July 2015

Postscripts

The Jacksonville State University English Department Alumni Newsletter

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Julia Wooster Retires
By April Walker

On Thursday, April 2, the Writing Clinic was abuzz with a large group of people, including Dr. William A. Meehan and Dr. Rebecca Turner, who had gathered to celebrate Julia Wooster’s 26 years of service to Jacksonville State University. She began working as an adjunct for JSU in 1987 and became a full-time instructor in 1989. She also worked as an adjunct professor at Gadsden State Community College from 1982 to 1989. She earned her B.S. at JSU, as well as her M.S. in Secondary Education. Additionally, she completed some graduate work in English at the University of Alabama.

Throughout her teaching career, she has regularly taught Composition, Oral Communication, and Survey of British and American Literature Courses, which are part of the core curriculum for all students. Furthermore, she regularly taught Composition and Speech for Early Childhood, Elementary Education, and Special Education Majors and piloted a course titled Detective Fiction, teaching it for the first time in May 2002. As Mrs. Wooster and I sat discussing her career and retirement over lunch, she mentioned that English majors were not the only students taking her Detective Fiction class, as many Criminal Justice majors signed up to take the course as an elective. She discussed the design of the course; she covered the history and development, starting with some of the British works and then moving to some American authors such as Edgar Allan Poe; she also included two films: *The Maltese Falcon* and *Chinatown* starring Jack

Pictured above are Elizabeth Meehan, Dr. William A. Meehan, Julia Wooster, and Charles Wooster

Pictures from retirement party courtesy of Joanne Gates
Nicholson. She said she enjoyed teaching the Detective Fiction course and Composition and Speech, but the second half of Survey of American Literature was her favorite course to teach because Mark Twain is one of her favorite authors. She did add, however, that she enjoyed all the classes she has taught and, of course, the students.

Outside of the classroom, Julia Wooster, accompanied by her husband Charles, attend many JSU sporting events, thus allowing her to see another side of her students. Mrs. Wooster and her husband mostly attend softball, basketball, and football games, and even travel to away games. She mentioned how she enjoys watching her students on the field and court, and she also added that the students seem to genuinely appreciate her show of support. I asked her which sport she enjoyed watching the most. She commented on how she likes the fast pace of basketball, but that softball is her favorite. She explained that she used to play softball when she was young, but how it was not really acceptable for young ladies to play softball during her adolescent years and how sports were for boys during that time; therefore, she vicariously lives through the young ladies on the field, and the idea of “girl power” has a little bit to do with why she favors softball as well. She added that she had not played fast-pitch softball herself, although she was a pitcher, and how she is absolutely amazed with the caliber of these young pitchers. She and her husband plan to continue their show of support of JSU and its athletes and cannot wait for the next softball season and to see the first basketball game to be played in the newly remodeled Pete Matthews Coliseum.

While I had her on the subject of students, I asked her what students had taught her. She commented on teaching Oral Communication and how she learned a variety of things about students as well as some of their interests and hobbies, ranging from the Marching Southerners to professional fishing. Furthermore, students have taught her to be optimistic, open-minded, and to continue to enjoy life. From our conversation, I get the sense that she is going to miss being in the classroom and interacting with and learning from students. Even after 33 years in the classroom, she says she, “still enjoys the students.”
Beyond her devotion to her students in the classroom and on the field, she also contributed a great deal of her time to service to the department. She often served as a judge for the numerous contests and competitions sponsored through the department, including the RUM Fiction and Poetry contests, the Imagining the Holocaust writing competition, the Southern Playwrights competition, and the College of Arts and Sciences Student Symposium. In 2001, she received a Dean’s Service Award for her service to the University.

Winding down our conversation, I asked her if she had any sage advice for the rest of us in the department, to which she replied, “Stay with it. Pace yourselves. Never get behind. Find some balance and find something outside of work that you enjoy.” In concluding our lunch, I asked her if there is anything she wanted me to include in this article. She wants to be sure that her colleagues know how much she appreciated all the help in fulfilling her duties as Social Director, planning and hosting the department’s gatherings and parties. She wanted to include special thanks to Steven Whitton and Bill Hug for helping her unload and load her car, Susan Hurst for tracking down colleagues to sign birthday cards, and to all those who helped her prepare before the parties began and helped clean when the parties were over. Furthermore, she stressed how much she thoroughly enjoyed her role as Social Director.

At her party in April, the roles were reversed on her since she was obviously not allowed to direct her own retirement party. We wanted to make the party held for her as wonderful as the many events she has planned for us in an attempt to show her our gratitude for bringing the department together regularly outside of our regular meetings and committee work. Our goal of making it a special event was also to honor her for her years of dedication and service to her students, the department, and the University. We will miss her, but she will, of course, always be a part of our family.
English Department Retreats to Little River Canyon
By April Walker

Members of the English Department took a scenic drive through the mountains of northeast Alabama in the early morning hours of September 12th. They retreated from campus for the day, but not from their duties to the University. With the summer season nearly gone and the fall season gently beginning to make its debut, the Little River Canyon Center was the perfect setting for the department’s retreat, as the premises offered both the beauty and tranquility of the Little River Canyon National Preserve.

