In an email to a recent graduate who had promised to visit, I told him, if it would help his motivation, to consider the call a church visitation: “After all, with our aging faculty, the department qualifies as an Assisted Living Center anyway.” Rim Shot, please!  
Sorry, but those of us who are getting older must cope with (lame) humor on occasion, but, despite the fact that in my view all my current colleagues bring energy and ability to their teaching, we are ready to welcome some youth into the department this coming fall.  
Greg Laing, who has a B. A. in history from the University of North Carolina, will finish his dissertation this summer at Western Michigan University, where he has served with distinction as a graduate assistant, winning an “All-University Teaching Award” in 2008. Greg has also amassed some impressive credentials in his specialty of Medieval Studies. He has presented papers on Anglo-Saxon literature and has reading knowledge of Old and Middle English, as well as Old Norse. As a member of the prestigious Medieval Institute housed at Western Michigan, he published online articles and did research and editing for various projects. In addition, he served as an editor on an edition of a 13th-century Icelandic law code, The Laws of Later Iceland: Jonsbok. Greg’s interests extend to later periods of British Literature, and he has taught a variety of courses while at Western Michigan. He and wife Kim, a graduate of Harding in history, have taught children’s Bible classes together.  
Nathan Henton brings a variety of academic and nonacademic experience to the department. With a B. A. (Freed-Hardeman University) and M. A. (University of Mississippi) in English, Nathan has taught junior high and worked in local television news as both production coordinator and producer. For the last few years he has taught English at Northwest Mississippi College, earning praise from his colleagues and students for traditional classroom work as well as online courses. His first love in the classroom is composition, and because of his experience and focus on the teaching of writing, he will assume the duty of teaching the department’s Systems of English Grammar course. His commitment to writing as an essential skill for all students in the computer age will help us prepare for the future of our discipline. He and his wife, Alice, who is also in education, have a young daughter, Miley, who will be a pre-schooler this fall.  
Their youth aside, Greg and Nathan impressed current department members as possessing the right mixture of experience, enthusiasm, and ability to well serve our general education students and our English majors for years to come—long enough to one day make their own self-deprecating jokes about old age.
Faculty News

Several faculty members have been active in publishing this year. Kathy Dillion adapted and published her dissertation, *Friends Watching* *Friends: American Television in Egypt.* The book came out in late December through Cambridge Scholars Press. Larry Hunt published his novel *Sweet River Fool* through Eastern Gate Press. Michael Claxton published the article “Victorian Conjuring Secrets” in the book *Victorian Secrecy* by Ashgate Press. Stephanie Eddleman’s paper presented to the Jane Austen Society of North America’s annual meeting, called “‘Not half so handsome as Jane’: Sisters, Brothers, and Beauty in the Novels of Jane Austen,” was also published in the 2009 edition of *Persuasions Online.* Nick Boone published two poems in *Art Amiss 12:* “Eye Run” and “I did this to myself.” Terry Engel’s article “A Helping Hand for Haiti” and accompanying photographs appeared in *Harding* magazine.

Dr. Stephanie Eddleman successfully defended her dissertation, *Eye of the Beholder: Physical Beauty in the Novels of Jane Austen,* and earned her Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi. Nick Boone attended Re-Viewing Black Mountain College: An International Conference, where he presented the paper “Hermeneutic Ontology and the Black Mountain Poets.” John Williams, Stephanie Eddleman, and Deveryle James attended the 2009 Christian Scholars Conference at Lipscomb University. Eddleman presented the paper “Fragmenting the Narrative.”

Kathy Dillion spoke on a panel for ethical food practices, “Meet your Meat: The Ethics of Eating,” for the Honors College. Stephanie Eddleman and Deveryle James served on a panel discussion for the LC Sears lecture series called “How Women Get Words in Edgewise.”

Dennis Organ announced his retirement following the 2010-11 academic year, though he will continue to fulfill his half-time responsibility as executive director of Alpha Chi, whose national headquarters will remain at Harding. Alpha Chi held its first-ever combined regional convention March 25-27 in Little Rock, featuring presentations by Carlotta Walls LaNier, one of the Little Rock Nine who integrated Central High School in 1957, and a panel of three former members of the Clinton administration. Delegates also participated in two service projects, one on literacy with Reading Is Fundamental and another on global hunger and poverty with Heifer International.

