



"A Member of the Texas A&M Systems"

NEWSLETTER

The Department of Literature & Languages

Volume 1, Issue 1 November 2009

Between Theater and Literature

In October the University Playhouse presented "American Mosaic: Classic Chamber Theatre Tales" by John Hanners. This production features an arrangement of "The Woman Who Turned into a Fish" by Nin Andrews which appeared in the 2009 Mayo Review, the department's literary and artistic magazine. Dr. Hanners contacted Nin Andrews who agreed to have the story dramatized. "I am thrilled that

John Hanners is adapting it for the stage" said Andrews. The story is the final piece in a chapbook coming out in November called *The Accidental Seduction*. Nin Andrews commented on her writing process, "I was trying to write about two people I knew and to write about them as if they were characters in a fairy tale that didn't have a happy ending. I think we know the women who turn into fish, and the men who devour

them in one way or another." Hanners, from the Theater department, explains that the "story's narrator transforms into a character played by one or more actors. Unlike traditional theatre, the action

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of the play takes place in the audience, not on the stage."



Nin Andrews visited A&M-Commerce in Spring of 2009 and gave a well-attended reading at the launch of the 2009 Mayo

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The Mayo Review

The Mayo Review, Texas A&M University-Commerce's creative-arts publication, is now in full swing for the 2009-2010 school year! Students and other members of the community are invited to participate in several Open Mic Nights hosted by the Review and by local merchants and vendors. Writers, videographers and photographers are encouraged to submit their works for publication. **Deadline for alumni December 1, 2009**



Nin Andrews (left) and Karen Schubert, visiting writer Spring 2009 (right)
Mayo Review cake (center)

Submit to The Mayo Review: mayoreview@gmail.com
Schedule of Events: 2009-2010

Fall 2009

Tuesday, November 17 4:00pm Commerce Public Library, Open Mic

Spring 2010

Tuesday, February 2	7:30pm	The Spot Brewery, Open Mic
Thursday, March 4	7:30pm	Jalapeños in Cooper, Open Mic
Thursday, April 2	7:30pm	The Club-Rayburn Student Center, Open Mic
Thursday, April 22	6:00pm	Mayo Review Launch Party
Thursday, May 6	7:30pm	The Spot, Open Mic

For further updates, see our Facebook page and our blog: <http://mayoreview.blogspot.com>



J. R. R. Tolkien

We'd love to hear
from students
and alumni .

To submit articles
for this newsletter
contact:

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POST SCRIPT welcomes manuscripts on film as language and literature; acting; film music, etc.

For more information contact:

Gerald Duchovnay,
General Editor,
POST SCRIPT

e-mail:
Gerald_Duchovnay@tamu-commerce.edu.

A Summer in Middle-earth!



Review.

Summer II 2009 saw teachers and scholars coming together at the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for School Teachers on J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings: The Real and the Imagined Middle Ages*. Dr. Robin Anne Reid (Literature and Languages) and Dr. Judy Ann Ford (History) co-directed the five-week intense interdisciplinary exploration of Tolkien's novel from the perspective of its profound influence on the way modern people conceptualize the Middle Ages.

Thirteen teachers in the field of English, History, Social Studies, Humanities, and Special Education traveled from Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia to immerse themselves in the novels and films, creating projects that would incorporate Tolkien in their classes. Scholarship information was presented on Tolkien in the various fields of archeology, astronomy, children's literature, geography, medieval literature, medieval history, modern history, modern literature, multicultural literature, mythology, philology, physics, and religion.

Five of the teachers will be presenting at the 2010 International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, Michigan. The Institute is also creating a wiki (http://wiki.tamu-commerce.edu/TolkienInstitute/index.php?title=Main_Page) which will feature their projects as well as other resources for teachers.

Drs. Reid and Ford co-directed a N. E. H. Summer Institute on Tolkien in 2004 (<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/tolkien/instituteprojects.asp>) and often team-teach on Tolkien at both the graduate and undergraduate level. Dr. Reid, organizer of the "Tolkien at Kalamazoo" area of the International Congress on Medieval Studies has published on Tolkien's style and on Jackson's film adaptation. Dr. Reid's area of concentration in teaching includes critical theory, new media, and the fantastic. She is the editor of the *Women in Science Fiction and Fantasy* encyclopedia. Dr. Ford is a medieval historian whose area of specialization is popular religion in medieval England. Her background in English history and popular beliefs lends itself to exploration of the elements of medieval culture in *The Lord of the Rings*. She has also published an essay on the parallels between Rome and Tolkien's ideas of Minas Tirith.

The visiting scholars were: Douglas Anderson, David Bratman, Janet Brennan Croft, Edith Crowe, Verlyn Flieger, Jason Fisher, Edward James, Kristine Larsen, Charles W. Nelson, Faye Ringel, Deborah Sabo, Amy Sturgis, C. W. Sullivan III, Elizabeth Whittingham, and Ralph C. Wood.

PhD Student Published!

Volume 1,

PhD student Brandon Barnes' recently published article, "The *Gorgias* in Second Corinthians Five?: Toward a Conceptual Backing of James Kinneavy's *Hypothesis in Greek Rhetorical Origins of the Christian Faith*" now appears in the *JCR 32 (March 2009) 93-110* edition of the *Journal of Communication and Religion*.

