

# The *E&T* Beacon

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Spring 2010

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

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## Nancy Barrineau Retires

BY JIM HELGESON

In the spring of 2005 the University of North Carolina Board of Governors conferred on Dr. Nancy Barrineau its prestigious Award for Excellence in Teaching. It was, she recalls fondly, an enormously gratifying “high moment” in her then sixteen-year career at UNCP, high enough to eclipse for a time her unease regarding the mysterious ailment she had begun to experience only a few weeks earlier. In the months and years that followed, she continued to deliver the rich, challenging instruction her students had come to expect of her; but it grew increasingly difficult to ignore that ailment, the chief symptom of which has been a debilitating fatigue. Last summer, after toughing it out for nearly five years, she found that she simply couldn’t do so any longer; years before her students, her colleagues, and Dr. Barrineau herself would have had it so—she had no choice but to retire.

Although Dr. Barrineau has been away from teaching for nearly a year now, her contributions to the department and the university are still quite fresh in the minds of her many UNCP friends, as was evidenced by the size and decibel level of the party they threw back in February for her and retiring biology teacher and long-time chairperson Dr. Bonnie Kelley. Part

revel, part expression of sincere admiration and appreciation, the party, Dr. Barrineau reports, immediately qualified for inclusion in her pantheon of “high moments.” In something of the same spirit, her departmental colleagues have deemed it appropriate to acknowledge Dr. Barrineau and her accomplishments in a *Beacon* tribute. Thus, acting somewhat as their emissary, I visited her recently in the comfortable Laurinburg home where she spends nearly all her time these days.

As might be expected, it was her teaching she especially wanted to talk about. “What I miss most,” she began, “is the interaction with students. I learned so much from them.” Those of her students I had interviewed, I told her, felt the same about her. She laughed and asked me whether they



mentioned they’d called her “Dr. Barracuda.” I told her yes they had—and that they’d also said how grateful they were the barracuda had demanded so much of them, insisted they give her their best work. Laughing again, she moved on to another of her favorite topics: “What has always seemed to me most special about UNCP students is their diversity.” She expressed a particular fondness for the school’s many nontraditional students, especially those, usually older, students who must juggle jobs, children, and a host of other adult responsibilities, many while still managing, as she put it, to “outshine”

## Retirement Reception for Nancy Barrineau and Bonnie Kelley



Bonnie Kelley prepares to cut the cake, which is then enjoyed by Kay McClanahan and other guests.



Joe Mandel, Rudy Williams, Jesse Peters, Jan Gane, and Loreen Bessire are among the many who attended.



Bessire are among the many who attended.


A slide show depicts events from Nancy's and Bonnie's careers, including one taken during the Americans in Paris class.



their younger classmates. One such student-mother was Loreen Bessire, now in her fourth year of teaching composition in the department. In the first year after she had transferred to UNCP, Ms. Bessire took an American Literature course with Dr. Barrineau. You might say she was favorably impressed. Not only did she take three more of Dr. Barrineau's classes (one of them being the famous "Americans in Paris" course) but she also asked her favorite teacher to direct her Master's thesis. "She brought such a wealth of knowledge to all her classes," Ms. Bessire remembers; "and she was so genuinely supportive of my thesis work." One reason Dr. Barrineau may have developed an affinity for such students emerged a bit later in our conversation as she described her early years at UNCP, when—fresh from earning her Ph.D. at the University of Georgia—she found herself facing the rigors of being a brand new teacher *and* a brand new mother—simultaneously.

While establishing her exemplary teaching record and publishing the results of her scholarship, Dr. Barrineau was also earning a reputation as an able and effective administrator. As founding director of UNCP's University Teaching and Learning Center, she was responsible for a number of the campus's most innovative academic programs. Among these, she is most proud of having helped create, in her second year at that post, a two-week summer program that was instrumental in the adoption of computer technology at UNCP.

As for what Dr. Barrineau is doing at present, she is managing to stay busy and productive. Since another major symptom of her illness is an especially

severe case of sleep apnea—she once fell asleep at the wheel and drove into a bridge abutment—she is unable to make the library visits that keeping up with her scholarship would entail. She has, instead, taken up what is for her a new and exciting endeavor, writing creative nonfiction. Her hope is that the writing will help her understand this transitional period in her life, who she is becoming. But so far, understandably, she has been focusing primarily on her twenty years at UNCP. "As I was completing my graduate work and looking for my first full-time teaching position," she said somewhat wistfully, "I applied for 110 jobs. I confess that when the department's search committee called to indicate an interest in my application, I had to ask what state UNCP was in. Looking back on it now, I realize that there is no place I would rather have been, nothing I would rather have done." 

