

ARKANSAS ENGLISH

Fall 2019

The Department Newsletter Returns!

In This Issue:

- New Faces
- Faculty Spotlight:
Professor William Quinn
- Recent News from Around
the Department
- Society for the Study of
Southern Literature
Conference to Take Place
at the U of A in Spring 2020



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

J. William Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences
English

Table of Contents

New Faces	3
Faculty Spotlight: Professor William Quinn	5
News from the Undergraduate Degree Program	7
News from the Creative Writing & Translation Program	9
News from the English M.A. & Ph.D. Programs	13
News from the Rhetoric and Composition Office	16
News from the Graduate Students in English (GSE) Organization	18
Recent English Faculty Book Publications	20
Pedagogy Lunch Series Continues with “Intro to Lit” Panel	21
Society for the Study of Southern Literature Conference to Take Place at the U of A in Spring 2020	21

New Faces



Nellie Ashley

Nellie Ashley joined the English Department's central office staff in the role of Administrative/Travel Specialist last fall. Prior to joining the department, Nellie worked at the university as a Razor-temp. This summer, for the second time, she traveled to the Amazon River (Colombia and Peru) on a medical mission trip. She earned the following two B.A.s from the U of A: English - Creative Writing (2005) and Journalism - News/Editorial (2015). She participated in the following study abroad program: International News Reporting in Bolivia (2014). Born and raised in Little Rock, Nellie considers Fayetteville her second home.



Jo Hsu

Jo Hsu is an Assistant Professor of English, Affiliate Faculty in Gender Studies, and the outgoing Associate Director of the Rhetoric and Composition Office. With an M.F.A. in creative writing and a Ph.D. in rhetorical studies, Jo focuses their research and teaching on the interrelations among identity, narrative writing, and struggles for social change. Their areas of expertise include intersectional feminism; trans studies; queer of color critique; Asian American history and politics; and rhetorics of race, gender, and sexuality. They teach a class titled "Storying Social Change" at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, which explores how narratives participate in the (re)negotiation of attitudes, policies, and practices that affect marginalized peoples. A lifelong student, Jo regards the university as a space for mutual exploration—where our experiences, needs, desires, fears, and worldviews converge to consider more expansive understandings of who "we" are and how we can grow, together.



Bryan Hurt

Bryan Hurt is an Assistant Professor in Fiction and the author of *Everyone Wants to Be Ambassador to France* (Red Hen, 2018), selected by Alissa Nutting as the winner of the 10th Annual Starcherone Prize for Innovative Fiction. He is the editor of *Watchlist: 32 Stories by Persons of Interest* (OR Books/Catapult, 2016) and Midwest editor for *Joyland Magazine*. His work has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and named finalist for the Calvino Prize and Horatio Nelson Prize in Fiction. He's received fellowships from the Sewanee and Tin House Writers' Conferences. Bryan holds a Ph.D. in Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Southern California.



Jonathan Jackson

Jonathan Jackson joined the English Department's central office staff in the role of Administrative Assistant in the Fall of 2017. He recently completed a B.S. in Business Administration in the field of Marketing from the Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Born in West Palm Beach, Florida, Jonathan moved to Fayetteville at the age of 5, and alongside his formal education, is a self-trained music composer, producer, and performer.



Katherine Lam-Bellacero

Katherine Lam-Bellacero joined the Department of English this summer as a Curriculum & Teaching Specialist for the Rhetoric and Composition Office. Though she holds an M.A. in TESOL, the bulk of her most recent experience involves teaching first-year composition and training writing tutors and new teachers. Prior to joining the department, Katherine was teaching in the steppes of Kazakhstan, relishing life in subzero temperatures and six months of winter. She is originally from New York, but has also taught in France. Katherine speaks French, Russian, Cantonese, and some Spanish, and she can read Japanese and Korean.

Faculty Spotlight: Professor William Quinn



Dr. William Quinn, Department Chair (above left), was a classics major at Xavier University. He went on to receive his M.A. and Ph.D. from “THE” Ohio State University. He specializes in Middle English verse. (Also pictured: Dr. Joshua Smith, Department Vice Chair.)

