



"A Member of the Texas A&M Systems"

NEWSLETTER

The Department Of Literature & Languages

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2010

Dr. Iris Lancaster, Graduate of the Literature and Languages Department, Gives Commencement Speech



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The department of Literature and Languages was honored to have former doctoral student Iris Lancaster speak at the winter 2009 commencement ceremony. The title of Dr. Lancaster's dissertation is, *Janie's Visionary Rhetoric: A Stylistic Approach to Voice and Vision in Zora Neale Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God*

"It is the first time a graduate student has delivered the address. We anticipate doing this regularly in the future." said Provost Dr. Larry Lemanski.

The following are excerpts from Dr. Lancaster's speech:

[...] "Let's face it...graduate school is NOT ALWAYS EASY. Sometimes I felt that I wouldn't survive the long hours spent in the library study carrels, difficult (but well meaning) professors, the enormous amounts of reading, or preparing seminar papers, but several things kept me going: God's favor, my family, and dear friends. My faith in God and his faith in me told me everyday I could keep going. The constant support from my

mother has proved to be a guiding light for me throughout my life and my academic career. The love that shines in the eyes of my father, my stepmother, and my little brother kept me going when I wanted to say, "I give up!." The "I love you" my older brother uttered before he ended every phone call when I was here at school kept me going. The love of Grandma Lancaster and all of my extended family kept the concrete from forming around my feet. Also, what kept me going was the support I received from the English department. I send out a special thanks to Dr. Donna Dunbar-Odom, Dr. Richard Fulkerson, Dr. James Grimshaw, and countless others in the English department who had a hand in helping me reach the end of this journey. I also, with a humble heart say thank you to my dissertation committee, and especially my dissertation director, Dr. Robin Reid. She is truly a driving force. I will be forever in her debt! Finally, to my best friend, I say thank you! Her love, support, and humor kept me moving even when I felt like giving up. With this degree comes a great responsibility.



Dr. Iris Lancaster at the commencement ceremony

Let us take what we have learned and share it with our families, our communities, and the world. Let's be teachers, mentors, confidants, big brothers and big sisters to those less fortunate. In one of John Milton's greatest poems he writes, "When I consider how my light is spent/Ere half my days in this dark world and wide/Had but one talent which is death to hide." Let us not let our talents end with us. When we look back on our lives, we should not only want to see our success, but we should want to see how our talents helped others. Because not only is this our time to shine, but this our time to make someone else's light shine even brighter.

But for today, just today...it is ALL about us! It is all about our dedication, our commitment, and our achievement. It is about our badge of honor...graduates of Texas A&M-Commerce...oh how sweet the precious sound!

Dr. Tabetha Adkins New Faculty Member to the Literature & Languages Team

The newest addition to the Literature and Languages faculty is Dr. Tabetha Adkins, assistant professor and director of the Writing Center and Basic Writing Program. Dr. Adkins finished her PhD at the University of Louisville last May. Her dissertation, "In the Wor(l)d But Not Of It: Literacy Practices of An Amish Community" is an ethnographic study which argues that the tacit attitudes that privilege English only in the United States have affected the literacy practices and home languages of the Amish.



Adkins says, "I fell in love with the teaching of writing in the Writing Center at the University of Louisville, so I am thrilled to be directing our Writing Center. The tutors here are incredibly knowledgeable, professional, and intelligent, and working with them has been a pleasure."



The Writing Center is a free service available to undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, alumni, and members of the Commerce Community. In the writing center, writers can meet with a writing tutor for a one-on-one consultation to discuss any writing project at any stage in the process. Writers can also go to the writing center to use the resources available there including the computers, a printer, citation manuals (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.), and style guides. The Writing Center also offers online consultations for distance learning students.



More information about the writing center services can be found at <http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/academics/colleges/artsSciences/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/>

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The Writing Center
Hall of Languages
Room 103

Monday-Thursday
9am-4pm
Friday
9am-1pm

Additional hours are available in the evening and on weekends at Gee Library:

Sunday-Thursday
6pm-9pm

She is currently working on a book on this issue. Adkins has also published on issues of multimodal composition, writing pedagogy, feminist theory, and identity.

Last semester Dr. Adkins taught a course in advanced composition for students enrolled in the Honors College. This course focuses on workplace ethnographies, and students are conducting their research in various sites including the university's cafeteria, dog shows, coffee shops, and beauty salons. Each student created, among many other documents, an audio essay or podcast about the work that occurs in their research site, and most of these essays have been contributed to the National Conversation on Writing archives. Dr. Adkins also co-teaches the graduate colloquium on teaching with Dr. Shannon Carter.



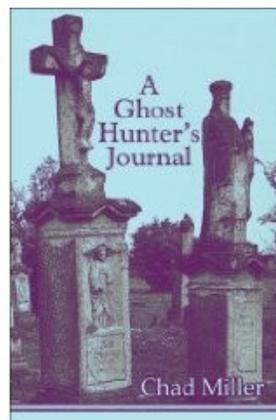


Staff, students, faculty, and alumni from the department of Literature and Languages are joined by colleagues from all over the university to enjoy the food spread prepared by volunteers from the department.



Ghost Hunter to Investigate Hall of Languages

“Chad Miller, local Greenville author of several books about ghost hunting in North Texas, and other paranormal researchers are going to be investigating the rumors that have been floating around (!) alleging that the Hall of Language is haunted. PRINT (Paranormal Research and Investigations in North Texas, the group Miller co-founded, will be observing in the building at the end of January. Some of the faculty provided us with commentaries:



commentaries: Dr. Dunbar-Odom (Theory) suggested that it is probably the specter of communism. Dr. Hayes (British Lit) suggested the ghost of Christmas past. Dr. Duchovnay (Film studies) suggested calling ghostbusters. Dr. Attardo (Department Head, Linguistics) was clearly dispirited and would not comment.





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Notable Alumni News

Angeline Hawkes, BA, Composite English Language Arts, 1991



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Just a Note to say Thanks!

I graduated in 1986 with a second major in French, and have fond memories of the building, professors, and my fellow students.

I am practicing law in my home town of Marshall, Texas these days - been here ever since finishing law school in 1992. I get to do a lot of writing as I edit the O'Connor's Federal Rules * Civil Trials federal court rulebook, as well as maintaining the Eastern District of Texas Federal Court Practice weblog at <http://www.EDTexweblog.com> <<http://www.EDTexweblog.com>>

For personal things I have Puttering in the Study at <http://mcsmith.blogs.com/general/> where I post a lot on my current reading. I also do a lot of writing and speaking at legal seminars, so writing is still a big part of what I do. (And that's not even getting into Facebook)

I look forward to the next issue!

Michael C. Smith

My husband, Christopher Fulbright, and I are adopting a toddler from South Korea. We are waiting for the phone to ring at any moment to tell us he'll be coming home soon! Daniel, 19 mos, will join our children, Ian (12) and Katie-Beth (9). In career news: my latest horror collection - Shades of Blood and Shadow was released in the fall from Dark Regions Press. I have another horror collection - Inferno: Tales of Hell & Horror due out next year from DRP, and a novella with husband, Christopher Fulbright, Black Mercy Falls, from Bloodletting Press, later in 2010. My heroic fantasy/Barbarian collection - Out of the Garden and Other Tales of the Barbarian Kabar of El Hazzar is due out in June 2011 from Bad Moon Books. I also have numerous stories scheduled in horror and fantasy anthologies between 2009-2011.



<http://angelinehawkes.com>