This issue of our newsletter is dedicated to Dr. Karen Lynn Cajka (1966-2011).

Inside this issue:
- Message from the Chair
- New Faculty
- Undergraduate Major Activities
- Faculty Activities
- Departmental Awards
- Minor Programs
- Grad Student Activities

Department of Literature and Language
East Tennessee State University

Faculty Mourns Loss of Beloved Colleague, Dr. Karen Lynn Cajka

Dr. Cajka dedicated herself to the effort to sustain diversity education across the East Tennessee State University campus. In recognition of her ongoing commitment to diversity awareness and her attentiveness to issues of race/ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, and other forms of difference in her course offerings, Dr. Cajka was selected by the President's Council on Diversity as one of a select number of faculty who were invited to participate in The Diversity Infusion Conference on Curriculum. Dr. Cajka not only promoted diversity education but also led the way to a more diversity-affirming university climate by proposing, designing, and teaching the first course in Gay and Lesbian Literature in the history of ETSU. Due to this course's subject matter and the rigor of investigation that Dr. Cajka brought to it, it is now a regularly offered and highly popular course in English and Women's Studies.

In addition to championing diversity issues through the multiple leadership roles she held in English and Women's Studies; her service on university, college, and departmental committees; and her active research that sought to recover women's writing from the Eighteenth Century, particularly her dissertation at the University of Connecticut and continued research and writing on The Forgotten Women Grammarians of Eighteenth-Century England, Dr. Cajka was a brilliant, innovative, challenging, and compassionate classroom teacher. Dr. Cajka's commitment to her students was obvious to everyone who knew her, especially her students, and her classroom was one that feminist scholar/teacher bell hooks would describe as "transformative." The Bristol YWCA recognized Dr. Cajka's achievements in education by (cont.)
Cajka (continued)

naming her Woman of the Year in 2009.

Social justice, tolerance, and diversity were not merely causes for which Dr. Cajka brandished a flag on special days or at highly visible public marches; they were the ideals that framed the way she lived her everyday life. In the forward to This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color, Gloria Anzaldúa writes that words without actions are empty, and urges us to put our words into action. Dr. Cajka was the embodiment of what Anzaldúa is trying to articulate. It was not only in bold strokes of resistance but also in the small, maybe even overlooked, daily acts that Dr. Cajka provided a role model for us all. Dr. Cajka promoted not just causes but people. On occasions too many to list, Dr. Cajka promoted the work of junior faculty as well as her students, mentored her colleagues and advises, and extended the embrace of inclusion even when it may not have been popular to do so. Dr. Cajka was a woman whose life imitated her words and whose words became her life. Dr. Cajka’s service to ETSU and the larger academic community, her work with and support of her students, her commitment to family and friends, and her daily life epitomized a life well lived. Her presence continues to enrich our lives.

--Phyllis Thompson

The establishment of The Dr. Karen L. Cajka Memorial Scholarship Endowment provides scholarship assistance to deserving students in the Literature and Language Department and/or Women’s Studies Program at ETSU. This endowment is created to provide funding for students of merit. Please contact Dr. Phyllis Thompson (thompsonp@etsu.edu).

Message from the Chair

Since our 2009 Newsletter, the ETSU Department of English has merged with the Department of Foreign Languages to become the Department of Literature and Language, developed new minors and hired new assistant professors, lecturers, and post-doctoral fellows. We’re thinking about seceding from A&S to become our own College!

Regrettably, the most significant news item for this letter is about our loss—the sudden death of Associate Professor and Director of Women’s Studies Karen Cajka, Ph.D. in English from the University of Connecticut. Her achievements are described above.

More pleasant news items include our ability to hire new faculty in the current unfriendly budget climate; and our post-doctoral hiring program is providing us with highly qualified faculty possessing terminal degrees, for two-year contracts. We have also added lecturer Nadège Dufort in French, and will be hiring new lecturers in Spanish and Japanese this month.