The department has regular meetings throughout the semester, but the retreat allowed colleagues an extended meeting during which they could collaborate, strategize, and even socialize. The agenda was well-planned and was followed accordingly. After Dr. Felgar’s opening remarks, which were peppered with excitement, colleagues plunged into the items on the agenda for the early session: Deborah Prickett, Freshman Composition; Larry Gray, Literature; Steven Whitton, English Honors Program; Teresa Reed, English Majors; Bill Hug, Scholarships; Andrea Porter, English Graduate Program. After the dialog on academics, the conversation moved to service, including the following: Randall Davis, The Writers Bowl; Susan Dean and April Walker, Imagining the Holocaust; Douglas O’Keefe, Writers’ Club; Sarah Moersch, Writing Clinic and Southern Playwrights Competition; Tanya Sasser, Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Faculty Mentors. A few other items were added to the agenda, including mention of the Faculty Lecture Series, Faculty Grants, and the Redesign of a classroom. After adjourning for a tasty and filling lunch, during which a few drifted into the fabulous gift shop, everyone reconvened for an
English Competency Exam (ECE) Workshop. Susan Sellers, the Director of the ECE for fourteen years, led this portion of the retreat. She noted that it is essential that all members of the department are consistent when assessing the ECE’s. The workshop revealed that the process as it is works quite efficiently. Furthermore, the workshop allowed everyone to share concerns, suggestions, and affirmations about the necessary competence in JSU’s students’ abilities to express themselves clearly and coherently in their writing.

The retreat ended with a reception from 3:00 to 4:00, followed by a very slow departure from the building to the cars in the parking lot, as most seemed to linger for a while to take in one last glance of the surroundings and inhale the smell of the rain that had roared in and then gently departed. Overall, the retreat was a well-spent day. Besides leaving with new ideas, strategies, and goals, each faculty member also left with an awesome long-sleeve T-shirt reading, “Metaphors be with you.”

As a member of the department who was there, I am sure it is safe for me to speak for all in attendance in expressing our gratitude to Dr. Felgar for arranging the retreat, and also to Steven Whitton, Jennifer Foster, Susan Hurst, and Jessica Mayberry for their thoughtful planning regarding the logistics and the food. Our donors who give generously should also be noted, since their efforts are responsible for the Little River Canyon Center, a cooperative effort between Jacksonville State University and the National Park Service. The center serves as a field school for the University and is directed by Pete Conroy. The regular operating hours are Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and it is only about an hour drive from campus. For further information about the Little River Canyon Center, go to www.jsu.edu/epic/canyoncenter/, and for further information about the English Department, go to http://www.jsu.edu/english.
Since the end of spring 2013, the English Department has had to say goodbye to three valued colleagues, due to their decisions to retire: Margaret Copeland in 2013, Gloria Horton in 2014, and, as reported in the lead article, Julia Wooster in 2015. We miss our retired colleagues, of course, but we additionally welcome the three new full-time faculty: Katerri Krebs, Katelyn Williams, and Kathryn Cleveland.

Katerri Krebs was hired as a full-time instructor for the fall term in 2014. She received a B.S. from Eastern Kentucky University and an M.A. in English from Jacksonville State University. She has worked as an American Sign Language Interpreter for JSU since 2009 and began teaching English as an adjunct instructor in fall 2013. She has been teaching English Composition, Oral Communication, and Survey of American and British Literature courses. She has volunteered her time to assist other faculty by judging for the Imagining the Holocaust Writing competition and the Writers Bowl. Ms. Krebs serves as a faculty co-sponsor for Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, and is serving as an advisor for the JSU Orientation team this summer. Additionally, she serves as a faculty mentor for Campus Outreach. Although busy in the classroom and with her service to the department, she still continues to interpret part time and has taught ASL classes for the community.

Katelyn Williams also began as a full-time instructor in the fall term. She earned her B.A from Samford University and her M.A. from Jacksonville State University. She began teaching at JSU in the Department of Learning Services during her time as a graduate student, and then transitioned to a position as adjunct instructor for the English department during the fall of 2010. Since that time, she has taught Survey of American literature, English Composition, Oral Communication, and Basic Writing Skills. Ms. Williams has a special interest in American literature and has presented papers at the annual College English Association Conference on William Faulkner, Sylvia Plath, Leslie Marmon Silko, and cultural theory in early American literature. She is also interested in teaching English as a second language. During the summer of 2013, she spent time in Cambodia, teaching English classes to factory workers and college students. Ms. Williams serves as a faculty co-sponsor for Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, and served her first year on the Writers Bowl Committee. She lives in Rainbow City, Alabama, and is a member at Rainbow Presbyterian Church. She enjoys cooking and entertaining, as well as running and cycling, and competing in local races and triathlons.

Kathryn Cleveland has just recently been selected to begin her full-time instruction in the upcoming fall term. She came to JSU as a freshman in the fall of 2009, graduating in April 2014 with a B.A. in English, and she received her M.A. in English the following year. During her time as a student, Ms. Cleveland was granted the Gamecock Scholarship, which allowed her to serve in the English Department’s writing clinic, working one-on-one with students who needed assistance with research papers and essays. She also worked with Learning Services as a learning assistant in the ExSEL program and as an ECE tutor, preparing students who must retake the English
Competency Exam. She served as an adjunct for one semester prior to being selected as the newest hire. She will be teaching Oral Communication, Composition, and Survey of Literature courses this fall.

We want to welcome the new members of the English Department faculty and wish them continued success in Academia.

**Imagining the Holocaust Writing Competition and Remembrance Program**

Imagining the Holocaust is a writing competition for Middle School and Senior High School Students. “Why teach Holocaust history?” is a question many have struggled to answer. Imagining the Holocaust is one way to teach Holocaust history and its importance to our daily lives.

