

## Poet and Songwriter Paul Allen Retires

*I tell people, I only wish that everybody could have a life like mine, a career like mine.*

-- Paul Allen, at a recent reading & performance

Paul Allen retires this summer after 36 years of teaching at the College of Charleston, but he shows no signs whatsoever of slipping into a quiet, settled repose and taking up gardening. As I write this, Paul is probably in the recording studio, putting the final touches on the tracks of his third CD, Glebe Street Adios, which will be out this August. He's moving out of his apartment, and after the CD launch party, he'll head west to pick up a trailer and embark on a non-stop road-trip, writing, singing, and reading wherever and whenever he wants. Paul's not much on definite plans--he told me that once he heard someone say that if you want to make God laugh, you should tell him about your "plans"--so if you're looking for where you can catch Paul in the near future, the only thing definite I can tell you is that he's engaged to be in Upstate New York for a reading in late August. But he's sure to come back through Charleston, at some point.

Paul told me these things and a lot more, some of which I can share and attempt to below, some of which I shouldn't, but all of which I immensely enjoyed hearing in a wonderful conversation we had in late May on the second story verandah of the English Depart-

ment building on Glebe Street.

Paul doesn't know precisely when he decided that he would be a writer, but the signs that he would be one (and strange signs, indeed) were there fairly early--he was "always playing with language," he says. He recounted to me that when he was around eight or nine years old, he sat down with a science textbook and

began meticulously copying the text in his own hand, word for word. His older sister, "who knew everything," happened by and asked what he was doing, to which he replied, "I'm writing a book." "That's stupid," she rejoined; "there's the book right there," a cold reception that Paul says "knocked that project in the head." But even before that, when he was just six or seven, Paul's love of lan-

guage had already emerged in a peculiar habit.

I would go through the trash [behind a law office adjacent to his father's dental practice] and get all these lawyer's documents, and I'd take them home and make myself a little tent, and I would just stack up the paper. I couldn't read what they said--I didn't understand them. But I loved looking at the words and I loved moving the paper around.



Photo by Leslie McKellar

Literally playing with language in this way, Paul thinks, was “probably the beginning,” though he “didn’t know it at the time.”

A literary ballad he wrote for a high school English class may have helped cinch it for him, a tragic tale of lovers aboard a ship going down in a storm, whose final line he still recalls: “Step close to me, my Bonnie Lee; we’ll end it with a kiss.” His teacher posted it on the bulletin board next to one by the “smartest girl in school,” the future valedictorian. This official recognition was a triumph, to be sure, but the praise came even from unexpected quarters. “All these jocks that I didn’t belong with at all--I didn’t hit puberty until I was 30--they’d come by and they’d say, ‘hey, man, I really like that poem.’ And I thought, ‘wow.’ And that sort of got me started.”

In the early 60’s, Paul would be seriously turned on to writing by the work of Bob Dylan and Carl Sandburg, which he imbibed deeply when he moved from hometown Selma to Montgomery, Alabama to go to school at Huntingdon College. “I always knew I did not belong [in conservative Selma], so when I went to college and got hold of folk music, got hold of Carl Sandburg and all that liberal poetry, it was like I had found a home.” While Sandburg may have fallen out of critical favor in recent years, Paul, who still loves to read him from time to time, says that Sandburg’s was “the right voice” at the right time, and his writing had “just enough accessibility” to make for a lasting impression.

As for where his songwriting came in, Paul says the two, poetry and songs, “kind of came together” for him because he didn’t know of the two as separate, especially as he began to take in the powerful examples of Dylan, Sandburg, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, and other artists in college. Yet, when he went to graduate school, Paul says, he “sort of put the guitar down” as he began studying poetry more deeply and “kept it under the bed,” where it essentially stayed for the next 20 years to be pulled out and played only “every once in a while.” It’s only relatively recently, then, that he has begun playing and composing songs again, a process that, despite how the forms come together for him, he finds is different from his poetry writing process.

In terms of writing each one, they’re entirely different. At first, I might noodle with a phrase.... If it comes to me as a phrase, I don’t know if it’s going to be a poem or a song. But it doesn’t take long before I know, and then I’m in song

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mode or poem mode.

And the inspiration that leads to both poems and songs might come from anywhere, but often it has come from teaching: “I have said some of the most outrageous things to my students that ended up being in a poem or being in a song. And I’d think, ‘Oh, I didn’t realize I was trying that out. Well, they liked it.’”

After Paul finished his degree at Huntingdon and earned a teaching certificate, he taught at Escambia County High School in Alabama for two and a half years. Following this, he earned his Masters in English at Auburn University, where he wrote a thesis on translations of the Gospel According to St. Mark. After graduating, he taught for two years at Winthrop College before securing a position as an instructor at the College of Charleston. While Paul is synonymous with Creative Writing at the College, it wasn’t always thus. There was no Creative Writing program to speak of when Paul joined the faculty, and no one at the time could have guessed that Paul would go on to be so intimately identified with Creative Writing at the College. In fact, when, two years later, he took an unpaid year’s leave of absence to complete a Masters in Creative Writing at the University of Florida, it was under an explicit, written injunction that, as a condition of the leave being granted, when he came back, he would not be teaching Creative Writing courses, nor could he expect promotion to a tenure-track rank.

# An Interview with Assistant Professor William Russell



William Russell joined the faculty at the College of Charleston in 2009, shortly after earning his PhD from the University of North Carolina. He teaches courses on sixteenth- and seventeenth-century English literature. Currently, he is writing a book on the social and intellectual origins of the idea of the literary critic in early modern England. His recent essays include work on Andrew Marvell and Richard Crashaw, forthcoming, respectively, in *English Literary Renaissance* and *John Donne Journal*. In the coming academic year, he will be teaching Major British Writers to 1800, upper-division Shakespeare, and a graduate class on the epic.

Professor Russell and I conversed over libations at the rooftop bar of the Library Restaurant in Downtown Charleston just after the Spring 2010 semester had ended. The following is an edited transcript of that conversation.

- J. Michael Duvall

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**JMD:** When did you decide that you wanted to do this for a living?

**WR:** Growing up, I knew I wanted to play music and write books. But I never expected to go to graduate school, not even when I graduated college.

**JMD:** Yeah, neither did I. I was quite surprised.

**WR:** [Laughs] Me too. No one else was, incidentally. All my friends said, “this is perfect for you.”

**JMD:** I wonder why that is, why neither of us would know that this is where we were headed, while others knew all along.

**WR:** It’s curious. I’ve always been bookish and had a kind of reverence for “letters,” but I didn’t yet understand how that might fit into academia, and I guess other people did.

**JMD:** How did you end up specializing in Renaissance literature?

**WR:** In college I developed an abiding aesthetic interest in that literature, however uninformed.

I knew when I graduated, for instance, that Donne’s “Nocturnal upon St. Lucy’s Day” and [Shakespeare’s] *King Lear* were going to be an important part of my life, regardless of what happened or where I wound up. They had made a deep impression at a crucial time. So when I started to consider graduate school, I immediately thought of the Renaissance. I saw a world reflected in those works that I wanted to know more about.

**JMD:** So, you came to your specialization not through thinking “I like this period,” but through a couple texts that were important to you?

**WR:** Definitely. But of course my experience of those texts includes the teachers who first revealed them to me. The story of my becoming a teacher is the story of the teachers in my life – particularly those few who made what they knew seem so exciting and so pressingly important that I wanted to know it, too.

**JMD:** I think that’s the case with me, too.

**WR:** It’s an astounding thing to consider. I can just about narrow it down to two people, a college professor and a high school teacher, who led me to pursue this profession.

**JMD:** What were the other career options for you?

**WR:** I guess I always expected that I would be a musician. I started playing the violin when I was in preschool and the piano shortly after that. Music was always there. I don’t want to say it came easily to me, but it felt natural. As life went on, people began to notice, I began to be rewarded for it, and so I became all the more confident in it. I fully intended to go to

music school. But in my senior year of high school, an English teacher literally changed the course of my life. He made it impossible for me not to go to college.

**JMD:** What did you guys read? Do you remember?

**WR:** He had a unique approach to teaching, and it wasn't limited to the classroom. Before I was even in his class, he approached me and started giving me records to listen to and books to read. He was passionate about and deeply learned in Eastern philosophy, East Asian literature, and the Beats. Those interests dovetailed nicely with my musical interests, so I followed him there. I wanted to see in those books what he saw in them. He lit a fire in me and showed me how to approach reading seriously, which is not to say academically.

**JMD:** As if it mattered.

**WR:** Right. As if life depended on it.

**JMD:** So, how were things for you when you studied literature in college?

**WR:** Wonderful – and completely different. There is a rigorous core curriculum at Columbia, where I studied. Regardless of major, your education there begins with Homer, and you spend two years reading broadly and chronologically in the Western canon. Though the experience was not free from irony, it taught me to read literature as literature, to think in terms of literary tradition, and to believe in aesthetic standards of judgment. Secondary research wasn't emphasized, and I can recall syllabi that limited or even forbade it. If you're reading Dante, well, you've got Aquinas and Aristotle and Virgil to draw upon. The only "secondary" reading assigned in my year-long undergraduate Shakespeare course was Genesis. At the time I felt that resorting to the critics was tantamount to letting someone else do my reading and thinking for me. I didn't want my hand held. Of course, it's a far cry from how I think of criti-

cism and research now; but it's where I started, and it was a good place to start, I think.

**JMD:** My training as an undergraduate and post-baccalaureate student was much the same. I would read Edward Taylor, for instance, and alongside his poetry, read the relevant Old Testament passages on, say, candles, if that's what he was meditating on. I tell my undergraduate students that criticism provides a very useful frame, but while I do require secondary research, I want their arguments to be grounded in the literary text itself.

**WR:** Exactly. It's important to bring to criticism the conviction of your own reading.

**JMD:** When you went to graduate school [at the University of North Carolina], how was the transition for you?

**WR:** A little rocky at first, to be honest. I visited campuses and felt discouraged – not by the faculty but by the other prospective students, who were already talking about which journals they hoped to publish in.

