

Message from the Graduate Director

I am happy to introduce what I hope will be an annual newsletter for alumni and well wishers of the MTSU English Department's graduate program. The overwhelmingly positive response to the survey recently sent to our alumni was extremely gratifying. Unfortunately I can not list here all of the information about alumni achievements which you sent to me and instead have limited the alumni notes to recipients of graduate degrees since 2000. I hope, however, that all of you will continue to stay in touch with the department and that we will continue to affirm the values that led you to pursue an advanced degree with us.

We are delighted to welcome two new graduate faculty members who will strengthen and deepen our course offerings in numerous ways: **Dr. Amy Kaufmann**, who received her Ph.D. from Northeastern University; and **Dr. Laura White**, who received her Ph.D. from SUNY-Binghamton. Amy Kaufmann's expertise lies in Middle English, continental medieval literature, Arthurian legend, Greek and Roman literature, feminist theory, and contemporary medievalism, including medievalism in popular culture. Laura White brings to the department expertise in contemporary and commonwealth British and Anglophone world literature-in particular the literature of South Africa, India, and Australia-as well as British modernism. Her scholarly interests also include the literature of environmental studies.

Despite the stagnant economy, the program continues to grow and prosper. In 2010 fifteen of our graduate students were awarded M.A. degrees and six earned Ph.D. degrees. In addition the number of applicants to the program increases every year. The future of graduate studies in the department looks bright indeed: tomorrow to fresh woods and pastures new.

Graduate Alumni Notes

D.A./Ph.D. A number of recent English D.A. and Ph.D. alumni are teaching at a variety of institutions and are professionally active. Among our doctoral graduates, **Larry W. Adams** (D.A., 2002) is associate professor of English at the University of North Alabama. **Savitri Ashok** (Ph.D. 2004) is a full-time instructor at MTSU. **Dianna Baldwin** (Ph.D. 2009) teaches in the university writing center at Michigan State University. **Rebecca Belcher-Rankin** (D.A. 2000) is

a professor of English and Modern Languages at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois. **Raymond Bell** (Ph.D. 2006) and **Steve Calatrello** (Ph.D. 2009) are both instructors in the Language and Literature Department at Calhoun Community College in Huntsville, Alabama. **Cynthia Burkhead** (Ph.D. 2010) is an instructor of English at the University of North Alabama in Florence, where she directs the annual George Lindsay Film Festival. She co-edited (with David

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Lavery) *Joss Whedon: Conversations* (U P Mississippi, 2011). **Jean T. Corey** (D.A., 2000) is assistant professor of English and Interim director of Writing Across the Curriculum at Messiah College. **Claude Crum** (Ph.D., 2004) is Academic Dean at Alice Lloyd College. **Satwik Dasgupta** (Ph.D., 2009) is an assistant professor of English at Victoria College in Victoria, Texas. **James Francis** (Ph.D., 2010), now an adjunct English faculty member at MTSU, has written essays for a collection of essays on *Dexter* (I. B. Tauris, 2010) and a soon-to-be-published book on *Supernatural*. **Gwen Hale** (Ph.D. 2005) is assistant professor of English and director of the writing center at Savannah State University in Georgia. She has co-edited published collections of essays on *Addressing and Incorporating Diversity in the Classroom* and on *Racial Passing: From Literature to Film*; has published an essay on Naomi Wallace in the *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism* and essays in *Gender and Theater: A Greenwood Companion to Drama*, the *Gale Online Encyclopedia of the Civil War*, and has written and published guides to writing in the disciplines for Fisk University and Savannah State. **Katherine Haynes** (Ph.D. 2007) is an instructor of Liberal Arts at Aquinas College in Nashville. **Debbie Higgins** (Ph.D. 2007), after teaching at Southern Adventist University, is now resident director of the C. S. Lewis Foundation at "The Kilns" in Oxford, England. **Clark Hutton** (Ph.D. 2004) is a professor of English and Philosophy at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin. **Melissa Lamb** (Ph.D., 2005) is chair of the English Department at McGavock High School in Nashville. **Jonathan**

