

Ahmad M.S. Abu Baker

An assistant professor in the English Department at Al al-Bayt University/Jordan since 2003, Ahmad Abu Baker received his Doctorate from Murdoch University in Western Australia in Colonial and Postcolonial literatures. He has designed and taught in several courses including: Short Story, The Novel, The Modern Novel, American Literature, Shakespeare, Comparative & World Literature, Literary Criticism, Literary Selections and Modern Drama. In “Re-thinking Identity” Abu Baker contemplates the effects of “colonist” influence on colonials, as is evident in E.M. Forster’s *Passage to India*.

Thomas Aiello

Thomas Aiello is a PhD (History) candidate at the University of Arkansas. He has published numerous articles on early twentieth-century U.S. cultural history. He has also presented at a number of conferences including his paper “The Confusion of Multiple Clarifications: Black Newspapers’ Presentation of Black Baseball in 1932,” which he delivered at The Association for African American Historical Research and Preservation’s Third Annual Conference (2006) which was held at Seattle University. Aiello’s *Mayflower* is a creative writing piece, which deploys dense symbology, patterns and repetitions to captivate its reader.

Ayse Naz Bulamur

Ayse Naz Bulamur began her PhD in literary studies at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee in 2003. Bulamur has participated in several conferences including the 2006 Joint Conference of National Popular Culture and American Culture Associations (PCA/ACA) at Atlanta, Georgia. Previous publications include “Dialogical Zone in Hannah Webster Foster’s *The Coquette*” which appeared in *Entertext* 5.3 earlier this year. In this contribution to *Nebula* Bulamur gives us a very twisted and multifarious narrative which pushes experimental writing to the extremes of its limits and comes back with a coherent and innovative work of both fiction and scholarship.

Steph Ceraso

Steph Ceraso received her MA in English Literature at the University of Vermont in May 2006. She has received a number of awards including the Marion Berry Allbee Award for “Best Graduate Student Essay,” for her essay, “Survivors’ Tales: Cultural Trauma, Post-Memory, and the Role of the Reader in Art Spiegelman’s Visual Narratives.” Ceraso’s areas of interest include Jazz Studies, Feminist Theory (particularly gendered spaces/geographies), and Contemporary Historical Fiction. She currently teaches courses in Composition and Jazz Literature at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina. In her contribution to *Nebula* Ceraso provides a highly engaging critique of gender boundaries and popular culture.

Sophie Croisy

Sophie Croisy received her PhD in contemporary Anglophone literature from the University of Florida in May of this year. Croisy has participated in a number of conferences across the U.S. and her publications include “Mark Doty: Reflecting the World through Passion,” which appeared in *DS Magazine* (Vol. 1, issue 2, March 1999), as well as an essay on Linda Hogan which is forthcoming in 2007 in the *New Encyclopedia of Native-American Literature*. In her contribution to *Nebula* Croisy investigates unconventional paradigms and models for trauma, taking “war” cultures as her starting point.

Kimberly Eaton

Kimberly Eaton received her MA from in English at Rutgers University with a concentration in Women’s and Gender Studies. She was a member of faculty with the Writing Department at Rutgers University and is chairing a panel at the 2007 NEMLA convention. In her first contribution to *Nebula* Eaton provides a critique of Percival Everett’s *Erasure*, focusing on issues of race, language and experience.

Justin Feng

Justin Feng received his BS in Bioengineering from the University of California, San Diego in June 2006. His article on the rhetorical and ideological similarities between Zionism, Islamism and U.S-ism is both intellectually engaging and revealing. It is not often that we see a cross-disciplinary contribution (from the Sciences to the Humanities) such as this one, particularly among graduates. Feng sets a good example to follow.

Hatim Mahamid

Hatim Mahamid is a lecturer in the Dept. of Middle Eastern Studies at Ben-Gurion University. He received his PhD from Tel Aviv University in 2001, where he specialized in the History of Medieval Islam, from Fatimid to Late Mamluk Egypt and Syria. He has published numerous journal articles and contributed to three critical anthologies as well as presenting papers at numerous conferences. His book *Al-Tatawwurat fi Nizam al-Hukm wal-Idara fi Misr al-Fatimiyya* was published by al-Asil in Jerusalem in 2001. In his contribution to *Nebula*, Mahamid provides a thorough and well-documented study of the “Isma‘ili Da‘wa and Politics in Fatimid Egypt.”

Zaid N. Mahir

Zaid N. Mahir is a current faculty member of the University of Baghdad (College of Languages), a professional translator, and a writer. His translations -- including literary articles, critiques, book reviews, narrative, poetry, and two books -- have been published in Iraq and other Arab countries. Zaid is currently using his bilingual expertise to review and annotate (in English) Arabic books on folklore, popular literature, and oral tradition as a research assistant at the Center for Studies in Oral Tradition at Missouri University.

He is also currently involved in translating into English his Arabic war-novel, *The Way to Baghdad: Day 18 of the War*. In his contribution to *Nebula*, Mahir explores meaning, positionality and relational-space in three Iraqi Paintings.