To this end, interested English faculty at JSU developed the idea of Imagining the Holocaust, a writing contest designed to teach Holocaust history and its continuing influence in today’s world for middle school and high school students in Alabama. The competition is open to many kinds of writing, from essays to more creative approaches in poetry and fiction. Entries are due each spring, and prizes are awarded. This year, April Walker oversaw the middle school entries and Susan Dean, the high school entries. Steven Whitton was project coordinator. For more information, go to [www.jsu.edu/english/holocaust](http://www.jsu.edu/english/holocaust).

From left to right, Dr. Shonterrius Lawson-Fountain (Rutledge Middle School), Jeremy Johnson (Rutledge Middle School), Dr. Robert May (Guest Speaker), and Princess Brantley (Rutledge Middle School).

Picture courtesy of April Walker
This year’s Holocaust Remembrance Program was held on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at the Stone Center Theatre on the Jacksonville State University Campus. This year’s keynote speaker was Dr. Robert May. He gave a very compelling account of his family’s efforts to get him out of Germany prior to World War II when anti-Semitism threatened his life. Through the efforts of his family, especially the sacrifice of one aunt and uncle in particular, he was able to escape Germany and settle in New Orleans with extended family but explained how it was bittersweet because he had to leave his boyhood home, friends, and the school of which he had such fond memories. Of course, the rawest of emotions came from being separated from his family. The aunt and uncle who had selflessly helped him later died in Auschwitz. The audience at the Holocaust Remembrance Program was engulfed in what he shared and all were moved by his story, which led some in the audience to tears, but what could be argued as being the most compelling moment of the evening is the one particular response Dr. May gave when he agreed to answer questions from the audience. One gentleman asked if he had forgiven those responsible for the horror inflicted on the Jewish people in Europe under Hitler’s reign. He did not hesitate for one moment to say, “No.” The honest and sincere tone of his entire story and his responses to the questions, especially the one noted, made Tuesday, April 14, 2015, a very special evening. He was even more gracious to the crowd after the Ceremony was officially over, as he posed for photo after photo and shook hand after hand of the parade of people who crowded around him.

Also making the night very special, the 1st place winners of the writing competition were asked to read excerpts from their works, and all who placed and were present were asked to join us on stage so as to be recognized. The following are the winners for the high school portion: 1st place short story: Rekia Rowe, “The Tale of the God-fearing Boy”; 2nd place short story: Patricia Stinson, “Imagining the Holocaust”; 3rd place short story: Nathan E. Tolbert, “Imagining the Holocaust”; 1st place poetry: Emma Droste, “My Last March”; 2nd place poetry: Lydia Wilson, “Memories”; 3rd place poetry: Lauryn Clay, “Painful Memories.”


**JSU Writers Bowl**

On October 29, 2014, the English Department sponsored the Nineteenth Annual JSU Writers Bowl. Over 460 students from high schools throughout northern Alabama traveled to the JSU campus to compete. Following a Halloween theme, the morning team competition in prose required the teams to write from the perspective of a producer of a reality television show of their choice; they were to write a letter explaining why the classic monster they selected was being stopped from participating in the show. For the afternoon session, teams were asked to write a poem with a minimum of four stanzas written in iambic pentameter about their
choice of Halloween locations, objects, and human or nonhuman types, modeled after Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s “Haunted House.” For the individual essay, students were asked to write a 500-700 word response to the following: “Should a student’s textbook be replaced by a notebook, computer, or tablet? Why or why not?”

The winners for the contest include the following: Prose Category: 1st place: The Scheming Demons, Mierra Phillips, Erin Wise, Shay Sprayberry, Katie Farr, and Zach Hineman from Handley High School, sponsor Kelly Seymour; 2nd place: Veni−Vidi−Vici, Laurie Beth Beyerle, Anna Kerper, Justine Magadia, Olivia Simmons, Jarece Tillery, and Taylor Spence from Sacred Heart Catholic School, sponsor Kelly Abney; 3rd place: The Ones Who Shall Not Be Named, Sierra Hill, Maia Hamilton, Cecilia McGuffin, Andrew Spears, Savannah Edwards, and Luis Lopez from Oxford High School, sponsor Yevett Word.

In the Poetry Category: 1st place: Veni−Vidi−Vici from Sacred Heart Catholic School, team members and sponsor are the same listed in the prose category; 2nd place: The Vicious Vipers, Cheyenne Oliver, Zavier Johnson, Ashley Harrison, Olivia Humphrey, Ashleigh Goodwin, and Jake Hammond from Oxford High School, sponsor Yevett Word; 3rd place: Plains Poets, Raegan Thompson, Anna Snider, Layne Dyar, Rachel Snider, John David Pace, and Jo Morrison from White Plains High School, sponsors Holly Harmon and Dana Haynes.

For the overall teams, 1st place: Veni−Vidi−Vici from Sacred Heart Catholic School; 2nd place: The Scheming Demons from Handley High School; 3rd place: The Vicious Vipers from Oxford High School. The following are the winners of the individual essay category: 1st place: Avery Fairbanks from Section High School, sponsor Darla Owens; 2nd place: Abby McDow from Oxford High School, sponsor Yevett Word; 3rd place: Carlton Christian from Central Park Christian School, sponsor Ms. Banks. To see excerpts from some of the winning teams, please see the new section in Postscripts beginning on page 20.

Steven Whitton again served as the chair of the Writers Bowl Committee, assisted by committee members Randy Davis, Christy Burns, and new faculty member Katelyn Williams. Submissions were judged by the following JSU faculty: Don Bennett, Susan Dean, Bill Hug, Raina Kostova, Katerri Krebs, Katie Johnson, Joy Maloney, Elizabeth Martin, Sarah Moersch, David Myer, Doug O’Keefe, Teresa Reed, Susan Sellers, April Walker, and Julia Wooster.

