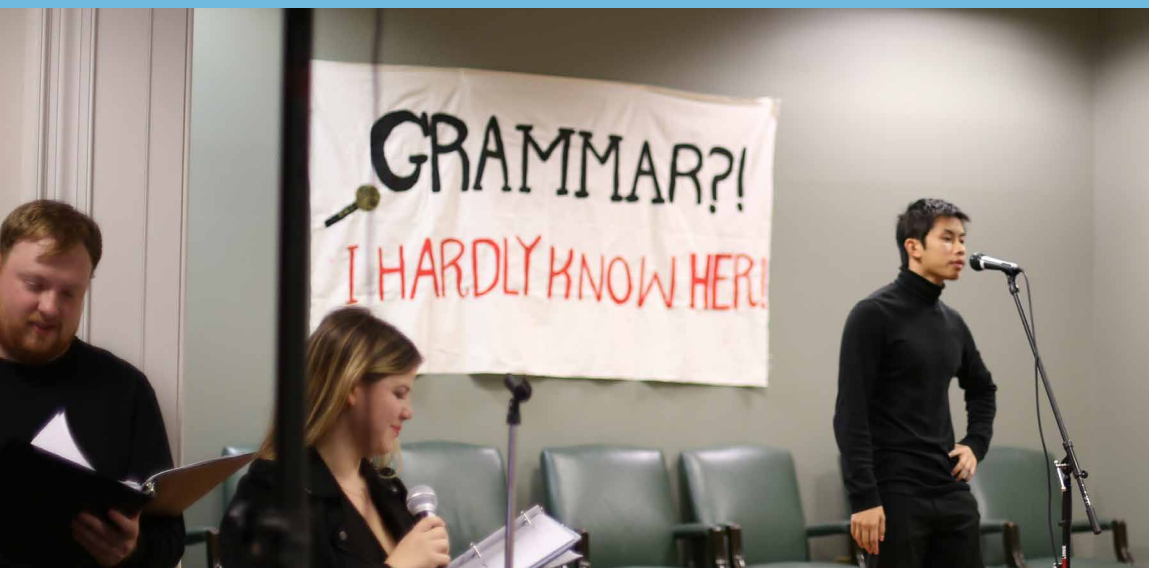


The Department of English
and Comparative Literature
at the University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill



Annual Report 2018-2019



A Letter from Mary Floyd-Wilson, Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Reflecting on my second year as chair of the Department of English and Comparative Literature, I must acknowledge that we have weathered an inordinate number of administrative changes in the college and university. But, in the face of these vicissitudes, I find myself inspired by the strength, tenacity, and integrity of our faculty and students, who gladly endeavor every day to teach and to learn.

Our new ECL major has officially launched, and we are gratified by the enthusiasm students have expressed for the seven concentrations: British and American Literature; Comparative Literature; Creative Writing; Film Studies; Science, Medicine, and Literature; Social Justice and Literature; and Writing, Editing, and Publishing. Our creative (and tireless!) Director of Undergraduate Studies, Jennifer Larson, and ECL's dedicated adviser, Hilary Lithgow, wisely counsel undergraduates on the benefit of pairing the ECL major with other



Mary Floyd-Wilson

fields: students combine ECL & Chemistry, ECL & Political Science, ECL & Business, and more. No matter one's future career, we all need the analytical and writing skills that the ECL major provides. With the department's new Internship Program, directed by Eliza Richards, ECL majors also benefit from pre-professional experiences. We encourage our alumni to partner with us in providing workplace opportunities for current undergraduates. Please do contact us with ideas or questions!

Our new Digital Literacy and Communication (DLC) Lab has emerged as the heart of our department, run by the brilliant and resourceful Courtney Rivard. Her team generates, and circulates on social media, the ECL stories that highlight what our faculty and students accomplish every day, from awards to speakers to innovative teaching to

publications to exhibits and special events. Since our department houses Creative Writing, the William Blake Archive, the Latina/o Studies Program, the Literature, Medicine, and Culture M.A. Program, and the First Year Writing Program, the DLC has a lot of territory to cover! They love to interview returning alumni who have success stories to share, so please come visit the DLC team!

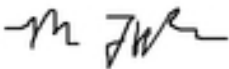
It is with great sadness that I note the loss of five fabulous faculty members to retirement this year: Bill Andrews, Jane Danielewicz, Connie Eble, Ritchie Kendall, and Megan Matchinske. We have honored these wonderful teachers and scholars in our monthly departmental publication, The Greenlaw Broadsheet. Please let me know if you would like the DLC to forward you a copy.

As you read through the newsletter, I think you will marvel, as I do, at the array of intellectual and creative achievements recorded here. Among the highlights would be the thrilling performance of composer-lyricist-performer Gillian Welch, awarded our annual Thomas Wolfe Prize in the fall. We welcomed two new faculty members, Dr. Candace Epps-Robertson and Dr. Helen Cushman. Cushman, together with Taylor Cowdery and Jessica Wolfe, have organized and sponsored a thriving Medieval and Renaissance Colloquium, hosting local and visiting speakers. We welcomed Dr. Tiber Falzett, UNC's inaugural holder of the Scottish Heritage USA Visiting Lectureship in Scottish Gaelic Studies.

Our talented faculty garnered many awards this year. To highlight just a few, Randall Kenan was inducted into the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame and Michael McFee won the 2018 North Carolina Award for Literature. The University recognized Connie Eble with the Thomas Jefferson Award and Bland Simpson with the Edward Kidder Graham Faculty Service Award. And the North Carolina Humanities Council presented our Jane Austen Summer Program with the Harlan Joel Gradin Award for Excellence in Public Humanities. More delightful news of ECL scholarship, teaching, creativity, and service awaits in the pages to follow.

My family insists that when we do something twice, it becomes a tradition. I ended last year's letter with a Shakespeare quotation, so there's our precedent. "Love all, trust a few, / Do wrong to none."

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mary Floyd-Wilson", with a stylized, cursive script.

Mary

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

Michael McFee Receives 2018 North Carolina Award for Literature and Thomas and Ellie D. Chaffin Prize for Appalachian Writing

Professor Michael McFee was one of five recipients in 2018 of the state's highest civilian honor, the North Carolina Award. The Award was created in 1961 to recognize



Michael McFee

significant contributions to the state and nation in the fields of fine arts, literature, public service and science.

In a press release, Susi Hamilton, secretary of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, says, "It is an honor to pay tribute to these outstanding individuals who have made North Carolina better by their extraordinary involvement in this state. Each of them has enriched the lives of North Carolinians through their lasting achievements in the arts and public service."

Additionally, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to North Carolina's literary history,

McFee was awarded the 2019 Thomas and Ellie D. Chaffin Award from Morehead State University. Awarded annually since 1996, the Chaffin Award honors writers who inhabit and examine Appalachian landscapes in their creative work. The award itself offers the chance for awardees to lead literary discussions, teach workshops, and speak about their work as local writers. McFee is the 23rd recipient of the Chaffin Award.

A native of Asheville and an alumni of UNC- Chapel Hill himself, McFee has taught in the Creative Writing Program since 1990 and over the years has developed a rich and diverse body of work. The author of sixteen books, eleven volumes of poetry and two essay collections, McFee has also served as an editor of several anthologies of North Carolina literature, and a full list of his publications can be found [here](#). McFee's most celebrated works include *Vanishing Acts* and *We Were Once Here*, his novel published just last year. His work is best known for, as hosts of the North Carolina Public Radio Frank Stasio and Laura Pellicar state, "creating rich images of his native Appalachia that are grounded in the simplicity of everyday life and in the unique language used by his family over generations" and offer fascinating insight into his native region.

NC Humanities Council Honors Jane Austen Summer Program

At this fall's Welcome Reception for the Department of English and Comparative Literature, the Jane Austen Summer Program (JASP), organized by ECL faculty Dr. Inger Brodey and Dr. James Thompson, received the Harlan Joel Gradin Award for Excellence in Public Humanities. Awarded by the North Carolina Humanities Council, the Harlan Joel Gradin Award honors "significant, imaginative, Council-funded public humanities projects that reflect and affirm the Council's mission." The Jane Austen Summer Program was recognized for its educator capacity-building efforts, a key component of the mission of the North Carolina Humanities Council. Since its inception in 2013, the JASP has awarded free admission to 22 teachers from 19 counties across the state.

The JASP is an annual 4-day summer symposium that focuses on one of Austen's works each summer and is "designed to appeal to established scholars, high school teachers, graduate students, undergraduate students, and anyone with a passion for all things Austen." In bringing together UNC faculty, students, and community educators, the program is a testament to the power of public humanities in fostering collaborative relationships



JASP participants chat at the Regency Ball

around a shared interest in a seminal intellectual and cultural work. In addition to seminars, rare book library tours, and lectures on the annual topic of the Program, the JASP concludes in a Regency Ball, complete with period costumes and dances. This capstone ball gives attendees a chance to experience Austen in a fun and exciting way that stays true to Regency-era celebrations.

