

Postscripts

The Jacksonville State University English Department Alumni Newsletter

Editor- April Walker

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The Walls of the Classroom Have Collapsed: JSU's English Department Goes Digital

by Deborah Prickett and Jennifer Foster

Changes are happening quickly over the campus of JSU, and the English Department is joining the 21st Century Classroom initiative at JSU. JSU has embraced the learning-centered classroom to better prepare our students for the challenge of participation in a digital, global environment. The learning-centered classroom places a strong emphasis on the use of mobile devices in virtual and physical classrooms. Students are challenged to be responsible for their learning by engaging in critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, presentation, and communication. Through these challenges, we will build a community of learners that includes students and faculty.

What does the 21st Century Classroom look like? A team of faculty members introduced challenged-based learning during the spring semester in five American Literature classes. For some of our literature courses, smart phones are not banned from the classroom; students are encouraged to bring smart phones, tablets, and laptops to class. Realizing that it is time to harness the digital revolution in our classrooms to gain student engagement, we challenge students to gather and create knowledge in a collaborative college classroom. Teams of students select works to study as a class. From there, students develop significant questions for research. Students collect video, audio, images, and text to support the question being explored by the class. This gathered information is published in an electronic format that is accessible to all students. Student-driven knowledge can be delivered through a variety of different tools:

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electronic journals, multi-media blogs, wikis, social networking communities, or video journals. This is a personal and collaborative experience.

The faculty member's role shifts significantly in this type of learning environment. Faculty members provide structure, support, and tools for student use. In addition, assessment is a collaborative activity; students determine how the published information will be assessed in collaboration with each faculty member. A rubric is developed using the assessment criteria developed with students. This is, sometimes, a difficult shift for the faculty member as well as the student. Faculty members must resist the temptation to enter the classroom conversation too early. Students and faculty work together in a collaborative setting to create knowledge. Collaboration does not stop inside the classroom; the faculty members on this team collaborated throughout the semester to determine the best practices of challenge-based learning. With this collaborative learning, the team will make changes to strengthen the next challenge-based classes. It is significant that the faculty members and students are learning from each other in a collaborative environment that closely reveals the demands of the professional work place in the 21st Century.

In addition to the introduction to challenge-based learning in American Literature classes, the English department has also started to offer hybrid courses. What does the hybrid class format embrace? While our department has been offering online classes for many years, the hybrid class is a new format for instruction. The department offered five hybrid courses in the fall of 2011 and expanded the number of sections in the spring of 2012. A hybrid class is structured to force students to be responsible for their own learning as only a portion of the class hours are spent within the walls of the traditional classroom. The amount of time spent outside of the classroom differs according to the course structure and the faculty member designing the course. The English Department offers hybrid classes for English Composition, Introduction to Communication, American Literature, and Communication Theory. All these classes have a strong e-learning component. Most English Composition classes will use Connect Composition Plus, containing the *McGraw-Hill Handbook* in e-book format. This program includes an intuitive Personal Learning Plan for each student. Content from this program can be delivered through Blackboard Learn. While not in the classroom, students work, often collaboratively, to submit work online through Blackboard Learn or a variety of WEB 2.0 tools. You can learn more about these free tools by visiting the following web site: [The 35 Best Web 2.0 Classroom Tools Chosen by You](#). These e-learning assignments, which release the student from the walls of the traditional classroom, encourage collaboration and build the skills of gathering, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Rather than disseminating information, faculty members become learning facilitators for the students. The most exciting by-product has been the collaboration among faculty members as we teach one another about the best practices in our classrooms.

The hybrid classes and challenged-based learning classes are only the beginning of the department's initiative to accommodate students and provide them with the best learning environment in the 21st century, whether in or out of the classroom. The most challenging and rewarding project is the E-thology Project. Due to the rising cost of textbooks, students' increasing interest in technology, and the vast collection of multi-media supplemental material, JSU's English department, along with collaborators from other departments and universities, is creating a free, multi-modal, electronic repository for works of American Literature. While

electronic textbooks exist and their production is on the rise, a complete repository of literature and its supplements has been overlooked. Due to the magnitude of information on the web and the expertise within our own department, as well as many other university departments, we are creating an electronic, multi-modal repository of early American literature that embraces JSU's ideology of a learning centered campus: an E-thology of American Literature. In conjunction with JSU's Computer Science department, a JSU librarian, and a professor of English at SUNY Fredonia, twenty JSU English faculty members are collaboratively building an electronic anthology of early American literature. The E-thology will include a variety of components to reinforce relevancy and enhance student engagement with and comprehension of American literature.