## Research in the University Writing Center

BY TEAGAN DECKER

As many in the field of composition and rhetoric have noted, writing centers are rich sites of research on student learning. What's more, writing center tutors are perfectly positioned to conduct this research, making writing centers rich sites for undergraduate research. From my perspective as director, tutor-led research in the writing center has multiple benefits: tutors benefit from the academic and professional experience of conducting the research. Students who visit the writing center benefit because we improve our practice as a result of the research, and the

## University Writing Center



Dr. Teagan Decker, Director of the Writing Center, enjoys working with a student during the Spring semester.



Writing Center tutor Wesley Inderbitzen advises a student on a writing project in progress.




Writing Center tutors Ryan Wise and Wesley Inderbitzen present the results of their and their colleagues' research at the PURC Symposium on 7 April.

center as a whole benefits from the strong camaraderie and commitment among staff that the research fosters.

Our current research project stems from our interest in the large number of non-traditional students who visit the University Writing Center. Tutors identified two research questions: Do traditional and non-traditional students tend to have different writing practices and writing support needs than traditional students? And, if so, how can we better support that student population? The Writing Center's ever-capable Graduate Student Assistant Chase Whisenhunt (Masters of Public Administration) and I prepared an IRB application that outlined our protocol for conducting surveys of all Writing Center visitors and conducting focus groups and interviews with non-traditional students. The IRB was approved in December 2009 and throughout spring 2010 we have been handing out surveys and setting up focus groups.

In February, the Writing Center staff took this project on the road to the Southeastern Writing Centers Mini-Regional Conference in Monroe, NC. The trip was funded by the Pembroke Undergraduate Research and Creativity Center (PURC) and the English Department. Our group stood out not only for being the only writing center with an all-male (or any-male) staff, but also for making an interesting presentation and posing thoughtful and well-informed questions to other presenters. We had a fun time, made connections with other centers, and learned a lot (some of us also came away with nicknames—English major Wesley Inderbitzen is now known as 'H.' I won't say why.) The presentation we gave at this

regional conference was a discussion of our research design, our preliminary results, and the benefits of conducting research in the writing center. We also had a poster at the PURC symposium on 7 April, allowing 'H' as well as his colleagues Tré Howard (business and political science), Ryan Wise (political science), and Tank Steiner (English) to present their research on non-traditional students in the University Writing Center to the UNCP community. In October, we hope to attend the International Writing Centers Association conference in Baltimore, MD. By then we will be able to report on the results of our research, probably in poster form. 

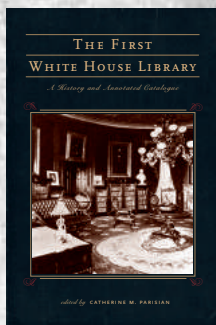
## Lear and the Old West

BY OLIVER SPIVEY

Flying in over the rugged desert country outside of Albuquerque, New Mexico, I began to realize something that I surprisingly had not thought about before: there was no more fitting place in the world to present a paper concerned with old Western movies than in the very country that some of these movies were filmed. Well, the paper I was presenting was not just about these Western movies, but about how these particular films were essentially recontextualizations of Shakespeare's *King Lear* set in the old West. I know, I know. Sounds strange, eh? Western movies based on Shakespeare are kind of like heavy metal songs based



## Spring Publications



**The First White House Library:  
A History and Annotated  
Catalogue**  
Catherine Parisian



**ReVisions, Volume 10**  
Susan Cannata and Teagan Decker,  
Editors  
Sara Oswald, Managing Editor



**The Aurochs, Volume 10**  
Craig Wilson, Editor  
Karen Helgeson, Advisor

on Mozart, but I'm here to tell you that the Bard could ride the range with the best of 'em.

