

# ARKANSAS ENGLISH

News from the Department of English - Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences

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Photo by Carolyn Guinzio



UNIVERSITY OF  
ARKANSAS

**J. William Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences**  
*English*

**2016**

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# NEW FACES

## Sean Dempsey

The English Department is happy to announce that Sean Dempsey, who joined the department in 2012 as a visiting Assistant Professor, has accepted the department's offer of a tenure-track appointment. This fall, Dempsey will teach Introduction to Graduate Studies and Advanced Studies in Literary History: Romanticism. In the second course, he is looking forward to focusing on four major Romantic poets: Wordsworth, Coleridge, Keats, and Shelly. Dempsey said, "Narrowing our focus onto these four poets will allow us to read widely both in their poetry and prose and in the secondary criticism surrounding their work. We will work toward understanding these writers within their own historical and cultural context, while also establishing why Romanticism continues to be so influential within our world today." In teaching, Dempsey likes to create a discussion-based classroom in which students feel free to direct the conversation according to their own curiosities and insights, believing such a classroom offers "an environment of pedagogic engagement that students may not have even realized they wanted or secretly needed."



Last year, he published "Re-Reading Wordsworth's 'Michael': Sacramental Poetics in a Secular Age" in *Journal for the History of Modern Theology*. This year, he published "'Set my lands in order': States of Exception, the Cinematic, and *The Waste Land*" in *Mosaic*. He is currently working on a book, *Postures of Attention: Romanticism, Secularity, Ecology*, and will present the section of it on Jane Austen at a National Endowment for the Humanities seminar this summer.

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## Kathy Lake - Office Staff



Visitors to the main office of the English Department are now greeted by Kathy Lake, who joined the department as an Administrative Assistant II last fall. Moving to Northwest Arkansas from Sikeston, Missouri, Lake worked as the Human Resource Coordinator for the Sikeston Public School District immediately prior to joining the department. She has also worked as the Assistant Director of Operations at the Los Angeles Dream Center and as Program Coordinator for Mission Missouri. Not surprisingly, Lake adjusted quickly to her new job in the English Department, and faculty members feel fortunate to have been able to hire an employee with her experience. In her spare time, she enjoys watching college and high school sports, listening to music, and going to concerts.

# NEW FACES

## Claudia Vilato



The English Department is pleased to announce that Claudia Vilato was appointed as an Instructor last fall. Vilato came to the department with teaching experience from American University, Howard University, Prince George's Community College, and Pennsylvania State University. She is, however, new to Fayetteville and the University of Arkansas.

As an avid gardener, Vilato should enjoy the Fayetteville Farmer's Market this summer, and having taught Composition I and II in the fall and spring, she already knows that she enjoys working with the first-year students here. "It is such a transitional phase in their lives," she said, adding that she hopes to impress upon her students the importance of considering evidence and alternative points of view when determining goals and deciding what actions to take.

Having taught Composition II online, she also noted that non-traditional students are fully capable of taking courses outside the "traditional barriers of the classroom" while working and/or raising families.

With all the composition courses she teaches, Vilato hopes to foster a rhetorical flexibility with reading and writing strategies that will aid students in their own areas of study and, ultimately, beyond the college classroom.

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## Shavawn Smith - Office Staff

Faculty and graduate students seem to enjoy having their travel-expense records processed for reimbursement now that Shavawn Smith, Administrative Specialist in the English Department, has taken over that task. Although highly efficient at her work, Smith is as likely to be talking about science, art, or philosophy, as she is to be talking about literature, and her current favorite topics are space and time. If you take her a rock from somewhere you have visited, she will make it her mission to return that rock to its place of origin.

In 2011, Smith moved to Fayetteville from northern Nevada to enter the M.A. Program in English, but she is actually a product of Northwest Arkansas. Her parents are from Berryville, and she is the only member of her immediate family who was not born and raised in Arkansas.

She started working on the office staff in 2014 and is finishing her thesis on *The Walking Dead*. "It's really more about the living," she said.



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

## Creative Writing and Translation

The Program in Creative Writing and Translation, directed by Davis McCombs, continues to earn state and national recognition. McCombs was awarded the 2015 Porter Fund Literary Prize, presented annually to an Arkansas writer with an impressive body of work meriting recognition. “Our nationally recognized creative writing program has been developing the skills of talented students for almost half a century,” said Todd Shields, dean of Fulbright College. “Davis has been critical to the program’s success, and it’s wonderful to see him recognized by an organization known for honoring Arkansas’ best writers and poets.” A recent sign of that success is the appearance of three of the program’s poets in *The New Yorker* magazine over the past nine months. McCombs appeared in the August 3, 2015, issue with his poem “Dumpster Honey”; alumnus Jacob Shores-Arguello followed with his poem “In Ukraine,” in the January 4, 2016, issue; and recent graduate Kathleen Heil just appeared in the May 2, 2016, issue with her poem “Kegger in Georgi Balanchivadze’s Backyard.”

Heil, who completed her M.F.A. in Creative Writing and Translation last year, was also awarded a 2016 Literature Translation Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. “Kathleen is one of those unforgettable students whose interests and potential seem limitless. A talented poet and dancer, a voracious reader, a tremendously skilled translator—she’s the real deal,” said McCombs. “We were fortunate to work with her for four years, and I’m thrilled to see her talents recognized and rewarded on a national scale.” The NEA grant will allow Heil to finish translating Argentine author Patricio Pron’s short story collection, *El mundo sin las personas que lo afean y lo arruinan*. Heil is currently a Fulbright College Sturgis International Fellow in Berlin, where she is researching the city’s international dance culture.

