

Postscripts

The Jacksonville State University English Department Alumni Newsletter

Editor- April Walker

Layout- Susan Hurst

Gloria Horton Retires

by April Walker

Gloria Horton has decided to retire after serving Jacksonville State University for twenty-five years. Mrs. Horton became a full-time faculty member in 1989 and taught for years prior, beginning her teaching career in 1964, at both college and secondary levels, at schools and universities across the state, including the University of Alabama, which is where she earned her B.S. and M.A. degrees and did some work towards a doctorate as well. She has received the College of Arts and Sciences Service Award twice during her time at JSU, thus reflecting her great service to our students and the university.

Mrs. Horton regularly taught Composition, Survey of Literature, and Advanced Grammar. She became the director of the Writing Project in 2004 and has served as the editor of the Writing Project Newsletter and Anthology. Additionally, she has been a longtime sponsor of Sigma Tau Delta and has served the Education Committee of the Knox Concert Series and the Friends of the Library. She has also been actively involved in the United Way Campaign. Mrs. Horton has given so much of her time to serving others.

The list of her service to our department and to JSU is quite extensive, as is her service to the community, which she plans to continue.

Although she is retiring from the classroom, she will not be idle. She will act as the president of the Association of College English Teachers of Alabama until 2016 and as the president of the Sigma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, a national society for women educators. In addition, she will continue to serve as the president of the Oxford Arts Council and will be involved in The Writing Project, fittingly so since she recently received the Achievements in Alabama Literacy Award for her lifetime dedication to achieving literacy

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through the writing process.

Because Gloria Horton is such an outstanding faculty member, many will be familiar with her work and service that is listed above but not necessarily with more personal matter. For this reason, I asked Gloria if she would not mind letting me ask her a few questions to give us insight beyond what is already evident in her list of accomplishments.

I first asked her how she found the energy to do all that she has done over her 25 years of service with JSU and nearly 50 years teaching. She told me about advice her sorority advisor had given her, which was to never say “no” when she was asked to do something. Basically, Mrs. Horton took the advice to heart and essentially has lived by this “motto” in her professional career, saying “Thank You. I will be glad to,” rather than “No thank you.”

Considering her decades of service, I was curious about her views as to whether or not she has noticed a difference in the average student of today compared with the average student entering college when she first started her teaching career. She feels that there is not a big difference in the two. The biggest difference she notes is that today’s student has access to technology that makes research more accessible than it had been in the past. However, she does note, “The flip-side of that is that the average student who is not really comfortable sometimes will rely too much on the technology and often will not do any thinking on his own.”

Since much of her career has been dedicated to bettering her students’ understanding of the material, I asked her to describe the biggest impression a student has ever left on her. Of course, she has taught thousands of students and has memories of many of them. As most teachers do, she remembers those students with drive and ambition, as well as those she feels are genuine and kind. Additionally, Mrs. Horton is somewhat awed by how knowledgeable and experienced some students are, suggesting that young adults today are often more likely to have experienced struggles and challenges that young people of previous generations did not experience, at least not at such young ages. Although her memories are filled with students who have impressed her, she does recall one particular young man she encountered shortly after joining JSU’s English Department. The young man was legally blind and never asked for help or special accommodations. He was an exceptional straight A student who went on to become a radio personality, and she was greatly impressed by him and his sheer determination that was not impeded by his inability to see.

In addition to the other questions I posed, I wanted to know what she would miss. She will miss many things and was unable to limit her answer to one: “My colleagues will be the thing that I will miss the most about teaching. My students and the interactions with them I have had over the years will be something I will miss a lot. I will also miss being in a setting where I see lots of people every day because many of the people I know are at the university since I have spent so much time up there.” Additionally, she says she will miss “the opportunities [she has] had to expand [her] learning experiences and to be introduced to new things and learn more about teaching English and about teaching in general.”

I had one other question for Mrs. Horton. Her answer to the question offers very sage advice. I asked, “What suggestions would you give to those of us who want to teach through to

retirement?” She did not hesitate to respond nor did she need a moment to think about the question. She immediately replied with the following: “First of all, don’t let your job become overwhelming. Don’t take it too seriously; have a sense of humor in the classroom; always be prepared; realize that even though the English teacher’s job is really hard and it takes a lot of work, that you should not put your job first. The family needs to be first.” This seems to be wise advice to faculty, as well as to other professionals who dedicate themselves to their work.

