

## **THOM D. CHESNEY, Ph.D.**

201 Grampian Boulevard  
Williamsport, PA 17701-1813  
(570) 322-6556 Home • (570) 326-3761 ext. 7091 Office  
tchesney@pct.edu

### **EDUCATION:**

Ph.D. English—Literature, The Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL (1996).

M.A. English—Creative Writing, Minnesota State University, Mankato, MN (1991).

A.B. Spanish, Washington University, St. Louis, MO (1988).

### **RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE:**

*2002-present*

Penn College, Williamsport, PA

#### Assistant Dean for General Education (School of Integrated Studies)

- coordinate on- and off-campus instructional and special projects
- consult with Dean on outcomes assessment, degree program evaluations, and curriculum revisions for specified academic programs on an annual basis
- develop and maintain master schedule of courses
- direct evening and weekend College activities in the School, including the offering of existing courses, as well as the development of new courses
- orient and schedule new students in School majors
- conduct post-tenure reviews of full-time faculty and evaluate selected part-time faculty
- manage departmental operating budgets and purchasing processes
- conduct tours for prospective students and other visitors
- resolve student issues involving faculty
- prepare and revise, as necessary, program promotional materials
- teach and develop courses within the English curriculum

*1998-2002 (3 concurrent positions)*

Texas Wesleyan University, Fort Worth, TX

#### Director of Freshman Advising

- developed, implemented, and published 3-semester advising guidelines and procedures
- provided training for a faculty and staff team of seven advisors
- devised, scheduled, and executed freshman orientation, registration, and retention-related events with the Admissions and Student Affairs divisions
- assisted at college fairs and other recruitment activities
- wrote, reviewed, and reported on freshman retention-related issues directly to the Provost
- served as communications liaison between support staff and faculty-at-large

#### Director of Freshman Seminar Program (university-wide first-year experience)

- researched, developed, and implemented a common course curriculum with a team of faculty, staff, and student mentors
- held monthly SWOT assessment meetings to discuss class progress, opportunities, and

troubleshooting

- trained new faculty, staff, and student mentors for future semesters
- wrote, reviewed, and reported directly to the Provost on all seminar- and retention-related issues and innovations

#### Assistant Professor of English

- taught and developed curriculum for the following courses (in alphabetical order):  
American Literature sophomore surveys  
Caribbean Literature  
Composition and Grammar  
Composition and Literature  
Composition and Rhetoric (graduate and undergraduate)  
English Literature sophomore surveys  
Fiction Workshop  
Folklore (graduate and undergraduate)  
Interdisciplinary Studies (team-taught general studies curriculum)  
Modern English Novel (graduate and undergraduate)  
Prose Seminar (graduate and undergraduate)  
World Literature (graduate and undergraduate)
- coordinated departmental internship program in editing and publishing
- served as General Editor for *Aries: A Journal of Creative Expression* (US circulation: 300)

1997-98

East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN

#### Visiting Assistant Professor

- taught and developed curriculum for the following courses:  
American Major Authors Survey  
British Major Authors Survey  
First-year Composition and Writing about Literature

1996-97

Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA

#### Visiting Assistant Professor

- taught and developed curriculum for the following courses:  
First-Year Writing  
Introduction to Fiction  
Post-Colonial Literature Survey: Africa and South Asia  
Post-Colonial Literature Survey: The Caribbean  
Seminar—"Emigrants and Expatriates—Dispossession in Post-Colonial Literature"

1995-96

The Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

#### Full-time Instructor

- taught and developed curriculum for the following courses:  
British Literature Survey from 1790-present  
Fiction Technique: upper division students only  
Post-Colonial Literature Survey  
Prose Non-Fiction Workshop: upper division students only
- served on Teaching Mentors team for new instructors of first-year writing

1991-95

The Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

Graduate Teaching Assistant

- taught and developed curriculum for the following courses:  
     Creative Fiction and Non-fiction Workshop  
     First-year Article and Essay Workshop: Writing Across the Curriculum  
     First-year Composition and Writing about Literature  
     Prose Non-fiction Workshop: upper division students only  
     Survey of Contemporary Caribbean Short Fiction
- tutored in the FSU Reading and Writing Center (including one-to-one conferencing with Spanish-speaking ESL students)

1993

The Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

Adult Education Instructor—Center for Professional Development (CPD)

