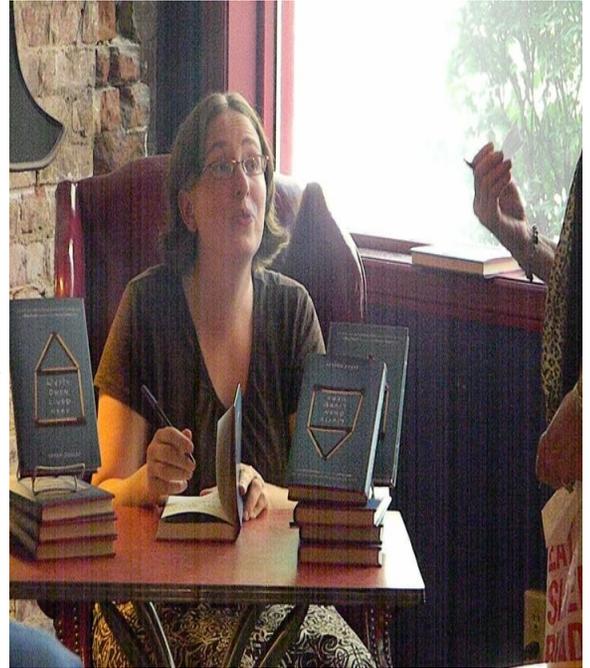


## Lit & Lang Welcomes New Author



First-time author Sarah Dooley visited the Texas A&M University-Commerce campus on Thursday, November 4 to talk about her debut novel, *Livvie Owen Lived Here*. Livvie, fourteen, autistic, and frequently single-minded, provides an understanding of how autism affects her life as well as those around her in four main settings: at home, in her dreams, at school, and her night wanderings. Livvie, who sometimes speaks of herself in third person, prefers her routines. However, when she hears a factory whistle, which hasn't blown since the factory shut down, and which others might or might not hear, routine escapes her. As a result of the chaos that Livvie often creates, her family is evicted and must find yet another place to live, which threatens her tenuous sense of security. Surrounded by caring parents and sisters, whom she loves but frequently annoys, and a teacher who has special insights into Livvie's autism, Livvie wanders through the day, the night, and her dreams in search of answers.



Dooley's own experiences—she moved 24 times as a child and even lived in an abandoned post office—are reflected in *Livvie Owen*. Additionally, her experience as a special education teacher clearly shapes the direction of her novel, for she and her students participated in the yearly National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo, see <http://www.nanowrimo.org/>). The event begins on November 1, and authors try to write a novel of 50,000 words in one month. NaNoWriMo's goal is to get people writing that novel they've always wanted to write. The sponsors explain, "You will be writing a lot of crap. And that's a good thing. By forcing yourself to write so intensely, you are giving yourself permission to make mistakes. To forgo the endless tweaking and editing and just create. To build without tearing down." Dooley and her students participated in this "kamikaze" writing experience, and Dooley came away with *Livvie Owen*, published by Feiwel & Friends, a MacMillan imprint.

### Lit & Lang Brag Sheet

- Dr. Karen Roggenkamp is a recipient of the Texas A&M University System Teaching Excellence Award for 2010-2011!
- The Department of Literature and Languages received an award for achieving the highest percentage enrollment increase at the doctoral level of all departments at Texas A&M University-Commerce, therefore making a significant contribution to the historic milestone of an enrollment of over 10,000 in Fall

#### Need Help?

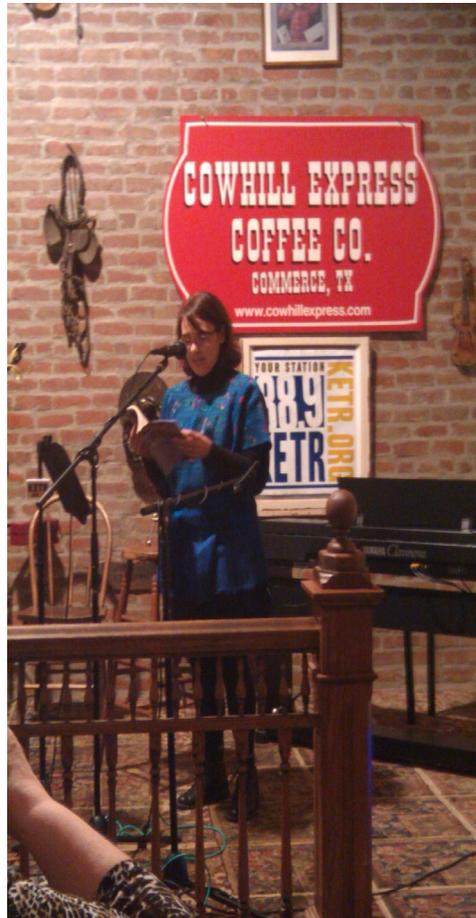
The Writing Center  
Hall of Languages 103  
Monday-Thursday,  
9am-2pm.

