

## HUMANITIES



**George Saunders G'88**, professor of English, has won the Man Booker Prize for his debut novel, "Lincoln in the Bardo" (Random House, 2017). He is the second American to claim the London-based award, one of the most prestigious of its kind in the world. Saunders also is the writer and executive producer of "Sea Oak" (based on his short story from 2000), starring Glenn Close and appearing on Amazon.



**Dana Spiotta**, associate professor of English, has won both the St. Francis College Literary Prize and the American Academy of Arts and Letters' John Updike Award for her latest novel, "Innocents and Others" (Scribner, 2016).

**David Yaffe**, assistant professor of the humanities, is the author of "Reckless Daughter: A Portrait of Joni Mitchell" (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2017). An instant "National Bestseller" in Canada, the biography has topped multiple sales categories on Amazon.



**Romita Ray**, associate professor and chair of art and music histories, has launched the "Creative Conversations" series. The first one featured **Jeffrey Karson**, professor of Earth sciences in A&S, who has photographed the ocean floor. Joining him were **Susannah Sayler** and **Edward Morris**, professors in the College of Visual and Performing Arts and co-founders of The Canary Lab, which develops research-based art and media focusing on ecology.

**Wayne Franits**, Distinguished Professor of Art History, has been awarded a publications grant from the London-based Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art to complete "Godefridus Schalcken: A Dutch Painter in Late Seventeenth-Century London" (Amsterdam University Press, 2018).



**Sydney Hutchinson**, associate professor of music history and cultures, is the author of "Tigers of a Different Stripe: Performing Gender in Dominican Music" (The University of Chicago Press, 2016). A finalist for the 2017 Central New York Book Awards, "Tigers" also has won the Society for Ethnomusicology's Marcia Herndon Prize (Gender and Sexualities Section).

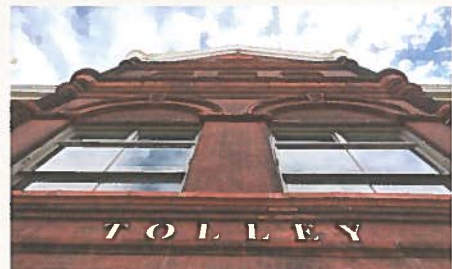


**Tej Bhatia**, professor of linguistics and Hindi, is the newly elected president of the International Association for World Englishes (IAWE), and is the newest member of the Editorial Advisory Board of IAWE's journal, World Englishes. This winter, he is a visiting research professor at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Bhatia recently organized and chaired IAWE's international conference at Syracuse, attended by more than 200 presenters from 35 countries.

The Phyllis Backer Foundation, chaired by **Leonard S. Elman '52**, has established the Phyllis Backer Professorship of Jewish Studies. A national search is underway for a teacher-scholar fluent in Jewish history, religion, literature, philosophy, language and politics.

The **Democratizing Knowledge Summer Institute** is preparing for its 2018 program at Atlanta's Spelman College. Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the institute brings together professors and graduate students from all over the world to examine the concept of "Just Academic Spaces." Previous institutes took place at Rutgers (2017) and Syracuse (2016).

"Belonging" is the theme of this year's **Syracuse Symposium**, organized and presented by the Syracuse University Humanities Center. Upcoming headliners include social activist Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, Teatro La Maria, singer Tracy Hamlin and activist librarian Jenna Freedman.



## NEW and UPCOMING BOOKS

**Jonathan Dee**, assistant professor of English: "The Locals" (Random House, 2017)

**Stephanie Fetta**, assistant professor of Spanish: "Racializing Shame: Somatic Analysis and Latin@/x Literature" (The Ohio State University Press, 2018)

**Erika Haber**, associate professor of Russian language, literature and culture: "Oz Behind the Iron Curtain: Aleksandr Volkov and His 'Magic Land' Series" (University of Mississippi Press, 2017)

**Mary Karr**, the Jesse Truesdell Peck Professor of Literature: "Tropic of Squalor" (HarperCollins, 2018)

**Jaklin Kornfilt**, professor of linguistics and director of linguistic studies and computational linguistics: "Further Investigations into the Nature of Phrasal Compounding" (Language Science Press, 2017), co-edited by Carola Tripps

**Christopher Kennedy G'88**, associate professor of English and chair of the M.F.A. Program in Creative Writing: "Clues from the Animal Kingdom" (BOA Editions, 2018)

**Gregg Lambert**, Dean's Professor of the Humanities and director of the Central New York Humanities Corridor: "Philosophy After Friendship: Deleuze's Conceptual Personae" (University of Minnesota Press, 2017)

