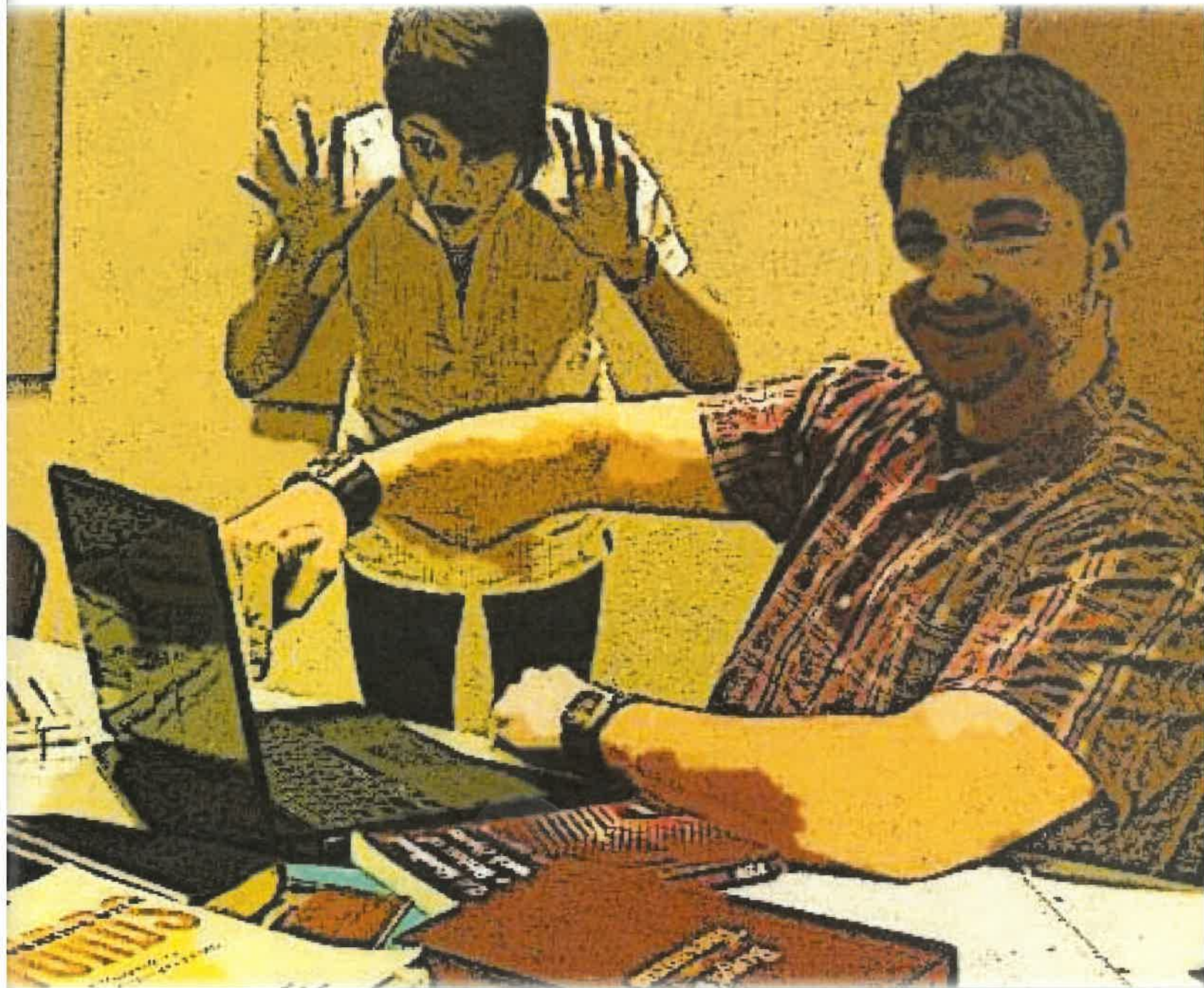


# Post Parade

Fort Hays State University English Department  
Fall 2010



## Essay...Submitted!

## Letter from the Editor

This year's Professional Editing class ballooned from five students in 2009 to **thirteen** students in 2010—so you're holding a *Post Parade* that's jam-packed with student articles.

Because we wanted to fit so much into the same space (no budgetary luxury of simply expanding the number of pages!), these students experienced the pain of cutting words to reduce the size of their articles. You'd think we were amputating limbs without anesthesia for all the moaning and groaning to be heard as they slashed away and I directed, "Cut more."

But they learned in the process to tighten their writing and to make editorial decisions about what content mattered most to the integrity of the story and to the interests of their audience.

Thanks to their efforts and to the fine work of our design editor, Jessica Estes (a student in communication studies), you're able to enjoy a student-written-and-designed *Post Parade* for the fifth year in a row.

- Dr. Cheryl Hofstetter Duffy,  
Professor of English

## Post Parade - Fall 2010

*Post Parade* is an annual publication of the English department of Fort Hays State University.

Design Editor: Jessica Estes

Editor: Dr. Cheryl Hofstetter Duffy  
Department of English  
Fort Hays State University

Cover photo by Cheryl Duffy (featuring Amy Terry and Colter Palen)

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Fort Hays State University is a thriving liberal- and applied-arts, state-assisted institution with an enrollment of about 10,000 on-campus and Virtual College 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 also for the western Kansas region and beyond. Fort Hays State University occupies the southwest corner of Hays, KS, a city of about 20,000 people located halfway between Kansas City and Denver on I-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.

## Post Parade Staff 2010

Photo by: Adrienne Hays



Left to right:

David Cross, Jennifer Sanderson, Brandi Light, Jennifer Jones, Stephanie Tubbs, Rachel Owens, Amy Terry, Amber Barratt, James Carter, Colter Palen, Dr. Cheryl Duffy, Rob Rasmussen, Alicia Felver, Adrienne Hays, Jeremy Lovin

# Katie Edwards Carries Academic Torch

R. Rasmussen



In May 2009, English/philosophy dual major Catherine (Katie) Edwards graduated and received the Torch Award. This prestigious honor is the top award presented annually to a graduating senior nominated by both faculty and staff. Katie received many nominations – a single joint nomination from the philosophy department as well as a number of individual nominations from various English professors. Considerations for the award include leadership, high personal standards of conduct, commitment, and outstanding academic achievement. Katie is from Hays and graduated from TMP-Marian High School.

When asked how she felt upon receiving the award, Katie said, “I was incredibly honored to win the Torch Award.” She continued, “I owe much of my success to the environment at FHSU, and being chosen as the exemplary student

from the class of 2009 was incredible. I was proud to become a part of FHSU history, especially since my mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother all took classes on campus.” While attending school at FHSU, she used her academic skills for both the English and philosophy departments, as the editor of the *Lines* literary journal for English and as a tutor for philosophy.

Katie is currently a graduate student at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), pursuing a Master’s of Public Affairs (MPA) in Nonprofit Management, putting her writing concentration from FHSU to good use. She is also a research assistant at the IU Public Policy Institute (a multidisciplinary research institute) and a research and development intern at Christel House International. As she says, “I like to keep busy.”

# English Major Jennifer Jones - Published Novelist

Jennifer Sanderson

English majors are as diverse as the language, and they are drawn to the subject for a variety of reasons. Some dream of becoming authors, others journalists, and some want to teach. One particular student, Jennifer Jones – known as Jenny – is bright, funny, and determined. She is also a newly published author, and an example of what hard work and perseverance can accomplish.

In the summer of 2009 when she was 22 and still a freshman, she received the official notification that her first work of fiction, a young-adult book titled *Toenail Lemonade*, was accepted for publication. A year before, she was planning to become a psychologist, but her love of writing eventually led her to change her major to English.

