

The ^{ETL} Beacon

Vol. 3, No. 1

Spring 2008

Department of English, Theatre, and
Languages

The University of North Carolina
at Pembroke

Dennis H. Sigmon

Chair

Mark Canada

Assistant Chair

Kimberly K. Gunter

Director of Composition

Virginia P. Jones

Coordinator of Undergraduate
English Education

Chester I. Jordan

Director of Theatre

Shelby D. Stephenson

Editor, *Pembroke Magazine*

Deana Johnson

Director of College Opportunity Program

Roger A. Ladd

Director of Graduate
English Education

Liliana E. Wendorff

Coordinator of Spanish

Teagan Decker

Director of University Writing Center

Tina P. Emanuel

Director of ETL Resource Center

Emma N. Evans

Composition Program Secretary

Carolyn T. Price

ETL Department Secretary

Dedra Sanderson

GPAC Box Office Manager

Newsletter Committee

Jonathan Lewis, Chair

Tina P. Emanuel

José O. Gómez

Walt Lewallen

Sara Oswald

Melissa Schaub

Down the Rabbit Hole

BY SUSAN CANNATA

I know it all too well: the furtive glances, the guilt, the I-really-do-have-a-legitimate-reason-to-be-here look. Hoping for anonymity, I usually pick the biggest bookstore I can find, the kind I don't want to admit shopping in. Garbed in enormous sunglasses and baseball cap, I scout the various areas: Mass Market, Self-Help, Philosophy, History, Erotica (is that Dr. Sigmon?), to see who's where, trying to determine when to make my move. I sometimes do the sophisticated thing first: browse the "Literature" section. Ah, yes, *Crime and Punishment*; I flip the pages, nodding sagely. Maybe *Atonement*, or *The Sound and the Fury*, or, of course, *Great Expectations*: marvelous themes, quite relevant today really.

Dum de dum. I pretend to stroll aimlessly, but I'm getting closer. I look around a little more, casually though, inching my way. Then I make a break, head down, hopefully unnoticed, to the place where someone like me shouldn't be.

"Intruder alert! Intruder alert!"

"Ma'am, put your hands up and step away."

Do I really hear artillery? Pounding footsteps nearing? No, like my guilty counterpart in Poe's tragic tale, it's just my beating heart. Once again, I have sneaked into my favorite section: children's fantasy fiction.

Happy at last . . . until the dreaded comment from an innocent fellow browser:

"My daughter loved this book!"

"Yeah, it's a good one," I murmur.

"Teens really relate to this one," intrudes the helpful clerk.

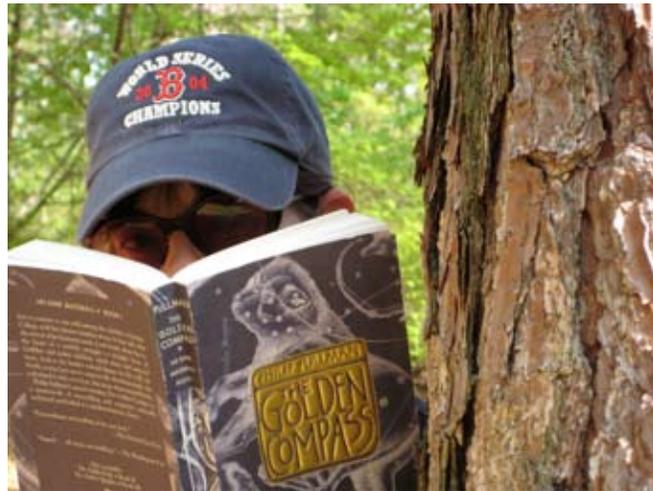
"Uh huh."

"Didn't your kids just love *Harry Potter*?"

Oy.

What does it mean that I read—and like—literature for children? Is my interest symptomatic of arrested development? Peter Pan Syndrome perhaps? But I'm not sure I even like children, never mind want to be one. Especially adolescents. I'd sooner stick a pin in my eye than read about teenage angst. So what am I doing here anyway?

Interest in children's literature is not unusual for a Victorianist: rabbit holes,



Farewell, Kim!

Dr. Kim Gunter is leaving UNCP to become Writing Program Administrator at Appalachian State University. Story and photos on page 6.



Congratulations, Mark!

Dr. Mark Canada has been named recipient of the 2008 UNC Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence.

Congratulations, Graduates!

