

# *Postscripts*

The Jacksonville State University English Department Alumni Newsletter

Editor- April Walker

Layout- Susan Hurst

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## **Intellect, Eyes, Hands, and Heart**

by April Walker

The English Department works tirelessly to ensure that all students receive quality instruction in order to prepare them to be productive members of the work force by teaching them how to read critically and how to write and discuss their ideas thoroughly. Teaching college English presents quite a task as most coursework includes some degree of writing in addition to regular testing. Reading essays and research papers can be very time consuming, far more so than grading standard objective tests. Although new innovations are available through the vast array of computer programs, no innovation can replace the constructive criticism that members of our faculty give to our students. In addition to the grading load, there is also a great deal of effort and time involved in gathering materials and research for lectures, not including the energy involved in the actual delivery of the material.

There are thirty-three instructors and professors in the department, and almost everyone regularly teaches the classes that are required as the core curriculum for all students, such as Composition, Oral Communication, and American or British Literature surveys. In addition, our faculty members have unique specialties and share their vast knowledge with English majors and minors. We cannot adequately cover all thirty-three faculty members and their individual specialties, accomplishments, and service work adequately in this edition of *Postscripts*; therefore, we have decided to focus on the ten who have served our department for at least twenty years or more. We want to recognize the instructors and professors who have dedicated so much of their time, knowledge, expertise, and service to our department, basically giving the university a great deal of their lives and bodies if one considers the strained eyes needed to read mountains of essays, the strained intellect that is required to process a deficient student's work, the strained hands that may or may not have to make a plethora of marks and comments on a student's paper, and the strained heart that pumps overtime to encourage students to appreciate learning and to be grateful for the opportunity they have

Intellect, Eyes, Hands, and Heart...1-5  
Imagining the Holocaust...5  
JSU Writers Bowl...5  
JSU Writing Project...6  
JSU Writers' Club...6  
Southern Playwrights Competition...7  
English Dept. Foundation...7-8  
Changes in Staff...8  
Postscripts Bios...8-13

before them. The outstanding members of our faculty who have strained their intellects, eyes, hands, and hearts for twenty or more years, we commend and thank for their dedication to making this department impressive in its offerings beyond the basic courses and services. JSU students are very fortunate to have such a talented array of faculty in the English department. Any student seeking an undergraduate or graduate degree in English should be pleased with the variety of courses that the department offers and the professors and instructors who teach these courses.

Dr. Carmine Di Biase began his service to our department in 1993, placing him in his twentieth year with JSU. He regularly teaches Composition, British Literature, and a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses, including Shakespeare, Non-Dramatic Elizabethan Literature, and other courses in 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century English Literature. He is fluent in Italian and has edited and published translations of many Italian works, including his recently published *The Diary of Elio Schmitz*. This work is a translation of the diary of Italo Svevo's younger brother and offers a rare perspective into the life of one of Italy's greatest modern novelists Italo Svevo. Dr. Di Biase's publications are not limited to translations as he has published other articles concerning English studies in Travel Literature and the Ovidian influence in Shakespeare's works. In addition to his instruction and scholarly pursuits, he has organized a Travel and Translation Conference at JSU and is lecturing students in the English Language Institute this July. Dr. Di Biase has been an invaluable member of the department.

Deborah Prickett became an instructor with the English Department in 1992. She regularly teaches Composition, American Literature, and Theory of Speech, mastering online and hybrid classes along the way. She maintains the information posted on the English Department Exchange, a site that allows department members to access attendance policies, departmental syllabi, webinars and Power Points on different teaching methods, and a multitude of other information that aids in preparation and instruction. Prickett collaborates with Distance Learning to assist in making Blackboard an invaluable teaching tool. She has coordinated several sessions within our department to explain the complexities of Blackboard, including the use of blogs, discussion boards, and the variety of other options that are available. Last year, she encouraged the use of Connect Composition Plus, an interactive tool offered by McGraw-Hill publishing. Through this service, students complete their own personalized learning plans that are created based on their initial grammar assessments. She also participates in her share of conferences. She has been very dedicated during her twenty-one years of service.

