

The Chronicle



*A Newsletter for the Department of English and Foreign
Languages at Texas Southern University/April 2004*

"We open our mouths and out flow words whose ancestries we do not even know. We are walking lexicons. In a single sentence of idle chatter we preserve Latin, Anglo-Saxon, Norse: we carry a museum inside our heads, each day we commemorate peoples of whom we have never heard... Words are more durable than anything; they blow with the wind, hibernate and reawaken, shelter parasitic on the most unlikely hosts, survive and survive and survive."

Penelope Lively

McCleary Symposium's High Notes and Highlights

The Sixth Annual J. Marie McCleary Interdisciplinary Symposium, held March 25-26, 2004, at the University Museum at TSU, produced a rich panoply of high notes in scholarly lectures and performance art. The two-day conference highlighted a diverse array of presentations in literature, music, drama, and dance on "The Artistic Legacy of Langston Hughes." The Program Chair of the Symposium was Dr. Shirley Walker Moore. Drs. Michael Sollars and Ronald Samples served as Co-sponsors.

The 2004 program drew a record number of presenters from Houston, the state of Texas, and across the country. This year's presenters totaled 25, twice that of last year. Participants hailed from Amarillo, Austin, Canyon, Denton, and Houston, Texas, as well as New Jersey, Massachusetts, and New York. The keynote speaker, Dr. Mark Anthony

Neal from the University of Texas at Austin, gave a spirited discourse on how hip hop reveals its parallels in the early jazz and poetry associated with Langston Hughes.

The Department of English and Foreign Languages has received numerous compliments from participants. Tracey M. Lewis, an adjunct professor in English at New Jersey City University and Essex County College, writes, "I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to present my paper at the McCleary Symposium. It was truly an honor to be there and I really enjoyed Houston." Jeanie Tietjen, a Ph.D. candidate in English at Brandeis University, Waltham, MA., says, "Thanks for such an interesting and diverse symposium. I've told my colleagues about it." And Dorothy Reed, assistant professor of English at Long Island University, NY., comments, "I cannot thank you enough for helping to make my visit possible. TSU was very impressive—the lovely museum, delicious food, and terrific faculty. I was impressed!"

The conference also featured presentations showing the interrelationships between literature and music, from faculty at TSU and other Houston universities, notably Drs. Fennoye Thomas, Jason Oby, and Jane Perkyns from the TSU Department of Fine Arts. A musical program, "Word Imagery and Text Painting in the Poetry of Langston Hughes Through Musical Devices" performed by Drs. Fennoye Thomas and Jason Oby, accented the interdisciplinary nature of the McCleary Symposium.

This year's program generated positive responses, insights, and questions from students and visitors. Of the many students who attended this year's symposium, the following two students offered their insights. Allen Brady says, "Dr. Mark Anthony Neal made the program an inspirational experience because of his oration of how Hughes' works continue to influence today's leaders." Courtney Brown notes that, "Langston Hughes was an eloquent writer whose works have inspired many."

The success of the symposium was also bolstered by participation and contributions from the members of the Department of English and Foreign Languages who planned, organized, advertised, hosted, and funded the two-day event. Department faculty also provided food service, entertainment, and transportation for visitors and presenters. Melba Johnson was in charge of the splendid luncheons.

The Department of English and Foreign Languages would like to thank the many individuals who helped to make the Symposium possible. Alvia Wardlaw, curator of the University Museum, made the staff and resources of the University Museum available. The office of Communications at TSU was instrumental in promoting the Symposium. Special thanks are extended to Gary Williams and his son Langston for their contributions, and to Border Books.

For a complete program of the 2004 J. Marie McCleary Symposium, see an email transmission of this newsletter sent to all TSU recipients or request an electronic copy by sending an email to sollars_md@tsu.edu. A limited number of hard copies are available by calling 713-313-7654.

TSU POET LAUREATE INTRODUCED

The Department of English and Foreign Languages recently named TSU's first Poet Laureate. Dr. John B. Sapp was introduced during the McCleary Symposium on March 26. Dr. Sapp, a distinguished man of both science and letters, is currently Chair of the Department of Chemistry. Dr. Sapp's one-year tenure as Poet Laureate at TSU will commence in September 2004.

SYMPOSIA & CONFERENCES

Drs. Shirley Walker Moore and Ronald Samples conducted a panel discussion on the question of race and literature, March 27, 2004, during the annual conference of the Association of Black Psychologists. Dr. Moore's presentation was "But Words Will Never Hurt Me." Dr. Samples' presentation was "And God Said: Literature, Psychology, and the Threat of Pathology for the Minority Community."

