Welcome, New and Returning Students!

Our program continues its strong enrollment: eighteen new students have started/are starting the program in 2008. Congratulations to our recent graduates, including Meagan Davis (literature), Christy Hutcheson (literature), Shelley Jones (literature), Alyson Koblas (creative writing), Naomi Smart (creative writing), Tammy Stefanini (creative writing), and Beth White (creative writing).

Recent alums Meagan Davis, Christy Hutcheson, and Melissa Smith are Instructor-Interns for the English department this academic year.

Congratulations to our 2008 Graduate Essay Contest winner, Stephanie Evers!

Graduate and Teaching Assistants

The Graduate and Teaching Assistantships are competitive positions awarded each year by the department. Graduate Assistants for this academic year are Amy Brown, Jeremy Daughtry, Amanda Gibson, Joannah Martin, and Joseph Rider. Most GAs work in the Writing Center and for the department. Amy Brown is a GA in Technical Writing for the Office of Sponsored Programs. Teaching Assistants for this academic year are Stephanie Evers, Amber Johnson, Matt Lambert, Jennifer Powell, and Chris Starkey. TAs teach EH 101 classes. Please see our website for more information about becoming a GA or a TA.

English Graduate Organization (EGO)

Want to get more involved in the campus community and to learn more about professions related to our field? EGO provides a forum for students to socialize, to plan events and forums, and to petition the department to address concerns of graduate students. Plan to attend some of the meetings or events this year.
**Graduate Deadlines:**

**Graduation:**
To graduate in Spring 2009, you must register for graduation by 9/5/08.

To graduate in Summer 2009, you must register for graduation by 2/6/09.

To graduate in Fall 2009, you must register for graduation by 5/29/09.

**Thesis:**
- Fall First Submission: 10/30/08
  Defend by: 10/19/08
- Spring First Submission: 3/26/09
  Defend by: 3/15/09
- Summer First Submission: 6/26/09
  Defend by: 6/16/09

**Foreign Language:**
Contact the Foreign Language department in the first four weeks of the semester to take the test anytime that semester. Graduate foreign language exams are free to students and may be retaken once if needed.

**Creative Writing and Literature Thesis Requirements**
Please review the latest version of the Thesis Checklist (available in the English department) for information about how to form a committee, sign up for Thesis Hours, submit a Prospectus, and prepare for the Thesis Defense. Dr. Harrington will assist you with the required procedures.

**Literature Comprehensive Exam Option**
Students in the Literature Concentration can choose to write a Thesis or to take a Comprehensive Exam to complete the MA. Please contact Dr. Harrington if you have any questions about comprehensive options or procedures.

For the Comprehensive Exam, each student will have two English faculty advisors; each advisor will work with the student on one of the two exam fields. Each field, worth 50% of the exam, is chosen by the student with the approval of the advisor. Each field must be in a different rubric (Period, Genre, Topic) and will cover a list of 15-25 primary and secondary texts, approved by the advisor. More details are available at [www.southalabama.edu/english/programs/graduate.htm](http://www.southalabama.edu/english/programs/graduate.htm)

**Literature Program Reviews**
The Literature Program Review takes place when a student in the literature concentration has completed at least one-half of the coursework (at least 18 hours) for the M.A. degree, and it is required to proceed with the degree. The student must request the review from his or her thesis director or comprehensive exam mentors in the first month of thesis hours or examination preparation. At the LPR, the student and faculty members will discuss a representative paper that the student submits, the student's progress, and strategies for completing the Master's degree in English. The LPR will help each student assess her or his strengths and any weaknesses; additionally, it allows each student to discuss grades, faculty comments, and other concerns such as post-degree options. Please contact Dr. Harrington if you need help scheduling your LPR.

**Foreign Language Proficiency Requirement**
If you have not completed this requirement through recent coursework, you need to contact the Foreign Language department to schedule your test. You must contact the Foreign Language department in the first four weeks of the semester to take the test anytime that semester. You must meet this requirement before your last semester of graduate work; you will not be able to schedule a Thesis Defense or take the Comprehensive Exam until you have completed your proficiency requirement. See our policy on the website. If you have any questions, contact Dr. Harrington.
### English Department News

Dr. Sue Walker has retired as Chair of the English Department. Recently re-elected as Poet Laureate of Alabama, she continues with the department as the first Stokes Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing and Director of USA’s Stokes Center for Creative Writing. Dr. Bob Coleman, Director of the USA Honors Program and faculty member in English, is the Interim Chair of the English Department.