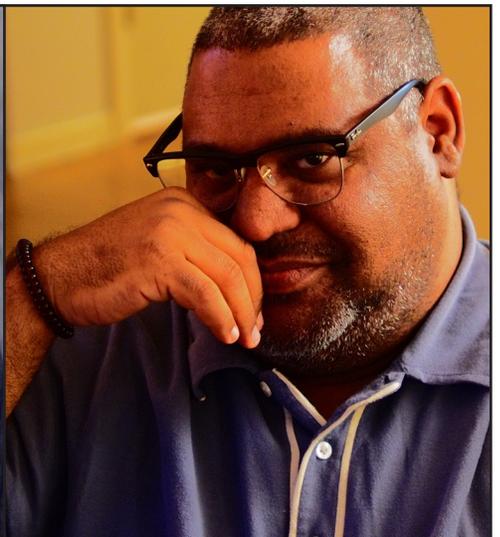
For its 2015 Distinguished Reader Series, the Program in Creative Writing and Translation featured internationally acclaimed novelist and essayist Zadie Smith. Smith read to a full house last fall in conjunction with the True Lit Fayetteville Literary Festival. The program also welcomed three Walton Visiting Writers to campus—Olivia Sears, as Visiting Writer in Translation; Chris Abani, as Visiting Writer in Poetry; and Karen Tei Yamashita, as Visiting Writer in Fiction. In addition to reading from their own work at public events, the three met individually with M.F.A. students to discuss the students’ work.



Olivia Sears



Karen Yamashita



Chris Abani

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

## Staff Spotlight: Sara Beth Spencer Bynum

Sara Beth Spencer Bynum has been working in the main office of the English Department for almost a decade now. Faculty and students have grown to depend not only on her managerial skills and knowledge of the university system but also on her positive attitude and good will. “Managing an office is one of the most difficult jobs on campus, with demands constantly pulling in different directions,” Dorothy Stephens, chair of the department, said. “Through it all, Sara Beth remains focused on making everyone else’s jobs easier.”

Bynum joined the department as an Administrative Assistant in 2007, the same year she graduated from the University of Arkansas with a B.S. in Human Environmental Sciences. Bynum was promoted to Office Manager of the English Department in 2012.

In addition to managing the main office, she serves on the Staff Senate, working to promote the welfare of staff members from all colleges and departments and to foster a sense of community among staff members across campus.



## FACULTY NEWS

### New Books Published in 2015

- Booker, M. Keith, ed. *Literature and Politics Today: The Political Nature of Modern Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood Press, 2015.
- Cochran, Robert, and Suzanne McCray. *Lights! Camera! Arkansas!: From Broncho Billy to Billy Bob Thornton*. Fayetteville, AR: University of Arkansas Press, 2015.
- Cochran, Robert, ed. *True Faith, True Light: The Devotional Art of Ed Stilley*. Fayetteville, AR: University of Arkansas Press, 2015.
- Hinrichsen, Lisa. *Possessing the Past: Trauma, Imagination, and Memory in Post-Plantation Southern Literature*. Baton Rouge, LA: LSU Press, Southern Literary Studies Series, ed. Scott Romine, 2015.

# FACULTY NEWS

## New Books Accepted for Publication in 2015

- Booker, M. Keith, and Bob Batchelor. *Mad Men: A Cultural History*. Lanham, MD: Rowman-Littlefield. Forthcoming in 2016.
- Brock, Geoffrey. *Six Memos for the Next Millennium*, by Italo Calvino. Translation. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Forthcoming in 2016.
- Candido, Joseph. *The Text, the Play, and the Globe: Essays on Literary Influence in Shakespeare's World and his Work in Honor of Charles R. Forker*. Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press/ Rowman & Littlefield. Forthcoming in 2016.
- Davis, Geoffrey, and F. Douglas Brown. *The Daddy Notebooks. Floodgate Poetry Series: Three Chapbooks by Three Poets in a Single Volume Vol 3*, Upper Rubber Boot Books. Andrew McFadyen-Ketchum, Ed. Forthcoming in 2016.
- Hinrichsen, Lisa, Gina Caison, and Stephanie Routree, eds. *Small-Screen Souths: Interrogating the Televisual Archive*. Baton Rouge, LA: LSU Press. Forthcoming in 2017.
- Kahf, Mohja. *The Hagar Poems*. Fayetteville, AR: University of Arkansas Press. Forthcoming in 2016.
- McCombs, Davis. *Lore*. Salt Lake City, UT: University of Utah Press. Forthcoming in 2016.
- Smith, Joshua. *Walter Map and the Matter of Britain*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press. Forthcoming in 2017.
- Gilchrist, Ellen. *Things Like the Truth: Out of My Later Years*. Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi. Forthcoming in 2016.
- Kayser, Casey, and Alison Graham Bertolini, eds. *Carson McCullers in the Twenty-First Century*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan. American Literature Readings in the 21st Century series, ed. Linda Wagner-Martin. Forthcoming in 2017.
- Madison, Robert. *The Essex and the Whale: Melville's Leviathan Library*. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger. Forthcoming in 2016.