JSU Writers’ Club

The JSU Writers’ Club had another successful year. The club made the decision to “go green” in the past few years, requiring that all entries for contests be submitted electronically via email. All students who attend JSU are eligible to enter contests sponsored by the Writers’ Club. The RUM Fiction and Poetry contests brought a number of entries. The following are the winners of the RUM Fiction contest: 1st place: Micky Mitchell, “What Does the Lake Symbolize?”; 2nd place: Michael Donahoo, “The Dog Barked”; 3rd place: Marie Foreman, “Out of the Broom Closet;” Honorable Mention: Tyler Marable, “H.M. Gone Today, Here Tomorrow.” The following are the winners of the RUM Poetry contest held during the spring semester: 1st place: Helen Companion, “Jack”; 2nd place: Micky Mitchell, “A Moment”; 3rd place: Paris Coleman,
“Conscious”,
Honorable Mention: Rachel Robertson, “The Gem in My Palm.” The Writers’ Club coordinated a variety of other festive poetry contests, including the Halloween, Valentine’s Day, and Arbor Day contests. The Writers’ Club meets every Wednesday afternoon in the English Department Writing Clinic. The picture above, taken by April Walker, shows Dr. Doug O’Keefe guiding the Writers Club meeting. For further details, please contact smoersch@jsu.edu, as she will begin coordinating the meetings in fall 2015. To see excerpts of some of the students’ work, please see the new section, beginning on page 20.

**Sigma Tau Delta**

The Pi Epsilon chapter of Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society at Jacksonville State University was founded in 1949, making it one of the oldest student organizations on campus. This spring, faculty sponsors Andrea Porter and new faculty members Katelyn Williams and Katerri Krebs led a membership drive to revitalize the honor society. Calls for applications elicited responses from over 100 interested students, and 32 ultimately met all criteria for membership and were officially inducted into the prestigious club at the Induction Ceremony held in the Writing Clinic on April 9, 2015, as their family members and English faculty gathered to celebrate. The first meeting was held the following week, at which officers for the 2015-2016 year were elected. The new officers and faculty sponsors plan to have regular meetings in the fall, along with many fun events, service projects, and other activities. For further information, please contact apporter@jsu.edu, krebs@jsu.edu, or knwilliams@jsu.edu

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Southern Playwrights Competition

This year’s Southern Playwrights competition saw a number of entries. The winner has not yet been determined, as the committee is still reviewing the finalists. Look for the announcement of the Drama Department’s upcoming season for the winner of this year’s competition. The committee is especially grateful to the dedicated group of readers who helped to choose the finalists and to Sarah Moersch, Coordinator. For more information concerning the Southern Playwrights Competition, visit our website at http://www.jsu.edu/english/southpla or contact Sarah Moersch, smoersch@jsu.edu, or Steven Whitton swhitton@jsu.edu.

Jacksonville State University Writing Project

The twenty-seventh Jacksonville State University Writing Project summer institute differed from all its predecessors. Instead of the usual four-week institute offering six hours English graduate elective credit, this year’s institute was a single-topic institute, which entailed four days of intensive instruction in the field of technology as it relates to common core standards. Entitled “Digital Writing One on One (101),” the institute offered the twenty-one area teachers who enrolled the opportunity to learn about a variety of ways to incorporate 21st Century technology into the classroom, whatever the disciplines. Mornings were spent introducing the technology while afternoons were spent applying it to a classroom lesson. All lessons were compiled into a mini-anthology so that each attendee would be able to adapt each lesson for his or her own classroom. Participants received STI–PD credit for sixteen hours of instruction or certification of attendance.

The attendees included the following: Don Bennett, Elizabeth Clemens, Rachael Couch, Mary Jo Cox, Tiffany Fuller, Joanne Gates, Angie Hurst, Michael Jackson, Charissa Lambert, Marsha Law, Cheryl Lentz, Melissa McDow, Kelly McMichen, Heather Mitchell, Autumn Norred, Robin Norred, Valerie Rimpsey, Amanda Snyder, Jennie Vaughn, Mary F. White, and Gloria Wilson.

Despite retiring last year, Gloria Horton served as the director of this year’s Writing Project, making it her 12th year as director. Lisa Williams served as the co-director, Rodney Bailey as the technology liaison. For interest in next year’s writing project or to be placed on the mailing list, please contact ghorton@jsu.edu.
English Department Foundation

We appreciate the following alumni, friends, and department members who have generously donated over the last year. Your donations help support our many programs.

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Tax deductible donations to the English Department Foundation may be made through the JSU Foundation by directing mail to the JSU Foundation, 700 Pelham Road North, Jacksonville, AL 36265. Please indicate that the donation is for the English Department Foundation and, in case of memorial gifts, also signify the name of the honoree.

Donations can also be made online by clicking on “Make a Gift” on the JSU Homepage (www.jsu.edu). Thank You.
Postscripts Bios

Rodney Bailey is the Technology Liaison for the JSU Writing Project and a member of the Technology Liaison Network for the National Writing Project. Along with these duties and his teaching duties, he also serves as the Color Guard Coordinator for the Marching Southerners. Additionally, Mr. Bailey received the Dr. George Mehaffy Excellence in Learning Technology Award at the Faculty Awards Program in May. Also at the awards program, Mr. Bailey was recognized as a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Faculty Mentor for 2014-2015.

Don Bennett has been an instructor in the JSU English department for thirteen years. He teaches Freshman Composition 101 and 102, Oral Communication, Survey of American Literature I, Survey of English Literature I, Advanced Composition, and the Theory of Composition. Don and his wife Amy (singer, vocal instructor/musical director, writer/blogger and mom extraordinaire) have two children: Timothy, age 15, and Paul, 9.

