

## **JOSHUA GRASSO**

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Dept. of English and Languages  
Horace Mann 336 C  
East Central University  
Ada, OK 74820

### **CURRENT POSITION**

Associate Professor with Tenure, Department of English & Languages, East Central University, Ada, OK (2006-Present)

### **DEGREES**

**Ph.D., English Language & Literature**, 2006, Miami University, Oxford, OH  
Primary Area: Restoration/Eighteenth Century Literature  
Secondary Area: Postcolonial Literature and Theory  
Laura Mandell, Dissertation Director  
Dissertation Title: *Strange Adventures, Profitable Observations: Travel Writing and the Citizen-Traveler, 1690-1760*.

**M.A., English Language & Literature**, 2002, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK  
Primary Area: British/Postcolonial Literature  
George Gilpin, Thesis Director  
Thesis: *Intellectuals, Tricksters, and Sages: "Eternal Indianness" in R.K. Narayan's Fiction*

**B.A., English**, 1998, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK  
Graduated *magna cum laude*  
Minor: Russian Studies

### **ACADEMIC AWARDS/HONORS**

Promoted to Associate Professor of English, 2012  
Granted Tenure in the Department of English & Languages, 2011  
Exceptional Merit in Teaching, 2009-2013  
Exceptional Merit in Scholarship, 2010-2013

Outstanding Teacher Award Nomination, East Central University, 2009  
Graduate Student Teaching Award Nomination, Miami University, 2005  
Dean's Award for Academic Excellence, Miami University, 2003  
Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of Tulsa, 2002  
Award for Excellence in Tutoring, University of Tulsa, 2001  
Chair's Prize for Outstanding Achievement in English Studies, University of Tulsa, 1999  
Lester Zimmerman Award for Outstanding Senior Essay, University of Tulsa, 1999  
First Prize, One-Act Play Writing Contest, Tulsa Community College, 1995 & 1998

### **PENDING PUBLICATIONS**

" "To Draw the Naked": Paintings of Female Character in Pope's *An Epistle to a Lady* and Montagu's *The Turkish Embassy Letters*." *The CEA Critic* 76.1, pp.5-18 (forthcoming March 2014).

"Staging the 'Reading Play' in *Joseph Andrews*." *MLA Approaches to Teaching the Novels of Henry Fielding*. ed. Jennifer Wilson and Elizabeth Kraft. (forthcoming Fall 2014)

"R.K. Narayan: The Swami of Modern India". *British Writers Retrospective Supplement*, Volume VIII. ed. Jay Parini. Gale/Cengage Learning. (forthcoming Summer 2014)

### **CURRENT PUBLICATIONS**

"M.R. James, the Antiquary of Eton and King's." *British Writers Retrospective Supplement*, Volume VII. ed. Jay Parini. Gale/Cengage Learning. Fall 2013.

Review for Ken & Duane Hada's "The River White: A Confluence of Brush and Quill." *Virtual Artists Collective Poetry*. Spring 2013. <vacpoetry.org.>

"Gemma Boverly" and "Good-Bye, Chunky Rice." *The Encyclopedia of Graphic Novels*. Ed. Bart Beaty & Stephen Weiner. Salem Press/EBSCO Industries. Fall 2012.

"Elspeth Huxley and the Spider's Web of Colonialism." *British Writers Retrospective Supplement*, Volume VI. ed. Jay Parini. Gale/Cengage Learning. Fall 2012.

"The Providence of Pirates: Defoe and the 'True-Bred Merchant.'" *Digital Defoe: Studies of Defoe & His Contemporaries*. Vol. 1 No. 2. Fall 2010.

"Oladuah Equiano." *British Writers Retrospective Supplement* Volume IV. ed. Jay Parini. Gale/Cengage Learning, 2011. ISBN: 0-684-31597-1

“Rudyard Kipling.” *British Writers Retrospective Supplement* Volume III. ed. Jay Parini. Gale/Cengage Learning, 2010. ISBN: 0-684-31599-8

“The Imperial Pitch and Toss in Kipling’s *If*.” *The Explicator*, Vol. 67, No.2. Spring 2009.

