



English Notes

The Newsletter for English Students and Faculty
The University of Texas of the Permian Basin

“All the
News That
We Can Fit”

Graduate Students on the Move

UTPB English Notes is an biannual newsletter published by the Department of Literature and Languages at UTPB. *English Notes* is also available online at <http://cas.utpb.edu>.



English Graduate Students Nora Triepke, Maria Riner, Melissa Elston, with University of Tulsa Professor Joseph Kestner and UTPB Professor Sophia Andres, touring the Royal Holloway Collection at the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma in November (Credit: Melissa Elston)

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Seminar Spotlight: American Romanticism

Graduate Seminar Hopes to Explore Emerging Texts from the Early American Canon

Some might think that American Romanticism is an overdone topic for scholarship; after all, what is there left to

discover about the Transcendentalists or Herman Melville? But for Professor Todd Richardson, the movement is ripe for unearthing new texts, contexts, and themes from one of the most turbulent and significant periods in American history.

In his upcoming seminar on American Romanticism, Professor Richardson hopes to not only discuss new themes emerging from canonized texts such as Emerson’s “Self-Reliance” or Melville’s

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Seminar Spotlight: ENGL 6302.501

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Moby Dick, but also will explore marginalized Romantic authors like Fanny Fern and William Gilmore Simms.

Richardson, who is the faculty advisor for Sigma Tau Delta (the English Honor Society), has developed a reputation on campus for encouraging students to explore new possibilities in scholarship.

An expert on Ralph Waldo Emerson and early American periodicals, he is also interested in how American Romantics changed our conceptions of “technology, gender ideologies, sexual morality, conceptions of human nature and the natural world, religion, race relations, cultural identity and self-worth, and the profession of authorship.” That hardly sounds like a subject that is overdone.

Readings: Emerson, “*Self-Reliance*” and *Other Essays*; Hawthorne, *Blithedale Romance*; Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*; Melville, *Moby Dick*; Poe, “*The Gold Bug*” and *Other Tales*; Fern, *Ruth Hall*; Simms, *A Golden Christmas*

Time: Wednesdays, 5:40-8:20 PM

Location: LL 206



Todd Richardson, Assistant Professor of English

Other Graduate Course Offerings in Spring 2009

ENGL 6305.501: American Literature:

1945-Present

Instructor: Jason Lagapa

Topics: The splintering of Modernism in the context of a large, cultural crisis, with emphasis on the diversity of response to this crisis rather than on individual figures.

Readings: Davis, *Varieties of Disturbance*; Delillo, *Falling Man*; Geyh, Leebron, & Levy (eds.), *Postmodern American Fiction: A Norton Anthology*; Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies*; Proulx, *Close Range: Wyoming Stories*

Time: Thursdays, 4:30-7:10 PM

Location: GAB 004

ENGL 6359.501: Shakespeare

Instructor: Shawn Watson

Readings: Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (Arden Edition, 3rd)

Time: Tuesdays, 5:40-8:20 PM

Location: FB 009



English Briefs

Sophia Andres

Professor Sophia Andres, chair of the Literature and Languages Department, was awarded the prestigious Minnie Stevens Piper Professorship at Spring Commencement. The award is only given to 15 professors statewide each year and comes with a \$5,000 honorarium, as well as a gold pin. She is one of only three UTPB professors to win the award.

Andres also published an article in the 2008 issue of *Studies in Literary Imagination*, titled "Gendered Incongruities in the Silenced Voice of Pre-Raphaelite Paintings: A.S. Byatt's 'Morpho Eugenia.'" Additionally, she presented a paper at the 2008 NAVSA Conference at Yale University, titled "Majolica Vases, Earthen Pots, and Blue China: Materiality, Production, and Aesthetic Production."

Currently, Andres is working on a book exploring interdisciplinary

relationships between poetry and painting.

Rebecca Day Babcock

Professor Rebecca Day Babcock, head of the Composition Program, published an article titled "Outlaw Tutoring: Editing and Proofreading Revisited" in the Spring issue of *Journal of College Reading and Learning*. She also served on the MLA International Bibliography Advisory Committee in 2008.

Todd Richardson

Professor Todd Richardson published an article early in 2008 titled "Emerson Iconography and the *Free Religious Index*," in *Resources for American Literary Study*. He also submitted a chapter for the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook to Transcendentalism* (2009), titled "The Periodicals of Transcendentalism."

In addition to his publications, Richardson presented a paper at the American Literature Association in San Francisco

in May, titled "It is good for his worshipers to see their idol in another light': Emerson, Boston's *Literary World*, and the Resistance to the Culture of Celebrity."

Finally, with the help of the La Mancha Society's Golden Windmill Award, he has completed research on his article "From Syphilitic to Suffragist: the *Woman's Journal* and the Reformation of Walt Whitman's Reputation," which he will be submitting to *Walt Whitman Quarterly* soon.

Mark Wildermuth

Professor Mark Wildermuth's second book, *Print Chaos and Complexity: Samuel Johnson and Eighteenth-Century Media Culture* was published by the University of Delaware Press in August 2008.

He also published an article in *The Journal of Popular Film and Television*, titled "Electronic Media and the Feminine in the National Security Regime: *The Manchurian Candidate* Before and After 9/11."