New retirees include Marcia Songer, Ron Giles, and John Morefield; Bonny Stanley is just completing her post-retirement position this spring. Thus we are continually running searches for qualified faculty—a good problem to have.

As part of the University initiative to provide more opportunities for study abroad, Literature and Language now has language programs on every-other-year rotations for Spanish (this summer in Toledo, Spain, with Ken Hall and Matthew Fehskens), French, and German as well.

Last May 2011, in conjunction with Study Abroad and the Honors College, we offered our third “London Theatre” course (which I taught). Twelve students studied in an international dorm in London for two weeks, attended lectures, and saw a variety of plays, including All’s Well that Ends Well and As You Like It (at the Globe Theatre), Blithe Spirit, A Delicate Balance, and others. Students visited museums and historical sites in London and were able to make weekend trips to Bath, Canterbury, and Edinburgh. The trip was a tremendous success, and Katherine Weiss will be teaching the course in the 2013 pre-summer term.

In the summer of 2011, Dr. Barker (Director of the Film Studies Minor) and Dr. Zimmerman (Honors College) also taught two study-abroad courses: “French Film in Paris” and “Arthurian Literature in France.” English and Film Studies students studied literature and film specific to two very different periods of Parisan history for three weeks. Students attended the Paris International Film Festival as well as numerous historical sites (the Eiffel Tower, Sacré Coeur, the Panthéon, museums (the Louvre, Musée D’Orsay), and cafés in Paris. The group resided in the Montmartre (cont)
Message from the Chair (continued)

neighborhood and some took an optional day trip to Caen, Bayeux, and Mont St.-Michel. Last winter our department was part of a pilot group to offer a few online general education courses during winter break; as part of an innovative summer program, we will offer a variety of course in 2012, including Latin, Shakespeare in Film, Non-Fiction Literary Magazines, and a special TOEFL Prep Course developed by Theresa McGarry. As a TBR mandate, developmental courses must be removed from the 4-year universities by 2013 and replaced with an option for “learning support.” As a response to this new initiative, we have already dropped DSPW 0800 and added ENGL 1010—a workshop required for students with deficiencies in writing, as a co-requisite for ENGL 1011. Our fall 2012 pilot resulted in more students in this category passing ENGL 1010/1011 than generally pass DSPW 0800.

Our minors are also growing. In addition to our traditional minors in English, Spanish, French, German, Chinese and Japanese, we have new not-so-traditional ones: Technical Writing, Film Studies, Linguistics, and now Classics! Our number of majors continues to rise as well, as does overall enrollment, stretching our instructors to the limit and forcing us to offer many courses at “non-prime” times in order to get classrooms.

We have also seen a few administrative changes within the Department. Jesse Graves has taken over as Director of the English Honors in Discipline, Daniel Westover is sponsoring Sigma Tau Delta, Shawna Lichtenwalder is completing her second term as Assistant Chair for Undergraduate Studies, and Katherine Weibel as Director of Honors in Discipline Programs, and Michael Cady as Director of University Honors and Midway Scholars (Michael will be stepping down in July and returning to the department—hooray!) As always, we can’t keep our faculty members out of the clutches of administration because we hire such great people!

We continue to teach distance education courses and have a few lower-division courses online. With extra money the department earned from teaching through Continuing Education, summer school, winter term and RODP, we managed to fund all of our travel and to make some office renovations.

Finally, our current full-time faculty continue to teach, serve the University, and do scholarly and creative work, as you will see from the lists that follow. Many have received research grants, and virtually every faculty member presents papers at scholarly conferences as often as possible. Given that all full-time English and language faculty teach lower-division and writing intensive courses every semester, our scholarly production is remarkable. Our number of majors and student credit hours generated increases every year, and we expect yet another productive year in 2012-2013!