The ETL Department honored its 2007-8 graduates at a dinner on Thursday, 1 May.



Watch for more photos and coverage of these late-breaking stories in the Fall 2008 issue.

water-babies, princesses and goblins heralded the “Golden Age” of children’s literature. Nineteenth-century writers like Carroll, Kingsley, and Kipling led me into the twentieth century, to Potter, Lewis, Cormier and other contemporary writers of children’s fiction, re-reading treasured books of my youth, finding myself abashed at times by what once enthralled me.

And I’m not the only oddball. My increasing interest in children’s literature is mirrored in the academic world. Initially met with some skepticism by the scholarly community, literature for children as a field of study has gained respect and legitimacy, as the growing number of journals and conference panels dedicated to the study of children’s literature will attest. Often intended to help children understand and negotiate the many-faceted worlds that they inhabit, children’s literature offers adults an understanding of how a society sees itself, how a society sees children, what society sees as important issues, and how children’s literature is a product of these perspectives. The study of children’s literature is not only the study of what a society wants its children to know but also an examination of what that desire says about the society itself. Much recent scholarship on children’s literature approaches texts through the lens of influential literary theorists. There really is sophisticated inquiry in a field that has been somewhat self-consciously dubbed “kiddie lit.”

With my general interest firmly established and academically endorsed, I applied for—and received—a Directed Leave of Absence in Fall 2007 to explore my own inquiries. I am most interested in

constructions of children and childhood, particularly regarding concepts of innocence and experience and the coming of age motif, especially in British literature. This interest was spurred upon my reading of what has become my favorite series (as friends and family are tired of hearing, though many have dutifully bought copies): Philip Pullman’s *His Dark Materials*, made up of three novels, *The Northern Lights* (published as *The Golden Compass* in the U.S.), *The Subtle Knife*, and *The Amber Spyglass*, and these novels were the focus of my study during my leave. Like Alice, down I went.

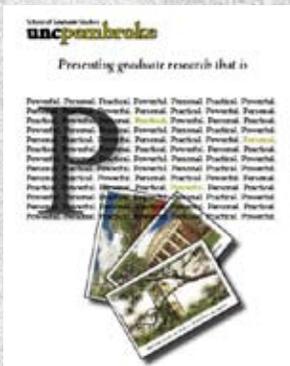
I was initially drawn to Pullman because of the story he told. Re-fashioning the narrative of *Paradise Lost*, Pullman ultimately celebrates The Fall, condemns the institutionalization of spirituality, and calls for a Republic of Heaven on Earth. What’s not to like? With abundant allusions to Milton, Blake, and Keats, Pullman’s narrative is rich and radical not just in its content but also in its portrait of children. Like Blake before him, Pullman complicates notions of innocence and experience, ultimately dismantling common assumptions of childhood and, consequently, adulthood. In *His Dark Materials*, the portraits of Lyra and Will, the novels’ dual protagonists, challenge the assumption that children are ignorant and powerless, and, of course, innocent. Pullman envisions a world in which children have a genuine ability to participate in global politics, where their power is equal to the powers that adults and institutions wield. Ultimately, Lyra’s initiation is an initiation for readers into a world where certain distinctions between children and adults are blurred. Redefining innocence

**Spring 2008
ETL Student Presentations**

Dalija Zutic Brecher

presented

“Graphic Novel as a Teaching Tool”
at the first UNCP Graduate Research
Poster Presentation



Jacqueline Kerr

presented

“For the best’: A Mother’s Ultimate
Expression of Love in Elizabeth
Barrett Browning’s ‘The Runaway
Slave at Pilgrim’s Point’”

at the National Conference for
Undergraduate Research (NCUR),
Salisbury University,
and at the UNCP Undergraduate
Research and Creativity Forum
(PURC)



and experience, Pullman creates a world that demands that readers see that children have access to power, that they can assert a genuine authority, and that they can assume meaningful responsibilities. He also asserts the possibility—actually the necessity—that neither children nor adults be relegated to categories of Innocence or Experience.

Maybe I like Pullman because I am not excluded from his world. I don’t have to sneak in; he invites both adults and children, as the best children’s literature does.