Additional hours are available in  
the evening and on weekends at

Gee Library:  
Sunday-Thursday  
6pm-9pm.

## Next Barrus Day to Honor Dr. Fred Tarpley.

Barrus Day last spring was a great success. We want to continue to honor the memory of Dr. Paul Wells Barrus by bringing people together who remember him and celebrate his and our love of literature. This year we want to honor Dr. Fred Tarpley, former head of the Department of Literature and Languages and current force for literature and writing for the university and in the community. Please make sure the Department of Literature and Languages has your contact information so that you will be invited to join us this April. We know you won't want to miss this chance to celebrate Dr. Tarpley and to say thank you for all the hard work he has done and is doing. You may send your contact information to [Donna\\_Dunbar-Odom@tamucomerce.edu](mailto:Donna_Dunbar-Odom@tamucomerce.edu). We will share specific dates, times, and locations as soon as they're finalized.



## Mayo Review Hosts Visiting Poet

The Mayo Review hosted visiting poet Rebecca Balcarcel for a reading at Cowhill Express on November 16. Author of *Palabras in Each Fist*, Guatemalan-American poet Rebecca Balcarcel writes poetry that reflects her awareness of both the conflict and the rich cultural landscape existing between the two cultures with which she identifies. Her reading was followed by an Open Mic.

## CLiC Talks

Every semester the Conveging Literacies Center (CLiC) hosts a series of speakers who have, in some manner, composed interesting texts.

This fall, CLiC hosted two talks. The first talk was Monday, October 25 in the Hall of Languages room 203. Italian filmmakers Eleonora Marino and Stefano Sotiga discussed their documentary, "The Beautiful Virginia Bathing" which follows a family in the traveling show (circus) business.

The second talk featured Sarah Dooley, author of the new children's novel, *Livvie Owen Lived Here*. Dooley joined us from Huntington, West Virginia where she is a special education teacher. She was here Thursday, November 4.

### The Mayo Review

**Submit to The Mayo Review:**  
[mayoreview@gmail.com](mailto:mayoreview@gmail.com)  
**Remember to look here for future Mayo Review Events**

For further updates, see our Facebook page and our blog:

<http://mayoreview.blogspot.com>

# ASAT 2010

Texas A&M-Commerce hosted the 2010 meeting of the American Association of Texas Conference November 4-6. Dr. Richard Tuerk and Doctoral Candidate Lisa Hull Reed served as Program Co-Chairs with Dr. Brad Klypchak serving as Assistant Program Chair. The Conference keynote speaker was Dr. Marco Portales of Texas A&M-College Station whose presentation “100 Years Ago: Mexican Revolution Photos and Villia and Zapata” drew from his recent book. The program also included an opening address by President Dan Jones, president of Texas A&M-Commerce, 15 concurrent sessions, and nightly film screenings. 17 students from Literature and Languages presented at the conference as well.



## “No Drama” T-shirts still available.

Don't be left out! We still have our Lit & Lang T-shirts available for sale. Blue with gold lettering, the T-shirts say “Lit & Lang — No Drama” on the front and “...unless it's published” on the back.



They're \$20, which allows a little to go toward the Lit & Lang Excellence Fund. If you want one, please contact Kim Jefferies (Kim\_Jefferies@tamuc-commerce.edu) or 903-886-3260



## Profile of David Hervás

I obtained my doctorate in Linguistics from Tulane University in spring 2010. I started to work as Assistant Professor at Lit & Lang the following semester. My specialization is Second Language Acquisition. Obtaining such doctorate degree was the natural next step in my career, since I have felt always a call to the idea of being a language teacher. Having started as an English teacher in Spain, I soon turned to Spanish when I moved to the United States. Ever since, I have worked to reach new heights in my professional life; my dissertation dealt with different aspects involved in the teaching and learning of vocabulary. I am also interested in discourse analysis and the field of languages in contact. Had I not been a languages teacher, for sure I would have been in Communications. Not professionally but vocationally, I try to achieve a career in the airwaves thanks to our very own A&M-Commerce station 88.9 KETR. Every Tuesday I host ‘Latin Soul’, where you may find yourself enjoying my presentation of wonderful tunes of Latin and Brazilian inspired music.

