

# INKLINKS

English Graduate Studies Newsletter  
University of South Florida, Tampa

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## MESSAGE FROM THE GRADUATE DIRECTOR

Despite what the calendar says, February has always seemed the longest month to me, and so it was with real relief that I turned the calendar to March. We all recognize the symptoms of mid-semester doldrums: the drop in attendance, the lackluster assignments, the rise in personal crises. It is worse in the spring, too, because we have been working on this academic year for seven months. Or perhaps it is the oak pollen. Or perhaps it is because we are all waiting for the results of all those applications and proposals we

submitted earlier. The good news is that this will pass, as surely as April follows March. If you stay healthy and keep sight of your goals, you will pass through the morass relatively unscathed. Hang in there. Do your best. Take some time for relaxation next week during spring break.

March brings with it a number of important graduate program events, not the least of which is the PhD exams in the first week. No one has scheduled to take the master's exam this term, which means that

many of you are busy writing your theses. May the muses be with you as you finish your drafts this month. Don't forget, the deadline for graduate award portfolios is March 14; please see the department website for instructions. Also, the EGSA Spring Colloquium will be on March 21.

In this newsletter, I asked Brian McAllister to write about a very useful tool for locating funding sources specific to your field of research: the Community

**Cont'd. on page 2**

## A NOTE ON PROFESSIONALISM

Graduate Teaching Assistants, like other instructors, have the opportunity to request examination copies for texts used in classes. For commercial publishers this is a business practice that benefits the publisher as well as the instructor; if you like the book and adopt it, they sell more copies.

Often these examination copies are free. However, smaller presses and University Presses sometimes charge a fee to offset the cost of the books. In all cases, the publishers request information from you

about the class you are teaching, the expected enrollment, and some details about the current texts you use. This tells them whether or not the book requested will be a good fit and investment for them.

While some instructors might be tempted to misrepresent their teaching assignments in order to get free books, as has happened recently, this is not a good idea. For one thing, your teaching assignments are a matter of public record to which publishers' representatives have access. In fact, a good book

rep scouts course lists regularly to target specific instructors for their advertisements and various other forms of book promotion. In other words, book reps will find out that you are misrepresenting yourself and the university.

Furthermore, any misrepresentation of your role at the university is wrong, and it is particularly harmful to yourself and the department when you lie in order to receive goods of any kind. It is in our interest to have a good relationship

**Cont'd. on page 3**

## Important Upcoming Dates

- 3, 5, 7 March—PhD Comprehensive Exams
- 7 March—Teaching Literature Discussion Group
- 10-14 March—Spring Break
- 14 March—Graduate Awards Submission Deadline
- 24 March—Summer/Fall Registration Begins
- 11 April—Thesis/Dissertation Submission Deadline
- 18 April—English Department Awards Ceremony

## English Graduate Links

Graduate Studies Homepage:  
<http://grad.usf.edu>

Graduate Studies Thesis/Dissertation Page:  
<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://www.mla.org>

U of Pennsylvania Calls for Papers:  
<http://cfp.english.upenn.edu/>

## Inside this issue:

Careers Beyond the Eng. Dept.	2
Community of Science Funding	2
March Creative Writing Events	2
Faculty/Graduate Accomplishments	3
Upcoming Conferences/Calls for Papers	4
March/April Calendars	5

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**INKLINKS**
**GRADUATE DIRECTOR, CONT'D.**

of Science (COS) database available through USF Office of Research. The name belies the scope of the database, which includes a huge range of humanities and related fields. I encourage you to search for yourself. This article was inspired by a query sent to me by Vivian Taylor, who asked for information on how graduate students can get additional travel funds. Please do send me questions or ideas for subjects you would like to see covered in future news-

letters. I appreciate all the feedback.

- Dr. Laura Runge

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**TEACHING LITERATURE DISCUSSION GROUP**

The next teaching literature discussion group will be held Friday, 7 March at 2:00 p.m. in CPR 343. The paper that will be discussed, Wayne C. Booth's "The Ethics of Teaching Literature" is available at the Graduate Student Information Blackboard site.