Kathy Dillion taught 19th and 20th Century Humanities during the summer at Pepperdine University. Terry Engel spent the summer of 2009 teaching at Harding University in Florence. Michael Claxton and Alice Jewell spent the fall 2009 teaching a group of (predominantly) English majors at Harding University in England. Rod Brewer spent the first part of the summer working with a private organization in Texas that takes in abused and addicted women and their children. There he worked with the women on passing their GED as well as set up an online template and newsletter for the organization. Heath Carpenter served as the independent internal evaluator for a grant project in the College of Education. The grant, given by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education, enables teachers to attempt to become Nationally Board Certified. Carpenter also participated as a writer for a project sponsored by The Encouragement Foundation. The group traveled across America seven days, almost 9,000 miles, to film a documentary about teenagers who are doing philanthropic work. He is currently writing a book about several of those teenagers that should be released in conjunction with the documentary. Terry Engel and the Scribblers creative writing club developed and conducted a three hour creative writing program for an after school program at Bald Knob Middle School.

Kathy Dillion conducted a research trip to Lebanon, where she investigated the lives of Middle Eastern women who...
Faculty News (from two)

Terry Engel worked on a medical and development mission with the Haitian Christian Development Project and Harding’s College of Nursing in Gonaïves, Haiti.

The department employed four adjunct instructors: Joel Cox, Rachel Gould, Julie Elander, and Josh Potter.

The English faculty recognized Nick Michael as the Outstanding Senior English Major of 2010. In addition to being a talented writer, photographer, filmmaker, and an excellent student, Michael consistently demonstrated leadership and spirituality inside and outside the classroom. Michael was a regular photographer for The Bison and Petit Jean. He traveled to Mozambique last summer to conduct a filmmaking workshop for the Yao People (see story Page Four). He was instrumental in creating Anthology, an evening of oral storytelling performed at the Underground coffee house. He also collaborated on planning and participating in the English departmental chapels this Spring.

Visiting Writers Alexander and Budy Read on Campus

The English department sponsored two writers this year: Tamera Alexander, author of the critically acclaimed Fountain Creek Chronicles historical fiction series, and poet and essayist Andrea Hollander Budy, writer-in-residence at Lyon College.

Alexander, a graduate of the University, has written seven Christian fiction novels since 2000. Her inspirational romance stories have earned her two Christy awards, the highest honor for a Christian book. Budy enjoys a national reputation as a poet. Her first volume of poetry, House Without a Dreamer, won the prestigious Nicholas Roerich Prize. Her latest collection is Woman in the Painting. Last year she edited the anthology of contemporary American women poets called When She Named Fire.

Both writers gave public readings and in a separate session, spoke to students and faculty about the business and process of writing. Alexander, who turned to writing after a long and successful life in business, spoke at length about the business of getting published. She urged those interested in historical Christian fiction to attend conferences such as the American Christian Fiction Writers, which encourage networking and guarantees a writer face-to-face time with editors and agents. She also emphasized the importance of research when writing historical fiction. Even though only two percent of the research actually makes in into the book, the writer has to know the time period in order to be credible.

Budy also spoke of the writing life, noting that “a full life is what you need to be a successful writer. Life comes first — art comes out of life.” She also provided encouragement to young writers by pointing out that she “practiced” poetry for 23 years and “studied the craft.” Her first book didn’t come out until she was 46 years old. “You have to write the lousy poems first in order to write the good ones later,” she said. Budy also spoke of the business of writing and submitting poetry. She emphasized the importance of subscribing to literary journals and buying the books of other poets, since it represents such a small segment of the publishing industry. Placing a poem is often a stroke of luck, she said, catching the right editor on the right day.” Never give up on a poem,” she advised.

