Several More Lives to Live

An interview with Larry Carlson, on the occasion of his retirement after 30 years of teaching, writing, and service to the department, institution, and the profession

Larry Carlson, having earned his PhD in English at Pennsylvania State University, joined the Department of English at the College of Charleston in 1979 and served for 30 years, teaching numerous classes, holding many posts, and earning several honors. Winner of the College’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 1993 and the Distinguished Advising Award in 2002, Professor Carlson also was named a South Carolina Governor’s Distinguished Professor in 1994, 1996, and 2002 and won the South Atlantic Association of Departments of English Outstanding Teacher Award in 1993. He was also a finalist for the South Carolina Professor of the Year Award and a nominee for the CASE USA Professor of the Year Award.

From 2002 through 2007, Professor Carlson served as Chair of the English Department, having served, prior to that, as the first Director of the department’s MA Program in English, 1993 to 2002. He taught countless sections of freshman writing, literary surveys, upper-division and graduate level American literature courses, special topics classes and seminars, and directed over 60 master’s theses, bachelor’s essays, independent studies, and tutorials.

He was awarded research grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the American Philosophical Society, and the Southern Regional Education Board. He served as a peer reviewer for the NEH and for many university presses and academic journals. His scholarly writing appears in publications such as American Literature, Studies in the American Renaissance, Emersonian Circles, Lives Out of Letters: Essays on American Literary Biography, The American Renaissance in New England, The Encyclopedia of American Literature, and The Encyclopedia of Transcendentalism. He is currently serving as the President of the Louisa May Alcott Society until 2010.

Larry Carlson was interviewed by J. Michael Duvall

What have been some of the changes at the College in the time you have been here?

When I came here, there were 13 of us in the Department of English, full time, no adjunct instructors. At that time, I was the only truly full time American literature person. The department chair was an American literature specialist, but he also regularly taught lower-division British literature as well, and Anna Katona, another American literature scholar, taught many American literature classes but also regularly taught advanced British literature classes. (But because we were such a small department, even I taught lower-division British literature surveys from time to time.) One demonstrable change since then has been that we have tripled in size in number of faculty, and along with that, 

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John K. Emelianoff, ‘05:
A Dispatch from the Front

Two hours after reconnoitering possible weapons-smuggling points along the Tigris River, I analyze the diction and significance of objects in the concluding paragraphs of the chapter of Charles Frazier’s *Cold Mountain* entitled “A Satisfied Mind.” While cleaning firearms and waiting for updates from our intelligence office, I try for hours to explain to a sharpshooter with a GED and a background in electronic repair why Frazier’s passage is probably an example of better modern American writing than the latest Stephen King publication. My teammate’s intellectual pursuits contrast with those that led me to study English at College of Charleston, yet we both managed to land jobs on the front lines of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He jokingly calls me “Shakespeare” and we manage to agree, finally, that books are generally better than the movies they inspire.

The psychological freedom afforded me by my physical separation from the United States is a welcome byproduct of prolonged deployments in combat zones. ‘Personal time’ between and during operations is sporadic and highly valued. My teammate has somehow obtained internet access, by methods beyond my abilities, at most places we’ve worked; I have somehow been able to transport select books wherever my missions take me.

These efforts have not been made in the interest of escapism or merely staving off boredom, but rather to satisfy the need to use every spare second for personal

Emily K. Cunningham, ‘03:
London Calling

I live and work in London, England as a product manager for a technology company. On a day to day basis, this means many things: uncovering market problems through market research, conducting pricing analysis, managing product development cycles, determining positioning, and commercializing new products. The position requires that I work with each area of our business: sales, marketing, services and support. Communication with all of these stakeholders is key to success. My degree has proven to be a tremendous asset in my ability to be as clear and concise as possible in verbal and written communications. Writing papers and learning how to construct and support an argument in school is now the equivalent of how I gather and distill market requirements as well as construct a business

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enrichment.

Truthfully, we have experienced what Lord Byron might call “the fullness of satiety” regarding our immersion in Iraqi culture. Attempts to counter the annoyances and misery of working here have led me to discover that studious introspection, between precious naps and violent raids, is as fulfilling as a successful team mission. Words could not describe my catharsis during a midnight helicopter ride when I inwardly compared my reading of the Bhagavad Gita with the spoken reflections of a Muslim local interpreter concerning the ancient Hindu text.

I have worked with native speakers of many dialects. I speak functional Spanish, Japanese, and Arabic, though I usually still dream in English. I continue to discover that English is my favorite language.

- John K. Emelianoff (Class of 2005), U.S. Army, Baghdad

John will return from Iraq to Fort Bragg, NC, this fall/winter. He plans to deploy to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan in Spring 2010.

Cunningham, continued from p. 2

case. A more tangible example is being put on the spot in Dr. Morrison’s Shakespeare class, which taught me how to think on my feet and serves me well in dealing with executives.

I am a strong believer that you should spend your time in school studying what you love. You have the rest of your life to work and you can learn skills on the job. My degree in English has not hindered but helped me in the business world. In fact, I am amazed at how many people in the working world lack basic communication skills.

Ever since taking Dr. Bishop Hunt’s course on Romantic British literature, I have dreamed of living in the UK. I loved the history and complexity of the British culture. I recently took a trip to the Lake District and walked in Wordsworth’s footsteps. Although I may have taken an unexpected path, it still led me to the same place that I had originally anticipated and I am grateful.

Living in London is exciting, especially for a girl from Greenville, SC. There is always something different to do. I love going to the park on a rare sunny day, taking the river boat out to Greenwich, seeing a play or a musical, eating great curry, and having a pint in the pub.

My favorite memory of the College of Charleston is reading Faulkner in the Cistern with the sun on my face. I loved every minute of my time at the College, especially my courses with Dr. Hunt and Dr. Morrison, which were tough but rewarding.

- Emily K. Cunningham (Class of 2003)

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- We have developed a number of specialties. We have seven full time Americanists now; we have two full time Medievalists; we have two full time Renaissance people, while a lot of schools don’t have any Medievalists at all. So, the major change in the department has been the growth in size and the development of the curriculum and the faculty to teach courses.

- So, when you first came you had to be a generalist...

- I was an all-purpose infielder. In fact, I counted, and during my 30 years here I’ve taught 39 different courses. A lot of those were of my own choosing, special topics and so forth. I’d say probably half were to meet departmental needs and needs of various programs, principally Honors and American Studies. But that’s one thing I truly enjoyed and is probably unique to my experience here, getting to teach so many different courses.

- That will probably never happen again...

- Right. It will probably never happen again. Certainly serving as an all-purpose, utility infielder probably best describes my early career. After we got more American literature people and specialists in British literature, I turned almost exclusively to teaching 19th and 20th century American literature.

In your graduate work, did you specialize in a particular field of American literature?

