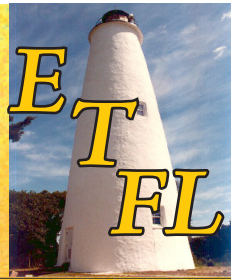


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Beacon

Vol. 11, Nos. 1 - 2

Spring - Fall 2018

The Newsletter of the Department of English, Theatre, and Foreign Languages at UNC Pembroke

AN EVENT 50 YEARS IN THE MAKING

On Monday, 23 April 2018, UNCP and the surrounding community had a chance to celebrate an event a half century in the making: the 50th Issue of *Pembroke Magazine*. "I'm honored to begin my editorship with the 50th issue," said ETFL Professor Peter Grimes, "and so pleased that *Pembroke Magazine's* former editor of over three decades, NC Poet Laureate Shelby Stephenson, played such a large role. He agreed to an interview about life, writing, and Poet Laureateship, as well allowed us to publish two poems that will appear in his next collection." Stephenson also read from his work and performed several songs at the launch party, which was held in the Mary Livermore Library Reading Room.

In addition to Stephenson's contributions, the issue features 21 poets, 10 fiction writers, 5 essayists, a book review by new UNCP English lecturer Aaron Cole and cover art by Indian painter Mahirwan Mamtani. "The issue features both established and up-and-coming contributors from thirteen states and abroad," said Grimes, who promised it would have something for everyone: "in this issue, Andrew Wyeth is haunted by his muse, Christina Olson; a matchmaking Virginia Woolf scholar hosts Thanksgiving dinner; a stuffed rab-

bit makes its appearance in the '90s Chapel Hill amateur comedy scene; a dying golfer takes his last swing; refugees cross the Mediterranean Sea; the board game *Clue* gains some new suspects and weapons; a university groundskeeper stumbles upon a grisly surprise; and much more."



New Faculty Profile: Dr. Laura Hakala

New assistant professor Laura Hakala, who joined us in August 2018, enjoyed her undergrad history courses but was also drawn to the study of English by the power of storytelling. Then, she discovered an even more powerful benefit of studying literature: it can help us understand different time periods and different viewpoints, making us more empathetic people.

Still influenced by her love of history, Hakala hopes that through her teaching students will appreciate the development of ideas and cultural movements; in reading early American works, for example, she wants students to connect those texts with what it means to be "American." As a student, Hakala particularly enjoyed the opportunity to read children's or young adult works again, viewing them through an academic lens. Children's reading has great power, she thinks, with the potential to teach either empowering or harmful ideas.

Originally from Jacksonville, FL, Hakala has degrees in English from Jacksonville University, Georgia Southern, and the University of Southern Mississippi. She is getting settled in and appreciates how helpful her new colleagues have been. When she's not working, Hakala does yoga, hangs out with her dog, goes hiking — and admits to the occasional Netflix fix (and to not particularly liking *Moby Dick*). She is looking for an agent for a novel manuscript and starting work on a second. Her fun reading right now includes southern women writers (Jesmyn Ward, Minrose Gwin, Harper Lee, Lee Smith, and Sue Monk Kidd) or YA novels, particularly those of Laurie Halse Anderson and Elizabeth Wein.

We are happy to welcome Dr. Laura Hakala to UNCP and look forward to working with her as a fellow Brave!

RAISIN IN THE SUN SPARKS CONVERSATION

Directed by professor Holden Hansen and on stage from 21 to 24 February 2018 at Givens Performing Arts Center, University Theatre's production of Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun* prompted conversation about contemporary issues of racism, pride, and perseverance.

UNCP Theatre majors Hakeem Abdur-Rahim, Christopher Bates, Dennis Bowen, Javonnie Cromartie, Jasmine Colie Dominique Davis, Marcius (CiCi) Guthrie, Brice Anthony Heller, Nicolai Lopez, Merry Samantha Paige Max-

well, Dyrin (D.J.) Ray, Darian Rolle, Rebecca Feyi Wey, and Laura Zaetz made up the performance's cast and crew.

