Ph.D. Program

Admission is highly competitive. Typically, the Strode faculty admit one or two Ph.D. students per year. All Ph.D. students receive tuition and a stipend of $19,000.

We have an excellent record of placing Ph.D.s in tenure-track professorships. In the past ten years, 100% of our Ph.D. graduates who were in the market for academic positions actually landed full-time academic employment. Recent graduates have joined the faculty at Arcadia University, Cornell College, Mercer University, Stephen F. Austin State University, Xavier University, University of New Haven, and Youngstown State.

Distinctive Features of the Strode Program

Strode Seminars:
Offered biennially, the Strode Seminar is enhanced by a series of lectures and discussions with distinguished scholars working on topics related to the seminar.

Among other topics, Strode Seminars have addressed “Shakespeare and Film” (Richard Bort, Thomas Cartelli, and Courtney Lehmann); “Authorship” (Brian Vickers, John Jowett, and MacDonald P. Jackson); “European England” (Jonathan Bate, Walter Cohen, and Keir Elam); and “Early Modern Textual Culture” (Roger Chartier and Jonathan Goldberg); “Institutions of Memory: Hamlet and the Culture of Remembrance” (Stephen Greenblatt and Margreta de Grazia); “Gender and Sexuality in Shakespeare” (Stephen Orgel, Jonathan Dollimore, and Alan Sinfield); “Humanities Studies” (Heather Dubrow, Ken Hiltner, Maggie Kilgour, Elizabeth Sauer, and Nigel Smith); and “Of Woman Born: Feminists Rewrite Shakespeare” (Mary Bly, Jean Hegeland, Valerie Miner, and Grace Tiffany).

For additional information, please visit us on the web at http://english.ua.edu/grad/strode.

M.A. Program

A special concentration in Shakespeare and the Renaissance is available in the Department’s Master’s degree program. Students admitted to the Strode M.A. Program receive tuition and an annual stipend of $18,000. An average of four students are admitted to the Strode M.A. Program each year.

The M.A. students have matriculated to Ph.D. programs at Cornell College, Mercer University, Stephen F. Austin State University, Xavier University, University of New Haven, and Youngstown State.

Admission into Institute workshops and seminars is competitive. Our graduate students have participated in “Researching the Archives,” a year-long dissertation seminar; “Mastering Research Methods at the Folger,” a semester-long seminar for M.A. students; and “Forms of Religious Experience in the 17th-Century British Atlantic World,” a year-long colloquium for advanced graduate students and faculty.

Shakespeare on Film:
In 2014 the Hudson Strode Program in Renaissance Studies began a Shakespeare on Film series at the Bama Theatre in downtown Tuscaloosa. Free and open to the public, screenings have included The Bad Sleep Well, Broken Lance, Deliver Us From Evil, Forbidden Planet, Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela, Scotland, PA, Shakespeare Behind Bars, Theatre of Blood, 10 Things I Hate About You, and West Side Story. In 2016 the series will begin with Joss Whedon’s Much Ado About Nothing, Richard Burton’s Hamlet, and Orson Welles’s Chimes at Midnight.

Improbable Fictions:
Started in 2010 by Strode graduate students Nicholas Helms and Alan Barga, Improbable Fictions is a staged reading series that features Shakespeare’s plays. Since 2010 Improbable Fictions has produced over twenty staged readings, including Hamlet, King Lear, Julius Caesar, The Merchant of Venice, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Much Ado About Nothing, and Twelfth Night, as well as Euripides’s Hecuba, Marlowe’s Doctor Faustus, Elizabeth Cary’s Tragedy of Mariam, and Henry Fielding’s Tragedy of Tragedies: The Life and Death of Tom Thumb the Great.