Lampley (Ph.D. 2007) is an assistant professor of English at Dalton State College in Georgia. A revised version of his dissertation, *Women in the Horror Films of Vincent Price*, has been published by McFarland, and he has contributed articles to *The Essential Cult TV Reader*, edited by David Lavery. **Julie Lumpkins-Basler** (D.A. 2001) is vice president for academic affairs at Platt College in Aurora, Colorado. She has published three books for Prentice Hall and also serves as site advisor for an accrediting commission and is a member of the national degree committee that reviews curricula and newly developed degree programs for colleges and universities. **Randy Mackin** (D.A., 2000) is a full-time instructor at MTSU. His *George Scarborough: Appalachian Poet* will soon be published in the Contributions to Southern Appalachian Studies series. **Bob Musante** (Ph.D. 2007) is an assistant professor of arts and humanities at Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica, New York. **Jolly Sharp** (Ph.D. 2008) is a professor of English at the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Kentucky. An edited version of her dissertation, "*Between the House and Chicken Yard*": *The Masks of Mary Flannery O'Connor*, has been accepted for publication by Mercer University Press. **Jean Rhodes** (Ph.D. 2006) is a full-time instructor in the English Department at MTSU. **David Rogers** (D.A., 2000) teaches full-time at Western Kentucky University. **Charlie Starr** (D.A., 2002) is Professor of English and Humanities at Kentucky Christian University. **Jeff Thompson** (Ph.D. 2007) is an assistant professor in the academic enrichment program at Tennessee State University in

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Nashville. His book *The Television Horrors of Dan Curtis* has been nominated for the Rhondo Award. **Warren Tormey** (Ph.D., 2008) teaches full-time in MTSU's English Department. He is co-editor (with Ron Kates) of two volumes of *Baseball, Literature, Culture: Essays* (2006-2007 and 2008-2009) (McFarland). **Stacia Watkins** (Ph.D. 2008) is director of the university writing center at David Lipscomb University in Nashville. She co-edited (with Allison D. Smith and Trixie Smith) *The Pop Culture Zone: Writing Critically about Popular Culture* (Wadsworth, 2008).

M.A. Among our recent M.A. graduates, **Shelley Akers** (2010) has an article forthcoming in the *Tennessee Williams Annual Review*. **Michael Amrozowitz** (2008) is pursuing a Ph.D. in English at SUNY-Albany. He has recently published reviews in *PBSA* and has also presented papers at Glasgow, Scotland and at the Princeton Theological Seminary. **Patricia Baines** (2004) is a full-time instructor at MTSU. **Marie Brown** (2007) works part-time as a library clerk for the city of LaVergne and teaches as an adjunct instructor at MTSU and other area colleges. **Nick Bush** (2007) and **James Curtis** (2009) teach at Motlow State Community College in Tullahoma. **Jennifer Conner** (2008) is employed full time as a senior editor at Ingram Books. **Andrew Coomes** (2004) teaches at Riverdale High School. **Laura Davis** (2002) and **Letizia Guglielmo** (2001) teach in the English Department at Kennesaw State University. **Marcia Beene-Dickerson** (2004) has been accepted to a Ph.D. program in organizational management at Capella University. She currently works as an

instructional designer of training materials for government employees of the intelligence community and recently served as managing editor of the magazine *GX: The Guard Experience*, where she published several articles. **Cassandra Bishop** (2009) and **Chris Flavin** (2006) are in the English Ph.D. program at Southern Illinois University. Chris has been published in *Working Papers*—Sheffield-Hallam University, has presented papers at the MLA convention, and organized the 2009 Midwest regional conference of the American Conference for Irish Studies at SIU. **Sarah Hildenbrand Esberger** (2008) teaches English at Smyrna High School. **Quan Manh Ha** (2006) earned his Ph.D. from Texas Tech in 2011. He will be assistant professor of English at the University of Montana beginning Fall 2011. **Bill Hollars** (2002) is product systems manager for the Ingram Content Group. He was elected SIG Chair for JDA Profiling in 2009 and delivered a paper on product seasonality theory in Las Vegas in 2010. **Robert Lawrence** (2002) is a full-time instructor at MTSU. **Leah Mittelmeier Soule** (2008) runs the writing center at Tennessee State University. **Fr. Dominic Ofori** is in a Ph.D. program in communications studies at Georgia State University. **Shan Overton** (2003) is in a Ph.D. program in religious studies at Boston College. **Ryan Reed** (2006) is an instructor at MTSU. **Kenny Rose** (2007) is in the Ph.D. program in English at the University of Louisville. **Susie Stephens** (2003) teaches English and serves as departmental chair at Friendship Christian School and as adjunct instructor at Cumberland University. She has been accepted into the Master's of Education

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program at Vanderbilt University for fall 2011.

