

LYNCHBURG COLLEGE

GRADUATE ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 FALL 2007

IMPORTANT DATES AND PROCEDURES TO CONSIDER

2007—2008 DATES FOR M.ED COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

Make certain that you register with Anne Pingstock (pingstock@lynchburg.edu) using the Comprehensive Exam Application form at least a month in advance if you wish to take your comprehensive exam.

November 3, 2007

March 15, 2008

June 28, 2008

All exams take place 9-1 in Hobbs 121 and 124.

The complete 2007-2008 LC Academic Calendar is available here: <http://www.lynchburg.edu/x8242.xml>

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 Director and the graduate coordinator 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 determine 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>.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Mary Bailey published her essay "Contemporary Virginia Literature's Classical Composer: The Musicality of Kelly Cherry in *The Society of Friends*" in *Nantahala Review* 3.2 (Fall/Summer 2007). You can read the essay here: <http://nantahalareview.org/issue2-3/view/marybailey.htm>.
- Holly Prall read an essay on local public radio station WVTF 89.1 in April 2007.
- Marni Fogelson-Teel developed the index for the book *The Art of the Magic Striptease: The Literary Layers of George Garrett* (University Press of Florida, 2008): <http://www.upf.com/book.asp?id=CLABOS08>.

PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Please contact the graduate coordinator for more information if any of the following possibilities interest you.

- Short (250-1000 word) book reviews for literary journals
- Commissioned entries on writers for *Encyclopedia Virginia*: <http://www.virginiafoundation.org/encyclopedia/encyclopedia.html>
- *NeoAmericanist*, an online inter-disciplinary journal for the study of America, is accepting original papers as well as book, music, architecture, movie and multimedia reviews from graduate students on the comprehensive topic of America. *NeoAmericanist's* goal as a journal is to push the boundaries of scholarship and theory and blur the lines of academic disciplines and popular culture. *NeoAmericanist* invites students of history, theory and criticism, philosophy, political studies, economics, sociology, geography, first nations studies, anthropology, women's/gender studies, architecture and design, film studies, and others, to submit any works on or pertaining to the study of America. For more information on submission requirements go to www.neoamericanist.org or contact us at neoamericanist@uwo.ca.

Visit http://www.zeroland.co.nz/literature_journals.html for a list of scholarly journals and literary quarterlies to which you may submit work.

FORTHCOMING AREA LITERARY EVENTS

THORNTON READING, OCTOBER 17, 7:30 PM

Fiction writer Daphne Kalotay (<http://www.daphnekalotay.com/index.html>) will read from her work in the Alumni Lounge. Kalotay holds a Ph.D. in English from Boston University and currently lives in Brookline, Massachusetts. Her first collection of short fiction is entitled *Calamity and Other Stories*. Kalotay will be on campus for eight weeks this semester as our fall Thornton writer. She will have office hours this fall during which you may talk to her about your writing and the trials of being a working, publishing writer.



Picture from <http://www.daphnekalotay.com/index.html>.

VIRGINIA ARTS OF THE BOOK CENTER AUCTION AND OPEN HOUSE
OCTOBER 26, 2007

Virginia Arts of the Book Center
977 Second St SE
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Bid on one-of-a-kind items, enjoy some refreshments, tour the Virginia Arts of the Book Center and learn about book arts. For more information call 434-924-6890 or e-mail kmcfadden@virginia.edu.

RIVERVIEWS ARTSPACE READING, NOVEMBER 15, 2007, 7:00 PM

Kirsche Dickson, recent graduate in English and a scholarly authority with a Ph.D. in Dance history and theory, will read from her memoir manuscript at Riverviews Artspace (Ninth Street, downtown Lynchburg).