Lectures in the Age of Shakespeare

The Strode Lectures bring to campus distinguished scholars of the early modern period. Usually focused on a theme, such as “Computing in Renaissance Studies” or “The Early Modern Natural World,” the Strode Lecture Series has featured, among many others, Catherine Belsey, Mary Bly, Michael Bristol, Dympta Callaghan, David Coley, David Cressey, Lukas Erne, Susanna Fein, Ewan Fernie, Steven G. L. Kitto, Jonathan Garber, John Guilford, Richard Helgerson, Margo Hendricks, Peter Holland, Jean Howard, Jennie Janest, Eric Johnson, Naomi Conn Lieber, Ewan Fernie, Susan Frye, Marjorie Garber, John Guillory, Peggy O’Brien, Christopher2018, Michael Schoenfeldt, Kathrin Schwarz, Adam Sexton, Delia Ruhling, Grace Townsend, Weisberg, Michael Smith, Randall McLeod, Kathleen McLuskie, Madhavi Monen, David Lee Miller, Louis Montrose, Ryan Netzley, Annabel Patterson, Patricia Parker, Jason Powell, Paola Puglisi, David Raybin, Bryan Reynolds, Laura J. Rosenthal, Richard Shrier, Stuart Tollefson, David W. Vickers, Michael Willems, Margaret Waite, Andrew Wierzbicki, and David Wheeler.
In Fall 2006, the Strode Lectures began a series on Literary Criticism and Theory. Lecturers in this series have included Mark Algee-Hewitt, Michel DeGuy, Maria DiBattista, Jane Gallop, Katie Hogan, Nadine Hubbs, Nat Hurley, Wayne Koestenbaum, Elizabeth Maddock Dillon, members of the MLA Subconference, John Plotz, Karis Shearer, Kathryn Stockton, and Jeffrey Williams.


In honor of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death, we hosted two symposia in Spring 2016, the first featuring critics, entitled “Why Isn’t Shakespeare Dead?,” and the second featuring poets and poet-critics, entitled “The Poet’s Shakespeare.”

In Fall 2009, the Strode Program hosted the first South East Milton Seminar, which brings a noted Miltonist to campus to lecture and to workshop current research. Lecturers in this series have included David Loewenstein, Stella Revard, Paul Stevens, and Joseph Wittreich. The next Milton Seminar will be held in Fall of 2016 featuring Laura Knoppers.

RESEARCH SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

The Strode Program funds first-year M.A. students as research assistants to professors during the summer following their first year. The Program also sponsors multiple summer research grants each year for Ph.D. and M.A. students, which may support travel to a research library in the U.S. or England or writing time for a student to turn a promising seminar paper into a publishable article. Travel money is available for students to present papers at scholarly conferences. Faculty are a valuable resource: faculty will help students identify their best work and guide them in the process of developing papers into conference presentations or publishable essays.

STRODE FACULTY

Michelle M. Dowd, Hudson Strode Professor of English and Director of the Program (Ph.D., Columbia University) Shakespeare, Renaissance Drama, Early Modern Women’s Writing, Feminist Theory and Gender Studies, Economic Criticism

Sharon O’Dair, Professor of English (Ph.D., U.C. Berkeley) Shakespeare, Renaissance Drama, Literary Theory, Ecocriticism, Sociology of Literature and the Profession

David Ainsworth, Associate Professor (Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison) Milton, Seventeenth-Century Poetry and Prose, Religion and Heresy

Alexandra Cook, Associate Professor (Ph.D., U.C. Santa Barbara) Medieval Literature, Psychoanalytic Theory

Jennifer Drouin, Associate Professor (Ph.D., McGill University) Shakespeare, Renaissance Drama, Adaptation, Gender and Sexuality, Nationalism

Tricia McClure, Associate Professor and Associate Dean, Humanities and Fine Arts (D.Phil., University of Oxford) Scottish Studies, Shakespeare, Renaissance Literature, Manuscript and Print Culture, Political Thought and Literature

Cassander L. Smith, Associate Professor (Ph.D., Purdue University) Early Atlantic Studies, Black Africans and the Early Caribbean, African American Literature, Race Theory

Emma Wilson, Assistant Professor of English and Digital Scholarship Librarian with UA Libraries (Ph.D., University of St. Andrews) Early Modern Literary and Intellectual Networks

Brad Tuggle, Assistant Professor, Honors College (Ph.D., University of Virginia) Sidney, Spenser, Shakespeare

Paul Phelps, Visiting Assistant Professor, Honors College (Ph.D., University of Oxford) Sidney, Spenser

Further information about the faculty, including samples of recent research, can be found on the Department of English homepage: http://english.ua.edu/people.

HOW TO APPLY

To be considered for Fall admission to the Strode Program, applications must be received in the English Department by 31 December 2016. Requirements and forms are available at http://english.ua.edu/admissions. Admission decisions will be announced in late March.

Questions about the Strode Program or the application process may be directed to the following offices or persons:

Professor Michelle Dowd: mmdowd1@ua.edu English Department Graduate Studies: 205-348-9493 Graduate School office: 205-348-5921