle Stevens, assistant professor of film studies at Appalachian State University, joined the Literature Section for the spring 2020 term as a visiting assistant professor.

## Faculty Leaves

Assistant Professor Laura Finch completed her final year with the Society of Fellows at the University of Michigan. Stephanie Frampton was away for the full year as the Frances A. Yates Long-Term Fellow at the Warburg Institute, London. Mary Fuller, the previous head of Literature, was on leave for the full year.

## Administrative and Support Staff

Chloe Jones, administrative assistant 2: publicity and outreach coordinator, left MIT in August 2019 and was replaced by Jessica TranVo in the same month. Rebecca Reilly joined the Literature Section as a research associate 2 in February 2020 to assist professors Raman and Henderson with their scholarly research.

## Faculty Research, Teaching, and Professional Activities

### Sandy Alexandre

Sandy Alexandre's research spans late-19th-century to present-day Black American literature and culture. She has signed a contract with Routledge for her second book, *Freedom Things: Black Aspiration's Tangibles After Slavery*. In addition to giving talks at the University of Virginia and at MIT, she co-chaired (with Professor Sladja Blazan) an international symposium at the University of Würzburg, where she also presented a

talk on race, place, and belonging. Works published include “Ways of Absence: or, The Unbearable Heft of Being Materialized” in *Being Material* (MIT Press) and “Just Feathers: Righting Wrongs with Georgia Douglas Johnson’s *Plumes*” in *Modern Drama*. She also contributed to the art exhibition catalogue at the Peabody Essex Museum for *Jacob Lawrence: The American Struggle*.

Professor Alexandre was a Digital Humanities Lab Faculty Fellow during the fall semester, working on “The Reading Redux: Exploring the Values of Re-Reading.” She was also co-organizer of the Dig@Lit speaker series and served as head of house for East Campus.

### **Arthur Bahr**

Associate Professor Arthur Bahr is a medievalist by training and a MacVicar Faculty Fellow. His research interests include Old and Middle English literature, the structure and interpretation of medieval books, formalism(s), aesthetics, and the idea of the literary. He is chair of the Institute’s Committee on the Undergraduate Program. In this capacity, he served as ex officio member of the Faculty Officers’ Group and the Committee on Curricula and was appointed to the APART group—the committee given the task of formulating MIT rules and regulations in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Professor Bahr published “The Gawain-Poet” in *The Chaucer Encyclopedia* (Wiley, 2019). He also led a workshop at the University of Washington as part of the Material Texts Colloquium hosted by the Textual Studies Program in February 2020. He serves on the journal *Exemplaria*’s advisory board and on the New England Medieval Consortium’s steering committee. He continues to be the concentrator and minor advisor for the AMS program and was on the search committee for the lecturer position in Ancient Greek.

### **Eugenie Brinkema**

Associate Professor Eugenie Brinkema researches film and media, with special attention to the relationship between form and affect/emotion. In 2020, she submitted her second book, *Life-Destroying Diagrams*, to Duke University Press, for publication in 2021.

In addition to presenting at the prestigious annual Word Picture Conference, she gave invited talks and led workshops at the University of Minnesota’s Institute for Advanced Study, Cornell University’s Comparative Literature and Cultures Forum, and the University of Toronto’s Cinema Studies Institute and Department of Visual Studies. Her published articles include “Form for the Blind (Porn and Description Without Guarantee)” in *Porn Studies*; “Sticky, Nimble, Frantic, Stuck: À l’intérieur and the Feel of Horror” in *LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory*; and a book chapter, “(nearly) Nothing to Express : Horror : some Tread : a Toroid,” in *How to Do Things with Affects: Affective Triggers in Aesthetic Forms and Cultural Practices* (Leiden: Thamyris/Brill).

Professor Brinkema led the faculty research and course tagging project and served on the Curriculum Committee for one semester. She represented Literature in a first-year Discovery subject, SP.245 The Sum of All Courses, and collaborated with Professor Caroline Jones on a new course to support MIT Architecture’s Transmedia Storytelling Initiative. She serves on the editorial boards for *Discourse* and the *Journal of Cinema and Media Studies*.

### James Buzard

Professor James Buzard works on 19th- and early 20th-century British literature and culture.

In July 2019, Professor Buzard instructed a three-day graduate conference on *Barnaby Rudge* for the Dickens Universe at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Over the year, he reviewed various books for academic journals and continued his ongoing relationship with the Boston Athenaeum Trollope reading group.

Professor Buzard continues to serve as an advisory editor for *ELH* and as a board member for *Victorian Literature and Culture*, *Victoriographies*, *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, and *Journeys: The International Journal of Travel and Travel Writing*. He also serves as advisory board member for Reading Like a Victorian, a digital humanities project at the Ohio State University that studies Victorian serial fiction.