She started this book when she was sixteen and specifically cites her Ellis High School English teacher, Karen Madorin, an FHSU graduate, for being the first to hear the story—and encouraging her to continue. When Jennifer’s manuscript was accepted by a national publishing firm, she was not prepared for the flurry of activities that would soon follow in order to make the official release date of March 15, 2010. However, with

a smile and a lot of deep breathing, she successfully met the challenges. I sat down with Jenny and a copy of her book to talk about the process.

**Q:** I know this will sound odd, but many aspiring writers will want to know, what made you think you could write a book?

**A:** It wasn’t so much a conscious thought like, “Hey I’m going to write a book now.” I had a character in my head that I wanted to explore.

**Q:** Is writing something you do as a hobby, or do you plan to make this your life’s work?

**A:** Both! No matter what I end up doing for a living, I’m still going to write. Writing is a form of therapy for me, and I want others to love my characters as much as I do.

**Q:** What is it like to see your name in print?

**A:** Indescribable. I stopped breathing a little bit when I received the first books.

**Q:** Are there additional works in the plan?

**A:** There are always additional works. Right now I’m working on a fantasy

series. I’m quite excited about it!

**Q:** What steps did you take to get your book published?

**A:** The revision process is the most work. As a writer, you have to make sure loose ends are tied up, characters stay in character, details line up, and everything happens in chronological order. After you are relatively happy with the story, edit some more. Writing a query letter is pretty intimidating because it doesn’t matter if your story is phenomenal—if your query letter is bad, the agents and publishing companies will deny representation. It is a very competitive field.

Jennifer Jones grew up in Ellis, Kansas, and is currently a sophomore at FHSU. *Toenail Lemonade* can be found online, in bookstores, and at Semolino coffee house. Jenny said she has written since she was a small child, including plays that she and her sister, Erin Jones, would perform for the family. No matter what career path Jenny pursues, her English degree will open many doors. The ability to write well and express oneself clearly is not lost in any profession.

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**Jennifer Jones’s *Toenail Lemonade* is available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) for \$24.95.**

# Dr. Rabas Prescribes Poetry to FHSU Students

Jeremy Lovin

Poet Kevin Rabas, PhD, an English professor from Emporia State University, introduced himself to the Topics in Writing:

Poetry class with a burst of positive energy when he visited campus on March 6, 2010. One-by-one he had members of Amy Cummins's class state their names, interest, and passions at the beginning of class.

Rabas read several of his poems during the class period, including "Liza's Flying Electric Piano," "Slow Words," "Spare Change," and "Fall Up." The class asked questions about meanings, origins, and structures of his poems. The class members submitted poems for Rabas to review, and he stated during class that he would mail them back to the students with comments.

Rabas enjoys a mixture of music and poetry. In class, he played a recording from blues singer Mingus, with the poet Langston Hughes, called *Weary Blues*. He also discussed the poetry of Jack Kerouac, who recited his poetry (Haiku) to the music of a saxophone. Rabas also emphasized the importance of using different types of sentence structure.

Two main styles, end-stopped lines and enjambed lines, are used for effect when writing poetry. In the course of his class presentation, he mentioned that he lost \$35 in taxes on his first poetry book and made about \$200 off his second poetry book, *Liza's Electric Flying Piano*.

Later that day at the Hays Public Library Rabas started with *Liza's Electric Flying Piano*. During the poetry readings, Rabas read poems from all of his books, including one poem, "The One-Legged Man," to the beat of an electric drum. Rabas read several new poems, one about Michael Jackson and the other comparing his father's run-down shack to the Garden of Eden myth.

After the poetry reading, some members of the poetry workshop class, other students, and a few faculty members, including the head of the English department, Steven Trout, met at Gellas's restaurant. They enjoyed dinner and a chance to extend Rabas's visit just a bit longer.



## 2010-2011 Scholarship Recipients

### Roberta Stout Scholarship

Michelle Webb

### Alice McFarland Scholarship

Whitney Linenberger  
Jenny Shriwise

### James R. & Ruth Start Scholarship

Paige Kincade  
Adrienne Samia

### Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

Nanette Brown

### Elizabeth Jane "Betty" Lenz Scholarship

Andrew Bauer

### English Development Scholarship

Sheridan Thompson

### Graduate Student English Award

Nicole Thibodeau

### English Department Scholarships

Traci Bamber  
Ciara Hesper  
Kelsie Johnston  
Chelsi Nolan  
Colleen Pennington  
Regan Ochs

### English Department Freshman Honor Scholarship

Bryan Baxter  
Anne Drees  
Emi Fuentes  
Brigid Markey  
Sarah Siemers

**Congratulations to all 2010-2011 English Department Scholarship Recipients**

# English Alumna Goes to Court

## Brandi Light

Having an English degree opened many job opportunities for a dedicated Fort Hays State University graduate. Kenzie Singleton, daughter of English professor Carl Singleton, has gained success in the world as an attorney-at-law. She currently works for the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence. She is listed as an attorney for Sloan Law Firm in Lawrence, Kansas. Prior to this she was a partner at Hawkins & Singleton, LLC.

Kenzie was a committed, enthusiastic student at FHSU, obtaining a degree in English as well as a degree in history, with a certificate in ethnic studies, in 1999. Her devotion to gaining multiple degrees, listening to the advice of her father, and furthering her career as a law student has placed her above the average student. She notes, "My English and history degrees were the key to my success in law school."

To add to her education, she attended the University of Kansas School of Law. She graduated in 2001 and was admitted to the Kansas Bar and the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas. In addition, she is a member of the Douglas

County Bar Association, Douglas County Criminal Defense Bar Association, Kansas Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. In 2009, Kenzie was unanimously appointed to serve a three-year term on the Lawrence-Douglas County Planning Commission, adding to her duties as President of the Douglas County Bar Association.

Kenzie keeps tremendously busy and, according to her peers, is a driven, passionate individual. Teaching is a common, successful career chosen by many English-degree-seeking students, but Kenzie chose an alternate route, landing her in a thriving career doing impact litigation, which enforces domestic violence laws in Kansas.

It is true that any lawyer needs exceptional reading, writing, and speaking skills. Kenzie is aware of this fact, saying, "I read and write every day. Every part of my job requires me to be an excellent written communicator."

Kenzie enjoys her career thoroughly, and her father played a significant role in her choices at FHSU. He acted as her

academic advisor throughout her years in Hays, and this helped her to choose the right classes, moving her toward her goals.

In fact, the entire Singleton family has an interest in English. Dr. Singleton graduated from Loyola University of Chicago with a PhD in 1982. His primary focus is 20<sup>th</sup>-century American Literature. His daughter Keith completed a degree in English as well, and she also became a successful lawyer and CPA. Dr. Singleton's son, Branham, obtained a minor in English, rounding out a well-educated family. Kenzie says, "I never took a class from my dad, but he is still my favorite professor." She is grateful for her father's help, and she says she will encourage her children to study any subject they desire.

An excellent example to others, Kenzie Singleton has shown that by working diligently towards a goal, one can obtain great success. She is utilizing her multiple degrees to her advantage, using her exceptional skills as a writer and communicator, and flourishing as a young, successful lawyer.

# East Meets West, Makes a Cookbook

## Alicia Felver

Jason Harper is an English Composition professor at Fort Hays State University's sister school, Sias University, in China, and with the help of his students, he has accomplished a life-long dream: to write a cookbook.

It started with an assignment to describe the process of making a certain food. His students were skeptical about their ability to write a full essay in English about food. Harper started off small, having them think about how they would give an English speaker directions to Zhengzhou, the capital city of the province. Harper explained that "Zhengzhou is about an hour and a half away by bus, and the students thought the process of getting there was very simple-- 'Get on the bus, Mr. Harper, and just GO' --but that led to a discussion about how considering audience, having

clarity, and including details are very important in communication." After that he got them thinking about American food and led them to writing about Chinese food. Harper encouraged them to talk to family in the hope that he could get some family recipes.

