TRIBUTE TO GROVER C. GRUBBS

The English Department was profoundly saddened by the death of Grover Grubbs during the Spring semester. We felt that those of you who were privileged to know Grover would want to read the tributes delivered at his funeral by two of his colleagues - Clay Tucker, formerly of the English department, now retired from the position of Dean of the School of Liberal Arts; and Charles Dean, currently of the English department.

It is time for a poetical statement full of wisdom, care, and insights, remarks that will do justice to the sensitive love that Grover Grubbs had for all things beautiful, true, artistic, and joyous. And yet, I must ask you to share with me this moment of my inadequacy. Fate, that always relentless teacher, has not allowed us this time for the careful composition that those of us who are prideful engineers of words often like to demand of others. So, as we honor you, Grover, forgive us our failings in not measuring up to your keen and honest standards. Wise, poetic, and insightful our tribute may not be, but care and love do abound in it as we turn not to our minds for words but to our hearts.

Grover's code of ethics and his joy of living invite us to come here to remember him and to celebrate him rather than to mourn him. Henrietta reminded me yesterday of what I already knew to be one of his special qualities. She said he never did anything bad to anyone. The only things he did were things he did because he knew they were good. That is a glorious thing to be remembered for: having been, quite simply, good.

On more than one occasion it was my pleasure to reminisce with Grover over the experiences we had in common. There was the enjoyment of music, even to our liking much of the same kind of music. There were the writers we shared, places we had both been to in our travels, a university we both attended but at different times, and the one we worked in together for what I trust was common cause. Those pleasures were punctuated and illuminated by his charming wit, an open yet finely sly and twinkling smile, and good humor in such abundance that it warmed the room itself. Most of you here have enjoyed those same pleasures with him, and the members of his family have enjoyed them expanded by the deeper and more intimate experiences cont. on page 2

cont. on page 3

RICHARD C. PECK AWARDS

The Richard C. Peck Memorial Fund continues to award scholarships to outstanding English majors. The 1978-79 awards of $800.00 each were increased to $1,000.00 each for the 1979-80 academic year.

The 1979-80 recipients were Jill Ross, Betsy Hall, Karen Davenport, Debi Clifton, and Laura York.

The Fund continues to grow through contributions by friends of the Pecks. If you would like to contribute to the Fund, send your check to the MTSU Foundation and mark it for The Richard C. Peck Memorial Fund.

KEEPING UP WITH OUR RETIREES

Our retirees may be retired from teaching, but they're certainly keeping busy. When asked about his activities since retirement, Ramon DeShazo passed the following on to the Newsletter:

Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife,
Their sober wishes never learn to stray;
Along the cool sequestered vale of life
They keep the noiseless tenor of their way.

Ramon and Opal

Since retirement in 1977, Dr. Virginia Peck has become a world traveler, visiting Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Baja Mexico, South America, the Galapagos Islands, Spain, Greece, Turkey, Hawaii, Yucatan, and Guatemala - all this aside from domestic travel to attend Daylily Conventions and Board of Directors’ meetings. For anyone who does not know, Dr. Peck is one of the country's foremost hybridizers. Visitors come by the busloads from all over the country to see her daylilies during the blooming season.

Dr. Clay Tucker was a member of the English department for many years before assuming his duties as Dean of the School of Liberal Arts. He retired from the latter position in 1978. Since that time, he and his wife Dorethe, director of the MTSU theater, have traveled to New York several times, to New Orleans, Florida, the West Coast, to Canada and Switzerland. They recently completed an 8,000 mile train trip around the U.S. and a trip to England. Dr. Tucker is busy with his hobbies of model railroading, photography, and collecting of old jazz recordings.
Now my most difficult task, but one I have been honored to do, is done. For you and for me a day of joy speed to Grover, knowing that the journey he now embarks upon will be as full of joy as was the day he has just completed.

Clay Tucker

"In patience possess ye your souls" the teacher said, speaking to men and women in distress. Grover never said those words to us. Yet none taught us so well the patient possession of our souls as a way to meet distress.

Grover was astounded by the stubbornness of language, those students whose essays said what they would not say, to those whose essays inspired and good intent could not make clear. Grover said, "Pay attention to details. Do the small things well...But DO ALL the small things well." Many students did what he said, did all the small, demanding work, asked them to, and to one and all Grover related in kind, giving more effort to every student than that student gave.