Nick Michael Awarded Outstanding Senior English Major

Fayette (Coleman) Murray (1946) and Dennis Organ wait for a reading to begin
Larry Hunt's first novel is now available. *Sweet River Fool* is the story of a homeless man named Snody (pronounced “Snow-dee”) who begs and scavenges for a living in the small north Georgia town of Sweet River. Despairing over his alcoholism and poverty, Snody tries to take his own life but botches the attempt. In the wake of this failure, he discovers a book about Saint Francis of Assisi and is captivated by the medieval saint’s life. What fascinates him most is the paradox that allowed Francis to experience sublime joy in the midst of complete poverty. Inspired by admiration for Francis and a desire to understand the mystery of his joy, Snody begins to model his own life on the saint’s. In the course of doing so he befriends Clare, a teenage girl who, in spite of being an avowed atheist, is drawn to Snody’s simple faith and gentle humor. By the novel’s end both Snody and Clare find their lives paralleling that of Francis in ways that they never imagined possible.

Hunt is currently researching a historical novel on the life of Merlin the Magician.

You can find Hunt’s book at the Hard- ing bookstore, or you may order directly from his storefront at http://stores.lulu.com/store.php?fAcctID=4545832.

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English majors Nick Michael (2010) and senior Kelsey Sherrod spent six weeks during summer 2009 in Mozambique, living and working among the Yao people. As part of the Kujilana Project, they joined Tyler Jones (2010) (Continued on Page Five)
In December 2009, Assistant Professor Kathy Dillion published her book, *Friends Watching Friends: American Television in Egypt*, through Cambridge Scholars Press. The book developed out of graduate research for her Ph.D. in heritage studies at Arkansas State University. For her dissertation she traveled to Egypt and conducted personal and small group interviews between 2004 and 2006. According to the Cambridge Web site, “the work includes ways that Egyptian women view the influence of American television in their daily lives as well as showing ways that Egyptians use the media to develop their ideas about Americans. Using the sitcom, *Friends* as a focal point, the study probes commonalities about humor between Egyptian and American women that make *Friends* particularly appealing as an international text. Additionally, using an ethnographic approach, the research examines relevant social trends in employment, relationships, and the economy. It celebrates a diversity of opinions among Egyptian women and gives voice to those who want to share their views with others internationally and who have a strong tie to their own culture and heritage.”

According to Naomi Shehab Nye, an Arab American poet and writer who shared her work at Harding in 2007: “[This] important book could not be more timely, thoughtfully researched, or tenderly composed. Her examinations of Egyptian response to American pop culture and media examine so many of the ‘differences’ and conflicts dominating the world conversation in the 21st century, while exploring deeper realities of tradition, variation and the confusions of change.”

Dillion’s book is available online at www.c-s-p.org.

Kujilana (cont.)

and Maribeth Browning in teaching the Yao the art of filmmaking. According to Sherrod, the approximately two million Yao are “nurs[ing] a collective low cultural self-esteem” brought on by the effects of globalization that “laps at cultures until they crumble.” By placing cameras in the hands of the Yao they hoped to “equip local imaginations with the media of film so that they could preserve Yao stories and take pride in them as well.”

According to the Kujilana Web site, in addition to enabling the Yao to film their own lives, they “trek[ed] out to the bush to interview elders who had survived both the War for Independence and the Civil War. The footage [was] played for the entire village, as a means of supplying the community with memory, and to viewers back home in the States, as a means of communicating an African voice globally.

At the end of the trip the four filmmakers left their equipment behind so the Yao could continue to tell their stories. For more details on the story, visit http://www.kujilana.com/home.html.
1975
Dorothy Peters retired last year after teaching secondary English for 30 years in Texas (20 years in Weslaco, one in Aledo and eight in Ferris). Since then she has been a substitute teacher in Ferris and Mesquite. She also volunteers with Lifeline Chaplaincy’s “Peace and Comfort” sewing ministry helping to make various types of pillows for Parkland Hospital in Dallas. During the summer months, she is a “reading buddy” with the Care, Play, Read program at Saturn Road Church of Christ tutoring underprivileged elementary students who are not up to grade level in reading.

1985
Ed Madden was a featured reader at Delta Symposium XVI hosted by Arkansas State University. He read from his recent work, Signals: Poems.

1987
Kim Little lives in Fort Worth, Texas, and teaches pre-AP sophomore English and coaches JV girls’ soccer at North Crowley High School.