Harper's love for food was inspired by his parents. "Growing up, we rarely went out to eat; instead, they cooked most meals and enlisted help as we kids got older. Eventually, we were doing most of the cooking and cleaning instead of Ma and Pa. Pure genius on their parts." During college Harper got a job writing restaurant reviews for the Wichita State University newspaper. "I got paid to eat and write! A dream job. I was combining two passions—food and writing—and saw these merged in print." As a teacher in Asuncion, Paraguay, Harper began

collecting international recipes. In his first year of teaching in China, Harper had an idea for a cookbook, "but I was just too swamped to actually put anything together while I was in the middle of the Middle Kingdom."

That is when his students helped him by writing essays on their favorite foods with a recipe. "At first they thought I was nuts, but they buckled down and made me very proud," Harper explained. Harper edited the essays and arranged them into a cookbook with full-color pictures of many of the dishes.

Harper finds living and working in China "exhilarating, exhausting; fascinating, frustrating. Yin and Yang. Every day, it's amazing here."

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**Jason Harper's *Chinese Cuisine 101* is available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) for \$13.**

# Why Teach? Students in the Teaching Concentration

Amber Barratt

When choosing a major, many students know right from the start of their academic careers what they want to do. While majoring in English with a concentration in teaching may not be for everyone, it does have many rewards. And those who do major in the teaching concentration find themselves enjoying the professors, classes, and experiences.

Many students find their inspiration to teach from different aspects of their lives. "I have always wanted to be a teacher. When I was little, I'd always want to play school. I suppose some of it has to do with my mom being a teacher," said Whitney Linenberger. "I highly value what English as a subject has to offer students, and I think we all need to have a fundamental knowledge of reading and writing."

However, not all students who end up in the teaching concentration know that they want to be an English teacher when entering college. For Andrew Bauer, he realized it only after taking English courses. At first, Bauer was a journalism major and decided to consider English as a major only because he felt that all of his English instructors were excellent teachers. "I figured teaching is just a more personal form of journalism since in both fields you're out to educate your audience about the world around them," said Bauer.

Education in the English department has only helped expand Bauer's and Linenberger's love for English. The two have taken many classes and feel they are learning the best possible teaching techniques from all of the professors. Both students have enjoyed teaching actual classes as a part of their course work.

This past year, students were able to experience a taste of directed teaching in Cheryl Duffy's Theories of Rhetoric and Composition class. FHSU students taught three English classes at Hays High School. The FHSU class was separated into three groups, and each of them co-taught a class. The topics they taught included MLA documentation format, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, and Ben Franklin.

"It was awesome!" said Linenberger of her teaching experience. "Going into Theories I did not expect to come out with such a great practical knowledge of how to teach English in real classrooms. I expected to attend class, read, write, and take some exams." For Linenberger, it was her first real experience of teaching a class.

For Bauer, his experience was nothing short of educational and reassuring. "I have a small fear I'm in the wrong profession, because I haven't wanted to be an English teacher my whole life," commented Bauer. "I loved finding out I had the potential to have at least a small amount of success in front of a classroom."

Sharon Wilson is the Director of Teacher Education in the English Department. Wilson's two main teacher-education classes are Techniques of Teaching English, and Young Adult Literature. In both of these classes, developing lesson plans is a major part of giving students a real feel for teaching. They are also instructed in how to make an "anticipatory set," which allows them to find ways to encourage their future students to engage in a certain topic. Wilson's courses also stress following state standards, as well as incorporating technology into the classroom.

Another English student, Michelle Webb, put her English knowledge and skills into practice this past spring semester; she enrolled in Apprenticeship in English and assisted with Duffy's Traditional English Grammar course. "In addition to helping her plan certain parts of the course, I developed handouts and quizzes. I attended class and assisted with teaching," Webb stated of her duties. On the days before tests, she held study sessions to help students review.

All of Webb's English experiences at Fort Hays State University have been inspiring and helpful to her. "The professors in the English department are absolutely top notch," Webb says of the faculty. She cannot count the ways that she has benefited from pursuing an English major. "I think the best experience is the English community," she said. "I feel honored to have the faculty we do because they have certainly enhanced my experience as an English major."

Although an English major with a teaching concentration is not for everyone, the classes and experiences from the faculty, department, and classmates are one of a kind. While everyone may not be able to admit that they love grammar and writing, some do find themselves agreeing with Webb's feelings: "You can't tell me grammar doesn't rock!"

**Teach in China!**

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edleuschner@fhsu.edu  
785-628-4229**

# Tigers in Italy

**Adrienne Hays**

Traveling to Europe is likely to be on a lot of people's lists of dream activities, so spending a semester in Italy would have to be a dream come true! Well, dreams became a reality for seven FHSU students for the 2010 spring semester when they left American soil on January 20, 2010. Among those who studied abroad in Italy for the spring 2010 semester were two English majors, Destiny Saffer and Colleen Pennington.

Nestled in Vinovo, a small village in Italy, St. John's University became home to Saffer and Pennington. The college was smaller than Saffer and Pennington had imagined. The student body consisted of 37 people. Saffer enrolled in Italian Renaissance Art, British Literature, Government, Politics Worldwide, and an independent study on Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms*. Pennington enrolled in Beginning Italian I, Italian Film Studies, and, like Saffer, she also took Italian Renaissance Art and British Literature in the First Half of the 20th Century. "My favorite class was my independent study, but I also really enjoyed the Italian Renaissance Art

since I had a chance to see some of the artwork we talked about in class in person," Saffer said. Pennington really enjoyed the Italian class. She said, "I picked it up really fast, and it was fun to talk in Italian to the locals."

When traveling overseas, one must expect different cultures and customs. Saffer and Pennington found out that between the hours of 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. the town shuts down to eat lunch and take a nap, and nothing is open after 7 p.m. You won't find anything open on Sunday and Monday mornings, either. "You have to do your shopping around all these little blocks of time," Pennington advises.

For their first trip outside Vinovo, the young women decided to visit beautiful Florence, which is known for its art and architecture. Saffer and Pennington experienced many beautiful paintings, historical buildings, and breathtaking sculptures by many famous artists. "The most memorable one [sculpture] was Michelangelo's David, which is about 20 feet tall. It's breathtaking," Pennington recalls when writing in her blog.

Saffer and Pennington traveled around Italy for their spring break and saw many places such as Venice, Rome, Naples, Sorrento, and the Isle of Capri. Their break started in Torino. The celebration of chocolate was taking place that month. In fact, solid chocolate is considered to originate from there. With a Choco-pass they were able to sample 10 chocolates in a range of 21 places. "After five samples we were sure that if we had any more chocolate we would all be in a chocolate-induced coma. Is death by chocolate possible? I think the Choco-pass people are trying to find out," Saffer said.

After the chocolate shock wore off, Rome had become more than a picture in a book. When arriving there, Saffer and Pennington took a city tour bus, one you can get on and off as you wish, and started exploring the capital of Italy. They saw many historical sites such as the Roman Forum, Circus Maximus, St. Peter's, the Vatican Museum, the Spanish Steps, and the Fountain of Triton.

Sorrento was next on their list. Stopping at Naples on their way, Saffer and Pennington decided to take a boat across the bay into Sorrento. Finding the boat dock was no easy task, for they found themselves lost for some time, but once they got to Sorrento, the obstacles they had endured were well worth the trouble. "Sorrento is exactly what I pictured when I thought of a typical Italian town before I came here," Saffer said. They visited the ruins of nearby Pompeii and took a curving bus ride over the mountains to the Amalfi Coast. "The coast is beautiful. I can see why it is a popular vacation spot for many Italians during the summer," Saffer blogged. All in all, they agreed that every city they visited had an undeniable charm, but the trip soon ended, for school was calling them back.