**JMD:** Already?

**WR:** They were miles ahead of me on a path I wasn't sure I wanted to take. The turning point came when I had the chance to sit down with Reid Barbour and Jessica Wolfe, who would later become my mentors. I asked them whether loving poetry was

a good reason to become an English professor. They told me that it was the only good reason. That was enough for me. I enrolled at UNC, and soon other professors and graduate students there confirmed what they had told me. Among these was Sara Mack, a classicist. We would get together in the summer and read Ovid and Virgil. She made no effort to disguise her erudition or her enthusiasm, and I hung on her every word. Here was another teacher who made me desperately want to know the



William Russell on a walk with his son, Owen

# A Passage to (and from) Indonesia

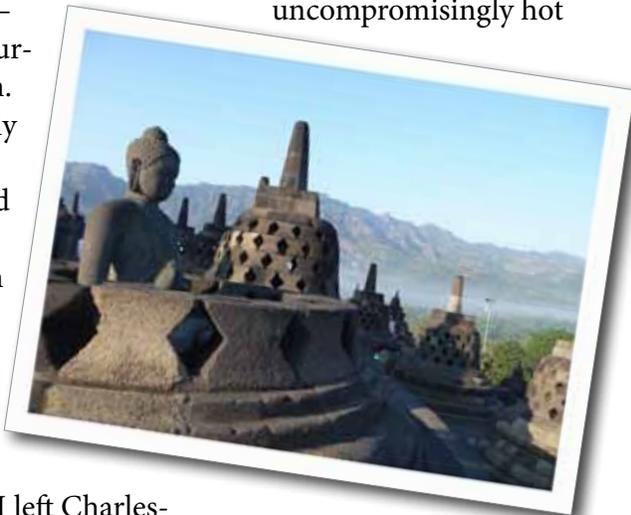
Emily Cooney (BA '07, MA '09) on Teaching and Learning Abroad

On May 8, 2009 I received my MA in English from the College of Charleston, on May 10, I was the maid of honor at my sister's wedding, and on May 18, I headed to Indonesia with two suitcases and a year of teaching ESL ahead of me. My arrival in Jakarta was fitting—

uncompromisingly hot and pouring rain. I quickly had to get used to the Muslim calls to prayer five times a day.

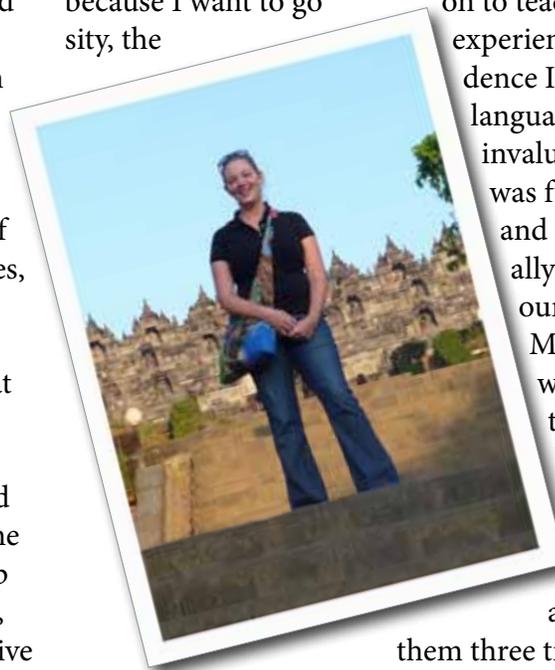
Before I left Charleston, I had been warned about the food, the terrorists, the heat, the mosquitoes and the monkeys. Those warnings could have left me wary, but I refused to be scared. I wanted to get to know Indonesia. I wanted to become a great teacher. And this has been an adventure unlike anything anyone could have predicted for me.

I applied online for a job teaching ESL in Jakarta, Indonesia while finishing the last semester of my Master's degree. Like many English MA graduates, I was both overqualified and underqualified for the job. Facing the work force with a humanities degree is a tough go these days. But the language school that hired me was impressed with my new degree, which proved useful since my only applicable experiences to that point were working as a substitute teacher and six months of part-time ESL teaching in Chicago. The school promised me they would support me and help me and give me a place to live. The pay wasn't much, even by Indonesian standards, but it was enough to live on and that was all I really needed. So after a handful of emails, a very long-distance phone call, and an even longer distance flight my professional life began



in a small school in the basement of a mall just north of Jakarta.

I taught students ranging in age from ten to fifty. My class sizes were small and my students had varying abilities that made preparations for class challenging but successes in class that much more rewarding. The focus of our textbooks was mainly on pronunciation and grammar, but I must admit I did weave some of my own English training into the curriculum. (All of my classes knew that one draft of a writing assignment was never enough.) Over the course of my time in the school, my students and I learned from and taught each other. I was amazed at how quickly teaching became something I loved. The best thing about teaching for a language school is the freedom you have to develop your teaching skills. You are given basic targets for the course and then you choose how you want to teach those targets. Skills that will only get better with practice, e.g. lesson planning, time management and thinking on your feet, develop very quickly when you teach a full course load of students every day. For me, because I want to go



on to teach at a university, the experiences and confidence I gained in the language school were invaluable. And it was fun! My classes and I did some really great stuff in our time together. My ten-year-olds wrote letters to the Indonesian president about their environmental concerns and we drafted them three times before mailing. My teenagers created mall-wide scavenger hunts complete with clues and visual aids.

My adult student, an environmental engineer for

an oil company, created a power-point presentation completely in English about his research into drilling in certain areas of the country. And my biggest class wrote ghost stories in anticipation of their first ever Halloween celebration. We did book work and exercises, but the real learning took place when we practiced, when we made it real. Treating English like something students already know, but just need to work on is, I have found, a much better angle than treating it as something big and different that is hard and foreign to them.

Sometime during my hectic teaching schedule and my exploration of Indonesia, I managed to apply for PhD programs back home in the United States. I was accepted into the Rhetoric/Composition/Linguistics program at Arizona State University. The school has been so kind as to offer me a teaching assistantship as well so that I can continue to combine the two things I love, language and teaching. It is impossible to express how excited I am to move to Tempe and continue in my studies. It is an exceptional program, and I am grateful and lucky to become a part of it. So here is what I know one year after leaving the College of Charleston's graduate school. Looking outside the box for a job is a great way to start your life after you graduate. As English majors, we often find ourselves in low paying jobs in our first years out of



school. Why not get one in a totally new country? I have swum amongst the coral reefs of Bali, had a staring contest with an orangutan in the jungles of Sumatra, watched ancient sea turtles lay their eggs in Java, walked through the trees in Singapore, visited a medicine man in the Philippines and prayed in a Hindu temple carved into a giant cave 247 steps above the ground in Malaysia. All on less pay than most part-time community college instructors. This has been one of the best years of my life, and I cannot say enough about the people I have met here and the customs and ways of the people of Indonesia. Yes, there are big problems with illegal deforestation, pollution, terrorism, worker exploitation and corruption. But the day-to-day people you meet as you go are kind and giving. This is the largest Muslim population in the world, which might worry some Westerners, but most Muslims behave just like anyone we know in the Western world. That's an important lesson to learn about Indonesia and about a religion many of us know very little about. The majority of the people here are respectful and honest. They work hard and they love their families. They don't believe in terrorism as an answer any more than I do, and we have a mutual understanding about our differences. I'm lucky to have lived here because not only did I become a better teacher, I became a better citizen of the world.

## Alumni Notes

### 1947-1970

**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.

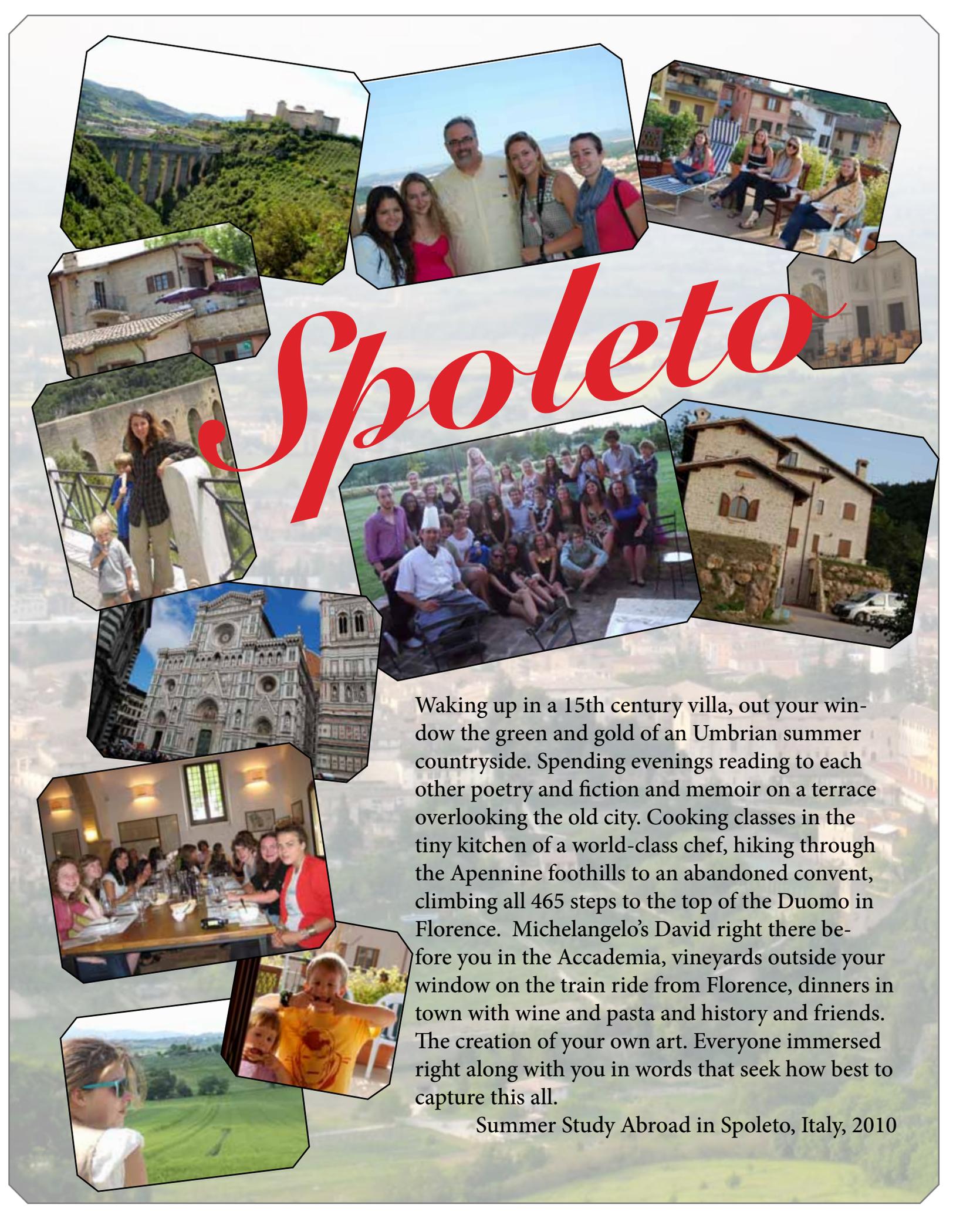
**William D. Hilton '51**, whose nickname in school was "Shakespeare," served two years in the army, then worked 39 years with American Mutual Fire Insurance, where he eventually served as Senior Vice President for Sales and as a member of Board of Directors. He also served as President of Charleston Lions Club, the Charleston Sales and Marketing Club, and the College of Charleston Cougar club. He served on the College Foundation Board for eight years and received the Alumni Award of Honor, which he says was a very special distinction. He is married to Joyce Duncan. He is now retired and

has three children and six grandchildren.