The idea for this paper occurred to me while taking Dr. Vela's Shakespeare class last fall. To be quite honest, when I first began the class I really hadn't read a whole lot of Shakespeare. Oh, I sat through class discussions of *Romeo and Juliet* and *Hamlet* with all the other bored and surly youths that grudgingly suffered Mr. Litchford's Twelfth grade English class, but other than that I never had much of a grasp on old Billy boy. Don't get me wrong, I was always a voracious reader—Hemingway, Faulkner, Steinbeck, Whitman, Hardy, Thoreau, Dickens, and McCarthy were just some of the writers you couldn't pull me away from. However, towards the end of my fall semester in Dr. Vela's Shakespeare course, I was hooked on all of the master's plays.

It was tough trying to come up with ideas for a paper concerning Shakespeare. I mean it just seemed to me that everything about him and his work had been written from every possible angle. Dr. Vela and I often discussed movies, so I began to gravitate towards a paper that would deal with Shakespeare on film. In one of the classic movie reviews I wrote for *The Pine Needle*, I had discussed an underappreciated Western, *Man of the West* (1958), directed by the great Anthony Mann. Having always been a classic movie fanatic, I had already seen most of Mann's unique Western films. He was kind of like a darker and more violent John Ford. His Westerns with Jimmy Stewart like *Winchester '73* (1950) and *The Naked Spur* (1953) were among the best of the genre.

I had heard critics mention briefly that *Man of the West*, along with Mann's *The Man from Laramie* (1955), were both Western versions of *King Lear*. Even without much substantial evidence, I began to contemplate writing a rather shaky paper on these two films alone when something serendipitously came to my rescue. The only Western film of Mann's I hadn't seen was one from 1950 starring Barbara Stanwyck and Walter Huston, *The Furies*. I had bought the Criterion Edition DVD about a month before thinking about my paper; because of schoolwork, I never got around to watching it. Opening up the little booklet inside the movie case, I found an exclusive essay by veteran film critic Robin Wood. Though the essay was concerned with Mann's work as a whole, Wood devoted about four paragraphs to arguing that three of Mann's Westerns—*Man of the West*, *The Man from Laramie*, and *The Furies*—were all indeed Western versions of *Lear*.

The research process was tough, but I soon found another invaluable source in Jim Kitses's groundbreaking study of the great Western directors, *Horizons West*. Kitses had written a large chapter of his book dealing specifically with Anthony Mann and his films. I met with Dr. Vela continuously, asking his advice and feedback. He seemed to really like it and backed me the whole way. It was on the day of final exams that Dr. Vela approached me about possibly presenting in Albuquerque at the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association (SWTX PCA/ACA) conference. I was truly surprised because, even though I knew the paper wasn't bad, I didn't think it was that good. After a bit

## English and Theatre Faculty Colloquium Series

Colloquia are sponsored by the department's Student Engagement Committee and are open to all.

### Spring 2010

Wednesday, 27 January

**Dr. Roger Ladd**

*John Gower, Satire, and the City; or, Where'd the Merchants Go?*

**Sara Oswald**

*"It Was an OK Movie, but It Wasn't Beowulf": Student Responses to the Robert Zemeckis Film*



Wednesday, 10 February

**Dr. Jane Haladay**

**Dr. Scott Hicks**

**Dr. Lisa Kelly**

*Growing the Green Unknown: Teaching Environmental Justice in Southeastern North Carolina*



Wednesday, 7 April

**Dr. MJ Braun**

**Dr. Teagan Decker**


**Dr. Dundee Lackey**

*Stakeholders and Students: Engaging Undergraduates in Institutional and Community Research*

more persuasion from Dr. Vela, I decided I must go. I figured the financial cost was worth it in the long run, and it couldn't hurt my record when trying to get into grad school. SWTX PCA/ACA was set to meet for their 31<sup>st</sup> annual convention on 10-13 February 2010.

Dr. Vela happened to be on the same flight with my girlfriend and me and told us we could ride to the Hyatt Regency Hotel together once we got there. Sitting next to me on the flight was a film professor who noticed that I was reading a book of Roger Ebert's film criticism; needless to say, our ensuing conversation was a three-hour learning experience for me. But that is what it was like during the entirety of my stay in Albuquerque—I'd meet someone, and in a few moments we would be discussing all those things that, for me, make life worth living—great novels, great movies, poetry, philosophy, politics. The people you meet and the discussions you have at these conferences are indispensable, especially if you are thinking of going on to a career in academia.