- Actually, in my training, I may be one of the last doctoral students who have such broad historical coverage: we were required to take five out of eight comprehensive exams in British and American literature. I took one of my doctoral exams in Medieval, one in 18th century British, one in 19th century British, and then two in American—one in Early American and one in the 19th century. (At least three of the five exams had to be in British literature.) So, my doctoral training, in that sense, prepared me fairly well to be a generalist. My dissertation, though, made me a specialist in 19th century American literature, particularly in the Transcendentalists.

So, when did you pick up your interest in and specialization in Ernest Hemingway?

- It began when I was an undergraduate and took a Hemingway and Faulkner class. I actually picked that up again, seriously, in graduate school. Philip Young, who
was a pioneering and distinguished Hemingway scholar and an absolutely riveting teacher, routinely offered either a Hemingway seminar or a Modern American Novel class, which I attended.

He was not just a great teacher, but he shared with us personal anecdotes of his very prickly relationship with Hemingway in the 1950s. Young was one of the first doctoral students, with Charles Fenton, to write a dissertation on Hemingway, and as you probably know, Hemingway was [laughs] very spooked by critics and had a number of unflattering things to say about Young.

But that’s when I really became hooked on Hemingway. Then, in teaching the lower-division American literature survey and a multi-genre 20th century American literature course that we no longer have, I had an opportunity to teach Hemingway, his novels in particular. And I’ve taught probably three or four different Hemingway or Hemingway and Fitzgerald seminars, including a seminar on Hemingway last fall.

**In all the time that you’ve been teaching and writing about American literature, have you come to any “grand truths” about this kind of work or the state of American literature?**

Well, the state of American literature, I guess, is dynamic. But what I have enjoyed most about the teaching and the scholarship of American literature is the incredible quality and the incredible richness and diversity of American literature. There isn’t a single “American literature”: we have minority voices, we have issues of gender, and so on.

In my lifetime, and this is what I always tell my students, I grew up deeply influenced by the New Critics and old-style historical scholars. In fact, when I was an undergraduate, the required textbooks for my first literature class were Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren’s *Understanding Poetry* and *Understanding Fiction*. By God, you analyzed the poem as a poem, only what was in it.

In graduate school, I was very fortunate to study under mentors who were all historically- and biographically-oriented scholars, and so that mix, I think, has served me well, but I also, of course, have observed the death of New Criticism and the rise of theory. I’m sure most doctoral programs have totally changed the emphasis—students today are expected to take at least one exam in theory or at least a course of some sort.

Getting back to the richness and diversity of American literature, I always quote for my class in the American Renaissance (ENGL 343) and for students in other classes, too, that snobby British reviewer in the early 19th century, Sydney Smith, who asked, “Who in the four corners of the globe reads an American book?,” and I tell my students, “Of course now everybody reads American books.”

**There was probably even a bias against American literature when you arrived here...**

Oh, absolutely.

**Which is kind of funny, now that we have so many Americanists on the faculty.**

We do have a strong group of Americanists, and what I love about this program, generally, American and otherwise, is that we have all or most of the bases covered, and that as department chair, if a student asked me about doing an independent study or bachelor’s essay in “X,” I could say, talk to Professor So-and-So.

**In all your years of teaching, is there a particular text or set of texts that you have taught most, most often, ...maybe even hundreds of times?**

[Laughs] Boy, I’ll tell you, hundreds of times, dozens of times, man, I can rattle them off: *The Great Gatsby; The Sound and the Fury; The Sun Also Rises*; the Nick Adams stories of Hemingway; “Song of My Self”; *Moby Dick* (my all-time favorite novel); the core Dickinson poems; *Walden*, I don’t know how many times I’ve taught that. There are a number of texts that are somehow imprinted on my gray matter.

**There would be a temptation to teach from memory. When you are teaching these and other texts, do you find yourself going back and re-reading and spotting different things?**

It certainly was a temptation [to teach from memory] when I was department chair because I was so busy with other duties, but fortunately, over the years, I developed a number of study guides and notes and I always made sure that I refreshed my memory so that I wouldn’t omit anything. An interesting thing, and I love talking to new faculty about this, is that one of the first classes I taught back in 1980 was ENGL 343, and I remember preparing that syllabus and saying to myself, “Boy, am I going to have enough to say? How am I going to fill this hour?” And I told my 343 students this last spring that now my problem is that I have too much to say: I could take any writer we’re studying and go on for weeks. [Laughs] I guess that’s one of the reasons for, in theory, paying older faculty more money. They know more.

But also over the years one of the things I have tried to do is to put a new twist to each class—teach a new book, teach a new poem, teach a new author—so that I am not always...
doing exactly the same sort of thing. I find that when I prepare a new work of literature, a new writer, I’m much sharper because I really have to be on top of those things.

In terms of how the college has changed, what are some of the key signs of that?

I would say that most of the change has been for the good, but I would not say all of the changes have been good. Just as our department has grown and been enriched by the different faculty, so, too, has the college, and we’ve had an incredible increase in numbers of majors and programs, including adding the graduate school, and certainly, in our case, the Masters in English.

We grew too rapidly in the 1980s, and as a result, as you know [laughs], we do not have enough classroom space, and we still don’t have enough office space, so we’re really paying for that growth now. So, when I came there were about 4,000 students, and we have 10,000 students now, and a half times more. And we really have not increased the physical plant as rapidly as we have increased the student population.

On the whole, though, I think we’re a better institution. We are certainly attracting some very, very good students, although I want to say that some of the best students I taught, I taught in my first year here. We’ve always gotten good students, but on the whole, I think, as a general population, our students are better than they ever were. Part of that is [due to the fact] that we’re a more competitive institution to get into these days.

What are your hopes for the future of the department?

What I am proudest of is our commitment to teaching, our commitment to our students, so I hope we never, ever lose that. It really is heartening to me, and I could really see this when I was chair even more than when I was a regular faculty member, is how we are always around for our students. I just got back from the annual American Literature Association conference, and sometimes talking to big names who teach at R1 universities, it is clear that they’re not around for their students, and certainly many of them do not teach undergraduates at all.

Related to that hope [that we will stay focused on our teaching and on our students] is my hope that we continue our egalitarian commitment to first year writing instruction, that even our senior faulty members teach first year writing. And that really distinguishes us from other departments because there is a movement in other departments in the college for senior people not to teach lower-division courses at all.

What about the college?

If I could wave my magic wand and extrapolate from our department, I hope that we remain, in all departments, a teaching-oriented school. There are plenty of R1 places out there, but I think we ought to remain primarily an undergraduate, teaching-centered school.

What do you plan to do in retirement?

One of my favorite lines I like to quote and have been thinking about as I head into retirement is what Thoreau said when he left Walden Pond: “I have several more lives to live.”

I want to get serious about developing more skills in horticulture. I am thinking about taking the Clemson University Master Gardener course, a 14-week class run by the county extension office. I also want to go back and do more with carpentry, sort of small time: …cabinets and picnic tables. And as a lover of nature, I want to spend more time in the woods and on the water. At least initially, I want to do some nonacademic things.