### Peter S. Donaldson

Peter S. Donaldson continues to lead major digital projects in Shakespeare studies. He serves as director and editor-in-chief of the Global Shakespeares Video and Performance Archive. During 2019–2020, Professor Donaldson focused on enhancing the archive’s capabilities, laying the groundwork for its long-term sustainability as a flagship digital initiative of the Literature Section. He also directs the Global Shakespeare Learning Modules program.

### Laura Finch

Assistant Professor Laura Finch teaches and writes about late 20th- and 21st-century world literatures, economics, and race. While at the Michigan Society of Fellows, she published an article in *American Literary History*, “It’s the Economy, Stupid: On the Costs of Marginalising the Aesthetic.” Her chapter, “Finance, Postmodernism, and Race,” is forthcoming in the *Cambridge Companion to Literature and Economics*. In addition, she gave a number of conference papers on literature, finance, and race, stemming from her current book project. These included invited talks at the California Institute of the Arts and the University of Michigan and conference papers at the Association for the Study of Arts of the Present at the University of Maryland and the Teaching 21st-Century Literature series (also at the University of Michigan). She organized two panels at conferences: “On the Architecture and Infrastructure of White Supremacy” for the Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present conference, and “Work, Post-Work, and Labor: Contemporary Claims on Value” at the American Literature Association conference.

Professor Finch served as a member of the Awards Committee for the Rackham Dissertation Prize and as a reader of applications for the Society of Fellows Postdoctoral Program, both at the University of Michigan. She also serves as chair for the Society of Contemporary Literature at the American Literature Association Conference.

### Stephanie Ann Frampton

Stephanie Ann Frampton is a classicist, comparatist, and historian of media in antiquity. During the year, Professor Frampton delivered lectures on a range of book historical topics at the University of Padova, the University of London, Oxford University, the Warburg Institute, the University of York, the Ohio State University’s Center

for Epigraphical and Paleographical Studies, and the Boston Athenaeum (delivered virtually). She also completed three chapters for essay collections: “In the Library” for *The Unfinished Book* (Oxford University Press); “Graffiti in the So-Called College of Augustales at Herculaneum (Insula VI 21, 24)” for *From Document to History: Epigraphic Insights into the Greco-Roman World: Proceedings of the Second North American Congress of Greek and Latin Epigraphy* (Brill); and “Ovid’s Two Body Problem” for *The Cultural History of Augustan Rome: Texts, Monuments, and Topography* (Cambridge University Press).

Professor Frampton collaborates with MIT Libraries to administrate the Program in the History and Future of the Book at MIT. She is a senior fellow in the University of Virginia’s Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography and secretary-treasurer of the American Society of Greek and Latin Epigraphy. In June 2020, she was named as the incoming director of the SHASS Digital Humanities Laboratory, of which she was a member of the Steering Committee in AY2019.

### **Mary C. Fuller**

Mary C. Fuller focuses her research on the history of long-distance trade, exploration, and colonization in the early modern period. She was named a MacVicar Faculty Fellow in 2020. Since completing her term as section head, Professor Fuller has been on leave completing a book manuscript, now under contract with McGill-Queens.

Professor Fuller delivered the keynote address for the Oceanic Representations conference at Seikei University in Tokyo and gave three invited conference talks at Before Canada (McGill University), the Arctic Worlds symposium (Boston University), and the Renaissance Society of America’s annual conference.

Professor Fuller revised an earlier essay, “Placing Iceland,” for a second edition of *Companion to the Global Renaissance* (Blackwell’s); and her article “Missing Terms: Natural Law and English Geography, 1550–1600,” was solicited for *The State of Nature in the History of Constitutional, International, and Environmental Legal Thought* (Brill). For the latter, she participated in an authors’ workshop hosted by the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Berlin.

During her leave, Professor Fuller continued to serve on the Hayden Library and Courtyard Renovation Committee and the Transmedia Storytelling Initiative Advisory Board. She serves on the editorial boards for *Studies in Travel Writing* and the University of Amsterdam Press series in maritime humanities. She is on the advisory board for Cambridge University Press’s travel writing elements series, and is the American representative to the Hakluyt Society.

### **Marah Gubar**

Marah Gubar teaches and writes about children’s literature. In AY2020, Professor Gubar served as the children’s and young adult literature section editor for the website Public Books. At MIT, she served as chair of the Literature Curriculum Committee, chair of the MIT Committee on the Undergraduate Program Subcommittee on the HASS Requirement, and associate director of the MIT Communications Forum. She was also a member of the Senior Women’s Faculty Council and the SHASS Faculty Diversity Committee. Outside MIT, she was on the editorial board of *Journal of L.M. Montgomery*

*Studies*, provided reader's reports on various articles and book proposals, and wrote a tenure letter for the University of Calgary. She was a recipient of the MIT 2020 Teaching with Digital Technology Award.