To colleagues discouraged or weary with "the way things are going," those who almost despaired or who wondered if it was worth it all, Grover said, "I know. But I feel like that's the job we have to do." And he set an example of quiet, determined labor that often got us through that day with pride.

To friends and loved ones at each other, to those who, hurt themselves, sent out the stinging word or planned the vengeance act; to those -- to all of us -- when we saw our feelings by attacking others, Grover said, "Do you think maybe he meant to do a better thing? Maybe he was trying..." He blunted our anger, woke our compassion; by being Grover he helped us to be better selves.

He felt injustice when it was suffered by him, the worry he took to the pain that others bore: he asked us all to give sympathetic help to all the rest of us. And endlessly he gave and showed us how to give.

In patience he possessed his soul...and we are better for that.

So the earth the body of this good man, we recall the generous spirit, the loving heart, the consoling mind that governed the days of his life with us. Our memories are sharp with his acts of kindness; his compassion moves us to compassion. Our life is richer because he lived. We loved him living...and we love him still.

Charles Dean

THE MID-SOUTH HUMANITIES PROJECT

The Mid-South Humanities Project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, is a two-year pilot project directed towards establishing a Regional Program to promote the use of local and regional cultural resources in the classroom. Co-directed by Francis R. Giannini, Professor of English, and John H. Hulda, Professor of History and Director of Historical Preservation Studies, the project represents one of the largest grants ever awarded to a Southern university.

The first major task of the project staff was to select demonstration center teams from nine states in the Southeast. Each team is comprised of five high school and community college history and English teachers. In July 1979 the 45 participants came to MTSU for an intensive three-week training institute. The core of the Institute was a 300-page manual of substantive local resources compiled by the project staff. It is the largest and most comprehensive collection of such materials in the U.S. today. In addition, materials from each demonstration center area, collected by the staff, were used by the teachers to plan curricular units and course materials for their individual classes. The result of this work is a 150-page workbook of curriculum units that can be replicated.

This year the Association considered the state of the discipline. Various representatives delineated their views concerning the state of English on their respective campuses. Sessions were devoted to the state of freshman composition, sophomore literature, the major courses for non-majors, continuing education, graduate work, development of English, and staffing.

John McDaniel, department chairman, is vice-president of the organization. The Peck Committee helped underwrite some of the expenses involved in hosting the meeting.

TCEA MEETS AT MTSU

The Tennessee College English Association met at MTSU on April 18 and 19. The four sessions were well attended by representatives of college English departments from over the state, private as well as public, two-year as well as four-year and comprehensive universities.

This year the Association considered the state of the discipline. Various representatives delineated their views concerning the state of English on their respective campuses. Sessions were devoted to the state of freshman composition, sophomore importance, the major courses for non-majors, continuing education, graduate work, developmental English, and staffing.

John McDaniel, department chairman, is vice-president of the organization. The Peck Committee helped underwrite some of the expenses involved in hosting the meeting.
Christine Vaughan reports she has enjoyed every day of her retirement (1970). Every year since, she and Frances Shublesfield have made an overseas trip. In fact, they have visited every continent except Antarctica. Not content with the usual method of travel, Miss Vaughan has ridden camels in Egypt and elephants in Thailand. This year she took their second round-the-world tour. Miss Vaughan, as all who know her will attest, is an extraordinarily gifted egg decorator and Christmas tree ornament maker. She works on these projects year round and, as she writes, “I’d love to have you come see me when you pass through Manchester – the red birds (another hobby), goldfish (real ones in her pond), daffodils, and I would welcome you.” She also says that as soon as she can find time (good luck!) she’s going to learn to knit. Last year Miss Vaughan received the National 4-H Alumni Merit Award and was feted at the National Meeting in Chicago.

After teaching in the English Department since 1961, Professor Ralph W. Hyde retired in May, 1979. His areas of specialization were American folklore and Victorian literature. He also edited the *Tennessee Folklife Bulletin*, which achieved international recognition under his guidance. Hyde is fondly remembered by his students for his distinguished wardrobe, his unusual pipe collection, his dry, witty sense of humor, and the limitless collection of anecdotes with which he entertained his classes.

Ralph Hyde

Julian Mast

Joseph Ballew

After a long and unsuccessful struggle with Reiter’s Syndrome, Mast took a medical retirement. He received his B.S. and M.A. degrees from Appalachian State Teachers College. He taught courses in the development of the short story, sophomore introduction to literature, and freshman composition.

