Inklinks
THE English Graduate Student Newsletter

Message from Graduate Director

Coming off a summer rich in reading I have a renewed appreciation for all of the many ways that reading happens. Take for example, absorptive reading, by which I mean the activity which prevents you from hearing the timer go off on the oven. Deeply fascinated, non-critical reading that you cannot put down. In this way I enjoyed with guilty pleasure the entire Twilight series. Then, there is rereading. My family and I read the last two novels in the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series early in the summer and spent the rest of our nights rereading each of the five books, seeing the way allusions were built into the texts and how prophecies played out. Other forms of pleasure reading filled my precious time, including some eye-opening memoirs and the poetry of Mary Oliver. Unsurprisingly, informational reading made up a high percentage of my list, from criticism and history to Zen philosophy and parenting books. Different types of reading can be further categorized into hyper attention versus deep attention, illustrated by the different habits of my ten-year-old (whole chapter books in ten minutes and onto the next thing) and me (ideally, hours of unbroken reading).

I've been told that in the first three years of primary school, students learn to read, and for the rest, they read to learn. This suggests that by the time students reach college, they ought to be very practiced in critical reading, so as to be expert. Different types of reading can be further categorized into hyper attention versus deep attention, illustrated by the different habits of my ten-year-old (whole chapter books in ten minutes and onto the next thing) and me (ideally, hours of unbroken reading).

Rather than expect our students to read in order to learn the discipline of English, this asks us to think about how literature or rhetoric teaches students to read historically, cross-culturally, and calls for the development of four types of literacy in the classroom: historical, cross-cultural, technological and information. I believe this represents a significant shift.

Where is your degree from? When? What areas did you study?

I completed my M.A. at Purdue University (1996) and my Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University in 2002. All of my degrees are in English but my focus within each degree has varied. My broad training is U.S. American Literature, with an emphasis in the 19th & 20th centuries. Latina/o and Chicana/o Literature are my research specialties. While a student, I took advantage of courses outside my department, so I studied and took graduate courses in Spanish literature, Women's Studies, American Studies, and Comparative Literature as well.

What subjects did you / are you publishing in?

To date, my publications have been in two areas: US Latina/o literature and Latin American Testimonio. My publications are usually interdisciplinary in that I draw on a number of kinds of texts, not just literature, and I use the methodologies of several fields of critical inquiry: narrative, women’s studies, rhetoric, and philosophy. Because I explore
behaviors do not develop naturally; they are socially and behaviorally conditioned. It is important to become mindful of them and seek out the most effective reading practices. Consider what this means for your schedule and make sure you give yourself enough time for all the new reading you have to do.

Good luck with the beginning of classes and the start of a new academic year.

As graduate students, this affects you both as instructors and as students. In your classrooms, you teach critical reading while you teach writing, attentive to the recursive process. As students, you have new ways of reading to learn. At the minimum, graduate work involves a meta-cognitive reading that asks you to think about how you think about your subject, whether it is composition, craft or literature. Each sub-discipline in English has its own forms of reading, its languages, conventions, and histories that you also need to learn. So, while we put a great deal of emphasis on your writing, it is crucial that you be conscious of the need to learn to read. These reading

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texts from the U.S., the Hispanic Caribbean, and Latin America together, I would also say the work is transnational and contributing to the scholarship on the Literature of the Americas. What classes are you or will you be teaching?

In the Fall, I will be teaching two sections of the undergraduate course, "Literature 3301: Cultural Studies and Popular Arts." Like my colleagues in the department, I am building the course around my expertise, so students will explore Latina/o fiction, film, art, and music. I’m particularly interested in public murals and want to try to incorporate Tampa’s Latina/o murals into the course. In the Spring, I will offer a graduate seminar. I haven’t decided the scope of it yet, but I imagine it will be grounded historically. Drama, film, documentary, and performance art are often infused with narrative and vice versa, so these are areas I’m trying to incorporate more and more. Before setting up the course, I’d like to get a better sense of student interest and knowledge, so that I might better match up the assignments with some of their interests. How would you describe the classes?