Saffer and Pennington learned much in Italy and met many great people, but their experience was bittersweet at times. They now know that there is no place like home. Colleen's rule when visiting Vinovo is "put up with its quirks, appreciate its quaintness, and remember that it's only an hour by plane to Paris."



**Destiny Saffer and Colleen Pennington at the Roman Colosseum**

# Southern Hospitality and Faulkner

Amy Terry

Knowing their engaging personalities, I was not surprised that Brad Will and Brenda Craven should team up to sponsor an English department trip to Oxford, Mississippi. Students in Will's course Faulkner and the Literary South traveled to Oxford during the fall 2009 semester. Students making the trip were Traci Bamber, Michael Biondo, Justin Brown, Paige Kincade, and Olga Renner.

Craven, who had already been to Oxford a handful of times to visit her son at Ole Miss (the University of Mississippi), had no problem arranging the trip. Because they stayed in the history-rich part of town, they were able to walk from their motel to some of the great eateries and to the cemetery where Estelle and William Faulkner were buried. Craven was comfortable with their decision, saying, "We would have been on the outskirts where everything's no older than 20 years old. To stay in the more affordable part of town provided great ambiance."

The timing of their trip to Faulkner's home was odd enough, a rainy Sunday at noon, but being inside the home wasn't odd; it was profound. Will recalled a

point of excitement during their tour of Faulkner's home involving the curator: "He said at one point, 'Ok, well, I've got a special treat for you.' He shoved a Plexiglas door to the side and said, 'Come back here,' so we went back." The group filed through the normally off-limits hallway and saw where Faulkner had penciled numbers and contacts on the wall by his phone. From there they went to the kitchen. Will stated, "I like literature, but I don't get gushy-starry-eyed about authors. Being there in Faulkner's home, however, was a profound experience."

Justin Brown, a graduate student at Fort Hays State University, remembers the Southern cuisine during the Oxford trip. "We went to a small town, Taylor, south of Oxford, to a restaurant that has been featured on the Food Network." Both Craven and Will also recall the delicious, but unusual, Southern food; among Will's favorites was an oyster sandwich. However, they weren't there solely for the Southern hospitality and ethnic dining—the highlight of the trip was, unquestionably, Faulkner's home.

Oxford's history easily spans an entire century—from the Civil War to the Riots

at Ole Miss, where racism and integration each put up a fight, as evidenced by the dents and bullet holes in the school's buildings. Brown remembers visiting Ole Miss: "We saw several presentations. One of these presentations was over the Faulkner archives, where we got to see several Faulkner items, including manuscripts and even his Nobel Prize."

They visited many historical sites—the Blues Museum, the Museum of Natural History, and William Faulkner's home—but meeting the people who oversee them was the cherry on top. Directors and curators often go unnoticed for their hard work, but the people whom Craven had arranged for the group to meet were not of the unnoticeable type. Students and faculty alike enjoyed "meet and greets" with the Director of Southern Cultural Studies, the Director of the Blues Archive, and the Curator of Faulkner's home.

All were reluctant to leave Oxford, but as the saying goes, "there's no place like home," a reality that made for mixed emotions. Now settled back in Kansas, they're eager to return someday.



**Relaxing with William Faulkner in downtown Oxford, Mississippi**

**Back Row:** Brenda Craven, Traci Bamber, Brad Will  
**Front Row:** Paige Kincade, Olga Renner, Michael Biondo



**Justin Brown and Paige Kincade prepare to enjoy some Southern cuisine.**



# Jeff Fouquet: Published Poet

Jennifer Jones

In 2002, Jeff Fouquet was probably doing just as I am: stressing about homework and overcooking ramen noodles while music plays in the background. Fouquet, a Fort Hays State University English graduate (BA 2002), is now a teacher, public speaker, and published poet. In February 2009, he read work from his book *Poems from the Jagged Edge—Images of Eastern Kansas* at the Hays Public Library. His vivid poems impacted attendees of the event.

Jamison Green, who also read original poetry during the open-mic segment, said, “You could put

yourself in his poems. When he spoke, the room was filled up with his character. If you closed your eyes, you could reenact what he was saying.” In Green’s opinion, the poems displayed how in touch Fouquet was with his personal side and encouraged Green to be a better poet.

Like Green, Jeremy Lovin, a Fort Hays State University student, could see the images from the words and “found [himself] straying off into a dreamy visual world of his metaphors and physical descriptions.” He also enjoyed how the poems relayed a moral message, just as he tries

to do in his own work. Fouquet’s poetry reminded him that anything is possible, and the reading motivated him to keep writing.

After the reading, Fouquet stayed to talk with the individual poets who shared their work, allowing them to ask whatever questions were knocking on their minds. This was the part of the event that Lovin especially liked, making him feel comfortable and relaxed. Since Fouquet’s visit, Lovin has written several new pieces, some of which “demanded that [he] write them at inconvenient times.” Sometimes inspiration cannot be ignored.

# Summer MA: Memorable and Marketable

James Carter

FHSU’s Summer MA program has served numerous teachers around the nation. Some graduates maintain relationships with their classmates and professors long after completing the program. When asked what made the program memorable, Joni Pratt (MA 2009) had this to offer: “I am impressed by the approachability of all the faculty and will not hesitate to contact any one of them should I have the need.”

Because of financial needs and education requirements, many teachers want to further their education to have more security. Karen Ostrowski (MA 2009) needed to be able to take part-time credit; she received an email

about the program and contacted then-chair Cheryl Duffy for more information. According to Karen, “It just seemed to fit my lifestyle and personal needs.”

The Summer MA program has equipped teachers with new means to teach their students. Gina Anderson (MA 2009) recalls the rigorous workload of grad school whenever her students whine about an assignment. Marla Stark (MA 2009) had this to say about the program: “The courses I took in the program brought new life into many aspects of my teaching. I have much more confidence than I had before in several areas of literature and writing.”

Graduates also recalled

favorite memories of the program. Referring to Dr. Cummins, Karen Ostrowski remarked, “She was inspiring to learn from because she just cared so much about how we were doing in her class and in the program.” Marla Stark and Gina Anderson enjoyed Dr. Duffy’s 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, as Dr. Duffy dropped her “goose poop” cake (inside joke) before it had ever been cut. Joni Pratt’s favorite experience was the sense of accomplishment after graduating. Personal and professional connections along with the convenience of scheduling courses make the Summer MA in English a memorable and effective program.

# From Student to Teacher in a Year

David Cross

Phillip Van Horn had an interesting first year out in the real world. He graduated from Fort Hays State University in spring 2009 with a bachelor of arts in English as well as a bachelor of science in secondary education. Phil moved to Wichita, Kansas, and accepted a job at Valley Center High School. He currently teaches English courses for both freshman and sophomore students.

Phil's class curriculum starts off with a ten-minute grammar mini-lesson every day, and then he focuses on literature and composition for the rest of each class period. He has been using several different teaching techniques to keep the students entertained while at the same time maintaining a learning environment. He tries to use grammar in jokes and song lyrics. By using them in a way the students can relate to, he finds that they are doing better on tests and actually gaining an understanding of the material.

Phil also uses an acting exercise wherein he gives the students roles and has them act out a scene from a work they are reading. For sentence-level work, students hold up pieces of paper with words and punctuation marks. They form a sentence; then the rest of the students edit it. Perhaps the most popular and effective teaching tool in his arsenal is his unique PowerPoint presentations. Phil finds that the students enjoy his presentations more than any of the activities they do in class. Each PowerPoint takes around a day for him to complete. He adds pictures, videos, animation, and sound effects to each of them. He tries to include popular culture—current events as well as action movie icons like Chuck Norris and Steven Seagal—to keep the students' attention as he goes over notes.