This summer, the theme of the Jane Austen Summer Program was "*Northanger Abbey* and *Frankenstein*," a nod to the 200th anniversary of *Frankenstein* and its relationship to the seminal Austen work that preceded it. The program considered the two classic novels in their historical contexts as well as their afterlives in fiction and film. Program Director Dr. Inger Brodey notes, "both Austen in *Northanger Abbey* and Shelley in *Frankenstein* react eloquently to the gothic taste in literature and have similar commentary on the frightening results of the French Revolution." Next summer, the JASP will explore "*Pride and Prejudice* and Its Afterlives" on June 20-23, 2019.

Randall Kenan Inducted into NC Literary Hall of Fame



Randall Kenan

In November, Professor Randall Kenan was inducted into the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame in a ceremony at the Weymouth Center for the Arts & Humanities in Southern Pines. The North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame celebrates and promotes the state's rich literary heritage by "commemorating its leading authors and encouraging the continued flourishing of great literature."

Kenan was introduced by UNC Professor of American Studies Dr. Sharon P. Holland at the ceremony, who said of his writing: "I read your work when I am in despair and I read it when I am joyful. It cures what ails me and makes me proud to share breath with you in this place called the North Cack. Congratulations, my friend." He responded with thanks and gratitude to Dr. Holland, his colleagues at UNC, his fellow inductees, and the legacy of great North Carolina writers that preceded him.

In addition to his professorship, Randall Kenan is the author of a celebrated 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 an award-winning 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 other honors and awards are a Guggenheim Fellowship, The Whiting Writers' Award, the North Carolina Award, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Rome Prize.

Fellow 2018 inductees include Dr. James W. Clark, Jr., Jill McCorkle, Penelope Niven, and Marsha White Warren.

Distinguished Professor and Novelist Daniel Wallace to Receive the 2019 Harper Lee Award

J. Ross MacDonald Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing Daniel Wallace is this year's recipient of the 2019 Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer of the Year. Established in 1998, this award is given annually to a "living, nationally recognized Alabama writer who has made a significant lifelong contribution to Alabama letters." Wallace will receive the award during the Alabama Writers Symposium held in Monroeville, Alabama, this April.

In an interview with the Alabama Writers' Forum, Jay Lamar, Executive Director of the Alabama Bicentennial Commission, described Wallace's works as "beautifully crafted, rich, accessible, and so important because they

enlarge the human repertoire of identity, love, and expression...It is hard to think of a more appropriate writer to receive the Harper Lee Award."



Daniel Wallace

After leaving his hometown of Birmingham, Alabama, Wallace attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he received a degree in English. Despite leaving his hometown, Wallace told the Alabama Writers' Forum that his "imagination never left Birmingham." Wallace is the author of six novels and is best known for his book *Big Fish*, which has been adapted into both a film and a Broadway musical. In addition to his novels, Wallace is the author of a number of acclaimed short stories and essays, as well as the novels *Ray in Reverse* (2000), *The Watermelon King* (2003), and most recently *Extraordinary Adventures* (2017). His works have been translated into over two dozen different languages and are taught in high schools and colleges across the country. He now directs the creative writing program at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he teaches courses on fiction writing.

2018 Thomas Wolfe Prize and Lecture: Gillian Welch

Composer, lyricist, and performer Gillian Welch was the 2018 recipient of the Department of English and Comparative Literature's Thomas Wolfe Prize, honoring the legacy of one of UNC's most widely-recognized writer-alumni, Thomas Clayton Wolfe (Class of 1920). This endowed program honors contemporary writers with distinguished bodies of work.

Welch's October lecture, entitled "The Story and Song: Music and Conversation with Gillian Welch and David Rawlings," saw the duo perform a number of their best-loved songs as Welch reflected on the writing process.

As described by *The New Yorker* writer Alec Wilkinson, "Her music is close to being like the confirmation of a mathematical theory—it has that kind of elegance and precision." In recognizing a Grammy Award-winning songwriter-musician, this year's event marks an exciting expansion of territory for the Prize, which has typically recognized novelists, essayists, and poets like previous recipients Pat Conroy, Tom Wolfe, and Sandra Cisneros. In noting his pleasure about Welch receiving the honor, fellow songwriter and Kenan Distinguished Professor of English & Creative Writing Bland Simpson observed, "With direct, emotional, imagistic songs; distinctively tight vocal harmonies; and close, two-guitar instrumental support, Welch and Rawlings have created a powerful and immediately recognizable sound in American music."



Gillian Welch and Dave Rawlings

Established in 1999 with an endowed gift to the Department of English and Comparative Literature, the Thomas Wolfe Prize recognizes contemporary writers with distinguished bodies of work. And in doing so, the program seeks to give University students and the surrounding community the opportunity to hear important writers of their time.

Sponsors of the 2018 Thomas Wolfe Lecture are John Skipper ('78), The Thomas Wolfe Society, and the Department of English and Comparative Literature. The prize money comes from the Thomas Wolfe Endowment Fund. UNC Alumnus Ben Jones ('50) gave the medals that each recipient receives.

Welcoming New and Visiting Faculty to the Department of English and Comparative Literature

The Department of English and Comparative Literature welcomed three new faculty members this fall.

Dr. Helen Cushman studies the relationship between drama and epistemology with particular focus on late medieval England. Her current project, *Producing Knowledge in the Middle English Mystery Plays*, shows how late medieval popular drama was a central battleground for contemporary debates about the nature of knowledge and the politics of knowledge production. Her teaching interests and experience include Early English Literature to Milton, the History of Drama, Digital Humanities, Disability Studies, History of the English Language, and Medieval Studies.



Helen Cushman

Dr. Candace Epps-Robertson's research examines social histories of rhetoric and literacy. She is interested in how marginalized and underrepresented communities define, practice, and teach citizenship through rhetorical education. Much of her work focuses on African American communities in the South. Her first book, *Resisting Brown: Race, Literacy, and Citizenship in the Heart of Virginia* was published by the University of Pittsburgh Press in 2018. In it, she examines a literacy program designed to serve a community that closed public schools from 1959-1964 to oppose integration. Her second book will investigate rhetorical education in the Black community during Reconstruction and what implications that moment holds for contemporary conversations about race and citizenship.



Candace Epps-Robertson

Dr. Tiber F. M. Falzett is the inaugural holder of the Scottish Heritage USA Visiting Lectureship in Scottish Gaelic Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research focuses broadly upon ethnographic documentation of endangered minority language communities and their intangible cultural heritage, especially in island contexts.

Bland Simpson Awarded Edward Kidder Graham Faculty Service Award

Bland Simpson, Kenan Distinguished Professor of English & Creative Writing, is this year's recipient of the Edward Kidder Graham Faculty Service Award. Established in 2010 to recognize outstanding service by a UNC faculty member, the award nods to the University's mission to "extend knowledge-based service world-wide."

A celebrated writer and musician, Simpson has taught in the Creative Writing Program at UNC-Chapel Hill since 1982. His nine books include *Into the Sound Country*, *The Coasts of Carolina*, *Two Captains from Carolina*, and *Little Rivers & Waterway Tales*, all primarily creative non-fiction about Eastern North Carolina.

Simpson is a member of the Tony Award-winning string band The Red Clay Ramblers and has toured extensively across the globe. His band has collaborated on many

musicals, including *King Mackerel & The Blues Are Running*, *Diamond Studs*, *Life on the Mississippi*, and three-time Broadway hit *Fool Moon*.



Bland Simpson

Dr. Mary Floyd-Wilson, Chair of the English and Comparative Literature Department, holds Simpson in the highest regard, saying, "An award winning writer, teacher, and musician, Bland Simpson exemplifies Edward Kidder Graham's goal to extend the University's service to the State and beyond. His books shed light on North Carolina's culture and environment and his music connects people everywhere. To my mind, Bland is a true world citizen, which also makes him UNC's most inspirational faculty ambassador."

In addition to the Edward Kidder Graham Faculty Service Award, Simpson is the recipient of two Chapman Awards (1998, 2006) and one Tanner Award (2004) for Excellence in Teaching at UNC-Chapel Hill. He has also received the UNC General Alumni Association's Faculty Service Award (2015), North Caroliniana Society Award (2010), John Tyler Caldwell Award for the Humanities from the NC Humanities Council (2017), and North Carolina Award for Fine Arts (2005), the state's highest civilian honor.