Some of Dr. Quinn’s most recent publications are as follows:

- “The Trope of Translation in Pearl,” in Jane Beal & Brad Busbee, eds., *MLA Approaches to Teaching the Middle English Pearl* (New York: MLA, 2018). Pp. 164-70.
- “String Theory and Chaucer’s ‘The Man of Law’s Tale’: Where is Constancy?” *Critical Survey* 29 (2017): 48-64.
- “The Chosen and the Chastised: Naming Jews in the York Mystery Plays,” Chapter 9 in Mariamne Krummel and Tison Pugh, eds., *Jews in Medieval England: Teaching Representations of the “Other”* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017). Pp. 141-56.
- “Odd Bits of Troilus and Criseyde and the Rights of Chaucer’s Early Readers,” *The Chaucer Review* 51 (2016): 338-81.
- Review of Simon Armitage’s *Pearl: A New Verse Translation* in *The Translation Review* 101 (2018): 1-6.

Along with his prolific publication history, Dr. Quinn has also been awarded the titles of Distinguished Professor, James E. and Ellen Wadley Roper Professor of English, and Visiting Fellow of Wolfson College at Cambridge University. He has been awarded the University of Arkansas Honors College’s Faculty Gold Medal and the Outstanding Mentor Award from the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards.

When asked about joining the Department of English at the University of Arkansas, Dr. Quinn states, “I came to the U of A in 1979, right after the glaciers receded. . . . There were only three tenure-track jobs in my field that year. Ben Kimpel was Chair of the Department of English at the U of A. It was during my on-campus visit that I started to think of Fayetteville as home.” Dr. Quinn still refers to his faculty position at the U of A as his “first job.”

Dr. Quinn served as the founding director of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies program for seventeen years, and he still actively participates in current program events, now organized by Dr. Joshua Smith, such as the MRST & MEST Colloquium Series. He has enjoyed teaching both the “Chaucer: *Canterbury Tales*” and “Chaucer: Non-*Canterbury Tales*” courses.

Dr. Quinn states that he is finding his transition to Department Chair “exceptionally easy.” He says, “Dot Stephens [the former Department Chair] left the department in such good shape after her eight years of dedicated service to the faculty. The most challenging aspect of the job is simply learning how things work, but, in this regard as well, the support of the department’s excellent administrative staff has made my transition quite easy so far. I think I just confessed that all mistakes are my own.”

In his new role, Dr. Quinn is excited to see that a more diverse curriculum is being promoted by the department’s program directors. In fact, he states that his faculty is full of “bright young minds” who are “constantly suggesting new ideas.” With his role, he hopes his experience “can help them achieve their plans for the future.”

Dr. Quinn has two goals regarding the growth of the department. He wants the number of graduating English majors to increase, and he is committed to increasing the stipends for the Graduating Teaching Assistants, as they “carry the bulk of teaching the University’s core requirements.”

As a parting word to the students of the English Department, Dr. Quinn states simply, “Enjoy working harder.”



News from the Undergraduate Degree Program

Interview with Dr. Karen Madison, Director of Undergraduate Studies



Dr. Madison has an A.A. degree from Crowder College, and a B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas. She has received numerous awards for her teaching, including (most recently) the English Department's Teaching Excellence Award. She has also served as past president of the College English Association, and she has received the CEA's Joe Thomas Distinguished Service Award for national advocacy for contingent faculty, as well as a Special Recognition of Merit in Rhetoric and Composition from our department's Rhetoric and Composition Office.

What are you excited to see happening in the undergraduate English program?

I'm excited to see our faculty's level of interest in creating robust connections with our majors.

What do you hope to see grow in the program?

For now, the Undergraduate Concerns Committee and I are hoping to

- Build a strong Sigma Tau Delta honors society and create an English Club for all interested in matters relating to English studies.
- Create a journal for undergraduate publication in all areas of English studies interest.
- Encourage publication and conference experience for our majors and minors.
- Evaluate and enhance the outcomes of the Proficiency in English Studies assessment protocol for our graduating seniors.

What is a specific goal that you have in your new role as Director of Undergraduate Studies?

My first goal is to create an infrastructure for communications with our students and ongoing, yearly advising events to help them prepare for graduation and beyond. I also hope to use their feedback to create further goals.

What would you like to tell the students who are pursuing degrees in English?

One of the Department's major goals is to teach students to deal with ambiguity because, if you learn to do that, you can do just about anything. So do not let anyone try to dissuade you from your major--because you've chosen well. Not only are you expanding your analytical skills in every one of our

classes, but you also are learning from extraordinary writers and diverse thinkers, ever expanding your capacity for deep analysis while developing your comfort level in grappling with the unknown. And, regardless of your interests, you are supported by an excellent faculty who care if you succeed. English majors also get hired after graduation at higher rates than most of the disciplines that students (and often parents) think will give them a better advantage.

