

## Editor's Easy Chair

Since our last newsletter, the Division has suffered a sad loss in the death from cancer of Dr. John Tatum, German professor here for 20 years. One of my enduring memories of John took place during the ice storm of 1994 when he trudged by my house with his Alpine walking stick and called out, "I can show my students now what Goethe meant - 'the beauty and the horror.'" Ever the teacher, ever the philosopher, John is greatly missed.

-Dorothy Shawhan

## Whatever Happened To . . .

• **Helen Armstrong ('94)** and fiancé Sean Krause are in a master's program in publication design in Baltimore. Helen is also assistant editor of *Deus Locit*, a journal focusing on Laurence Durrell. The wedding date is March 28.

• **Floyd Bass ('97)** is tutoring in North Carolina and contemplating graduate school. His poem "What To Do If Your Heart Stops" was published in the fall/winter 1997 issue of *WordWrights*.

• **Rena Raspberry Clark ('97)** is assistant editor of *Mississippi Builders* magazine.

• **Gretchen Gardner ('97)** is teaching English at Carroll Academy.

• **Susan Coker Holland ('94)** teaches 7th and 8th grade English and honors sections of 9th and 10th grade English at Coahoma County High School in Clarksdale. She has a daughter, Brittany, born February 15, 1997.

• **Jo Agnew LeCoeur, Ph.D. ('63)** teaches contemporary writing, particularly the role of history in shaping the writer's voice, at University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Texas.

• **Claude Lee ('94)** is teaching high school Spanish in a suburb of Atlanta.

• **Mary Bettis McGuffee Lee ('67)** is a published writer and teaches English comp at Texas State Technical College and creative writing at Panola College. She has one son who is an alum of DSU and a daughter and two other sons who are still in school.

• **Kristi Mitchell ('97)** has a new baby daughter born May 22, 1997. Her name is Devon Jae ("Devon," appropriately, means "poetry").

• **Dana Patton ('95)** is teaching Edgar Allan Poe, among other subjects, at Horn Lake High School.

• **Cathy Houston Pentecost ('90)** has completed her residency for the doctorate in education with emphasis in gifted and special education at the University of Southern Mississippi. She lives in Hattiesburg with husband Allen and daughter Sarah.

• **Janet Rush ('93)** will marry Jim Deal on January 18 and move from Memphis to Seattle.

• **Tami Schopen ('97)** teaches 7th and 8th grade English and 12th grade British lit and also coaches volleyball at Cresset Christian Academy in Durham, North Carolina.

• **Kelly Martinez Walburn ('94)** is teaching Spanish in a Memphis high school.

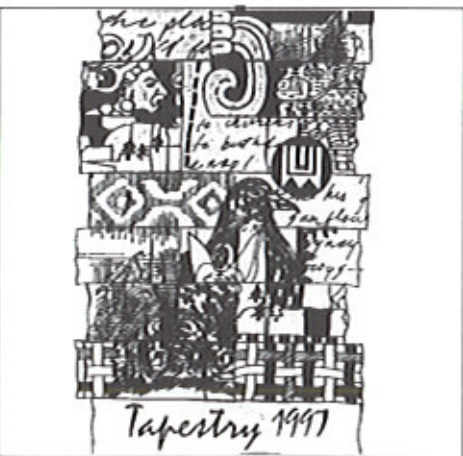
• **Ginger Wilder ('96)** was voted Memphis Rookie Poet of the Year and has three poems published in *burnt: an anthology of Memphis slam poetry*.

## Lambda Iota Tau (LIT)

Lambda Iota Tau celebrated Halloween with another outrageous literary masquerade party that included fortune telling and story telling. We are also proud to announce that DSU student Sabrina Davidson won one of only two merit-based \$1,000 scholarships awarded by the LIT national office this year.

Other DSU students distinguishing themselves on a national level were Kristi Mitchell and Floyd Bass, who both had poems published in the 1997 *LIT Journal*. Jamie Dakin, vice president of LIT, has had poetry accepted for publication by three separate literary journals: the *LIT Journal*, *Jabbenock* (Mississippi State University), and *Aura Literary/Arts Review* (University of Alabama at Birmingham).

Poetry Night, which has moved to Airport Grocery, is still going strong and even had an article about it appear in *The Clarion Ledger*. Secret message to LIT alumni: "Logos Idean Tellei."



Designed by Pat Brown of the DSU Art Department, the 1997 cover is a collage of elements from the nine preceding *Tapestry* covers.

## Tapestry Celebrates 10th Year

Division faculty marked the 10th anniversary of the publication of *Tapestry*; the L & L faculty literary magazine, with a celebration at the Dockery home of Keith McLean. Joining in the festivities was wordsmith Richard Lederer, who gave a presenta-

tion in Jobe Auditorium later that evening. This anniversary issue is dedicated to the memory of Lucy Somerville Howorth and Hite McLean. Copies are available for \$3 in the Division office. Limited supplies of some past editions are also available (601-846-4060).

## Visiting Writer for Spring

North Carolina Poet Michael McFee will give a reading on Monday, February 16 at 7:30 PM in Jobe Auditorium. Everyone is invited. McFee has published several books of poetry; he is assistant poetry editor of *Double Take* magazine; and he is the proud owner of a Fighting Okra T-shirt. If you still have your *Bedford Introduction to Literature*, you can read his poem "In Medias Res" in it.



