

Words, Words, Words

Polonius: What do you read, my lord?

Hamlet: Words, words, words.

Act 2, Scene 2

Volume 4/ January 2006

From The Chair

In looking over archival material to be added to our web site this fall, I suddenly had an epiphany. I realized that we are actually in a significant anniversary year. In 1986, the English faculty, a group that had heretofore been regarded as an informal subset of the Division of Arts and Letters, were officially organized into a department. Happy twentieth anniversary to us!

Much has been accomplished in the two decades that we have been a separate academic unit on this campus. The number of full-time English faculty has grown by almost 30%, and the English curriculum has expanded by the same percentage. To keep up with current trends in the discipline, we've redesigned the major at least twice, added a writing concentra-

tion, and revamped the minors in literature and writing. In 1995, English faculty began offering internships, both on and off campus.

To augment what takes place in the classroom, the department has added or revised a number of co-curricular activities. We established in 1986 a campus chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society; we expanded the writers' series and made a concerted effort to integrate the series into the curriculum; in 1999, we began publishing *The Oswald Review*, the only national journal devoted exclusively to undergraduate research in English.

I think that it is safe to say that the Department of English is second to no other unit on this campus in the wealth of educational opportunities that we provide our students, both in and

out of the classroom. As we celebrate our twentieth anniversary, we can **look back** with a sense of pride in our many accomplishments. Because of the cooperative spirit that has always been part of the culture of this department, the English faculty can also **look forward** with a sense of confidence that we can meet whatever challenges the future may hold. I can't wait to see what lies ahead!

Dr. Tom Mack
Professor and Chair



Fall 2005 Writers Series Welcomes George Singleton

USCA students and faculty, along with members of the community and a few distinguished guests, gathered on October 4, 2005 to hear George Singleton read from his work at the opening event of the twentieth anniversary season of the James and Mary Oswald Distinguished Writers Series. Dr. Tom Mack greeted the crowd and recognized guests of honor. In attendance at the reading were Dr. Robert Alexander, Distinguished Chancellor Emeritus; Dr. Tom and Mrs. Susan Hallman, the current chancellor and his wife; and Dr. Steve Gardner, who was the director of the Writers Series for the first ten years. Last, but not least, Dr. Mack honored the memory of James and Mary Oswald, for whom the series was named.

English major Michael Clune introduced Mr. Singleton and described him as being "quirky, unpredictable, and talented." Singleton has written three collections of short stories: *These People Are Us* (2001), *The Half-Mammals of Dixie* (2002), and *Why Dogs Chase Cars* (2004). His first novel, *Novel*, was published in the summer

of 2005. He has also been featured in magazines, anthologies, and on National Public Radio programs.

Mr. Singleton read part of one of his short stories, "Nearby Toxic Waste Dumps," included in the collection entitled *Why Dogs Chase Cars*. It centers on Mendel, a teen from the fictional small town of Forty-Five, South Carolina. The only photographs ever taken of him growing up were of him in precarious situations, and as he searches for an acceptable picture to submit to the high school yearbook, the only one he can find shows him next to a part of a sign that says "ic ump." He speculates on what exactly "ic ump" could mean and discovers that it stands for "Toxic Dump." The story goes on to explain that Mendel's father placed barrels and signs with similar warnings on them to scare away land developers.

Mr. Singleton also read from *Novel*, which focuses on its main character whose name also happens to be Novel. He makes his living by educat-

ing people about snakes, but thinks his name is a sign that he has the capability to write something meaningful during his life. Because of this notion, he begins a writers retreat in an old inn where people come to brainstorm, write, and discuss their ideas.

After the reading, Mr. Singleton cheerfully autographed copies of his books and chatted with students, faculty, and fans from the community. The presentation of his material entertained and sparked interest, making him a writer that people will desire to know.

Christine Kansanback

Novelist Silas House will be reading from his fiction on Tuesday, February 21, at 8 p.m. on the main stage of the Etherredge Center. This free event is part of the Oswald Writers Series.

Faculty Focus

Dr. Tom Mack

Dr. Mack has had another active year in scholarship and service. In the category of traditional research, he wrote during the summer fourteen short articles on contemporary American writers for the new online *Literary Reference Center* published by EBSCO Information Services. He also plans to present a paper entitled "From Sleepy Hollow to Washington Square: The Interloper and the Closed Circle" at the national conference of the College English Association (CEA) in San Antonio, Texas, in April of 2006.

