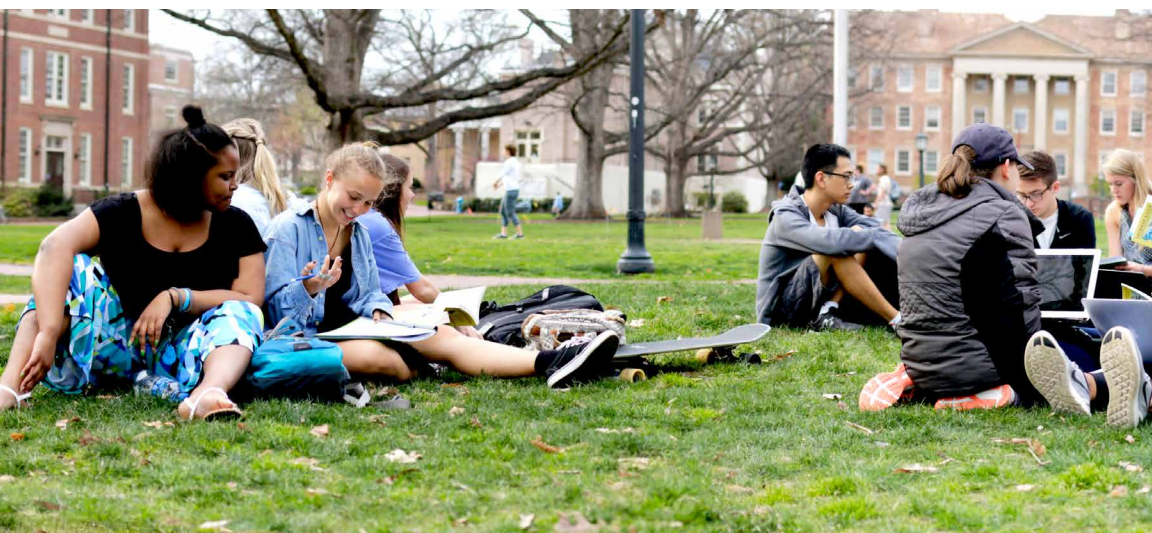


The Department of English and Comparative Literature
at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Annual Report 2017-2018



A Letter from Mary Floyd-Wilson, Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends,

When I arrived at Carolina in 1987 as an eager English M.A. student, it was impossible to imagine that one day I would have the privilege and honor of writing to you as the new Chair of the Department of English and Comparative Literature. I was fortunate enough to have studied with so many fine scholars and teachers here at UNC, including Darryl J. Gless, my mentor, who also served as chair. Indeed, when making decisions in Greenlaw 209, I often think, "What would Darryl do?"

It is extraordinary that I can now count as current and former colleagues the very same people who shaped my education: Reid Barbour, Ritchie Kendall, Megan Matchinske, James Thompson, Alan C. Dessen, George S. Lensing, Jr., Kimball King, Patrick O'Neill, Jeanne Moskal, Connie Eble, Townsend Ludington, Allan Life, Linda Wagner-Martin, and Philip Gura. And I'm deeply grateful to the department's most recent chairs, Beverly Taylor and Bland Simpson, for their wisdom and support in helping me acclimate to my new role.



Sarah Boyd

Mary Floyd-Wilson

It is my goal as chair to nurture and help grow the excellence that our department has always exemplified in the classroom and on the page, and now, increasingly, in digital forms. As this newsletter makes plain, every facet of our program holds riches and profound talents, from our undergraduates, to our 115 graduate students, to our 85 faculty. We house Creative Writing, the William Blake Archive, the Latina/o Studies Program, and the Literature, Medicine, and Culture M.A. Program. It is by way of our unrivalled First Year Writing Program that we teach every undergraduate at Carolina. Our teachers are passionately committed to preparing North Carolina's future leaders to think critically, communicate, and innovate. The new tagline for our upcoming web site (to be launched this summer) is "Moving Words, Powerful Ideas," and it epitomizes the content and aims of our department's endeavors.

I am very pleased to announce that we will be introducing an exciting new major curriculum in the fall of 2018. Undergraduates will have the opportunity to focus their studies by selecting one of seven concentrations, including British and American Literature; Comparative Literature; Creative Writing; Film Studies; Science, Medicine, and Literature; Social Justice and Literature; and Writing, Editing, and Publishing.

To support our majors, we are developing *ECL Experience*, a new internship curriculum that provides students with opportunities to earn credit by working at an organization or institution that employs the knowledge and skills that they are gaining in their studies. Our newly appointed Abbey Fellow, Eliza Richards, will coordinate the pre-professional *ECL Experience*. We anticipate that a semester-long position at a law office, a non-profit or government agency, a publishing house, or a media outlet will prove immensely productive for our majors. If you would like to support this initiative with opportunities in your field or firm, learn more about how you might get involved on page 38.

Over the past year, our faculty, students, and alumni have engaged in world-class scholarship, exciting creative endeavors, and unparalleled service to our community. I invite you to read about these achievements in this annual report.

We are eager to hear from you, too. Please send us your memories of Carolina or tell us some stories of what's happening now! "Give me your hand / And let me all your fortunes understand."

Warmly,


Mary Floyd-Wilson, Chair
Department of English and Comparative Literature

Testimonials from Our Alumni

"Being an English major at UNC was not only one of the most fulfilling academic experiences of my life, but the communicative and observational skills my major gave me have opened doors for many opportunities in post-graduate life. The professors at UNC know how to weave together the practical and fantastic into courses that overflow with useful instruction. I could never have had the graduate education and satisfying career I have now without their help in understanding the history, interpretations, and movement of the language I use every day."

—Carey B. Simpson '14, Development Manager for Only Make Believe, a New York City-based nonprofit

"I didn't think I'd have a career as a writer when I came to Carolina. Even when I left, I wasn't sure it was possible. But at Carolina, I learned how to think like a writer. That's what a degree in English gives you. It changes the way you think. And, let's face it, it makes you a better person."

—Anthony King '97, 2011 Emmy nominee and writer for HBO's *Silicon Valley*

William Andrews Receives Jay B. Hubbell Medal

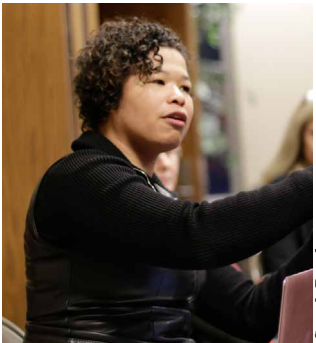
Congratulations are in order for Dr. William Andrews of the UNC Department of English and Comparative Literature, who has been awarded the Jay B. Hubbell Medal by the American Literature Society (ALS). According to the ALS website, a recipient has been selected by the committee once a year since 1964 for making “an extraordinary contribution to the study of American literature over the course of his or her career.” Since his first book in 1980, Dr. Andrews’ influence on the field of African American studies has been immense, as he studies what he describes as “the historical linkages between white and black writers in the formation of American literature, African American literature, and southern literature.” Some of his books include *The Literary Career of Charles W. Chesnutt*, *The Oxford Companion to African American Literature*, and *The Literature of the American South: A Norton Anthology*.

Dr. Andrews received the award in January 2018 at the Modern Language Association’s conference in New York City.



William Andrews

Meta DuEwa Jones Joins Faculty



Sarah Boyd

Meta DuEwa Jones

Dr. Meta DuEwa Jones joined the Department of English and Comparative Literature in January, 2018. Dr. Jones earned her B.A. in English from Princeton University, her M.A. in English from Stanford University, and her Ph.D. in English and American Literature from Stanford University. She taught previously at Howard University, the University of Texas at Austin, and George Washington University. She is the author of *The Muse is Music: Jazz Poetry from the Harlem Renaissance to the Spoken Word*, in which she connects race, gender, and sexuality within jazz and poetry.

Bland Simpson Receives North Carolina Humanities Council's Highest Honor

The North Carolina Humanities Council awarded Bland Simpson the 2017 John Tyler Caldwell Award for the Humanities, in recognition of his extensive contributions to the field of the humanities in North Carolina. Since its inauguration in 1990, the award has been presented annually to honor individuals whose work has distinguished them as advocates for the improvement and dissemination of the humanities in North Carolina.

Simpson has been an educator at Carolina for over thirty years, is the long-time pianist for Tony-acclaimed bluegrass band The Red Clay Ramblers, and is an author whose books often pay special attention to his native North Carolina’s coastline geography, including the most recent, *Little Rivers and Waterway Tales: A Carolinian’s Eastern Streams*. He is a longtime board member of the North Carolina Coastal Federation, an officer of the North Caroliniana Society, and the recipient of dozens of awards including the UNC Chapel Hill’s Tanner Faculty Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the 2005 North Carolina Award in Fine Arts, and the R. Hunt Parker Award for Significant Contributions to the Literature of North Carolina from the N.C. Literary & Historical Association.



Shane Snider

Bland Simpson



Shane Snider

Bland and Ann Simpson

The October 2017 award ceremony took place at the UNC Friday Center, with support from the Friday Center, The National Humanities Center, UNC Chapel Hill College of Arts & Sciences, *Our State* magazine, the North Carolina Writers Network, the Department of English and Comparative Literature, and the Creative Writing Program. Tom Earnhardt, producer, writer and host of UNC-TV’s “Exploring North Carolina,” delivered the event’s annual

Caldwell Lecture in the Humanities.

Simpson and his Coastal Cohorts trio will perform *King Mackerel & The Blues Are Running: Songs & Stories of the Carolina Coast Off-Off Broadway* at the West Bank Cafe’s Laurie Beechman Theatre in May 2018.