Gena Christopher joined the department full time in 1991, putting her in her twenty-second year of service. She regularly teaches Composition courses, American Literature, Technical Writing, and Alabama Literature. She received the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award in 2012. Christopher teaches traditional classes and also braves her share of hybrid and online classes. She is participating in the ELI this July and has been actively engaged in furthering our relationship with Taizhou University in China. She has traveled to China several times and continues to be instrumental in molding specific study-abroad programs, which include sharing research and exchanging staff with Taizhou University. Christopher is on the planning committee for the JSU Writers Bowl. Her service work to the university and our department is commendable. One of her most remarkable accomplishments is coordinating the Writing Clinic, which aids students who struggle with grammar, mechanics, vocabulary, and writing

assignments in general. Under Christopher's direction, the tutors and faculty volunteering in the clinic have helped hundreds of students since its inception. Her dedication to students, the department, and the university is quite impressive.

Dr. Randall Davis is likewise in his twenty-second year of service. Dr. Davis regularly teaches Composition courses in addition to undergraduate and graduate courses in World and American Literature. He specializes in American Literature and has developed and taught a course focusing on Native American Literature. In addition to instruction, Dr. Davis is actively involved in research and service. He regularly serves as a discussion leader for the Annual Literature and Medicine Retreat, sponsored by the Alabama Chapter of the American College of Physicians/American Society of Internal Medicine. He has published papers focusing on American writers, including James Fenimore Cooper, Adolph Bandelier, and N. Scott Momaday. One example of Dr. Davis' dedication to service includes his contribution to the annual Writers Bowl. He has been an exceptional member of the English department in instruction, service, and research.

Gloria Horton is another member of our faculty who has served this department for many years, presently serving her twenty-fourth year. She teaches Composition, Literature courses, and other undergraduate courses, including Advanced and English Grammar. She has been involved with The Writing Project for many years, becoming a director in 2004. She has steadily attended various conferences throughout her teaching career. She is presently the Vice President of ACETA (Association of College English Teachers of Alabama); she served as the faculty chair of the United Way Campaign and is the President of the Oxford Arts Council. The list of her service to the department, university, community, and state is quite long. She has received the College of Arts and Sciences Service Award twice during her time at JSU. Gloria Horton's dedication to her profession is admirable, and the long list of her service work is quite remarkable.

Julia Wooster is likewise in her twenty-fourth year of service with JSU's English Department. She holds the title of Social Director and plans our annual parties and gatherings. She is very supportive of JSU Athletic programs and regularly attends sporting events on campus. She does her share of service work, which includes judging various writing contests and participating in committee assignments. She regularly teaches Oral Communication, Composition, and Literature classes, and also teaches Composition & Speech, an upper-level undergraduate course. In addition, she has planned and developed a course titled Detective Fiction. Wooster has been a valuable member of our department for almost a quarter of a century.

Dr. Joanne Gates has been with our department since 1987, putting her in her twenty-sixth year of service. Teaching both graduate and undergraduate classes, she handles computer-assisted Composition courses, Shakespeare, Women's Literature, American and British Literature. Her specialty is Elizabeth Robins, and she serves as the project director of the Elizabeth Robins Web. She won the Elizabeth Agee Award from the University of Alabama Press for her biography of Robins and has edited and co-edited several publications on Robins as well. Her appreciation of literature is furthered in her service on the board of the Friends of the Houston Cole Library. She has played a major role in selecting, coordinating, and introducing many guest speakers during

her service on the Friends of the Library Board. She is dedicated to learning and pushes her students to their best.

Dr. Bill Hug also joined the department in 1987. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses, including Composition, American and World Literature, Advanced Expository Writing, and Literature of the South. Dr. Hug served as the advisor to undergraduate English majors for years prior to Dr. Reed's assuming that responsibility. He is presently the Department's Director of Writing. In addition to his instruction and service, he is also involved in research and publication. He has been engaged in research on Danish-American photojournalist Jacob Riis and has had work published in journals and encyclopedias. He occasionally writes reviews for area newspapers like the *Anniston Star*. Dr. Hug has been an asset to our department through his instruction, service, and research.

