

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH • SPRING 2026 • VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 2



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS

Department of English

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WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to all of our faculty and staff! There are a lot of exciting events happening this spring, so first and foremost make sure you're following us on Facebook and Instagram ([@uofmenglish](#)) to stay up to date.

This semester, we'll welcome speakers and authors to our campus - just to name a few, *The Pinch Presents* will host francine harris for a poetry reading and craft interview in April, Elliott Casal will host the annual Talbot Roundtable titled “Multiliteracies, Multimodalities, and Genre” on April 23rd with a conference that weekend, and the English Honors Colloquium series returns on February 2nd, this semester featuring Verner Mitchell, Emily Thrush, Scott Sundvall, and Eric Schlich.

In this issue, you'll find additional details about these upcoming events, photos from a few of our Fall 2025 events, shout-outs to our award-winning faculty, and a publication spotlight on Dr. J. Elliott Casal's new book!

This year we're hoping for even more involvement with the marketing and promotion of all of our amazing programs, courses, and events here in the English department. As always, if you have project suggestions or inquiries, don't hesitate to get in touch with [Dr. Tucker](#) or [Dr. Gillo](#).

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FALL 2025 RECAP



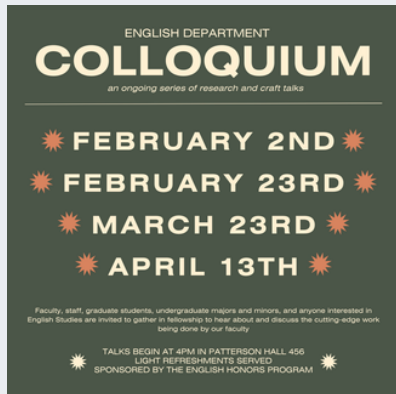
Dr. Mickalites's ENGL 3404 "Dystopian Display" at Memphis Public Libraries



Discover Your Major Day 2025

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SPRING 2026 EVENTS



English Honors Colloquium Series

Verner Mitchell, Emily Thrush, Scott Sundvall,
& Eric Schlich

4:00pm | Patterson Hall 456



The Pinch Presents: francine harris

Reading: April 16th | Campus Location & Time TBD

Craft Interview: April 17th | 12pm | PT 456



Talbot Roundtable: Multiliteracies, Multimodalities, and Genre

Speakers: Dr. Suresh Canagarajah & Dr. Matt Kessler
April 23rd | Location TBD

conference: April 25th



FACULTY RECOGNITION

Dr. Kathy Lou Schultz

Dr. Kathy Lou Schultz was selected as an Artist-in Residence by the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts (KHN). KHN is a small residency that hosts only 5 artists at a time, including painters, composers, videographers, poets, multidisciplinary artists, non-fiction writers, and novelists. Her creative work has also been supported by Ragdale and the Centrum Foundation.

Drs. J. Elliott Casal and Katherine Fredlund

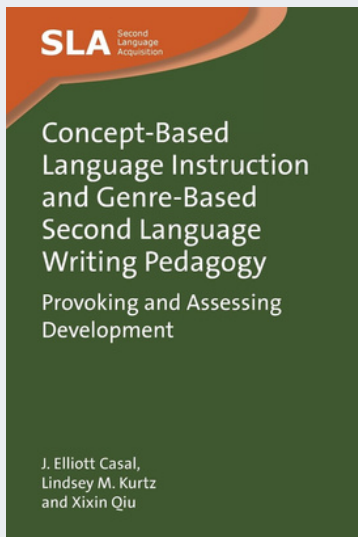
Grant Award: \$3,999,998

2026-2029. *Teaching and Learning with AI: Transforming Postsecondary Education with Scenario-Based Tasks*. US Department of Education.

FACULTY PUBLICATION SPOTLIGHT

Dr. J. Elliott Casal

Concept-Based Language Instruction and Genre-Based Second Language Writing Pedagogy: Provoking and Assessing Development



Genre-Based approaches to Second Language Writing Instruction have become a powerful and popular means of assisting second and multilingual writers in learning to engage in professional, pedagogical and academic genres that are often high-stakes. This book presents a framework for teaching second language and multilingual writing that integrates Concept-Based Language Instruction and Genre-Based Writing Pedagogy. The authors present three large-scale implementations, within a graduate legal writing context, a cross-disciplinary doctoral research

writing context and a graduate mechanical engineering context, and demonstrate how the pedagogical and theoretical framework is interdisciplinary, flexible and comprehensive. It provides a means of theorizing, researching, teaching and assessing the development of second language writer genre knowledge from nascency through expertise and equips second language writing instructors with a theoretical and practical toolkit to empower student writers to be more agentive, aware and strategic in their writing.

[Read more and order here](#)

[Check out this blog post about the book here](#)



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