

# Post Parade

Fort Hays State University English Department  
Fall 2013



# Post Parade, Fall 2013



Front row: Rachel Rayner, Bryan Baxter  
Center row: Denton Radiel, Kimberly Voeller, Melissa Sander, Leah Shriwise  
Back row: Taylor Deutscher, Anna Voss, Eric Bader, Megan Adams, Dr. Cheryl Duffy, Nanette Brown, Stephanie Mason, Derrick Snodgrass

This 2013 issue of *Post Parade* marks my third (nonconsecutive) year of supervising students in ENG 385 Professional Editing as they brainstorm article ideas, conduct research and interviews, write and rewrite articles, track down photos and select fonts. They also must edit for AP style. (Like that Oxford comma I omitted before the and in that first sentence—it just kills us academic English types to omit it!) I owe the success of this issue to the twelve student writer-editors in my class, to Michelle Webb (guest writer from last year's Freelance Magazine Writing class) and to Eric Bader, the English major serving as our design editor.

Cheryl Hofstetter Duffy  
Editor

## Post Parade Staff 2013

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p15: Megan Adams

## *Post Parade*

### Fall 2013

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Fort Hays State University is a thriving liberal and applied arts, state-assisted institution with an enrollment of about 8,000 students. It offers bachelor's and master's degrees in many fields and provides a wide variety of cultural and intellectual resources, not only for its faculty, staff, and students but for the western Kansas region and beyond. Fort Hays State occupies the southwest corner of Hays, Kansas, a city of about 20,000 people located halfway between Kansas City and Denver on Interstate 70. The city and its people make their livings from across a wide spectrum of industries—agriculture, education, light manufacturing, medical care, oil, retail, and technology.

# Goss, Newton families give back to English department

**Leah Shriwise**

The English Department at Fort Hays State University is bursting with students, newcomers and veterans. Many of these students are able to reap the benefits of being an English major or minor only due to scholarships. Luckily, the department has been fortunate to receive generous funds for both scholarships and an endowed professorship from recent donors: Ray and Patty Newton, and Mike and Becky Goss.

Ray and Patty Newton of Prescott, Ariz., have shared their appreciation for their alma mater in the form of an annual scholarship. Regarding their time spent at FHSU, the Newtons say, “We believe the university was largely responsible for many of the successes we have had in our respective careers.” While Ray graduated in '57 with an English degree, Patty graduated in '58 with a music degree; therefore, the Newton scholarship alternates between the English and Music Departments.

Ray has an intense passion for writing, reporting and editing. He has written hundreds of articles and feature stories through various newspaper, magazine and television venues. He has also contributed to both popular and professional publications, several textbooks and academic journals. He also served as the national coordinator-director for the

Reader's Digest Writing Workshops. Educated in piano, organ and clarinet, Patty had thirty years of teaching experience in public schools before retiring. Her ongoing achievements earned her a title as an “Outstanding Young Woman of America.” She was also named “Arizona Music Teacher of the Year” in 1989 by the Arizona Music Educators Association. Patty still serves as a church organist, as well as a pianist for the Prescott POPS Symphony Orchestra.

The Newtons show gratitude for the education and experiences gained from attending FHSU. “As we've grown older, we've gained perspective and understanding of the quality, the intensity and the value of the all-embracing academic program provided by FHSU. We've been affiliated in one way or another with higher education institutions during most of our professional lives. We're proud to say we have degrees from Fort Hays.”

Becky and Mike Goss decided their donation would best serve the English Department in the form of a professorship. The Goss Endowed Professorship fund has allowed the department to hire a new faculty member with a specialty in digital writing. Dr. Carol Poster comes to FHSU from York University in Toronto, where she taught professional writing. She has published over 400 digital articles and has widespread editorial experience. This newly created position

will enhance the department's writing concentration program. Writing concentration majors will benefit from the integration of new online media. By offering an expanded curriculum in writing, the FHSU English department can better prepare students for professional careers in a competitive field.

Becky Goss, a 1982 FHSU graduate with a business degree, now resides in Boston with her family. Becky shares how her business degree “has in an indirect way benefited me, but a liberal arts education would have been more suitable to my interests.” When asked why she chose the FHSU English Department as the recipient of the Goss's gift, Becky responded, “I believe in a strong education in any of the liberal arts, but especially English, as it is an excellent foundation for success in almost any profession of choice.” The Goss Endowed Professorship was the chosen form of the Goss's gift because, as Becky explains, “We value the importance of a good teacher and wanted to support that versus an individual who is only a good researcher or author.”

The Fort Hays State University English Department is grateful beyond words for the generosity displayed by the Goss and Newton families. A more enriching educational experience will be what students can look forward to, thanks to the donations made by these accomplished alumni.

# Is 'rest' in Dr. Shaffer's retirement plans?



**Nanette Brown**

Dr. Pam Shaffer, a familiar face in the English Department for 31 years, retired from her position as Professor of English, Director of the Writing Center and Director of Composition on May 18, 2013. Her love of English brought her to FHSU, where she received her bachelor's degree in 1970. She continued her educational dream when she received her master's degree from the University of Arkansas in 1972. By 1989, Dr. Shaffer had completed her Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas with an emphasis in medieval literature, linguistics and 19th century British literature.

