

A Centennial History  
of the  
Department of English  
of  
Western Kentucky University

James S. Flynn



*At the Overlook*  
(WKU 1906-2006)

Wandering in the woods  
of 1770, Skaggs and Drake  
stopped just here  
measuring where they were  
against the sun and hill,  
then hid from mindless heat  
under that elm now by Cherry Hall.  
Chewing their cold meat  
they could not know  
how the stone they sat on  
would be bent.

Now, at the overlook  
the sun makes its red  
mark on the walls  
of the Dripping Springs.  
Below, a thin fog  
spreads the rumor  
of coming cold.  
Late classes are ending  
and students scatter  
like schools of minnows  
startled in a stream.

Gordon Wilson's limestone  
absorbs the sun  
until it reaches  
the early pink  
of metal coils  
first flushed by  
a rising pulse of heat.  
The stone trenches  
behind Van Meter  
darken as the  
buildings glow.

The students have dwindled  
down to three  
waiting impatiently  
on the steps  
for rides.  
They do not see  
what is happening  
to the rock  
around them.  
The professor's voice  
is fading.

They do not heed the warning  
on Gordon Wilson's frieze,  
*Milton, Goethe,*  
*Keats, Burns.*  
They are anxious  
to re-enter their lives.  
They do not yet know  
what they are part of,  
people and days stretched  
behind like cairns  
for a hundred years.

The three old  
buildings bob  
on the hill's crest,  
heavy with the  
century's ballast,  
but Van Meter's prow  
pushes through  
the waves of darkness  
as they rise,  
the time  
that follows now.

*Joe Survant*  
*19 November 2005*

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1906-1959

English courses have been a significant part of the offerings at WKU from the beginning. Of the forty-five classes appearing in Western Kentucky State Normal School's course schedule for its opening term, which began on January 17, 1907, ten were English classes, including four sections of grammar, two of reading and spelling, and one section each of rhetoric, literature, English literature, and Milton (Cornette 112). The literature classes were taught by Frederick Roman (M.A.), who also taught history courses. His daily teaching responsibilities for this opening term of the Western Normal School were demanding, but typical:

<u>7:30</u>	<u>8:30</u>	<u>10:10</u>	<u>11:10</u>	<u>2:30</u>	<u>3:30</u>
U.S. Hist.	Rhetoric	Eng. Lit.	Lit.	Milton	Rom. Hist.

Professor Roman left the next year, later earning a doctorate at the University of Berlin and teaching at Syracuse and New York universities (Harrison 20). During the Normal School's opening term, English instruction was also carried out by Dr. A. J. Kinnaman, who had been hired by President H. H. Cherry to serve as dean of the school and also to teach psychology, pedagogy, and some grammar; and by J. M. Guilliams (M.A.), a notoriously exacting grammarian who resigned in 1911.

The following year, 1908, saw the arrival of three individuals who would make substantial, long-term contributions to English studies at Western: Macon A. Lieper, who originally taught Latin and English and later became the first head of the English Department (1918-26); John H. Claggett, who taught (among other subjects) Shakespeare, Milton, and Dante until his retirement in 1937; and Gordon A. Wilson, who arrived as a student in 1908, but became a member of the faculty by 1912. Wilson later earned a Ph.D. at Indiana University and was head of the English Department from 1928 until his retirement in

1959.

Lieper had earned an M.A. at Columbia and had completed a year of classical studies at Princeton before his arrival at Western; he later earned a Ph.D. at Peabody College. A demanding but esteemed teacher, he promoted active discussion and critical thinking, remarking to students, "You may think what you please about me if you will only learn to think" (Harrison 22). Unfortunately, health problems forced his early retirement in 1928.

John H. Claggett's course on Shakespeare became famous on Western's campus not only because he was an easy grader but also because his enthusiasm for his subject inspired a generation of students. His genuine love of literature is reflected in his teaching himself Italian late in life so he could read Dante in the original. He had little patience with bureaucratic minutia, as shown when he returned to the dean, uncompleted, a Department of Education form with this note: "Most of it impresses me as platitudinous twaddle" (Harrison 21).

Gordon Wilson was apparently the first graduate of Western to become a regular faculty member here. His service, simply in terms of length, is amazing: in his 48 years here he taught over thirty-six thousand students (Harrison 24), and he served as department head for 31 of those years (1928-59). He was a tireless researcher on the topics of Kentucky folklore and ornithology, becoming one of the leading experts on the birds of western Kentucky. His study of folklore seems to have been particularly informed by his interest in dialect. He was so skillful at identifying dialects that he would often tell students the region of the state or even the specific area within a county they came from simply by listening to them talk. He is reputed to have given more high school commencement addresses in Kentucky than anyone else before or since. His long association with Western led him to observe in 1970, shortly before his death, "When I try to separate my life from that of the college, I have great difficulty, for both of them have run along together so long that they seem to be one instead of two" (Harrison 24).

