

Faculty & Staff

Arts and Letters

Eric Griffin (English) presented a paper at Cambridge University in a joint meeting of the Renaissance Society of America and the Society for Renaissance Studies, U.K. Griffin also published an essay, "The Specter of Spain in the Colonial Writing of Captain John Smith," in *Envisioning an English Empire: Jamestown and the Making of the North Atlantic World* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005) and a review article on Thomas Kyd in *Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England* (winter-spring 2005).



Kathi Griffin (Writing Center) and four peer tutors—history major Wes French, English major Michael Pickard, and sociology major Megan Parks, all 2004 graduates, and classics major Mike Parks, B.A. 2005—wrote an article, "Becoming Mindful of the Absent Professor: Teacher/Tutor Relationships at a Small College," which has been accepted for the fall 2005 edition of the *International Writing Center Association Newsletter*, Purdue University. In addition, Griffin was invited to the Southwest Mississippi Writing Conference at Alcorn State University to discuss the types, purpose, and assessment of writing portfolios.

In February, **Paula Garrett** (English), writing program director, and Griffin, along with two peer writing tutors—sophomore biology major Becky Lasoski and junior English major Anna Ellis—presented a panel discussion on "Making the Connection: The Writing Program's Role in Fostering Critical Thinking as a Liberal Arts Ability" at the Southeastern Writing Center Association conference in Charleston, S.C. This panel discussed various levels of interaction between the Writing Center and College-wide efforts to teach critical thinking skills.

Patrick Hopkins (philosophy) wrote two entries for the new second edition of the 10-volume *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, published by the Gale/Thomson group. One is on "Heterosexism" and the other is on "Natural Law." He also guest edited the October issue of *Calliope*, an educational children's

magazine on history. That included the article "Is Anyone Wiser Than Socrates?" and a play, based on Plato's dialogue "Phaedo," *Why the Philosopher Is Happy to Die: A Play*. He also had an article accepted for publication in the *Journal of Evolution and Technology* entitled "Transcending the Animal: How Transhumanism and Religion Are and Are Not Alike," to appear in late 2005. Last June, he was a guest on Mississippi public television's *Statewide Live* public affairs talk show on stem-cell research. In October, he was a guest on the Chicago-based radio talk show *Odyssey: A Daily Talk Show of Ideas*, hosted by

Gretchen Helfrich and distributed by Public Radio International. He discussed women and technology.

Suzanne Marrs (English) will have her book *Eudora Welty: A Biography*, published in August by Harcourt. During August, she discussed the book at Lemuria in Jackson, the Margaret Mitchell House in Atlanta, and Pass Christian Books on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. (See related story, page 4.)

This past spring, **Sandra Murchison** (art) had a solo exhibition of her work at the Upper Iowa University Art Gallery. She also assisted with a printmaking demonstration at the Southern Graphics Council Conference in Washington, D.C., in March. An edition of Murchison's prints has been included in an exchange portfolio of professional printmakers. This portfolio will be exhibited at The Center for Book Arts in New York City, Fordham University, Long Island University, Anderson Arts Center in Kenosha, Wis., Louisiana State University, and our own Lewis Art Gallery at Millsaps in the spring of 2006. Murchison also had a print accepted into the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art in Laurel for a juried exhibition of Mississippi art professors. One other combination print of hers was accepted into a highly competitive national exhibition at the Arkansas Arts Center.

Darby Ray (religious studies) contributed to a new theology textbook, *Constructive Theology: A Contemporary Approach to Classical Themes*, published by Fortress Press in 2005. This book was the collaborative effort of 40 major North American theologians. She served as contributing editor of the chapter on sin and evil. In March, Ray delivered the Arrington Lecture at the University of the South's School of Theology. The lecture was entitled "Incarnation, Ingenuity, and Imagination" and based on Ray's book in progress, *Christic*

Imagination: An Ethic of Incarnation and Ingenuity.

Hollis Robbins (English) presented a paper entitled “Toward a Theory of Postal Narrative” at the 2005 International Conference of the Society for the Study of Narrative Literature in Louisville, Ky., in April. In November, she contributed a chapter to the forthcoming volume *Menstruation: A Cultural History* (Palgrave 2005), entitled “A Menstrual Lesson for Girls: Maria Edgeworth’s ‘The Purple Jar.’” Also, Robbins and Paula Garrett (English) have recently contracted with Oxford University Press to edit a volume of the selected works of William Wells Brown.

W. Charles Sallis, emeritus professor (history), has recently been named a member of the Five Star Society of Omicron Delta Kappa. This is in “recognition and appreciation of long and significant service” to ODK. He also was the 2005 recipient of the Mississippi Historical Society’s Dunbar Rowland Award for lifetime contributions to the study and interpretation of Mississippi history. Dr. Sallis taught at Millsaps from 1968 until his retirement in 2000.

Holly Sypniewski (classical studies) presented two papers at professional conferences in the past year including one on Plato’s *Symposium* and the musical *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, which she is currently developing into an article to be published in a journal volume devoted to the musical and its literary influences. Additionally, she has been awarded a fellowship by the National Endowment for the Humanities to attend a summer seminar for six weeks in Rome, where she will study Roman religion in its cultural context.

Science

Kamilla Bahbahani (education) co-presented two papers at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association in Montreal in April. She participated in a roundtable discussion with Linda Bol, Old Dominion University, and Douglas Hacker, University of Utah, on “Can Calibration Accuracy Be Improved?” and presented a paper on “Inclusion: An Unanticipated Outcome of School Improvement” with Lynn Doyle, Old Dominion University.