Phil's ultimate goal for all of these activities is to keep class fresh and

interesting so that the students want to learn about a subject that is not always everyone's favorite. He shows them just how much fun they can have learning something that is going to be valuable throughout their adult lives. Phil's love for teaching has even led to his taking classes again. Starting this past spring, he has begun working on a master's degree in English as a

Second Language. He has a passion for teaching English that has led him to be a favorite teacher this year. It is safe to say that Phil had a busy first year after graduating from FHSU and is looking forward to many more busy years of teaching and keeping things fresh and fun for students.

## Tammy Horn...and Bees

Alicia Felver

Dr. Tammy Horn (MA 1992) has written two books, but not about English. Instead, Tammy spends her time with bees. It seems a far distance from English to bees; however, Tammy has found her skills in English have been useful to bees as well as to her publishing career. Her most recent book, *Piping Up: A History of Women and Bees*, is about how "women shaped and continue to shape beekeeping." With it she ties together history, women, and bees. In a similar way her first book, *Bees in America: How the Honey Bee Shaped a Nation*, connects the history of America to bees.

Tammy works with surface mine coal companies in eastern Kentucky to reclaim land from old mines to grow trees and plants that are pollinator-friendly. Her company is called Coal Country Beeworks. Tammy notes, "I now work with four mine companies in two states and have five beeyards, teaching beekeeping to local communities as a form of rural economic development." Her work allows her to teach people where both their electricity and their food come from.

When asked what she remembered best of Fort Hays State University, Tammy commented that "people cared very much for one another. I loved the German traditions that were still present in the 1990s. I loved the post-rock architecture and the creativity that would spring up in new ways."

After she left Fort Hays State University, Tammy earned her PhD in English at the University of Alabama. For ten years after that, she taught in a variety of departments—including English, General Education, and Appalachian Studies—at different institutions. In 2006 Tammy began studying what effects surface mines have on honeybees. It was in 2007, with the help of Ed and Elaine Holcombe, a beekeeping couple, that she started working with the Eastern Kentucky Environmental Research Institute and founded Coal Country Beeworks. Currently a professor at Berea College, her work with bees was featured in the November 15, 2009, *Chronicle of Higher Education* <<http://chronicle.com/article/In-Appalachia-a-Researcher/49141/>>.

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Tammy Horn's *Bees in America* is available at  
[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) for \$12.75.

# Writing Centers in China

Rachel Owens

FHSU English Composition instructors Justin Nicholes and Stephen Schrass began the Sias/FHSU Writing Center at Sias University in Zinzheng, China, in 2007, and it has become a huge success among the students and teachers. In 2009, Deanna Peirro, English Composition instructor from Shenyang Normal University (SNU), followed their example and started a writing center for her university's students in Shenyang, China.

The idea of a writing center at Sias was considered quite "Western," so convincing the administration and tutors that it was not some form of cheating was just one obstacle to be overcome. Nicholes does stress to his tutors that "helping a student to learn is the goal in a Western-style writing center."

Starting a writing center was relatively inexpensive for both of the universities. FHSU provided seed money at Sias, and the only materials needed were pencils and paper, which were brought by the tutors and students. However, maintaining the centers proved to be more difficult than starting them. Peirro said, "It is quite difficult to manage all one hundred of my own students and somehow still keep an eye on the hundreds of others that come to the Writing Center for help." However, she does praise her tutors for maintaining the proposed standards when her schedule does not allow her to monitor them herself.

A system to help students improve their writing skills was needed by both students and teachers. "Before the Writing

Center came about, teachers were simply doing whatever they could to help alleviate some of the stress and frustration that came from constantly head butting the communication wall," Peirro said.

When Nicholes saw that some of the stronger students were already helping the weaker students with schoolwork, which is a common Chinese practice, he decided to use it to everyone's advantage. He wanted to "train the best students in order to help them understand how to prompt the weaker students to become stronger students."

Learning is the main focus for a writing center, so certain rules apply to both tutor and student. For example, at Sias the tutors are not allowed to hold any writing instrument, and if a correction needs to be made, the students are the ones to write on their own papers. This reinforces the idea that the students are the ones learning, and the writing center's tutors are not there just to proofread or edit papers. This rule, however, does cause some problems for the tutors. The Chinese motto "the customers are gods" allows some students to believe they



have the right to demand the tutor's service without learning themselves, and that demand is simply not an option. Since a writing center and its rules are still considered "Western," it is a learning experience for everyone.

Given the success of each writing center, the ten tutors at each center are barely able to keep up with all of the students seeking feedback. At SNU, each tutor sees about three students each day, and with such a high demand, Peirro hopes to double the staff in spring of 2011. Payment for the tutors is different in each center. Tutors at Sias work two hours a week and are given 10 yuan (\$1.47 in U.S. dollars) per hour. (The cost of living is much cheaper in China, so this is a standard wage there.) However, the tutors at SNU are not given a direct stipend, but rather are each awarded a scholarship at the end of the year.

The impact of the writing centers is noticed by both students and teachers. Peirro said she has witnessed the impact firsthand. Some of her students have improved their essay scores by one, two, or even three letter grades. Another teacher believes that her students get a better grasp of the Western writing elements simply by having them explained by a peer in Chinese. Working together, FHSU English instructors and Chinese peer tutors are helping Chinese college students face the challenges of writing in English.



Justin Nicholes



Deanna Peirro

# Faculty

**Pamela Shaffer** Pamela Shaffer served as Director of Composition for the second year and continued to enjoy serving as Director of the Writing Center. Her current project, which is still in the beginning stages, is to identify the changes in writing skills of selected students who sought feedback at the Writing Center. She also served on several English department committees and chaired the committee to revise the standard composition syllabus guidelines. Outside of the classroom, Shaffer enjoys reading crime novels, taking the occasional nap, and working out on a treadmill at the Center for Health Improvement.

In October of 2009, **Michael Meade** once again presented an essay of his, "The Ballet and Masque Tradition in Works of Beaujoyeux, Shakespeare, Milton, and Goethe," at the European Studies Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. Earlier in the same year, his paper from the previous year's conference was published in the conference proceedings. For this fall's conference he is working on another paper looking at the use of the Bildungsroman tradition in literature from England, France, Germany, and Italy. During his schooling he spent five years studying in Europe and enjoys going back at least twice a year. He spent this past spring break in Italy and traveled to Berlin and Eastern Europe over the summer.

**Sharla Hutchison** attended the South Atlantic MLA conference, which focused on Katherine Mansfield, a modernist short fiction writer. Hutchinson teaches World Literature, in which she works to coax undergraduates out of their shells. She is excited about a course she started last spring called Emerging Directions in Gothic Fiction. This fall she will have another new course—Literature in the American West—that will take a contemporary approach to debunking the mythical tales of the West. She also takes part in Faculty Senate and is the advisor of Mortar Board, the national honor society for college seniors. In her free time, she enjoys watching horror films as well as taking her dog, Sweetpea, for walks, movies, and even trips to Forsyth Library!

"Don't ever become chair," **Steven Trout** laughingly replies when asked to give a quote to live by, but all kidding aside, he is a very busy man. As of August 2009 Trout has been serving as the English Department Chair and has been participating in various service projects and presenting at many conferences, too many to list here. Trout is in negotiation with the University Press of Kansas and the National WWI Museum about re-publishing a book, *No Hard Feelings!* (1930) by WWI Congressional Medal of Honor winner Charles Lewis Barkley. Trout taught one class this past spring, despite his busy schedule: IDS 326 Literature and the Environment. Trout's most exciting activity occurred this past summer when he went to Germany to teach a two-week course on Anglophone Literature, Memory and the First World War, at the University of Duisburg-Essen.