JCR 32 (March 2009) 93-110

The *Gorgias* in Second Corinthians Five?: Toward a Conceptual Backing of James Kinneavy's *Hypothesis in Greek Rhetorical Origins of Christian Faith*

Brandon Dulane Barnes

After establishing lexical similarities between Greek rhetorics and the New Testament (NT) and the strong possibility of borrowing from Greek rhetoric by NT authors, James Kinneavy's Greek Rhetorical Origins of Christian Faith calls for further "conceptual study" along rhetorical lines in NT literature. One promising place is the Pauline corpus, particularly the Corinthian letters. In Second Corinthians Five, possible signs of intertextual borrowing from Plato's *Gorgias* emerge, lending possible backing to Kinneavy's work. After demonstrating parallels between Plato and Paul in this perspective, this paper examines other possible source texts and why their presence in this text may be ruled out and encourages further study of Greek rhetoric with specific relation to NT discourse. **Keywords:** Greek rhetoric, classical rhetoric, *pistis*, faith, St. Paul, Second Corinthians, *Gorgias*.



Plato's *Gorgias*

Concluding his ground-breaking *Greek Rhetorical Origins of Christian Faith*, James Kinneavy reviews his challenge to the "old thesis about the Christian concept of faith," that is, that neither the Hebrew Bible nor Hellenistic culture is its source of origin (143). Beginning his book with a review of a host of theological and scholarly reflection on the subject, Kinneavy asserts at the outset that "no scholar, as far as I am aware, has seriously viewed [Greek] rhetoric as a possible origin, source, or analogue of the Christian concept" (1-2). After reviewing such scholars as D. M. Balme, William Henry Paine Hatch, Edward D. O'Connor,



Sergio Pizziconi (kneeling) takes his English class outdoors for a little change in scenery.

Recent Faculty Publications

Dr. Susan Stewart has published two articles:

"In the Ellison Tradition: In/Visible Bodies in Adolescent and YA Literature." *Children's Literature in Education* 40 (2009): 180-196.

"Essential Conversations: Ideology, Irony, and The Giver." *English in Texas* 39 (Spring/Summer 2009): 23-28.

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.

Winners of the H.M. Lafferty Doctoral Scholarship

Two out of three of the awards for the Lafferty Doctoral Scholarship went to Literature & Language students. Congratulations Sergio Pizziconi and Sandra Shu-Chao Liu.

Literature & Language Students Attend Pathways Research Symposium

The student conference is organized by The Texas A&M system and is a good opportunity for students to "test the waters" of the academic world. Last year's Pathways Conference was held at A&M Commerce and the Literature & Language team did extremely well: Sergio Pizziconi (PhD), Mary K. Croft (MA), Jim Price, and Benita Reed (MA) all received awards. Pizziconi received first place. Posters from the conference can be seen hanging on the department walls.

7th Annual Texas A&M University System Pathways Research Symposium

November 13 & 14, 2009

Texas A&M International University
Laredo, Texas



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Visiting Scholars from Mexico



Carmen Torres (left) and Karina Hess

Carmen Torres and Karina Hess from the School of Psychology of the Universidad Automa de Queretaro (Mexico) visited the Lit & Lang department and the Psychology department at A&M Commerce in the Fall. Torres is currently completing a Masters in the development of humor in children. Hess is a professor of psychology.



www.tamu-commerce.edu

English Language Institute (ELI)

Texas A & M University-Commerce is happy to announce a new addition to its campus; the **English Language Institute for International Students**. The English Language Institute (ELI) will offer 15 to 20 hours per week of instruction in English language and American culture to students from all over the world. In the summer, the Institute will also offer special English language camps for students between the ages of (8) eight and (17) seventeen. A special feature of these camps will be its inclusion of recreational and cultural activities to connect students with the campus, the town, and the greater Dallas area.

The institute is scheduled to open Spring 2010 and we'd like to take this time to ask for your help and support in spreading this exciting news to your family, friends, and colleagues. For more details on any of the Institute's programs, please contact the Director of the ELI at: Joe_Macade@tamu-commerce.edu



Joe Macade,
ELI Director

Need Help?



A professional librarian will respond to your request within 24 hours. Complicated research questions may take more time to solve. In this case, a telephone consultation or personal meeting can be arranged. If immediate help is needed please call us at (903) 886-5720 during our normal business hours.

Women in Science Fiction and Fantasy: An Encyclopedia (Greenwood, 2008)



The first encyclopedia to information on key themes focus on the that cross genre boundaries. contributions by women in science fiction and fantasy was edited by Dr. Robin Anne Reid, a professor in our department.

analysis, and background information on key themes that cross genre boundaries. The second volume contains 230 shorter encyclopedia-style entries organized alphabetically. It specifically focuses on key figures and issues ranging from entries on significant writers, editors, artists, and scholars to entries on genres, historical periods, national traditions, and major themes. Over a hundred and twenty scholars around the world contributed to the encyclopedia.

Informed by intersectional work on gender, race, class, age, and sexual identity, the encyclopedia not only covers contributions of women in all genres and media of the fantastic and fandom, but includes works of the canonical male author's constructions of women and gender.

For more information visit:
[http://www.greenwood.com/
catalog/GR3589.aspx](http://www.greenwood.com/catalog/GR3589.aspx)

This two-volume encyclopedia focuses primarily but not exclusively on works of English from the 19th century to the present, fiction, nonfiction, film, television, art, comics, graphic novels, music and poetry. The first volume contains 29 essay-style chapters that