It is appropriate that what may have been the first book published by English faculty at Western was co-authored by Dr. Lieper and Dr. Wilson. In 1923, their textbook entitled *A New English Grammar* was published by Macmillan. The text, aimed at high school students, was adopted by the state of Kentucky, bringing academic distinction to the English Department and the institution (Wilson).

During this Western Normal School phase of the university's development, English courses continued to be added, so that by 1918 there were fifteen, including Composition, American Literature, Rhetoric, Middle English to 1557, and courses in the Elizabethan Period, Eighteenth Century, Romantic and Victorian Periods (with special emphasis on Tennyson). Shakespeare, Milton, and Dante were also taught, along with The Drama, Problems in Presenting High School English, Study of the Short Story, Old English, and The Essay (Wilson).

In 1922, Western became Western Kentucky State Normal School and Teachers College, a four-year college which could award bachelor's degrees. The 1923-24 academic year brought with it the more typical academic structure of major, minor, and general education requirements. For example, in 1928, when Gordon Wilson became head of the department, the English major required 24 semester hours:

English 101a, Freshman English, and English 101b,  
Freshman English—6 hours  
English 102, English Literature—3 hours  
English 302, Historical English—3 hours  
English 303, Teaching English in High School—3 hours  
English 308, Modern English and American Literature—  
3 hours  
Upper-level Electives—6 hours

The general English requirement for all students was 12 semester hours: Freshman English—6 hours; History of English Literature—3 hours; elective English course—3 hours (Wilson). In 1924 the first class to graduate with bachelor's degrees included seventeen English majors (Wilson).

Teaching loads were extremely heavy during the early years of the institution, and in fact remained so long thereafter. Teaching only four classes in the winter of 1922, Gordon Wilson had a total of 420 students (Harrison 26). President Cherry acknowledged that English teachers were "literally overwhelmed with the work of grading papers" (Harrison 26), but he pursued his agenda of outfitting, building, and expanding the growing little normal school at the expense of hiring new teachers. However, Cherry's powers to inspire were the stuff of legend. H. L. Donovan, a student at Western in the early days and later president of the University of Kentucky, wrote of President

Cherry's chapel programs that "I have left his meeting many a day feeling that I just had to run to a class, to the library, or to my room to study" (Harrison 42). His ability to inspire extended to the faculty, and perhaps explains the fierce loyalty many of them developed for Cherry and Western. Gordon Wilson, no Pollyanna, wrote of the founding president, "No other ten men of my acquaintance had powers, if put together, to equal the radiance of Mr. Cherry at his best" (Harrison 81).

Also in 1924, the English Club was founded by Dr. Lieper; later its name was changed to the Lieper English Club in his honor. As Dr. Willson Wood, in his manuscript history of the department points out, up until the 1960's regular attendance of club meetings was expected, though never exactly required, of all English majors and also faculty members. But by the '60's, Dr. Wood remarks ruefully, "It became smart not to do what one was supposed to do" (28). An undated write-up about the club, probably from the early 1930's, gives this account of the English Club's recent activities:

The work of the club this year has been devoted to the treatment of a diversity of modern subjects, including the study of the lives and works of such contemporary authors as William Butler Yeats, George William Russell, Carl Sandburg, and John Masefield, the study of the development of the theatre with emphasis on the Little Theatre movement in America, and a series of programs on World War literature.

An admirable contribution of the club during the year to the activities of the college was the English Club chapel program on February 18<sup>th</sup>. The program was in [the] form of a treatment of Thomas Carlyle's philosophical collection of essays, "Heroes and Hero Worship," and was effectively carried out by interpretations of the divisions of the books by members of the English Club.

The list of contemporary authors is arresting, but remarkable by current standards is the notion that English majors got up before the assembled college in Van Meter Hall to give a presentation on Thomas Carlyle's "philosophical collection of essays."

In the 1920's President Cherry employed what Lowell Harrison has termed Western's "second major generation of teachers" (63). In the English Department, Frances Richards was hired and promptly as-

signed the task of establishing the *College Heights Herald*. She taught journalism classes, as well as various literature courses, and she was the faculty adviser to the school newspaper until her retirement in 1964.

Among other English faculty hired, only a few of those with exceptionally long careers can be mentioned here (with their tenure at Western in parentheses). President's Cherry's sister-in-law, Mrs. T. C. Cherry (1923-47), was an extremely fastidious person, according to Dr. Wood's reminiscences, whose academic credentials appeared in university publications as "B.O.," that is, "Bachelor of Oratory." Dr. Earl Moore (1929-62) was recruited to Western by Dr. Gordon Wilson when they studied together in the doctoral program at Indiana University. Willson Wood later claimed for Dr. Moore the record for the number of different English courses taught: fifteen. Emma Stith (1928-62) taught Children's Literature and Teaching Language in the Grades. In 1930, James P. Cornette was added to the English faculty. Cornette, who wrote a history of WKU for his doctoral dissertation at Peabody in 1938, left Western in 1944 to become the dean at Baylor, and later served for twenty-five years as president of West Texas College (now West Texas A&M University).