Assistant professor David Walton of UNCP's Department of History moderated post-performance dialogues on 21 and 23 February sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. For panelist Ayanna Williams, vice president of UNCP's Black History Club, the play celebrates family and pride, and it reinforces that money does not have to rule the world. For panelist Kendall Scott, Mama Lena's desire to see her dying plant survive testified to her dedication to her family.

For Davis, who played Beneatha, and for panelist Alexis Clinton, the power of the play to provoke conversation remains its greatest strength. "We need to keep sharing our ideas," Davis said. "We need to keep talking – it's very progressive." Clinton agreed. "Talk to your friends about it," she said. "Talk to your family. Let these ideas sink in, and at the end of the day, let this continue," she said. "Despite everything you know, keep moving, keep pushing – you have dreams to achieve."

SPANISH UNDERGRADUATES PRESENT AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

While presenting at an academic conference is old hat for professors, it's nerve-wracking the first time around. But as two Spanish undergraduate students learned, it's also a deeply rewarding experience. "It was a humbl[ing] experience to learn and interact with different professors across the country," reported junior Keily Ramirez. "It opens your mind once hearing a lot of their stories [and] they made presenting a paper/project not so scary after all." "I've learned about myself with the help of the conference experience," she reflected. "A student can push[] themselves to a limit to bring their creativity and present it to people that they have in common."

Ramirez, along with fellow student Dominique Perez, travelled to the 26th National Conference of the National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies in Dallas, TX in February 2018, accompanied by professors Enrique Porrua and Diana Lee. Perez presented a paper entitled "Effects of Acculturation and its Impact on Mexican American Population," and Ramirez presented "Interpreting Power in 'Un dia de estos' by Gabriel Garcia Marquez."

Porrua said

that working with the students was "one of the most pleasant experiences of my professional career." At the conference, "I saw them

interacting with other presenters. I saw them engaged in real scholarship... They can be proud of themselves now that they have contributed their very own and original piece of knowledge."

Lee was also full of praise for their work and scholarly engagement, "Both women presented extremely well-argued papers. The best part was seeing how the two of them were able to interact with the other presenters at the conference. They had great questions and were very intellectually engaged at all the panels."



New Faculty Profile: Dr. Diana Lee

We were happy to welcome Diana Lee as one of our new colleagues in Fall 2017. Lee grew up far from Braves territory, in Santa Clara, CA — the center of Silicon Valley. She "absolutely loved" her high school Spanish classes but discovered, on a trip to Mexico, that she could barely hold conversations with local people. She decided on a goal of becoming fluent and chose a major in Spanish before she even started her BA at Pepperdine University, where she earned her degree in Spanish and International Studies. Her first day of study abroad in Argentina was September 11, 2001; that traumatic event encouraged her to commit herself to educating US citizens "about the broader issues of life outside the US, specifically focusing on Hispanic populations, specifically focusing on Hispanic populations." She went on to earn a Masters in Divinity at Fuller Theological Seminary and a Masters and PhD in Spanish at UC- Riverside. She realized that language changes us — "When I speak to people in Spanish, I am different than when I speak in English. Studying Spanish has been a fun, frustrating, and fulfilling journey."

From her own experience, Lee has this encouraging advice to students: "It's okay to be confused, it's okay to be uncomfortable, and it's okay to sound stupid. It's not okay to give up because of those problems. Try to make learning fit with what interests you, even if it's in small ways."

Lee appreciates the atmosphere of the department and the "down-to-earth" attitude of UNCP folks. Outside of class (also like many of her colleagues!) she occasionally curls up with a Harry Potter novel for some "comfort reading"; she also likes to run at a "slow jog" and watch documentaries about food and the environment. ETFL looks forward to learning, teaching, reading, and watching films with Dr. Diana Lee!