**Stephen Langton Thomas '62** went to Navy Officer Candidate School after graduating and spent ten years as an officer in the Navy, followed by 20 with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the first four as a claims examiner, then 16 evaluating disability claims. He retired in September 1994.

**Jo Anne (Baker) Thompson '63** is retired.

**Frances (Wilder) Townsend '64**, who also earned an MA in History from the College in '93, retired after teaching for 27 years at Summerville High School and spent ten years as an Assistant Program Director for AmeriCorps NCCC. She has been elected three times to Board of Trustees, Dorchester School District 2, for which she now serves as Chairman. She and her husband, Evans Townsend '64, have two grown children,



# Spoleto

Waking up in a 15th century villa, out your window the green and gold of an Umbrian summer countryside. Spending evenings reading to each other poetry and fiction and memoir on a terrace overlooking the old city. Cooking classes in the tiny kitchen of a world-class chef, hiking through the Apennine foothills to an abandoned convent, climbing all 465 steps to the top of the Duomo in Florence. Michelangelo's David right there before you in the Accademia, vineyards outside your window on the train ride from Florence, dinners in town with wine and pasta and history and friends. The creation of your own art. Everyone immersed right along with you in words that seek how best to capture this all.

Summer Study Abroad in Spoleto, Italy, 2010

Alicia T. Wilson and Evans Townsend '92.

**Patty (Tricia Ricketts) Scarafile '66** is the CEO of Carolina One Real Estate. She is married to Vito Scarafile and has four children and four grandchildren. She lives in the Old Village of Mount Pleasant.

**Louanne Lyles '69** is VP of Operations for Avalis Wayfinding Solutions, Inc. After more than ten years in corporate American in the tax end of banking, she joined her husband in his business, which he has now had for twenty years. One of her four children decided to join the business 13 years ago, making their manufacturing facility a "family business."

## 1971-80

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

**Stacie (Sonnek) Sandifer '71** has a solo practice in family law and wills and trusts and is currently doing volunteer work for Bay Area Legal Services, providing pro bono counsel in family law. Her husband and she have a non-profit called Comfy Creek. Yearly, they collect new stuffed animals, which are given to Circle of Care. Circle of Care provides help for children with terminally ill parents. They were very proud to have collected 836 stuffed animals after Hurricane Katrina, which were sent to a hospital in Baton Rouge.

**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. She misses teaching and her students but still keeps in touch with many of them. She and her husband, David L. Morrow, CEO of Crescent Bank and Executive VP of Carolina Financial Corporation, have two sons who are also College of Charleston graduates, Jennings and Griffin. Nancy and David spend their time between Myrtle Beach and Charleston.

**Joe Sylvester Jones '74**, who earned his Master of Communication degree from the University of South Carolina in 1976, owns an association management and public relations firm that he bought in 1982. Over 28 years, Jones, McAden & Associates ([www.jma-associations.com](http://www.jma-associations.com)) has served numerous clients providing public relations, public affairs, meeting planning, grassroots campaigns, media work, publishing client directories, newsletters, websites and member alerts, and day-to-day association management. Also, JMA publishes *South Carolina Legislative Handbook* and *SC Guide: Complete Media Information*.

**Nancy "Nan" (Pinckney) Boyne '75** has taught preschool Drama and Music at Arts Together in Raleigh, NC for almost 20 years. Prior to that she was Claim Director for Equifax, Inc. She and her family moved to Raleigh in 1977 so her husband, Jack (BS-Biology, College of Charleston), could go to graduate school

at North Carolina State University. She and Jack still live in Raleigh and have three grown sons and two grandchildren. She volunteers at local theaters and historic sites and serves on several local boards.

**Carol Joy (Mackey) Hume '75** has remained in Charleston since graduating, at first teaching middle school social studies and a few English classes, and, since 1983, serving as a middle school counselor. She earned an M.Ed. in Counseling from The Citadel in 1981. Her husband of 33 years, Corey Hume (College of Charleston '76), and she have two children: Elaine, 27, and David, 21.

**Theodore Eugene "Ted" Zorn '77** completed an MA and PhD in Communication Studies at the University of Kentucky. He taught at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill for 11 years and then moved in 1996 to the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand. He has published more than 40 articles in scholarly journals, co-authored a best-selling textbook entitled *Organizational Communication in an Age of Globalization*, has received over \$3M in research grants, was editor of the journal *Management Communication Quarterly*, and received the Frederic Jablin Award for Outstanding Contribution to Organizational Communication in 2006. He is currently chair of his department.

## 1981-90

**Leigh (Jones) Handel '81**, who graduated in 1985 with an M.A. in Journalism & Mass Communications from University of South Carolina, is Director of Communications and Public Programs at Historic Charleston Foundation.

**Jeanmarie Lifchez '81** owns Star Music Company in Columbia, South Carolina.

**Sharon (Odom) Infinger '81** has been in Charleston since graduating. She married Marvin Infinger in 1985, and they have 3 children. Graham, 22, by the time this is published, will have graduated from Harvard College with a degree in Economics. Emily, 20, has just finished her sophomore year at University of South Carolina and is majoring in Art History with a minor in Spanish. She is looking forward to helping Callie Shell some this summer. Charlotte, 17, is a rising Senior at Porter Gaud School. Sharon has been a stay at home mom with the exception of working for 10 years, very part time, for a dear friend who is an Art Conservator in Charleston, with whom she still meets weekly to paint and to visit.

**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

Paul Allen, continued from p. 2

Wrong. Paul retires at the rank of full Professor, and, of course, the teaching ban did not stick for very long. Within a couple years of returning from Florida in 1976, Paul was teaching Creative Writing courses and working hard to improve student writers' experiences at the College. He brought in writers from outside to read their work and to interact with students, as had been his experience in undergraduate and graduate school. Paul still recalls an electric reading at Huntingdon by James Dickey, who sat in a chair atop of a desk, commanding a packed room (and all the time Paul was thinking as he watched, "that's what I want to do!"). The first reading Paul organized was by the late poet Richard Eberhart, one-time Poet Laureate of New Hampshire,

and other well-known writers were to follow. Securing funding for the first readings was no mean feat. Once, Paul even filled a funding gap with a donation from the budget of a newly formed student soccer club. He also helped student John Aiello

start up *Miscellany: The Literary and Art Journal of the College of Charleston*, which just came out in its 30th volume and which features writing and artwork by students at the college.

Not teaching this year is going to be a strange thing for Paul, so permeated is he with the habits and thinking of a teacher. "Even now, as I'm reading stuff--it's really funny--I'll mark something in a book, thinking, 'Oh, I need to tell my students [about this].'" Even as he was teaching his very last classes this spring, he says that

he found himself frequently thinking things like, 'OK, next time, I'm going to have to do so-and-so before I do this lesson.'" And Paul knows that when classes start again this autumn, the excitement of ramping up for the fall semester isn't going to suddenly disappear; rather, "come fall, it's going to feel like a shock." While many of the things he has been doing over the past 36 years, he'll still be doing--reading and writing, performing songs and public readings of his work--something central to his life will not be there for him: "I'm really going to miss the students."

What I have relayed here from my conversation with Paul doesn't begin to take the measure of a brilliant career. His numerous articles, essays, and poems published in some of the best journals, three books of

poetry, three CDs, and prestigious awards and honors all testify to that. If you would like to know a little more about these, I would suggest a visit to Paul's website <<http://allen.people.cofc.edu/>>. While you're there, I highly recommend watching the videos

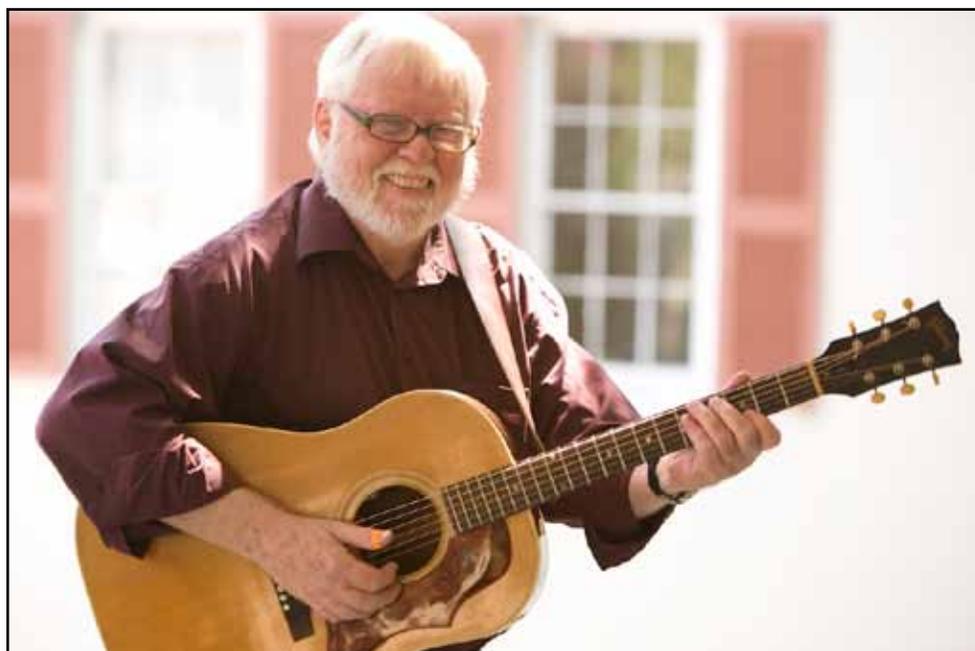


Photo by Leslie McKellar

of some of his recent readings/performances. In one of these, Paul introduces a song by talking in a general way about his work, much of which, he says, "has to do with things not working out like we thought they should or we thought they would or we thought they are." But even though, as the song's title has it, life "ain't the way that [he] wrote it," Paul would be the first to say that it's been pretty damn good.

