

Announcements

The spring semester brought with it good news for our faculty and our students.

Dr. Christine DeVine was a recipient of the UL Foundation Distinguished Professor Award for 2009!

Dr. Jennifer Geer was promoted to the position of associate professor.

Dr. Marthe Reed was promoted to the position of assistant professor.

Dr. Lisa Graley was awarded an ATLAS grant for next year.

Louisiana Public Broadcasting's documentary *Louisiana Story: The Reverse Angle* received the "Platinum Best of the Show - The Aurora Awards" in the recent International Competition Honoring Excellence in the Film and Video Industries. The film garnered other awards this spring. It was awarded a 2009 Bronze Telly Award. The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities named it the Film of the Year, and *Louisiana Story: The Reverse Angle* received the Best Historical Documentary award at the New York Film and Video Festival. **Dr. C.E. Richard** wrote and co-produced this documentary with Tika Laudun of LPB.

Ms. Leslie Schilling, Dr. John Laudun and Dr. Clai Rice were the instrumental parties in securing UL's acceptance as a member of Project Bamboo. Project Bamboo is an initiative supported by the Andrew Mellon Foundation for researchers in the fields of the humanities and the sciences. The goal of the organization is to use technology to advance research in the arts and humanities. In coordination with the acceptance of the University's into this association, Dr. Laudun, Dr. Rice and Ms. Schilling were awarded a grant to make HLG 's lab in Room 205 into a digital lab room.

Wendi Wilkerson is the recipient of the AAUW Dissertation Fellowship for 2009-2010. Her award carries a \$20,000 stipend. Ms Wilkerson was one of sixty-four AAUW Fellows to be selected from a group of 1,175 applicants.

This spring's Outstanding Graduate in the College of Education is an English education major, **Lauren Jankower**. Lauren won the Virginia Wilson Cooke Award for Excellence in English Education last month.

Lauren Jankower, Emily Thibodaux and Jennifer Draughon were recognized for having received perfect 4.0 grade point averages at this year's spring graduation ceremonies.

Emily Thibodaux is this year's recipient of the Owen Reimer Award for Excellence in English.

Conferences

The Eighth Annual Louisiana Conference on Language, Literature, and Culture was held at the Hilton Garden Inn on March 5-7. This conference, whose purpose is to foster communication across

disciplines, was directed by **Dr. Christine Devine**. Other very active participants include **Drs. Yung-Hsing Wu** and **Barbara Cicardo**, and graduate students, **Lindsay Mayo-Fincher**, **Allen Jones**, **Jennifer Page**, **Josh Caffery** and **John Ellis-Etchison**.

The Deep South Festival of Writers invited two distinguished authors this semester.

Kate Bernheimer is the author of two novels based on German, Russian and Yiddish fairy tales, *The Complete Tales of Ketzia Gold* (FC2) and *The Complete Tales of Merry Gold* (FC2). She is the author of a children's book, *The Girl in the Castle inside the Museum* (Random House), and the editor of the literary journal *Fairy Tale Review* and of two essay collections, *Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: Women Writers Explore Their Favorite Fairy Tales* (Anchor/ Vintage) and *Brothers and Beasts: An Anthology of Men on Fairy Tales* (Wayne State University Press). She is an Assistant Professor in the MFA Program at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.

Lesle Lewis, Professor of literature and writing at Landmark College, Putney, VT, has published two books of poems--*Small Boat* (2003), from University of Iowa Press (and winner of that year's Iowa Poetry Award), and *Landscapes I & II* (2006), published by Alice James Books. Her poems and short fiction have also appeared in the following journals: *American Writing*, *Pig Iron Press*, *Pleiades*, *American Letters and Commentary*, *Rain Dog Review*, *Northern New England Review*, *Old Crow*, *Barrow Street*, *Green Mountains Review*, *Mudfish*, *LIT*, *Double Room*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *Pool*, *Sentence*, *The Cincinnati Review*, and *Jubilat*. Recent readings include appearances at the AWP Conference in Austin, TX, Odyssey Bookshop (Holyoke, MA), Ear Inn (NYC), University of Massachusetts Art Gallery and Jubilat/Jones Reading Series (Amherst, MA), Prairie Lights Bookstore (Iowa City, IA), Prose Poetry: The Second World Conference (Walpole, NH), Dianich Gallery (Brattleboro, VT), Northeast Modern Language Association Conference (Buffalo, NY), and the Renaissance Center (Amherst, MA).

Andrew Delbanco delivered the Flora Plonsky Levy Lecture, Thursday, April 23, 7:00 PM at the Lite Center. The lecture was dedicated to the memory of Professor David Thibodaux. The title of the lecture was "How Could Anyone Defend Slavery?": Moral Crisis in Antebellum America.

Programs

Dr. Keith Dorwick and **Dr. Clancy Ratliff** offered glimpses of their current projects at the English Department Symposium on February 11.

Dr. Keith Dorwick: "The Magical Manufactured Landscapes of Oz": The cities of the early Oz books, infused with both wonder and horror, are characteristic of the tensions between magic and technology throughout Baum's work. Abandoned by the official government of Oz, their inhabitants put the "civilized" travelers from the Emerald City at risk from the illegitimate magic at the edges of this sometimes fearsome fairy country.

Dr. Clancy Ratliff: "Policing Miscarriage: Infertility Blogging, Rhetorical Enclaves, and the Case of

House Bill 1677": Infertility bloggers, though more an enclave than a public sphere, intervened in proposed reproductive rights legislation in Virginia in January 2005. This presentation will describe infertility blogging's generic features and explore the case of House Bill 1677 with the rhetorical and political implications of its discussion in the blogosphere.

English Week (March 30 through April 3) was the setting of a variety of workshops and events that invited undergraduate and graduate students to interact with their peers. **Dr. Elizabeth Bobo** directed the festivities. Faculty members, **Lana Wiggins, Sherry Jackson, Marthe Reed** and **Rhonda Robison**, and graduate students **Suzanne Wiltz, John Ellis-Etchison, Amber Lucik** and **Allen Jones** aided Dr. Bobo with the organizing and conducting of workshops.