So remember the old adage that in a math problem, there is likely going to be only one correct solution, but for English majors, the possibilities are unlimited—and within that multitude of choices lie the advantages and strengths of the English major and minor.

UNDERGRADUATE RECRUITMENT - FROM DR. MADISON

Our first major event for our majors was a drop-in Halloween advising event on October 31st in the Kimpel Hall lobby. Our goal was to assist our students in the upcoming enrollment cycle and to facilitate the retention and recruitment of English majors.

We invited students to dress up as their favorite characters and to meet with faculty in like attire. The treat was the interaction with faculty members about the course offerings for spring 2020, as well as pizza and Halloween snacks.

The trick? We solicited suggestions for future courses from the attendees, as well as quotation suggestions for our annual English t-shirt that we'll distribute at our spring event.

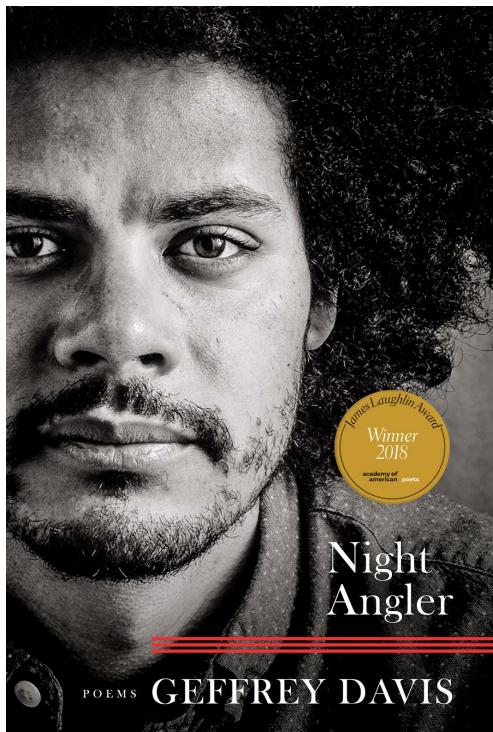


News from the Creative Writing & Translation Program

The Program in Creative Writing and Translation has much to celebrate! Our students, alumni, and faculty are making great strides.

FACULTY NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

Associate Professor in Poetry **Geoffrey Davis** has received several prestigious literary awards and fellowships in the last year, including a 2019 Creative Writing Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts for his work in poetry. Davis was selected from nearly 1,700 eligible applicants for the \$25,000 fellowship.



Davis was also awarded a Whiting Foundation Grant for Public Engagement for his collaborative project *On the Row: Prison Story Project*, featuring creative writing and storytelling from men on death row at Varner, a supermax prison in the Arkansas Delta. The foundation awarded Davis one of seven \$50,000 fellowships, and he will also receive up to \$10,000 in material and support costs.

In March, Davis's second collection of poems, *Night Angler*, was released by BOA Editions. The work was the winner of the esteemed James Laughlin Award, and awards judge Craig Santos Perez described the collection as "poems about coming to terms with a drug-addicted father, coming of age as a 'black boy' in America, and coming through the 'wilderness of worry' as a husband and new parent amid racial violence and environmental injustice. Throughout, the poet displays a fidelity to poetic craft and innovative technique that few second books ever achieve."

Assistant Professor in Fiction Toni Jensen's collection of essays, *Carry*, will be released in the fall of 2020 by Ballantine Books. The title essay was published in *Ecotone* in the spring of 2019. Read it here: <https://ecotonemagazine.org/nonfiction/carry/>

Jensen also received a Sustainable Arts Foundation Grant this past year. Designed to support artists and writers with children, Jensen was chosen from a pool of 2,500 applicants to receive the \$5,000 award.

In other faculty publication news, **Professor in Poetry and Translation Geoffrey Brock's** translations of *Last Dream*, poems by Giovanni Pascoli, and *The Tenderness of Stones*, a graphic novel by Marion Fayolle, were released this year.

São Bernardo, a novel by Graciliano Ramos and translated by **Associate Professor in Fiction Padma Viswanathan**, is forthcoming in 2020.

Professor in Translation John DuVal delivered the 2019 Roper Lecture, "On the Trail of Esteban," in September, as he completed his term as the James E. and Ellen Wadley Roper Professor of Creative Writing.

Esteban was the first African known to explore North America and one of the heroes of Colonial North American history, and DuVal's lecture was based on an article Professor DuVal and Kathleen DuVal, Professor of History at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, are currently researching on the topic.