-- J. Michael Duvall

William Russell, continued from p. 4

things she knew.

**JMD:** Can you say a little bit more about your attraction to studying the Renaissance?

**WR:** Initially, like I said, it was aesthetic. These works called to me, and I followed the call. Once I began to study the intellectual history of the period, I was hooked. Scholars sometimes narrate that history as the story of a single powerful idea, the idea that the past is radically different from the present. It inspired the humanists to reassess their understanding of classical and sacred texts. And if it's a broad stroke, it's not an exaggeration to say that it paved the way for the Renaissance, the Protestant Reformation, and the Scientific Revolution. At the end of that line you find Milton writing about Galileo in an epic poem based on Genesis. It's thrilling.

**JMD:** Now that you've been teaching for a year, can you tell me about a couple of the high points for you?

**WR:** Sure. At the end of the first book of Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, which we read in English 314 last fall, the Redcrosse Knight battles sin in the form of a dragon. This is one of the greatest dragons in all of literature. Spenser puts everything he's got into making it as huge and as terrifying as the idea it represents. But my undergraduates were undaunted by the dragon and unmoved by the battle. In an attempt to revive the metaphor and galvanize the class, I assembled a terrifying slide show – Hannibal Lecter; Heath Ledger as the Joker, with his torn mouth; the noseless face of Voldemort – and ended it with a woodcut of St. George slaying the dragon. And everybody laughed. The effect was bathos, which is not what I was going for, but it

was fascinating nonetheless. We spent the rest of the class talking about it. My point had been that what Spenser is trying to get at with his monster is the same thing that these other artists are trying to get at with theirs: the disturbing capacity in each of us to hurt, to harm, and generally to act against the interests of the community. If Spenser's dragon had lost his fire, we as readers or movie-goers had evidently not lost our need to face dragons in other forms or to see them slain. We stepped back momentarily from the Renaissance to discuss that need. It was a wonderful class.

**JMD:** Yes, and that the representation has to somehow change or be renewed, since they were laughing at the woodcut.

**WR:** Right. When a figure of evil fails to terrify, it doesn't merely fail to terrify; it becomes hilarious.

**JMD:** Other high points from your first year?

**WR:** Definitely. My Milton course in the spring. Every single day of that course was a thrill for me. And every day I marveled that a room full of men and women in their early twenties were engaging at a personal level with the writings of an eccentric poet who died over three hundred years ago.

**JMD:** And not a poet whom people associate with being interesting, wrongly, of course.

**WR:** Exactly. There's no cultural obligation associated with Milton. This isn't Shakespeare. Day after day I was bowled over by the response. I just couldn't get over it. I hope never to get over it. Here's a student raising her hand because she has something to say – right now! – about a pastoral elegy that Milton wrote in 1637. What could be more rewarding, more validating than that?

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Alumni Notes, continued from p. 8

enrolled in Brenau for their combined teaching certificate/Master's degree program in Special Ed.

**David W. Newton '83** is Professor of English in the Department of English and Philosophy at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton, Georgia.

**Joy Alison Simpson '83** is a fund raising consultant working for herself at Joy Simpson, CFRE, Consulting. She also teaches in the Master of Public Administration program at College of Charleston, teaching courses in

Fund Raising and Marketing, along with Transparency and Accountability for NonProfits. Joy holds Certified Fund Raising Executive certification and has served on the board of the local chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals for the last several years. She also earned an MA in English ('03) from the joint program at the College of Charleston and The Citadel.

**Robert Edward Droste '84** earned a Masters of Divinity (the graduate degree required for Episcopal priests) in 2000. This May, he graduated with the

degree of Doctor of Ministry, Advanced Studies in Congregational Development, from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. His thesis is entitled, "Reaching the Creative Class." Rob serves as a Priest at All Saints Episcopal Church in San Leandro, California.

**Stuart Wayne Bruton '85** is Head Buyer for W. Lee Flowers and Company.

**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 (<http://gosnellandcompany.com>). Gosnell and Company offers marketing and event management services to most of the area's large festivals. Their clients include Charleston Fashion Week, 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 in the summer of 2008. 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 and has two young daughters.

**Susan Hale (Thomas) Braun '86** is a freelance photojournalist living in Alexandria, VA (<http://www.braunphoto.com/>). Her professional interests include human rights, women's issues, poverty and equality.

**Betsy Allen Fanning '87, MA '95** has been married to Jack Fanning for 24 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 Headmaster of Trident Academy in Mt. Pleasant.

**Deborah J. Gammons '87** joined the faculty at the Charleston School of Law in August 2009 as the Acting Director of Diversity Initiatives and as a Visiting Professor. Prior to joining the law school faculty, she served as the Assistant City Attorney for the city of Greenville, SC.

**Devane Alexander Hope '87** runs his own tour business, Savannah Bike Tours ([www.savannahbiketours.com/](http://www.savannahbiketours.com/)), in Savannah, Georgia. He is a former member of the College's Alumni Association Membership Committee (2003-2005). He reports that his English degree has allowed him to fill a number of roles over the years, and he uses his major every day.

**John Paul Samonds '87** received an M.A. in English in 1990 and PhD in English in 1998 from University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. He became the Assistant Director (and is now Associate Dean) of the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College at the University of Mississippi in 1999.

**Sandra Kay Holmes '88** is a realtor with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

**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. Since July 2004, 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 for 15 years. For the past two years, she has been Director of Upper School (grades 7-12). Her husband, Dickie Schweers, and she have a 17 year old son, Diedrich, and a 15 year old daughter, Morgan.

**Stephanie (Dukes) Hinton '89** is a Program Supervisor for the State of South Carolina.

**Rhonda Renee Jennings '89** is a solo practitioner in her own law firm in Charleston, the Jennings Law Firm, where she focuses in the area of workers' compensation. She is also the mother of a two-year-old boy, whom she adopted from Russia in January 2009, when he was just 13-months old.

**Glenn Allen Shedd '89** completed law school at



Catherine Thomas's students at Platform 9 3/4 at Kings Cross Railway Station, London

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 four children: Matt, Jessica, Savannah and Dyllan.

**Kevin Craig '90** is in his first year at Clemson, pursuing a PhD in Management and loves his new life in academia. The things he learned as an English major, he reports, are helping him tremendously.

**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/>>.

**Harlan D. Whatley '90** moved to New York City after graduation, where he earned an MFA in Integrated Media Arts from Hunter College/CUNY. He directed and produced some short and feature length documentary videos which won awards at various festivals. His journalism has been published in various print and on-line publications. After 19 years in New York City, he relocated to St. Simons Island, Georgia and recently moved to Savannah, where he is writing both short stories and a novel called *City of Steeples*.

## 1991-2000

**Karen (Douglas) Harris '91** is a 6th grade English teacher in Greenville County Schools. She earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Clemson University in 2008. Her husband, P. Andre' Harris, and she have four children: Andre' II, 13; Simone, 12; Jacob, 9; and Blake, 7.

**Emmet H. Morgan II '91** is Area Director for Lowcountry Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

**Melissa (Shelley) Guillotin '91** works as a Process and Quality Manager with BB& T in the Raleigh, NC area.

**Hope (Norment) Murphy '91**, after teaching high school English and writing for 11 years, took a full time position at John Wesley United Methodist Church as Director of Children's Ministries in 2002. She is married to Michael Murphy and they have two sons: Sam (13) and Andrew (9).

**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.

**Madelyn Anne (Cocke) Caraway '93** lives in her hometown of Memphis. She works part-time at an accounting firm, the Marston Group, PLC. In 2000, she married Kirk Caraway, whom she has known since she was 16 and was in homeroom with him all through high school at White Station. They have two busy, little boys: Caleb (5) & Lucas (4). She just completed chairing the inaugural 5K for the Junior League of Memphis, on May 8th. This event was formed to raise awareness about the epidemic of obesity in children, in which the state of Tennessee ranks third in the nation. A whopping 650 people show up to support the cause and the race was a wild success for the League and for Memphis. She and Kirk enjoy traveling as much as they can and also watching our amazing children grow.

**Katherine Rice (Douglas) Douglas-Miko '93** works for Argosy University, where she intends to finish a Masters degree in Education (she attended one year at Clemson).