- taught Professional Writing and Editing at the Computer summer course

1989-91

Minnesota State University, Mankato, MN

Graduate Teaching Assistant

- taught and developed curriculum for the following courses:  
     First-year Composition and Writing about Literature  
     Introductory Theory and Writing of the Short Story  
     Writing from/about Dreams
- tutored in Reading and Writing Lab

1988-89

Macy's Department Stores, Atlanta, GA

Department Manager—Accessories and Women's Apparel

- scheduled, trained, and evaluated a staff of 27 sales personnel
- managed and merchandised a \$3 million sales floor
- performed budget and loss prevention analyses
- wrote sales and performance reports for and communicated daily with the buying division

**OTHER ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE:**

**Penn College:**

Voting Member: Council of Deans, 2002-present.

Co-developer: Undergraduate Honors Program (commences Fall 2004) 2002-present.

Co-director: Integrated Studies Speaker Series, 2002-present.

Interim Department Head: Humanities & Social Sciences, 2002-03.

**Texas Wesleyan University:**

Faculty Representative: Educational Support Services Committee, 2001-02.

Chair: General Education Curriculum Review Committee, 2000-02.

Writing Mentor: Academic Resource Center, 1998-02.

Science & Humanities Representative: General Education Curriculum Committee, 1999-2001.

Humanities Representative: Faculty Council Ad Hoc Committee on Teaching Loads and Compensation, 1999-2000.

Faculty Advisor: Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society, Nu Zeta Chapter, 1998-2000.

Faculty Participant: Intensive English Speaking Partners Program, 1998-2000.

Faculty Representative: Student Publications Committee, 1998-99.

### **East Tennessee State University:**

Department of English Academic Scheduling Committee, 1997-98.

Public Relations and Program Design Volunteer, ETSU Opera, 1997-98.

ETSU Heritage Faculty Conference. Panel participant. March 1998.

### **Whitman College:**

Coordinator and Participant, 2 January Interim Seminars: "Writing Flash Fiction" and "Facing Reality: The Graduate School Experience," January 1997.

Writer/Editor (collaboratively), departmental reaccreditation document, 1996-97.

"Information on Graduate Programs in English." Prepared for departmental web page, 1997.  
[http://www.whitman.edu/offices\\_departments/english/gradschool.html](http://www.whitman.edu/offices_departments/english/gradschool.html)

Coordinator, Caribbean poetry and fiction reading/book drive for Jamaican libraries, December 1996.

Writer, departmental *Guide to Graduate Study in English* (for prospective graduate students), 1997.

Volunteer assistant cross-country and track and field coach, 1996.

Faculty advisor to Sigma Chi Fraternity, Gamma Epsilon Chapter, 1996-97.

### **The Florida State University:**

Graduate Assistant to the Department of English Director of Undergraduate Studies: undergraduate advising and transfer student orientation, coordination of the senior year internship in writing/editing program, and general research assistance while continuing service as a Teaching Assistant/Visiting Instructor, 1994-96.

Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies: College of Arts and Sciences representative to the Dean's Committee on Graduate Student Concerns, 1995-96.

Student Counseling Center: member of search committee for new Director of Clinical Services and Intern Training, 1994-96.

Reader/Judge: McCrimmon Awards for First-Year Writing, 1994-96.

Reader: Anhinga Press Prize for Poetry, 1994-96.

Four presentations to the Department of English Supervised Teaching Workshops for Teaching Assistants:

- “The MLA Job Search and Beyond—What to Expect, How to Prepare,” 1995.
- “Teaching and Prelims: Succeeding Concurrently at Both,” 1994.
- “Trying to Publish while both Teaching and Pursuing a Ph.D.,” 1993.
- “Creative Writing in the Composition Classroom,” 1992.

Associate Fiction Editor, *Sun Dog: The Southeast Review*, 1992-94.

Graduate Assistant to the Department of English Director of Graduate Studies: Writer/Editor of the monthly graduate newsletter, *Ellipsis*, and general research assistance. Concurrent service as a Teaching Assistant, 1992-93.

Reader/Judge: *Richard Eberhardt Prize in Poetry*, 1992-96.

Reader/Judge: *World's Best Short Short Story Contest*, 1991-96.

Coordinator, *Justified Left*, the Graduate Student Creative Writing Group, 1991-92.