Gloria Horton has been an outstanding member of the English Department, and she will be greatly missed. However, as noted previously, she will still be the Director of the English Department’s Writing Project and will not be inactive during her retirement. In addition to her responsibilities with the Oxford Arts Council, the Oxford Community Chorus, ACETA, and Delta Kappa Gamma, she plans to spend more time with her family, beginning with a trip to Disney World this July. We congratulate Gloria Horton on her retirement and nearly 50 years of service to students. She will forever be a part of our family.

Imagining the Holocaust

Imagining the Holocaust is a writing competition for Middle School and Senior High School Students. “Why teach Holocaust history?” is a question that 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 to 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.

This year’s Holocaust Remembrance Program was held on Thursday, April 10, 2014, at the Stone Center Theatre on the Jacksonville State University Campus. This year’s keynote speaker was Denise Lewis, the daughter of Holocaust survivor Roger Blum. The winners of the contests were asked to read excerpts from their works during the ceremony. The following are the winners for the high school portion: 1st place short story: Skylar Smith, “Henryk’s View”; 2nd place short story: Emily Daniels, “The Quiet Game”; 3rd place short story: Amanda Schlemminger, “The Unknown Story of Magda and Agatha”; 1st place poetry: Brandon Griswold, “Skin ‘n’ Bones”; 2nd place poetry: Christian Pettus, “Little Jewish Boy”; 3rd place poetry: Hannah Oswalt, “Dreams.” The following are the winners for the middle school portion: 1st place short story: Kameron Helms, “They Promised”; 2nd place short story: Adrienne Glover, “Imagining the Holocaust”; 3rd place short story: Lorynn Saxton, “The Love Story”; 1st place poetry: Rachel Davis, “In the Darkness”; 2nd place poetry: Peyton Bellar, “193659”; 3rd place poetry: Kara Tarabishy, “Insanity.”

See www.jsu.edu/english/holocaust for more information.

JSU Writers Bowl

On October 30, 2013, the English Department sponsored the Eighteenth Annual JSU Writers Bowl. Seventy-two teams from high schools throughout northern Alabama traveled to the JSU campus to compete. Following a Halloween theme, the team competitions required students to write a letter to their choice of classic monster as the producer of their choice of a reality television show explaining why that monster is being eliminated from the show. For the afternoon session, the teams wrote an Italian sonnet to their choice of a classic monster modeled after Elizabeth Barret Browning's "How Do I Love Thee." For the individual essay competition, students were given the following options: a) If the power went out of your town for a weekend, what activities would keep you entertained? b) Many parents give their children chores or tasks to do at home. Do you think this is a good or a bad idea? Explain your answer. JSU's Steven Whitton again served as the chair of the Writers Bowl Committee, assisted by Randy Davis and first-time committee member Christy Burns. Submissions were judged by the following JSU faculty: Don Bennett, Susan Dean, Larry Gray, Gloria Horton, Raina Kostova, Joy Maloney, Sarah Moersch, David Myer, Elizabeth Nelson, Andrea Porter, Valerie Rimpsey, April Walker, and Julia Wooster.

Jacksonville State University Writing Project

The Jacksonville State University Writing Project site had another successful year, concluding with the summer institute in June 2014, at which 10 teacher fellows read, wrote, presented, and learned together as much as they could about being successful teachers of writing. The participants for the institute were as follows: Christy Ader, Cleburne County High School; Leah Bates, Sand Rock High School; Debbie Fancher, Oxford Elementary School; Abbey Hanner, Oxford Elementary School; Michael Jackson, Jacksonville State University graduate student; Jenna King, Spring Garden High School; Ben Kocian, Anniston High School; Cassie Newcomb, Coosa Christian School; Takeisha Reid, Oxford Elementary School; and Stacy Robinson, Oxford Elementary School.

In addition to the summer institute, the site held its Technology in Education Conference on June 20, led by Rodney Bailey.

The site's director, Gloria Horton, received the Achievements in Alabama Literacy Award for her lifetime dedication to achieving literacy through the writing process at the 2014 Gulf Coast Conference on the Teaching of Writing, held in Destin, Florida.

The site has received a \$10,000 grant to fund the 2015 advanced summer institute. Teachers who wish to receive an application for next year's institute should e-mail ghorton@jsu.edu to be put on the mailing list. The site has also received a \$20,000 grant for 2014-2015 to provide professional development for teachers in a high needs school. The site will partner with Oxford Elementary School for this work. Director of the JSU Writing Project is Gloria Horton, co-director is Lisa Williams; technology liaison is Rodney Bailey.