# FACULTY NEWS

## Faculty Spotlight: Lissette Lopez Szwydky-Davis

Students can now take courses in the English Department to learn about the various career paths they can pursue with humanities degrees. Lissette Lopez Szwydky-Davis recently taught a graduate course, Job Market(s) Workshop, as well as an undergraduate course, Liberal Arts at Work, designed to help students investigate a variety of academic and alternative-academic, or “alt-ac,” career options. As the academic job market continues to grow more challenging for new graduates of Ph.D. programs in the humanities, more graduate students in English are extending their job search beyond academia and/or pursuing administrative positions at colleges and universities.



For the last two years, Szwydky-Davis has also designed and delivered workshops for the professionalization series that the English Department annually offers its graduate students, even holding some of the workshops in her home. According to Szwydky-Davis, “As a whole, the goal of the professionalization series and the formal job market course is to prepare students to navigate the professional side of the academic world. But even if students end up taking an alternative route, they still gain appropriate skills and learn how to frame their coursework, research, teaching, and writing for marketability as needed.”

In January, Szwydky-Davis presented “Alt-Ac, Tenure Track” at the Modern Language Association’s Annual Convention in Austin, Texas. Her scholarship includes two book chapters coming out in the near future: “Frankenstein’s Spectacular Nineteenth-Century Stage History and Legacy” in *Adapting Frankenstein: The Monster’s Eternal Lives in Popular Culture* (Manchester University Press, 2017) and “Adaptations, Culture Texts, and Literary Canonization” in *The Routledge Companion to Adaptation* (2018). She is currently working on a book: *The Nineteenth-Century Culture Industry: Literature, Adaptation, History*.

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## Faculty Spotlight: Lisa Hinrichsen



After receiving tenure and promotion to Associate Professor last year, Lisa Hinrichsen was appointed Director of Graduate Studies in the fall. As the new DGS, Hinrichsen hopes to use the position to further the success of students in the M.A. and Ph.D. Programs in English. “Our job placement rate is very important,” she said, “and I’m inspired by the ongoing success of our students in this regard.” For Hinrichsen, a large part of fostering success on the job market involves encouraging graduate students to investigate alternative career paths, a priority that has led her, in collaboration with colleagues, to apply for an NEH Next Generation Humanities Ph.D. Planning Grant. The NEH grant would enable the English Department to establish a long-term plan for further enhancing doctoral students’ preparation for a variety of academic and nonacademic careers.

## FACULTY NEWS

Hinrichsen is also working on a new book project that investigates what she believes is an under-researched area in Southern literary studies: the U.S. South and sexuality. *Hidden Pleasures: Intimacy in Southern Spaces* will consider texts written by James Agee, Lillian Smith, and Eudora Welty, among others, to examine how the expression of gender and sexual identity evolved specifically in the South and how those understandings might compel us to rethink the relationships among history, geography, and identity.

Closer to publication is a collection of essays, *Small-Screen Souths: Television and the Southern Imagination*, co-edited by Hinrichsen and colleagues at Georgia State University, which will come out at Louisiana State University Press this fall. Hinrichsen published her first book, *Possessing the Past: Trauma, Imagination, and Memory in Post-Plantation Southern Literature*, with LSU Press last year.

## GRADUATE NEWS

### **M.A. Program in English to Change**

A number of major changes to the M.A. Program in English will go into effect this fall. “Our committee was made up of nine very dedicated department members,” said Patrick Slattery, who chaired the Graduate Reform Committee responsible for recommending the changes. “We met weekly for a year, researching the M.A. programs at aspirant institutions, analyzing feedback from outside reviewers, and, of course, debating what types of changes would be best for our graduate students.”

The most significant change will be in the structure of the M.A. program’s curriculum. Originally designed to offer a generalist degree in literary studies, the M.A. program previously required all students to complete courses in five different historical periods covering British and American literature. The program’s restructured curriculum, on the other hand, will allow students to pursue either a “generalist concentration” or a “specialist concentration.” M.A. students choosing the generalist option will proceed through the program much as students have in the past. Students choosing the specialist option, however, will be required to take five courses in one of the following areas: Comparative Literature; Cultural Studies; Ethnic and Regional Literatures; Gender and Sexuality; Medieval Literature; Modern American Literature; or Rhetoric, Composition, and Literacy.

Another significant change will be seen in the options students have for completing the M.A. program’s final project. The program formerly required students to write and defend a thesis (by far the most popular option) or to take and pass a written comprehensive exam. The program’s new requirements for the final project, on the other hand, will require students to write and defend a thesis or to construct and present a portfolio of writing. The writing selected for the portfolio will include two to five main documents and an introductory essay. At least one of the main documents should be a researched critical essay written for a course and revised for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Other types of documents suitable for the portfolio include shorter critical essays, pedagogical pieces, websites and multi-media projects, and job application materials. The introductory essay should contextualize the main documents by offering a self-reflective account of the student’s trajectory in the program, including the objectives the student had in mind when undertaking the program, his or her development as reflected by the main documents, and an indica-

# GRADUATE NEWS

tion of how that development could enhance the student's career options.

