

# FALL 2004 CONFERENCE

## LAKE WORTH, FL

**Best regards from Byron and Shelley  
aka Dr. Julia Rawa and Dr. Kevin Morgan**

We have enjoyed working with the Florida College English Association over the past four years. As educators, we were drawn to this organization for our mutual interest in Florida literature and have not been disappointed in the shared research and scholarship in Florida studies. FCEA is not only a unique organization in interests, but also unique in its personality, which has always been amiable and unpretentious, so rare in professional organizations.

We also wish to express our thanks to the support from the FCEA board, its past presidents, and general membership. We also look forward to the future growth and vitality of this organization in the years ahead.

### **NEW OFFICERS**

**President** Steve Brahle teaches at Palm Beach Community College where he has served on the Honors Committee. His papers "Composition Instruction: Web-based Editing Exercises" and "Common Mistakes and Quick Fixes in the Composition Classroom" have been presented at recent FCEA conferences.

**Vice president and 2005 Conference Chair** Steve Glassman is Professor of Humanities at Emory-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach and past president of FCEA (1991-1992). His numerous book publications include *On the Trail of the Maya Explorer: Tracing Stephens Epic Journey of Discovery* (2003) and *The Near Death Experiment* (2001).

**Secretary** William G. Wall is Associate Professor of English at Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville where he has been Co-chair of the Curriculum Committee for four years. He has published articles on such diverse topics as Dickens, Shakespeare, Blake, *Bhagavad-Gita*, and Institutional Child Abuse and founded and administered, until 2001, a public charter school that serves 120 children, grades 1-8, recently cited by the US government for achieving high test scores in a 97% Free/Reduced lunch population.

**Treasurer** Richard McKee is Coordinator of Writing Studio at the Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota. He has written over seventy pieces of satire and creative non-fiction in the past dozen years. A collection of his essays, *The Clan of the Flapdragon*, was published in 1997 by the University of Alabama Press. His current work in progress, *Darker Shades of Sunshine*, is a gonzo study of modern Florida writing.

**Executive Board Member** Patricia Feito is an Associate Professor of English at Barry University's School of Adult and Continuing Education where she acts as Academic Coordinator for English and Foreign Languages. She holds graduate degrees in English from the University of Michigan and the University of California, Irvine. She has taught at Harvard University's Extension School, Northeastern University and the University of Miami. Her research interests include the place of Virginia Woolf's novels in the modernist canon; aesthetic reception theory and non-traditional readers of "difficult" literary texts; and the intersections between gender, cognition, and reading/writing.

## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Held at the historic Gulfstream Hotel in Lake Worth, the conference featured interesting and varied presentations. Abstracts of all presentations are available by clicking on FCEA 2004 Conference.

**Florida:** Maurice O'Sullivan discussed selected Florida writers. Two presentations dealt with 19<sup>th</sup> century Florida writers. Jeff Morgan discussed Elizabeth Stuart Phelps's *The Story of Avis* (1877) as one of the first American novels to demythicize the Fountain of Youth while Keith Huneycutt looked at the existing letters of the Brown sisters which comment on living conditions in early Florida. Andrea Best explored several literary works dealing with the unique South Florida ecosystem and explained how these works provide a communication between literature and politics. Florida's changing landscape of *momento mori* was examined by Patricia Gaitely and Susan Jones. Richard McKee analyzed the antihero Serge A. Storms ( *Storm Surge Serenade*) as one who commits horrific deeds but also acts as protector and preserver of Florida.

**Teaching Composition:** Erica Cirillo explained how blogs, synchronous chat rooms, and discussion boards, along with readings, can be integrated into basic writing pedagogy based on the theories of Mina Shaughnessy, Andrea Lunsford, and Patricia Bizzell. Patrick Tierney demonstrated multiple thematic approaches to the teaching of composition as an effective way to teach argumentation while Elizabeth Barnes outlined the Writing Studio Program at Stetson University. John Ribar, David Nixon, and Dan McGavin presented a panel exploring composition approaches and materials which are away from dominant cultural practices, e.g., showing how teachers can empower students to look at the social and cultural contextualization of all writing. Peter Schreffler described and analyzed an experimental effort at Florida Southern College which requires all new 1<sup>st</sup> year students to read the same book, write a short paper that provokes discussion of the book, participate in the discussion and finally, write a brief analysis of the discussion.

**Literature:** Not surprisingly, many presentations focused on literature and the literary tradition, including a round table on Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby* led by Carol Policy, Kalenda Eaton-Donald, and Steve Brahle. Lillian Schanfield's "Hamlet and Anthropology: Still Plucking Out the Heart of Its Mystery" examined the overwhelming mix of elements in Hamlet and suggested that the source of difficulty may be an incomplete and unsatisfying fusion of these elements into a "coherent" culture. Courtney Ruffner analyzed Ezra Pound as an intellectual suffering from moral anxiety while Jeff Grieneisen showed how Pound's Canto XXXI provides the intersection of his major themes. Four papers concentrated on Hemingway. Kirk Curnutt traced American and international perspectives on Hemingway from Modernism through the present. Jaime Sanders demonstrated close reading of a text using Hemingway's "A Day's Wait." Trista Snook and Stone Shiflet discussed a joint project between 7<sup>th</sup> grades and students in 1<sup>st</sup> year composition using Hemingway. Other literary presentations included Maureen Goldstein's comparison of the initial critical reception of Iris Murdoch's *A Fairly Honorable Defeat* with more contemporary interpretations of the novel's complexities; Douglas Ford's discussion of Florida novelist Owl Goingback's novel *Crota*; and Kathleen Anderson's explanation of Jane Austen's female characters as a guide to female heroism. Steve Glassman's slide presentation "The 19<sup>th</sup> Century Nonfiction Melville" investigated John Lloyd Stephens, 19<sup>th</sup> century nonfiction writer and adventurer.

