

Graduate English Newsletter

Lynchburg College

Preparing an M.A. Thesis

Remember that you have to register for English 699 the semester you plan on writing your thesis. You must contact your thesis director within the first week of classes and then submit a one to two-page proposal to the thesis director *and* the program director within the first two weeks of the semester. The prospectus should include the focus of the thesis, the methodology that will be used, any questions that it intends to answer, its relevance to literature and language studies, its organization, and a bibliography.

Financial Aid

Scholarships are available specifically for graduate students in English. They generally require that you take at least two courses per semester. Contact the Graduate Studies office (gradstudies@lynchburg.edu or 434/544-8383) to see if you qualify.

A list of general scholarships is available here: <http://www.lynchburg.edu/x757.xml>.

Please visit the following site for information about graduate assistantships and to learn what is available: <http://www.lynchburg.edu/GradAssistantships.xml>.

Checklist for Applying to Doctoral Programs in English

You should begin assembling your application materials at least a semester before you graduate. Most doctoral programs require the following items as part of an application package:

- GRE Subject Test - Literature in English: Make sure you register for this test well ahead of the time you will apply to a Doctoral program. The GRE subject test is very different from the general test and deals specifically with content knowledge of literature. You also may wish to retake the general test in order to boost your score. More information here: <http://www.ets.org>.
- Cover letter and statement of purpose
- Résumé
- Writing sample(s)
- Two or three reference letters
- Undergraduate and graduate M.A. transcripts

*A collection of links to American Doctoral Programs in English may be found here: <http://graduate-school.phds.org/>.

Special Announcement of New Graduate Awards in English

The English M.A. Program announces the establishment of two student awards for excellence in graduate work: the Graduate English Scholarship Award and the Graduate English Writing Award. The awards are presented annually to the students having produced the strongest work in the areas of scholarship and creative writing, respectively. Students should submit work for consideration to the English Graduate Director by April 1.

Student Achievements

- Marni Fogelson-Teel: "Review of Barbara Kingsolver's *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life*." *Appalachian Heritage* 36.1 (2008), 91-93.
- Bruce Bays and Graham Warwick have reviews forthcoming in *Elsewhere: A Journal of Place* 2.1 (2008): <http://elsewherejournal.org/issues.html>

Inside this issue:

2008-2009 Geraldine Lyon Owen Lectures	2
Literary Lynchburg	3
Scholar's Corner	3 & 4
Literary Research Resources	4
Lynchburg College Literary History	5
Special Announcement: New Graduate Awards in English	5

Sources for News, Advice, & Jobs in English, Higher Education, Writing & Publishing

PMLA: <http://www.mla.org/pmla>

AWP: <http://www.awpwriter.org>

The Chronicle of Higher Education: <http://chronicle.com>

Inside Higher Ed: <http://www.insidehighered.com>

Publishers Marketplace: <http://www.publishersmarketplace.com>

The Write Jobs: <http://www.writejobs.com>

Writer's Resource Center: <http://www.poewar.com/jobs>

Freelance Writing Jobs: <http://www.writersrow.com/deborahng>

The LC Library has print subscriptions to *PMLA* & *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

2008-2009 Geraldine Lyon Owen Lectures



Dr. Lesley Wheeler

All lectures are in the Alumni House at Lynchburg College and are from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. For more information, please contact Casey Clabough at c.clabough@lynchburg.edu.

Dr. Katherine Turner: "Coping with the Canon: Does Research Really Help You Teach?"

Monday, September 29, 2008

Turner is Assistant Professor of English at Mary Baldwin College. Her books include two edited essay collections as well as the critical study *British Travel Writers in Europe 1750-1800: Authorship, Gender and National Identity*.

Dr. Lesley Wheeler: "Contemporary Poetry in Performance"

Monday, October 27, 2008

Wheeler, Chair and Professor of English at Washington and Lee University, is the author of *Voicing American Poetry: Sound and Performance from the 1920s to the Present* and *Scholarship Girl*, a chapbook of poems.

Dr. Clive McClelland III: "The Linguistics of Writing"

Monday, November 17, 2008

McClelland is Professor of English at Liberty University and author of *A Dictionary of Tarifit Berber: Documenting an Endangered Language*.

Dr. Mara Amster: "Prostitute Pedagogy"

Monday, February 2, 2009

Amster is Chair and Associate Professor of English at Randolph College, and editor of *Seventeenth-Century Texts on Prostitution: Essential Works for the Study of Early Modern Englishwomen*.