Professor Gubar and her research assistant, Funing Yang, gave the keynote presentation, "Archives and Algorithms: Analyzing Anne's Monologues," at the L.M. Montgomery and Vision Forum.

Professor Gubar published two essays: "Urchins, Unite: NEWSIES as an Antidote to ANNIE" in *Children, Childhood, and Musical Theater* (Routledge 2020), the first edited collection of essays about children and musical theater; and "Toothless Pedagogy? Problematizing Paternalism in Children's Literature and Childhood Studies," which appeared in the most prestigious journal in her field, *Children's Literature*.

### **Diana Henderson**

Diana Henderson's areas of research and interests include Shakespeare, gender studies, early modern poetry and drama, modernism, media studies, and world drama. She is an affiliated faculty in MIT's Women's and Gender Studies Program and associate head of the Literature Section.

Professor Henderson helps coordinate the Digital Shakespeares Initiative, which facilitates the study of digital Shakespeares within and beyond MIT. She is president of the MIT chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa national honorary society and serves on the Institute's Ad Hoc Committee on External Engagements and the SHASS Global Languages Transition Committee. She served as MIT's faculty organizer and delegate to the Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded international doctoral student conference at Cambridge University and led a third iteration of her IAP study-abroad class, 21L.591 Literary London. She is on the editorial board for the *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies* and *Shakespeare Jahrbuch*. Professor Henderson co-led a workshop for the British Shakespeare Association, "Race, Nation, and Digital Pedagogies in the 21st-Century Classroom," and participated in the second Digitizing the Stage conference at Oxford University. She delivered a lecture to the Shakespearean Studies seminar at Harvard University's Mahindra Humanities Center, spoke on panels for the European Shakespeare Research Association in Rome and Shakespeare on Screen in the Digital Era: The Montpellier Congress in France, and gave a post-performance talk on Tom Stoppard at Boston's Huntington Theater Company.

Professor Henderson published journal articles in *Shakespeare Survey 72: Shakespeare and War* and *Cahiers Élisabéthains: A Journal of English Renaissance Studies 99*, as well as two book chapters in the essay collections *Shakespeare on Screen: King Lear* (Cambridge University Press) and *Shakespeare/Sense* (Arden/Bloomsbury). She also co-edited *Shakespeare Studies, Vol. XLVII* (Associated University Presses).

### **Noel Jackson**

Associate Professor Noel Jackson works on topics in poetry and poetics, aesthetics, critical theory, and the literature of the long 18th century, particularly that of the British Romantic period. He has book reviews recently published or forthcoming in *Review*



of *English Studies*, *MLQ*, and *Isis*. In AY2019, Jackson continued serving as the faculty coordinator for the Pleasures of Poetry series and as co-organizer of the DigLit@MIT speaker series. He also served as the undergraduate officer for the Literature Section and was on the Levitan Prize/SHASS Research Fund Selection Committee.

### **Wyn Kelley**

Wyn Kelley teaches classes on American writers, literary genres (comedy, melodrama, gothic, autobiography), and writing about literature. Currently associate director of the Melville Electronic Library, she also served on MIT's Digital Humanities Lab Steering Committee and the HyperStudio, and worked to develop digital classroom tools (Annotation Studio, Idea Space) and pedagogies. Kelley collaborated with Joaquin Terrones to pilot a new IAP class in Brazil, with seed funding from J-WEL.

In AY2020, Kelley gave a talk at the Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers in Worcester, MA (October 2019). She was a concentration advisor for the Literature Section and served on its Curriculum Committee, and also served on the De Florez Humor Award Committee and the Digital Humanities Steering Committee. Kelley was a reader and provided jacket copy for Richard King's *Ahab's Rolling Sea* (University of Chicago Press), and was asked to contribute jacket copy for Brian Yothers's edition of Melville's *The Piazza Tales* (Broadview Press). She published a book chapter in the essay collection *Race and Vision in the Nineteenth-Century United States* (Lexington Books).

### **Ruth Perry**

Professor Ruth Perry's research interests include balladry, orality and literacy, women's cultural traditions, the Scottish Enlightenment, the early English novel, 18th-century British literature and women's writing, Jane Austen, feminist literary theory, and folk music of the British Isles and North America. In AY2020, Professor Perry served on the program committee of the Folk Song Society of Greater Boston.

### **Shankar Raman**

Shankar Raman began his appointment as the Head of Literature this year. His research focuses on Renaissance and late medieval literature and culture, colonialism and post-colonialism, history of ideas, history of science, and literary theory. Professor Raman is a MacVicar Fellow and serves as the director of the Kelly Douglas Fund. He continues to work on his monograph *Before the Two Culture: Literature and Mathematics in Early Modern Europe*. In addition, he published two book reviews, in *Renaissance Quarterly* and *Shakespeare Studies* respectively, and began organizing and editing a forum on literature and science for the 2021 issue of *Shakespeare Studies*, for which he is an editorial board member.

