The Seventh Annual Southern Appalachian Student Conference on Literature

D.P. Culp University Center, 3rd Floor

Reece Museum

April 8, 2017

Conference Registration 8:15 a.m.-8:45 a.m.
(Forum 311)

Conference Welcome 8:45 a.m.
(Forum 311)

Concurrent Session 1 9:00 a.m.-10:20 a.m.

Panel A: American Poetry
Chair: Dr. Jesse Graves
Adam Swift (Undergrad, ETSU), “Different Directions, Distinctly American: Innovations of Robert Frost & e. e. cummings”
Harley Russell (Undergrad, ETSU), “Satire within Twentieth Century American Poetry”

Panel B: Spirituality and Literature
Chair: Dr. Daniel Westover
Gabe Cameron (Grad, ETSU), “‘Photographs on the Wrong Side of Your Eyes’: Spirituality Through Time and the Poetic Imagination of Memory in the Works of Carol Ann Duffy”

Panel C: Milton
Chair: Dr. Joshua Reid
Abby Lewis (Undergrad, ETSU), “Ask and You Shall Receive: The Pathway to Demanding Knowledge in Paradise Lost”
Lindsey King (Undergrad, ETSU), “Sound Symbolism in Milton’s Descriptions of Paradise”
Brooke Johnson (Undergrad, ETSU), “A Destabilizing of Pure Love: The Reader’s Moral Dilemma in Paradise Lost”
Karissa Doughty (Undergrad, ETSU), “The Rebellion of Poetry: Milton as Satan”
Concurrent Session 2  
10:30 a.m.-11:50 a.m.

Panel D: Literature and Film  
Meeting Room 1 (303)
Chair: Dr. Michael Briggs
Sidney Blevins (Undergrad, ETSU), “Convergences and Divergences in *Strangers on a Train*”
Jared Smith (Undergrad, ETSU), “*Frank Miller’s Sin City*: Lost in Translation”
Tucker Foster (Undergrad, ETSU), “Milton and Science Fiction: A Legacy”

Panel E: H.P. Lovecraft and the Gothic Tradition  
Meeting Room 2 (304)
Chair: Dr. Michael Cody
Britani Golden (Grad, ETSU), “Influences of the Underworld: Dracula Son of the Devil”

Panel F: Early Modern Drama  
Meeting Room 3 (305)
Chair: Dr. Fred Waage
Rebecca Delaney Pierce (Undergrad, ETSU), “Multicultural Magic in *Doctor Faustus*: Good and Evil Angels”
Blakeleigh Mathes (Undergrad, King University), “The Different Shades of Lady Macbeth”
Kelci Barton (Undergrad, ETSU), “Paying for His Sins: Connecting *Doctor Faustus* and *Inferno*”
Chris Price (Undergrad, ETSU), “Marlowe’s *Doctor Faustus* and the Sins of His Demise”

Lunch Break  
11:50 a.m.-12:55 p.m.

Lunch Options in Culp: Market Place Cafeteria (Room 389)
Lunch Options in Sherrod Library: Einstein Brothers Bagels (1st Floor)

Concurrent Session 3  
1:00 p.m.-2:20 p.m.

Panel G: Literature, Society, and Nation  
Meeting Room 1 (303)
Chair: Dr. Erin Kingsley
Bradley Hartsell (Grad, ETSU), “Terms of Endearment: America’s Violent Culture Reimagined in Sweden through *Roseanna*”
Erica Seals (Undergrad, King University), “The American Dream”
Ashley Peltack (Undergrad, UNC-Asheville), “‘The Seductive Reduction’ of India: Colonial, Missionary, and Educative Pursuits in *Jane Eyre*”
Lucas Gentry (Undergrad, King University), “Consumerism and Death in *DeLillo’s White Noise*”

Panel H: Ecocriticism  
Meeting Room 2 (304)
Chair: Dr. Kevin O’Donnell
Carly Stolzfus (Undergrad, Milligan College), “A Room of Love, A Room of Suffering: Nature and Well-being in *Hannah Coulter* and *Hawk’s Nest*”
Rebeca Gonzalez-Farias (Undergrad, Milligan College), “Severed Ties: An Ecofeminist Analysis of the Reconciliation of Educational Perspectives in Wendell Berry’s *Hannah Coulter* and Barbara Kingsolver’s *Flight Behavior*”
Sarah Collie (Undergrad, Milligan College), “Reinterpreting Ownership in Feminist Spaces: Partnering with Nature in *Hannah Coulter* and *Flight Behavior*”
Aramis Martinez (Grad, Western Carolina University), “From Salvation to Destruction: Examining the Ecocritical and Economic Usage of Mushrooms and Fungi in *The Road* and *The Last of Us*”

Panel I: Medieval Literature  
Meeting Room 3 (305)
Chair: Dr. Thomas Crofts
Kris Fulp (Grad, Western Carolina University), “‘Al was this land fulfild of fayerye’: Chaucer, Nature, and the Land of Faerie”
Sarah Wolfe (Grad, ETSU), “From Paganism to Christianity in Iceland: Gudrun Ösvifsdóttir in *Laxdaela saga*”
Kelley Reid (Undergrad, ETSU), “The Green Knight and the Spirit of Dionysus”

Panel J: Genre Bending  
Forum (311)
Chair: Dr. Phyllis Thompson
Chelsea Gilbert (Grad, ETSU), “A Different Sort of Monsters: An Argument for Fielding’s *Joseph Andrews* as Horror Film”
Amanda Sawyers (Grad, ETSU), “‘But I’m turning to my verses’: Examining Poetry, Popular Culture, and Personal Experiences through the Lens of *Mad Men* and Frank O’Hara”
Tyler A. Saunders (Undergrad, Appalachian State University), “Rural Queer Spaces in Literature: Finding Home in Dorothy Allison’s *Trash* and Alison Bechdel’s *Fun Home*”
Concurrent Session 4  2:30 p.m.-3:50 p.m.