After I had eaten some superb Southwest cuisine and enjoyed the sights, the day for my presentation had arrived. I was not nearly as nervous or worried as I thought I'd be, but I still felt a bit intimidated being one of the sole undergrads lost in a theory-based sea of blood-thirsty professors and grad students out for academic revenge (at least it seemed that way). But soon all my troubles were put to rest, and I met some kind and intelligent people on the panel who all had interesting things to say. After my presentation I took a couple of questions and actually felt like I was something of an expert on my topic. It was an experience

I am so glad I had, and the whole trip back I kept thinking about other ideas for papers and other possible conferences. I guess I'd better get to work and see where my new final papers can lead me. 

## Faculty Activities

**TEAGAN DECKER's** article, "Lessons from the Writing Center: The Collaborative Student-Teacher Conference" appeared in *Southern Discourse: Publication of the Southeastern Writing Center Association* in Fall 2009. Also, she presented a paper titled "The Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity Writing Center at the University of Washington: A History of Shifting Demographics and Competing Philosophies" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in March, 2010. With four University Writing Center tutors she coordinated a panel titled "Collaborative Research in the Writing Center" at the Southeastern Writing Center Association (SWCA) Conference in Wingate, NC, in February 2010. Dr. Decker was recently elected Representative-at-Large to the SWCA Executive Board.

**MICHELE FAZIO** has developed a study abroad Maymester course entitled "From Madonna to the Mafia: Italian American Writers Reimagining Italy." She will lead students on a tour of Italy that will expose them to Roman culture while also exploring Italian American writers and their representations of Italy.

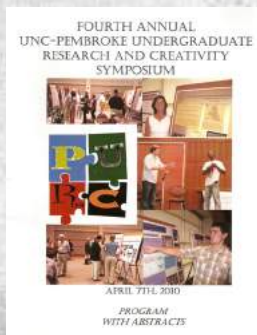
**DEANA JOHNSON** and her English 1050 students completed a community service project on 10 February. In coordination with the Center for Leadership

## Student Research



### Graduate Research Poster Presentation 23 March 2010

Three English Education graduate students presented posters at the session.



### Fourth Annual PURC Symposium 7 April 2010

Many of our students presented posters at the symposium.

**Sharon Paz's** poster won first place in the Humanities division.

**Daniel Davis's** and **Christine Sabina's** posters were awarded Honorable Mention.

**Yanissa Pérez de León** also received Honorable Mention for her oral presentation.

and Service, 15 composition students hosted a “reading party” for third graders at Union Chapel Elementary School. Ms. Johnson and her students read books with animal themes with the students as well as created animal masks. The goal of the project was to promote literacy and a love for reading. In addition, students will use this experience as they reflect and write on the topic of college students and community service. All of the UNCP students offered enthusiastic feedback, and, of course, the third graders were very excited to have this positive interaction and attention. “I have done several community service projects with my students over the past several semesters, and each time, my students rate the experience highly. They love the opportunity to do something constructive, and they use the experience as a way to formulate ideas for their writing,” said Ms. Johnson.

**CHET JORDAN** and seven undergraduate performers (Allyson Betot, Charlotte Cassidy, Nikki Frabott, Jalessa Malloy, Lucy Marshman, Ashley McLamb, and Yanissa Pérez de León) travelled to the Festival Park in Manteo, NC, on March 13, where they gave two performances of *Steel Magnolias*. Their efforts were well received by an appreciative audience. This marks the first time that a tour was able to travel with all expenses paid.

**WENDY MILLER** presented a paper, “Tainted Fruit: Mothering and Manhood in The Beulah Quintet,” at the Southern Women Writers Conference in Rome, GA, in September. She moderated a panel, “Teaching Southern Women/Southern Women Teaching,” at that same conference. In October, Dr. Miller presented

“‘Born between things’: The Scapegoat and the Transitional Man” at the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Conference in Snowbird, UT.

**FRANK MYERS** participated in a collaboration between several members of the UNCP English and Theatre Department and members of the English department at Purnell Swett High School to improve students’ writing skills. They established a writing lab and tutored students on a regular basis. The tutoring covered writing skills ranging from classroom assignments to college applications. They have also tutored PSHS students in preparation for the annual NC Writing Assessment. One goal of the project is to secure grant funding to tutor potential UNCP students while they are still in high school, thereby improving retention rates.