The first phase of the E-thology will include primary works from at least 30 American authors through the Civil War period and will include biographical information on those authors; multi-media components, such as images, audio, and video that correlate to authors and texts; explication, commentary, and annotations on primary texts composed by university faculty members; and student contributions including, but not limited to, relevant web sources, critical reactions and valid research. The prototype for the E-thology has been completed and was presented at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities Winter Conference in February 2012. Through the support of our department head, dean, and provost, a technology expert from within the MCIS department has been hired for the summer of 2012 to build the technological framework that will drive and house the project. Author Administrators from JSU as well as SUNY Fredonia have chosen individual projects on specific authors so that the building of the technology and the collection of content can work in parallel. Finally, a webinar is planned for August 2012 for interested parties within the AASCU network of schools to learn more about and possibly partner with our team on this project.

The E-thology will be available for student use by fall 2012 and will expand exponentially with continued faculty and student contributions. Our hope is that this project will continue to grow, transcending classes and disciplines, and will ultimately provide an avenue of economically feasible and technologically driven learning, not only for JSU students, but also for learners around the world.

Are we ready for the technology in our classrooms? Beginning in the fall 2012, faculty members will have the technology needed to bring the power of the web to their classrooms, whether these classrooms are virtual or physical. All English faculty members have iPads for classroom use, and our Wi-Fi network is up and running in Stone Center. We have the resources to help us make this transition: Two workshops by Apple; one on using Blackboard journals, blogs, wikis, and forums; and one on the Personal Learning Plan with Connect; were delivered last spring. In addition, we have other training sessions planned for August: "Connect Composition Plus," "Let's Share Our iPad Apps," and "Just How Do I Plug In This iPad?" are all designed to help create a collaborative working environment.

An addition to Jacksonville State University's Mission Statement was made in the fall of 2011 and reads as follows: "We believe it is important for learners to take responsibility for their learning. This means presenting a willingness to learn, being proactive in the acquisition of knowledge, and behaving with integrity and honesty in the learning environment. We believe

that learning takes place when learners are engaged, assumptions are challenged, expectations are shared, and relationships are built around the purpose of learning.” The English Department will join the community of learners. Challenge-based learning and hybrid classes force students to take responsibility for their own learning, and the E-thology will be a valuable tool for our students to think critically about the material and to evaluate the material from different perspectives. Whether physical walls exist for a classroom is not important because the flow of ideas and information is digital. The 21st Century Classroom will engage skills that are important for today’s college graduate.

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, including U. S. Savings Bonds valued at \$100, \$75, and \$50 for the top three winners in each category, are awarded. This year, Margaret Copeland oversaw the middle school entries and Susan Dean, the high school entries. Steven Whitton was project coordinator. See www.jsu.edu/english/holocaust

JSU Writers Bowl

On October 26, 2011, the English Department sponsored the Sixteenth Annual JSU Writers Bowl. Sixty-one teams from high schools throughout northern Alabama traveled to the JSU campus to compete.

Following a Halloween theme, the team competitions required students to assume the role of a parent of their choice of a classic monster (the Frankenstein monster, Count Dracula, the Wolfman, the Invisible Man, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, the Creature from the Black Lagoon, the Mummy, or the Phantom of the Opera) and to write a letter to the principal explaining why his or her child should not be suspended from school. For the afternoon session, the teams wrote a poem in the form of a ballad about an event at their school. For the individual essay competition, students were given the following options: a) During times of tragedy, like the April 2011 tornadoes, the best and worst characteristics of human beings are revealed. Describe a time when you saw tragedy bring out the best/worst in those around you. b) Much has been said about the positive and negative effects of social networking (e.g., Facebook, Myspace, etc.). Describe the ways social networking has affected the lives of high school students.

JSU's Steven Whitton again served as the chair of the Writers Bowl Committee, assisted by Gena Christopher and Randy Davis. Submissions were judged by the following JSU faculty: Don Bennett, Christy Burns, Larry Gray, Gloria Horton, Bill Hug, Katie Johnson, Raina Kostova, Sarah Moersch, David Myer, Elizabeth Nelson, April Walker, and Julia Wooster.