Dr. Shaffer conveyed her love of English to her students. When asked about her fondest memory of teaching, Dr. Shaffer reminisced about a summer graduate class that took an exceptionally complicated sentence and diagrammed it on poster board. The class gave it to her as a gift, and when I spoke to Dr. Shaffer, she proudly

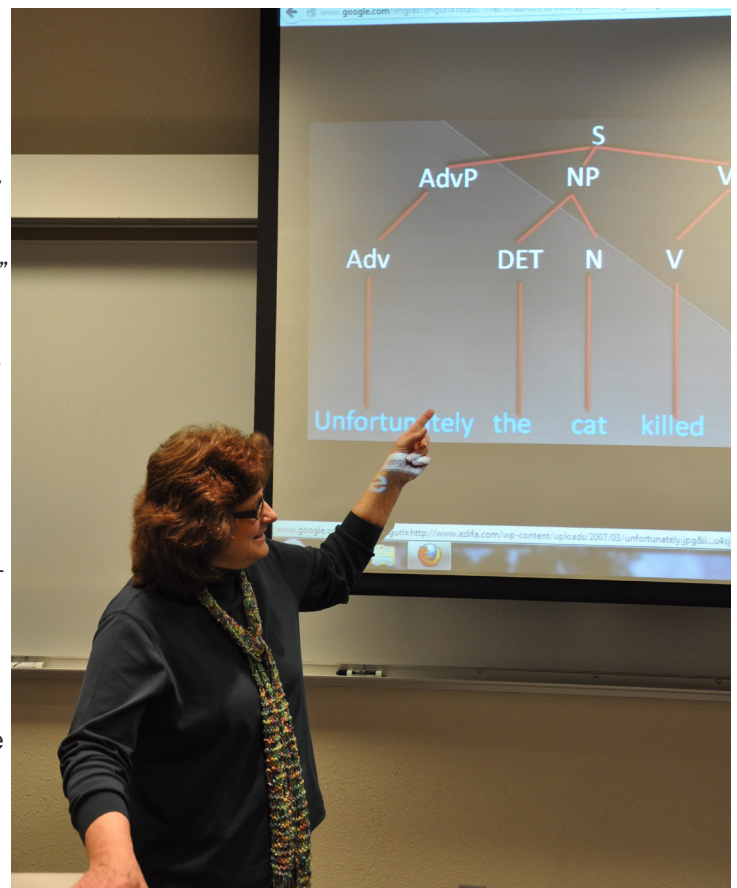
pointed to the gift hanging on her wall. Another memory Dr. Shaffer recalled is the time she directed the writing center. "Tutors are an inspiration," she said. The smile on her face indicated that she will carry those affectionate memories into retirement.

Does the word retirement mean "rest"? For Dr. Shaffer, rest is not in her vocabulary. As a smile lit up her face, she described the first item on her agenda, which will be to visit her children and grandchildren in St. Louis and Phoenix. Of course, family is not the only part of retirement she will enjoy. Dr. Shaffer will edit the letters of her uncle who was a Catholic priest in the Capuchin Franciscan order.

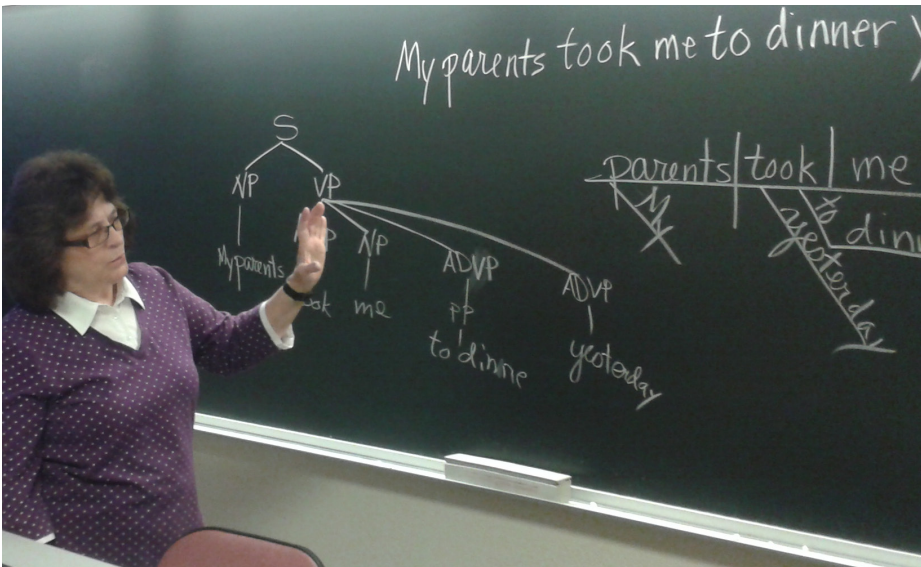
"Some of the letters are so amazing that many individuals would benefit from them," Dr. Shaffer explained. Of course, Dr. Shaffer has other interests; she will volunteer in the community to give back to others.

Technology, the learning community and the partnerships with China are some of the biggest chang-

es that have taken place while Dr. Shaffer has worked at FHSU; however, her relationship with faculty, students and alumni has not changed. Dr. Shaffer wants faculty to know that "their relationship with students is what is important." She wants students to remember, "Reading is fundamental to everything we do," and finally, she wants the alumni to "remember the English department." Even as FHSU moves forward, the lasting memories that Dr. Pam Shaffer left on the English Department will live on in the students and colleagues fortunate enough to have known her.



# Students reflect on classes, kindness of Dr. Shaffer



## Denton Radiel

“Dr. Shaffer likes to see her students succeed and will do anything for them.” This quote is from Nan Brown, one of the many students and advisees lucky enough to work with Dr. Shaffer. Brown added that “she is willing to go above and beyond her call of duty to make sure her students understand what is being asked of them.” While reading Milton’s *Paradise Lost*, Brown found that the way Dr. Shaffer taught the poem made it “not seem like a long, tedious reading chore.” A good teacher puts her students above herself and maintains a positive attitude. Renee Schaffer admires that Dr. Shaffer “is so incredibly patient and kind,” and “she is always available for one-on-one grammar lessons or a quick proof of a paper.” Keisha Williams notes that Dr. Shaffer “seems deep and really is, but also has a

lightness about her that makes her a joy to be around.”

