

13 August 2021

To: Glynis Ridley, Chair, Department of English
From: Joe Turner, Director of Graduate Studies
Re: DGS/Graduate Committee and Program Report, 2020

Graduate Committee Members: Joseph Turner (Chair), Bronwyn Williams, Andrea Olinger, Ian Stansel, Matthew Biberman (Chair F20)

Regular Activities:

The Graduate Committee had its usual slate of meetings and responsibilities this year: individual meetings (progress interviews) with all second-year PhD students (conducted by acting DGS Matthew Biberman during my sabbatical), discussions of program guideline revisions, and MA and PhD admissions meetings. All meetings were conducted virtually due to the pandemic.

Additionally, in my role as DGS, I organized (with Lisa Cox's help) and led the following events:

- fall orientation for incoming graduate students
- digital visitation day for all accepted PhD students (see more in admissions below)

Graduate Program Developments:

Program Assistant Lisa Cox continues to provide exemplary support to the program. I will step down from DGS as of 1.1.22 when Frank Kelderman will take over. Many thanks to Frank for his service.

Process Maps

The DGS and GPA developed process maps for recruitment and advising, the largest components of the DGS and GPA job (see attached). We hope that these maps will make the jobs more transparent to future DGSs and GPAs.

Incoming Students Newsletter

The GPA did an exemplary job of developing the first graduate program newsletter, which includes short bios and pics of each incoming MA and PhD student (see attached). We hope that this effort will increase the sense of community in the program and help faculty, staff, and students to welcome these new students into the program.

Non-GTA PhD Track

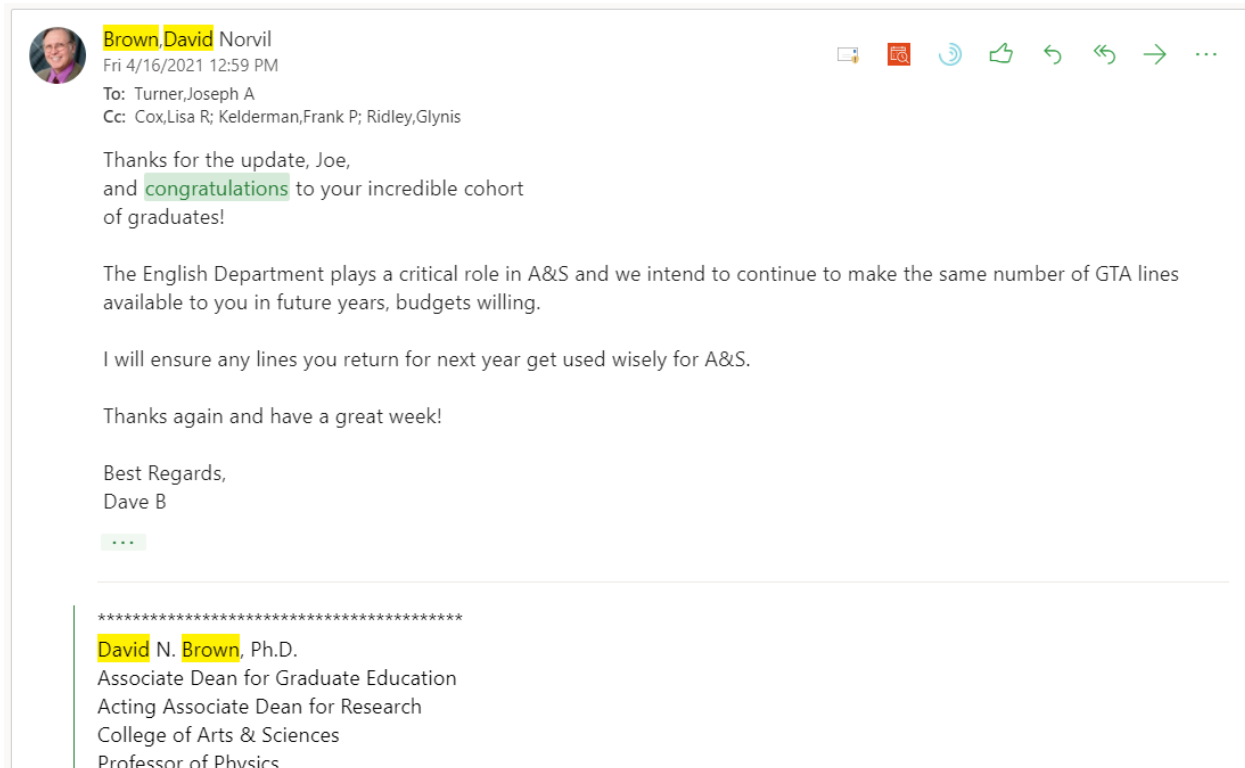
We accepted two non-GTA PhD students (Morgan Blair and Jessica Gottbrath) and developed some loose guidelines for their success in the program. We think this is a demographic that could increase enrollment in the program. There have been preliminary talks with Steve Smith, dual-credit coordinator, about advertising the program to local secondary school teachers.