Rachel Robinson Strickland (2005) is the assistant director of the Writing Center at Appalachian State University. **Rebekah Taylor** (2010) is entering the PhD program at Kent State University. **Christopher Walker** (2010) has been

accepted into the Ph.D. program at the University of California at Santa Barbara. **Lisa Williams** (2000) is the librarian at Watkins College of Art and Design. **Lisa E. Williams** (2010) teaches at Tennessee State University. **Jennifer Wilson** (2005) is an instructor at MTSU.

Graduate Faculty News

✉ **Mohammed Albakry** was a recipient of the Outstanding Teacher Award from the MTSU Foundation in 2010. In 2010, he presented a paper entitled "Analyzing the Discourse of Immigration in Southern U.S. Newspapers" at the American Association for Applied Linguistics Conference in Atlanta; he also had articles (co-authored with Maximilian Ofori) accepted for publication in *World Englishes* and *English World-Wide*. ✉ **Linda Badley's** book *Lars von Trier* was published in January 2011 by the University of Illinois Press (Contemporary Film Directors series, ed. James Naremore). ✉ **Claudia Barnett**, as 2009-2010 playwright in residence at the Tennessee Repertory Theatre, wrote *No. 731 Degraw-street, Brooklyn, or, Emily Dickinson's Sister*, which had a staged reading at the Ingram New Works Festival in May. She developed a second full-length script, *Another Manhattan*, with Venus Theatre Company for a reading at the Kennedy Center's ninth annual Page-to-Stage Festival on Labor Day, 2010. Her essay "AIDS = Purgatory: Prior Walter's Prophecy and *Angels in America*" was published in *Modern Drama* 53.4 (Winter 2010). ✉ **Patricia Bradley** presented "Robert Penn Warren, the Weight of Agrarianism, and the Popular Audience: Choosing Sides during the Culture Wars of the 1920s, '30s, and '40s" at the Society for the Study of Southern Literature in New Orleans, April 2010. An expanded version has been accepted for publication in the *Mississippi Quarterly*. ✉ **Will Brantley** was a featured speaker at Carson McCullers: An Interdisciplinary Conference and 94th Birthday Celebration (Columbus, GA, Feb. 2011). He is currently at work on "Letter-Writing and Authorship in the Work of Southern Women Modernists" for *The Oxford Handbook to the Literature of the U.S. South*, edited by Fred Hobson and Barbara Ladd. The U P of Mississippi has brought Brantley's *Feminine Sense in Southern Memoir* (1993) back in print (Fall/Winter catalog). Brantley was recently elected to a three-year term on the Delegate Assembly of the Modern Language Association, representing Region 5, the South. ✉ **Robert Bray** recently published "Filming The Rose Tattoo" (with R. Barton Palmer) in *Tenn at One Hundred: The Reputation of Tennessee Williams*, ed. David Kaplan (Hanson Publishing, 2011) and "The Films of Tennessee Williams" (with R. Barton Palmer) in the forthcoming *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, as well as another issue of the *TW Annual Review*. He also served as the January 2010 featured speaker for *Oxford American* gala at Little Rock, with a talk on *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, served on three panels at the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival

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(March 2010), and organized and directed the Tennessee Williams Scholars Conference in New Orleans.

📖 **Gaylord Brewer's** eighth full-length book of poetry, *Give Over, Graymalkin*, has just been published by Red Hen Press (Pasadena, CA). He also recently won the 2010 Anabiosis Chapbook Prize, for a short collection of poems entitled *Ghosts*, to be published in spring of 2011. 📖 **Angela Hague's** essay "Before Abduction: The Contactee Narrative of the 1950s" will soon be published in *The Journal of Popular Culture*.

