

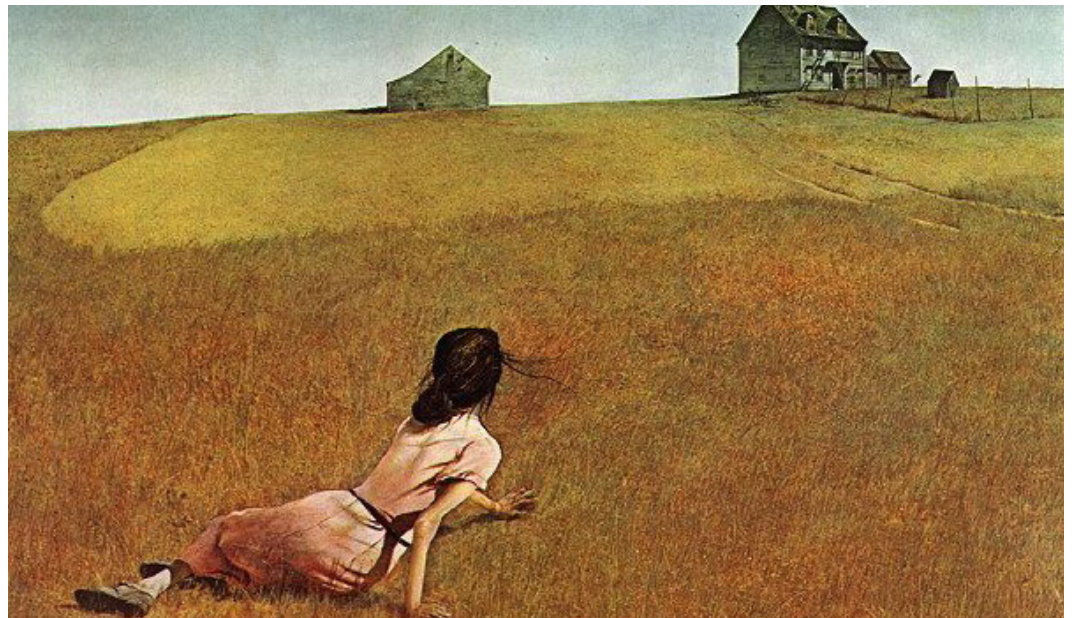


UNCG

graduate studies in  
**ENGLISH**

## New Faces Abound: Introducing Our New Faculty

The English department welcomed two new faculty members in the 2009-2010 academic year. In addition to promoting our graduate student accomplishments and services like the Advanced Writing Support Project and the Center for Creative Writing, this newsletter encourages the UNCG community to learn more about professors Holly Goddard Jones and Risa Applegarth.



Andrew Wyeth's *Christina's World*

### Holly Goddard Jones

A large print of Andrew Wyeth's *Christina's World* hangs in Holly Goddard Jones' office: "I know that the story behind the painting doesn't fit with this," said the newest member of UNCG's prestigious MFA faculty, "but when I first saw it, it reminded me of my mother. She grew up the youngest girl of eight children, and she talks about her childhood in a way that sometimes idealizes it—when she's remembering swinging on grapevines or drinking fresh milk, or the Christmas she finally got a Barbie—and sometimes makes it sound very lonely. The painting just encapsulates all of that for me."

Holly's own childhood as the daughter of a factory worker in Kentucky plays a large part in her work as a writer. She is the author of *Girl Trouble*, a collection of eight short stories that focus on the often troubled, isolated lives of individuals in a small Kentucky town. The intelligence of the narrative in *Girl*

# Meet the New Faculty

*Trouble* made an impressive impact on the UNCG MFA search committee and the program was proud to welcome Holly as an Assistant Professor in fiction last fall. She came to Greensboro from the small town of Murray, Kentucky where she taught fiction at Murray State University.

“It’s nice to live in a small city again after two years in a very small town that was hours from the nearest good food and shopping and airport,” Holly said. “Greensboro is a very easy city to live in.”

After graduating with a BA from the University of Kentucky in 2002, Holly obtained an MFA from the Ohio State University in 2006. Her stories have appeared in *Shenandoah*, the *Kenyon Review*, the *Gettysburg Review* and in numerous other publications. Her work has been anthologized in *New Stories from the South* in 2007 and 2008 and in *Best American Mystery Stories 2008*.

