

# Think-Write-Read

## UNCG English Department Newsletter

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### From the Department Head



There is a novel—a British novel, I believe—that begins by referencing the best of times and the worst of times. Since becoming Department Head in August, I have come to realize how aptly the phrase captures the current situation of the English Department.

It is unfortunate that documenting the worst of times is perhaps the easier of the two tasks. Due to the budget cuts of the last several years, we find it increasingly difficult to offer an ideal range and number of courses from the freshman level to the graduate level. The last two years have seen the loss of four colleagues: Keith Cushman to retirement, and Kelly Ritter, Rebecca Black, and Mary Ellis Gibson to resignation,

either to take academic positions elsewhere or to pursue other career choices. With three other faculty members (Jim Evans, Walter Beale, and Elizabeth Chiseri-Strater) on phased retirement and thus scheduled to leave our faculty soon, the Department will see within the space of four years the loss of seven faculty members. Worse than their being irreplaceable is that we aren't replacing them. Although we are delighted to welcome Lavinia Hirsu in the field of Rhetoric and Composition, we wish that there were more welcoming to be done. For the near future, however, new hires in the Department—and in the College of Arts and Sciences as a whole—seem unlikely.

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I am very excited to be part of a vibrant community of scholars and teachers at UNCG. Here, I have met dedicated colleagues and students who are determined to make the best of their academic careers. I look forward to sharing my own passion for research and teaching with you, and, based on my areas of interest, I hope to work on a wide range of projects that will expand the knowledge that we are all contributing to.

In my research, I focus on digital rhetoric (with a specific focus on visual rhetoric), cultural/global rhetorics, and theories of multilingualism. I have recently completed my PhD in Composition, Literacy, and Culture at Indiana University. The book project that emerges from my doctoral work focuses on visual literacy in global contexts. More specifically, in this project I look at the ways in which images circulate in global contexts and are mediated by digital technologies. Based on several case studies of viral circulation, I articulate a pedagogical framework that accounts for the multiple exigencies that composers encounter across different cultural and digital platforms. My interest in cultural rhetorics goes back to my MA work in TESOL at Iowa State University where I studied the interactional patterns between international students and their American peers. My own life path from Romania to the US has also fueled my curiosity for cultural rhetorics and digital media. As a teacher, I have had many opportunities to work with different groups of students, ranging from first-year writers to multilingual, advanced and first-generation college students. I consider myself a researcher-teacher, and my projects often take the classroom environment and students' work as their point of departure. To keep my energy up, I enjoy hiking, dancing, practicing yoga, and playing games with my 5-year old son.

I look forward to learning more about the UNCG community and the projects that you are engaged in. I hope we'll all have a fantastic academic year ahead of us! -L. H.

### Welcome Lavinia



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THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA  
**GREENSBORO**

Department of English

# Bon Voyage!



She might be retiring, but that doesn't mean she will be slowing down. Elizabeth Chiseri-Strater will be teaching her last semester at UNCG in the spring, but her role as the chief editor for *The Greensboro Voice*, a newspaper written by and for the Greensboro homeless population, will continue to keep her busy.

Published since 2010, the aim of this newspaper is to give a voice and bolster awareness for this often-ignored portion of the population. Her role at the newspaper includes conducting interviews, editing, and soliciting current and formerly homeless people to submit articles and attend the meetings held at Scuppernon's. In addition to continuing this role, Chiseri-Strater will be traveling for longer periods of time, including taking a trip to the western part of the U.S. where her daughter, Alisha, lives and farms. Last summer, Chiseri-Strater and her husband, Jim, traveled to Paris, Turin, and Ontario. Over the past few years she has not only worked to help others become better writers through community outreach, but she and her co-author, Bonnie Stone Sunstein, published the fourth edition of *Fieldworking: Reading and Writing Research*, their guide for more traditional students. Although Chiseri-Strater will not miss the faculty meetings, she will miss her colleagues, students, and the challenge of curriculum design. Congratulations on 20 years of service at UNCG and good luck with all your future endeavors, Elizabeth!