Excellent teachers let their personalities shine through and make learning something students want to do. Renee Schaffer’s fondest memory is when she and Dr. Shaffer worked at the Writing Center on the FHSU campus. Some of the girls working at the Writing Center were harassed by a male student, and upon hearing about it, Dr. Shaffer responded that if he did so again, “Heads will roll!”—what Renee Schaffer labeled “a classic Shafferism.” Dalton Radiel remembers Dr. Shaffer’s little acts of kindness; he liked when she brought snacks and sodas for the last day of class.

Although she is retiring, Dr. Shaffer’s legacy will continue so long as her former students and writing center tutors keep her wisdom and warmth fresh in their minds.

## Dr. Shaffer’s Career

### Degrees

B.A. from Fort Hays State University, 1970

M.A. from University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, 1972

PhD from University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, 1989

### Teaching

Started at Fort Hays State University in 1982

### Positions held

Professor of English  
Director of the Writing Center,  
2004-2013

Director of Composition,  
2007-2013

# Linda Smith helps students find careers, skills for life

**Bryan Baxter**

“What Did I Do on My Summer Vacation?” If all students have not written that essay at some point in their scholastic careers, they at least associate it with the archetypal view of public education. Linda Smith, English instructor at Fort Hays State University, instead has her students ask a different question, a question critically important for their age group: “What Am I Going to Do for the Rest of My Life?”

Her innovative approach began in the mid-90s as an exploration of the rising student attrition rate, commissioned by President Hammond. He assigned the English department faculty to discover the students’ reasons for leaving. When Smith interviewed her Composition I students who were considering leaving and asked them for their reasons, the answers she received were varied yet fundamentally similar.

“Students who considered leaving

did so because they did not have a clear vision of their futures and how FHSU could help them achieve those futures,” Smith recalls. She then decided to convert a section of the Composition I schedule to a program designed to help students explore their futures. Eighteen years later, her Career Exploration Unit is a valued portion of her class.

Career Exploration helps students by providing them with the essential time and resources to explore their academic majors and future professions. The unit of study begins with a series of personality assessments, which lead into a discussion of the roles of personal values, interests and experiences to help determine the student’s ideal career path. The students practice writing cover letters and resumes, and learn skills and tips to keep them ahead of the crowd. To help her, Smith also brings in speakers such as the Director of Career Services.

Students must register at Career

Services as part of the assignment.

This allows the students access to not only its website, where job offers are posted regularly, but also the Career Fair, which allows students to network with professionals, distribute their resumes and discuss internship or employment opportunities with attending employers. It allows students to get their foot in the door, as job searching is often, according to Smith, “not what you know, but who you know.”

Smith recalls a favorite success story from her class. A Graphic Design student who had waited until the second semester of her junior year to take Composition I would loudly proclaim to her classmates that she hated English and writing. By the end of the unit, however, she had secured an internship with MSNBC. She would not have received that internship without going to Career Exploration, getting the help the class provided and connecting with Career Services. Or, as Smith puts it, “You shouldn’t job-search in isolation.”



Linda Smith confers with one of her composition students

# Lines Journal wins Sigma Tau Delta award... again

## Derrick Snodgrass

The literary and arts journal *Lines from the Middle of Nowhere* continues to excel and demonstrate the variety of talents that Fort Hays State University has to offer. This distinguished set of talents has helped solidify *Lines* as the winner of the 2012-13 Outstanding Literary Arts Journal Award from Sigma Tau Delta after surpassing all competition nationwide.

*Lines* is not new to the awards podium: in past years *Lines* has won both first place and third place. This time the Outstanding Literary Arts Award was presented to the Sigma Tau Delta group who traveled to Portland, Ore., this past March for the convention. Fortunately, Jennifer L. Jones, a contributor to *Lines*, was one of the student representatives available to accept the award. Not only is this a prestigious award but also a competitive one that encompasses countless journals, large and small, from around the nation. Despite financial complications over the years, *Lines* has proven a worthwhile investment for the college and the students alike.

Although funding is key, it takes more than a check to win an award such as the 2012-13 Outstanding Literary Arts Journal Award, and this is

where our diverse and talented FHSU students thrive. When news spread of the journal's success, this writer was jubilant because I was a contributor in the journal. My poem, however, plays only a small role in comparison to the many notable works found inside—works like Jennifer Jones' simple but compelling poem "Nothing to Me," or the distinctive artwork "Perfect Wings" by Adrienne Hays. Every piece plays a crucial role in the success of *Lines* with all works building off one another stylistically.

The literary arts journal *Lines from the Middle of Nowhere* is the culmination of everything that makes FHSU thrive. The intense words by Morgan Chalfant represent the essence of the journal and the exemplary works found within: "My conflagrant passion sears away / the rapture of your years / take heed, my desires consume like fires." Sigma Tau Delta recognized the quality work, resulting in *Lines* surpassing the competition and winning the 2012-13 Outstanding Literary Arts Journal Award.

But the road doesn't stop here. It's inspiring to see what these students have to offer and to speculate where their talents will take them.