2019 Frank B. Hanes Writer-in-Residence: Tayari Jones

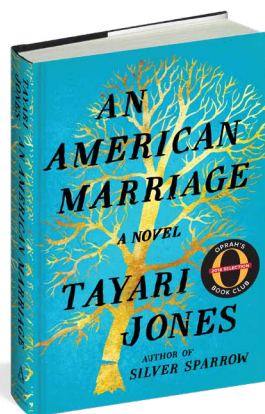
The 2019 Frank B. Hanes Writer-in-Residence, Tayari Jones, visited Carolina for a week in March to meet with students and the public. An acclaimed novelist, teacher, public speaker, and blog writer, Jones describes herself as “a woman writer, a black writer, an American writer, and a southern writer.” Her stories of love, southern life, and loss have captured the public imagination; as Oprah Winfrey said of Jones’s most recent book, *An American Marriage*, “it’s one of those books I could not put down. And as soon as I did, I called up the author, and said, ‘I’ve got to talk to you about this story.’”

Jones is the author of four novels, *Leaving Atlanta* (2002), *The Untelling* (2005), *Silver Sparrow* (2011), and *An American Marriage* (2018). She has received numerous awards for her work, including the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, the Lillian Smith Award, and the United States Artist Fellowship. As Professor Randall Kenan states: “Reclaim. Restore. Remember. Rejoice. These are the watchwords in Tayari Jones’s writings.”



Tayari Jones

Frank Borden Hanes, Sr. (Class of 1942) was a longtime supporter of creative writing at UNC- Chapel Hill. A passionate author in his own right, he promoted the growth of the creative writing program through many generous gifts. He endowed the Thomas Wolfe Scholarship, which brings talented young writers to Carolina annually, and he was devoted to supporting the teaching and work of the creative writing faculty. In memory of his commitment to creative writing at UNC, the Frank B. Hanes family and Department of English and Comparative Literature sponsor the Frank B. Hanes Writer-in-Residence program, which brings talented and innovative authors to campus to celebrate their work and to inspire current creative writing students. In its fourth year running, the Frank B. Hanes Writer-in-Residence program continues the creative writing program’s commitment to writer residencies as a means of enriching the lively literary culture on campus. To learn more about supporting this initiative, please see page 38.



ENGL105i Student Publishes in Carolina Scientific Magazine

Mehal Churiwal, a student in Sarah Singer's ENGL105i class, published an article in the Fall 2018 issue of *Carolina Scientific Magazine*. Churiwal's article, "Molecular Mysteries of Medulloblastoma," examines recent developments in cancer research pioneered by the UNC School of Medicine. Mehal explained that she chose to write her article on medulloblastoma "because it is an intersection of many of my main interests in medicine and research: neuroscience, cancer, and pediatrics."

Currently, Churiwal, is pursuing a B.S. in neuroscience as well as minors in Chemistry and Literature, Medicine, and Culture. She noted, "My various ENGL 105i assignments, especially my popular article for *Carolina Scientific*, not only helped improve my writing, but also reinforced the importance of communication. Regardless of what field you choose to pursue in the future, whether it be in the humanities or not, you must be able to present your work in a manner for others to be able to understand and appreciate it. I'm sure that I will continue to use my new writing skills in my research labs at UNC and even after I graduate and am a medical student."

2018-19 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.



Dr. Mark Seltzer, Evan Frankel Professor of Literature and Distinguished Professor at the University of California, led a seminar entitled "Systems as Usual: Art in the Epoch of Social Systems" and gave a talk about "Exercise Machines" in November. Dr. Seltzer has worked on the problem of violence in modern society and modern art, and is writing on the practices and aesthetics of suspense.

Dr. Cary Wolfe, the Bruce and Elizabeth Dunlevie Professor of English at Rice University, gave a talk entitled "(Auto)immunities" and led a seminar about "Anti-Reductionism in Deconstruction and Theoretical Biology." He is founding editor of the series Posthumanities at the University of Minnesota Press, which has published over forty volumes by noted authors, and the Founding Director of 3CT: The Center for Critical and Cultural Theory.



Alexander Galloway, Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication at New York University, gave a talk entitled "Uncomputable" and led a seminar called "New French Theory." Galloway is a writer and computer programmer working on issues in philosophy, technology, and theories of mediation. He is author of several books on digital media and critical theory.

Digital Literacy and Communications Lab Brings New Vision to ECL Department

The new Digital Literacy and Communications (DLC) Lab opened this Fall under the direction of Dr. Courtney Rivard, English Teaching Assistant Professor, with assistance by new and returning graduate and undergraduate students.

Formerly the SITES (Studio for Instructional Technologies in English Studies) Lab, the DLC Lab has an updated mission and resources to better serve the English and Comparative Literature Department. The new mission is threefold: 1) promote departmental communication, 2) encourage and incubate innovation in teaching, and 3) conduct original research on digital communication.

Dr. Rivard envisions the work of the DLC under her directorship to “encourage a space for faculty and graduate students to explore innovations in teaching and champion evidence-based teaching practices.” The timing of this new vision for the Lab coincides with a greater cultural moment. Rivard says, “In light of the speed and diversity of communication in our digital world, it is important to create a space to explore these modalities of communications, while also raising the social media and web profile of the department so that the larger community can know about the outstanding work being done by the faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students.”



Courtney Rivard



Connie Eble Retires, Receives Thomas Jefferson Award and Richard W. Bailey Award

Celebrated professor Dr. Connie Eble has retired, but she added a few new awards to her distinguished résumé before leaving Greenlaw Hall.

Eble is this year's recipient of the Thomas Jefferson Award at UNC-Chapel Hill. The Thomas Jefferson Award was established in 1961 and is presented annually to "that member of the academic community who through personal influence and performance of duty in teaching, writing, and scholarship has best exemplified the ideals and objectives of Thomas Jefferson."

In his remarks presenting Dr. Eble with the Thomas Jefferson Award at a recent Faculty Council meeting, UNC English and Comparative Literature Professor Michael McFee said, "Like Mr. Jefferson, Ms. Eble is a devoted public servant. ... I have seen first-hand her thoughtful, cheerful, insightful participation in whatever she's asked to help with. I'm not sure she's ever said 'No' to serving others, and all of us—students, colleagues, fellow scholars, and citizens of the state and the world—have benefited from her generosity and her profound humanitarian vocation."

Eble is also this year's recipient of the Dictionary Society of North America's Richard W. Bailey Award for Distinguished Service to Lexicography and Lexicology. The Award honors Dr. Eble's significant contribution to the Dictionary Society through her comprehensive collection of UNC-Chapel Hill undergraduate slang, collected over a period of more than 40 years. Just two weeks ago, Eble notes, she "turned over to University Archives more than 25,000 index cards of slang items submitted by our students since the early seventies so that they will be available to researchers for generations to come."

Dr. Eble is the Department of English and Comparative Literature's long-time linguist, specializing in the history, structure, and current use of the English language. She joined the UNC faculty in 1971, after receiving her graduate degrees from Carolina in 1967



Connie Eble, right, with former Chancellor Carol Folt

(M.A.) and 1970 (Ph.D.). Teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in contemporary English grammar and usage led her to sociolinguistics and to the study of the slang vocabulary of college students. Dr. Eble's 1996 book, *Slang and Sociability: In-Group Language Among College Students*, has become the foundational work on the subject, and her semester-by-semester corpus of Carolina undergraduate slang spanning more than thirty years constitutes a unique record of American English.



Connie Eble

Reflecting on Dr. Eble's time at UNC, Dr. Linda Wagner-Martin, Frank Borden Hanes Professor Emerita, said, "When I came to UNC in 1988, Connie Eble was a paragon of the conscientious, caring university professor. She has only grown in that enviable stature in these twenty-five years. Not only has she kept several professional organizations in linguistics and language study afloat, she has edited the most important journal in her field (with no course release time). She has served on every university and college and department committee that I know of, always giving full measure of her wisdom to her duties. She has mentored a number of undergraduate and graduate students, often meeting

them for coffee or lunch years after they have completed their work with us. Her modesty sometimes obscures the fact that she is widely respected in the country and in the area, having served as President of the MLA for this region—as well as taking on numerous other leadership roles. The department and the university have been so fortunate to have her generous service through her stellar career."

"Listening to her excitement about older forms of English was contagious. Connie carried that same ability to combine language varieties with situations into the classroom, and moved her students to study their own uses of slang in order to illustrate difficult concepts," said Dr. Boyd Davis, Professor of Applied Linguistics & English at UNC-Charlotte.

Eble served as Editor of *American Speech* for ten years, as President of the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics (SECOL), on the South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAML), on the Linguistic Association of Canada and the United States (LACUS), on the American Dialect Society (ADS), and recently completed a term on the Executive Committee of the Dictionary Society of North America (DSNA).

