

GradLetter

Graduate Newsletter · Department of English · Fall 2007

University of South Alabama
Humanities Bldg. 240 · (251) 460-6146
<http://www.southalabama.edu/english>

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Graduate Deadlines:

Graduation:

To graduate in Spring 2008, you must register for graduation by 9/7/07.

To graduate in Summer 2008, you must register for graduation by 2/8/08.

To graduate in Fall 2008, you must register for graduation by 5/30/08.

Thesis:

Fall First Submission:

11/1/07

Defend by: 10/20/07

Spring First Submission:

3/27/08

Defend by: 3/14/08

Summer First Submission:

6/27/08

Defend by: 6/17/08

Foreign Language:

Contact the Foreign Language department in the first four weeks of the semester to take the test anytime that semester.

Welcome, New and Returning Students!

Welcome to our new graduate students who have entered since last fall: Barbara Bateman, Brittany Bunton, Amanda Evans, Stephanie Evers, Linda Grant, Lee Ann Hendricks, Jessica Jones, Danielle McWhorter, Jennifer Powell, Julie Reppress, Peggy Tran, and Micah Zimmerman.

Congratulations to our recent graduates: Derek Bagley, Karma Degruy, Stephanie Dunbar, Deborah Ferguson, Susan Hales, Mistica Maples, Melissa Smith, and Kelly Wright. Karma Degruy is entering the Ph.D. program at Emory University this fall as a Medievalist. Deborah Ferguson, Mistica Maples, Melissa Smith, and Gary Walker are Instructor-Interns for the English department this academic year.

English Graduate Organization (EGO)

EGO provides a forum for students to socialize, to plan events, and to petition the department to address concerns of graduate students. Please plan to attend some of the meetings or events this year. Congratulations to our 2007 Graduate Essay Contest winner, Matthew Lambert!

Graduate & Teaching Assistants

The Graduate and Teaching Assistantships are competitive positions awarded each year by the department. Graduate Assistants for this academic year are Stephanie Evers, Jennifer Powell, and Nicole Schlaudecker. GAs work in the Writing Center and for the department. Teaching Assistants for this academic year are Christy Hutcheson, Matt Lambert, Chris Starkey, Tammy Stefanini, and Beth White. TAs will teach EH 101 classes this fall.

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

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 for more information.

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.

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

New Graduate Class: Spring 2008

EH 508 Workplace Writing: Theories & Applications

Dr. Nicole Amare

This course exposes graduate students to trends, theories, and issues in writing in both academic and nonacademic contexts in professions that require an M.A. or higher degree. EH 508 provides both theoretical and practical approaches for workplace writing that can be used in both industry and academe. Graduate students who complete our M.A. degree go on to more schooling (Ph.D., M.F.A., Ed.D., etc. programs), obtain full- or part-time teaching positions, and/or secure employment in industry, usually in writing or editing. EH 508 has two goals: to train non-Ph.D. seeking students for workplace writing contexts (applications) while still preparing students for doctoral programs that will have a workplace writing component (theories). Students in EH 508 will become familiar with foundational works by studying workplace writing theories, practices, and histories and applying them to academic and workplace contexts. Students will spend the first half of the course studying workplace writing theories and, in the second half, students will apply these theories to workplace writing contexts.



New Faculty Members

Dr. Richard Hillyer

A graduate of Exeter University, UK, Richard Hillyer completed his Ph.D. in 1990 at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Prior to com-

ing to USA, he taught at Wayne State University and the University of Minnesota, Duluth. Dr. Hillyer has published previously on Hobbes, Waller, and Johnson, and his book, *Hobbes and His Poetic Contemporaries: Cultural Transmission in Early Modern England*, was published this spring by Palgrave Macmillan.

Dr. Justin St. Clair

After growing up in the Midwest, Justin St. Clair attended Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, from which he was graduated with honors and a BA in English. Upon graduation, he spent several years teaching English in Poland before continuing on to graduate school. He received a Ph.D. in English from the University of Iowa in 2007, where his dissertation focused on sound technologies and postmodern American literature. Currently, he is working on transforming the project into a book, as well as researching an article on John Dos Passos' use of sound in the U.S.A. trilogy.

Events & Activities

Eugenia L. Hamner Lecture

Dr. Nicole Amare will deliver the fifth annual Eugenia L. Hamner Lecture for the Graduate Program in English at USA on Monday, September 24, 2007 at 6pm in the Library Auditorium. A reception will follow in the library. The title of Dr. Amare's talk will be "A Language for Visuals: Form, Purpose, Usability."

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!

