

The M.A. in English at Southeast Missouri State University

Teaching and Research Opportunities

English TA Program

Our teaching assistant program is one of the most progressive and thorough in the nation, consisting of a two-week orientation prior to the fall term, bearing three hour's credit for which tuition and fees are waived.

The orientation is supplemented with two successive seminars in the teaching of freshman composition in the first two terms of the program. In addition, each teaching assistant meets on a regular basis with the supervisor, who acts as mentor to guide and direct while ensuring that each assistant has maximum responsibility for teaching and evaluating the students' work. Graduates of our program who have gone on to PhD programs or fellowships invariably report that our TA program is superior to the one they are then encountering.

Research Assistants

The Faulkner Center

Teaching assistants concentrating in literature have the opportunity of serving as a research assistant for at least one semester (and often two) in the Faulkner Center. The Center was established to serve the Louis Brodsky, Jr., Faulkner Collection, one of the three major collections of Faulkner materials in the world. RAs have "hands-on" experience with the original materials, first editions, and correspondence received and created by Faulkner. In addition, they have participated in the creation of works such as the *Faulkner Encyclopedia*, monographs, articles, and even international conferences on Faulkner held on campus.

The University Press

Teaching assistants who are concentrating in writing and publishing have the opportunity of serving as a research assistant for at least one semester (and often two) in the Southeast Missouri State University Press. The prerequisite is either prior experience in literary publishing or a 3-hour Independent Studies in Small Press Publishing prior to the assistantship. The RA has the opportunity to work with our award-winning literary journal *Big Muddy*, with writing professional book reviews for publication, and with production and marketing of full-length book manuscripts. Recent awards include The Kniffen Book Award, The James Jones First Novel Award, The Langum Award for Historical Fiction, The Governor's Book Award, The "United We Read" Book Selection, The Creative Spirit Awards Platinum Award, an IndieFab National Book of the Year finalist, St. Louis Poetry Center's Stanley Hanks Memorial Poetry Prize, Stars and Flags Book Award, and One Story Literary Debutante for a First Novel.

Professional Activity Opportunities

Besides being professionally active themselves (see the Graduate Faculty Roster) our Graduate Faculty define themselves as mentors to the graduate students, introducing them into the professional field through the classroom experience and beyond. The result is an impressive list of professional presentations at state and national conferences, articles in journals, and creative writings.

Within the last few years our graduate students and teaching assistants have given presentations at the annual conferences of Conference on College Composition and Communication, National Council of Teachers of English Convention, The Association of Teacher Educators, The Annual Southeast Region Association of Teacher Educators, South Central Renaissance Conference, Annual TESOL Conference, NJCEA Conference, 20th Century Literature and Culture Conference, SEMO Research Conference, Annual Southern Writing Conference, the Popular Culture Association Conference, and Radical Writes.

Publications have appeared in *Journey Literary Magazine*, *Midwest Book Review*, *Raintaxi Review of Books*; *Helix*; *The Subterranean Quarterly*; *The Julie Mango*; *Thought Catalog*.

Other publication activity includes editorial work on *Beyond the Blank Page* and *Dr. Staff*.

After Graduation

Our graduates are very successful in the opportunities they seek after completing the M.A:

- One-fifth enter Ph.D. programs
- One-fifth gain employment in community/junior colleges
- One-fifth enter public school teaching (having come into the M.A. program with Teaching Certification)
- One-fifth gain employment in baccalaureate institutions
- The remaining fifth enter law school, the military, or the business sector.

Recently, one regional junior college offered two English positions, for which over seventy people applied. The English hiring committee selected five candidates to interview, all of whom were TA graduates of our program.

We hope that you will consider our program with us as you explore your graduate school opportunities. We will be happy to respond to any of your questions.

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