In general, I structure courses historically – I think it essential that students have a historical context for the materials they read – and use background materials such as documentary, political history, sociology, etc. to help students grasp the conditions and themes the literature explores. Students often need to improve their skills, not just expand their knowledge, so I deliver workshops on specific writing and editing skills. For graduate students, I incorporate development and practice of research and professional skills.

What research projects are you currently working on?

My main goal this year is to get my manuscript under contract. New Memory: The Ethics of Latina/o Fiction explores contemporary Chicana/o and Latina/o fiction. I am trying to expand the critical approaches to these literatures, so I will be focusing on a methodology – Narrative Ethics – that has not been used within the field. In addition to that I am writing two articles: one on Junot Díaz’s Pulitzer Prize winning novel, The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao; the other is about Ernesto Quinonez’s first novel, Bodega Dreams. What is your favorite/least favorite memory of graduate school?

That’s easy – my favorite memory of graduate school was my
USF strikes me as very welcoming, energetic, and organized. The New Faculty Orientation was outstanding. I also liked USF’s efforts to connect with the community and develop long-standing relationships with various businesses and organizations. Tampa Bay seems like a great place to live. People are VERY friendly; there are lots of nice independent restaurants and shops; and the sun shines every day. What else could one ask for?

What interests/hobbies/activities do you have outside of work?

A native Long Islander, I enjoy water activities, so Tampa is a happy return to the beach. I love shelling and bird watching. Kayaking is another sport I hope to have time to do more often. When it is too hot for those activities, I enjoy trying new recipes, Latin dancing, museums, and other cultural events. I’ve already been to the Dalí museum and really enjoyed it. And then, there is my dog, Pompie, “el papi chulo” Irizarry. He is my adored, ever-so-slightly spoiled pug, who is not very active but is very interesting and makes me laugh all day. I give you fair warning: you will hear many Pompie stories...

What news would you like to share with us?

I am happy to say that an article of mine will be out soon in Antípodas. In it, I analyze the visual rhetoric of a special international museum exhibit on writers and artists exiled in the Dominican Republic during the Spanish Civil War. Researching and writing this article was a great experience for me, as I was able to combine narrative, genre, visual rhetoric, and cultural criticisms. Also, I have a chapter in the forthcoming collection Voces Caribeñas. Hispanic Narratives of Immigration and Exile (Palgrave, 2010). The chapter discusses Junot Díaz’s first narrative collection, Drown. Our editor recently informed us that Jose Flores and Silvio Saillant Torres have endorsed the book, so I am very excited to see what our critical response will be.

Ylice Irizarry Continued

dissertation advisor approving my final chapter on the first draft! The light at the end of the tunnel was no longer the train bearing down on me but the light beckoning me to rejoin society...

The least favorite is the memory of being intimidated and discouraged by a senior professor at the conference where I delivered my first presentation on Chicana literature. Graduate students are actively presenting and publishing quality work, so this experience really shapes my interaction with graduate students. In my courses and mentoring, I want graduate students to develop solid research, writing, and presentation skills; to understand the various academic careers one can build – not just teaching; and to maintain their interest and passions. Graduate students bring fresh perspectives and help keep our field interesting – I try to encourage and facilitate their movement into the field.

What are your first impressions of USF and/or Tampa Bay?

Congratulations Summer Graduates!

Please be advised that the Graduate School has done away with the first day attendance policy. Students who do not show up for the first day of a graduate course will no longer be automatically dropped from the course. If a student does not intend to complete that course, s/he must manually drop it through OASIS, or be liable for the tuition cost and the grade requirements.

Attendance Policy Change

BRIDGET MAHONEY
(MA Lit)

DIANNE DONNELLY
(MA Lit)
Welcome, New Graduate Students!