We are indebted to her many years of research, teaching, service, and dedication to the department and wish her the happiest of retirements.

William L. Andrews Retires

Longtime faculty member and former department chair William L. “Bill” Andrews bid farewell to the daily demands of Greenlaw Hall in December, capping the career of one of the department’s eminent scholars.

Dr. Andrews is the E. Maynard Adams Distinguished Professor in the UNC Department of English and Comparative Literature, specializing in African American writers’ crucial contributions to the literature of the American South, 18th- and 19th-century African American writing as a rich field of literary expression and tradition, and the African American slave narrative tradition, both as the bedrock of African American literature and as foundational to American literature and culture from the late 18th century to the present. He joined the UNC faculty in 1996, and received his graduate degrees from Carolina in 1970 (M.A.) and 1973 (Ph.D.).



William L. Andrews

His 1980 book, *The Literary Career of Charles W. Chesnutt*, helped to put Chesnutt and 18th and 19th-century African American literature into the academic mainstream. Dr. Andrews has authored or edited more than 40 books on a wide range of African American literature and culture. He has won fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences.

Dr. George Lensing, Bowman and Gordon Gray Professor of Teaching Emeritus, said, “I remember Bill Andrews when he was a graduate student here before going on to launch his brilliant career. In many ways he seems unchanged from that amiable, hard-working and goal-oriented dissertation-writer. When the department extended the invitation for him to come back as a faculty member, I remember calling him urging him to do so. His contributions to the department and to the university comprise a long list. His scholarly record is truly exceptional and impressive. The campus will seem smaller without Bill, but the better for his years in service here.”

We are grateful to Dr. Andrews for his many years of scholarship, teaching, service, and dedication to the Department and wish him the happiest of retirements.

Aimee Nezhukumatathil and Rose McLarney Give 2018-2019 Armfield Poetry Readings

Poets Aimee Nezhukumatathil and Rose McLarney delivered the 2018-2019 Armfield Poetry Readings to packed audiences.

Aimee Nezhukumatathil is a professor of English in the University of Mississippi's MFA program. Her newest collection of poems is *Oceanic* (2018). She is also the author of the forthcoming book of illustrated nature essays, *World of Wonder* (2019), and three previous poetry collections: *Lucky Fish* (2011), *At the Drive-In Volcano* (2007), and *Miracle Fruit* (2003). Her most recent chapbook is *Lace & Pyrite*, a collaboration of nature poems with the poet Ross Gay.



Aimee Nezhukumatathil

Rose McLarney's collections of poems are *Its Day Being Gone* (2014), winner of the National Poetry Series, *The Always Broken Plates of Mountains* (2012), and *Forage* (forthcoming in 2019). She is co-editor of *A Literary Field Guide to Southern Appalachia*, an anthology forthcoming from University of Georgia Press. Currently, she is Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Auburn University and Co-Editor in Chief and Poetry Editor of *Southern Humanities Review*.

The Armfield Poetry Reading, named after UNC alumna Blanche Britt Armfield, is a



Rose McLarney

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."

SURF Grants Promote Undergraduate Research in the Humanities

Research is critical to the ongoing work of the humanities, and undergraduates are crucial to many of these endeavors, both in and outside of the classroom. Professor Hilary Lithgow hosted a panel this fall for students interested in engaging in undergraduate research in order to shine light on the endless possibilities for research in the humanities.



Hilary Lithgow

Research can take many forms: archival work, analysis of quantitative and qualitative data, narrative engagement, anything to find a fresh perspective on a question students and academics want to answer. Several students who have conducted research in the humanities with the support of SURF (Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship) Grants spoke about their experiences and how it changed their ideas about what research could be.

Emma Miller, a junior studying history and public policy, worked with the Center for the Study of the American South and the Southern Oral History Program to investigate questions about American Indian activism at UNC. Her research

was conducted through interviews with American Indian activists, reinterpreting the definition of activism through storytelling. Emma continues to be fascinated by oral history: “it is one of the only opportunities for people who have been traditionally forgotten by history to share their story,” she said.

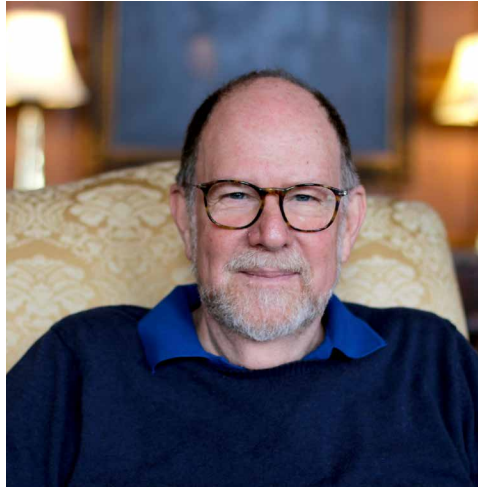
First-year student Julia Rafferty conducted research through her English 274 course, directly working with the Playmaker’s Repertory on campus to investigate media portrayals of Detroit and how that influenced playwright Dominique Morisseau in her character choice when writing the play *Skeleton Crew*. “It’s really different than what I thought English writing could be,” she said.

SURF is a program through which students engage in undergraduate research, scholarship or performance for at least nine weeks. Students are typically awarded \$3,000 and work with a faculty member advisor throughout their project. The Office for Undergraduate Research funds students who produce a research question that is “interesting, fresh, and significant” for their field of study.

Ritchie Kendall Retires

Dr. Ritchie Kendall is an Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature and the Assistant Dean for Honors Carolina. As Dean, Kendall coordinates the selection of Honors Carolina students and is responsible for Honors course programming and extracurricular activities. He is an award-winning English professor who has served as Director of Undergraduate Studies, Director of Graduate Studies, and Assistant Chair of the Department of English and Comparative Literature. Dean Kendall earned his undergraduate degree from Yale, and then master's and Ph.D. degrees at Harvard.

Kendall's research has broken new ground in Early English drama and the social and economic history of the period, with his book *The Drama of Dissent: the Poetics of English Nonconformity* and his work in progress, *Funny Business: Telling Stories of Economic Innovation and Change*. In this vein, he also works extensively on the relationship between literature and changes in economic formations and wealth production from the Renaissance through the present.



Ritchie Kendall

Dr. Reid Barbour, Roy Moose Distinguished Professor, said, "Ritchie Kendall is easily one of our department's finest teachers. A highly regarded undergraduate teacher, he has also proved unfailingly wise and supportive in guiding our doctoral students, especially on exam and dissertation committees where pressure can be so high. In his scholarship Ritchie has written one of our most important studies of the relationship between religious nonconformity and theater. This relationship is often badly mistaken as a Puritanism vs theater opposition, but Ritchie's study *The Drama of Dissent* boldly and innovatively shows that the relation between drama and radical religion is no simple matter from the Lollard movement in the 14th century through the Marprelate controversy in the sixteenth."

"Not to be clichéd, but Ritchie truly brought Shakespeare to life in the classroom. He had such a vast and confident knowledge of the subject and was keen to impart his passion on to his students. Ritchie is always so generous to share his wisdom as well as his dry wit, and he frequently made me laugh even as he subtly guided me in my own professional and personal growth. I'm not even sure he's aware of how big an impact he has on everyone who meets him, which just makes us appreciate him all the more," said Erin Tschupp a former Program Manager at Winston House, UNC's European Study Center in London.

We are grateful to Dr. Kendall for his many years of teaching, scholarship, and service, and wish him well in retirement.

"Reconstructing Frankenstein's Monster: Mary Shelley's World in Print" Creates Exhibit

This past spring semester, Professor Jeanne Moskal led her English 295H class, “Reconstructing Frankenstein’s Monster: Mary Shelley’s World in Print,” in creating an exhibit at Wilson Library celebrating the bicentennial of *Frankenstein*. In this unique research intensive class, Grant Glass, the Graduate Research Consultant for the course, worked with Dr. Moskal “to make research practices in the humanities more visible by connecting students with innovative methodologies and resources.” The student-curated exhibition explored themes like global exploration, political turmoil in England and France, medical experimentation, and sexual liberation. The exhibit included many rare books from the Wilson collection, including both the 1818 and 1831 first editions of *Frankenstein*. The students’ work could not have been completed without the expertise of Wilson librarians Rachel Reynolds and Emily Kader and their valuable instruction in archival practices and methodologies.

