



English

Department of English
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

KEY STRENGTHS

- Excellence in literature, composition, creative writing, and business and professional writing
- Leader in learning communities and service-learning activities
- Preparation for teaching careers and graduate school
- Small classes and low student-teacher ratio

DEGREES OFFERED

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Arts with teacher certification
- Master of Arts

MAJORS AVAILABLE

- English
- English with teacher certification

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Writing professions – technical writing, creative writing, editing and publishing
- University careers in teaching literature and writing
- Middle school and high school teaching careers
- Law, library science, public relations and business

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Off-campus Study Abroad Program

- English Literature in Oxford, England
- World Literature in London, Paris, Rome, Lucerne and Heidelberg
- Latin-American literature in Montevideo, Uruguay

Creative writing opportunities

- Opportunity to study under published writers of fiction and poetry in courses offered every semester.
- Staff work on *The Shinnery Review* literary magazine.
- Annual Black Tulip coffee house and other poetry readings.

Honors courses in English

- See the Honors Program brochure

Scholarships available

- Clara Mae Ellis Scholarship – awarded annually to a junior or senior English student.
- Jack Welch Scholarship – awarded annually to a junior or senior English student.
- Garrett-Watson Memorial Scholarship – awarded annually to a junior or senior English student.
- Jewell Watson Scholarship – awarded annually to a junior or senior English student.
- Mima Williams Scholarships – awarded annually to a junior or senior English student.

- James W. and Clara D. Culp Scholarship in English and history.
- ACT/SAT Academic Scholarships

Please consult with your admissions counselor for details on these and other scholarships available to you.

FACILITIES

Although the English faculty is housed on the third floor of Chambers Hall, most of its classrooms are located in the Hardin Administration Building. Our facilities include:

- Computer labs
- Enhanced classrooms with equipment to provide Web-based instruction
- Teachers use electronic media to communicate with students, to supplement classroom instruction and to provide a strong foundation in technology training.
- The Inkwell, English commons area, located on first floor of Chambers Hall
- University Writing Center, located in the Learning Commons, main floor of Brown Library

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

- Dr. Jill Patterson**, class of 1987; assistant professor of English, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas; editor of *The Iron Horse: A Literary Review*.
- Dr. Timothy Summerlin**, class of 1968; dean, College of Liberal Arts, The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Tenn.
- Dr. Paul Parrish**, class of 1966; former executive director, South-Central Modern Language Association; chair and professor, Department of English, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.
- Dr. Stanton Calvert**, class of 1965; assistant vice chancellor for state and public affairs, The Texas A&M University System, Austin, Texas.
- Dr. Joe Cash**, class of 1962; chair, Department of Languages, McNeese State University, Lake Charles, La.
- Howard Mohr**, class of 1961; former writer for "Prairie Home Companion" radio show, Cottonwood, Minn.
- Matt Murphy**, class of 1993; president, Texas Heritage Bank, Boerne, Texas.

RECENT GRADUATES

- Chad Huddleston**, class of 2004; instructor for English Language Institute in China.
- Clara Goodson**, class of 2004; middle school teacher, Lewisville, Texas.
- Amanda Helms**, class of 2004; attending Creative Writing Program at Columbia College, Chicago, Ill.
- Crystal Hickerson**, class of 2004; serving in Peace Corp in Namibia.

Megan May, class of 2005; attending graduate school in library science at University of Washington.
Jacob Michael, M.A., class of 1996; attending film school at University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif.
Virginia Milstead, class of 1999; valedictorian, Pepperdine Law School.
Matthew Heard, class of 2001; graduate student in English, University of California, Riverside, Calif.
Kelly Akens, class of 2000; technical writer in Irving, Texas.
Ryan Alford, class of 1999; graduate of University of Denver Publishing Institute; editor, *Snowshoe Magazine*.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

The quality of the English faculty is indicated by the awards that some of its members have recently received:

Albert Haley – won 2007 Rattle Poetry Prize; won the Emmaus short fiction contest sponsored by the Calvin College English Department and the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship; in the past two years has had poetry and fiction published in the following Christian-oriented publications: “Image,” “Windhover,” “The Cresset,” “Christianity and Literature,” “Inklings,” and “Books and Culture.”
Dr. Preston F. Harper – College of Arts and Sciences Educator of the Year, 1996.
Steven Moore – Abilene Christian University Teacher of the Year, 2004.
Dr. William J. Rankin – College of Arts and Sciences Educator of the Year, 2001; Abilene Christian University Teacher of the Year, 1992 and 2002.
Dr. Nancy W. Shankle – served as scholar-in-residence at the Adams Center for Teaching Excellence in 1998-00; College of Arts and Sciences Educator of the Year, 1995; Dean’s Award for Service and Leadership, 2003; Faculty Senate Award for Outstanding Service, 2005.
Dr. Stephen R. Weathers – College of Arts and Sciences Educator of the Year, 1995; University Faculty Member of the Year, 1996; University Honors Professor of the Year, 2005.
Dr. Chris Willerton – University Faculty Member of the Year, 1993-94; Innovations in Learning and Technology Award, 1995.

