

INKLINKS

ENGLISH GRADUATE STUDENT NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM GRADUATE DIRECTOR

Let me take this opportunity to share with you just how proud I am of our graduate students. I recently had the opportunity to tell the Associate Dean that I believed "our graduate students this year are doing more and providing greater services and benefits to the university than in any previous year and – perhaps – more than any other department." Your work on the "Anything But Safe" Graduate Student conference has been simply outstanding. From the organization and planning to the fundraising, you have shown professionalism, intelligence, camaraderie and overall brilliance. I see our colorful department T-shirts being sported hither and yon, and they bring a much appreciated sense of community. I also noted to the dean, "Never have I seen the energy and enthusiasm built around an academic event in this department, and the energy has spread throughout the departments in social sciences and humanities." You are the source; you have conceived and brought to fruition this

major event. I am extremely pleased at how collaborative the effort has been, reaching out across our programs to students and faculty across the university. It is hard to believe that this is just one of the many things our graduate students are doing. We also have headed up the university Writing Center, with its central location and high functionality. Kudos go out for the second conference being organized by our graduate students, a state-wide conference for Writing Center programs at colleges and universities, which will be held at USF on April 17-18. What more can you all do??? Well, of course, you can take exams and classes and write theses and dissertations and teach and mentor and so on and so on. You are fantastic.

Although not nearly so exciting, I thought I'd tell you what's going on in the Graduate Director's office. I've been writing and implementing assessment plans and rubrics! Yes, you've heard the rumors, and it is true. Assessment has come

to the graduate program. Inside this newsletter I have written a brief article that gives an overview of the process, and I plan to hold a question and answer session or two with you later in the month to clear up any confusions or anxieties. Hopefully, we can make this as painless as possible, and perhaps it will even yield some useful insights.

I'm also deeply involved in admissions. Fairly soon I'll be calling on you to do your part to help recruit our top applicants to come to USF and join our active graduate student body. As we did last year, we would like students to make calls, to come out for meet and greet, and in general serve as a source of information and encouragement for potential new students. You did great work last year, and I'm hoping we can do likewise for this crew.

In the meantime, good luck on exams and on finishing the revisions to your theses and dissertations. And have a great time at the conference(s)!

March 2009
Volume III Issue VI

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Important Dates

PhD Exams:
March 9, 11, 13

MA Exams:
March 26-37

EGSA Conference:
March 6, 7, 8

Graduate Award Portfolio Deadline:
March 20

Spring Break:
March 16-21

Deadline to request Doctoral Defense:
March 20

INTERNATIONAL LINKS: SARAH NAMULONDO

At present three international scholars are working toward doctorates in the English Department: from Uganda, Sarah Namulondo, from Indonesia, Zita Rarastesa ("Tesa") and from India, Mantra Roy. Sarah and Tesa are winners of the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship, described on its website as "the U.S. Government's flagship international exchange program [which is] designed to increase mutual understanding between people of the United States and people of other countries." Toward the same end, INKLINKS will publish brief profiles of the international students now working in our graduate program.

Sarah Namulondo came to USF from Makerere University in the Ugandan capital of Kampala. She is currently writing her dissertation on contemporary women's fiction from Africa under the direction of Prof. Shirley Toland-Dix. At Makerere Sarah had been teaching Modern Drama after writing her M.A. thesis on Henrik Ibsen, and when her doctorate is completed she will return there to resume teaching for at least two years (in keeping with the terms of the Fulbright Award). Sarah is also a journalist who completed a post-

graduate diploma in journalism after majoring in British Literature as an undergraduate. In 2002 she worked at the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* as the holder of an Alfred Friendly Press Fellowship, and she is a co-founder of Uganda's *The Weekly Observer*, a print and online journal of political and social affairs (www.observer.ug). In 2007 CNN's African Journalist of the Year Award went to *The Observer's* Richard M. Kavuma; the journal will soon be expanding to appear twice-weekly.