She has also been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades. She won the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers’ Award in 2007 and was honored with the Peter Taylor Scholarship in Fiction at the Sewanee Writers’ Conference in 2006. In addition, she was awarded a “Special Mention” designation from the Pushcart Prize in

2005 and 2006. “Like most people, I write because I like to read,” she said. William Faulkner, Joyce Carol Oates, Annie Proulx and Michael Chabon are among her favorite writers.

In addition to Murray State, Holly has also worked at Denison University in Ohio and The Sewanee Young Writers’ Conference in Tennessee. Teaching



at UNCG is a departure from Holly’s previous instructing experience, having never taught graduate students. She describes her teaching style as methodical: “I have a very analytical approach to the teaching of writing. I like to focus on the nuts and bolts

of a story.”

Outside of the classroom, Holly is currently working on a novel, tentatively titled *The Remains*. When she is not teaching or writing, Holly enjoys running: “I usually do some 5Ks in the summer, and I have run a couple of half-marathons.” She also enjoys cooking, gardening, and her pets: “I have dogs. They’re not a hobby, but I spend a lot of time with them.” Holly and her husband Brandon live near campus with their two dogs, Bishop and Martha.

Though she has left the Midwest behind for her new southern home, Holly has brought the people who surrounded her to

Greensboro through the painting in her office and the characters she brings to life in her stories.

by Neela Rao McDade

## Risa Applegarth

Risa Applegarth can frequently be found working in Tate St. Coffee, an indication of her laid-back attitude towards life and her dedication to her work in the field of Rhetoric and Composition. She received her Ph.D. in this field from UNC Chapel Hill in 2009 and joined the English department at UNCG that same year. Her recent experiences in graduate school and the transition into an Assistant Professor position are instructive for graduate students in this department hoping to engage in a similar career.

Of course, Risa has scholarly interests that brought her to UNCG, first from Minnesota, where she attended Carleton College for her B.A. in English, and then Chapel Hill for her graduate work. Her current interests include the rhetoric of science, genre discourse, and the feminist history of rhetoric. Risa’s dissertation, “Other Grounds: Popular Genres and the Rhetoric of Anthropology, 1900-1940,” won the prestigious James Berlin Memorial Outstanding Dissertation Award in 2010 from the CCCC composition conference.

Risa draws in some of this work while also expanding in new directions in two upcoming publications. The first, “Field Guides: Women Writing Popular Anthropology,” will appear in the edited collection *Women in Rhetoric Be-*



*tween the Wars* and explores the role of women integrating into the field of anthropology.

The second article, “Genre Location and Mary Austin’s Ethos,” was published in *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* in September 2010. This article works to reclaim the early twentieth-century writer Mary Austin as a rhetorical figure, not simply a literary one.

Risa’s choice to focus on Rhetoric and Composition sprang in part from her work at the Carleton College Writing Center as an undergraduate: “Since no one has rhetoric and composition in undergrad, we need another in,” Risa said. Her work at the Writing Center and with ESL tutoring allowed her to “have long-term relationships with people and their writing” and to explore the relationship between style, authority, and ethos. The director of Carleton’s Writing Center helped to point Risa to Rhetoric and Composition as a way to further develop these interests.

Risa is helping to bring rhetoric to UNCG undergraduates by teaching a class this semester called Introduction to Rhetoric. She says this class helps to create “an earlier awareness of what rhetoric and composition is” and shows students “a way to produce more effective arguments.” In addition to this work, Risa has also taught ENG 102, a speaking-intensive course, and literary non-fiction, a “super fun and awesome” class that allows her to work with students on more personal writing.

In the fall 2010 semester Risa will be teaching on literature in the environment to undergraduates and a graduate-level course focusing on the

rhetoric of science. Both of these play to her interests and will allow her to teach a diverse group of students.

In approaching her classes, Risa is constantly aware of what her students need and what will help them develop their own interests. With timid students, such as those in her literary non-fiction course in fall 2009, Risa says she strives for “playfulness, eliminating sense of fear or threat so students can take risks.”