MA
AIMEE COLEY  
(media, gender/sexuality, psychoanalytic theory) 
New College (01) 
St. John’s College San Fran (07)

DORINDA DAVIS  
(undecided Lit) USF

JEFFREY HONNOLD  
(RAC) Purdue-Calumet

DEBORAH KOCHMAN  
(Literature) USF-Sarasota

JOANNA KOULIANOS  
(Popular, visual culture, film, gender) FSU

MICHELLE LARSON  
(Medieval and Elizabethan let) University of Nebraska at Kierney

CURTIS LEVAN  
(Romanticism) Messiah College (PA)

SCOTT NEUMEISTER  
(Theory/Early Modern/Postmodern) Duke University

DANA RINE  
(18th/19th C Brit, Austen) USF

HAILI VINSON  
(neoclassic, modernist, romanticism) USF

MFA
MELISSA CARROLL  
(Poetry)

SHIMA CARTER  
(Fiction)

JAQUIRA DIAZ  
(Fiction)

TRISINA DICKERSON  
(Poetry)

WINONNA PASQUINI  
(Poetry)

SHARON PINSON  
(Fiction)

MARY JO TUTTEROW  
(Fiction)

PHD
ADAM BRECKENRIDGE  
(RAC) Antioch Los Angeles

PAUL CORRIGAN  
(Contemporary American Poetry) Southeastern U (FL)/NC State University

JESSICA COOK  
(18th Century Brit) Liberty U (VA) and Longwood College (VA)

KATHERINE MCGEE  
(Gothic, 18/19th C Brit) TCU/University of Tulsa

DANIEL RICHARDS  
(RAC) University of Windsor (BA/MA)

JOY SANCHEZ  
(Ethnic authors in American) UCF/Miami

JEFFREY SPICER  
(Austen - Romanticism and RAC) William and Mary /Virginia Tech

EGSA, Message from the President

Dear Colleagues, Classmates, and Friends:

Greetings from the desk of your English Graduate Student Association (EGSA) president, Kendra N. Bryant. I am excited (and hopeful) about this upcoming school year, and am working diligently, along with your board (Erin Trauth, Vice President; Jessica McKee, Secretary; and Megan Weber, Treasurer), to ensure EGSA’s purposes:

- to provide student representation within the English department
- to foster relationships within the USF and Tampa community
- to develop a forum for discussion of various academic and social issues

The board held its first meeting last week on Monday, August 17, and has definitely set the wheels in motion. As we brainstormed, keeping in mind EGSA’s purposes, we have formed various committees so that our objectives can be met and our goals achieved. Current committees are organized around our graduate student publication, Banyan, and our annual Anything but … interdisciplinary conference held in the spring semester. We are also planning community service events, and as always, we need your help! Please be on the lookout for emails inquiring about meetings and becoming committee members.

In addition to establishing committees, the board also established a need for artists and photographers to assist with historicizing and archiving EGSA activities. We are also in need of a Parliamentarian, and ask that any student interested in taking this position, which requires keeping EGSA’s meetings (and its members) in order as outlined in Robert’s Rules of Order, to please send a one-paragraph bio to Kendra N. Bryant at knbryant@mail.usf.edu or CPR 257.

Finally, to kick off the Fall semester, we have scheduled our first general meeting for Thursday, September 3 at 3 p.m., location to be announced. On Friday, September 11, we are holding our annual EGSA Picnic at Riverside Park. I hope that you will join us for good food and gator gazing.

Moreover, please know that it is my absolute pleasure to serve as your president. If there is anything that I, or any of your board members, can do to better assist you during your tenure at the University, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are here.

In Community Spirit, 
Kendra N. Bryant 
President, EGSA
Graduate Accomplishments

BOB BATELOR


DANITA BERG accepted a position as an assistant professor of writing at Oklahoma City University.

“Letting Go By Beginning Again” (non-fiction). Southern Women’s Review. Summer/Fall 2009.

