

Think-Write-Read

UNCG English Department
Newsletter

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Welcome back, Ansel!

Ansel Elkins, a MFA graduate returns as a Visiting Assistant Professor this year and has shared a little about her current interests.

In my poetry classes this semester I'm challenging my students to step outside themselves and imagine the lives of others by writing poems in persona. Creating a mask can be a transformative experience for young writers, and allow them to imagine different ways of being in the world. In my own work I often use dramatic monologue to explore ideas of the monstrous. I am fascinated by people whose difference puts them on the margins of society, individuals who are cast as outsiders. A few years ago I learned about a pair of conjoined twins, Chang and Eng Bunker, who lived in Mt. Airy, and Millie-Christine McKoy, who lived in Whiteville, NC. As a poet

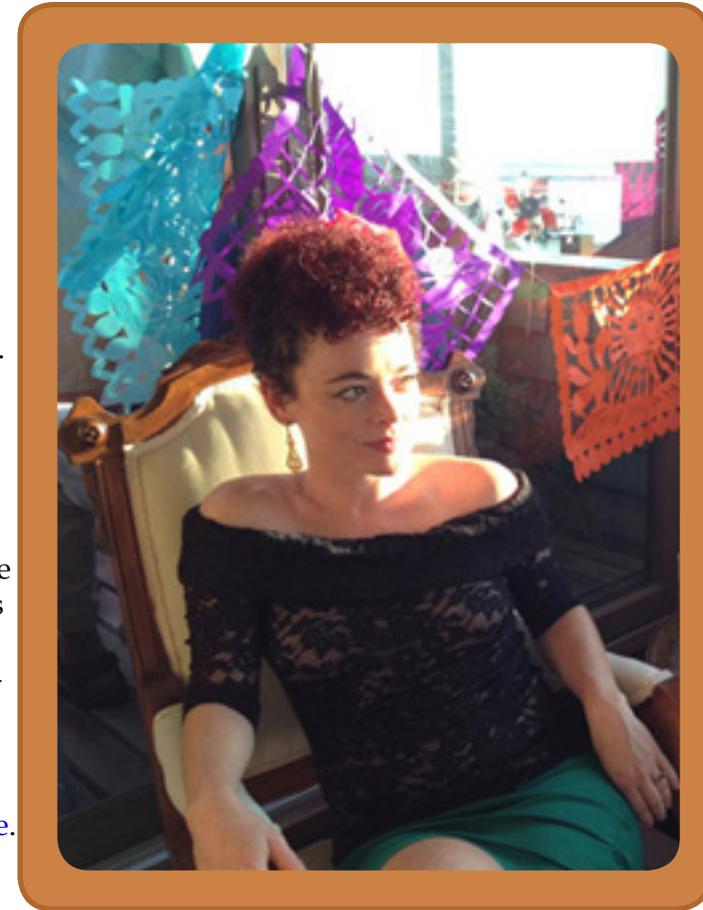
I am drawn to persona poems that inhabit plural perspectives, which is why the unique subjectivity of conjoined twins is so appealing to me. And, as a writer of Puerto Rican descent and a native of Alabama, I am compelled by the South's complex views of race. Both the Bunkers and the McKoys lived in North Carolina, where they confronted racism—in addition to their otherness as "freaks"—in largely white rural communities. This became a project I researched at American Antiquarian Society, and resulted in a series of

poems—one of these, "Adventures of the Double-Headed Girl," is included in my first collection, *Blue Yodel*.

This summer I researched and wrote a long essay on the poet Frank Stanford for the *Oxford American* magazine. The essay, "Last Panther of the Ozarks," explores Stanford as a mythic Southern poet and the tradition of Southern writers—Ellen Gilchrist, Walker Percy, Shelby Foote, James Dickey—that he came from. This essay can be found [online](#).

My current work was born from my love of watching pre-code movies from the 20s and 30s with women like Mae West, Clara Bow, and Marlene Dietrich. This led me to read the plays of Mae West like "Sex," "The Drag," and "Pleasure Man," and explore how these so-called bad girls, "fallen" women, mix power and danger and the risks of sexual freedom.

-A. E.