Christy Burns teaches Oral Communication, English Composition, and Survey of American Literature. She judges several competitions, such as Southern Playwrights and Imagining the Holocaust. In 2013 and 2014, she served as a committee member to welcome visitors from Taizhou University. She has served on the Writers Bowl committee since 2013. She was an advisor for the Gamecock Orientation team in the summer of 2014 and will participate again in the summer of 2015.

Randall Davis served as discussion leader for the Twenty-Fourth Annual Literature and Medicine Retreat, Montgomery, AL, January 24-25, 2015, sponsored by the Alabama Chapter of the American College of Physicians/American Society of Internal Medicine. Texts discussed: Sena Jeter Nasland, Ahab’s Wife; Louise Aronson, A History of the Present Illness; Tennessee Williams, A Streetcar Named Desire (paired with Woody Allen’s film Blue Jasmine); Anthony Hecht, The Hard Hours. In addition to his scholarship, he regularly teaches both undergraduate and graduate classes, including Contemporary American and Native American Literature, and does various service work, including serving on the Writers Bowl committee.

Susan Dean participated as a judge for several writing and speaking competitions. She is the Coordinator for the High School division of the Imagining the Holocaust writing competition. She teaches English Composition, Oral Communication, Survey of American Literature, and Technical Writing.

Carmine Di Biase was chosen to receive the Faculty Scholar Lecture Award at the Faculty Awards Program in May. Additionally, he also received a Faculty Research Award. His translation of The Diary of Elio Schmitz, which appeared last spring (Leicester: Troubador Publishing, 2014), has been favorably reviewed for a fourth time in one of the most recent issues of one of the premier Italian journals, Quadernos de Filologia Italiana, which comes out of the University of Madrid. In that same issue, he has published the following article, in Italian: "Vita Sofferta e Vita Scritta: Svevo, Joyce e i Loro Fratelli." He has completed another article on Italo Svevo, which is now being considered for publication by Studies in Modern Italian Literature, and he is about to complete the editing of a collection of articles on the relationship between Italo Svevo and Shakespeare: three of the articles will be by other scholars, but the lead article
will be Di Biase's and so will the two translations: the first English translation of Svevo's autobiographical essay and of his first, fragmentary play, *Ariosto Governatore*. Additionally, his book of essays has been accepted for publication by *Annali d'Italianistica*. The title will be: "*O! Mio Vecchio William!*: *Italo Svevo and His Shakespeare*. Dr. Di Biase also attended the SAMLA conference last fall, where he presented a study of Alessandro Casola's play, *Waste*, which is being considered by several theaters for performance in Di Biase's English translation. Much of this work was made possible by a one-semester sabbatical, for which he is deeply grateful.

**Robert Felgar** enjoyed being part of the department's best retreat in years, continued to serve as department head, and signed a contract with Praeger to produce an annotated edition of *The Historian's Life of Frederick Douglass: Reading Douglass's "Narrative" as Social and Cultural History*, including several chapters on its historical background. Additionally, he has also agreed to provide the entry for the 1951 film version of *Native Son* for *Race and Ethnicity in American Film: The Complete Resource*, a 3-volume reference work to be published by Greenwood Press in 2016. Dr. Felgar received a Faculty Research Award at the annual Faculty Awards Program in May.

**Jennifer Foster** has now taught in the English department for 19 years. She has served as a member of the Gamecock Orientation team for 15 years and will do so again during the summer of 2015 as the Advisor Coordinator. She is the chair of the Basic English Skills committee and continues to teach *The Bible as Literature, Old and New Testament*. Several students from this upper-level class presented their research on literary topics found in the Bible at the College of Arts and Sciences Annual Symposium in February, 2015.

**Joanne Gates** presented a paper, "First Hedda, First Hilda, and 'Hilda Harnessed to a Purpose': Elizabeth Robins, Ibsen, and Women's Suffrage," at Ohio State's First Actresses symposium. Dr. Gates made considerable additions and modifications to the Robins Web, before and after her trip to Ohio State's Symposium. The website <www.jsu.edu/robinsweb/> now contains newer
bibliographies, revised chronology, and added texts, in addition to links to texts that are located elsewhere. She also presented a paper, "Shakespeare Operas in English, Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream and The Tempest by Thomas Adès," at the Popular / American Culture Association of the South Conference, PCAS/ACAS, in New Orleans this past October and presented "Analyzing Multiple Interpretations of a Shakespeare Play: Teaching Comparative Production Analysis in the Age of Streaming Media" at CORE Academy in the summer of 2014. She sponsored the work of her co-presenter, undergraduate student Stacie Connell, whose course paper and other work in EH 403 were exemplary. Stacie analyzed Taming of the Shrew in three productions that stream from JSU databases. This year, Dr. Gates will be presenting at CORE, "Web Resources for Teaching Women's History Month," with co-presenter Marsha Law. Dr. Gates oversaw the Friends of the Library program in February, which brought Lilly Ledbetter to campus and helped raise funds through book sales of Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond. Dr. Gates was awarded a Faculty Research Award at the annual Faculty Awards Program in May.

Larry Gray delivered papers at three international conferences during the past academic year: on Henry Green (English novelist, 1905-1973) and Elizabeth Taylor (1912-1975) at University College (London, UK), and on Henry James at the University of Aberdeen (Scotland) during July 2014; and on Eric Rohmer’s films at Flagler College (Florida) in September 2014. He expects to deliver papers on film and on Henry James at conferences in London and Boston in the upcoming year. In April 2015, Dr. Gray was awarded a Japan Studies Institute Fellowship that paid for a two-week seminar in San Diego in June 2015, where he learned about diverse ways to incorporate Japanese culture into the undergraduate curriculum. At JSU he will be learning about teaching more generally as a Faculty Mentor in training. Additionally, Dr. Gray received a Faculty Research Award at the annual Faculty Awards Program in May.

