

The Beacon

Vol. 3, No. 2

Fall 2008

The Newsletter of the Department of English and Theatre at UNC Pembroke

Department of English and Theatre The University of North Carolina at Pembroke

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Oh, Canada!

By CATHERINE PARISIAN

The English and Theatre Department's own Dr. Mark Canada received the Board of Governors 2008 Award for Teaching Excellence. This annual award recognizes exceptional teaching ability over a sustained period of time. Recipients must be full-time tenured faculty members who have taught at a UNC institution for at least seven years. Each spring a cash award and medallion are presented to sixteen recipients, one from each of the UNC schools. As the UNC Pembroke recipient, Mark Canada was honored at a banquet in Chapel Hill last spring and will deliver the commencement address this fall.

Dr. Canada has taught as a faculty member in the English and Theatre Department since 1997. Through his teaching, he helps his students to produce the knowledge, skills, joy, and confidence that will continue to breed success in their lives long after they have left his classroom. In his eleven years of teaching at UNCP, Dr. Canada has developed and taught a range of courses, including English Grammar, Composition, American Literary Journalism, and the American Novel. He especially enjoys taking his students on a metaphysical whaling adventure as they read *Moby Dick*. Dr. Canada so engages students in the subject matter that once a student who only overheard his class



from the hallway stopped to ask the subject because it sounded so interesting. It was grammar. One of Dr. Canada's most memorable experiences as a teacher involves a student who returned to take a second course from him. During a discussion of research, the student responded to a question by recalling what he had learned from the composition course he had taken with Dr. Canada years earlier. Dr. Canada provides his students with memorable classroom experiences and lessons that endure for a lifetime.

Dr. Canada's own research and writing informs his classroom teaching. As a specialist in American literature and the English language, he has brought these two interests together in projects relating to the literary creative process. One of these endeavors draws on modern neurological research to examine the role of Edgar Allan Poe's right brain in his artistic method. More recently, Dr. Canada has turned his attention to the subject of journalism, which he studied at Indiana University and practiced before becoming an English professor. Working largely from the research that he conducted while on academic leave in 2007, he is writing a book on the various ways that Harriet Beecher Stowe, Mark Twain, Henry James, and many other American writers responded to the growth of journalism in the nineteenth century.

The Department of English and Theatre is truly honored to have Dr. Canada as a member of its faculty and celebrates his success and example as a teacher and scholar.

May 2008 ETL Graduates



Kendall Lewis, Anne Park, Amber Star Pierce, and Dan English; D'Arcee Neal; Terri Rorke and Kathryn Smith (above) wait in the Auxiliary Gym for commencement to start.

CJ Reid is congratulated by Mark Canada, and Ivory Bouknight celebrates with her family (below).



English Faculty Activities

M.J. BRAUN presented “Wagging the Dog: ‘Total Propaganda’ and the Teaching of Argument” at the Conference of the Rhetoric Society of America in Seattle in May 2008. She led a workshop on fact-finding and research at UNCP’s first Social Justice Symposium on September 22, 2008. In October 2008, Dr. Braun was the keynote speaker at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s Rhetoric Forum. She presented “Teaching Argument in the Age of Propaganda” to the faculty and offered a video presentation to undergraduates on “The Rhetorical Analysis of Jon Stewart and Steven Colbert.”

MARK CANADA gave a presentation on American journalist and author H.L. Mencken at a seminar on political humor in Chapel Hill in June. In October, he presented “Turn East, Turn Complacent: Mark Twain’s Journalistic Decline” at the annual conference of the Western Literature Association in Boulder, Colorado.

TEAGAN DECKER, along with Craig Wilson, Grey Sweeney and Stephanie Hammond, presented a poster session at the International Writing Centers Association Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada, October 2008. They discussed negotiating student and faculty expectations during writing center tutorials and presented survey results and suggestions for tutors.

ANITA R. GUYNN contributed over the summer to a successful multi-year grant proposal that will enable UNCP to fund a sophomore-year initiative.

ROGER LADD attended the first international congress of the John Gower Society

in London this July. Later that month he participated in a round table on teaching Chaucer at the Sixteenth International Congress of the New Chaucer Society, in Swansea, Wales.

JON LEWIS’s entry on Neal Stephenson is forthcoming from Blackwell’s *Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Fiction*.

WENDY MILLER presented “‘Between promise and hard pan’: Strip Mining and Ecological Recovery in *The Killing Ground*” at SAMLA, Louisville, Kentucky, November 2008.

CATHERINE PARISIAN spent a summer month on fellowship at the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library in Los Angeles, continuing her bibliographical research on the eighteenth-century female novelist Frances Burney. She also coordinated the biennial meeting of the Burney Society, which met at the Newberry Library in Chicago in October.

