

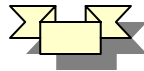
**WHAT'S NEW  
IN THE  
HUMANITIES  
PROGRAM:**

- Keep in touch with the Humanities program! Check out our website at: [www.marshall.edu/gsepd/humn/](http://www.marshall.edu/gsepd/humn/)
- Registration for Spring 2007 courses begins November 7—18 (for currently enrolled students) and November 21—December 13, 2006 for admitted students.
- New project started: "All About Alumni." We're updating our alumni database and hope to spotlight our Humanities alumni. You may get a call to find out "Where are you now?"

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Arline Thorn, professor of English at West Virginia State University and professor of Literary Studies in the Graduate Humanities Program died after a long struggle with cancer this past July. We asked Joy Doss ('03) to reflect on Arline's life.



**REFLECTIONS ON  
ARLINE THORN  
By Joy Doss '03**

It was a Sunday morning. The information meandered through the Charleston grapevine and reached me in my garden: she had died. Even though I knew her death was imminent, the news was shocking. Not until the closed casket rolled past my aisle did it become overwhelmingly real that she was indeed gone. On July 2 of this year, students and faculty at West Virginia State University and Marshall University Graduate College lost a beloved professor and colleague, Dr. Arline Thorn.

## Remembering Arline Roush Thorn

1946 - 2006

She was my undergraduate advisor, graduate thesis reader, colleague and mentor, but most importantly, my friend. Without offense she could tell me that scarlet highlights in my hair were just not me. We could talk shoes, Derrida, Deleuze & Guattari and marvel at how hot house tomatoes managed to sell. She taught me to love Joyce, Yehoshua, and Soyinka, and she managed to soften my resistance to Steinbeck.

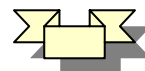
Arline died from ovarian cancer but battled it courageously while being acutely aware of its effects. Ironically, she had written background information on ovarian cancer for a program in a local production of *Wit* performed months before her diagnosis. Enduring the many chemo-cocktails, Arline kept teaching and creating—as potter, sculptor, painter, paper-maker, bead artist, poet and publisher. A bird enthusiast, Arline could sit on her porch with her eyes closed and recognize birds by their song. She could identify flowers by their Latin, common, and Appalachian names, and flower gardens were plentiful around her house.

Arline had presence.

Not a dominating diva presence, but a quiet, lucid presence that generated calm reassurance. In faculty debates, everyone listened when Arline took the floor. She could cut through extraneous and irrelevant information, grab the pith of an argument and route us to the right path. Her 35 years of dedicated service to WVSU in part gave her this deserved reverence, but her steady, intelligent reserve had won her the position of college matriarch.

Department chair for nearly a decade, Holocaust scholar, historian of WVSU, contributor to numerous anthologies and journals, Arline has left a large legacy and also an enormous empty space. At our first English department meeting this year, I sat in my usual spot, looked around at the faces and realized Arline was missing. There was a huge emptiness on the right side of the room.

We've had memorials. We've read her poems. We've read the poems by Yeats, Whitman, and others that she wanted read when she was gone. But the emptiness is unrelentingly pervasive, permeating the floors of Hill and Ferrell Halls, extending to the sidewalks, parking lots, and lawns, her presence irreplaceable.



Poetry by Arline Thorn



Remembering Arline Thorn

Our Fall class in Arts & Society, "20th Century Collage," has been an incredible addition to the Humanities Program! The creations from the students and the creativity of Mark Tobin Moore have conspired to show the talents, inspirations and creations of all the students.

Congratulations to our recent MA graduates!

The Flightless Cormorant

What was the point of attachment of the soul's wings after the breastbone lost its keel? The flightless cormorant stretches out its dwarfed wings to dry, as if the memory of wings were stronger than its aquatic evolution. Does it ever look up and yearn or regret having forsaken the air? A dream of flying vestigial evidence of the life in paradise— A waddling gait on land the price to pay for diving.

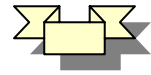
13 March 2001

Four Women Comparing Legs

Leaving the sushi restaurant they discover all four have worn capri pants (khaki) and black tops, like schoolgirls conspiring -- what are you going to wear? And one stops in the street pulls up a pants leg to the knee -- I have the ugliest legs in the world! but the others don't agree They are fifty-three forty-nine, forty-seven, and fifty. One is getting fat two have lost weight and one is always thin. One takes estrogen but another is afraid to one hates having periods and another has had a mastectomy.

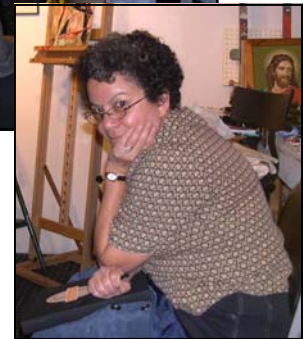
They are two poets, a novelist a song writer, two dramatists two teachers, two artists, an actor a lay minister, a sometime beekeeper a political candidate, several Democrats two mothers, four owners of a dog and/or cat and all have traveled in Europe. They are more than the sum of their parts.