Several presentations examined literary theory. Cynthia Lyles-Scott "Heeding the Anti-heroines Call" discussed the 21st century heroine as one who fights villains with a dark, gutsy feminist attitude. Larry Byrne analyzed the uneasy relationship between ecocriticism and British Romantic poetry. Marilyn Brannen examined postcolonial theory, in particular, the liminal space occupied by the native intellectual.

**Other papers focused technology, as well as other issues in the classroom.** Kevin Morgan, Julia Rawa, and Li-Lee Tunceren discussed some of the pedagogical and political issues involved in online learning. William Wall "Addressing Culture-Specific Technophobia in At-Risk First Year Students" explored resistance to using computer aids, especially by minority students and explained ways to address this resistance. Shelia Levi-Aland demonstrated the importance of reading Shakespeare aloud in the classroom. Deborah Teague addressed the issue of bringing topics such as gay and lesbian issues, racial prejudice, and attraction between teacher and student into the open in teacher training. Regina Dilgen suggested that we use Abraham Maslow's hierarchy as a paradigm to consider the evolution of student behavior throughout the semester and also as a prompt for student writing and for a discussion of the role of the humanities in our lives. William Wall's "Toward a Culture of Trust" focused on the relationships between faculty across disciplines and between faculty and administration, reviewed highlights of current research, and explained what SFCC is trying to do to address the issue of trust. Shelly Hedstrom, Lourdes Lopez-Merino, and Mike Sfiropoulos discussed key concepts in the fields of English as a Second Language and English for Academic Purposes followed by a historical overview of the events leading up to the 2001 implementation of EAP programs in Florida's community college system. The group offered recommendations for those implementing EAP coursework or programs at their institutions.

Other conference events included a performance of *Murder in the Cathedral* staged by the Theatre Department at Palm Beach Community College.

Susan Mitchell was guest speaker at the closing luncheon. Mitchell, who teaches at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, has won numerous awards for her poetry.



## 2005 Conference in Daytona Beach

Steve Glassman is already working hard on finding a venue for next year's conference. A big ticket, i.e., headliner-type speaker for the luncheon has also been approached. A poetry slam is also planned. Updates will be posted on the FCEA web.

### Of Interest

**American Literature Association 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference** will be held in Boston, May 26-29, 2005. Abstracts are due by December 15, 2004.

<http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/english/ala2/societycalls.html>

**NCTE – College Research Paper** has a number of articles available online, including one published in *Teaching English in the Two-Year College*, May 2003. Margaret Cooke’s “The Research Paper: A Historical Perspective” traces the research paper in college from the opening of John Hopkins University in 1876. John Hopkins followed the German model of education which connected learning with research and writing. Cooke explains that writing and research dominated learning in higher education for the next 30 years. This article, as well as others dealing with the college research paper, is available by <http://www.ncte.org/collections/collegeresearch>.

**New Jersey College English Association** is calling for papers and panels on a variety of topics, e.g., “American Crime Fiction and Film Noir,” “The Things They Wore: Clothing and the Construction of Identity in American Literature.” <http://faculty.ucc.edu/english-chewing/cfp.htm>

“**Romanticism and Parenting Conference**” will be held June 24-26, 2005 at Seattle University, Seattle, Washington. Suggested topics include representations of parents and parent-child relations, theories and practices of education, and spaces where families gather. More information is available at <http://cfp.english.upenn.edu/archive/Romantic/0071.html>.

“**Violence, the Arts, and Cather**” is the theme of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Cather Seminar 2005 held in Red Cloud, Nebraska and at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Proposals are due by March 18, 2005. Detailed information is available by accessing <http://www.willacather.org/> and clicking on the call for papers. Terry Eagleton is the keynote speaker.

## **SPRING ISSUE FCEA NEWSLETTER**

**"I am a life form spontaneously created from the sea of information"**

**Masamune Shirow *Ghost in the Shell***

SF (speculative fiction/science fiction) addresses contemporary issues in its representations of past or future worlds. Although most critics agree that the genre originated in the 19th century, certainly Thomas More's *Utopia*, Francis Bacon's *Atlantis*, Johannus Kepler's *Somnium*, and Voltaire's *Micromegas* deal with familiar sf topics, i.e., utopian societies, life on the moon, and extraterrestrials.

We are looking for brief submissions (about 500 words) dealing with aspects of speculative fiction/science fiction. Some suggestions are as follows:

Using SF in the classroom

Reviewing sf films

Reviewing sf canonical and non canonical sf texts

Reviewing sf art, e.g., book jackets/covers and magazine covers

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