In the 1930's, the English Department continued to expand its upper-level offerings. Lowell Harrison reports that between the 1930-31 and 1937-38 catalogs, English offerings jumped from 30 to 47 courses (88). During this time, Western began to offer Master's degrees in a few areas, including English, so part of the expansion came in new graduate courses. However, in response to complaints from the University of Kentucky, the state closed Western's graduate programs in 1936.

In the 1940's, the most notable addition to the English Department was Willson Wood, who originally taught English and mathematics at Western's Training School, but moved in 1947 to the English Department, where he taught Victorian Literature and grammar courses. After earning his Ph.D. degree at Peabody in 1954, he was appointed Director of Freshman English. Upon the retirement of Dr. Gordon Wilson in 1959, Dr. Wood became English Department Head, a position he held until 1972.

Recalling his days as a faculty member, Dr. Wood points out that in one term in 1947 he had a total of 189 students in four classes. He writes, "In those days a class was closed when the students stopped

coming. I recall that Dr. Wilson used to utter two short whistles when he discovered that a class was running past 40, but nothing else was said" (10).

In the 1950's, two other faculty hires are notable. Dr. D. K. Wilgus was the first professionally trained folklorist in the department, expanding an area of Dr. Wilson's special interest. Wilgus left Western for an appointment at U.C.L.A. in 1961. And just before he retired, anticipating an enrollment increase in the fall of 1959, Gordon Wilson hired three additional instructors, one of whom, Dr. Lee Little, later served for many years as Graduate Advisor in English until his retirement in 1989.

#### 1959-1972

Dr. Willson Wood's tenure as English Department Head (1959-1972) encompasses the period of the department's most radical transformation. Western, like most of American higher education, experienced explosive growth in the 1960's. Harrison summarizes the changes at Western between 1955 and 1970: "The fall student enrollment increased 557 percent, the faculty grew 589 percent, the state appropriation increased 1,746 percent, and the general fund budget grew 1,334 percent" (187-88).

Finding faculty to teach the influx of students was a major and time-consuming part of Dr. Wood's responsibility, in contrast to the relatively placid pace of faculty hiring in previous years. From 1907 until 1959, the English Department had employed a total of thirty-six full-time and six part-time faculty. Dr. Wood, on the other hand, between 1959 and 1972 hired 103 full-time teachers and approximately 100 part-time teachers and graduate assistants.

Hiring faculty in the numbers required led to a somewhat more casual, or perhaps frantic, approach, as Western administrators competed with other growing colleges and universities for qualified teachers. One longtime member of the English Department, Joe Boggs, liked to tell how he was hired at Western without ever visiting the campus or meeting the department head. He was offered a job by Dr. Raymond Cravens, Western's Academic Vice President, who was recruiting faculty at Florida State University, where Joe was a graduate student at the time. Others remember being hired during this period without being interviewed by a search committee, as is now the practice.

The other side of the equation is that there was a good bit of turnover because faculty positions were plentiful elsewhere. As some faculty members hired in that time remember, they often viewed Western as an initial stop on an academic career that might take them to various parts of the country. No wonder Dr. Wood referred to the '60's as "the age of the young and the restless" (14). Notables among "the young and the restless" include Jody Richards, who taught English and journalism courses before he departed for the excitement of Kentucky politics and his long tenure as Speaker of the House, and Mary Ellen Pitts, who left WKU in the mid-1960's, only to return in 1994 as head of the English Department. By the early 1970's, however, the explosive growth of higher education ended with a whimper, and many faculty were glad to have a seat when the music stopped.

Dr. Wood's manuscript history of the department details the hiring of individuals during that period, a feat beyond the scope of this overview centennial history. However, a listing of those employed during that time is appended to this history, with special attention to faculty members who made long-term contributions to the department.

Teaching loads for English faculty gradually improved during this period, something Dr. Wood took special pride in. Dr. Wood's earlier efforts to reduce the number of classes taught by faculty were not successful, so instead he worked at whittling down class sizes, particularly in composition classes, to reach his goal of approximately 100 students per faculty member each term. By 1971, in part because the teaching load had finally been reduced to four courses per term, the English Department hit Dr. Wood's goal on the nose.

As noted previously, in the 1960's the English Club began to lose its cachet and membership; perhaps because of this, a chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, a national honor society for English students, was established in 1964, with Professor Mary Ellen Pitts as sponsor, and Bob Adams (later long-time faculty adviser to the *College Heights Herald*) as its first president. Later faculty sponsors included George McCelvey, Bill McMahan, Jim Flynn, Will Fridy, and for many years now, Walker Rutledge. In 1977, the local chapter hosted a regional convention, and students down through the years have participated in regional and national conventions of the organization.