**Brad Will** is revising his book, *The Supramundane: Sublimity in Science Fiction, Beyond Physics and Metaphysics*, and he enjoyed a quiet summer of research and writing. Over the past year, he edited Wizards of the Coast's *Dungeons & Dragons Players Strategy Guide* and *Galaxy of Intrigue*, *The Scavenger's Guide to Droids*, and several other volumes for the *Star Wars Saga Edition Roleplaying Game*. He also was recently named to the Kansas Board of Regents Assessment Taskforce, and has been attending meetings across Kansas.

**Brett Weaver**, originally from the United Kingdom, enjoys the simple things in life like cycling and swimming. Unfortunately, Weaver was on leave attending to his ailing father in Arizona during the spring 2010 semester, but that has not stopped his creativity. He's currently working on a screenplay and a cross-curriculum project that would involve a wide variety of students, faculty, and members of the Hays community. Aside from his many ventures, he's attended conferences, like the Screenwriter's Expo in Los Angeles, his most recently attended conference. Weaver teaches a variety of courses like Creative Writing, Screenwriting, English Composition, Introduction to Fiction, and World Literature.

**Linda McHenry** taught three sections of composition and a course in World Literature during the spring semester. In the past Linda has taught composition courses online, and she played a major role in their development. "I think we just started using Blackboard," McHenry said, commenting on Virtual College and online course development. Since 2000 McHenry has been teaching at FHSU as a "stand-in" professor: "Anytime professors go on sabbatical, I do what I can in their place." With a master's in Teaching Composition, her passion for writing has encouraged her to volunteer for the Society of Children Writers and Illustrators, an online group where young writers can present their work and have it critiqued. Currently, she is working on a degree in Library Science while raising her two children.

**Brenda Craven** took on the task of teaching Introduction to Literature this past spring semester. It was a new class to her, but she had taught World Literature in the past, so she felt comfortable with this new teaching assignment. In addition to teaching, she is also active with the Kansas Humanities Council. This involvement allows her to travel, landing her in different public libraries all over the state, as she leads discussions over a variety of books. She is busy not only with school but also with her two sons and 2- and 4-year-old grandchildren, and she loves journeying to the South to visit them. Over Christmas her grandchildren ventured to Kansas – where she read to them, built blanket tents, saw buffalo, and watched old movies. She enjoys reading Southern literature in her spare time, and if she were to write a book, it would be a nonfiction work about growing up in a small town in the Midwest.

# Blurbs

**Eric Leuschner** has taken on duties as the Director of International Composition in the FHSU China program. As part of this new position he traveled to China in March to work with the nineteen EFL (English as a Foreign Language) instructors he supervised. Beyond his administrative duties, he has recently published an essay in the *Wallace Stevens Journal* entitled "Ambulatory Poetics in Wallace Stevens and Henry James." This fall Dr. Leuschner is planning to teach a course on the many film/movie adaptations of literature, with a focus on the several screen adaptations of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. When asked if he would include the recent adaptation *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*, Leuschner simply laughed.

**Amy Cummins** had an exciting year teaching and advising student organizations, such as *Lines* journal, Sigma Tau Delta, and English Club. Cummins served as a teacher and advisor for students from all over the world as the Director of the Master of Liberal Studies Program online. She published several articles in scholarly journals and continued researching young adult literature. We wish Dr. Cummins well in her new job as an English professor at another university, for she is relocating to live with her husband. Dr. Cummins extends gratitude to all the students with whom she worked at Fort Hays State University. (Her new email address will be <amy1492@gmail.com>.)

Looking back over the last year, **Linda Smith** is proud of her involvement in the 2009 Oral History Project. The project incorporated writing collaboration between FHSU, Victoria High School students, and residents of St. John's Rest Home of Victoria. Next year, Smith would like to involve other senior residences and align the project to the National Veterans' History Project. The reason Smith returns year after year to teach is her passion for helping others. She loves encouraging incoming freshmen in her English Composition I classes to see themselves as writers. Smith also enjoys working with English as a Second Language (ESL) students in her class English for International Students, and with students from across campus in her Technical and Professional Writing class.

**Carl Singleton** already has plans for 2011: "In the spring of 2011, I'm listed to teach a course called the Literature of New York City, and I expect to organize a trip and take as many students as we can to New York City for four or five days." His favorite course to teach is American Short Story. This past summer he also taught African American Fiction. Other courses he teaches regularly are Survey of American Literature and Survey of English Literature. He attends the Sigma Tau Delta convention, the Kansas Association of Teachers of English Conference, and the National Council of Teachers of English Conference almost every year. He says, "I enjoy hearing the nationally and internationally acclaimed speakers. I get to hear authors and poets and critics talk about English and American literature."

**Daniel Kulmala** kept up with technology this past school year. He has been working with ePortfolios through Epsilen, an online learning program supported by the New York Times. He set up a writing-intensive program and worked on Prior Learning Assessments for adult learners. Kulmala also presented his work at both SidLit and Educause conferences. This past spring he taught English Composition II, Survey of English Literature I, and Major British Authors: Shakespeare. He has been writing essays for a memoir about his father entitled *Locating My Father*. In his free time he enjoys writing and spending time with his three children.

**Lexey Bartlett** has been to Ireland twice, including the 2009 FHSU spring break trip. She might be going a third time to teach courses in Critical Theory and Magical Realism for a semester, as she has been selected as an alternate for a Fulbright Scholar Award at the National University of Ireland in Maynooth, near Dublin. In addition to sponsoring students to the Sigma Tau Delta convention in St. Louis, she read a paper on George Eliot's *Middlemarch* at the National Pop Culture Association Conference in April, focusing on the fairly new field of Disabilities Studies. Although the sensitive, romantic vampires of *Twilight* haven't captured her heart, she enjoys the escape that well-written fantasies for young adults, like the *Harry Potter* series, provide.

**Sharon Wilson** remains the Director for Teacher Education for the English department at Fort Hays State University, an institution she has embraced for the last twenty-nine years. When asked how she keeps her classes interesting, she said she calls on her love of teaching, motivating, and sparking creativity. Sharon Wilson is always in search of new literature and recently introduced a graphic novel into her curriculum. Another highly rewarding aspect of her career is the sense of pride she feels when she watches her former students blossom into professional educators. When Sharon Wilson isn't busy inspiring young minds, she enjoys visiting her two grandchildren, lifting weights, watching "risqué" comedies such as *Family Guy* and *Modern Family*, and cooking Italian food for her friends and family.

**Cheryl Duffy** rediscovered her love for sentence diagramming this past year when she taught Traditional English Grammar in the fall 2009 and spring 2010 semesters. Another new course for her was Teaching Technical Writing, offered during the 2010 Summer MA program. While serving on the University Service-Learning Committee, she also held the position of Director of International Composition. She oversaw the composition program in China for fall 2009, a role she has now passed to Eric Leuschner. Duffy's sabbatical application was approved for spring 2011, when she will study "identity construction and writing" and pursue magazine writing. Also, she has an article ready for submission: "From Research Paper to Public Document: Academic Writing as a Basis for Community-Based Writing." She has added a new interest to her life, yoga; however, she has yet to discover the squirrel pose.

# International English Majors at FHSU



**Olga Renner** Stephanie Tubbs

Olga Renner, an exchange student from Germany, studies in the FHSU English MA program. She obtained her bachelor's degree in English with business studies at the University of Duisburg-Essen. She attended FHSU for the summer and fall 2009 semesters and returned in June to continue her course work.

"A bit overwhelmed" at first, Olga quickly assimilated with the help of the International Student Services Office. She now realizes that coming to Hays by herself paid off because she was forced to immerse herself into the culture, sharing her own culture with American students, as well as learning about theirs.

