

INKLINKS

ENGLISH GRADUATE STUDENT NEWSLETTER

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Message from Graduate Director

Congratulations to all of you as we wrap up the spring term. Many students reached major milestones this year, and inside this newsletter we list all of the eleven students who are graduating in May, with their thesis and dissertation titles and directors. We also list the eleven PhD students who passed their exams and entered candidacy. Last month we recognized the success of the EGSA graduate student conference, and this month we celebrate the success of the first statewide Writing Center Conference led by PhD student Kate Pantelides. The EGSA held a thought-provoking collo-

quium earlier in April, which was well attended by current and prospective graduate students, and last week, report has it, the USF Writers Series had a fantastic event at Rincon Catracho. This level of professionalism is evidence of the extra effort you are putting forth, and as a department we are pleased to be part of so many venues for creative and scholarly production. You are getting the word out, that USF English is smart, imaginative, and moving in the right directions. Meanwhile, the faculty is doing its part, having recently approved a full revi-

sion of the curriculum in the MA and PhD programs for both Literature and Rhetoric and Composition. Exciting new opportunities should open up for faculty and students as we ease our way into this new curriculum with new course offerings and strategies for better preparing our students for their professional lives. The curriculum proposals will now move forward to the college and university committees for approval, and so we don't anticipate the full implementation of the curricular changes until fall 2010 at the earliest. Details on the new curricu-

Continued on p. 2

Congratulations 2009 Graduates

SUNAYANI

BHATTACHARYA

(MA Lit) "(Re)Appropriation: A Reading of *The Tempest*, *Kapalkundala* and *Disgrace*"
Director, Hunt Hawkins

RICHARD J. ELLMAN (MA Lit) "Historical Imagination in/and Literary Consciousness: The Afterlife of the Anglo-Saxons in Middle English Literature"
Director, Nicole Discenza

ROBERT N. GAMACHE (MA Lit) "Swift's Influence on Female Writers"
Director, Pat Rogers

PATRICK A. MCGOWAN (MA Lit) "'Desirable Images': Sexual Mapping in William S. Burroughs's *Naked Lunch*

and Samuel R. Delany's *Dhalgren*"

Director, Michael Clune

TIFFANY LOWDEN

MESSERSCHMIDT (MA Lit)

"From Maiden to Whore and Back Again: A Survey of Prostitution in the Works of William Shakespeare"
Director, Sara Deats

ANN SOFIA-ROTHSCHILD

(MA Lit) "Conformity and Rebellion as Reflected in Mary Wollstonecraft's 'A Vindication of the Rights of Woman'"
Director, Regina Hewitt

DEBORAH VAN PELT (MA Lit) "'I stand for sovereignty': Reading Portia in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*"

Director, Sara Deats

MICHAEL J. NELSON (MA CRW Fiction)

Songs for Cripples

Director, Rita Ciresi

DAVID A. MOODY (MFA CRW Poetry) *Threshold*
Director, Jay Hopley

MARY D. MEARS (PhD Lit) *Choice and Discovery: An Analysis of Women and Culture in Flora Nwapa's Fiction*

Director, Rosalie Baum

MARY ELIZABETH WILSON (PhD Lit)

Gothic Cathedral as Theology and Literature
Director, Silvia Fiore

Important Dates

May 2:	Commencement
May 5:	Grades Due
May 9:	Grad. Student Party
May 11:	First Day Summer A & C
May 25:	Memorial Day
June 19:	Last Day of Summer A
June 29:	First Day of Summer B

Graduate Director Continued

lum will be available as soon as it is approved.

I can also announce that the admissions and recruitment process this spring was highly successful, in part thanks to those of you who came out or called to welcome prospectives, even taking some into your homes. Our success as a program depends upon this type of effort to foster community, and I thank you all for your efforts. Of the thirty-six students we admitted, twenty-six have accepted our offer, for a 72% enrollment rate. Please come out in August to welcome the new folks as part of orientation. More details on that event will follow during the summer.