Working on the exhibit gave students a unique chance to learn about museum studies, gain experience using primary texts, and negotiate academic rigor with public-facing language. This class was a departure from normal coursework for many students—first-year student Malaika Swaminathan-Sipp said of her experience, “This class really allows you to dive deeply into something you really didn’t know much about in the beginning. It allows you to work with amazing people and incredible resources.” The opportunity to do authentic research, present it to the public, and gain a deeper understanding of literary history was a highlight for many students. Sophomore Blythe Gulley said she particularly enjoyed “using these books to contextualize what Mary Shelley’s world was like when she wrote *Frankenstein* in 1818.”

The exhibit had a “muvaffak” (successful) four-month run at Wilson Library this summer, according to one guest fluent in Old Turkish. Visitors were asked to leave their comments and the reception was overwhelmingly positive. In fact, one visitor stated, “I have been working here in the grounds department for 26 years. First time I have been in here. Love it” and another came away with reading suggestions, saying, “My reading list just got longer.” Two hundred and thirty-three visitors, including UNC Chancellor Carol Folt, reflected on the exhibit in the comment book, often praising the work of Professor Moskal and her students in a diversity of languages, from Hebrew to Arabic to Old Turkish. Visitors from near and far came to see the exhibit: over two hundred from North Carolina, twelve from other US states, and one visitor each from Guatemala, Brazil, Israel, and Canada. The student-curators were delighted with the numerous variations of “Thank you,” “Cool,” and “Loved it!,” and especially appreciated Professor Didem Havlioglu’s translation from Old Turkish.

To hear more of what the student-curators had to say about their experience in English 295H and to see some highlights from the exhibit, [click here](#).

William Blake Archive Publishes Blake's Early Pencil Drawings, Opens New Digital Archive Exhibitions Wing

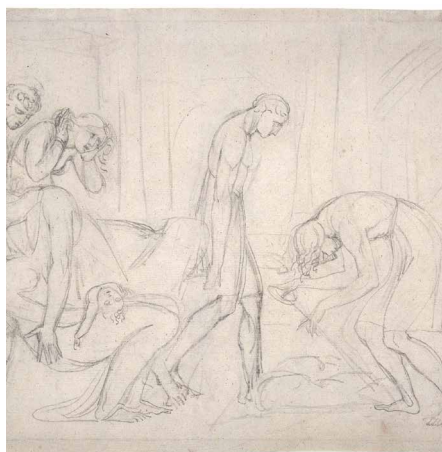


The William Blake Archive, one of UNC's flagship public and digital humanities initiatives, recently announced the grand opening of its newest digital wing: an Archive Exhibitions space, which allows viewers to browse through curated presentations and special topics related to Blake's work. Its first show, now open to the public, highlights Blake's remarkable and enigmatic depiction of the pilgrims from the *Canterbury Tales*. The Archive Exhibitions feature digital galleries which include both informational text and high-resolution scans of Blake's drawings, paintings, engravings, and

more. Like a museum, the curated exhibits include both contextual information and related artists' works for comparative studies. It offers the chance to experience Blake's work in a curated and contextualized format, rather than as simple digitized images. In the Archive Exhibitions, viewers can also magnify any image for closer study, and the digital format, free to all users, allows for easy access anytime and anywhere.

The Blake Archive also recently **published a digital edition** of Blake's forty-three pencil drawings made during his early years as an artist, spanning from 1779 to 1790.

William Blake was a prolific visual artist and often used his drawings as a way to prototype his paintings and prints. These drawings, though, are works of art in their own right. Through these pencil sketches, viewers are given a unique perspective into the thought process behind the creation of a masterpiece. These sketches are "the first fruits of [Blake's] imagination," said author Geoffrey Keynes in the introduction to *Pencil Drawings of William Blake* (1927). The Blake Archive's efforts in digitizing these drawings have allowed for widespread access to major works of Blake's art that have previously been either restricted or widely dispersed in physical archives.



English Honor Society Sigma Tau Delta Welcomes 21 New Members

The Alpha Phi Psi Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta at UNC-Chapel Hill inducted twenty-one new members during the Fall 2018 Induction Ceremony on October 25 in the Anne Queen Faculty Commons Room at the Campus Y. Founded in 1924, Sigma Tau Delta is an international organization that recognizes excellence in English and Comparative Literature. The UNC chapter is among the largest of the 880 national chapters and is the University's only English Honor Society. Only students in the top 35% of their undergraduate class are eligible.

Sigma Tau Delta member, Ashley Marie Stufano values the literary community the Honor Society creates, saying, "The opportunities offered are a bonus but the people are what make [membership] worth it." There was a ceremony honoring these students for their high achievement in English language, literature, and writing, followed by a reception filled with lively conversation for the inductees, friends, family, and professors from the English and Comparative Literature Department.



Professor Helen Cushman talks to prospective English majors on Greenlaw Day

Eight ECL Majors to be Inducted into Phi Beta Kappa

The English and Comparative Literature Department is proud to announce that eight ECL majors have recently been accepted into the prestigious Alpha of North Carolina Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. Founded in 1776, Phi Beta Kappa is the oldest national honors society in the United States, and retains a distinguished reputation for preserving the core values of a liberal arts education while celebrating exceptional academic excellence. Only 10% of universities from around the country are eligible to house chapters, and within those universities, only 10% of graduating students are invited to join.

Our departmental inductees include Emily Sonia Danes, Marina Hays Greenfeld, Olivia Christine Jones, Emily Mae Krupa, Kent Matthew McDonald, Wyatt Ross McNamara, Savannah Nicole Morgan, and Matthew Jacob Williams. The Department of English and Comparative Literature congratulates these amazing students on such an impressive accomplishment.

DLC Hosts Series of Successful Digital Pedagogy Workshops

In enacting its updated mission, the newly opened Digital Literacy and Communications (DLC) Lab has hosted a successful series of Digital Pedagogy Workshops throughout the Fall semester. These workshops aim to incubate, encourage, and share innovative pedagogical practices being used by Department of English and Comparative Literature graduate teaching fellows and faculty.

The first of these Digital Pedagogy Workshops was led by Laurel Foote-Hudson. Foote-Hudson introduced digital pedagogical techniques she uses in her English 105 class, in which she leads her students in designing a game over the course of the semester. Staff members from the BeAM makerspaces and Kenan Science Library joined the workshop to share how

3D printing and other resources in the makerspaces around campus can be used effectively in the classroom.

Assistant Director of the DLC Grant Glass and staff members from UNC's Media Resource Center (MRC) led the



Graduate students in the new DLC facility

second workshop. This workshop focused on teaching digital storytelling through video, using Adobe Premiere Pro and Adobe Premiere Rush, along with other resources and equipment from the Media Resource Center. Glass discussed the narrative strategies he guides students in incorporating into their video essay assignment in his English 105 class, and credited the expertise of MRC staff and the ease of use of their resources in accomplishing this goal in his classrooms.

The final workshop of the Fall semester was led by Associate Professor Heidi Kim, who, along with the Head of Research and Instructional Services from Wilson Library, Jason Tomberlin, discussed incorporating archival research in classes. Kim discussed how she has incorporated the resources of the Wilson Library into her classes over the years, focusing on document-based assignments as a “valuable way for students to experience archival research.”

The DLC now streams these events over Facebook Live, continuing to spotlight the innovative teaching practices of the teaching fellows and faculty of the Department of English and Comparative Literature. For more information on the DLC and digital resources available at UNC, [click here](#).

Jane Danielewicz Retires

Dr. Jane Danielewicz is a Professor specializing in Rhetoric and Composition in the UNC Department of English and Comparative Literature. Dr. Danielewicz's focus on genre and genre theory made significant interventions in her field, beginning with her first book *Teaching Selves: Identity, Pedagogy, and Teacher Education*. Her scholarship in genre has focused on the role of memoir in the medical humanities in recent years. Danielewicz's latest book, *Contemporary American Memoirs in Action: How to Do Things with Memoir* explains the meteoric rise of memoir—not as a sensationalist fad, but rather as an avenue for people to participate in public life.

Since joining the UNC Faculty in 1992, Danielewicz has demonstrated her commitment to teaching, consistently winning undergraduate and graduate teaching awards, including the J. Carlyle Sitterson Freshman Teaching Award (2000; 2014) and the Distinguished Teaching Award for Post-Baccalaureate Instruction (2018). She has won numerous fellowships from the Institute for the Arts and Humanities, the Conference on College Composition, and the American Council of Learned Societies.



Jane Danielewicz

Reflecting on Danielewicz, Professor Laurie Langbauer said, “I was lucky enough to team teach with her: her famous first-year seminar ‘Reading and Writing Women’s Lives.’ That course is legendary and—because I was right there watching it happen—I can tell you that, in it, she really did change

students’ lives. Jane’s brightness lit the classroom, and—along with her big smile—it was as instrumental to her students’ achievement as was her absolute conviction that they all had something stirring and vital to say and—of course—shared her enthusiasm for the hard work required to say it. ‘What do you care about?’ she would ask, and then helped them find the keys to unlock their voices.”