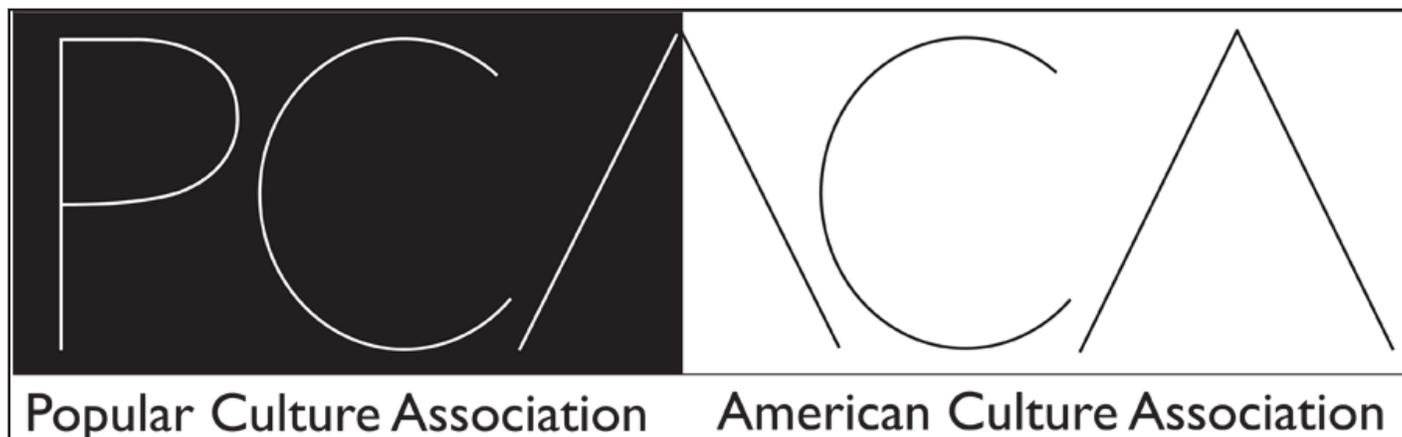
Additional changes to the M.A. program include requiring all students to take Introduction to Graduate Studies and requiring those students who choose the portfolio option to take Portfolio Workshop, a new course designed to provide students with systematic guidance and regular feedback as they build their portfolios.

According to Lisa Hinrichsen, Director of the M.A. and Ph.D. Programs in English, the decision to revise the structure of the M.A. program at this time makes perfect sense considering how English graduate programs in the U.S. have been evolving and how more graduate students in the humanities are considering alternative-academic careers. "Our goal with these changes is to lay the groundwork for an integration of multifaceted training and flexible post-graduate possibilities into our curriculum and department culture," said Hinrichsen. "We aim to endow our students with the resilience and skills necessary for a variety of post-graduate options, while continuing to offer the training needed for those students who will go onto a Ph.D. program and a traditional academic career."

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## Graduate Conference Report: PCA/ACA Conference

In March, three M.A. students—Sally Ferguson, Kristi Pierse, and Alicia Troby— as well as four Ph.D. students presented papers at the Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association Conference in Seattle, Washington. In "A Thousand Slimy Deformities: *Perelandra's* Ransom as an Interplanetary Mariner," Ferguson explored ecological concerns in both *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and C.S. Lewis's *Perelandra* through a lens of adaptation theory. Pierse, in "Gore Drama: Coping with Post-Traumatic Stress through Televised Evisceration," analyzed the cathartic dimension of on-screen violence and bloodshed for a post-9/11 society embroiled in war and terrorism. Troby spoke on the continuous redefining of the U.S. South through fictional representations of the Civil War and a zombie apocalypse in "Acceptance and Rejection of a *Gone-With-the-Wind* South in *The Walking Dead*." All three students said they enjoyed their experiences at "such a welcoming conference" and were also "happy to benefit from the advantages of being in the founding city of Starbucks."



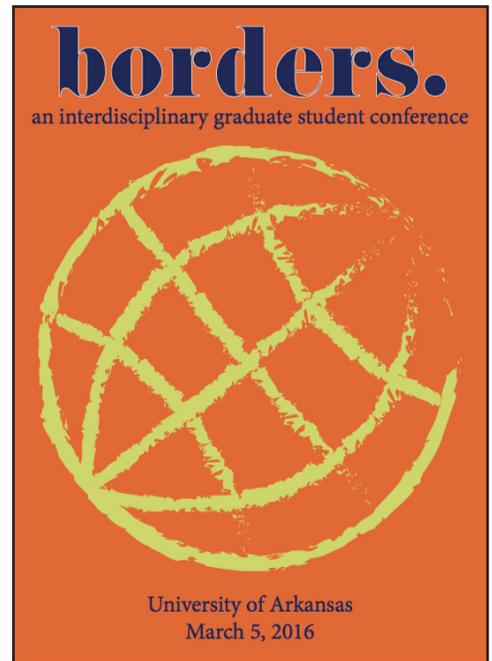
# GRADUATE NEWS

## Graduate Conference Report: GSE Conference

The Graduate Students in English organization held its annual conference in March. Titled “Borders: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference,” the 2016 meeting offered forty-three presentations from six departments and four universities. Last year, the GSE opened the conference to all departments at the University of Arkansas and saw a twenty-five percent growth in the number of presentations. This year, the GSE sought presentations from graduate students at other universities and saw yet another twenty-five percent increase.

This year’s conference theme, “Borders,” encouraged presenters to recognize and dismantle the boundaries that exist among disciplines and specializations and to initiate more interaction among fields. In order to foster this type of discussion and interaction, panels were organized to represent multiple fields and to address questions such as “How do borders mark our disciplines?” “How do our disciplines and our research defy borders?” “How should borders and their implications be discussed in academia?” and “How can the concept of borders help us to rethink assumptions that place limitations on our research, creative activity, and teaching?”

Individual presentations considered a wide range of topics, including alternative teaching strategies, medieval verse and imperialism, global migration, the cold war, cyberpunk, cross-dressing in *lucha libre*, creative writing craft, and diaspora. In a talk titled “Edge Media,” the conference’s keynote speaker, Robert Jackson from the University of Tulsa, shared his research on the varied relations between black and white southerners and the motion picture medium.



# UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

## Fulbright Service-Leadership Team Visits Vietnam



Life in the MeKong Delta of Vietnam is steeped in strong traditions centered in family, the MeKong River, and rice farming. Most families in South Vietnam, including the MeKong Delta, live on less than \$1US per day. Many aspects of this region are relatable to the histories and communities in and around Arkansas and the rural South, especially the Mississippi Delta. In the fall of 2015 and spring of 2016, the Fulbright Service-Leadership team, led by Laura Gray from the English Department, traveled to Vietnam on two separate trips with undergraduate students from Fulbright College. There, along with a team from Walton College of Business, the Fulbright team partnered with faculty and students from Can Tho University, Vietnam's largest research institution, and its extension college in the rural village of Hoa An to explore sustainable ways to improve the lives and living standards of the people in the MeKong Delta.

“On these first trips, our aim was to share information, to learn from each other, and to build relationships that would create meaningful exchanges,” said Gray. “Students from Can Tho University served as our translators in research projects, and our local guide and project coordinator, Mai, was from North Vietnam.” Reading literary texts from a variety of national and political perspectives, Fulbright students in the sciences and humanities also completed coursework that explored the history and culture not only of Vietnam but also of the U.S. from 1960 to the present. Students took trips to other locations as well, such as Ho Chi Min City, where they visited the War Memorial Museum. “Culture, gender, hegemony—our discussions leapt wildly off the page of the syllabus,” Gray said, “and we often fit class time or assignments in on the bus, the only downtime.” According to Skylar Caldwell, a freshman from Fayetteville studying history and politics in the Honors College, “History becomes even more relevant when you understand the realities of something like the Vietnam War.”

A variety of research and service projects were initiated, creating the beginnings of future interdisciplinary work. “Our aim is to open possibilities for the exchange of ideas so that we, both Americans and Vietnamese, learn where the local community has interests in developing,” said Gray. In this first year of

# UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

the project, the Fulbright team worked in two rural schools in Hoa An, one of which team members reached by boat because the road was too narrow for their van. “There, we set up two computer labs and offered training,” said Gray. “Half of the rural students have never seen a computer, and those that have some access are generally not familiar with an English keyboard.” The team also collaborated with a local health clinic to understand the medical needs of its patients. Through this collaboration, “we completed a water quality survey, which yielded information for more sustained research,” Gray said. “And, along with the Business team, we gathered data for a farm survey to better understand local farming methods, costs, and profits.”

Gray also held workshops on English Language Learning, one on Can Tho University’s main campus and one in Hoa An. With these first trips to Vietnam successfully accomplished, she has already begun planning the next trip. Students interested in participating should contact Gray at [lgray@uark.edu](mailto:lgray@uark.edu).

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## Undergraduate Students Publish in the *Arkansas Review*

The Department of English is proud to announce that four outstanding undergraduate students recently published articles in the *Arkansas Review*. In the fall of 2014, Meredith Palmer, Brooke Bennett, Lauren Boatright, and Kelsey Berkel met in an English course titled “Representations of New Orleans,” taught by Robin Roberts. In the spring of 2015, with encouragement and guidance from Roberts, the four students presented their papers for her course at the 21st Delta Symposium, themed “The South Goes to the Movies.” The *Arkansas Review* ultimately published the students’ work in its December 2015 issue. Roberts said, “It’s rare for undergraduates to publish in a journal like the *Arkansas Review*, but these students exemplified the English Department’s commitment to research and excellence.”

At the symposium, Marcus Tribbett, a professor at host-institution Arkansas State University, introduced the group of students. The well-attended panel sparked lively discussion and prompted Tribbett, who is also the editor of the *Arkansas Review*, to ask the students to submit their papers for evaluation for publication. “Once again, the students eagerly agreed to take on the extra work, including careful revision of their papers,” said Roberts, who wrote an introduction for the section after the papers were accepted. “The students’ excellence as researchers and their hard work as writers have gained them recognition through their publication, and their success shows there is no limit to what Fulbright College undergraduates can achieve.”



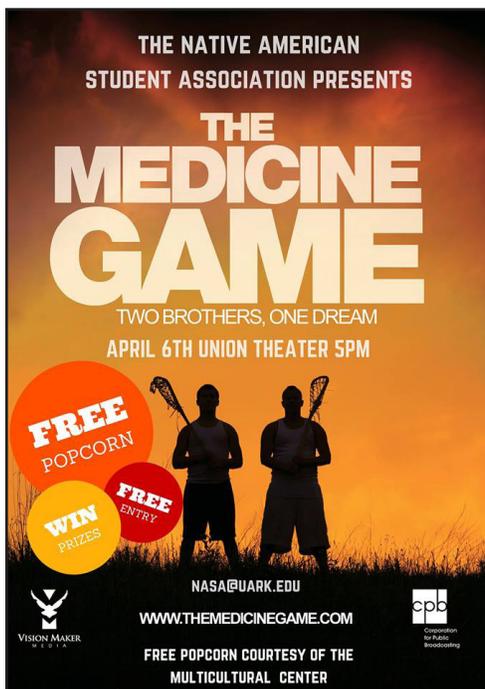
# UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

## Program Update: Indigenous Studies

The University of Arkansas launched its new Indigenous Studies Program last fall. Directed by Sean Teuton of the English Department, the program invites students to discover the world views, ecological relationships, societies, religions, arts, and governments of indigenous peoples in North America and beyond, from antiquity to the present. According to Teuton, locating the new program in the state of Arkansas made sense. “For centuries, Arkansas has been home to multiple Native American civilizations, whose industry, ideas, and art informed, and continue to enrich, the globe,” he said. “Undergraduate students who minor in Indigenous Studies get connected to Arkansas and beyond through the vibrancy of indigenous worlds, and immersion in this inherently interdisciplinary field prepares the minor for graduate-level work in the humanities, the sciences, business, and law as they pertain to indigenous peoples, but also for any career that requires a supple understanding of cultural difference.”

