



The **CHRONICLE**



The Department of English @ Texas Southern University
Fall Semester 2009

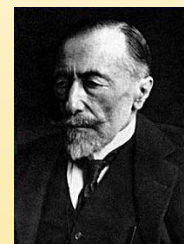


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Comparative Literature English Colloquium

Dr. Thorpe Butler presented an essay and led a lively discussion on a comparison between Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and Camara Laye's *The Radiance of the King* during the Department Colloquium on October 14, 2009. Dr Butler's treatment of the two novels focuses on "Parallel stories about Europeans' journeys into Africa that result in racial personal degeneration and with opposite results for the interlopers."



(Pictured above Joseph Conrad and Camara Laye)



MTM Writing Clinic Receives Title III Grant!

The Minnie T. Metters Writing Clinic (est. 1967) has been awarded \$45,490 from a Title III Grant to establish the TigerOWL, Texas Southern University's first online writing lab. The MTM Writing Clinic, sponsored and staffed by the Department of English, is open to all TSU students. Students have access to computer assisted instruction via Blackboard, PowerPoint and Camtasia tutorials, writing modules in document format, and links to other online writing assistance web sites. The TigerOWL addresses basic grammar and mechanics, preparation of manuscripts for journal submissions, report and essay organization, style, and argument. For more information, contact Professor **Lana Reese** (713-313-7021) or the Department of English (713-313-7916).

Multi-cultural Voices in Literature and the Arts of the 1920s: An Interdisciplinary Symposium

The Twelfth Annual McCleary Interdisciplinary Symposium

March 25 – 26, 2010



The Department of English at Texas Southern University will host the Twelfth Annual Interdisciplinary McCleary Symposium, March 25-26, 2010, Houston, TX. The general topic for presentations focuses on “Multi-cultural Voices in Literature and the Arts of the 1920s.” The Symposium is now soliciting scholarly research and presentations that cover a wide range of interest, including but not limited to the following:

The Harlem Renaissance The Lost Generation Post WWI Thought

Modernism in Literature, Music, and Art

The Anti-war novel and short story

Expatriate Artists

Literature and War

Poetic and Artistic Influences

Surrealism

Specific areas of interests include literature and culture, women’s studies, drama, art, music, song, painting, historical viewpoints, political economics, politics.

Abstracts of 300 words or less are requested. For more information or to submit an abstract to the 2010 McCleary Symposium, contact the department Chair

Rhonda Saldivar at 713-313-7667 or Saldivar_rx@tsu.edu. We encourage electronic submissions of abstracts.

Fall Poetry Day

**VERSE IN TRANSLATION:
WORLD ECHOES**

The Fall 2009 Poetry Day, Verse in Translation: World Echoes, rhymed and roared to a capacity filled audience throughout the morning program on October 6, 2009 in the MLK Auditorium.

Students, faculty, and friends of TSU participated by reading published verse that was originally written in a language other than English both in the original and in translation. Next, students read their own creative poetry to wide acclaim and delight. Special presenters include **Neshon Jackson, Arbolina Jennings, Donna Kimble, Karen Kossie, Alexis-Brooks De Vita, Rhonda Saldivar, Dorothy Terry, Haiqing Sun, and Michael Zeitler**. Readings from Dante’s *Inferno*, originally written in Italian, came from English 131-16 Honors, a class taught by Dr. **Michael Sollars**. The

Department thanks the many talented students who read their original poetry to an audience filled with appreciation and esprit de corps. Some of these students included **Zedekiah Franklin, Nnate Okoro, Lekwa, Laura Lincoln, Ageia Walker, and Elboni Williams**. Special thanks go to Associate Provost **Elizabeth Brown-Guillory**



and Associate Dean **Fenny Thomas**

for their words of inspiration and praise for the literary program. Dr. Thomas remarked during her address: “It is often said that poetry is the gateway to the soul; it is created from the need to escape the logical, as well as to express feelings. We risk distortion and inaccuracy to use brevity in language as a source of emotion. Through it, we emerge as sensitive, sophisticated, and resourceful human beings. For sure, poetry exemplifies qualities of character and spirit that we all know as our own. It symbolizes our own humanity.” Event co-sponsors were Profs. Kimble and Sollars.

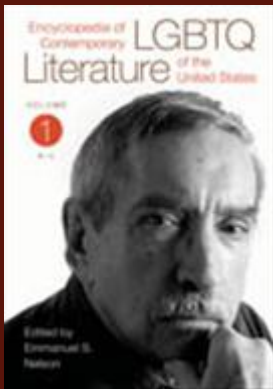


Publications

Dr. Michael Sollars' research into the flamboyant and controversial figure William Burroughs has been published in *LGBTQ Literature of the United States* by Greenwood Press.

Dr. Sollars has also had two manuscripts accepted for publication in *Bloom's Literary Themes*:

“Modernism’s Nightmare in Kafka’s *The Trail*” and “Post-colonial’s Image in Camus’s *The Guest*.”



Dr. Sollars has completed the work *Encyclopedia of Literary Characters in World Literature* to be published soon by Facts on File, Inc. This six- volume compilation includes more than 3,000 works and 30,000 characters in the novel, short story, and drama in literatures around the globe. Many faculty members and students at TSU contributed to this extensive work, including **Arbolina Jennings**, **Rhonda Saldivar**, and **Haiqing Sun**.