GerShun Avilez Awarded MLA's William Sanders Scarborough Prize



GerShun Avilez

Dr. GerShun Avilez's book, *Radical Aesthetics and Modern Black Nationalism*, received the William Sanders Scarborough Prize from the Modern Language Association of America at their annual convention. The William Sanders Scarborough Prize, which is named for the first African American MLA member, is awarded to an author for outstanding study of African American literature or culture.

Dr. Avilez is an Associate Professor and the Director of the Sexuality Studies Program. His research focuses on

contemporary African American literature and visual culture.

The MLA selection committee praised the compelling nature of Dr. Avilez's book. Specifically, they praised his ability to translate the political anxieties, questions, and contradictions of Black Arts-era nationalism. They also noted his focus on how queer people of color and black feminists challenged the tenets of the era (such as patriarchal politics, imagined kinship, and collapse of difference) and his inclusion of artists not typically associated with the movement.

Dr. Avilez is considering a future project about the questions of space in black diasporic art and social history.

Testimonials from Our Alumni

"Don't feel put down when people ask, 'what are you going to do with an English degree?' Every enterprise needs people who can use words effectively, and our whole society needs more people who can see things from many points of view, who can inhabit someone else's world in the ways that only literature – especially foreign literature – enables us to do."

—**Alane Salierno Mason '86**, Vice President and Senior Editor at W.W. Norton & Company, and 2010 Distinguished Alumna Award Recipient for Outstanding Contributions to Humanity

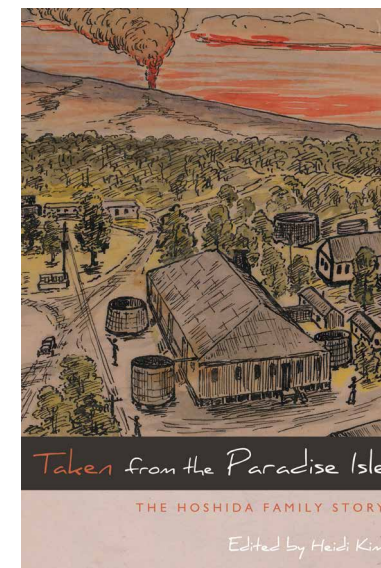
Heidi Kim Wins Ka Palapala Po'okela Award



Heidi Kim

Dr. Heidi Kim's edited book, *Taken from the Paradise Isle: The Hoshida Family Story* won the Ka Palapala Po'okela Award this year from the Hawaii Book Publishers Association for the best book on Hawaiian topics published outside of Hawaii. Members of the Hoshida family accepted the award on her behalf at a downtown Honolulu ceremony. Dr. Kim also spoke on the literature of the Japanese American incarceration and her editing work at an October symposium at Yale University that marked the 75th anniversary of the incarceration.

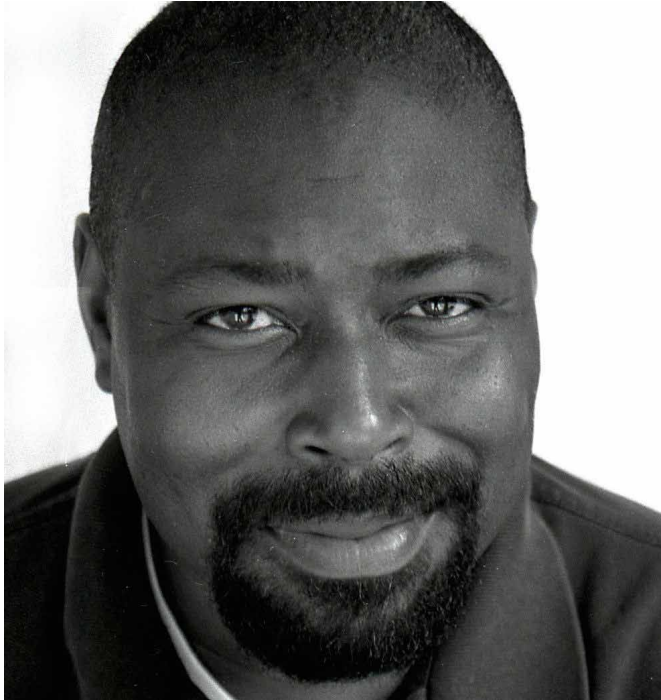
Dr. Kim's work ranges through nineteenth and twentieth-century American literature and Asian American studies. Her monograph *Invisible Subjects: Asian Americans in Postwar Literature* resituates through recent advances in Asian American studies and historiography the work of Ralph Ellison, William Faulkner, John Steinbeck, and the Melville Revival critics. A second monograph in progress will extend this focus on the Cold War to the writing of and about Chinese Americans, who were dogged by the stigma of illegal immigration and paranoia about Communist infiltration. She also researches and speaks extensively on the literature and history of the Japanese American incarceration, which the essays in *Taken from the Paradise Isle* address.



North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame to Induct Randall Kenan

Randall Kenan will be one of five inductees into the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame this October. The North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame, which was inaugurated in 1996 under the direction of North Carolina Poet Laureate Sam Ragan, celebrates the state's rich literary history.

Ed Southern, Executive Director of the North Carolina Writers' Network, said, "So many of the themes that dominate contemporary writing—race, class, sex, gender, and all the perilous intersections between them—Randall Kenan was writing about nearly thirty years ago, and doing so with grace and fierce intelligence. He expanded the scope of North Carolina writing, opening conversations that much of the rest of the nation is only now, and with great struggle, beginning to have."



Randall Kenan

The Literary Hall of Fame is located at the Weymouth Center for the Arts & Humanities in Southern Pines, where writers such as Thomas Wolfe, F. Scott Fitzgerald, William Faulkner, Sherwood Anderson, Paul Green, Maxwell Perkins, Lawrence Stallings, and John Galsworthy were frequent guests. Also being inducted to the Literary Hall of Fame in October are UNC alumni James W. Clark, Jr. and Jill McCorkle, along with Penelope Niven and Marsha White Warren.

Randall Kenan, a native of Duplin County, is the author of a novel, *A Visitation of Spirits*; two works of nonfiction, *Walking on Water: Black American Lives at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century* and *The Fire This Time*; and a collection of stories, *Let the Dead Bury Their Dead*. He edited and wrote the introductions for *The Cross of Redemption: The Uncollected Writings of James Baldwin* and *The Carolina Table: North Carolina Writers on Food*. Among his awards are a Guggenheim Fellowship, The Whiting Writers' Award, the North Carolina Award, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Rome Prize.

2017 Thomas Wolfe Prize and Lecture: Kevin Young

Kevin Young received the 2017 Thomas Wolfe Prize, an annual award for a distinguished contemporary author. Each year, the Thomas Wolfe Prize and Lecture brings renowned and accomplished authors to campus to interact with our community. The lectures are free and open to the public. The event attracts fans and students of all disciplines to the 400-seat auditorium in the Genome Sciences Building to see prominent writers deliver a public address.

Kevin Young is one of America's most celebrated poets. Author of nine collections of poetry and editor of five anthologies of poetry, Young also serves as the Director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Public Library and the Poetry Editor for *The New Yorker*. His reading included a selection of his blues-inspired poems from his most recent book, *Blue Laws: Selected and Uncollected Poems 1995–2015*, as well as passages from his most recent nonfiction work, *Bunk: The Rise Of Hoaxes, Humbug, Plagiarists, Phonies, Post-Facts, and Fake News*.



Kevin Young

The Thomas Wolfe Prize and Lecture honor the memory of Carolina's famous alumnus, Thomas Wolfe '20. The annual event features an author who has made a significant contribution to writing in the humanities whose work befits the ambition and scope shown by Wolfe. The program gives students access to important writers of our time and enriches Carolina's literary community. This year's event was generously sponsored by John Skipper (BA 1978) and his wife Jessica. John is the former President of ESPN and Co-chairman of Disney Media Networks.

Recent recipients of the Thomas Wolfe Prize include Jill McCorkle (2017), Terry Tempest Williams (2016), Clyde Edgerton (2015), Sandra Cisneros (2014), and Ron Rash (2013). Thomas Wolfe is best known for his novel *Look Homeward, Angel*, which was published to rave reviews in 1929. Before his death in 1938, Wolfe also published *Of Time and the River* (1935). His novels *The Web and the Rock* (1939) and *You Can't Go Home Again* (1940) were published posthumously. Wolfe's writings reflect a largeness of spirit and an expansive vision of life, while anchored in geographic place.

2018 Frank B. Hanes Writer-in-Residence: Julia Alvarez

The 2018 Frank B. Hanes Writer-in-Residence, Julia Alvarez, sparked as she read to a packed auditorium from a new novel in progress, and she brought that same enthusiasm as she visited with classes and students during her visit. Throughout her week at Carolina, Alvarez joyously shared her experience and insight from a long career as one of America's preeminent Latina authors.

Alvarez is the author of five novels, including *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* and *In the Time of the Butterflies*, three books of poetry, three books of nonfiction, and eleven books for younger readers. A recipient of the Pura Belpré and Americas Awards for her books for young people, Alvarez has also won the Hispanic Heritage Award and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Award for Outstanding Achievement in Literature. President Barack Obama presented her with a National Medal of Arts in 2013.



Julia Alvarez

Bill Eichner

While on campus, Alvarez participated in several panel discussions. The first was "Writing as Resistance: Activating Art in a Post-Truth Era," where she was joined by essayist Daisy Hernandez, Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Miami University, and Stephanie Elizondo Griest, Assistant Professor of Creative Nonfiction at Carolina. The panel was moderated by Ariana Vigil, an Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at UNC. For the second panel, "Truths and Consequences: The Joys and Perils of Writing About Family," Alvarez explored how writers turn their personal histories into art. The other panelists were members of the UNC Creative Writing faculty: Daniel Wallace, Marianne Gingher, and Kenan Writer-in-Residence Thomas Mira y Lopez.