1988
Sheila (Underwood) Vamplin is a licensed marriage and family therapist in private practice as well as a private piano instructor. She and her husband Drazen now live at 208 Palisade, Memphis, TN 38111.

1992
Laura Degnan Lawrence and her husband Bob received Harding’s Outstanding Young Alumni Award for 2009 and were honored at Homecoming. In 2008 they started Alaska Family Doctor, a small company that helps reduce the distance between patients and doctors. Laura is president and CEO.

1996
Diane Reese and her husband, Marcus (1997), and their four daughters, Hannah, Hadassah, Rochelle and Faith, continue to serve as missionaries in Papua New Guinea. Their new email address is marcus.and.diane@gmail.com.

1998
Robin (Jubela) Kernodle and her husband Jeremy (1998), welcomed a daughter, Jane Charlotte, on June 27, 2009. Siblings are Clara (4) and Ian (2). Robin received an MA in teaching English to speakers of other languages from American University in May 2004. After moving to Dallas, Texas from Washington, D.C., she recently taught an ESL class at her church using a faith-based curriculum. She currently serves as a full-time homemaker.

2000

2001

2002
Jon Singleton successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation entitled The Suspension of (Dis)Belief: Novel and Bible in Victorian Society at Syracuse University.

2003
Brad Holden continued his study at the School of Divinity at Yale University. Last year he presented a paper on the apocryphal book of Susanna at a conference of the New England Society of Biblical Literature. He spent the last year studying abroad in Heidelberg, Germany.

2004
Sara Moss completed an M.A. in Technical Communications from the University of North Texas.

Jonathan Rinehart’s short story “The Assassination of a Ghost” won an honorable mention for literary excellence in this year’s Lorian Hemingway Short Story Contest, a nationally recognized short story competition.

Lauren Smelser was named a Founders’ Medalist for the Divinity School and graduated with a Master of Theological Studies from Vanderbilt University. While Vanderbilt, she served as a volunteer creative writing teacher at the Campus for Human Development, a religious non-profit agency committed to providing enhanced services to the homeless. Smelser pursued her degree with the intention of exploring ways to remain faithful to the traditions of the Church of Christ – in which roles for women in ministry are limited – while initiating a conversation about the ministerial gifts of women who wish to serve.

2005
Taylor and Lydia (Gibson) Carr announce the birth of a daughter, Lucia, in 2008. Taylor completed a master’s in liberal arts at St. John’s University, and is currently studying at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, in Brookline, Mass. Focusing on the scriptural interpretation of the early church fathers.

Jeremy Elliott recently completed a Ph.D. in American Literature from Florida State University, where he had previously earned a Master of Arts in American Folklore (2007). In the fall he will join the faculty at Abilene Christian University as a professor of English.

2004

1988
Alumni News (from six)

Jessa (Rose) Sexton and her husband Jay, announce the birth of a son, Jack Everett, October 6. Jessa’s article on education is forthcoming in Abbey Leix Anthology Volume 1.

Erin Healy Wetzel married Matthew Wetzel in 2008 and they live near Federal Way, Wash. Erin works for a real estate advertising company, and she and Matthew are active in their church. Last year they helped plant a local campus for Mars Hill Church in Federal Way, and they host a community group in their apartment each week.

2006
Mary Cunningham teaches English at Owings Mills High School in Owings Mills, Md. She will complete her M.A. in English from National University in September. This summer she is attending the Governor’s Academy in Maryland.

Don McLaughlin graduated with an M.A. in English from Villanova University. He has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at University of Pennsylvania.

2007
Megan (Perry) Clanton and her husband Cress announce the birth of a daughter, Sierra Lyn, November 30. Megan teaches English at Columbia Academy in Columbia, Tenn, and she is pursuing a master’s in education at Lipscomb University.

Julie Dow was accepted into the graduate program in literature at Florida State University with a teaching assistantship and full tuition waiver. She also completed her third year of teaching English in China.

Erin (Cooley) Lowery is an adjunct Admissions Advisor at DeVry University in Chicago. She will begin a masters degree in literature at Northeastern Illinois University in the fall. Husband Caleb is acting full time.