In the category of applied scholarship, he edited the seventh volume of *The Oswald Review* (fall 2005), and his article entitled "Keeping a Double-Entry Journal" was published in the fall 2005 issue of *Carolina English Teacher* (Converse College).

Dr. Mack continued to write his "Arts and Humanities" column, which appears each Friday in *The Aiken Standard*. In recognition of the fact that his weekly column is a significant vehicle for community outreach, Dr. Mack won the 2005 USCA Community Service Award.

In the category of campus service, Dr. Mack continues his work as sponsor of our campus chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, director of the Oswald Distinguished Writers Series, and a member of the Honors Program Steering Committee and the USCA Enrollment Planning Team.

Dr. Steve Gardner

On August 16, 2005, Dr. Steve Gardner received a three-year appointment as G. L. Toole Professor of English. In addition to his own writing of poetry and fiction, he continues to work on two large editorial projects: a twenty-five-year retrospective "best of" *The Devil's Millhopper* magazine and a collection of contemporary poetry, which could possibly be the beginning of a long-term, multi-volume series entitled *The Southern Poetry Anthology: South Carolina*. Work on the latter, which is being co-edited by USCA alumnus William G.

Wright, should be completed within this academic year.

Dr. Gardner enjoyed his fall classes, including a seminar in modern British literature; and he is especially looking forward to the spring when he will teach a seminar in Robert Frost and Ernest Hemingway.

In terms of service, Dr. Gardner is this year's Faculty Assembly Vice-Chair. He also serves on the Faculty Welfare Committee and one or two departmental committees. He is the chair of two concurrently running English Department search committees for two replacement assistant professor positions.

Dr. Gardner would like to read more if he had any spare time; however, he always finds time to watch the ABC television series *Lost*.

Karl Fornes

Karl Fornes is looking forward to teaching in the classroom full time this academic year. With colleagues Dr. Lynne Rhodes and Dr. Jill Hampton, Professor Fornes presented a paper on writing assessment at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference held in Atlanta in November, 2005. He will also be part of a panel presentation discussing undergraduate research at the Southeastern Writing Center Association Conference in Chapel Hill, North Carolina in February, 2006.

Dr. Lynne Rhodes

Dr. Lynne Rhodes visited the University of Alaska in Anchorage during July 2005, when she presented at the annual Writing Program Administrators conference. She also attended the Low Country Writing Project's Summer Institute at the Citadel (and lived in the barracks) during the month of June, and she now hopes soon to initiate a National Writing Project Site at USCA. Additionally, she is now serving on the USCA Assessment Committee, and she assisted Dr. Braden Hosch this fall with two presentations at the SAIRS and SACS conferences regarding USCA's use of the Rising Junior Writing Portfolio database for general education assessments.

Dr. Bill Claxon

Dr. Bill Claxon is back in the classroom after a rejuvenating and productive sabbatical during the spring of 2005.

In February, 2005, Dr. Claxon read one of his stories, "Revelations," at the 20th-Century Literature and Culture Conference at the University of Louisville, in Louisville, Kentucky. Additionally, Dr. Claxon presented a paper, "A Culture of Violence in Contemporary Southern Fiction," at the American Men's Studies Association held in April at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Dr. Eunita Ochola

Yale University invited Dr. Eunita Ochola to speak during its lecture series on *African Languages at Home and Abroad: New Challenges, New Communities, New Priorities*. Dr. Ochola met with her editor in early December about her memoir, which she submitted in February, 2005, and she is waiting for responses from reviewers on three articles she submitted for journal publication.

Vicki Collins

Professor Vicki Collins continues teaching English 101 and 102, working with the First Year Experience Committee, and giving presentations entitled "This is not Your Grandmother's Grammar" for the Writing Room Workshop Series. She also teaches the First Year Seminar and serves as a professional tutor for the English Department.

Professor Collins remains quite active in the community. She is still a member of the Authors Club of Augusta and the Augusta Poetry Group. She serves as a Spanish tutor and as an annual judge for Lakeside High School's senior projects. She is very much involved with the Central Savannah River Tennis Association; she is on the Board of Directors and is a combo league coordinator. Professor Collins is on The Village at Jones Creek Homeowner's Board and is a member of the praise team of Faith Community Church.