Admissions Details:

There were several developments this year that caused our PhD cohort to shrink. The first is the loss of Beth Boehm's and Bruce Horner's RAs. The second is that we were unable to recruit any University Fellows (which do not count toward the line count).

The graduate program did not meet its recruitment goals this year. There were a limited number of applications, and we had 12 MA students graduate (and one leave the program before graduation). As a result, we were forced to return 4 MA GTA lines and 1 PhD line to the college. Further, we were unable to recruit any University Fellows, despite making two Fellowship offers. Eric Wicsz accepted an offer from Purdue and Rena Perez accepted at Miami University. Part of the problem is that UofL's stipend has not grown since at least 2009.

Dave Brown, then Associate Dean of Graduate Education, writes that A&S will "intend to continue to make the same number of GTA lines available" to English in future years (i.e. 15 PhD lines and 20 MA).



Incoming Cohorts

PhD: We have 4 incoming GTA students and 2 non-GTA students.

MA: We have 9 incoming GTA students.

Applicant Pools and Recruiting

The application pools seem stable although low. Strangely, applications for both programs are down from last year but exactly equivalent to two years ago.

PhD: We received 13 PhD applications (down from 19 last year and 13 the year before).

MA: We received 16 MA applications (down from 18 last year and 16 the year before).

Recruiting

Recruitment remains a priority. Frank Kelderman and Megan Poole developed recruitment materials for the UG and graduate programs, which we can hopefully use to advertise at C's, in the field's journals, etc.

PhD Visitation Day

We held a virtual recruitment event this year due to the pandemic. It went smoothly thanks to the coordination of Lisa Cox. Students seemed fine with the digital format. We were able to recruit 3 of the 6 students invited to the visitation day.

Graduation and Placement:

PhD: We graduated five PhD students in 2020. We have an 80% placement rating in full-time employment, an 80% placement rating in academic positions, and a 20% placement rating in TT jobs.

Names	Position in Fall 2021
Margaret (Megen) Boyett	On the market
Edward English	VAP at Oklahoma Baptist College
Claire Jackson	VAP at College of the Holy Cross
Rachel Rodriguez	Assistant Professor of English at St. Francis University in Loretta, PA (TT)
Joe Franklin	Writing Center Director at University of Puget Sound (non-TT)

MA: The MA program graduated 12 students in 2020. Only six responded to Lisa's questionnaire. Of the six respondents, 5 are enrolled full- or part-time in PhD programs (EKU, UofL, Georgia State, and George Mason). "No Update" indicates that the student did not reply to Lisa's query.

Names	Position in Fall 2021
Michelle Buntain	PTL at UofL for Fall – Teaching ENGL 101
Madelaine Decker	Low Residency MFA program at EKU
Rose Dyar	No update
Kendyl Harmeling	Pursuing PhD program in English at UofL
Tristan DeWitt	No update
Hayley Salo	Pursuing PhD program in Humanities at UofL
Demetrius Tucker	Pursuing PhD program for Georgia state University, GTA
Kelby Gibson	PhD program at George Mason U
Catherine Sar	No update
Lauren Cline (Plumlee)	No update
Madelaine Decker	No update
Amanda Dolan	No update