Pitt Harding made his first appearance on the main stage at Stone Center in the role of Dr. Dorn in the Drama Department’s fall production of The Seagull by Anton Chekhov. He served on Dr. Reed’s committee reviewing English major requirements and completed his second year on the Faculty Senate. Dr. Harding will serve his third year as the VP/President Elect for the Faculty Senate for the next term. In addition to teaching Shakespeare II for the first time last fall, he continues teaching classes in Creative Writing and Milton, and this fall he looks forward to teaching EH 565: 17th-Century Literature.

Bill Hug continues to serve as Director of Writing. His current scholarly interests include examining ethnic rhetoric in photojournalist Jacob Riis’s autobiography, The Making of an American and reading and evaluating submissions to Studies in Popular Culture.

Katie Johnson is the head of the Oral Communications committee and assists in judging competitions, such as the Writers Bowl, Southern Playwrights, and Imagining the Holocaust. She is also a member of JSU’s Health and Environmental Safety Committee, which seeks to provide a safe campus for students, faculty, and staff. In addition, she teaches Oral Communication, Survey of American Literature I and II, English Composition I and II, and her new May term course, EH 425 Tennessee Williams: Death, Desire, and Illusion, which she first piloted and taught in May 2013. She is working on a new course for May 2016, Southern Gothic Literature and Film.
**John H. Jones** continues his research on the variations in the copies of William Blake’s illuminated books. He is president of the JSU chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi and continues to teach graduate classes and undergraduate classes in British literature.

**Raina Kostova** has served as a judge for various competitions, including the Imagining the Holocaust writing competition, the JSU Writers Bowl, the Southern Playwrights competition, and the contests sponsored by the JSU Writers’ Club. She served as a Gamecock Orientation Advisor last fall. Three of her students presented at the College of Arts and Sciences Student Symposium; one of those presenters won an award. Dr. Kostova served as a Library Liaison for the English Department. She was invited to serve as a Reader, reading national Advanced Placement exams for the College Board of Education in summer 2014 and was invited back to Louisville, Kentucky, to serve as a reader again in June 2015. Dr. Kostova presented her paper, “Jelinek’s Vienna: Power and Decadence,” at the American Comparative Literature Association’s (ACLA) conference held in Seattle, Washington, in March. She served on the English Major Review Committee, playing a major role in designing a survey for English majors, and served as the Chair for four Oral Exams Committees. Additionally, she served on the Faculty Senate, the Welfare Committee of the Faculty Senate, and the Faculty Honors Committee of the Faculty Senate. During the fall semester, she piloted a new course for both graduate and undergraduate students: EH 431 G Non-Western Literature. She received a REAL Teaching Grant offered by the Faculty Commons for further development of her Non-Western Literature Course. In addition to this new course, Dr. Kostova also taught EH 307 English Grammar in the spring for the first time. The Faculty Commons has also selected Dr. Kostova as a QEP Faculty Mentor for the 2015-2016 year.

**Joy Maloney** served as a judge for the Imagining the Holocaust writing competition, Southern Playwrights competition, and the College of Arts and Sciences Student Symposium. She serves as a tutor in the English Department’s Writing Clinic and regularly teaches English Composition, Oral Communication, and Survey of Literature courses.

**Elizabeth Martin** teaches both traditional and online classes for the department, including Oral Communication, Freshman Composition, and Survey of American Literature. She served as a judge for several writing competitions.

**Mica Mecham** has served as a full-time faculty member of the English Department, teaching English Composition, Oral Communication, and Survey of American Literature since spring of 2009. She teaches traditional classes, and beginning in 2011, she began teaching multiple hybrid courses for the department with the goal of successfully incorporating 21st century technology into her classrooms. In addition to her teaching load, she has served JSU in numerous ways over the years, including past participation in JSU’s Gamecock Orientation program, as well as participation and successful completion of JSU's National Writing Project Summer Institute; additionally, she has also presented multiple presentations for the National Writing Project’s summer teaching seminar. Other services have included serving as a judge of JSU's Writers Bowl. She continues to serve JSU by volunteering to judge and/or participate in department-sponsored and campus-wide-sponsored writing competitions, including the Imagining the Holocaust and the Southern Playwrights. She recently had the honor of being selected as a
faculty mentor to participate in the QEP Fast Forward program and received recognition for her service at the Faculty Awards Program in May. She has enjoyed this new challenge and opportunity to serve Jacksonville State University.

**Sarah Moersch** is the Director of the English Department’s Writing Clinic. In addition, she also coordinates the entries for the Southern Playwrights Competition and judges various writing competitions sponsored by the department, including the Imagining the Holocaust and RUM poetry and fiction contests. She regularly serves as a judge for the Writers Bowl and the College of Arts and Sciences Student Symposium. Beginning this fall, she will serve as the Advisor for the Writers’ Club and will become the new Social Director for the department. She teaches English Composition, Oral Communication, Survey of Literature, and Advanced Grammar courses.

