Message from Graduate Director

The final column of 2009 finds your humble servant very tired. I have been thinking about creativity and trying to find inspiration for the closing days of the semester. Albert Einstein apparently thought very highly of the imagination and creativity, and among his famous quotations on the subject are the following words: “The intuitive mind is a sacred gift and the rational mind is a faithful servant. We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift.” While true in so many ways of Einstein’s era, it seems particularly relevant to higher education today. Awash in rubrics and assessments, numbers and objectives, I am finding it hard to locate a sustaining joy in discovery and knowledge. I long to see the offbeat, the intuitive, and the inspired honored and celebrated in our work. I googled “creativity” and found the most prominent uses of the word related to innovative business practices or technology. In more philosophical realms, creativity often seems to emerge from tensions or oppositions: between spontaneity and limitation, order and fluctuation, comfort and wilderness. Arthur Koestler captures a suggestive dynamic when he says that “creativity is a type of learning process where the teacher and pupil are located in the same individual.” Is it possible to tap our creative selves in teaching and learning? Perhaps it is necessary. In my current mood of dis-ease, I am provoked by Saul Steinberg’s line: “The life of the creative man is led, directed and controlled by boredom.” Leaving aside the generality of his observation, the important role of boredom seems greatly overlooked to me. I recently banned electronic games in my house because I believed they were draining my children’s brain of everything from intelligence to common civility. While the edict was not met with universal enthusiasm, I was pleased to see that boredom led to immense creativity, and suddenly the house sprouted dozens of paper airplanes, lego buildings, and kinnek weaponry of great skill and invention. The lesson for me is that boredom can be productive, and I think it actually hurts the children of this generation to have so much immediate gratification at hand, literally. For us, the overload of coursework, grading, reading, testing, presentations, publishing, meetings, email, planning (please, stop!), is a less pleasant form of mind saturation but saturating nonetheless. In this newsletter, Claudia Jannone writes fondly of her time in Tunisia strolling the sidewalks and appreciating Roman mosaics. I think we all need time...

New Faculty Profile: Dr. Gary L. Lemons

I received my PhD in English and an Advanced Certificate in Museum Studies from New York University in 1992. In the English department, I studied British and American literature. After postgraduate study at Bennett College (one of two historically black women’s colleges in the nation) and a residency at the Institute for the Study of Women and Men at the University of Southern California, respectively, I became an African Americanist with a specialization in feminist studies.

In addition to articles on African American feminist thought, literature, and masculinity, I have also published on feminist pedagogy and memoir writing. My book publications include Black Male Outsider, a Memoir: Teaching as a Pro-Feminist Man (the State University of New York Press, 2008) and Womanist Forefathers, Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. Du Bois (also from SUNY Press, September 2009).

My current research/scholarship encompasses several projects. The first is a co-edited volume on the writings of black feminist pedagogues from the past 25 years to the present. The second project is also a co-edited collection on the theory of intersectionality and its relation to the practice of feminist coalition across differences of gender, race, and sexuality. Connected to my work in African American cultural representation, I am presently working on a biography of black fashion designer Ann Lowe, whose career (which began in the Tampa Bay area) spanned 65 years.

As a graduate student in the English department at NYU, I will never forget taking my first course in feminism. It was in that course that I first read bell hooks’s Feminist Theory: from Margin to Center. I met hooks before the end of the course when she came to campus to speak.

Continued p. 2
Message Continued

to stroll and let our minds loll. So in this season of gift-giving, let us remember the sacred gift of intuition. Let us remember the salutary effects of play; let us become bored and out of boredom create.

Some closing reminders: at the start of the spring term, we will be having a series of on-campus interviews for the senior hire in Rhetoric and Composition. Please look to attend the meetings and open sessions so you can learn about the candidates and introduce them to our accomplished students. Next term we will be having a very large number of students preparing for the PhD exams; I am planning an examination preparation workshop for January, and so I encourage you to look for the date and make plans to attend. Good luck with the end of your semester work. Hearty congratulations to our many graduates for reaching their goals!

Lemons Continued

Having already embraced the work in her book—followed by a very brief conversation with her after her talk about the self-liberating power of feminism for men—I experienced a life changing male -makeover.