### **Margery Resnick**

Associate Professor Margery Resnick's research interests include Hispanic literature and film, literature and culture of post-Franco Spain, European fiction, international women's writing and film, the cultural history of globalization, medical narrative literature, and the history of women at MIT. She continued to serve as the director of the MIT/AMITA (Association of MIT Alumnae) Women's Oral History project, for which 30 new oral history interviews were completed and placed in the MIT archives. She also serves as

director of MIT's Burchard Scholars Program, as well as president of the International Institute in Spain. Professor Resnick gave several talks during the year, including talks in Madrid, Spain, and the keynote at the AMITA Annual Meeting at MIT in December 2019.

### **Stephen Tapscott**

Professor Stephen Tapscott is a poet whose fields of interest include creative writing (poetry, experimental prose), poetry as a literary genre, and translation. Professor Tapscott served as a reader and board member for the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and published an article, "Jane Cooper's First Book[s]," in *Jane Cooper: A Radiance of Attention*. He continues to work in parallel on a number of poetry projects, including a collection of verse focused on the photographer Eadweard Muybridge.

### **David Thorburn**

David Thorburn published his first book of poetry, *Knots* (2020). Thorburn served as an outside reader for manuscripts from Blackwell's and Harvard University Press, and as outside reader on a tenure case for the Department of English at Harvard University. He gave radio interviews for WNYC on new media and on Italian film and published an essay, "Unstable Platforms: Television in the Digital Age," in *Critical Studies in Television*. During the year he also completed his tenure on MIT's Patents and Copyrights committee.

### **Louis Kampf**

We register with deep sorrow the passing on May 30, 2020, of Louis Kampf, emeritus professor of literature and women's and gender studies. Kampf joined Literature in 1961 and served as head from 1967 to 1969. A powerful voice for peace and social justice during the Vietnam War, Kampf was the inaugural director of RESIST, the first academic group devoted to supporting resistance to the draft. With Noam Chomsky, he taught for a number of years the very popular and influential course Intellectuals and Social Change, which had perhaps the largest enrollment in any humanities class in the Institute at any time.

In 1968, at a tumultuous meeting of the Modern Languages Association, he was nominated from the floor and elected second vice-president by popular acclaim, which meant he succeeded in two years to the organization's presidency. In 1984, he became the first (and for a while the only) male professor in WGS. His support for the program was significant. He taught subjects in women's literature, men's sports, and practical feminism. His continual political involvement at all levels of networking and organizing was in many ways a parallel career to his academic work. Beyond the Vietnam War, he worked on Israel/Palestine, AIDS activism, the exploitation of adjunct professors and what the Modern Language Association could do about it, the responsibility of intellectuals, and what "radical teaching" actually meant. For most of his life he was engaged with these and other political issues—about which he worried and thought and sought change. His vision, his energy, and his generosity will be greatly missed.

### **Teaching**

Our teaching this year was enormously affected by the COVID-19 epidemic, which put our faculty and their normal pedagogical practices under great stress. It was fortunate

that we had some online initiatives already in place, making it easier for some to undertake the rapid, forced transition to remote teaching in March 2020. Given our premium on small classes, direct teaching by faculty, and our deep commitment to teaching communication-intensive subjects, the limitations of online teaching became only too clear, and the stress of generating adequate alternative pedagogies for the fall is an ongoing one.

In addition to the teaching information listed above for individual faculty members, there were a number of collaborative and innovative efforts, including our IAP study abroad offerings.

- For the fifth year, Margery Resnick organized and taught 21L.S88 Cultural Encounters: Insiders and Outsiders during IAP in Madrid, Spain. Twenty-eight of about 100 students who applied were accepted and participated in the program overseas.
- For the third time, the Literature Section offered 21L.591 Literary London over IAP in London, led by Diana Henderson and assisted by Arthur Bahr. More than 80 students applied for the 15 available spots.
- The success of these ventures led the Literature Section to pilot a third IAP subject, for which Wyn Kelley and Joaquin Terrones secured a J-WEL grant. This immersive and experiential course allowed 20 undergraduate students to explore literary encounters between the US and Brazil by actively connecting texts with the material culture that produced them.

The tremendous student enthusiasm for these IAP subjects and their increasing importance as feeder subjects for our regular curriculum has underscored the need to obtain stable funding for them, especially because the reorganization of the Global Education office has led to much uncertainty about institutional support going forward. The cancellation of these classes for IAP 2021 because of the COVID-19 crisis may temporarily check the momentum of these IAP programs. We hope that their long-term success is not thereby compromised.

### **Enrollments**

Total enrollment in AY2020 was 819 compared to the average from 2017 to 2019 of 779 (three year average).

**Shankar Raman**  
**Head**  
**Professor of Literature**