Mast is vividly remembered by his students for his easy-to-present twinkle in his eyes and for the billows of smoke issuing from his pipe while he paused to answer a student’s question or to articulate the next sentence in one of his witty and humorous lectures. Following his retirement, Mast moved to his farm in Sugar Grove, North Carolina, where he devotes most of his time to writing and reading.

Professor Joseph F. Ballew, who has been with the English Department since 1963, retired in May, 1980. Ballew received his B.S. degree from Bob Jones University and his M.A. from the University of Tennessee. He taught courses in nineteenth and twentieth century American literature, persuasive writing, and American composition and composition.

Ballew retired due to a law passed recently by the state legislature that stipulates mandatory retirement at age 65 for college teachers. His efforts to win an extension to teach another year fell short of the mark despite strong support from members of the English Department. “My colleagues in the English Department earned my sincere gratitude,” he states, “with their petition in support of my desire to remain with them for another year — support which, alas, was shared by no one beyond the departmental level.”

In retirement Ballew expects to spend considerable time visiting with relatives, “of whom I am blessed with God’s plenty,” he notes. He also plans to read some books that he has “too long lacked the time to read,” in addition to looking into the prospects for tutoring foreign students in English. His long-term plans include a return, after an absence of four decades, to his birthplace — a small farm near Murphy, North Carolina, to re-discover his roots. But “I shall do so only tentatively at first,” he writes, “until I find out for myself whether my fellow Tarheel, Tom Wolfe, was right in saying one cannot go home again.”

Also leaving the department at the end of the 1979-80 year was Rhynette N. Hurd, instructor for the past three years.

She received her B.A. degree from Mount Holyoke College and her M.A. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. While at MTSU she did doctoral work at George Peabody College. Hurd taught very popular courses in women’s literature.

Hurd moved to Memphis where her husband Bill has established his medical residency and where she hopes to continue her teaching career. About her tenure at MTSU, Hurd writes: “I have considered myself extremely fortunate to spend three years working with a group that is committed not only to maintaining high standards but also to encouraging personal interest in individual student growth. The department exemplifies the humanistic ideals we try so desperately to impart to our students.”

**CHALLENGE PROGRAM**

The university has recently received a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Jennings A. Jones of Murfreesboro, which has been designated for Challenge, the MTSU Program for Gifted and Talented Children. This fund provides released time for English instructor Margaret Ordubadian, coordinator of the program since the Spring Session 1979. Each academic semester Challenge meets on Saturday mornings for eight consecutive weeks.

Children from the Middle Tennessee area who have been identified as gifted are eligible for the program.

During the summer, Challenge becomes a two-week residential program for Grades 6-9. The students live on campus, attend six hours per day of academic instruction (mostly laboratory or studio sessions), participate in recreational and cultural activities, and enjoy the benefits of associating with college professors from a variety of departments and of using the university facilities such as the computer lab, graphic arts equipment, library, LRC, art studio, and science laboratories. Further information can be secured from the Office of Continuing Education, 898-2462, or from Margaret Ordubadian, 898-2555.

In addition to her work with Challenge, Ordubadian was recently appointed to serve as a member of the State Gifted/Talented Advisory Council, and continues to teach the courses in Children’s Literature in the English Department.
NEW FACULTY

Joining the department in the Fall of 1979 was Linda L. Badley. She received her B.A. from Oklahoma Baptist University, her M.S. from the University of Iowa, and her Ph.D. in 1977 from the University of Louisville. While at Louisville she received the John M. Houchens Prize for "outstanding scholarship in a doctoral program evidenced by a dissertation of special merit." Before coming to MTSU, Badley taught at Moorhead State University in Minnesota.

Linda Badley

Besides teaching courses in freshman composition and sophomore literature, Linda teaches a course in modern English literature. Her husband Bill teaches as a part-time adjunct in the department and at Tennessee State. Together they built a rustic cabin in the Canadian wilderness to which they retreat in the summer. Despite her brief association with MTSU, Badley says that she feels at home and that she is "impressed with the personal and professional qualities of the people in the department. They are most helpful, lively, and hard-working." Most important, "they have a good sense of humor," she adds.

Elaine Ware came in the Fall of 1980 from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She received a B.A. from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and is working toward a Ph.D. at Bowling Green State University. Ware's area of concentration is American Renaissance. She is currently writing her dissertation: An edition of George Washington Cable's The Cavalier.