Panel K: Literature and Philosophy  Meeting Room 1 (303)
Chair: Dr. Erin Kingsley
Rachel Utnage (Undergrad, Western Carolina University), “The Existential Concern of the Absurd and Its Solution of Revolt: An Approach to Modern-Day Human Value Through the Philosophical Literature of Albert Camus”
Andrew Barnes (Undergrad, ETSU), “The Fight for Knowledge and the Ability to Choose in Paradise Lost and Areopagitica”
Emily Williams McElroy (Undergrad, ETSU), “Metaphors and Relationships at the End of the World”
Courtney Barnes-Anderson (Undergrad, King University), “Feminists of the Romantic Period Contributing to the Discussion of Gender Roles”

Panel L: Victorian Literature  Meeting Room 2 (304)
Chair: Dr. David Michael Jones
Kelsey Kiser (Grad, ETSU), “At least you shall have some comfortable food’: The Social Symbolism of Food in 19th Century British Novels”
Jarred Cadwallader (Undergrad, ETSU), “Evolution of Victorian Deaths”
Allison Parker (Undergrad, Austin Peay State University), “Gothic Time in Jane Eyre”
Justin Reid (Undergrad, ETSU), “Mrs. Warren’s Profession: The New Woman and Subverting Societal Expectations of the Victorian Period”

Panel M: From Romanticism to Naturalism: Opposing Perspectives in 19th Century Spanish Literature  Meeting Room 3 (305)
Chair: Dr. Isabel Gómez Sobrino
Olivia Short (Undergrad, ETSU), “The ‘New Woman’ in Emilia Pardo Bazán’s ‘Las medias rojas’”
Sarah Seal (Undergrad, ETSU), “Finding Inspiration in Darkness: The Exploration of Obscurity in Romanticism through the Works of Lord Byron and Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer”

Panel N: NASCAR and Literature  Forum (311)
Chair: Dr. Thomas Alan Holmes
Kara Russell (Grad, ETSU), “‘Good Country People’ in Pole Position: NASCAR Culture as Contemporary Southern Gothic”
Seth Grindstaff (Grad, ETSU), “How the West Stole NASCAR and Literature”
Adam Timbs (Grad, ETSU), “The Intimidator, the Trickster, the American Legend: The Legacy of Dale Earnhardt as Perpetuation of Archetypal Myth”
Terri Simerly (Grad, ETSU), “Balzac of the Racetrack: A Dandy in the Driver’s Seat”

Keynote Address
4 p.m., Reece Museum
“Premodern Environmental Humanities: Or, How Literary Studies Can Save the World”
Dr. Daniel Helbert, University of Virginia-Wise

Keynote Abstract: Scientists from nearly all subfields have, for the past few decades, researched and explained the origins of human-caused environmental disasters and crises in increasingly detailed iterations. Through quantitative and qualitative data analysis, they have determined how we got to this point, how it is likely to play out, and how we might mitigate the damage of the various catastrophes we have collectively caused. They have described—often to the umpteenth decimal point—the when, the what, and the by whom of environmental catastrophe. What scientists cannot tell us—where their data-driven divinations fall short—is why human civilization continues to inflict irreparable harm on our own habitat. To understand the “human driven” portion of the phrase “human-driven environmental catastrophe,” they must ultimately defer to another field.

Environmental Humanities, and especially literary studies therein, seek to fill precisely this gap. This talk will outline the broad ways in which literary studies can provide a much-needed humanistic context to human-driven environmental disaster, with a particular focus on the historical period most responsible for the confines and characteristics of our current anthropocentric culture: the European Middle Ages.

Achievement in Essay Awards Presentation and Reception
Reece Museum, after the Keynote
2017 Essay Judge: Dr. Isabel Gómez Sobrino
Gift Card and Book Drawing
Exhibit: Salvador Dali’s Illustrations to Dante’s Purgatorio
Keynote Speaker Biography

Daniel Helbert currently teaches literature, writing, and humanities at the University of Virginia’s College at Wise. He earned his PhD in English from the University of British Columbia (2016), his MA from Virginia Tech (2011), and his BA from UVA-Wise (2009). Dr. Helbert’s research specialties are the comparative literatures of the British Middle Ages and Environmental Humanism. He is currently working on two book projects: one on the development of the British Arthurian legend along the border between England and Wales titled *The Arthur of the March of Wales*, and another an environmental history of the mould-board plow within medieval intellectual discourse, titled *Ideological Plowshares: Enviro-cultural Catastrophe in the Middle Ages*. He has published on both topics in *Arthuriana: The Journal of Arthurian Studies* and *Studies in Medievalism* among other venues, and he has presented on these topics internationally.

~Thank You~

Our Sponsors:

~Vice President Dr. Bert C. Bach, Office of the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

~Dr. Brian Chisom, Associate Vice President of Roanoke College, in honor of Dr. Chesla Sharp

~Dr. Katherine Weiss and the Department of Literature and Language

Our Support Network:

~Our Colleagues in the Department of Literature and Language, for chairing sessions, attending presentations, and their general encouragement and support

~Dr. Isabel Gómez Sobrino, for judging the Essay Competition

~The Reece Museum staff, especially Spenser Brenner, for hosting our reception

Most of all, we feel privileged to have such talented students participating in this conference.

Thanks to you all—

Conference Organizers:

Thomas Alan Holmes
Joshua Reid
Alexandria Craft