M.F.A. ALUMNI NEWS

Poetry alum **Jacob Shores-Arguello** was awarded the 2018 Lannan Literary Fellowship for poetry, a \$100,000 prize. He is currently completing his time as a Hodder Fellow at Princeton University, an experience that provided time and funding to research his next collection of poetry in Costa Rica. He was awarded the 2017 Canto Mundo Poetry Prize for his collection, *Paraíso*.

J.T. Mahany's translation of *Eleven Sooty Dreams* by Manuela Draeger will be released in 2020.

Late last year, fiction writer **John Englehardt's** debut novel, *Bloomland*, was selected as the 2018 Dzanc Prize for Fiction. Selected from a pool of hundreds of manuscripts, *Bloomland* has been described by Kirkus Reviews as "[h]ugely important, hauntingly brutal—Englehardt has just announced himself as one of America's most talented emerging writers."

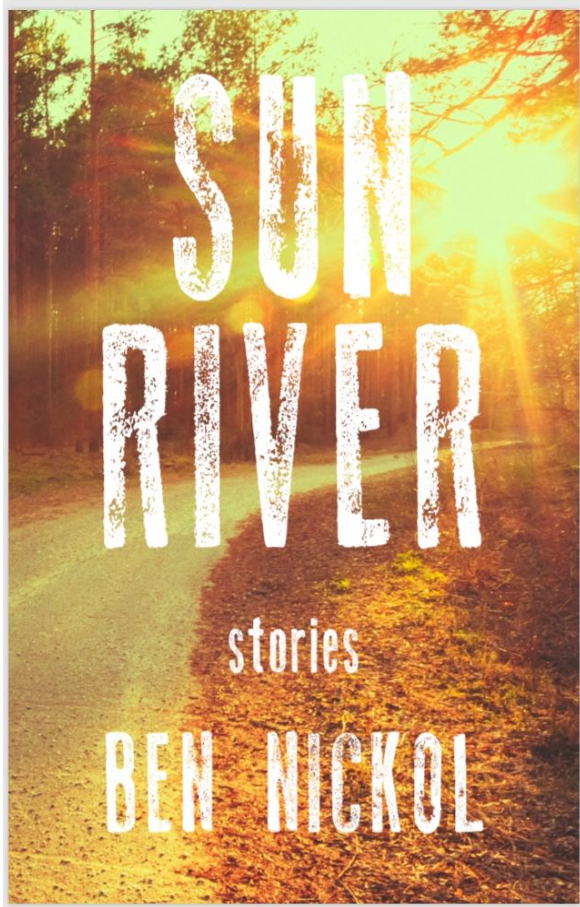
Corrie Williamson's second book of poetry, *The River Where You Forgot My Name*, was selected by Allison Joseph for the 2018 Crab Orchard Series in Poetry. In 2020, she'll be in residence at the PEN Northwest/Margery Davis Boyden Wilderness Writing Residency on the Rogue River in Oregon.

SIX CREATIVE WRITING STUDENTS AND ALUMNI RECEIVE ARTISTS 360 AWARDS



In September, the Mid-America Arts Alliance and Walton Family Foundation announced the recipients of 2019 Artists 360 Awards, a three-year pilot program that provides grant funding and professional development opportunities to individual artists of all disciplines in the greater Northwest Arkansas area. Last year's inaugural class of granted artists included poetry alumni Brody Parrish Craig and Molly Bess Rector, along with student artist Bailey Hutchinson. This year, our students and alumni made a great showing on that list once again. Alumni **Keely Brice**, **Megan Downey**, **Traci Manos**, and **Rodney Wilhite** received project grants to fund ongoing creative work, and current students **Samuel Binns** and **Peter Mason** won student grants. Grants include learning opportunities to develop entrepreneurial skills and build sustainable careers, creating a network of leading regional artists.

CATCHING UP WITH BEN NICKOL (M.F.A. '11)



Sun River, **Ben Nickol's** third book, and second book of short stories, was released in the Spring of 2019.

Of his time in the Program in Creative Writing and Translation, Ben had this to say:

“What I remember best about my six years at the University of Arkansas (four years as a graduate student and two as an instructor) is how resolutely the M.F.A. faculty honored the fact that I and everyone else was there, above all other considerations, to tap literature into keyboards. We had additional responsibilities (taking classes, teaching classes, attending readings, meetings) but these duties mainly were important only insofar as they furthered our writing, and furthered us into life as writers, and the faculty never forgot this.”

