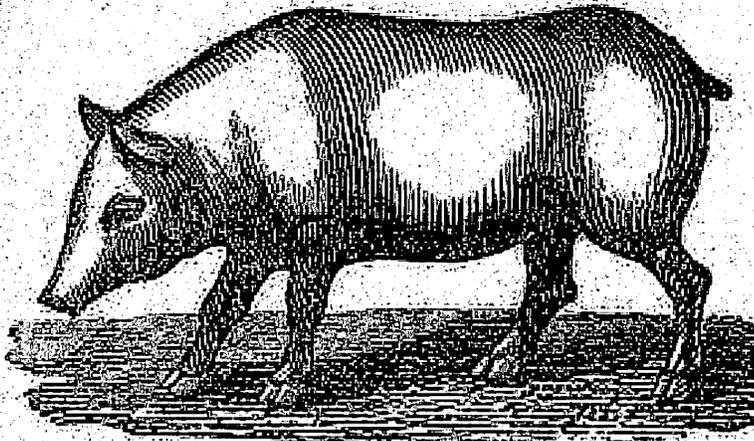


AT HOME for a SHORT TIME,



## Toby, the Sapiant Pig,

*The greatest Production of Nature,*

Has JUST ARRIVED from FRANCE,  
AND IS NOW EXHIBITING AT THE GREAT ROOMS,

**97, Pall Mall,**

Which had the honour of Performing before the Duke and Duchess  
of YORK.

The Performances of this Animal are so truly astonishing, his  
*Intelligence* and *Instinct* so great, they appear to be the work of magic;  
his *Colour* and *Symetry* please every beholder, and his *Sagacity* leaves  
them in a maze of wonder at this extraordinary production of Na-  
ture; and he may truly be said to be

**The Philosopher of the Swinish Race.**

*This PHENOMENON will*  
SELL and READ, CAST ACCOUNTS, PLAY at CARDS, TELL any  
person WHAT O'CLOCK it is to a MINUTE by their own Watch;  
also, TELL THE AGE of ANY ONE in company; and, what is more  
astonishing, he will DISCOVER a PERSON'S THOUGHTS—a thing  
never heard of before to be Exhibited by an Animal of the Swine  
Race. The Performances of this truly surprising Creature

**Must be Seen to be Believed.**

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Graduate Students,

Let me begin by introducing myself. My name is Joe Meyer, and I'm a PhD student in Early American literature, with an emphasis on Melville—yes, that Melville. I certainly hope that all of you are having a good semester thus far. I want to take a moment to state what the GSE's (Graduate Students in English) goals are for this year. First, we would like to try to help improve communication between the graduate students and each other, as well as the department at large. One way in which we're attempting to improve in this area is by creating the website (<http://www.uark.edu/studorg/gse/>). The site contains a lot of information that graduate students and faculty will find

useful throughout the semester.

Second, we want to provide opportunities for our students to grow professionally. Right now we are finalizing the details for our graduate conference that we're holding this year. As of right now, the date looks to be April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>; be on the lookout for the call for papers. Currently, we are also in the beginning stages of our own journal: *The Arkansas Literary Review*. We are already receiving submissions, and our advisory board (consisting of graduate students from all over the country) is already reading submissions, and I encourage our students to submit articles as well. What we hope to establish with the conference and the journal is tradition, which is

the backbone of academia. We want to give our graduate students every opportunity to compete with other universities.

Finally, we want to establish a feeling of pride and community within the department. We want to hear from you: If you've presented a paper at a conference or had an article, short story, poem, etc. accepted by a journal or magazine, contrary to what you may think, that IS a big deal, and it's something that needs to be heralded. Success is often contagious. Your story of triumph may inspire another to try, and so on. Let's support each other and our faculty to succeed. As a great author once said, "We cannot live for ourselves alone. Our lives are connected by a thousand invisible

threads, and along these sympathetic fibers, our actions run as causes, and return to us as effects." Now, who was it that said that again?