The English Department Welcomes Kathy Beres Rogers

“In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy.”
- William Blake

“Then let us all do what is right, strive with all our might toward the unattainable, develop as fully as we can the gifts God has given us, and never stop learning.”
– Beethoven

Already, Assistant Professor Kathy Rogers has taught a number of different courses at the College: freshman composition, British Literature from 1800, The Romantic Period, a special topics class on the literature of socialized healthcare, two independent studies, and one tutorial. In the fall, she will be adding to her already significant catalog with a graduate course in 18th century women’s writing. But this range is not surprising, considering her background. She earned her PhD at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she taught composition and literature courses both as a doctoral candidate and as a post-doctoral lecturer. Prior to that, after earning a BA in English with a minor in Secondary Education from Smith College and an MA in English from Boston University, for three years she taught composition and directed a first-year seminar for at-risk students at Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts.

I sat down with Kathy at Bull Street Gourmet at the end of May for a conversation about how she’s settling in, how her first year went, and her plans for the near future.

– J. Michael Duwall

Have you gotten used to Charleston? The heat, the humidity?

This will be my first full summer in Charleston. I’ve been

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getting up at 6AM to go running and it’s still humid. I’m not a morning person, so it’s not easy to do that, anyway. But I do feel more at home now, which I noticed coming back by plane from a conference recently. We landed in the Charleston airport, and I thought to myself, “I’m so glad to be home.” It’s one of those moments: until you think that in your head, you’re really still in a kind of visiting frame of mind. Even so, I’ve still got a lot to learn about Charleston.

**After teaching at CofC for a year, what are your impressions of the experience?**

I’m really excited to be here. It’s a place that has a lot of potential. I really enjoy talking to my colleagues about their research, and having students work with me on independent studies and tutorials has also been invigorating. I took one of my independent study students, who was studying William Blake’s *Visions of the Daughters of Albion*, with me to the annual meeting of the North American Society for Study of Romanticism at Duke University in May. It was such a good experience to feel like I was mentoring a talented student who might go on to graduate school and is excited, too, about the field. The other two students I worked independently with were studying Jane Austen: one was investigating father figures in Austen’s work; the other was in England, examining actual gardens in order to better understand Austen’s use of landscapes and gardens in *Mansfield Park* and *Pride and Prejudice*. I was really proud of these students, but I’ve just been proud in general of all of my students.

**Are there novels, poems, or other pieces of literature that your students really enjoyed reading?**

My students in the British Literature survey seemed to like everything we read, but that may be due to the theme I based the course around: conflicts between religion and science from the Romantics to the modern day. Gothic and science fiction fit right in—*Frankenstein*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* stood out as texts that they particularly liked, perhaps because they had only experienced these tales before in their cinematic versions and the literary texts spoke to them in a new way. They loved Tom Stoppard’s *Arcadia*—even though I thought they might not—and we found ourselves discussing Stoppard in light of chaos theory. In my special topics class on the literature of healthcare, I surprised to find the students enjoying the poetry of 19th century surgeon-apothecary George Crabbe.

**What are you going to be doing this summer?**

I’m doing a lot this summer.

At the end of June, I will be taking a seminar in Chicago on literature and medicine put on by the Maine Council for the Humanities, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. I will be a facilitator here in Charleston—it’s the first time we have had the program here—and we will be conducting meetings at the Veteran’s Administration hospital. Doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers will discuss literary texts, which will offer them a way to talk about their professional experience within a humanist frame, rather than the medical/professional frame within which they work.

I will also be working on a proposal this summer for a book based on my dissertation, which will investigate poetry written by doctors, apothecaries, patients, and so forth, from the standpoint of the conflict between sympathy and detachment and the mediation between those two ideas in the developing medical profession in the 19th century.

I’m teaching a new graduate class in the fall which I have titled “Sex, Power, and Science in 18th Century Women’s Writing” and I’ll be developing the syllabus for that this summer, too.

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**Alumni Notes**

**1947 - 70**

**Joseph Warren Cabaniss ’47** served for five years in the United States Marine Corps during WWII and the Korean War, lectured in Economics at the College from 1953-56, and worked as an attorney in Charleston with Grimball & Cabaniss, from which he is now retired.

**1971-80**

**Marcia G. Rey ’71** works as a paralegal for Levin Simes Kaiser & Gornick in San Francisco.

**Stacie (Sonnek) Sandifer ’71** decided to go back to school, and in May 2008, earned a Juris Doctor degree and subsequently passed the California Bar. In 2009, she had an article published in the *John F.*

Nancy (Limehouse) Morrow ’72 married in 1975, taught High School English in South Carolina for 17 years, and in 1991, left teaching and started a career in interior design which allows her to be creative in a different area. She misses teaching and her students but still keeps in touch with many of them. She and her husband, David, CEO of Crescent Bank in Myrtle Beach and Community First Bank in Charleston, have two sons who are also College of Charleston graduates, Jennings, 30, and Griffin, 26. Nancy and David spend their time between Myrtle Beach and Charleston.

Joe Sylvester Jones ’74 graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Master of Mass Communication in 1976 and has worked in public relations and association management since graduation. He has owned Jones, McAden & Associates since 1982; has served as President of the Public Relations Society of America, South Carolina Chapter; has been a member in the Society of Professional Journalists since 1976; and is a member of and has managed the SC Society of Association Executives. He completed the US Chamber of Commerce Institute of Organization Management at the College of Charleston in 1999.

Nancy “Nan” (Pinckney) Boyne ’75 worked for Equifax, Inc. until 1988, then “retired” to be a full time mother to three sons, born in 1978, 1982, and 1987. In 1991, she started teaching preschool part time at Arts Together. She volunteers at local (Raleigh, NC) theaters, church, and historic preservation groups.

Terry (Phillips) Jobe ’77 works with at-risk 2nd graders in intensive reading and writing programs at Southwestern Elementary School in Hanover, IN. Her son, Phillip, is on an academic scholarship as a freshman at Tulane University. Her husband, Steve, is a full professor in the English Department and will serve as Dean of Hanover College for the 2009-2010 academic year. She says she is “still crazy after all these years...”

Ted Zorn ’77 completed an MA and PhD in Communication Studies at the University of Kentucky. In between stints in graduate school, he worked for four years as a Training and Development Specialist for a company in Beaumont, Texas. After earning his PhD, he taught for 11 years at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he was an Assistant Professor, and then Associate Professor, before moving to New Zealand for his current job in 1996 at the University of Waikato, in Hamilton, New Zealand. In 2007, he received the Frederic M. Jablin Award for Outstanding Contribution to Organizational Communication by the International Communication Association. He has been married to Brenda Shute since 1990, and they have a 17 year old daughter, Andrea.