--Judith Slagle
April 2012

New Faculty

Mark Baumgartner joined the Department of Literature and Language as an Assistant Professor in Fall 2011. In 2005 he earned a Ph.D from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas as a Schaeffer/Black Mountain Fellow in creative writing. In 2005 he earned an MFA degree from Bowling Green State University, where his short story collection, Glass Satellites, was nominated for a university-wide Distinguished Thesis award. Stories in that collection have been nominated for national awards, including the Pushcart Prize, and Best New American Voices, as well as published in literary magazines, including The Southern Review, Phoebe, Tampa Review, and Wisconsin Review. He has worked as a fiction editor at Witness, Mid-American Review and River Styx.

Nadège Dufort joined the Department as Lecturer in French in Fall, 2011. In 2008 she earned a Ph.D. in Francophone studies from the University of (cont)
New Faculty (continued)

Louisiana at Lafayette. Her research focuses on French Caribbean and Indian Ocean literatures and the concept of Creoleness. She brings nine years of experience teaching French and Francophone culture at various levels in the US, Martinique, Cuba, and the Dominican Republic. She earned an M.A. in Foreign Languages and Pedagogy in 2005 at the U of Delaware.

Matthew Fehskens studied Spanish Literature and Philosophy at Indiana U-Purdue U in Fort Wayne, IN, and continued his Spanish studies in Alcalá de Henáres, Spain, birthplace of Cervantes. He returned to Bowling Green SU to write his MA thesis on Cuban poet José Martí. He completed his Ph.D. in 2011, with a dissertation on transatlantic Hispanic modernism. Throughout his life he has been involved in theater, music, creative writing, and language learning. He was married in Summer 2011, in Spain, to Isabel Gómez, also a scholar of Spanish literature.

Jesse Graves moved to Johnson City in the summer of 2009 from Knoxville, where he completed his Ph.D. in English at the U of Tennessee. He lives with his wife, Lisa, a school nurse in Greene County, and their daughter, Chloe, who attends University School. He grew up in Sharps Chapel, about forty miles north of Knoxville, where his ancestors settled in the 1780s. Before he returned to Knoxville for graduate school, he lived in Ithaca NY, where he earned an M.F.A. in poetry from Cornell U. and in New Orleans, where he taught for a year as a lecturer at the U of New Orleans. He teaches poetry courses at ETSU and coordinates the Department’s Honors-in-Discipline program, as well as being faculty advisor to Literati, the student creative writing organization, and literary editor of The Mockingbird ETSU’s student literary/arts magazine.

Daniel Westover joined the ETSU faculty after two years as Lecturer at Utah Valley University. He also has an M.F.A. in creative writing from McNeese State U. Before settling in Tennessee, Daniel lived in California, Utah, Oregon, Idaho, Pennsylvania, Arizona, and Louisiana. While working on his PhD at the University of Wales, Bangor, he lived in a cottage on the Isle of Anglesey near the village of Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogogoch, which, as everyone knows, means “St. Mary’s Church in the hollow of the white hazel near the rapid whirlpool and the church of St. Tysilio with a red cave.” He is fluent in Bulgarian, was lead singer of the Utah-based synth pop band Catharsis, and led his college basketball team to the Welsh national title in 2005. He and his wife Mary have two daughters, Eden, 4, and Branwen, 10 months.

Josh Reed, a recent Ph.D. recipient from the University of Kentucky, has been named a Lecturer on the Kingsport campus of ETSU. He will begin his assignment in August 2012.

Honors-In-Discipline

The Honors-in-Discipline program in English continues to grow and thrive in 2012, with enrollment nearing 40 students from several different majors. The program has recently offered its students interesting courses in topics ranging from “The American Dream” to “The American Gothic,” and reaching as far abroad as literature and culture from India, Russia, and Kenya. Dr. Jesse Graves took over coordinator duties in 2011.

Undergraduate Major Activities

Jessica Gilly, a former undergraduate major, is in the Ph.D. program at the University of Manchester.

Adam Lambert received a Pushcart Prize nomination for his poem “Ringling Bridge” (Single Hound).

Elaine O’Quinn, B.A. and M.A. graduate, has received one of seventeen $7,500 awards given to distinguished teachers in its system by the University of North Carolina.