Entries on “Nationality,” “The Individual and Society,” and “Spirituality” In Kipling’s *Kim* and V.S. Naipaul’s *A House for Mr. Biswas*. Encyclopedia of General Themes in Literature. Ed: Jennifer McClinton-Temple . Facts on File, Inc. Winter 2009. ISBN: 0816071616

“Reading Outside of the Box: Comics, Closure and the Classroom.” *The Oklahoma English Journal*. Spring 2009, Vol. 21, No.2

“ ‘An Enemy of his Country’s Prosperity and Safety:’ Mapping the English Traveler in Defoe’s *Robinson Crusoe*. *The CEA Critic*: Winter 2008. Volume 70, Number 2.

Book review for Ken Hada’s *The Way of the Wind*. *Concho River Review*. Fall 2008. Volume XXII, No.2.

“Kissing Inn (New Year in Prague).” Translation with Yevgeni Yetvushenko. Walk On the Ledge: A New Book of Poetry in English and Russian. Ed. Gracie and Bill Davidson, Baltimore: Seagull Press, 2005.

## **CONFERENCES/PRESENTATIONS**

“‘Every Musical Luxury and Refinement’: Charles Burney and the Pursuit of Continental Celebrity.” Women, Reputation, and Identity in the Long Eighteenth Century: the 2013 Biennial Aphra Behn Society Conference. Tulsa, OK. October 24-25, 2013.

“Surviving Utopia: Fear, Hope, and Place in Dystopic Science Fiction.” Tulsa City-County Library. Tulsa, OK. Nov. 13, 2013.

“Jane Austen: The Author Without a Face.” *Novel Talk: Real Love from Jane Austen to Reality TV*. Tulsa Central Library, June 23, 2012.

Invited Speaker, “Keeping the Fire: Humanities from a Native Perspective.” Chickasaw Nation’s *Lowak Sho’li* Humanities Forum, Chickasaw Arts and Humanities Center, Ada, OK, Thursday, October 25, 2012.

“How to Read Jane Austen,” *TCCL Staff Development Day*, Hardesty Regional Library, Tulsa, OK, October 8, 2012.

"On-Hold Apocalypse" (short story). 7th Annual Scissortail Creative Writing Festival. Ada, OK. April 3-5, 2012.

"Teaching Lear in India: The Perils of a Postcolonial Education." Rotten Apples: A Symposium on What America Gets Wrong (and Right) About Education. East Central University, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

"To Draw The Naked": Sketches of Female Character in Pope's *An Epistle to a Lady* and Montagu's *The Turkish Embassy Letters*. Expanding the Academic Debate: An Interdisciplinary Conference. NSU-Broken Arrow. Broken Arrow, OK. May 14, 2011.

"How to Read Dracula: A Primer to Sink Your Teeth Into Stoker's Classic Novel." Novel Talk Series: *Literature With Bite*: Vampires in Books, Film, and Popular Culture. Tulsa Central Library, April 9, 2011.

"The Providence of Pirates: Defoe and the "True-Bred Merchant." The First Biennial Defoe Society Conference. OSU-Tulsa, Tulsa, OK September 25-26, 2009.

"Unpacking" (short story). 5th Annual Scissortail Creative Writing Festival. Ada, OK. April 3-5 2009.

"What are the Playhouses But Puppet Shows?": Reforming the Stage in Fielding's *The Author's Farce*." 2008 MWASECS Conference: The Innovative Eighteenth Century. Oklahoma City, OK, October 9-11, 2008.

"To Wheel in Among Them Worse Manners Than Their Own': The Traveler's Passage in Fielding's *The Journal of a Voyage to Lisbon*." 2008 CEA Conference: Passages. St. Louis, MO, March 3-5, 2008.