**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 (12), RJ (11), and twins, Rayna and Raylen (4).

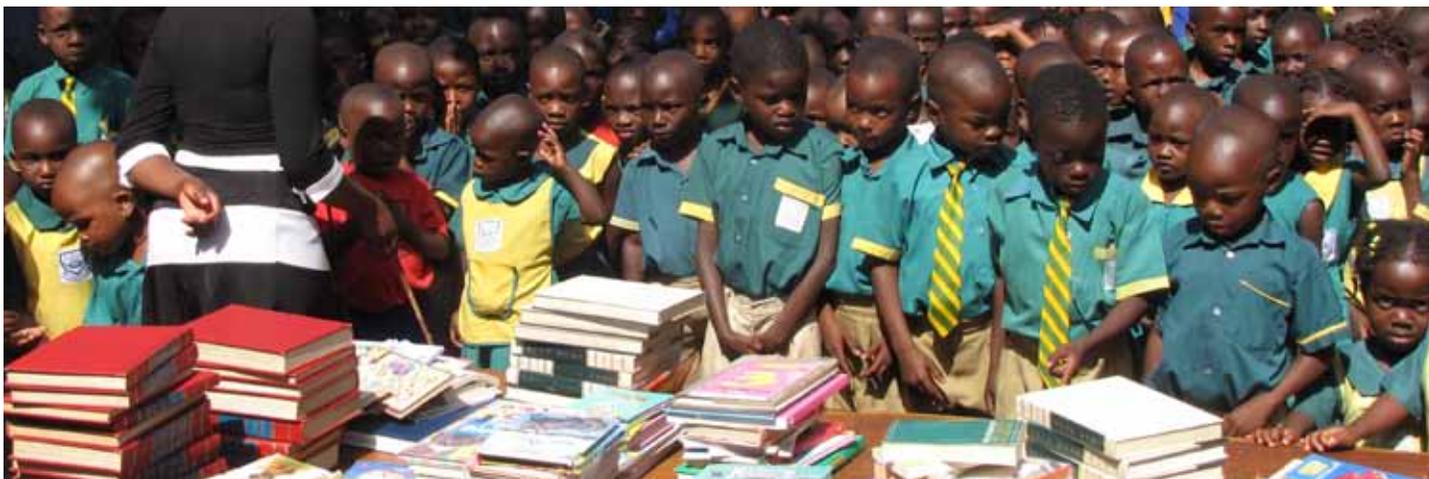
*See the next page for a feature on Tiffany's work in Uganda.*

**Catherine M. (Hedgepath) Dingle '93** is a partner in the law firm of Thompson & Henry, P.A., in Conway, SC.

**Jonathan E. Kerr '93** was married in 1999 to Kimberly and has one child, Aeden. He has since moved about the country coaching various rowing programs and was instrumental in helping Community Rowing, Inc. in Boston continue and eventually build a boathouse. Since then, he has moved on to running a youth center in Acton/Boxborough. He has also continued to run an independent music company and record label, Zogo Entertainment, Corp. and has worked with numerous bands since graduating.

**Robyn Y. (Palmer) Moore '93** is an artist and owner of Robyn Y. Palmer Designs at [www.artofrobyn.com](http://www.artofrobyn.com), offering watercolor prints, greeting cards, and stationery celebrating and focusing on the beauty of women.

**Mary Dee (Petty) Revan '93** is an AP English and



# *From Boone to Uganda*

As a professor at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, Tiffany (Hammond) Christian ('93)

Tiffany (Hammond) Christian ('93)

Christian ('93) was asked by her students to explore the idea of leading a student trip to Uganda in East Africa. That seed, planted in October of 2007, has blossomed into a yearly service learning program that, over the past 3 years, has taken over 20 students to do volunteer work in rural Uganda. Some of the program's successes include building 9 outhouses, 1 brick house, and 1 mud hut; donating 5 pigs for an animal husbandry program; and starting a lending library with over 200 books. In addition, each year Tiffany's students spend time in the schools, encouraging children to continue their education. They also help support women's empowerment programs through health education and buying most of the souvenirs from entrepreneurs in the village.



Tiffany's work in Uganda has inspired her to start her own nonprofit, Youth 4 Uganda. Her dream is that through this organization, she will be able to provide financial assistance for middle and high school students to travel to Uganda to volunteer.

After taking her own 11 year old daughter in 2009, Tiffany is convinced that the way to reach youth in our country is to give them an opportunity to experience life in other countries. "My daughter has a deeper appreciation for what it means to live in poverty but she also understands what it means to be content with what you have. That is something she can't learn in a book," she says.

"This is never what I had planned to be doing, but it's exactly what I'm supposed to be doing!" Tiffany says. She goes on to add, "When I was a student at C of C, I had several chances to learn, firsthand, what an impact one person can make. There are so many people that changed my life for the better while I was there- the least I can do is try to be a similar influence for someone else." Tiffany does not know what the future holds but she is confident that she will continue to work in Uganda and keep working to change the world, one child at a time.



Tiffany Christian with her daughter at the brick house they helped build

Honors British Literature instructor at Paul M. Dorman High School in Spartanburg, SC. Since graduating, she has completed a dual Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction and Administration and Supervision and obtained her certification in college placement and advanced placement English Literature. Currently, she is completing a doctoral degree in secondary Curriculum and Instruction with the University of Phoenix. She has been married since 2005, and her husband, David, and she are adopting their first child, a four year old boy, in June of this year. They have been his foster parents for over 2 years. They have children from her husband's first marriage: Lawson, 25, who is in law school, and Ali, 23, who just graduated with an AA in Nutrition.

**Tammy (Raabe) Rao '93** moved to Boston after graduation to meet in person her future husband, whom she met online in January 1993, in her final semester at the College of Charleston. After a brief stint in Minneapolis while he worked on his Masters degree, they settled in Boston (Arlington to be exact), where they still live. After managing a small creative services team for a strategic management consulting company, she was laid off in 2002 and began her own design and photography business, rubicat.com, in 2003. She enjoys the online nature of what she does, the ability to work from anywhere in the world with an internet connection, which makes it easy to travel. She almost published *Smitten Kitten: I'm Too Swanky for my Catnip* (on amazon.com) in 2008, but the publisher decided to stall publication indefinitely. Her photography has been featured in several "Happy Healthy Pet" books by Wiley Publishing, and she has won two Beantown Tails Reader's Choice awards for pet photography. She volunteers for Underdog ResQ (underdogresq.org), and produces their yearly calendar. She also serves as the designer, editor, and coordinator of a monthly town calendar for her community, via Arlington Community Network (arlingtoncommunitynetwork.org).

**Joseph Steven Renau '93** is Associate Director of Communications with Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP in New York City.

**Ingyrd (Cohen) Masters '94** says that she never would have imagined that life would lead her to be a stay-at-home mom. She loves every minute of it. The most fascinating part, she notes, is that she get to use her English major and Communications minor to help at our children's' school. As a PTO member, she works on the website, newsletter, press releases, grant writing, and so on. She uses her skills to raise valuable funds and improve the quality of the education at her children's' school.

**Michelle Asha Cooper '95** is President of the Institute for Higher Education Policy (www.ihep.org).

**Katherine Elizabeth (Cleland) Williams '96** is Home Equity Product Manager with Wells Fargo.

She started working in banking right after graduation and has been with Wachovia/Wells Fargo for 13 years. She married in 2003 and has two wonderful children: Michael Edward Williams III (5) and Elizabeth Grace Williams (3 and a half).

**Katharine Mitchell '96** earned an MA in Literature from the University of Mississippi and an MFA in Fiction from the University of Montana.

**Delacey Ann Skinner, MA '97** is living in Washington, DC, working as a political media and communications consultant. She is VP for +gmmb, inc.

**Ray Edward Tanner '97**, joined the Army National Guard and became a Recruiter in 2005 after teaching in the Berkeley County School District for six years. He and his wife, Dawn, are about to celebrate their tenth anniversary, and they have two wonderful boys, Ret and Reed. Ret is a 7 year old scientist-in-the-making, while Reed is showing promise in the arts; he's quite the reader (and clown) in his pre-K class.

**J. Clayton Wine '97** is a Computer Support Specialist with the Charleston County Government, specializing in grant writing, technical writing, and serving also as geographic information systems analyst and damage assessment coordinator.

**Denise (Johnson) White '98, MA '00** is a PhD candidate in Medieval and Renaissance literature at Georgia State University in Atlanta. She serves as Lecturer in the Department of English at Kennesaw State University. In addition to working full time teaching freshman and sophomore-level composition and literature courses, she also does cat rescue for a local humane society. She also serves as co-advisor of the Kennesaw State University chapter of the Student Veterans of America. She will be graduating with her PhD from Georgia State University in December, 2010.

**Katie White Kellett '98** has been with Arcadia Publishing in Mt. Pleasant, where she is now Director of Publishing, for 12 years. Arcadia is the leading publisher of local and regional history in the United States. Katie and her husband are expecting a daughter in July.

**Amanda Christine (Geohan) Gil '99** is Interlibrary Loan/Access Services Manager for Beneficial-Hodson Library, Hood College.

**Emelie M. (Kent) Agosto '99** works as a paralegal for Krawcheck & Davidson, LLC.

**Tiffany (Lauderdale) Phillips '99** has been practicing law for 8 years, specializing in long term care litigation. She also has a small photography business, Paper Boat Photography. Links to her photography and creative writing are on her blog <www.teaworthy.blogspot.com>.

**Lee Robinson '99, MA '06** moved to Columbus, Ohio, in 2006 and began working for McGraw-Hill Education as an Editor. He worked at first in their SRA department, copywriting, editing and proofreading

content for one of their direct instruction programs. In 2007, he transferred to the Science department, where they developed state-specific textbooks for New York, Ohio, Mississippi and Tennessee. Now, he is working for Cardinal Health as an editor. He writes, edits, proofreads, and approves content for a consumer ordering web site (cardinal.com), and creates audience-specific medical products catalogs for the pharmaceutical and medical divisions. He also does a fair amount of volunteering through the employee resource groups.

**M. Evan Lacke '00** attended law school at the University of South Carolina and earned his LL.M. in Taxation from New York University. He practiced in Charlotte, NC for awhile prior to returning to Charleston, where he now works as an attorney in the Law Offices of L.W. Cooper Jr.

## 2001-09

**B. Ellen (Barbara Ellen Cochran) Kuendig '01** went to law school at the University of Kentucky College of Law, earning her JD in 2005. She now works as an attorney at law for Golden and Walters, PLLC in Lexington, Kentucky.

**Courtney Davis '01** is a freelance consultant, splitting her time between copywriting, PR, and journalism. She recently had an article published in the *Dallas Morning News* (cover story of travel section) on chocolate ([http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/fea/travel/thisweek/stories/DN-belgianchoc\\_0314tra.ART.State.Edition1.98b7cd.html](http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/fea/travel/thisweek/stories/DN-belgianchoc_0314tra.ART.State.Edition1.98b7cd.html)), which she says is entirely appropriate, seeing as she has been living in Belgium for three years. In addition to getting married this past September, she passed the one year mark of being independent. She reports that it is supremely fulfilling to get paid to write, but to do so for a range of clients, on her own time, is surprisingly gratifying. Although the weather doesn't quite compare to Charleston, this is the most content she's been in years.

**Michelle Lynn Torres '01, MA '10** is married to Ivan Torres, and they have a 15 year old son named Ian. She has been an IT Manager at Hood Law Firm for over six years and still loves it. Pursuing an MA has been a challenge for the entire family, but Michelle notes that she found out how truly blessed she is in her husband, son, extended family, and friends. Their support and understanding got her through the *very* long days. She says "I graduated yesterday and can tell you, it never gets old to walk across that stage. Thanks CofC for

providing me with such a wonderful opportunity."