Rachel Parsons placed two articles in Now and Then: “Boogie, Chilluns”: On Saving Mountains and Crossing the Imaginary Line” (Spring 2011) and “Eat What You Are’: Community Supported Agriculture at Oakwyn Farms” (Winter 2011).

Tanner West and other ETSU students attended Mountain Justice Spring Break 2012, a week of service, political action and social justice education held in Appalachia, Virginia.
Faculty Activities


Thomas Burton (emeritus) was Joint Editor and Host of the DVD Ray Hicks and Other Beech Mountain Folks, produced by CASS. His fiction, Michael and the War in Heaven is forthcoming from Overmountain Press. Michael Cody has presented papers at SAMLA (2011, 2012), Society of Early Americanists (2009, 2011), and Charles Brockden Brown Society (2012). He has written a chapter, “Brown’s Early Biographers and Reception, 1800s-1940s,” for the forthcoming Oxford Handbook of Charles Brockden Brown. Dr. Cody was awarded a Student Choice Award by ETSU and its Student Government Association.

Thomas Crafts published “The Occasion of the Morte Arthure Textual History and Marginal Decoration in the Thornton MS” in Arthuriana (2010). He has also received a grant to participate in an NEH Seminar in Rome, entitled “Communication, Empire and the City of Rome,” this summer.

Will Crooke’s article, “Rudolf von Ems’ Der Guote Géhrart: A German Merchant in the Medieval Mediterranean” is forthcoming in Pastmedieval 4.2. Transcultural Middle Ages. Dr. Crooke gave a talk, based on his work as a Dialect Coach for ETSU’s Theatre Division, “What D’you Mean? The Cockney Voice in Harold Pinter’s The Dumb Waiter” at the 2012 MLA conference, and will be on the pre-1700 German literature panel at the 2013 MLA presenting an article in progress, “Subtext(t)e(s): Silt, Women and Marchants in the Hinterland of the Nibelungenlied.” Also at the MLA he will present a paper “Les Obsédés du/des Temps: Weather, Time and Bodily Addictions in ‘Enlightened’ Post-modern/Coloniality.”

Nadège Dufort will present a paper “Regards Croisés sur les Mémoires Africaine et Créole: Une Analyse Symbolique de L’exil du Roi Béhanzin” at the 38th Annual Meeting of the African Literature Association.


Matthew Feskens gave a paper, “The Amistad Funesta of Abel Sanchez: A Transatlantic Reading of the Cainista Novel in Hispanic Modernism” at the Ohio Latinamericanist Conference (2012) He and Dr. Ken Hall will conduct the Summer Study aboard Program in Toledo, Spain. The group will travel throughout central and southern Spain, visiting Cordoba, Granada, Alcalá de Henares, El Escorial, and Madrid.

Faculty Activities (continued)

of Mississippi P. 2012). “The Single Seam in The Double Dream of Spring. Natural Sublime in the Poetry of John Ashbery” will appear in the South Carolina Review. Dr. Graves taught a poetry workshop in summer 2011 at the 34th Annual Appalachian Writers’ Workshop at the Hindman Settlement School, and has given several readings of his poems and essays at conferences and events during this period. He won a College of Arts and Sciences New Faculty Award in 2012.

Kathleen Grover was named a 2011 Notable Woman of ETSU. She presented a paper, “Sense and Sentiment: Conflicting Views on Animals” at the South Central Society for 18th Century Studies Conference (2012).

Darryl Haley judged the international competition for technical manuals hosted by the Society for Technical Communication and was named a member of the Board of Directors and Chief Financial Officer for the Southern Appalachian Film Festival.

Styron Harris, Professor Emeritus and current adjunct, continues his long association with the Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature, published by Cambridge University. He is a Senior Contributor, annotating articles from twenty-five British and American periodicals. He continues teaching British Literature surveys as well.