At USF Sarah completed a wide range of courses, with particular emphasis on feminist theory and Women's Studies. The latter especially had what she calls a "transformative" effect. "Feminist theory gave me a sophisticated language to articulate my own position as a woman," she says. "It also enabled me to look at [women's] texts in a more scholarly way." While feminist activism is a force in Uganda, Sarah feels that feminist theory hasn't really developed beyond the insights of the U.S.'s "Second Wave" feminism of the 1970s, with its characteristic emphasis on "sexual equality." She seems unfazed that neither her ten brothers nor her eight sisters are sympathetic

to feminism, and she intends to integrate feminist perspectives into her future teaching as much as feasible. Also of importance to Sarah, after her schooling in Uganda's British-modeled educational system, is the way teaching styles in the U.S. "allow the student a voice" in the learning process. By contrast, in her previous training "the professor did all the talking" in both large classes and private tutorials. Figuring out how to adapt these methods to her teaching in Uganda--often of very large classes--is a challenge Sarah welcomes. Partly for this reason she says has been grateful for the opportunity to teach both writing and literature classes in the English Department. (Sarah has also taught Feminist Theory in the Women's Studies Department.)

In my conversation with Sarah I was fascinated to learn that during the presidential primaries she preferred Hillary Clinton to Barack Obama. "My roommate is from Kenya," she says, "where Obamania is everywhere." Sarah instead "decided to privilege gender," because, as she points out, in the U.S. "Black men got the vote before white women."

—Elizabeth Hirsh

GRADUATE LINKS

Graduate Studies

<http://grad.usf.edu>

Thesis/Dissertation

<http://www.grad.usf.edu/newsite/thesis.asp>

English Dept. Homepage

<http://english.usf.edu>

Library Research Consultation

<http://asp.lib.usf.edu/Consultations/RSC.asp>

Modern Language Association

<http://mla.org>

U of Pennsylvania Call for Papers

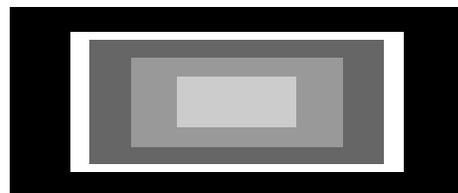
<http://cfp.english.upenn.edu/>

EGSA BENEFIT: BIG SUCCESS

Great news: our February 15 conference fundraiser event at Skipper's Smokehouse was a major success! All those who attended enjoyed an afternoon of awesome musical acts from Maybe Foreign, Jake Coats, and Dicious; fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction readings from several talented English graduate students and faculty members; an "intensely competitive" silent auction; tasty Skipper's food and drink; an opportunity to buy our awesome new English program T-shirts (get one!) and buttons; and (best of all) a chance to spend a relaxing afternoon with the amazing people who comprise this department. What's more, despite a looming 80 percent chance of rain all day, the precipitation held off until the end of the night, attendance was fantastic,

and we eventually met our monetary goals! Word!

Thank you again to all those who attended and supported our event. A special thanks to our wonderful readers Shawn Alff, Kendra Bryant, David Moody, Dr. Fleming, and Dr. Hawkins and to all those who offered up services and/or goods for our silent auction. We hope to have many more successful events of this type in the future, and we couldn't do it without your support!



ASSESSMENT IMPLEMENTATION

The Southeastern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) is the regional accrediting organization for the University of South Florida. As part of their accreditation process, they are requiring data that demonstrate the achievement of student learning objectives beginning this term. The English Department, like all of the other departments in the university, has submitted an assessment plan that outlines how we will document our students' progress toward their learning goals. In the graduate program, this means collecting data on student achievement in two critical areas – exams and theses/dissertations.

Toward that end, I have worked with the individual program committees and the graduate faculty to establish a rating system using a set of rubrics that measure mastery of primary content, critical or creative thinking, and writing. I am asking the faculty to begin using these rubrics in their assessment of your work this semester. For your information, these rubrics will be posted on the department website. It is in your interest to review these rubrics to have a clear sense of what is expected in your performance on exams and disserta-

tions/theses.

The implementation of the plan affects anyone who is defending a dissertation, submitting a thesis for graduation or taking the MA or PhD exams this semester. In each of these cases, the faculty will be asked to submit an assessment indicating your achievement (fail, pass minus, pass, pass plus) in three categories (primary content, critical or creative thinking, writing). This rating will be submitted as data for assessment of departmental goals and reviewed both for accreditation and for improving our educational process.

What does that mean for you? In actuality it doesn't change much from what we already do. For the PhD exam, these ratings have always existed, but we have not collected data on the outcomes. Nor have the criteria been formalized into a rubric with three distinct categories (primary content, critical/creative thinking, writing). This is the first time that the criteria have been clearly designated in writing, but most faculty will agree that these standards are the same that have been applied before. Having the rubric will actually help students visualize more concretely

what the faculty are looking for.

