English Department – Creative Writing – Open Rank Faculty Position

The University of South Alabama English Department invites applications for a full-time (9 month), tenure-track position of Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor of Creative Writing, starting August 15, 2017. The successful candidate will also direct the Stokes Center for Creative Writing and serve as Director of Creative Writing.

Position:
The successful candidate will primarily teach courses in creative nonfiction, fiction, playwriting, and/or poetry with occasional courses in composition; actively publish in appropriate fields; direct the Stokes Center for Creative Writing; and serve as Director of Creative Writing.

Administrative responsibilities will include serving as a faculty advisor to the Oracle Fine Arts Review (published annually); arranging for student readings and facilitating student publications; recruiting students for the English Department’s graduate and undergraduate creative writing concentrations; inviting and hosting visits by distinguished writers (under the auspices of the Stokes Center for Creative Writing); overseeing the assessment of creative writing (as part of the university’s annual assessment of learning outcomes); and exploring possible programmatic opportunities such as the development of a low-residency MFA program. The Director of Creative Writing will work closely with the department chair, the graduate coordinator, and the chair of the undergraduate committee to improve and expand the department’s creative writing concentrations. (For more information on these concentrations, see department website links for “Undergraduate Program” and “Graduate Program.”)

Application and Search Process:
Required: PhD in English or MFA; expertise in creative nonfiction, fiction, playwriting, poetry, and/or some combination of the above; demonstrated leadership ability; commitment to facilitating student readings and publications.

Preferable: Experience with departmental administration (perhaps as the coordinator or director of a creative writing program or concentration); experience with recruitment as well as creative writing assessment; experience serving as the faculty advisor to a student literary magazine.

The Department, University, and Community:
The USA English Department has long been identified with outstanding creative writing faculty members and alumni. Past or present faculty members have received many honors, including the National Book Award, the Harper Lee Award, and the Alabama Poet Laureateship. Numerous former students have published novels, poetry collections, and works of creative nonfiction. The department is exceptionally collegial, highly productive in research and creative work, and committed to quality undergraduate and graduate education.

The University of South Alabama is a growing research institution with more than 16,600 students.

The historic Mobile Bay area is home to many successful creative writers and boasts a lively arts scene in which the USA creative writing faculty has long figured prominently.

The Stokes Center for Creative Writing:
The Stokes Center enhances the English Department’s offerings in creative writing by sponsoring readings, lectures, forums, community projects, and other events that are free and open to the public. It also supports students through its undergraduate and graduate awards in poetry, fiction, and creative
nonfiction. The Stokes Center is committed to fostering a vibrant writers’ community in Southern Alabama, one that not only showcases both local and national talent but also provides a meeting place for writers from around the world.

**Visiting Writers Series:**
The University of South Alabama has been host to many distinguished authors and scholars over the years, including Margaret Atwood, Charles Bernstein, Jack Gilbert, Sandra Gilbert, Major Jackson, Hank Lazar, Marjorie Perloff, Marge Piercy, W. D. Snodgrass, Diane Wakoski, Edward O. Wilson, and Yevgeny Yevtushenko. Now part of the Stokes Center, the Visiting Writers Series brings emerging and established authors to campus for readings and craft talks throughout the year. On this year’s slate are Beth Ann Fennelly, Tom Franklin, Nathaniel Mackey, Rebecca Morgan Frank, and Julie Suk. All events are free and open to the public.

Email vita, cover letter, and the names of three references to Dr. Becky McLaughlin, Chair, Search Committee, c/o Ms. Arnedra Wilson (aswilson@southalabama.edu).

If you have any questions about our search or the process, please contact

Dr. Becky McLaughlin  
Chair, Search Committee  
bmclaugh@southalabama.edu

Review of applications will begin December 7, 2016, and will continue until the position is filled. We expect to conduct initial interviews at the MLA.

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