DORI DAVIS’s novel The Haunted Man took an honorable mention in Writer’s Digest’s International Self-Published Books competition.

JAQUIRA DÍAZ


“but she was too free”: Aunt Amy’s Mysterious Hemorrhage in Porter’s ‘Old Mortality.’” ALA Conference. Boston, MA. 21-24 May 2009.

CAMERON HUNT-LOGAN
“Homophonic Hamlet: Making Hamlet Ma(0)d.” The Explicator 67 (Spring 2009): 209-11.

Faculty Achievements

MICHAEL CLUNE
“Orwell and the Obvious.” Representations 107 (Summer 2009).

“Whatever Charms is Alien”: John Ashbery’s Everything.” Criticism 50.3 (Summer 2008).


MARTY GOULD
At the special invitation of the Dickens Project, Marty Gould delivered a lecture, “Copperfield, the Stage Sensation,” at the University of California, Santa Cruz. 1 August 2009.

PAT ROGERS will be holding a visiting professorial fellowship at the School of Advanced Studies at the University of London from January to June, 2010.

Panel Chair. Johnson and the Book Trade. Haughton Library Symposium

LIZ KICAK
"Panic Attack at 2:17pm." The New York Quarterly 65 (Summer 2009).

GARY SIMONS

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Call for Papers

Humanities Education & Research Association, El Paso, Texas
11-13 March 2010
Submission Deadline: 15 November 2009
All proposals should include paper title(s) and a one paragraph abstract for each paper proposed either singly or as part of a panel. Send all proposals by email to both: Dr. Marcia Green, email: mgreen@sfedu.edu and Dr. Ronald Weber email: rweber@utep.edu. For other registration and program information consult the HERA website at www.h-e-r-a.com.

Johnny Got His Pen: Artists Involvement in Peace and War.
Submission Deadline: 30 September 2009
The journal published by the Students of the Department of Comparative Literature and Classics at Cal State Long Beach, are soliciting submissions for the journal’s 40th volume. This volume will address how literature and the arts depict, incite, criticize, and mitigate political conflicts either throughout history or within contemporary societies. We are particularly interested in the way artists and art engage real and surreal concepts of armed struggle. Both academic and creative writing are welcome. Send all submissions to cgoldst2@csulb.edu.

18th and 19th C. British Women Writers Conference
Texas A&M University
8-11 April 2010
Submission Deadline: 15 October 2009
Proposals must be submitted electronically as an attachment in .doc or .rtf format to the conference email address: BWWC18@tamu.edu. For more information and updates, visit the conference website http://www.english.tamu.edu/bwwc18.

Politics and Literature: Controversial and Revolutionary Fiction – Pennsylvania Literary Journal
Submission Deadline: 30 October 2009
This online journal is for critical and creative works. The Next Issue: “Politics and Literature: Controversial and Revolutionary Fiction” will come out in the winter of 2009. Essays on the edges and even outside of this topic will be welcomed as well, but, those that explore it will be given priority. All literary periods from the beginning of written thought to the present day are relevant. Political poetry is especially coveted. Please contact the Editor, Anna Faktorovich, at pennsylvaniajournal@gmail.com.

St. Augustine, FL
Submission Deadline: 31 August 2009
Send a 250 word abstract and brief CV to Nicole N. Aljoe (n.aljoe@neu.edu) and Ralph Bauer (bauer@umd.edu).

Landscape and Identity in the U.S. South
Modern Language Association
6-9 January 2011
Los Angeles, CA
Submission Deadline: 1 March 2010
Email an abstract of approximately 500 words along with any equipment requests to Anthony Wilson at awilson@lagrange.edu.

The Fantastic in the Arts: Race and the Fantastic
17-21 March 2010
Orlando, FL
Submission Deadline: 31 October 2009
Proposals must be sent to the appropriate Division Head. Advise the Division Head if you would like to volunteer to chair a paper session. Proposals must include a 500-word abstract and appropriate bibliography indicating the project’s scholarly or theoretical context. Look for Information and Updates at the IAFA website: www.iafa.org.