Sincerely,  
Joe Meyer

***The Sapient Pig! is on the web!***

You can access this issue, along with the archive of previous issues, at the graduate student website at [uark.edu/ua/osre](http://uark.edu/ua/osre). While you are on the site, be sure to create a profile so prospective students and others can get to know you. You can also stay current with department news on the website. Be sure to give Joe Meyer a big hug for taking this project on.

## CALLS FOR PAPERS

CFP'S,  
NEWS,  
AND  
EVENTS**Conference on the Humanities at the U of A**

The Graduate Students in English would like to announce a call for papers, creative fiction, and poetry for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference on Literature and the Humanities at the University of Arkansas. Abstracts should be limited to 250 words; the deadline for submission is February 1, 2010. Please send abstracts to [jmm010@uark.edu](mailto:jmm010@uark.edu); please include the words "Conference Abstracts" in the subject box. The conference will take place April 9-10. The plenary speaker will be Dr. Richard Schur of Drury University (see pg. 4).

The registration fee for the conference will be \$15 dollars for GSE members and \$25 for non-members.

**SSSL Conference**

The Society for the Study of Southern Literature will be holding its annual conference on April 9-11 in New Orleans, LA. The deadline for proposals is November 15. The major theme of the conference is "Everybody loves you when you're down and South: Cultural Capital and Hard Times." For more information, visit the website at <http://web.wm.edu/english/sssl/conference.php?svr=www>.

**CEA Conference**

The CEA Conference, run by the University of Arkansas's Karen Madison, will take place in San Antonio, TX on March 25-27. The deadline for submissions is November 1. The theme for this year's conference is "Voices." For more on the experience of attending the CEA conference, please see Christine Hoffman and Louise Cole's description on the following page. For further information, consult with the CEA website at [www2.widener.edu/~cea/conference2010.htm](http://www2.widener.edu/~cea/conference2010.htm)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**The Future of English Departments In formal Roundtable**

On October 29 at 5:00 pm in the bridge room (KIMP 321), the GSE will be having a roundtable discussion of two articles that address the current state of English departments. You can find links to the articles on the GSE website by clicking on the "info/events" tab. All students are welcome to attend this discussion. Joe Meyer will be providing the coffee.

**Zulfikar Ghose Lecture**

On November 5 in KIMP 105, University of Texas Professor Emeritus Zulfikar Ghose will be presenting a lecture entitled, "On Being a Native Alien: The Question of a Writer's Identity."

**Professional Workshops**

Though no date has been announced, keep your eyes peeled for upcoming professional workshops provided by the English faculty. The workshop provided on Sep-

tember 16 by Dr. Lisa Hinrichsen, Dr. Terrence Tucker, and Dr. David Joliffe on crafting CV's and cover letters and locating job postings proved to very informative and helpful. Future workshops will focus on proper conduct while interviewing for jobs, including mock interviews Dr. Hinrichsen suggests that even those who are not currently on the job market should attend these workshops to gain some knowledge about the arduous process of searching for employment.

## CONFERENCE NEWS

### CEA, '09: PITTSBURGH, PA BY CHRISTINE HOFFMANN AND LOUISE COLE

CEA Conference, March 26-28, Pittsburgh, PA – a review by Christine Hoffmann

First of all, the hotel was awesome! Along with the hotel (big salads and a Golden Girls marathon—whoo!), we give the conference two enthusiastic thumbs up. We heard panel talks on cooking, dog-walking, Nigerian emails, discourse communities, Robert Frost, how-to-take-on-stingy-administrators-or-at-least-complain-about-them-with-dignity-and-class-and-sophisticated-metaphors-about-lighthouses, and pedagogy, pedagogy, pedagogy.