### Graduate English Website

The English Department Website has current information on events, programs, faculty, etc.:
http://www.southalabama.edu/english

Follow the links to the Graduate English program’s website, which has current information on policies and requirements:
www.southalabama.edu/english/programs/graduate.htm

### Fall Graduate Classes

Please check the English website for the most recent list of graduate classes and descriptions.
http://www.southalabama.edu/english/programs/grad_class.htm

You can get current schedule information and register through the PAWS website:
paws.southalabama.edu

### Events & Activities

#### Eugenia L. Hamner Lecture for the Graduate Program in English

Dr. Richard Hillyer will deliver the sixth annual Eugenia L. Hamner Lecture for the Graduate Program in English at USA later this month (details TBA). The title of Dr. Hillyer’s talk will be “Charles Lamb on Sir Philip Sidney: The Invention of Po[e/l]itics.”

This lecture recognizes the great intellectual contributions of Dr. Eugenia “Genie” Hamner, retired faculty member, to USA’s English department and to the Mobile community. Each fall, a member of the Graduate Faculty in English will deliver the lecture. All students are encouraged to attend and support our program!

#### Creative Writing Special Event

Writers Marjorie Perloff, Charles Bernstein, and Hank Lazer will be coming to campus, Sept 19-20 for a reading, lecture, and workshops.

#### Favorite Poem Reading

The annual Favorite Poem Reading will take place April 15, 2009.

#### Poetry Theatre

Poetry Theatre will continue each month throughout the academic year.

#### USA Horror Club

Graduate students and faculty are invited to join the USA Horror Club. Look for club events this year. Contact Horror Club Faculty Advisor Dr. Annmarie Guzy for more information.
Oracle Fine Arts Review

USA's literary and fine arts magazine publishes student and community work in areas including Fiction, Painting, Creative Non-Fiction, Illustration, Poetry, Photography, Stage/Screenplay, Printmaking, Essay, and Sculpture. Students are needed to serve as editors and editorial board members starting in September. Editor applications are due August 29 for the 2008-2009 school year. Submissions for the next issue are due October 10. Please contact faculty advisor, Dr. Ellen Harrington, or see the website for details: http://www.southalabama.edu/oracle/

Writing Outreach

The Freshman Composition Program within the Department of English at USA sponsors free-of-charge information sessions for students and others who need additional assistance with particular writing skills. The goal of the Writing Outreach program is to reinforce necessary skills that are often not covered in class discussions due to time constraints. Writing Outreach is open to all university students, staff, and faculty, as well as interested members of the community. English graduate students help organize this series each semester. Please contact Dr. Nicole Amare for more information about assisting with this program.

Gender Studies

The USA Gender Studies program hosts lectures and other activities throughout the year. Contact Dr. Linda Payne or see the website for more details: http://www.southalabama.edu/genderstudies/

Conferences and Contests

The Association of College English Teachers of Alabama (ACETA) sponsors two academic honors: the Calvert and Woodall Awards. The Calvert prize honors a paper on a scholarly or theoretical topic in English studies; the paper for the Woodall prize must focus on a pedagogical topic in English studies. See the website for more details about these competitions, which are open to college English teachers and graduate students in English: www.samford.edu/groups/aceta

Louisiana State University hosts the Mardi Gras Graduate English Conference in Language and Literature during Mardi Gras week each year. Check for web updates at www.lsu.edu/student_organizations/egsa/

University of Florida English Graduate Organization hosts the annual UF-EGO Interdisciplinary Conference each fall. Check out the current conference schedule here: www.nwe.ufl.edu/ego/conference.shtml

The South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference will be held November 7-9 in Louisville. SMLA is one of the Modern Language Association's regional conferences. Look at the conference website for more details about the panels (http://samla.gsu.edu/). If you are interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in English, consider joining MLA or SMLA.
English Graduate Faculty Activities

Dr. Nicole Amare

Publications:


Recent and upcoming conferences:


Dr. Pat Cesarini

Pat Cesarini teaches American literature from the colonial period to the Civil War. His research has been on the literature of New England Puritan missions to the Indians in the seventeenth century. In January his analysis and transcription of a long-lost manuscript by John Eliot, the Puritan ‘Apostle to the Indians,’ was published in the William and Mary Quarterly. In April he delivered a paper on Indian conversion narratives at the "Prophetstown Revisited" conference on Early Native American Studies. He is currently completing two articles related to the John Eliot discovery: A comparative study of the Indian missions in Massachusetts and Plymouth Colonies, and a 'composite biography' of the native founders of the early 'Praying Indian' community at Mashpee.