Jacksonville State University Writing Project

The Jacksonville State University Writing Project had another successful year, concluding with the summer institute in June 2012, at which 9 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: Ashley Bryant, Jacksonville State University graduate student; Kenny Clevenger, Southside High School; Rachael Cox, Southside High School; Mary Jo Cox, Jacksonville State University graduate student; Delilah Darden, Sardis High School; Kellilyn Sechrest, Jacksonville High School; Doran Smith, Word Alive Christian Academy; Nicolle Smith, Ohatchee Elementary School; and Charlsie Wigley, Coleman Middle School.

In addition to the summer institute, the site will hold a number of other events, beginning with the Writing in the Twenty-First Century Conference in July, cosponsored with the JSU Regional In-Service Center, at Ft. McClellan, keynoted by Lester Laminack, with concurrent sessions provided by JSU Writing Project fellows.

Our writing group, Scribblers, continues to meet monthly, and a number of the group's members have had works published this past year.

The site has received a \$20,000 grant to fund the 2013 summer institute and a technology project for area teachers. 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. Director of the JSU Writing Project is Gloria Horton; co-directors are Lisa Williams and Melissa Shields; technology liaison is Rodney Bailey.

JSU Writers' Club

The JSU Writers' Club had another successful year. The RUM Fiction and Poetry Contests brought a number of entries. The following are the winners of the RUM Fiction Contest: 1st place: Betty Michelle Combs, "Daddy's Girl"; 2nd place: Julie Margaret Skinner, "Steps"; 3rd place: N. W. Moon, "Violets"; Hon. Mention: Rachel Franks, "My Mother's Keeper." The winning authors shared their excerpts and received their prizes at a ceremony on December 1, 2011. The following are the winners of the RUM Poetry Contest held during the spring semester: 1st place: Julie Margaret Skinner, "E for Echo"; 2nd place: Tiffani Foster, "The Biltmore"; 3rd place: Kara Coleman, "A Highly Caffeinated Poem"; Hon. Mention: Trent Sheehan, "One Eye on Eternity." The winners shared their poems and received their prizes at a ceremony on April 19, 2012.

Southern Playwrights Competition

The winner of this year's Southern Playwrights Competition was *A Tennessee Walk* by Ron Winn Anderson. The committee is especially grateful to the dedicated group of readers who helped to choose the winner and especially to Joy Maloney, Coordinator. For more information concerning the Southern Playwrights Competition, visit our website at <http://www.jsu.edu/english/southpla> or contact Steven Whitton swhitton@jsu.edu.

Sigma Tau Delta

It has been another successful year for Sigma Tau Delta. This year, Sigma Tau Delta has been busy with several activities. The group had its annual Scary Story read-around in October and its induction ceremony for new members in November. The group also sponsored two Get-Acquainted-with-Sigma-Tau-Delta sessions in Stone Center to recruit new members. In February, the group hosted its annual Worst Love Poem contest. Members of Sigma Tau Delta viewed Julius Caesar, beginning the viewing on the Ides of March and completing it during the April meeting. One of the highlights of the year for members was the January Faculty Scholar Lecture at which Dr. Robert Felgar, Chair of the Department of English, spoke on the topic of film noir.

English Department Foundation

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

Else Cospers Bell, Jr.

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Christine Annette Tye

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.

New Faculty

The English Department is welcoming a new instructor to the English Department this fall. Sarah Moersch received her MA and BA from Jacksonville State University. Sarah began as an Adjunct Instructor for the English Department in the fall of 2008 and has been teaching Freshman Composition I and II, American Literature I and II, Oral Communication, and Basic Grammar Skills.

In addition to her teaching experience, she has also been very involved in service work within the department and the community. She has judged entries for many writing competitions, including the RUM Fiction and Poetry Contests, the Imagining the Holocaust Writing Competition, and the Southern Playwrights Competition. She has also organized writing contests for Kitty Stone Elementary School and produced and edited *Something Else Jr.*, a publication for the students participating in the writing contest she organized at Kitty Stone. Her own short story, “Ingrained,” was published in JSU’s Literary Magazine, *Something Else*, in the fall of 2008.

Prior to joining the English Department as an adjunct, she served as the Reproduction Manager of Rolling Hills Farm Equine Facility for 6 years and also acted as a Surgical Assistant for 5 years. We are very pleased to welcome Sarah Moersch to our faculty.