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THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA
GREENSBORO

Department of English

Mark Rifkin takes over as the new Director for the WGS Program

Last year, I received an email that the Women's and Gender Studies Program (WGS) was looking for a new Director. Since I was on research assignment at the time, I promptly filed the message and went back to working on my book project. However, I kept coming back to it; I couldn't stop thinking about the position. I had been wanting to be more involved in WGS for some time, but I had administrative responsibilities in English (as Associate Head) that took up too much of my focus to have time left for much else. Now that I had completed my service in that role, I found myself looking for a new challenge, for an opportunity to further grow and learn in my professional life. The directorship had opened up at the perfect time.

I was aware of the WGS program's strengths and immense potential as well as some of the structural difficulties it faces. Established in 1972, the program, one of the oldest in the country, offers an undergraduate major and minor, a master's degree, and a graduate certificate. The curriculum addresses histories of feminist movements, recent developments in scholarship on women and gender, the role of sexuality in contemporary culture, and transnational approaches in understanding gender and feminism. WGS provides a rich interdisciplinary education that engages the complexities of identity, politics, ethics, and justice – and the relations among them – in ways that are philosophically and intellectually rigorous while remaining committed to exploring the messy materiality of everyday life and struggles. For almost its entire history, though, WGS has relied on volunteer labor from faculty members whose appointments were in other departments. Relatively recently two tenure-stream positions were created in the program, and those two professors have had the responsibility for teaching almost all of the courses in WGS, due to other faculty members' commitments elsewhere. Other professors have taught WGS-markered courses in

their own departments (where students could take the classes for elective credit toward degrees in WGS), but very few people taught classes in the program proper.

One of my aims as director has been to try to shift that dynamic by having faculty members commit to teach a certain number of courses in WGS during the time they formally are cross-appointed in the program, while also specifying certain expectations for service on program-related committees. These changes help build a broader base for the program while integrating the incredible range of cross-appointed faculty's interests and expertise into WGS's core curricula, better allowing the program to benefit from their knowledge and experience. In addition, I'm working toward making the program more visible to potential students. Historically, students discover WGS later in their college careers, and this pattern has meant that we have fewer

majors and minors than we likely would if students were aware of the program earlier. To this end, we're creating a 100-level WGS course directed toward students in their first and second years that will introduce them to issues and questions that are central to the intellectual work of Women's and Gender Studies. We're also developing additional strategies to publicize our master's degree. We are the only WGS program that offers such a degree in the region, and it provides students with an interdisciplinary and intersectional understanding of the ways that gender, race, culture, class, and sexuality function in society that helps prepare students for work in academia, activism, and/or advocacy, among other possibilities.

My aim in the coming years is to build on the program's existing strengths and successes, themselves the result of the work done by many dedicated faculty members over many years (including a number of faculty members in the English Department).

If you would like more information on the WGS program, you can go to [our website](#).

-M. R.



Moving On:

Three longtime faculty members start a new stage of life in retirement.

After 45 years of teaching at UNCG, Dr. **Jim Evans** is retiring. In addition to teaching he has held many of the Administrative posts in the department, from the Department Head to, more recently, the Director of Undergraduate Studies. While on phased retirement he has enjoyed more time with his three grandchildren, since his daughter's family moved to Greensboro last year. He also wants to travel more and is planning a trip to Europe for late Spring. He hasn't completely ruled out teaching in the future, but this time it may be for the Emeritus Society. He will also continue his scholarship and is currently working on two essays and a third will be published in a MLA book soon. While he has picked up the new hobby of practicing yoga, he will also continue to play poker with fellow retirees Keith Cushman and Walter Beale. Like many other faculty members, he will not miss the faculty meetings, but he will miss his colleagues and discussing literature with students. -A.N.



Not to be outdone, Dr. **Walter Beale** is also retiring this year after 45 years at UNCG. While he has accomplished much throughout his career, he wished he had known "...the level of commitment and exertion required to be an honest-to-goodness scholar" when he started his career at the age of 26. He plans to carry that level of scholarly commitment and exertion into retirement as he works on a book on language and religion. He doesn't expect much to change in his daily life in Greensboro and will continue to be a self-described, "culture-vulture" and enjoy his social life. Unsurprisingly, Beale will most miss walking the departmental halls and stopping in colleague's offices for opinions and information. He spent much of his time at UNCG as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and as the Director of the Communication Across the Curriculum Program. -A.N.



