Dear Friends of Comp Lit,

The Berkeley Big Give is March 12th! We’d like to take this opportunity to share some of the exciting things our community has been involved with in the past year. Here in Comparative Literature, we continue to devote ourselves to creative teaching. Karina Palau and Tom McEnaney both won Adobe fellowships in innovative pedagogy, Tim Hampton and grad student Kathryn Crim won an Art of Writing grant to teach a senior seminar on lyric and music, and Comp Lit joined the undergraduate mentoring program Berkeley Connect (below).
From our newest faculty to our most senior, Comp Lit is speaking to public audiences: Dora Zhang spoke in a podcast series entitled “How to Read”, The New York Times quoted Tom McEnaney in an article entitled, ‘What Do We Hear When Women Speak?’, and Rolling Stone reviewed Timothy Hampton’s book Bob Dylan’s Poetics: How the Songs Work. Our faculty continue to publish books both relevant and eternal. We have celebrated the publication of Michael Lucey’s Someone: The Pragmatics of Misfit Sexualities, from Colette to Hervé Guibert, Leslie Kurke’s Pindar, Song, and Space: Towards a Lyric Archaeology (co-written with Richard Neer), and Ellen Oliensis’s Loving Writing/Ovid’s Amores this year.

Our colloquia this year have shone the spotlight on a group of Comp Lit alums who helped found Women’s Studies at Berkeley during the 1970s (below).

Here’s a sample of the work our graduate students are publishing: Donna Honarpisheh edited a special issue of the journal qui parle and wrote the introduction. Maya Kronfeld’s article “The Philosopher’s Bass Drum: Adorno’s Jazz and the Politics of Rhythm” was published in Radical Philosophy; Alex Brostoff and Sheri Hellberg published a co-authored conversation about queer non-monogamy and the elasticity of translation in Reading in Translation, and Sheri’s prize-winning translation of the Danish novel Elastic was published this fall.

Thanks to the support of our alumni community, we have been able to put on a series of well-attended events for our students; 2019 Pulitzer Prize Winner Forrest Gander read from his
most recent work in February. Your donations have helped our graduate students to engage in language study abroad and to focus full time on completing their dissertations. Please consider a donation to Comp Lit during the Big Give. Every gift helps, whether large or small!