Dr. Thorpe Butler presented a paper entitled "Two Accounts of Europeans Transformed in Africa: Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and Layecamara's *Radiance of the King*" at the Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States conference, held in San Antonio during March 2004.

Dr. Shirley Walker Moore was the keynote speaker during the Black History Month program, "Celebrating a Rich Heritage," held at Drew Intermediate School, February 26.

The Women's Studies 2004 program, "Legacy of African American Feminism," featured a keynote address by Beverly Guy Sheftall, the Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women's Studies at Spelman College. The annual program, known as the Dean's Luncheon, is hosted by Dr. Merline Pitre, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences. Members of the department who served on the program committee include Melba Johnson and Shirley Moore of the Department of English and Foreign Languages. Mrs. Johnson was responsible for the exquisite luncheon catered at the program.

At the annual Southern Conference on African American Studies, Inc. (SCAASI), Dr. Shirley Walker Moore presided over the session called Literary Legends. The session included presentations on August Wilson's *Fences*, Athol Fugard's *Sizwe Bansi Is Dead*, and the novels of John A. Williams. Dr. Moore also participated in the Reanita Butler Student Essay Contest at the SCAASI program, held in Nashville, February 19-21, 2004.

Dr. Juluette Bartlett-Pack has read several papers this spring: "Sweetness or Trap in Zulu Sofola's *The Sweet Trap*" at the African Yoruba Conference, University of Texas, in Austin, TX, on March 25-26, 2004; and "Tess Onwueme's *What Mama Said!*: Is Africa a Tragic Continent in the 21st Century?" at the College Language Association Conference, in Nashville, TN, on April 14-17, 2004.

Minnie M. Simmons, a counselor in the University Counseling Center, presented an educational seminar on “The ADA Accommodation Process” at a recent monthly meeting of the Department of English and Foreign Languages. Ms. Simmons updated Department members on the federal rules and regulations concerning students with disabilities. The Department thanks Ms. Simmons for her valuable professional presentation.

Dr. Ronald Samples has had two poems published in *The Griot*, the refereed journal of SCAASI. Dr. Samples’ “In Memory of Cedar Wax Wings” and “Riddle Me This” appear in the Spring 2004 issue of the journal. The two poems previously appeared in the January issue of the *Chronicle*, the newsletter of the Department of English and Foreign Languages.

LOGO DESIGN UNVEILED

The Department of English and Foreign Languages presents its official logo. Following months of review of many worthy designs, the Logo Committee has selected the artistic work featured at right. This stylized design will appear on each issue of this newsletter and other Department communications. Special thanks go to Martha Wood, an emeritus instructor of English at TSU for the past 27 years, for her creative design; her son, Lee Wood, who computerized the design; and Larry Johnson, of KTSU creator of other TSU logos, who volunteered his time and design experience to help shape the Logo Committee’s ideas. We would also like to acknowledge the leadership of the Logo Committee members for putting this project on a fast track: Dr. Shirley Walker Moore, Dr. Michael Sollars, Dr. Ron Samples, and Arbolina Jennings.



SHARING THE CREATIVE SPIRIT

Professor Carmen Garcia recently had the opportunity to enjoy Carlos Fuentes’ presentation, “The Creative Spirit as a Force for Humanism” in the Moores Opera House

at the University of Houston on February 11. It was an enriching experience, and she would like to share her following thoughts with others.

“Carlos Fuentes is Mexico’s most celebrated novelist, essayist, scholar, and diplomat, and he is recognized as one of the greatest literary and political figures of the Spanish-speaking world. One of Latin America’s most prominent men of letters, he is the author of numerous screenplays, dramas, and short stories. Fuentes is best known for his novels, which use complex and innovative narrative techniques to probe Mexican history.

“Fuentes, who was born in 1928, earned his law degree from the National University of Mexico and pursued graduate studies at the Institut des Hautes Études Internationales in Geneva. He has been awarded numerous awards including Mexico’s National Prize in Literature, the Miguel de Cervantes Prize, the Latin Civilization Award, and the French Legion of Honor. Fuentes has held distinguished lectureships in England and America, and he is currently the Robert F. Kennedy Professor of Latin American Studies at Harvard University.