Margaret Copeland Retires

Margaret Copeland has decided to retire after nearly 20 years of service to the English Department. She began teaching at JSU as Adjunct Instructor in 1993 and became an Instructor of English in 1995. She regularly taught Composition, American Literature, and Oral Communication. During her time with the University, she served on many committees, including the JSU Institutional Effectiveness Committee/Assessment Subcommittee, the On the Brink Committee, the Speech Committee, and the Basic English Committee. Since 2007, she has served as the Middle School Coordinator for the Imagining the Holocaust Writing Competition. She received the Core Curriculum Award for Excellence in Teaching for the School of Arts and Sciences in 1997.

Mrs. Copeland received her BS in Education from the University of Alabama. She earned her MS in Education and her MA in English from Jacksonville State University. Prior to teaching, she was a bookkeeper in a D.M.D's office. She was an Administrative Assistant for the Office of the Dean of the School of Health Related Professions at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, and she was the Secretary for the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

Our department is grateful for Margaret Copeland's years of service and instruction at JSU. Students and faculty will miss her this fall semester and semesters to follow. Our department wishes Margaret well.

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 and accompanied the group to London in December. Mr. Bailey has also volunteered to serve as an Author Administrator for the E-thology and will be a Gamecock Orientation Advisor this fall.

Don Bennett has been an instructor in the JSU English department for ten years now, having just received his ten-year pin. He teaches Freshman Composition 101 and 102, Oral Communication, American Literature I, English Literature I, Advanced Composition, and the Theory of Composition. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, a national honor society for teachers, students, and alumni. Don also serves on the Advisory Board for the JSU Writing Project, and he and his wife have volunteered to serve as Author Administrators for the E-thology. Away from school, Don and his wife Amy (singer, vocal instructor, blogger and mom extraordinaire) both like to

perform with the Theatre of Gadsden and are active members of their church. They have two children: Timothy, age twelve, and Paul, who just turned six.

Christy Burns read entries for several writing competitions, including Southern Playwrights, Imagining the Holocaust, and the JSU Writers Bowl. She teaches Freshman Composition, Oral Communication, and Composition and Speech. She has also agreed to serve as an Author Administrator for the E-thology.

Gena Christopher is an Instructor in the English Department and the Director of the English Department Writing Clinic. She is the English Department Red Balloon Initiative discussion leader and serves on several committees, including the Piedmont/JSU/Apple Initiative, the English Department E-thology team, and the JSU China Initiative. This May, she traveled to Taizhou University in Linhai City, China, for the second time. This trip included ten JSU honors students.

Randall Davis served as discussion leader of the 21st Annual Literature and Medicine Retreat, sponsored by the Alabama Chapter of the American College of Physicians/American Society of Internal Medicine, in January of 2012. Works discussed included Michael Frayn's *Copenhagen*, Wallace Stegner's *Crossing to Safety*, Elizabeth Strout's *Olive Kittridge*, and Natasha Trethewey's *Native Guard*. He has also volunteered to serve as an Author Administrator for the E-thology.

Susan Dean participated as a judge for several writing and speaking competitions, including the College of Arts and Sciences Student Symposium. She is the Coordinator for the High School division for the Imagining the Holocaust Writing Competition. She teaches Freshman Composition, Oral Communication, American Literature, and Technical Writing.

Carmine Di Biase spent June of last summer in Venice, Italy, to lecture at the Canadian Association for Italian Studies Conference. His lecture, one of four scheduled for the conference, was titled "Il diario di Elio Schmitz in inglese: problem testuali e di traduzione." In addition to his publications and translations, he regularly teaches Freshman Composition, English Literature, and Shakespeare. He also teaches graduate classes.

Robert Felgar celebrated 41 years of working at JSU and is preparing to launch himself into cyberspace by teaching an American Literature course online this fall. He has also volunteered to serve as Administrator for the Frederick Douglass section of the E-thology, and an excerpt from one of his books on Richard Wright was republished in a collection of essays on Wright's autobiography edited by Harold Bloom. His recent film class focused on Westerns.

