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


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
COMMUNITY OF SCIENCE OFFERS DATABASE OF POTENTIAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

For those searching for potential funding opportunities, the Community of Science (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 pm. All events are free and open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

RECENT FACULTY AND GRADUATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Nicole Discenza

Ann Basso


Keith Cavedo
“Action Writing: Kerouac’s Wild Form.” The Comparatist.

Brian McAllister

Sarah Namulondo

K. Vivian Taylor
“Deviation Nation [Short Film].” Nominated 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.


“Ginna in the Silence [Poem].” Fog City Review.


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)  
  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)

- **Nineteenth Century Studies Association: Politics and Propaganda**  
  3-5 April, 2008  
  Florida International University, Miami, FL  
  Inquiries: Kathleen McCormack  
  (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)  
  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)

- **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 (cabo@geneseec.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: egsa@albany.com

- **Joseph Conrad Society Conference**  
  2-5 July, 2008, Bishop Grosseteste U Coll. in Lincoln, UK  
  Abstract Deadline: 30 March, 2008  
  Inquiries: Keith Carabine (kr4@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)

- **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: (wehrdr@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)  
  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)
# March 2008

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