Lastly, but certainly not least of all, Dr. **Hepzibah Roskelly** will be leaving UNCG after 26 years with the English Department. Looking back on her career, she said that she knew nothing when she started teaching as a 9th grade teacher, but over the years learned that being authentic to oneself and to inspire the students through your teaching was what she needed to learn to be a good teacher. Her retirement plans don't leave much time for relaxation since she will be teaching four workshops for high school writing teachers this summer and traveling to Florida (for baseball spring training) and Chicago (to visit her three-year-old granddaughter) in a retro trailer, she calls a "little canned ham," with her husband. At some point during all of this she will be moving back to Louisville, learning to play a fiddle, and working on some writing projects, including a mystery novel. -A.N.



Notable Graduate Students

Rachel Bowman won the 2nd prize in UNCG Graduate School's 2014 Three-Minute Thesis Competition for "The Embodied Rhetoric of United States Marine Corps Recruit Training."

Matthew Carter won the 2014 UNCG English Department's Graduate Essay Contest for his essay, "The Play of the Axe: Religious Pluralism and Arms in *Gawain and the Green Knight*" written for Amy Vines's English 537: Middle English Literature in the Spring 2014 semester.

Matthew Carter was selected as the recipient of the 2015 UNCG English Department's Mildred Kates Dissertation Fellowship.

Melissa Elmes won the 2015 Student Leader Award, one of UNCG's Student Excellence Awards.

Melissa Elmes won the UNCG College of Arts and Sciences Bernard Dissertation Fellowship for 2015-2016.

Melissa Elmes and **Alison Johnson** were co-recipients of the UNCG English Department's Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award for 2014-2015.

Stacy Rice, Emily Dolive, and Matt Phillips won the Class of 1952 English Graduate Student Mini-Grant Competition for Fall 2015.

Tina Romanelli won the SAMLA Graduate Student Essay Award for "'Dear Life Redeems You': *The Winter's Tale* and the Harrowing of Hell" in 2014.

Notable Undergraduate Students

2014 UNCG English Department Undergraduate Essay Contest

Taylor Renee Kane won the Research Essay Competition for "Something Creative: Developing the Well-Rounded Writer in the High School English Classroom," written for her Undergraduate Senior Honors Thesis under the direction of Dr. Jeanie Reynolds in the Fall 2014 semester.

Andrew Hachey won the Critical Essay Competition for "Economies of Blood: The Body, Psychological Reflection, and Moral Debt in *Titus Andronicus*," written for Dr. Jennifer Feather's English 303: Critical Approaches to the Study of Literature in the Fall 2014 semester.

2015-2016 Lloyd International Honors College Artist in Residence

Anita Tyndall

2015-2016 UNCG English Department Scholarship Recipients

Ethel Stephens Arnett Scholarship

Olivia Wood

Amy M. Charles Memorial Scholarship

Andrew Hachey

Marguerite Young

Dusenbury Scholarship

Christian Swearingen

Elizabeth Robinson Fort

Matthew Harris

Caroline Somerville

Jackson-Loving-Gibson Scholarship

Preston Harrell

Nicole Jarrett

Emilia Ruiz

Emmett J. & Clara C. King

Matthew Johnson

Winfield Scholarship

Nicholas Goodman

Ruth McKaughan & W. Bryan

Carter Scholarship

Faduma Ali

Lauren Beard

Molly Black

Rachel Chaney

Samantha Chimenge

Morgan Farr

Erica Gunter

Haley Jones

Chelsea Korynta

Jessica Matthis

Jennifer Nelson

Janna Ptak

Hannah Webb

Brianna Wilson

2015 Phi Beta Kappa Inductees

Jason Blackwell

Taylor Renee Kane

Austin Palenick

2015 UNCG Student Excellence Award

Taylor Renee Kane

2015 Sigma Tau Delta Inductees

Christopher Allen

Brianna Brewer

Frederick Canada

Aja Cooper

James Etling

Andrew Hachey

Astrid Hacker

Matthew Johnson

Mary Kayler

Jessica Matthis

Josue Mendez

Cody Morris

Austin Palenick

Olivia Siragusa

Ethan Walsh

Graduates with Honors

Summa Cum Laude

Kelsey Barham (Fall 2014)
Jason Blackwell (Spring 2015)
Taylor Kane (Spring 2015)
Lacey Williams (Spring 2015)