"Behould These Meadows Stocked With Cattle': Expectations of Englishness in the Journals of Captain Cook." South-Central Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, Tulsa, OK, February 22-24, 2007.

"Hogarth's *The Harlot's Progress*." Guest Lecturer, English 355: English Literature of the Eighteenth Century, Dr. Alison Hurley, Miami University, Spring 2006.

"The Portrait of a Buccaneer as an Englishman: William Dampier and English Travel Writing." Dissertations-in-Progress Series. Miami University, Oxford, OH, October 2005.

"What is Thy Business?": Piracy as Trade in Defoe's *Captain Singleton*." Early Modern Society Symposium. Miami University, Oxford, OH. February 2004.

““Eternal Indianness” in R.K. Narayan’s *The Bachelor of Arts*.” Graduate Student Symposium, Department of English. Miami University, Oxford, OH, April 2003.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Assistant Professor, East Central University, Ada, OK. Fall 2006-Present**

- English 1113, Freshman Composition I: Fall, 2006-2012.
- English 1213, Freshman Composition II: Spring, 2006-2013, Fall 2013.
- English 2643, British Literature to 1800: Spring 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013.
- English 3323, Critical Responses to Prose: Spring 2012
- English 3333, Critical Responses to Poetry: Fall 2007, 2009.
- English 3563, British Literature from 1800: Spring 2007, Fall 2008, 2011.
- English 4543, Gothic Literature in Britain: 1760-1900, Spring 2010.
- English 4553, Colonial and Postcolonial Literature. Fall 2010.
- English 4553, Global Shakespeares, Spring 2014
- English 4563: Jane Austen in Fiction and Film: Fall 2012
- English 4993, Independent Study: The Works of V.S. Naipaul, Summer 2008.
- Honors 2123: Enduring Questions: Rhetoric and Research, Spring 2012, 2013.
- Humanities 2113, General Humanities I: Fall 2007, 2010, 2013.
- Humanities 2213, General Humanities II: Spring 2009, 2011, 2012.
- Humanities 2313, Ethnic Literature: Fall 2011, Summer 2012.
- Humanities 2323: Non-Western Literature, Spring 2013.
- Humanities 2413, Responding to Literature: Fall 2006, 2008, 2009.
- Humanities 4983, Graphic Novels: Winter Intercession 2007-2013.
- Humanities 4983, Russian Film and Culture: Fall 2010.

### **Teaching Associate, Miami University, Oxford, OH. Fall 2002-Summer 2006.**

- English 111, Freshman Composition: Fall 2002-2005, Summer 2006.
- English 112, Composition and Literature: Spring 2003-2006.
- English 132, Life and Thought in English Literature: 1660-1900: Fall 2004.

### **Part-Time Faculty, Xavier University, Center for ESL, Cincinnati, OH. Summer 2003, 2004.**

- ESLG 120, Intermediate Reading and Writing: Summer 2003, 2004.
- ESLG 111, Beginning Grammar: Summer 2004.

**Graduate Assistant, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK. Fall 2000-Spring 2002**

- English 1003, Introduction to College Writing for Non-Native Students: Fall 2001
- English 1033, Argument and Exposition for Non-Native Students: Spring 2002
- Writing Center Tutor, University of Tulsa Writing Lab. Assisted students in developing and revising papers for undergraduate and graduate classes across the curriculum. Also conducted ESL workshops once a week and taught a supplemental English 1003 (Developmental Composition) lab under the supervision of an experienced instructor. Fall 2000-2001.

**ACADEMIC/COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Instructor, Startalk Russian Camp, East Central University Summer 2012 & 2013. Taught two sections of Russian poetry to a camp of 20 students from around the country. The class was designed as a survey of Russian poetry from its origins in the Enlightenment through the major social/literary movements such as Romanticism, Revolution, the Great War, and the Thaw. Poems were read in Russian as well as discussed in translation.