The NCUR Experience

BY JACQUELINE KERR

My hands are sweating profusely, and beads of the stuff have already accumulated on my upper lip. My stomach is tied up in knots, and I have a dreadful vision of myself throwing up as soon



as my mouth opens to speak. I survey the room once more. Six people. “That’s nothing,” I tell myself. “You can do this, Jackie.” The fear in my eyes must be as conspicuous as an elephant attempting to impersonate a Chihuahua because the moderator leans over and whispers into my ear, “You’re going to be fine. Everybody gets nervous. Just remember to breathe.” Then she stands up to announce me.

“And now, Jacqueline Kerr will give her presentation entitled “For the best’: A Mother’s Ultimate Expression of Love in Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s ‘The Run-

away Slave at Pilgrim’s Point.’”

I gather my things and head to the podium, the walk reminiscent of a condemned man’s path to the injection chamber. The doubt threatens to overwhelm me as I gaze into the faces looking intently up at me. I take a deep breath and exhale slowly. “Okay. These people are not going to hurt me. All they want is to hear what I have to say. Just read.” So I jump in head first. Initially, I speed through my introduction and forget to make eye contact with my viewers. But then I come to the spot where I wrote on my essay in huge red letters, “SLOW DOWN & LOOK UP.” I take my own advice. After that I don’t know what came over me, but all of my nervousness and anxiety melt away. I stand up straighter, and my voice becomes stronger. Fifteen minutes later, I’m finished reading my essay and answering some very interesting questions from the audience. Suddenly, I realize that this is it. This—sharing and discussing ideas with a community of like-minded individuals—is what education is all about. “I am an academic,” I think proudly to myself.

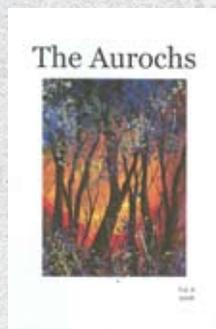
My experience at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR) at Salisbury University in Salisbury, MD, though obviously nerve-racking at times, was truly an exceptional one. Because this was my first academic conference, I attended as many oral presentations as I could before my own so I could get a feel for what happens during a session. Although I was unfamiliar with many of the topics of the presentations that I chose to visit, after hearing the engaging arguments provided by my fellow students, I have expanded the list

2008 ETL Dept. Publications



ReVisions, Vol. 8

Susan Cannata and Teagan Decker, Editors
Sara Oswald, Managing Editor



The Aurochs, Vol. 8

Stephanie Hammond, Editor
Karen Helgeson, Faculty Advisor



Pembroke Magazine, Vol. 40

Shelby Stephenson, Editor
Tina Emanuel, Managing Editor

of books for my summer reading project. I wholeheartedly encourage other UNCP students to submit their research for acceptance to this forum so as to showcase their ideas and become acquainted with other students and faculty from universities all over the United States. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of NCUR, as it was an enriching and rewarding experience that I will never forget.

English Faculty Activities

MONIKA BROWN wrote and presented the paper “A Secret Revealed: *Father Oswald* as a Victorian Woman’s Defense of Roman Catholicism” for the March 2008 British Women Writers’ Conference at Indiana University. In the paper Dr. Brown identifies the previously unknown author of an important Victorian religious novel, explains what she has learned about her family, and interprets her novel and its influence in light of the author’s gender.

MARK CANADA, assumed the new position of assistant chair of the ETL department in January. In addition to consulting with the chair, Dennis Sigmon, on staffing and other departmental matters, Dr. Canada has a number of special responsibilities, including checking faculty syllabi, completing degree audits for students nearing graduation, coordinating the observations of part-time faculty, and meeting with these faculty members in conference in the spring. He also has developed an optional syllabus template for instructors to adapt and has begun posting links to articles about topics relevant to ETL faculty on the department’s Blackboard site. Dr. Canada will give a

presentation on American journalist and author H.L. Mencken as part of a seminar on American political humor in Chapel Hill in June.

SUSAN CANNATA presented the paper “Empowering the Child: Passing from Innocence to Experience in Pullman’s *The Golden Compass*” at the 2008 Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Conference in Albuquerque in February 2008. In March, Dr. Cannata also participated in “The Berlin Institute.” During this event, the National Collegiate Honors Council and the Institute for the International Education of Students in Berlin gathered 30 faculty from universities across the globe for a week-long intensive study of ways to create and implement “City as Text” classroom methodologies.

