

English Graduate Student Update for Spring 2010



Greetings fellow grad students and scholars, returning and new! As assistant this semester to Dr. Steven Ryan, English Graduate Coordinator, I am consequently bound to assist you with any issues you may have relating to our graduate program. Many of you know me by now, perhaps as the “Frankenstein Fanatic,” or maybe just “fanatic.” If you are new to the graduate program, I expect we’ll meet you soon.

We hope your winter break went well and that, with mental capacities refreshed, you are poised to examine and discuss more works of wonder from the literary canon. If you’re new? Welcome! We trust you will be challenged and inspired by our awesome profs, *and* by your fellow scholars (like me). We are a diverse lot but we share something in common: We love—that is *crave*—great literature. (I’ll take 19th Century British, please!) Any questions about APSU’s English Graduate Program? Contact Stuart at arkovitz@my.apsu.edu, or Dr. Ryan at ryans@apsu.edu. OR in HA 221 by appointment. Cheers!

Attention:

Harned Room 226 is available for the use of graduate students as well as faculty and staff. The room can be used as a place to study or meet with other graduate students to discuss anything from poetry and prose, to theism, pantheism, or any *ism* you may wish. This assumes, of course, a meeting or class is not previously scheduled. Check with Wanda or Sherry in the Department office (Harned #115) for availability.

Readings for Spring 2010

Mon. Feb. 1, Poetry Reading from distinguished poet and playwright Afaa Michael Weaver at 7 p.m., 303 Morgan University Center.

Thurs. Feb. 11, Reading by Kentucky novelist Squire Babcock at 8 p.m., 303 Morgan University Center. Babcock is the author of *The King of Gaheena*, which has received wide critical acclaim. He is director of the low-residency MFA program in creative writing at Murray State University.

Thurs. Feb. 11, Dr. Blas Falconer, Poet and Professor Languages and Lit here at APSU will read at 2 p.m., in celebration of Valentine’s Day, his favorite love poems at the APSU downtown gallery, 116 Strawberry Alley.

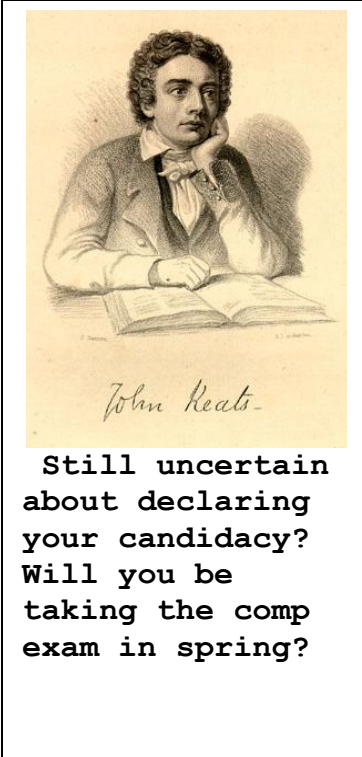
Thur. Mar. 4, Asanbe Diversity Symposium, featuring translator of *Rumi*, Coleman Barks. Afternoon lecture at 1 p.m. followed by a panel discussion later in the day.

Wed. Mar.31, Reading by Fiction Writer and Essayist Michael Martone at 8 p.m., 303 Morgan University Center. He is professor of English and creative writing director at the University of Alabama. Works include *The Flatness and Other Landscapes*, his autobiography, *Michael Martone*, and six other works of fiction.

For more information about readings and the visiting writer’s series please contact Barry Kitterman at kittermanb@apsu.edu.

Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities. Truth isn't.
Mark Twain (1835 - 1910)

Admission to Candidacy and Comprehensive Exam



Literary Quote to ponder:

The ceaseless, senseless demand for original scholarship in a number of fields, where only erudition is now possible, has led either to sheer irrelevancy, the famous knowing of more and more about less and less, or to the development of a pseudo-scholarship which actually destroys its object. - Hannah Arendt (1906-1975)



After you have completed 9 hours of study in the Graduate Program you **must** fill out your **Admission to Candidacy Form**. You can obtain a copy of this on the graduate bulletin board outside HA 117. You have to decide which program option you will pursue. You may change your mind after filing it, but no worries; this can be changed via authorization from our department chair, Dr. David Guest. You have three options:

Literary Criticism: Non-Thesis

If you choose not to write a thesis you will be required to take two more classes.

Literary Criticism: Thesis

The thesis in literary criticism should have three parts:

1. A 2-5 page statement of critical principles and influences
2. A polished 20-30 page critical essay
3. A 5-10 page annotated bibliography of major works that pertain to the subject of the critical essay.

Creative Thesis

A creative thesis will be composed of fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, or a combination of these genres. Generally speaking, a **poetry thesis** should contain a **minimum of 25-30 pages of poetry (not less than 20 poems)**, and a **short fiction or creative nonfiction thesis** should contain a **minimum of 50 to 60 pages of prose (not less than four stories or essays)**.

For more information see the English Graduate web page:

<http://www.apsu.edu/langlit/graduate/thesis.htm>

Comprehensive Exam

The Comprehensive Exam will be offered at the end of this semester on 17 April. Study sessions will therefore be starting soon. You may attend the study sessions even if you are planning to take the exam at a later time. Please email me at sarkovitz@my.apsu.edu if you plan to take the comps and/or are interested in attending the study sessions. With direct aid from our esteemed professors, we shall be the victors against this FINAL hurdle to our diplomas!

And finally...an inspirational message...

*"...The secret strength of things
Which governs thought,
and to the infinite dome
Of heaven is as a law,
inhabits thee!
-P.B. Shelley, "Mont
Blanc," 1817*