**SARA OSWALD** gave a presentation on “Challenges of Teaching English to Native Speakers” during the on-line international conference on Problems of Teaching Foreign Languages co-sponsored by Tomsk State Pedagogical University, Tomsk, Russia, and UNCP’s Department of Foreign Languages on 25 February 2010. On 19 March, she and Tiffany Schmidt, Editor-in-Chief of the 2010 *Indianhead* yearbook, presented two sessions on “Taking It to the Next Level: Making the Transition from High School to College,” one on yearbooks and the other on student media in general, at the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Convention at Columbia University in New York.

**CATHERINE PARISIAN's** book *The First White House Library: A History and Annotated Catalogue* is due out on 27

## Student Research (cont.)

Students present their multigenre magazines at the PURC Symposium



Carlos Townsend  
*Family Awareness*



Brittany Daniels  
*Nurses Are Ready to Conquer Poverty*



Jasmine McNeill  
*Surviving in America*

For more photos from the PURC Symposium, see page 9.

April 2010. She gave a short talk about this book on 31 March at the Livermore Library and will deliver a plenary talk about it at the symposium “Reading in the White House” on 7 May at the Library of Congress. She received a contract from Ashgate Publishing for her next book, *A Publication History of Frances Burney’s Cecilia*. Dr. Parisian attended the annual meetings of the Bibliographical Society of America (BSA) and the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) this spring. At the ASECS meeting she chaired the roundtable “Organizing, Managing, Developing, and Building an Affiliate Society,” and hosted the affiliate societies’ annual breakfast. She also coordinated five other panels for this conference, two for the Burney Society of North America and three on behalf of BSA.

**MELISSA SCHAUB**’s paper “Ironic Young Men and Gentlemanly Young Women: The Middlebrow Generation Gap” was presented at the 11th annual Modernist Studies Association conference in Montreal, November 2009 (the panel organizer read it on her behalf since she was unable to attend in person).

**SHELBY STEPHENSON**’s *Family Matters: Homage to July, the Slave Girl* was awarded the 2009 Oscar Arnold Young Award by the Poetry Council of NC; the judge was poet Jared Carter. 📖

## Student Activities

Three students in the English Education graduate program presented posters at the Graduate Research Poster Session on 23 March: **JAELA FRANKE**—*Stirring*

*the Melting Pot*; **DAVID TOWNSEND**—*Bridging the Gap: Using (Pop) Cultural Literacy to Develop Critical Literacy*; and **JOCELYNN ANDERSON**—*The Effectiveness of Reading Intervention Programs*.

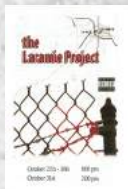
At the Pembroke Undergraduate Research and Creativity (PURC) Symposium on 7 April, in addition to the poster presented by the Writing Center tutors (see page 3), a number of students presented posters featuring the research they had done in Susan Cannata’s ENG 3040 class: **TALIA CIHLA**—*Class Systems Based on Race*; **DANIEL DAVIS**—*Blurring the Border: Male vs. Female in Bram Stoker’s Dracula*; **DESIREE MANELLO**—*Independence: Not So Independent After All?*; **SHARON PAZ**—*Hemmed In: An Examination of Women of the 19th Century American Middle Class and Kate Chopin’s The Awakening*; **CHRISTINE SABINA**—*The Journey to Find Independence and Freedom in The Awakening*; **TANK STEINER**—*Gender Roles in Devil in a Blue Dress*; and **CANDACE WALKER** and **JERRY McRAE**—*What Would You Do for a Klondike Bar?* Another group of students collaborated on a poster presenting the multigenre magazines they had created for Monika Brown’s ENG 1060 class: **ZENETA BROWN**, **CATELYN CHANCE**, **BRITTANY DANIELS**, **JEFF GRIFFIN**, **TERRY LOCKLEAR**, **JASMINE McNEILL**, **A.J. RAGLAND**, **THOMAS SALPAUGH**, and **CARLOS TOWNSEND**.