ETFL CELEBRATES ITS STUDENTS

On 25 April 2018, ETFL held its second annual awards ceremony, a chance to celebrate the many achievements of our majors. As well as honoring outstanding seniors and endowed scholarship winners in the English., Theatre, and Foreign Languages Program, the ceremony saw the induction of new members of Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, as well as a recognition of its graduating seniors. After the ceremony, honorees and faculty gathered to enjoy conversation and snacks, the highlight of which was a celebratory cake for graduating seniors.



Award Winners in English: John Green Memorial Endowed Scholarship—Sydney Blake; Sue Betty Locklear Endowed Memorial Scholarship—Angela Baker; Grace Loving Gibson Endowed Scholarship—Bridget Scott; Outstanding Seniors in English—Erin Duprey, Veronica Gomez; Outstanding Senior in English Education—Carli Thompson



Award Winners in Theatre: Kay McClanahan Endowed Memorial Scholarship In Dramatic Arts—Hakeem Addur-Rahim; Outstanding Senior in Theatre—Brice Heller

Award Winners in Foreign Languages: Beatrice Locklear Brayboy Endowed Scholarship—Jackelyn M. Martínez; Deon Green Memorial Annual Scholarship—Jackelyn M. Martínez; Outstanding Seniors in Spanish—Salvador García, Zelma Addin López



Sigma Tau Delta Induction of New Members: Angela Baker, Courtney Lynn Jacobs, Crystal McDonald, Whitney Pittman, Tonia Thompson; **Recognition of Graduating Seniors and Graduate Students:** Morgan Feltz, Veronica Gomez, Courtney Lynn Jacobs, Summer Jacobs, Crystal McDonald, Carli Thompson, Tonia Thompson, Asia Muhammad (Graduate)

New Faculty Profile: Dr. Peter Grimes

Dr. Peter Grimes joined our faculty in August of 2017 as Assistant Professor of English and the editor of *Pembroke Magazine*. He grew up in Asheville, North Carolina taking walks in the country and exploring the woods, and he continues to enjoy finding solitude in nature. Grimes also enjoys taking in other art forms—going to films, plays, art museums, musical performances, and he enjoys traveling to new cities, especially those not necessarily known to be tourist destinations.

Grimes completed his B.A. in Philosophy and Psychology at UNC-Chapel Hill, his M.F.A. in Creative Writing (fiction) at the University of Florida, and his Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature at the University of Cincinnati. “I majored in philosophy as an undergraduate because I loved identifying, questioning, and discussing the basic assumptions of human knowledge and belief. I added a double major in psychology because the development of human mind and character fascinates me. Indeed, a large part of what drives my fiction and nonfiction writing is a desire to understand both myself and others,” noted Grimes.

In his previous position at Dickinson State University in Dickinson, ND, Grimes directed the Creative Writing Program. He taught “all genres, all students, and all levels,” and he also oversaw the creation and editing of the student literary magazine, *Impressions*. At Dickinson, he was able to develop meaningful relationships with students, and he feels confident that he will continue this practice at UNC Pembroke. “I want to share with students that the writing process—especially in creative writing—takes a while to learn and trust, but once you do so, writing becomes infinitely more rewarding. You top yourself, better yourself, over and over.”

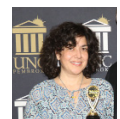
ETFL FACULTY HONORED

At the annual Faculty Appreciation Banquet in April 2018, several ETFL members were in the spotlight.



Holden Hansen, Professor of Theatre, received the Board of Governor’s Award

for Excellence in Teaching, the top honor in the system. He regaled the appreciative audience with an acceptance speech that covered his career, his mentors, his students, his teaching philosophy, and involved first the chancellor and then the whole audience in interactive exercises.



Dr. Michele Fazio was called to the award dais twice, for her awards as a graduate mentor and for excellence in teaching.



Drs. Youngsuk Chae and Melissa Schaub both were promoted to full professor.

Various faculty members

received commemoration for 5, 10 and even 35 years of service, and the UNCP Faculty Jazz Band featured Dr. Teagan Decker, Dr. Diana Lee, and Dr. Walt Lewallen.

RECENT ETFL PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

ETFL faculty, students, and alumni keep busy outside of the classroom; below is a brief round-up of recent research presentations and publications in 2017-18.