Dr. Stanley Rich

Dr. Stanley Rich continues to offer Writing Room Workshops on the topic "Improving Sentence Writing Style: the Periodic, the Cumulative, and the Balanced Sentence." Additionally, he has offered a workshop for Writing Room consultants' training on issues in grammar to enable the consultants to improve their skills as they counsel with USCA students. He currently serves on the USCA Media Board.

During the past year, Dr. Rich worked with several USCA international students in English as a Second Language (ESL) as they attempted to improve their fluency in English.

For the fourth time, Dr. Rich gave a USCA guest lecture, "Introduction to Czech Literature," to students participating in the USCA School of Business Maymester course taught in Prague, Czech Republic. He also gave a guest lecture on Flannery O'Connor's short story "Revelation" to the USCA Academy for Lifelong Learning, with more than eighty people in attendance.

USCA students nominated Dr. Rich for the 2005 Teaching Excellence Award. Furthermore, he was selected for the 2005 edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. A student from Dr. Rich's English Grammar class, Katherine McPherson, won the Kaplan Writing Award in the spring, 2005, for her excellent research paper on English pronouns.

Linda Lee Harper

Professor Linda Lee Harper continues to serve as the advisor for *Broken Ink*, the USCA literary journal which is published twice a year, during the Fall and Spring semesters. All submissions for the academic year are considered for publication and for the Washington Group, Inc. Literary Prizes that are awarded each spring.

During the past year, Professor Harper had nineteen poems accepted

for publication in nationally distributed literary journals, including *Rattle*, *Willow Review*, and *Chiron Review*. Her work also was anthologized in *Millennial Sampler*, the second volume of a compilation of South Carolina poets' work. She participated in the *Millennial Sampler* portion of the Poets Summit on the USC-Columbia campus, September 24, 2005.

In spring, 2005, Professor Harper gave a lecture on Shirley Jackson's short story "The Lottery" for the Academy of Lifelong Learning.

She currently is working on a collaboration as lyricist for an opera composed by Professor Richard Maltz, a new collection of poems, and a novel.

Dr. Jill Hampton

Dr. Jill Hampton had two publications last year: a book review on *Writing Irishness in Nineteenth-Century British Culture* for the *Irish Literary Review*, and a chapter entitled "May Laffan's Religious Ambivalence" for *Evangelicals and Catholicism in Nineteenth-Century Ireland*.

Dr. Hampton presented a paper entitled "Into the Mainstream" at the national Irish Studies conference at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana last April. Last spring she also gave a presentation on James Joyce's "The Dead" to the Lifelong Learners. In October she presented a paper, "Western American Landscapes in the Poetry of Irish Immigrants," for the national Western Literature Association.

Dr. Hampton represented USCA at three American Democracy Project conferences: The Southeast Regional Service Learning Conference in Cocoa Beach, Florida in April; The Second National ADP Conference in Portland, Oregon in June; and the Faculty Seminar on Stewardship of Public Lands at Yellowstone National Park in August.

Dr. Hampton continues to take pleasure in her research on Place Writing and Eco-Composition as well as Literature of Place. She enjoyed teaching an upper-level Irish Literature course last fall. Last spring she taught a three-session continuing education course on the memoir.

Dr. Matt Miller

For those who do not know Dr. Matt Miller, he is the newest English faculty member at USCA. He recently graduated from USC with a doctorate in English, concentrating in 20th Century American Literature and post-colonial theory and literature. Dr. Miller's major focus in American literature is multicultural writing, especially African American, Asian American, Native American, and Latino/a American literatures. Prior to his arrival at USCA, he taught at East Carolina University (in Greenville, NC), USC-Columbia, and Midlands Tech.

This spring, in addition to two sections of AEGL 102, Dr. Miller is teaching African and African American Literature with a focus on the connections between the continent and the American diaspora and Introduction to Non-Western Literature with a literary "excursion" to Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Besides preparing for and teaching classes, Dr. Miller is working on a paper for a post-colonial studies conference in the spring on Paul Christelis's experimental South African novel *Rabbit Season*—a book that addresses obsession and cartoons, especially Bugs Bunny. Additionally, he has two essays being prepared for publication on the novels of Chang-rae Lee, a contemporary Asian American writer.