Louise and I delivered companion papers on our experience teaching with technology in World Literature I. Oddly enough, we were not placed in one of the multiple panels devoted exclusively to teaching with

technology, which brings us to our only real complaint about the conference: Our panel was scheduled to end just as Thursday's plenary session was scheduled to begin. As a result, the panel was sparsely attended, and the poor folks who did attend (thanks Karen and Bob Madison!) lost their chance to get a seat for Kathleen Blake Yancey's presentation—a (probably) wonderful talk about how to revitalize our struggling English Studies programs in these trying times. We would love to be able to outline for you the steps to this revitalization process, but we couldn't hear, see? Or see, see? From our cramped positions, we understood there were slides and illustrations and possibly a handout, all of which inspired appreciative murmurs and thoughtful smiles from the smug and seated.

We sincerely hope these lucky people have by now succeeded in revitalizing their respective departments, but we also hope they have the decency to feel a little guilty about hogging all the seats. Seat hogs!

Kidding, of course, about the smugness! We were honestly struck by the pleasant atmosphere of the entire CEA conference. The word is *congenial*, folks. This is the kind of conference for which to make room in your schedules (and your wallets), year after year. It promises to be always relevant to teachers and scholars of English and Composition, concerned as it is with the future of pedagogy and the role of English studies in relation to all disciplines typically encountered in a university setting. Go to CEA! You're guaranteed to enjoy.

### SOUTHERN WRITERS SYMPOSIUM, '09: FAYETTEVILLE, NC BY GRANT BAIN

I presented at the Southern Writers Symposium, February 27-28, in Fayetteville, North Carolina. The conference was small, which led to a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. Methodist University, which hosted the conference, has a lovely small campus that reminds me of Hendrix College, where I earned my Bachelor's.

My paper, "The Poetics of Symmetry: Thomas Wolfe's Class Consciousness" argued that Thomas Wolfe's novels, especially *Look Homeward, Angel* and *You Can't Go Home Again*, explore class conflict by situating their protagonists variously within lower-, middle-, and upper-class surroundings, thereby allowing each form of

class consciousness to speak to the reader. Wolfe attempts to portray the true common lot of humanity, without compromising depictions of the material conditions under which different groups and individuals exist.

Fayetteville, NC itself didn't leave much of an impression on me, mostly because the weather was dismal while I was there, so I didn't explore the town much. I did accidentally stumble upon the Fort Bragg red light district, which resulted in me frantically escaping from pursuing "maseuses," but that's another story for hopefully no other time. Weather and misadventures aside, the conference was re-

laxed and enjoyable and I would be happy to attend in the future.

#### Attending a Conference?

If so, please inform us. This section allows our graduate students to showcase their accomplishments in inter-university settings. My goal as editor is to have two to three pages of conference experiences because it gives us evidence that our programs are producing terrific scholars. If you have an experience you would like to share, please email it to the editor at [ezells@uark.edu](mailto:ezells@uark.edu).

### MARK TWAIN CONFERENCE, '09: ELMIRA, NY BY SILAS KAINE EZELL

In August 2009, I had the privilege of presenting at The Sixth International Conference on the State of Mark Twain Studies Conference in Elmira, NY. This being my first conference, I was already intimidated. However, when I learned that this conference attracts the biggest and best Twain scholars across the globe, I was mortified. In fact, the morning I gave my paper, a scholar I quote prominently in my project ate breakfast at the same table as me.

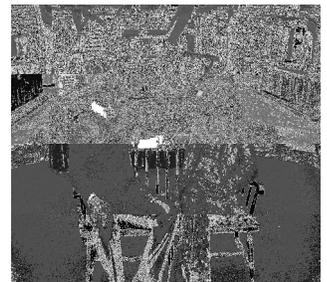
Despite the sweaty palms, my talk went very well. In

my paper, I argue that Twain portrays positive religious character through Uncle Silas Phelps in *Huckleberry Finn*, which turned out to be the most controversial paper on my panel. I fielded two questions during the discussion and many more throughout the rest of the conference. Overall, the other scholars at this conference were very polite and congenial—perhaps even familial.