PATRICIA D. VALENTI presented “Hawthorne’s Juvenile Literature: Texts and Contexts” at the Biennial Conference of The Nathaniel Hawthorne Society Conference, June 2008, at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. Dr. Valenti’s book, *Understanding The Old Man and the Sea: A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources, and Historical Documents*, originally published in the Literature in Context Series with the Greenwood Publishing Company in 2002, was reprinted in China this summer by China Renmin University Press with a 2009 copyright. During the fall of 2008, she has continued work on the second volume of *Sophia Peabody Hawthorne, A Life*, the first volume of which inspired the character of

Sophia Hawthorne in *Yellowbird*, a novel by Judy Smith, a professor at Kenyon University. This fall, Dr. Valenti continued research into Sophia's life by reading manuscript letters and journals at the Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature at the New York Public Library. The Curator of that collection, Dr. Isaac Gewirtz, asked Dr. Valenti to assist with preparing Sophia Peabody's *Cuba Journal* for digitization and posting on the NYPL website. Dr. Valenti paginated the over 800-page, three-volume manuscript and wrote the introduction that will accompany it.

RICHARD VELA presented three conference papers: "Illustrating *Hamlet*: From Verbal to Visual Imagery in Some Films" at the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture/American Culture Conference at Albuquerque, NM, February 2008; "Guilty creatures sitting at a play': Metatheatrical Moments in Shakespeare Film Adaptations" for the Medieval-Renaissance Conference at the University of Virginia's College at Wise, September 2008; and "Genre Tropes in Shakespeare Adaptations" for the Popular Culture of the South Conference at Louisville, KY, October 2008. His review of Carolyn Jess-Cooke's recent book *Shakespeare into Film: Such Things as Dreams are Made Of* appeared in the *Literature/Film Quarterly's* Shakespeare issue, spring 2008. In October, Dr. Vela attended the Southern Renaissance Conference at Staunton and, for the fourth year in a row, he and Holden Hansen took a group of Shakespeare students and drama students to the Blackfriars Theatre at the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, VA, to attend a special workshop

and see original stagings of *King Lear* and *Twelfth Night*. He continues as a Contributing Editor to the *Literature/Film Quarterly* and as a Director in the Literature Film Association. He is Area Chair for Shakespeare on Film and Television for the Southwestern/Texas Popular Culture Conference.

Recent Books by E&T Faculty

By JIM HELGESON

Kudos to **YOUNGSUK CHAE**, whose *Politicizing Asian American Literature: Towards a Critical Multiculturalism* was published earlier this year by Routledge as part of its popular Studies in Asian Americans series. In this important and timely work, Dr. Chae points out that the (mostly negative) stereotypes America has tended to associate with its Asian immigrants—"unassimilable aliens," "coolies," "modern-day high-tech coolies"—have been generated primarily in the economic arena, where immigrants were so frequently exploited as low-wage replacement workers and strike breakers, earning them the ire of labor and management alike. Comparing the work of Asian American authors who have remained silent about these stereotypes to those who have challenged them, Dr. Chae goes on to offer insightful assessments of the influence these latter, politically-engaged Asian American writers are having on our understanding of both contemporary multiculturalism and U.S.-centered globalization.

Possessing an unusually diverse background and multiple teaching competencies, Dr. Chae is in her second year at UNCP. The department wishes to



Fall 2008 Department Party



Monika Brown enjoys the food and conversation at the department's annual fall potluck social on October 25.



Therese Rizzo and Wendy Miller relax on the porch at Kay McClanahan's house in Laurinburg, where this year's party was held.



Roger Ladd, Carolyn Price, Dennis Sigmon, Teagan Decker, and Beth Sigmon enjoy a conversation.



Youngsuk Chae, Marla Jordan, Mark Williams, and Cyndi Miecznikowski share an amusing moment, while Melissa Schaub spends time with her son Frank.



congratulate Dr. Chae on her publication and to express its appreciation for the unique perspective she brings to our common enterprise.

And double kudos to **SHELBY STEPHENSON**, who not only brought out his *Family Matters: Homage to July, the Slave Girl* this fall but has seen it win the coveted Bellday Poetry Prize for 2008. For Dr. Stephenson, a veteran of thirty years in the department and longtime editor of UNCP's distinguished literary journal, *Pembroke Magazine*, this makes his tenth volume of poetry (not to mention his fifth major award). Stephenson reports that the idea for his latest book came—as so many of them do—serendipitously, yet almost inevitably. While leafing through materials laid out on his sister's desk (she had been researching Stephenson family history), he came upon a document he found both deeply disturbing and immensely inspiring: an 1850 deed confirming his great-great-grandfather's sale of a ten-year-old slave girl named “July.”