**WORKS-IN-PROGRESS GROUP MEETING**

The final Works-in-Progress Group of the school year will meet on Tuesday, 1 April in the English department seminar room (CPR 343) from 12:30-2 pm.

The group will address Dr. Elizabeth Hirsh's work at this time. Papers will be circulated one week prior to the meeting.

Graduate students are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**CAREERS BEYOND THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

The Graduate Placement Committee will hold a session on "Careers Beyond the English Department" on 7 April.

Guest speakers will be Lib Triplett from W. W. Norton Publishers and Ilene Frank from the USF Libraries. Both will address careers available in publishing and library work for holders of English degrees.

Time and location will be announced.

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**EGSA SPRING COLLOQUIUM**

The English Graduate Student Association will host its Spring Colloquium on Friday, 21 March. It will be held in the Grace Allen Room of the USF Library (4th floor).

James Ricci will present "Explorations and Observations Concerning *Brick* in the Genre of Noir."

Mantra Roy will present

"West Rules, East Follows: A Postcolonial Reading of *300*, *Borat*, and *Blood Diamond*."

Angel Jimenez will present "Educating the Emotions in *Wide Sargasso Sea*."

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

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**UPCOMING CREATIVE WRITING EVENTS**

A number of creative writing events will be held throughout March and April.

On Thursday, 13 March, Karen Brown, winner of the AWP Prize for Short Fiction, will read from her new book *Pins and Needles* at Inkwood Books at 7:00 p.m. Inkwood Books is located at 216 S. Armenia Ave. in Tampa.

On Thursday, 17 April, the USF Humanities Institute will host Natasha Trethewey, Pulitzer Prize winner in poetry at 7:00. The location will be announced.

On Saturday, 19 April, Inkwood Books will host former visiting writer Suzanne Strempek Shea at 2:00 p.m.

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**COMMUNITY OF SCIENCE OFFERS DATABASE OF POTENTIAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

For those searching for potential funding opportunities, the Community of Science ([www.cos.com](http://www.cos.com)) is an online resource that collects worldwide sources for funding. Despite its name, the Community of Science collects information on funding and research opportunities for all fields of study.

A simple search for, say, "post-colonial literature"

provides thousands of potential funding opportunities (4,598 exactly) that range in nature from scholarships to post-doctoral fellowships to study grants at particular libraries to conference travel grants, among others. For more specified results, the main search allows you to choose detailed requirements (e.g., funding type, education requirements,

dollar amount). You can also search geographically, by sponsor name, or use the search wizard to help you tailor the search to your individual requirements. In addition to the database, the Community of Science offers a weekly email alert with a customized list of funding opportunities based on individualized criteria.

An online CV database is also available, where you can both upload your professional information and search for scholars and experts in your field of choice. A free registration is required to use the services available on the Community of Science.

- Brian McAllister

## MARCH HUMANITIES INSTITUTE EVENTS

The USF Humanities Institute is hosting a series of events this month.

On Tuesday, 18 March, the institute will host the Science-Fiction Symposium IV. Moderated by Rick Wilber, the symposium will host a lecture by Brian Aldiss and a panel that includes Richard Mathews from the University of Tampa; Brian Space, from USF's Chemistry department; John Clute, a science fiction writer and editor; and Harry Harrison, a science fiction writer. The event will be held at 7:00 pm at the Museum of Science and Industry. It is co-sponsored with the

USF Library and funded in part by a Florida Humanities Council Mini-grant.

On Wednesday, 19 March, Miri Talmon from Tel Aviv University and Wesleyan University will present "Life in a State of War and Terror: the Israeli Existential Experience in Documentary and Feature Israeli Films." Co-sponsored with the Department of World Languages, Talmon's presentation will be held in the Grace Allen Room of the USF Library. An 11:30 reception will be followed by the 12:00 presentation.