In April, the Native American Symposium Committee presented “The Daughter of Dawn,” a re-discovered silent docudrama. The screening took place at the university’s new Faulkner Performing Arts Center and was accompanied by the live premiere of Rodney Sauer’s musical adaptation performed by the Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra. Also in April, the Native American Student Association hosted a showing of “The Medicine Game” on campus as well as the first powwow at the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Arena off Garland Avenue in Fayetteville. Open to University of Arkansas students, faculty, and staff as well as to the general public, the powwow included two grand entries and a full schedule of dancing and other cultural activities.

Visit <http://indigenousstudies.uark.edu/> for more information.



# UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

## Program Update: Medieval and Renaissance Studies

The Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program, directed by William Quinn, Joshua Byron Smith, and Lindsey Panxi, continues to grow, fostering interdisciplinary interest in all aspects of world culture between 500 and 1700 c.e.

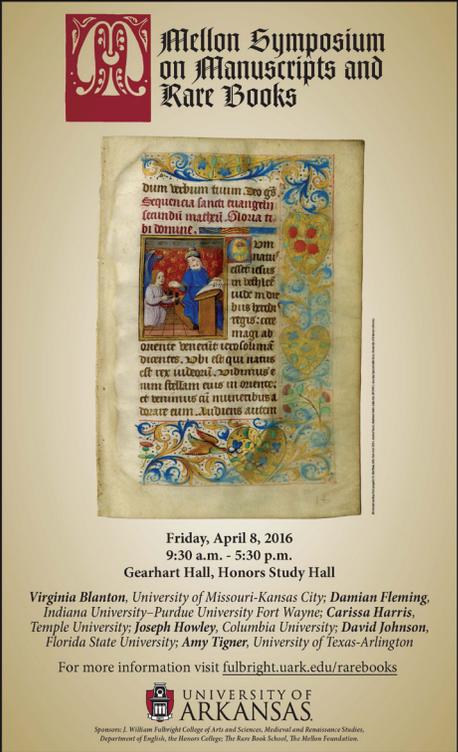
Smith recently received a three-year Mellon Fellowship in Critical Bibliography from the Rare Book School. The fellowship seeks to reinvigorate materialist approaches in the humanities. Through it, Smith coordinated the University of Arkansas's first Mellon Symposium on Manuscripts and Rare Books. Held on campus in April, the symposium brought together 325 scholars from here and other institutions to present and discuss archival research and methodology. Smith said the overall goal of the event was to interest people in the physical objects studied by medievalists and to highlight new ways of working with manuscripts and rare books. "There's a lot of interesting work that needs to be done," he said. "Thousands of unedited manuscripts are languishing in special collections libraries in Europe and elsewhere." The scholars speaking at the symposium also conducted workshops with graduate students and advanced undergraduates.

Thirty-seven undergraduate students are currently registered as minors in the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program. Last year eighteen students graduated with MRST minors, and this spring eleven more students graduated with minors in the program. Recent graduates with the minor are pursuing graduate-level studies in the medieval and/or early modern periods at the University of Arkansas, the University of California-Los Angeles, the University of Colorado, Cornell University, the University of Montana, and Purdue University. All students graduating with an MRST minor become members of the Order of the Quill and receive a lapel pin to flaunt their achievement.

The MRST Graduate Student Colloquy, coordinated by Panxi and Timothy Nelson, actively supports the interdepartmental conversation of medievalists, and M.A. and Ph.D. students regularly present papers at professional conferences. Special congratulations are due to Eric Larson, Sara Nicholson, and Panxi, all of whom received their doctorates in English this spring.

Recent guest lecturers sponsored by the MRST program include renowned scholars Mary Carruthers (New York University and Oxford University), Richard Kieckhefer (Northwestern University), Peter Lake (Vanderbilt University), David Wallace (University of Pennsylvania), Barbara Newman (Northwestern University), and Winthrop Wetherbee III (Cornell University). The MRST Program also offers two study-abroad opportunities: "Renaissance in Rome" and "Medieval England."

Visit <http://mrst.uark.edu/> for more information.