This approach changes when she moves to a graduate-level classroom where she defines her role differently, seeking to “provide guidance [and] ask students to produce assignments that are helpful to them.” Recalling different ways her own graduate instructors structured their classes, Risa says that graduate students need flexibility to find ways to link their interests with course materials.

Risa Applegarth enjoys watching basketball (particularly the Kansas men, UNC Chapel Hill women, and “anybody but Duke”) and playing basketball herself. She and her partner, Mark Loyd, a sociology Ph.D. Candidate at UNC Chapel Hill, recently bought a home. They are enjoying the space they found for a ping pong table, but are still looking for a place to mount a basketball hoop.

*by Courtney Adams Wooten*

## Advanced Writing Support Project

The University Writing Center is often seen as a space where undergraduates go for writing help, seeking advice on issues such as grammar, organization, or citation. Indeed, many of the writers who come to the Writing Center do match this general description. However, the Writing Center works with many post-graduate writers as well and is seeking to expand services for all writers in the university community. Toward this end, the Writing Center has launched a new initiative: The Advanced Writers Support Project, or AWSP. The program seeks to connect graduate student and faculty writers with

graduate consultants to work together on long-term projects such as dissertation chapters and journal articles.

Graduate students and faculty members have always been welcome to take advantage of the Center’s services. However, the aim of AWSP is to create sustained relationships between writers and consultants. For the past three years, consultants have worked with



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# Graduate Student Accomplishments

**Nancy Adams** won a 2009 English-Speaking Union Scholarship to attend the inaugural T. S. Eliot Summer School in London, directed by Ronald Schuchard of Emory University.

**Alan Benson** presented at the Canadian Society for the Study of Rhetoric/International Society for the History of Rhetoric conference, co-presented workshops at the Expanding Literacy Studies Graduate Student Conference and the Conference on College Composition and Communication, and participated in a panel discussion on "Digital Discourse and Dialogue: Cultivating Vernacular Agency in Synchronous Online Consultations" at the Southeastern Writing Center Association Conference.

**Emily A. Benton's** poem "Man with a Beard of Bees" was published in *Kakalak 2009: Anthology of Carolina Poets*. She read her poetry with other *Kakalak* poets and editors at the Friendly Center Barnes & Noble Booksellers in August 2009.

**Rachel Bowman** received the Weil Fellowship for the 2009-2010 year, and presented a paper at the Rhetoric Society of America conference in Minneapolis. She also chaired a panel on composition studies at the annual UNCG Graduate Students Conference and served on the EGSA executive board.

**Jennifer F. Boyle** published over thirty articles in 2009 in *Forsyth Woman* and *Forsyth Family Magazines*. These articles highlighted businesses, organizations, and local events in the city of Winston-Salem and surrounding areas.

**Will Dodson** is the 2009-2010 Assistant Director of Composition. In fall 2010, he will be the intern in ENG 747: Theories and Practice of Teaching Composi-

tion. He is a Head Editor of *Tech-né Rhétoriké*. He wrote, filmed, and co-edited a series of short video documentaries on the Writing and Speaking Centers. He published two trade paperback short film histories, *Cult Films* and *Hollywood Musicals*. He has contributed a chapter to a forthcoming book, "The Saw Franchise and the History of Torture in Horror Cinema," in *The Saw Films: Putting the Pieces of Jigsaw Together*. He presented papers at the Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s) Conference in East Lansing, MI, CCCC in Louisville, KY, the Society for Cinema and Media Studies in Los Angeles, PCA/ACA in St. Louis, and RSA in Minneapolis. He continues to serve as the Vice-President of Finance for the Graduate Student Association.

**Will Duffy** presented two papers at the Feminism(s) and Rhetoric(s) Conference at Michigan State in October. In addition, his essay "Rhetoric, Virtue, and the Necessity of Invention" was published in the collection *The Responsibilities of Rhetoric*. An essay co-authored with John Pell, "Inventing Texts Together: Understanding Collaborative Writing" was accepted for publication and is forthcoming in the second volume of *Writing Spaces: Readings of Writing*.

**Scott Gibson** presented "Paul Marchand, F. M. C., Whiteness, and the (Non)Racial Classification of African American Novels" at the 20th Annual American Literature Association Conference in May 2009. He also published his essay "'They Were All Colored to the Life': Historicizing Whiteness in *Evelyn's Husband*" in *Passing in the Works of Charles W. Chesnut*.