Through the Frank B. Hanes Writer-in-Residence Program, the department has brought significant contemporary writers to campus to meet with students and faculty, visit classes, and give readings, talks, and symposia. The Department of English and Comparative Literature heartily thanks the Hanes family for its generous sponsorship of the program. The program honors the late Frank Borden Hanes, Sr., Class of 1942, an outstanding citizen of our state.

Previous Frank B. Hanes Writers-in-Residence include Ted Conover (2017) and Natasha Trethewey (2016).

Marianne Gingher Leads Puppetry Talk

The Creative Writing Program and the Latina/o Studies Program hosted "The Theatrics of Puppetry" in November 2017. The discussion featured Professor Marianne Gingher and Cuban actress/puppeteer Anechy Padron focusing on the history and behind-the-scenes action of puppet shows.

Gingher was the Bowman and Gordon Gray Term Chair for distinguished teaching from 2011 to 2016. She is the author of several books, including *Bobby Rex's Greatest Hit*. In 2009, Gingher and Deborah Seabrooke founded Jabberbox Puppet Theater, which focuses on salon-style adult puppetry and is located in Greensboro, NC. Jabberbox Puppet Theater's most recent show, *Beauty and the Botanist*, was inspired by the work of Fred Chappell and highlights the life of Carl Linnaeus in 18th century Sweden.

Padron has traveled and toured with the Circus in Havana and in Pinar del Rio, Cuba. She has also worked in various puppetry theaters in Cuba including the Puppet Guíñol Nacional, a widely known children's puppet theater.

2017-18 Critical Speakers Series

The Critical Speaker Series of the Department of English and Comparative Literature features outstanding and innovative scholars in the literary humanities. It showcases their contributions for the larger University community and the public.



In October 2017, Dr. Michael Bérubé, the Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of Literature at Pennsylvania State University, visited campus to deliver a seminar titled "Disability and Narrative" and a talk titled "The Humanities and the Advancement of Knowledge." Bérubé is the author of ten books to date, including *Public Access: Literary Theory and American Cultural Politics*.

In February 2018, Dr. Ian Bogost, the Ivan Allen College Distinguished Chair in Media Studies and Professor of Interactive Computing at the Georgia Institute of Technology delivered a talk, co-sponsored by the National Humanities Center and the Triangle Digital Humanities Network, titled "The Tactical Humanities, or the Humanities in Digital Humanities" and a seminar, "Public Humanities in a Digital Age."



Dr. Wai Chee Dimock, the William Lampson Professor of English and American Studies at Yale University, visited in March 2018 to deliver a talk, "Endangered Humanities and Endangered Planet," and a seminar, "Experimental Humanities." Dimock is editor of *PMLA* and a film critic for the *Los Angeles Review of Books*.

Jennifer Chang and Gabriel Fried Visit for Armfield Poetry Readings

The Armfield Poetry Reading, named after UNC alumna Blanche Britt Armfield, is a biannual event established to bring prominent poets to UNC's campus. A life-long reader and writer of poetry, Ms. Armfield took her M.A. in Philology from UNC in 1928; she believed that English was the language par excellence of poetry because "of the number and variety of its vowel sounds." In the late 1980s, her generous gift made possible this reading series "to champion the cause of poetry on the UNC campus." Over the past several decades, several dozen prominent American poets have come to the university for readings, among them Charles Wright, Beth Ann Fennelly, Rodney Jones, Mark Doty, C. K. Williams, Claudia Emerson, Ross Gay, and Thomas Lux.

Our Fall 2017 reader was Jennifer Chang, the author of two books, *The History of Anonymity*, finalist for the Glasgow Prize for Emerging Writers, and *Some Say the Lark*. She is a recipient of the MacDowell



Jennifer Chang

Colony Fellowship, and currently works as an assistant professor at George Washington University. She co-chairs the advisory board of Kundiman, a nonprofit organization that supports Asian American literature, and currently lives in Washington, D.C.



Gabriel Fried

Our Spring 2018 reader was Gabriel Fried, a Kathryn A. Monroe Poetry Award recipient. Fried is a poet and editor currently working as an assistant professor of English at the University of Missouri. He is the Poetry Editor for Persea Books, an independent publisher based out of New York City. Fried is the author of two books, *The Children Are Reading* and *Making the New Lamb Take*, as well as the editor of *Heart of the Order: Baseball Poems*, an anthology published in 2014.

HHIVE Hosts Grand Rounds

Health and Humanities: An Interdisciplinary Venue for Exploration (HHIVE) partnered with Carolina Seminars in November 2017 to host Grand Rounds, which featured talks by Dr. Dorita S. Berger and Dr. Keely A. Muscatell.

Dr. Berger's talk, entitled "Music and Brain Plasticity: A Look at Music Therapy," discussed how the basic elements of music

become effective treatment resources for a variety of diagnoses, from childhood issues to Alzheimer's, stroke, and more. She discussed various areas of the brain correlated with music stimuli, and shared some researched examples of music-based treatment applied in post-operative cancer pain management.



Dorita S. Berger, Ph.D., MT-BC, LCAT, is a sensorimotor music therapist and autism specialist as well as a Research Affiliate and Supervisor for various music-based investigations in Dr. Flavio Frohlich's Neuroscience Lab. She is the 2017 recipient of an American Music Therapy Association Award of Merit for her contributions to the field of Music-Based Treatment. Dr. Berger's most recent book is titled *Eurhythmics for Autism and Other Neurophysiologic Diagnoses: A Sensorimotor Music-Based Treatment Approach*.

Dr. Muscatell's talk examined recent work from psychology and neuroscience suggesting that greater mentalizing, or thinking about the thoughts and feelings of others, may help explain why individuals from lower socioeconomic statuses show positive social outcomes and negative health outcomes. By viewing SES groups through the lens of cultural psychology, Dr. Muscatell explores how we can make novel hypotheses regarding the role that social experiences play in influencing health and well-being across the socioeconomic spectrum.

Keely A. Muscatell is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology & Neuroscience and the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center at UNC-Chapel Hill, where she is the director of Social Neuroscience and Health Laboratory. She completed her Ph.D. in Psychology at UCLA and postdoctoral training in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholars Program at UC San Francisco and UC Berkeley before joining the faculty at Carolina in 2016.

Based in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, HHIVE is a group of researchers dedicated to linking the humanities and health sciences through student-centered research projects, innovative curricula, and public engagement. Their mission is to help prepare the next generation to think across disciplines, consult their values and passions, and tackle real-world problems to create meaningful social change. The project is led by Dr. Jane Thrailkill and Dr. Jordynn Jack.

Ruth Salvaggio to Retire

The Department extends its best wishes to Professor Ruth Salvaggio, who will retire at the end of the year. Dr. Salvaggio came to Carolina in 2005 and has been a mainstay in the Department ever since, teaching courses based in poetry, feminist theory, and the literature and history of the 18th-century Atlantic world.

Dr. Salvaggio is the author of four books: *Hearing Sappho in New Orleans: The Call of Poetry from Congo Square to the Ninth Ward*, which follows poetic migrations along the path of the African slave trade and tracks them through ancient fragments set in a flooded city; *The Sounds of Feminist Theory*, which attends to the audible dimensions of language that feminist critics have written about and engaged; *Enlightened Absence: Neoclassical Configurations of the Feminine*, among the first studies of how feminine bodies and phenomena were configured in the English enlightenment; and *Dryden's Dualities*, a study of the ambivalent mindset of an early English poet. She served as the co-editor of the anthology *Women Critics, 1660-1820*, and published a monograph introducing readers to the African-American science-fiction writer Octavia Butler.

Before coming to UNC, she served as Director of Graduate Studies in the interdisciplinary American Studies Department at the University of New Mexico and as Director of the Women's Studies Program at Purdue University. She also taught at SUNY Binghamton, the University of Oregon, and Virginia Tech. Dr. Salvaggio served as president of the Women's Caucus of the Modern Language Association. In 2009, she was Faculty Director of a special UNC Burch Seminar in post-Katrina New Orleans, taught in conjunction with Tulane University.

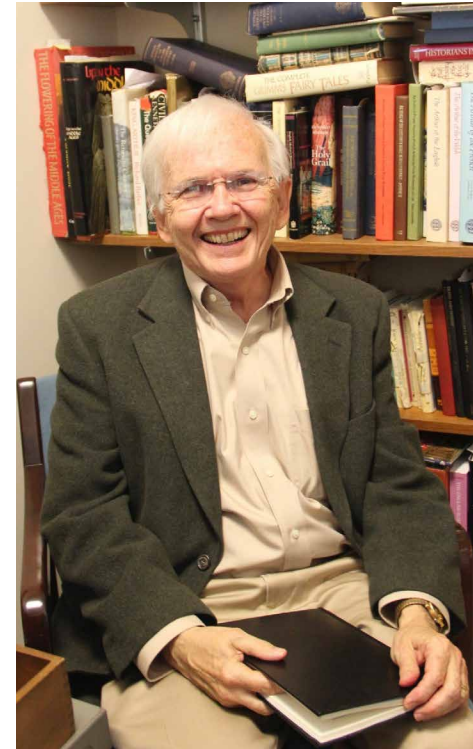
Martin L. Johnson Joins Faculty



Martin L. Johnson

Dr. Martin L. Johnson joined the Department of English and Comparative Literature in January, 2018. Dr. Johnson earned his A.B. in Modern Culture and Media from Brown, his M.A. in Folklore from Carolina, and his Ph.D. in Cinema Studies from New York University. He taught previously at The Catholic University of America, the Maryland Institute College of Art, Towson University, and the Parsons School of Design at the New School. He is the author of *Main Street Movies: The History of Local Film in the United States* and has published journal articles in *Film History*, *Historical Journal of Film, Radio, and Television*, *Early Popular Visual Culture*, and *The Moving Image*.