On a personal note, Dr. Miller wants to thank everyone for making his transition to USCA very enjoyable and friendly. He feels that he has already made some friends for life, and he could not ask to be in a better university and department. Dr. Miller looks forward to years and years of service at USCA.



Ilona Law

Mentoring seemed to be the byword for Professor Ilona Law's fall 2005 semester. Two of her "mentees" were Dr. Matthew Miller, Assistant Professor of English, and Mrs. Rose Marshall, head reference librarian at the Gregg-Graniteville Library. Essentially, mentors meet weekly with new faculty to support their assimilation to USCA, answering questions and hearing concerns about teaching load, classroom management, and general university policies.

Professor Law is also using her thirty years of classroom experience for a third and more intensive mentoring project. Presently, she is assisting a friend, a former nurse now majoring in English, develop a reading- and writing-

intensive course for home-schooled sophomores and juniors. The course focuses on the American short story from Edgar Allan Poe to Alice Walker and meets weekly through May 2006. Professor Law delivered the Faulkner section of the course early last December.

To enrich her own literary knowledge base, she recently traveled to Los Angeles to attend a four-day meeting of the Western Literature Association (WLA).

These activities, plus her heavy teaching load, her care of one husband, one AHS junior, one USC senior (graphic design), six cats, and three dogs continue to find her very, very busy!

A Fond Farewell

When I came to USCA in 1977, they tried to put me in a closet. Literally. I was shown to a converted—it had a desk in it—broom closet and was told that, with an open door and two chairs in the hall, student conferences would surely not be a problem. Mule-like, I balked at establishing my first professional residence in a space where I could not sit at my desk AND have the door closed at the same time. A kind person in the fine arts subsequently offered to share her office. I accepted.

USCA was bursting at the seams in 1977, and that was why I was here. It looked like a place on the move. The faculty here was young, eager, and enthusiastic. I was young, too, and on the move in a 1969 VW Beetle. It didn't bother me that all but one of my graduate school professors had said, each with the same puzzled incredulity, "You're going *where*?" I was confident that I had made a good choice in coming to USCA. And unlike 73% of new English Ph.D.s in America, I was driving that old VW on the tenure-track.

In 1977 my hair did not have these lovely, natural grey highlights; my body was not..., well, let's just say that I was skinny. Neither my face nor my

glasses had visible lines. Because age did not clearly separate us, I was very careful to call all of my students Mr. or Ms. Phillintheblank in order to establish the proper distance between us. One day in the SAC, a young male student giving his pint of blood patted his Red Cross gurney and said as I passed by, "Jump right up here with me, baby." Stunned, I finally managed, "That's *Dr. Baby* to you." Truthfully, it seems as if that happened in another century.

I've taught a lot of literature in my years here, yet one of my favorite character descriptions is from an author I don't teach—Geoffery Chaucer. He says of one of his genuine and sober-minded pilgrims, "and gladly would he lerne and gladly teche." I've taught and learned some challenging lessons at USCA and, truth be told, not always gladly. (See the reference to mule, above.) Nonetheless my life has been enriched by so many experiences and people that I could not begin to name them. It has been a privilege to work with my colleagues in the English Department and across the campus, and a joy to remember all the amazing students whose lives have touched mine.

And now I'm retiring both from USCA and from Aiken. It's a bit early but I find that I increasingly miss my family and my roots, which have remained deep in Kentucky soil. For many years now my

Epsilon Upsilon Chapter Celebrates Twenty Years



Michael Clune, President of the campus chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, and Dr. Tom Mack, faculty sponsor, proudly display their "certificate of excellence" from the international headquarters.

office has had a window and room for two chairs *with* the door closed. It has file cabinets and bookcases, too, and a nearly thirty year accumulation of *stuff*. No one, least of all a student, would call me baby. I have faculty, staff, and student friends I will keep the rest of my life and a rich fund of anecdotes and stories to take with me. USCA, no longer "*Where?*" but a school ranked first among public comprehensive universities in the South, is still on the move. So am I, and in a much more comfortable car. I'll depart Office A-8 in December (Editor's Note: Dr. Lorch retired in December, 2005) and soon after someone young and eager and enthusiastic will move in to help carry USCA forward. It is, after all, a new century.