Dr. Steven Whitton is next on our list of twenty or more years of service, and he definitely fits into the "more" category, as he is presently in his fortieth year of service to JSU. Dr. Whitton is the Director of the Honors Program, which is not limited to the English Department, as honors classes are presently offered in twelve departments. Dr. Whitton established the Southern Playwrights Competition, the On the Brink Conference, and the Imagining the Holocaust Education Program. He also coordinates the Writers Bowl with Dr. Davis and Gena Christopher. He participates in Theater in the Mind, which is an Educational Series of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Additionally, he writes reviews for the *Anniston Star*. He teaches Honors Composition and Literature courses in addition to teaching graduate courses and upper-level undergraduate courses in film and drama. His service to the department, university, community, and state is outstanding and has been ongoing for four decades. Dr. Whitton is extremely devoted to his profession, and we have been very fortunate to have him in our department.

The last professor on our list has been with the department since 1971 and became the head of the department in 1998. As the head of the department, Dr. Robert Felgar has done his share of service, but his instruction and publications are significant as well. He is a nationally recognized scholar on Richard Wright, publishing books and journal articles. His knowledge of black literature is not limited to Wright's works. He has recently signed a contract to write a book on the influence of slavery in Mark Twain's *Huck Finn*, Frederick Douglass' *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, Harriet Jacobs' *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, and Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. In addition to publications on Wright and other black literature, Dr. Felgar has also written articles on Robert Browning. Despite the enormous amount of work that is involved with running our department, Dr. Felgar remains actively involved in the classroom. He teaches American and British Literature; Black Literature, an upper-level undergraduate course; and several graduate courses, including Black Writers of America and Victorian Prose. He also teaches courses in film; this past spring, his film course focused on melodramas.

This article is lacking as far as addressing the enormity of accomplishments and service of the instructors and professors who have dedicated twenty to forty or more years of service to JSU. However, we hope that the brief mention of these loyal scholars and their unique specialties, research, service, innovations, and instruction is substantial enough to make their dedication clear. It is admirable that they have given twenty plus years to making our department noteworthy among a number of other standouts at our university. Whether the students these

instructors and professors encounter realize it or not, they have access to remarkable intellectuals in our department. Furthermore, even though we have addressed the talents, service, and instruction of only a third of the department, we want to thank all members of our department, including the next three who will reach twenty years of service soon: Dr. Teresa Reed, David Myer, and Dr. John Jones. Each and every faculty member brings his or her own special talents, knowledge, and methods to the classroom. We want to thank each for dedicating his or her intellect, eyes, hands, and heart for so many years. All members of our faculty are remarkable in their own ways and have unique talents that allow the department to offer a broad assortment of courses beyond the basics.

Further information about all faculty members, their service, and a list of their recent publications are available on the English Department's Web page:  
<http://www.jsu.edu/english/index.html>

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## **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. See [www.jsu.edu/english/holocaust](http://www.jsu.edu/english/holocaust) for more information.

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## **JSU Writers Bowl**

On October 31, 2012, the English Department sponsored the Seventeenth Annual JSU Writers Bowl. Over 75 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 a student's parent as the faculty advisor of a school club explaining why that student cannot continue as a member of the club. This hypothetical student was to be selected from a list of classic monsters, including 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. For the afternoon session, the teams wrote a *terza rima* sonnet about an event at their school. For the individual essay competition, students were given the following options: a) How have smart phones affected communication negatively or positively? b) What from your parents' youth do you wish we still had today that is no longer available to you? 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, Susan Dean, 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 2013, at which seven 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: Shannon Clark, Wadley High School; Rachel Farley, Highland School; Holley Harmon, White Plains High School; Marsha Law, Jacksonville State University graduate student; Linda Lyle, Gadsden State Community College; Jennifer Monroe, Sardis High School; and Tanya Sasser, Jacksonville State University.