George Bey III (anthropology and sociology) co-authored a paper and chaired a session at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in December. In March, he presented two co-authored papers and chaired a session at the Second Congress of Maya Studies in Mérida, Yucatán, and another at the annual meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology in April. He also gave an invited lecture in April at the University of Kentucky on his work at Kiuic. During that visit he presented a talk at the University of Kentucky Museum of Art related to the traveling exhibit he curated showcasing the Pre-Columbian art of the Mississippi Museum of Art.

In April, **Michael Galaty** (sociology-anthropology) attended an international conference in Zagreb, Croatia, “Between the Aegean and Baltic Seas: Prehistory Across Borders,” at which he presented the paper “There Are Prehistoric Cities Up There: The Bronze and Iron Ages in Northern Albania.”

A paper by **Jamie Harris** (geology), “Observation of Shear-Wave Splitting in Quaternary Sediments: An Indicator of In-Situ Stress Conditions?,” presented at the recent 2005 Symposium on the Application of Geophysics to Engineering and Environmental Problems (SAGEEP



2005) in Atlanta, was selected as one of the top SAGEEP 2005 Best Presentations. The paper was selected from more than 100 oral presentations. As a SAGEEP 2005 Best Paper author, Harris has been invited to present his paper at the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers Near Surface Geoscience Division conference, Near Surface 2005. The conference will be held Sept. 4–7, 2005, in Palermo, Italy.

Debora Mann (biology) presented a seminar on “Environmental Contaminants and Breastfeeding” at the eighth annual Breastfeeding: The Gold Standard conference in Jackson in April. Co-sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Health WIC Program and La Leche League of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, the conference provides continuing education credits for nurses, dietitians, lactation consultants, and other health professionals.

Else School of Management

Diane Baker (management) will be presenting a paper, “In Search of a Liberal Business Education,” at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management in Honolulu in August.

“Assessing Economic Damages in Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Litigation: The State of Mississippi,” an article by **Carl Brooking** (economics), **Blakely Fox Fender** (economics), and **Harvey Fiser** (business law) is forthcoming in the *Journal of Forensic Economics*.

Ken Harmon (dean) published the article “A Model for Investigating Telework in Accounting” in the *International Journal of Accounting Information Systems*.

Walter Neely (finance) co-wrote a paper entitled “The Role of Growth in Long-Term Investment Returns,” with John Broussard, M.B.A. 2005, and Dave Michayluk, a University of Rhode Island professor. It was published by the CIBER Research Institute and focuses on both theoretical and applied research in all areas of business and economics. The paper addresses applied research on long-term returns to stock investors. Neely also presented a paper entitled “Teaching Security Analysis: Equity Valuation Using Value Line and MSN Stock Screener” at the Orlando annual conference of the Financial Education Association. The association focuses on teaching and educational research. The paper seeks to explain the approach used in managing the General Louis Wilson Fund.

A paper by **Penelope Prenshaw** (marketing) and **Kimberly Burke** (accounting) entitled “The Impact of Involvement on Satisfaction for New Nontraditional Service Offerings” has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Services Marketing*.

The *Southern Economic Journal* published the article “Unraveling the Productivity of Academic Economists: The Opportunity Costs of Teaching and Service,” by **Susan Washburn Taylor** (economics), **Blakely Fox Fender**, and **Kimberly Gladden Burke** (accounting).



Their article, “Explaining Gender Differentials in Scholarly Productivity: The Case of Academic Economists,” is to be published in the *Journal of College Teaching and Learning*.

Staff

Brit Katz (student affairs) has been invited to serve on the faculty for the New Professionals’ Institute, as well as the Mid-Managers Institute. Both organizations are co-sponsored by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators and the Southern Association of College Student Affairs. As one of five faculty in residence for both institutes, Katz will educate and train young professionals who are career-tracking in higher education administration and student-personnel services. The New Professionals’ Institute will take place at Trinity University of San Antonio. The Mid-Managers’ Institute will be held at North Carolina State University. Both were scheduled for June 2005.

Katz has been contracted to perform consulting work for the University of North Carolina-Pembroke Division of Student Affairs. He will carry out the strategic planning and team-building retreat for the 30 professionals in the division. Katz has been named the chairperson-designate for the Associated Colleges of the South’s senior student affairs officers. Beginning in November 2005, he will chair the twice-yearly gatherings of the

vice presidents and deans of student affairs for the 16 institutions in the ACS, including Davidson, Rollins, University of Richmond, Sewanee, Rhodes, Southwestern, and Birmingham-Southern.

Georgianna Martin (student affairs) presented at the American College Personnel Association Annual Conference in Nashville in April with Dr. Carney Strange of Bowling Green State University. The presentation, entitled “Responding to Spiritual Questions: Is Student Affairs Ready and Willing?” discussed assessment of spirituality among college students and raised significant issues about the readiness of student affairs administrators to integrate the spiritual dimensions of the student experience.

Molly Signs (library) systems librarian, and **Allison Mays** (library), acquisitions librarian, are chairperson and secretary, respectively, of the Mississippi Sirsi Users Group this year. Sirsi is the library’s online catalog, acquisitions, and circulation system.

Jesse Yancy (communications), associate director of media relations, won second place in the feature food columnist category at the 2005 Alternative Newsweekly Awards. This is the 10th year of the annual awards, which recognize the best work in the 123 newsweeklies that belong to the Association of Alternative Newsweeklies. Yancy, who placed second out of five finalists, is a frequent contributor to the local alternative newsweekly the *Jackson Free Press*.