In that one semester, that one course on contemporary feminist writers, that one book by bell hooks, that one meeting with her—my identity as an African American man (with absolutely no knowledge of feminism), my relationship to women (which had heretofore been mired in sexist and patriarchal ideology), and the direction of my graduate study (which had been firmly fixed in allegiance to a canon of male greats) was transformed. Since my graduate school days, I have spent most of my career teaching, researching, and publishing on the meaning(s) of feminism for a pro-feminist/womanist, black male professor. Now having returned to the English department here after two years of teaching in the Department of Women's Studies, I hope to maintain a connection to women's and gender study through courses I teach in African American literature, memoir writing, writings by women of color, feminist theory, and literary criticism.

Congratulations, Graduates!

BRITT DIENES (MA Lit)  
"Literary Bodies: The Novel as Experience"  
Director, Hunt Hawkins

ANGEL JIMENEZ (MA Lit)  
"The Politics of Space and Place in Virginia Woolf's The Years, Three Guineas, and The Pargiters "  
Director, Elizabeth Hirsh

MELISSA JONES (MA Lit)  
Successfully passed MA Exam.

MEGAN McINTYRE (MA Lit)  
"Adding Wisdom to Their Natures": British Victorian and Colonial Educational Practices and the Possibility of Women's Personal Emancipation in Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre, Buchi Emecheta's Joys of Motherhood and Tsitsi Dangremsba's Nervous Conditions"  
Director, Hunt Hawkins

GWEN ANDERSON (PhD Lit)  
Interrogating Virginia Woolf and the British Suffrage Movement  
Co-Directors, Pat Rogers & Phillip Sipiora

BOB BATCHELOR (PhD Lit)  
Running toward the Apocalypse: John Updike's New America  
Director, Phillip Sipiora

ELISABETH LoFARO (PhD Rhet/Comp)  
A Translation, with Commentary, of Mario Untersteiner's Untranslated "Le origini sociali della sofistica"  
Director, Phillip Sipiora

NICOLE SPOTTE (PhD Lit)  
Coffins, Closets, Kitchens, and Convents: Women Writing of Home in Gendered Spaces  
Director, Laura Runge

Congratulations, Doctoral Candidates!

Congratulations to those students who passed their qualifying exams and entered candidacy this school year!

Fall 2009 Candidates:

JOSEF BENSON  
Literature

K. VIVIAN TAYLOR  
Literature

Spring 2010 Candidates:

CAMERON HUNT-LOGAN  
Literature

KAY McKAMY  
Literature

KATHLEEN ROBINSON  
Literature

KYLE STEDMAN  
Rhetoric & Composition

English Graduate Links

Graduate School Homepage:  
http://grad.usf.edu

Graduate School Thesis/Dissertation Homepage:  
http://www.grad.usf.edu/newsite/thesis.asp

English Department Homepage:  
http://english.usf.edu

USF Library Research/Consultation Request:  
http://asp.lib.usf.edu/Consultations/RSC.asp

Modern Language Association  
http://mla.org

University of Pennsylvania  
Call for Papers  
http://cfp/english.upenn.edu/
Graduate Achievements

MEGAN ADAMS

BOB BATECHOLOR will begin as Assistant Professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Kent State University in January 2010. Bob will be directing the MA program in Public Relations and creating an online MA program in Public Relations. He has also been appointed to the Editorial Advisory Board of The Journal of American Culture.

KENDRA BRYANT

PAUL CORRIGAN
"Orthodox Christian Imagery and Eco-Spirituality in Mary Oliver's 'Thirst.'" American Academy of Religion. Montreal, Canada. 7-10 Nov. 2009.

KAREN BROWN GONZALES
"Lawn Man Love." Superstition Review 4 (Fall 2009).


"Swimming." Five Points 11 (Fall 2009).


JIM MILLER, KATHERINE RIEGEL, ALICIA THOMPSON
"Frankenstein and Other Monsters." Other Words Conference. Saint Augustine, FL. 7 Nov. 2009.

JAQUIRA DIAZ, BRANDON PETTIT, BRYAN RICE, IRA SUKRUNGRUANG

TRISINA DICKERSON, LIZ KICAK, JARED WHITE

ANGEL JIMENEZ

LIZ KICAK

KRISTEN KING

JoNETTE LaGAMBA

JESSICA MCKEE

TAYLOR MITCHELL

SARAH NAMULONDO

KATHERINE RIEGEL

KATHLEEN ROBINSON-MALONE
with Elizabeth Metzger

ZITA RARASTESA

IRA SUKRUNGRUANG

Faculty Accomplishments

RITA CIRESI
"Mating for Life," (novella) was the runner-up for the 2009 Faulkner-Widow Novella Competition. She was awarded residency at the Atlantic Center for the Arts. Her books Pink Slip and Sometimes I Dream in Italian were released as Random House e-books.