Edward Donald Kennedy Wins Norris J. Lacy Award



Edward Donald Kennedy

Professor Emeritus Edward Donald Kennedy was awarded the Norris J. Lacy Award in recognition of "his contributions to Arthurian studies and editing" by the North American Branch of the International Arthurian Society during its business meeting at the triennial congress of the International Arthurian Society in Würzburg Germany in July 2017. The award is given once every two or three years to a scholar working in North America. Dr. Kennedy also read two papers at the conference, one of which will be published in Fall 2018 in *Arthuriana*, the journal of the North American Branch. He is preparing the other one for publication. In 2017 he also published "The Chronicle Tradition," a 5000-word essay he was invited to write for *The Encyclopedia of Medieval Literature in Britain*, edited by Siân Echarad and Robert Rouse, and six new entries for the online edition of *Encyclopedia of the Medieval Chronicle*. As editor of the English chronicles discussed in the *Encyclopedia of the Medieval Chronicle*, he updated about 100 entries

that had appeared in the published version. In late 2016 his article "Thomas Hearne and English Chronicles" was published in *The Prose Brut and Other Late Medieval Chronicles*, edited by Jaclyn Rajsic, Erik Kooper, and Dominique Hoche.

Writer Anthony Tambakis Visits UNC

Screenwriter and novelist Anthony Tambakis, a former student of Professor Pam Durban, visited UNC in September to talk to students and give a public reading. Tambakis's film credits include the screenplays for *Warrior* and *Jane Got a Gun*, and his first novel, *Swimming with Bridgeport Girls*, earned the following praise: "If a Richard Russo protagonist went on a bender in Vegas the result would be something like *Swimming with Bridgeport Girls*, a story about a lovesick gambler and his against-all-odds quest to win back his ex-wife." Tambakis's current projects include the screenplays for *Suicide Squad 2*, *The Karate Kid 2*, and a new film in the Will Smith/Martin Lawrence franchise titled *Bad Boys for Life*.

Diversity Colloquium Engages Campus Community

In January 2018, Professors María DeGuzmán and Alan Shapiro convened a colloquium to discuss James Baldwin's essay "Everybody's Protest Novel" and address broader issues across the campus and national communities.

In their invitation to the colloquium, DeGuzmán and Shapiro wrote, "As teachers of literary studies and creative writing, what exactly are we doing at a time like this—when political discourse and civility in general have declined, and what passes for debate is often little more than name calling and pigeonholing? Even or especially in the academy—a place theoretically devoted to critical thought, to respectful yet vigorous wide open conversation—people find it ever more difficult to talk to one another across our various differences. The hermeneutics of suspicion has hardened into suspiciousness. As this community to which we all belong has grown more rife with distrust, we may find it easier to retreat into narrowing areas of interest, disciplinary enclaves, atomizing silos of like-mindedness. How to talk freely and respectfully about differences of any kind, how to recognize commonality as well as difference, or find in difference itself a sustaining commonality, has never seemed more urgent, or less possible.

"The irony is that all of us as teachers, writers and scholars believe the work we do has ethical value; we all believe difference isn't an inevitable obstacle to understanding but the unavoidable and necessary condition in which understanding happens. In our classrooms and our books, we exercise inclusive modes of thinking and imagining that aspire to cross the very gender, class and ethnic boundaries we find so hard to address in our face to face encounters with each other, and that everywhere else on the planet are hardening into unassailable orthodoxies. Which is to say, dear colleagues, we need to talk. If a bunch of literature professors can't figure out how to converse openly, honestly and kindly about delicate and thorny issues, who can? However, maybe by talking earnestly together we can preserve a modicum of humanity and empathy that such angers and categories are hell-bent on destroying."



Faculty and graduate students attend the first Diversity Colloquium.

Jane Austen Summer Program Celebrates 200 Years of Horror

Each summer, Professors Inger Brody and James Thompson run the Jane Austen Summer Program, a public humanities symposium designed to appeal to established scholars, high school teachers, graduate students, undergraduate students, and anyone with a passion for all things Austen. This summer's event, "Northanger Abbey & Frankenstein: 200 Years of Horror," will add a macabre spin to the proceedings. Registration is now open for the four-day program, which will run June 14-17, 2018, in Chapel Hill.

When PlayMakers Repertory Company performed *Sense and Sensibility* during the past season, the Jane Austen Summer Program held an essay contest related to the play. The winner, Angelica Sevilla, a 10th grader at St. Thomas More Academy in Raleigh, will get free admission to the Jane Austen Summer Program this summer, a full set of Austen books, and complimentary seats to a PlayMakers production. This promotion was a partnership among the Jane Austen Summer Program, PlayMakers, Arts Everywhere, and the Department of English and Comparative Literature.



Angelica Sevilla

Graduate student Ted Scheinman has recently released his new book, *Camp Austen: My Life as an Accidental Jane Austen Superfan*. The book is about the Jane Austen Summer Program, and Scheinman will speak about the book during this year's program.



UNC graduate students, from left, Adam McCune, Ashley King and Ted Scheinman at the Jane Austen Summer Program in 2014.

Shark Tank Star Visits English 105i

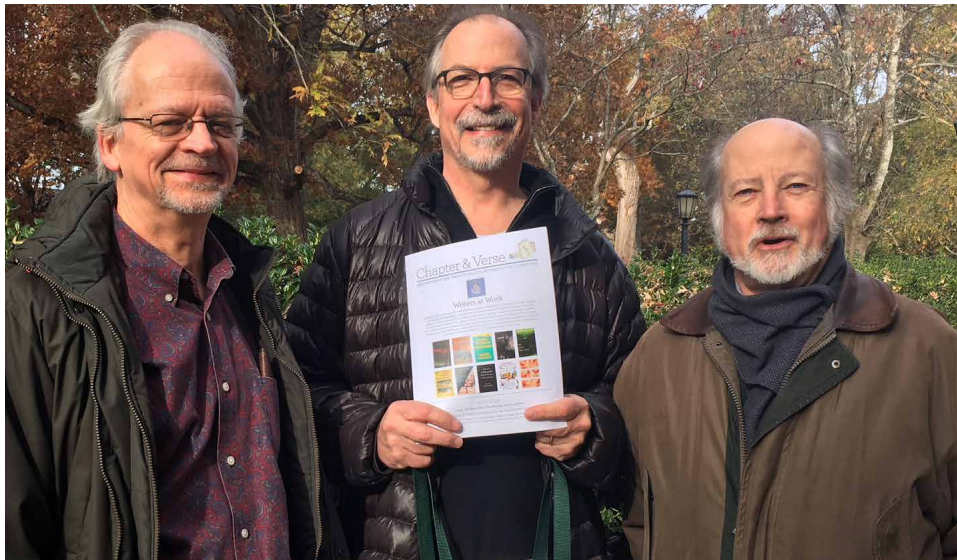
On Monday, October 23, 2017, Dr. Melissa Geil, Teaching Assistant Professor, started off her *Shark Tank* unit with a surprise visit from a well-known Shark: Kevin O'Leary. Known to the *Shark Tank* audience as "Mr. Wonderful," O'Leary is the founder of O'Leary Funds and Softkey and has appeared on both Canadian and American business shows.



Kevin O'Leary

O'Leary skyped with Dr. Geil's ENGL105i: Business students for about 15 minutes and "talked about the top 3 things that make a successful pitch. He also offered some advice to the students about gaining work experience while they are still in college to help them get some business experience as well as help them to figure out what they want to do in life." Dr. Geil says her students are still buzzing about the opportunity to have spoken with O'Leary and are "over the moon about the whole thing."

The Canadian O'Leary campaigned in 2017 to be the leader of the Conservative Party of Canada. He was a co-founder of Special Event Television and founder of O'Leary Ventures, and has appeared on the Discovery Channel's Project Earth.



"Delivery boys" Michael McFee, Daniel Wallace, and Bland Simpson take *Chapter & Verse*, the Creative Writing newsletter, to South Building

Mary Floyd-Wilson Gives Shakespeare Lectures

Carolina Public Humanities and the General Alumni Association co-sponsored a series of lectures by Mary Floyd-Wilson, chair of the Department of English and Comparative Literature, this February. In four lectures, Dr. Floyd-Wilson offered surprising new insights on mourning in two of Shakespeare's best-loved and best-studied works, *Hamlet* and *Twelfth Night*. By tracing both plays' mingling of comic and tragic elements, Shakespeare's love of festivity, the crisscross nature of sexual attraction in his works, and humankind's unconquerable desire to resurrect the dead, she helped attendees make connections between both plays and the 1601 death of Shakespeare's father.

Dr. Floyd-Wilson is the author of three books, including *Occult Knowledge, Science, and Gender on the Shakespearean Stage*. She is a Bowman and Gordon Gray Term Professor of Distinguished Teaching and won the Association of Graduate Students in English Mentoring Award in 2013.

Hilary Lithgow Brings Majors Together

Associate Professor Hilary Lithgow organized the first large gathering of English and Comparative Literature majors in eight years. The October 2017 event hosted over forty English and Comparative Literature undergraduates who socialized with one another, playing team-focused games and chatting about their literary passions and aspirations while enjoying food provided by the Department. Professor Ted Leinbaugh and Teaching Assistant Professor Sarah Boyd spoke with the undergraduates about the department and the various opportunities it offers, such as research and study abroad. The students left the party with new friends, valuable knowledge, and full bellies.

