

The Wesleyan Arts & Humanities Newsletter

May 2014



Matthusen, Music, Wins Rome Prize

The Wesleyan Music Department is proud to announce that Paula Matthusen, Assistant Professor of Music, has won the prestigious Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome. The prize will allow her to spend the next academic year in residence as a Fellow of the Academy. Paula's earlier Old Croton Aqueduct work, *eden's arch of promise bending*, explores the nature of the aqueduct through field recordings and samplings of its resonant frequencies. As an American Academy fellow, she will visit the paths of the Roman aqueducts, expanding her work in the context of this ancient architecture. Paula will begin her work in Rome this coming September.

The Academy is a leading American overseas center for independent studies and advanced research in the fine arts and humanities. Each year, through a national competition, the Rome Prize is awarded to approximately thirty individuals who represent the highest standard of excellence in their fields. The American Academy in Rome provides extended time and support (room, board, stipend, work space, and freedom from every-day cares) for each fellow to pursue his or her own work and to live among other artists and scholars.

New Books:

POWER, MEMORY, ARCHITECTURE

CONTESTED SITES ON
INDIA'S DECCAN PLATEAU, 1300-1600

RICHARD M. EATON
PHILLIP B. WAGONER

Phillip Wagoner,

**“Power, Memory, Architecture:
Contested Sites on India's
Deccan Plateau, 1300-1600”
(Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014)**

Phillip Wagoner's new book (Oxford University Press) explores how power and memory combined to produce the region's built landscape, as seen above all in its monumental architecture. During the turbulent sixteenth century, fortified frontier strongholds like Kalyana, Warangal, or Raichur were repeatedly contested by primary centers—namely, great capital cities such as Bijapur, Vijayanagara, or Golconda. Examining the political histories and material culture of both primary and secondary centers, the book investigates how and why the peoples of the Deccan, in their struggles for dominance over secondary centers, promoted certain elements of their remembered past while forgetting others.



Shapiro Named University Translator

Academic Affairs has named Norman Shapiro as the university's Distinguished Literary Translator. Shapiro is one of the country's leading and most prolific contemporary translators of French. He holds the B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from Harvard University, and, as Fulbright scholar, the Diplôme de Langue et Lettres Françaises from the Université d'Aix-Marseille. He is professor of Romance Languages & Literatures at Wesleyan University, where he teaches courses in French theater, poetry, Black Francophone literature, and literary translation, and is Writing and Theater Advisor in Adams House, Harvard University, where he has been affiliated for several decades since his undergraduate and graduate days.

His many published volumes span the centuries, medieval to modern, and the

genres: poetry, novel, and theater. Among them are: *Four Farces* by Georges Feydeau (nominated for a National Book Award); *Feydeau, First to Last*; farces by Eugène Labiche (*Labiche & Co.*) and other vintage writers of farce; *The Comedy of Eros: Medieval French Guides to the Art of Love*; *Lyrics of the French Renaissance: Marot, DuBellay, Ronsard*; *Selected Poems from Baudelaire's 'Les Fleurs du mal'*; *One Hundred and One Poems of Paul Verlaine*, recipient of the MLA Scaglione Award; *Kamouraska*, by Quebec novelist Anne Hébert; Jean Raspail's apocalyptic novel, *The Camp of the Saints*; *Négritude: Black Poetry from Africa and the Caribbean*; *Creole Echoes: The Francophone Poetry of 19th-Century Louisiana*; Charles de Rémusat's influential play *The Saint-Domingue Plantation*, or *The Insurrection*; and two plays by New Orleans mulatto author Victor Séjour: the verse drama *The Jew*

of *Seville* and *The Fortune-Teller*.

A specialist in French fable literature, he has published *Fables from Old French: Aesop's Beasts and Bumpkins*; *The Fabulists French: Verse Fables of Nine Centuries*; several collections of La Fontaine, culminating in *The Complete Fables of Jean de La Fontaine*, recipient of the American Translators Association's Lewis Galantière Award, as well as a collection of that poet's ribald verse tales, *La Fontaine's Bawdy: Of Libertines, Louts, and Lechers*.

Among his more recent volumes are the monumental *French Women Poets of Nine Centuries: The Distaff and the Pen*, honored by the American Literary Translators Association as Translation of the Year; *Selected Lyrics of Théophile Gautier*; *Prévertities: A Jacques Prévert Sampler*; *A Life of Poems, Poems of a Life: Comtesse Anna de Noailles*; and a collection of late 19th-century New Orleans poet and intellectual Jules Choppin, from French and Louisiana Creole. Forthcoming are his *Poetry of Haitian Independence* (Yale University Press), *Fables in a Modern Key* by eminent Belgian poet and novelist Pierre Coran (Black Widow Press), and *Fe-Lines: French Cat Poems Through the Ages* (University of Illinois Press). Shapiro is a member of the Academy of American Poets and an Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres de la République Française.



Discussion About Research Questions with Ruth Weissman

Thursday, May 15th at noon
in the RL&L Common Room
(300 High St.)

Lunch will be served.