Kirsche Dickson

THE VIRGINIA FESTIVAL OF THE BOOK, DOWNTOWN CHARLOTTESVILLE
MARCH 26-30, 2008

An opportunity to attend expert panels on all manner of book-related topics and the overall business of publishing. Also a good opportunity to hear some of the best contemporary authors read from their work. More information at: <http://www.vabook.org/site08>.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY REGIONAL STUDIES SEMINAR, JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY
APRIL 18, 2008

Charles A. Miller lectures on "The Classics in the Appalachians" at 3:35 pm in Jackson Hall, Room 107. Contact Chris Arndt (540-568-3992 or arndtjc@jmu.edu) for directions.

STAY TUNED FOR EMAILS ON ADDITIONAL EVENTS AND THE IDENTITY OF OUR SPRING THORNTON POET

UPCOMING CONFERENCES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS IN ENGLISH

Competitive funds are available from LC for presenting your work at various academic conferences geared toward graduate students from different institutions. Such forums allow you to network with your professional peers and exchange feedback. If interested, please contact the graduate coordinator for information on how to apply for LC travel support and finalize a conference abstract. The following is a list of upcoming graduate student conferences. Additional conference postings will be emailed to you throughout the academic year.

HOLY WOMEN, HOLY PLACES: GENDER, PUBLICS, AND RELIGION IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN EUROPE
An interdisciplinary graduate student colloquium hosted by the Medieval and Early Modern Institute at the University of Alberta, December 6-7, 2007. Keynote address by Professor Andy Orchard, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto: "Wholly Women?: Female Religious in Anglo-Saxon Literature and History." This colloquium is the final event of the Medieval and Early Modern Institute's "2007: Year of Holy Women." In addition to discussions of individual holy women, we invite interrogations of the contexts, places, and/or publics within which these women are situated. We also encourage discussions of holiness itself, how it is gendered, politicized, historicized, or authorized, as well as the people, places, texts, audiences, and communities that may be excluded from, or constructed by, the category of "holy." How does holiness, or un-holiness, interact with identity and/or community formation in the medieval and/or early modern period in Europe?

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- famous (or infamous) holy women or men

UPCOMING CONFERENCES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS IN ENGLISH (CONTINUED)

- constructions of publics using holiness
- medieval or early modern historical accounts of holiness
- expressions or manifestations of (un)holiness in texts, culture, and/or the body
- constructions of holiness in religion, literature, history, etc.
- communities as they relate to pilgrimage, travel, the landscape and/or the nation
- (un)holy places or (ir)religious spaces
- audiences for and/or performances of saintliness
- theories of individual and/or communal identity formation
- gender and/or sexuality in religion, literature, culture, etc.
- technology and the representation and/or construction of gender, publics, and/or religion
- (un)authorized spirituality in politics, history, culture, etc.

Submissions on these and related topics are welcome from fields including, but not limited to, history, classics, language and literature, religion, art history, drama, music, architecture, and cultural studies. Please send abstracts of 300 words or less, and a one-page cv, to judith.anderson_at_ualberta.ca. Papers should be no longer than 20 minutes. Funding may be available to subsidize travel to the conference; please indicate in your email if you would like to be considered. *Deadline for submissions is September 21, 2007.*

MASSACHUSETTS CENTER FOR RENAISSANCE STUDIES GRADUATE CONFERENCE

The Massachusetts Center for Renaissance Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst will host its annual graduate student conference on Saturday, November 3, 2007. Graduate students are invited to submit abstracts for a ten to fifteen minute paper on any range of topics or approaches, including textual studies, performance history, philosophy, print culture, religious studies, gender studies, post-colonial interpretations, and other new theoretical perspectives. The purpose of the conference is to provide graduate students with an opportunity to share their work and place it in a greater context of interests and concerns. The conference is designed to foster conversation among students who share similar challenges and construct a space where participants may expect serious feedback on their work. Please send an abstract of 250-300 words by email or email attachment to Phil Palmer (ppalmer_at_english.umass.edu) by Friday, October 5, 2007. For more information on the conference, you can visit the website (<http://people.umass.edu/ppalmer/Site/MCRSGC.html>).