Although English graduate courses had been offered as part of the M.Ed. for several years, in 1966 the M.A. in English was reinstated.

From that time on, graduate teaching assistants became an important part of the department's instructional program, and several of our GA's have gone on to doctoral programs and college teaching careers while others have taken different career routes.

In 1968, Wanda Gatlin was hired to direct the creative writing program, which for several years consisted of three one-hour courses. A literary magazine called *Voices* had been produced for a number of years prior to that, but in 1969 Professor Gatlin, with the help of Professor Will Fridy, came up with the title *Zephyrus*, the Roman name for the west wind, because Dr. Wood had asked that "Western" be included in the title.

Finally, during the 1960's and early 1970's, several areas that had been a part of the English Department were launched as separate departments. In 1964, the nucleus of the Department of Philosophy and Religion was established under the leadership of Dr. Ronald Nash. In 1968, Speech and Theatre was established with Dr. Randall Capps as head. Oratory and debate had long been part of the English Department's responsibility. Theatre, also in English, had been directed for many years by Dr. Russell Miller. In 1970, the Department of Mass Communication was established to teach journalism, TV and radio, and photography, with Dr. Wood as the Acting Head the first year. Finally, in 1972, a new Center for Intercultural and Folk Studies was established, with Dr. Lynwood Montell as the director and teaching support from English faculty such as Drs. Kenneth and Mary Clarke and the newly-hired Dr. Camilla Collins.

#### 1972-2006

With the end to both the '60's higher education boom and WKU's phenomenal enrollment growth, the English Department entered a period of relative stability. After 1972, only one addition to the faculty was made for the remainder of the 1970's: Dr. Ron Eckard was hired in 1976 to run our fledgling English as a Second Language (ESL) program. At that time, Western had a sizable number of Iranian students who needed special English instruction. During this time, Bob Wurster, a long-time member of the English faculty, served for several years as an unofficial, but tireless, foreign student advisor.

Upon Dr. Wood's resignation and after a national search, Dr. Jim Heldman was hired as English Department head in 1972. Dr. Frank

Steele had become acting Director of Freshman English (as it was then called) in 1969, and filled the position permanently from 1972 until 1984. In 1979, Frank, along with his wife, Peggy, began publishing *Plainsong*, a poetry journal that published many leading poets (several of whom gave poetry readings at WKU) until it ended in 1992.

The department opened its first Writing Center, or Writing Lab as it was originally called, in 1972, with John Reiss as director, a position he held until his retirement in 2000. Any faculty member from across the university could refer a student to the Lab, or students could simply walk in for individualized help with writing, grammar, and editing. Although John was originally the one-person staff of the Lab, it very soon came to use graduate teaching assistants as tutors.

Another notable event of the 1970's was the renovation of Cherry Hall, the first since its opening in 1937. For approximately a year and a half in the period 1973-75, English faculty and classes were scattered throughout the campus.

In 1972 Jim Heldman taught what appears to be the first departmental study-abroad course, a London theatre tour after Christmas. Beginning in the 1980's, Heldman, Joe Glaser, Pat Taylor, Walker Rutledge, Jim Flynn (department head from 1979-84), and later Lloyd Davies have taught a number of literature courses overseas, mostly in England. Pat Taylor, in particular, has taken large numbers of WKU students on her popular semester-in-Cambridge program. Domestic educational travel has also been a staple, particularly Walker Rutledge's long-standing annual Faulkner pilgrimage to Oxford, Mississippi.

In 1979, Dr. Jim Flynn was selected as department head. Throughout the 1980's, the English Department responded to and reflected movements within the discipline of English. For instance, with the hiring of Karen Pelz (1982) and John Hagaman (1983), the department laid the groundwork for approaching rhetoric and composition in light of new theories and pedagogical developments. Dr. Pelz was particularly instrumental in advancing Writing Across the Curriculum during this time, and Dr. Hagaman (with the assistance of Professor Gretchen Niva) established the WKU site of the National Writing Project and initiated the Invitational Summer Institute in 1986, still a thriving departmental program for writing teachers throughout the region and state. Also during this time, individuals within the department

worked with English teachers in the region to establish the Southern Kentucky English Council, which brought together university, middle school, and high school English faculty.

In 1980, the English Honors Program was established, with Professor Walker Rutledge as Director, a position he continues to hold. In 1983 Sandra Long was the first student to complete the program. Also in the early 1980's a Writing Minor was developed. It included several new courses in creative and professional writing. In the later 1980's, a Major in Writing was developed.