“Fuentes’ presentation, ‘The Creative Spirit as a Force of Humanism,’ examines how Renaissance Humanism inaugurated the modern world. Presenting a wide panorama of Humanism through history and geography, Fuentes takes us from Italy in the 1400s to the present date. In the process, he presents a diverse gallery of thinkers and a scope covering authors from Machiavelli, Galileo, Shakespeare, Cervantes, and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, to Faulkner, Kafka, Zapata, and Marcos, among others. For Fuentes, the creativity of these people contributed to Humanism, a concept that he defines as the recognition of the ‘other’ in a space where reality includes the human imagination.

“Tracing how globalization started in voyages, ‘discoveries,’ and colonization of the new world during the Renaissance period, Fuentes examines the meaning of humanism today, when more than 80% of the underprivileged population struggles to catch up with the technology and power of the industrialized world.” *Carmen Garcia*

HONOR SOCIETY SEEKS MEMBERS

Lambda Iota Tau, the national honor society for literature, promotes excellence in the study of literature and languages. Membership is open to majors and minors in literature, regardless of the language in which the literature is written. Undergraduates must have attained at least a B average in at least four courses in literature. Graduate students must have completed one semester with an A average. All members must present an initiation paper on a literary topic or of a creative nature. To nominate a student or obtain more information, contact Dr. Rhonda Saldivar, the TSU advisor to the national honor society, or Donna Kimble who also works Lambda Iota Tau.

BLACK & WHITE BALL HONORS EDUCATOR

Arbolina Jennings was recently honored at the inaugural TSU Black & White Ball as one of the university's select heroes. The Department's Assistant Professor Jennings represented the Department and faculty in receiving the Education Hero Award from TSU President Priscilla Slade for her outstanding work and contributions in higher education.

Professor Jennings specializes in Comparative Literature, specifically the modern fiction of Latin American writers and their North American, Spanish, and French influences. In her 30-year tenure at TSU, Ms Jennings has taught nearly 10,000 students and as many as 20 different courses. Among the highlights in her teaching career have been courses in English Fundamentals for TASP responsible students; Literature and Film; Introduction to Linguistics, History of the English Language, Comparative Grammar for bi-lingual teachers; and World Literature as a part of the Houston A+ Challenge Arts and Sciences Literature Majors Design Team. Ms. Jennings regularly serves on a variety of university committees, including major assignments on the University Self-Study, the Core Curriculum, University Budget, College Grade Appeals, International Studies, Assessment, Retention and Graduation, Instructional Technology, BlackBoard, and Distance Learning. She is also an editor of the *Chronicle*, the newsletter of the Department of English and Foreign Languages.

REACHING OTHERS THROUGH UJIMA

Donna Harmon, an instructor of English, is the Program Director of Ujima. Ujima, which means a collective responsibility in Swahili, is a program that uses the art of storytelling to provide inspiration and hope for women dealing with traumatic experiences such as drug addiction or the loss of a loved one. Over the course of several months, groups of women have gathered to share their "miracle stories" in a supportive and therapeutic setting. These stories have been captured on paper and are being compiled into a booklet designed to offer comfort and instill inspiration. Ms. Harmon has organized an informal Speaker's Bureau that shares these stories of encouragement and blessing with women's groups across Houston. There are plans to distribute printed copies of the booklet to support organizations in the near future. In addition, the booklet will be made available for electronic downloading in the coming months. Volunteer opportunities are available. Ms. Harmon can be reached at 713-313-7669.

NEWLY FORMED COMMITTEES

The College Retention and Graduation Committee was formed by the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences this January to evaluate ways in which student retention and graduation rates can be improved at TSU. Members of this group include Selina Ahmed, Juluette Bartlett-Pack, Clarence Batie, Howard Beeth, Cecile Harrison, Arbolina Jennings, Masoomeh Khosrovani, Byron Parker, Jane Perkyons, Lawrence Redd, Ronald Samples, Michael Sollars, and Betty Taylor-Thompson. The committee, which meets biweekly and reports to Dean Merline Pitre, has researched statistics on retention and graduation rates, accumulated numbers relevant to the University, and developed a student questionnaire to gauge the significance of national studies to the population at TSU. Samples is the chair of the committee.