Jennifer Foster attended the summer conference for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities in Portland, Oregon, and presented at AASCU's winter conference in San Antonio, Texas, with Rodney Bailey and Gena Christopher. They demonstrated the E-thology, a collaboration between the English and Computer Science departments, which will produce an electronically interactive, multi-modal collection of early American Literature. Jennifer also worked with Andrea Porter to create STU 101, a required orientation course for all incoming freshman beginning fall 2012. This past year, Jennifer served on the 21st Century Classroom

Initiative Committee, the Freshman Summer Reading Committee, and as a faculty mentor during summer orientation.

JoAnne Gates was re-elected to the Board of Friends of Houston Cole Library, which hosted Ted Dunagan in October of 2011 and poet laureate Sue Brannan Walker in March of 2012. Her article on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is in a recent issue of *Longleaf Style*. In October of 2011, she gave a presentation, "From Voodoo to Verdi: Extreme Stagings of Macbeth," at PCAS/ACAS conference (The Popular Culture Association of the South / American Culture Association of the South). The conference was held in New Orleans. In addition, she has Web Published Performance Reviews on three productions at the Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern. These reviews can be found in *Early Modern Literary Studies* or at <http://extra.shu.ac.uk/emls/16-1/revtav.htm>. She has volunteered to serve as an Author Administrator for the Literature E-thology.

Larry Gray was selected to attend a week-long seminar with Christopher Ricks at the National Humanities Center in June 2011; its subject was T.S. Eliot's poetry. He had been chosen for a parallel NHC seminar on the short story with Louis Menand of Harvard in the summer of 2010 and has been selected again for the summer of 2012 to work on the novels of J.M. Coetzee with Robert Pippin of the University of Chicago. Dr. Gray also delivered a paper on Ayn Rand as middlebrow novelist at McGill University, Montreal, Canada, in June 2011, just before traveling to Rome in July 2011 to chair a panel for the international Henry James conference, held every three years. His essays on Henry James and on Robert Penn Warren's *All the King's Men* appeared in book-length collections of essays published in May 2011 and March 2012. He will travel to conferences at Brown University and York University (UK) to deliver papers on James and on film adaptation later in 2012. Continuing his JSU service of recent years, Dr. Gray administered the Major Field Achievement Test, taught the ECE workshops, and served on the Faculty Senate and on the Undergraduate Admissions Committee. He also wrote the lead article for the summer 2011 edition of *Postscripts*, "From Newport to Paris, Henry James Style."

Pitt Harding has volunteered to serve as the Author Administrator for Walt Whitman in the E-thology. He continues to teach Freshman Composition, Honors Freshman Composition, Creative Writing, English Literature, and graduate courses.

Gloria Horton serves as the Liaison Officer to National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) for the Association of College English Teachers of Alabama (ACETA), representing that organization on the NCTE Board of Directors. She is the chair of the steering committee for Academe, Jacksonville State University's organization in support of faculty teaching, scholarship, and service. She served as Faculty Chair of the 2011 United Way Campaign, Chair of the Jacksonville United Way Campaign, and served on the United Way Campaign Cabinet. Gloria also served as ex-officio chair of the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Council Merit Pay Committee. She has served as editor of the *JSU Writing Project Newsletter* and editor of the *JSU Writing Project Anthology*. She chaired the Admissions and Scholarship Committee for the Jacksonville State University Faculty Senate and was a member of the Senate Honors committee and Executive committee. She will serve as president of Sigma chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma national society for women educators through 2014. She is a member of the Writers of Calhoun County. She also serves as a member of the board of the Friends of the Library and the

Education Committee of the Knox Concert Series. She is president of the Oxford Arts Council. She is the director of the JSU Writing Project and coordinates the JSU Grammar Hotline for the English Department. She is the longtime faculty sponsor of Sigma Tau Delta. She has also volunteered to serve as Author Administrator for the E-thology.

Bill Hug has volunteered to serve as Author Administrator covering the Southwestern Humorists in the E-thology. He continues to teach both graduate and undergraduate courses.

Katie Johnson is currently the head of the Oral Communications committee and assists in judging competitions, such as the Sixteenth Annual Writers Bowl and the Southern Playwrights Competition. 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, American Literature I, American Literature II, English Composition I, and English Composition II. She has also volunteered to serve as an Author Administrator for the E-thology.

John Jones was awarded the Faculty Scholar Lecturer Award in May of 2011 and was, therefore, granted the honor of giving the annual Faculty Scholar Lecture in May of 2012. The lecture title is "Blake, Originality, and Dissent." He continues to teach graduate classes and undergraduate classes, including Honors Freshman Composition.

