As the fall semester approaches its end with harried activity and final pushes to completion, I hope you’ll take a moment to recognize the events of the semester that have made our department one of great accomplishment, creativity, and community. To highlight some of the achievements of the semester, we’ve enjoyed creative readings by a new class of MFA students, as well as faculty and visiting writers; we’ve seen one of our faculty members inducted into the British Academy; we’ve had opportunities to hear exciting research presentations by department and university scholars; we’ve seen the second issue of The Mailer Review published in timely commemoration of Mailer’s life; we’ve contributed to the works in progress of faculty members and graduate students; we’ve launched a national graduate student conference that is already gaining wide interest; and we’ve held events to encourage fellowship among graduate students and faculty.

What makes these events possible is a sense of camaraderie and an interest in the professional work and wellbeing of one another. I am in the unique position of being a non-graduate student enmeshed in our graduate program. From this place I am able to view the graduate student’s journey as it applies to our many and diverse students. While each student’s experience is unique, I find that I am able to draw inspiration from all, sometimes in the least expected situation. This semester seems to have encapsulated the full gamut of life experiences—literally from jubilant births to tragic losses, and everything in between. Through it all I’ve watched our students persist. And while we exist in an environment that inherently strives to measure and garner intelligence through scholarship, I’ve seen a different kind of smarts exhibited in the face of adversity: the ability to know when to push oneself further and when to let go. Sometimes we must ask for help;

——Message from Lee Davidson——

**Interview with New Faculty Member: Marc Santos**

Where is your degree from? When? What areas did you study? What subjects did you / are you publish(ing) in?

I am in the process of finishing my PhD in Rhetoric and Composition from Purdue University. My areas of specialization are in 20th and 21st century theory (particularly Derrida and Levinas) and in digital rhetorics. My previous publications have looked at the relationship between video games as an exercise in either subverting or supporting (depending on the game) Lacan’s Law of the Father. I have also published an article on the 2004 presidential debates that attacks leftist commentaries as deeply entrenched in logocentrism. What classes are you or will you be teaching? How would you describe the class(es)?

On the graduate level, my courses will focus on the relationship between

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**Calendar**

2 Dec.—Works in Progress
3 Dec.—“Framing Accounts on the Diaspora’ William Wells Brown and
4 Dec.—Panel Discussion on Obama
5 Dec.—Teaching Literature
5 Dec.—Doctoral Candidacy Deadline
8-12 Dec.—Final Exam Week
22-26, 31 Dec. & 1 Jan.—Winter Break
(USF Closed)
5 Jan.—First Day of Spring Classes

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**Email Addresses**

Dr. Laura Runge
Director of Graduate Studies
CPR 360D/813-974-9496
runge@cas.usf.edu

Lee Davidson
Graduate Program Specialist
CPR 358K/813-974-9461
ldavidso@cas.usf.edu

Jessica McKee
Newsletter Editor
jdmckee@mail.usf.edu
we must venture into that dangerous territory of relying on another. Such a unification does not always occur in the simplest or brightest of times; indeed it is often the result of hardship and near defeat. What endures, though, is a recognition of our own and each others’ humanity, as well as a common goal: to find a bit of truth in our work and purpose in our education so that we may become the best scholars/writers/teachers that we expect ourselves to be.

That said, I hope you’ll dig deep, find the means you need to complete the semester, and for the majority of you continuing on next semester, I hope you’ll pause to take a breath and enjoy family and friends over the holiday break. For those of you graduating, congratulations on this truly significant achievement! May you be successful in your next endeavor, whether it be job placement, publishing, or more of this passionate undertaking we call graduate school.

Lee Davidson, Continued

ripped apart by Plato so long ago, begin to come together once each accepts, as Derrida puts it, that “order is no longer assured.”

What research projects are you currently working on?

My dissertation argues that the drastic increase in writers propagated by the internet calls for rhetoric to abandon its myopic focus on persuasion in favor of something more inclusive. Rather than working in service to Platonic or Kantian notions of epistemology, I articulate the goals of rhetoric according to a Levinasian / Derridean sense of ethics.