-A. T.

The halls of the English department offices have been noticeably quieter this semester. No longer is Keith Cushman singing on his way to the mail room and beyond. After 38 years, he bid farewell to the English Department over the summer to retire. He has written extensively on many authors, but much of his scholarly work has focused on D. H. Lawrence. He is currently co-editing a special number of the *D. H. Lawrence Review* that is devoted to *Sons and Lovers*. Next spring he will attend the annual D. H. Lawrence conference in Paris. In addition to Paris, he says that "Turkey and Myanmar are at the top of my travel wish list." While at home in Greensboro he will continue his "happy obsession" with *The Met Live in HD* and singing with the Choral Society of Greensboro. He did note that he will miss the students and discussing the plays they read and see, as well as his colleagues, but he will not miss grading. Within the department Cushman is well known for his departmental-themed compositions set to show tunes that he would perform with his colleagues during the annual Recognition Ceremony. While the performances ceased since I joined the department, the tales of them have become legend. The English Department certainly wishes you well on all of your plans in Greensboro and abroad!

-A. T.





# To Cleave

A child pointed at the crow.  
He called it

a bad owl.  
He sensed an omen

before he even learned the word.

It's like how we know to cry  
before we know how to say

I am sad.

Or how a murder of crows  
is made of couples  
that mate for life.

It's how ravel can mean either  
to tangle  
or to untangle,

how ravel and  
unravel  
can mean the same thing.

It's how I know your leaving  
sounded like a string  
breaking on a harp

without ever having heard it before.



Poem by Caitlin McCann  
M.F.A. Class of 2016

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For a Department Head, there are some advantages to such a situation. As one of my colleagues pointed out, being Head is easy in these times because our answer to every request is “there’s no money.” The line got a laugh, but such gallows humor isn’t really funny.

The solution isn’t, as the talking point has it, to do more with less. One does less with less, and if one had more, one could do more. At the same time – and this will begin to round toward the best of times – the English Department at UNCG does some amazing things, even in the worst of times.

A firm called Academic Analytics tracks research productivity among Ph.D.-granting universities, and it shows that among English departments, UNCG ranks in the top quartile nationally in overall research productivity. That’s especially impressive enough when you consider that we are significantly under-funded relative to most of our peers. Among UNC campuses, we rank first, well ahead of N.C. State and Chapel Hill, and in some areas we rank ahead of schools such as Brown and the University of Chicago. We believe that this makes a difference, not only in reputation, but in the quality of instruction we can provide to our students. As I put together the course schedule, I am proud that students at UNCG can take classes not just from teachers current in the knowledge of their respective fields, but teachers who are producing that knowledge. Even better, this is true not just here and there, but throughout the range of English studies – in literature, creative writing, and rhetoric and composition.

But it’s not just that our students have access to some great teachers. Our teachers have access to some great students. I won’t claim that I hear teachers delighted to be grading midterms, and I won’t say it’s unknown

to hear them complain that two students didn’t turn in their papers. What I do hear mostly is that, all things considered, they truly enjoy teaching students at UNCG. Professors will gripe about grading forty essays, but they’ll also stop a colleague in the hall to talk about their great section of English 305 or the fabulous essay they received on *The Tempest*.

On other fronts as well, we have good news. The great generosity of the Class of 1952 will allow the Department to expand its offerings of Excellence Professorships and the programming that goes along with them, including this year’s celebration of Randall Jarrell organized by Stuart Dischell. We’re hoping likewise to expand our undergraduate scholarships by tapping previously underutilized funds. Even with cutbacks in programming, we’re offering an excellent slate of readings and lectures, including one from our former colleague Russ McDonald, who will visit as part of the year-long Shakespeare and Galileo series.

There’s no question that greater resources could make our Department better. The happy news is that even in times of shortage, things could be worse.

-S. R.