News from the English M.A. & Ph.D. Programs

FALL SPEAKER PANEL EVENTS

From left to right: Elizabeth Walker, Ashley Robinson, Ian Whitlow, Shirley Rash, Autumn Weese, Jessi Schnebelen, and Morgan Scholz. These seven alumni spoke to current graduate students about pursuing and working in alt-ac careers.



In October, the English Graduate Program offered a panel discussion focused on graduate internship opportunities, featuring speakers from the City of Fayetteville's Department of Communications and Marketing, the Environmental Defense Fund, the start-up company Finding Northwest Arkansas, the Ozark Literacy Council, and the Special Collections division of the University of Arkansas Libraries. In November, another panel event was offered, focusing upon alt-ac careers and featuring alumni speakers who work at B-Unlimited, the Business Communication Lab at the Walton College of Business, Interrobang, Rogers Public Library, Shirley Rash Editing, Tyson Foods, and Wal-Mart.

FALL RECRUITMENT TRIPS



Also in October, the English Graduate Program recruited on nine campuses in Arkansas and Missouri: John Brown University, University of Arkansas at Fort Smith, Arkansas Tech University, University of Central Arkansas, Hendrix College, University of Arkansas at Monticello, Arkansas State University, Williams Baptist University, and College of the Ozarks. Pictured above are students and faculty at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro (left) and Williams Baptist University in Walnut Creek (right).

CURRENT GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Dylan Henderson, M.A. student, was awarded an R.D. Mullen Fellowship to conduct archival research last July at the John Hay Library on the Brown University campus. The \$1,000 fellowship was sponsored by the journal *Science Fiction Studies*. Henderson's current research project explores how, in the 1920s, the distinct genres now known as fantasy, horror, and science fiction gradually coalesced and then separated from one another, and the role that early pulp magazines like *Weird Tales*, the first pulp magazine to specialize in speculative fiction, played in that process.



Katie W. Powell, Ph.D. student, participated in the annual Rhetoric Society of America Project at the University of Nevada, Reno, last May. Powell, who is specializing in rhetoric and composition studies and technical writing, was one of 25 participants. The purpose of the program was to examine and apply rhetorical theory to the University of Nevada, Reno's Campus Master Plan. Powell, who is beginning her second year of the doctoral program, plans to focus her dissertation research on the discourse surrounding memorials and monuments in regards to heritage and public memory.



ENGLISH GRADUATE STUDENTS PRESENT AT THIS FALL'S SCMLA CONFERENCE



We congratulate all of our graduate students who participated at the South Central MLA Conference in Little Rock this past October! Students presented in areas ranging from “Science Fiction and Fantasy” to “Graphic Texts and Visual Rhetoric” to “Nineteenth-Century British Literature.” Pictured at left are graduate students **William Lemley** (Ph.D. student, Comparative Literature & Cultural Studies), **Jordan Savage** (Ph.D. student), and **Addison Cornwell** (M.A. student), and at right is **Sharon Fox** (Ph.D. student).

RECENT GRADUATE ENGLISH ALUMNI JOB PLACEMENT AND PROMOTION NEWS

Alex Abrams (M.A. '15) was hired as the Communications and Marketing Specialist for the University of North Carolina at Greensboro's School of Nursing.

Jack Ayres (Ph.D. '13) was granted tenure and promotion at Texas A&M-San Antonio.

Isaiah "Bo" Desmond (M.A. '19) was hired to teach English in China.

Robert Ellis (M.A. '18) was promoted to Employer Relations Coordinator for the University of Arkansas's Career Development Center. Robert was also appointed as a Provost Lecturer for the 2019-2020 school year.

Erin Gloster (M.A. '19) was hired for a four-month, full-time, paid technical writing internship with the Environmental Defense Fund office in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Jonathan Green (Ph.D. '18) was hired as the Writing Center Director and an Assistant Professor at Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri.

Nathan Haydon (Ph.D. '19) was hired by Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy in Bentonville to teach 7th- and 8th-grade literature.

Garrett Jeter (Ph.D. '18) was hired as an Assistant Professor at Georgia Military College in Warner Robins, Georgia.

Jackie Lawrence (M.A. '14) was promoted from Associate Business Partner to Corporate Human Resources Business Partner at J.B. Hunt in Lowell, Arkansas.

MaryKate Messimer (Ph.D. '19) was hired to teach English at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia.