Elaine Ware

Patricia V. Beatty came to M.T.S.U. in the Fall of 1980 from Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Beatty received the A.B. from Newcomb College, Tulane University, and the M.A. from The University of Alabama. She is currently working toward a Ph.D. at The University of Alabama. Her dissertation is on The Edenic Archetype in the Novels of John Fowles.

Patricia Beatty

FACULTY ACTIVITIES

William Connelly is assisting in the revision of the 8th edition of the Prentice-Hall Handbook.

Michael Dunne read a paper at The Twentieth Century Literature Conference in Louisville: "Buffalo Bill Defunct" or "Death Is a Melancholy Experience."

Robert Herring recently sold Viking Press the manuscript for a novel tentatively titled Hub. The date of publication will be announced in our next Newsletter.

John M. Daniel's translation of Giuseppe Cocchiara's Storia del Folklore in Europa was published this Spring by the Institute for The Study of Human Issues.

Reza Ordoubadian gave four talks during the school year: one at MTSU on "Sexism in the English Language," one at Memphis State on "Reality and Creativity," one at Vanderbilt University on "Glotto-politics," and one at the University of Chicago on the Azerbayani language. He read a paper at the Tennessee Philological Association meeting, "Did Omar Khayyam Say All This?" and had "The Genitive Case in Azerbayani" published in a collection from the University of Chicago Press. He still found time to co-direct (along with his wife Margaret) and act in a Readers' Theatre production at the Murfreesboro Little Theatre.

Bené Scanlon delivered a paper on writing centers to the Southern Conference on English in the Two-Year College, Birmingham. She served as associate chairperson for a session on writing labs and the Conference of College Composition and Communication, Washington. Also Scanlon was selected as one of fifteen Institute Fellow to participate in the Brooklyn College Institute on Teaching Peer Tutors, a seminar focusing on collaborative learning in teaching writing. Charles Wolfe had a chapter entitled "Presley and the Gospel Tradition" published in Elvis: Images and Fancies (University Press of Mississippi). The volume, edited by Jack Tharp, was published with the cooperation of The Southern Quarterly: A Journal of the Arts in the South, and the essays included...

cont. on page 6

ALUMNI NEWS

Emily Lyle Henry is now retired after a career that included teaching high school English, working as elementary and high school principal, and serving as supervisor of Special Education, Austin Peay State University.

Mrs. Norma W. Jernigan (B.S., '50; M.A., '56) has taken early retirement and has traveled extensively on all continents except Antarctica. She began her career teaching third grade, taught English at Manchester CHS for several years, and then went into sales and management with Field Enterprises. While with this organization in 1969, she won the top sales executive worldwide award. She was also recently named "Woman of the Year" in the Business and Professional Woman's Club and currently serves as director for Senior Citizens of Coffee County.

Mrs. Peggy C. Cole (B.S., '59) teaches at Palatka High School, Palatka, Florida.

Judith Slayden Hayes (B.S., '68) is an assistant editor at the Baptist Sunday School Board and has had articles published in various Baptist periodicals. She is currently working on her MBA at UTN.

Katherine Ann Austin (B.S., '72), judicial law clerk and Executive Editor of Tennessee Law Review, has had a Case-note published in TLR, vol. 46, p. 222.

Title: "Constitutional Law = Equal Protection = Sex Discrimination in Secondary School Athletics."

Stephen L. Rosa (B.A., '71; M.A., '73) was awarded the Ed.S. in English Education from Peabody. He is currently circulation assistant, Vanderbilt Medical Center Library, and is involved in a weekly visitation program with the Catholic community at the Tennessee State Men's Prison.

Sue Ann Lytle Morris (B.S., '76), Production Planning Clerk for E & B Canning Mill, Winchester, had her work titled "Christopher's Song" published in Limberlost Review (Winter, '79, Idaho State, Pocatello).

Nancy Charline (Jordan) Phillips (B.S., '72; M.A., '77) teaches English at Oakland High School, Murfreesboro.

Pat Riley (D.A., '75) has been appointed chairman of the Communications Department at Mississippi Valley State University, Itta Bena, Mississippi.