# Notable Graduate Students

**Brenta Blevins** won a 2014 College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award.

**Melissa Elmes** won the 2014-15 Cloniger-Stout Award she has also been accepted in a Folger Institute seminar to be held from January to April of 2015.

**Joe George** won the 2013 UNCG Outstanding Dissertation Award for "Neighborhood Associations: Security and Hospitality in American Suburban Fiction," directed by Dr. Christian Moraru.

**Abigail Lee** won the 2013 Graduate Student Essay Award for "The Collapsed Long Space: Genre in *Cane* and *Crossing the River*," written for Dr. Alexandra Moore's ENG 729: Postcolonial Literatures in the Fall 2013 semester.

**Leah Milne** was awarded the 2014 Mildred Kates Dissertation Fellowship she also won the 2014 UNCG English Department Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award.

**Lauren Shook** was chosen to be on the 2013-2014 Chancellor's Report of Top UNCG student honors for her participation in a yearlong colloquium at the Folger Institute.

# Notable Undergraduate Students

## 2014 Phi Beta Kappa Inductees

Nicole Given      Tristan Munchel  
Ashley Mchone      Julie Rilling  
Caitlin Meredith

## 2014 Student Excellence Award Winners

Tristan Munchel  
Eliana Mundala  
Holly Setzer

## 2014-15 Scholarship Recipients

Lauren Beard, Matthew Harris, Caroline Somerville, and Ethan Walsh won Amy M. Charles Memorial Scholarships.

Rachel Chaney & Janna Ptak won Ruth McKaughan & W. Bryan Carter Scholarships.

Matthew Johnson won an Ethel Stephens Arnett Scholarship.

Taylor Kane won a Leonard B. Hurley Scholarship, an Emmett J. and Clara C. King Scholarship, and a Winfield Scholarship.

Austin Palenick won an Elizabeth Robinson Fort Scholarship.

## 2013-14 English Department Undergraduate Essay Contest

Christina Ratley won the Critical Essay Competition for "Spurious Sanctity: Exploring Liminal Space and the Question of Agency in *Outer Dark*" written for Dr. Romine's English 333: Southern Writers in the Spring 2014 semester.

Greiner McAlister won the Research Essay Competition for "Autism as a Persona: Neurotypical Authors Adopting Neurodiverse Narrators," written for her Honors Work with Dr. Roskelly in the Spring 2014 semester.

## 2013-14 Sigma Tau Delta Inductees

Danielle Austin  
Rachel Beebe  
Christina Blankenship  
Elizabeth Carlin  
Olivia Cline  
Brittany Garner  
Emily Gering  
Martha Hammer  
Taylor Kane  
Sacia Listenbee  
Hope Loman  
Courtney Luchey  
Melissa Martin  
Elizabeth Rogers  
Amanda Shoaf  
Stacy Stone

# Graduates with Honors

## Summa Cum Laude

Elizabeth A. Carlin (Spring 2014)  
Caroline M. Greiner (Spring 2014)  
Ashley B. Mchone (Spring 2014)  
Eliana A. Mundula (Spring 2014)  
Julie A. Rilling (Fall 2013)  
Amanda N. Wilson (Fall 2013)

## Magna Cum Laude

Jessica N. Armstron (Summer 2014)  
Samantha M. Burkhardt (Spring 2014)  
Robert A. Craft (Spring 2014)  
Nicole M. Given (Spring 2014)  
Kathryn J. Hesman (Fall 2013)

Jonathan D. Melo (Fall 2013)  
Caitlin S. Meredith (Spring 2014)  
Tristan B. Muchel (Spring 2014)  
Jennifer M. Phillips (Fall 2013)  
Kristin K. Ramsey (Fall 2013)  
Holly A. Setzer (Spring 2014)  
Amanda L. Shoaf (Spring 2014)  
Mandy Widmark (Spring 2014)