2012-2013

## Scholarships

### Alice McFarland Scholarship

Brylee Courkamp  
Anne Drees

### Roberta Stout Scholarship

Ashley Anglemeyer  
Taylor Deutscher

### James R. & Ruth Start Scholarship

Kylie Metzger

### Michael Marks Scholarship

Bryan Baxter

### Ray and Patty Newton Scholarship

Anna Voss

### Non-traditional Student Scholarship

Meganne Williams

### Elizabeth Jane "Betty" Lenz Scholarship

Breanna Beckerman

### English Development Scholarship

Rachel Rayner

### Graduate Student English Award

Wen Xin

### English Department Scholarships

Kaci Ferguson  
Jera Gales  
Anna Voss

### English Department Freshman Honor Scholarships

Lorenzo Basa III  
Jared Clements  
Micah Hirschler  
Sarah Jarmer  
Jodi Jeorg  
Ethan Owens  
Megan Ruppert  
Meleigha Siglinger-Albers  
Marshall Slough

# English Department adopts ePortfolios

**Rachel Rayner**

The Fort Hays State University English Department is working to make its students more attractive to prospective employers by requiring ePortfolios. Students will create their own web pages that feature their portfolios in an organized and attractive way. "These ePortfolios will provide our students with an accessible and permanent record of their written course work that may be used in their post-graduation job search process," said department chair Dr. Pauline Scott.

In addition, both the department and students will benefit from ePortfolios. "The use of this technology will allow the department to assess the work of students over the entire arc of their progress through their degree program in order to make personalized advising recommendations, as well as conduct other types of evaluation," said Scott. This information will prove invaluable in determining which students truly deserve departmental scholarships. The ability to see all of a student's previous coursework will provide professors another tool to better teach students at an individual level.

By fall 2013, the department will require all students within the writing concentration to have ePortfolios, and all English majors by fall 2014. Dr. Cheryl Duffy piloted the use of ePortfolios in her Writing Internship course

this past spring. Her findings from the pilot program will guide what requirements the department will adopt for each concentration.

Duffy and the Internship students collaborated in class, teaching one another how to use Weebly, a free web-building site. The students are part of the digital generation, while Duffy has years of professional experience writing and editing, resulting in a flexible and organic portfolio-building experience. The students shaped their ePortfolios around their career goals, making them highly individualized. The students included resumes, academic papers and writing internship projects.

Some students had additional published works to display in their ePortfolios. Though all the students were writing majors, some decided to showcase their versatility, featuring a wide variety of skills in addition to writing material. For example, one student included video clips of musical performances. All the students were upperclassmen, so they completed their ePortfolios just in time for their post-graduation job search. By creating ePortfolios, many students discovered they are more attractive job candidates than they had previously thought.

ePortfolios provide FHSU students with a new tool for self-promotion and professional growth. Now professors can look at their students' portfolios before they graduate and indicate

where those students excel and where they have gaps to fill. The adoption of ePortfolios proves that the FHSU English department truly is "Forward Thinking. World Ready."

Check these ePortfolios developed by English majors in Cheryl Duffy's ENG 448 Writing Internship course:

Linda Thomasson  
lindathomasson.weebly.com

Rachel Rayner  
rachelrayner.weebly.com

Jennifer Jones  
jenniferljones.webs.com

Anne Houston  
anneehouston.weebly.com



# University Leader suffers budget cut, ceases printing

**Anna Voss**

The University Leader made local and state news after announcing in January 2013 its decision to have an online-only version. The paper could no longer afford a print edition for the remainder of the spring 2013 semester due to budget constraints and lack of advertising. After the Leader requested allocations of \$52,250 for the 2012-2013 school year, the Student Government Association allotted only \$29,015.45. Later, the SGA further slashed the leader budget by an additional \$9,250, forcing the Leader to publish only two print editions in the spring 2013 semester. This was nearly a 40 percent cut of the newspaper's funding from previous years.

Students and staff alike worried that students were less likely to stay knowledgeable about on-campus events without a print edition of the Leader. Organizations would not be able to easily check on other groups to help plan events with them, and the groups would have to rely on other forms of advertising. Although many readers do get their news online, many other students and faculty prefer the convenience of picking up a newspaper to read at their leisure.

Even more critical in a university setting, journalism students feared a lack of job opportunities with the absence of a print edition of the Leader. The print edition of the Leader provid-

ed journalism students the opportunity to gain real-world experience and prepare themselves for a work force that still includes print journalism. Working on a print newspaper, students make decisions on space constraints such as modifying their writing to fit space requirements and selecting the perfect feature photograph. Online versions of newspapers do not have these problems; they can run any story and post as many photos as they find necessary. Though print newspapers are diminishing, they are not gone. Therefore, it is still vital that a university teach students career skills pertaining to their major.

Fort Hays State University President Edward Hammond set up an internal task force to look at the media needs of the campus and the best way to meet those needs. Meanwhile, in March, the allocations committee recommended to fund the Leader \$51,801.50, which would be enough to get them through the school year. The first meeting for this bill was held on February 28, and the senate approved the bill. A second meeting occurred March 7 to discuss budget cuts and possible alternatives for the Leader. Both meetings proved positive for the Leader staff. The bill passed through the Senate, and the University Leader was prepared to return to a print edition. Ultimately, President Hammond, in consultation with the task force, decided to cut the fund-

ing for both the Leader and KFHS, the campus television and radio station, in favor of an integrated system, tentatively named Tiger Press.

Because they are so used to writing Cinderella stories themselves, most of the staff did not know how to react to their own Cinderella story. "We're hopeful that we can continue to print," Taylor Deutscher, sports editor said. "We appreciate SGA's change of heart and the back-up they gave us this year, and we're hoping it's enough to continue printing."

Members of the Leader staff realize that they, too, are facing a question of convergence like all print newspapers. Will print newspapers disappear inevitably or will we continue with the convergence of print, online and social media delivery of news?