In April, the department held its honors and awards ceremony, recognizing the individual achievements of our accomplished graduate students. We

also recognized the fantastic work of our stellar TAs who, once again, represented the English department well in the Provost's Award for Outstanding Teaching: Jessica McKee, the Provost's Award; Cameron Hunt, Provost's Commendation; and Quentin Vieregge, Certificate of Recognition. Congratulations to these outstanding teaching assistants and their mentors.

As we bask in the glow of our successes, this time of year also always brings with it some bittersweet departures. I wish great success to all our graduates who are going on to other programs in pursuit of their PhD dreams. I hope all of our alumni will remain in contact through the newsletter and keep us updated on your careers. By the way, I will be establishing a USF Graduate English Alumni group on Facebook this summer, and

I hope all will join. We also say good bye to two professors who move into different phases of their career. David Schenck has been a stalwart citizen of the department and friend to the graduate program and newsletter. Kim Murray has played a crucial role in the development of many of our teaching assistants. Both will be missed.

This summer I will be taking advantage of some non-teaching time to read and write. I will be holding minimal office hours, and so I'll be available on a limited basis. I hope every one will likewise have the time for deep reading and productive writing, and maybe a trip or two to the beach. Happy Summer!!

International Links: Dr. Michiko Nagase

We have a **visiting scholar** from Aichi University, Japan. **Dr. Michiko Nagase**, a Toni Morrison scholar, arrived for her year's stay and has this to say for herself:



"My name is Michiko Nagase. I am a professor at Aichi University, Toyohashi Campus which is located near Nagoya. I had been teaching general English courses like Reading and English composition, at first as a part-time lecturer for 13 years in Tokyo areas, and then I got tenure in Aichi University 10 years ago. In Aichi University, besides general English classes for freshmen and sophomores, I teach American Literature courses which include the history of American Literature and the seminars for juniors and seniors.

During those years, while teaching, I had been studying African-American women writers, especially Toni Morrison. As the result of my study, in 2005 I wrote a book (in Japanese) on Toni Morrison's earlier works (from *The Bluest Eye* to *Tar Baby*). I wanted to study her novels. Looking for the institution which would accept me as a visiting research scholar, I checked the author of the critical essays I was impressed with: *Circles of Sorrow, Lines of Struggle*. The author was Dr. Gurleen Grewal at the University of South Florida. I e-mailed her, but I doubted that she would answer me because the authors of the books, circulated all over the world, must be such busy first-rate scholars that they have no time to answer the stranger. But contrary to my surmise, I received her answer in a week. That is how I came to Tampa. Now my plan is to study and write essays on Toni Morrison's later 5 works, and make them part of my book project. I look forward to participating in Dr. Grewal's seminar on Toni Morrison in fall 2009."

GRADUATE LINKS

Graduate Studies

<http://grad.usf.edu>

Thesis/Dissertation

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

English Department 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/>

Reflections on the Writing Center Conference

This last weekend I had the pleasure to attend the first ever "Florida Regional Writing Center Conference," hosted by the University of South Florida. The theme of the conference was "Revisioning the Writing Center." The conference had seventeen panel sessions and hosted over fifty presenters, including undergraduate and graduate students and faculty members from across our state. If I had to describe the conference with two words, it would be "inclusivity" and "dialogue." For instance, the inclusion of undergraduate students was one of the most impressive features of the conference. One panel I attended was entitled "Framing Fundamentals: Shaping the Writing Center Experience" and featured four Eckerd College undergraduates: Elise Luce, Elizabeth Renihan, Josh Roark, and Luke Sanders. These four students provided a thoughtful reflection on

their experiences as writing center tutors from the moment clients enter the door until they leave. I found their presentation so impressive because they regularly encouraged the audience to ask questions and express themselves not just after but also during their presentation. It became truly dialogic, which was a feature of many of the other panels as well. Six of the sessions were round table discussions, and the panel presentations I attended all did an excellent job of garnering discussion, both after the presentations and later in the Marshall Center halls.