Leigh (Jones) Handel ’81 has worked at Historic Charleston Foundation for 11 years, where she manages public relations, marketing, and coordinating special events, including the annual Spring Festival of Houses and Gardens and the Charleston International Antiques Show. Before joining HCF, Leigh was Director of Communications at the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium and Assistant Director of Public Information at Winthrop College. She lives in Charleston with her husband, Chris, 14 rabbits, and a dog named Rusty.

Catherine (Joseph) Gould ’83 has been married to Don Gould (’82) for 26 years. They have two daughters, Courtney and Megan, who are 22 and 19, respectively. Catherine, a full-time mom until Megan went to high school, worked as a teacher’s assistant at Liberty Middle School in Cumming, GA. After three years in that position, she was asked to become a teacher, and enrolled in Brenau for their combined teaching certificate/Master’s degree program in Special Ed. She expects to graduate in December 2009.

Joy Alison Simpson ’83 works for the Citadel Foundation as a development officer. She received her MA in English through the Citadel’s joint program with the College of Charleston in 2003. She has also received her Certified Fund Raising Professional designation within the last several years.

Becca Gosnell ’85 worked in the non-profit sector for 15 years before launching her own marketing and event management firm in Mt. Pleasant, SC, Gosnell and Company, in 1998. Gosnell and Company offers marketing and event management services to most of the area’s large festivals. Their clients include Charleston Fashion Week,

26 Glebe St., Courtyard
Charleston Dragon Boat Festival, Charleston Food and Wine, Piccolo Spoleto, Darkness to Light, and MOJA Festival. They also handle marketing for a wide variety of commercial clients.

Christina Margaret Pages ’85 earned her PhD in English from the University of South Carolina in 1993. After a post-doctoral position as Visiting Assistant Professor at USC, Columbia, she moved to California, where she has been teaching at various universities and colleges, most recently California State University Channel Islands and presently at Westmont College in Santa Barbara. Her focus has been poetry-writing, and she has published a full-length poetry collection, Shadow Words (Watermark Press, 2006); several poems in anthologies; and a children’s book, The Mountain Boy (Summerland Press, 2007). She received a scholarship from Western Michigan University for a poetry workshop in Prague last summer and is currently working on her second collection of poetry. Her other passions are landscape painting (in oils), the piano, and gardening.

Sandy (Roehm) Schopfer ’86 has been at The Post and Courier for nearly 25 years, having worked in a number of capacities, most recently as a copy editor. Over the years, she has won two South Carolina Press Association awards. She is married with two young daughters.

Betsy Allen Fanning ’87, MA ’95 has been married to Jack Fanning for 23 years and has three children and four grandchildren. She completed the MAT program and has a diploma from the University of Charleston as well as a Masters in Educational Leadership from the Citadel. She is the Associate Head of Trident Academy in Mt. Pleasant, where she loves working with bright minds and figuring out how to help students achieve their goals. Going to work each day is never dull, always a challenge, and she loves every minute of it!

Marianne T. Lohrman ’88 was a volunteer facilitator for bereaved parents support groups and published several magazine articles on grief recovery following the death of her son Jim (College of Charleston, 97). She also led national workshops for the Compassionate Friends and Bereaved Parents of the USA. For the past five years, she has worked at Chardon Library in Chardon, OH, providing reference services in person and online. She has also developed and taught adult computer courses. In 2007, she became a Certified Laugh Leader through Dr. Madan Kararia’s Laughter Yoga organization, and has enjoyed sharing Laughter Yoga with library, corporate, and community organizations.

Mary (Askins) Schweers ’89 graduated from the Citadel with an MAT in 1993 and has been teaching at Ashley Hall in Charleston, SC, for 14 years. For the past year she has been Director of Upper School (grades 7-12) and finds the work of being a principal challenging, interesting, and rewarding on many levels. Her husband, Dickie Schweers, and she have a sixteen year old son, Diedrich, and a fourteen year old daughter, Morgan. They enjoy living in McClellanville and cherish their life in the Lowcountry.

Stephanie (Dukes) Hinton ’89 is a Program Supervisor for the State of South Carolina, where she has been employed for 18 years, and is currently working on a sequential MA degree in Management from Webster University is St. Louis, MO. She is owner of and a consultant for Hinton DME Consultants and Billing. She is married to Nate Hinton and has two children, Daquan (14) and Jaylen (4).

Rhonda Renee Jennings ’89 is a solo practitioner in her own law firm, the Jennings Law Firm in Charleston, where she focuses in the area of workers’ compensation. She adopted a 13 month old baby from Russia and brought him home on January 24, 2009. She says he is truly a blessing from God. Between her practice and her son, she stays incredibly busy and misses having time to read!

Glenn Allen Shedd ’89 completed law school at the University of Alabama in December of 1991. He passed the bar exam in Alabama in April of ’92 and went to work for a solo lawyer in his hometown of Fort Payne, AL. He opened his own office in October of ‘93 and has been on his own ever since. Along the way he has had 4 kids: Matt, Jessica, Savannah and Dyllan. He is married to a beautiful woman named Janet, and overall believes himself to be “one of the luckiest guys alive.”

Stephanie Kim Hawkins ’90 earned an EdD in Educational Leadership at Liberty University and works as a graduation specialist at Alcoa High School in Alcoa, TN.

Frances “Lu” Parker ’90 is a journalist, actress, author, former Miss USA, and a former high school English teacher. An Emmy Award winning journalist, she has worked in the television news business as an anchor, reporter, and entertainment show host for over a decade. Currently she anchors and reports for KTLA TV in Los Angeles. More details on Lu Parker can be found at <http://www.luparker.com/>.

1991-2000

Linda (Laycock) Wood ’91 married a graduate of MUSC and moved to Florida and has an eight year old son. She has become a genealogist, chiefly working with women looking to prove relationships to American revolutionary patriots.

Emmet H. Morgan II ’91 spent 11 years in banking with Wachovia and Regions Bank. He completed the Certified
Financial Planning course in 2002 through the College of Charleston. He is married to Theresa and has a 3 year old girl, Emi. Emmet changed careers in 2004 to work for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, for which he now serves as Area Director. He is excited to be back on the campus in a ministry role working with Coach Cremins and Coach Wilson and their players.

**Melissa (Shelley) Guillotin ’91** traveled internationally for one year after graduation with *Up With People*. During that year, she met her future husband while in Germany. After traveling, she moved to Germany for a year and a half, during which time she married, soon after which she moved to Arizona, where she began a career in process management with American Express. In 2002, she relocated back east to the Raleigh, NC area and has been working at BB&T ever since as a Process and Quality Manager.

**Karen (Addy) Rhodes ’92** married Milt Rhodes (’93, Geology) in August 1993 and has two daughters, Emily (14) and Kristen (10). They live in Raleigh, NC. She worked for about a decade as a magazine editor in custom publishing, took a short detour into nursing (BSN from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2003), and most recently, has served as an editor with Onboard Media in Miami Beach, FL, working on a number of custom-published magazines for world-renowned resorts and cruise lines. She has also done freelance magazine writing and editing on the side since 1997. Currently, she writes a monthly column about the National Children’s Study for publication in the Duplin Times, on a contract basis for the Carolina Population Center. She will graduate with a master’s-level Certificate in Technology and Communication from UNC-Chapel Hill in May 2009 and is working on a master of science degree in Technical Communication at N.C. State University in Raleigh, with an expected graduation date of May 2011. She plans to work in a communication internship with the Center for Environmental Farming Systems during the summer of 2009.