JSU Writers' Club

The JSU Writers' Club had another successful year. The club made the decision to "go green" over this past year, 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: Krystale Dawson, "Ornaments"; 2nd place: Jessica Graham, "Jump"; 3rd place: Kaitlin Schneider, "A Screaming Calm." The following are the winners of the RUM Poetry Contest held during the spring semester: 1st place: Jesse Groover, "Apollo's Lament"; 2nd place: Justin Gaffney, "The Infernal Downfall"; 3rd place: Andie Knott, "An Unassuming Spider"; Honorable Mention: Kara Coleman, "Anthem." Finally, the club also hosted an Arbor Day Poetry Contest. This year's winner was Jessica Graham, who read her poem "The First Suspense" at the tree planting ceremony.

Southern Playwrights Competition

The winner of this year's Southern Playwrights Competition was *To Tread Among Serpents* by Kelly McBurnette-Andronicos. The committee is especially grateful to the dedicated group of readers who helped to choose the winner and especially 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.

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.

Changes in Staff

We want to welcome Jessica Mayberry to the Department. Mrs. Mayberry is the new Clerical Assistant in our English office. She joined us in the middle of our spring semester and has adjusted quite well.

Mrs. Mayberry has an Associate's Degree in Speech Communication. Prior to joining our department, she worked as an Executive Assistant to the CEO of Comfort Keepers, a non-medical in-home health agency, and also as a store manager at a loan office in Gadsden. She and her husband live in Eastaboga.

Her husband has his Bachelor's in Computer Information Systems and is presently attending JSU in pursuit of his Master's in the same field. He is scheduled to teach two Computer Science courses with the university this fall.

Postscripts Bios

Rodney Bailey is the Technology Liaison for the JSU Writing Project and is 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. Mr. Bailey will serve as Gamecock Orientation Advisor this fall.

Don Bennett has been an instructor in the JSU English department for twelve years. He teaches English Composition I and II, Oral Communication, Survey of American Literature I, English Literature I, Advanced Composition, and the Theory of Composition. Away from school, Don

and his wife Amy (singer, vocal instructor/musical director, writer/blogger and mom extraordinaire) have two children: Timothy, age fourteen, and Paul, who just turned eight.

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, she served as a committee member to welcome the Taizhou University visitors from China. She also became a committee member for Writers Bowl in 2013. Mrs. Burns regularly tutors students in the Writing Clinic.

Gena Christopher became the first director of JSU's Faculty Commons, a Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, which provided professional development for our University faculty in March of 2014. She is the English Department Red Balloon Initiative discussion leader and serves on several committees, including the CORE Committee, and the JSU China Initiative Committee. She is Co-Chair of the Quality Enhancement Plan for the University's SACS accreditation; she is part of the CORE team which recently received an 11.8 million dollar grant from the federal government, and she directs summer programs for international students and teachers. Christopher will continue to teach on a part-time basis for the English department, which she has served since 1989.

Randall Davis served as discussion leader for the Twenty-Third Annual Literature and Medicine Retreat, Montgomery, AL, January 25-26, 2014, sponsored by the Alabama Chapter of the American College of Physicians/American Society of Internal Medicine. Texts discussed: Homer, *The Odyssey*; William Trevor, *Ireland: Selected Stories*; Brian Friel, *Translations*; Billy Collins, *Sailing Around the Room: New and Selected Poems*.

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

Carmine Di Biase has enjoyed the success of his translation of *The Diary of Elio Schmitz*, which appeared last spring (Leicester: Troubador Publishing, 2014). Three favorable reviews have appeared: one in the *Times Literary Supplement*, one in *Annali d'italianistica*, and a third in *Quaderni d'italianistica*. His essay, "Hamlet in the Life and Work of Italo Svevo," will appear this summer in *Italo Svevo and His Legacy for the Third Millennium Volume II: Contexts and Influences* by Giuseppe Stellardi and Emanuela Tandello Cooper (Eds.). This volume is also being published by Troubador. Di Biase had a long review published in the *Times Literary Supplement* last fall of three new collections by Italo Calvino: his letters, his last essays, and the first collected interviews. He was keynote speaker at Anderson University (Anderson, SC) this spring, for their Shakespeare Weekender. *As You Like It* was performed by their Drama Department, and he was asked to give three lectures on the play. This past May, he attended the American debut of an Italian playwright, Alessandro Casola, at City College in New York. He has translated three of Casola's plays and has been asked to meet with Casola and the director, Vittorio Capotorto, at the American debut of a new play commissioned by Capotorto. Di Biase will be translating this new play as well. Additionally, Di Biase has been granted a sabbatical for the fall semester.