Will dissertations or theses now have a grade of pass minus? It has come to my attention that some graduate students feared they could have a dissertation or thesis graded "Pass Minus." While the pass minus is a level on the rubric, no thesis or dissertation will go forward at that level. A student will be required to revise a thesis so that it reaches the level of a minimum of pass. As in the past, any PhD exam that is evaluated as Pass Minus will require the student to make up deficiencies. In order to progress, a student must achieve a minimum of pass on exams and theses/dissertations.

Please be patient with us as we aim to fulfill the requirements of SACS and, perhaps, in turn improve our educational process. If you have any questions, please ask me, or Lee Davidson, or your faculty advisor. Please do not add to the anxiety of an already anxious experience by circulating unfounded rumors. I will hold a Q & A session on this subject in the very near future so as to clear up any further quandaries. At least, I'll do the best I can.

—Laura Runge

GRADUATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

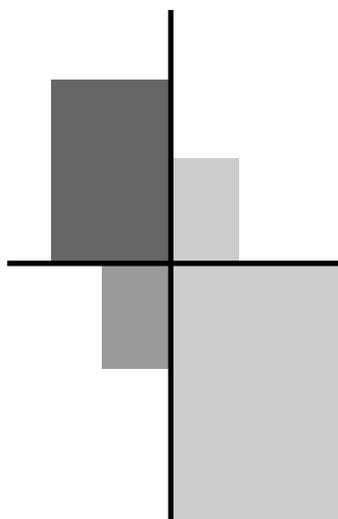
JOSEF BENSON

"Masculinity as Homosocial Enactment in Three Stories by Raymond Carver." *The Raymond Carver Review*. 2009.

31 Side Bars. *American Pop: Popular Culture Decade by Decade*. Comp. and ed. by Bob Batchelor. Greenwood Press, 2009.

JESSICA McKEE

"Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*: 'She Drew a Line There, in the Centre.'" The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900. 20 February 2009.



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

JAY HOPLER has been awarded a Marfa Fellowship by the Lannan Foundation.

DAVID P. SCHENCK and Roscoe, Lori A. "In Search of a Good Death," *Journal of Medical Humanities*. 30.1 (2009): 61-72.

ALUMNI NEWS

CR JUNKINS (MA Lit. 2007)
Colonial Showcase Lagoon: The Architecture of the Colonized/Colonizer in Walt Disney World's EPCOT Theme Park." Florida Studies Proceedings, 2008.

USF STUDENT PILFERS PANEL AT CHICAGO AWP

Slam poetry has roots everywhere, but Chicago is its birthplace. It's no surprise, then, that at the recent AWP conference in Chicago slam poets and poetry were a part of several panels. At 4:30pm on Saturday, February 15th, the last time slot of the last day, several poets widely associated with the founding of slam were scheduled to discuss poetry and its relation to Chicago culture. The room was filled almost to capacity. People were walking in late. I arrived at the last minute, relieved to see that the panel hadn't begun reading yet. Then ten minutes passed. The chairs in front of the crowd were empty. The dew on the water glasses stained the table cloth. People started muttering, saying "Maybe they weren't paid enough," saying "I bet they're making some kind of protest." By 4:45, some of the restless crowd talked about the open microphone, about just getting up and reading.

A man in the first row stood up. His dirty blonde mullet was impressive. He introduced himself as C.J. Laity from ChicagoPoetry.com, and told us what he knew about Marc Smith not coming due to funding issues. No one knew about the other 3 members. But this is what happened: people started to leave. Laity went to the microphone and issued a challenge. "Let's take over this room," he said. "We'll be the only unofficial panel at the AWP. We'll bar the door. We'll read our own poems." Some people who were leaving turned around. The soft sounds of notebooks being flipped to a poem rustled the room. "So who's reading first?"

At the 2009 AWP I was one of the many people that read illegally/unofficially at what the room started to call the Anti-Slam Panel.

We weren't timid. We were loud. The walls were thinner than we thought, and a panelist from the next room over came in and asked us to keep it down. Somehow his indirect affirmation of "you can use the room if you use it quietly" reaffirmed the crowd to stay, to be loud, to use the room. On his website, Laity says that the reading "host(ed) over a dozen of the finest young spoken word artists that America has to offer. Hundreds of people stuck around for the entire hour, cheering and applauding."