# Students visit Portland for Sigma Tau Delta convention



From left to right: Matthew McIntyre, Morgan Roberts, Paulia Bailey, Miranda Bridgforth, Sarah Siemers, Anne Drees, Meganne Williams, Zach Kastens, Sheri Bedore, Kimberly Voeller, and Jennifer Jones.

## Kimberly Voeller

Twelve representatives from Fort Hays State University's Rho Psi chapter traveled to Portland, Ore., for the 2013 Sigma Tau Delta Convention. The group included two faculty sponsors (Lexey Bartlett and Zach Kastens), seven student attendees (Kimberly Voeller, Jennifer Jones, Paulia Bailey, Morgan Roberts, Sarah Siemers, Meganne Williams, and Matthew McIntyre) and three student presenters (Sheri Bedore, Miranda Bridgforth, and Anne Drees).

Bedore presented her essay, "Living through the Flesh: Olds's Search for the Spiritual through the Biological," in the American Poetry session. Her essay is about how poet Sharon Olds explores the physical body in order to get in touch with a more

spiritual side. After the presentation, Bedore was pleased to find out that Olds was an honorary member of Sigma Tau Delta.

Bridgforth presented her essay, "Lesson Learned in 9 Minutes, 52 Seconds," in the Creative Nonfiction: Defining Moments session. Her essay was based on a moment in her life that really defined her: June 5, 2009, just after she graduated high school. She became ill and was taken to the hospital, where she began to code and had to be resuscitated. The experience helped her learn to value life.

Drees presented her short story, "Men above God," in the Original Fiction: Questions of Justice session. Her story depicts a dystopian society in which the elderly are killed at 70 to prevent the depletion of government funds.

FHSU shone in other ways at the convention. Bridgforth was elected Student Representative for the High Plains Region. She will represent this region in the national student leader group this year. When asked about this opportunity, Bridgforth replied with excitement that she is looking forward to it: "It's going to be a great opportunity for me, our Rho Psi chapter, and Fort Hays State University." At the Awards Ceremony, FHSU's *Lines* journal won for Outstanding Literary Arts Journal, a \$500 award.

The group drove out to Astoria, Wash., where they viewed the Goonies House, the Columbia River Gorge, the Astoria Column, the Wreck of the Peter Iredale, Haystack Rock and Cannon Beach. According to Jones, her favorite activity was "going to the beach, even though it was freezing."

Portland's number-one tourist attraction was Powell's Bookstore. This bookstore is one of the largest independent book sellers in the world. It covers an entire city block and contains over 1.5 million books in 3,500 sections. Many students were surprised to see a Powell's 2 across the street. It stores more of the book selections. As book lovers, many could not resist stepping foot into this store.

This bookstore is just one of many reasons why Portland, Ore., was an exceptional site for this year's conference. After all, the conference theme was "Open Book."

# Paint, prose combine in Thibodeau's classroom

**Taylor Deutscher**

Last fall, students enrolled in English Composition I with Nicole Thibodeau discovered that the “same old comp class” does not have to be the same old comp class. They instead found themselves engaged in collaboration with students from Joel Dugan's Painting I class.

In the 2012 fall semester, Thibodeau's Composition I students started the collaborative project by writing narrative essays. Once the essays were completed, the Painting I students read the work and expressed their interpretations of the narratives through art.

“It wasn't necessarily an illustration as the author thought it should be,” Thibodeau explained the art portion. “It was more like a response of what the painting students gathered from what they had read.”

Once the painting students finished their part of the project, the English students were able to see what other students took from their writing, as opposed to merely a grade from one professor's opinion.

“I think one of the big things that happens in Painting I is the ability to critically analyze each other's effort and each other's work,” Dugan explained.

Both composition students and painting students had freedom of creativity in the project. Composi-

tion students picked their own topics within reason, but were free to ask for help to avoid choosing too difficult a subject. Painting students were free to paint whatever they chose to focus on within the essay.

Along with freedom of creativity, collaboration between different departments keeps learning fresh.

“It really allows them to accept the evolution of a piece of work, as well as the evolution of relationships that



develop with other creative people,” Dugan said. “It's an experiment in trying to break down barriers.”

Students tend to question how information they learn in classes is relevant to their everyday life. The collaborative project is a way for those questioning students to realize the value of such assignments.

“It brings life experience into the classroom. We are not just trying to reproduce a painting that we've seen in our history book. We're not going to just reproduce a photo,” Dugan said. “We're going to actually document the human condition. We're going to

document our lives, our struggles, our successes.”

“My students get really excited when they get to go somewhere,” Thibodeau added. “Any time you have fun in the classroom, you're probably going to be learning more than if you have students who aren't engaged and paying attention.”

The collaboration of different classes also helps with creative thinking and expanding ideas.

“As part of that collaboration, they can talk to each other, and it clarifies their own ideas,” Thibodeau said. “Just the fact of talking to other students helps students think of things they might not have considered or experiences they might not have had. Collaboration is important—especially creative collaboration—because it really helps people develop their problem-solving skills. That can help you in any situation.”

Thibodeau considers herself an advocate of creative thinking in all aspects of life. “The more ways you have of coming at a problem, the more likely you are to form a successful solution.”

Dugan also believes in the importance of connecting various departments. “For the future of education, I think it's really important that we have collaborative efforts,” he shared. Dugan went on to say that collaboration should be worked into life outside of the classrooms. “I don't think that needs to exist purely inside of the boundaries of the university.”

# Campus

## Former students find varied jobs, from

### Michelle Webb

Writers, journalists, librarians. We have certain preconceptions of what English majors in non-teaching concentrations can do with their degrees. Many graduates of the Fort Hays State University English Department, however, have used their creativity—as English majors are wont to do—to weave their educational experience into exceptional careers as production editors, pastors, or even colonels of the U.S. Air Force.