Also noteworthy during this period was the addition of the first African-American faculty members in the department. Dr. Beverly Butler was hired in 1982, but stayed only one year. Dr. Lou-Ann Crouther was hired in 1984 to teach African-American Literature, and remains a valued member of the department.

English faculty were also selected for the prestigious Fulbright program during this period: Joe Survant taught on a Fulbright in Malaysia, and Ron Eckard taught in Turkey, both during the 1983-84 academic year. Ron Eckard later went to Denmark on a Fulbright during the fall, 1990.

Also in 1984, Dr. Joe Millichap, who had been chair of the English Department at the University of Tulsa, was selected as head of WKU's English Department.

The 1980's also saw a major change in the English General Education sequence. In part because of Writing Across the Curriculum initiatives, the department moved from the longtime requirement of two "Freshman English" composition courses to one Freshman English course (now English 100, "Introduction to College Writing") and one Junior English course (now English 300, "Writing in the Disciplines"). At the same time, the Introduction to Literature course was revised to include more writing, thus to serve as a bridge between the new English 100 and English 300. Dr. Joe Glaser, who served as Composition Director (instead of "Freshman English Director") from 1984 until his retirement in 2003, was particularly instrumental in developing what remains our basic General Education sequence of courses.

Although Lee Little had served since the 1960's as Graduate Advisor in the department, undergraduate advising was done, more or less, by

all faculty. But in 1984 Dr. Charmaine Mosby was selected by Joe Millichap as the first Undergraduate Advisor, a position she held until her retirement in 2004, when Dr. Katherine Green took over those duties.

In 1986, the Robert Penn Warren Center was established to honor and promote the work of Kentucky's most famous writer. The Center, under the leadership of Joy Bale Boone (now deceased), a leading poet and arts advocate, and Professor Mary Ellen Miller, has continued to attract national and international attention to Warren's works, particularly through the annual Robert Penn Warren Conference held on campus each spring.

The department also continued its role as catalyst for other disciplines. English professors Catherine Ward and Lou-Ann Crouther joined with other faculty members from across the campus to develop a successful Women's Studies annual conference, which led to the establishment of the Women's Studies Program in 1990. Katie Ward directed the program and the conference for several years, and other English faculty, notably Mary Ellen Miller, Karen Schneider, Katie Green, and Elizabeth Oakes, were instrumental in developing new courses dealing with women's literature that served as the core of the new program. In 1996 Jane Olmsted was hired as the new director of the program on a joint appointment in English and Women's Studies.

Women also assumed positions of departmental leadership around this time as well. Dr. Mary Ellen Pitts, who had been a faculty member at Western for a few years in the mid-1960's, returned from the University of Memphis as English Department Head, 1994-98; Dr. Linda Calendrillo was hired from Eastern Illinois University, and served as Head from 1999-2003. Dr. Karen Schneider, a faculty member at WKU since 1992, served as Interim Head in 2003-2004 and was selected as permanent Head in 2004, a position she still holds.

In the 1990's, the department began to experience turnover in its faculty, as the previous generation began to retire to be replaced by, for the most part, newly-minted Ph.D's. However, as the enrollments began to increase at a faster rate again in the late '90's, the department moved to hire a number of full-time instructors to teach General Education classes instead of relying too greatly upon part-time teachers. These full-time instructorships have helped to provide more continuity in the department's staffing pattern.

New faculty brought new interests, and as a result of the efforts of Dr. Ted Hovet and Dr. Karen Schneider, the department began offering courses in film studies, eventually developing a new minor in the subject. In line with national trends in the discipline, the department has also hired new faculty with expertise in fields such as postcolonial literature, multicultural literature, and creative nonfiction.

In spite of the fact that the English faculty's traditionally heavy teaching and essay-grading loads have been seen as impediments to scholarly and creative work, the cumulative record of books, essays, conference presentations, and creative publications and activities of the faculty, especially within the past few decades, is substantial. Support for such activity has come not only from sabbaticals and special assignments, but also from donors who have recognized the need for faculty to continue to expand their expertise in the field. In 1994 the first Wood Professorship, established by a bequest from Dr. Willson Wood, was awarded to Frank Steele; in 2001, Lloyd Davies was named the first Traditions Professor, an award established by an anonymous donor to support scholarship leading to excellence in teaching the literary canon. (See Appendix B for a complete list of faculty awards.) While it is beyond the scope of this history to list all scholarly and creative efforts of the faculty, Joe Survant's selection as Poet Laureate of Kentucky for 2003-04 was an especially noteworthy public recognition. Even more recently, Dr. Deborah Logan has won the Potter College award for Research and Creativity in 2001 and again in 2006, and her book *Harriet Martineau's Writing on the British Empire* won the prestigious Choice Library Journal Outstanding Title Award.