In addition to finishing my dissertation, I have four other projects in the works right now. I have recently finished a multi-author revision of a submission on teaching with open source content management systems in first year composition. I have also completed a review of the social bookmarking technology del.icio.us for an upcoming issue of Computers and Writing. I will also be presenting on del.icio.us at CCCC’s this coming spring as part of a panel on posthumanist rhetorical agency (what happens to research when “I” no longer exist alone?). Finally, I am working on an article with two former graduate school compatriots concerned with changing the kinds of writing students do in first-year composition away from academic intentions (away from what Bartholome would call “Inventing the University”) and toward 21st century digital networks: blogs, forums, wikis. As we state in our article, 21st century composition should focus more on producing digital citizens than scholars. Research isn’t dead, only the “research paper.”

What is your favorite / least favorite memory of graduate school?

There is a certain intellectual camaraderie to graduate school—the everyday conversations about teaching and research. Very rarely do you have such intimate contact with a group of people who know you so well. The sharing and exchanges that took place during that time will always be special to me.

What is your favorite / least favorite memory of graduate school?

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

As a native Bostonian, I’ve found Rays fans a bit annoying. Seriously, cowbells at a baseball game? Otherwise, the weather is great, the food beats anything I found in Indiana, and the campus provides a welcoming intellectual environment. I’ve met some talented and focused students this semester.

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

I have a wonderful one-year-old daughter who loves the Wiggles. If you meet me, and I am swaying slightly side-to-side with an oblivious look on my face, it is because the Wiggles jingle has, in true Hyde fashion, overtaken my conscious mind and turned me, however briefly, into a happy, humming automaton. Give it a moment. It will likely pass. “De-na-ne-na-ne, de-na-ne-na-ne.”
Statement from EGSA Treasurer Taylor Mitchell

A few days ago some English graduate students and I were discussing the power of community involvement. We realized that regardless of what lines our CV accumulates during our tenure here, we have basically joined a community. Yet, this community doesn’t have a cheer, a team name, or cool t-shirts (although the Religious Studies people do…) to prove our solidarity. All we get are pieces of papers with a few letters on them.

So, EGSA is proposing a few simple ways to keep building our professional community. In the Spring of 2009, we will begin publishing a short EGSA newsletter, as an addendum to Inklinks. The newsletter will consist of graduate student highlights, a general “Dear Lee” column, a Tampa Happenings for Geeks, and Do’s and Don’ts of Grad School section. If you would like to participate in editing, interviewing, or writing, please email Chrissy Auger, our volunteer editor-in-chief at cauger@mail.usf.edu.

EGSA is also in the process of developing our website to include a discussion board and an available resources catalogue. We hope to offer the beginning of a program-wide dialogue with general and specific posts. We will use this tool to remind everyone of upcoming events and other ways to get involved. To begin building a rich reservoir of resources, EGSA officers will ask GTAs to share their available teaching or learning tools a few times a semester. We can catalogue “Available for All” lesson plans, documentaries, films, textbooks, and novels, because it’s always more fun to share with everyone. If you have any other suggestions for ways to build a community through improving our website, please email Kyle Stedman at kstedman@mail.usf.edu.

EGSA is doing these things because we recognize that graduate school, especially English Graduate programs, can be lonely. Even though we are all housed in the construction of Cooper, we are corralled into offices with no windows; we have no water cooler except for the virtual gmail and Facebook. Our job is to read. Then write. Then read student essays. Then grade. Then read. The cycle does not lend itself to community. In fact, those ivory tower parables begin to make sense after the twelfth hour of sitting alone with your thoughts. And once we have completed our course work, the isolation seems to get more intense. Opportunities to share the joys of discovery, the wonder of character development, the awe of beginnings and endings, no longer present themselves in a classroom setting. So, we want to make the outlook a little less lonely, because we essentially believe in our community. If you want to contribute, participate, join, or sign up, please email me at tmitche2@mail.usf.edu.

