The departure of Linda Arnold left a vacancy that was not easy to fill, but UCA’s Department of English did not have to look far before finding a well-qualified candidate. Dr. Charles Bane has been a Visiting Assistant Professor with the department for a few years and his experience made him a natural fit for the position. While working toward his MA at UCA, he taught for three years in an high school setting at Shirley. After teaching 7–12th grade English, Dr. Bane was familiar with what it takes to be a teacher. As the new English Education Program Coordinator, Dr. Bane will be in charge of the BSE students in the English Department. He will also be supervising student teaching and teaching Methods and Adolescent Literature. While he is looking forward to the new position and the work with future teachers, he will miss the amount of class time that he has had since the new position’s responsibilities allow for fewer classes. About his expectations for the position, Dr. Bane had this to say, “I hope to foster a working relationship with the rest of the department’s faculty in hopes that we can produce the best high school teachers in Arkansas.”

Charles Bane to Become New English Education Coordinator

New Alumni in Graduate School

Several of our current and former students have been accepted into graduate programs across the country. Both Tim Sisk and Jessica Roberts were admitted into the English Graduate Program at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Samantha Bishop has been accepted by the University of Chicago’s MA program in English Literature. U.S. News and World Reports lists the University of Chicago in its top ten list for 2008 graduate programs in English. Brad Holden, who graduated with an MA from UCA has been accepted by the divinity schools of both Harvard and Yale. While these students have been accepted into these programs, it remains unknown at the time of publication whether or not most of them have accepted the offers. Tim Sisk has indeed accepted the offer from University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

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Special points of interest:
- The First Annual English Graduate Conference details
- Dr. Frontain’s invitation to Terrence McNally play
- Faculty poems for Secretary Day
- Great photos of students and faculty
April 5, 2007 marked what is hopefully the first of many graduate conferences put forth by UCA’s Department of English. The conference, entitled “The Image and the Word: Arts and Literature in America and the World,” took place in the Brewer-Hegeman Conference Center. Several English faculty supported the conference and presenters by attending or moderating the panels.

The event was kicked off by an inspirational welcome from Maurice Lee, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Matt Chiorini then spoke with humor about the restrictiveness of elitism among other things. Matt is the Producing Artistic Director of the Arkansas Shakespeare Theater and a theater lecturer at UCA. Afterward, the first session began in two separate panels.

The conference was divided into three sessions consisting of two panels. Panel one, “‘What are little girls and boys made of?’: Constructing Sexual Identities” saw Dwayne Coleman as moderator as Tim Sisk, Jessica Felkins and Anthony Hafner presented papers concerned with gender issues in literature.

“Freeing Their Minds, Finding Their Voices: Women of Color in America and the World” was the topic for Panel two. Isiah Lavender moderated as Katie Evans, Laura Edwards and Aubrey Pangle presented. Katie’s bold paper, “Sojourner Truth: Prophet or Puppet,” was intelligently written as were the other two which dealt with Female Authors in Post-Franco Spain and the novels of Toni Morrison respectively.

Chad May moderated the third panel, “Countless Revisions”: Re-examining ‘Classic’ Texts.” Whitney Jones, Katie Terrell and Laine Perez presented papers on Jane Austen, Thomas Hardy and Robert Cormier.

Tiffany Shumpert, Ashley Byrd and Jessica Roberts presented for the fourth panel, “Myths of the Body, Legends of the Mind: Exploring the Self and Other Worlds” which was moderated by Isiah Lavender.

The fifth panel featured papers concerned with the fragmentary nature of Postmodern society and who else could possibly be moderator for this panel except Wayne Stengel. Paulette Bane presented a paper on Merrill’s “An Urban Convalescence” while Phillip Huddleston’s paper explored the postmodern nature of David Lynch’s cult series, Twin Peaks. After having already presented a paper on Wonderland and Oz at another conference, Jeanette Holland was a seasoned presenter when she read her paper, “Selling the Soul and Seeking the Maker: The Role of Art in Postmodern Society.”

Jay Ruud was the moderator for the final panel, “‘Can I Play with Madness?’: Reading Fear and Insanity in Shakespeare, Caven-

(Continued on page 3)
The Panels and Presenters (cont.)

dish and James.” Chase Erwin, Maegan Murphy and Robert Giles presented.
The conference was open to graduate students and undergrads of any major, but almost every presenter was from the English Department. However, Maegan Murphy, Phillip Huddleston and Laura Edwards represented the departments of History, Philosophy and World Languages respectively. In future conferences we hope to see even more presenters from other departments to broaden the scope and variety of papers read.

Charles Bane and Mary Ruth Marotte

The First Annual English Graduate Conference was widely regarded as a success, but it could never have become a reality without the two professors who were the driving force behind it. Mary Ruth Marotte and Charles Bane proposed the conference idea and were essential in ensuring it was carried out seamlessly. The success of their efforts has made certain that the conference will continue annually. However, the future conferences will have a graduate assistant assigned to coordinate them.

UCA established the Nolte-Behrens Lecture Series in 1999 in honor of Dr. Ralph Behrens and Dr. Gene Nolte, two of the English Department’s most notable faculty members. On April 4th and 5th, this year’s guest lecturers, Dr. John Pizer and Dr. Misty G. Anderson, lectured at the Brewer-Hegeman Conference Center.