I was impressed. Here were strangers coming together to share an hour of their lives in an act of community and an act of resilience. A woman recited about her anniversary. The next reader, a man, told us that the woman was his wife, and he then recited the first poem he'd written for her. Someone recited about being Michelle Obama's "BFF" and then a disgruntled bookstore clerk ranted on the true worth of books.

Poet Stella Radulescu had read at an earlier panel on the public responsibility of poets, and she happened to be in the crowd. Amongst traditional slam poets, she got up and read in her Romanian accent a slow and calm poem. In the midst of the typical slam of angst and flare, it had a punctuating effect. I'd written a poem during her earlier reading, directly mentioning her in it, and felt compelled to read it to the crowd and to her.

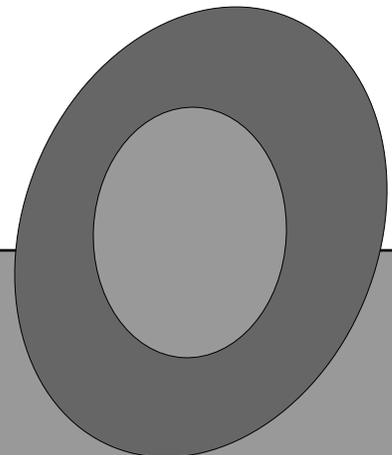
I moved to the front row between readings to be close to the mic and to be ready to read. People started to line up behind me, unconsciously agreeing that the front row would be the queue for the microphone. The event proceeded with Laity talking between each reading, making jokes, assuring us that we should be nerv-

ous about what we were doing, but that we shouldn't be afraid. When I walked up he handed me a chapbook and announced that each reader would get a chapbook until he ran out. It was odd taking it, as if being paid for charity.

When the panel should've ended, they kept reading. I had to leave. Who knows how long they went on. After the reading I learned several things. It turned out that the AWP had no knowledge of our acts. Maybe we were that stealth. Maybe we were that unimportant. From his website, Laity let us know that the panel had been cancelled for a week, that flyers were supposed to be up announcing it. But there were no flyers. There were only readers eager to either listen or to be heard, in this case, the latter. And about our payment—the magazines he gave out: they were magazines he'd been buying all week-end at the book fair. He was giving away what he'd just gotten and probably not had a chance to glance at.

I looked at the magazine he gave me. The spine is in perfect shape. Instead of reading it, as I should've by now, I watched the recording of the readers. I caught each of their performances on my camera, all but my own. Radulescu, though, said "You did fine. We all did. We all did the right thing." And I believe that.

—David Moody



CALL FOR PAPERS: CONFERENCES & PUBLICATIONS

Computers and Writing Conference

18 June 2009,

U of California, Davis.

Submission Deadline: 30 May 2009
For more information or to submit a proposal, visit our Web site at <http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/writing/GRN/2009/index.html> or email jwalker@georgiasouthern.edu.

Literature, "Race and Displacement"

1-3 October, 2009

University of Alabama

Submission Deadline: 15 May 2009
The thirty-third Alabama Symposium on English and American Literature will be an exclusively graduate-student opportunity. Because of the publishing relationship the Alabama symposium series with a number of presses, it is quite likely that papers will also appear in print.
For paper submissions and further conference information, please contact Philip D. Beidler, Department of English, University of Alabama, Box 870244, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487. E-mail: pbeidler@english.as.ua.edu
Phone: 205 348-8508

Domestic Violence in the Long Eighteenth Century invites submissions for an edited collection of essays treating domestic violence in the long eighteenth century. Before there was a category called "domestic violence," there were behaviors, ways of speaking, issues of control, legal categories, economic conditions, and occupational relationships that bordered on violence. This anthology will consider early ways of representing, thinking and talking about what will later be called domestic violence. Submission Deadline: 15 March 2009
Send a 500-word abstract or completed ms. email preferred, to Judith Broome broomej1@wpunj.edu.