25 May 2000



"20th Century Collage"

Photos by Mark Tobin Moore



RECENT GRADUATES



Traci Evans (December 2005), Literary Studies. Advisor: Frances Simone. Project Title: "Shattered, Broken, Mended and Whole: A Memoir"



# Spring 2007 Courses

## ARRANGED LOCATIONS & TIMES

### HUMN 680 (CRN 1342): Independent Research Symposium (Lassiter)

A pro-seminar required of all Humanities degree students who are beginning the thesis or final project.

### Marshall U Graduate College (SOUTH CHARLESTON)

### CULS 600 (CRN 1330): Advanced Qualitative Research Methods (Lassiter)

This course will be taught in conjunction with EDF 626: **Advanced Qualitative Research in Education.**

**W, 4:30—6:50 p.m. (AC 203)**

Advanced study of selected topics in qualitative research. Emphasis on application of qualitative research knowledge and skills.

### HUMN 600 (CRN 1337): Introduction to Study in the Humanities (Harstein)

**Th, 4—6:50 p.m. (AC 203)**

Interdisciplinary core course addresses questions/concepts central to the humanities. Texts from philosophy, history, literature, the arts and the sciences provide insights into selected historical periods.

### HUMN 605 (CRN 1339): Western Traditions and Contemporary Cultures (Richards)

**W, 7—9:50 p.m. (AC 203)**

Using primary materials from different cultural periods, as well

as contemporary critical analyses, this core course explores epistemological questions that underlie conflicts between cultures.

### HUMN 650 (CRN 1341): Grant Writing in the Humanities (Sequence in Public Humanities) (Mozingo)

**M, 7—9:50 p.m. (AC 203)**

This course will focus on writing grants in the humanities and how this practice relates to larger issues of applied and public humanities. Students will develop skills in finding, writing, and securing monies for humanities-related projects and initiatives.

### LITS 522 (CRN 1343): Selected Topics in Writing (Simone)

**Th, 7—9:50 p.m. (AC 203)**

The study of selected topics in writing (e.g., the expository essay, screen-writing, techniques of editing, etc.).

### LITS 600-201 (CRN 1344): Reading and Creating Appalachia (Green)

**T, 7—9:50 p.m. (AC 203)**

In this course we will study & create various written and multimedia methods of representing Appalachia, focusing on WV: documentaries (written, film, & photo), children's books, oral histories, plays, feature stories, poems, short stories, and memoirs. For each mode, we'll take two steps. In the first week, we will read examples, investigate how the genre works, look into how the author went about building her/his representation,

and ask what the text revealed about Appalachia. The next week, will create our own versions of that genre and workshop them in class. The final project will be to select your favorite piece (or two) and write a critical reflection and introduction. We'll then publish an electronic collection of our work on the web.

### LITS 600-202 (CRN 1960): Shakespeare: Time, Place, and Space (Heaton)

**WEBCT COURSE — see [www.marshall.edu/SUPERSATURDAY](http://www.marshall.edu/SUPERSATURDAY) for more information**

This course will engage students in the life and works of Shakespeare through the lens of time, place, and space. See SuperSaturday website for more information. **On-line courses start the first day of the semester — be sure to log in on or before January 8!**

### New River Community & Technical College (SUMMERSVILLE)

### LITS 600-203 (CRN 1346): 19th Century British Novel (Simmons)

**T, 7—9:50 p.m.**

The nineteenth century was the great age of the novel in English literary history. A selection from novels from such writers as Dickens, Thackeray, Trollope, Merideth, Hardy, Eliot, and Butler will be read and discussed against the backdrop of social issues of the day. Some of the titles include: *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Barchester Towers*, *The Return of the Native*, *Mill on the Floss*, and *Erewhon*.

## THE SPRING

### LINEUP:

- **Grant Writing in the Humanities**
- **Reading and Creating Appalachia**
- **Advanced Qualitative Research Methods**
- **Shakespeare: Time, Place, and Space**
- **19th Century British Novel**
- **Western Traditions and Contemporary Cultures**
- **Introduction to Study in the Humanities**



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Graduate Humanities Program



## ALUMNI NEWS AND NOTES

- In July, Jim Owston ('91) was a co-presenter at the 2006 WebCT Impact Conference in Chicago. He and 6 other Certified WebCT Trainers from across the US conducted the seminar: "Developing the Developers: Experiences from a WebCT Certified Trainers Community."

- Do you have news to share about what you are doing now? How has the Humanities degree furthered your life experiences or job possibilities? Let us know!

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