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Graduate Teaching Assistantships

Graduate Teaching Assistants Gain Valuable Experience in the Classroom

For graduate students who are seeking teaching experience as well as a steady paycheck, graduate teaching assistantships provide both. GTA's in English are paid **\$10,000-\$12,000 per academic year**, and also may seek a \$500 tuition stipend for

each semester they are enrolled.

Candidates are accepted on the basis of academic record and experience, and must be enrolled for 9 hours per semester.

Assistantships are now available for Fall 2009. For more information about Graduate Teaching Assistantships, please visit our website:

<http://cas.utpb.edu>.

GTA's at UTPB have the added benefit of working in close proximity to seasoned scholars in the field. It is a truly unique opportunity.

**—Clark Moreland,
Class of 2005**

English Program Nationally Recognized

National Accreditation Board NCATE Recognizes UTPB English Program

The English Program at UTPB has recently been recognized by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Through the National Council of Teachers of English, the English Program has been accredited as a Specialized Professional Association for Language Arts at the Baccalaureate level. This means students in the English Program who

plan on entering the teaching field will be even more attractive to prospective employers.

This recognition is an honor bestowed on few other English programs across the country. According to Sophia Andres, Chair of Literature and Languages at UTPB, the award will help further the program's reputation as a leader in teacher education and training.

Professor Andres also congratulated the English faculty, who worked extensively on aligning courses

with standards through the summer months. By restructuring the English Program to meet the numerous standards for NCATE recognition, Andres also believes the English program was strengthened.

NCATE, which bills itself as "The standard of excellence in teacher preparation," says accreditation is important because it "informs the public that the accredited college or university operates at a high level of educational quality and integrity" (<http://www.ncate.org>).

Take it to the Writing Center

The UTPB Writing Center offers student writers the tools they need to succeed

All students, whether they are freshmen or graduate students, know they occasionally need help with their writing. But the University Writing Center (**MB 2100**) offers much more than just aid on your upcoming term paper.

According to Kellye Manning, the UWC Director, the Writing Center's main purpose is to "furnish writers with strategies to engage in the

writing process and tools to acquire confidence" in their work.

The Writing Center offers students tutoring on how to brainstorm, develop a thesis, organize ideas, and proofread their work. They also offer tutorials about citation formats, including MLA format.

While many students visit the Writing Center in person to receive tutoring, they can also submit work to the Online Writing Lab (OWL). In order to use this service, the UWC asks

Spring UWC Hours

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM-8:00 PM

Friday, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Saturday, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

Sunday: Closed

that students call ahead (432-552-2302) before submitting a paper. After calling ahead, students will receive an email address where they can send their work. They will also receive more information about submitting work at that time.

For more information about the University Writing Center, please visit:

<http://cas.utpb.edu/university-writing-center>

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Melissa Elston

Ms. Elston, a second-year graduate student and teaching assistant, published an article in the 2008 *Watermark* journal, titled "Pantyline as Borderline: The Gendered Geography of Taylor Figueroa." She also has journal articles forthcoming in *disClosure* ("Xerxes in Drag: Post-9/11 Marginalization and (Mis)Identification in 300"), *George Eliot-George Henry Lewes Studies* ("A World Outside: George Eliot's Ekphrastic Third Sphere in *The Mill on the Floss*"), and *Atenea* ("A Suspended Timeless Universe: The Narrative Caravaggism of Chevalier's *The Virgin Blue*") in 2009. She will also deliver conference papers at Nineteenth Century Studies Association and the

SW/TX Pop Culture & American Culture Association in Spring 2009, where several other graduate students from UTPB will also be presenting papers.

Clark Moreland

Mr. Moreland, a Part-Time Lecturer in English, presented a conference paper in October at the 2008 VISAWUS Conference in Seattle, WA. His paper was titled, "Public Prophets and Private Poets: Reconfigurations of Edward Burne-Jones in George Bernard Shaw's *Candida*."

Mr. Moreland was also a finalist for the 2008 UTPB President's Teaching Award (the first part-time instructor to ever be nominated for the award).

Visit us on the web at <http://cas.utpb.edu>

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Important Dates to Remember

November 3-January 11	Registration
January 12	Classes Begin (Late Registration)
January 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
March 2	Last Day to File for Graduation
March 16-20	Spring Break
March 27	Last day to submit Master's Thesis or Project to Committee Last Day to Drop or Withdraw
May 1	Last Day to Submit Master's Thesis or Project to Graduate Studies
May 4-7	Final Exams
May 9	Commencement

FYI: Professors usually prefer to be contacted through email, rather than by telephone. If you wish to contact an English professor, simply email them by their **last name_first initial@utpb.edu**.

Graduate Course Offerings in Summer 2009

ENGL 6357.720: Writing Center
Theory and Practice

Semester: Whole Summer

Instructor: Rebecca Babcock

Topics: The history, theory, and practice of writing center tutoring and administration.

Readings: Barnett & Blumner, *The Longman Guide to Writing Center Theory and Practice*; Silk, *The Writing Center Resource Manual* (2nd ed.)

Time: Online through UTTC

ENGL 6359.040: Melodrama

Semester: Summer I

Instructor: Shawn Watson

Time: MTWR, 1:00-3:15 PM

Location: MB 4143

ENGL 6359.060: History of Children's Literature

Semester: Summer II

Instructor: Nichole Rougeau-Vanderford

Time: MTWR, 10:30-12:50 PM

Location: MB 4113