

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH • SPRING 2023 • VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 2



Department of English

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

DR. CRISTINA MARIA CERVONE

Distinguished Research Award in the Humanities for the College of Arts and Sciences

DR. DONAL HARRIS

Department of English Orgill Chair, 2022-2025

DR. KATHY LOU SCHULTZ

MOCH Catherine and Charles Freeburg Fellowship, 2023

DR. LIZ LANE

College of Arts and Sciences Early Career Research Award

PROF. MARCUS WICKER

Faculty Research Grant, University of Memphis

First Horizon Professorship, 2022-2025

DR. MARK MAYER

2022-2023 Scholar of Note for the American Library in Paris

Faculty Research Grant, University of Memphis

FALL 2022 EVENTS RECAP



Grad Students vs. Faculty Softball Game



Discover Your Major Day



English Department Open House

SPRING 2023 EVENTS



RANDALL KEENAN MEMORIAL READING

February TBD



WORDSMITH WRITING OLYMPICS

February 26th



HOWARD RAMBSY, DIGITAL HUMANITIES

March 2nd and 3rd



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE EVENT

March TBD

TALBOT ROUNDTABLE

Late April TBD

PROGRAM REPORT: UNDERGRADUATE

TEACHING CONVERSATIONS

The Department of English held two *Teaching Conversations* sessions in the fall semester to great success. The inaugural session was an assignment exchange where faculty volunteered to share and explain effective lesson plans and teaching strategies. The second session welcomed Dr. Brenna Breshears from the Department of Counseling, Education, & Research to discuss trauma-informed teaching.

It has been suggested that the department hold a follow-up session in the spring on faculty stress and self care. If there are any topics you would like to see covered in future *Teaching Conversations* sessions, please reach out to **Joseph Jones** (jgjones@memphis.edu) or **Sherry Lusk** (selusk@memphis.edu)

TIGERS SMART START & OPEN EDUCATION RESOURCES

The Tigers Smart Start Program (in conjunction with Barnes & Noble) will begin this semester with all undergraduate students. This is an all-or-nothing program that allows students to pay one inclusive fee to have all of their required textbooks available to them on or before the first day of classes.

With this new program in mind, the English Department is still making progress on the adoption of OER materials that can be found in Canvas. Thanks to **Rhonda Powers** for leading the charge on this project! ENGL 1010, 1020, and 2201 are now completed and she is still working diligently on ENGL 2202 and ENGL 3210.

PROGRAM REPORT: UNDERGRADUATE

INTERNSHIPS

The English Department has partnered with many vibrant local and national organizations to provide a wide range of internship opportunities for our students, with places such as the **National Civil Rights Museum, St. Jude, Literacy Mid-South, Memphis Flyer, Teach for America**, and many more. Some of these community partners have created intern positions specifically for our UofM English students. We currently have at least fifteen featured internships available to students in areas such as tutoring, advertising and media relations, curriculum development and instruction, and non-profit work, to fit the needs and interests of our diverse English student population.

All up-to-date internship program information can be found on our dynamic webpage on the English Department website (www.memphis.edu/english/internships). And the internship program is involved in active outreach within the Department and in the greater UofM community through regular classroom presentations, annual informational sessions, and appearances at University networking events. The English internship program is committed to supporting our students beyond the classroom to achieve academic, personal, and professional development and success!

PROGRAM REPORT: GRADUATE

AFROFUTURISM COURSE

Terrence Tucker has proposed a new literature course for the graduate program, "Afrofuturism and Black Speculative Fiction". This course has been approved by the Graduate Studies Committee and the University Graduate Council. The goal is to have this course available to students by the Fall 2024 registration period.

With its focus on the lives of people of the African diaspora, students will chart the history and theory of the black speculative tradition and apply the consistent invocation of antiblack racism and its recovery of marginalized voices to works that (re)imagine a distinctly black futurity. Student readings will emphasize the evolution of black speculative fiction alongside, and at times overlapping with, the larger African American literary and creative tradition.

THE PINCH

The Pinch journal celebrated the release of issue 42.2 on Friday, November 4th at Novel book store, and the issue is now available for purchase! *The Pinch Presents* also welcomed Arthur Flowers and Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah to campus last fall. Be sure to follow them on Instagram to keep up with all of their latest news [@theinchjournal](https://www.instagram.com/theinchjournal)



Department of English

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If you are interested in becoming a donor, please contact us at tttucker@memphis.edu



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