**Whitney Gray** had several poems featured in *Contemporary American Voices* in October, and her poem "Summer Ghosts" will be

published in the inaugural issue of *Loose Change*. Her poem "Photographs of My Father" is also forthcoming in the 13th issue of *nibble*. She was awarded a John Woods scholarship and the opportunity to attend a poetry workshop hosted by Western Michigan University's Prague Summer Program.

**Laurie Lyda** presented "The Art of The Woman in White" at the 2009 Victorians Institute and will present "Civilizing the Rhetoric of Prostitution in Nineteenth-Century Britain" at the 2010 Rhetoric Society of America Conference. She was awarded 2009 and 2010 Graduate School Summer Assistantships for dissertation research, reviewed Heiki Bauer's *English Literary Sexology: Translations of Inversion, 1860-1930* for *English Literature in Transition, 1880-1920*, and served on the editorial board for a forthcoming issue of the *International Journal of Critical Pedagogy*.

**Jeff Martin** published a short story, "Steeled," in *Mid American Review*.

**Rachel Marie Patterson**, graduate MFA poet, will be attending the University of Missouri-Columbia on a teaching assistantship to pursue a Ph.D. in Creative Writing.

**Melissa Richard** served as the Assistant Coordinator of Introductory Literature Courses for the 2009-2010 academic year. She presented "Julia Margaret Cameron's Photographic Accompaniment to Tennyson's 'Maud'" at the Victorians Institute Conference in October 2009, and presented "Pastoral Preoccupation and Transformation in Charlotte Smith's *Beachy Head*" at the Louisiana Conference on Languages and Literature in March 2010.

MFA students **Amanda Rutstein**, **Stefanie Silva**, **Joe McCormick**, and **Michael Zinkowski** present-

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graduate students on theses and dissertations.

The concept is simple: a writer is paired with a consultant, and they meet weekly to read through the writer's long-term project. AWSP is built on the same philosophy that guides the Writing Center's practice. It is not an attempt to change what the Writing Center does for UNCG.

Instead, it is a logical extension of the Writing Center's mission. Consultants provide writers with a fresh perspective and a consistent sounding board for new and complex ideas.

AWSP has proven to be fertile ground for dissertation writers, who continue to constitute the largest percentage of the Center's clientele. Consultants have worked with numerous English graduate students, from early in the process of drafting chapters to the final proofread-

ing and editing before submitting a successfully defended dissertation. Some of these same writers also participate as consultants in AWSP, giving them the opportunity to share their wisdom and advice with other writers struggling to complete their doctorates. AWSP is not limited to English graduate students, however. Students from departments as di-



verse as Kinesiology, Consumer Apparel, and Retail Studies have brought their work to the Writing Center for long-term collaboration. Faculty members have also worked with AWSP consultants. Just like writers at any level, professors frequently discover that interacting with a reader over a sustained period can make the writing process both more engaging and more approachable.

The Advanced Writing Support Project continues to grow as word spreads around the university. The Writing Center dedicates most of its strategies toward undergraduate writers, but the Advanced Writing Support Project gives the Center the opportunity to work with writers from every level of the university.

## Center for Creative Writing

Creative writing has long flourished in and around UNCG. The list of names that have studied, taught, spoken or visited here is lengthy: Randall Jarrell, Fred Chappell, Eudora Welty, and Claudia Emerson, just to name a few.

The newly-housed Center for Creative Writing in the Arts hopes to nurture this relationship by creating an interactive environment for creative writers in and outside of the university. By offering workshops, discussions and readings, the Center aims to become an integral part of Greensboro's writing community.

Prior to this fall, the Center was more of an ideal than a reality, being run by Romance Languages professor Mark Smith-Soto and his graduate assistant, Hao Ngyuen, from Smith-Soto's office. But in the past few months Smith-Soto was busy setting up the Center's new home at 127 McIver St.

The Center, though closely tied to the MFA program, is not under the direction of any UNCG department or organization. This independence should help provide a more open creative space.

"It is as broadly framed as you can imagine in creative writing," Smith-Soto said, going on to note that the executive board has members from the drama, film and visual arts departments.