Sue Lorch

*Distinguished Professor Emerita
USCA*



The Other Side of the Hedgerow

When I first arrived in Oconee County to stay, I was a bit unnerved by the friends who had predicted that I wouldn't last two months as a retiree, that I would be bored and restless, and that, for heaven's sake, there's nothing to do out there in the boonies. At least, they suggested, I could probably find a part time gig in comp. at Clemson or maybe Trident Tech. I am delighted to report that none of these prognostications have turned out to be accurate.

After years of academic jokes about one professor or another being "outstanding in the field" (rendered "out standing in the field"), I find it quite pleasant to be on the other side of the hedgerow altogether. I like the physical landscape of these foothills very much, and (Mirabile dictu!) time is mine — a condition I wish I'd secured earlier. I'm still reviewing manuscripts for an academic press and serving as Associate Editor of *The Oswald Review*, but I have abandoned screening for journals along with the hectic publication schedule of Palanquin Press. Best of all (naturally), there is time to write. New work is forthcoming in *Ekphrasis*, *The Asheville Poetry Review*, and *Main*

Street Rag. I've been able to complete and polish two book-length manuscripts titled *The Surface of Things* and *Twelve Leagues In*. The book on poetic form that I've been working on with North Carolina poet Janice Fuller (working title, *The Book of Invented Forms*) is starting to acquire bulk.

It feels like a luxury to have time for a serious mailing of submissions to poetry journals, but it's really a necessity for a working poet, and anyone who "does" creative writing knows how daunting the task is when mixed with a "day job." To all of you working with that pressure, I say "Don't despair!" Now I can do these mailings four times a year instead of once in the summer (when many journals don't read) and once more (if luck permits) during Christmas break. I've been able to read more, and this has led to more book reviews. With Ryan Van Cleave and Becky Mitchell, I've helped to start a new workshop group (Upstate Poets). I also attended this year's Wildacres Writers Workshop and two October writer's residencies in the Blue Ridge. My time is pretty full — but in the happiest of ways.

My idea of recreation is still on the bookish side, so I am grateful for a chance

to indulge my tastes without too much distraction. Our house is small and at present a bit disorderly, though renovations move forward in fits and starts. And there is the lake — I wake up each morning to see it stretching north and west like a sea of promise. Almost every day I manage to spend some time out on the water, just being. When it rains, I work (not too successfully, alas) to improve my bowling average. When it is really cold, I anticipate turning on the gas logs and settling in for a spell of reading. Do I miss my job? Not really. What I liked best about it stays with me, but the life opening around me now is the one I may just have been waiting for all along.

Phebe Davidson

*Distinguished Professor Emerita
USCA*



Idea Exchange

On September 15, 2005, a group of Aiken County English teachers and USCA English faculty gathered together for the third Idea Exchange. Dr. Tom Mack welcomed those in attendance and introduced the speakers. Dr. Sue Lorch and Dr. Matt Miller gave presentations on the topic of the five-paragraph theme.

Dr. Lorch's presentation was titled "FAST Food for Thought: The Five-Paragraph Theme." The Five-Paragraph Theme (FPT) becomes problematic because students begin to believe the FPT is the only possible way to write an essay. They are unable to think outside the mold, which restrains their creative abilities. Dr. Lorch highlighted some interesting metaphors for the FPT, one being the "square cucumber." This metaphor alludes to a cucumber being grown in a box so it con-

forms to the box's shape as it matures. Students who depend on the FPT every time they write are generating essays that are akin to "square cucumbers." She also compared the FPT to a Beef n' Cheddar sandwich from Arby's. The introduction and conclusion are the halves of the bun and the cheese sauce, roast beef, and sauce are the body paragraphs. She mentioned that this food is fine now and then, but it is definitely not acceptable for every meal. Compared to a Thanksgiving dinner, the sandwich does not measure up.