Faculty Member & Judge, Scissortail Creative Writing Festival Committee, Spring 2007 -Present: I personally oversee and judge the poetry entries for the Darryl Fisher High School Creative Writing Contest, which generates over 600 entries from regional high schools. The winners are recognized at a special session of the festival, where I present their certificates and checks before a large audience. I also help moderate individual sessions of the festival.

Resident Scholar, Tulsa Library's Novel Talk Series: Books for Smart Readers, Spring 2012-Present. I am a recurring speaker at this award-winning lecture/discussion series, which offers free discussions of classic and popular literary works at Tulsa's Central Library and Hardesty Library. The talks feature a panel of three speakers, typically a librarian, an outside scholar, and a writer whose works represent the chosen genre (science fiction, Gothic, romance, etc.). To date I have given 40 minute lecture/discussions on *Dracula*, Jane Austen's novels, and classic science fiction.

Resident Scholar, Oklahoma Arts and Humanities Council's Let's Talk About it, Oklahoma 2007-Present. I travel to regional libraries and lead discussions on books chosen by the Oklahoma Arts and Humanities Council for community discussion. Invited talks have included:

- Pollan's *In Defense of Food*, November 2012, McAlester, OK
- Cather's *The Professor's House*, October 2010, Tishomingo, OK
- Stoker's *Dracula* & King's *Salem's Lot*, October 2009, Tishomingo, OK
- Fowles' *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, October 2008, Tishomingo, OK

- Cross's *Death in a Tenured Position*, October 2007, Antlers, OK

Instructor, ECU Upward Bound. East Central University, Fall 2008-2013: I taught area high school students once monthly throughout the semester and in an intensive 6-week program in the summer. The Upward Bound program is geared to get students from smaller, rural schools acclimated to the college environment and support them in making the leap to college (since most would be first-generation students). Many students have subsequently enrolled in ECU and/or taken classes with me.

Organizer & Judge, Oklahoma Arts and Humanities *Poetry Out Loud Regional Contest*. Spring 2008-2012: I organized the regional leg of the Oklahoma Art and Humanities Council's *Poetry Out Loud Contest*. Four candidates from regional schools meet at ECU to recite poetry which is judged by English department faculty members. The winner advances to the statewide competition. Have also judged the local competition at Ada High School, to determine the regional qualifier.

Faculty Member, English & Languages Scheduling Committee, Spring 2008-Present: I plan and draw up the Fall and Spring schedules for the English and Languages faculty, which consists of 14 full-time professors and 4 part-time instructors.

Faculty Co-Sponsor, Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society, East Central University, 2006-Present: I am co-Sponsor for the ECU branch of Sigma Tau Delta (national English honors society), responsible for recruiting and inducting new members, hosting meetings, and relaying information to students from the national headquarters.

Writer, ECU Self-Study Assessment 2010, Core Component 1E "Organizational Integrity," Spring-Fall 2010 I worked with faculty members to gather research and write a rough draft and final copy of Component 1E of the university's self-study for accreditation purposes.

Instructor, Oklahoma Literary Arts Festival, Spring 2007-2012: I offered small workshops for area high school students as part of ECU's Oklahoma Literary Arts Festival. Previous workshops have included "Satire and Society," "Crime Scene Closure," "Literature Rules Vs. Literature Sucks" with Dr. Steve Benton, and most recently, "Thinking Inside the Box: Comics and the Classroom."

Committee Chair, English Peer Review Committees:

- For Dr. Rebecca Nicholson-Weir, Fall 2013
- For Dr. Sarah Peters, Spring 2013
- For Dr. Kelly Clasen, Fall 2012
- For Dr. Jennifer McMahon, Fall 2011

- for Dr. Hugh Tribbey, Fall 2009
- for Dr. Robin Murphy, Fall 2008

Faculty Member, English Peer Review Committees:

- for Dr. Sarah Peters, Spring 2012
- for Jim Hunter, Fall 2010
- for Mindy Dieu, Fall 2010
- for Dr. Mara Sukholutskaya, Fall 2009
- for Dr. Steve Benton, Spring 2009

Chair, Honors Thesis Committee

- For Derek Reed, Spring 2013

Member, Honors Thesis Committee

- For Claire Marquardt, Fall 2013
- For Lindsey Duggan, Fall 2012
- For Ray Lackey, Spring 2011

Faculty Member, Teaching Excellence Committee, Fall 2009-Fall 2010: I worked with the committee to review teaching portfolios and award several Teaching Excellence Awards to deserving professors.