Workshops and readings by authors are regularly scheduled. Smith-Soto said he welcomes suggestions, which can be emailed to him at [mismiths@uncg.edu](mailto:mismiths@uncg.edu).

by Jacob Babb

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# Accomplishments

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ed a panel entitled, "The Use of the Self in Poetry: A Discussion of the Poetic Trend Against Confessional Poetry in MFA programs" at the Graduate Liberal Studies Conference at UNC Wilmington.

**MaryBeth Short** presented "Where Have All The Classics Gone?: Reintroducing the Classics into the Secondary Language Arts Classroom" at the International Conference on Education, Research, and Innovation in Madrid (Nov 2009). She is currently working at Cary Academy as a Middle School English teacher and will be presenting on her teaching practices at the London International Conference on Education in September.

**Warlock Vance** published *Fear of Flying Coach, and Book: the Sequel—First Lines from the Classics of the Future by Inventive Imposters*. He also published "God & Goddess," "Lovely Lotus," and "Praying for Your Return" in *Faces of the Goddess* by La Tigre Press, as well as "The Doomsday Clock Keeps Ticking: Watchmen as a Mirror of Times" at Mania.com. In addition, he was invited to do a one-day writing workshop at UNC Pembroke, as well as a signing for his book *The Missing Narrative of Neptune*.

**Cindy Webb** presented "Moving Midway and the Work of Reframing Sentient Architecture in Southern Literature" at the annual Society for the Study of Southern Literature Conference. She was the Graduate Assistant Director of the Writing Center in Fall 2009, and continues to serve on the Student Libraries Advisory Council.

# Center of Creativity

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Most recently, the Center hosted a reading by poet Erica Meitner, readings by MFA students, and a "Will Read for Food" benefit for local charities.

The Center was the brainchild of College of Arts and Sciences' Dean Tim Johnston in the spring of 2006, with a mission to promote the tradition of writing for which UNCG and the community have come to be known.

"The Center has the potential to contribute to the life and mind of the university," Smith-Soto said.

Though plans for the fall are tentative, Smith-Soto said that the Center will probably be open most days in the afternoon. One suggested idea is a walk-in poetry workshop on Wednesday afternoons.

"The place is ready to go," Smith-Soto said. "We just need to figure out how best to use it."

The Director relies heavily on his graduate assistants. This fall, that assistant is MFA poetry student Shawn Delgado, who says he is "extremely excited about the coming year." Delgado has been working on gathering a "small library" of anthologies, craft books, literary journals, poetry, and prose that is accessible to UNCG students, faculty and staff as well as the public.

The Center also has ties to the Greensboro Playwrights' Forum, Poetry GSO, the Writers' Group of the Triad, and the *Greensboro Review*, the creative writing publication of the MFA program. Smith-Soto is editor of the *International Poetry Review*. For more information, visit the Center's website at <http://www.uncg.edu/aas/ccwa/>.

by Zack Hill

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## Annual Update from the EGSA

The English Graduate Students Association continued to fulfill its mission of connecting graduate students with each other and with the faculty in the 2009-2010 year. Here are some of the things we did:

- Held our fourth annual Graduate Student Conference, which presenters attended from as far away as California. The fifth conference was held this year on September 25.
- Renovated the EGSA website, including a list of all the calls for papers that were sent out through the ENGRAD listserv (check it out: [www.uncg.edu/eng/egsa](http://www.uncg.edu/eng/egsa)).
- Continued the honor pantry in the grad student lounge, as well as the Café EGSA Starbucks coffee sales.
- Welcomed Mark Rifkin as the new EGSA faculty advisor (Mark replaces Annette Van, who moved on in spring 2009).

- Continued to represent graduate students in the department with two members in department faculty meetings and two members in grad studies committee meetings.

- Spruced up the grad student lounge, with generous help from Kelly Ritter.
- Had a rockin' Halloween party.
- Held a workshop with Job Placement Committee members Jen Feather and Risa Applegarth about how to navigate the job market.
- Thanked Nancy Myers for her work as Director of Graduate Studies with gift certificates to Table 16 and Chakras.
- Showed all of our appreciation to the hardworking and fabulous administrative staff with gifts of flowers and chocolate.

Thanks for everyone's help in making 2009-2010 such a great year!