**Elizabeth Lynch Williams '01** earned her Masters degree in Library and Information Science from the University of South Florida in 2008 and now works as a research analyst with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLC in Tampa, FL. Her post-College of Charleston professional background also includes stints as a newspaper copyeditor, middle-school Latin teacher, rare-books librarian, and archival worker at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston.

**Nicole Marie Champagne '02**, after graduating, taught English at R.B. Stall High School in North Charleston for four years. While working as a full-time English teacher, she completed her MA in English during the summers off at the Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College, in Middlebury, Vermont in 2006. After graduating from Bread Loaf, she moved to New York City and began a new job teaching English

at Newark Academy in New Jersey where she has been for the last four years. While teaching at Newark Academy, she had the opportunity to travel for various teaching initiatives to Israel, Ireland, Scotland, and England, and most recently to the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador. After eight years of teaching high school, she is moving to Boston in August 2010 to begin work on an EdM degree in School Leadership at Harvard University. She plans to work in school administration upon completion of her studies and is very excited about this

next move in her career and her studies.

**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.

**Kenneth Gregory Wooten III '02** graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 2005 and began working in the Charleston office of South Carolina Legal Services as a public interest attorney in early 2006, eventually being promoted to Lead Attorney for Probate. He was married in the spring of 2009 (in what he describes as a "Las Vegas elopement"), and his wife and he moved to Glasgow, Scotland that fall to attend the University of Glasgow. She is working on a LLM to supplement her JD (Charleston School of Law '09) and he is studying toward a MLitt in Literature, Theology and the Arts. He says "I always think of my time in the College of Charleston English Department very fondly. Because of the critical thinking, close



Students ring the Birnam Oak, supposed to be a last vestige of the Birnam Wood of *Macbeth*

reading and structured writing that the Department provided--especially Drs. Ward, Harrison, and Bishop Hunt--[I have] succeed since then. My education from CofC really was second to none!"

**Brittany McLean Buguey '03** is living on Bainbridge Island, Washington with her husband Matthew and recently completed a Masters in Teaching from City University of Seattle.

**Emily Kay Cunningham '03** is UK Market Product Manager at Blackbaud in London.

**Robin Amy Franco '03** after graduating from Tulane Law School, moved to Birmingham, Alabama, where she has now been practicing health care law for three years. She is currently an associate attorney at Balch and Bingham, LLP, in Birmingham, Alabama. She is engaged to Clayton Bromberg, an attorney from Jacksonville, Florida.

**Cindy Lawson Hollis '03, MA '05** reports that she has the privilege of teaching Honors English I, a survey of World Literature, at one of the best high schools in the country. Her proudest moments are watching her students grow into themselves as readers, writers, and analytical thinkers. It is equally rewarding, she notes, to have former students come by to ask her to read their essays or simply to bring her up-to-date on their accomplishments. She participated in the Lowcountry Writing Project Invitational Summer Institute at The Citadel in June 2009, where she worked with and learned from terrific teachers from the tri-county area, fed her own desires to write, and discovered many new ways to incorporate writing into her classroom. She extends her warmest and most sincere thanks to all the College of Charleston English professors she had while earning her BA, MA, and MAT: "You inspired me and rarely does a day go by without a thought drifting towards one of you."

**Katherine Scott Crawford, MA '04** teaches as an Adjunct English Instructor at Brevard College but has taken a "leave" because of having a baby. She will be back teaching in Fall 2010. In her creative career, she has had some accolades of which she is proud: she won full fellowships to the Montana Artists Refuge (where she was a 2007 Writer-In-Residence) and the Vermont Studio Center (fiction resident in 2008), and she was the recipient of a 2007-2008 North Carolina Arts Award by the North Carolina Arts Council. An essay of hers won Third Place in the Santa Fe Writers' Project 2007 Literary Awards Program, judged by Robert Olen Butler. That same essay was published in Columbia College Chicago's *South Loop Review*, Vol. 10. Her literary agent is currently seeking a publisher for her first novel. Her husband and she became the proud parents of a baby girl, Wylie Skye Crawford Dodson, on July 29, 2009. They still love living and working in the mountains of Western North Carolina.

**Thea Star Galliard '04** is a Business Manager at the University of South Carolina, currently handling

an 'A' fund. She will begin a nursing clinical in August 2010 and expects to graduate in December 2011. She volunteered for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society this year, raising approximately \$2,000+. She is also engaged and will marry this year. Finally, she reports that "understanding and caring for a loved one who lost their battle to non-Hodgkins lymphoma cancer will either make you become a better person or a very bitter person. From where I sit, it completely changed me and has made all the difference in my outlook on life."

**Jenifer (Kampsen) Carreras '04** graduated from law school in 2008 and currently works as an attorney representing the state Department of Family and Children Services in juvenile court and child welfare proceedings. She also practices family law and adoption law. She married Jace Paul Carreras in November 2008.

**Donna (Longo) Murphy '04** just graduated from Charleston School of Law, May 2010. During law school, she was active in the Criminal Law Society, holding an office as Treasurer in her 2L year and serving as President in her 3L year. She also served as President of the American Constitution Society in her 3L year. Her other activities included participation on the Mock Trial Team and the Orientation Committee. She is planning to sit for the South Carolina bar in July 2010. Outside of law school, she serves on the board of the newly formed South Carolina Crime Reduction Coalition (formerly named the South Carolina Re-entry initiative), holding the office of Secretary.

**Kimberly (Means) Steuterman '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 Steuterman in October 2008.

**Thomas Bullington '05, MA '08**, begins a PhD program in English and teaching assistantship this fall at University of Mississippi.

**Lindsey (DeLoach) Jones '05, MA '08** teaches British Literature and Advanced Writing at Clemson University.

**Shannon Madden '05, MA '09**, begins a PhD program in English and teaching assistantship this fall at University of Oklahoma.

**Jessica Rivers '05** married Emilio Cobanera on August 14, 2010 in Atlanta, GA. They are both PhD students at Indiana University: Jessica is in the Department of Communication and Culture, Emilio, in the Department of Physics. Jessica received a Master's degree from the Draper School of Humanities and Social Thought at New York University. Her thesis was entitled, "Peering into Urbana: Decoding New York City's Poetry Slam Space."

**Adam Joseph Russo '05** is an attorney with Brock and Scott, PLLC in Wilmington, North Carolina. He reports that he has not started a family yet, but is

continued on p. 18

# A Story from Story, IN



Classical dressage, Victorian literature, Great Danes, local food and great wine shape my current life in “one inconvenient location since 1851.” Nearly two decades after graduating from The College of Charleston, my husband Rick Hofstetter and I live at Story Inn, our B & B in rural Indiana. “No phones, no clocks, no radios, no TV” has been more than just a motto; it informs a way of life in this Depression-era town that now functions as a country inn, restaurant, and our home.

The meandering path that took me from Charleston, South Carolina to Story, Indiana seems surprisingly inevitable in retrospect. When I completed the College of Charleston with degrees in English and French, I was uncertain whether to pursue George Eliot or George Sand in graduate school. Selecting Comparative Literature made deciding irrelevant, so I loaded the VW and made the long trek to Bloomington, Indiana. The dedication of professors such as Dr. Stieglitz, Dr. Uwah, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Goldsberry,

and, of course, the Hunts inspired a love of literature as well as a passion for teaching. I really think that’s what distinguishes CofC—teachers who have a life-long impact on their students. I particularly recall one long afternoon where Bishop Hunt patiently helped me scan Romantic poetry. Many years later, I still use notes from his lessons on Wordsworth and Byron when I prepare courses at Butler University, where I’ve been teaching for the last 10 years. More importantly, I remember how much that devotion means to a student.

Charleston’s rich heritage as a restaurant town coupled with a junior year in Paris cultivated my passion for good food. While attending CofC, I worked at Le Midi, a long-time staple of King Street. Upon moving to Indiana, I sought restaurant work to supplement a teaching assistant’s salary which, unsurprisingly, didn’t quite cover the cost of my love of large animals. In fact, part of my decision to move to Indiana was a desire to fulfill a life-long dream of having a horse. So Puck, a young chestnut gelding, and Petey, a harlequin Dane, and I moved into a 1920s Sears model kit home on 5 acres just a short mile from Story, Indiana and the Story Inn.

In 1997, I met my husband, whose love of old buildings led him to check out one of Indiana’s historical gems. A year later, on Valentine’s Day, he officially acquired the inn while visiting me on a teaching stint at Marc Bloch University in Strasbourg. Shortly after, I returned to the States, and we became innkeepers. In short, my love of nature, animals, local food, good wine, and literature fills my days. Dividing my time between owning the Story Inn, teaching at Butler University, hiking with Great Danes, and studying Classical Dressage on Baroque horses is a lifelong dream come true as well as the culmination of a great liberal arts education from the College of Charleston. The amazing faculty places such an emphasis on intellectual agility and following your passions with moral courage that I credit them with a substantial part of my current storied life.



“inching in that direction.”

**Jon 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 for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, and marrying fellow English alum Emily Oye. At the *Times-Dispatch* he proofreads advertisements, writes promotional features, and coordinates content for specialty sections. (He reports that “it’s kind of like *Mad Men*, without the booze and the womanizing.”) He has had short stories published in *Freight Stories* and the *South Carolina Review*, and he is “trying to talk someone into publishing a novel.”

**Stephen Francis O’Kane '05** is a staff reporter for *The Georgia Bulletin*, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

**Emily Oye '05** graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with an MFA in Theatre in August 2008. She is married to Jon Sealy, an English alum of the class of 2005.

**Ilani Blanke '06** taught high school English for 2 years in Fulton County Schools (in Atlanta). She was recently accepted into the Religious Studies Graduate Program at Georgia State University and starts the program this fall. She hopes to focus on American religion as well as gender roles in religion and will be working as a research assistant this year.

**Kristen Amber Gaetke '06** graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Cleveland, OH and was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in July 2009.