The Library Liaison Committee of the Department of English and Foreign Languages has been meeting to evaluate the holdings of the Robert J. Terry Library relevant to English and Foreign Languages. Committee members have toured the library, examined research materials and databases, and made plans to analyze the department needs for study and research and to make recommendations regarding library materials, library access, and database instruction for faculty and students. Chaired by Dr. Thorpe Butler, the library committee includes Juluette Bartlett-Pack, Angela Bisong, Antonio Gonzalez, Yanina Hernandez, Arbolina Jennings, Rhonda Saldivar, Ronald Samples, Rita Saylor, Michael Sollars, and Betty Taylor-Thompson.

WHO'S WHO IN TEACHING?

Iva Jewel Woods, an emeritus instructor of English who has taught for more than 40 years, has been nominated for inclusion in the eighth edition of *Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 2004*. Mrs. Woods' nomination is especially gratifying since it results, in part, from a former student who recommended her because of the significant difference she made in the student's life. Mrs. Woods' biography will be included in the only publication dedicated exclusively to the recognition of our country's premier teachers. *Who's Who* honors only a select 5% of our nation's teachers.

IT'S ALL FRENCH FOR THESE STUDENTS

Pi Delta Phi Gamma Epsilon recently held its 2004 induction ceremony in the Department of English and Foreign Languages. Candidates inducted into the French language student association include Tilda Briscoe, LeAndra Brown, Eboni Graham, Christopher Hanson, Rence Reese, Clinton Shelvin, Haleemat Adeshina, Dralyn Battles, Ashton Bell, Allen Brady, Errol Brown, Aliou Djimde, Chukwu Jacinta, George Mashego, Jason Parker, Shana Thomas, LaDrieka White, and Joseph Jachary. Professor Marcel Crespil presided as faculty representative, and Clinton Shelvin served as ceremonial host. Other students participating in the program include Shana Thomas, who sang *Si Meshert Adaint des Ailes*, and Christopher Hanson, who provided a poetry reading and musical selection of *Salut D'Amour*. Student association member Tilda Briscoe recognized Dean Merline Pitre and Dr. Shirley Moore as honorary members into

Pi Delta Phi Gamma Epsilon. Eboni Graham hosted a luncheon of fine French cuisine immediately following the bi-lingual program.

The following letter from Professor Marcel Crespil in French and translated into English offers a tribute to the TSU students who have reenergized the French language program:

Très chers collègues, très chers étudiants,

C'est la deuxième fois depuis que j'enseigne à TSU que j'ai l'honneur et le privilège de présider à l'initiation d'un groupe de neophytes au sein De Pi Delta Phila société d'honneur française.

Ce groupe de neophytes est un groupe spécial, voire exceptionnel car sans aucune intervention de ma part, ils ont de sa propre initiative décidé de faire revivre la langue de Voltaire. En fait si quelqu'un mérite d'être encouragée, c'est bien leur présidente Mme Tilda Bledsoe. Alors que tout les poussait à l'étude de l'espagnol qui aurait été plus appropriée, leur vision de l'avenir leur a fait intuitivement connaître l'importance du français qui a toujours été et continuera de l'être une des premières langues du monde. Est-il nécessaire de souligner ici qu'avec l'existence de l'économie globale, telle que nous la connaissons aujourd'hui, les futures générations sont pour ainsi dire condamnées à parler plus d'une langue. Ils n'ont pas le choix.

Nos neophytes ont eu le mérite de comprendre que l'absence de langues étrangères dans notre système d'enseignement est une anomalie tout simplement inacceptable, d'où le vif intérêt qu'ils ont montré lorsqu'ils ont cherché à faire revivre le français dans notre université. Quel bel exemple de renaissance? J'espère qu'ils ne seront pas déçus et que l'avenir leur prouvera qu'ils ont, et ce à partir de cette initiation, suivi le bon chemin.

Merci de votre attention et bonne chance.

Dear Colleagues, Dear Students

It's the second time since I have been teaching at TSU that I have had the honor and privilege to preside over the initiation of a group of neophytes in Pi Delta Phi Gamma Epsilon, the French honor society.

This group of neophytes is a special group, exceptional indeed because without any intervention on my part, they have on their own initiative decided to bring back to life the language of Voltaire. In fact, if anyone deserves to be congratulated, it's the new president of the association, Tilda Bledsoe and her executive officers. Whereas everything dictated to them to study Spanish, their vision of the future intuitively inspired them to recognize the importance of French, which has always been and will continue to be one of the first languages spoken in the world. Is it necessary to underline its driving force, especially in light of the global economy as we know it today? It seems that the new generations of students are rather condemned to speak more than one language. They have no choice.