Faculty Member, Spanish Job Search Committee: Spring 2008: I worked with senior faculty to screen applicants, conduct phone interviews, and host candidates on campus.

Faculty Member, English Chair Job Search Committee. East Central University, Spring 2007: I worked with senior faculty to screen applicants, conduct phone interviews, and host candidates on campus.

Organizer, ECU Graduate School Colloquium, East Central University, Fall 2006, 2008: I organized a colloquium for junior and senior humanities majors on the realities of graduate school. Discussed taking the GRE, application letters, assistantships, courses, conferences, and other student concerns.

Member of Graduate Symposium Committee, Miami University, 2004: I assisted in organizing Miami University's Second Annual Graduate Symposium; duties ranged from planning, advertising, assisting first time presenters, and introducing panels and speakers.

Graduate Representative, Postcolonial Job Search Committee, Miami University, 2003: I assisted senior faculty in reading and ranking application letters, dossiers, and writing samples. Also hosted candidates at informal breakfasts for graduate students.



Ohio Writing Project Portfolio Committee, Miami University, 2003: I worked with a group of graduate students and high school teachers to evaluate portfolios for incoming first-year students.

Undergraduate Portfolio Committee, University of Tulsa, 2000-2002: I evaluated mid-term and final writing portfolios for the students' ability to meet the demands of college level writing.

### **ACADEMIC/TEACHING INTERESTS**

Eighteenth-Nineteenth Century British Literature

Postcolonial Literature and Theory

Shakespeare / Elizabethan Drama

Writing/Composition

Literature of Travel and Exploration

Graphic Novels/Comics

Humanities Courses: Intro to Literature, General Humanities, Ethnic Literature

Russian Literature

### **RELATED EXPERIENCE**

**Scriptwriter**, Impressions on Hold International, Tulsa, OK, August 1999 to August 2000 & May-August 2002. Wrote advertising copy for the nation's largest on-hold advertising company, with clients ranging from Domino's Pizza to Embassy Suites. Also wrote extensive product and service libraries for an industry-wide database, working with marketing agents and sales personnel from around the country.

**Translator/Assistant**, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK, Fall 1997-Fall 1998. Assisted Russian poet/professor Yevgeni Yevtushenko in translating a selection of poems into English for possible publication, as well as offering assistance with materials, films, and discussions in his Russian poetry and film classes.

**Educational Director**, Wayward Theatre Company, Tulsa, OK, Fall 1996 to Summer 1998. Adapted "There's Magic in the Web of It," a compilation of Shakespeare scenes intended for sixth through tenth grade audiences. Also wrote an extensive study guide to be used in classrooms after the performance to foster discussion. The show toured locally and was adapted to go on the road in the Oklahoma/Arkansas region.

### **RELEVANT GRADUATE COURSEWORK**

Seventeenth/Eighteenth Century Travel Writing

Studies in Eighteenth Century Literature

Postcolonialism and the Victorian Novel

Theory and Practice of Teaching Composition

Workshop in the Teaching of Writing (2 semesters)

Shakespearean Dramaturgy  
Pre-Modern Drama  
Transatlantic English Literature  
Studies in Renaissance Literature: Shakespeare  
Studies in Romantic Literature: The Shelleys  
Contemporary British Fiction  
Selected Topics: V.S. Naipaul  
Seminar in Performance Theory

**REFERENCES**

Provided upon request