Kelly Chrisman Jacques graduated in 2006 and always knew she wanted to use her writing skills in her career. With a love for books and a growing interest in the publishing field, she found herself in an opportune situation when she was offered a part-time job with the Kansas University Press as she attended grad school. With only two jobs available to graduate students each year, Jacques felt fortunate to land a job with such a prestigious publisher. She started working part time and transitioned into a full-time position after she successfully defended her thesis in 2010.

Jacques tutored in the FHSU Writing Center, a job she said “prepared [her] to converse with authors about their writing, as did the discussions about composition and grammar” that

she had with her coworkers. Additionally, Jacques praises her Professional Editing class for “piquing [her] interest in the field; it armed [her] with invaluable tools (for example, introducing proofreading marks [and] approaching on-screen editing.” Jacques considers her education at FHSU as the “building block of [her] career,” but she also credits the faculty for top-notch support and encouragement.

Although Kris Bair, who graduated with a BA in 1976 and an MA in 1988, initially started out as a teacher, she settled into a career many do not associate with an English degree. Bair dedicated 23 years to the field of teaching, educating students in all subjects, she said, except shop. She even taught 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in a three-room country schoolhouse in North Dakota. Later, FHSU hired her as a composition teacher; during that time, she played an integral role in founding the Rho Psi chapter of Sigma Tau Delta. While Bair certainly succeeded as an educator, she soon, as she said, “found a calling” on a different career path: she became a pastor for the First Presbyterian Church in Wilson, Kan.

Bair said that her literature classes at FHSU proved most helpful in her work: “Biblical exegesis is literary criticism, which is my background, and I can do it with the best of the folks

that are coming out of seminary. Understanding that the Bible is a piece of literature is extremely important to how I can interpret and make valid the truth that’s there.” As with Jacques, Bair credits her success to the fundamental work she undertook as a student of the FHSU English program.

Colonel Richard Rice is living testament that one can use an English degree for practically any career imaginable. Rice initially began his education in engineering but soon found he was not a good match for, as he said, “the monotony of back-to-back math, science, chemistry, etc. all day long.” Seeking to escape the too-linear mindset required of math and science, he changed course, switching out engineering for liberal arts and winding up in the FHSU English Department.

He worked for Halliburton (a global oil industry conglomerate) in his last couple years as an undergrad and, quite unconventionally for a student studying English, was offered a position as a field engineer intern upon graduation. Additionally, he had a job offer from Proctor and Gamble to work in sales and marketing. Finally, after passing the Air Force Officer Qualification and Pilot Training tests, Rice was offered entry into Air Force Officer Training School and Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training.

With three remarkable career op-

# Connection

## publishing to clergy to the Air Force

portunities from which to choose, Rice launched into the Air Force, never having flown a plane. Addressed as “the English major,” Rice trained alongside engineers as well as math and science majors, many of whom were Ivy League graduates or already had private and commercial licenses. Rice graduated the top of his class, coming from, as he said, “little ol’ Fort Hays.”

Rice’s impressive career in the Air Force can only be summarized, but here are a few of the highlights. He successfully completed 132 combat missions during the year he was in Southeast Asia during Vietnam, he flew fighter-type aircraft for NATO in Europe, and he was the base commander at two major Air Force bases. Through his success, Rice was promoted to the rank of full (bird) colonel. No, his story doesn’t end there.

Having the rank of full colonel, Rice was selected to attend the prestigious Royal College of Defense and Diplomatic Studies in London, a one-year course attended annually by approximately 70 diplomats and senior military leaders from around the world. Following that, Rice served as an “on loan” executive, working directly under former U.S. Vice President Al Gore. Rice now leads a quiet, retired life in Texas. No one could buy that for even a millisecond. To “settle down,” Rice runs venture capital in the mining

business. He is incorporated out of Panama (where he has legal citizenship), which, he says, has the fastest growing economy in the world.

Three graduates from the English Department, three impressive careers. Many overlook the might of “little ol’ ” Fort Hays State University and the rigor of its programs. Those who graduate from the English Department certainly find value in the education they receive. Jacques attributes much of her success to outstanding professors, heralding them as “especially motivating.” Bair also praises the merit of an English degree, saying, “There’s no better background than English.” She explains that English is an all-encompassing degree, that to graduate, one has to be familiar with all disciplines—not just English.

And Rice certainly appreciates the value of a liberal arts education, particularly the one he received from the FHSU English Department, explaining that his success stems from his decision to study English and from having exceptional professors. “To have instructors who were that desirous of imparting their interpretations and enthusiasm to the students was critical to my whole approach to life. It was an incubator at that point that opened up my mind and allowed me to use that mental energy for everything I did in life.”

## 2012-2013 Graduates

Eric Bader, BA  
Sheri Bedore, BA  
Vanessa Beilman, BA  
Anne Houston, BA  
Katherine Jones, BA  
Taylor Lunsford, BA  
Chelsi Nolan, BA  
Nathan Riedel, BA  
Jessica Robbins, BA  
Sally Spina, BA  
Linda Thomasson, BA

Jonathan Baird, MLS  
Alan Bateman, MLS  
Brynly Brown, MLS  
Rosemary Jennings, MLS  
Michael K. Johnson, MLS  
Charles Warnberg, MLS

Leann Garcia, MA

## Congratulations!

# Alumni Spotlight: Greatness begins at FHSU

## Stephanie Mason

Erik S. Schmeller, Ph.D., was born and raised in Hays, Kan. Though he applied and was accepted to other Kansas universities, Schmeller decided to attend FHSU because of the “cost and convenience.” Undecided between history and English, Schmeller chose to pursue both majors. “I felt the knowledge and skills I was gaining from both majors would generally prepare me to think and write well enough to find a good job,” said Schmeller.