TEAGAN DECKER presented a paper at this year’s College Conference on Communication and Composition titled “From Social Justice to Diversity: Evaluating the Mission of the Writing Center,” in April 2008. In May, Dr. Decker will present a paper at the Conference of the Rhetoric Society of America titled “Defining Diversity in a Post-Affirmative Action Climate.” This summer Dr. Decker will be using a Summer Research Fellowship to work on expanding one of these conference presentations into a journal submission. Closer to campus, Dr. Decker is pleased to have accepted the position of co-editor of *ReVisions* magazine. She has participated in selection, editing, and printing decisions for this year’s magazine. Next year she will also participate in solicitation of essays and promotion of the magazine.

English

Spring 2008 English Club Activities

Scrabble tournaments were a popular activity for the newly-formed English Club; one of the tournaments they sponsored this spring is shown below.



Kristina Mobley, Brandi Kim, Tabatha Ellison, and another player contemplate their next moves.



Mark Canada arranges his tiles.



Candy Pambu anticipates a good score.



Joel Mayo, Melissa Schaub, and Candy Pambu chat during a game.

GINNY POMPEI JONES presented at the meeting of a special interest group for Composition-English Education Connections at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in April. Her presentation on “Field Logs as Representations of Teaching Interns’ Realities” covered aspects of preparing future interns for close observation of public school classroom interactions. It focused on adapting ethnographic methods with strategies for observing and posed questions to be addressed in students’ double-entry journals or “field logs.”

ROGER LADD presented the paper “Coupable of such maner falsnesses or trespasses: Gower and the Mercers” at the 43rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, 8-11 May 2008, in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

JON LEWIS recently attended the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association’s International Conference in San Francisco, 19-22 March. Dr. Lewis gave a paper based upon a presentation he did for Faculty Forum last year entitled “Tabbed Narratives: Web Browsers and Contemporary Literature.” He chaired the conference session as well.

CYNDI MIECZNIKOWSKI will present “Rhetoric, Poetic, and the Liberal Imagination: I. A. Richards and Richard Rorty” in late May at the 2008 Conference of the Rhetoric Society of America in Seattle. The paper represents two chapters of a book-length manuscript on rhetorical history and theory and their impact on the teaching of writing and literature in the late twentieth century. The working title of the project, which is under contract with the University of South

Carolina Press, is “Rhetorics of Possibility: Twentieth-Century Rhetorical Theory, the First Sophists, and the Romantic Imagination.” Dr. Miecznikowski is also looking forward to serving as the interim director of the Composition Program for the 2008-09 academic year and to continuing two outreach projects related to the field of Composition Studies. She is currently working with our colleagues Jan Gane, Frank Myers, and Writing Center Director Dr. Teagan Decker to establish an on-site writing center, tentatively called “The Writing Studio,” at Purnell Swett High School. The group met with Principal Antonio Wilkins to discuss plans for a fall launch and an ongoing partnership between writing teachers at UNCP and PSHS. In addition, Dr. Miecznikowski will begin her second year as a volunteer with FirstHealth Hospice and Palliative Care in Pinehurst where she conducts a six-week series of therapeutic writing workshops three times a year for clients of FirstHealth’s bereavement services and programs.

SARA OSWALD presented “Twenty Years of Changing Technology: Lessons Learned and Strategies for the Future” at the 84th annual Columbia Scholastic Press Association convention at Columbia University in New York in March 2008. Her presentation focused on the multiple, and ongoing, changes in graphic design, printing, and photography that have occurred since she first became advisor for the *Indianhead* yearbook in the fall of 1988 and the strategies that she and her students have developed over the years for managing and anticipating change. In April, Ms. Oswald attended a conference at the UNC-CH School of Journalism

English

English Club Activities (cont.)

"When that April with his showres soote..."



English Club members and ETL faculty gather at the gazebo in April to celebrate the coming of spring with a poetry reading and refreshments. Among those in attendance were Mark Canada, Tabatha Ellison, Scott Hicks, Brandi Kim, Roger Ladd, Joel Mayo, Kristina Mobley, Candy Pambu, and Melissa Schaub.



and Mass Communication sponsored by the NC College Media Association; she is a member of the NCCMA steering committee. Later in April, *At Every Turn*, the 2008 issue of the *Indianhead* yearbook, was published and distributed to students. This is the 20th edition of the *Indianhead* for which Ms. Oswald has served as faculty advisor.

MELISSA SCHAUB presented the paper "Teaching Elizabeth Barrett Browning's 'The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim's Point': The Margins of the Dramatic Monologue" at the same British Women Writers Conference Dr. Brown attended.

