

# English Graduate Program

## English Graduate Program Draws Diverse Student Population

### Enrollment Projections Exceed Expectations

Officially begun in Fall 2008, NKU's English graduate program has already enjoyed tremendous success, surpassing initial enrollment estimates by over 100%.

The program is a flexible, multi-faceted program for students seeking advanced study of literature, professional writing, creative writing, and/or composition and rhetoric, either for career advancement or personal enrichment. For language arts educators who already hold a teaching certificate in Kentucky, Ohio, or Indiana, the MAE may serve as a functionally relevant master's degree for rank change.

The program includes the Master of Arts in English, Certificate Programs in Professional Writing, Composition/Rhetoric, and a Certificate in Creative Writing. The

*"NKU's approval of this innovative new program shows that the university recognizes how digital technology has rapidly expanded and transformed the arenas where reading and writing take place. The central concerns of English Studies—studying, understanding, and practicing how language works in multiple contexts and across cultures—have never been more important."*

- Professor John Alberti

Specialist in American, Media, and Cultural Studies

program also features faculty with research interests in cinema studies, the study of diversity in a global context, digital humanities, and community literacy. Students can pursue certificates as standalone programs, embed them in the master's degree, or pursue a unique interdisciplinary program based on individual interests.

### Composition Training Program Approved

In June 2009, the Executive Committee of NKU's Graduate Council also approved the English Department's plan to offer preparation to its graduate students in college level teaching through a teaching assistant program. Professor Jennifer Cellio, the department's new Writing Instruction Program

Director, describes such programs as of key importance to the education of English graduate students. "In English Studies, teaching is part three of the theory-research-practice tripod. We never really know something until we teach it," says Cellio. "Practice can give us ownership over theory and research. This is true in any discipline, but in writing studies, it is central."

Cellio speaks from experience she gained at Miami University of Ohio, where she served both as an administrator in the university's composition program and as Assistant Director of the Howe Writing Initiative, a writing center in Miami's Farmer School of Business. In that capacity, Cellio worked with faculty and students in all areas of writing—including assessment, course design, and assignment planning.

According to Professor Tonya Krouse, the English Department's TA training program reflects best practices within the discipline. According to Krouse, the English Department's selection process, close mentoring, and two course sequence—in pedagogy/theory, followed by a practicum—are "exactly the practices in place across the field today." Krouse benefited from such programs at University of Illinois-Chicago and Brandeis.

"Our English faculty has taught in and administered some of the best TA training programs in the country," says Dr. Jonathan Cullick, the English Department's new chair and its former WIP Director. "We are eager to share this rich experience with NKU's graduate students."

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## Why Study English at NKU?

I love NKU's English department and have had only positive experiences here. As an undergrad, I said that I would happily return if a Master's program was offered, and am thrilled that it has become a reality. I am impressed

with the faculty, appreciating the independence and creativity they encourage among students, as well as the high level of expertise and intellectual challenge that they bring to the classroom.

-Renea Frey

NKU was close to home. I was a graduate of the December class of 2007 and spent a study abroad with Danny Miller. He convinced me to apply. I never thought I'd be accepted to grad school and now I am about to finish my first year!

-Tanya Townsend

## In their own words: Graduate Students Talk About Their Program

The people in the classes that I'm in, including the professors, have become a major support group to me. I rely on them for help in and out of class. I think that's what makes NKU different from other Universities. You want your peers to succeed because you get to know them, and you like them.

*-Lindsey Caldwell Thomas  
English Grad Student*

The MAE program makes balancing work and school extremely manageable. Almost all of the classes are offered outside my normal working hours, and because of this I'm able to appreciate

a wide selection during registration. It's great to be enrolled in a program that is so flexible with its students and their professional careers!

*-Jessica Sloane  
English Grad Student*

I'm in the Advanced Fiction-Writing Workshop. I haven't written much fiction before, so this is a completely new adventure. The class has given me both dead-on advice about how to strengthen my stories, as well as encouragement and motivation to keep writing. This is a good investment in my creative life.

*-Mary Anne Reese  
English Grad Student*

I got into this program because I wanted to be pushed to my creative writing limits. I wanted to be forced to think and write creatively like I'd never done before. And this program - especially my focus on obtaining the Creative Writing certificate - has exactly what I need. After my first classes I knew I'd made the right decision to come to NKU. I have already learned more about characterization, scene, voice, blocking and logic than I ever thought I would. I would encourage all those interested in Creative Writing to apply!

*-Ryan Clark  
English Grad Student*

## Graduate Students say Good-bye to Dr. Danny Miller

The music has faded to silence. All our shared stories are over. The memorials dispersed, the flowers brown and blown away. The ground is cold and stark, and I have only memories. Each time the elevator opens and I see that office door, it hurts a little less, or so I think. Then a certain phrase, a shared glance, and it all comes back. He won't be at the door or in the hall or walking across the campus. There is still something magically special here, but the colors won't be as sharp for a while. Life renews only because faith

manages. We go on as we must, albeit a bit more reflective. Live each day as if it were your last. I never really understood that until I saw it personified. There might have been things left undone, but there were no regrets. That's a special life.

