What Has Become of M.A. and Ph.D. Students in MTSU’s English Department, 2005-2016?

When the English Department converted its D.A. into a Ph.D. over a decade ago, becoming MTSU’s first Ph.D. granting program, we knew that our primary constituency would continue to be the people of the region—Middle Tennessee, of course, but also southern Kentucky and north Alabama and Georgia as well. For many years, long before we became a Ph.D. granting school, the faculty of such areas schools as Vol. State, Motlow, and Columbia came to us in pursuit of advanced degrees.

The list below offers a catalog of the afterlife of our M.A. and Ph.D. students from the last decade. Though the job market in our discipline has long been bleak and continues to be, our graduates, and even our ABDs, continue to find work and establish careers, for the most part at community colleges and other regional institutions of higher learning.

One very interesting and surprising trend: no fewer than eight MTSU English Ph.D.’s/ABD’s have secured positions at historically black schools: Thompson, M. Wise, Hayes, and Shafer at TSU; H. Hamby at Fisk; O’Neil at Alabama State; Howard and Johnson at Langston.

In the years ahead, the English Department intends to market our post-baccalaureate degrees more widely and extensively than we ever have before, but our graduate program will continue to serve, first and foremost, as it always has, the people of our region.

—Dr. David Lavery, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in English [david.lavery@mtsu.edu]

- Clint Bryan [Ph.D., 2016] is Assistant Professor of English at Northwest University in Kirkland, WA.
- Jonathan M. Bradley [Ph.D., 2013] is a librarian at Virginia Tech University.
- Cynthia Burkhead [Ph.D., 2010] is Chair of the English Department at the University of North Alabama.
- Catherine B. Chapman [M.A., 2010] is Associate Director of the University Writing Center at MTSU.
- Brandi Ettehadieh [Ph.D., 2016] is Grants Manager for the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences at the University of West Virginia.
• Jeffrey D. Frame [Ph.D., 2012] is a Professor of Dramatic Arts and Communication at Trevecca Nazarene in Nashville.
• Gary Gravely [Ph.D., 2015] is a faculty member in English at Roane State Community College.
• Candace Grissom [Ph.D., 2011] is a full-time faculty member at Motlow State Community College.
• Arlo Hall [M.A., 2015] is a full-time faculty member at Volunteer State Community College.
• Dawn Hall [Ph.D., 2014] is an Associate Professor of English at Western Kentucky University.
• Christy L. Hall [Ph.D., 2010] is Associate Professor of English at the University of the Cumberlands.
• Holly Tipton Hamby [Ph.D., 2011] is Assistant Professor of English and Director of the University Writing Center at Fisk University.
• James A. Hamby [Ph.D., 2012] is a full-time faculty member in the English Department and Interim Assistant Director of the University Writing Center at MTSU.
• Jennifer L. Hayes [Ph.D., 2013] is Assistant Professor of English at Tennessee State University.
• Michael Howard [Ph.D., 2016] is Assistant Professor of English and Director of the Writing Center at Langston University.
• Brett A. Hudson [Ph.D., 2012] is a full-time faculty member in the English Department at MTSU.
• Margaret Johnson [doctoral candidate] is a tenure-track assistant professor at Langston University in Oklahoma.
• Autumn Lauzon [Ph.D., 2014] is a Lecturer in English at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.
• Qingjun (Joan) Li [Ph.D., 2010] is Associate Professor of English at Zhengzhou University in the People’s Republic of China and a member of the faculty at Belmont University.
• Khristeena Lute [Ph.D., 2016] is Director of the Writing Center and tenure-track Assistant Professor of English at SUNY Adirondack.
• Taras V. Mikhailiuk [M.A., 2013] is a doctoral candidate at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
• Dennis Negron [doctoral candidate] is Vice-President of Student Services at Southern Adventist University.
• Summer O'Neal [Ph.D., 2013] is Assistant Professor of English at Alabama State University.
• Dominic M. Ofori [M.A., 2010] is pursuing his Ph.D. at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.
• Michael Pagel [Ph.D., 2015] is Assistant Professor of English at Northeast Community College in Tennessee.
• Laura Beth Jackson Payne [M.A., 2011] is the Community Editor of Murfreesboro Magazine.
• Nancy McGuire Roche [Ph.D., 2011] is a Lecturer in the English Department at Vanderbilt.
• Philip Shafer [Ph.D., 2016] is Assistant Professor of English at Tennessee State University.
• Aaron Shapiro [M.A., 2010] is a full-time faculty member in the English Department at MTSU.
• Joy Smith [Ph.D., 2014] is an Assistant Professor of English at Kansas State University.
• Emily Shearer Stewart [Ph.D., 2014] is an Assistant Professor of English at Del Mar Community College in Texas.
• Rebekah A. Taylor [M.A., 2010] is a Ph.D. candidate at Kent State University.
• Agapi Theodoru Shapiro is an Instructor in the English Department at Tennessee Tech.
• Michele Wise [Ph.D., 2016] is Assistant Professor of English at Tennessee State University.
• Jesse L. Williams [Ph.D., 2013] is a full-time faculty member in the English Department at MTSU.
• Lisa E. Williams [M.A., 2010] is a full-time faculty member in the English Department at MTSU.