Acknowledgement should be given to those brave and industrious souls who put this conference together. The idea and animating force behind the conference was Kate Pantelides, who is our Writing Center Coordinator and who has

already added an incredible amount of energy to our English Department and Writing Center. While Kate's leadership with this conference was invaluable, she also extends a well-deserved praise to those who helped plan and execute the conference: "For their help with planning and keeping track of the millions of small details, I would like to thank Brenda Grau, Megan McIntyre, Micheal Taber, and Grace Veach." Many other graduate students here at USF participated in the conference as well by presenting, chairing panels, or providing support during its preparation. These students include Kendra Bryant, Reggie Elridge, Melanie Graham, Taylor Mitchell, David Moody, Kyle Stedman, Cassandra Pierce-Thomas, Erin Trauth, and Quentin Vieregge. Finally, several USF faculty helped to make this conference possible through guidance and active support, and their help was invaluable: Dr. Hunt Hawkins, Dr. Patricia Maher, Dr. Kim Murray, Dr. Pat Nickinson, and Dr. Laura Runge.

—Quentin Vieregge

Highlights from the Writers Series

The weather was gorgeous, the sangria cold, and the Kenny G. music loud. One of the many entertaining aspects of the USF Writers Series is arriving at the Seminole Heights host restaurant, Rincon Catracho, a little early to enjoy the great food and amazing, definitely one-of-a-kind atmosphere. After a drink, some enchiladas, and 1980s music videos, everyone moves out to the patio for the opportunity to listen to creative works in progress by graduate students and faculty.

The USF Writer's Series has become a tradition that allows creative writing students to showcase their work in a

fun and friendly environment. This week the audience got to hear incredible fiction from Dr. J'aimé Sanders, Lauren Oetinger and Jim Miller, as well as some amazing poetry by Jared White.

The Writers Series helps build the public reading skills of graduate students in a fun and more informal setting and gives everyone a well-deserved night out with friends and colleagues.

USF Writers Series readings will resume in fall.

—Liz Kicak

Poetic Proceedings at WC Conference

On opening night of the Writing Center Conference, poets Kendra Bryant, Reggie Elridge, Melanie Graham, and David Moody came together and shared their works as if Harlem Renaissance Poets sharing their *peaces* at the local YMCA. With topics ranging from porn addicts, to extended metaphors on Tampa's cigars, to cutters not needing blades, and black people as the embodiment of Hip-Hop, Reggie, Melanie, David, and I expressed the importance of writing as a means of re-narrating histories and debunking myths. Although not a poetry troupe, Friday's poets were a league all their own.

—Kendra Bryant

EGSA Election Results

Thank you to everyone who voted for the new officers of the English Graduate Student Association! Here are the election results:

KENDRA BRYANT, President
ERIN TRAUTH, Vice President
JESSICA McKEE, Secretary
MEGAN WEBER, Treasurer

Fall Colloquium Coordinators:
LINDSAY SLOAN
KRISTEN KING

Spring Colloquium Coordinators:
JOSHUA CUNDIFF
CAMERON HUNT-LOGAN

Graduate Accomplishments

BOB BATCHELOR

"Running toward the Apocalypse: John Updike's *New America*." 2009 Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA. 9 April 2009.

"Who Gets to Wear the Cape: The Rise of the Black Superman in Martin Delany, Frederick Douglass, and Beyond." Co-authored with **JOSEF BENSON**. *Black and White Masculinity in the American South, 1800-2000*. Eds. Lydia Plath and Sergio Lussana, Newcastle, UK: Cambridge Scholars, 2009.

ANN BASSO participated in a workshop entitled "Reviewing Reviewed" at the Shakespeare Association of America Conference, held in Washington DC from April 9-11.