"Leaps of Faith: When Mania Meets Modernity"

SAMLA, Atlanta GA

6-8 November 2009

Submission Deadline: 15 May 2009.
Send submissions to Stephen Gallagher, jeng_steveg@hotmail.com

SCMLA: Literature and Psychology

29-31 October 2009

Baton Rouge, LA

Submission Deadline: 27 March 2009
Send abstracts to rfields@siu.edu

Conference on History and Fiction

12-14 November 2009

Carrollton, GA

Submission Deadline: 1 May 2009
Submit abstracts and contact information for all speakers, name and contact information for panel moderator, and panel title to Dr. Julia Farmer jfarmer@westga.edu.

Mothers Creating/Writing Lives: Motherhood Memoirs

Submission Deadline: 15 April 2009
This anthology will interrogate and critique the motherhood memoir and strives to bridge the distance between writing mothers who are critics and writing mothers who are authors. Send one to two page proposals and a c.v. to Justine Dymond, jdymond@spfldcol.edu, and Nicole Willey, nwilley@kent.edu.

Pirates.

Submission Deadline: 4 April 2009.
The Washington & Jefferson College Review is seeking well researched and clearly written essays discussing all aspects of pirates and piracy, with particular attention to pirates in history, literature, film, and contemporary life. Send submissions to: topic@washjeff.edu.

CFP: SCMLA 2009 Flannery O'Connor Society Session

29-31 October 2009

Baton Rouge, LA

Submission Deadline: 27 March 2009
E-mail abstracts (of no more than 250 words) to Sara Williams at sarawilliams182@gmail.com.

Fantastic Projections: Crisis, History and the Aesthetic Imagination First Annual Cultural Studies Graduate Student Conference

University of New Mexico

24-25 April 2009

Submission Deadline: 23 March 2009
Limited travel funding is available, please inquire!
Please send a 500 word abstract along with a brief biographical statement to Anna Angeli angeli@unm.edu, Eric Foster efoster2@unm.edu, or David Hartwig daha82@unm.edu. You can also visit our webpage for additional information about the conference: <http://www.unm.edu/~fil/grad-conference.htm>.

"Rising Tides: Major and Minor Trends in English Studies"

Graduate English Association Conference

U of North Carolina Wilmington

17-18 April 2008

Submission Deadline: 15 March 2009
Email abstracts (300 words or less) as an attached Word document to uncwgea@gmail.com. Refer to the GEA website for the most current conference information: <http://www.uncw.edu/gea>. Any questions can be e-mailed to Karlie Herndon keh5286@uncw.edu or Thomas Polk thp9064@uncw.edu. All participants' abstracts and selected papers will be included in our informal publication.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAIN EVENT

Susan Mooney (English) will discuss her book *The Artistic Censoring of Sexuality: Fantasy and Judgment in the Twentieth-Century Novel*

Grace Allen Room
Monday, March 9
12:00pm Reception
12:30pm Talk

RESEARCH in the HUMANITIES

Cheryl Hall (GIA) will discuss "Freedom, Values, and Sacrifice: Overcoming Obstacles to Environmental Sustainable Behavior"

Wednesday, March 4
Grace Allen Room
12:00pm Reception
12:30pm Talk

DISSERTATION SUPPORT GROUP

A support group for graduate students working on dissertations will meet the second Monday of each month at 11 am on the second floor landing of the library. For more information, contact Gary Simons at gsimons@mail.usf.edu

WORKS-IN-PROGRESS DISCUSSION GROUP

Graduate students are invited to join the works-in-progress group, which meets the first Tuesday of each month from 12:30-2pm in the English Department seminar room. Faculty will present drafts of chapters, conference papers, and articles. Copies of the work to be discussed will be circulated via email one week prior to the meeting.

USF LIBRARIES HOLCCAUST & GENOCIDE STUDIES CENTER LECTURE

Fabian Klose

(U of Munich / Princeton U)
Monday, March 2

Grace Allen Room, 2:00pm
Klose will be examining the wars of decolonization in Kenya (1952-1956) and in Algeria

(1954-1962). Dr. Klose's lecture treats two parallel and antagonistic developments: the international codification of universal rights and the radicalization of colonial violence. The central question is how Britain and France, democratic European states under the rule of law, could on the one hand participate actively in international human rights discourse while on the other hand conducting wars in their overseas possessions that flagrantly violated human rights.