Also at the PURC Symposium, **YANISSA PÉREZ DE LÉON** gave an oral presentation on Aaron Stallworth, which she had also presented at the Sigma Tau Delta national convention in St. Louis in March. 📖

# E & Theatre

## 2009-2010 University Theatre Productions

### *The Laramie Project*



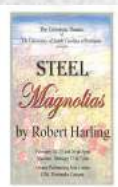
By Moises Kaufman and members  
of the Tectonic Theater Project

Directed by Holden Hansen

27-31 October 2009



### *Steel Magnolias*



By Robert Harling

Directed by Chet Jordan

24-27 February 2010



### *Guys and Dolls*



Music and Lyrics by Frank Loesser  
Book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows


Directed by Hal Davis

20-24 April 2010

## Theatre Activities

University Theatre's first Spring 2010 production featured an all-female cast in Robert Harling's **STEEL MAGNOLIAS**, directed by Chet Jordan, which delighted audiences in the GPAC on 24-27 February. The cast and crew then went on the road for two performances for appre-

ciative audiences in Festival Park in Manteo, NC, on 13 March.

On 20-24 April, University Theatre worked in conjunction with the Musical Theatre program to present the Tony-award-winning musical **GUYS AND DOLLS**, with music and lyrics by Frank Loesser and book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows, directed by Hal Davis. 



### *Steel Magnolias*

Directed by Chet Jordan

24-27 February 2010



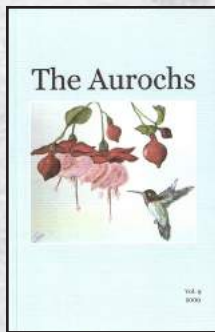
*Steel Magnolias* Cast and Crew: Kneeling: Orin Bartlett, Yanissa Pérez de León, Amy Cox, Lenair Koonce, Elisha Lawson; Seated: Lucy Marshman, Charlotte Cassidy; Standing: Nicky Barnes, Chet Jordan, Ashley McLamb, Jalessa Malloy, Allyson Betot, Nikki Frabott





## The Aurochs Wins Awards

The 2009 issue of *The Aurochs*, edited by **Stephanie Hammonds**, won a **Best of Show** award in the Literary Magazine category in the first annual North Carolina College Media Competition.



Individual awards were also given to **Adam Tex Hill** (First Place, Nonfiction) and **Craig Wilson** (Honorable Mention, Fiction).

The awards were announced at the NC College Media Association Conference, held this year at Elon University on 20 February. UNCP competes in the "large schools" category for these awards, and the department is very proud of our creative writing students and their advisor, **Karen Helgeson**.



Christine Sabina with Michele Fazio



Tank Steiner

## PURC Symposium

7 April 2010



Desiree Manello



Jerry McRae and Candace Walker



Daniel Davis



Talia Cihla



Yanissa Pérez de León

PHOTO CREDITS: Page 1: Melissa Schaub; Page 2: Melissa Schaub, Sara Oswald; Page 3: Catherine Parisian, Sara Oswald; Page 7: Monika Brown; Page 8: Carolina Choi, Nick Faulkner; Page 9: Monika Brown, Sara Oswald

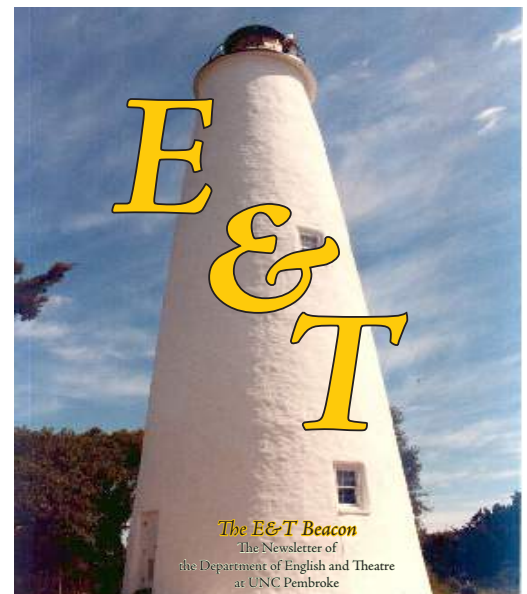
This issue of *The E&T Beacon* was produced using Adobe InDesign CS3. Body text is in Adobe Garamond Pro; sidebars and captions are in Myriad Pro Condensed; masthead and section headings are in Adobe Jensen Pro.

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

[catherine.parisian@uncp.edu](mailto:catherine.parisian@uncp.edu)

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[www.uncp.edu/et/news/](http://www.uncp.edu/et/news/)



**The E&T Beacon**  
The Newsletter of  
the Department of English and Theatre  
at UNC Pembroke