EGSA Conference: Volunteers Needed

What began as an effort to organize a graduate conference for students here at USF has turned into an international and interdisciplinary affair! We’ve received fascinating proposals from all over the United States, as well as from Malaysia, Germany, Singapore, England, and Puerto Rico. Jessica McKee and Joe Good teamed up to secure Kate Bornstein as our plenary speaker. Bornstein, a renowned speaker on the complexities and nuances of gender prescriptions and sexuality, will surely captivate the crowd with her performance art and keynote address. The weekend will also feature a workshop with the gender terrorist (Bornstein) herself, diverse panels of student presentations, engaging faculty roundtables, and thought-provoking intellectual exchanges on the various intricacies and constructs of sex, sexualities, and genders—all in a safe, non-judgmental, academic environment—and all in USF’s brand new Marshall Student Center.

Thanks to efforts spearheaded by Taylor Mitchell, “Anything but Safe: Sex, Sexuality, and Gender” is scheduled for March 6-8, 2009, and she has secured most of our funding so far. A benefit concert is in the works, though, so count on a fun night out at Skipper’s sometime in February to help us raise the rest of the funds for the event.

We now have even more work cut out for us! We need YOUR help to ensure that it goes off without a hitch. Input from committee members’ has already proved invaluable. As our theme is rather sensitive, we want to incorporate as many minds as possible into the planning phases and make this conference the best it can be.

Please e-mail Chrissy Auger at cauger@mail.usf.edu if you would like to help us out. If you are interested in presenting a paper, send Chrissy an abstract (under 500 words) by January 5, 2009. Don’t forget to visit our conference website (thanks, Kyle!) at http://english.usf.edu/anythingbutsafe/ for details, and be sure to forward the link to any friends, colleagues, and professors at other academic institutions.

—Chrissy Auger
Graduate Achievements

LIZZ ANGELLO


CHRISTINE AUGER

ALAN GREEN
"Metamorphoses and Androgyny in Cronenberg's Videodrome and eXistenZ." masculinities, femininities, and more: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Gender in the Humanities, Carrollton, GA. 6-8 November 2008.

TAYLOR JOY MITCHELL

KATE PANTELIDES
"Yellow Means Speed Up, Right? Taking the Lessons Learned at a Secondary School Writing Center on the Road to the University." International Writing Center Association Conference. Las Vegas, NV. 28 October 2008.

ROBERT BACHELOR

VIVIAN TAYLOR


Congratulations Graduates!

ROBERT BROWN, MA - Literature
ASHLEY DONNELLY, PhD - Literature
AMY RECLA, MA - Literature
CRYSTAL SIDELL, MA - Literature
CAROL TILLEMA, MA - Rhetoric & Composition

DOUGLAS WILLCOX, MA - Literature
RYAN ZIMMERMAN, MFA - Creative Writing
SHANNON ZIMMERMAN, MFA - Creative Writing
LIZ ZOLLNER, PhD - Rhetoric & Composition

Faculty Achievements

RITA CIRESI was appointed by the provost to the USF Research Council and was named Outstanding Alumna of Penn State University.

"Career Paths in Creative Writing." Saint Leo University, 14 November 2008.


PRECIOUS McKenzie

McKenzie’s essay won the Cecilia Konchar Farr Award for Best Feminist Essay.


ROGER WHITSON
Call for Conference Presentations and Publications

The First Annual Graduate and Undergraduate Student Conference on Literature, Composition and Rhetoric
10-11 April 2009
Chattanooga, TN
Submission Deadline: 30 Jan. 2009
Submit a 250-300 word abstract to deejones7@gmail.com. Submissions must include name, institutional affiliation, student status (graduate or undergraduate), contact information (name, phone number, address, email address), and a list of any audio/visual equipment needed for your presentation.

Ninth Annual EGSA Conference: The Machine in the Garden 2.0
30 January 2009
Charlotte, North Carolina
Submission Deadline: 15 Dec. 2008
Submit an abstract or synopsis of approximately 300 words to egsa@uncc.edu in the body of the e-mail or as a Microsoft Word attachment with “EGSA Conference” as the subject line of the email.

The Aphra Behn Society for Women & the Arts 1660-1830
5-7 Nov. 2009
Lebanon, Tennessee
Send submissions to Dr. Michael Rex rex@cumberland.edu

Alabama Regional Graduate Conference: “Imagining Communities”
October 2009
Submission Deadline: 15 March 2009
Paper proposals and questions should be sent to englishgradcon@una.edu.