📖 **Elyce Rae Helford** continues with research on studio director George Cukor even as she has begun a new project: Japanese anime/manga and online fan communities. She will present the paper "Global Encounters of the Fandom Kind: Talking to Manga and Anime Fanfiction Writers" at the 2011 Eaton Science Fiction Conference at UC-Riverside based upon participant observation and online survey work with approximately 200 fan writers from countries including the U.S., Canada, England, Finland, Germany, and Latvia. 📖 **Allen Hibbard's** essay "Translation of Modern and Contemporary Literature in Arabic" recently appeared in *Literature in Translation: Teaching Issues and Reading Practices*, edited by Carol Maier and Françoise Massardier-Kenney (Kent State UP, 2010). This past year he has given keynote addresses at two conferences on Paul Bowles (one at the University of Lisbon, the other at the University of California, Santa Cruz), held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Bowles's birth. He also participated in a symposium, "Paris-Amsterdam Underground," that met first in Amsterdam, then in Paris. Essays he has written on William S. Burroughs and Salman Rushdie are forthcoming.

📖 **Martha Hixon** published two articles last year: "'Whose Woods These Are I Think I Know': Narrative Theory and Diana Wynne Jones's *Hexwood*" in *Telling Children Stories: Narrative Theory and Children's Literature*, ed. Mike Cadden (U of Nebraska P, 2011); and "Power Plays: Paradigms of Power in *The Pinhoe Egg* and *The Merlin Conspiracy*," for the *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts* 21.2 (2010). She also presented a paper on Diana Wynne Jones at the Children's Literature Association Conference in Ann Arbor in June 2010.

📖 **Amy Kaufmann** also published two articles in 2010, "Guevere Burning" in *Arthuriana* 20.1 and "Medieval Unmoored" in *Studies in Medievalism* 19, as well as editing and writing the introduction to *The Year's Work in Medievalism* 23. She also presented a paper on Chaucer's fabliaux at Seventeenth Biennial Congress of the New Chaucer Society in Siena, Italy, and a paper on "The T.V. Heroine's Little Sword Problem" at the National American and Popular Culture Associations Conference in St. Louis. 📖 **David Lavery** delivered a keynote address, "The Imagination Will be Televised: Showrunning and the Reanimation of Authorship in 21st Century American Television" at a conference in Stuttgart, Germany, published essays in collections on *Mad Men* and *Veronica Mars*; and was co-editor of the following books: *Screwball Television: Critical Perspectives on Gilmore Girls* (Syracuse U P, 2010), *On the Verge of Tears: Why the Movies, Television, Music, and Literature Make Us Cry* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010); *Joss Whedon: Conversations* (U P Mississippi, 2011), and *The Essential Sopranos Reader* (U P Kentucky, 2011). He has begun work on a textbook, *Television Art*, to be published by Blackwell. 📖 **William Levine** delivered the paper "The Regulation of Religious Understanding in Lessing's Late Polemics" at the ASECS meeting

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in Albuquerque. He also received a grant from the Clara Hieronymus Fellowship, administered through the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, to participate in the National Critics Institute program at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Connecticut last July. 📖 **Carl Ostrowski** published two articles in 2010: "'This Hideous Drama of Revification': Poe's Fiction and Reprint Culture" in *Modern Language Studies* 40.1; and "'The Choice of Books': Ainsworth Rand Spofford, the Ideology of Reading, and Literary Collections at the Library of Congress in the 1870s" in *Libraries & The Cultural Record* 45.1. 📖 **Philip Phillips**, co-editor of *Carmina Philosophiae: Journal of the International Boethius Society*, recently published *The Consolation of Queen Elizabeth I: The Queen's Translation of Boethius's De Consolatione Philosophiae* for the Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies series. He has been awarded a 2010-2012 W. T. Bandy Fellowship by the Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies at Vanderbilt University to create an exhibition on Baudelaire's Poe using rare books from the collection. His co-edited volume, *A Companion for Boethius in the Middle Ages*, has been accepted for publication in 2011 as Volume 30 in Brill's Companions to the Christian Tradition series. **Allison D. Smith's** book *Signs: A Grammar Handbook* is about to be published (Fountainhead Press).