Empire and Intercultural Encounter in Eighteenth-Century British Literature: 18-21 March 2010
University of North Texas
Submission Deadline: 15 September 2009
Please send one page proposals and a c.v. to Kelly Wisecup at kelly.wisecup@unt.edu.

Florida College English Association
15-16 October 2009
Boynton Beach, FL
Submission Deadline: 14 September 2009
Send submissions to policy@pbcc.edu.

American Identity
Submission Deadline: 1 November 2009
The St. John’s University Humanities Review seeks papers that focus on the polyvalent agencies at play within the construction of contemporary American identity. All essays are to be limited to 15 single-spaced pages with 12 pt. Times New Roman Font. MLA citation style only. Please submit essays via email to suhmanities@gmail.com.

RES Essay Prize
Review of English Studies
Submission Deadline: 30 September 2009

Multiple Identities: A Nation of Cowards?
South Florida Diversity Alliance
7 November 2009
Submission Deadline: 2 October 2009
Building on controversial comments made by United States Attorney General Eric Holder at a February 2009 event celebrating Black History Month, this year’s summit will engage participants in dynamic discussions about complex issues related to not only race but a host of other identity categories. To this end, we seek proposals for interactive presentations that challenge participants to dialogue openly about subjects that are perhaps still off limits in many segments of society. Send 500 word proposals to: Hawanya Miller hawanya@nova.edu.
Upcoming events

Department Meeting

A department meeting will be held this Friday, August 28th from 11am-12:30pm in CWY 107. The purpose of the meeting is to welcome all new people, introduce administrators, and discuss current department initiatives and progress. All instructors, graduate students, and staff are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Twenty-First Century Mystery Play

On August 30 in Theater II on the USF campus, a staged reading of the Twenty-First Century Mystery Play, co-authored by Sara Munson Deats and her husband Gordon Deats, directed by former Chair of the Theater Department Nancy Cole, and sponsored by the Department of English and the Center of Applied Humanities. The play is an adaptation into the American vernacular of the medieval mystery play cycles, which dramatized the history of the world from the Creation and Fall to the Last Judgment. This adaptation includes the stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and the flood, Abraham and Isaac, and David, as well as the life of Christ.

Teaching Discussion Group

This is an informal group interested in discussing what's going on in the English classroom. We welcome any graduate TAs, instructors or faculty who would like the opportunity to discuss some of the current issues in the profession, to brainstorm on effective classroom strategies, to listen to the latest success or horror stories, or simply to gather for fellowship. We will be posting a reading assignment to the Teaching Discussion Group board on the Blackboard website for the English Graduate Student Organization. (All graduate students and faculty are members of this organization and can link to the website from their MYUSF webpage.) The reading is aimed to give us a starting point for discussion, but the session is otherwise open-ended. The first meeting of the year will be on Friday, September 4, 2009 at 2:00 pm in CPR 343. For our first meeting I would like to discuss the MLA White Paper response to the Teagle Foundation's report of the undergraduate major in language and literature: http://www.mla.org/pdf/2008_mla_whitepaper.pdf Please join us! If you have any questions or comments, you can contact the graduate director, Laura Runge at runge@cas.usf.edu.

EGSA Welcome Picnic

The English Graduate Student Association will host its annual picnic at Riverfront Park at 3 p.m. on Friday, September 11th. Students and faculty are encouraged to join in the fun!

Graduate Student Advising Sessions

On Friday, September 11th, all graduate students are invited to attend the Fall 2009 Graduate Student Advising Sessions. Please come with any and all questions you may have about graduate and post-graduate requirements and opportunities. MA Students: 12-1pm MFA Students: 1-2pm PhD Students: 2-3pm All sessions in CPR 481.