**Mellon Symposium  
on Manuscripts and  
Rare Books**

Friday, April 8, 2016  
9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Gearhart Hall, Honors Study Hall

Virginia Blanton, University of Missouri-Kansas City; Damian Fleming,  
Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne; Carissa Harris,  
Temple University; Joseph Howley, Columbia University; David Johnson,  
Florida State University; Amy Tigner, University of Texas-Arlington

For more information visit [fulbright.uark.edu/rarebooks](http://fulbright.uark.edu/rarebooks)

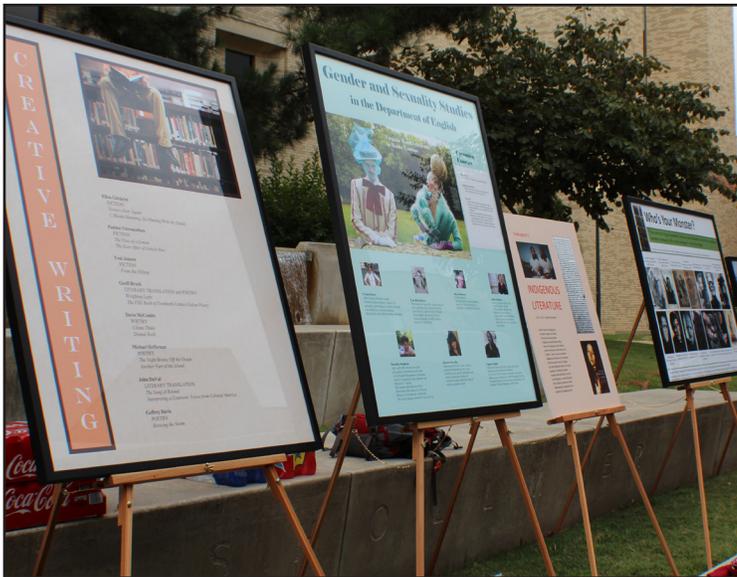
UNIVERSITY OF  
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Sponsors: J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, Medieval and Renaissance Studies,  
Department of English, the Honors College, The Rare Book School, The Mellon Foundation.

# UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

## English Department Undergraduate Extravaganza

Last September, the Department of English held its first Undergraduate Extravaganza, an opportunity for undergraduate English majors and minors to meet with each other and to chat with the department's faculty, staff, and graduate students. The outdoor event took place on the plaza between Kimpel Hall and the business buildings, under two large tents. Although the day was overcast and windy, the conversation, games, and prizes kept spirits high. The department plans to make the Undergraduate Extravaganza a regular event.



# ALUMNI NEWS

## M.A. and Ph.D. Alumni Job Placements for 2015

### *M.A. Graduates*

Alex Abrams

Fire Protection Publications Senior Editor, Oklahoma State University (Stillwater, OK)

Kimberly Allen

Doctoral Student in English, Oklahoma State University (Stillwater, OK)

Allison Carter

Freelance Journalist and Social Media Marketer/Producer, Engage Target Media (Little Rock, AR)

Rebecca Chatham

ESL English Teacher, Grades 10 and 11, Har-Ber High School (Springdale, AR)

Jason Curlin

Teacher, Arkansas Teacher Corps, Lee County High School (Mariana, AR)

Marisa Grippio

Administrative Specialist, Department of Political Science, University of Arkansas (Fayetteville, AR)

Joshua Jackson

Freelance Data Journalist

Shirley Rash

Library Assistant, Berryville Public Library, Berryville, AR

Phillip Stephens

Blackboard Support Specialist, University Information Technology Services, University of Arkansas (Fayetteville, AR)

Alexis Stephenson

Editorial Intern, University of Arkansas Press, University of Arkansas (Fayetteville, AR)

Ian Whitlow

Project Manager and Copywriter, Explainify (Fayetteville, AR)

### *Ph.D. Graduates*

Huseyin Altindis

Instructor, Department of English, University of Arkansas (Fayetteville, AR)

Jennifer Mallette

Assistant Professor of English, Technical Communication Program, Boise State University (Boise, ID)

Lindsey Panxhi

Assistant Professor of English Literature, Department of English, Oklahoma Baptist University (Shawnee, OK)

Mindy Trenary

Academic Records Assistant, Medical School Student Affairs, Washington University in St. Louis (St. Louis, MO)

Andy Trevathan

Instructor, Department of English, Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge (Baton Rouge, LA)

Afrin Zeenat

Assistant Professor of English Literature, Department of English, University of Dhaka (Dhaka, Bangladesh)

# ALUMNI, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We would like to update our alumni records, so please send us any news about yourself that you would like to share. For example, have you gotten a new job, moved, changed your name, or published a book? Help us keep in touch and stay up to date on alumni accomplishments by providing the following information by post or email:

Name (family and married names, as well as a nickname, if applicable)

Address

Class year(s) and degree(s)

News you want to share

Write to the Department of English, 333 Kimpel Hall, Fayetteville, AR 72701;  
or email the information to us at [engl@uark.edu](mailto:engl@uark.edu)

## DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

### **Baucum-Fulkerson Memorial Award**

Suzanne Monroe

### **Ben Kimpel Memorial Fund Awards**

Sarah F. Hudson  
Uyen Dang

### **Betty Moore Brown Endowed Scholarship**

Tara Miranda N. McDaniel

### **Blair Rouse Scholarship Awards**

Christopher Borntrager  
Becca Moore  
Nikki Holland

### **Carolyn F. Walton Cole Fellowships**

Molly Rector  
Caroline Beimford  
Vicente Yopez

Sacha Idell

### **Carolyn Walton Cole First-Year Underrepresented Student Fellowships**

Joy Clark  
Gwendolyn Mauroner  
Samantha Kirby

### **Claude W. Faulkner Award**

Jonathan Green

### **Diane Blair Fellowship for the Study of Southern Literature**

Jordan Savage

### **Doctoral Academy Fellowships**

Sharla Finley  
Sharon Fox  
Luis Fernando Marin  
Jordan Savage

# DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

## **Felix Christopher McKean Memorial Awards**

Molly Rector  
Angela M. Blake

## **G. V. G. "Tori" Saunders Award**

Daneele Erin Dickerson

## **Harrison/Whitehead Founders' Fellowships**

Emily Cruz  
Larissa Sprecher

## **James R. Bennett CEA Travel Grant**

Jonathan Green

## **James T. Whitehead Awards**

Jacob Yordy  
Bailey Hutchinson

## **Jessie O'Kelly Freshman Essay Award**

John P. Gairhan

## **JoAnn Rushton and Linda Rushton Selman Endowed English Scholarship**

Patrick Owen Angyal

## **John And Shirley Holmes Scholarship**

Caroline Beimford

## **Larry Guinn Endowed Award**

Sara West

## **Leo and Nola Van Scyoc Award in English**

Dana Turner Haymore

## **Lily Peter Fellowships**

Julia Paganelli  
Anthony Blake  
Jacob Yordy  
Suzanne Monroe  
Lucas Palmer  
Sacha Idell  
Jesse Irwin

## **Lyna Lee Montgomery Endowed Award**

James Taylor Sinclair

## **Marie Thompson Carson and Eva Clark Thompson Endowed Scholarship**

Whitney D. Watson

## **Miller Williams Translation Award**

J. T. Mahany

## **Dr. T.C. Duncan Eaves Memorial Fellowship**

N/A for 2016

## **Vance and Mary Celestia Parker Randolph Fellowships in English**

Whitney Martin  
Christy Davis  
Megan Vallowe

## **Walton Family Fellowships**

Zachary Hester  
Jacob Yordy  
Ann Louise Cole

# NEW GRADUATES

## B.A. Program in English

### Fall 2015

Nicholas Bailey  
Kristin Butler  
Jessica Clement  
Jana Dawson  
Vanessa Etchison  
Samuel Evens  
Jessica Love  
Rebecca Martell  
Victor Martin  
Sydney Mooney  
Brooke Morgan  
David Morledge  
Carly Pingel  
Jenna Rotramel  
Bonnie Slaughter  
Elliott Smith  
Clara Spann  
Jordan Sumler  
Langlee Threlkeld  
Rachael Ward  
Chelsea Widen

### Spring 2016

Ileana Aleman  
Madison Babb  
Steven Bailey  
Justin Barfield  
Kaitlyn Bewley  
Colleen Boardman  
Lauren Boatright  
Timothy Bower  
Alexander Boyd  
Jillian Brenner  
Cara Brickey  
Candace Brown  
Kirby Bunn  
Danielle Calhoun  
Jacob Campbell  
Emily Cole  
Laken Curtis  
Amy Danforth

Joseph Deloach  
Daneele Dickerson  
Hannah Erwin  
Bailee Etchison  
Riede Faires  
Rachel Ford  
Ashleigh Giovannini  
Andrew Gravit  
Ethan Hannah  
Rachel Haynes  
Joseph Heaston  
Hannah Herzog  
Lori Hicks  
Allyn Jordon  
Carlie Kerr  
Ryan Kerr  
Sandra Kincaid  
Peter Kramer  
Cody Labarber  
Monica Magana  
Rebecca Marsh  
Samantha Mason  
Samantha Morgan  
Lauren Morrison  
Emily Nelson  
Veronica Nelson  
Shari Oliver  
Molly Owen  
Meredith Palmer  
Joshua Pankey  
Kaitlyn Polley  
Zoe Rom  
Sarah Stanley  
Eilidh Strecker  
Kathryn Taylor  
Olivia Taylor  
Mary Voss  
Ian Walters  
Courtney Weisell  
Hannah Wright  
Lawson Wright  
Mitchell Yerby

# NEW GRADUATES

## M.A.

### Summer 2015

Kimberly Allen  
Allison Carter  
Rebecca Chatham  
Marisa Grippo  
Joshua Jackson  
Shirley Rash  
Phillip Stephens  
Alexis Stephenson

### Spring 2016

Judith (Judi) Bell  
Alex Blomstedt  
Sally Ferguson  
Sharon Fox  
Luis Marin  
Jessica (Jessi) Schnebelen

## M.F.A.

### Spring 2016

*Translation:*  
Anne Greeott  
Christopher Tamigi

*Poetry:*  
Megan Blankenship  
Kevin Corbett  
Eszter Takacs

*Fiction:*  
Jane Blunski  
David Kinzer  
Hank Pate  
Scott Ray

## Ph.D.

### Summer 2015

Mindy Trenary  
Afrin Zeenat

### Fall 2015

Jocelyn Bailey  
Andy Trevathan

### Spring 2016

Paige Hermansen  
Eric Larson  
Rebecca Moore  
Sara Nicholson  
Lindsey Zachary Panxhi  
Rachael Price  
Amanda Schafer

## Help Us to Continue Supporting Students

As this issue of *Arkansas English* attests, the English Department is dedicated to supporting graduate and undergraduate students by building and offering new programs, revising and enhancing existing programs, funding student efforts to coordinate and attend conferences, providing new social events for students, giving monetary awards for outstanding scholarship and creative writing, inviting significant scholars and creative writers to campus, and preparing students for success on the academic and nonacademic job markets. We hope you will help the department continue to provide these important types of support. If you would like further information on how you can best support the work of the English Department, please contact Dorothy Stephens, Chair, at (479) 575-5982 or [dstephen@uark.edu](mailto:dstephen@uark.edu).

If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to the University of Arkansas Foundation and indicate on the check, as well as in an attached letter, that you wish the funds to go to the Department of English (or for a particular purpose within this department). Our address is 333 Kimpel Hall, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701.