RICHARD ELLMAN has been accepted into the PhD program at the University of Notre Dame.

BRENDA GRAU

"Quixotic Visions of the Writing Center Tutor: (RE)Constructing the Reality of Tutoring." *Revising the Writing Center*. U of South Florida. Tampa, FL. 17 April 2009.

LISA HOFFMAN-REYES

"Of a Monstrous Broad: Vermin Ambiguity in Robert Browning's 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin.'" *The Child and the Book Conference*. Vancouver Island University. Nanaimo, B.C. Canada. 2 May 2009.

MEGAN McINTYRE

"Writing Teacher and Writing Tutor: Difficulties with a Dual Identity and the Importance of Tutor Training." *Revising the Writing Center*. U of South Florida. Tampa, FL. 17 April 2009.

JIM MILLER won the Fiction category of the writing competition hosted by the Gulf Coast Association of Creative Writing Teachers.

DAVID MOODY, BRANDON PETTIT, BRYAN RICE, JARED WHITE.

"The Effective Creative Writing Assignment: The View from Both Sides of the Desk," Gulf Coast Creative Writing Teach-

ers Conference, Fairhope, AL. 4 April 2009.

SARAH NAMULONDO

"In Search of 'Safe Spaces': Reading Yvonne Vera's *Under the Tongue* and Flora Nwapa's *Efuru*." *Africa and Blackness in World Literature and Visual Arts*. U of Vermont. Burlington, Vermont. 15-19 April 2009.

BARBARA ST. CLAIR's play "The Cancer Doctor's Wife" was chosen for a featured reader's theatre performance at the Jewish Ensemble Theatre Festival of New Plays. Barbara's play was presented on March 25 and 26 in Detroit.

KATE PANTELIDES

"Invisible Expectations and Hidden Agendas: Behaving Badly in the Writing Center." *Revising the Writing Center*. U of South Florida. Tampa, FL. 17 April 2009.

MICHEAL TABER

"Let Them Come to Us: Composition

Research in the Writing Center." *Revising the Writing Center*. U of South Florida. Tampa, FL. 17 April 2009.

ERIN TRAUTH won the Creative Nonfiction category of writing competition hosted by the Gulf Coast Association of Creative Writing Teachers.

"The Future of Online Tutoring in the Writing Center." *Revising the Writing Center*. U of South Florida. Tampa, FL. 17 April 2009.

PAUL QUIGLEY

"When Is a Vampire Not Just a Vampire? Carmilla and the Irish Question." 30th Annual International Conference on the Fantastic. Orlando, FL. 18-22 March 2009.

Alumni News

FRANCES AULD (PhD Lit 2005) accepted a tenure track position as an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin Baraboo.

ALLISON BRIMMER (PhD R & C 2004) is the registration chair for the 2009 Annual Summer Conference on Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning in Estes Park, CO.

KAREN BROWN (PhD Lit 2008) "Isabel's Daughter." *PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories, 2009*. Anchor Books. 2009.

VALERIE LIPSCOMB (PhD Lit 2008) is a literature instructor and the director of the Writing Resource Center at USF Sarasota-Manatee.

Facebook Page for Alumni

USF English Alumni -- join the USF English Graduate Student Alumni Group on FACEBOOK, this summer. Stay up to date with each other; keep us informed of your activities and contact information. Tell us what is going on in your life!

PhD Candidacy

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

Spring 2009 Candidates:

ANN BASSO

Literature

DANITA BERG

Rhetoric & Composition

CHRISTINE GROGAN

Literature

JoNETTE LaGAMB

Rhetoric & Composition

GARY SIMONS

Literature

GINNA WILKERSON

Literature

Summer 2009 Candidates:

BOB BATCHELOR

Literature

AMY CLANTON

Literature

TAYLOR JOY MITCHELL

Literature

ROBIN ROGERS

Literature

QUENTIN VIERGE

Rhetoric & Composition

Faculty Achievements

RITA CIRESI's novel manuscript *Teacher of the Year* is a semifinalist in the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Awards Contest, and she was recently awarded summer residencies at the Ragdale Foundation and Santa Fe Art Institute.

