Message from Graduate Director

This month many members of our department will be attending the SAMLA conference in Atlanta, and in December some of us will go to the MLA convention. This prompts me to write about the importance of professional organizations in your graduate career. As you pursue your MA, MFA, or PhD, you can greatly benefit from membership in one or more professional organizations. For PhD students, I would go so far as to say that it is essential that you belong to the appropriate major professional organization for your field. For literature students this is obviously the Modern Language Association, or MLA, which holds its annual meeting at the end of December or, starting in 2011, in the first week of January. All English department and Foreign Language graduate students benefit from membership in the MLA. However, rhetoric and composition students arguably find a better professional home with the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), which holds the annual CCCC’s, the discipline-defining conference for rhetoric and composition. MFA students should also belong to the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) and attend its annual conference.

While many of you are aware of the importance of presenting your writing at conferences (and presenting at these major national meetings is a mark of special achievement), you may not be aware of the other benefits for you as graduate students. In the first case, most of these associations have reduced fees for graduate students. The MLA has a Committee on the Status of Graduate Students in the Profession (www.mla.org/comm_grad) that gathers data and reports on issues relevant to your career and also provides an outlet for your concerns. Many professional organizations have a Graduate Student Caucus that offers panels on and for graduate students and provides leadership opportunities. Some have special awards for graduate student presentations or research or travel grants. Becoming a member of the organization gives you access to all of these resources. While the larger organizations provide opportunities for grand scale networking, the smaller organizations are in many ways a better place for graduate students to gain a foothold. Each subdiscipline in English Studies has a main organization to which you should consider belonging. For example, the Medieval Academy of America: http://www.medievalacademy.org/; the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies: http://www.medievalacademy.org/; or the North American Eighteenth-Century Caucus that offers panels on and for Eighteenth-Century composition students. 

New Post-Doctoral Fellow Jeff Strabone

What subjects did you / are you publishing(ing) in?
My periods are eighteenth-century British and romanticism. My article on Samuel Johnson and Scotland is forthcoming in ELH. During my fellowship at USF, I will be working on turning my dissertation into a book and publishing articles on a Scots ballad fragment, Allan Ramsay’s poetry, and Coleridge’s poem “Christabel.”

What classes are you or will you be teaching?
This fall I am teaching a topics course called “Literary Barbarians: Revising the Nation in Eighteenth-Century Britain.” The course examines the role that literature played in questions of Britishness after England and Scotland formed the United Kingdom in 1707. It covers a wide range of genres: poetry, novels, ballads, travelogues, lectures on rhetoric, periodical essays. Anyone who uses one form of language at university and a different one at home should be able to relate to the questions of language and culture that Britons faced in the eighteenth century.

How would you describe the class?
I always want students to be able to critically interpret formal and generic features of literature and to be able to make evidence-based arguments about the meanings...
Professional Organizations

American Comparative Literature Association:
http://www.acla.org/

American Literature Association (ALA):
http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/english/alas2/; the Society of Technical Communication (STC): http://stc.org/; or the Association of Teachers of Technical Writing (ATTW): http://cms.english.ttu.edu/attw

Joseph Conrad Society:
http://www.englt.univ.edu/~jgpeters/Conrad/

Marlowe Society of America:
http://www.marlowesmightyline.org

Medieval Academy of America:
http://www.medievalacademy.org

Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society:
http://mrds.eserver.org

Modernist Studies Association (MSA):
http://msa.press.jhu.edu

North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA):
http://www.cla.purdue.edu/academic/engl/navsa/index.cfm

National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE):
http://www.ncte.org/ccce

Shakespeare Association of America:
http://www.shakespeareassociation.org

International Society for the Study of Narrative Literature (SSNL):
http://narrative.georgetown.edu

Society of Early Americanists:
http://www.societyofearlyamericanists.org

Society for Technical Communication:
http://stc.org/

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

Message Continued


Professional Organizations

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that inhere in them. In order to do that, they have to be able to appreciate the historical plasticity of genre. What does it mean, for instance, for a poet to take Augustan pastoral and fill it with Scots diction? What ideas about the nation may lie behind such choices? Through Blackboard and class discussions of the assigned readings, we try to answer such questions.

What is your favorite / least favorite memory of graduate school?
The best part of grad school was writing the dissertation. It can be a very isolating time. I encourage graduate students to stick together and encourage each other while they are writing. It is easy to fall into a hole.