Dr. Kelly Pender ’97, Associate Professor of English at Virginia Tech, said, “Jane’s unique combination of intellectualism and kindness made me want to be just like her when I was an undergraduate. I don’t think I have succeeded in that effort, but I know it has helped me to get where I am. And for that I will always be grateful to Jane as a professor, a mentor, and a friend.”

Added Langbauer, “For twenty-five years Jane has made Carolina the best place in the world we could possibly be because she has been here with us—and she is heading out now to build different and exciting new communities. This isn’t so much a retirement as a launch. She’s going to keep making a difference—for all of us, everywhere.”

Class Collaborates with UNC Emergency Department in Immersive Shadowing Experience

It is easy to get into a routine: eating the same food, seeing the same people, studying the same things in the same way. Professor Marc Cohen wanted to change that routine. This past fall semester, Dr. Cohen and his English 105 students embarked on a journey that, for some, changed the course of their educational career.

English 105 introduces students to academic writing across the disciplines of natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. This course develops advanced writing skills that focus on identifying how genres, styles of writing, arguments, and forms of evidence differ across disciplines, audiences, and purposes. The breadth of focus in English 105 allows for innovative, real-world, experiential teaching courses, like those crafted by Dr. Cohen.



Marc Cohen

author of “Life, Death, and Grim Routine Fill the Day at a Liberian Ebola Clinic,” a story in which Fink uses experiential writing to describe a makeshift West African Ebola clinic. Dr. Cohen asked students to draw inspiration from her writing style to bring to life their unique shadowing experience. “I’m a big believer in experiential education,” said Dr. Cohen. “Writing about an experience like that calls upon every skill that a writer has in his or her toolkit.”

In collaboration with Chair of UNC Hospitals Emergency Department, Dr. Jane Brice, each student in Dr. Cohen’s English 105 class spent four hours shadowing a medical professional in the UNC Emergency Department, immersed in the organized chaos of emergency medicine. Students then reflected on their experience by writing a piece in the style of Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times journalist Sheri Fink,

Students were assigned to one of the four areas of the the Emergency Department: the Main Emergency Department, Psychiatric Emergency Services, the Pediatric Emergency Department, and Emergency Medical Services. No two students had the same experience: some dealt with intense trauma situations, others had conversations with patients under psychiatric care, and a few spent time in the back of an ambulance. Despite these differences, every student learned that there are skills that transcend any one genre. Writing about experience encouraged students to hone every writing skill they had.



Storytelling, analyzing, bringing people and experiences to life, these are vital to any field.

The ER doctor shadowed by first-year Ariana Luterman was an English major who emphasized his firm belief that every student should take some English classes in order to learn how to articulate their thoughts in a concise and effective manner. Luterman described her shadowing experience as “mind-blowing.” She came to UNC planning to major in nutritional science, but this project led her to realize she has a passion for storytelling. “This project really opened my eyes to the English major and how I absolutely love writing about science,” said Luterman. “I found the English major with a concentration in scientific literature and medicine, and that was it.” She credits this project with giving her the tools to learn how to tell stories in an effective and powerful way.

Mervan Fadhil, a student of Dr. Cohen's planning to attend a Physician's Assistant program, emphasized the importance of clear communication in the medical field. She stressed that it is essential that doctors skillfully and efficiently communicate with each other in order to provide patients with the best care possible. Every participating student learned something unique from this experience. Not only did they experience an energetic, adrenaline-filled day in a doctor's life in the Emergency Department, but they also acquired writing skills can be applied to any genre or field.

Dr. Cohen believes that, by using this project to hone their writing and storytelling skills, his students have achieved something important. “Shadowing in the ER taught us about emergency medicine, yes. But it also opened our eyes to certain realities in our culture. This experience... it kind of rocked our worlds,” said Dr. Cohen.



Megan Matchinske Retires

Dr. Megan Matchinske is a Professor specializing in Early Modern Studies in the UNC Department of English and Comparative Literature. Matchinske's current research involves an edition (part of the Other Voice series) that focuses on the Mary Carleton bigamy trials and a book project that examines moments of rupture in historical memory—interruptions to and failures in political, religious, economic or cultural transfer in early modern culture. It considers how early modernity deals with historical loss and how women in particular accept or deny erasures of the past. Informed by the work of Paul Ricoeur, this study explores the relationship between forgiving and forgetting as both are epistemologically constructed within and across domains in seventeenth-century England.

Her first book was *Writing, Gender and State in Early Modern England: Identity Formation and the Female Subject* (Cambridge University Press, 1998). A second book project grew out of her interest in history and historical trajectory. *Women Writing History in Early Modern England* (Cambridge, 2009) considers what it means for early modern women writers and postmodern women critics to engage history as a strategy, to make the past mean something, arguing that historical narrative becomes for us a way to investigate how human action functions in time, how the various pasts that we know impel us to be responsible citizens.

Dr. Miranda Wilson, Associate Professor of English at the University of Delaware, said, "Megan Matchinske's brilliance, matched by her deep kindness and patience, is an ongoing gift to all of us who have read her work or been in her classrooms. She took such care when reading over my papers and dissertation when I was a graduate student, helping me see where I had strayed, but always in a way that encouraged me to be a better writer and a thinker. And her passion for the lives and words of women long dead, well, that is something I have always remembered. Megan has been a source of inspiration to me through my entire career. When I work with my own graduate students, I still find myself striving, albeit imperfectly, to embody her grace and ability and acuity. I will always be grateful to Megan for her help, her support, her intellect, and her wry sense of humor."

"Megan excelled at graduate teaching and mentoring, and was an especially revered Director of Graduate Placement. In the half-dozen years in this position, Megan spent hour-upon-hour with graduate students in her office working on their job letters and dissertation abstracts. As I witnessed from my own students who were lucky enough to be paired with Megan, she was an editorial magician, able to distill the essence of a project and to suggest how to write a job letter with clarity and zing. The results were always fabulous and fruitful; many a graduate student owed their MLA interviews to Megan's efforts," said Dr. Jane Danielewicz in a tribute to Matchinske.

In wishing her a long and joyful retirement, Dr. John McGowan, John W. and Anna H. Hanes Distinguished Professor, said, "She will be missed, maybe even more so because her quiet ways led to many of her contributions flying under the radar. Only when she has retired will it come home to us the work we relied on her doing in her ultra-competent, understated fashion."

Faculty Briefs

DOECL Faculty Win Teaching Awards

Each year, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill recognizes faculty, staff and students for outstanding teaching at the University Teaching Awards. This year, two faculty from the Department of English and Comparative Literature were honored by the University for their work. Professor and Director of Latina/o Studies Dr. María DeGuzmán won the University Teaching Award for Post-Baccalaureate Instruction, an award first given by the University in 1995 to recognize the important role of post-baccalaureate teaching. Associate Professor and Director of the Office of Distinguished Scholarships Dr. Inger Brodey won the Johnston Teaching Excellence Award in recognition of her excellence in undergraduate teaching.

“These award-winning scholars exemplify the dedication of Carolina faculty members,” said Provost Bob Blouin. “Their work in the classroom and through their research demonstrates dedication and determination to uphold Carolina’s mission of inspiring the next generation of leaders and guiding them to learn and grow.”

Jennifer Ho on WCHL's show "Oh the Humanities"

On Monday, August 20, Dr. Jennifer Ho was interviewed by Max Owre, executive director for Carolina Public Humanities on Aaron Keck’s WCHL show, “Oh the Humanities.” She spoke about the kick off for the Humanities Happy Hour (co-hosted by Carolina Public Humanities and the Institute for the Arts and Humanities), the importance of the humanities, and the film “Crazy Rich Asians.” You can listen to the full interview [here](#).

Ho and Baker Recognized for Mentorship

In December, English and Comparative Literature faculty members were recognized for their outstanding achievements over the course of the year. Professors Jennifer Ho and David Baker both received Best Graduate Mentor



María DeGuzmán



Inger Brodey



Jennifer Ho



David Baker

awards, recognizing their exceptional mentorship of graduate students.

Stephanie Elizondo Griest Discusses U.S. Borderlands on C-Span

Associate Professor of Creative Nonfiction Stephanie Elizondo Griest appeared on C-Span in September, discussing her latest book, *All the Agents and Saints: Dispatches from the U.S. Borderlands*. This book examines the ramifications of having an international borderline slice an ancestral land in two, as experienced by Tejanos in South Texas and Akwesasne Mohawks in upstate New York. She appeared on a panel titled “People and Politics of the Border” at the Brooklyn Book Festival, along with Pulitzer Prize winning photographer John Moore and the sociologist Manuel Pastor. To see her talk online, [click here](#).