In addition to the summer institute, the site has held a number of other events and programs, beginning with the annual Technology Conference in November. We also did a semester-long I-Learn Project, in which eight area teachers did extensive professional development using I-pads, I-phones, and other Apple products. The Writing in the Twenty-First Century Conference in July, cosponsored with the JSU Regional In-Service Center, at Ft. McClellan, was keynoted by author and writing instructor Rick Shelton, 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.

On August 2, the site will hold an advisory board retreat to come up with a plan to continue the work of our site in 2014. Our planning will include looking at ways we can have a 2014 summer institute, even without federal grant monies. Teachers who wish to receive an application for next year's institute should e-mail [ghorton@jsu.edu](mailto: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.

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### **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: 1<sup>st</sup> place: Griffin Limerick, "Bored Believers"; 2<sup>nd</sup> place: James McKinnon, "As a Man Thinketh in His Heart"; 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Dalana Parker, "Awareness." The winning authors shared their excerpts and received their prizes at a ceremony in November of 2012. The following are the winners of the RUM Poetry Contest held during the spring semester: 1<sup>st</sup> place: Sierra Coleman, "The Field Slave"; 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Raven Pugh, "Peter Pan Syndrome"; 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Griffin Limerick, "Perpendicular Purpose"; Hon. Mention: Chelsea Watson, "Courageous Soul." The winners shared their poems and received their prizes at a ceremony on April 2nd, 2012.

## Southern Playwrights Competition

The winner of this year's Southern Playwrights Competition was *The Vanishing Point* by Nedra Pezold Roberts. 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](mailto:smoersch@jsu.edu) or Steven Whitton [swhitton@jsu.edu](mailto:swhitton@jsu.edu).

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## 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.

Joyce Spradley Alford

Eleanor Maxine Blessing

Willie Kate Charley

Debra Smith Cochran

James Simeon Dalton, II.

Martha Joan Duncan

Emily Grace Fuller

Shaun Davidson Gray

Virginia Nethery Harper

Remona Elaine Hopper

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Patricia Gibbins Koors

Emily Lynch

Linda J. Mattox

Michael Charles Orlofsky

Tony Charles Saxon

Donnie Lee Shellhorse

Mary Jane Smith

Christine Annette Tye

Margery Clark Whitlock

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](http://www.jsu.edu)). Thank You.**

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## **Changes in Staff**

We want to congratulate Susan Hurst on her promotion to Secretary of the English Department. She worked as the Clerical Assistant for our department for four year prior to moving to her new position. Her first year as the secretary of our department has gone very smoothly, and we appreciate her hard work.

We also want to welcome Jacqui Callender to the department. Prior to taking the position as the department’s Clerical Assistant, she worked as the secretary and fundraiser for Jacksonville Christian Academy for sixteen years and volunteered four years prior to being hired as the Academy’s secretary. When asked how she liked her job with our department, Jacqui said, “I love it.” We welcome her to our department.

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## ***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 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 eleven years now. 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. Away from school, Don and his wife Amy (singer, actress, vocal instructor, blogger and mom extraordinaire) are active members of their church. They have two children: Timothy, age thirteen, and Paul, who just turned seven.

**Christy Burns** read entries for several writing competitions, including the Southern Playwrights Competition, Imagining the Holocaust Competition, and the JSU Writers Bowl. She teaches Freshman Composition, Oral Communication, and Composition and Speech.

**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 CORE Committee, the English Department E-thology team, and the JSU China Initiative Committee. She serves as Co-chair of

the Quality Enhancement Plan for the University's SACS accreditation, and she directs summer programs for international students and teachers.

**Randall Davis** served as discussion leader for the 22st Annual Literature and Medicine Retreat, sponsored by the Alabama Chapter of the American College of Physicians/American Society of Internal Medicine. Works discussed included Terence Rattigan's *The Winslow Boy*; Abraham Verghese's *Cutting for Stone*, Jhumpa Lahiri's *Interpreter of Maladies*, and poetry by George Bilgere.