## What We're Reading

I thought it would be interesting to get a sense of what members of the faculty are reading in their "spare" time. If you like this feature, please let us know and we'll make it an annual offering. By the way, we'd like to know what books are getting you all excited, too.

Tabetha Adkins - *The Kingdom of Absurdities* by Bruce Gatenby

Sal Attardo - *TinTin and the Secret of Literature* by Tom McCarthy

Rebecca Boggs - *A Confession and Other Religious Writings*, by Leo Tolstoy, and rereading, *On the Border of Opportunity*, by Marleen Carol Pugach. I just finished *Selected Short Stories of William Faulkner*

Bill Bolin - Primo Levi's *If This Is a Man*

Donna Dunbar-Odom - *My Reading Life* by Frank Conroy

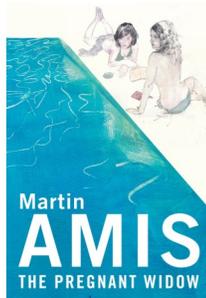
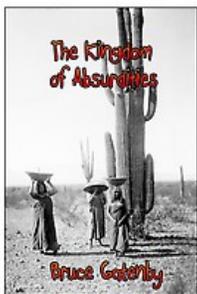
Hunter Hayes - Martin Amis, *The Pregnant Widow* (Cape, 2010): Amis's twelfth novel marks his return to the *roman à clef*, a mode he hasn't worked in much since his first novel, *The Rachel Papers* (1973); Daniel J. Levitin, *This is Your Brain on Music* (Dutton, 2006): music, the mind and the brain, a neuropsychologist explores how our brains and minds (Levitin is careful to distinguish between the two) respond and are conditioned by music

Kathryn Jacobs - Patrick Rothfuss, lots and lots of Marion Zimmer Bradley, and a series by Piers Anthony I wasn't keen on. A great deal of fantasy.

Robin Reid - newest publications by Diane Duane (*Omnitopia*) and Sheri S. Tepper (*The Waters Rising*)

Karen Roggenkamp - Suzanne Collins' *Mockingjay*, the third part of a futuristic dystopian trilogy for young readers and adults alike.

Susan Stewart - Sarah Dooley's *Livvie Owen Lived Here* and Ken Follett's *Pillars of the Earth* and *World without End*. All are mighty fine novels.



## Alumni News

**Brandi Westmoreland, PhD:** I'm teaching full-time at Rich Mountain Community College in Mena, AR. I'm teaching Comp 1 and 2, Technical Writing, and World Lit 1 and 2, with 2/3 of my teaching load online. I love it there!

**Sonja Andrus, PhD:** I'm at the University of Cincinnati, teaching first year writing. (My title is Assistant Professor of English.)

**LeAnn Nash, PhD:** I am currently working as an Assistant Professor at Waldorf College, Forest City, Iowa, where I serve as the Director of Composition and the Director of the Writing Center. I teach first year composition, introduction to literature, and our Writing Center Tutor Training course. I am also involved in developing our online curriculum.

**Judy Hebb, PhD:** Dr. Judy Hebb (2000) is assistant professor of English at Texas Woman's University this academic year, having returned from administering a writing program and teaching for nine years in Atlanta. Judy, who is happy to be back in Texas, is teaching advanced grammar, composition, and linguistics courses, as well as mentoring GTAs. She has co-authored article on identity and the working conditions of contingent faculty in English Studies forthcoming in *College English*.

**Lori Rios Doddy:** I am Assistant Dean of the Division of Communications, Math, Developmental Studies, and Teacher Preparation and The Learning Center for El Centro College in Dallas County Community College District. My duties range from supervising tutors and overseeing instructional support programs, such as Supplemental Instruction, to helping the college's QEP for SACS and assisting in the development of our Achieving the Dream initiative.



LeAnn Nash at her graduation with her advisor Hunter Hayes



Brandi Westmoreland at graduation with her advisor Shannon Carter

**We'd love to hear from students and alumni.**

**To submit articles for this newsletter contact:**

**Dr. Donna Dunbar-Odom**  
Head and Professor,  
Department of Literature & Languages

**[Donna\\_Dunbar-Odom@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:Donna_Dunbar-Odom@tamu-commerce.edu)**