Thorpe Moeckel: "Writing Nature and Bringing It to the Classroom"

Monday, March 2, 2009

Moeckel, Assistant Professor of English at Hollins University, is the author of the award-winning *Making a Map of the River*, a book of poems.

Dr. Rob McDonald: "Erskine Caldwell and the 'Pulpy Limbo'"

Monday, April 13, 2009

McDonald, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Virginia Military Institute, is the author of four books pertaining to the life and work of Erskine Caldwell.



Dr. Clive McClelland III



Dr. Mara Amster



Thorpe Moeckel

Literary Lynchburg

- Kelly Cherry Reading, Thursday, September 18, 2008, 7:30 pm at Riverviews Artspace (<http://www.riverviews.net/NewFolder/Programs/ThirdThursday/Thirdmain.htm>)
- Robert Olmstead Reading, Monday, September 22, 2008, Alumni House Lounge, 7:30 pm (http://english.owu.edu/olmstead_robert.htm)
- Thornton Reading by Anne Pancake on Wednesday, October 22, 2008, Alumni House Lounge, 7:30 pm (<http://annpancake.blogspot.com/>)



Robert Olmstead



Ann Pancake

Scholar's Corner

Publication Venues for Graduate Students

Latch

<http://www.openlatch.com/>

Peer English - The Journal of New Critical Thinking

<http://www.le.ac.uk/engassoc/publications/peerenglish.html>

Aroostook Review

<http://aroostookreview.umfk.maine.edu/>

A journal from the University of Maine at Fort Kent. It publishes creative and scholarly work.

Scope: An Online Journal of Film Studies

<http://www.scope.nottingham.ac.uk/>

Not specifically a graduate student journal. It publishes articles, book reviews, film reviews, and conference reviews.

Octopus

<http://www.octopusjournal.org/>

An interdisciplinary journal published by the graduate students in the Program of Visual Studies at the University of California, Irvine. It is peer-reviewed.

Journal of the American Studies Association of Texas

<http://home.earthlink.net/~shschroeder/2006jasatbooks.htm>

Puts out a regular call for book reviewers. The link above is to a list of books they have received and would like to have reviewed. You may also suggest books not on the list.

Distraction: The Journal of Fan Fiction Studies

<http://www.fanfiction-studies.net/>

Devoted to the study of fan fiction. They have a comprehensive description of the type of work that interests them.

Portals: A Journal of Comparative Literature (1/15/05)

<http://userwww.sfsu.edu/~clsa/portals/>

Graduate student journal published by the Comparative Literature Association of San Francisco State University.

Agora

<http://www.humanities.ualberta.ca/agora/Documents.cfm?DocNo=101>

Online, peer-reviewed journal that takes submissions from a wide range of humanities and social science scholars.

Critical Sense

<http://criticalsense.berkeley.edu/>

On-line graduate student journal from the Political Science department at UC Berkeley. They have recently posted calls for submissions and book reviews. Full details are available at their site.

Your Black Eye

<http://www.yourblackeye.org/>

E-Journal for Critical Consciousness

Scholar's Corner (continued)

Publication Venues for Graduate Students (continued)

Exit 9

<http://complit.rutgers.edu/exit9/>

Graduate student journal from Rutgers. It's emphasis is comparative literature.

thirdspace

<http://www.thirdspace.ca/journal.htm>

Feminist journal focused on cultural studies and issues of feminism in graduate studies and the academy.

Philament

<http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/publications/philament/index.htm>

Online journal of the arts and culture. This journal seems to be interested in critical and creative work.

Modern Language Studies (MLS)

Not specifically a graduate student journal, but *MLS* is always interested in short and medium-length reviews of significant, intriguing, or unusual primary source materials. For information contact: mls@susqu.edu

Postmodern Culture

<http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/pmc/>

Not a graduate student journal, but they are often interested in reviews of books from a variety of disciplines.

The Shawangunk Review

This journal is based at the graduate program at SUNY New Paltz It publishes articles, reviews, and scholarly notes. contact: kemptond@newpaltz.edu for more information.

xchanges

<http://www.americanstudies.wayne.edu/xchanges/xchanges.html>

Graduate student journal based in the American Studies program at Wayne State University.

Literature Compass Online

<http://www.blackwell-compass.com/subject/literature/>

This site, from the academic publisher Blackwell, publishes articles from graduate students and faculty. They also have an annual essay contest.