She noticed increased demands for reading and daily homework at FHSU. Another difference was the writing style—apparently, FHSU encourages a less formal, more concise writing style than Essen. "Although it took me some time to get used to it, I liked it much better," Olga remarked. By having ten to twenty students in a class at FHSU, compared to around fifty in Germany, she saw a greater possibility for discussion, increased knowledge gained from a course, and more familiarity with the professors.

As an international student, she enjoys a positive social experience—noting the interest in her nationality in Hays, a town rich in German ancestry. She also notes that Hays's smaller size means she often sees people she knows from campus when she goes around town. Her hometown of 120,000 is part of the conglomerate area of fifteen cities known as *Ruhrgebiet*, which encompasses nearly 5 million people. "As there are so many cities close by, you have more opportunities for shopping, nightlife, and cultural events...so being surrounded by wheat fields and having to drive at least one and a half to two hours to get somewhere is quite different for me!"

Olga plans to finish her master's degree by the end of the fall 2010 semester. She would like to get a job abroad, especially in the United States, for a few years. She hopes her business studies will complement her English knowledge and enable her to work internationally.

Although she had to adapt to differences in teaching style, along with a new culture, she felt welcomed by students and faculty. Olga considers herself lucky to have been able to come to FHSU, as "it is a fantastic school," and she has enjoyed her time here very much.

**Asli Erdogan** James Carter



Asli Erdogan, an international student from Turkey, spent the spring 2010 semester at Fort Hays State University attending classes and tutoring in the FHSU Writing Center. It was not, however, her first time in the U.S., as she had gone to California in the previous year. When asked why she would choose to come to Hays, Kansas, when she could return to California, Asli responded that a professor from her university in Turkey (Aegean University) had a connection with FHSU. In her experience, FHSU has offered more interaction with professors because of the smaller class sizes. According to Asli, the average class size in Turkey is around fifty students.

When asked what has most impacted her social experience in Hays, Asli said that language was a barrier she faced. Because she could not speak English as well as her classmates, she felt that she was limited in class and social events. Though she has studied English for much of her life, some contextual uses in America make communication with peers more difficult. Asli says the limitations are why it can be hard to be an international student. On the other hand, she believes that because professors have taken time to accommodate her, the experience of FHSU's close-knit community has been positive.

Despite some difficulties in communicating her ideas, Asli still insists that it was good for her to be in America to learn English. She says that by being here she can more readily experience the way English is used by native speakers. Asli plans to continue her education at FHSU, and with an increasing grasp of the language, she hopes to meet new people and gain new friends.

**Xiaoqi "Milly" Fang**

R. Rasmussen



Xiaoqi "Milly" Fang, an exchange student from Eastern China, has recently finished her first year of schooling at Fort Hays State University as a dual major in both business and English. She greatly enjoyed her stay here and is looking forward to another year. Milly comes to us from our sister university, Hangzhou Normal University, in Hangzhou, China. The partnership is a 1 + 2 + 1 program, with students studying a year at HNU, two years at FHSU, and then a final year back at HNU.

She has considered other studies, but English has been part of her studies since her youth and has always been one of her better subjects. These reasons are part of what led her into English, the rest being a vast enjoyment of literature and how language works. In addition to Chinese and English, her love of language now has her learning French as well.

When asked what her ideas for the future were, she answered that she is planning to take both her business and English backgrounds into graduate programs, though she is undecided if she will continue here in the U.S. or return home to China to do so. She is unsure where life will take her afterward but hopes her diverse schooling will provide for more opportunities in the job market. Outside of school, she wants to visit both Japan and Germany at some time in her life.

While discussing the differences between our cultures, Milly mentioned she was less surprised by our general social attitude than she expected to be. The classroom environment was quite different, though. She said it was "more open and offered a better ability to speak out during class." Her favorite part of being at Fort Hays State University is that both the people and the general atmosphere are quite enjoyable. Having come from a relatively small town herself, the changes were not as drastic as expected.

# Sigma Tau Delta Conference: All Work AND Play

Jennifer Jones

Members of the FHSU Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society attended the annual convention hosted in St. Louis, Missouri, this past March. Two students, Michelle Webb and Nicole Keffer, attended the convention. Webb, a senior at FHSU, presented both a critical essay and a creative non-fiction piece about her grandfather. In addition, Webb was elected Student Representative for the High Plains Region at the conference.

Faculty member Lexey Bartlett

accompanied the group again this year and was glad to see “our students represent FHSU and meet English students and faculty from schools across the U.S. who share our interest in literature and writing.”

The trip wasn’t all work and no play, however. Sight-seeing was also on their agenda for the week. Just a hop over the river took them to Illinois to see the Cahokia Mounds, a site containing mounds built by Native Americans. They collectively decided what other sights they

would like to visit, including art and history museums, and they also explored “the city’s cultural offerings,” says Bartlett.

The convention not only provides a rich, engrossing literary and cultural experience for students and faculty alike, but it is also an engaging spring break for English students. This year marked an especially important conference because it coincided with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our Rho Psi chapter of Sigma Tau Delta. And what better way to celebrate?

## KATE Conference

Stephanie Tubbs

Last October, FHSU faculty members Carl Singleton and Amy Cummins, as well as students Andrew Bauer and Nakeisha Kinney, traveled to Wichita for the 2009 Kansas Association of Teachers of English (KATE) conference. Every year, KATE holds a conference to update teachers about changes in English education and provide sessions on teaching techniques.

The KATE organization works to coordinate all levels of English teaching in Kansas to improve the quality of instruction. KATE is a subgroup of the National Council of Teachers of English, the largest professional organization of English teachers in the United States. KATE consistently works against censorship of books in public schools and contributes to decisions made by the state board.

The KATE conference last year featured a keynote speaker – Wesley Fryer – who, according to Singleton, explored “practical ways students and teachers are using digital tools to create, communicate, and collaborate together.” National Poet Laureate Billy Collins was also present and had a book-signing period. Every year, KATE sponsors writing contests for middle

and high school students and presents instructor awards such as the “Richard W. Halle Award for Outstanding Middle Level Educator” and the “Edwin A. Hoey Award for Outstanding Educator in the English Language Arts.”

Cummins gave a presentation titled “Using Contemporary Literary Theories in Our English Classrooms” during one of the concurrent sessions. Cummins also staffed the FHSU English Department table with Singleton to publicize the English degree programs. Singleton said the table is a recruiting area for the summer MA program, but also a place for alumni to gather and reminisce.

Student Nakeisha Kinney said, “I gained so much from attending this conference. I would recommend it to anyone who has a desire to teach.” She mentioned a session with helpful tips for first-year teachers such as class and time management, student icebreakers, and the importance of maintaining personal time.

As a recruiting, learning, networking, and outreaching event, the KATE conference proved to be a “wonderful success” in Singleton’s eyes.

## Graduates

### Summer 2009

Aubrey Bittel, BA  
Justin Brown, BA  
Gina Anderson, MA  
Sheena Hernandez, MA  
Karen Ostrowski, MA  
Marla Stark, MA  
Debra Moninger, MLS  
Arleen Quinn, MLS  
Toni Williams, MLS  
Catherine Wishart, MLS

### Fall 2009

Cameron Bashaw, BA  
Dana Juenemann, MA  
Joan Pratt, MA  
Christopher Rome, MA  
Anika Cunningham, MLS  
Abraham Le’i, MLS  
Gary Sturgeon, MLS

### Spring 2010

Kindra Degenardt, BA  
Alexandra Walston, BA  
Dominique Weismiller, BA  
Colin Booth, MA  
Morgan Chalfant, MA  
Theresa Kraisinger, MA  
Tamera McGinness, MA  
Mark Christensen, MLS  
Peter Frank, MLS  
James Hindt, MLS  
Angela Kennedy, MLS  
Alondra Rogers, MLS  
Roberta Summers, MLS  
Sharon Woods, MLS

# Ode to an English Teacher: Alice McFarland

Jeremy Lovin

Alice McFarland's hard work and enthusiasm have made a significant difference in the lives of university students and faculty and in her community. She became a teacher because of the influence of the previous women in her family history. McFarland's daughter, Alice Krehbeil, says, "[Mom's] grandmother was a teacher, and her mother was a teacher in Czechoslovakia, the old country."