What are your first impressions of USF and/or Tampa Bay?
Everyone at USF has been very generous and welcoming. I don't think I've ever been in such a friendly place before. As a non-driver, I am amazed by all the cars. I cannot understand why a city of this size does not have some sort of rail network. I miss the social aspect of public transportation.

What interests/hobbies/activities do you have outside of work?
Except for my undergraduate years at Dartmouth, I have always lived in big cities, chiefly New York. I like to soak up the city: its arts, its energy, its opportunities for feeling grand. I spend a lot of time looking at art, listening to music, and going to the theatre. I like a lot of contemporary artists: Richard Serra, Gerhard Richter, Kara Walker, the Chapmans. David Byrne and Jean-Michel Basquiat are two big extra-curricular obsessions of mine. In film, I like Iranian and Taiwanese directors. They are doing exciting things with the experience of cinematic time. I also think we are very fortunate to be living in a golden age of television.

What news would you like to share with us?
My two cats love it here. They have never had so much space before.
Writers’ Harvest, Poets Give Thought for Food

Dear Students, Staff, and Faculty:

On October 23, the MFA Program sponsored the first of what will be many Writers’ Harvests at the Karma Bar and Café in downtown Tampa. Not only was the place packed—standing room only and well over 120 in attendance!—but the event raised $365 dollars and over 200 lbs. of canned foods that night alone, all of which went to America’s Second Harvest of Tampa Bay.

This event had been in the works since the middle of the summer. I would like to thank all the MFA students who pitched in and helped make this program possible. To Jim Miller, my right-hand man, for his energy and generosity and ideas and organizational skills, and most importantly, his sanity. To Liz Kicak for designing beautiful flyers and posters. To Bryan Rice who packed his tiny, tiny clown car with cans and delivered them to America’s Second Harvest every week. To Lauren Oetinger, our raffle prize coordinator, who made everything look beautiful. To Melissa Carroll and Jaquira Díaz who collected money and cans and gave out raffle tickets at the door. To Mary Jo Tutterow who sold books. To Brandon Pettit who snapped off pictures. To the English Department staff—Deedra, Jerry, Lee—who contributed to our copying needs and helped publicize Writers’ Harvest. To Erin Trauth, Shawn Alf, Lauren Oetinger, and Jared White (who recently got engaged; please congratulate him!) for reading their work and introducing our featured readers. To our featured readers—Alicia Thompson, Karen Brown, John Fleming, Hunt Hawkins—for reading and donating their books as raffle prizes. To our wonderful USF students and community for coming. Without any of you, Writers’ Harvest would not have gotten out of the planning stage.

The MFA program will continue to collect cans until November 20. Since September, and including the total we collected during the reading itself, we have gathered over 700 lbs. of food. Let’s try to reach a goal of 1000 lbs. Boxes will be inside the English Department office and outside my office door (CPR 332). We collected $365. There are 365 days in a year, 365 opportunities to give, 365 to do what is right.

—Ira Sukrungruang

Graduate Accomplishments

BOB BATECHELOR

PAUL CORRIGAN

ALAN GREEN

JIM MILLER


KAT ROBINSON was awarded the 2009 Smith-Reynolds Founders Fellowship from the Hemingway Society for her research on Ernest Hemingway’s Across the River and into the Trees.

“Manuscripts: The Role of Trauma in Hemingway’s Progression: The Importance of Across the River and into the Trees.” American Literature Association Symposium. Savannah, GA. 9 October 2009.

MANTRA ROY

KYLE STEDMAN

GINNA WILKERSON

Alumni News

GREG GIBERSON (PhD 2004) is currently an Assistant Professor at Oakland University in the Department of Writing and Rhetoric. He is an assistant writing program administrator and the chief adviser for the undergraduate writing and rhetoric majors, and he is an assistant editor of the journal, WPA: Writing Program Administration.