He currently holds the position of Department Head of History, Political Science, Geography, and Africana Studies at Tennessee State University. Looking back on his time at FHSU, Schmeller fondly remembers attending the summer graduate M.A. program

as an undergraduate. It gave him the opportunity to take classes with mostly graduate students, giving him an abundance of confidence to attend graduate school upon finishing his undergraduate degrees.

Noting the smaller classes at FHSU and opportunities that come with a smaller university, Schmeller recommends that others study at FHSU. He took opportunities to practice leadership skills as well as to travel while attending FHSU, all of which helped him to become better prepared for graduate school and his career. Tennessee State University is a well-known historically Black university located in Nashville, Tenn. Schmeller is happy to be living in “a thriving city,” and thanks to his education, he has an impressive position at Tennessee State University.

Donald Richardson received both his B.A. and M.A. at FHSU. Shortly after graduation he took a job at Phoenix College in Phoenix, Ariz., and still holds a position in the English Department there. When he was first hired at Phoenix College, Richardson taught Mass Communications before transferring to the English Department. Richardson “prefers to teach First-Year Composition” and has taught Introduction to Shakespeare, Survey of British Literature and remedial courses. Richardson “enjoys reading students’ themes and working with the authors to try to help them achieve a more persuasive writing.”

Richardson says he was inspired by many at FHSU, including Mr. David Ison, who “served as a mentor for all the years following graduation up to his death a few years ago.” As a member of Alpha Psi Omega, Richardson spent a lot of time acting. “The acting has contributed to whatever success I enjoy in the classroom, and I regularly use satire and parody, occasionally breaking into song,” said Richardson. Having written twelve self-published books, Richardson has achieved success. Richardson recalls telling Dr. Hammond recently, “My education has served me admirably. I do not apologize for being an alumnus of Fort Hays; I brag about it.”



FHSU English alumnus Dr. Erik S. Schmeller

# Departments fight for funding in free-for-all

**Megan Adams**

This year's Annual Funding Fight was dominated by a raucous battle between the English and Physics Departments. Due to state budget cuts and shortfalls in 2009, FHSU President Ed Hammond announced a free-for-all interdepartmental brawl, encouraging faculty to fight for their money instead of the normal paper- and committee-heavy Strategic Planning procedure.

"We don't just save money," said Dr. Hammond with glee as a horde of music professors swarmed Albertson. "We even make some on the side: the Mathematics students make good bookies, and students are happy to bet on—or against—their professors. It's great real-life experience in that the house always wins." This year all attention was focused on the English vs. Physics Department grudge match. English professors trained strenuously after last year's humiliating defeat at the hands of the Physics Department, led to victory by Dr. Gavin Buffington, Physics Department Chair.

Dr. Carl Singleton has taken to running windsprints in the halls between classes, while Dr. Cheryl Duffy has augmented her yoga routine with Zumba and Muay Thai. Other professors have also stepped up their workout routines, often practicing various martial arts in place of instruction. The hard work and neglected students paid off, however, in the glory of battle.

"It's said that the pen is mightier than the sword," said Dr. Pauline Scott, English Department Chair, from her victorious throne of haphazardly stacked lab equipment. "But the flagrant misuse of high-energy lasers will almost always beat both of those. It's for that reason I requested that only hand-to-hand combat be permitted this year."

President Hammond agreed to the format after similar complaints of the Biology Department's reckless DNA modifications of fellow faculty, and the Philosophy Department's use of cruel rhetoric, which evoked profound existential despair in listeners.

Unfortunately, the new rule has had its detractors. "Fight with our hands?" asked an anonymous art instructor. "Like animals? As if." The Fine Arts Department did poorly overall this year, managing only to beat the Leadership faculty back for a day before conceding the fight. In contrast, the English Department has taken second place in the Annual Funding Fight, behind the Agriculture Department. This has been the Agriculture Department's fifth win



Dr. Cheryl Duffy flashes a "V" for "victory" after trouncing Dr. Jack Maseberg, physicist.

in as many years, due to their unnaturally strong upper bodies from various cattle-tipping competitions.

"They're next," growled Dr. Duffy, before she was quietly taken back to her Professional Editing class. All departments are looking forward to the Victor's Feast, held at the beginning of summer break, as they offer up the most determined of their faculty members to compete in the Other Operating Expenses Eat-Off.

*Junior Megan Adams is some sort of writer, and therefore should not be trusted.*

# Faculty

## **Melissa Sander**

**Pauline Scott**, department chair, recently attended the Academic Chairpersons Conference in Orlando, Fla. She also attended a distance teaching and learning workshop entitled “Building Personal and Global Communities with Open-Source E-Portfolios.” In 2012, Scott published “Owning the Journey: Using Collaborative Revisions of Little Red Riding Hood in Teaching Introduction to Literature at a Historically Black University” in *The CEA Forum*. She presented “A Tempest in Oceania: Echoes of Shakespeare’s *Tempest* in Keri Hulme’s *The Bone People*” in 2012 and presented “Writing Identity: Nature, Gender, and Self in Virginia Woolf’s *Orlando*” in 2013 at the College English Association Annual Conference. Scott is currently working on a chapter for the edited collection *Backlashes to New Frontiers: Mapping Post-Feminist American Masculinity*.

**Lexey Bartlett** received a sabbatical this past spring to work on a book project about vision in 19th and early 20th century women’s writing. She also co-sponsored Sigma Tau Delta and served as chair of the graduate committee.