McFarland's journey began when she graduated from the University of Kansas in 1935. From there she taught both elementary and high school classes. For more than thirty years, Alice McFarland

was in charge of FHSU English classrooms.

She helped sponsor SPURS, which is a community-service organization and honor society for sophomores with at least a 3.0 grade point average. It took more than a decade of planning for her to help start Mortar Board in 1974. Through Mortar Board, she promoted the "Student Heritage" statue of a male and female student, sculpted by the artist Pete Felten and now located at the north entrance to the campus.

She won the Outstanding Faculty Woman award in 1973, and the Pilot Award in 1982. Alice McFarland on her own merit started collecting money to start

scholarships for students in the English department, which started out as four one-hundred-dollar scholarships. The Alice McFarland scholarship, totaling \$1,000, goes out each year to help top English majors pay for college expenses.

Alice McFarland was a professor dedicated to FHSU students and faculty. After seventy years of teaching, she retired in 1984, and passed away in 2009, leaving behind a legacy that lives on in the academic organizations she founded and the students she posthumously supports via the Alice McFarland scholarship.

## Alumni Updates Colter Palen

Laura (Riese) Plank (BA 2006) of Wichita, Kansas, is working for SmartThinking, Inc., as an E-Instructor. There, she provides tutoring for college and high school students in an online writing lab environment – no doubt a different environment from her semester as a face-to-face tutor at the FHSU Writing Center. Laura also had her third child, a daughter, in April. We here in the FHSU English department send our best wishes to her and her husband, Scott.

Joe Bula (BA 1965) of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, is a retiree who has been helping his uncle-in-law, Allen Kussmaul, in writing, editing, and self-publishing his book, *Life on the Bum in the Early 1930's*. Based on two diaries that were written in the 1930s, the book details the exploits of Allen and his brother Glen as they hitchhike across America in search of adventure. "There are many great stories out there in the minds of the elderly," Joe says. "I encourage everyone to gather the stories of those who are older and write your own story for those who are younger." Published in April 2009, the book is available for purchase from many online retailers including Barnes and Noble, and Amazon.com.

Kayci Strickland (BA 2005, MA 2008) of Great Bend, Kansas, has finished her fourth year of teaching English at Great Bend High School. Some of her courses include English III (a junior-level American literature course) and English IV (a college-prep British literature course for seniors). Strickland recently came back to FHSU as a 5-year alumna to participate in an alumni panel for the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education review team.

Kelly Koerner (BA 1984) of The Colony, Texas, launched an independent business that aids students with their English, reading, writing, and general study skills. She named her business "Tex Kan Tutoring" to emphasize her love for her homes in Texas and Kansas, as well as her love for education. Kelly is also an active contributor to FHSU scholarships and provides financial support for her father's fund, the *Pat O'Brian Scholarship for Victoria Students*.

Dr. Ralph Voss (BA 1965, MA 1967) of Birmingham, Alabama, is a retired Professor of English for the University of Alabama, where he specialized in Composition and American Drama. He recently published a nonfiction portrait of his grandfather entitled "The Immigrant" in the online journal *Prairie Voices*. The article is available to read on the Emporia State University website at: <http://www.emporia.edu/cgps/EmporiaStateUniversity-CenterforGreatPlainsStudiesVoss.htm>.



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Arlene McKee, Lindsborg, KS  
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William & Janice Parker, McPherson, KS  
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Laura Plank, Wichita, KS  
Brian & Bridgette Rankin, Westmoreland, KS  
Ronald & Annette Reilly, Abilene, KS  
Michael & Cecelia Reinert, Downs, KS  
Mardy Robinson, Olathe, KS  
Elmer & Myrna Schlegel, Ogallah, KS  
Mary Lou Schmidt, Hays, KS  
Steven & Nora Schoenthaler, WaKeeney, KS  
Robert & Denise Schreiber, Garden City, KS  
Warren & Pam Shaffer, Hays, KS  
Steve & Glenda Shepard, Johnson, KS  
Clinton & Rita Smith, Holton, KS  
Linda Smith, Ellis, KS  
Gary and Ruth Sorensen, Sylvan Grove, KS  
Dorothy Sprenkel, Hill City, KS  
Stephen & Joanna Sprick, Osborne, KS  
Ronan & Heather Sramek, Hays, KS  
Robert & Linda Stone, Topeka, KS  
Glenn & Robin Stucky, McPherson, KS  
Brian Masters & Luella Terry-Masters, Burlington, KS  
Kim Tuxhorn, Fowler, KS  
Dave & Cathy Van Doren, Hays, KS  
Ronald & Jane Wagner, Victoria, KS  
Eric & Candice Weathers, Wichita, KS  
Mike Westerman, Ellinwood, KS  
Gordon & Rae Zahradnik, Lyons, KS  
Eldon & Karen Zimbelman, Wichita, KS  
Lu Ann Zook, Newton, KS  
Richard Schnell & Vaunita Rusco-Schnell, Newton Centre, MA  
Norman & Judith Brewer, Bethesda, MD  
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# Submit Your Work to Lines

Do you have a piece of literature or artwork that you want published?

Return this form by February 11, 2011, at 4:30 p.m. Drop it off at

Rarick Hall 370 or mail it to:

Lines Journal c/o Department of English  
Fort Hays State University, 370 Rarick Hall  
711 Park St.

Hays, KS 67601-4099

*Please Note: To continue receiving funding from student fees, the Lines journal must collect a \$5 (total) reading fee for submissions from someone not currently enrolled as an FHSU student. Checks should be made out to Lines Journal.*

## Lines from the Middle of Nowhere: A Literary and Arts Journal

### GUIDELINES

All written submissions must be typed. Prose pieces should be no more than 2,300 words and must be double-spaced. Submit poetry as it would be printed. Proofread your work for typographical errors, and indicate intentional misspelling or stylistic use of words. Artwork should be submitted in a digital format such as a high resolution \*.jpg or \*.tif.

Submissions must be marked with a letter denoting your status (S for currently enrolled students, F for current or retired faculty or staff, or A for alumni) and the last four digits of your social security or student ID number (e.g., S1234). Put this number on the top right-hand corner of each page of written work or physical copy of artwork; also write it on the CD or other digital media. Label file names of digitally submitted artwork in this manner: S1234\_YourTitle.jpg. DO NOT put your name directly on any work submitted. Be sure each piece is titled exactly as listed below.

All author/artist submissions should be listed on one application. Attach an additional sheet if necessary. Complete all parts of the application. No more than six works can be submitted for consideration.

Printed submissions may be subject to errors or flaws in reproduction during the publishing process; applicants relinquish all rights to make changes to submissions selected for the journal or to dispute errors made during publication.

### FEEDBACK

All work is judged anonymously. Applicants will be notified by the end of April of the board's decision regarding whether their work has been selected for publication. Written submissions, photos, and electronic media will be returned only if applicant supplies a stamped, self-addressed envelope with adequate postage at the time of submission or makes arrangements to pick up the work in the FHSU Department of English, Rarick 370. If you have any questions, please call (785) 628-4285 or email the editor, Amy Terry, at <linesjournal@gmail.com>.

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# What Have You Been Up To?

Do you want to be included in the alumni news?  
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Degree Year Major School  
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