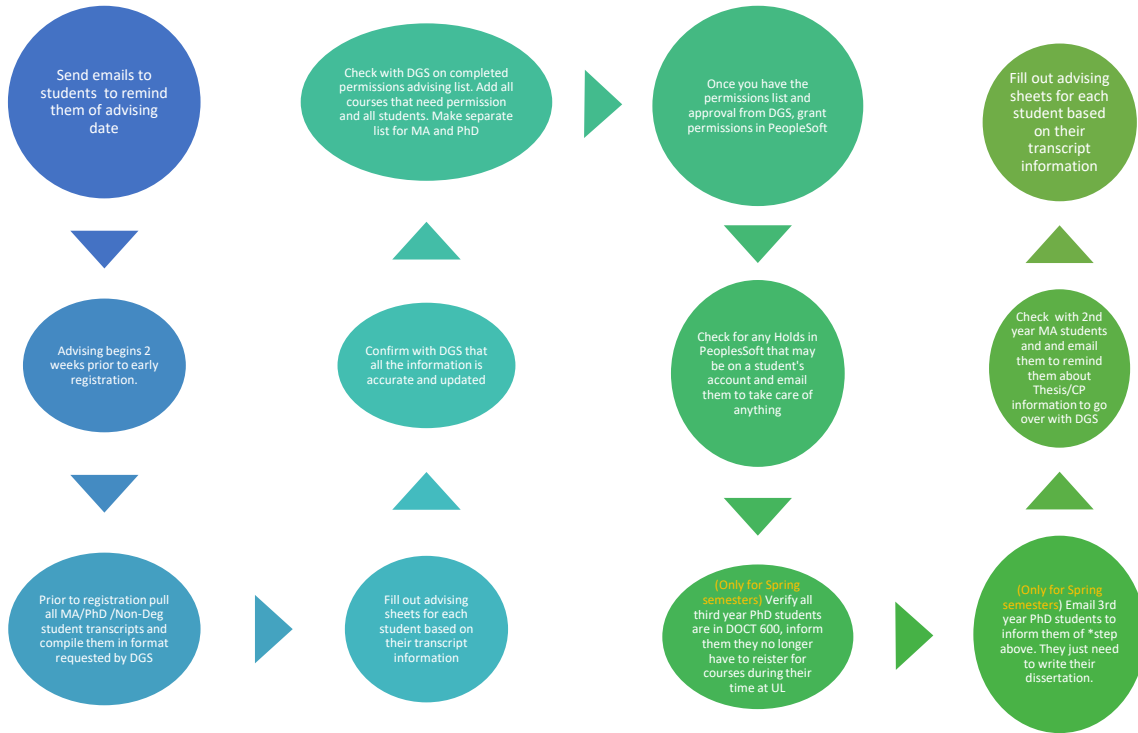
Awards

Clair Jackson was awarded the Guy Stevenson Award. Rachel Rodriguez, Joe Franklin, and Claire Jackson each won a Dean's Citation.

Goals for next AY:

1. Complete program revisions in Fall 2021

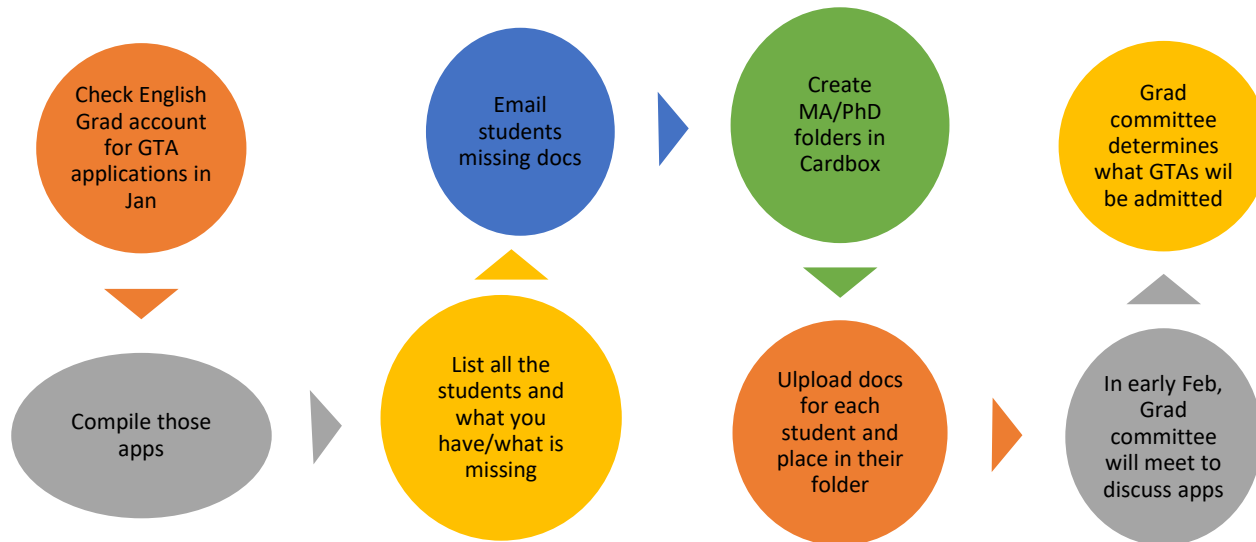
Advising Process Map Part I



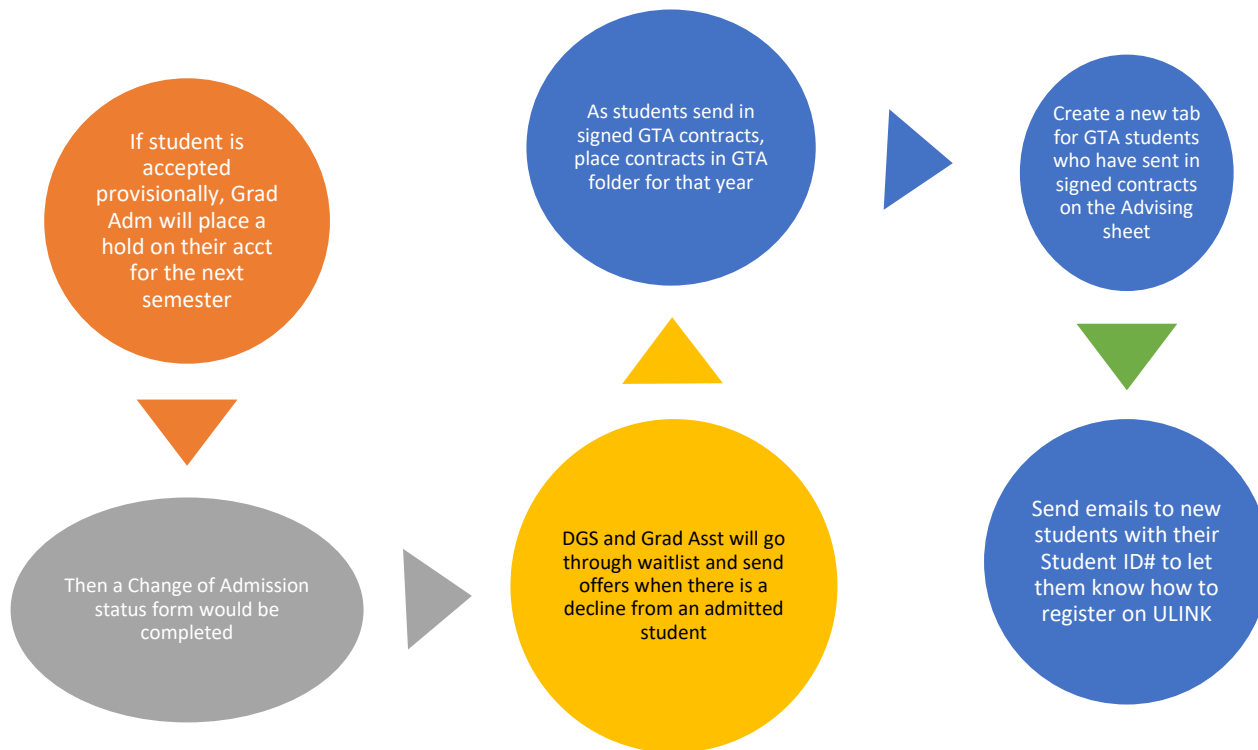
Advising Process Map Part II



Graduate Admissions Process Map Part I



Graduate Admissions Process Map Part III



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE ENGLISH GRADUATE DEPARTMENT

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2021



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English Graduate Department
Orientation - August 18

Introduction to Our
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M.A. Students



Kylee Auten

Kylee Auten, a Louisville native, is an M.A. student interested in children's literature, American literature, and contemporary fiction. She completed her B.A in English at the University of Louisville in 2020. In her free time, Kylee enjoys reading for pleasure, cross stitching, re-watching Parks and Recreation, and spending time with her dog, Merlin.

Welcome New Graduate Students!

We are excited to introduce everyone to our new graduate students. We will have our English Graduate Department Orientation on August 18!





Zoe Donovan

Zoe Donovan is interested in pursuing creative writing and looking forward to working within the writing center to help their fellow students grow and develop as writers.

Originally from rural Illinois they look forward to further exploring the city and campus. In their free time, Zoë likes hiking, reading just about anything they can get their hands on, and writing short stories with a dash of magical realism.

Curtis Ehrich

Curtis Ehrich is a M.A. student whose research interest primarily include pre-Renaissance literature, the works of Tolkien, and Linguistics. Currently, he is taking Intro to English Studies, Writing Center Theory and Practice, and Cities and Monsters. Outside his coursework, Curtis defines his personality with three things: Star Wars, video games, and table top role-playing games.





Elizabeth Megibben

Eli Megibben is an M.A. of English student at the University of Louisville. Eli graduated from Bellarmine University in 2019 with a Bachelors in English and Minors in History and Peace Studies. During her time as an undergraduate, Eli worked in the Bellarmine University Writing Center as a Writing Center Consultant, Interim Writing Center Coordinator, and Assistant Director of the Writing Center. As an undergraduate, she also completed an Honors Thesis that investigated the ways in which identity is affected when a young person becomes a refugee. In her free time, Eli likes to busy herself with antiquing, roller-skating, and art projects.