Undergraduate majors and minors Kiara Dean, Ellie Baker, Xena Delgado, Samantha Kichman, Julia Whitten, and Sierra Winters assisted Dr. Lithgow with the event, which was so successful Lithgow has vowed to make it a tradition.



Undergraduate Wins Robert Phillips Chapbook Prize

Evana Bodiker (Class of 2018) has won the Robert Phillips Poetry Chapbook Prize for her collection *Ephemera*. Composed largely of poems written in her Intermediate and Advanced Poetry Writing courses at UNC, *Ephemera* will be published by Texas Review Press in Spring 2018.

“For a young poet, this is so reassuring in terms of my future as a writer. I’ve been submitting to literary journals since finishing Intro to Poetry Writing,” Bodiker said. “When I submitted my chapbook to the Robert Phillips chapbook competition, I had no expectations of winning. It’s still hard to believe a book of my poetry will be out in the world for people to read.”

Bodiker is currently enrolled in the Senior Honors course with Gabrielle Calvocoressi. She plans to enter an M.F.A. program this fall to continue her studies as a poet.

Phillips, who judged the award which bears his name, is the author or editor of some 30 volumes of poetry, fiction, criticism, and belles lettres and publishes in numerous journals. A professor of English, he was director of the University of Houston Creative Writing Program from 1991 to 1996.

Bodiker is quick to recognize the mentorship she has received at Carolina as a factor in her success. “Having the confidence to submit to this competition, let alone continue writing, would not have been possible without some invaluable members of the English and creative writing departments,” she said. “Dr. Heidi Kim encouraged me in my first ever semester at UNC to continue to hone my writing skills. Michael McFee kindly read every draft and (sometimes extreme) revision of the poems that would eventually become *Ephemera*. These professors helped me to believe in myself enough to read, write, and think hard about my required material, and even more importantly, begin to find my voice as a writer.”



Evana Bodiker

PIT Journal Promotes Undergraduate Research

The *People, Ideas, and Things Journal*, commonly known as the *PIT Journal*, is much more than just a platform for publishing undergraduate research. In addition to a bi-annual publishing of multimedia and conventional undergraduate research projects in an online academic journal, *PIT Journal* also holds an undergraduate research conference every fall and spring for university students. The goal of this conference is to provide undergraduates, specifically first year students, with an opportunity to present to an audience research they conducted individually in their mandatory English 105 or 105i class. The students present their findings to their professors, peers, and the greater UNC community to spread knowledge about their chosen research inquiry.

A unique and valuable opportunity for first year undergraduate students, the PIT research conference also incorporates a competitive selection process for students who wish to present their work.

The PIT team, composed of English professors, work-studies, and volunteer undergraduates, read and evaluate proposals written by these students of the English courses. Eventually the PIT team narrows the proposals to the top fifteen who will present at the conference. The proposals are selected based on specific criteria such as audience accessibility, interest and engagement of the proposal, the presence of a well-developed research question, and a clear, comprehensive plan for expanding the proposal into a full-fledged research article and presentation. Some examples of proposals selected for this year’s conference include “The Political Recruitment of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony,” “Science Fiction Becomes Reality: Complex Tissue 3-D Printed and Implanted in Humans,” and “A Study on Social Change and Revolutionary Fashion.”



Eduardo Neri presents at the PIT research conference.

As demonstrated by these few, nominated research topics, the PIT conference attempts to broaden the definition of undergraduate research beyond the STEM region to include all academic disciplines, including the Social Sciences and Humanities. Overall, this conference seeks to foster an attitude of academic curiosity in all UNC undergraduates by encouraging students to pursue research topics of interest and providing a platform for these students to share ideas and studies with the greater UNC community.

—Dan Anderson

Undergraduates Take on Roles as Editors and Publishers

Students in ENGL 490 - Editing and Publishing have good reason to think that there's not much margin for error in their work: the books they're working on will be published in Fall 2018. As part of the course, sixteen fiction writers and four poets are editing and designing forthcoming titles from Durham-based Bull City Press.

The course, taught by Teaching Assistant Professor Ross White, gives students an introduction to the publishing business by asking them to work with established authors. "I thought, 'I could lecture about these topics and have students do some exercises, or I could give the students some real agency and some real pressures,'" said White. He enlisted two authors with forthcoming titles from his press and asked if they'd be willing to work with undergraduates as their books were designed. "Both said yes without hesitation," White said.

The course began with a practical history of the book, examining its role in culture and society, and their early editing exercises had them developing and editing content for the newsletter you're reading now. Though students worked through the acquisitions process with some samples, they provided developmental feedback, copy edited, and designed covers and interiors for titles by poet Connie Voisine and fiction writer Ryan Napier. They will also design and code eBooks and develop marketing plans for Voisine and Napier's books before they transition to editing each other's work and designing a book for a peer.



An early cover design by student Sofie DeWulf.



Students in the class work collaboratively on book design.

Sarah Boyd

Faculty Briefs

DOECL Faculty Win Teaching Awards

Five faculty members won prestigious university-wide teaching awards for 2016-2017:

Marc Cohen received the Tanner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

Cynthia Current received the Johnston Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Laura Halperin won the Chapman Family Teaching Award.

Jane Danielewicz received the Distinguished Teaching Award for Post-Baccalaureate Instruction.

Philip Gura Gives Plenary Address, Has New Books

In October, Professor Philip Gura gave the plenary address at "Henry David Thoreau and Maine: A Bicentennial Symposium" at the University of Southern Maine in Portland. In January 2017, UNC Press issued his *Life of William Apess, Pequot* in paperback. Harvard University Press has contracted his next book, *The Pursuit of Social Justice in America: Jonathan Edwards to John Rawls*.

Jane Thrailkill Tours Japan

Professor Jane Thrailkill egave a set of lectures in Japan, which has a vibrant community of scholars who study nineteenth-century American literature. Her first stop was Kagoshima University, which hosted the annual meeting of the American Literature Society of Japan. In Kagoshima City, Dr. Thrailkill delivered two talks. The first, a keynote titled "Strange Bedfellows? American Literature and Neuroscience," was followed by a panel discussion and Q & A with local scholars. While in Kagoshima, she also presented a lecture on her work in Health Humanities to an interdisciplinary group of researchers and students across the university.

Dr. Thrailkill then traveled by bullet train to Kobe, Kyoto,



Laura Halperin



Jane Danielewicz



Philip Gura

and Tokyo to deliver talks based on her current book project on the eccentric and brilliant siblings of a famous nineteenth-century American family: Alice, William, and Henry James. She was hosted by scholars at at Kobe City University of Foreign Studies, Ritsumeikan University, and Rikkyo University.

Patrick Horn Leads Literary Tar Heel Tour

Patrick Horn developed and led a “Literary Tar Heels” campus tour for the UNC Visitors’ Center several times in 2017. The tour has led to a spin-off paper on “The Interesting Narratives of George Moses Horton and Caroline Lee Hentz,” which he delivered at the Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Dr. Horn is currently advising a visiting doctoral student from China’s Southwest University Chongqing, whose dissertation focuses on “Body Narratives and Embodied Anxiety in Flannery O’Connor’s Fictions.”

Marsha S. Collins Teaches across the Globe

Marsha S. Collins is enjoying her final year as Royster Professor for Graduate Education. Last summer a group of graduate students from King’s College London (KCL) visited the Carolina campus for a conference, the inaugural event of Royster Global. In summer 2018, a group of Carolina Roysters will attend a conference at KCL. Collins has recently presented papers on Cervantes in Princeton, Salt Lake City, Chicago, Las Vegas, and Tromsø, Norway. She continues to work on her new book project on *Friendship and Community in Don Quixote*, and she is preparing a white paper on graduate education in the 21st century.

Courtney Rivard and Jennifer Larson Develop Research Courses

Courtney Rivard and Jennifer Larson were each awarded grants from UNC’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to develop Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE) courses for Fall 2018. In Dr. Rivard’s course, “Rhetoric and Digital Humanities: Becoming Digital Makers,” students will help create a public, internet-based, digital humanities project focused on photographs taken by the Farm Security Administration during the Great Depression with over 1,200 life histories from the Federal



Jane Thraillkill



Marsha S. Collins



Courtney Rivard

Writers’ Project. In Dr. Larson’s “Literature and Law: Courtroom/Drama” course, student research projects will focus on finding and examining contextual primary materials—including letters, interviews, oral histories, and court transcripts—for landmark court cases and plays related to those cases.

Journal Edited by Alicia Rivero Explores North American Naturalists

The new issue of *Ometeca: Science and Humanities/Ciencia y humanidades/Ciência e humanidades*, edited by Dr. Alicia Rivero, Associate Professor of Spanish and Adjunct Professor in Comparative Literature, contains an article on some North American naturalists—authors who made a positive impact on Costa Rica’s environmentalism. The upcoming issue will focus exclusively on Brazil, whereas *Ometeca* generally publishes on a wider range of topics. The Ometeca Institute is a non-profit organization devoted to examining the relationship of humanities and science.

John McGowan Works with Comedy and Civility

John McGowan is a fellow at the National Humanities Center this year (2017-2018), working on a book about comedy and civility. The third edition of the *Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism* (Dr. McGowan is one of the editors) will be published in June 2018.