The location of the conference also contributes to the congenial atmosphere. It always takes place at Elmira College in Elmira, NY, the hometown of Twain's wife,

Olivia, and Twain's final resting place. The campus is very charming, though they have quite a fascination with their major school color: purple (even the hand soap was purple). Seriously, the Elmira staff did a fantastic job. The two highlights for me were meeting Hal Holbrook, the writer and performer of *Mark Twain, Tonight!*, and the picnic at Quarry Farm, where Twain wrote sections of his most popular works, including *Huckleberry Finn*. At the farm, we ate barbecued chicken, beer-boiled shrimp, and enjoyed the hilltop view of Elmira while conversing on the

front porch where Twain smoked cigars. I had a fabulous time at this conference and intend to go again.



## CONFERENCE NEWS (CONT.)

### DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR TO SPEAK AT ARKANSAS'S CONFERENCE FOR THE HUMANITIES

The GSE is happy to announce that Dr. Richard Schur will be one of the plenary speakers at the 2nd Annual Conference on Literature and the Humanities at the University of Arkansas. Schur is the Director of Interdisciplinary Studies at Drury University in Springfield, MO. He holds both a law degree from the University of Wisconsin and a Ph.D in American Studies from the University of Kansas. His particular interests involve his background in law with an emphasis on contemporary African

American culture. Schur's publications include numerous articles in law, literature, and culture. He has published a book, *Parodies of Ownership: Hip Hop Aesthetics and Intellectual Property Law* (2009), and is co-editor of a forthcoming collection of essays entitled *African American Culture and Legal Discourse*. One of his essays, "Post-Soul Aesthetics in Contemporary African American Art," won the 2008 Joe Weixlmann Award for best essay on contemporary African American literature and culture.



Dr. Richard Schur will be one of the plenary speakers at the Conference for the Humanities.

### FACULTY PROFILE: DR. LISA HINRICHSEN

Since joining the English faculty in Fall 2008, Dr. Lisa Hinrichsen has been a tremendous asset to the graduate student in two respects: 1) She has displayed excellence in teaching. 2) She has also been valuable in helping graduate students who are set to enter the job market.

Dr. Hinrichsen's journey to the University of Arkansas has had many interesting stopping points. Born in Virginia, she ended up spending most of her childhood in Ames, Iowa. She completed her B.A. at Wellesley College and went on to finish her graduate work at Boston University. In the midst of her distinguished academic career, she has spent time studying abroad in Oxford, Vienna, and Japan. Even with this vast travel experience, Dr. Hinrichsen very much enjoys living in Fayetteville, particularly because of the gorgeous campus at the University, the diversity of students, and the natural setting.

Dr. Hinrichsen's major areas of interest include southern literature, labor history, African American literature, southern

biography and autobiography, and psychoanalytic theory. She is also very interested in the global South, a concept that analyzes how the South manifests itself globally and its multi-cultural hybridity, as opposed to viewing the South as an isolated region with no ties to the rest of the world. In Fall 2010, she is considering teaching a graduate course tentatively titled "Other Souths."

In addition to being a fantastic professor, Dr. Hinrichsen has also been a wonderful mentor to those entering the job market. Both last year and this year, she, along with Dr. David Joliffe and Dr. Terrence Tucker, has conducted workshops on constructing CV's and cover letters. Her recommendations to graduate students as they begin to market themselves for jobs are to attend conferences, join MLA, read *PMLA*, and read *Profession*, which deals with pedagogical aspects of the profession.

Finally, Dr. Hinrichsen urges graduate students interested in Modern American or Southern literature to come and introduce themselves to her.



Dr. Lisa Hinrichsen

### QUICK NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

*The Sapient Pig!* is yours; I am only the editor. Please, if you have any news that you would like to share with your fellow students about conferences, publications, or even a bit of rabble rousing, email me at ezells@uark.edu (I go by Kaine, and simply label the subject line "Sapient Pig").

—Silas Kaine Ezell