VALERIE LIPS.COMB (PhD 2004) received an Excellence in Teaching Award from the USF Sarasota-Manatee chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success.
Fellowships for Doctoral Candidates

The Graduate School will be sponsoring a new fellowship opportunity for doctoral students who have reached candidacy. Named the Provost’s Doctoral Candidacy Award, these fellowships carry a stipend of $20,000 each for two years with $600.00 for travel per year. The Graduate School plans to award five beginning in the 2010-2011 year. The applications must be student-generated (as opposed to the Presidential Fellowships), and the winning application must demonstrate high performance and productivity thus far in the doctoral program. So, students with a record of publication and high achievement on exams and coursework will be eligible. Although the exact details of the application process have not yet been finalized, the following details will be involved. A letter that asserts the candidate’s qualifications will be expected from the dissertation director. Students should either expect to enter candidacy at the start of the fall 2010 term (those passing PhD exams in spring) or have entered candidacy within three terms of the application deadline (Fall 2009, Spring 2009, Fall 2008). The deadline will be February 1, 2010. Please look for details in the near future on the Graduate School Website under Funding Opportunities, [http://www.grad.usf.edu/grants.asp](http://www.grad.usf.edu/grants.asp). For TAs entering their fourth or especially their fifth year of funding, this is an EXCELLENT opportunity to gain time without teaching responsibilities to finish the dissertation and work on publication. If you have any questions, please contact the graduate director. You should also note that there are other awards available from the Graduate School listed on this website, in particular the Graduate Student Success Fellowships. You should take every opportunity to apply for grants and fellowships as these give you much needed economic assistance and also enhance your CV.

Faculty Achievements

JAY HOPLER is the winner of the 2009 Whiting Writers’ Award.

YLCE IRIZARRY


IRA SUKRUNGRUANG


SUSAN COOK


KATHERINE RIEGEL

PRECIOUS MCKENZIE-STEARN


Events

Placement Committee Workshop
Monday, 16 November:
So you’ve applied. Now what? Putting the next six weeks to best use.

Monday, 30 November:
Interviewing Strategies
If you plan to attend either of the two workshops, please send us the relevant documents in advance (by noon the day of the meeting is fine) so that we can make enough copies to distribute to everyone at the workshop. We are also more than happy to work with students one-on-one to review CVs, cover letters, and other application documents.

The Placement Committee is committed to assisting you in any way we can. Do not hesitate to contact us at mgould@cas.usf.edu.

Teaching Discussion Group
Our November meeting for the Teaching Discussion Group will be changed to the second Friday of the month, November 13th from 2:00-3:00 pm in CPR 343. Because many of us will be at SAMLA or, in my case, another conference, next week, I thought it would be best to reschedule the meeting.

Let me also remind you that everyone who is interested in discussing teaching is welcome to this group. It started as a follow-up group from our discussions in the Teaching Literature Practicum, but I believe the department as a whole benefits from having continued conversations around issues in teaching. We can learn from one another and develop skills and options in the classroom. So, please come. This time we will be discussing an article called “Learning About Obligation, Compassion, and Global Justice: The Place of Contemplative Pedagogy,” by David Kahane in New Directions for Teaching and Learning, no. 118, Summer 2009: 49-60. This is available on the Blackboard Organization English Graduate Students Information, Discussion Board. It is also available through the library databases. If you would like a PDF emailed to you, please contact Dr. Runge.

Humanities Institute Events
Andy Huse (USF Library) will discuss his book The Columbia Restaurant: Celebrating a Century of History, Culture, and Cuisine. Wednesday, November 4th in the Grace Allen Room, 4th Floor Library, reception at 2:00, talk at 2:30.

Ezra Cappell (University of Texas at Paso) will discuss “American Talmud: ‘What is Jewish about Jewish American Fiction.’” Dr. Cappell recently published American Talmud: The Cultural Work of Jewish American Fiction, Co-sponsored by the Department of World Languages

Thursday, Nov. 5th in the Grace Allen Room, 4th Floor of the Library. Reception at 11:30, talk at 12:00.

Aaron Santesso (Georgia Institute of Technology) will discuss “James Bond in Tampa.” Co-sponsored by the USF Library. Monday, November 23rd in the Grace Allen Room, 4th Floor Library, reception at 5:00, talk at 5:30.

Works in Progress
Graduate students are invited to join the works-in-progress group in CPR 343 from 1-3 p.m on Monday, November 9 to discuss Dr. Michael Clune’s work.

EGSA Meeting
Graduate students are invited to an EGSA meeting on Thursday, November 12th at 3:30 in CPR 257. We will be discussing our plans for the spring conference. Please join us!
Calls for Papers

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 sextuthardboreldom@gmail.com.

Arab Culture in the U.S. Bowling Green, Ohio 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://etxupa.org/documents/48.html

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@unc.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 mitchfrye@gmail.com.