Magna Cum Laude

Samantha Clarke (Fall 2014)
Hope Loman (Fall 2014)
Della Owens (Spring 2015)
Stacy Stone (Fall 2014)
Ethan Walsh (Spring 2015)

Cum Laude

Elizabeth Angermeyer (Spring 2015)
Robert Gross (Fall 2014)
Jennifer Pickles (Spring 2015)
Elizabeth Rodgers (Spring 2015)
Olivia Siragusa (Spring 2015)
Chelsea Smith (Spring 2015)
Morgan Villafranca (Spring 2015)
Rita Walson (Fall 2014)
Nicole Wolfe (Fall 2014)

From the Desk of the Director of Graduate Studies: Jennifer Feather

In August, I took over the position of Director of Graduate Studies from Michelle Dowd. I am grateful to her for the excellent work she has done directing the program, and I look forward to building on that work in the coming years. The success of those who completed their degrees and the talent of those just entering the program mark the culmination of the good work that has been done and the promise of more success to come respectively. In May of the past academic year (2014-2015), six students received their MA and five received their PhD. In August, two additional students graduated with their MA and three

graduated with their PhD. For the fall of 2015, we welcomed five new MA students to our program and ten new doctoral students. The research in which they are engaged persistently troubles traditional boundaries, melding creative writing and pedagogy or considering ex-patriot literature that crosses national boundaries.

In March of 2015, the English Graduate Student Association (EGSA) organized and hosted their seventh annual interdisciplinary conference on the theme: "The Power of Place." The conference was a big success, featuring presenters from England, South Carolina, Georgia, New York and elsewhere. This conference acknowledges what the Chancellor has recognized recently in the strategic plan for the university – UNCG is a world-class research university with a strong sense of place. The current EGSA board for 2015-2016 will continue this tradition, hosting the eighth annual conference in the spring of 2016.

In 2017 our PhD program will celebrate its 50th anniversary! In researching our early graduates, I find that our current program is carrying on their legacy producing work that brings together disparate areas of interest. One early graduate, Ebele Ofoma Eko, whose dissertation considered authors from her native Nigeria, also published several collections of poetry. We are planning events at UNCG involving current students, faculty, and alumni. If you would be interesting in participating in a 50th reunion event, please contact me at Jennifer_Feather@uncg.edu. And 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!
-J.F.

Alumni News

Holly Bellebuono (BA 1992) published three books. *Women Healers of the World* earned the 2015 Thomas DeBaggio Book of the Year Award by The International Herb Association. Holly's fourth book will be published in Summer 2016 by Shambhala Publishers. As an empowerment speaker, Holly lectures widely to conferences and schools, and this year lectured in MA, NH, NC, GA, FL, and CA. Her topics include women, health, mythology, empowerment, and entrepreneurship.

John Blackard's (BA 1977, MLis 1999, MA 1983) fourth book of poems, *A Book of Meditations*, is now available on [his website](#), Amazon, IndieBound, and Malaprops in Asheville.

Cynthia Blanco (BA 2006) has been awarded an American Fellowship by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in support of her dissertation on speech perception in monolinguals and bilinguals. She is completing her Ph.D. in Linguistics at the University of Texas at Austin.

Kat Bodrie (BA 2005) recently began working as the Writing Coordinator for tutoring with the Center for Academic Engagement at GTCC. She has also published poems and prose with *Slim Volume*, *Baby Lawn Literature*, and *Pilcrow & Dagger*. Check out [her website](#).

Nathan Branson (MA 2012) recently became a member of the English faculty at Carteret Community College. He lives in Morehead City, NC. His main challenge as a teacher is to persuade the students who say "they can't write," that certain rewriting methods and practice will make them into a writer. He started [a blog](#) last June geared towards his composition and literature students.