*If you are interested in reviewing books for H-Southern-Lit contact details are on the H-Southern-Lit webpage at <http://www.h-net.org/people/editors/editors.cgi?list=H-Southern-Lit>

Lynchburg College Literary History

Sheldon Vanauken was a poet and novelist best known for his memoir *A Severe Mercy* (1977), about converting to Christianity and his wife's unexpected death at age forty. A less famous sequel, *Under the Mercy*, was published, to less acclaim, in 1985. Vanauken, the son of Glenn and Grace Hanselman Vanauken, was born Frank Sheldon Vanauken in Carmel, Indiana, on August 4, 1914. Van, as he preferred to be called, first visited Virginia when he attended Staunton Military Academy during the 1928–1929 school year. He also attended Culver Military Academy in Culver, Indiana, and in 1938 he graduated from Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana. Vanauken served as a naval officer during World War II (1939–1945) and was at Pearl Harbor during the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941. Following the war, he earned a master's degree from Yale University (1948) and a Bachelor of Literature from England's Oxford University (1957). It was at Oxford that Vanauken and his wife Jean befriended the Irish author and scholar C. S. Lewis, under whose guidance they converted to Christianity. From 1948 until his retirement in 1980, Vanauken served as professor of History and English at Lynchburg College. *Gateway to Heaven* (1980), the novel he had put aside to write *A Severe Mercy*, was an old-fashioned love story set partially in Virginia. *Mercies*, a collection of his poems, was published in 1988. Vanauken's final major work was a history based on his Oxford thesis. *The Glittering Illusion: English Sympathy for the Southern Confederacy* (1986) examined the British reaction to the American Civil War (1861–1865), concluding that most British people endorsed military intervention on the side of the Confederacy. Sheldon Vanauken died of cancer on October 28, 1996. His ashes, like those of his wife, were scattered at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in the town of Forest, Virginia, and in Oxford, England, where he and Davy had experienced their spiritual rebirth.

—Excerpted from Clifton W. Potter Jr.'s Encyclopedia Virginia entry: http://ga.ev.q-industries.com/Vanauken_Sheldon_1914-1996

Literary Research Resources

Literary Resources on the Net (<http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/>)

Long-lived site, from Jack Lynch at Rutgers University, with well-organized links to a broad array of scholarly web pages from around the world.

Making of America (U. Michigan, <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moagrp/>)

"Drawing on the depth of primary materials at the Michigan and Cornell libraries, these two institutions are developing a thematically-related digital library documenting American social history from the antebellum period through reconstruction. At the University of Michigan, approximately 1,600 books and ten journals with imprints primarily between 1850 - 1877 were selected, scanned, and made available through the present system. "

Making of America (Cornell, <http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/>)

Cornell's contributions to MOA, a digital library of primary sources in American social history from the antebellum period through reconstruction.

Wright American Fiction, 1851-1875 (<http://www.letrs.indiana.edu/web/w/wright2/>)

19th century American fiction, as listed in Lyle Wright's bibliography *American Fiction, 1851-1875*.

The e-Server (<http://eserver.org/>)

Founded at Carnegie Mellon in 1990, as *The English Server*, and now at Iowa State University, includes collections of classic texts, bibliographies, critical commentary, and original publications of its contributors. It attempts to provide an alternative venue for scholarly work, particularly writings in the arts and humanities.

Victorian Web (<http://www.victorianweb.org/>)

Site devoted to literature, history, and culture in the age of Victoria. In addition to information on authors and their works, you can explore such related topics: genre, philosophy and religion, social history, and the arts. Includes books, a bibliography, guide to periodical research, and links to other websites of interest.

The ORB: Online Reference Book for Medieval Studies (<http://www.the-orb.net/index.html>)

" The ORB is an academic site, written and maintained by medieval scholars for the benefit of their fellow instructors and serious students. All articles have been judged by at least two peer reviewers. Authors are held to high standards of accuracy, currency, and relevance to the field of medieval studies. NOTE: ORB'S OCLC number is 35987956. Quick connect to other major medieval studies sites: *Labyrinth*, *Internet Medieval Sourcebook*, *Netserf*, *World Wide Web VirtualLibrary/Medieval*."

Bartleby (<http://www.bartleby.com/>)

Collection of literary and other texts, reference tools (including Roget's Thesaurus, Columbia Encyclopedia, Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, The Harvard Classics Shelf of Fiction, and many other texts). There is advertising on the site, but the content can be very useful.

**Dr. Casey Clabough,
English M.A. Program Director
Lynchburg College
1501 Lakeside Drive
Lynchburg, VA 24501**

**Phone: 434-544-8732
E-mail: c.clabough@lynchburg.edu**

CHECK THE PROGRAM OUT ON THE WEB:

[HTTP://WWW.LYNCHBURG.EDU/ENGLISHMA.XML](http://www.lynchburg.edu/englishma.xml)