

Reading Matters

Vol. 16, Issue 2, September 16, 2010

From (the Edge of) the Chair's Seat

I thought of various ways to start this column, all unsatisfactory, all unequal to the task at hand, which is to convey something of our great loss, following the death last week of Huston Diehl. So let me just plunge in.

As most of you know, Huston was a Professor of English and Collegiate Scholar. More importantly, she was a widely admired and beloved teacher, scholar, and colleague. A sense of her extraordinary impact can be glimpsed in the [symposium](#) hosted by the department in her honor last spring, an event that brought together many former and present students and colleagues whose work Huston influenced.

The loss of words that struck me as I tried to write this column is especially vexing since Huston lived her life through words. The words of the stories she loved to tell her family and friends, the words animating discussions in her undergraduate and graduate classes, the words of conversations with colleagues, the words in her published books and essays. It is fitting that the memorial service for Huston, held on Sunday, September 12, was built from words, words moving and celebratory, sober and witty. Words from Shakespearean sonnets, from twentieth-century poetry, from American spirituals. Words from family members, from friends, from colleagues. Together they made a verbal monument to Huston's memory. *Aere perennius*, as Horace would say. Words last, longer than bronze.

Words last and words matter. And I know that you, wordsmiths all, don't really need to be told either of those things. Huston's words, spoken and written, will long be with us.

Before she died, Huston established a fund in her name to support the efforts of her colleagues and students in the English Department. If you would like to make a donation, you can do so [here](#). More words about Huston, with fuller details of her career, can be found on the department's and College's [website tributes](#).

Legendary teacher, award-winning scholar of early modern literature, and colleague beyond peer, Huston was at the heart of the department. We are diminished by her death, but we will, I hope, always be encouraged by her extraordinary example.

Publications, Presentations, and other Faculty Matters

Patricia Foster has been invited to give a lecture on American memoir and a reading from her work at the Singapore Management University's literary festival in Singapore in late September.

On Sept. 24, **Eric Gidal** will be presenting work at a one-day conference at Rutgers University on National Languages and Literatures in Early Modern Europe, speaking on "Conversation, Censorship, and National Literature: Mme de Staël's *De l'Allemagne* and the British Reviews". More information can be found [here](#).

Susan Lohafer contributed a chapter titled "Kate Chopin and the Future of Short Fiction Studies" in *Awakenings: The Story of the Kate Chopin Revival*, ed. Bernard Koloski, LSU Press, 2009.

Congratulations to **Teresa Mangum** who was recently awarded the Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century British Women Writers Association Award for Contributions to the Study of British Women Writers. More information can be found [here](#).

At the Annual Faculty Meeting of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, held on September 13, 2010, **Miriam Thaggert** was honored for her recent tenuring and promotion to Associate Professor. Congratulations, Miriam!

Teaching Matters

ITS-Instructional Services and the Center for Teaching will offer a year-long TILE Faculty Institute for faculty who wish to develop TILE-based teaching strategies for their courses, beginning with an intensive training session on October 14-16, 2010. More information and an application can be found [here](#).

Graduate Matters

Deborah Manion has an article in the new issue of [Genders](#) called "Jocasta and the Rebirth of Matriarchy: Embodied Spectatorship in Margaret Oliphant's 'The Portrait.'"

Obermann Matters

Invitation to the 2010 Obermann Symposium and Film Series

The 2010 Obermann Humanities Symposium, "Causes and Consequences: Global Perspectives on Gender and the History of Slavery," takes place Oct 13-15 and includes two public lectures. In addition, the organizers, UI History Professors Catherine Komisaruk, Leslie Schwalm, and Elke Stockreiter, have planned a

semester-long film series, “Slavery in Global Cinema.” The symposium is co-sponsored by International Programs.

Keynote addresses:

“Why Scholars Study Slavery,” Sue Peabody, the Edward R. Meyer Professor of Liberal Arts at Washington State University (Iowa Ph.D. in History, 1993). Wednesday, October 13, 12:00, Room 302, Schaeffer Hall (SH)

"Misleading Modernities: Problematizing Slavery and Gender in History,” Professor Joseph C. Miller, the T. Cary Johnson, Jr. Professor of History at the University of Virginia. Wednesday, October 13, 4 p.m. International Commons Room, 1117 University Capitol Centre (UCC)

For the conference schedule, participant biographies, a detailed description of the films, see the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies [website](#).

The Obermann Center welcomes proposals from faculty members for the 2012-13 Humanities Symposium. **Applications are due October 5.** Click [here](#) for more information.

Library Matters

Our LibGuide for [English and American Literature](#) has two new items of interest:

1. The BBC Archive website has a collection of radio and TV interviews with a variety of 20th century British novelists . We put the link to this website in the “Selected Websites” category on our LibGuide. The BBC Archive website has many more items of possible interest to you and your students. Check out the “Collections” tab on the Archive’s website.
2. We created an information sheet explaining why students will find LION to be a helpful database. The link to this handout is right next to the link to LION on the first page of the LibGuide.

On our [Resources under Evaluation](#) page, we have a newspaper database on trial, *The Times of India, 1838-2001*. The Times of India was founded in 1838 to serve British residents of West India. Today this historical newspaper serves researchers interested in studying colonialism and post-colonialism, British and world history, class and gender issues, international relations, comparative religion, and much more. This trial ends of October 9. You may send your comments to Marsha Forsy marsha-forsy@uiowa.edu or to Edward Miner edward-miner@uiowa.edu.

Your liaisons from the UI Libraries to your department,
Marsha Forys (collections) marsha-forys@uiowa.edu, 335-5301

Kathy Magarrell (reference and instruction) kathy-magarrell@uiowa.edu, 335-5093

Facebook Matters

The English Department is on Facebook! Go to <http://www.facebook.com/IowaEnglish> to become a "fan" of the Department.

Other Calendars

[UI Master Calendar](#) | [UI Academic Calendar](#) | [The Writers' Workshop Calendar](#) | [The International Writing Program Calendar](#) | [The Writing University Calendar](#)

Future Issues

The next issue of Reading Matters will be on **Thursday, October 7**. Please send submissions for the next issue by 5 p.m. on **Wednesday, October 6** to [Erin Hackathorn](#).