NECROLOGY

The English department was saddened to learn of the death of Debbie Plavinksi in an automobile accident in Spring 1980. She received her M.A. in English from MTSU. She is fondly remembered for her excellent scholarship, her bright personality, and her noble character.
WRITING WORKSHOP

Sheila Graham provided the keynote and closing addresses for the English department’s Composition Workshop that was held on October 27, 1979. Graham, author of Harbrace College Workbook, Sentencecraft, and Writingcraft, gave an audience of college and secondary teachers direct and practical advice about handling large classes and developing efficient teaching strategies.

Graham took as her starting point the persistent dilemma of teachers knowing that students need to write frequently but not having time to devote to the great numbers of papers -- and she recommended alternatives to traditional reactions to this dilemma. Typical of her advice was recommending frequent dictation to students. The physical and intellectual involvement required by transcription she judged to be a very efficient learning tool. She also recommended having students write several short papers instead of one long paper. They benefit more from repetition of the composing process than from handling a large topic. She also recommended the term paper only in the senior year of high school and then only as a way of teaching research skills and format. The term paper, Graham argued, is not an efficient method of teaching writing skills.

Several members of the English department augmented Graham’s presentations by leading small group discussions. Bill Connelly explored the importance of identifying the audience of a composition; Reza Ordubadian offered methods of teaching tense and time concepts; Ayne Venanzio discussed the research paper as a process; Ben Scanlon explicated teacher-student writing conferences; Larry Mapp identified some recent developments of scholarship in rhetoric.

This year’s workshop accurately represents the department’s continued efforts to serve teachers of writing. Through theory and practice this workshop offered ways of improving the teaching and the lot of the teacher. The department hopes in the future to broaden and improve its service; we will keep you posted as plans in those directions become more certain.

THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

In an effort to adjust graduate course offerings more effectively to students’ needs, the departmental committee on graduate study has worked with the faculty to delete ten courses from the catalogue and to develop six new seminars. “Studies in Old and Middle English Literature” and “Studies in Victorian Literature” will be offered for the first time this summer. “Modern British Literature,” “Studies in Contemporary Literature,” and “Essentials of Linguistics” will soon be workable into the regular lineup. “Selected Topics in Literature and Language,” a seminar in which various faculty members will pursue topics not treated in our regular offerings, will be scheduled as faculty interests dictate.

In the past year graduate students in English have participated with distinction in several forms of scholarly activity. John Beard, Sandra Cavender, Daryl Chansathus, Doris Chansathus, Mary McLemore, Carol Preston, Tom Tyner, Deborah Kane, and Georgina Spencer have presented papers at the departmental monthly readings. John Cannon, Daryl Chansathus, Daphne Dannreuther, Mary McLemore, Carol Preston, and Bronson Woodard read papers at the Tennessee Philological Association meeting at Belmont College in February, 1980. Debi Clifton read her paper “The Tragic Sense in Book of the Duchess” at the Fall, 1979, SAMLA meeting in Atlanta. Daryl Chansathus read her paper “Portia: In Search of Shylock’s Soul?” at the Shakespeare and Renaissance Associations meeting at West Virginia University in April. Some of these papers were developed from work in graduate seminars, and some were written explicitly for the occasion. These twelve students have displayed a level of professional commitment of which we are all proud.

WRITING CENTER

The Writing Center has grown this year in staff and enrollment. The following statistics contrast Fall 1979 and Fall 1978 and reflect the important increases in enrollment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>No. Students in 101, 102</th>
<th>No. Students in WC</th>
<th>Failures in 101, 102</th>
<th>Failures in 101, 102 Enrolled in WC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 1978</td>
<td>2218</td>
<td>169 (7%)</td>
<td>413 (19%)</td>
<td>52 (32% of WC enrollment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 1979</td>
<td>2284</td>
<td>251 (11%)</td>
<td>571 (25%)</td>
<td>90 (36% of WC enrollment)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The increased enrollment made having extra tutors necessary; during Fall 1979, seven graduates and four undergraduates worked as tutors. These statistics also point out the numbers of students who failed the 101, 102 classes; the percentage (25%) of failures reflects more than anything the increased numbers of students who lack the basic knowledge and skills required by college level courses. The students simply cannot catch up in one semester. Their best chance, as these statistics also demonstrate, lies in the Writing Center.