Dr. Pizer is a professor of German and Comparative Literatures at Louisiana State University. He is the author of *Ego-Alter Ego: Double and/as Other in the Age of German Poetic Realism* (1998) and *The Idea of World Literature: History and Pedagogical Practice* (2006). On Wednesday April 4th, Dr. Pizer delivered his lecture, “Toward a Productive Interdisciplinary Relationship Between Comparative Literature and World Literature.”

Dr. Anderson is Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of English at the University of Tennessee. She is the author of *Female Playwrights and Eighteenth-Century Comedy: Negotiating Marriage on the London Stage* (2002). On April 5th Dr. Anderson delivered her lecture, “Queer as Folk: Methodism, Desire and Henry Fielding.”

While the lecture series is not affiliated with the newly established graduate conference the two events did occur around the same time so Dr. Pizer was able to remain in town long enough to witness the fledgling conference’s first incarnation.
Terrence McNally Impressed by Frontain Article

When Dr. Frontain wrote his article on the lauded playwright, Terrence McNally, for the March-April issue of Gay and Lesbian Review, he caught the attention of his subject. The article impressed McNally so much that he invited Dr. Frontain to New York to view the premiere of his play, Some Men. While at the play, Frontain was seated near another acclaimed playwright, Edward Albee, famous for Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf? among other plays. Across the aisle was stage and screen actor Nathan Lane. The experience was capped off with an attendance to the premiere party and a further invitation for the opening of McNally’s most recent work, Deuce.

The play features multiple Tony Award-winning actress Angela Lansbury’s return to the stage with another Tony Award winner, Marian Seldes. Deuce revolves around two retired tennis doubles legends portrayed by Lansbury and Seldes.

Linda Caillouette wrote about Dr. Frontain and his invitation from McNally in her column, “Paper Trails,” in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette which can be read in the newspaper’s online archive.
Where are They Now?

The Graduate is always searching for alumni of the English program at UCA. After the last newsletter, we received responses from a few alumni expressing a desire to participate in this section.

John Tucker graduated the Masters program in 1999 and worked for Dr. Stengel as his assistant. Currently, he is the TRIO Student Support Services Director at National Park Community College in Hot Springs and has occupied that position since November of 2000. He also teaches English Composition courses as his schedule permits.

Susan McKinney Ertel received her BA in 1986 and her MA in 1991 both from UCA’s Department of English. Dixie State College of Utah employs Susan as the Department Chair for the Developmental Studies Department where she has also been an Assistant Professor of Composition since 1999. In addition, she is serving as secretary for the second year on the Executive Board for the National Association for Developmental Education. Her husband has a custom stained glass business in St. George, Utah and her daughter, employed as a summer camp counselor by Girl Scouts of Utah, will graduate from Tuacahn High School for the Performing Arts.

Rebecca Tucker (now Rebecca Denton) completed her BA from UCA in 1993. She has since worked as a writer and editor at newspapers in Arkansas, Michigan, New Hampshire and Tennessee. She is currently assistant editor at Journal Communications Inc., a custom magazine publishing company in Franklin, TN. She lives in Nashville with her husband, Jerod (a UCA alumnus and assistant professor at Vanderbilt University), and their three-year-old son.

Hopefully this column can help to reconnect alumni or at least demonstrate what is possible with a degree in English from UCA.

“Hopefully this column can help to reconnect alumni or at least demonstrate what is possible with a degree in English from UCA.”
Secretary’s Day 2007

Anyone who has spent time in the English Department office has gotten to know the person who holds it together. Barbara Stanley is essential to the smooth operation of the department and its faculty. The one thing that has threatened this smooth operation as well as Barb’s patience has been the switching of the university’s operating system to a program called Banner. On Secretary’s Day this year some of the professors did something special to honor Mrs. Stanley and her heroic battle with this abstruse program with a reading of poems written specifically for her. Below are photographs of the poets and copies or excerpts from their poems.

![Photos of poets](image1.jpg)

**From Song of Herself**

I celebrate Barb, and sing Barb,
And what Barb assumes you also shall assume,
For every atom belonging to Barb as good as belongs to you,
Except for the Diet Coke glittering on the refrigerator’s bright shelf,
And that belongs to Barb alone and will be drunk by Barb alone and
will not be drunk by you, understand?

Conrad Shumaker

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**Secretary’s Day 2007 Poems**

- **There once was a dragon named Banner,**
  More fierce than Errant Woods’ Errour,
  Who was wrestled to submission - -
  Without help! Sans divine intervention! - -
  By a gracious, tenacious soul hight Barbara.
  (Raymond-Jean Frontain’s Spenser limerick parody)

- **Chapped**
  If but some error code would flash at me
  From bluescreen sky, and mock: “Thou suffering Barb,
  Know that my software is your enemy,
  That your schedule’s loss is my XL4392R!”
  Then would I toss it, clear my desk, retire,
  Pack up my heater and cuddle my cats;
  Half-eased in that an Ornerier than I’re
  Had made me stomp off with a parting “Rats!”
  But not so. How is it travel claims derail,
  And SIS looks better every day?
  —Crass Banner obfuscates the paper trail
  And makes my purchase orders creep like snails... This overwrought OS may someday pay
  And till that time I’ll eye the plug... And stay

James Fowler

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- **Raymond-Jean Frontain’s Spenser limerick parody**

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