## Cum Laude

Danielle L. Austin (Spring 2014)  
Rachel F. Beebe (Spring 2014)  
Christina M. Blankenship (Spring 2014)  
Alexandria T. Bova (Spring 2014)  
Autumn R. Brehon (Spring 2014)  
Amanda J. Brooks (Fall 2013)  
Dustin K. Davis (Fall 2013)  
Bradley W. Dillard (Fall 2013)  
Lisa F. Hardin (Fall 2013)  
Casey A. Hudgins (Spring 2014)  
Schuyler Hunt (Spring 2014)  
Marie E. Hylton (Spring 2014)  
Joshua A. Jones (Spring 2014)  
Sacia A. Listenbee (Spring 2014)  
Tifaney L. Millwood (Spring 2014)  
Christiana N. Sevits (Spring 2014)  
Anna M. Smith (Spring 2014)  
Elicia A. Woehrman (Summer 2014)

# Recent MFA Readings and Events

Information on upcoming MFA reading and events  
can be found here:

<http://mfagreensboro.org/events/>

## Spring 2014

The Randall Jarrell Centennial Symposium and Celebration took place on April 24 and 25, 2014. Several events took place, along with presentations by Stephen Burt, Fred Chappell, Anthony Cuda, and Linda Gregerson.

Maria Hummel read from her poetry collection, *House and Fire*, on April 17, 2014.

Jeffrey Greene read poetry on April 3, 2014.

Terry Kennedy read poetry on March 24, 2014.

Michael Parker read from his book, *All I Have in this World*, on March 20, 2014.

Ethan Hauser read from his debut novel, *The Measures Between Us*, on March 6, 2014.

At the Faculty Tribute to Randall Jarrell several MFA faculty members read works by Jarrell in honor of his 100th birthday on February 28, 2014.

Roland Merullo held a fiction reading on February 20, 2014.

Shara Lessley read poetry on February 13, 2014.

Drew Perry read from his novel, *Kids These Days*, on January 30, 2014.

The first "Writers Meet Readers" O. Henry Book Fair took place on January 26, 2014. It featured 20 recently published, local writers.

## Fall 2013

'Will Read for Food' took place on November 21, 2013 and included readings from Rebecca Black, Stuart Dischell, Michael Gaspeny, Holly Goddard Jones, Rachel Richardson, and Lee Zacharias.

Sarah Lindsay read poetry on November 14, 2013.

Kelly Cherry and Jennifer Habel held a poetry reading on October 25, 2013.

Matt Hart read poetry on October 23, 2013.

Tom Kealey read poetry on October 10, 2013 from his collection, *Thieves I've Known*.

Craig Nova read from his novel, *All the Dead Yale Men* on October 3, 2013.

Terry Kennedy read poems from his debut collection, *New River Breakdown*, on September 20, 2013.



# Alumni News

**Cynthia Blanco** (B.A. 2006) was awarded the 2014-15 Harrington Fellowship in recognition of her dissertation research on the processing of accented speech by monolingual and bilingual listeners. She is completing her Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Texas at Austin.

**Autumn Rayn Brehon** (B.A. 2010) is teaching 9th grade English Language Arts at Yes Prep Fifth Ward, a top ranking public school, in Houston, Texas.

**Saundretta D. Caldwell-James** (B.A. 2008, M.Ed. 2012) is currently an Adjunct Professor at GTCC-Jamestown, where she teaches English as a foreign language in Developmental Writing Composition. She is also the CVO for Global Education Advocacy (GEA), where she uses the skills she acquired at UNCG to aid the global community in the area of education and professional development. To learn more, check out GEA's website: <http://internationaleduca8.wix.com/globaleduadvocacy>.

**Katie Fennell** (B.A. 2006, M.A. 2009) is currently working as a fact-checker and proofreader at *Our State* magazine. Previously she worked in higher education administration at Elon University School of Law and the UNCG Department of Dance.