Lindsey Panxhi (Ph.D. '17) was appointed Director of the Honors program at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

John Stout (M.A. '18) joined the Haas Hall Academy faculty, teaching 8th-, 9th-, and 10th-grade English on the Fayetteville campus in Arkansas.

Autumn Weese (M.A. '19) was promoted to a full-time position as Library Assistant with the Circulation Department of the Rogers Public Library in Rogers, Arkansas.

Leigh Wood (M.A. '07) was promoted from Membership Director to the new General Manager of KUAF 91.3 FM, the Northwest Arkansas area's National Public Radio affiliate.

News from the Rhetoric and Composition Office

Interview with Dr. Adam Pope, Director of the Rhetoric and Composition Office



Dr. Pope has B.A.s in Spanish and English and an M.A. in English from the University of Arkansas. He has a Ph.D. from Purdue University and specialized in Rhetoric and Composition with focus areas in Technical Writing and Public Rhetorics.

What do you hope to see grow in the Rhetoric and Composition Office (RCO)? What is a goal that you have in your role?

I'd like to see more outreach from the RCO. I hope that our new curriculum and teaching specialist, Katherine Lam-Bellacero, will be able to take a lead in that work.

What are you excited to see happening in the RCO?

I'm excited to see the new curriculum come online with input from the entire Rhetoric and Composition faculty. We're making moves to regularize the work we do, collect long-term data on student outcomes, and give instructors more choice in how they cover content.

What would you like to share about the new curriculum changes in Comp I and II?

I would like to share that these changes are designed to bring the course back to the basic questions of writing: how do you write well, persuasively, and contextually? I think that sparse focus will make the class a lot more engaging as it creates more space for deep discussions.

What kinds of resources is the RCO making available to faculty, staff, and TAs of the English Department?

We are doing our best to provide sample syllabi, sample lesson plans, structured calendars, teaching workshops, and drop-in consulting for teaching issues. We hope to expand our inclusion of stakeholder feedback as we go forward.

What would you like to tell the students of the program?

We are here to serve our undergraduate population and to serve you, and we look forward to working with all of you.

(At right: Dr. Pope with M.A. student Hannah Ash at this fall's Department of English drop-in Halloween advising event.)



FALL 2019 TEACHING WORKSHOP SERIES

The Rhetoric and Composition Office presented a series of teaching workshops, led by Dylan Henderson, Sharla Rosenbaum, and Jeff Wright. Topics ranged from student agency to thesis statements and advocacy to rhetorical analysis. The informational experiences were enjoyed by all in attendance, and the series was a definite success. Thank you to the RCO and the presenters!



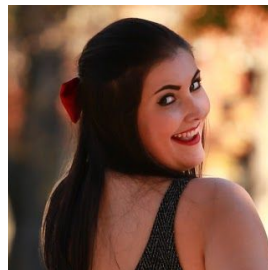
News from the Graduate Students in English (GSE) Organization



(Pictured above from left to right: Sharla Rosenbaum, Jordan A. Savage, Christopher Borntrager, Kristen Figgins, Addison Cornwell, Gwendolyn Mauroner, Dr. Mohja Kahf, and Gracie Bain. Below, at right: Hannah Ash, Meagon Clarkson-Guyll, and Zane Emilija Sarma. Pictured on p. 19: Dana Blair.)