MORGAN BUTLER FELTZ, an undergraduate student in English, presented a set of original poems at the Sigma Tau Delta National Conference in March 2017.

CRYSTAL HESTER, a student in the English M.A. program, attended the Working-Class Studies Association's annual conference, "Class at the Border: Migration, Confinement, and (Im)mobility," at Stony Brook University in June 2018 and presented, "The Modern Epic: Comics and Working-Class Literature."

GORDON BYRD, a recent graduate of the M.A. in English Education program, had an article, "The Genre of Scams," published in *Xchanges*, a journal that publishes work by undergraduate and graduate students in the field of Writing Studies.

2017-2018 FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

HANNAH BAGGOTT ANDERSON and **AUTUMN LAUZON**: SAMLA, Panel on "Undercover Pedagogy: Using *The New Jim Crow* to Teach Rhetoric"

MONIKA BROWN: British Women Writers Presentation, "Two Generations of Reviewers of George Eliot's *Middlemarch*"

MICHAEL BERNTSEN: Blackboard Conference; Conference on Comparative Literature

MICHELE FAZIO: "We Still Remember," an event commemorating the lives of Sacco and Vanzetti, sponsored by the Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society and the Dante Alighieri Society of Cambridge; "Mining the Archives: Memory and Materiality in the Lives of Sacco and Vanzetti," (co-presenters included Governor Michael Dukakis, Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Northeastern University)

ROGER LADD: 53rd International Congress on Medieval Studies: "'How the mirour fell' – Darkening Virgil's Mirror with Greed"; 52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies: "The Kinde Creatures: Fair Trade in the Tale of Adrian and Bardus"; IV International Congress of the John Gower Society: "Stealing Love: Greedy Desire in Book V of the *Confessio Amantis*"

AUTUMN LAUZON: American Studies Association Presentation

DIANA LEE: National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies, "Gender Subjectivities in *La muerte me da* by Cristina Rivera Garza"

WALT LEWELLAN: Norman Mailer Conference, "Hollywood and *The Armies of the Night*"

ABIGAIL MANN: MMLA, "Arty Women: Citizen Artists at the Fin-de-Siècle; Invited Lecturer, University of Indianapolis Community, "I Read a Monster: The Literacies of *Frankenstein*"; Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies, "'Vegetable Empires': Botanical Excess and Civic Models in Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Olive Schreiner"; North American Victorian Studies Association, "Looking Inward and Downward: Refusing Narrative in *Our Mutual Friend*"



ETFL faculty and students at the April 2018 Awards Ceremony

CYNDI MIECZNIKOWSKI: Conference on Community Writings: “Place-Based Literacy Education in Rural Communities: Re-Envisioning and Re-Imagining Connections to Communities of Practice”

SARA OSWALD: SAMLA Conference, “Whose Photo Essay Is It, Anyway?”