**David Myer** teaches traditional and online sections of American Literature I and II; computer-assisted, online, and hybrid sections of Technical Writing; and Oral Communication. He received his pin for twenty years of service at the annual Faculty Awards Program in May. Since 2005 he has served on the Editorial Board of *The Journal of the Alabama Academy of Science*. He was selected as a Gamecock Orientation (GO!) Advisor for 2015 and also serves as faculty advisor for Tau Delta Phi fraternity. He was a reader/judge for the JSU Writers Bowl student writing competition and serves as a tutor in the English Department’s Writing Clinic. He serves on the English Majors and Minors Committee, the English Competency Committee, the Literature Survey Committee, and the College of Arts and Sciences Student Symposium Committee. He also occasionally serves as an adjunct instructor and guest lecturer at JSU’s English Language Institute. Mr. Myer assists with academic and cultural exchange programs between JSU and a number of Chinese universities including Taizhou University, Zhejiang University of Media and Communications, and Beijing Union University. In this capacity, he serves as a mentor, advisor, and tutor for visiting Chinese faculty and students. In April, he was awarded a 2015 China Studies Institute Zhi-Xing China Academic Leaders Fellowship by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the China Education Association for International Exchange. The fellowship provided three weeks of travel and study in China during June 2015.

**Doug O’Keefe** teaches Freshman Composition, including Honors Freshman Composition, Oral Communication, and Eighteenth-Century English Literature, both graduate and undergraduate. He also annually teaches a graduate seminar in the Theory of Communication, a broadly conceived course that covers linguistics, conversation analysis, and media studies. His scholarly work focuses on London theatre in the eighteenth century. He served as the Coordinator of the JSU Writers’ Club and, therefore, oversaw various writing competitions, including the RUM Fiction and Poetry contests and the Arbor Day Poetry contest.

**Andrea Porter** received her pin for ten years of service at the Faculty Awards Program in May. She presented a paper titled “#TSM: The Sorority Girl in Popular Culture” at the Popular Culture Association’s annual national conference in New Orleans this spring. Because of interest expressed by a press at the conference, Dr. Porter is currently working on a book proposal on this topic. She also serves as the Coordinator of graduate advisement; as a member of the Summer Reading Program Committee; and as faculty sponsor of Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor
Dr. Porter is an alumnae advisor to Zeta Tau Alpha sorority at JSU and serves as a National Officer of the sorority.

Deborah Prickett is the English Department’s Technology Liaison, and she chairs the English Composition Committee. She teaches English Composition, Oral Communication, Theory of Speech, and Survey American Literature. She teaches both traditional and online courses.

Teresa Reed serves as the Coordinator of Undergraduate Student Advisement and teaches both undergraduate and graduate classes. She was the Chair of the English Major Review Committee and served as a QEP Faculty Mentor. She presented her paper, “When Flaying Alive Just Isn't Enough: Justice in Havelok the Dane,” at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Medieval Association in Atlanta last October. Additionally, Dr. Reed attended both the annual International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and the Teaching Professor Conference in Atlanta, both held in May.

Valerie Rimpsey teaches Freshman Composition, Oral Communication, and Survey of American Literature. She served as a judge for the Imagining the Holocaust writing competition and is the advisor for the Gamma Sigma Sigma Sorority.

Tanya T. Sasser teaches Composition, Oral Communication, Argumentation and Debate, and Survey of the Graphic Novel, a class she first piloted in 2013. She has presented papers at the Alabama Regional Graduate Conference and ACETA and has led workshops for Collaborative
Regional Education and the Jacksonville State University Writing Project’s Annual 21st Century Conference. Her publications include articles for Hybrid Pedagogy, Digital Writing Month, Gamifeye, and Virtual Education Journal. She is the recipient of the 2009 William J. Calvert Award. She served as a QEP Faculty Mentor and was recognized for her service at the Faculty Awards Program in May. Mrs. Sasser blogs regularly at remixingcollegeenglish.wordpress.com.

Susan Sellers has completed her 14th year as Director of the English Competency Exam, which includes coordinating the campus and Distance Learning Exams. She serves as a representative from the English Department on the Assessment Committee, the Teacher Education Council, and the Department of Secondary Education Advisory Council. She serves on the following English Department Committees: Composition, Competency, Advanced Writing, and Oral Communication.

April Walker is the editor of Postscripts and has served as a judge for various writing competitions, including the JSU Writers Bowl, RUM Fiction and Poetry contests, and the Southern Playwrights competition. Additionally, she serves as the Coordinator for the Middle School entries of the Imagining the Holocaust competition and serves on the Speech Committee. She teaches English Composition II, Survey of American Literature I and II, and Oral Communication.

Steven Whitton continues to work with the JSU Writers Bowl and the Southern Playwrights competition. He remains an active part of JSU’s annual Holocaust Remembrance, now in its 33rd year, and of regional and state Holocaust organizations. He received a Faculty Research Award at the Faculty Awards Program in May. Additionally, Dr. Whitton had a role in the Drama Department’s fall production of Chekhov’s The Seagull and participates in Theatre in the Mind, an Educational Series of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. He is also a book reviewer for the Anniston Star.

Student Sampler

The following poems and excerpts from prose are from the winning works in various writing competitions sponsored through the English Department. For more information on these contests, please go to http://www.jsu.edu/english/.

The Alpha & Omega by Jeremy Johnson

I am arising
The day has begun like all the others
In the streets, passing by my eyes are
Images of human beings gay, innocent, and free
All of a sudden my spirit begins to shake
Vroom, slam, yelling, “Let’s go you vermin!”