Battleground States Conference 2010: War(s) and Peace 26-27 February 2010 Bowling Green, Ohio Submission Deadline: 4 December 2009 Submissions should include the title, abstract, presenter’s name, institutional affiliation, contact information, A-V equipment requests, and special needs, if any. Send submissions to battlegroundstates@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 aegs.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.

European Popular Culture and Literature 10-13 February 2010 Albuquerque, New Mexico Southwest/Texas Popular and American Culture Association Submission Deadline: 1 December 2009 Send a short curriculum vitae and a 250-350 word abstract or/and panel proposal to mjonet@nmseu.edu.

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: swgradconference@gmail.com.

Space, Place, and Travel in Literature Tulsa, Oklahoma 26-28 March 2010 Submission Deadline: 31 January 2010 Abstracts of no more than 300 words for papers not exceeding 20 minutes should be submitted to the organizers at: english-conf-grad@utulsa.edu.

Rhetoric 2.0: Continuity and Change from the Oral Tradition to the Digital Age Denton, Texas 12 February 2009 Submission Deadline: 1 December 2009 Federation Rhetoric Symposium Email submissions to rhetoric2.0@gmail.com. For further information, please refer to the conference website: http://web.me.com/ablackwellstarnes/FRS_2010/FRS_2010Home.html

Humanities Education & Research Association, El Paso, Texas 11-13 March 2010 Submission Deadline: 15 November 2009 All proposals should include paper title(s) and a one-paragraph abstract for each paper proposed either singly or as part of a panel. Send all proposals by email to both: Dr. Marcia Green, email: mgreen@fau.edu and Dr. Ronald Weber email: rweber@utep.edu. For other registration and program information consult the HERA website at www.h-e-r-a.com.

Language 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 aewson@lagrange.edu.

The Classical Influence South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Salt Lake City, Utah 25-27 February 2009 Submission Deadline: 1 December 2009 Send an abstract of the proposed paper to aspengear@uco.edu or to Susan Spencer, Professor of English, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond OK 73034.

Anything but Silence Graduate Student Conference Tampa, Florida 25-27 March 2009 Submission Deadline: 15 December 2009 Send submissions to uf.egsa.conference@gmail.com.

“Violence in Paradise: The Caribbean,” a special issue of Anglistica A.I.O.N. an Interdisciplinary Journal Submission Deadline: 15 December 2009 Submissions are invited for publication in “Violence in Paradise: the Caribbean,” edited by Irline François (francois@geoucher.edu) and Marie-Hélène Laforest (m.laforest@alice.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 way 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.

“Home/sickness: Decay, Desire, and the Seduction of Nostalgia” Gainesville, Florida Keynote Address 13 November 2009 You are invited to the keynote address of the University of Florida’s English graduate conference. The address will be given by Dominick LaCapra (Cornell) at Ustler Atrium http://campusmap.ufl.edu/. Dominick LaCapra holds a joint appointment in the Department of Comparative Literature and is a member of the graduate field of Romance Studies and the program in Jewish Studies. Throughout his prolific career, he has been interested in the relationships between intellectual and cultural history and critical theory, which he sees as closely related fields of inquiry. His teaching interests range widely in the areas of modern European intellectual and cultural history, historiography, trauma studies, history and literature, and critical theory. His publications include thirteen individually-authored books and two edited or co-edited. Co-sponsored by the English Graduate Organization, English Department, and Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere Lecture is free and open to the public. For more information on the conference: http://www.english.ufl.edu/ego/conference09/index.html. For further information contact ego09atuf@gmail.com.

You are invited to the keynote address of the University of Florida’s English graduate conference. The address will be given by Dominick LaCapra (Cornell) at Ustler Atrium http://campusmap.ufl.edu/ Dominick LaCapra holds a joint appointment in the Department of Comparative Literature and is a member of the graduate field of Romance Studies and the program in Jewish Studies. Throughout his prolific career, he has been interested in the relationships between intellectual and cultural history and critical theory, which he sees as closely related fields of inquiry. His teaching interests range widely in the areas of modern European intellectual and cultural history, historiography, trauma studies, history and literature, and critical theory. His publications include thirteen individually-authored books and two edited or co-edited. Co-sponsored by the English Graduate Organization, English Department, and Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere Lecture is free and open to the public. For more information on the conference: http://www.english.ufl.edu/ego/conference09/index.html. For further information contact ego09atuf@gmail.com.
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**NOVEMBER 2009**

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**DECEMBER 2009**