**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 Freshman Composition, Oral Communication, American Literature, and Technical Writing.

**Carmine Di Biase** delivered a paper on the influence of travel and memoir in the fiction of Italo Svevo at last November's SAMLA conference at Duke University. His essay, "Hamlet in the Life and Work of Italo Svevo," will be published in a collection that will emerge this year from the international conference held at Oxford University in 2011 (Italo Svevo and His Legacy). Also, *The Diary of Elio Schmitz: Scenes from the World of Italo Svevo* appeared last March. It is the first English translation of the diary of the younger brother of Ettore Schmitz, whose pen name was Italo Svevo. This diary is to Italo Svevo what Stanislaus Joyce's diary is to James Joyce. Oddly enough, it was Joyce himself who discovered Italo Svevo and made his work known throughout Europe. Dr. Di Biase has also translated two plays by the Neapolitan actor and playwright, Alessandro Casola: the first is called *Waste*, and the second *Plagiarized!* - both of them three-act comedies. Casola himself asked Dr. Di Biase to do the translations. *Waste* was awarded the Premio Massimo Troisi, one of Italy's most prestigious awards for comedy.

**Robert Felgar** received a Statement of Accomplishment for taking his first MOOC: "The Language of Hollywood: Storytelling, Sound, and Color," taught by Professor Scott Higgins of Wesleyan University for Coursera. He also submitted an article on Richard Wright and obscenity to *Obsidian*, and he celebrated almost 15 years as head of the JSU English Department. His recent film class focused on melodramas. He has just signed a contract with ABC-CLIO publishers to write a book on the influence of slavery on *Huckleberry Finn*, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, and *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

**Jennifer Foster** continued to work with members of her department and the MCIS department to expand the E-thology ([www.jsu.edu/chimera/ethology](http://www.jsu.edu/chimera/ethology)), which is a collection of early American literary works, biographies of authors, multi-media components, and commentaries on these pieces. She also served on the Gamecock Orientation Team and the Freshman Reading Committee and chaired the Basic English Skills Committee. Jennifer taught two new courses for the English Department: The Bible as Literature, Old Testament and The Bible as Literature, New Testament.

**Joanne Gates** was re-elected to the Board of Friends of Houston Cole Library, which hosted Susan Rebecca White in October of 2012 and David Haynes in March of 2013. Her article on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is in the Spring 2012 issue of *Longleaf Style*. She

presented her paper on Teaching the Bus Murals of Anniston as a way to make local connections to Social Issues at the ACETA conference in March of 2013. In addition, she has 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 Emily Dickinson components to the department's E-thology of American Literature.

**Larry Gray** delivered papers at three conferences during the past academic year. At York University (UK) in September, his subject was film adaptation; at Brown University and at Wuhan University (China), his subject was Henry James's last essays and short stories. While at the Wuhan conference in December, he and Dr. Kostova were separately asked to expand their papers for translation and publication in Chinese journals. Dr. Gray will be delivering papers on Henry Green at DePaul University (Chicago) and on film adaptation at Linnaeus University (Sweden) during the upcoming year. In summer 2012 he was selected for a week-long seminar led by Robert Pippin (Philosophy, Film, and Literature, University of Chicago) at the National Humanities Center (NHC); he has also been selected by Sarah Beckwith of Duke University for an upcoming seminar at the NHC on Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* and its adaptations. His JSU teaching duties have been focused on English Composition, British Literature surveys, and 20th Century English fiction; The Art of the Film will be a new course for him in the fall. The Calhoun County Center for the Arts has asked him to develop a series for their local theater, where he plans to offer comments on selected films screened for the local community.

**Pitt Harding** mentored a senior from Pleasant Valley High School in the completion of her first novella. He will begin his first term on the faculty senate in the fall. He will also pilot a new course for undergraduate and graduate students, EH 419/G, dedicated to the works of John Milton.