**Liz Foster** (B.A. 2012) is currently pursuing her Masters degree at Liberty University for Secondary Education with a concentration in English. She hopes to secure a position as a middle school English teacher after she graduates. The English classes that she took at UNCG, most notably those with Dr. Robert Langenfeld, were an integral part in her decision to follow her current path. She is looking forward to instilling a love of reading and writing in the hearts of her future students.

**Josh Herron** (M.A. 2012) has transitioned from full-time Lecturer into the role of Instructional Designer in the Center for Innovation, Design, and Digital Learning at Anderson University in South Carolina. He is in his second year of pursuing a Ph.D. in Rhetorics, Communication, and Information Design at Clemson University.

**Glenn Lester** (M.F.A. 2009) is an Instructor in the Department of English and Modern Languages at Park University in Parkville, Missouri. He also acts as Program Coordinator for first-year writing courses and faculty advisor for the student literary magazine. Last year he published a story, "Thumbtack," in *Revolver*.

**Alana McCarter** (B.A. 2010) published her first devotional book, *Miss Me With Negativity*.

**Katie Ostrowka** (M.A. 2011) married **Mike Compton** (B.A. 2007) on August 8, 2014. Their wedding reception took place in UNCG's Alumni House and they currently reside in Astoria, New York. Katie works at HarperCollins Publishing in Manhattan.

**Jessica Plante** (M.F.A. 2013) is on the board of Anhinga Press in Tallahassee, Florida. She will have poems published in *Crab Orchard Review* and *Salamander* this fall.

**David Rogers** (Ph.D. 2012) is an Assistant Professor at Philadelphia University, where he also coordinates the Writing 1 Seminar.

**G. Warlock Vance** (Ph.D. 2010) teaches at a small North Carolina college. He has published several fiction pieces through Pallid Mask Publishing, including *The Dread and Portent of Lovecraft's Necronomicon*, *The Adventure of the Yellow Sign*, and *Scratch*. All three pieces are available on Amazon.com for download to Kindle devices.

**Crystal (Garren) Vandiver** (B.A. 2009) has been teaching at Northern Guilford High School for five years and is now the Curriculum Facilitator for the school. While she does still teach some English classes, her new role includes supporting new teachers in adjusting to the classroom and supporting veteran teachers with literacy across subject areas.

**Jillian Weise's** (M.F.A. 2004) recent book of poems, *The Book of Goodbyes*, won the 2013 James Laughlin Award from the Academy of American Poets. She is currently in Texas for the Lannan Residency Program.

**Corrie White** (M.F.A. 2013) is teaching English at Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

# Faculty Accomplishments

**Risa Applegarth** published *Rhetoric in American Anthropology: Gender, Genre, and Science* (University of Pittsburgh Press) this year.

**Jim Clark** received the Gladys Strawn Bullard Award last spring.

**Anthony Cuda** co-edited *The Complete Prose of T. S. Eliot, The Critical Edition. Vol. II: The Perfect Critic: 1919-1926* (Faber & Faber and Johns Hopkins University Press) this year. One of the essays from the collection was featured in the 50th anniversary issue of the *New York Review of Books*.

**Michelle Dowd's** *Early Modern Women on the Fall: An Anthology* won the 2013 Award for Best Teaching Edition from the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women.

**Jennifer Feather** co-edited *Violent Masculinities: Male Aggression in Early Modern Texts and Culture* (Palgrave MacMillan) last year.

**Chris Hodgkins's** *The Digital Temple* was named an Outstanding Academic Title for 2013 in *Choice* magazine.

**Holly Goddard Jones** won the 2014 Kentucky Literary Award for *The Next Time You See Me*.

**Terry Kennedy** published *New River Breakdown* (Unicorn Press) last fall.

**Karen Kilcup** co-edited *Over the River and Through the Wood: An Anthology of Nineteenth-Century American Children's Poetry* (Johns Hopkins University Press) last year. She was also selected as the Carlisle Distinguished Excellence Professor in Women's and Gender Studies for 2014-2018.