Farewell to Kim

By **NANCY BARRINEAU**

After a great five-year run, we are losing Dr. Kim Gunter, the ETL's

Writing Program Administrator, to a job at Appalachian State.

In those five short years, Dr. Gunter stimulated the composition faculty in many ways: by directing a burgeoning writing program; overseeing the composition committee and the many changes it has made in freshman placement, assessment, the portfolio process, and so many other programs; creating the acclaimed Festival of Writing; and, of course, somehow managing to stay current in her own scholarship and writing all the while.

She is tough with students, but they value her creativity—all the way to Central Prison and the edges of death row—as well as the way she nudges them, hard, to read, think, and write critically.

Kim, we will miss you at the same time that we will applaud this next segment of your career.



Jesse Peters, Shelby Stephenson, Teagan Decker, Nancy Barrineau, and Grey Sweeney enjoy food and conversation at the reception.



Dennis Sigmon gives Kim a memento of the Festival of Writing as Deana Johnson and Anita Guynn look on.

Farewell Reception for Dr. Kim Gunter 29 April 2008



Kim chats with Emma Evans and others at the reception.



The road from Pembroke to Boone adorns the whiteboard at the reception, courtesy of Anita Guynn.



"Can you read a few more portfolios?" Loreen Bessire asks—only kidding.

Theatre Faculty Activities

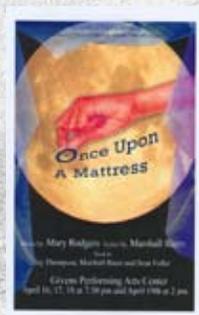
Spring 2008 Productions

February 2008



Antigone
by Jean Anouilh
directed by Chet Jordan

April 2008



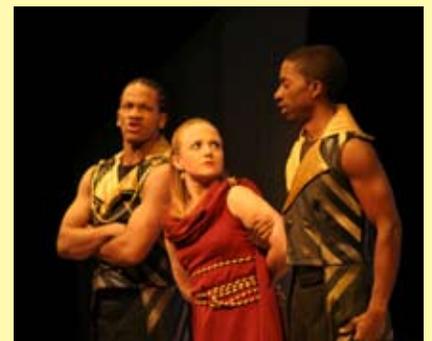
Once Upon a Mattress
directed by Hal Davis

CHET JORDAN directed the University Theatre production of *Antigone* this spring, 19-22 February. He also gave a

lecture on “Non-verbal Communication in the Classroom” for the Teaching Fellows on 30 January 2008.



Ryan Kelly as Creon



CJ Reid and Elisha Lawson as First and Second Guard

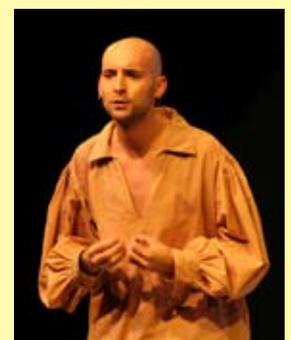
Scenes from
Antigone



Emily Rasdorf as Ismene



Ruth Golsteyn as Antigone



Justin Meier as the Chorus

February 2008



Alan Parsons as Haemon



PJ Gajda as the Messenger

ETL Languages

Spring 2008 International Film Series

La Historia de los Juguetes
(*Toy Story*)
Introduction by Dr. Liliana Wendorff

El Espinazo del Diablo
(*The Devil's Backbone*)
Introduction by Dr. Enrique Porrúa

Love Brewed in the African Pot
Introduction by Dr. Peter Imoro

Un Chien Andalou
and
La Ilusión Viaja en Tranvía
(*Illusion Travels by Streetcar*)
Introduction by Dr. Richard Vela

Rosario Tijeras
Introduction by Dr. José Gómez

PHOTO CREDITS: Page 1—Susan Cannata; Page 3—Melissa Schaub; Page 6—Joel Mayo, Melissa Schaub; Page 7—Joel Beachum; Page 8—Bobby Ayers; Pages 2, 5, 9—Sara Oswald

This issue of *The ETL Beacon* was produced using Adobe In-Design CS2. Body text is in Adobe Garamond Pro; sidebars and captions are in Myriad Pro Condensed; masthead and section headings are in Adobe Jen- sen 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.