Macbeth's witches drop in on LIT Halloween party.

## Theatre Tour to London

Bill Hays will again lead the theatre tour to London, March 5-14, 1998. While the focus is on the London theatre, the tour also includes Stratford, Oxford, Canterbury, Windsor, Dover, Stonehenge, Bath, the English countryside, and time for shopping and pubs. Those who wish to enroll in ENG 499-599 may earn three credit hours. For further information, call Dr. Hays at 601-846-4084.

## Faculty Notes

**Marion Barnwell** signed copies of her recently released *A Place Called Mississippi* at bookstores and libraries all across the state.

**Carolyn Elkins** won her second consecutive poetry slam at the week-long Wildacres Writers Workshop in North Carolina this summer against fierce competition. Immediately after the Wildacres Workshop, she attended the Asheville Poetry Festival, where she studied in a Master's class with Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Yusef Komunyakaa. In November at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference, (SAMLA), she gave a reading of her poetry as one of the "SAMLA Poets." Carolyn has recently had poems published in *POMPA* and the *MCTE Journal*, and another of her poems has been accepted by *Sunstone*.

**Susan Allen Ford** delivered a paper entitled "Seductive Fictions: the Romance of Business



Delta State University

and the Business of Romance" at the meeting of the Jane Austen Society of North America in San Francisco in October. The paper will be published in the Society's journal, *Persuasions*.



Professors Marion Barnwell (left) and Susan Allen Ford (right) present gift books from the Division to Terry Lattor, Director of Library Services. Ms. Barnwell is editor and compiler of *A Place Called Mississippi: Collected Narratives*; Dr. Ford's essay "Tales of the Times: Family and Nation in Charlotte Smith and Jane West" is the first in the collection entitled *Family Matters* in the British and American Novel.

**John Ford** gave the paper "The Likeness of a Sign: Re-inventing *Romeo and Juliet* at Century's End" at the South Central Modern Language Association meeting in Dallas in October.

This summer John and Susan presented papers in York, England, at the international Popular Culture Association meeting. John on Shakespeare and film, Susan on feminist detective fiction. They also attended performances at the newly constructed Shakespeare Globe Theatre.

**Stephen King** presented a paper entitled "Rastafarianism, International Reggae, and the 'Movement of Jah People'" at the 1997 National Communication Association Convention in Chicago, Illinois.

**Dorothy Shawhan** was on the panel of writers for the Summer Literary Festival at Emory University in July.

**Bill Spencer** read two papers on contemporary novelist Cormac McCarthy recently, one at a conference at Appalachian State University and one at a conference in El Paso. He has also been ap-

pointed editor of the newly founded *Cormac McCarthy Society Journal*.

**Yvonne Tomek** had three poems published in the summer issue of *The Northwood's Journal*. One of her poems will be part of a multimedia exhibit on the "Flight of Icarus" at the Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum in Austin, Texas.

#### In Memoriam

##### John Hargrove Tatum

John Tatum, professor of German and coordinator of international students at Delta State, died on November 22, 1997, at Memphis Baptist Memorial Hospital-East. The funeral service was held at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Cleveland, with graveside burial services at Oxford Memorial Cemetery.

Dr. Tatum grew up in Oxford and earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Mississippi and the Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina. He did advanced study at Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany. He published a book entitled *The Reception of German Literature in U.S. German Texts, 1864-1918*.

Dr. Tatum leaves his wife Carol and sons John Hederman Tatum and Zachary Lee Tatum of Cleveland; his mother, Dorothy Lee Tatum of Oxford; and three brothers and one sister.

A former student, Robert Smith, said that John Tatum was "the most enthusiastic professor I ever had. He was so enthusiastic that you wanted to learn German and felt bad if you didn't." He recalled how John referred to test day as "reward day" and on those days, when students would enter the classroom quaking, he would smile and say, "Ah, the test is kinderspiel."

Another one of his students, Emily Kowalski, writing in the *Delta Statement*, said, "Herr Tatum, as his German students called him, was the type of man who could always cheer up even the most down person with his light-hearted laugh and smile. Sitting in class, one could always tell when he was going to burst into one of his many songs to help students learn German grammar."

Faculty and students in Languages & Literature know the many other ways in which he served the Division and the University, among them organizing the fall popcorn party and the spring graduation party (this at the Tatum home where he and Carol hosted with aplomb), sending flowers to the sick, and spending countless hours working through red tape with international students.

Memorials may be made to the John Tatum Memorial Scholarship Fund, Delta State University; the John Tatum Memorial Fund, St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Cleveland, MS 38732; or the American Cancer Society.

#### B.A. in Journalism Added

In December, the IHL Board approved the addition of the B.A. degree in Journalism to the current degree offerings in the Division. The goal is to begin accepting students into the program in the fall semester of 1998.

#### Communicate!

Update us on your news by filling in the form below and returning it to us or by calling at (601)846-4060 or by e-mailing dshawhan@dsu.deltast.edu.

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of degree: \_\_\_\_\_  
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To order literary journals, send a check or money order for \$3 each:

Send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of *Tapestry*.

(faculty journal)

Send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of *Confidante*.

(student journal)

Some back issues of these are available.