Nickie Brown (BA 2010) is an entrepreneur who created an all-natural product line, Circa2009, as a healthier alternative to commercial brands. Please like us and share our [Facebook page](#).

Andréa Butler (BA 2003) launched [Sesi Magazine](#). It is a quarterly, print magazine for Black, teen girls and they celebrated the magazine's third anniversary last December.

Gregory Byrd (PhD 2001) is an English professor at St. Petersburg College. He won a Fulbright Fellowship for poetry in 2011. His book of poetry, *Salt and Iron*, was published in 2014. This year he won a Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Distinguished Faculty Award from his institution.

Carole (Luke) Cloud (MFA 1989) lives and works in Philadelphia, PA at the Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, where she manages the school's web presence. She is a digital storyteller, information architect, content strategist working in four-dimensional narrative. She writes poetry every week and is learning to speak animal with cats, working dogs, and horses.

Jon Cole (BA 2006) is the Assistant Media Relations Director at Florida State University, where he is the primary contact for baseball and volleyball. Prior to this, he received his Master's degree in Sports Management while working at the Citadel.

Catherine Conley (BA 2010) released the 6th issue of *Steer Queer* in November. *Steer Queer* is an arts and literature magazine that focuses on content by and for the queer/LGBT community. She created the magazine in January of 2013 to address issues of economic and academic accessibility in publishing. Submissions can be sent to steerqueerpitt@gmail.com, both professional and amateur writers and artists of all ages are encouraged to submit.

Joy Cook (BA 2012) topped Amazon's non-fiction best seller list last year with her first book, [Watch the Company You Tweet: 4 Step Guide to Making an Impact on Twitter](#).

Steve Cushman (MFA 2002) published his second poetry chapbook, *Midnight Stroll*, in November 2015.

Amy Garrett Dikkers (BA 1995) was recently promoted and tenured as Associate Professor in Educational Leadership at UNC-Wilmington.

Anna Elkins (MFA 2000) co-led a [Deep Travel Workshop](#) in October 2014, focusing on storytelling. Eight participants and several leaders enjoyed a nine-day workshop to help preserve this fading art form.

Max Everhart (BA 2004) earned a Master's in Creative Writing from the University of Alabama, Birmingham. He teaches English at Northeastern Technical College in Cheraw, South Carolina. He published two mystery novels, *Go Go Gato* in 2014 and *Split to Splinters* in 2015. *Ed, Not Eddie* will be published next year, all with Camel Press. Additionally, 280 Steps will publish his crime novel *Alphabet Land* in March 2016.

Katie Fennell (BA 2006, MA 2009) began working at *Our State* magazine in June 2014 as their fact-checker and proofreader. In addition to fact-checking and proofreading, she writes book and music reviews in a monthly column for *Our State* magazine.

Heather Fearnbach (BA 1993) is an architectural historian who resides in Winston-Salem, NC. Her book, *Winston-Salem's Architectural Heritage*, was published last May. She also accepted three professional awards last fall: the Robert E. Stipe Professional Award from the Preservation North Carolina conference, a national historic preservation medal from the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Willie Parker Peace History Book Award for Winston-Salem's Architectural Heritage from the North Carolina Society of Historians.

Michael Gills (MFA 1989) is the author of five books, including the forthcoming *The House Across from the Deaf School* from Texas Review Press. He is currently an Associate Professor of Writing in the Honors College at the University of Utah.

Maggie Ann Grace (MFA 1992) published *Sixth Sense Caring: Stories of Creative Eldercare*. It is a vibrant collection of caregivers' creative ideas and tips for personalizing the care of their loved ones. Filled with photographs, this is a resource for any caregiver or Activities Professional or anyone working with Seniors.

Anthony Graham (MEd 1999, PhD 2003 Curriculum & Teaching) was promoted to Interim Dean of the School of Education at NCA&T State University this year. He was recently awarded a \$1.19 million grant from the National Science Foundation to support the North Carolina A&Teach STEM Scholars Program, which aims to produce and support highly qualified K-12 STEM educators who can effectively deliver inquiry-based instruction that is concurrently culturally relevant to students in high-need schools.