**Lisa (Broome) Broome-Price ’92** is the Director of the Office of External Scholarships and the Associate Director of the Gaines Center for the Humanities (an undergraduate humanities center) at the University of Kentucky, where she also teaches in the Honors Program.

**Tanya (Nelson) Gurrieri ’92** is Director of Sales for Good Food Catering, a part of Holy City Hospitality, which manages local restaurants 39 Rue de Jean, COAST, and Virginia’s on King.

**Tiffany Yvette (Hammond) Christian ’93** earned an MEd/EdS in Counselor Education at the University of Florida and an MSW and PhD in Social Work at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She teaches in Watauga Global Community, an interdisciplinary program at Appalachian State University. She leads annual service learning trips to Uganda (East Africa) for college students and has recently started her own nonprofit, Youth 4 Uganda, to provide international service opportunities for families and younger students (as young as middle school). She is married to Raymond Christian and has four children: Rayanna (11), RJ (10), and twins, Rayna and Raylen (3).

**Catherine M. (Hedgepath) Dingle ’93** is a partner in the law firm of Thompson & Henry, P.A., in Conway, SC. She and her husband, Beau Dingle, have four-year-old twin daughters.

**Francis Martin Hurd ’93** is a Gunnery Sargeant in the United States Marine Corps, forward deployed at this time. He reports that he is seeing different things in the world that are both good and bad and that one day he hopes that what he is doing will make a positive difference in our society.


**Tammy (Raabe) Rao ’93** moved to Boston to meet her husband, whom she met online in January 1993, her final year of college. She entered into a career of graphic design, with side projects involving event planning, editing, writing, and photography. Currently, she provides a range of creative services for small businesses. She almost published a book entitled “Smitten Kitten: I’m Too Swanky for my Catnip,” until the publisher decided the dressed-up pet market was oversaturated. She plans to work on new books for self-publishing.

**Joseph Steven Renau ’93** is Senior Writer with Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP.

**Scott Schlesser ’94** worked after graduation as a high school English teacher at Pinewood Prep in Summerville, SC. He met his future wife, Catherine, while working at Pinewood, where he worked for 4 years. He changed careers and began work in Resort/Hotel Property Management, working in Edisto Beach, SC; Ocean City, MD; and Roanoke, VA. While in Roanoke, he began work with Coordinated Services Management, where he now serves as Regional Director. Coordinated Services Management provides management and development for assisted living, skilled nursing, and independent senior housing. He works primarily with non-profit organizations, dealing with extremely low income seniors at properties throughout the state of Virginia. His wife remains a teacher (middle school English), and they have a 10 year old daughter, Samantha, and a 6 year old son, John.
Rachel Feagin (Soper) Finley ’96, MA ’00 is Senior Technical Writer with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). She is married to Alex, and they have one son, Hunley.

Michael Buchanan ’97 moved to San Diego after graduation and worked as a journalist for several years, covering everything from sedated city council meetings to raging forest fires in Southern California. In 2001, he left the papers and indulged some wanderlust by moving to Spain for a year to study Spanish. He later moved to Los Angeles and out of print journalism, opting for the world of television. He now works with editors as a “story producer,” helping craft shows for HGTV, MTV, VH1 and other networks. In his free time, he practices Japanese martial arts and spends time with his wife, Katie. When tempted, he also sits behind a desk and whittles away on a novel.

Heather (Godbold) Sjostrom ’97 lived in Atlanta, Charleston, and Baltimore after college, finally settling in Mount Pleasant in 1999. She worked in various sales and marketing capacities over the years and married her college sweetheart, Matt Sjostrom (’95) in 2000. They have two small children, Wade (3 yrs) and Hugh (17 mos). She is currently a stay-at-home-mom and finds it to be the most fulfilling ‘job’ yet.

Denise (Johnson) Carol White ’98, MA ’00 is a PhD candidate in Medieval and Renaissance literature at Georgia State University in Atlanta. Her dissertation is a textual study and literary analysis of a 15th century manuscript. She hopes to be finished with the PhD in May, 2010. She has participated in the Southeastern Medieval Association Conference several times and will be presenting a paper at the conference in Nashville, TN in October, 2009. Denise has been teaching at Kennesaw State University in some capacity since August, 2000, currently teaching freshman composition and World Literature. She also serves as co-advisor for the Student Veterans Club, a student organization that provides outreach, information, and resources to students who are making the transition from active military duty to academic life.

Kristine Barry ’99 is Student Employment Coordinator at the College. She is currently also pursuing a Masters of Library and Information Science at the University of South Carolina.

Cherith (Kintigh) Stoner ’99 has taught freshman, sophomore, and senior English at all levels in addition to SAT preparation and HSAP remediation over the past decade. In the past five years, she has also earned Advanced Placement certification and gifted and talented endorsement. Also, she led a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) committee of faculty, staff, and community members and spearheaded Greenwood

High School’s first High School Assessment Program (HSAP) review for the entire sophomore class. She also volunteered at La Puerta de Esperanza, teaching ESOL to Hispanic adults. Currently, she is awaiting her National Board for Professional Teaching Standards scores in November.

Tiffany (Lauderdale) Phillips ’99 has been practicing law for 7 years, specializing in long term care litigation. She also has a small photography business and periodically writes for Skirt! magazine online. Links for her photography and creative writing are on her blog <www.teaworthy.blogspot.com>. Her husband is completing a PhD in literature at University of Kentucky, where he teaches as well. They have a 4 year old daughter.

Jordan Johnson Kuhn ’00 is Director of Marketing for Primus Builders, Inc. in Atlanta.

2001-08

Melissa (Pluta) Parker ’01, MA ’03 is pursuing a PhD in American Literature at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. She also serves as Visiting Lecturer at Charleston Southern University, teaching English.

Nicole Marie Champagne ’02 began teaching English literature at R.B. Stall High School in North Charleston after graduation. During the summers, she attended the Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College in Vermont to work on her MA in English. After graduating from Bread Loaf in 2006, she relocated to New York City and accepted a teaching position at Newark Academy in Livingston, NJ (part of the metro NYC area). Her work at Newark Academy has offered her the opportunity to travel to such faraway places as Israel, England, Ireland, and the Galapagos Islands. Since accepting the position, she has also begun work on her Doctor of Letters degree (D.Litt.) in humanities with a concentration in writing at Drew University. In her spare time, she has been trying her hand as an amateur photographer and has been lucky enough to have photographs appear in several publications. She now resides in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, and while she misses beautiful Charleston, she is loving the New York City life.