Adam Price’s Fiction Garnering Attention

In 2017, Adam Price’s story “Going Underground” was published in *VICE Magazine’s* year-end Fiction Issue, which includes the likes of Joyce Carol Oates, Akhil Sharma, Ottessa Moshfegh, and Walter Kirn. His story “Tough Crowd” was a Special Mention in the 2018 Pushcart Prize Collection. He continues to publish, with literary essays and reviews in *The Millions*, *Paris Review Daily*, *Electric Literature*, and *Ploughshares*.



Jennifer Larson



John McGowan



Adam Price

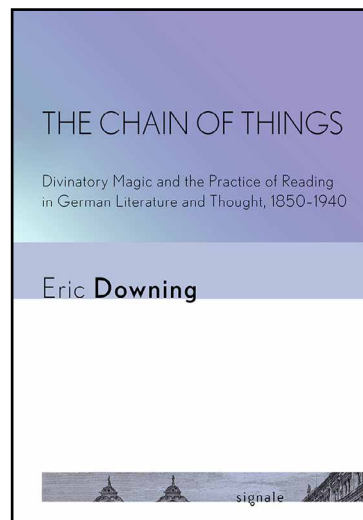
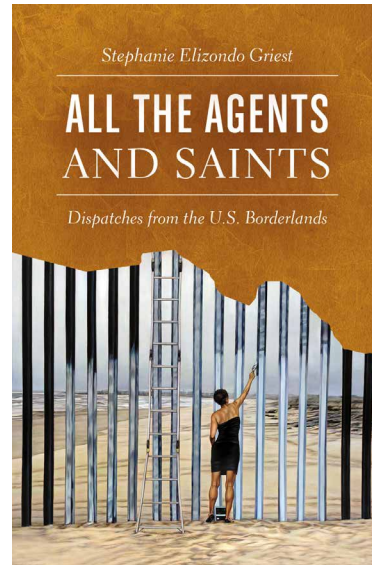
New Books by Faculty

***All the Agents and Saints: Dispatches from the U.S. Borderlands* (UNC Press, 2017)**

Stephanie Elizondo Griest's new book explores the lives of those who live along the borders of the United States. Drawing from her own experiences of living along the Texas-Mexico border as well as her time working with the Mohawks at the New York-Canada border, Griest begins to make connections between two seemingly different communities united by their shared experience of living on the edge. *All the Agents and Saints* received a starred review from *Kirkus*, in which the book was described as "an exploration of the borderlands that deftly mixes memoir, groundbreaking sociology, deep reporting, and compelling writing." Juan Felipe Herrera, the Poet Laureate of the United States, described the book as "a blazing, page-turning, groundbreaking, soul-illuminating book." Griest, Assistant Professor and Margaret R. Shuping Fellow of Creative Nonfiction, hopes the book inspires empathy in her readers for those who live on and at the border.

***The Chain of Things: Divinatory Magic and the Practice of Reading in German Literature and Thought, 1850-1940* (Cornell University Press, 2018)**

Eric Downing's new book connects Greek ideas of sympathetic magic to German aesthetics, tracing the connections between reading and art from classical antiquity to modernism. Downing examines how attitudes toward the future shaped the reading of the period, and proposes a new theory of magic as a critical lens through which we might understand German literature. Dr. Downing is Professor of German, English and Comparative Literature and Adjunct Professor of Classical Studies at Carolina.



***Contemporary American Memoirs in Action: How to Do Things with Memoir* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018)**

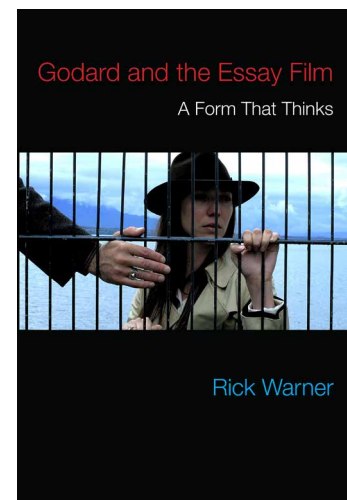
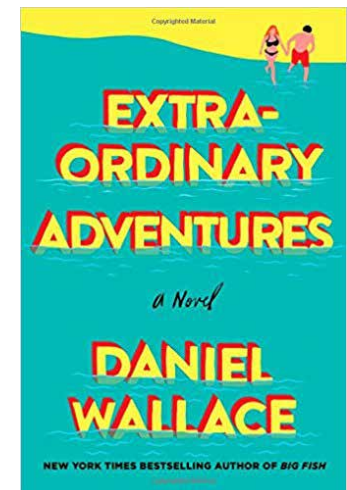
Jane Danielewicz's new book analyzes memoirs as a vehicle for social commentary and political change. Dr. Danielewicz earned her Ph.D. at the University of California-Berkeley, and started teaching at UNC in 1992. She has won several teaching awards, including the J. Carlyle Sitterson Freshman Teaching Award, and has directed the department's First Year Writing Program.

***Extraordinary Adventures* (St. Martin's Press, 2017)**

Daniel Wallace's sixth book follows the life of Edsel Bronfman, a man whose uneventful existence is turned upside down when he is offered a free weekend vacation to Florida. The only stipulation is that the vacation must be redeemed by a couple in the next 79 days. Prompted by the offer, Bronfman sets out on a journey to find someone with whom to share this vacation. Ann Leary, in her review published in *The New York Times*, described the novel "as refreshing and original as [Wallace's] earlier books," while praising him for being "one of those rare, wonderful writers who make it look easy." Wallace is the Director of the Creative Writing program and J. Ross MacDonald Distinguished Professor of English.

***Godard and the Essay Film: A Form That Thinks* (Northwestern University Press, 2018)**

Rick Warner's new book explores essay filmmaking through the examination of the works of Jean-Luc Godard, Orson Welles, Chris Marker, and others. Warner joined the Department of English & Comparative Literature in 2012, and recently became the co-director of graduate placement for 2017-2018. In 2017, he programmed a film series with the Ackland Film Forum. Professor Warner continues his book's work in the classroom to engage students to think critically about cinema.



Making the Poem: Stevens' Approaches (LSU Press, 2018)

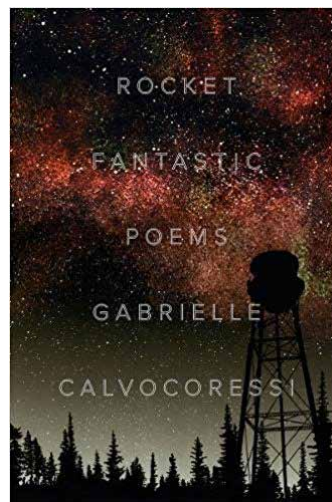
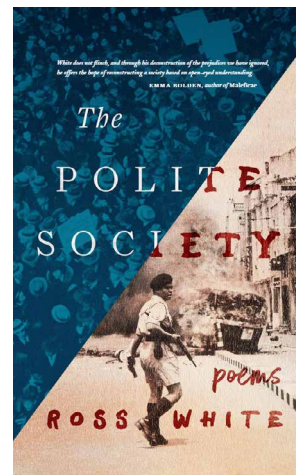
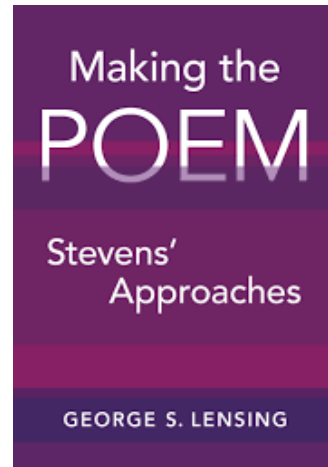
UNC Mann Family Distinguished Professor of English Emeritus George S. Lensing's latest book is his third work of literary criticism about Wallace Stevens. *Making the Poem* "charts the evolution of [Stevens'] body of work from a holistic perspective, examining many of the elements that Stevens drew upon in the making of his poetry." As a leading critic of modern American poetry and expert on Wallace Stevens, "Lensing [with this work] offers many new insights to help scholars and teachers navigate the poet's occasionally elusive texts." Lensing is also the author of *Wallace Stevens: A Poet's Growth* and *Wallace Stevens and the Seasons*, in addition to co-authoring with Ronald Moran *Four Poets and the Emotive Imagination: Robert Bly, James Wright, Louis Simpson and William Stafford*.

The Polite Society (Unicorn Press, 2017)

Ross White reckons with the consequences of complacency in difficult political times in his new collection of poetry, *The Polite Society*. White's second collection urges readers to ignore politics in its infamous, decadent sense and focus instead on how we might still work together to flourish together. White is the author of *How We Came Upon the Colony*, the director of Bull City Press, and a Teaching Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Carolina.

Rocket Fantastic (Persea Books, 2017)

Associate Professor Gabrielle Calvocoressi's third book of poetry explores the tenderness, violence, loneliness, grief, and healing through various voices and vessels. The book has garnered praise from *Publisher's Weekly* and the *Library Journal*. At the Poetry Foundation, Tyehimba Jess writes, "Gabrielle Calvocoressi's *Rocket Fantastic* is a mythic, personal journey through an inner constellation of self-discovery— a lyrical celebration that blends animal and insect into luminous landscape and lover-laced bow ties. Strap in." Calvocoressi is the poetry editor for *Southern Cultures*, an editor-at-large for *The Los*



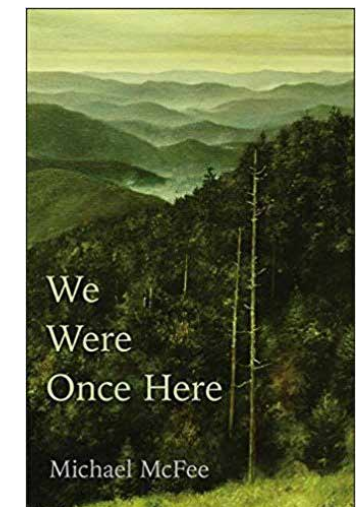
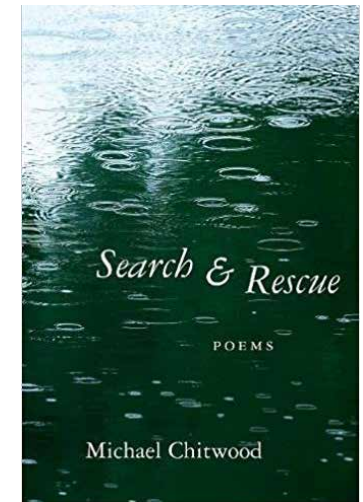
Angeles Review of Books and an Assistant Professor of English and the Walker Percy Fellow in Poetry at Carolina.