The work he completed nearly four years later is a collection of memories and reveries—some told from the point of view of the poet and his family, some from that of July and hers—that become so intertwined it is not always possible to tell whether it is July's story or the author's we are hearing. And that seems to be precisely the point. It is not just that no one really can or should ever try to “own” another human being in the sense assumed by that noisome, 150-year-old bill of sale. All of us, Stephenson seems to be suggesting, all the hard laboring, long suffering, and, occasionally, triumphant sharers of the land and its legends—must own one

another, must be family. “Family Matters” is a treasure. It is, in the words the poet uses when describing an especially moving scene from his childhood, a “stretch of / footsteps and concerns, a rendering of boundless lessons.” Thanks, Shelby; and keep 'em coming.

Engagement Announcement

By **SCOTT HICKS**

The members of our new Student Engagement Committee (Teagan Decker, Scott Hicks, Daniela Newland, Therese Rizzo, and Melissa Schaub) invite our alumni to network with and inspire current students. In the coming months, the committee will work to publicize a positive vision of the program that shows students how English can work for them, empowering them with unique skills of critical thinking. What's more, the committee will work to enrich and reinforce the sense of community in the department among faculty, staff, and students. Finally, we are brainstorming new ways to enhance our major through career networking, study abroad, and collaborations with other schools and departments.

Our program's alumni play an important role in our work. We welcome your suggestions for ways to enrich our students' experiences in our program. We also would like to hear from you if you would be interested in meeting with current students, sharing with them how your English or Theatre major has served you in your professional life. Please feel free to contact us care of Scott Hicks, committee chair, at scott.hicks@uncp.edu or (910) 775-4032.

E & Theatre

The University Theatre's second spring 2008 production was the Mary Rodgers-Marshall Barer musical **ONCE UPON A MATTRESS**, directed by Hal Davis. Scenes from that production, which occurred too late for our Spring issue, are shown below.

Their fall production, Shakespeare's **MACBETH**, directed by Holden Hansen, was staged in the GPAC on November 18-21 at 8 PM and November 22 at 2 PM. Watch for coverage in our Spring 2009 issue.



Alan Parsons



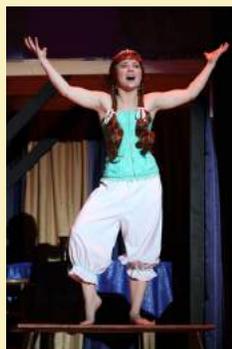
PJ Gajda, Emily Rasdorf



Alan Parsons, Ruth Golsteyn



Elisha Lawson



Ruth Golsteyn

Once Upon a Mattress
 Music by Mary Rodgers; Lyrics by Marshall Barer
 Directed by Hal Davis
 April 16 - 19, 2008



Sean Jaenicke

2008-9 University Theatre Productions

Macbeth

by William Shakespeare
 Directed by Holden Hansen
 November 18-22, 2008



You Can't Take It with You

by George S. Kaufman
 and Moss Hart
 Directed by Chet Jordan
 February 19-21, 2009



I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change

Music by Jimmy Roberts
 Book and Lyrics by Joe DiPietro
 Directed by Hal Davis
 April 22-25, 2009

English Club Fall Picnic



Stephanie Starnes, Brandi Kim



Daniel Chaney, Wesley Inderbitzen,
Joel Mayo



Candy Panzo-Pambu



Tiffany Schwab, Dr. Tulla Lightfoot, Dr.
Kay McClanahan

SOS: Support Our Scholarships

BY KHARY MCGHEE

In its commitment to providing an affordable education and its desire to attract and retain talented students, The University of North Carolina at Pembroke each year awards a number of endowed scholarships. The Department of English and Theatre offers four awards for students who have demonstrated extraordinary potential and ability.

The David L. Dean, Jr. Memorial Scholarship, the Sue Betty Locklear Endowed Memorial Scholarship, the John Green Memorial Endowed Scholarship, and the Grace Loving Gibson Endowed Scholarship are the awards given annually to English and Theatre majors.

For these scholarships to continue to have an impact for talented students at UNCP, donations from alumni and friends of the University are needed to bolster each award's endowment.

The **DAVID L. DEAN, JR. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** was established by the friends and family of David L. Dean, Jr. in his memory. Recipients of the scholarship must be residents of Robeson County majoring in English and Theatre. They must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA and be a full-time undergraduate student at UNCP in any year of study. Students must be of demonstrated financial need, and the award is renewable if funds are available.



"UNCP offered that personal touch I wanted, and needed," said Lumberton, N.C. native **Grey Sweeney**, the 2008 recipi-

ent of the David L. Dean, Jr. Memorial Scholarship. "It is a great institution in the UNC system; it just fit my personality. This scholarship connects me to the University in yet another way. It allows me to establish myself in other ways."