Fiction Reading & Discussion by John Henry Fleming

Fiction writer John Henry Fleming will give a reading and discussion on September 18th at 6:00pm at the USF GraphicStudio. Fleming is the author of The Legend of the Barefoot Mailman and the just published Fearsome Creatures of Florida. His short stories have appeared in journals such as McSweeney's, The North American Review, Mississippi Review, Rosebud, and Georgetown Review. His work has been anthologized in 100% Pure Florida Fiction, and he was a contributor to The Future Dictionary of America. He has won several awards for his fiction, including most recently, a Literature Fellowship from the State of Florida. He has a Ph.D. in Creative Writing from The University of Louisiana-Lafayette, an M.A. in Creative Writing from The University of Southern Mississippi, and a B.A. in Psychology from The University of Virginia.

Works in Progress

Graduate students are invited to join the works-in-progress group in CPR 343 from 1-3 p.m. Faculty will present drafts of chapters, conference papers, and articles. Monday, September 14: Jeff Strabone Monday, October 12: Nicole Discenza Monday, November 9: Michael Clune *Monday, December 7: Laura Runge

Poetry Reading & Discussion by Chad Sweeney

Poet Chad Sweeney is scheduled to visit USF on November 4th at 6:00pm at the USF GraphicStudio. Chad Sweeney is the author of three books of poetry: Parable of Hide and Seek (Alice James, 2010), Arranging the Blaze (Anhinga, 2009), and An Architecture (BlazeVOX, 2007), and the chapbook A Mirror to Shatter the Hammer (Tarpaulin Sky, 2006) – as well as the editor of Days I Moved Through Ordinary Sounds: The Teachers of WritersCorps in Poetry and Prose (City Lights, 2009) and editor of the journal of poetry and translation, Parthenon West Review. Sweeney’s work has appeared in Best American Poetry 2008, Crazyhorse, New American Writing, Colorado Review, Black Warrior, Barrow Street, Runes, Verse, Volt, Passages North, American Letters & Commentary, and elsewhere. He is working toward a Ph.D. in literature at Western Michigan University, where he teaches poetry and serves as assistant editor of New Issues Press.
Events Continued

Poetry Reading & Discussion by Frank Gaspar

Poet Frank Gaspar will visit USF on Friday, October 2 at 6:00pm at the USF GraphicStudio. Frank X. Gaspar is the author of four collections of poetry: The Night of a Thousand Blossoms, The Holyoke, Mass for the Grace of a Happy Death, and A Field Guide to the Heavens (winner of the Brittingham Prize for Poetry), and a novel, Leaving Pico, which won the Barnes and Noble Discover Award and the California Book Award for First Fiction. His work has been anthologized in Best American Poetry 1996 and 2000, among others. His many honors and awards include a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Pushcart Prize, the Edgar Stanley Award and a Readers' Choice Award (both from Prairie Schooner). Born in Provincetown, MA, he now lives in southern California.

Humanities Institute’s September Events

Andrew Berish (Humanities and Cultural Studies) will discuss “Locating Jazz in the 1930s and 40s” on Tuesday, September 9th in the Grace Allen Room, reception at 12:00, talk at 12:30.

William Cummings (History) will discuss “Interpreting Conversion to Islam in Makassar, Indonesia” on Wednesday, September 10th in the Grace Allen Room, reception at 2:00, talk at 2:30.

Sasenarine Persaud will discuss his book In a Boston Night on Tuesday, September 22nd in the TECO Room, David Anchin Center, reception at 5:00, talk at 5:30.


Sabbatical Thursdays

Everyone is invited to recess—to relax with peers, to slice away anxiety and drown out the drama at CDB’s Pizza every Thursday night from 6 to 8ish.

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23 First Day of Classes

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27 Sabbatical Thursday

28 Department Meeting

12:30 pm CWY 107

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30 Twenty-first Century Mystery Play

31 Theater II
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<td>Labor Day Holiday</td>
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<td>Fall 2009 Graduation Application Due Format Check for Thesis/Dissertation John Fleming Reading GraphicStudio 6:00pm</td>
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