Poetry Reading

Prof. Bruce Alford, Dr. Sue Walker, and other Alabama poets will be reading from *Whatever Remembers Us: An Anthology of Alabama Poetry* on September 6th on the Springhill campus. Call the English Department for more information at 460-6146.

USA Horror Club

Graduate students and faculty are invited to join the USA Horror Club. In conjunction with Jaguar Productions, the Horror Club will be co-sponsoring a program by horror effects makeup master Tom Savini (*Friday the 13th, Dawn of the Dead*). The program is scheduled for the SC Ballroom on Tuesday, October 30, at 7:00pm and is free and open to the public. Look for more 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. Submissions for the next issue are due in November. 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.

USA Gender Studies hosts lectures and other activities throughout the year. Contact 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

english.lsu.edu/dept/orgs/egsa

University of Florida English Graduate Organization's Annual UF-EGO Interdisciplinary Conference, "As I Imagine: Fantasy, Identity, Politics" will be held 18-19 October, 2007. The keynote speaker will be Carl Freedman.

The South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference will be held November 10-12 in Charlotte. SAMLA is one of the Modern Language Association's regional conferences. Look at the conference website for more details about the panels (www.samla.org). If you are interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in English, consider joining MLA or SAMLA.



English Graduate Faculty Activities

**Congratulations to Matthew Lambert,
Winner of the Graduate Essay Contest
2007 for "The Obsessive, the Pervert, and
the Bastard"**

In my essay, I examine John, Arthur, and the Bastard in Shakespeare's *The Life and Death of King John*, each of whom has a biological right to England's throne. Beginning with Jonathan Price's proposition that Shakespeare leaves the reader free to think about his plays with little authorial interference, my essay follows the Lacanian psychoanalytical observations of Bruce Fink and attempts to place John, Arthur, and the Bastard into the structural categories of the Obsessive (John), the Pervert (Arthur), and the "whole subject" (the Bastard). In order to do this, I examine each character's relationship to both mother and father figures in the play and the resulting affect on each character's unconscious. In conclusion, I maintain that Shakespeare subtly indicates his own partiality by inscribing the Bastard with more favorable characteristics than John and Arthur, and the modern lens of psychoanalysis lends itself well to deciphering this partiality. –M.L.

Prof. Bruce Alford

Louisiana native Bruce Alford is a former journalist turned creative writer. His first book of poetry *Terminal Switching* was published in the Spring of 2007. The book explores the ideas of capitalism, technology and hierarchy. He has completed a novel loosely based on Shakespeare's "Hamlet" entitled *The Princess of Denmark* and is currently working on what will be the second book of the *The Princess of Denmark* series. (Read excerpts from *Terminal Switching* and the *Princess of Denmark* at Brucealford.net)

Alford is also a frequent reviewer for the Journal of the Alabama Writer's Forum: *First Draft*. He received his M.F.A. from the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa in 1998. This semester Alford is teaching Contemporary Black Fiction—EH468, which emphasizes speculative fiction of contemporary Black writers. Look for a new course to be taught by Alford: The Graphic Novel, Spring 2008.

Dr. Nicole Amare

Publications:

"Where Is She? Gender Occurrences in Online Grammar Guides." *Research in the Teaching of English*, forthcoming, November 2007 issue.

"Writing Outreach as Community Engagement." *WPA: Journal of the Council of Writing Program Administrators*, 30.3 (2007): 57-74 (with T. Grettano).

"The Language of Visuals: Text + Graphics = Visual Rhetoric." *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication* 50.2 (2007): 57-70 (with A. Manning).

Conferences:

"A Usability Model of High-Tech Visuals Based on the Semiotics of C.S. Peirce," International Professional Communication Conference. Saratoga Springs, NY: October, 2006. (with A. Manning).

"Writing Tutorials and Teaching Cases for IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication: Beyond Traditional Research Articles," International Professional Communication Conference. Saratoga Springs, NY: October, 2006. (with K. Campbell and A. Manning).

"The Rhetoric of Ethics: Narrative, Ethos, and the Composition Classroom." Thomas R. Watson Conference. Louisville, KY: October, 2006.

"Twain's Satirical Mormon Sympathies in Roughing It," *Inscription: Faith and Learning in English Studies*. Abilene, TX: September, 2006. (with A. Manning).

Dr. Pat Cesarini

Dr. Cesarini continued his research on the literature of Anglo-Indian relations in 17th-century America. Last spring he delivered a paper at the Georgia Philological Association Conference, entitled "The Puritan Indian Confession and the Expression of Native Christianity." He also finished revising "John Eliot's 'A Brief History of the Mashepog Indians,' 1666," which contains Dr. Cesarini's transcription and analysis of a long-lost manuscript from colonial Massachusetts, depicting the formation of one of the first American Indian churches in North America, much of it in the words of seven 'confessing' Indians. The piece will appear in *William and Mary Quarterly* this winter.