"Foto d'Addio" (short story), *Nuova Prosa* 50 (2009).

Keynote speaker. Waterlefe Literary Society. Bradenton, FL. 17 February 2009.

"Life After the MFA," Penn State Liberal Arts Centennial / Department of English 2009 Spring Awards Ceremony. April 2009

NICOLE GUENTHER DISCENZA.

"Places and Spaces." Other Peoples' Thinking: Language and Mentality in England before the Conquest. Institute for Research in the Humanities. U of Wisconsin. Madison, WI. 18 April 2009.

"Alfredian Texts and Contexts." Ses-

sion organizer and chair. The International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan U. Kalamazoo, MI. 7 May 2009.

JOHN FLEMING illustrated collection of fiction *Fearsome Creatures of Florida*. Clifton: Pocol Press, 2009.

LAURA HEAD

"Someone's in the Kitchen with Dinah': Gender, Race, and Violent Space in Contemporary Southern Fiction." Southern Writers Symposium. Fayetteville, NC. February 2009.

"Re/Designing the Past: Sue Monk Kidd, Gina Prince-Blythewood and The Secret Life of Bees." College English Association 70th Anniversary Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. March 2009.

GURLEEN GREWAL has been appointed the founding director of the new Center for India Studies.

"Home and the World: The Multiple Citizenships of Arundhati Roy." *Globalizing Dissent: Essays on Arundhati Roy*. Eds. Ranjan Ghosh and Antonia Navarro-Tejero. NY: Routledge (2009): 143-156.

"Contemplative Epistemology: Transforming Politics, Lives, Pedagogies." Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education. (ACMHE) Conference on "The Contemplative Heart of Higher Education." Amherst College. Amherst, MA. 24-26 April 2009.

IRA SUKRUNGUANG

"Our Next Lives." *Briar Cliff Review* 21 (2009).

"How To Tell Your Mother There Will Be No Grandkids In Her Future." *Georgetown Review* 10.1 (2009)

"The Dishwasher." *Passages North* 30.1 (2009).

Upcoming Events and Announcements

Rhet. & Comp. Support Group

Quentin Vieregge and Danita Berg are starting a PhD Prospectus and Thesis/ Dissertation support group. This group is meant to be complementary to Gary Simon's pre-existing Thesis/ Dissertation study group but focused primarily on studies concerning Rhetoric and Composition. Meeting times and places are TBD. If interested, please contact qvieregg@mail.usf.edu. Note: Students at all stages of their program are welcome to join.

Saw Palm: Florida Literature & Art

The first print edition (volume 3) of the department's Florida-themed literary magazine, *Saw Palm: Florida Literature and Art*, is due out in May. *Saw Palm* is produced by graduate students as part of Dr. Fleming's Literary Editing and Publishing course and features fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, interviews, reviews, and artwork from around the state and country. Samples and subscription forms available online at www.sawpalm.org.

Graduate Student PARTY!

To celebrate the many accomplishments we have had this year, Dr. Runge will host a party in honor of the USF English graduate students AFTER the semester is over and we can bask in the glow of completion – and early summer weather. This will be a poolside barbeque-style party, families welcome. The graduate student party is scheduled for **May 9 from 5-9 p.m. at the home of Dr. Runge**.

Teaching Lit. Discussion Group Readings

For those of you who missed the teaching literature discussion group meetings, here is a list of all the readings discussed:

N. Katherine Hayle. "Hyper and Deep Attention: The Generational Divide in Cognitive Modes." *Profession* (2007): 187-199.

Gloria Joseph. "Black Feminist Pedagogy and Schooling in Capitalist White America," in *Words of Fire: An Anthology of African-American Feminist Thought*. Ed. Beverly Guy-Sheffall. New

York: The New Press, 1995. 462-71.