Technology is now firmly embedded in the department, with the establishment of two computer classrooms and an Interactive Television (ITV) classroom, which enables us to offer courses in Glasgow, Elizabethtown/Ft. Knox, and Owensboro via TV. Classes have also been offered online (Internet) for several years, notably by Dr. Charmaine Mosby and Dr. Lesa Dill. More recently, Dr. Ron Eckard and others (including our new ESL specialist, Dr. Alex Poole) developed a fully online graduate program in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL).

The English Department continues to be student-centered. Professor Ted Hovet and Sandy Hughes currently advise a thriving English Club; Dr. Hovet also developed and continues to coordinate a hugely successful Undergraduate Literature, Language, and Culture Conference at which students present scholarly/critical papers on a range of

topics; Professor Walker Rutledge oversees the departmental Honors program and the English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta; Professor Jane Fife directs the Writing Center, which a few years ago began offering assistance in Helm Library as well as in Cherry Hall, and which has now added a help desk in the new Student Success Center located in the Downing University Center.

The English Department has experienced setbacks and losses in its 100-year history, but perhaps none as dramatic as the fires in Cherry Hall on the morning of April 23, 2006. Several offices in the first-floor corridor traditionally called “The English Channel” sustained heavy fire and smoke damage, and the Interactive TV classroom in Cherry Hall 103 was gutted. Other areas throughout the building were also damaged. But Cherry Hall, mostly repaired and refurbished, re-opened as scheduled for the fall semester, 2006.

The English Department is proud of its long history but prouder still of the more than 2,200 students who have graduated from its programs and of the numerous other students who have studied with us in the thousands of courses offered down through the years. The English Department is still about the study of literature, the practice of writing, and the development of the critical faculties that enable us to examine the world with insight and imagination. Far from being “ivory tower” exercises, these essential English skills are crucially important to a full experience of what Dr. H. H. Cherry called “life, more life.”

## APPENDIX A: ENGLISH DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

### ENGLISH DEPARTMENT HEADS

- Dr. Macon A. Leiper, 1918-26
- Dr. Gordon Wilson, Sr., 1928-59
- Dr. Willson Wood, 1959-72
- Dr. Jim Heldman, 1972-79
- Dr. Jim Flynn, 1979-84
- Dr. Joe Millichap, 1984-94, 1998-99 (Interim)
- Dr. Mary Ellen Pitts, 1994-98
- Dr. Linda Calendrillo, 1999-2003
- Dr. Karen Schneider, 2003-04 (Interim); 2004-current

### ENGLISH FACULTY I

(Full-time service of at least a decade, retired 1972 or earlier)

Cherry, Mrs. T.C.	1923-50
Claggett, J. H.	1908-37
Cornette, James P.	1930-44
Dixon, Frances	1948-71
Leiper, M.A.	1908-26
Lynn, Justine	1946-61
Matthews, Mrs. H. R.	1925-45
Middleton, Sarah	1928-35
Miller, Russell	1947-68
Moore, Earl A.	1929-62
Nance, Ida B.	1919-33
Newberry, Caroline	1947-61
Perkins, Ruth Moore	1926-64 (English, French)
Reid, Mattie	1908-18
Richards, Frances	1925-65 (English, Journalism)
Sterrett, James Reid	1934-45
Stith, Emma	1928-62
Walz, Elizabeth G.	1956-66
Wilgus, D. K.	1950-62
Wilson, Gordon, Sr.	1912-59
Wilson, Mattie Mae	1946-55
Wood, Willson E.	1941-72



## ENGLISH FACULTY II

(Retired faculty of the 1960's, '70's, '80's, and '90's with at least a decade of service)

Boggs, Joseph M.	1962-96	deceased: 5-26-1996
Bowen, Hoyt E.	1972-86	
Bruner, Margaret	1969-83	
Clarke, Kenneth	1964-74	deceased
Clarke, Mary	1964-74	deceased
Curry, Edith	1962-75	deceased
Davis, Nancy	1969-94	
Eckard, Ronald D.	1976-2005/active optional retiree	
Fields, Frances H.	1972-94	
Flynn, James S.	1972-2006/active optional retiree	
Fridy, Wilford E.	1966-96	
Gatlin, Wanda	1966-89	deceased
Glaser, Joseph A.	1969-2003/active optional retiree	
Guthrie, Charles	1968-84	deceased: 12-24-2000
Heldman, James M.	1972-97	
Hilliard, Addie S.	1964-72	deceased
Huddleston, Wanella	1965-2002	
Johnson, Anna Jo	ca. 1970's-1997	
Jones, Pauline	1965-96	
Jones, Tom G.	1963-86	deceased: 04-09-1986
Laman, Edna H.	1966-85	
Law, Anne F.	1961-73	deceased
Lewter, John	1970-80	
Little, Leroy	1959-89/ 1994 end opt. retirement	
Lockhart, Carol M.	1963-90	
Martin, Brenda	1967-2001 retired / 2002 end opt. ret.	
McCelvey, George E.	1964-92	deceased: 07-30-1993
McMahon, Dorothy E.	1967-92	
McMahon, William	1964-92	
Miller, Roy W.	1968-82	deceased: 12-24-1982
Mosby, Charmaine A.	1969-2003/active optional retiree	
Niva, Gretchen L.	1967-95	
Pelz, Karen	1982-95	deceased
Perdue, Frances	ca. 1970's-1995	
Rabold, Wilma	1957-77	deceased
Reiss, John H.	1965-2000 retired / 2005 end opt. ret.	
Schwarzkopf, Janet M.	1963-97 retired / 2002 end opt. ret.	
Spurlock, John H.	1964-2004	
Steele, Frank P.	1968-1994	