Heather Lehman married Ross Kelcis. This year she graduated with a R.N. from University of Arkansas at Little Rock and participated in a medical mission trip to Haiti with the Haitian Christian Development Project over spring break. In the fall she and Ross will begin a 10 year mission among the Makonde people in Tanzania, along with three other families.

Karyn Kiser presented two papers this year: “Feeling Oriental: Teaching Postcolonial Theory Through Student Emotion” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication and “Drag Acts in Space: Judith Butler and Battlestar Galactica” at Colorado State University Graduate Symposium. She defended, with distinction, her master’s thesis, “Rhetorics of Disgust and Love in the Belgian Colonization of the Congo.” She will receive the Master of Arts in English in Rhetoric/Composition in August.

Ian Thomas married Jenna Aldridge shortly after graduation. He recently completed his Master of Arts in English Literature at West Chester University. Earlier this year he presented a paper on the Situationist International and contemporary street art at the PCA/ACA Conference in St. Louis.

Stephanie Eatherton Witcher teaches at Ahlf Middle School in Searcy. Recently she was interviewed by a columnist in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette regarding her teaching of the noted Young Adult author S.E. Hinton.

2008
Joel Cox married Becky Abel in October 2009. He taught for the English and the Honors program as an adjunct last fall.

Katherine Cozzens completed a Master of Arts in English at West Chester University. He has been accepted into the graduate program at University of Pennsylvania. He will begin a 10 year mission among the Makonde people in Tanzania, along with three other families.

Rachel Gould taught as an adjunct for the English Department for the 2009-10 school year.

Susana Marina Lezcano recently earned a master’s in organizational communication at Universidad Santa Maria La Antigua in Panama City, Panama. She works as Communication and Corporate Affairs Coordinator at AES Panama. She also works on the recruitment and selection committee of the Walton International Scholarship Program.

Brooklynnce (Travis) Peters graduated from Emerson College in Boston, Mass. with a master’s degree in print and multimedia journalism. For the past year she has been the entertainment editor for Blastmagazine.com, Boston’s online magazine, which allowed her to cover the Sundance Film Festival this year in Park City, Utah. Her work has also appeared on storefronbacktalk.com and other online publications. This summer she will move to Dallas where her husband, Sam (2005), has a job as a school counselor.

Elizabeth Pippins teaches journalism and English in North Little Rock, Ark. and is pursuing a master’s of secondary education in English at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Nathan Shank presented a paper on Theresa Hak Kyung Cha’s postcolonial work Dictee at the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association Conference.

Michael Wright is studying spirituality and the arts at Fuller Theological Seminary in Los Angeles. He performed original songs at the Peace by Piece conference in Searcy, and his music can be heard on Facebook.
Alumni News (from Seven)

Karie Cross completed the first year of the master’s program at Maryland School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Emily Daw is entering the second year of a two-year commitment as a missionary and teacher in Mbale, Uganda.

Jonathan David McRay worked in Palestine from September 2009 to March 2010, writing a book for a reconciliation organization about encounters with the Other. He also worked for the Al-Basma Center, a rehabilitation and vocational training facility for developmentally disabled youth in the Bethlehem area. Several of his archived articles can be found at http://globalshift.org/?s=Palestine.

William Hawke Medders splits his time between working for the Renaissance Hotel and as a studio musician in Nashville, Tenn. This summer he will be touring the Western United States with The Medders and Josh Finley. Will and his brothers, Cheyenne (2004) and Carson (2008), and Josh Stauter (2008) released their musical CD The Medders earlier this year. Will has an article forthcoming in Fringe Magazine, a Nashville area arts and music publication.

Paige Parkey lives in Nashville, Tenn. and works for The Brumfield Group, a public relations and strategic communications firm. Paige has written several issues for Brumfield’s latest project, a magazine called Celebrate Sports in Nashville. She also writes radio commercials and copy for various marketing projects, fundraising campaigns, and advertising plans for clients nationwide.

Christa Mannen works for the Publications Department at Sally White and Associates in Dallas, Texas.

Rachel Melchers Scholl married Ken Scholl.

Vincent and Alia Smith-Wagner teach at a kindergarten in Korea.