The **SUE BETTY LOCKLEAR ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP** was established in 1991 by faculty, family, and friends to honor the memory of Sue Betty Locklear, a longtime secretary in the Department of Communicative Arts. The award is given to a non-traditional student majoring in English or Theatre in need of financial assistance.

"The Sue Betty Locklear Endowed Memorial Scholarship has helped me financially and has enabled me to continue toward my goal to become a teacher," said **Angela Renee Musselwhite**, the award's 2008 recipient.

She hopes to teach English at her alma mater Lumberton High School when she graduates next spring.

The **JOHN GREEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** was established in 1984 and endowed by generous contributions from *The Robesonian* and family and friends of the late John Green ('84). It is awarded to students who wish to pursue a career in writing.

Junior **Craig Wilson**, a North Carolina Teaching Fellow, is the 2008 recipient of the award.

"The scholarship helped me purchase those financially-crippling textbooks that we



have all come to know and love,” said Wilson, a native of Buffalo, NY. “Thus, it has allowed me to delve into my classes and really get everything that I can out of them because, after all, knowledge is a powerful thing when put into the hands of a future teacher. Thank you once again for this opportunity.”

The **GRACE LOVING GIBSON ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP** was established by students and friends of Grace E.L. Gibson, who taught composition, literature, journalism, and creative writing for 20 years at UNCP. It was not awarded this year, but the department hopes to be

able to award it next year.

Over the years, the endowments funding each of the scholarships have not kept pace with the rising costs in higher education. Alumni and other friends of UNCP have the opportunity to contribute to the scholarships so they might continue to aid talented English and Theatre students. In fact, your help is urged as we make the effort to grow the scholarships into larger awards that might have more of an impact financially for recipients. If you would like to contribute to any or all of our departmental scholarships, please cut out and return the form below.

PHOTO CREDITS: pages 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, Sara Oswald; page 5, Joel Beachum; page 6, Melissa Schaub

This issue of *The E&T Beacon* was produced using Adobe InDesign CS3. Body text is in Adobe Garamond Pro; sidebars and captions are in Myriad Pro Condensed; masthead and section headings are in Adobe Jensen Pro.

News items and announcements for future issues should be submitted in Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format. Photos should be submitted as JPEG or TIFF files. Send news and photos to

melissa.schaub@uncp.edu.

This and previous issues of *The Beacon* are available in PDF format on the department’s website:

www.uncp.edu/etl/news/

You may contact the Department of English and Theatre at 1.910.521.6246; you may contact the University toll-free at 1.800.849.UNCP.

400 copies of this document were printed at a cost of \$.80 per copy.

Around the Dial

Dial 128, formerly an open computer lab, is now the home of the University Writing Center, pictured on the right.



ENGLISH AND THEATRE DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTION FORM

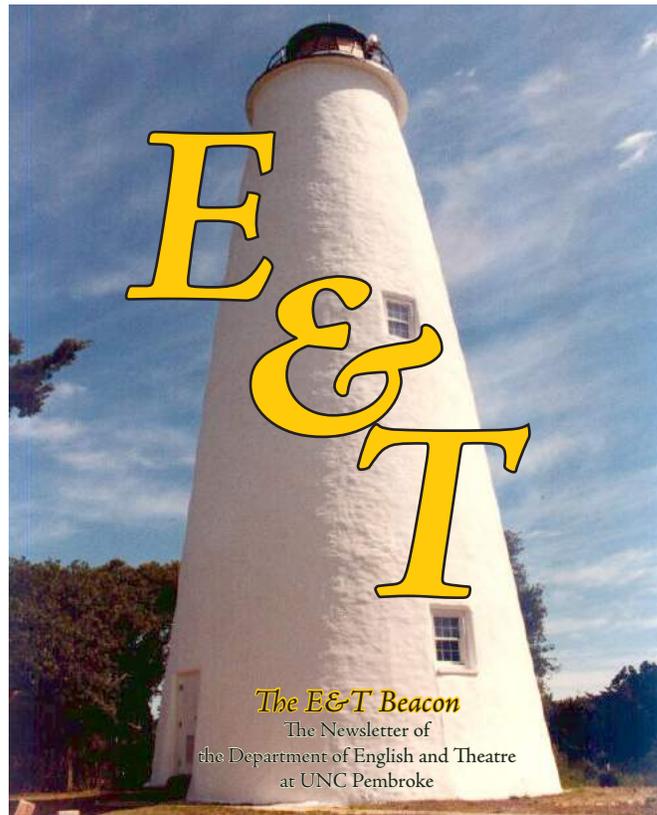
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 Address _____ Year of Graduation _____
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