2019-2020 GSE Officers

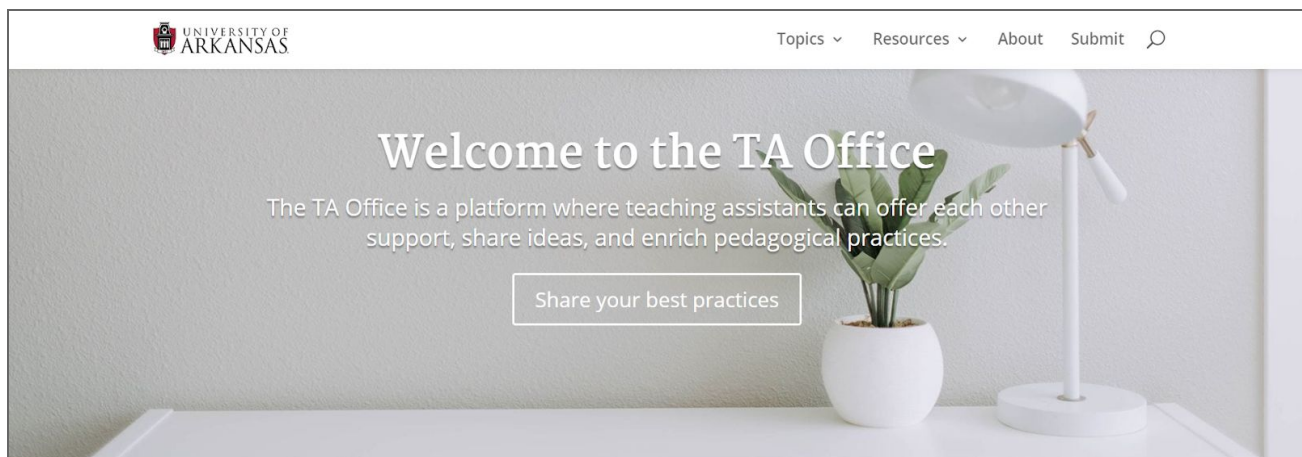
President: Kristen Figgins
Vice President: Jordan Savage
Treasurer: Chris Borntrager
Historian/Secretary: Hannah Ash
Ph.D. Liaison: Gracie Bain
M.F.A. Liaison: Gwendolyn Mauroner
Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies Liaison: Zane Emilija Sarma
M.A. Liaison: Addison Cornwell
Student-Faculty Liaison: Sharla Rosenbaum
Rhetoric and Composition Office Liaison: Meagon Clarkson-Guyll
Media Development Director: Dana Blair
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Mohja Kahf



GSE NEWS FOR FALL 2019

The GSE officers have been hard at work in the Fall of 2019. Early Fall events included a faculty-student picnic in September, at which students and faculty mingled over nachos. The GSE also hosted a Town Hall meeting to get feedback from students on how the officers can advocate for members. The event was successful and was the catalyst for great conversations between the GSE and faculty. This fall will also include a CLCS professionalization event for CLCS students (although students in other disciplines are invited): how to choose a dissertation committee. Finally, the GSE officers put the finishing touches on this year's conference CFP. Our conference theme this year is liminality. Interested students and faculty are encouraged to submit proposals (to gsearkansas@gmail.com) that think about transitional or in-between spaces, ideas, and places.

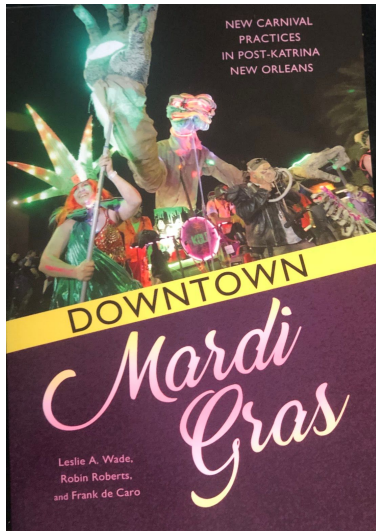
LAUNCHING OF *THE TA OFFICE* PLATFORM BY DANA BLAIR, GSE MEDIA DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



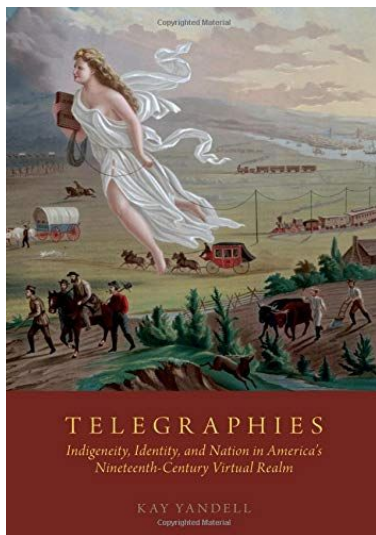
Have you been to *The TA Office*? Launched this year by the GSE, *The TA Office* is a platform where teaching assistants can offer each other support, share ideas, and enrich pedagogical practices. Visit *The TA Office* for lesson ideas and classroom management tips. Posts on *The TA Office* site are authored by English TAs, and TAs from any university campus are welcome to submit to the Quick Tips section of the website. Submitting is an easy, quick process; posts take roughly 15 minutes to author and submit. In addition to helping build our TA community, submitting a post is one way for graduate students to build a trail of mentorship for a future job search.