Cathryn Molloy

I wrote “Patron Saint of Broken Glass” as a graduate student in English at the University of Rhode Island, where I recently finished my M.A. The story engages in an inquiry into the effects of taking Christian ideology too literally as well as how people use religious identities to create boundaries between themselves and 'others.'

Guido Monte

Guido Monte teaches Italian and Latin literatures at the Liceo A. Einstein of Palermo. For the Italian Ed. della Battaglia, he wrote with Vittorio Cozzo *Tremila mondi in un solo istante di vita* (*Three thousand worlds in just a flash of life*, 2000). Blending is his present writing aim: in his most recent works (for ex. *Leuconoe*, N. Ipsa, 2004) he blends languages, noises, archetypes, voyages “beyond”, writers and ancient poets. For more on Monte and/or his work see:

<http://www.wordswithoutborders.org/article.php?lab=Genesis>,

<http://www.litterae.net/Trad%20Virgil.htm>,

<http://www.happano.org/pages/fragments/63.html>

Andrew Ockrim

Andrew Ockrim received his Bachelor of Information Technology/Business Administration in 1995. He has worked in information technology for over 14 years with some of Australia’s biggest corporations including IBM Global Services (Australia), IBM Olympic, Caltex/Ampol Petroleum (Chevron-Exxon), NCR Asia Pacific and various government departments only to name a few. He is currently working for the NSW Attorney Generals Dept (Australia); as well as consulting to private clients on information security and physical security countermeasures. In his second contribution to *Nebula*, Ockrim frightens us once more by give us an accessible account of how identity and non-literal computer theft is made possible by our basic connection to the internet.

'BioDun J. Ogundayo

BioDun J. Ogundayo is Assistant Professor of French and Comparative Literature at the University of Pittsburgh, Bradford Campus. He is an Associate Editor of the *International Journal of the Humanities*. He earned his Ph.D. in Modern Languages and Literatures at the State University of New York, Buffalo. He is also a translator. He has co-published a translation with Arlin Migliazzo and Pierette Christiane-Lovrien, *Lands of True and Certain Bounty: The Geographical Theories and Colonization Strategies of Jean Pierre Purry* (London University Press, 2002). His most recent publications include "Creole", *Encyclopedia of African American Literature* (Greenwood Press, 2005), "Secret

Societies", *Encyclopedia of African American Folklore* (Greenwood Press, 2005); "Folklore", *Encyclopedia of the Middle Passage*, and book reviews for the *African American Review*. He is currently editing a volume of essays on cross-cultural expressions of spirituality. In his contribution to *Nebula*, 'BioDun investigates "Polyphony in Miguel Barnet's *Biografía de un cimarrón*."'

Shaun Randol

Along with publishing academic articles that revolve around peace and conflict resolution and terrorism I am also a published poet. This fall I will be attending the Masters in International Affairs program at The New School University in New York City. In his first contribution to *Nebula*, Randol asks: 'What Verdict Would a Buddhist Juror Render in the Zacarias Moussaoui Case?'

Semra Somersan

Currently assistant professor in the Dept. of Sociology at Bilgi University (Istanbul/Turkey), Semra Somersan graduated from the Bosphorus University with a B.A. in economics. She won a Fulbright scholarship to do graduate work in the US where she received an MA in social psychology in 1974, and a PhD in anthropology in 1981, both from Ohio State University. She returned to Turkey after two years as a visiting lecturer in the US. Somersan has been awarded two nation-wide Journalist prizes for her work for *Nokta News* and *Cumhuriyet Newspaper*. In addition to articles published in a variety of journals in Turkey and abroad, she has also published two books *Ethnicity and Race in the Social Sciences* (Istanbul: Bilgi University Press, 2004) and *Politics and the Environment in Turkey* (Istanbul: Metis, 1993). In her second article to be published in *Nebula* Somersan investigates the concept of "double-consciousness" as it appears in western philosophy.

Reyhan Atasü Topçuoğlu

Reyhan Atasü Topçuoğlu received her B.A. in Economics at Bilkent University (Turkey) and her M.A. in Sociology at Middle East Technical University (Turkey). She is currently a research assistant at Hacettepe University. Her work has appeared in a number of Turkish scholarly journals and she is currently working on subjects of violence, patriarchy and human trafficking as a scholar of women's rights, women's work and as an activist. In her contribution to *Nebula* 3.2, Topçuoğlu investigates the relations between intellectuals across disciplines and histories, taking the works of Antonio Gramsci and Michel Foucault as her focal point.

Debi Withers

Debi Withers is a PhD candidate affiliated with the University of Wales, Swansea. Her dissertation focuses on 'Kate Bush: Invocations, Performances and Transformations of the Feminine Subject.' In her thesis Withers uses Kate Bush's work in order to explore

questions about subjectivity, the body, history, structure, feminism, queer and post-colonial theories. Her contribution to this issue gives us a glimpse into this intriguing work in progress.