"Breathe Normally" (novel excerpt). Ars Medica 6.1 (Fall 2009): 36-42.

TOVA COOPER

REGINA HEWITT

ELIZABETH METZGER
with Kathleen Robinson-Malone

PAT ROGERS


"Checeder Careers: From Dr. Samuel Johnson and Edgar Allan Poe to Bronx Comet, the Tallahassee Minister, and a Computer named Chinkook." Provost's Office Distinguished University Professors and University Lecture Series. Tampa, FL. 1 Dec. 2009.

LAURA L. RUNGE
"Constructing Place in Oroonoko." Aphra Behn Society. Lebanon, Tennessee. 6 Nov. 2009.

PHILLIP SIPIORA received the Jerome Krivanek Distinguished Teacher Award on November 19.

In December 2009 the University of Delaware Press published a volume Producing the Eighteenth-Century Book, based on papers presented at the 29th DeBartolo Conference at USF in 2006. It has been edited by Dr. Laura Runge, Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of English, and Dr. Pat Rogers. From 2000 to 2006 Dr. Runge acted as director of this interdisciplinary conference, which was supported in part by a donation from the late Edward J. DeBartolo, administered by the USF Foundation.
On Living Abroad on Other People’s Money

I returned in July 2009 from a lecturing Fulbright at the University of Manouba in Tunis, Tunisia, and it took only a few weeks for me to miss their academic year. Given America’s fast pace, it’s easy to get misty about a lifestyle that encourages lingering in sidewalk cafes. I made new friends and accomplished what I had set out to do as a part of the Fulbright grant: publish a book of poetry inspired by Tunisia’s wealth of Roman mosaics. When asked about the experience, I usually joke that it was like a Leone film: *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*. Pre-departure I had imagined it in softer, hazier tones, something along *English Patient* lines since much of the film was shot there. Visions of me/ Catherine cavorting with Ralph Fiennes would have put a real zing into every third-world second. Alas, no Ralph on his stead, just a real life, albeit a real life lived on a foreign shore while getting paid to be there.

Tunisia looked good on several fronts: food, wine, colonial French ambiance falling into the same sort of tatters as did Catherine’s white dress. But the real kicker was stability. There are upsides to life in a dictatorship, and Tunisia’s president protects the valuable tourist industry by making terrorism nearly impossible, which also brings a personal safety that allowed me to walk alone day or night without hairs on the back of my neck prickling.

Oh yes, everything was so cheap that I’m still experiencing sticker shock here. Daily I strolled two blocks to the bakery for a warm-from-the-oven whole wheat baguette, bread worthy of France, bread costing twenty cents. All the food was fresh, local and seasonal; the wine: first rate. My flat near the medina, fully furnished right down to pots and a Tunisian flat-mate, was in a colonial building with French doors opening to a balcony that overlooked a leafy park. It cost a cool $140 a month, which the Fulbright more than covered.

I also picked Tunisia because grant applicants who look at North Africa think of Egypt or Morocco, forgetting little Tunisia. The main reason for choosing a country, however, is academic credentials. I was exactly what the Department of Letters wanted at the University of Manouba, plus the grant was open to scholarly and creative projects. Everything fell into place.

The bad experiences were academic: open admissions, students with little respect for education and poor language skills, who cheated on exams and texts made of illegally photocopied bits of incoherent information. Little faculty interaction made it hard to make friends, though the ones I managed to befriend clued me in on how the administration pressures faculty to pass students in spite of 80% of them who were at the seemingly agreed upon failure rate. Because professors arrive, teach classes, and leave, there was little faculty interplay. As in many third-world countries, higher education is part of a government ploy to defuse unemployment and keep the populace relatively content.