Dr. Miller spoke about "Life After Five: Other Approaches to Writing Instruction in High School Settings." His topic meshed with Dr. Lorch's because he emphasized that writing in a formula deters the thinking process and stunts creativity. He suggested three different approaches in order to break through the student's creative barriers. The first approach is for the student to develop a voice. Students tend to be unwilling to express their voice

because they are concerned with the form. In order to develop a better voice, students should write more. Journal writing is ideal because it is reflective and allows teachers to enter the minds of their students. Second, teachers should use rhetorical exercises like memory pieces, proposals (persuade someone to give you money), and collaborative papers to get students to consider different audiences. The third approach is for teachers to assign sustained complex essays to their students; if the assignment has a number of specific components, it will be more difficult for the student to fall back on the FPT formula.

The USCA idea exchanges are scheduled twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring, to give both university and high school faculty a chance to discuss common issues and share new teaching strategies.

Christine Kansanback

Alumni Focus

Jamie Raynor



"No day is ever the same," Jamie Raynor commented when asked what she enjoyed most about

her new job as USCA's Director of Alumni Relations. Since beginning work September 1, 2005, she has found that she enjoys applying many different skills to her work and meeting new people.

Raynor's goals and objectives center on the relationship between the university and keeping in touch with its alumni. In a recent press release, Raynor expressed her enthusiasm on connecting alumni "with on-campus resources, providing beneficial programs and social

events for them to attend, and encouraging them to actively participate and continue their relationship with the university."

Raynor graduated from USCA with a B.A. in English in May 2002. During her undergraduate years, she developed helpful skills while working in the Writing Room under the supervision of Karl Fornes. She also served as a professional tutor for the university. After college, she was employed by the School of Education as an Administrative Assistant, and later she obtained a position as a Statistical and Research Analyst. Then she moved to her current position as Director of Alumni Relations.

Having a degree in English enhances Raynor's effectiveness in her work, which involves writing, marketing, and analyzing and interpreting data. She also needs computer skills to create web-

sites and newsletters for the alumni. Her degree will be beneficial to her in the future because she uses verbal and written communication daily when dealing with alumni.

According to Raynor, pursuing an English degree is a wise choice because the writing techniques and communication skills learned while studying English can be used with any career. An English degree is more flexible than more specialized majors, and English majors are more marketable candidates in a variety of fields. When asked how often she uses her English skills on the job, Raynor laughingly replied, "about every 2.7 seconds."

Christine Kansanback

Louise Glassman

Louise Glassman never planned to return to work after graduating in 1994 with a degree in English; she feels that she is carefully educated to be idle. However, the most satisfying application of what Glassman learned at USCA is her volunteer work with SeniorNet. Her involvement with SeniorNet includes teaching senior citizens to use computers in a lab behind the USCA Library.

Glassman has also taught introductory courses and word processing, but her emphasis for the last several years has been in digital photography because more and more people are buying digital cameras and need help editing and enjoying their photos. Before this experience, Glassman had never taught anything, so it was scary for her to begin at the age of 58.



"I'm convinced that my return for a second degree gave me the confidence needed to stand up there and share what I knew," Glassman commented.

With the retirement of her husband, Art, in 2002, Glassman now has more time to travel to places like Brazil, Morocco, the Cape Verde Islands, France, Italy, and Greece. Her Art History classes contributed to her enjoyment of classic sites such as Knossos, Rhodes, Santorini, and Naples.

When Glassman thinks back to why she returned to the University, she believes it was a weariness with reading

best sellers or whatever her friends recommended. "I wanted to find the 'good stuff' to read," she explains. Glassman is an eclectic reader to this day, and she emphasizes, "...the authors I studied and the critical skills I acquired help me to enjoy reading more than ever."

"The authors I studied and the critical skills I acquired [at USCA] help me to enjoy reading more than ever."



Daphne Thompson

Daphne Thompson is currently employed at Johnson and Wales University in Charlotte, North Carolina, as Director of the Writing Center and Assistant Professor of English. She hopes to gain promotion to Associate Professor by the end of the aca-

demical year. Prior to beginning her career at Johnson and Wales in 2002, when it was still located in Charleston, South Carolina, she was an adjunct at The Citadel and tutored part-time in their Writing Center for six years.

Thompson has little time for extracurricular activities; however, she was involved with singing in the York County Choral Society last year.

The Oswald Review

September marked the arrival of the seventh volume of *The Oswald Review*, "an international journal of undergraduate research and criticism in the discipline of English" housed at USCA. The journal accepts submissions from undergraduates across the country and abroad.