Dr. Michael Zeitler has submitted five essays for publication in *Facts on File Encyclopedia of American Environmental Literature*, edited by Brian Jones. These works include *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Log from the Sea of Cortez*, *Between Pacific Tides*, *John Steinbeck* and *E. F. Ricketts*.

Professor **Arbolina L. Jennings** has contributed biographical essays on legendary film directors Frank Capra and Francois Truffaut for the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Film and American Culture*, edited by Philip C. DiMare to be published by ABC-CLIO (February, 2011).

WORKSHOPS and CONFERENCES

Professor **Lana Reese** led a grammar workshop at the TSU Law School on September 25. This is part of the continuing collaborative work between the Department of English and the Law School. Earlier, Professor Reese, along with **Arbolina Jennings**, **Iris Lancaster**, and **Michael Sollars**, conducted a grammar review workshop for the Law School. Also, the Department offered in the summer 2009 semester a professional graduate writing class, ENG-L taught by Dr. Sollars. **Professor Jennings** was a featured speaker at the College Career Readiness Initiative/Faculty Collaborative Symposium in English/Language Arts, sponsored by the University of Texas, Austin, on January 23, 2009. The CCRS is a project of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to engage faculty members at Texas Institutions of Higher Learning (IHEs) to collaborate in P-16 initiatives. Professor Jennings has served as a Higher Education Vertical Team member in English/Language Arts during both Phase II and Phase III of the CCRS. As a vertical team member of THECB English/Language/Arts CCRS Initiative, Prof. Jennings presented to the Communications and Language Arts faculty at San Jacinto College North Campus on August 17, 2009, on “The Relationship between the Texas College and Career Readiness Standards and College Writing Standards.”

Big READ Brings Big Literary Awareness

The Big READ program has provided the English Department and its students with an opportunity to read, discuss, and share a book that continues to inspire. TSU librarians, **Chanta Howard**, **Ronald Keyes** and **Obidike Kamau** were awarded an NEA Grant and distributed texts of Ernest J. Gaines’s *A Lesson Before Dying*. This book is the first text to be read and discussed across all TSU’s 131 classes. More than 850 copies of Gaines’ novel were disseminated free to ENG 131 students.



Ernest J. Gaines, author

Faculty of the English Department led various community discussions. **Michael Zeitler**, **Rhonda Saldivar**, and **Arbolina Jennings** participated in the All-University & Community Guests Discussion on October 1, 2009. **Donna Kimble**, **Linda Burgess**, **Iris Lancaster**, and **Lana Reese** led multi-class discussions during the week of October 12-16, 2009 in the MLK Auditorium.

J. M. McCleary Scholarships

J. M. McCleary Scholarship Committee requests nominations for its annual scholarship. Applicant must be a graduate or undergraduate major in the Department of English with at least six earned credits of upper division classes with a B or better average. Applicants must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0, and must be currently enrolled in the University. Please request an application from Mrs. Conerly. Completed applications should be submitted to Chair **Rhonda Saldivar**.

TSU Book Club

A Lesson Before Dying by E. J. Gaines

October 2, 2009

Literature of Journey and Quest – a discussion

Nov 11, 2009

Noon to 1 PM MLK Building

Colloquium

The main speaker is **Ephraim Ukaegbu**, an undergraduate English major, who will present his paper “The Tragedy of Heroism: The Counter Narrative to the Beowulf Story.”

Oct. 28, 2009 Noon to 1 PM MLK Bldg.

DELTA ALPHA CHAPTER LAMBDA IOTA TAU

Nominations for membership into DELTA ALPHA CHAPTER of LAMBDA IOTA TAU are requested. Please submit names of students, both graduate and undergraduate, to **Dr. Rhonda Saldivar**.

Don't forget to visit:

www.lambdaiotataudeltaalpha.com



Professional Development

Dr. Rhonda Saldivar has been named Chair of the Department of English by COLAB's Interim Dean Betty Cox. Those who served on the hiring committee to evaluate all applicants to the Chair's post include Thorpe Butler, Charlene Evans, Ronald Samples, and Michal Sollars.

Dr. Michael Zeitler has been named to the post of Interim Assistant Dean for Academic Enhancement.

Iris Lancaster will receive a Ph.D. in English from Texas A&M Commerce on December 19, 2009. Congratulations to her and her dissertation on “Bending the Tree, Building the Woman: A Stylistic Analysis of Voice and Vision in Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.”

Dr. Joseph McDade has joined the Department this semester as a new Visiting Professor. We would like to extend a warm welcome to him.

Drs. Charlene Evans, Rita Saylor, and Michael Zeitler will be presenting a panel of papers on Race and the Quest for Identity in Barack Obama's *Dreams from My Father* at SCAASI in February 2010.

The Department of English @ Texas Southern University
3100 Cleburne Street
Houston, TX 77004

Martin Luther King Center Room 106
713-313-7214 713-313-7916

<http://www.tsu.edu/pages/497.asp>

Editors: Michael D. Sollars, Rhonda Saldivar, Arbolina Jennings