Survant, Joseph W.	1970-2002/active optional retiree
Walz, Jon	1966-79 deceased
Ward, Catherine	1971-95
Ward, Robert E.	1969-92
Wurster, Robert J.	1961-88 deceased: 05-13-1992

## ENGLISH FACULTY III: "They endured."

(faculty hired in the 1960's who are still full-time in 2006)

Miller, Mary Ellen, 1963  
Taylor, Patricia M., 1968  
Moore, Russell H., 1969  
Rutledge, J. Walker, 1969

## DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH FACULTY AND STAFF, FALL 2006

### Administration

Karen Schneider, Department Head  
Joe Hardin, Composition Director  
Elizabeth Oakes, Graduate Advisor  
Katherine Green, Undergraduate Advisor  
Kimberly Boswell, Office Associate  
Tomitha Blair, Office Associate

### Faculty

<u>Name</u>	<u>Appt.</u>	<u>Rank (2006)</u>	<u>Deg.</u>	<u>Institution</u>
Berry, Wes	2005	Assistant	Ph.D.	Mississippi
Crouther, Lou-Ann	1984	Associate	Ph.D.	Indiana
Davies, Lloyd	1990	Professor	Ph.D.	Duke
Dill, Lisa	1986	Associate	Ph.D.	Georgia
Eckard, Ron	1978	Opt. Retiree	Ph.D.	Ball State
Elliott, Terry	2004	Instructor	M.A.	WKU
Endres, Niko	2002	Assistant	Ph.D.	UNC-Chapel Hill
Epley, Keith	2000	Instructor	M.A.	WKU
Flynn, Jim	1972	Opt. Retiree	Ph.D.	Auburn

Glaser, Joe	1969	Opt. Retiree	Ph.D.	Texas
Green, Catherine	1992	Associate	Ph.D.	Georgia State
Hagaman, John	1983	Professor	D.A.	Carnegie-Mellon
Hardin, Joe	2004	Associate	Ph.D.	South Florida
Hays, Debra	2004	Instructor	M.A.	WKU
Hellstrom, Ward	1981	Professor	Ph.D.	Illinois
Hovet, Ted	1998	Associate	Ph.D.	Duke
Hughes, Sandra	2004	Assistant	Ph.D.	Georgia
Hunley, Tom	2003	Assistant	Ph.D.	Florida State
Jones, Angela	2005	Assistant	Ph.D.	Kansas
King, Kenneth	2003	Instructor	Ph.D.	Nebraska
LeNoir, David	1993	Associate	Ph.D.	Auburn
Logan, Deborah	1997	Associate	Ph.D.	UNC-Chapel Hill
Miller, Mary Ellen	1963	Professor	M.A.	Kentucky
Moore, Russell	1969	Assistant	Ed.S.	Peabody
Mosby, Charmaine	1969	Opt. Retiree	Ph.D.	UNC-Chapel Hill
Murrey, Loretta	1991	Associate	Ph.D.	Kentucky
Oakes, Elizabeth	1987	Professor	Ph.D.	Vanderbilt
Olmsted, Jane	1996	Associate	Ph.D.	Minnesota
Poole, Alex	2003	Assistant	Ph.D.	Oklahoma State
Reames, Kelly	2002	Assistant	Ph.D.	UNC-Chapel Hill
Rigby, Dale	2000	Associate	Ph.D.	Missouri
Roberts, Nancy	1996	Associate	Ph.D.	Utah
Rogers, David	2004	Instructor	D.A.	MTSU
Rutledge, J. Walker	1969	Assistant	M.A.	Oklahoma
Schneider, Karen	1992	Professor	Ph.D.	Indiana
Spears, Lee	1990	Associate	Ph.D.	Kentucky
Survant, Joe	1970	Opt. Retiree	Ph.D.	Delaware
Szerdahelyi, Judith	2001	Assistant	Ph.D.	UNC-Greensboro
Taylor, Pat	1968	Professor	Ph.D.	Southern Illinois
Weston, Elizabeth	2005	Assistant	Ph.D.	UNC-Chapel Hill
Winkler, Elizabeth	2006	Assistant	Ph.D.	Indiana