**Christian Moraru** was awarded a Fulbright Specialist Assignment in the Netherlands last spring.

**Noelle Morrissette** held a Lillian Gary Taylor Visiting Fellowship in American Literature from the University of Virginia Library's Harrison Institute for American History, Literature, and Culture last summer.

**Michael Parker** published *All I Have In This World: A Novel* (Algonquin Books) this year. His short story, "Deep Eddy," was included in the O. Henry Prize Stories 2014.

**Mark Rifkin** published *Settler Common Sense: Queerness and Everyday Colonialism in the American Renaissance* (University of Minnesota Press) this year.

**David Roderick** published *The Americans* (University of Pittsburgh Press) this year.

**Maria Sanchez** has been selected as a Hutchins Fellow at Harvard's W. E. B. Du Bois Research Institute for the 2014-15 academic year and she is the recipient of a Marc Friedlaender Faculty Excellence Award for 2014-15.

**Amy Vines** was awarded a Marc Friedlaender Faculty Excellence Award for the 2014-15 academic year.

## From the Desk of the Director of Graduate Studies: News from Michelle Dowd

The past academic year (2013-2014) was a very good one for our MA and PhD programs, and we expect the upcoming year to be an equally successful one for our students. In May, five students received their MA and four received their PhD. In August, two additional students graduated with their MA and four graduated with their PhD. For the fall of 2014, we welcomed eight new MA students to our program and eleven new doctoral students, representing a wide range of fields of interest, including medieval British literature, composition pedagogy, and nineteenth-century American literature.

In March of 2014, the English Graduate Student Association (EGSA) organized and hosted their sixth annual interdisciplinary conference on the theme: "Identity and Culture: Engaging Interdisciplinary Conversations." The conference was a big success, featuring presenters from Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Washington D.C. and elsewhere. The current EGSA board for 2014-2015 plans to host a seventh annual conference in the spring of 2015.

Looking ahead a bit, our PhD program will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2017! To recognize this milestone, we hope to plan some events at UNCG involving current students, faculty, and alumni. If you would be interesting in participating in a 50th reunion event or have ideas for programs, speakers, or other activities, please contact the current Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Michelle Dowd (mmdowd@uncg.edu). Look for more information about our 50th Anniversary Celebration in the months and years ahead!

Finally, we are always interested in hearing what alumni from our graduate programs are doing. We encourage you to send us updates and milestones and to keep us informed of your current contact information so that we can keep in touch with you! -M. D.

## From the Desk of the Director of Undergraduate Studies: News from Amy Vines

First, we are in the process of moving to centralized advising rather than the individual advising we've had for many years. The faculty and staff feel that this new advising structure will streamline the process both for professors and students. It will also provide more standardized information for our English majors about new requirements, graduation expectations, etc. We will launch our new system during the Spring 2015 advising season - stay tuned!

Second, we are pleased to be able to offer more Carter Scholarships to undergraduate English majors than ever before. The requirements for the scholarship are as follows: it can only be awarded to women who (1) are North Carolina residents, (2) have a 3.3 GPA, (3) major in English, (4) have a FAFSA on file showing financial need, and (4) do not have a UNCG parking permit. If you meet these requirements (especially if you can give up your parking permit for the year and pay as you go), please consider applying for this scholarship.

Finally, the English Department is excited to announce that we are restructuring our internship program, working closer than ever with local publications, non-profits, and other organizations to provide a wider variety of internship opportunities for our students. In the past, students have had to find their own internships with little help from the department. We are now dedicated to working with interested students to find the perfect position for an internship that will benefit their future career plans. Please contact Prof. David Roderick (drroderi@uncg.edu) for more information. -A. V.

We hope you enjoyed the newsletter!

If you would like to be included in Alumni News of the Fall 2015 newsletter please email Ms. Anna Tysor at [altysor@uncg.edu](mailto:altysor@uncg.edu). Make sure you include your full name, the year you graduated, and the degree you earned, along with the news you want to share. Please note that your news may be edited.

Stay connected with current happenings in the English Department through [our website](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).