Jack Higgs is the author of “Stereotypes and Archetypes in Religion and Sports” to be published in Christianity and Sports (Taylor and Francis: Routledge, July 2012) examining how the religions of advertising and sports intersect each with the other. The essay includes Marita Garin’s poem, “The Jesus Car,” which won first place in the Ballad Division in Mockingbird competition in the 1970s. It also contains a tribute to Lyle Olsen and Don Johnson for their leadership in developing the Sport Literature Association into an international organization with hundreds of subscribers to Arête, a journal devoted to the relationship between sports and the humanities.


Don Johnson has published a poetry collection, Here and Gone: New and Selected Poems, and numerous individual poems in journals including Aethlon, North Dakota Quarterly, Shawangunk Review, Now and Then, Kainana, and the Southern Appalachian Poetry Anthology.

Karen Kornweibel published “Daisy Rubiera Castillo’s ‘Mujer Negra’ from Objectified Symbol to Empowered Subject” in Letras Hispanas (2010).

Tess Lloyd is co-editing with Katherine Lefford of Appalachian State University, Appalachian Literature: An Anthology, a comprehensive anthology of Appalachian Literature for the U of Kentucky.

Shawn Lichtenwalner has a review essay of several texts forthcoming in the European Romantic Review and an entry “Welsh Prose” in Blackwell’s Encyclopedia of Romanticism. She presented papers at the International Conference on Romanticism and SEASECS in 2009.

Theresa McGarry co-authored, with Dr. Liyanage Amarekeethi, Beginning Colloquial Sinhala: An Introductory Sinhala Curriculum, published by the South Asia Program of Cornell U. and, with Martha Michieka, “Interaction of Task-Induced Involvement Components in Lexical Acquisition,” Southern Journal of Linguistics (2011). She also was a co-presenter of talks and workshops at the First International and Second National English Language Teaching Conference in Cuena, Ecuador, and the Second Language Acquisition and Teaching Roundtable in Tucson, AZ.

Faculty Activities (continued)

in Kenya” in the Journal of Language, Technology and Entrepreneurship in Africa (2011). She presented papers at the International Conference of English as a Lingua Franca (Hong Kong) and the International Association for World Englishes Conference (Vancouver, CA). In addition, she, along with five colleagues, received a TBR Access and Diversity Grant, “Recruiting Minority Faculty to ETSU—Phase II.”

Raluca Negrisanu and Ardis Nelson will present a poster, “Designing an Online Program: Graduate certificate in Health Care Translation and Interpreting” at the EDUCAUSE Southeast Regional Conference in Tampa, FL. Dr. Negrisanu was also awarded a stipend to attend a Goethe Institute Professional Development course, “Political Berlin,” in Berlin (July 2012).


Robert Sawyer’s Lives of Shakespearean Actors: Charles and Kaan was published by Pickering & Chatto in 2010 and “From Jubilee to Gala: Remembrance and Ritual Celebration” in Critical Survey (2010). He has entries in the Cambridge World Shakespeare Encyclopedia (“19th Century Audiences”) and the Greenwood Shakespeare Encyclopedia (15 separate entries) forthcoming. He reviewed two books on 19th century Shakespeare actors/ producers for Theatre Survey (2010), and gave conference presentations at the World Shakespeare Congress (Prague), Shakespeare Institute (Stratford-on-Avon) and twice at the Shakespeare Association of America conference. In 2010 and 2011 he was a Lindsay Young Visiting Faculty Fellow at the Marco Institute, U of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Anne Sherrill (emerita) belongs to three book clubs, participates as a Standardized Patient in a communication course at the Quillen College of Medicine, and serves on the Advisory Council of the Senior Citizens’ Center.


Katherine Weiss is completing a book, The Plays of Samuel Beckett for Methuen; she received an ETSU Small Research Grant for some of her work. She won the Research Award for 2011.