Robert Felgar continued to work on his 4th book, celebrated 15 years as department head, and prepared for the SACS visit. His book, entitled *American Slavery: A Historical Exploration of Literature*, puts *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* in their historical, social, and cultural context. The book will be aligned with the ELA Common Core Standards.

Jennifer Foster has now taught in the English department for 18 years. She has served as a member of the Gamecock Orientation team for 14 years and will do so again during the summer of 2014. 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, 2014.

Joanne Gates was awarded a Faculty Grant for developing materials related to Lilly Ledbetter's fight for Equal Pay and for using the Bus Murals of Anniston as a way to teach the Freedom Riders' role in the struggle for Civil Rights. The Grant is titled "Social Justice: Global Problems, Local Resources for the I - Search Project." Gates presented "'Whole Binders Full of Women': From Meme to Political Satire by Way of Amazon's Customer Reviews," a paper related to Gender Equity and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act at the Popular / American Culture of the South in Savannah, Georgia, last October. She presented "Teaching Good Revision Skills IS WORK!" at the Annual Alabama College English Teachers Association conference, held in Gadsden, in February. Gates has been invited to contribute an entry on Elizabeth Robins to the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism*, an on-line resource. She also accepted an invitation to deliver her paper, "First Hedda, First Hilda, and 'Hilda Harnessed to A Purpose': Elizabeth Robins, Ibsen, and Women's Suffrage," at the "First Actresses" Conference at Ohio State University in May. As Chair of the Board of Friends of Houston Cole Library, Dr. Gates spoke at Lynn Varcak's retirement ceremony and introduced Delta Alabama author Beth Duke for the annual book event in March.

Larry Gray delivered papers at two conferences during the past academic year. At Linnaeus University (Sweden) in September, his subject was film adaptation, and at DePaul University (Chicago) in June, his subject was Henry Green (English novelist, 1905-1973). In summer 2013, he was awarded a grant for a week-long seminar led by Sarah Beckwith (Duke University) at the National Humanities Center (NHC); the subject was Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* and its novelistic and film adaptations or re-imaginings. Dr. Gray will be delivering papers at three upcoming international conferences: on Henry Green and Elizabeth Taylor (1912-1975) at University College (London) 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. His JSU teaching duties have been focused on Composition, British and American Literature surveys, and *The Art of the Film*, a course for graduate students and advanced undergraduates.

Pitt Harding gave a public reading of an original short story titled "Love and War" in the English Department Lecture Series. In the fall, he will take time off from teaching Milton to teach another important author instead (EH 404: Shakespeare).

Bill Hug serves as Director of Composition and teaches both graduate and undergraduate classes. Additionally, he continues his research on Danish-American photojournalist Jacob Riis.

Katie Johnson is currently 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.

John H. Jones recently spent a week at the Morgan Library in New York studying 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, including Honors Freshman Composition.

Raina Kostova has served as a judge for various competitions, including the Imagining the Holocaust Writing Competition, the JSU Writers Bowl, and the contests sponsored by the JSU Writers' Club. She was selected to be a Gamecock Orientation Advisor last fall and has been selected again for this upcoming fall term. Additionally, she has served as a Faculty Mentor to two promising graduate students and has also 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 2013 and has been invited back to Louisville, Kentucky, to serve as a reader again this summer. Kostova presented her paper, "The Cynic Scandal: Politics of Agoraphobia in Doris Lessing's *The Grass is Singing*," at the American Comparative Literature Association's conference at New York University in New York City. She also delivered a presentation for the English Department's Lecture Series in April titled "Cinema and the Realist Novel." She is scheduled to teach a new course in the fall semester, Non-Western Literature. This course will be offered at both graduate and undergraduate levels.

Joy Maloney served as a judge for the Imagining the Holocaust Writing Competition and the College of Arts and Sciences Student Symposium. She has regularly tutored students in the English Department's Writing Clinic.