The Oswald Review is dedicated to the memory of James and Mary Oswald. Their passion, not only for English but also for USCA, earned them the honor of having both the journal and the USCA Writers Series named after them.

The Literacy Project

Members of the Epsilon Upsilon chapter of Sigma Tau Delta gathered on October 18, 2005 to begin their involvement with the Literacy Project, a program to help non-native English speakers become more proficient with English. The group served as tutors for adult students in night classes held from six to nine every Tuesday and Thursday evening at South Aiken High School.

The English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are taught on three levels: beginning, intermediate, and

From the Editor



When Dr. Mack asked me if I would be interested in compiling and creating the English Department's annual newsletter, a myriad of emotions and thoughts swept through me. I was fearful because I would need to work closely with the English faculty and alumni, people who seemed intimidating because their experience in English studies far exceeded my own. I would be required to work with a software program that I was not familiar with in order to bring

This year's *Review* includes entries submitted from South Carolina, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and British Columbia. The analyzed works vary from L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* and J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* to John Milton's *Paradise Lost* and Shakespeare's "The Rape of Lucrece." There is also a paper focusing on Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse* and another on Chaim Potok's *My Name is Asher Lev*.

Dr. Tom Mack remains the editor of the *Review*, with Dr. Phebe Davidson as the associate editor. Katherine McPherson was this year's editorial intern, and the experience was valuable to her. She commented, "Under the expert guidance of Dr. Mack, I was able to improve my ability to

evaluate, not only other authors' writing but also my own in regard to content, quality, and depth."

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Christine Kansanback



advanced. Students from various ethnicities such as Latino, Chinese, Japanese, and Russian are placed in the appropriate class according to how well they score on an initial oral exam. The exam consists of simple questions such as "What is your name?" and "How long have you lived in the United States?"

The Literacy Project is a good way to get involved with helping people in the community. Many of the adult students need personal attention, so the participants from Sigma Tau Delta are hoping that a number of bilingual undergraduates at USCA may be willing to volunteer for the program. Contact Michael Clune at

celticmike@gmail.com for more information

Christine Kansanback

For the latest news from the USCA Department of English, please visit the department website at www.usca.edu/english/

Online you will find a special faculty and student photo album and information about the department's various programs.

about the final product. The thought of being the one to shoulder such an important responsibility loomed before me, and I believed myself incapable of completing the task to the high standards that would be expected. However, now that I have survived the newsletter experience, I am able to look back and confidently know that not only did I succeed but I also profited from the internship.

Through the internship, I progressed in overcoming my nervousness regarding the essential skill of communication. By interacting with the English faculty, alumni, and current students, I have become a better communicator in that I am less afraid to voice my opinions and desires to people.

I know that my writing can always improve, a goal I feel I have accomplished

while composing the newsletter. Newsletter writing was new to me, and because of this experience, I am now more aware of different audiences.

By working on the newsletter, I gained knowledge concerning the technology I used. I was not familiar with Microsoft Publisher, so arranging text and pictures in the layout templates was a new and enjoyable experience.

Initially, I was nervous and skeptical about pursuing the directed internship in desktop publishing. However, I realized that the class is essential to the further development of my communication, writing, and technological skills. Not only have I accomplished my goals but I also had a lot of fun!

Christine Kansanback

Drop-in Reception in Honor of the Retirement of Dr. Sue Lorch
Gregg-Graniteville Memorial Room, USCA, November 22, 2005



The USCA Office of Alumni Relations announces two important events coming soon. First, because of this year's theme "USC Aiken Through the Decades," Homecoming 2006 will feature alumni from the years 1966, 1976, 1986, and 1996. That date is February 25. The second event is this year's Alumni Golf Classic. Please go to www.usca.edu/alumni/golfclassic for registration and sponsorship information.

SAVE THE DATE



Annual USC Aiken Alumni Golf Classic

Monday • March 6, 2006

to benefit USC Aiken Undergraduate Scholarships



THE RESERVE CLUB
AT WOODSIDE PLANTATION

The deadline for registration is February 27. Finally, please go to www.usca.edu/alumni/update to keep us informed on any changes in your contact information, career plans, or educational experience.