Dr. Robert Coleman

Bob Coleman has an article forthcoming in *Studies in American Culture* entitled "Reframing Historical Fantasies in James Branch Cabell's *The Cream of the Jest*." The article will appear in the October 2007 edition of *Studies in American Culture*. This summer, he taught "Crossroads: Modern Literature, American Blues, and British Rock" (EH 490 Special Topics) at King's College London-Hampstead Campus through the USA British Studies Program and the CCSA Study Abroad Consortium.

He delivered a talk, "Carnality and Chivalry in James Branch Cabell's Romances," at the Popular Culture Association in the South/American Culture Association in the South. 6 October 2006. Savannah, Georgia. Dr. Coleman chaired a panel, "Race, Gender, and Representation in Southern Culture," at the Popular Culture Association in the South/American Culture Association in the South. 6 October 2006. Savannah, Georgia. He also delivered a talk, "Not 'Stuck Inside of Mobile with the Memphis Blues Again': Literature, Blues, and Rock and Roll at the Crossroads," for the USA Humanities and Social Sciences Colloquium on 20 March 2007.

Dr. Annmarie Guzy

Publication:

"Evaluation vs. Grading in Honors Composition, Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying about Grades and Love Teaching." *Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council* 8.1 (Spring/Summer 2007): 31-36.

Conferences/Meetings:

National Collegiate Honors Council Publications Board meeting, Jacksonville, FL, June 1-2, 2007.

NCHC Board of Directors meeting, Lincoln, NE, June 14-16, 2007.

NCHC national conference, Denver, CO, October 31-November 4, 2007; chairing third an-

nual three-hour pre-conference workshop on "Research About Honors."

Prof. Carolyn Haines

Prof. Haines has three new books and a short story out—*Fever Moon* with St. Martin's Mino-taur, which was a Book Sense Notable Book; *Ham Bones* with Kensington, the seventh in the Mississippi Delta Mystery series; *Revenant*, a thriller set on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and featuring Carson Lynch, reporter, which is published by MIRA, will be released in September, as will a short story, "The Wish" in a collection edited by Charlaine Harris and Toni Kelner, *Many Bloody Returns*. Her historical mystery, *Penumbra*, was named one of the top 5 mysteries of 2006 by *Library Journal*. *Revenant* will be available for download at audio.com.

Dr. John Halbrooks

In the past year John Halbrooks has continued his work to reconstruct medieval readings of heroism. In a forthcoming article in *Studies in Philology*, entitled "Ælfric, *The Maccabees*, and the Problem of Christian Heroism," he reads Ælfric's retelling of *The Maccabees* in the apparently contradictory contexts of the Old English heroic ethos and the monasticism of post-Benedictine Reform. In a presentation to the Southeastern Medieval Association last fall, entitled "Beowulf's Restlessness: 2419a-2420b in Context," he interpreted Beowulf's problematic speech before the dragon fight in light of a rarely discussed skaldic analogue. In another presentation to the Sewanee Medieval Colloquium last spring, entitled "Layamon Spinning Wace: Sinful Deeds and Heroic Integrity in the *Brut*," he considered the political and ethical problems of heroism in the context of political chronicle. He is currently at work on a book which will extend discussion of medieval interpretations of heroism. During the summer, he traveled to England to do research on a related project concerning the treatment of this subject by medievalists of the early twentieth century.

Dr. Ellen Harrington

Publications:

"The 'test of feminine investigation' in Orczy's *Lady Molly of Scotland Yard Stories*." Forthcoming in *Clues: A Journal of Detection*, 2008.

"Nation, Identity, and the Fascination with Forensic Science in Sherlock Holmes and *CSI*." Forthcoming in the *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, 2007.

"The Female Offender, the New Woman, and Winnie Verloc in Conrad's *The Secret Agent*." *The Conradian: The Journal of the Joseph Conrad Society (UK)* Special Issue for the Centenary of *The Secret Agent* 32.1 (2007). Simultaneously published in *The Secret Agent: Centennial Essays*. Eds. A.H. Simmons & J.H. Stape. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2007.

Editor, *Scribbling Women and the Short Story Form: Approaches by American and British Women Writers*. Forthcoming, Lang, 2008.

Under Review:

"The Case of a Lady's Virtue: Gender, Class, and Investigation in Wilkie Collins's *The Moonstone*."