The primary responsibility of the center continues to be offering intense individualized assistance to any student who asks for it. The center exists only to help students; it gives no credit or grade. But, in training tutors the center also provides a valuable service to the department. Graduates and undergraduates who work in the center emerge with a fuller sense of rhetoric and composition -- both theory and practice. They become better teachers in the classroom, better writers, and better students. Our graduating students also find that having worked in the center makes them more attractive to other graduate schools and to school systems out to hire teachers.

JOB MARKET FOR ENGLISH MAJORS

In all the dismal news about the job market for college graduates, there is brighter news for English majors by 1980. In fact, a recent report in Changing Times indicates that opportunities in liberal arts areas for jobs are up some 20% over last year.

Particularly, English majors are finding opportunities in unlikely places; law and medical schools are giving preference to those students who can read, research, analyze, and write well. This, necessarily, is found in pre-law or pre-med students. Further, positions in business management and marketing (sales) are available, in both large and small organizations.

Traditional positions are still there, too, and perhaps in greater numbers than previously. English teachers are needed (especially in Georgia) at the high school level; editorial positions in publishing exist; many larger companies and corporations are seeking editors for their publications; insurance companies desire English majors who can rewrite policies and legal documents into "plain English"; government agencies (including the military) are now becoming heavily engaged in the education business -- these are usually Civil Service jobs, and worth looking into; many larger U.S. companies likewise have entered the education field, instituting training programs to teach executives and managers to read, write, and communicate more effectively.

There are some unique and enjoyable opportunities for English majors who look for them and use a little imagination.
FACULTY, cont. from page 4

also appear as the Fall 1979 issue of this journal. Wolfe has signed contracts with The University of Illinois Press and The University of Kentucky Press for books on gospel music and traditional Kentucky music, respectively. He also received a Grammy nomination for a record album he produced last year, *Uncle Dave Macon: Laugh Your Blues Away*. The album, published by Rounder Records of Boston, was one of five nominated in the category of Best Ethnic or Traditional Recording. Wolfe has recently completed editing of a set of records for the Library of Congress, *Children of the Heav'nly King: Religious Expression in the Central Blue Ridge*. He is Associate Producer for a forthcoming PBS television series on Southern folklore, "Southbound."

William Wolfe and Sara Dunne read papers at The Kentucky/Tennessee American Studies Association meeting at Fall Creek Falls. Wolfe’s was titled “The Poetry of Robert Penn Warren: Dreams through the Gate of Horn.” Dunne’s title was “Irony and Narrative Voice in the Short Stories of Peter Taylor.” Both papers will soon be published in *American Studies Journal*.

Four members of the MTSU faculty, Bill Holland, George Kerrick, Reza Ordoubadian, all of the English Department, and Anne V. Holland, HPERs, attended The Mid-South Poetry Festival held in Memphis October 3, 4, 5.

The Mid-South Poetry Festival is an annual conference of The State Poetry Societies of Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee, group members of The National Federation of State Poetry Societies. The conference this year was hosted by The Poetry Society of Tennessee.

Activities scheduled included a variety of workshops on the writing and marketing of poetry, composition of various types of poetry, an address by Wauneta Hackleman, First Vice President of The National Federation of State Poetry Societies, readings by individuals, and a visit to the Memphis Zoo.

Each participant was asked to read a work of his or her own composition during the conference. The MTSU participants were asked to read several, all of which were well received by the panel of poets.

Tentative plans, according to Chester Rider, President of The Poetry Society of Tennessee, call for the PST to meet in Middle Tennessee in the near future for the first time.

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READINGS

The readings in the English department run on this year much as last. Each month a graduate student and a faculty member set themselves to twenty-five-minute papers: the subjects range widely over the literature and all its pomps. Occasionally there are special topics, such as Avye Vennizo’s discussion of teaching argument and Charles Wolfe’s paper on Folklore and Humanism.

The reading activity has generated several papers later read to professional societies.

The crowd is steady at about twenty-five, split fairly evenly between graduate students and faculty. Conviviality reigns; and only the rare overzealousness (usually in the form of secondary lyricism) needs damping by the sober critical consensus.

At first invitations were issued to the liberal arts dean and the academic vice-president, but this practice was stopped upon discovery that the graduate students’ papers might outshine the faculty’s. To rectify this situation, next year faculty papers will be juried by a student committee.

The readings have moved into an experimental period. Recent readings were held in private homes instead of public places; and an evaluation is underway of the economies thus affected, as balanced against the loss of a formal atmosphere.

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NEWSLETTER
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
Middle Tennessee State University
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