Amy Meredith Gordon ’02 is Associate Director of Special Events and the Co-Director of the Children’s Miracle Network for the MUSC Children’s Hospital Fund in Charleston, SC.

Brittany McLean Buguey ’03 had been teaching kindergarten, but is now working (very happily) on a graduate degree in a Masters in Teaching, Elementary Education program in Tacoma, WA. She lives on Bainbridge Island, WA, about a 30 minute ferry ride from Seattle.
Emily Kay Cunningham ’03 is currently working at Blackbaud, a technology company that serves non-profits, as a Product Manager. She has been living and working in London for the past 2 years but is ultimately based in Charleston. She is trying to do as much travel as possible. [See Emily’s feature on page 2.]

Cindy Lawson Hollis ’03, MA ’05 earned her MA in English via the joint program at the College of Charleston and the Citadel in 2005 and earned her Masters in Teaching (MAT) at the Citadel in 2007. She teaches freshman Honors English (Honors English I) at Wando High School in Mount Pleasant, SC. Last summer she earned certification in teaching gifted and talented students, and this summer she will be participating in the Lowcountry Writing Project (through the Citadel).

Jennifer (Kampsen) Carreras ’04 is an associate attorney working in a small law firm north of Atlanta, Georgia, practicing in the fields of juvenile advocacy, education law, and civil litigation. She was married to Jace Paul Carreras in November 2008.

Donna (Longo) Murphy ’04 is a rising 3L at Charleston School of Law, where her focus is on Criminal and Constitutional Law.

Kimberly (Means) Steurman ’04 is an associate attorney working in civil litigation at Helfrey, Neiers & Jones, P.C. in St. Louis, Missouri. She graduated from Saint Louis University School of Law in 2007. She married Chris Steurman in October 2008.

Lindsey (DeLoach) Jones ’05, MA ’08 has moved to Greenville, SC and is teaching British Literature and Advanced Writing at Clemson. She will travel in Europe this summer (in part to visit the literary cafes in Paris she studied in Larry Carlson’s Lost Generation class as a Masters student). She will start a low-residency MFA program in the fall at Seattle Pacific University.

John Konstantin Emelianoff ’05 is a soldier in the US Army involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom. His permanent US place of employment is Fort Bragg, NC. He has spent many months in various locations around Baghdad. Though his job requires him to specialize in combat operations, he has found time to read, write, and contribute to a growing appreciation of the arts within his unit and among the Iraqi populace. [See John Emelianoff’s feature on page 2.]

Anna Evans ’05 is Assistant Editor at Charleston Magazine.

John Sealy ’05 earned an MFA in Creative Writing from Purdue University in 2008. He then moved to Richmond, VA, taking a position as a copywriter in the design department for the Richmond Times-Dispatch. This June, he will marry Emily Oye, whom he met in an English class at the College of Charleston. He’s still working on that novel.

Stephen Francis O’Kane ’05 works for the Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta, writing for The Georgia Bulletin, Atlanta’s official Catholic newspaper. He married his girlfriend of 2 years, Jacqueline, in June 2008. She is currently attending the Georgia campus of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine on a scholarship with the United States Air Force.

Emily Oye ’05 graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with an MFA in Theatre in August 2008. She is marrying Jon Sealy, an English alum of the class of 2005, in June 2009 and will be entering University of Richmond School of Law in Fall 2009.

Kathleen “Katie” Harrison Riddle ’05 is a graduate teaching fellow at the University of Oregon in the Department of English, where she is pursuing a PhD in English Literature.

Jennifer Noel Frith ’06 works as Executive Assistant to the Chairman and Co-founder of Benefitfocus, a leading software company in South Carolina.

Kristen Amber Gaetke ’06 graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Cleveland, OH.

Suzanne Marie Lynner ’06 spent 2 years at the Masius Agency, an advertising agency, in Manhattan before being transferred to the London office in the autumn of 2008, where she is Senior Account Executive.

James L. McCutchen ’06 is pursuing a JD at the Charleston School of Law, where he reached the final 4 of the First Year Moot Court Competition (out of the 200 member first year class), has served as a member of the Charleston School of Law Honor Council and Treasurer of the Student Trial Lawyers Association, earned the Cali Award for Legal Research and Writing (given to the student who earned the highest grade in the course), and was named to the Dean’s List.

Adam Russo ’06 graduated from St. Thomas University School of Law in Miami, FL, where he was on Law Review, and finished in the top 10% of his class. He interned for the Supreme Court of Florida and for Clawson and Staubs, LLC in Charleston.

Megan McDermott Stauffer ’06 works as a postpartum doula and a nanny in Chapel Hill, NC, while she is pursuing an Masters in Social Work at the University of North Carolina. She has nearly finished a birth doula certification and would like to also become a Lamaze childbirth educator. She also hopes to eventually publish articles in small journals or specific health magazines.

Sarah (Sutusky) Alphin ’06 will graduate from the University of South Carolina School of Law in May 2009. While in law school, she served as an Articles Editor for the American Bar Association’s Real Property, Trust & Probate Journal. She will be practicing law as a workers’
compensation defense attorney at Willson Jones Carter & Baxley in Columbia, SC.

Melissa Michele Glasscock ’07 began teaching at West Ashley High School shortly after graduation, where she now teaches World Lit to sophomores and American Lit to juniors. As a new teacher she finds she is continually surprised and challenged by her work, but ultimately she delights in belonging to an ever-evolving profession that demands (and deserves) her best efforts. She finds she is learning a great deal from her students and is looking forward to several more years of teaching before working towards a MA in English.

Meghan M. Lee ’07 is pursuing an MFA at Columbia College, Chicago. While completing her degree she is working in restaurants, co-editing the Columbia Poetry Review, and reading for the literary magazine Hotel Amerika. She has been awarded a fellowship and will be moving to New York soon.

Krystle Danielle Singleton ’07 is teaching English at Osceola High School in Kissimmee, Florida. She teaches Freshman English and Creative Writing, and says she absolutely loves what she does and cannot wait to pursue a MA in English & Children’s Literature. She also serves as Assistant Swim Coach.

Erin Marie Walsh ’07 has worked as Development Coordinator with Historic Columbia Foundation for almost two years, managing the donor relations and membership program as well as writing grants.

Danielle Hope Watson, MA ’07 worked at the College for the English Department before leaving at the end of July to go back to school full time.

Shannon Emery ’08 is working as the HR/Office Manager for an information technology firm in James Island called Stasmayer, Incorporated. She has also started volunteering extensively and organizing groups that go beyond campus to promote LGBT rights and will soon be doing work with the homeless in Charleston. She will be applying to graduate schools in the summer or fall and applying for several programs abroad, including one for a Masters in Business that will place her a year in London followed by six months in Thailand.

Jax Gardner ’08 moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan after graduation to pursue her Master’s at Western Michigan University. Renee Greenan (MA ’07) and she were engaged in October 2008, and are getting married in Kalamazoo on December 20th, 2009.