I stop and look to see if they are talking to me
While my mind is fixed on the now mayhem around me
I get a hit, a glimpse of my new world
This is different, I am not me, and they dare not desire
To see me
To love me
To protect me
To be me
“My Last March” by Emma Droste

Hard tears run all over my face evidence of the pain
The sun has stopped, has stopped shining,
my feelings are no longer
Forced away from my home, parents, all I ever loved
I’m marched to a camp and I’m not talking about summer camp
I see clouds of murky smoke and smell something that causes me to choke
Clothes ripped off, what a shame
They tell me, us, to move into a room
Click, slam, ignite
Enter the gas, now the flames, and screams that shout of torturing pain
Silence
Stillness
It’s over
And like the wind our ashes soar

“Excerpt from “The Men with Guns” by Mary Margaret Spethman

We turn down the street toward another alleyway. When we are almost there, my pant leg snags on something. I fall forward onto my hands and knees, and as I start to get up, I hear a loud, stern voice shout, “Halt!” I whirl around with mother and Daniel and see the men with guns. Daniel screams not to run because it will only make it worse. So I plant my feet in the ground with one of Daniel’s and Mother’s hands in my own. There are three men marching toward us. All of their guns drawn and barrels pointing to us. I start to shake and the men begin to discuss something I can’t quite make out. All I hear is, “the older boy…keep…shoot the rest.”

As the men continue to approach us, I know what is about to happen. The men are ten feet away, seven feet, four feet…two…Then I feel the cold metal being pressed into my temple and….
flames rose in anguish and I felt my own soon after. As I called for mercy while being engulfed by the heat of the inferno, my eyes see my mother’s last smile, my ears hear her last prayer, and my body feels her warmth covering me along with the burning penalty of questioning God.

Count Dracula by team Screaming Demons

13 Blood Drive
Transylvania, Romania 61236
October 31, 2014

Dear Count,

With great condolences, we are writing to inform you of your elimination from The Bachelorette. Your unruly behavior has caused concern among the other contestants and myself.

It has been brought to my attention that you have misused your supernatural ability to forcibly compel other contestants by convincing them to humiliate themselves. I was informed by an anonymous contestant that you appeared in his room and stared placidly into his eyes, and from that moment, the contestant has no recollection of his day. Much to his surprise, he went on his date where he proceeded to undress himself and belt out the lyrics to “I’m Bringing Sexy Back.” Thus, he was disqualified and utterly embarrassed.

Another deciding factor in your elimination was your violent act of biting the bachelorette. Rules are directly stated in your contract that prohibit this type of assault. Our dearly beloved bachelorette was indefinitely hospitalized due to your heinous and inhumane act. We will not allow such behavior.

I send this to you with the best intentions. The Bachelorette wishes you luck in your pursuit of love; however, I feel obligated to terminate your association with our series.

Warmest regards,
Brian Stoker
Producer of The Bachelorette

“All Hallows” by team Vini–Vidi–Vici

Through the graveyard and through the darkened woods,
The mist creeps slowly along the dew-damp ground.
As children run along in masks and hoods,
They do not sense the evil all around.

The full moon shines, an eerie eye above.
The silhouette of monsters blocks the light.
Don’t speak for now of happiness or love;
It does not suit the grim mood of tonight.

When witches cackle, werewolves howl morosely,
And spirits take a turn to walk again.
When pain and horror come in equal dose,
And something evil lurks around the bend.

The dark does not bode well for mortal minds,
So hide yourself until the dawn returns.
It’s he who mocks the night that often finds
The icy grasps of specters often burn.

All Hallows Eve cannot be taken lightly.
In fear and horror has it laid its roots.
Its power grows with ev’ry passing fright,
And terror springs out from its newest shoots.

Through the graveyard and through the darkened woods,
The spirit of the fright-night draws around.
Spirits it drains and dampens happy moods.
A grizzly scream the only noticed sound.
He waited patiently during the next class meeting for Mrs. Eneko to begin asking questions, and the professor must have known this also because she waited two hours into the lecture before asking the first question.

“What does the lake symbolize?” she asked.

Without stopping to worry about the absurdity of his response, Daniel blurts out, “I believe it symbolizes some type of afterlife for San Manuel Bueno. The lake has always been there, calm and serene, holding the reflection of the mountain top, catching the falling snowflakes that I take to symbolize life. As the delicate form of the snow flake falls on the water of the lake it melts, like the soul melting into the firmament as the physical bodies die on earth and must undertake this transition from body to spirit in the firmament before reaching Heaven, with Don Miguel’s heaven represented by the old monastery bells eternally ringing from the bottom of his precious lake.”

The class looked from the young man to Mrs. Eneko and back to the young man several times before the professor broke her gaze and silence.

“That is poetic, Daniel. One of the most poetic responses I have heard given to that particular question. It is wrong, awfully wrong in comparison to Unamuno’s life and commentary on the subject, but your response is extraordinarily beautiful,” Mrs. Eneko finally responded.

Jack was my brother’s best friend.
They’d huddle together in a fort
Of oak and quilts, my brother’s hand stroking
Jack’s smooth body, his tiny
Fingers around Jack’s glass neck.

By twelve, they’d meet for daily
Walks in the woods.
They had a secret place
In a ditch,
Behind a fallen tree,
Where they went to be alone.
He said Jack helped
Him to forget;

A brown and bitter solution
Hidden under a pile of leaves.

Tomorrow, my brother
Will take a plane to New York. He will hide Jack between
Pairs of black and blue
Jeans, ready to greet
My brother when he lands.
Postscripts, the English Department Alumni Newsletter, is now an online publication, available at http://www.jsu.edu/depart/english/postscrp/index.htm.

Please look for Postscripts online each July.

If you prefer a print copy of the newsletter, please contact Jessica Mayberry in the English Department (256-782-5412 or jmayberry@jsu.edu)

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