Daniel Westover’s monograph on Welsh poet R. S. Thomas, R.S. Thomas: A Stylistic Biography (U of Wales P, 2011) has been long-listed for the Wales Book of the Year prize for nonfiction. He presented an invited lecture, “Identity in Performance: R. S. Thomas” at (cont)
Faculty Activities (continued)

McNeese State U. and forthcoming is a paper on Thomas and Geoffrey Hill at the International Conference on Welsh Studies, Bangor, Wales. He recently co-edited a special volume of Literature and Belief dedicated to the work of Welsh poet Leslie Norris, and has received an ETSU Small Research Grant to continue research on Norris. His interview with poet, art critic, and photographic historian John Wood appears in the current issue of Asheville Literary Review, and has poems forthcoming in Devotion: An Anthology of Recent Poets and The Southern Poetry Anthology: Tennessee.

Adjunct/Postdoctoral Activities

**Sean Bolton** has published poems in the Mad Hatter’s Review and Unscroll V. He has presented papers at the MLA and ALA conferences, and has papers forthcoming in Subjectivities: Special Issue on Posthumanist Subjectivities and The Philosophy of the Beats.

**Jessie Bray**’s paper “Thoreau, Animality, and Indians” is forthcoming in Resources for American Literature Study. She has also presented work on Thoreau at the Thoreauvian Modernities International Symposium (Lyon, France), and the MLA conference.

**Tiffany Brown** has presented papers at the SAMLA and TPA conferences and at UNC Greensboro’s Writing into the Profession Conference.

**Pat Buck** is faculty advisor of the student group FMLA (Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance) and has lectured on world literature at the Alliance for Continued Learning.

**Larry French** is a contributing editorial writer for the Johnson City Press, on the “Insight” and “Community Voices” pages. Recent columns are “War Always Seems to Make the Headlines,” and “Music, the Fourth Dimension of Motion Pictures.”

**Jeanne G’Fellers** is working on the fourth novel of her “Sisters Series” of lesbian science fiction.

**Norma Honaker** is faculty advisor of LGBTies, ETSU’s gay-straight student alliance, and has been chosen for a continued Lectureship in the department.

**Laura Higgs Kappel** recently moved to Johnson City after teaching at the U of New Orleans for nine years. One of her class assignments is published in The Curious Writer; by Bruce Ballenger. She was a guest lecturer at the Buffalo Mountain Writers’ Conference in 2010. She is the daughter of Professor Emeritus Dr. Jack Higgs, and is happy to be living close to her parents and the mountains.

**Susan Keller** presented a paper at the Asian-American Studies Conference in New Orleans.

**Abbi Kincaid** attended a class on memoir writing with author Jim Mimick, sponsored by ETSU’s Adult Learning and Professional Development program.

**Kwangsoon Kim**’s paper “Queering Narrative, Desire, and Body: A Reading of Jeanette Winterston’s Written on the Body as Queer Text,” appeared in The Journal of English Language and Literature.

**Lu Livingston** is working on a British MLit in Scottish Highlands and Island literature from Orkney College, Kirkwall, Scotland; her thesis is entitled “The Radical Geographies of Bess Ross.” She is planning to enter the PhD program at the U of Aberdeen, with a particular interest in Scottish writer Robert Alan Jamieson.

**Rod Overaa** has published fiction in Silk Road Review and Zahr. He is an English instructional designer for APEX Learning in Seattle.

**Lisa Speer** is working with Dr. Michael Briggs on a pilot assessment of the ID1 Writing Laboratories for the CCCC.

**Cathy Whaley** and Doris Wyatt, along with Dr. Jack Higgs, organized the Buffalo Mountain Writers’ Workshop (June 2010). Ms. Whaley is co-authoring a book on sports documentaries with Michael J. Peters, and edited David Briley’s Career in Crisis: Paul ‘Bear’ Bryant and the 1971 Season of Change for Mercer University Press

Department Awards Presented

April 11, 2012

Outstanding Undergraduate Student in English: Ashley N. Fox

Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Foreign Languages: Hilary Maitlen