Joseph Alan Hasinger ’08 will begin an MFA program in Creative Writing at Hollins University in Roanoke, VA in the fall of 2009.

Audra Hammons ’08 works as an Assistant Teacher, Pre-K, at the Smithsonian Early Enrichment Center in Washington, DC, while she pursues an MA in English at American University.

Whitney Anne Hinds ’08, after completing a second major in Arts Management at the College of Charleston in December 2008, moved to Lafayette, Indiana, in January 2009. She is employed at the YWCA coordinating their racial justice and economic empowerment programs. Her other activities include serving on the Alumni Association’s Board of Directors, acting in local theatre, and planning a May 22nd, 2010, wedding to her fiancé.

Stokely James Klasovsky ’08 is an MFA student in Creative Writing, Poetry at Bowling Green State University. He has just been awarded a Devine Summer Fellowship Award in Creative Writing and is working on his thesis.

Braden Tennesen Trainor ’08 serves as 2nd Lieutenant, Platoon Commander, in the United States Marine Corps, currently stationed in Quantico, VA.

Caitlin Walsh ’08 was hired by a small mom and pop law firm soon after graduation and has been working there since. She is taking LSAT prep classes in order to take the LSATs this summer/fall and will be working on applications to law school for the 2010 academic school year. She is planning on applying to several law schools all around the country with the hopes of moving to a new place.

**Faculty Notes, 2008-09**

Paul Allen was on sabbatical in the fall and produced a CD of songs, Waiting for the Last Bus, available on CDBaby.com. Also, his new collection of poems, Ground Forces, came out with an Irish publisher, Salmon Poetry (www.salmonpoetry.com). To launch the
book and CD, he spent 28 days traveling the roads and byways of central and southern Ireland, putting on nine performances of poems and songs in 7 towns. Preparing for his retirement adventure, which will begin next May, he is now looking for pickup trucks and a very small Airstream trailer—_toys to help fill the void which leaving the students will bring. Recent readings can be found on Youtube (www.youtube.com/ALLENstuff).

Anne Blessing is working on her dissertation about “Mammy” characters in contemporary Southern fiction. She is also spending as much time as possible with her three-year-old daughter, Jane, and five-year-old son, Walter.

Terrence Bowers’s essay “Nationhood in the Age of Enlightenment” was published in Reading the Nation in English Literature published by Routledge and edited by Elizabeth Sauer and Julia Wright.

John Bruns published his first book, Loopholes: Reading Comically (Piscataway, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 2009) and an essay in the New Review of Film and Television Studies. With colleague Tim Carens, he was awarded a School of Humanities and Social Sciences grant to develop a team-taught course entitled “Melodrama: Moving Tales and Moving Pictures.” John would have attended the 2009 Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) conference in Tokyo, Japan, May 21-24, 2009, as chair of a panel on recent European cinema, had it not been officially canceled due to fear of the recent H1N1 outbreak. As it was, he did attend a hastily organized “unofficial” SCMS conference in Tokyo. Finally, he conducted English Department-sponsored research in the Hitchcock Collection of the Margaret Herrick Library at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, Los Angeles, California, for a future book, Form and Feeling: Modes of Expression in Narrative Cinema.

Doryjane Birrer has been working under the auspices of the Association for Contemplative Mind in Higher Education (ACMHE) to integrate her scholarly interests in literature, socio-narratology, and the cognitive sciences with her long-term personal experiences with yoga and other contemplative practices. Her work has included attending a contemplative curriculum development session at Smith College, participating in a nine-day silent retreat at a Buddhist meditation center, and developing a new interdisciplinary School of the Humanities and Social Sciences course that will include a meditation lab and experiential components alongside more traditional class meetings.

Tim Carens has recently delivered papers at conferences sponsored by the Victorians Institute (Columbia, SC: Oct. 2008) and the Nineteenth-Century Studies Association (Milwaukee, WI: Mar. 2009). His essay “Bleak House, Africa, and the Condition of England” appeared in Approaches to Teaching Dickens’s Bleak House, published by the Modern Language Association (2008). He also published a review of Gypsies and the British Imagination, 1807-1930 by Deborah Epstein Nord in Romanticism and Victorianism on the Net (Fall 2008). In addition to these scholarly pursuits, he has recently acquired a flock of four beautiful chickens to replace those murdered by various predators last winter. He is currently working on an improved coop design that features a hawk- and raccoon-proof enclosure. After several years in the garret of 26 Glebe St., he is very much enjoying the high ceiling of his new office in 72 George St.

Carol Ann Davis has poems forthcoming in The Kenyon Review, Volt, Agni, The Southern Review, Denver Quarterly, and online at Blackbird; an essay is forthcoming in South Loop Review. In the past few months she’s read her work at the LA Times Book Festival and at the Virginia Arts Center as a finalist for Virginia Commonwealth University’s Levis Prize. She’s on sabbatical in the fall, and when she isn’t writing she plans to wander around her new house looking for places to hang pictures, and to finally become a proper carpool/soccer mom for Willem (6) and Luke (2).

Bonnie Devet presented a paper in Coventry, United Kingdom, at the conference of the European Association of Teachers of Academic Writing (EATAW) (June 30-July2), at which she joined composition experts from 18 different countries. Her paper was entitled “What Teachers of Academic Writing Can Learn from a Writing Center.”

J. Michael Duvall chaired two panels at the American Literature Association Meeting in Boston and this summer is conducting research with student Erin Wooten for a Summer Undergraduate Research with Faculty (SURF) project entitled “Alienation/Assimilation/Americanization: African American Literature, Racial Uplift, and Immigration at the Turn of the Twentieth Century.” He also compiled and edited the very fine publication you are now reading.

Julia Eichelberger continued teaching American literature and first-year writing and was active in the department’s re-examination of its first-year writing
curriculum [see the results at <http://www.cofc.edu/~english/course_info/110.html>]. She has begun developing a course on Charleston writers and was honored to have Josephine Humphreys visit with her students when they were studying her novel, Rich In Love. She published an essay in Eudora Welty’s Delta Wedding (Rodopi Press, 2008), and an essay she published earlier in the Eudora Welty Newsletter, called “Historicizing The Ponder Heart,” was reprinted in the first issue of the Eudora Welty Review. Her current research is still focused on Welty, especially her artistic development in the 1940s. She taught a graduate seminar on Welty and made several research trips to study her papers in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. She delivered two papers on Welty’s unpublished letters, one at the American Literature Association meeting in Boston and the other at the Eudora Welty Centennial Conference in Jackson, Mississippi. Both these papers focused on Welty’s frequent references to gardening in her 1940s letters to two friends. She is revising these papers for publication, but the hundreds of letters still to read will be keeping her busy for a while. On the home front, she has been seeing the college experience through the eyes of her two children, one of whom is a sophomore at the College.