**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 was elected to the position of vice president of ACETA in spring 2013. 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 2013 United Way Campaign. 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. 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 and served on the Service Committee of the national organization in 2013. She served as a national judge for the NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing in 2013 and as a national judge for the NCTE Affiliate Journal Awards.

**Bill Hug** has volunteered to serve as Author Administrator covering the Southwestern Humorists in the E-thology. His essay "*Blazing Saddles* as Postmodern Ethnic Carnival" has been accepted for publication in *Studies in Popular Culture*. 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 Writers Bowl and the Southern Playwrights Competitions. 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, and piloted a new May term course, EH 425 Tennessee Williams: Death, Desire, and Illusion. 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." In June, he 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** served on numerous committees, including M.A. Orals Committees. 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, and the contests sponsored by the JSU Writers' Club. She has been selected as a Gamecock Orientation Advisor this fall. She worked as an Advanced Placement Reader for the National College Board and was invited to be an AP Reader in June 2012. She was invited by one of the Chinese Fulbright Scholars to present a paper at Wuhan University in December of 2012. Her paper is titled "The Reader from the future in Osip Mandelstam's Poetry." The International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA) accepted a seminar proposal that she submitted on the future of Comparative Literature as a discipline. Dr. Kostova co-presented "Dialogues and Translations in Holocaust Testimonies" with Dr. Petra Schweitzer from Shenandoah University at the ICLA Conference that took place in June 2013, at the Sorbonne, Paris.

**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** teaches Freshman Composition, Oral Communication, and American Literature. She has served as a judge for department-sponsored and campus wide-sponsored writing competitions and has volunteered to serve as Author Administrator for the E-thology. In addition to her duties in the English department, she also serves as Scholastic Advisor to a successful Greek group on campus.

**David Myer** teaches American Literature I and II (traditional and online), Technical Writing (computer-assisted and online), and Oral Communication. Mr. Myer was selected as a Gamecock

Orientation (GO) Advisor for 2013. 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 with visiting Chinese faculty and students. He was a reader/judge for the JSU Writers Bowl and Imagining the Holocaust student writing competitions 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.

**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** teaches 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 volunteers as an alumna advisor to Zeta Tau Alpha sorority at JSU and serves as Coordinator of Graduate Student Advisement. She coordinated the first annual Graduate Program Open House this past spring, which drew not only English majors, but also majors from other departments. 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. In July of 2012, she traveled to the Blackboard World Conference in New Orleans, where she presented "Wikis, Blogs, Forums, Journals: Which to Use and Why?" She also traveled to Savannah in April to present "iPurtrain: Exploring Early American Literature in the Digital Classroom: No Lecture-No Control: Challenge-Based Learning in the Early American Literature Digital Classroom?"

**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. Dr. Reed attended the 18th biennial meeting of the New Chaucer Society in July 2012 in Portland, Oregon, where she presented a paper called "Undead Forests: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* as Proto-Zombie Text." In March of 2013, Reed presented a paper at the 34th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts in Orlando, Florida. This paper was called "Trapped in the Entrails: Past/Present Dynamics in *Dead Snow*."

**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. In addition, she created and taught a class on graphic novels during the May semester. She teaches both traditional and hybrid classes.

**Susan Sellers** has completed her 12th 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 Speech.

**April Walker** is the editor of *Postscripts* and has served as a judge for various writing competitions, including the JSU Writers Bowl and the RUM Fiction and Poetry Contests. This past year was her first year to serve as the Coordinator for the Middle School entries of the Imagining the Holocaust Competition. She teaches Freshman Composition I and II, American Literature I and II, and Oral Communication. She also serves on the Speech Committee.

**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 31st year, and of regional and state Holocaust organizations. He is the Director of JSU's Honors Program.

**Julia Wooster** serves as the English Department Social Director. She serves on several 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 regularly shows support for the University by attending sporting events and Drama productions. She continues working to improve her Detective Fiction course.

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*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 Jacqui Callender in the English Department (256-782-5412 or [jcallender@jsu.edu](mailto:jcallender@jsu.edu))

Thank you for your continued support of our department.

April Walker  
*Postscripts* Editor