For me, the ugly meant the crowded germ factory of Tunis. People of all ages spit on the sidewalk, and respiratory infections bring a chorus of hacking and sneezing and ubiquitous spitting. I entered a cafe toilet just once— neither toilet seat nor paper, lots of puddles. Even university faculty toilets were no place for floppy bell bottoms or girly shoes. Perhaps this casual attitude about sanitation grows from sheer population density. I was sidewalk-bumped every day, sometimes bruised. Public transportation was nightmarish— packed and dirty. All this bacteria-laden closeness meant that severe lung infections plagued me, whereas in Tampa I almost never catch a cold.

With any experience, I think we tend to recall mainly the good aspects, such as a cosmopolitan group of friends from Tunisia, England, Ireland, Scotland, and the United States who often gathered to share the bounty of Tunisian food and spirits and talk late into the night. Friends from the US Embassy helped me integrate into Tunisian life and provided financial support to deliver papers at universities around the country where I met excellent grad students and international scholars. The conferences in Karouain and Sousse showed me that smaller cities were nicer, cleaner, not crowded, not frantic, not rushed. My research meant ambling through museums and Ottoman era mansions and World Heritage archeological sites with *en situ* mosaics in order to write poems based on Roman mosaics. The remains of Roman Carthage are well preserved on a perch beside the sea, a brief inter-city train ride away. Cool fact: Tunisia has more Roman mosaics than any other country. Because Tunisians are open and friendly, I met the people I hoped to meet, such as the book publisher who just happened to attend a poetry reading/dinner party where I read a few poems. He responded positively to my work and published my book of poems inspired by the interplay between the poems’ speakers and Tunisia’s Roman mosaics: *Confessions in Stone*. Nicest of all, my friend and university colleague Anne Murray was kind enough to illustrate the lovely cover.

—Claudia Jannone

Events

**Placement Committee Workshop**

**December 1-11**

**Interviewing Strategies**

If you’re on the job market this year and would like an opportunity to practice your interviewing skills, the Graduate Placement Committee can help. We’ll be organizing mock interviews during the last two weeks of the semester (1-11 December). The mock interviews will take roughly 30 minutes. Following the interview, the mock interviewers will provide the candidate with comments and suggestions designed to improve their interviewing skills. If you’d like to participate in a mock interview, let the Committee know, and we’ll be happy to arrange one for you. Do not hesitate to contact us at mgould@cas.usf.edu.

**Works in Progress**

Graduate students are invited to join the works-in-progress group in CPR 343 from 1-3 p.m on Monday, December 7th to discuss Dr. Laura Runge’s work.

**EGSA Meeting**

Graduate students are invited to an EGSA meeting on Thursday, January 21st at 3:30 in CPR 257. We will be discussing our plans for the spring conference. Please join us!

**Exam Preparation Workshop**

Students are encouraged to attend an exam preparation workshop on January 15th from 12:00-2:00pm in CPR 343.

**Holiday/Virginia’s Retirement Party!**

All are invited to attend the annual holiday party on December 16th at 12:00 p.m. in the English Department Reception area. Contact Jerry Medlin at jmedlin@mail.usf.edu to RSVP by November 11.

**Search Committee**

Students are encouraged to attend the open sessions and graduate student meetings with the candidates for the senior Rhetoric and Composition hire; we will be holding on-campus interviews the weeks of January 11-22 2010.
Trans-Latino/Pan-Latino/Pan-Ethnic Identity  
PCA/ACA National Conference  
St. Louis, Missouri  
31 March - 3 April 2010  
Submission Deadline: 10 December 2009  
Send an abstract of 250 words or more to sotor@wpunj.edu

Pedagogies and the Profession  
Southwest/Texas Popular and American Culture Association  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
10-13 February 2010  
Submission Deadline: 15 December 2009  
Send submissions to ldonovan@unm.edu

Atlantic World Literacies: Before and After Contact  
Atlantic World Research Network  
University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
7-10 October 2010  
Submission Deadline: 22 March 2010  
Send submission to awrn@uncg.edu

Humor and the Great Divide  
American Literature Association Conference  
University of Georgia  
Athens, Georgia  
May 2010  
Submission Deadline: 20 January 2010  
Send submissions to sdmcoy@uga.edu

That Which Moves: The Kinetic Nature of Language and Literature  
Graduate Student Conference  
29 January 2010  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
Submission Deadline: 18 December 2009  
Submit an abstract or synopsis of approximately 300 words to egsa@uncc.edu as an MS Word attachment with “EGSA Conference” in the subject line of the e-mail. All submissions should include the presenter’s name, the presenter’s affiliated university, and the title of the piece.