On Tuesday, 25 March Fraser Ottanelli, from USF's history department, will discuss "Class, Migration, and the Shaping of Ethnic Identity: Italian American Workers, 1881-1940" as a part of the Research in Humanities series. Ottanelli's presentation will be held in the Grace Allen Room of the USF Library at 2:00 p.m.

All events are free and open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

## RECENT FACULTY AND GRADUATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### **Nicole Disenza**

"Alfred the Great and the Anonymous Prose Poem to the *Boethius*." *JEGP* 107 (2008): 57-76.

### **Ann Basso**

"The Female Revenger: Thomas Kyd's *Bel-Imperia* and *The Spanish Tragedy*." Dallas, TX: The Shakespeare Association of America, 13-15 March 2008.

Panel Participant. *Revenge Tragedy*. Dallas, TX: The Shakespeare Association of America, 13-15 March 2008.

### **Keith Cavedo**

"Action Writing: Kerouac's *Wild*

*Form*." *The Comparatist*.

### **Brian McAllister**

"I Am Becoming an Island Dweller: Postmodern Narrative Space-Time in J. M. Coetzee's *Foe*." Lafayette, LA: The Louisiana Conference on Language and Literature, 23 February 2008.

### **Sarah Namulondo**

"Power in the Female Imaginary: Reading *Ama Ata Aidoo* and *Bessie Head*." Florida Consortium for Gender and Women's Studies 2008 Conference, 8 February 2008.

### **K. Vivian Taylor**

"Deviation Nation [Short Film]." Nomi-

nated for Best Actress, Best Original Story, Best New Director, and Best Soundtrack.

### **Ginna Wilkerson**

"A Sword of One's Own: Eowyn as Gender-Free Warrior." Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Conference, 13-16 February.

"Behn's *The Widow Ranter*." *The Explicator* (Spring 2008).

"Ginna in the Silence [Poem]." *Fog City Review*.

"Ceremony [Poem]." *Gertrude* (2008).

## PROFESSIONALISM, CONT'D

with the book representatives and the publishers who, after all, publish our work and provide our tools for teaching. Misrepresenting your teaching responsibilities may lead to the loss of them altogether.

## COMING TO US IN THE FALL!

Three new assistant professors will be joining the English Department this coming Fall semester.

Heather Meakin (D. Phil. University of Oxford) Assistant Professor of Renaissance literature with a specialty in Donne and gender.

Marc C. Santos (PhD expected August 2008, Purdue) Assistant Professor of

Rhetoric and Composition with a specialty in History of Rhetoric and Technology.

Ira Sukrungruang (MFA Ohio State University) Assistant Professor of Creative Writing with a specialty in Creative Nonfiction.



## INKLINKS

## UPCOMING REGIONAL CONFERENCES

- **New College Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Studies**  
6-8 March, 2008  
Sarasota, FL  
Inquiries: Nova Myhill  
([nmyhill@ncf.edu](mailto:nmyhill@ncf.edu))  
<http://faculty.ncf.edu/MedievalStudies>
- **Writing and Filming the City: Florida International University Conference on Spanish and Spanish American Cultural Studies**  
6-8 March, 2008  
Miami, FL  
Inquiries: Joan Torres-Pou  
([pouj@fiu.edu](mailto:pouj@fiu.edu))
- **Nineteenth Century Studies Association: Politics and Propaganda**  
3-5 April, 2008  
Florida International University, Miami, FL  
Inquiries: Kathleen McCormack  
([mccormac@fiu.edu](mailto:mccormac@fiu.edu))  
<http://www.english.uwosh.edu/roth/ncsa/index.html>
- **Virginia Humanities Conference: Voices and Visions—Humanities in the Third World**  
4-5 April, 2008  
Radford University, Radford, VA  
Inquiries: Kim Kipling  
([kkipling@radford.edu](mailto:kkipling@radford.edu))  
<http://www.radford.edu/vhc/>