FACULTY

Nancy W. Shankle, Ph.D., professor, chair; B.A., Texas A&M University-Commerce, 1977; M.A., Texas A&M University-Commerce, 1979; Ph.D., Texas A&M University, 1990.
Miriam K. Barnard, Ed.D., assistant professor; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1981; M.A., St. Mary’s University, 1987; Ed.D., University of North Texas, 2001.
B. Cole Bennett, Ph.D., assistant professor, director of *The Writing Center*; B.B.A., Harding University, 1989; M.A., University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 1996; Ph.D., The University of Southern Mississippi, 2002.
Laura Bolin Carroll, Ph.D., assistant professor, director of composition; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1996; M.A., Marquette University, 1998; Ph.D., Texas A&M University, 2002.
William M. Carroll, Ph.D., assistant professor; B.A., Lipscomb University, 1993; M.A., Abilene Christian University, 1995; Ph.D., Marquette University, 2005.
Rhonda M. Collier, Ph.D., assistant professor; B.S., The University of Tennessee, 1991; M.S., Georgia Institute of Technology, 1993; M.A., The University of Tennessee, 1997; M.A., Vanderbilt University, 2000; Ph.D., Vanderbilt University, 2002.
Mikee Deloney, instructor; B.A., University of Houston, 1996; M.A., University of Houston, 2000.

Kyle C. Dickson, Ph.D., assistant professor; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1993; M.A., Baylor University, 1996; Ph.D., Baylor University, 2002.
Carol Evans, instructor; B.S., Lubbock Christian University, 1984; M.A., Abilene Christian University, 1991.
Albert Haley, associate professor and writer-in-residence; B.A., Yale University, 1976; M.F.A., University of Houston, 1993.
Preston F. Harper, Ph.D., professor; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1959; M.A., The University of Texas at Austin, 1962; Ph.D., Texas Christian University, 1972.
Chandra Lewis-Qualls, instructor; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1995; M.A., ACU, 1997.
Dana W. McMichael, Ph.D., assistant professor; B.A., Oklahoma Christian University, 1983; M.A., Wake Forest University, 1986; Ph.D., Oklahoma State University, 2002.
David B. Merrell, Ph.D., professor, director of curriculum and advisors; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1964; M.A., University of Arkansas, 1966; Ph.D., Texas A&M University, 1979.
Steven T. Moore, instructor; B.A. University of Wisconsin at Parkside, 1994; M.A., University of Nebraska, 1996.
William J. Rankin, Ph.D., associate professor, director of English graduate studies; B.A., Harding University, 1987; M.A., University of California, 1989; Ph.D., University of Minnesota, 2001.
Sherry Rankin, instructor; B.A., Harding University, 1986; M.Ed., Harding University, 1987; M.A., University of California, 1989.
Michelle Sanders, Ph.D., assistant professor; B.S., Abilene Christian University; M.A., Emerson College; Ph.D., The University of Texas at Arlington.
Vickie J. Smith, instructor; B.A., Midwestern State University, 1972; M.A., Abilene Christian University, 1992.
Joseph Stephenson, Ph.D., assistant professor; B.A. Yale University, 1985; M.S., Central Connecticut State University, 1995; M.A., University of Connecticut, 2000; Ph.D., University of Connecticut, 2007.
G.W. “Bill” Walton, Ph.D., professor; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1963; M.A., University of Arkansas, 1964; Ph.D., Texas Tech University, 1976.
Stephen R. Weathers, Ph.D., associate professor; James W. Culp Distinguished Professor; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1986; M.A., ACU, 1987; Ph.D., Florida State University, 1999.
Chris Willerton, Ph.D., professor, director of the Honors Program; B.A., Texas Christian University, 1969; M.A., The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1970; Ph.D., The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1979.
Debbie Williams, Ph.D., associate professor; B.A., Abilene Christian University, 1980; M.A., Texas Tech University, 1982; Ph.D., Purdue University, 1996.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

About the Department

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About ACU and Admissions

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