Elizabeth L. P. Hadaway (MFA 1993) was ordained to the transitional diaconate of The Episcopal Church on December 5, 2015.

Jaimee Hills (MFA 2005) won the Anthony Hecht Poetry Prize in 2014 for her collection, *How to Avoid Speaking* which was published last October.

Suzanne Horn (BA 1996, MEd Reading Education 1999, PhD Curriculum and Teaching 2003) is an Associate Professor of Teacher Education at Queens University in Charlotte.

J. Eric Hudson (BA 2000) and his wife had their third child in May.

Cynthia Huggins (MA 1992, PhD 1997) recently resigned from the University of Maine at Machias, following a ten-year stint as UMM's President. Dr. Huggins is now serving as Chief Academic Officer for the University of Maine System, and working as a freelance writer and editor. In September 2014, Cynthia Huggins and Laurel Robinson (MA English 1995) were married. Cindy and Laurel met in the English graduate program at UNCG in 1993, and have been together ever since!

Glenn Hutchinson's (PhD 2002) play, *The Pot*, was produced at Main Street Players in Miami, FL. He is the Assistant Director at the Center for Excellence in Writing at Florida International University.

Gina Jarrett (BA 2005) is the Acquisitions Coordinator for the Professional Center Library at

the Wake Forest University School of Law. She just celebrated her 15-yr milestone at Wake Forest University.

Louise Kennelly (MFA 1996) was recently appointed executive director of the Frederick Arts Council after nearly five years as executive director of the DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative. She continues to write poetry and read at area events and was awarded an Individual Artist grant by the state of Maryland and was designated an artist in the schools by the Maryland Arts Council. She encourages fellow MFA alumni to look her up if they are in the DC metro area.

Rebekah Lee (BA 2006) began working on a Master's Degree in Geophysics at Boise State University in Boise, ID last Fall.

Kelly Quinones Miller (BA 1999) is the public information officer for the City of Sanford, NC. She also runs a hyperlocal website called [SocialSanford](#) that connects people with social opportunities in the Sandhills region.

James Minick (MFA 2015) teaches at Augusta University, Augusta, GA where he's an assistant professor of English. Also his essay, "Drowning Deer," was listed in the Notable Essays section of *The Best American Essays 2015*.

Bethany Perkins (PhD 2007) is a tenured professor at Spartanburg Methodist College. She, her husband, and her eleven year old daughter reside in Spartanburg, SC.

Ann Pokora (BA 1984) has established ABP Consulting, LLC which specializes in human resources and management consulting. She did this after serving over 25 years as the HR Director for Charles County Government and the City of Fairfax, among others. She calls herself a working retiree!

Warren Rochelle (MFA 1991, PhD 1997) recently published "Finroc macFinniel Silmairë" in *Empty Oaks* and "Happily Ever After" in *Quantum Fairy Tales*. This year his fourth novel, *The Werewolf and His Boy* will be published by Samhain Publishing.

Ingrid Ruffin (BA 2007, MA 2009, MLis 2011) was appointed the Student Success Librarian for First Year Programs at the University of Tennessee Knoxville in August 2014.

Tim Sandlin (MFA 1986) published his eleventh novel, *The Fable of Bing*. The movie, *Right Kind of Wrong*, based on his book, *Sex and Sunsets*, came out last spring.

Lucy Shaffer-Doherty (BA 2009) was the Editor of the *For Seniors Only!* tabloid with The Winston-Salem Chronicle. After volunteering at Crisis Control, Lucy joined CCM as PR and Marketing Coordinator. She lives in Winston-Salem with her husband and puppy, Blueberry.

George Singleton (MFA 1986) was inducted into the Southern Fellowship of Writers in April 2015. His new collection of stories, *Calloustown*, was published in November 2015.

Gretchen (Pearson) Smith (BA 2004) spent four years helping her grandfather write his memoirs, *Ciao, Battista*. She is in her second year of homeschooling her three children, where she enjoys passing on her love of literature to them.

Mark Thomas (M.F.A. 1986) taught writing at James Madison University until 2012, when he retired to Avery County, NC. He lives there with his wife and seven cats. He skied 80 days last season and this year is going for triple digits.