Jonsberg, Sara Dalmas. "A Place for Every Student." *The English Journal* 89.5. *A Curriculum of Peace* (2000): 27-31.

Marshall Gregory. "Do We Teach Disciplines or Do We Teach Students? What Difference Does It Make?" *Profession* (2008): 117-129.

Judith Fetterley. "Teaching and 'My Work.'" *American Literary History* 17.4 (2005): 741-752.

Prospectus Workshop

For those who missed the prospectus workshop in April, you can visit the Blackboard English Graduate Students Information organization and find the materials from the workshop. See Theses and Dissertations, and click on Prospectus Workshop. Materials include agenda, excerpts from handbooks, sample prospectuses, and audio files of the discussion. If there are any questions, please contact Laura Runge at runge@cas.usf.edu.

CALL FOR PAPERS: CONFERENCES & PUBLICATIONS

SAMLA: The Beautiful and the Good: Exploring the Beauty Controversy in Contemporary Fiction
6-8 November 2009

Atlanta, Georgia
Submit 250-word proposals to Margaret E. Mitchell, University of West Georgia, at mmitchel@westga.edu
Submission Deadline: 30 May 2009

SAMLA: Rethinking Realism in American Literature
6-8 November 2009

Atlanta, Georgia
Send email abstracts of no more than 500 words to Adam H. Wood at ahwood@salisbury.edu
Submission Deadline: 15 May 2009

SAMLA: New Victorian/Caribbean Connections
6-8 November 2009

Emory University
Atlanta Georgia
Proposals should be 300 words and submitted to Marc Muneal, Emory University (mmuneal@emory.edu).
Submission Deadline: 30 April 2009

SAMLA: Literature of Africa and the Diaspora Session; African Diasporic Differences

Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia
6-8 November 2009
Send 250-word proposals for 15-20 minute presentations to Dr. Walter Collins collinsw@sc.edu
Submission Deadline: 15 May 2009

Constellations: Of Comparative Literature & the New Humanities
16-18 October 2009

Emory University
Atlanta Georgia
Email submissions to Armando Mastrogianni, ammastr@emory.edu
Submission Deadline: 15 May 2009

Recovering Black Women's Voices and Lives
12 November 2009

U of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, AL
Send a 250 word abstract that includes audio/visual needs and a short vita (with complete contact information) to DoVeanna S. Fulton Minor, University of Alabama at dfulton@as.ua.edu.
Submission Deadline: 15 June 2009

Anthology on Black Southern Lesbian Culture & Politics

Include your name, mailing address, email address, and a bio that includes your racial and geographical background within your piece, as submissions will be separated from emails to be read. Submit your work by email, as an attachment in MS word to:
Lmonda@juno.com and
marlonRmoore@gmail.com
Submission Deadline: 15 May 2009

Symposium on English and American Literature, "Race and Displacement,"
24-26 September 2009
U of Alabama

Tuscaloosa, Alabama
This symposium will be unique in that, in addition to presentations by one or two well-known academic and/or creative keynoters, conference papers will be the work of graduate students, chosen through competitive submission. A keynote lecture will be given by a prominent figure in critical race studies, Farah Jasmine Griffin of Columbia University. A creative presentation will feature the Queen of the Gullah/Geechee Nation, Queen Quet. Writers who have recently appeared in the series include Alice Walker and the late August Wilson. Our selection committee will begin reading submissions—completed essays, of 30-40 min. reading time, with brief cover letter—immediately. Selections for first round of applicants should be announced by mid-May. Graduate students selected as academic presenters would receive travel and lodging expenses. There is the possibility that the proceedings would also be published by Palgrave MacMillan, sponsors of the *Signs of Race* series, with the series editor having agreed to consider the volume. For paper submissions and further conference information, contact Philip D. Beidler, Department of English, University of Alabama, Box 870244, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.
E-mail:
pbeidler@english.as.ua.edu.