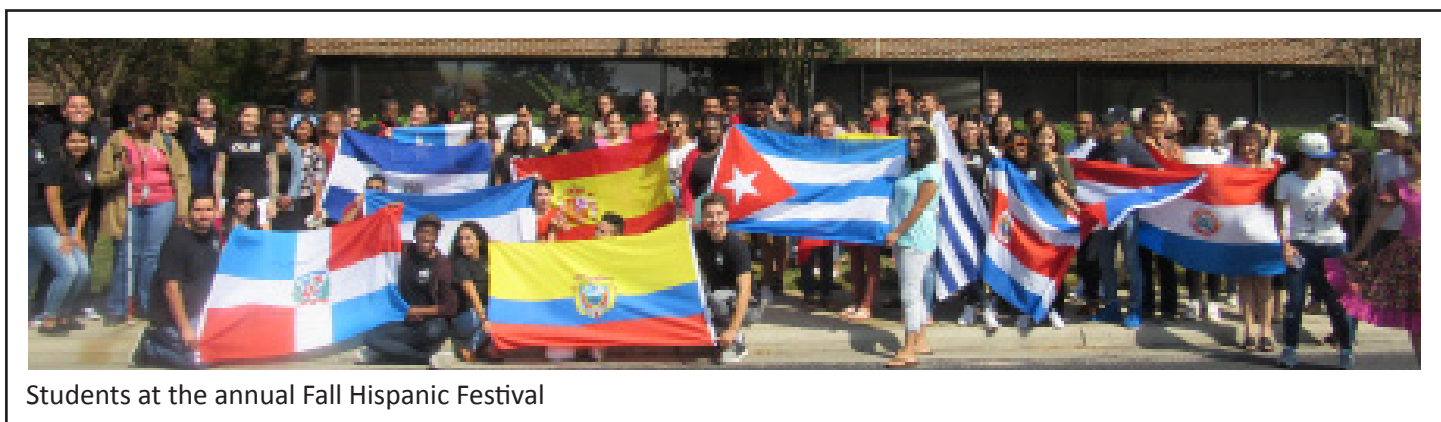
ENRIQUE PORRUA: National Association of Hispanic and Latino Studies, “From the ‘X’ Known to the ‘N’ Unknown: Adding to the Concept of Frontier”; 7th Conference on Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language: Vive tu español, “What we should do, what we can do, what we do: Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language”; 11th Conference on Innovation on Foreign Language Learning, “The Adaptive Approach: Best Practices on Teaching L2s at Elementary Levels in American Institutions of Higher Education”

MELISSA SCHAUB: Victorians Institute, “History and the Individual in *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*”; British Women Writers Conference, “Mapping British Women in the Classroom: Anthologies and the Direction of Identity.”

ROBIN SNEAD: Conference on College Composition and Communication, “Cueing, Priming, Guiding Transfer: Seeking Common Ground Across the Curriculum.”

CHARLES TITA: South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, “Laurence Sterne’s *Tristram Shandy*: Yorick as ‘signifying’ Messenger”; 78th Annual College Language Association Conference, “Digital Humanities: Creating a Successful Online Writing Course,” organizer and chair, and “Assuring Student Preparedness in an Online Writing Course”

RICHARD VELA: Medieval-Renaissance Conference, “Shakespeare, Politics, and Performance: *Julius Caesar*”; Popular Culture Conference of the American South, “Intergenerational Obligations: Children and Conscience in Clint Eastwood’s Films”; Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association: “Is Shakespeare our (political) Contemporary?: Appropriation from Queen Elizabeth to President Trump”



Students at the annual Fall Hispanic Festival

2017-2018 FACULTY PUBLICATIONS AND GRANTS

HANNAH BAGGOTT ANDERSON: “Sonnet for a Lesion on the Fusiform Gyrus,” *Visitant*; “Looking for Nephilim on I-90,” OSU Poetry Chapbook

MICHAEL BERNTSEN: “Using Blues Music to Teach Shakespeare,” *Teaching Shakespeare Magazine*

DANIELLE CHILCOTE: “Curious Students in the Composition Classroom: the Impact of Normalcy Identity,” *Ideology and Identity in Young Adult Literature: Connections to the Composition Classroom*

PETER GRIMES: “Bad Guys, Good Guys,” *Alaska Quarterly Review*; “Theft,” *Nashville Review*; “The Africans,” *Fiction International*; Short Story “Menu,” **American Short Fiction**

ROGER LADD: “Death is Money: Buying Trouble with the Pardoner,” *Money, Commerce, and Economics in Late Medieval English Literature*; “Gower, Business, and the Economy,” *Routledge Research Companion to John Gower*

ABIGAIL MANN: “Ann Radcliffe’s *The Castles of Athlin and Dunbayne*: Gothic Origins and Acts of Union,” *Clio: A Journal of Literature, History, and the Philosophy of History*; “Preface: INCS 2016: Odd Bodies,” *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*

ENRIQUE PORRUA: UNCP Summer Research Grant, “Resolving the editorial abnormalities in Lorenzo Sanfeliú’s 1943 edition of Lieutenant Antonio de Tova on the Malaspina Expedition”