Outstanding Graduate Student in English: Kari Keeling

Mary B. Herrin Memorial Scholarship: Natasha Snyder

Mary and Ambrose Manning Scholarship: Katy Hancock

The Dugger Award: Celeste Murrell

The McClellan Award: Adam Lambert

Jill MacLean Memorial Scholarship: Jennifer Grant

Golde M. Merrill Memorial Scholarship: Chelsea Gilbert

Karen L. Cajka Memorial Scholarship: Shae Keane

William M. Beasley Scholarship: Inga Sarkodie

Eduardo Zayas Bazan Scholarship: Tina Bauthiller and Kimberly Smith

Christa Thysan Hungate Endowment: Andrew Graves, Theresa Lee, and Zane Smith

Congratulations to these students for their accomplishments!
News of the Minor Programs

Applied Spanish
The Applied Spanish Minor continues to contribute to the ETSU and surrounding East Tennessee community through its service-based curriculum. This program is under the direction of Dr. Ardis Nelson.

Classical Studies
The Department of Literature and Language now offers a minor in Classical Studies, our most recently developed program, providing undergraduates at ETSU a platform for the study of the languages, literatures and culture of ancient Greece, Rome, the Latin Middle Ages, and the Jewish and Christian societies of the ancient Mediterranean and Middle East. This minor is under the direction of Dr. Thomas Crofts, who, with Charles Cave, teaches Greek and Latin in regular rotation.

Grounded in the study of one of three languages—Ancient Greek, Latin, or Hebrew—and interdisciplinary by nature, the Classical Studies Minor offers a rigorous, well-rounded course which, in the best tradition of the liberal arts, complements any major field of study at ETSU.

The study of classical languages is itself one of the most effective ways to sharpen English skills, giving polish to spelling, syntax, and style, and illuminating the rules of grammar.

With a requirement of two semesters of language study at the 2000 level, and one required special topics course, the Minor allows the student to pursue nine further credits of electives, taking courses in art, philosophy, history, religion, and literature. Thus, within its own set of requirements, the Minor may be shaped to the particular interests of the student.

Send interested students to Dr. Crofts (crofts@etsu.edu).

Film Studies
The Film Studies Minor has doubled in the last three years and continues to grow. Beginning in the spring of 2013, the newly revised minor will be available for enrollment, including two new courses: Film History and Screenwriting.

Students now also have the opportunity to take classes on narrative and documentary filmmaking with Shara Lange of the Communication Department. The Film Studies Club, advised by Jennifer Barker, has been developing annual film events: Oscars Night, a Halloween movie and music event (Nightmare on Walnut Street) and Film Quiz night. The Southern Circuit Film Series, in its second year, has given students the opportunity to see contemporary independent films and meet the filmmakers. In summer, 2011, members of the Film Club participated in a class on French Film in Paris, directed by Dr. Barker, where they also attended the Paris International Film Festival.

Recent graduates of the program have been pursuing further education and activities in film studies. Mark Hogstrom is currently attending the Emory University Film and Media Studies graduate program. Cory Pratt’s short narrative film “The Gatherers” screened at the Nelson Fine Arts Center, and he has submitted his documentary “This is Kevin” to several festivals.

For more information on the Film Studies Minor, please contact Dr. Jennifer Barker (barkerj@etsu.edu).

Japanese
Several ETSU students of Japanese participated in the fifth annual Tennessee Area Japanese Speech Contest, held at Vanderbilt University on April 7. Zack James, a student in the Advanced Japanese II class, won the “Heart of Japan” prize. The Japanese Minor is under the direction of Ms. Junko Tezuka-Mathes.

Linguistics
The goal of the linguistics minor is to provide students who are interested in linguistics with a distinct, structured way of obtaining a foundation in the field, hence making them competitive for graduate study in linguistics and for graduate study and/or employment in fields where linguistics is a valued expertise. These fields include computer science, sociology, psychology, anthropology, and communications. Very recently established, the Linguistics Minor has already approximately 10 students, from various departments, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of the minor. Faculty include Yousef Elhindi, Theresa McGarry, and Martha Michieka. You can visit our website at http://www.etsu.edu/cas/litlang/linguisticminor/.

Mandarin Chinese
In 2011, the department began its minor in Mandarin Chinese. Under this minor, students learn language, brush strokes, and elements of Chinese culture. The Mandarin Chinese Minor is under the direction of Ms. Lijuan Cao.