## CALLS FOR PAPERS

- **The Mailer Review**  
Interested in notes and essays related to the life and work of Norman Mailer for Issues 2 and 3.  
Inquiries: Dr. Phillip Sipiora  
([sipiora@cas.usf.edu](mailto:sipiora@cas.usf.edu))
- **Chaucer: Past, Present, and Future**  
6-11 July, 2008, Research Triangle Park, NC  
Abstract Deadline: 7 March, 2008  
Inquiries: <http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/siliterarystudies/>
- **Forms of Life in Emily Dickinson's Poetry**  
6-11 July, 2008, Research Triangle Park, NC  
Abstract Deadline: 7 March, 2008  
Inquiries: <http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/siliterarystudies/>
- **11th Annual John Gardner Conference**  
19 April, 2008, Batavia, NY  
Abstract Deadline: 15 March, 2008  
Inquiries: Charley Boyd ([caboyd@genesee.edu](mailto:caboyd@genesee.edu))
- **Constructing the Body, Constructing the Text: Literary and Scientific Discourses of the Human Body**  
19 April, 2008, The University at Albany, NY  
Abstract Deadline: 15 March, 2008  
Inquiries: ([egsoalbany@yahoo.com](mailto:egsoalbany@yahoo.com))
- **Joseph Conrad Society Conference**  
2-5 July, 2008, Bishop Grosseteste U Coll. In Lincoln, UK  
Abstract Deadline: 30 March, 2008  
Inquiries: Keith Carabine ([kc4@kent.ac.uk](mailto:kc4@kent.ac.uk))
- **Norman Mailer Society Conference**  
16-19 October, 2008, Provincetown, MA  
Abstract Deadline: 15 April, 2008  
Inquiries: Dr. Phillip Sipiora  
([sipiora@cas.usf.edu](mailto:sipiora@cas.usf.edu))
- **Southern Comparative Literature Association: Comparative Literature and World Literature—Textual, Visual, Aural Interconnections and Interfaces**  
2-4 October, 2008, Auburn University  
Abstract Deadline: 1 May, 2008  
Inquiries: ([wehrsdr@auburn.edu](mailto:wehrsdr@auburn.edu))  
<http://media.cla.auburn.edu/scla/>
- **International Conference on Gender in the Humanities: Masculinities, Femininities, and More**  
6-8 November, 2008, Carrollton, GA  
Abstract Deadline: 1 May 2008
- **Jack London Society**  
10-11 October, 2008, San Marino, CA  
Abstract Deadline: 31 May 2008  
Inquiries: Jeanne Campbell Reesman  
([jeanne.reesman@utsa.edu](mailto:jeanne.reesman@utsa.edu))  
<http://london.sonoma.edu>
- **Robert Burns in European Culture**  
6-8 March, 2009, Charles University, Prague  
Abstract Deadline: 30 April, 2008  
Inquiries: Murray Pittock  
([murray.q.pittock@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:murray.q.pittock@manchester.ac.uk))

# March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 PhD Comp Exams	4	5 PhD Comp Exams	6	7 PhD Comp Exams Teaching Literature Discussion Group	8
9	10 Spring Break	11 Spring Break	12 Spring Break	13 Spring Break Karen Brown, Ink- wood Books	14 Spring Break Grad Awards Dead- line	15
16	17	18 Humanities Institute, Science Fiction Panel	19 Humanities Institute, Miri Talmon	20	21 EGSA Spring Collo- quium	22
23	24 Summer/Fall Registra- tion Begins	25 Humanities Institute, Fraser Ottanelli	26	27	28	29
30	31					

# April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Humanities Institute, James Brock	4	5
6	7	8	9 Poets and Prints, USF Library	10 Humanities Institute, Domna Stanton	11 Thesis/Dissertation Submission Deadline	12
13	14	15	16	17 Humanities Institute, Natasha Tretheway	18 English Department Awards Ceremony	19 Suzanne Strempek Shea, Inkwood Books
20	21	22	23	24	25 Last Day of Classes	26
27	28 Finals Week	29 Finals Week	30 Finals Week			