Language Faculty Activities

JOSÉ GÓMEZ co-organized the IV Second Languages and Minorities Symposium held at UNCP on 7 March 2008. Dr. Gómez will use the Summer Research Stipend he has received to conduct interviews with Colombian writers.

LILIANA WENDORFF guest edited the May 2008 issue of *Pembroke Magazine* and wrote two pieces for it. She also recently published “Lituma: Un héroe moderno en la narrativa de Mario Vargas Llosa” in *Nueva Literatura Hispánica* (May 2008). Dr. Wendorff presented the paper “Vio-

lencia étnica en *Abril Rojo* de Santiago Roncagliolo,” at the IV Congreso Transatlántico Independencias, Brown University, 9-12 April 2008. She also gave a talk on “Teaching Writing Using Visual Media,” at the Southern Conference on Language Teaching in Myrtle Beach, 4 April 2008. Finally, Dr. Wendorff gave a talk on “Teaching Writing in the Elementary Spanish Classroom” for the Foreign Language Development Day for Public School Spanish Teachers, at Terry Sanford High School in Fayetteville, NC, February 2008.

This is the last issue of *The Beacon* that will include our colleagues in Foreign Languages. We wish them well as they become a separate department under the leadership of Dr. Liliana Wendorff in Fall 2008.

Liliana Wendorff



José Gómez



Enrique Porrúa



Peter Imoro



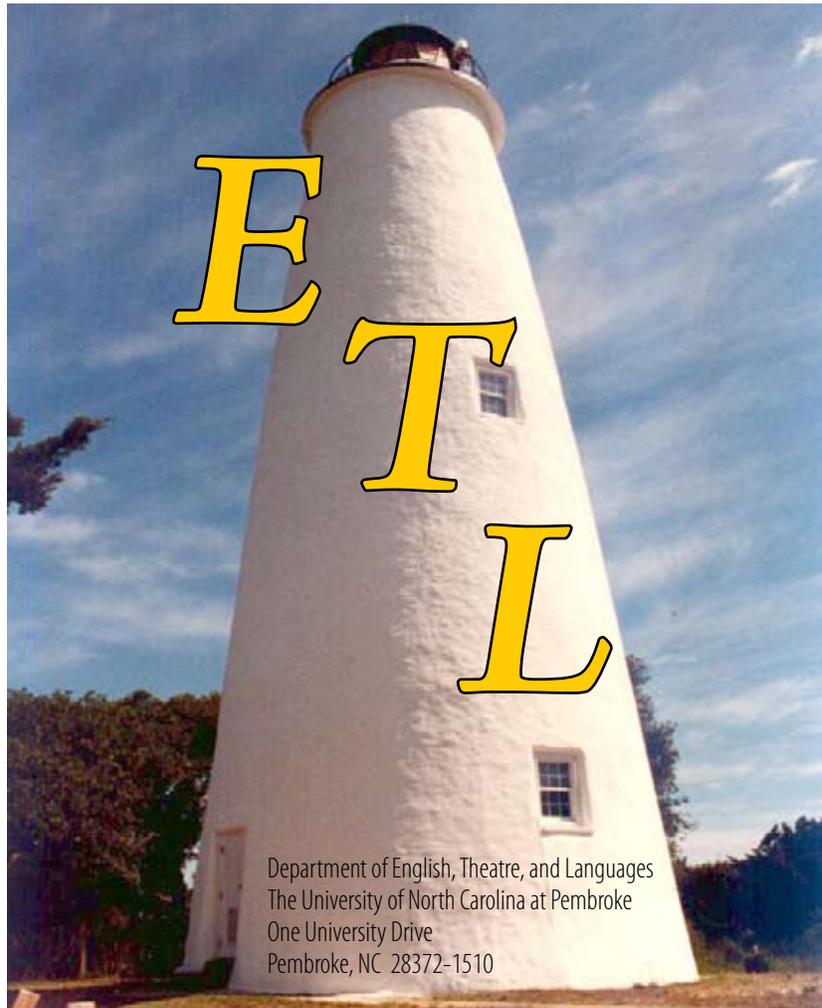
Cecilia Lara



Marion Thompson



¡Adios!
Au Revoir!
Auf
Wiedersehen!



For future issues —

Send us your news ...

Send us your photos ...

Send us your e-mail address.

*To ensure continued receipt of the newsletter, send your
e-mail address to*

jon.lewis@uncp.edu.

News items may be sent to this same address.