## **PUBLICATIONS:**

“Behind the Bookcase.” *New Texas* 2001.

“The Ways We Say, ‘No.’” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. CareerNet on-line. 12 Sept. 2001.  
<http://www.chronicle.com/jobs/2001/09/2001091201c.htm>

“Teaching Twosomes.” *Wesleyan* Fall/Winter 2001: 8-11.

“The Things We Don’t Say.” *New Texas* 2000. Donna Walker-Nixon and James Ward Lee, eds. Belton, TX: U of Mary Hardin-Baylor, 2001. 143-49

“James Joyce: Límites de lo diáfano.” *James Joyce Literary Supplement* Review of *James Joyce: Límites de lo diáfano*. Carmela Medina Casado, Jesús López-Peláez Casella, Nieves Pascual Soler, and Pilar Sánchez Calle, eds. 4-5.

“Naugahyde Christmas.” *Aries* 6 (1999): 42.

“Forster on Film: What He Believed.” *Links & Letters* 6 (1999): 35-41. [refereed]

“Being Straight Did Not Help.” *Out on Fraternity Row*. Eds. Shane Windmeyer and Pamela W. Freeman. Los Angeles: Alyson, Spring 1998. 225-30. [refereed]

“Looking Past James Burnham: Machiavelli's *The Prince* in Orwell's 1984.” *British and American Studies*. Ed. Hortensia Parlog. Timisoara, Romania: Hestia, 1998. 18-25.

“Elegy for a Timisoara Conference.” *University English*. 4.2 (1997): 28.

“Joyce and O’Faolain: When Talking Trees Speak Two Authors’ Names.” *Notes on Modern Irish Literature* 7.1 (1995): 50-54. [refereed]

“The Bicycle: Innovations & Solutions.” Complete text for press kit and documentation distributed to public television stations nationwide to promote the four-part documentary of the same name. Tallahassee: FSU Publications, (February 1994): 20 pp.

“The Public Broadcast Center at Florida State University: Fiscal Year 1992-93.” Annual Report (text, graphics and layout). Tallahassee: FSU Publications, (September 1993): 14 pp.

“Part of Me.” *Muse*. 9.1 (1991): 9-15.

“Just Down the Road.” Weekly radio and newspaper commentary. KGAC-FM (Minnesota Public Radio), St. Peter, MN; *The Reporter*, Mankato, MN, respectively; both 1990-91.

“Short and Sour.” *Muse*. 9.1 (1990): 4.

“An Outsider’s Look at *The View From Rappahannock II* by Eugene McCarthy.” Review. *The Correspondent* 24 (1989): 4-5.

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES:

“Radical Revision: Improving Advising and Retention in the Midst of a Budget Crunch.” Forthcoming 2003 NACADA National Conference. October 2-5, 2003. Dallas, TX.

“The Things We Don’t Say.” 58th Annual South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA) Convention. November 1-3, 2001. Tulsa, OK.

“*New Texas* Authors Reading Short Fiction.” 5th Annual University of Mary Hardin-Baylor Writers’ Festival. January 4-6, 2001. Belton, TX.

“Olive Senior: The Diction is the Thing.” South Central Modern Language Association Conference: “Intersections.” October 28-30, 1999. Memphis, TN.

“Virginia Woolf and Dominick Argento: Her Voice, His Vision.” A critical introduction to Dr. Noelle Woods’s vocal recital of Dominick Argento’s *From the Diary of Virginia Woolf*. September 28, 1999.

“Joyce and O’Faolain’s Women: Kindred Spirits Across Time.” The International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures Conference: “Irish Literatures at the Century’s End.” July 26-29, 1999. Barcelona, Spain.

“Carrying the Mark, Dodging the Blame: Sin and Betrayal in *The Dispossessed*.” 8th Annual British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference. March 26-27, 1999. Savannah, GA.

“The Language of Loneliness in Sam Selvon’s and George Lamming’s Early Fiction.” Message in a Bottle: The Literature of Small Islands—International Conference, June 1998, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada.

“A Closer Look at James Burnham’s Master: Machiavelli’s *The Prince* in George Orwell’s *1984*.”

International Conference of British, American and Irish Studies, May 1997, Timisoara, Romania. In addition, served as chair for the panel: “Modern British and Irish Literature.”