Our neophytes have had the merit to understand that there is an anomaly in our system of higher education where languages are simply abandoned. Therefore, they should be congratulated for the strong interest they have brought in reviving French in our university. It's like a new renaissance. I hope they will not be disappointed and that

the future will prove to them that they have followed the higher path in their lives. Thank you and good luck. Marcel Crespil

SPANISH HEIGHTS IN LANGUAGE

Hace dos años y medio volví a mi hogar. Volví a TSU donde empecé mi aventura educacional. Había pasado mi carrera profesional en la escuela de Bellaire enseñando un curso avanzado a algunos de los mejores estudiantes de América. Yo les enseñé a cantar a bailar y a hablar el español. También les enseñé la historia, el arte, la música y la literatura del mundo hispano. Pero de más importancia, les enseñé a amar la lengua y respetar los talentos y las culturas de los hispanohablantes. Cuando me jubilé de Bellaire, me invitaron a venir a TSU. Pero enseñar aquí, aún que sea pocas horas, me tenía nerviosa. Temía no poder relacionarme con los estudiantes. ¿Y si realmente ellos no quieren aprender el español? ¿Seré yo bastante flexible para solucionar sus problemas estudiantiles? ¿Y si, en la opinión de Thomas Wolfe, no se puede volver al hogar?

No había razón de haberme preocupado tanto. Sigo enseñando algunos de los mejores estudiantes de América. Sí, al principio había algunos problemas: el usar el telefonocelular, este asunto se aclaró pronto; y el llegar a clase tarde, hay unos pocos que siguen esta mala práctica; y faltar de clase sin razón, y ya se acabó. Lo mejor es, como siempre había hecho, yo les enseño a cantar, a hablar y a amar la lengua española. Pero la mejor noticia de todo es: ¡Sí, se puede volver al hogar!

Yes, you can go home again. Two and a half years ago, I came home. Back home to TSU. Where my adventure in higher education started. My professional career had mainly been at Bellaire High, one of the nation's most acclaimed high schools, teaching one of the most advanced Spanish programs imaginable, to some of America's best and brightest. I taught students to sing, dance and speak Spanish. I taught them history, music, art and literature of the Spanish-speaking world. But most importantly, I taught them to love the language and have respect for the accomplishments and culture of the Spanish-speaking people. When I retired I was invited to come to TSU to teach part-time. I was nervous. What if I don't connect with the students? What if they don't want to really learn Spanish? Will I be flexible enough to meet the students' needs? What if, in Thomas Wolfe's opinion, "You can't go home again"?

There was absolutely no need for me to have been so concerned. I am still teaching some of America's best and brightest students. Yes, at first there were a few problems: cell phones, that issue was quickly settled; late comers to class, there are still a few who do that; and absences with no reasonable excuse, but that has ended, too. The best part of my new work at TSU is that, just like I have always done, I'm teaching students to sing, speak and love the Spanish language. But the best news is: Yes, you can go home again!

Anna Pearl Barrett

POEMS

Waiting

Woke up this morning with

My heart longing, yearning, wanting you
My mind screaming, crying, almost dying for you
My body shaking, aching, praying for you.

Most days I cope – Today I don't.

Missing my man.

Lana Belle-Reese

Who Are These People

FLAT people

with

Anesthetized stomachs

and

Smoked up minds

CRACK

Lana Belle-Reese is an instructor of English.

LITERARY SITES TO KEY IN ON

Many textbook publishers now have course materials available on the web. Some of these are password protected and may be accessed only to legitimate users of a book; these make generally available only small samples as teaser. A preview of the site that accompanies the ENG 230, ENG 231 textbooks to be used in Fall 2004, *The Norton Anthology of World Literature, 2e*, is at <http://www.wwnorton.com/nawol>.

Bedford/St. Martin's Press is well-known for its on-line resources, including this one on style in documentation, <http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/citex.html>, has a wealth of virtual tutorials on literature at <http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/Virtualit/>. Another useful site is <http://www.gradebook.org/English-World%20Literature%20Class.html> for students of American and world literature.