In analyzing the State of Emergency it intends to show that colonial powers used emergency laws to abolish elementary rights and provide their security forces with modes of unrestricted repression. In proclaiming a state of emergency the colonial rulers created the legal preconditions for the radicalization of violence. In short, the article argues that the wars of decolonization became one of the first serious challenges to the newly-established regime of human rights. For more information and directions to the lecture venue, see:

<http://www.lib.usf.edu/holocaust-and-genocide-studies-center/klose.html>

NEW FACULTY RESEARCH PANEL

Kersuze Simeon-Jones

(World Languages and Africana Studies) will discuss "The Contemporary Relevance of 20th-Century Afro-Literary Movement" and **Zoë Lang** (Music History) will discuss "Austrian Music: The Strauss Family Legacy"

Wednesday, March 11
Grace Allen Room
12:00pm Reception
12:30pm Talk

FILM SERIES: WOMEN IN CRISIS

A collaboration between the Tampa Bay Psychoanalytic Society (TBPS), The Tampa Bay Institute for Psychoanalytic Studies (T-BIPS) and the Department of Women's Studies at USF.

Maria Full of Grace

Thursday, March 5
BEH 104, 6:00-9:00pm

Madeline Camera, PhD USF Associate Professor of World Languages & Lauren Buckner, LCSW, Clinical Social Worker/Board Member of TBPS.

Notes on a Scandal

Thursday, March 26
BEH 104, 6:00-9:00pm

Susan Mooney, PhD, Associate Professor of English & John Hartman, PhD Psychologist/ Psychoanalyst

TEACHING LITERATURE DISCUSSION GROUP

The Teaching Lit Discussion Group will meet on March 13th this month at 3:00pm in CPR 343.

Events Continued pg. 7

EGSA CONFERENCE: "ANYTHING BUT SAFE"

EGSA is proud to announce the inclusion of two faculty panels at its upcoming national graduate conference, "Anything but Safe: Sex, Sexuality, and Gender."

Gendered Images: Creation, Expression, and Manipulation

Friday, March 6, 3:30pm in the Oval Theater, Marshall Center

H. L. Meakin, DPhil, USF Dept. of English: "Open Cicero, Insert Self: Lady Drury Makes Room for Herself"

Kim Murray, PhD: USF Dept of English: "From Baptist Wife to Lesbian Life: Teaching and Living with Courage"

CR Junkins, MA, Polk Community College Dept. of English: "Selling Men: The Construction of Masculinity in Early 20th Century Advertisement"

Women in Crisis: Struggle and Transformation

Sunday, March 8, 1:45pm in Cooper Hall Auditorium - Room 103

Kim Vaz, PhD, Dept of Women's Studies: "The Trope of Revelation: The Little Black Girl as Truth-Teller in Black Women's Fiction about Family Sexual Secrets"

Adriana Novoa, PhD, Dept of Humanities: "Are We Truly Enchanted? The Representation of Women in Crisis in Recent Film"

Lycia Alexander-Guerra, MD, Tampa Bay Psychoanalytic Society: "Film Portrayals, Psychoanalysis, and Girls into Women: the Role of Mothers."

Complete conference information can be viewed at <http://sites.google.com/site/anythingbutsafe/conference-information>. The full agenda of conference events, including the Keynote Speaker, Workshop, Performance, and panels is available for the low price of \$30.

Friday evening's events include the keynote address, a cocktail hour and dinner in the beautiful new Marshall Center. If you would like to attend, we ask for a donation of \$10. Please get in touch with Taylor Mitchell (tmitche2@mail.usf.edu) in CPR 257 to RSVP by March 3.

To attend **Kate Bornstein's** performance "Men, Women, and the Rest of Us" on Sunday at 4pm, please obtain a ticket for a donation of \$10.00 from CPR 257 or at the door prior to the event.

MARCH 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Cheryl Hall 12:30pm Grace Allen Room	5 <i>Maria Full of Grace</i> 6:00pm BEH 104	6 EGSA Conference	7 EGSA Conference
8 EGSA Conference	9 Susan Mooney 12:30pm Grace Allen Room	10 Works in Progress Meeting	11 New Faculty Research Panel 12:30 Grace Allen	12	13 PhD Exam Teaching Lit. Dis- cussion Group	14
15	16 Spring Break!	17 Spring Break!	18 Spring Break!	19 Spring Break!	20 Spring Break! Graduate Award Portfolios Due Doctoral Defense Request Deadline	21
22	23	24	25	26 <i>Notes on a Scandal;</i> 6:00pm BEH 104	27 MA Exam	28
29	30	31				