Search and Rescue (LSU Press, 2018)

Michael Chitwood returns to the Appalachian landscape in his ninth collection of poems, *Search and Rescue*, for which he received the L. E. Phillabaum Poetry Award. He is the fourteenth and most recent author to receive this prize, given by the Louisiana State University Press in honor of Les Phillabaum, the director of the Press for twenty-eight years. During his time at the Press, Phillabaum was responsible for the publication of more than two hundred books of poetry by more than one hundred poets. The prize is given once or twice a year to the author of a new poetry book published by the press and is selected by the current director of the LSU Press and other members of the Press staff. Chitwood is a Teaching Professor of Creative Writing at UNC, and also recently co-edited *Best Creative Nonfiction of the South, Volume II: North Carolina*.

We Were Once Here (Carnegie Mellon, 2017)
Appointed Rounds (Mercer University Press, 2018)

Michael McFee published his eleventh book of poetry, *We Were Once Here*, in February 2017, and a new collection of essays titled *Appointed Rounds* in February 2018. He gave readings from both collections around the Triangle and at the Thomas Wolfe Memorial in Asheville, his home town. His essays appeared in *Best Creative Nonfiction of the South, Volume II: North Carolina*; *Jonathan Williams: The Lord of Orchards*; and *Piano in a Sycamore: Craft Lessons from the Appalachian Writers' Workshop*. This was his 25th year as faculty advisor for *Cellar Door*, UNC's undergraduate literary magazine.



María J. Durán Receives IME Doctoral Candidacy Award

María J. Durán, a doctoral candidate in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, has been awarded the Initiative for Minority Excellence (IME) Doctoral Candidacy Award—a \$5,000 grant funded by Chancellor Carol Folt. Durán was nominated by Professor



María J. Durán

Maria DeGuzmán, director of UNC's Latina/o studies program, where Durán is a graduate research assistant.

According to Co-Director Kathy Wood, the IME focuses on “the retention and successful graduation of underrepresented minority students,” using a four-tiered approach that works to provide community, resources, faculty advocates, and financial bridges (including the Doctoral Candidacy Award) to traditionally underrepresented students. In addition to financial support, the IME offers professional development seminars, recurring events like “Writing Wednesdays,” social activities, and access to support groups such as Brotherhood of Success (BOS), Sisterhood of Empowerment in Academe (SEA), and La Familia.

Durán is an advocate for minority students and has worked with the Moore Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program, Carolina Firsts, and CLC's Latina/o mentoring program. She has also used the Richard Bland Fellowship to spend a summer working with Juntos, an organization which works to help Latina/o students graduate from high school and aspire to higher forms of education. Durán will use the IME award to continue pursuing her own degree in contemporary Latina/o literature. Her dissertation will focus on pain and death as potential sites of social protest.

Testimonials from Our Alumni

“More than the ability to read and write with verve and an eagle eye—which, don't get me wrong, I use daily—the people skills I learned in the Creative Writing minor have helped me in everything I've done after college. It is so valuable to be practiced in vulnerability and to know how to communicate openly with others to make a project the best it can be, as we learned to do in our writing workshops.”

—Anna Faison '15, Marketing Assistant, University of North Carolina Press

Graduate Student News



Ben Murphy

Ben Murphy Wins Tanner Award

Fourth-year Ph.D. student Ben Murphy received a 2018 Tanner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching by a Graduate Student. Since 1990, the University has given five Tanner Awards each year to recognize excellence in the teaching of undergraduates by graduate teaching assistants. Each of the five winners receives a one-time stipend of \$5,000 and a framed citation.



Nicole Berland

Six Selected as Dean's Graduate Fellows for 2018-2019

Dwight Tanner, Sarah Singer, Sean DiLeonardi, Mark Collins, Rachel Isom, and Rachel Norman were selected as Dean's Graduate Fellows in the College of Arts and Sciences for 2018-2019. Dean's Graduate Fellows will attend graduate student recruitment events and an Arts and Sciences Foundation Board meeting, and will receive additional stipends.



Katharine Henry

Three Win Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowships

Each year, the Center for Global Initiatives coordinates awards of Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowships to fund the study of less commonly taught languages and area studies coursework. Grants may fund language-intensive study in the summer or academic year course study that includes both language and area studies courses. The department had three graduate students receive funding in 2017-2018: Anna Broadwell-Guld, Andrew Kim, and Trisha Remetir.



Travis Alexander

Doctoral Students Travel to London

In August 2017, a group of six UNC English doctoral students traveled to London to participate in a cross-Atlantic conference called Configurations of Empire. The conference was a result of a yearlong collaborative reading group with doctoral students at King's College London. Attending to represent UNC were Katharine Henry, Dwight Tanner, Travis Alexander, Ben Murphy, Trisha Remetir, and Nicole Berland. The conference and the

reading group were organized by Sam Bednarchik (UNC) and Christine Okoth (KCL). This summer, graduate students in the department are organizing the conference at UNC, and 3 KCL students will visit.

New Article from Anna Levett

Anna Levett, Ph.D. Candidate in Comparative Literature, recently published an article entitled “Shouldn’t love be the one true thing?” Godard and the Legacy of Surrealist Ethics” in the July 2017 issue of *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*. Levett’s areas of research include 20th century Arabic and French/Francophone literature, with additional interests in Mediterranean studies and film.

Grant Glass Leads *Robinson Crusoe* Effort

A team of students led by Carolina graduate student Grant Glass and Duke English professor Charlotte Sussman will track the thousands of Daniel Defoe’s *Robinson Crusoe* editions – including the plethora of movies and “Robinsoniades,” most of which are deviations from Defoe’s original work. Using algorithms, the team will examine how changes to the text reflect the changing audiences that consume Defoe’s seminal work. Glass has also received a Digital Research and Dissertation Fellowship from the Carolina Digital Humanities Initiative and a Director’s Scholarship from Rare Books School at the University of Virginia. He is a Data Plus Project Fellow with the Information Initiative at Duke University and, along with graduate student Trisha Remetir, a Representing Migrations: Humanities Lab Fellow in the English Department at Duke University.

Sean DiLeonardi Receives Honors

As graduate student Sean DiLeonardi works toward his dissertation, which outlines the convergence of techno-scientific and literary theories of probability in the American midcentury, he has received several honors. Carolina Public Humanities has awarded him a Maynard Adams Fellowship, which honors the long-time UNC philosophy professor who founded the program in 1979. DiLeonardi has also received an Off-Campus Dissertation Research Fellowship.

The *Carolina Quarterly* Returns to Department

After several years operating as an independent non-profit, *The Carolina Quarterly* will return to the Department of English and Comparative Literature in July. For 70 years, *The Carolina Quarterly* has been publishing established and emerging writers and providing a home for some of our nation’s most vital new literature. Under the guidance of graduate students and Editors-in-Chief Moira Marquis and Sarah George, *CQ* has increased the amount of content available on its [web site](#), transitioned to a more efficient system for accepting submissions, and established a contest called “Wake and Dream,” which will be judged by Daniel Wallace. Along with Poetry Editor Calvin Olsen, Marquis traveled to Tampa this spring to represent *The Carolina Quarterly* at the AWP Conference, one of the nation’s largest gatherings of writers. If you’ve let your subscription lapse, you can [subscribe online](#).

Alumni News

Judith Phillips Stanton Honored on University Day

Dr. Judith Phillips Stanton, who graduated from the UNC Ph.D. program in 1978, was one of five alumni honored on October 12 at the Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony. At the ceremony, Secretary of the Faculty Dr. Vincas P. Steponaitis read a citation honoring Stanton’s long and groundbreaking academic career as a foremost scholar on British poet and novelist Charlotte Turner Smith. Stanton has been a leading figure in exploring Smith’s influence on the British Romantic Period, which had previously been relatively unrecognized, save for Wordsworth’s cryptic tribute to “a poet to whom English Literature is more indebted than it is ever likely to acknowledge.”



Judith Phillips Stanton

In a separate speech, Dr. Jeanne Moskal noted that Stanton’s “achievement demonstrates that the past isn’t static. It speaks to the present. It can inform the future. The past itself changes in that conversation, revealing more of itself... Judith Stanton’s example invites us, instead, to enrich their education with a capacious, historical understanding of the world we study and in which we live.”

Stanton edited *The Collected Letters of Charlotte Smith*, which was released in 2003.