Prof. Carolyn Haines

Carolyn Haines, who teaches the fiction classes in the creative writing program, will receive the Richard Wright Award for Literary Excellence for 2009. The award will be given at a ceremony in Natchez, Mississippi in February. Haines, a native of Lucedale, was honored for her body of work. Past recipients include Eudora Welty, Ellen Douglas, and John Grisham, among others.
**Dr. John Halbrooks**

John Halbrooks has two forthcoming articles, one on Aelfric’s *Maccabees* and one on P. D. James's reworkings of *Beowulf*. He is currently working on a book on medieval readership and heroic narrative.

**Dr. Ellen Harrington**

Ellen Harrington’s article “The ‘test of feminine investigation’ in Orczy’s *Lady Molly of Scotland Yard Stories*” is forthcoming in *Clues: A Journal of Detection* next year. The anthology she edited with the Society for the Study of the Short Story, *Scribbling Women and the Short Story Form: Approaches by American and British Women Writers*, was published earlier this year. Dr. Harrington also gave presentations on Joseph Conrad's *Chance* and Wilkie Collins's *The Moonstone* at professional conferences, and she continues research on Conrad's heroines.

**Dr. Richard Hillyer**

Richard Hillyer will give the Hamner Lecture later this month. His talk will be "Charles Lamb on Sir Philip Sidney: The Invention of Po[el]itics." Also, he will present a Humanities and Social Sciences Colloquium on September 25 at 3.30 p.m. The title will be "Could You Care Less?"

He’s been working on a projected book with the tentative title *From Melancholy to Method: ‘Care’ and Its Derivatives in Pre-Modern English*. Meanwhile, he has a book under review at Palgrave Macmillan: *The Once and Future Sidney: Sir Philip as a Cultural Icon from His Own Time to the Present*. One strand of this will make up the Hamner presentation.

**Dr. Christopher Hollingsworth**

At the 29th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts (March 19-22, 2008), Cristopher served on the discussion panel “Politics and the Singularity,” and as part of the panel “Science and the Sublime” read his paper “The Sublimity of Technological Spatial Artifice: The Carrollian Fantastic in H. G. Wells, Kurt Vonnegut, and Rudy Rucker.” Cristopher’s current project is editing and contributing an introduction to *Spaces of Wonderland*, a collection of new academic writing on Lewis Carroll and his Alice books that is forthcoming from University of Iowa Press.

**Dr. Christopher Raczkowski**

*Publications:*


Currently working on "Chester Bomar Himes" for the *Blackwell Dictionary of American Literature*. (Forthcoming).

**Dr. Sue Walker**

Dr. Walker was re-elected Poet Laureate of Alabama for another four-year term. She is giving a reading and conducting workshops at the Mississippi Writer's Guild in Vicksburg, Mississippi this weekend.
Her anthology, *Whatever Remember Us: An Anthology of Alabama Poetry*, was selected as a Finalist for Best Poetry Book of the year by the Southern Independent Booksellers Association, and the Festival and Awards will be presented in Decatur Georgia, August 29-30.

Dr. Walker’s new book of poetry comes out from Oeoco Press on August 27.

**More News...**

**Current Students in the English MA Program**

**Jeannie Holmes**  
(M.A. in progress, USA) received a two-book contract with Random House this summer. She was also treated to breakfast in the Random House offices with the CEO of Random House, the senior editorial staff, as well as the sales team. The first book on the contract, *Crimson Swan*, will be out September 2009.

**Mike Odom**  
(M.A. in progress, USA) was accepted into both Bread Loaf and Squaw Valley Writers Community this summer. He was awarded a fellowship to attend Squaw Valley.

More news about recent MA graduates can be found on our Alumni Accomplishments web page:  
http://www.southalabama.edu/english/alumni.html