**Brenda Craven** served as discussion leader at numerous Kansas Humanities Council TALK Programs across the

state. During the April 2013 The World We Have Imagined Conference, hosted by Southwestern College, Winfield, she served on a panel that presented “Atwood’s Applied Science Apocalypse 101,” addressing scientists’ family members’ influence on Canadian author Margaret Atwood. Craven recently researched the similarities and differences between contemporary American infantrymen’s equipment and that of their Vietnam-era counterparts portrayed in *The Things They Carried*.

**Cheryl Duffy** continues to involve students in service learning. Students in her Theories of Rhetoric and Composition class taught classes for a day at Ellis High School during the fall 2012 semester, and Advanced Composition students completed writing projects for local nonprofit organizations during the spring 2013 semester. Duffy sponsored students attending the Kansas Association of Teachers of English Conference in Wichita, where she co-presented a session entitled “Learning Studios” with Zach Kastens. She also presented a session at the Cottonwood Ranch Writer’s Workshop. Duffy taught Topics in Writing: Community Based Writing this summer in Germany at the University of Duisburg-Essen.

**Sharon Graham** completed her MA in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) in August 2012

and made the transition from teaching English composition overseas for FHSU partner Shenyang Normal University to teaching on campus in Hays. Graham attended the TESOL Convention in Dallas, Tex., focusing on sessions that built on her research interest in ways to bridge the gap between first- and second-language learners in university writing courses.

**Sharla Hutchison** spent her spring 2012 sabbatical researching Gothic fiction from the late-Victorian era. She recently published an article about *Vendetta*, one of Marie Corelli’s best-selling Gothic tales. This year, Hutchison presented her research at conferences in North Carolina, Washington DC, and Kansas. She recently started watching *Game of Thrones* and has two sassy fat cats, Mew and Crazy, that each outweigh her dog, Sweetpea.

**Eric Leuschner** taught new courses on the sonnet and on conspiracy fiction. His essay “Beginning with the Ephemeral: Reading the Eighteenth-Century Preface” was published in the book *Encountering Ephemera 1550-1800: Scholarship, Performance, Classroom*. Leuschner finished an essay, “Sophia’s Smile: Reading Jenny Cameron in the Margins,” to be published in the collection *MLA Approaches to Teaching the Novels of Henry Fielding*.



# Update

**Linda McHenry** conducted the composition assessment as the English department's coordinator of program assessment. She taught eight sections of composition, one piloting an embedded librarian from Forsyth Library. Embedded librarians collaborate with faculty to provide students with library resources and to facilitate course research. McHenry published a chapter in the book *Attaining an Academic Appointment* entitled "Are You Taking Care of Those Closest to You?"

**Michael Meade** completed his 46th year at FHSU, having taught French and German from 1967 to 1974 and English from 1975 to the present. His plans are to retire in the spring of 2018 after completing 50 years at the university. His most recent paper for the European Studies Conference was titled "The Neglected Modernist: Robert Musil and his *Der Mann Ohne Eigenschaften*." He continues to visit Europe at least once a year, and May 2012 found him in Greece and Turkey for a fourth visit. As Meade approaches the end of his time at FHSU, he looks forward to working with the Foundation and President Hammond on the project for an FHSU museum, slated to open before 2018.

**Carl Singleton** served his second year on the Graduate Council for the university. He also was involved in

the redesign of the General Education course IDS 350 Multiculturalism in the United States, which will become part of the FHSU curriculum in fall 2013. He continues as a member of the Board of Directors for the Kansas Association of Teachers of English (KATE). Singleton offered a new course for our majors: Banned Books of American Literature. While Dr. Sharla Hutchison was on sabbatical leave, Singleton was the Acting Director of the MLS program. During the summers, he writes script for reality television shows such as TLC's *Honey Boo-Boo*, MTV's *Jersey Shore*, and the multi-network productions of Joyce Meyers and Joel Osteen. (Insert tongue in cheek here.)

**Linda Smith** continues "to play well with others and not run with scissors" as she works with colleagues in various other departments and colleges while striving for collegiality. Smith is currently working with the Virtual College Advisory Committee, Academic Advising Committee and Next Generation Faculty. She is often a member of graduate committees in Biology, as science was her first major and continues to provide her rewarding and challenging collaboration. In April 2013, Smith presented her paper "Revisiting Leopold's and Ethic to Inspire Change" for a panel presentation entitled "Nature as a Catalyst for Creativity" at The World We Have Imagined conference at

Southwestern College.

**Brett Weaver** continues to work on his upcoming screenplay and novel. Weaver recently submitted his play entitled 1-800-OHAMLET for consideration for future production at FHSU. He was heavily engaged chairing two of the three search committees that hired three professors for the English department. Enrollment in the fall 2012 screenwriting class pleased Weaver, and he plans to teach the class again in fall 2013.

**Bradley Will** continues to teach for the English Department and serves as Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies and as Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. In summer 2012, Will participated in the Faculty Exchange program with Northwest University of Nationalities in Lanzhou, China. He presented lectures about critical thinking on the campuses of the Gansu Institute of Political Science and Law, Northwest Normal University, and Lanzhou City University. His chapter, "Persistence: Conducting a Successful Search in a Tough Market," was published in *Attaining an Academic Appointment* from Atwood Publishing. Will was appointed to the Kansas Board of Regents Transfer and Articulation Council.

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**Due to deadlines, the list of contributors only runs through the end of April 2013.**

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Do you want to be included in the alumni news? Let us know about your activities and achievements, and you might find yourself in the 2013 *Post Parade*.

Return this form to:  
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Fort Hays State University, 370 Rarick Hall  
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Interested? Contact the English Department at 785-628-4285 or email lleiker@fhsu.edu or pmscott@fhsu.edu.



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