That's a warm hug on a cold day. That was a teacher, a colleague, a mentor, a leader, a friend.

That was Danny.

*-Dan Dalton,  
English Grad Student*

Danny Miller was one of those people that loved life so much that you couldn't help but love it right along with him. He gave me so much guidance, both academically and personally, and I'm glad to have known him. He had a strong spirit, and it will live on at NKU through his colleagues and students. Danny was a major asset to the English program, and we will continue to honor his memory through our hard work.

*-Jessica Sloane  
English Grad Student*

*Dr. Danny Miller (1948-2008) was a highly respected and loved professor.*

*He was the chair of the NKU English Department from 1999 to 2008.*

### Call for Papers

## First Annual *English Studies Colloquium* on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

NKU's *English Studies Colloquium* represents an opportunity for faculty and graduate students in Composition and Rhetoric, Creative Writing, Literary Studies, and Professional Writing to share their work, receive feedback, and practice for readings and presentations in other venues. Everyone in the English Studies community is encouraged to participate. The organizing committee welcomes papers in any relevant or related area of English studies, including papers, creative writing readings, and multimedia projects/demonstrations. Abstracts of 250 to 500 words may be submitted via email to Renea Frey at [rfrey@fuse.net](mailto:rfrey@fuse.net). Please include contact information (name, address, email, and phone number) and academic specialization/affiliation on all submissions. **Deadline for submissions: February 19, 2010.**

**The colloquium is sponsored by The Northern Kentucky University Association of English Graduate Students.**

## Spring 2010 English Graduate Course Offerings

<p>ENG 515-51 RENAISSANCE DRAMA MWF 1:00-1:50 Instructor: DETMER-GOEBEL Murder, revenge, incest, rape, adultery, and cross-dressing in plays of Shakespeare's contemporaries (Kyd, Marlowe, Jonson, Webster, Cary, Middleton, Dekker)</p>	<p>ENG 639-51 FIELDWORK IN COMMUNITY LITERACY U 6:15-9:00pm Instructor: WILKEY Service learning and public engagement course completing fieldwork in community literacy. Considers community literacy outside mainstream educational and work institutions. PREREQ: ENG 638 or instructor permission.</p>
<p>ENG 530-51 READINGS ENGLISH LANGUAGE T 4:45-7:30 Instructor: SCHIFF TOPIC: Adolescent Literature DOUBLE SECTION. <b>For teachers grades 4-12.</b></p>	<p>ENG 646-051 COMPOSITION PRACTICUM M 6:15-9:00 Instructor: CELLIO Emphasis on practical classroom applications of composition and rhetorical theory, especially those associated with English 101 and 291 and developmental writing courses. Topics include designing courses, syllabi, and assignments; teaching writing as a process; responding to/assessing student papers; conferencing with students; and reflecting on one's own teaching practices. <i>Note: Students need not be currently teaching composition to enroll in this course.</i></p>
<p>ENG 531-5 ENGLISH GRAMMAR FOR TEACHERS R 4:45-7:30 Instructor: JANG 2 credit hour course for future teachers of ESL.</p>	<p>ENG 657-51 STUDIES IN BRITISH LITERATURE AFTER 1800 TOPIC: Victorian Literature R 6:15-9:00 Instructor: OSBORNE Advanced study of Victorian poetry and prose.</p>
<p>ENG 546-051 GRANT WRITING T 6:15-9:00 Instructor: BLOCH Rhetorical strategies for writing effective grant proposals, reports, and other proposal; forms.</p>	<p>ENG 667-51 AMERICAN LITERATURE SINCE 1865 TOPIC: African American Women's Prose W 6:15-9:00 Instructor: YOHE Autobiography, essay, novel, letter--by African American women from the era of U.S. slavery to the present, including Harriet Jacobs, Paule Marshall, Alice Walker, Nella Larsen, bell hooks, Toni Morrison, and Edwidge Danticat.</p>
<p>ENG 600-51 INTRO TO GRADUATE STUDIES M 6:15-9:00PM Instructor: KENT-DRURY Research methods, professional development, program planning, and careers in interdisciplinary English Studies.</p>	<p>ENG 671 WORLD LITERATURE IN ENGLISH TOPIC: Holocaust Literature WEB Instructor: KERSELL Critical reading of Holocaust literature (both fiction and nonfiction) emphasizing historical contexts underlying literary expression in key literary works written in response to the Jewish Holocaust. Topics include Yiddish wartime writings; writing as an act of resistance; literature of the ghetto; the memoir as testimony; moral authority and authorship; depictions of the aftermath; and literary and cultural criticism. Weekly blog postings and a lengthy research paper are required.</p>
<p>ENG 622-51 ADVANCED POETRY WORKSHOP T 6:15-9:00PM WALKER Intensive workshop designed for advanced poets with a focus on generating new work, mastering peer review, and publishing. Active involvement in leading discussions, reading, completing a long critical essay, writing, editing, revising, peer reviewing, conducting market research, submitting work, public reading, and ultimately publishing.</p>	<p>ENG 680-51 STUDIES IN LIT CRIT AND THEORY TOPIC: Cultural Studies T 6:15-9:00 pm Instructor: ALBERTI Originally intended to democratize academic study through focus on populist ideas and materials, cultural studies today is an influential approach to humanistic and social studies. We will survey history, theories, and practice of cultural studies, especially its approaches to exploring the barriers between "high" and "low" culture and between "serious" and "popular" art. Possible applications to study of such cultural artifacts as comic books, novels, movies, pop songs, performance art, and sporting events.</p>
<p>ENG 626-51 ADV NOVEL WRITING WORKSHOP M 6:15-9:00 Instructor: LEIGH Intensive workshop in writing the novel. Approaches to creating long-form fiction; developing characters. setting, plot, and theme; and marketing of finished work. Participants are expected to produce ~10,000 words of fiction and an extensive critique of a published novel.</p>	
<p>ENG 630-51 TEACHING OF COMPOSITION W 4:45-7:30PM Instructor: SCHIFF Classroom methods and resources for teaching of composition. Focus on students' current and projected teaching circumstances. <i>For teachers of grades 4-12.</i></p>	
<p>ENG 632-51 HISTORIES OF WRITING TECHNOLOGIES W 6:15-9:00 Instructor: BOWERS Exploration, through theory and practice, of technology's influence on the academic and professional writing. Special emphasis on new media.</p>	