“Sudden Fiction: Current Trends and Markets.” Walla Walla Community College Fourth Annual Writers Workshop, March 1997, Walla Walla, WA.

“Writers Forum: Finding the Time and Place to Write.” Walla Walla Community College Fourth Annual Writers Workshop, March 1997, Walla Walla, WA.

“Then one student asked, ‘How does it feel to be teaching my literature?’: Salt, Pepper and Soap—A Journey of (Self-)Discovery.” Whitman College Faculty Forum, October 1996.

“Anancy’s Web across the Centuries: West African Spider Stories in Contemporary Caribbean and American Literature and Folklore.” Whitman College Visiting Speaker, April 1996.

“The Disappearing Act of E. M. Forster’s England’s Pleasant Land.” Southern Humanities Council annual conference—“People and Places: Humanities on Site,” February 1996, Richmond, KY. In addition, served as chair for the panel: “A Place Called Home.”

“Forster on Film: What He Believed over Time.” Literature/Film Association annual conference, November 1994, Towson, MD.

“Defining Autobiography: If Scholars Cannot, Can the Authors Themselves?” Florida State University Conference on Literature and Film, January 1994, Tallahassee, FL.

“What is it, man? Ren and Stimpy: A Cartoon Study of Male Codependency.” Florida State University Conference on Literature and Film, January 1993, Tallahassee, FL.

“The Joycean Echo in Sean O’Faolain’s The Talking Trees.” Irish Studies section of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAML) conference, November 1992, Knoxville, TN.

“Whose Fiction Is It Anyway?: Compiling a Fiction Anthology for First-year Fiction Writing Classes.” Creative Writing panel of the Florida College English Association conference, January 1992, Daytona Beach, FL.

“Aspects of Teaching Freshman Composition from the Perspective of a Teaching Assistant: Anonymous Peer Workshops.” Minnesota Council of Teachers of English conference, April 1990, Minneapolis, MN.

Frequent public readings of fiction and poetry at local and regional venues, events and conferences.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS:**

Lambda Alpha Delta “Golden Rule” Award for Excellence in Freshman Teaching, 2001.

2001 Composers, Authors and Artists of America Writing Awards.

- 1st place: Short form—“Drought Vision” (Winner of President’s Medallion)
- 1st place: Fiction—“Behind the Bookcase” (Winner of Limbaugh Memorial Award)
- 1st place: Essay—“That Pained Look”

Bert O. and Ila Davis Award for Outstanding Graduate Career in English, The Florida State University, 1996.

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi—Graduate Scholar Award, The Florida State University, 1994.

The Florida State University Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, 1992-93.

M.A. Comprehensive Examination passed with distinction, 1991.

#### **ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

Music Columnist, *Q Monthly Entertainment Magazine*, 1994-95.

*Morning Edition* News Writer/Announcer and Classical Music Announcer/Producer for WFSU/WFSQ-FM, The Florida State University's National Public Radio affiliate, 1992-94.

#### **MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

National Academic Advising Association, Modern Language Association, South Central Modern Language Association, Council of College Teachers of English, Poetry Society of Texas, Composers Authors and Artists of America

#### **LANGUAGES:**

Spanish: near fluent speaking, writing, and reading ability.

#### **REFERENCES:**

Should you eventually require recommendations from my present employer, I will gladly forward them upon your request; until then, I value your confidentiality.

Dr. Thomas A. Armstrong  
President  
Tennessee Wesleyan College  
204 E. College Street  
Athens, TN 37371-0040  
(423) 745-7504

Mr. Glynn L. Mathis  
Director, Academic Resource Center  
Texas Wesleyan University  
1201 Wesleyan  
Fort Worth, TX 76105-1536  
(817) 531-4219

Dr. Judith (Judy) Kirkpatrick  
Dean  
School of Arts & Sciences  
Texas Wesleyan University  
1201 Wesleyan  
Fort Worth, TX 76105-1536  
(817) 531-4900

Dr. Elizabeth (Beth) Battles  
Associate Professor & Chair  
Division of Humanities  
Texas Wesleyan University  
1201 Wesleyan  
Fort Worth, TX 76105-1536  
(817) 531-4906

Dr. Hunt Hawkins  
Professor and Chair  
Department of English  
The Florida State University  
405G Williams Building  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1580  
(850) 644-0240