Marie Guthrie  
Tracie Jones  
Melanie Kiene  
Denishia Martin  
Gail McCrady  
Sean McCray  
Bonnie Meyer  
Wren Mills  
Michael Oleksy  
Barbara Pinson  
Deborah Proctor  
Amy Radla  
John Reiss  
Jim Skaggs  
Carrie Stewart  
Sandra Wales  
Cathy Ware  
Marya Waters  
Leslie Watkins  
Eva Whittle

Glasgow Extended Campus

Susan Chambers  
Dale Furkin  
Laura Houchens  
Le Jane Leibhart  
James Lowe  
Katherine Pennavaria,

Russellville

Marshall Kemp  
Algie Smith

Owensboro Extended Campus

Kathryn Brown  
Ruth Fields

Adjunct Faculty

Main Campus

Corey Alderdice  
Jim Browning  
Jeff Carr  
Anna Combs  
Bill Green

Elizabethtown/Ft. Knox Extended Campus

Laura Case

Graduate Assistants:

Wayne Arnold  
Maggie Brown  
Leigh Ann Copas  
Cle'shea Crain  
Andrew Crenshaw  
Gary Crump  
Theresa Fitzpatrick  
Terry (Ryan) Hall  
Morgen Davis-Lamson  
Justin Mathews  
Crystal Norton  
R. Jason Simpson  
Susan Swanson  
Chuck Williamson

APPENDIX B: ENGLISH FACULTY AWARDS

ENGLISH FACULTY UNIVERSITY AWARD WINNERS

- Karen Schneider (Teaching, 1999-2000)
- Catherine Ward (Public Service, 1993-94)
- John Hagaman (Teaching 1989-90)
- Mary Ellen Miller (Public Service, 1986-87)
- James Flynn (Public Service, 1984-85)
- Bill McMahon (Teaching, 1976-77)
- Mary Washington Clarke (Research, 1968-69)

ENGLISH FACULTY POTTER COLLEGE AWARD WINNERS

- Deborah Logan (Research/Creativity, 2006)
- Elizabeth Oakes & Jane Olmsted (Public Service, 2004)
- Deborah Logan (Research/Creativity, 2001)
- Karen Schneider (Teaching, 2000)
- James Flynn (Public Service, 1999)
- Brenda Martin (Teaching, 1996)
- Walker Rutledge (Teaching, 1995)
- Catherine Ward (Public Service, 1994)
- Catherine Ward (Public Service, 1989)
- Wanella Huddleston (Teaching, 1988)
- Brenda Martin (Teaching, 1987)
- Frank Steele (Research/Creativity, 1987)
- Mary Ellen Miller (Teaching, 1985)
- Alice Rowe (Public Service, 1984)
- Catherine & Robert Ward (Research/Creativity, 1982)
- Tom Jones (Public Service, 1982)

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT PROFESSORSHIP AWARDS

<u>Wood Professorship</u>	<u>Traditions Professorship</u>	<u>Date</u>
Frank Steele		1993-94
Joe Survant		1994-95
Lesa Dill		1995-96
Joe Millichap		1996-97
Elizabeth Oakes		1998-99
Lou-Ann Crouther		1999-2000
Deborah Logan	Lloyd Davies	2000-01
Joe Survant	Elizabeth Oakes	2001-02
Deborah Logan	Katherine Green	2002-03
Lloyd Davies	Karen Schneider (deferred)	2003-04
Tom Hunley	Niko Endres	2004-05
Kelly Reames	Jim Flynn	2005-06
Deborah Logan	Sandra Hughes	2006-07

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For the periods prior to 1972, I have relied mainly on several written sources: Dr. Willson E. Wood's manuscript, "A Brief History of the English Department, Western Kentucky University, 1907-72" (University Archives); a manuscript entitled "Western's English Department" prepared by Dr. O. J. Wilson in 1967 (University Archives); James P. Cornette's *A History of Western Kentucky State Teachers College* (no date, but in a forward, Dr. Cornette writes that his history was originally submitted as his doctoral dissertation at Peabody College in 1938); and Lowell Harrison's history entitled *Western Kentucky University* (Lexington: UP of Kentucky, 1987). For material about the period 1972 to the present, I am grateful for information provided by former department heads (Jim Heldman, Joe Millichap, Mary Ellen Pitts, and Linda Calendrillo) and the current department head, Karen Schneider. Kimberly Boswell and Tomitha Blair provided lists of the current departmental faculty and staff. Russell Moore kindly gave me copies of the departmental newsletters that he edited in the early 1980's, and various other colleagues have generously shared memories, musings, and bits of almost-forgotten lore. Joe Glaser edited an earlier draft. Special thanks to Lynn Niedermeier for her invaluable help in finding relevant material in University Archives.

Jim Flynn  
Professor of English  
WKU  
October 1, 2006