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## Upcoming Events

### 21 Aug 2009—Open Mic Night at InkTank

NKU English graduate students and others will read their work at InkTank from 7:30-9:30pm. InkTank is located at 1311 Main Street, Cincinnati.

### 21 Sep 2009—Honors Speaker Series

Honors will host a talk by Jeanne Leiby, the first woman editor of the venerable literary magazine *The Southern Review*, about her path to this editorial position. The event is co-sponsored by the Department of English and is scheduled for 7:30 pm, 21 September 2009, in NKU's Budig Theater, located in University Center.

### 26 Sep 2009—Voices from the Hills

A day-long conference celebrating Appalachian Writers and dedicated to Dr. Danny Miller, will be held 26 September 2009. The conference will feature a roundtable on the future of Appalachian literature with Richard Hague, Chris Holbrook, Jeff Mann, Frank X Walker, and Marianne Worthington; public readings by Wendell Berry and Crystal Wilkinson; music by Sherry Cook Stanforth; and more. For more information, visit the official event website at <http://english.nku.edu/people/dannymiller/voices.php>.

### 11 Nov 2009—Priority Admission Deadline

Priority deadline for Spring 2010 admission to NKU's Graduate Program in English. Find out more about the program at <http://english.nku.edu/grad>.

### 19 Feb 2010—Deadline to submit abstracts for NKU English Studies Colloquium

See p. 2 for details.

### 3 April 2010—NKU English Studies Colloquium

Check the Department of English Website at <http://english.nku.edu> for details.

### Apr 2010—Tournées Festival of French Film

The Departments of World Languages and Literatures and English will welcome the Tournées Festival of French Film to NKU. A different contemporary French movie, each a Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky premiere, will be screened every week for five weeks. The films represent the diversity of French cinema and are must sees for any serious movie fans. For more information as the schedule evolves, check the Cinema Studies Program web page at <http://english.nku.edu/cinema/index.php>.

## Graduate Student News

### Lorraine Rosenthal

Lorraine Rosenthal, who specializes in young adult fiction, has signed a book deal with Delacorte Press (a division of Random House) to publish her novel, *Limerence*, in Fall 2010. The deal was announced in *Publisher's Marketplace* on 6 April 2009.

Set in New York City in the 1980's, *Limerence* is the story of Ariadne Mitchell, an artistic but fragile teenager who must deal with the emotional trauma of transferring to an up-scale Manhattan prep-school and overcome the class and relationship issues that ensue. The term *limerence* was invented by Dorothy Tennov to describe "an involuntary cognitive and emotional state

of intense romantic desire for another person" that is "nearly-obsessive."

Rosenthal earlier earned a BA in Psychology and an MA in Education at University of South Florida. Her next project is described at <http://lorrainezr.blogspot.com>!

### Mary Anne Reese

Mary Anne Reese, also an attorney in Cincinnati, won a first place award, a second place award and two honorable mentions, from among 2200 submissions, in the 2009 Ohio Poetry Day contests. Three of the honored poems were written as part of Frank X Walker's Advanced Poetry Workshop. The poems will be read and awards given at the annual celebration of the Ohio legislature's designated Ohio Poetry Day in October, and the winning

poems will appear in the OPD anthology "Best of 2009."

Ms. Reese writes at NKU and with InkTank and the Cincinnati Writers' Project.

### Ryan Clark

Ryan Clark, also a Web Editor for NKU Marketing and Communication, has published a first book of poetry, *Dusty Roads and Faded Signs*, with Bearhead Publishing in Louisville. Several of the poems ("Baby Tweets," "Down in the Valley," "Stained," "Bullet Proof," "Bodyguard," "Father's Day" and "American Standard") were written in a course taught at NKU last Spring by Frank X Walker.

Clark is also at work on the biography of a sports figure.