Amy Torchinsky (BA 1993, MLis 1999) won Vile Pun Category for the 2012 Bulwer Lytton Fiction Contest and received a 'Dishonorable' Mention for the same category in the 2013 competition.

Liz Urquhart (BA 1977, MA 2006) retired from United Guaranty Corporation in 2014, after 22 years of employment. She has been a member of the UNCG College of Arts and Sciences Advancement Council for several years.

G. Warlock Vance's (PhD 2010) latest novel, *THE BAD MAN*, was recently published by

Element 118 Books. He is available for readings by calling 336-314-7537 or by contacting his publisher, Conrad Karel at conrad_karel@outlook.com.

Ethan Walsh (BA 2015) credits the wonderful education provided by UNCG and the resources provided by Dr. Amy Vetter, for helping him get a teaching position before he even graduated. He started working at a high school in central North Carolina last spring.

Eric Weil (MFA 1980, PhD 1993) is an Associate Professor of English at Elizabeth City State University.

Jillian Weise's (MFA 2004) poems "Biohack Manifesto" and "Future Biometrics" won *Poetry* magazine's J. Howard and Barbara M.J. Wood Prize. Recent work appears in *Granta*, *The New Republic* and *Tin House*. She is an Associate Professor at Clemson University.

John Wesley White, III (BA 1993) earned his PhD from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2003. He is an Associate Professor at the University of North Florida, where he has been employed since 2008. He lives in Atlantic Beach, FL with his wife and three year old son.

Laurie 'Lollie' White (MA 1980, PhD 1987) was the Director of Development for the College of Arts & Sciences at UNCG until 2010, when she retired. Since retirement, she and her husband, Walter Beale, have traveled and gone to as many plays and concerts and readings as they can. In 2014, she published a novel entitled *Play Music*. She is almost finished with a second novel and is looking for a former student or colleague who would help her with editing, publishing, and marketing her book.

Lana Whited (PhD 1993) co-edited *Critical Insights: The Harry Potter Series*, published by Grey House this year. She anticipates the publication of *Critical Insights: The Hunger Games*, also published by Grey House this summer. In 2014 she received the Exemplary Teaching Award from Ferrum College and the General Board of Higher Education of the United Methodist Church. She is Ferrum's nominee for the 2016 Outstanding Faculty Award of the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia.

Pam Whitfield (MA 1999, PhD 2003) teaches English and Equine Science at Rochester Community and Technical College in Rochester, MN. In 2010, she won the MnSCU Board of Trustees Educator of the Year award. In 2011, she was named Professor of the Year for Minnesota by the Carnegie Foundation.

Liz Wilkinson (PhD 2008) is a tenured Associate Professor at the University of St. Thomas. She is currently on sabbatical, researching the intersections of women, sport, and the body in literature, with a particular focus on Native women and their historical and contemporary involvement in sport.

Matthew Wood (BA 1994, MA 2001) earned a MLS in 2011 from UNC-Chapel Hill. He currently works as a system support technician for the Durham County Libraries. He married Elizabeth Blodgett in 2013 and they have a two year old daughter. They will be moving to Spokane, WA this year.

James Wright (BA 1996) is the Creative Director for Droid On The Moon Design Studios in Tokyo, Japan. He loves God, his wife, his four daughters and pistachio ice cream. He is also very excited about the new *Star Wars* movie.

John Thomas York (MFA 1985) teaches high school English but plans on retiring in 2016. His poetry has recently appeared in *Appalachian Journal*, *Kenyon Review Online*, *North Carolina Literary Review*, *Tar River Poetry*, and *Town Creek Poetry*. In 2012, Press 53 published his first full-length collection, *Cold Spring Rising*. In 2014, his memoir, "O Beautiful Bug," won the Linda Flowers Literary Award from the NC Humanities Council, and the essay was published as a chapbook by Jacar Press.

Deborah Zeringue (MA 1994, MA 1996 Liberal Studies) earned a PhD (ABD) in Rhetoric and Composition from Georgia State University and went to law school. She now lives in Lake City, FL.

We hope you enjoyed the newsletter!

If you would like to be included in Alumni News of the next newsletter please email Ms. Anna Nugent at 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.

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