Please visit our website at: www.etsu.edu/cas/litlang

Dr. Robert Sawyer performed some “ghostbusting” in research of the Christine Burleson legend.
**Graduate Student Activities**

Tiffany Brown and Kara Keeling were presenters at a SAMLA conference panel on Susan Glaspell, chaired by Dr. Katherine Weiss.


Sean Levinson has edited the 2012 edition of The Mockingbird and has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at Wayne State University.

Richard Parmer has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at the University of Kentucky.

Hannah Ruehl presented a paper on Susan Glaspell’s Trifles at the SAMLA conference. She has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at the University of Kentucky.

Brittany Shope has accepted a position at Tennessee Wesleyan College as College Editor and Web Coordinator.

Natasha Snyder presented a paper at the Sigma Tau Delta convention in New Orleans. Emily Smith presented the papers “Miami Vice: The Role of Immorality and Depravity in Constructions of the Self and Community,” and “Sex, Murder, and Madness: Exposing a Misogynist Culture through Violence in Joyce Carol Oates’s ‘Starr Bright Will Be With You Soon’” at the Miami University English Graduate Student and Adjunct Symposium, and “The Superfluous Man: Ivan Turgenev’s influence on Hemingway’s novel The Sun Also Rises” at UNC Wilmington’s Graduate English Conference (2012). Also this spring Ms. Smith will present her paper “Raskolnikov’s Conversion or Sonya’s Redemption: Moral Transformations in the Epilogue of Dostoevsky’s Crime and Punishment” at the Carolina Emerging Scholar Conference (University of South Carolina).

Leslie Valley has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at Old Dominion University.

**Departmental Highlights**

- **Honor Societies**
  - Kappa Gamma Chapter of Delta Phi Alpha, the National German Honor Society, advised by Raluca Negrisanu and Will Crooke, will induct new members in Spring 2012.
  - Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, advised by Daniel Westover, has visited local schools and clubs to read Poe stories, and in March held its annual book sale, part of whose profits will go to purchase a memorial bench to Karen Cajka. English graduate students Natasha Snyder and Catherine Childress represented the Department at the Sigma Tau Delta International Convention in New Orleans.
  - Theta Pi Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the Hispanic Studies National Honor Society, advised by Katrina Heil, inducted 12 members in Fall, 2011, and will hold another induction in Spring, 2012.
  - Theta Theta Chapter of Pi Delta Phi, advised by Nadège Dufort and Karen Harrington, will initiate 10 new members in Spring, 2012.

- **Language and Culture Resource Center News**
  - Corazón Latino—The Third Annual Latin Arts and Culture Festival will be held in Downtown Johnson City, May 4, featuring Latin, art, dance, music, and food. Kid-friendly events begin at 6 P.M. and music and dance will last until 11 P.M.
  - Cherokee Computers and Communication—a Hispanic outreach afterschool program at Cherokee Elementary School for both students and parents has started a second branch at Woodland Elementary School. ETSU students are encouraged to volunteer for service learning in this program by calling the LCRC at 439-8342.
  - GOAL (Greater Opportunities and Access for Latinos)—The LCRC will launch a redesigned mentoring program in Fall 2012, based on the center’s XCELL Mentoring Program. ETSU student mentors will help Hispanic students overcome language and cultural barriers. It will involve creation and launch of a digital portal of college access information, iGRAD (Insuring Graduation, Retention, and Access for Diversity). This digital curriculum will include bilingual information, instructive motivational videos, and other materials specially targeted to inform parents about the college process.

- **Honors-In-Discipline**
  - The Honors-in-Discipline program in English continues to grow and thrive in 2012, with enrollment nearing 40 students from several different majors. The program has recently offered its students interesting courses in topics ranging from “The American Dream” to “The American Gothic,” and reaching as far abroad as literature and culture from India, Russia, and Kenya. Dr. Jesse Graves took over coordinator duties in 2011.