HERA: Humanities Education and Research Association: “Nature and the Humanities”

Interdisciplinary and Intercultural Perspectives April 9-11, 2009 - Chicago, Illinois

Rethinking Configurations of Knowledge and Evidence in Literature and Literary Theory
26-30 Nov. 2009
Miami, FL
Submissions Deadline: 5 Jan. 2009
Submissions, prepared according to the “MLA Style”, should be sent electronically (MS Word document) to: cfp.evidence@albertinafoundation.org Enclose a brief cv and publication list with submission.

Federation Rhetoric Symposium 2009
Texas A&M University-Commerce
6 February 2009
Submission Deadline: 19 Dec. 2008
Submissions and Additional Information: http://orgs.tamu-commerce.edu/FRS

2009 Southwest/Texas Popular Culture/American Culture Association
24-28 February 2009
Send submissions to Nancy Mae Antrim at nantrim@sulross.edu

 Anything But Safe: Sex, Sexuality and Gender
6-9 March 2009
Submission Deadline: 5 Jan. 2009
Send 250-500 word abstract to cauger@mail.usf.edu

SAML@ Convention Call for Papers
2009 Convention
November 6-9, 2009
Renaissance Atlanta Hotel Downtown
Atlanta, Georgia
SUBMIT CFP TO SAML@ OFFICE VIA EMAIL:
SAML@GSU.EDU

Geometer Magazine calls for essays responding to the theme of politics and art - whether historical or contemporary, subversive or establishment.
http://www.geometer.org.uk

“Battleground States 2009: The Future”
26-28 February 2009
Submission Deadline: 4 January 2009
Abstracts of 300 words or less should be sent to battleground-states@gmail.com

MLA series Approaches to Teaching World Literature
Seeking 500 word proposals for “Approaches to Teaching Coetzee’s Disgrace and Other Works.” MLA is seeking essays that address pedagogical issues in teaching any combination of the following novels: Waiting for the Barbarians (1890)
Submission Deadline: 1 January 2009
Send Submissions to Laura Wright at lwright@email.wcu.edu

Festival of Faith and Music
Grand Rapids, Michigan
2-4 April 2009
Submission Deadline: 20 January 2009
Send a 300-word abstract in word format to Drs. Benita Wolters-Fredlund and Mary McCampbell at fmcfp@gmail.com. Any queries are welcome.

Poetics of Numerousness, a Conference on Contemporary English Language Poetry and Poetics.
Edmonton, Alberta
14-16 May 2009.
Submit conference paper proposals of not more than 250 words, along with a very brief bio of not more than 100 words, to poetries@macewan.ca

The University of South Carolina’s Spring Literature Conference:
Literature Since 1800—Transitions, Translations, and Transmission
10-12 April 2009
Columbia, South Carolina
U of South Carolina
Submission Deadline: 15 December 2009
Proposals of no more than 500 words should be submitted automated to literary@iupui.edu

SAMLA@GSU.EDU OFFICE VIA EMAIL:
SUBMIT CFP TO SAMLA@GSU.EDU

Email queries and submissions to editors@theminnesotareview.org

Criterion: A Journal of Literary Criticism is published by the Department of English at Brigham Young University. It is an annual journal dedicated to publishing excellent literary analysis and criticism produced by undergraduate and master’s students
Submission Deadline: 2 January 2009
Submissions should be in MS Word format and between 3500 and 6000 words. Send submissions to byucriterion@gmail.com.
## Upcoming Events

### Works in Progress
Graduate students and faculty are invited to attend the works-in-progress group, which meets December 2nd from 12:30-2pm in CPR 343. Cynthia Patterson’s paper will be circulated via email one week prior to the meeting.

### Teaching Lit. Discussion Group
For the last discussion group of the semester, we will not have an assigned reading. I welcome everyone to bring stories, questions, complaints and a general sense of unwinding to a cheers-and-jeers session. I know you all have lots of work to do at this time of year, and so there are no worries if you have to miss. On the other hand, it may be just the thing to get together and talk. Afterwards, perhaps, we can get a cup of grog and celebrate the end of classes.