SPACE, PLACE, AND IMAGINATION

SECOND ANNUAL UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE, MARCH 29, 2008

From early quests to discover new worlds to contemporary explorations of the frontiers of cyberspace, space and place play a defining role in global imagination. Intimately tied to our understanding of ourselves and others, our environment(s), and our institutions, space and place shape who we are and how we understand the world in which we live. From what physical or cultural vantages do we read, write, paint, understand social and business processes, engage with our environments, and imagine new or old spatial frontiers? How does occupying certain (or uncertain) spaces and places invigorate and/or frustrate our attempts to face the political, social, and scientific challenges of an increasingly globalized world? graduate community at URI invites submissions for presentations and panels pertaining to issues of space, place, and imagination. We anticipate a wide range of presentations from a variety of disciplines.

Possible topics and areas of interest include, but are not restricted to:

- Cultural uses of space/place (urban/rural spaces, cemeteries, public sculptures, native people's reservations, internment/refugee camps, etc.)
- Portrayals of space/place (geography, history, cartography)
- Written and spoken uses of space/place (journalism, mass media, literatures)
- Environmental spaces/places (land, oceans, outer space)
- Scientific uses of space (medicine, pharmacology, psychology, biology, chemistry, etc.)
- Arts and uses of space (visual arts, including architecture, film, interior and landscape design, drama, dance, photography, and music)
- Virtual and cyberspaces
- The body and space/place (acting, dance, race, class, gender)
- Institutional spaces/places (education, justice, church, business)

Please propose individual papers or panels, and indicate whether you are willing to moderate a panel. Panels of 3-4 presentations are especially welcome. To propose a paper, please submit a cover page with your name; institutional affiliation; contact information (mailing address, phone number, and email), a 250- word abstract of the paper; a roughly 100-word bio; and a detailed request for audiovisual equipment if needed. Presentations will be limited to fifteen minutes (about seven double-spaced pages). To propose a panel, please submit a cover page including the title of the panel and the names of presenters; a panel abstract of 150-250 words; a separate page with the names of presenters, their contact information (mailing address, phone number, and email) and institutional affiliation (s), and the titles of their presentations; and a 250-word abstract for each paper. Panels will be one hour and fifteen minutes long.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS IN ENGLISH (CONTINUED)

The conference committee requests the submission of materials in the body of an email or as an attachment in Word, text, or PDF document sent to Stefanie Head (stefanie_head@mail.uri.edu). We are happy to answer any questions regarding the conference. Please contact Laurie Carlson (lcarlso2_at_cox.net). Deadline for submissions is 8:00 a.m. Monday, 5 November 2007. Notification of acceptance will be by Thursday, 29 November 2007. There will be a registration fee for each individual selected to participate in the conference. This fee includes continental breakfast, a buffet luncheon, and a closing reception. Payment received by 1 March is to be in the amount of \$20.00. After 1 March, the fee will be \$25.00.

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

Links to American Doctoral Programs in English may be found here: <http://english.georgetown.edu/writing/PhDPrograms.htm>

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*.

LYNCHBURG COLLEGE LITERARY HISTORY

Christian Wiman

Thornton Writer, 1995

Part-time LC Professor through 2002

Follow this link to learn more about the current editor of *Poetry*: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2004/0420/p15s02-bogn.html>.



Christian Wimer

SPECIAL NOTE ON FORMER ENGLISH GRADUATE COORDINATORS

Professor Terri Hartman, M.Ed. coordinator for the past two years, recently switched to a part-time teaching schedule. Professor Hartman provided important leadership in the program's transition in emphasis from an M.Ed. to an M.A. Also, Professor James Koger, former M.Ed. coordinator, announced that 2007-2008 would be his final year at LC.

The English Department salutes Dr. Hartman's and Dr. Koger's many contributions to graduate studies in English.

Please contact the graduate coordinator with your news, questions, and suggestions for the newsletter at clabough@lynchburg.edu.