**Patrick Berry**, assistant professor of writing and rhetoric: "Doing Time, Writing Lives: Refiguring Literacy and Higher Education in Prison" (Southern Illinois University Press, 2017)

**Stefano Selenu**, assisting teaching professor of Italian language, literature and culture: "Ideas: Reflections on Dante, Gramsci and the Common Sardinian" (EDES, 2017)

**Bruce Smith**, professor of English: "Spill" (The University of Chicago Press, 2018)

**Karina von Tippelskirch**, associate professor of German: "Dorothy Thompson and German Writers in Defense of Democracy" (Peter Lang Publishing, 2017)

**James W. Watts**, professor of religion: "Understanding the Pentateuch as a Scripture" (Wiley-Blackwell, 2017)

## ON SCIENCES/MATHEMATICS

**Peter Saulson** (top), **Duncan Brown** (middle) and **Stefan Ballmer** (bottom), professors of physics, have made scientific history with their role in the discovery of two colliding neutron stars. When the stars slammed together about 130 million years ago, they generated a gravitational-wave signal that was observed by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) and Virgo detectors. Such collisions have created most of the gold and platinum in the universe.



The trio also helped discover gravitational waves, which garnered this year's Nobel Prize in Physics. They co-lead Syracuse's Gravitational-Wave Astronomy research group, part of the worldwide LIGO Scientific Collaboration.



**Ryan Fisher**, research assistant professor of physics, belongs to a multi-institutional effort at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, assisting with LIGO's cyber-infrastructure. The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded him nearly \$750,000 to sustain and enhance the LIGO Data Grid, used by LIGO researchers to perform data analysis of gravitational-wave observations.



**Cristina Marchetti**, the William R. Kenan Distinguished Professor of Physics, is a newly elected member of the Commission on Statistical Physics, part of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics.

**Lisa Manning**, associate professor of physics, is the 2018 recipient of the Maria Goeppert Mayer Award, an early-career award from the American Physical Society. Manning is a soft-matter expert who studies cell motility and mechanics in biological tissues, as well as the failure of disordered materials.



**Marina Artuso**, professor of physics, is overseeing the construction of a new detector for the Large Hadron Collider beauty (LHCb) experiment. Known as the Upstream Tracker, the device will enable the LHCb experiment at CERN's Large Hadron Collider—the largest, most powerful particle accelerator in the world, located in Geneva, Switzerland—to search for new fundamental forces.



**Mitchell Soderberg** (top) and **Denver Whittington** (bottom), professors of physics, participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Long-Baseline Neutrino Facility (LBNF) in South Dakota. LBNF, which is part of the Sanford Underground Research Facility, will house the nation's largest experiment devoted to the study of neutrino properties.



**Timothy Korter**, professor and chair of chemistry, is a newly elected fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry for his contributions to the advancement of terahertz spectroscopy in the chemical sciences. Such work has applications ranging from drug formulation optimization to explosives detection.

**Ivan V. Korendovych**, associate professor of chemistry, is using a \$1.8 million grant award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to help treat neurodegenerative diseases, combat drug resistance and develop drugs for influenza and hepatitis C.



**Carlos Castañeda**, assistant professor of biology and chemistry, has received an NSF CAREER Award to study how proteins self-assemble into "membraneless" liquid droplets. He also has won a major grant from the ALS Association to study the protein UBQLN2 in Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or Lou Gehrig's disease.



**James Muirhead**, an associate in Earth sciences, determined that the flow of intrusive igneous rocks, triggered a chain of events that led to the world's catastrophic extinction 66 million years ago.

**William Wylie**, assistant professor of mathematics, is a recipient of an NSF CAREER award to study the geometry of multidimensional spaces in hopes of devising new models and tools for fields.

**George M. Langford**, Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience, professor of biology and dean emeritus of A&S, is a newly elected member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the American Psychological Association.

The **Psychology Research Enhancement Program** (PREP) marks its 10th anniversary. The Department of Psychology is celebrating its graduates from Syracuse who pursue graduate studies.



She is a professor of speech-language pathology and is currently working on her speech-language pathology dissertation in Costa Rica.

**Jonathan Preston**, an associate professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders, has been awarded a \$300,000 grant to examine different approaches to speech therapy for school-age children with apraxia of speech. The grant will fund ultrasound imaging of the vocal tract.

**Megan Leece**, assistant professor of speech-language pathology and undergraduate studies, is currently working on her dissertation.