Raina Kostova served on numerous committees, including the English Majors and Minors Committee, the Literature Survey Committee, and on several M.A. Orals Committees. She has participated in the launching of the E-thology project and has volunteered to serve as an Author Administrator. In addition, she has served as a judge for various competitions, including the Imagining the Holocaust Writing Competition, the College of Arts and Sciences Student Symposium, the JSU Writers Bowl, the Southern Playwrights Competition, and the contests sponsored by the JSU Writers' Club. In June 2011, she worked as an Advanced Placement Reader for the National College Board and was invited to be an AP Reader in June 2012. In the summer of 2011, she researched Friedrich Nietzsche's influence on the twentieth-century Russian poet Osip Mandelstam. The essay, based on her research, "From Symbolism to Acmeism: Mandelstam's Nietzsche," is currently under review by the *Russian Review*, a prestigious journal on Russian studies. She presented a paper titled "Nietzsche's Classicism in Mandelstam" at the annual conference of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), which met at Brown University. She has been invited by one of the Chinese Fulbright Scholars to present a paper in Wuhan University in December of 2012. The International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA) has recently accepted a seminar proposal that she submitted in December of 2011. The topic is on the future of Comparative Literature as a discipline, and the seminar will take place in June 2013, in the Sorbonne, Paris. She was also granted tenure and promotion to Associate Professor.

Joy Maloney served on the Writing Project Advisory Board and was the coordinator for the Southern Playwrights Competition. She served as a judge for many writing competitions, including the RUM Fiction and Poetry contests, and the Imagining the Holocaust Writing Competition. She also served as a judge for the College of Arts and Sciences Student Symposium, and has regularly tutored students in the English Department's Writing Clinic.

Mica Mecham teaches Freshman Composition, Oral Communication, and American Literature Courses. She has served as a judge for department-sponsored writing competitions and has volunteered to serve as Author Administrator for the E-thology.

David Myer teaches American Literature I and II (both traditional and online), Technical Writing (computer assisted and online), and Oral Communication. Mr. Myer was selected as a Gamecock Orientation (GO) Advisor for 2012. He is a member of 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 worked closely with visiting scholars from Wuhan and Taizhou Universities. He served as a judge for the JSU Writers Bowl and as a tutor in the Writing Clinic. He serves on the English Majors and Minors Committee, the Competency Committee, and the Literature Survey Committee. He has volunteered to serve as an Author Administrator for the E-thology. In addition to his duties in the English Department, Mr. Myer teaches Listening and Speaking to International students in JSU's English Language Institute (ELI).

Elizabeth Nelson served on the English Department's Competency and Review Committees. She teaches both traditional and online classes for the department, including Oral Communication, Freshman Composition, and American Literature.

Doug O'Keefe continues to teach Freshman Composition, including Honors Freshman Composition, Oral Communication, and English Literature, both graduate and undergraduate. 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 volunteered to serve as an Author Administrator for the E-thology. She and Jennifer Foster have worked together to create STU 101, a required orientation course for all incoming freshman beginning fall 2012. She volunteers as an alumna advisor to Zeta Tau Alpha sorority at JSU and serves as Coordinator of Graduate Student Advisement. She teaches Composition classes, Oral Communication, Literature, and graduate courses.

Deborah Prickett is the English Department's Technology Liaison, and she chairs the English Composition Committee. She teaches Freshman Composition, Oral Communication, Theory of Speech, and American Literature. She teaches both traditional and online courses, and has volunteered to serve as an Author Administrator for the E-thology.

Teresa Reed serves as the Coordinator of Undergraduate Student Advisement and has enjoyed advisement this year, having had over 500 interactions with students about questions of scheduling, graduation requirements, and class offerings, among other issues. She teaches both undergraduate and graduate classes for the department.

Valerie Rimpsey sits on the Advisory Committee for Student Life Multicultural Programming and serves as the Secretary for the African American Faculty Organization for Responsive

Education (AFORE). She teaches Freshman Composition, Oral Communication, and American Literature.

Tanya Sasser has volunteered to serve as an Author Administrator for the E-thology and tutors students in the Writing Clinic. She has judged several writing competitions sponsored by the English Department and teaches Freshman Composition, Oral Communication, Advanced Oral Communication, and American Literature classes. She teaches both traditional and hybrid classes.