The Mardi Gras Conference Graduate Student Conference  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
11-12 February 2010  
Submission Deadline: 20 December 2009  
Email proposals of 250 words or less to mitchfrve@gmail.com.

The Resurrection of the Paranormal: Investigating Otherness in 21st-Century English Studies  
Graduate Student Conference  
5-6 March 2010  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
Submissions Deadline: 21 December 2009  
Submit a 300 word abstract to aegis.ncsu@gmail.com. Proposals must include the title of the paper, the name of the presenter, and institutional affiliations (including area of English study). Panels should submit three complete proposals in one document with a 100-word explanation of the panel theme. Individual presentations will be limited to 15 minutes. Panel presentations will be limited to 45 minutes.

Southern Writers/ Southern Writing  
English Graduate Conference  
15-17 July 2010  
Oxford, Mississippi  
Submission Deadline: 8 March 2010  
Send 150-250 word abstracts of critical work or entire creative works to William Bowle: swawgradationconference@gmail.com. Panel proposals that include three or four participants are also accepted. Send submissions as Word attachments and include your university affiliation, mailing address, and e-mail address.

Landscape and Identity in the United States 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.

Anything but Silence  
Graduate Student Conference  
Tampa, Florida  
25-27 March 2009  
Submission Deadline: 15 December 2009  
Send submissions to usf.egsa.conference@gmail.com. Visit the conference website for registration details and the complete conference program: http://sites.google.com/site/usfconference2010/.

Sex, Death, and Boredom: An Academic Conference  
Fordham U, New York  
12 February 2010  
Submission Deadline: 12 December 2009  
Send 300-word abstracts of academic papers to sexdeathandboredom@gmail.com.

Arab Culture in the U.S.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
10-13 February 2010  
Submission Deadline: 15 December 2009  
Graduate students are particularly encouraged to participate in the conference. The deadline for graduate student awards is January 10, 2009. For more info, visit: http://swtxpca.org/documents/48.html. Send an abstract of 250 words, saved in Rich Text Format, with relevant audiovisual requests by the deadline above to Dr. Lutfi Hussein at lutfi.hussein@gmail.com.

Submission Deadline: 15 December 2009  
Submissions are invited for publication in “Violence in Paradise: the Caribbean,” edited by Irline Francois (ifrancois@goucher.edu) and Marie-Helene Laforest (mlaforest@galice.it). “A Theatre of Violence Behind a Curtain of Paradise” is the title of an essay by Michelle Cliff that will appear in this issue. Paradise reconfigured as a site of abuse and violence refers to the Caribbean. Contributions should aim at exploring the ways violence lingers in the memory of Caribbean women, the innovative ways they have found to tell their stories, and how their narrations help re-create a sense of self. Contributions should be in English and should normally be between 5,000 and 7,000 words.

The Graduate Research Network (GRN) invites proposals for its 2010 workshop, May 20, 2010, at the Computers and Writing Conference hosted by Purdue University. The C&W Graduate Research Network is an all-day pre-conference event, open to all registered conference participants at no charge. Roundtable discussions will group those with similar interests and discussion leaders who will facilitate discussion and offer suggestions for developing research projects and for finding suitable venues for publication. We encourage anyone interested or involved in graduate education and scholarship—students, professors, mentors, and interested others—to participate in this important event. The GRN welcomes those pursuing work at any stage, from those just beginning to consider ideas to those whose projects are ready to pursue publication. Participants are also invited to apply for travel funding through the CW/GRN Travel Grant Fund. Deadline for submissions is April 30, 2010. For more information or to submit a proposal, visit our Web site at http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/writing/GRN2010/index.html or email walker@georgiasouthern.edu.
### DECEMBER 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THU</th>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final Exam Week</td>
<td>Final Exam Week</td>
<td>Final Exam Week</td>
<td>Final Exam Week</td>
<td>Final Exam Week</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Grades Due 11:59pm</td>
<td>Department Holiday Party 12pm CPR 358</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>USF Closed</td>
<td>USF Closed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### JANUARY 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THU</th>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
<td>Campus Interviews</td>
<td></td>
<td>Campus Interviews</td>
<td>PhD Exam Prep Workshop</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Campus Interviews</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Campus Interviews</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Campus Interviews</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>