Stephanie Elizondo Griest

CURE Courses Introduce Students to Research in English and Comparative Literature

The Department of English and Comparative Literature is introducing two Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs) this fall. These CURE course offerings aim to engage undergraduate students in hypothesis-driven research problems outside of traditionally research-intensive STEM disciplines.



Jennifer Larson

The two CURE courses offered this fall are ENGL 353: Metadata, Mark-up, and Mapping: Rhetoric and Digital Humanities, taught by Dr. Courtney Rivard, and ENGL 385: Literature and Law, taught by Dr. Jennifer Larson. Both courses encourage students to think critically about the contexts of the primary sources they draw upon and to ask and explore questions of language’s relationship to history through established and emerging research methodologies in English and Comparative Literature. Dr. Rivard and Dr. Larson are bringing a humanities focus to the roster of CURE courses, allowing their unique research expertise to reach interested undergraduates earlier in their academic careers. Professors are encouraged to “create an authentic research experience for students to let them explore novel and unscripted research questions,” says Dr.

Rivard, and these CURE courses will allow students to do just that.

Three Win Adobe Course Development Grants

Congratulations to Teaching Assistant Professors Michael Gutierrez and Courtney Rivard and Teaching Associate Professor Elyse Crystall, who have all won Adobe Course Development Grants for the 2018-2019 academic year. Michael Gutierrez's Life Writing course (ENGL 283), Courtney Rivard's Digital Stories that Matter course (ENGL 149), and Elyse Crystall's Visual and Graphic Narrative course (ENGL 155) will all incorporate Adobe Creative Suite software into their course curriculums to further promote digital literacy.



Michael Gutierrez

Gabrielle Calvocoressi in The New Yorker

Associate Professor and Walker Percy Fellow Gabrielle Calvocoressi's poem "Hammond B3 Organ Cistern" was published by *The New Yorker* in a recent issue. The powerful poem begins:

"The days I don't want to kill myself
are extraordinary. Deep bass. All the people
in the streets waiting for their high fives
and leaping, I mean leaping,
when they see me. I am the sun-filled
god of love."



Gabrielle Calvocoressi

Calvocoressi is the author of three books of poetry, *The Last Time I Saw Amelia Earhart*, *Apocalyptic Swing*, and *Rocket Fantastic*, winner of the 2018 Audre Lorde Poetry Prize. Her poems have been published in numerous magazines and journals including *The New York Times*, *Poetry*, *Boston Review*, *Kenyon Review*, and *The New Yorker*. She is currently at work on a memoir entitled *The Year I Didn't Kill Myself*, and a novel, *The Alderman of the Graveyard*.

To read the poem "Hammond B3 Organ Cistern" or to hear Calvocoressi read it herself, [click here](#).

Graduate Student News



Ani Govjian

Govjian Wins Tanner Award

Teaching Fellow Ani Govjian won the Tanner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching by Graduate Teaching Assistants, the highest honor for graduate student teachers at the University. Describing her teaching, Govjian said, “As an educator, I bring a little bit of the magical, early modern past into the classroom by teaming up with UNC’s Wilson Rare Book Library and the Ackland Art museum for immersive student projects. I also work as a project assistant for the Blake Archive where I get to generate xml mark-up for some truly captivating William Blake illustrations.”



Suzanna Geiser

Geiser Wins William Dougald MacMillan Award for Best Departmental Dissertation

Postdoctoral fellow Suzanna Geiser was awarded the annual William Dougald MacMillan Award for the best departmental dissertation. Her dissertation, “Legal Fictions, Literary Narrative, and the Historical Truth: The Jurisprudence of Marriage in the Long Eighteenth Century,” draws on texts from Defoe, Austen, and others and argues that the interactions between legal and literary fictions have shaped modern conceptions of marriage and the individual. Geiser received the award at a winter ceremony.



Rachael Isom

Yang Receives McNair Assistantship

Edward H. Yang has received a two-year Graduate Assistantship with the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program, a part of the Carolina Higher Education Opportunity Programs Office, which prepares eligible UNC undergraduates to succeed in pursuing a Ph.D.

Isom Named Maynard Adams Fellow for the Public Humanities

Rachael Isom was selected as a Maynard Adams Fellow for the Public Humanities for 2018-19 academic year.



Carlie Wetzel

Isom's work has recently appeared or is forthcoming in *Essays in Romanticism*, *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, *Studies in Romanticism*, and the *Keats-Shelley Review*. Currently, she serves as Managing Editor of the *Keats-Shelley Journal* and works as a Project Assistant for the William Blake Archive.

Six Win Departmental Awards

At a recent departmental staff meeting, the Department of English and Comparative Literature presented six Teaching Fellows with awards celebrating their professional development as literature and composition instructors. Congratulations to Carlie Wetzel, Eleanor Griggs, Martin Groff, Grant Glass, Margaret Mauer, and Anne Fertig!



Grant Glass

Fertig Curates Exhibit at Wilson Library

Anne Fertig, a doctoral student in English and Comparative Literature Department at UNC, curated an exhibit currently on view at Wilson Special Collections Library about the Scottish Gaels in North Carolina, with the aid of Dr. Michael Newton and Visiting Lecturer Dr. Tiber Falzett. Drawing on the wealth of archival resources in Wilson Library's Special Collections, this exhibit explores the beliefs, experiences, and traditions of the Scottish Gaelic-speaking community in North Carolina. Tracing the Scottish Gaels' stories from their initial immigration to the American South to their lasting influence in the twentieth century, the exhibit displays a range of pamphlets, books, and manuscripts showcasing the Gaelic language and its influence on North Carolina history.



Anne Fertig

Drawing on the wealth of archival resources in Wilson Library's Special Collections, this exhibit explores the beliefs, experiences, and traditions of the Scottish Gaelic-speaking community in North Carolina. It highlights other exciting finds from the Wilson Special Collections and continues Fertig's public humanities work, which "centers around the recovery and educational outreach of historical materials, within both Gaelic and English linguistic traditions." **The exhibit** will be on view at Wilson Library through April and is free to the public.

Alumni News

Christine Zimmerman to Screen Short Film at the Cannes Film Festival

UNC English major and recent graduate Christine Zimmerman '18, along with six of her UNC classmates—Grace Han, Mary Luong, Diandra Dwyer, Jordan Van Hoy, Esther Lee, and Michaela Deguzman—recently received an invitation to screen their short film, “Just A Phase,” in the 72nd Cannes Film Festival. Cannes is a prestigious annual film festival held in Cannes, France, which previews new films of all genres and lengths. Their fully-animated short film follows a girl’s dream to become an artist and the obstacles she faces along the way, an experience with which Zimmerman and her collaborators are personally familiar. “Many of us identified with the frustration of feeling as though our art was unappreciated or of little “real” value—a message often conveyed by adult figures in our lives, the internet, and society in general,” Zimmerman says.



Christina Zimmerman (right)

At UNC, Zimmerman was one of the founding members of Carolina Animator’s Anonymous—UNC’s first and only animation club. Through this organization, she met other creative filmmakers and artists whose skills and imagination made an impression on her. Another one of the club’s founding members, Grace Han, encouraged Zimmerman and others to form a team to enter UNC’s Campus MovieFest, the world’s largest student film festival dedicated to celebrating student creativity and innovation in short filmmaking with chapters at over 50 campuses. Zimmerman and her teammates threw themselves into their film, working long, collaborative hours together during their senior year that renewed her passion for art. She says of their process, “We had always wanted to combine our efforts...to make something that spoke to all of us, so it seemed obvious to do something related to art—specifically animation.”

After winning awards at the Campus MovieFest at UNC and then at TERMINUS, a renowned film and video game conference and festival early in 2018, the “Just A Phase” team began to really see the fruits of their artistic labor pay off, in the film’s reception and subsequent recognition. Once “Just A Phase” had shown at TERMINUS and won awards there, the film was eligible for submission to the Cannes Film Festival, where it was accepted to the Short Film Corner. “When we got in...it took my breath away,” said Zimmerman.

Reflecting on the path that led to her award-winning creative work, Zimmerman

explains: “All throughout college I struggled with depression and anxiety—and my art certainly suffered for it. It had become more and more difficult for me to find the motivation to finish projects or get excited about them. But after working on ‘Just a Phase’ with such an incredible group of fellow artists, and seeing where our passion took us, I was inspired to dive into art again, so suddenly Cannes didn’t seem so out of reach.”

“Just A Phase” is one of only thirty-five Campus MovieFest short films to screen at Cannes this year. The Cannes Film Festival will take place this May in the South of France. To watch “Just A Phase” before it screens at Cannes, [click here](#).

