

Alumni to watch.

Laurie N. Taylor (PhD, 2006) and **Zach Whalen** (PhD, 2008) are co-editors of *Playing the Past: History and Nostalgia in Video Games*, Vanderbilt University Press.

Natasa Kovacevic's (PhD, 2006) book, *Narrating Post/Communism: Colonial Discourse and Europe's Borderline Civilization*, has been published by Routledge.

Georgia Gelmis's (MFA, 2007) poem "How To Get Across the Room" has been accepted for publication by RHINO (Spring 2009).

Dave Reidy's (MFA, 2006) debut short story collection, *Captive Audience*, will be published July 2009 by Ig Publishing.



Department of English

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UF English.

Crafting Language

The Creative Writing program's ambition is tri-fold. We introduce undergraduates to the craft of writing poetry and fiction. In our MFA@FLA program, we transform promising young writers into authors whose work will have a lasting impact. And our faculty writers are constantly expanding UF's place on the literary map.

◆ Last year David Leavitt's novel, *The Indian Clerk*, got the front-page spread in the *New York Times Book Review*. Poet and critic William Logan won the National Book Critics Circle Award in 2005 for *The Undiscovered Country*. And poet and translator Michael Hofmann was named a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

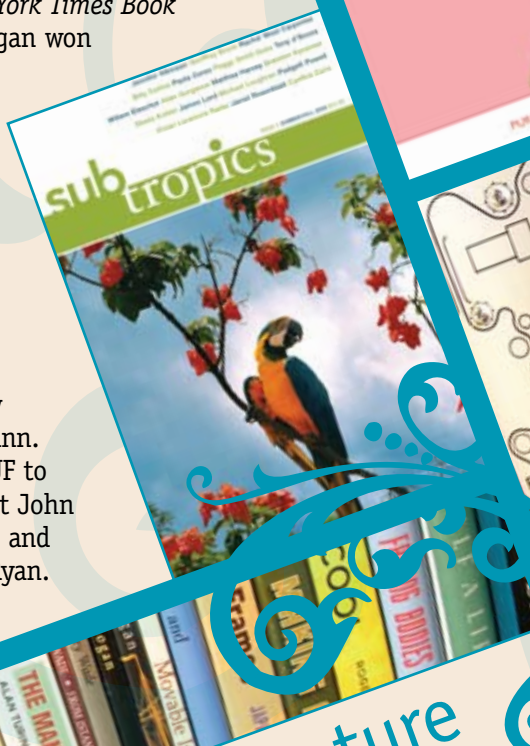
◆ Our students have gone on to earn international reputations, among them Chris Adrian, Chris Bachelder, John Brandon, Geoffrey Brock, Geri Doran, and Randall Mann.

◆ Writers from all over come to UF to give readings; recently, we brought John Barth, Anne Carson, Honor Moore, and United States Poet Laureate Kay Ryan.



A Fish in the Moonlight

Sidney Homan is a storyteller. He tells tales of growing up in Philadelphia in the 1940s and 50s—accounts of Bruzzy the Bully, of Leslie Doober and his rotten banana. His eager listeners are children caught in the unreal world of the UF Shands bone marrow unit. Homan forges friendships with children coping with the challenge of disease, and the storyteller becomes an actor to draw the patients into his world.



Literature

English Department literature faculty members defy easy categorization, both as teachers and scholars. Donald Ault, a scholar of visionary poet William Blake, also works on the cultural significance of comics, and edits *ImageText*, the premier online journal in this field. Apollo Amoko moves between African literature, the history of education, and ethnic writers of Canada.

◆ Gregory Ulmer, whose groundbreaking *Applied Grammatology* defined the field, just published a book sub-titled *Consulting Internet Memory*. One of our newest faculty, Jodi Schorb, is writing a book exploring race and sentiment in early American prison narratives, the project growing in part from her own teaching in the prison system.

◆ Faculty continue to bring new approaches to major authors, giving students timely insights as they learn about the past. Pamela Gilbert interweaves her studies of the Victorian novel with the history of medicine and citizenship. Shakespeare scholar Sidney Homan takes his students into the theatre, as actors, to rethink the text through performance. Al Shoaf continues to shed new light on the English tradition in recent books on Chaucer and Shakespeare.

Children's Culture

Our program in children's literature—with faculty members Anastasia Ulanowicz, Kenneth Kidd, and John Cech—offers a unique array of courses and the chance for undergraduate and graduate researchers to do exciting projects in the field. Last year, the Center for Children's Literature and Culture sponsored a number of events, including an appearance by the Author's Reader's Theater—well-known writers for young people presenting dramatic readings of their works.

◆ The Center hosted Gainesville native, Michael Rubin, the author of the first "insider" look at the George Lucas and the Digital Revolution.

◆ One of our most celebrated former English majors, Kate DiCamillo (*Because of Winn Dixie*, *The Tale of Despereaux*), just received the University's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Film & Media Studies

The Center for Film and Media Studies in the Department of English offers one of the country's strongest programs. International in its reach, the program emphasizes both innovative production work in video and film and new approaches to film history and theory.

◆ Last year Robert Ray lectured at Oxford, while Maureen Turim and Scott Nygren spent the spring semester teaching honors students at UF's Paris Research Center. Richard Burt spoke last July at the British Museum in London. Mark Reid was recently appointed to the Editorial Board of the film journal *Screening Noir*.

◆ In May 2009, Roger Beebe will take students to France on a course that will include work at the Cannes Film Festival. Here on campus, he organizes "FLEX," the Florida Experimental Film/Video Festival, an annual showcase for new short media by artists from all over the world.