NEWS FROM THE WRITING CLINIC

Joyce J. McEwing, director of the Minnie T. Metters Writing Clinic, regularly updates and makes available educational materials and resources for both faculty and students. The following is recent handout on web resource sites useful for the composition student struggling with the all-important thesis sentence:

[UNC Writing Center Handout | Constructing Thesis Statements](http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/thesis.html)
<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/thesis.html>

[How to Write a Thesis Statement](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/thesis.html) <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/thesis.html>

[Developing Thesis Statements](http://www.hccs.cc.tx.us/system/library/TipSheets/Thesis.html) <http://www.hccs.cc.tx.us/system/library/TipSheets/Thesis.html>

[ASU Writing Center - Online Handouts - Introductions and Thesis](http://www.asu.edu/duas/wcenter/introthesis.html)
<http://www.asu.edu/duas/wcenter/introthesis.html>

[Developing a Thesis Statement \(also called a Proposition\)](http://english.ttu.edu/uwc/thesis.html)
<http://english.ttu.edu/uwc/thesis.html>

[The Thesis Statement](http://webster.commnet.edu/grammar/composition/thesis.html) <http://webster.commnet.edu/grammar/composition/thesis.html>

BLACKBOARD WORKSHOPS

On April 27, 2004, from 3-4:00 P.M. in the Distance Learning Laboratory, Robert J. Terry Library, 5th floor, the College of Liberal Arts and Behavioral Sciences will offer another introductory workshop for faculty on the use of BlackBoard to develop web sites for their courses. This workshop is for both regular and on-line courses. The topics to be covered and illustrated in this workshop are the basics: how to list a course on the TSU BlackBoard web site; how to create an account on BlackBoard; how to input course materials; how to enroll students in a course on BlackBoard; how to customize the personal BlackBoard page; how to use Blackboard to communicate; and how to access other resources via TSU's BlackBoard system. Arbolina L. Jennings will direct the BlackBoard workshop.

NuRoots BRINGS SPRING BLING

The Department of English and Foreign Languages presented its "Spring Bling," a presentation featuring NuRoots Creative Writers, a group of poets and short fiction writers, on Saturday, April 17, 2004, at 7-9 P.M. in the MLK Auditorium.

Special guest performing artist were poet/playwright Thomas Meloncon; former Thomas Freeman TSU debate team member and former Miss TSU, Joie Rasberry; and Donna Harmon, English faculty member and published poet. Mr. Melonson was accompanied by

a keyboardist and dancer, and Dr. Howard Harris of the TSU Music Department and his Freshman Jazz Band provided music throughout the evening. The Spring Bling was a merging of the art forms of music, spoken word and dance.

Melba Johnson of the English and Foreign Languages Department provided food for the reception following the event. Dr. Shirley Moore from English and Foreign Languages and Dr. James Ward from Communications offered closing remarks.

NuRoots faculty sponsors include Donna Kimble from English and Margie Walker from Communications. Iva Woods and Ron Samples from English and Richard Kosuwei from Communications serve as NuRoots advisors and promoters.

Last Thoughts...

It is with great sadness that the Department says good-bye to Helen K. Williams, a senior majoring in English at TSU, who passed away March 28, 2004. She was an excellent and well-admired student whose lively and practical-life comments amused and instructed every class of which she was a part. The following poem, a tribute written to an English faculty member when the author was suffering from a recurrence of cancer, is part of

Helen's thoughtful legacy from her scholastic and creative work in the Department of English and Foreign Languages. The poem was submitted to the *Chronicle* on Helen's behalf by Chair Shirley Moore.

Mrs. Professor

Gracefully entering the Room,
Wondering what her students know;
These are the minds of Adults
Many things to them will she show.

Before she begins to teach,
The desires of her caring heart;
To open each student's mind
To be prepared to do their part.

The guidelines to class are given,
The books you need to read;
If you follow all the rules
The class you will succeed.

The course is strictly reading,
Novels of every kind;
When you finish this course
You will have truly elevated your mind.

She is caring but forceful,
She is dear but stern;
If you show up for class
I guarantee, you will learn.

Some Novels may have drastic language,
Others will cause a lump n your throat;
When Mrs. Professor explains the Novel
You will understand the author and what they wrote.

To get to know you Professor,
To really learn and enjoy your class;
It is really amazing when it's over,
How fast time really passes.

Thank you, Mrs. Professor,
Dr. Rita Saylor is your name;
Thank you for a reality check,
Showing us that life is not a game.

Helen Ruth Williams (1949-2004)

To submit information for the next issue of *The Chronicle*, a Newsletter for the Department of English and Foreign Languages, please submit your topics and copy to Professor Michael Sollars. The *Chronicle* results from the efforts of the Newsletter Committee composed of Dr. Shirley Walker Moore, Dr. Michael Sollars, Arbolina Jennings, Joyce McEwing, Dr. Ron Samples, and Martha Wood.