Susan Farrell’s book, Critical Companion to Kurt Vonnegut: A Literary Reference to His Life and Work, came out in September of 2008. She also had two essays accepted for publication: one that explores myth and gender in Tim O’Brien’s Going After Cacciato and another called “Art, Domesticity, and Vonnegut’s Women.” In May, she delivered a paper on Vonnegut’s novel Mother Night at the American Literature Association conference in Boston. She traveled to the University of Texas Humanities Research Library in June to conduct research for the book she is currently writing on Tim O’Brien. Dr. Farrell was also the winner of the College of Charleston’s Distinguished Teacher/Scholar Award this past year.

Conseula Francis presented a paper entitled “American Truths: Blackness and the American Superhero” at the annual conference of the American Literature Association in May.

Valerie Frazier, in January, presented a scholarly paper at the University of Versailles (Paris, France) on Shakespeare and the Black Aesthetic, with a focus on Shakespeare’s Dark Lady sonnets, Claude McKay’s “Harlem Dancer” and “America,” as well as Gwendolyn Brooks’s sonnet sequence “gay chaps at the bar.” She is currently working on an essay collection on the sonnets of Gwendolyn Brooks and Rita Dove, in collaboration with Annie Perkins of Norfolk State University. She also peer reviewed an article for African American Review.

Joe Kelly and Trish Ward took a group of students to Ireland to study Irish literature and mythology. Joe Kelly kept a blog on the trip, replete with journal entries and photographs at <http://cofcireland.blogspot.com/>.

Simon Lewis published an article arising from his work with Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World (CLAW) commemorating the bicentenary of the banning of the international slave trade in the Journal of Postcolonial Writing entitled “Slavery, Memory, and the History of the ‘Atlantic now’: Charleston, South Carolina and Global Racial/Economic Hierarchy.” He also presented a paper on a similar topic, entitled “Sod Literature: Let’s Read the Landscape of Slavery in British Country Houses, Southern Plantations, and Caribbean Resorts,” at the annual postcolonial studies conference in Savannah, GA, as well as a paper on South African poet Ingrid de Kok at the annual African Literature Association conference in Burlington, Vermont. In July, with Emily Cooney as assistant editor, he published issue #25 of Illuminations.

Bret Lott celebrated, in February, the marriage of his older son, Zebulon (26) to Maggie Cass, the same girl he took to the prom when they were in high school! His younger son, Jacob, got a job for a nonprofit in Washington DC after he graduated from the College of Charleston last spring. Another highlight for him was meeting Stan Lee, at the National Medal of Arts ceremony at the White House, a personal favorite since childhood days spent reading the adventures of The Mighty Thor, and that other guy, Spider Man.

Essays, fiction and excerpts from Bret Lott’s work appeared in five new textbooks, he published two book reviews, and he lectured in Santa Fe, Atlanta, Nashville, and New York. He also served as a member of the National Council on the Arts (the advisory committee for the National Endowment for the Arts) and as writer in residence for the month of May at Furman University. In July, he taught in the Prague Summer Program in Creative Writing at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, and attended creative writing
workshops, Czech literature lectures, classes in Czech language and culture, and photography classes. Five current College of Charleston English students were there as well: Justin Hellstrom, Sara Thomason, Sarah Peck, Althea Kalman, and Betsy Kalman.

Scott Peeples went to Russia in April on a Fulbright Specialists Grant to give a keynote address at a conference on Poe and media and to lead a few workshops on Poe and American literature. He also gave invited talks on Poe at Boston College, the University of Virginia, the University of Castilla La Mancha (Albacete, Spain), and the South Carolina State Library (SC Humanities Council). He also began co-editing a journal, Poe Studies and won the College of Charleston’s Distinguished Research Award this year. [You can track Scott Peeples’s Poe-related travels at <http://tiny.cc/EQvVB>.]

Alison Piepmeier finished writing a new book, *Girl Zines: Making Media, Doing Feminism* (NYU Press, 2009); earned tenure; presented at the National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA) Conference; continued to serve as a member of the NWSA’s Governing Council; and moved the Women’s and Gender Studies major proposal through the College system (it is now making its way through the SC Commission on Higher Education). And she had a baby—Maybelle Biffle-Piepmeier.

Kathy Beres Rogers attended the British Women Writers Conference in Iowa City and the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism conference in Durham, NC, with a student. This summer, she trained to facilitate a National Endowment for the Humanities-funded Literature and Medicine seminar at the Veteran’s Hospital in Charleston: she will be discussing various pieces of “medical literature” with professionals from the hospital staff. She also wrote a book review for Eighteenth Century Critical Biography and is working on an article for European Romantic Review. In her “copious free time,” she has also performed with the Summerville Community Orchestra, bought a new house on James Island, and begun training for her first marathon. [See an interview of Kathy Beres Rogers on page 5.]

Myra Seaman published an article, “Tugging at the Roots: The Errant Textography of Middle English Romance,” in the Spring 2009 issue of the *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*. In October, she presented a paper with undergraduate English

Major Erica Carson on “American Interventions in the Medieval Present” at the Southeastern Medieval Association conference in St. Louis. This paper was based on work she and Erica had performed over the summer of 2008 as part of their project funded by a Summer Undergraduate Research Fund grant. Over the summer, she also participated in the National Humanities Center’s Summer Institute of Literary Studies on “Chaucer: Past, Present, Future” in Research Triangle, NC, and presented a paper at the meeting of the New Chaucer Society in Swansea, Wales, on “Reading Closely to Disclose and Disperse, or, Greatness Scattered.” At the Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo, MI, in May, she presented a paper on “Adapting Degrevant: The Findern Manuscript and Household Romance.” Late in the year, she became co-editor of a new journal, published by Palgrave: *postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies*.

Catherine Thomas presented papers at the Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies conference and Shakespeare Association of America meeting. She also gave a “Third Thursdays” talk for the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, entitled “Queering Comic Shakespeare,” derived from her next major research project, on Shakespeare and the graphic arts. In addition, her essay “Poisoned Justice: Passion and Politics in The Winter’s Tale” was published in the edited collection *Justice, Women, and Power in English Renaissance Drama*, and she completed two book reviews for *Theatre Research International*. Besides working on her research this summer, Dr. T. took some time to dig through the Folger Library archives in Washington, D.C., go crocodile-gazing at the St. Augustine alligator sanctuary, and chase Hemingway’s cats in Key West.

Dennis Williams was on sabbatical in the fall of ’08, doing research on the intersection of composition pedagogy and cultural studies. He participated in a roundtable discussion on the same at the National Council of Teachers of English conference in November and will be giving a paper at the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association meeting in November ’09 on Herman Melville’s “Bartleby, the Scrivener” and the concept of “hauntology” in Jacques Derrida’s *The Specters of Marx*. 

Scott Peeples with Fyodor Dostoyevsky in Moscow

Charlie Chaplin, a Hemingway estate cat particularly adept at extorting cat treats from tour guides. Photo by Catherine Thomas.