Bo McMillan Publishes Article in *Gastronomica*

Bo McMillan ('16) recently published an article entitled “Food is the New Jazz: Jack Kerouac and Food Writing” in the Winter 2018 issue of the journal *Gastronomica*. McMillan’s article, a modified version of his undergraduate honors thesis, discusses “how Kerouac understood, played with, and utilized food as a means of cultural comprehension and then—via jazz—cultural subversion within the ‘decline’ of the West.”



Bo McMillan

McMillan, now a doctoral student in English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University, cites the crucial and gracious mentorship of UNC Department of English and Comparative Literature Associate Teaching Professor Henry Veggian in the development of his project on Kerouac and food. The research and influence of American Studies Professors Sharon Holland and Marcie Cohen “very much appear in the research” as well, says McMillan.

To read “Food is the New Jazz: Jack Kerouac and Food Writing,” [click here](#).

John Ribo Honored for Accomplishments at Florida State University

UNC doctoral graduate and Florida State University Assistant Professor John Ribo (Ph.D. '15) was recently featured on FSU’s Faculty Spotlight, highlighting his thoughtful and engaged pedagogy and accomplishments in his research. Ribo integrates current events, popular media, and social justice initiatives into his teaching. He has recently taught courses which included discussions of Black Lives Matter, the March for Our Lives, Oscar-winning film *Moonlight*, and the works of Dominican-American author Junot Diaz.

Earlier this year, Ribo received a McKnight Junior Development Fellowship from the Florida Education Fund, an award that aims to promote “excellence in teaching and



John Ribo

research by underrepresented minorities and women.”The Fellowship includes a one-year sabbatical, during which Ribo will work on his research analyzing the dark side of Pax Americana in popular media preoccupied with criminality and violence at the southern edges of the U.S.

Ribo advocates for “having faculty that validate students’ experiences or interests,” particularly the often underrepresented experiences of students of color. He credits his UNC advisor, Dr. María DeGuzmán, with modeling this while he was in graduate school at UNC. Discussing the significance of his mentor, Professor DeGuzmán, he states, she “validated me to see that we exist, and our experiences are worthy of academic scrutiny. She gave me direction in my scholarly experience.”

David Davis awarded 2018 Eudora Welty Prize

Dr. David A. Davis (Ph.D. '06), assistant professor of English at Mercer University, was awarded the Eudora Welty Prize during the 30th annual Eudora Welty Writers' Symposium last week at Mississippi University for Women for his book *World War I and Southern Modernism*, published by University Press of Mississippi last November. The Prize honors the late Mississippi University for Women alumna Eudora Welty by celebrating exceptional books of scholarship on Women's Studies, Southern Studies, and/or Modern Letters.

Director of the Eudora Welty Writers' Symposium, Dr. Kendall Dunkelberg, said of Davis' work: “His study, *World War I and Southern Modernism*, is a solid work of scholarship and is particularly timely this year, given the centenary of the end of that war. Davis's presentation was highly informative and accessible and was well received at the symposium.”

In addition to his work on Southern Modernism, Davis is currently writing a book on sharecropping and Southern literature. He has published essays and reviews in numerous academic journals and edited or co-edited three other collections.

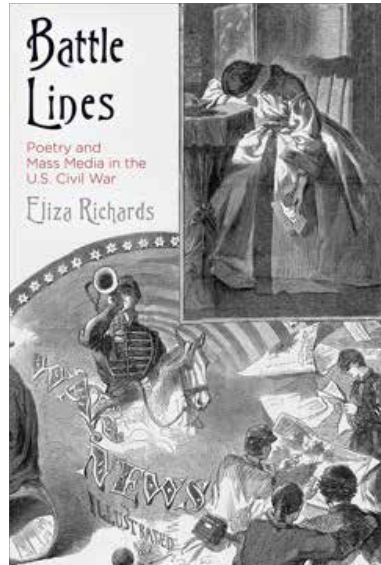
Emily Brewer Publishes Chapter

“Teaching the French Revolutionary & Napoleonic War Era through Sailor Memoir,” by Dr. Emily Brewer (Ph.D. '13), has just been published in *Teaching Laboring-Class British Literature of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century*. Edited by Kevin Binfield & William J. Christmas, this volume is included in the MLA's Options for Teaching Series and is praised by Dr. John Goodridge for “the inventive and imaginative methods the contributors described to teach this fairly new topic.”

New Books by Faculty

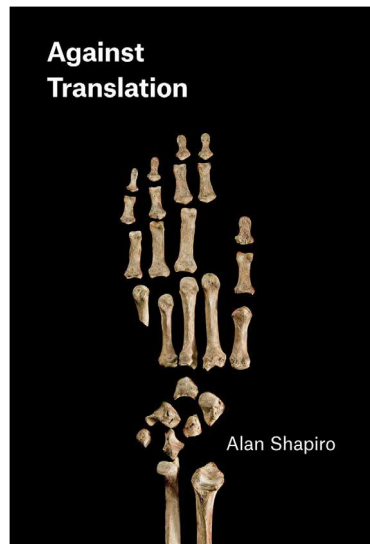
Battle Lines: Poetry and Mass Media in the U.S. Civil War
(University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018)

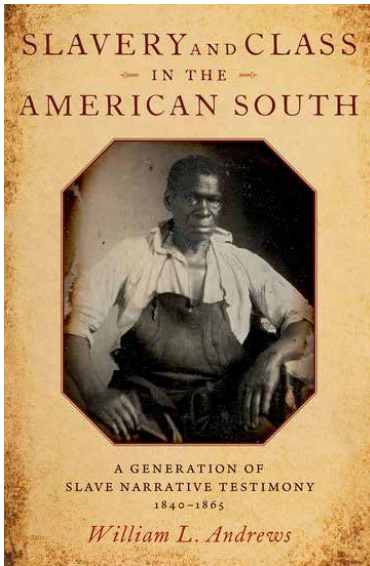
Associate Professor Eliza Richards has recently released her second academic monograph titled *Battle Lines: Poetry and Mass Media in the U.S. Civil War*. *Battle Lines* charts the transformation of Civil War poetry and its symbiotic relationship with the development of mass media networks and modern warfare. Focusing primarily on the North, Richards sheds light on how poetry's condensed form traveled with greater ease and speed than journalism, novels, or essays. Ephemeral print media publishing poetry reached writers such as Whitman, Melville, and Dickinson, who drew inspiration from their peers' poetic practices and reconfigured them in ways that showcased evidence of their involvement.



Against Translation (University of Chicago Press, 2019)

We often ask ourselves what gets lost in translation—not just between languages, but in the everyday trade-offs between what we experience and what we are able to say about it. But the poems of Professor Alan Shapiro's newest collection invite us to consider: what is loss, in translation? Writing at the limits of language—where “the signs loosen, fray, and drift”—Shapiro probes the startling complexity of how we confront absence and the ephemeral, the heartbreak of what once wasn't yet and now is no longer, of what (like racial prejudice and historical atrocity) is omnipresent and elusive.





Slavery and Class in the American South: A Generation of Slave Narrative Testimony, 1840-1865 (Oxford University Press, 2019)

In Professor William L. Andrews's magisterial study of an entire generation of slave narrators, more than 60 mid-nineteenth-century narratives reveal how work, family, skills, and connections made for social and economic differences among the enslaved of the South. Slave narrators disclosed class-based reasons for violence that broke out between "impudent," "gentleman," and "lady" slaves and their resentful "mean masters." Andrews's far-reaching book shows that status and class played key roles in the self- and social awareness and in the processes of liberation portrayed in the narratives of the most celebrated fugitives from U.S. slavery, such as Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs, William Wells Brown, and William and Ellen Craft. The culmination of a career spent studying African American literature, this comprehensive study of the antebellum slave narrative offers a groundbreaking consideration of a unique genre of American literature.

Hey, Alumni: Have You Got Good News to Share?

We want to hear from you! Our Annual Report isn't complete without news from our alumni. If you have a recent publication, a new job, an accomplishment you're proud of, a forthcoming book, a new addition to the family, or any news of interest to other alumni, send it our way via [this handy web form](#). And if you have a high-resolution photograph to share, we've included a way for you to upload it for us!

In future editions, we'd like to expand our alumni news section and keep you connected to generations of graduates from the Department of English and Comparative Literature.

Get Involved!

Looking for ways to get involved in the Department of English and Comparative Literature?

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.



Contribute to the Department

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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For questions about creating scholarships, fellowships, and professorships in the Department through a gift, pledge, or planned gift, please contact Kathryn Banas, Associate Director of Development at the Arts and Sciences Foundation: **kathryn.banas@unc.edu** or (919) 843-2745.