The Spatial Significance of Native American Stories and Ideology

Editors are now accepting submissions for a collection of stories, essays, and poems for a proposed book on comparative American spatial concepts, partially titled "Stories the Land Holds." The editors are looking for texts variously addressing "stories in the land." What are the stories the land tells? A working structure of our book includes stories of the creation and stories of the encounter, from Emperor Charles' and Spanish demands in the 1500s for vast acquisitions of land and rent from the Indians to a Susquahannough's trading of stories in the 1600s with a Swedish Minister from "New Sweden" in Pennsylvania, and lastly to a view of the land as exorbitantly priced real estate with family homes no longer being local possessions but parts of the vast acquisitions of bundled mortgages by unknown international groups. Please query by email first, or send abstracts, or completed manuscripts of up to 6,000 words to any of the editors: Anna Lee Walters at Anna_Lee@frontiernet.net -- Catherine Rainwater at cathernr@stedwards.edu -- Cristine Soliz at csoliz@csoliz.com or cristine.soliz@colostate-pueblo.edu.
Abstracts or manuscripts should be accompanied by a short biographical paragraph. Several presses have expressed interest; however no contracts can be made until the texts are selected. We will begin reviewing immediately and plan to complete our selections by July 31.

Shakespeare on Screen:
1899-2009

22-24 October 2009
Ohio University in Athens
Send abstracts (200-300 words) or papers on a range of issues in film and television productions of Shakespeare. All inquiries should be directed to: Samuel Crowl/Department of English/Ohio University/Athens, Ohio/45701 or via email to crowl@ohio.edu
For more information, visit <http://www.marietta.edu/~engl/OVSC>
Submission Deadlines: 5 June 2009.

May 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
					Final Exam Week	Commencement
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Grades Due by midnight				Graduate Student Party!
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Summer Sessions A & C Begin					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Memorial Day Holiday					
31						

June 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
					Last Day of Summer A	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
	First Day of Summer B					

Letters of Gratitude to Dr. Kim Murray

I first realized Kim Murray's special care for new teachers on the day after I taught my first class at USF. One of my students had performed surprisingly poorly on the first-day essay, so I made the intimidating decision to call the Assistant Director of the FYC program to ask what I should do. She amazed me with her calming wisdom, agreeing to read the essay via fax and later talking me through the conversation I needed to have with the student. Since then, I've continued to see her commitment to thoughtful, peace-creating dialogue in a number of settings: in countless FYC meetings, in the planning and execution of FYC orientation, and most recently, in her advice to me as I tried to unlock my horns from an increasingly unpleasant dialogue with a student--which, she reasonably pointed out to me, was partly my fault. All of our teaching will be kinder and more respectful because of our interactions with Kim.

—Kyle Stedman

Dr. Murray: Good luck with the next phase of your life's adventure. I have appreciated how accessible, supportive, and warm you've been here in the department, and know you'll be an asset wherever you go. Good luck with that, and stay in touch.

Love,
Chrissy Auger

Dr. Murray –

I wanted to confess something to you. I wanted to tell you that you have a gift, and when you share that gift it is impossible to leave untouched. Thank you for all of your hard work, and for the unbroken dedication you tackle everything with. You make it all look easy. And even though I know where to find you, I'm still going to miss you. Basically, you're awesome. In short, "You Rock!"

—Lauren Oettinger

Dr. Murray,

From the first time I met you at incoming TA orientation, I knew you were someone I wanted to be around. Everyone likes to joke with you about your metaphysical attitude and positive take on life, but I promise you it is something we all admire and appreciate. We all have unique gifts, but the balance that you bring to the FYC program and to the English department in general is a HUGE asset that has helped make our program what it is today. Thank you for your instruction; thank you for your willingness to listen; thank you for the way in which you rephrase my questions, causing me to rethink and discover new answers inside of me that I never knew existed. While I hope to see you around here, good luck in all you do and enjoy the journey.