**Kara Nicole Gibbs '06** is a Library Specialist with Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College.

**Heather Renee Klugh '06** stayed in Charleston for two years after graduation freelance writing for *West Of* and interning in public health at the National Association for Continenence. In 2008, she moved to New York where she works as a freelance copyeditor for Random House and as an intern in public health at International Rescue Committee. In 2010, she will begin a Master of Public Health degree at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

**Suzanne Marie Lynner '06** works as an Account Manager at a creative advertising agency in London, England called Masius, which is a specialist business to business agency with clients including Jefferies investment bank, SunTrust, ACE Insurance, KPMG, Eurex derivatives exchange, Fidelity International, Jupiter Asset Management, Kazakhmys, and retail trading platform, Forex.com, part of Gain Capital. She started her career in Masius’ Manhattan office and worked there for 2 years. For the past year and a half, she has been with the Masius London office. Masius is an agency that is part of the Publicis Groupe, which is the 4th largest communications holding company

globally.

**Shannon MacAulay '06** earned an MA at Wake Forest University in English and is currently finishing work on my MA in English Education. She will soon start teaching at Forsyth Country Day in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in the MAP program -- Multisensory Academy of Practitioners -- sharing literature with secondary students with learning differences.

**James L. McCutchen '06**, after graduating, spent two years working as a Legal Assistant for a local defense firm. In 2008, he enrolled in law school at Charleston Law, where he has been named to the Dean’s list three times, served as the Associate Justice of the Moot Court Board, as a member of the Honor Council, and as President of the Student Trial Lawyer’s Association. In May of 2011, he will graduate from law school and hopes to work in public service.

**April JeNé New '06**, since graduating from with her double major in English and Spanish, has been quite busy with her career. She lived in Madrid, Spain for a year, where she earned an MA in Spanish Literature through Middlebury College School in Spain. She then took two years “off” to teach high school Spanish at a small private school near her hometown. Currently, she is a teaching assistant at the University of Kentucky, where she teaches Elementary Spanish language courses while working toward her PhD in Spanish Literature.

**Sarah (Sutusky) Alphin '06** is an associate attorney with Willson Jones Carter & Baxley, P.A. in Columbia, South Carolina, where she specializes in worker’s compensation defense.

**Christina Beth Wilson '06** teaches at the University of Connecticut, where she is pursuing a PhD in English.

**Sarah Elizabeth (Bumgarner) Jenkins '07** is working at a local or branch office of the Social Security Administration as Claims Representative, Social Insurance Specialist. “Although my work has taken me far from where I might have planned,” she says, “I am pleased to know that I represent the face of an agency whose mission is to provide financial security to the people facing hard times: the death of a loved one, severe or debilitating illness or injury, or just the onset of advanced age and the ailments that accompany it.” Her son has completed second grade and will enter the SPICE program next school year. “He’s a great kid, and he still remembers fondly the days when he would ride to the College of Charleston with me, sometimes to attend a class, sometimes to submit a paper, and sometimes just to see the pigeons on the waterfront.” Sarah also married recently.

**Jennifer L. (Cellars) Damewood '07** is a Financial Aid Leader at Paul Mitchell: The School, Charleston.

**Melissa Michele Glasscock '07** teaches English at West Ashley High School.

**Laura (Nichols) All, MA '07** enters the PhD

program in English at the University of Virginia this fall.

**Peter Thomas Phillips '07** lives and works in Charleston, where he is a federal prosecutor focusing on large-scale narcotics organizations.

**Daniel James Powell '07** is in a Master of the Arts program at the University of Victoria in Victoria, British Columbia. Moving to another country and beginning a graduate program was daunting, he says, but as of now he is pretty well established on Vancouver Island. Although there were some adjustments (notably, hills, constant rain in the wintertime, and “cheap” beer that is far too expensive), his fellow graduate students and the faculty at UVic, he reports, have given him a community that he fits into quite well. Besides acting as a Graduate Instructor for several introductory courses, he has just begun work on his Master’s Essay, which will be an article length work focused on issues of linguistic anxiety in the Early Modern drama and non-fiction of Nicholas Udall. Prior to graduate school, he worked as an Editorial Assistant at The History Press, a small publishing house based in Charleston.

**Krystle Danielle Singleton '07** teaches English at Osceola High School in Kissimmee, Florida.

**Erin Marie Walsh '07** moved back to Charleston in January and began the MAT program at CofC for Elementary Education, with an expected graduation date of December 2011. She received the College of Charleston Young Alumni scholarship for the 2010-2011 year. She is working as a GA on campus and volunteering in local elementary schools when she can.

**Danielle Hope Watson, MA '07** is pursuing a JD at the Charleston School of Law.

**Erin L. Workman '07** teaches at the University of Maine, where she is pursuing a PhD in English.

**Chad M. Abushanab '08**, with the continued support of many of his teachers, mentors, and friends in the English department, managed to put together a manuscript of poems that earned him acceptance into Vanderbilt University, to one of the most selective MFA programs in the country. Out of over 620 applications, only 3 students were accepted. Beyond this, he has had two poems published in the online journal *Jellyfish Magazine* ([www.jellyfishmagazine.org](http://www.jellyfishmagazine.org)), founded and run by another College of Charleston alum now pursuing graduate studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

**AnnaKatherine Amacker, MA '08** enters New

England Law School this fall.

**Susan Stephens Campbell '08**, after graduation, traveled to England and France and saw many of the wonderful places she learned about during her time as an English major. She has been working as a secretary at a private equity firm called The Stephens Group, LLC located in Little Rock, Arkansas. She was recently accepted into Southern Methodist University’s Dedman School of Law in Dallas, TX and is making the decision between attending law school or applying to get her Masters in English Literature.

**Shannon Emery '08** is working as the HR/Office Manager for an information technology firm in James Island called Stasmayer, Incorporated.

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

**Audra Ruth Hammons '08** is pursuing an MA in Secondary Education, English at The Citadel.

**Joseph Alan Hasinger '08** was recently awarded a full graduate fellowship at Hollins University, where he will be going into his second year of MFA study. He is currently working on a collection of short stories and will be teaching an undergraduate course on Very Short Forms in Literature and Film at Hollins this January.

**Stokely James Klasovsky '08** is finishing his MFA in Creative Writing, Poetry at Bowling Green State University. He has been awarded a Devine Summer Fellowship Award for 2010.

**Laura T. Leamond '08** has been with Life Cycle Engineering, Inc. for a year and

seven months. She supports Human Resources and is the assistant to the CFO. Last June, she bought a two bedroom Condo on James Island. The most recent addition to her household is her little Corgi, “Alred Le Shrimp.” This July, she will begin Continuing Education Courses at Trident Technical College to become a Certified Graphic Artist.

**Hannah (Metivier) Gompers '08** moved to Charlotte, North Carolina in January 2009, got married to Citadel Alum Jonathan Gompers on June 13, 2009, and purchased a home in Belmont (outside of Charlotte) in late 2009. She went back to school in Fall 09 to get Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification. She has worked as a Sponsorship Development Specialist for the Community Blood Center in Charlotte and was hired by Mecklenburg EMS Agency in May 2010 to work as an EMT-Basic. She will go back to school in two years



Students at Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon, resting place of William Shakespeare

to complete a paramedic certification.

**Kara Mirmelstein '08** is a member of the GreenApple Corps, a 9-month service program focused on ecological restoration and environmental education in New York City.

**Sarah Elizabeth "Sarabeth" Rudd '08** has spent the past two years since graduation exploring her interests in writing, politics, and activism, and has seen these all come together in a unique way. For the first year out of school, she taught 5th and 6th grade humanities for a private school, and loved teaching them the art of fiction writing and seeing creativity blossom in her students. She also began speaking and teaching in public and private schools across the Charleston area about freedom and the U.S. Constitution. She had the honor of being the Regional Coordinator for Campaign for Liberty for SC Congressional District 1, as well as helping to organize the state. She also had the honors of being invited to and attending an advanced political leadership seminar in New Hampshire, as well as being awarded a week of study through the Institute for Humane Studies out of George Mason University and having her blog featured in two fund raising letters for this organization. She is currently volunteering for the Nikki Haley for Governor campaign and is excited about beginning law school this fall at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA.

**Christopher Evan Snyder '08** has been employed as an English teacher in South Korea since July of 2008. Working as a private school teacher has proven to be full of a variety of wonderful experiences. He has taught everything from "See Spot Run" with eight year olds to advanced essay writing with high school students looking to transfer into prestigious international schools. During the summer and winter "vacation" periods in Korea, he has taught SAT test-taking strategies to students who consider places as varied as Dublin, Mumbai, Kuala Lumpur, Auckland, Los Angeles, and even Charleston to be their second homes. Outside of work, he has rigorously studied a form of Karate known as Kyokushin, and he has traveled to Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, and all but one of South Korea's provinces. After he leaves his current job in mid-July, he will travel to Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji before eventually returning to the United States, whereupon he will decide whether he should seek a more "normal" job that future employers in the United States will recognize, apply to graduate school, or repack his things and move to another country for a whole new round of travel.

**Gale M. Thompson '08** is a graduate teaching associate at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, where she teaches both freshman composition and undergraduate creative writing. Most recently, she has received the Deborah Slosberg Memorial prize for poetry at the University of Massachusetts and has been published in places such as the *Los Angeles Review* and *Glitterpony* magazine. She is also the editor of an online poetry magazine, [jellyfishmagazine.org](http://jellyfishmagazine.org). A manuscript of hers has recently been named a finalist for Bateau Press's BOOM Chapbook contest. She lives in Amherst, MA and has recently acquired a kitten named Petey.

**Meghan Welsh '08** has just been sworn in as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Sierra Leone. She will be stationed in the village of Moyamba, where she will be teaching English in a senior secondary all girls Catholic school.

**Joseph David Eugene Bowling '09**, as a graduate assistant for Winthrop University, taught English 100, Introduction to Composition, at York Technical College through an externship program. Next semester he will be working with University College at Winthrop, an organization that coordinates academic programs for students. He is currently working on publishing a paper in *Milton Quarterly*.

**Ryan Marie (Graudin) Strauss '09** is teaching English to kindergarteners in Incheon, South Korea. She also recently had a short story published in the *Elements of Horror Anthology*.

**Mary Emma "Emmy" Gray Hart '09** is working as a substitute teacher in her hometown of Sandusky, Ohio. She is taking pre-requisite courses to get into an accelerated nursing program, which she hopes to begin in January 2011.