Susan Sellers has completed her 11th year as Director of the English Competency Exam, which includes coordinating the campus and Distance Learning Exams. She serves as Scholarship Advisor for Zeta Tau Alpha, and she is the English Department representative for 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 Speech.

April Walker is the editor of *Postscripts* and has judged various writing competitions, including the Southern Playwrights Competition, the JSU Writers Bowl, the RUM Fiction and Poetry Contests, and the Imagining the Holocaust Writing Competition. She has volunteered to serve as Author Administrator for the only Native American author in the E-thology thus far. She teaches Freshman Composition I and II, American Literature I and II, and Oral Communication. She also serves on the Speech Committee and will be Coordinator of the Middle School entries for the Imagining the Holocaust Competition in spring 2013.

Steven Whitton continues to work with the On the Brink Conference, the JSU Writers Bowl, and the Southern Playwrights Competition. He also remains an active part of JSU's annual Holocaust Remembrance, now in its 30th year, and of regional and state Holocaust organizations. He is also the director of JSU's Honors Program.

Julia Wooster continues to be the English Department Social Director. She serves on department committees and is the chair of the Education-English Liaison Committee. She judged various writing competitions, including the Imagining the Holocaust Writing Competition and the JSU Writers Bowl. She served as a judge for the Language Arts Olympiad and the College of Arts and Sciences Annual Student Symposium. She has also shown support for the University by attending sporting events and Drama productions. She continues working to improve her Detective Fiction course.

Remembering the Life and Service of Hilda Norton

by April Walker

This year's edition of *Postscripts* would not be complete without mentioning the death of a valued and respected member of our department, Hilda Dean Williams Norton. Mrs. Norton died on January 7, 2012. She had been an instructor with JSU's English Department for nearly 47 years. In addition to her 47 years of service to our University, she taught for 24 years in the Etowah county school system prior to earning her Master's Degree from JSU in 1965 and

starting her service at our University. I am not sure if any department on campus has had such a loyal instructor with a thirst for teaching that was strong enough to keep her in the classroom nearly to her 92nd birthday. That is quite remarkable. Hilda Norton never chose to retire, and although I did not know her as well as many in our department did, I may have some insight into why she never made the decision to exit the classroom.

I had the pleasure of sharing tutoring duties with Mrs. Norton in the English Department's Writing Clinic during the fall of 2011. When neither of us was busy tutoring students, I was absorbing every word she uttered like a sponge during our conversations. When she was tutoring students and I was not, I listened attentively because I wanted to hear how she explained the grammar rules and instructed the students. I felt that observing an instructor with 71 years of experience was a great way of continuing my own learning and improving my own instruction in the classroom. She had volumes of knowledge stored in her head and could recall the details within each volume without hesitation.

What called my attention to her the most was her honest and genuine desire to help students and to see them succeed. As many of my colleagues will agree, some students in the writing clinic get a little restless as they are given instruction on grammar rules; however, Mrs. Norton would not let them escape without having the students explain the rule and show that they understood her instruction. She was firm in her style but kind and patient in her delivery. She loved the students and cared about what happened to them.

Perhaps my earlier statement that I would lend insight into why Hilda Norton never retired from the classroom was not the accurate way to phrase it. Anyone who ever came into contact with her, whether student, faculty, or administration, would undoubtedly have seen her passion for helping young people advance in a world that she noticed was continually changing. Therefore, my insight is not insight but common knowledge. Even those whose paths never crossed with Mrs. Norton would have to recognize her devotion to students as evidenced by the 71 years of her life she spent in the classroom. She witnessed the education system evolve, and she evolved with it as necessary to ensure her students left the classroom well-informed and ready to meet the challenges of life after college. She genuinely cared about each and every student she ever encountered, and that is why she never retired from the classroom.

In addition to her lifelong service to students, she had an undying devotion to her family, her community, and her church, Williams First Baptist Church. As I know her absence will linger in the hearts and minds of her family, her community, and her church, it will also linger and be felt in the English Department. She will be missed and, most importantly, she will be remembered for her dedication and devotion to teaching, something she loved and cherished. It is an understatement to simply call Hilda Norton remarkable because her life and service entailed far more than what one adjective can adequately express.

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Please look for *Postscripts* online each summer.

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Thank you for your continued support of our department.

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