—Micheal Taber

You were the very first person that most of us met during our Fall 2007 FYC orientation, and I couldn't have wished for a better mentor to welcome me and all the other extremely nervous TAs. Your calm demeanor and reassuring tone seemed to tell us that everything would be alright-- as much as our fears and doubts about teaching tried to persuade us otherwise! Thank you, Kim, for your selfless work during your tenure as assistant director of composition. I know that I will carry your invaluable instruction with me throughout the rest of my future career as a teacher and scholar.

All the best,
Richard Ellman

Dear Kim,

Thank you for all you've contributed to the FYC program and the department over the years. Thank you, especially, for taking on Joe. Nobody else could have done it with as much poise and grace :-) You will truly be missed!

Warmly,
Lee Davidson

Kim,

I just want to thank you for your guidance, wisdom, patience, and dedication to myself and all of the other GTAs these past few years. You've been a very positive influence on my growth as a teacher, and I can't thank you enough for it.

-- Erin Trauth

More Letters on p. 9

More Letters of Gratitude to Dr. Kim Murray

I hope that the kind words you are reading wash over you, fill you with joy, and carry you towards your next adventure. You deserve this praise. My only regret is that words do no justice in comparison to the service you have unconditionally provided to this department, this program, and our spirits. Your ear and your guidance will be missed. Thank you for hugging me, even when I didn't know I was being hugged.

—Taylor Mitchell

Dear Dr. Murray,
Thank you so much for all of your help and advice through the course of this academic year. I will really miss your expertise coupled with your energy and enthusiasm. Best of luck in all future pursuits.

—Ben Gerds

Dear Kim,
Thanks for all you did to help me through my time working with the Mentoring Program. You always treated me as if I were a colleague rather than a student needing supervision, and I appreciate that so much.

Best wishes for your future endeavors,
Ginna Wilkerson

Dr. Kim Murray has been an integral part of my success as a student and a teacher during my time at USF. Her kindness and encouragement have made me a better, more confident teacher every semester that she has worked with me. As my professor in the Writing Center Practicum this semester, she has made me a better writer and a scholar. She will be tremendously missed.

—Megan McIntyre

I'd just like to say thanks, Dr. Murray, for the care and compassion you've given to the FYC program. You've been nothing but a joy to work with (and under)!

Thanks,

Cameron Hunt-Logan

John Quincy Adams once put leadership this way: "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." I think we can safely say this about our colleague, Kim Murray, who will be sorely missed. Her perennial smile, her upbeat attitude, and her willingness to work with others helped make our community a positive place. I will remember her smile most of all as an encouragement. However, it is her willingness to reflect on her own values and listen to others that inspires graduate students and adjuncts to become leaders as well. In short, our department has the call "to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more" because of her tenure here. -

—Quentin Vieregge

Dr. Murray will be missed! She is outgoing, personable, and always willing to help. I wish her the best of luck with her future, and I know her new university will find her as valuable as we did!

—Lindsay Sloan

Dear Dr. Murray,

It is difficult to imagine this department without you in it. Your contributions to the FYC program and to our daily lives have been immeasurable. Your constant smile and positive attitude is infectious, and I am so sorry to see you go. Thank you for helping all of us reach our awesomeness level.

With much love and respect,

—Jessica McKee

For Dr. Murray--

You've been a light house, and I hate to see you go. But change is constant, and obviously the stars have something great in store for you. With an abundance of gratitude, I thank you for being the Statue of Liberty, and allowing me (and many of my colleagues) to lay my burdens at your feet. Thank you for walking in a spirit of love and peace, for you embody a feng sheu that allowed our meetings, our conversations, our teachings with one another to be as comfortable as your office. You will be sorely missed, but I know the rest of the world should be able to benefit from your goodness as I have. It is my hope that we see each other again. You are my friend, and so instead of saying good bye, I'll just say, see you later.

--Kendra Bryant