**Mary Glenn Keadle, MA '09** just finished helping Dr. Claire Curtis in the Political Science department at the College of Charleston, who is in the process of getting a book published and whom Mary Glenn helped edit the manuscript. She will be moving to Clemson in the fall, so that her fiancée can work on a PhD in Environmental Policy. She asks if any English grads are in the Upstate of SC, to please let her know.

**Amy Melissa Powell '09** recently moved to the Miami/Ft. Lauderdale area and is working for herself as a freelance make-up artist. She is also continuing to contribute to the online make-up community with her blog, <http://amyopoly.com>, and on her YouTube account, username 'amy04.'

**Jacqueline Leanne Smid '09** is a Claimstaker for the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce. She is pursuing a Master of Arts in Teaching, English at The Citadel.

**Heather Steimel '09** is pursuing an MA in English with a concentration in Creative Writing at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, NJ.

## Faculty Notes, 2009-2010

**John Bruns** organized and chaired a panel devoted to Joel and Ethan Coen's *No Country For Old Men* for the Society for Cinema and Media Studies conference in Los Angeles, March 17-21. For the panel, he presented a paper entitled "The Map is Not the Country." In June 24-27, he attended the 22nd International Society for Humor Studies Conference in Hong Kong, where he presented a paper entitled "Last Straws and Final Words: The Language of the Marx Brothers." He also appeared in and provided musical score for the feature-length film, *Republic of Pete*, directed by College of Charleston graduate and Film Studies minor, Jesse Berger ('09). Dr. Bruns will be on sabbatical next year.

**Tim Carens** presented an essay at a conference sponsored by Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies in Austin, TX (Mar 2010). Closer to home, the Center for Creative Retirement in Charleston invited him to give a lecture on "Love, Idolatry, and the Victorian Novel" (Mar 2010). He has two essays forthcoming in the next couple months. The first, "Breaking the Idol of the Marriage Plot in *Yeast* and *Villette*," to appear in *Victorian Literature and Culture*, reflects his ongoing work on Victorian novels. The second, "Serpents in the Garden: English Professors in Contemporary American Films," will appear in *College English*. This essay charts a new interest: trying to figure out why English professors are depicted as drunk, stoned, and horny in so many recent movies.

After a happy year in a spacious new office, he is packing up his books again. During the upcoming renovation of 72 George St., supposed to take only one year, he will be banished to the basement of the old Small Library.

**Bonnie Devet** published an article, "Unpacking Faculty's Questions and Comments about the Writing Center: Advice for New Writing Center Directors" in the internationally distributed *Writing Lab Newsletter* and was asked by the International Writing Center Association to be a proposal reviewer for the 2010 International Writing Center Association Conference. She also presented a paper, "Ecocomposition and the Writing Center," at the European Writing Center Association Conference in Paris, France (2010). The conference, hosted by the American University of Paris, was attended by writing center representatives from 22 countries not only from Europe but also South

Africa, Australia, and South Korea.

**Mike Duvall** presented a paper, "Utopia and Dystopia on Foot: Shoes in Turn of the 20th Century American Fiction," at the annual convention of the American Literature Association in San Francisco in May. He also published an essay entitled "One Man's Junk: Material and Social Waste in Frank Norris's *McTeague*" in *Studies in American Naturalism*. With this, he hopes, for the time being, anyway, to get out of the "waste" business. He is starting research into representations of socialism in late 19th and early 20th century American fiction.

**Julia Eichelberger** is working on a book of letters Eudora Welty wrote to two close friends who shared her love of gardening. Almost none of these letters have been published, and she's been transcribing and researching them with the help of MA student (and C of C alum) Maggie McMenamin and graduating senior Rachel Reinke, who worked with her in the Mississippi archive where Welty's letters are kept. Rachel also worked with Julia's students in a course on Welty that she taught this spring. Since January 2010, Julia has been Associate Chair of the English department, advising undergraduate English majors, evaluating transfer and study abroad coursework. And she has been the scorekeeper for a very distinguished softball team, The Hacks, who took second place in the tournament for the Fall 2009 season.

[An article on the team and its improbable semi-triumph is in the April issue of the *Portico*, which can be found here: <http://spinner.cofc.edu/theportico/archive.html>].

**Joe Kelly** spent a couple of days researching letters between members of James Joyce's family that are archived at Cornell University. He's working on a series of biographical articles on the modern writer.

**Scott Peeples** presented a paper on E. A. Poe and the Charleston Renaissance at the American Literature Association meeting in May. His essay "Poemani'a: Algunas reflexiones acerca del bicentenario en Ame'rica" appeared in a Spanish literary magazine, *Barcarola: Revista de Creacio'n Literaria*, in June. He spent the summer researching mid-nineteenth-century crime novels with senior English major Lauren Swing, funded by a SURF grant.

This has been a big year for **Alison Piepmeier**. The Women's and Gender Studies major made it through the entire state system and will go into



Dr. Bonnie Devet in Paris

effect in fall 2010. Her book *Girl Zines: Making Media, Doing Feminism* was published by NYU Press in November and started receiving reviews in various media outlets (including *American Prospect*) and on feminist blogs. She presented at the National Women's Studies Association, where she is also a member of the Governing Council. Then in December she discovered that she had a brain tumor and was on medical leave for most of spring 2010. She is now virtually fully recovered and looking forward to a fall 2010 sabbatical.

**Kathleen Beres Rogers** has been quite busy with conferences in the past year. She attended the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (SEASECS) with a group of graduate students: Kendall Spillman, Mandy Manoski, Jamie Miker, Magen Stevens, Sydney Walmsley, Katie Halley, and Sarah Orsborn, all of whom presented papers. She then attended the British Women Writers Conference, as well as the Carolina Philological Association conference. Out of these, she produced an article, "Public Intimacies: Frances Burney and Jane Cave Winscom's Accounts of Illness," currently under consideration at *Romanticism and Victorianism on the Net* (RaVoN). Kathy was also selected to attend a competitive National Endowment for the Humanities seminar in Lincoln, Nebraska, this summer. The seminar, "The Aesthetics of British Romanticism: Then and Today" was facilitated by prominent Romanticist Steven Behrendt and lasted for five weeks. While there, she wrote an article, "Embodied Sympathy and Metaphysical Detachment in Crimean War Medical Poetry," currently under consideration at *Victorian Poetry*. She also finished her introduction and is currently working on a proposal for her book about nineteenth-century medical poems and their negotiations between sympathy and detachment (title suggestions are welcome!). Pedagogically, she has been working on her civic engagement course, "Healing Narratives," and has added a new partnership with the Charleston Senior Center (in addition to Odyssey Health Care and Lutheran Hospice), and is planning her dream class on John Keats.

**Myra Seaman** is co-editor of a new journal published by Palgrave, *postmedieval: a journal of medieval cultural studies*, the first issue of which appeared in May, focusing on the question "When Did We Become Post/Human?" In that capacity, she participated

in Rhode Island in a seminar with the contributors to an issue in the second volume of the journal, on the Animal Turn, and attended a seminar hosted by George Washington University's Medieval and Early Modern Studies Institute (MEMSI) on "Messianic Time and the Untimely." In October, she gave a paper at the Southeastern Medieval Association meeting in Nashville and became as sick as she ever remembers being the minute she arrived in Nashville. In November, healthy once more, she attended GW MEMSI's inaugural conference, on "Touching the Past." In March, she attended a conference on the "The State and Stakes of Literary Study" at the National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park, NC, and in April traveled to New York City for a conference hosted by the Medieval and Renaissance Center of NYU on "Medieval Nature and Its Others." In May she was on a roundtable at the International Congress of Medieval Studies and then in July presented a paper at the New Chaucer

Society meeting in Siena, Italy, where she fell head over heels for Italy and is scheming to return as soon as possible. In December she was thrilled to attend the wedding of two English department alums, Renee (Greenan) Lee Gardner and Jax Lee Gardner in Kalamazoo. She also found time to ski at Copper Mountain in Colorado and return to her chosen hometown of Portland, Oregon, and to visit the foreign exchange student from Norway that her family had hosted back in the 80s.



(Left to right) Kathy Beres Rogers with graduate students (Sarah Orsborn, Kendall Spillman, Mandy Manoski, Katie Halley, Magen Stevens, and Jamie Miker) at the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies conference

**Catherine Thomas**

was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor, effective Fall 2010. She published "Poisoned Justice: Passion and Politics in *The Winter's Tale*" in an edited collection and two book reviews in the journal *Theatre Research International*. She also won this year's Distinguished Advising Award for faculty. This summer, Dr. T. is looking forward to doing research on Shakespeare cartoons at Ohio State University's Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and to taking another group of students to the U.K. for her British Studies consortium class, "Love, Sex, and Desire in Shakespeare." Her two cats are planning to mutiny while she is away.

**Chris Warnick** presented research on first-year writing at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Louisville and the Carolinas Writing Program Administration Conference in Little Switzerland, NC. His essay "Locating the Archives: Finding Aids and Archival Scholarship in Composition

and Rhetoric” was published in the edited collection *Working in the Archives: Practical Research Methods for Composition and Rhetoric* (Southern Illinois UP), edited by Alexis Ramsey, Wendy Sharer, Barbara L’Eplattenier, and Lisa Mastrangelo. When not working, he spends his time learning clawhammer banjo, gardening with his wife, obsessively cheering on the Pittsburgh Pirates, and putting together what hopes to be an unstoppable fantasy baseball team.

**Dennis Williams** presented three papers: “The Master (Ghost) Trope: Melville’s *Bartleby, the Scrivener* and Derrida’s ‘Hauntology,’” at the Pacific

Ancient and Modern Language Association conference in San Francisco; “Back to the Future (and/or Forward to the Past): German Romanticism / Idealism and the Recrudescence of the ‘Self,’” at the Philological Association of the Carolinas conference hosted here at the College; and “Double Thinking: Vonnegut’s *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater* and Adorno’s Negative Dialectics,” at the American Literature Association Conference in San Francisco. He is looking forward to teaching two new courses: English 204, “Modern European Literature,” this fall and a First-Year Experience course in the spring, “The Maltese Flamingo: Modern Crime Fiction From Hammett to Hiaasen.”



Catherine Thomas with Ben, the Turkmenian Eagle Owl, at Arundel Castle, West Sussex, UK