Recent English Faculty Book Publications



Co-authored by Leslie A. Wade, professor in the UA Theatre Department, **Robin Roberts**, UA professor of English and gender studies, and Frank de Caro, Professor Emeritus of English at LSU, *Downtown Mardi Gras: New Carnival Practices in Post-Katrina New Orleans* offers an interdisciplinary look at how New Orleans' unique cultural practices helped revive a city recovering from a man-made disaster. Since 2006, a number of new Mardi Gras practices have gained prominence. The new organizations, or krewes as they are called, interpret and revise the city's Carnival traditions. The history of each parade reveals the convergence of race, class, age, and gender dynamics in these new parading groups. Using ethnography, folklore, cultural, performance, and gender studies, the authors examine six unique, offbeat, Downtown celebrations. With 42 color photographs, *Downtown Mardi Gras* brings Carnival to life on the page.



Telegraphies, written by **Kay Yandell**, UA professor of English, explores literatures envisioning the literary, societal, even the perceived metaphysical effects of various cultures' telecommunications technologies, to argue that nineteenth-century Americans tested in the virtual realm new theories of self, place, nation, and god. While some writers celebrated far-speaking technologies as conduits of a metaphysical Manifest Destiny to overspread America's primitive cultures, others revealed how telecommunication could empower previously silenced voices to range free in the disembodied virtual realm, even as bodies remained confined by race, class, gender, disability, age, or geography. Ultimately, *Telegraphies* broadens the way literary scholars conceive of telecommunications technologies while providing a rich understanding of similarities between literatures often considered to have little in common.

Pedagogy Lunch Series Continues with “Intro to Lit” Panel



The Pedagogy Lunch Series, organized by **Dr. Casey Kayser** and **Dr. Leigh Sparks**, continued this fall semester with a talk in November led by faculty members **Dr. Constance Bailey**, **Dr. Joshua Smith**, and **Dr. Dorothy Stephens**. The three discussed their various approaches to teaching ENGL 1213, “Introduction to Literature,” a course designed to introduce non-English majors to a range of texts (poetry, plays, short stories, film, etc.) and the process of literary analysis.



Society for the Study of Southern Literature Conference to Take Place at the U of A in Spring 2020

The University of Arkansas will host the Society for the Study of Southern Literature biennial conference from April 2-5, 2020. With support from the English Department, the Creative Writing Program, the Diane D. Blair Center of Southern Politics and Society, the Arkansas Humanities Center, and the David

and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History, the conference will feature nationally-recognized speakers and will be attended by approximately 200 scholars from around the globe. **Associate Professor Lisa Hinrichsen** is President and Conference Organizer of the Society, and **Assistant Professor Casey Kayser** serves on the conference committee.

With a theme of “Beyond Borders, Bars, and Binaries: Rethinking ‘South’ in an Age of Crisis,” the conference will center on issues of social justice in the US South as represented in southern literature and culture, positioning issues of diversity and inclusion at its center. In examining the literatures and cultures of incarceration, plantation-to-prison interconnections, and the impacts of U.S. carceral, punishment, and surveillance regimes on everyday life, the gathering will play host to a dynamic discussion that responds to the political anxieties of our present moment, while also positioning these tensions within the long scope of regional, national, and transnational histories and narratives that exceed and inform our current realities.

The events will begin on Thursday, April 2nd, with a set of mini-seminars on topics that anticipate and extend conference themes: “Ecological Souths,” “Southern Horrors: Afrosouthernfuturism and the Black Speculative Arts” (co-led by **Assistant Professor Constance Bailey**), “Inside Voices: Power and Pedagogy in Prison Classrooms,” “Trans 101” (led by MFA grad Brody Craig Parrish), and “Among, Apart, Between: Multiethnic Souths.”

Confirmed speakers include **Geffrey Davis, Associate Professor of English and Creative Director of the Prison Stories Project** (<http://www.nwaprisonstories.com/>), and Lisa Corrigan, Associate Professor of Communication and author of *Prison Power: How Prison Influenced the Movement for Black Liberation* (UP Mississippi 2016) and the forthcoming *Black Feelings: Race and Affect in the Long Sixties* (UP Mississippi, 2020). Kathy McGregor, director of the Prison Stories Project, and prison educators and scholars Patrick Alexander and Katie Owens-Murphy will speak about their work in prison education. *The Arkansas International* will overlap their spring release with the conference, and Joseph Fruscione, co-editor of *Succeeding Outside the Academy* (Kansas, 2018) and series editor of the new “Rethinking Careers, Rethinking Academia” series at the University of Kansas Press, will host a Skype session on alt-ac pathways. Finally, Poet Laureate of the United States Joy Harjo will give a much-anticipated reading on the final evening of the conference.



<http://southernlit.org/>

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 activities and accomplishments by providing the following information by e-mail (engl@uark.edu).

Name

E-mail Address

Class Year(s) and Degree(s)

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