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. She is looking forward to this new challenge and opportunity to serve Jacksonville State University.

Sarah Moersch is the new 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. She teaches English Composition, Oral Communication, and Survey of Literature. In addition, she has agreed to teach Advanced Grammar and will teach her first Advanced Grammar course this fall.

David Myer teaches American Literature I and II, both traditional and online; Technical Writing, computer-assisted and online; and Oral Communication. He was selected as a Gamecock Orientation (GO) Advisor for 2014. He is a member of the Alabama Academy of Science and since 2005 has served on the Editorial Board of *The Journal of the Alabama Academy of Science*. As a member of JSU's China Task Force and the English Department's Taizhou Committee, he works closely with visiting Chinese faculty and students. He was a reader/judge for the JSU Writers Bowl student writing competition and works as a tutor in the English Department's Writing Clinic. He serves on the English Majors and Minors Committee, the Competency Committee, and the Literature Survey Committee. Mr. Myer also teaches various courses for ESL students at JSU's English Language Institute.

Elizabeth Nelson 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, including the Imagining the Holocaust Competition.

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. This year, he published a lengthy bibliographic article on David Garrick and a brief introduction to the Irish playwright Charles Coffey. Additionally, his article "Literary Imitation, Genre, and Cultural Change" won this year's Calvert Award for Outstanding Theoretical Essay from the Association of College English Teachers of Alabama. Finally, O'Keefe once again presented at the Annual Conference of the prestigious American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, further developing his book-length monograph *Nothing but Interest: A Generic History of Ballad Opera*. He is the Coordinator of the JSU Writers' Club and, therefore, oversees various writing competitions, including the RUM Fiction and Poetry Contests and the Arbor Day Poetry Contest.

Andrea Porter has published research on literature of the Vietnam War and attends the College English Association conference each year to present her work. She also serves on the CEA Membership Committee, the CEA Graduate Student Concerns committee, and the CEA committee that selects the best graduate student essay each year. Dr. Porter volunteers as an alumna and faculty advisor to the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority on campus and is also a national

officer of the sorority who assists other area chapters. She serves as the Coordinator of Graduate Student Advising and teaches Honors Composition, American Literature, and graduate courses.

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 has enjoyed advisement this year, having had over 600 interactions with students about questions of scheduling, graduation requirements, class offerings, and professional plans. She teaches both undergraduate and graduate classes. During the fall of 2013, her Honors Freshman Composition students undertook service projects. In both classes, several groups each proposed a project in relation to Tim O'Brien's Vietnam War novel, *The Things They Carried*. Then each class voted on the project it wanted to implement. The 10:00 class chose to hold a *Call of Duty: Black Ops* tournament to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project, while the 11:15 solicited donations for care packages to be sent to active-duty military personnel overseas. Both projects were successful, but, perhaps more importantly, the students understood that there is a larger purpose to their classroom education than they might have otherwise thought. Reed subsequently presented an analysis of this teaching strategy at the annual meeting of the Association of College English Teachers of Alabama, held in February, at Gadsden State Community College. Her paper was titled "Service Learning: Good Work If You Can Get It."

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, *Gamifye*, and *Virtual Education Journal*. She is the recipient of the 2009 William J. Calvert Award and was recently selected to be a faculty mentor for JSU's Fast Forward program. She blogs regularly at remixingcollegeenglish.wordpress.com.

Susan Sellers has completed her 13th 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 I and 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 also remains an active part of JSU's annual Holocaust Remembrance, now in its 32nd year, and of regional and state Holocaust organizations. Additionally, Whitton had a role in the Drama Department's spring production of *Kiss Me Kate* and participates in Theatre in the Mind, an Educational Series of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Julia Francis Wooster celebrated 25 years of full-time teaching at JSU at the conclusion of the spring 2014 semester in addition to two earlier years as an adjunct instructor. Prior to coming to JSU, she taught at a community college and also taught active duty members of the military at Ft. McClellan. She serves as the English Department Social Director. She also serves on several departmental committees and is the chair of the Education Liaison Committee. Wooster continues to judge various competitions, including the Imagining the Holocaust Competition and the Writers Bowl. She regularly shows support for the University by attending various sporting events and Drama productions. She is a Lifetime Member of the JSU National Alumni Association and long-time member of the Gamecock Club. In addition to teaching various courses in the English Department over the years, Wooster also created and taught Detective Fiction, an elective course.

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 summer.

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