Presentations:

"The 'miserable dependence of girls': Conrad's Rewriting of the Sensational Heroine from Winnie Verloc to Flora de Barral." The Joseph Conrad Society (UK) Annual International Conference, London. July 6, 2007.

"From the Lady and the Law to the Lady Detective in Wilkie Collins." National Popular Culture Association Conference (PCA/ACA), Boston, MA. April 5, 2007.

Speaker at The Stage and the Quill Roundtable after *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* performance. University of South Alabama. April 14, 2007.

"Sensationalizing the Female Offender in *The Secret Agent*." University of South Alabama,

Humanities and Social Sciences Colloquium.
February 8, 2007.

Dr. Cristopher Hollingsworth

Publications:

"Lucky Moon" (poem, forthcoming in *The Connecticut Review*).

"Lewis Carroll, H. G. Wells, and Scientific Wonderland" (accepted for publication in *The Carrollian: The Lewis Carroll Journal*).

Under Review:

"The 'Beauties of Fortuity': Victorian Photography, Carrollian Narrative, and Modern Collage."

The Space of Wonderland. This scholarly collection is the first broad gathering of new Carroll scholarship in over a decade, and the first ever to approach Carroll's Wonderland as a cultural and conceptual space, a product of the industrial nineteenth century that over the course of the twentieth century has become a ubiquitous template for understanding the present and imagining the future.

"Of Names and the Giving of Names" (poem)

Presentations:

"Keats and the English Romantic Fable." Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association, 61st annual meeting. Calgary, Canada, October 4, 2006.

"Moments of Scientific Melodrama: Confronting the Machine in Victorian Fantasy and Realism." Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association, 60th annual meeting. Tucson, Arizona, October 13, 2006.

Next Book Project:

The Evolution of Wonderland: Lewis Carroll and Imagination in the Twentieth Century. After completing *The Space of Wonderland* I will turn to explaining why and how Lewis Carroll's whimsical Victorian fairy tales came to escape their books, becoming over the course of the twentieth century one of our emerging world

civilization's best known and most used and elaborated modern secular myths.

Dr. Becky McLaughlin

Publication:

"Staging (un)Civil War: The Restoration's Allegory of Perversion" forthcoming in *The History of Perversion, 1650-1800*, edited by Julie Peakman (due out Spring 2008 from Palgrave).

Presentations:

Presented a paper on Wayne Wang's independent film *The Center of the World* ("Mistaking the Margin for the Center, or Even a Genius Can Fail When it Comes to Sexual Rapport") at the Twentieth Century Language and Literature Conference in Louisville (February 2007).

Presented a paper, "The Eye as Camera: Reproducing Nature's Art in Chaucer's Physician's Tale," at the 42nd International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo (May 2007).

Dr. Christopher Raczkowski

With a grant from the university this summer, Dr. Raczkowski conducted research on the Stein Archive at Yale's Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscript Library. His article on the competing noir aesthetics of *Miller's Crossing* and *The Big Lebowski* called "Metonymic Hats and Metaphoric Tumbleweeds" will be published in an anthology on *The Big Lebowski* from Indiana University Press. He also finished a revision of an article on William Dean Howells and labor politics for *Studies in the Novel*.

Dr. Sue Walker

Chair of the English Department and Poet Laureate of Alabama, Dr. Walker's most recent publications are *Whatever Remembers Us: An Anthology of Alabama Poetry*, published through her press, Negative Capability, in 2007 and a forthcoming book of Mobile-themed po-

ems about a dog named Rubin. She is presenting at the 11th International D.H. Lawrence Conference at the University of Nottingham, UK in August, 2007. Her website is <http://www.suebwalker.com/>



More News... Current Students and Graduates of the English MA Program

Deborah Ferguson

(M.A., University of South Alabama) published an article, "African American Art Forms: Folkways for Social Justice" in the *Journal of Adult Learning* with co-authors Elliott Lauderdale and Betty Wilkinson.

Jeannie Holmes

(M.A. in progress, USA) signed with a New York literary agent, Marian Young at The Young Agency. Jeannie is working on the second book in a trilogy, which Marian is representing. Jeannie attended *Thrillerfest*, a gathering of the biggest names in the industry, in New York in July and met her agent to discuss a strategy to sell her novels.

Elizabeth Jones

(M.A., University of South Alabama, Ph.D. in progress, Auburn) won the 2007 Graduate Thesis Award in Arts and Sciences. Her thesis was selected from over 70 theses submitted last year.

More news about recent MA graduates can be found on our Alumni Accomplishments web page:

<http://www.southalabama.edu/english/alumni.html>