Brice Montgomery

Brice Montgomery earned both his B.A. and M.A. in Applied Linguistics, which revealed a love for translingual literature. He also taught ESL and Civics to refugees and secondary migrants for two years, and he's fascinated by the intersection of linguistic and spatial identity.



Derrick Neese



Derrick Neese is a GTA at UofL focusing on creative writing and queer-centric literature. Their writing pivots toward literary and speculative fiction, with a particular fondness for the short story. With over fifteen years of culinary experience, Derrick's stories often touch on themes of working-class struggle, morality, loss, addiction, and hope.

Benjamin Poe

Benjamin Poe is a GTA at UofL who studied Women's and Gender Studies and worked as a peer support specialist.



Justin Sturgeon



Justin Sturgeon is from Horse Cave, KY and earned his BA in both Business with an HR emphasis and English from Lindsey Wilson College. His research interests stemming from previous projects on NBC'S Superstore, Collins' Hunger Games Prequel, and Spiegelman's MAUS includes a variety of different introspective, critical topics relating to trauma theory and cultural studies. Likewise, Justin is intrigued by classics, yet is also a firm believer in decolonizing the canon. In his free time, Justin enjoys bowling, tennis, Phase-10, and of course—reading.

Yuan Zhao

Yuan Zhao is a M.A. student in English at the University of Louisville. He earned his other MA degrees in English (literary studies) at Shanghai International Studies University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. His current research interests include literary theory, narratology, rhetoric and composition.



Ph.D. Students



Morgan Blair

Morgan Blair is a Ph.D. student in Rhetoric and Composition. She earned an M.A. in English at Brandeis University and two B.A.'s in English and Humanities from the University of Louisville. Her professional background includes marketing and communications, international student services, humanitarian project development, and EFL instruction. She is taking contemporary American poetry and writing center theory courses here in Fall 2021. Morgan enjoys international travel, hot yoga, and tennis. Most of her favorite fictional quotes can be found in Chuck Palahniuk novels. If she could use a fictional alias, it would be "Harry Potter," the character she most wanted to be as a child.

Jessica Gottbrath

Jessica Gottbrath is pursuing her Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition after having previously earned an M.A. in English and an M.A.T. in Education from the University of Louisville. Her previous studies focused on narrative theory and the development of language and identity through imaginative play. Having taught for several years, she returns to the world of research to explore socially just pedagogy in composition courses. Beyond the classroom, Jessica enjoys food podcasts, crosswords puzzles, and playing board games with family and friends.



Ph.D. Graduate Students



Kendyl Harmeling

Kendyl Harmeling is a Ph.D. student in Rhetoric and Composition. She earned her Bachelor's in American History with a minor in ethical Philosophy from Western Connecticut State University. She then came to the University of Louisville to begin studying Rhetoric and Composition for her Master's, where she researched community creation and systemic imposter syndrome. Presently, Kendyl has incorporated her studies in Rhetoric and Composition pedagogy and her former research in American History into her current research interests of antiracism, unmasking systems of white supremacy within universities, and labor studies.

Rachel Morgan

Rachel Morgan is a Ph.D. student in Rhetoric and Composition. She earned her M.A. in Composition, Rhetoric, and English Studies at the University of Alabama where she worked in the writing center and taught first-year writing courses. Her research interests include composition pedagogy, writing center studies, political rhetoric, and digital rhetoric. In her spare time, she enjoys reading fantasy novels, listening to podcasts, and spending time with family and friends.



Ph.D. Graduate Students



Annika Reitenga

Annika Reitenga is a Ph.D. student in Rhetoric and Composition. They earned their B.A. at Birmingham–Southern College, where they majored in English and minored in Writing. Annika received their M.A. from The University of Alabama, where they studied Composition and Rhetoric English Studies. Annika is interested in the Rhetoric of Health and Medicine, specifically in the overlap between rhetoric and eating disorder studies. Their master’s thesis investigated the rhetoric of detoxing, specifically when promoted as a weight loss tactic and marketed on the social media site, Instagram. In their free time, they enjoy going on runs, visiting local coffee shops, and lounging around with their cat, Baby.

Todd Richardson

Todd Richardson is a Ph.D. student in Rhetoric and Composition. He earned his Bachelor of Arts and his Master of Arts degrees in the field of History at Texas State University. Later, he earned his Master of Fine Arts degree from SNHU’s Mountainview MFA Program with a concentration in Creative Nonfiction. His research interests include archival research, health narratives, disability studies, and writing center studies. When he’s not studying, he enjoys grilling, playing with his daughter, and gardening.