Harry Thomas Returns to Carolina to Read from New Book

Dr. Harry Thomas ’11r read from his new nonfiction book, *Sissy!: The Effeminate Paradox in Postwar US Literature and Culture* in October at the Bull’s Head Bookshop on campus. Thomas’ reading and book signing attracted a large crowd of faculty, alumni, and students both from UNC, where he achieved his doctorate degree, and Durham Academy, where he currently teaches high school English. Published by the University of Alabama Press, *Sissy!* provides an overview of male effeminacy in post-World War II America and examines the “sissy” figure within the context of modern pop culture. What began as research for his Ph.D. dissertation turned into a 264-page project that Thomas polished and worked on for years during summer breaks from Durham Academy. *Sissy!* has already won the 2017 Elizabeth Agee Prize in American Literature and has received high praise from acclaimed authors such as Peter Hennen and Michael P. Bibler. In addition to teaching at Durham Academy, Thomas also serves as the department’s academic leader and faculty sponsor of groups such as Urban Ministries of Durham and the Gender and Sexuality Alliance.

Nick Searcy Stars in Oscar-Winning Film *The Shape of Water*

Actor Nick Searcy '82 has a supporting role in the new film *The Shape of Water*. Directed and written by Guillermo del Toro, *The Shape of Water* has been praised by critics since its release in December 2017, and has already received numerous awards, including the Academy Award for Best Picture. The film, which has been described as a blend between a fairy tale and a monster movie, is about a mute woman who falls in love with a scaled creature kept in the government lab where she works. Searcy plays General Hoyt, one of the antagonists in the film who oversees the government laboratory.



Nick Searcy

The Shape of Water is just one of many projects for Searcy. He has been in the acting business since 1997, starring in off-Broadway plays, television series and films. He is best known for his roles in the FX series *Justified*, the miniseries *From the Earth to the Moon*, and the films *Cast Away*, *The Fugitive* and *Fried Green Tomatoes*.

Stephen J. Ross Publishes First Book

Stephen J. Ross '07, an Assistant Professor at Concordia University, published his first book, *Invisible Terrain: John Ashbery and the Aesthetics of Nature*, in 2017. Ross is co-editor of the forthcoming anthology *Global Modernists on Modernism* and is collaborating on the first complete translation and critical edition of *Processions*, the poetic masterpiece of the Yiddish American modernist Mikhl Likht. He publishes essays and reviews on modern and contemporary literature, and is a founding editor of the literary web-journal *Wave Composition*.

Georama: An American Panorama Told On 3 Miles Of Canvas Wins Awards

Georama: An American Panorama Told On 3 Miles Of Canvas, the new show by Jack Herrick '70, has received five New York Musical Theatre Festival Awards for Excellence for its New York City run in August 2017: Outstanding Lyrics, Outstanding Overall Design, Outstanding Performance in a Supporting Role, Outstanding Direction, and an Outstanding Individual Performance award. Herrick wrote arrangements, additional music, and lyrics for the show.

Zoë Ackerman Builds Campus Partnerships

Zoë Ackerman '14 now works as Associate Program Director for the Rachel Carson Council and directs the Rachel Carson Campus Network. She is also the lead researcher and co-author of *Fowl Matters: Public Health, Environmental Justice, and the Broiler Chicken Industry*; *Pork and Pollution: An Introduction to Research and Action on Industrial Hog Production*; and *Blast Zone*.

Thomas Wolfe Scholar Caitlyn Doyle Wins Frost Farm Prize

Caitlyn Doyle '06 won the 2017 Frost Farm Prize for metrical poetry, awarded annually by the Trustees of the Robert Frost Farm and the Hyla Brooks Poets. Doyle, the first Thomas Wolfe Scholar, has two poems in the most recent issue of *The Yale Review*, and is currently the Assistant Editor of *The Cincinnati Review*. She has been commissioned to write lyrics for a composer she first met at Yaddo, a retreat for artists located on a 400-acre estate in Saratoga Springs, New York.



Dan Kois

Dan Kois Co-Authors Oral History of *Angels in America*

Dan Kois '96 is an editor at *Slate* and a contributing writer at *The New York Times Magazine*. In the spring of his senior year, he read Tony Kushner's play *Angels in America* for a modern literature class at Carolina; 22 years later, he has published *The World Only Spins Forward: The Ascent of Angels in America*, co-written with Isaac Butler. It is a book-length oral history of the play's development and legacy, built from interviews with 250 writers, actors, directors, historians, and critics. This spring, Kois is teaching in the creative writing program at North Carolina State University and finishing his next book, a memoir of parenting around the world called *How to Be a Family*, to be published by Little, Brown in 2019.

Nina Riggs Faces the Prospect of Dying in *The Bright Hour*

The Bright Hour: A Memoir of Living and Dying by Nina Riggs '99 was published posthumously by Simon and Schuster in June 2017. Riggs, who served as a Lecturer at Carolina from 2005 to 2013, passed away in February 2017. Survived by her husband and two sons, Riggs wrote the memoir after being diagnosed with breast cancer at 37. A direct descendant of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Riggs turned to his writings while meditating on motherhood, marriage, friendship, and memory.

Journalist Katie Couric created a video segment on Riggs and *The Bright Hour*. The book reached #14 on the New York Times bestseller list and has been translated into seven languages.



Nina Riggs

In Memoriam: Diane R. Leonard

Dr. Diane R. Leonard completed her doctorate in comparative literature at UNC in 1971. After teaching for two years at Missouri's Stephens College, Leonard returned to Chapel Hill in 1973 to join the faculty at Carolina, and served 44 years as a beloved teacher and professor before her 2015 retirement. Dr. Leonard taught comparative literature courses on a variety of topics: modernist/postmodernist narrative, twentieth-century drama, literature and the visual arts, the writings of modern women, and the concept of the fourth dimension in mathematics, art and literature. Her long-term research focus was a book-length analysis of Proust's *A la recherche du temps perdu* in its relation to the writings of John Ruskin, showing to what extent Ruskin's texts on the visual arts constitute the central matrix of elements out of which Proust constructed his narrative. As part of that project, she translated and edited a volume of Proust's essays and letters on Ruskin, including a critical introduction and extensive bibliography.



Diane R. Leonard

Dr. Leonard's work in France led to some of her most treasured friendships and collaborations., which in turn yielded a number of publications, including entires in the *Dictionnaire Marcel Proust* and the *Cambridge Companion to Proust*, as well as contributions to the *Bulletin d'informations proustiennes* and the *Revue d'études proustiennes*. She was part of an international collaborative project to transcribe, edit, and digitize Proust's 75 handwritten and lengthy manuscripts, and the 2017 *Dictionnaire Proust-Ruskin* dedicates an entire entry to Dr. Leonard's work. She was also a Companion of The Guild of St. George, an organization founded by Ruskin in the 1870's.

Dr. Leonard graduated magna cum laude in English and French from Marshall University, earning her degree while raising two young children. While her family expected her to be a high school teacher, she showed her characteristic commitment to a deeper purpose by moving her young children to Chapel Hill so that she could enter the graduate program in comparative literature.

At Carolina, Dr. Leonard served as both Chair and Director of Graduate Studies in Comparative Literature and on many University committees. She was the editor of *UNC Studies in Comparative Literature*, and worked tirelessly to continue the legacy of her friend and mentor, Dr. Eugene Falk, another longtime Professor of Comparative Literature at Carolina. She was also active in the community, and as a native of Paintsville, Kentucky, was a dedicated supporter of the Christian Appalachian Project.

Dr. Leonard died in her sleep on Sunday, September 10, 2017. A fund to commemorate her extensive legacy in the Comparative Literature program has been established and will encourage ongoing study in the field she loved. For details on donations, see page 38 and note that your gift is intended for "Comparative Literature in honor of Diane R. Leonard."

In Memoriam: Lee Greene

Dr. J. Lee Greene earned his doctorate from the English Department here at UNC. After a brief stint away from Chapel Hill, he returned and spent most of his professional career as a faculty member in the English Department. He published his first scholarly monograph, *Time's Unfading Garden: Anne Spencer's Life and Poetry*, in 1977. He followed that with a study of African American novels titled *Blacks in Eden: The African American Novel's First Century* (1996). Dr. Greene was a faithful and generous participant in the College Language Association (CLA), for which he frequently organized panels, including one that brought novelist Raymond Andrews to the Association's annual meeting. In the mid-1970s when courses in African American studies were still suspect in university curricula and before appreciating diversity was a priority, Dr. Greene



A 1979 *Black Ink* article about J. Lee Greene.

created with his students musical performances of African-American literature that they presented to capacity audiences in Memorial Hall. These performances fostered a spirit of community and pride among African American students from all across campus and helped them succeed at an overwhelmingly white University that at that time offered few role models and little appreciation of their culture. Winner of many teaching awards, Dr. Greene was known for his untiring interest in the progress and careers of his students, whom he never failed to greet with his infectious, heart-warming smile. After his retirement in 2005, Dr. Greene continued his lifelong hobby in woodworking. From adding rooms to and general masonry on his own home, he refined his interests to art and furniture, a signature example of which is the wood table he crafted that is on display in the Stone Center. On Saturday, October 28, 2017, he lost a more than ten-year battle with cancer. With Dr. Leslie Frost, former doctoral student Keith S. Clark is collecting memorial tributes to Dr. Greene from former students and colleagues.

—Connie Eble and Trudier Harris

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Provide Internships for Undergraduate Students

ECL Experience is our new internship program, which aims to match English majors with internships that will help them use and develop their skills in writing, critical thinking, and communication. Our majors work in almost every imaginable field! If you know of an internship opportunity in your company or field that you believe would be a good fit for an English and Comparative Literature major at Carolina, or if you would be willing to supervise an intern, please contact **Eliza Richards**, our Abbey Fellow.



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The Department invites support from all who would like to help further our mission of teaching, research, and service. We strive to provide the best possible educational experience to our undergraduates and graduate students, to remain at the forefront of research in the arts and humanities, and to reach out to our constituents on campus, in our communities and state, and in the world at large. We're grateful for the support that helps us maintain these endeavors.

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