The meeting is scheduled for Friday December 5 from 3:00 to 4:00 in CPR 343.

### Slavery & Abolition Series
Presented by the Department of Africana Studies and the Institute on Black Life with co-sponsorship from the Florida Studies Center, Humanities Institute, History Department, Provost's Office, and College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Office. Grace Allen Room, 4th Floor Tampa Library, 3:00-4:15 PM, unless otherwise noted.

- **December 3:** Stephan Hall (Ohio State U) "'Framing Accounts on the Diaspora: William Wells Brown and the Creation of Postbellum History"

### Panel to Discuss Obama Presidency
What can we expect from an Obama presidency? How might implementation of his campaign promises affect us as individuals, as students, staff, and faculty, as citizens in the State of Florida, in the United States of America, and as world citizens?

Come hear panelists discuss these issues on Dec. 4, 2008 from 12 to 2:00 P.M. in the TECO Hall. Kendra Bryant will Contact Clara Cobb at for more information: ccobb@ibl.usf.edu

## December 2008

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Kudos!

I would like to announce my appreciation to Jared and Brandon for presenting wonderful papers at their very first conference. And my personal appreciation: Thank you, English Department, for hiring me. I’ve had such a productive and enlightening semester. —Ira Sukrungruang

I really enjoy working with everyone, and I’m grateful for the many friends I’ve made in the department over the years. I truly appreciate everyone who stops by my office to say hello, but I especially love Flora Zbar’s and Sheila Diecidue’s sense of humor. —Kim Murray

EGSA would like to thank everyone for all their hard work to make this semester’s events so successful. We would like to extend a special thank you to Quentin and Kendra for hooking up the colloquium and Chrissy who has worked so hard on the EGSA conference!

I’d like to express my appreciation for my office mates John Janzen and Mark Jfeiffer. John was so kind to swap classes with me for the spring semester in order to accommodate my commute. He also worked around my two conference schedules, inconveniencing himself to do so. Mark’s move into the office was easy and without contention. Even though his schedule puts him on campus the days I am not this semester, the rumor around the hall is that he is a really good guy. So, thanks guys for a positive work atmosphere. —Kathy Blackwell

I just wanted to express my gratitude to the English Department for their support while I completed my M.Ed. in Instructional Technology. I am so thrilled to be finished this semester and I couldn’t have done it without your help. Special thanks to the FYC program and the faculty for letting me practice my skills in your courses/program. To the current and past Department Chairs, I will be forever grateful for your encouragement and support. I am also so thankful for the best staff in the world who have pushed me along and helped me through – you are all so wonderful! I am so incredibly blessed to belong to such a wonderful department...thank you.

—Deedra Hickman

I’m grateful for the many friends I’ve made in the department over the years. I truly appreciate everyone who stops by my office to say hello, but I especially love Flora Zbar’s and Sheila Diecidue’s sense of humor. —Kim Murray

Cheers to “The 257” for making it through a whole semester. Q you can eat the candy now.

—Josef Benson

1. Big ups to my officemates...the best ‘roomies’ ever...JMckee, Taylor, QV (of KQ Enterprises), Kyle, Erin, Ms Trant, and Richard. Ms. Auger, you are so there in spirit.
2. All of my gratitude to Dr. Laura Runge -- if you were a piece of jewelry for me to wear, you’d be my Jesus piece...
3. Lee...oh Lee...xo
4. My mentees -- Emily, Jared, White, Ben, Kate, and Lindsey...whew...brush your shoulders off...you made it through the first semester...woo hoo!
5. Angel (pronounced ‘on-hell’)...lol)...my ‘other’ brother...
6. Dr. Shirley Toland-Dix...who made sure I would C my way through...—Kendra Bryant

I’d like to thank my /Beowulf/ class for meeting even when I was out sick, and particularly Cameron Hunt-Logan and Jessica Trant for running the class in my absence—and playing go-between as I used online chat to help out with the translation part of the class. Thank you all for a successful experiment that day, and an exciting term! Best, Dr. Discenza