he Hudson Strode Program in Renaissance Studies is privately endowed and intended to promote the study of early modern British literature and culture from Skelton to Milton. The endowment provides for symposia and lectures by distinguished scholars and financial support for graduate study at The University of Alabama. The intellectual work and educational activities sponsored by the Strode Program, from fellowships to lecture series, from the Strode Seminar to summer research awards, converge upon a single focus: the graduate student.

Hudson Strode served on The University of Alabama faculty from 1916 to 1963. He was a prolific author and celebrated teacher of Shakespeare and creative writing. The Strode Program was endowed by Professor Strode and his wife, Thérèse. For additional information, please visit us on the web at english.ua.edu/grad/strode.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

MA Program
The Strode MA program offers students the unique opportunity to specialize in Renaissance studies at the master’s level. MA students may elect a Thesis or a Comprehensive Exam to complete their course of study. Students admitted to the Strode MA program receive enhanced graduate stipends and are fully funded for two years. In recent years, Strode MAs have entered PhD programs at places such as Yale, Northwestern, Emory, and Notre Dame, and others have gone on to such opportunities as law school, library school, and the Peace Corps.

PH.D. Program
The Strode PhD program offers advanced training in Renaissance studies for a select cohort of students who pursue their research interests through an individually tailored plan of study. Students admitted to the Strode PhD program receive enhanced graduate stipends and are fully funded for five years. We have an excellent record of placing our PhD graduates in tenure-track professorships. Recent graduates have joined the faculty at Cornell College, Arcadia University, Mercer University, Piedmont Virginia Community College, Xavier University, and Youngstown State University.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE PROGRAM

Distinctive Classes
Students in the Strode Program have the opportunity to take the Strode Seminar, a special topics course that features visits from distinguished scholars. In addition, The Shakespeare and Performance Practicum is team-taught by professors from the Strode Program and the Department of Theatre. The course combines literary analysis with theater history and reception and is highlighted by trips to local theater companies such as the Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern.

Strode Lectures
The Strode Program hosts a variety of events including symposia, workshops, conferences, and lectures by both established and emerging scholars. Students are afforded the opportunity to meet informally with guest speakers, discuss works in progress, as well as attend and respond to formal presentations. Recent guests have included Heather Dubrow, William Engel, Nigel Smith, and Valerie Traub; recent symposia have featured unique themes such as “Elemental Ecocriticism” and “Shakespeare and American Integration.”

Milton Seminar
Since 2009, the Strode Program has hosted the annual Southeast Milton Seminar. The Seminar brings a well-known Miltonist, most recently Laura Knoppers, David Loewenstein, and Paul Stevens, to UA’s campus for two days and features a meeting with our graduate students, an hour lecture, and a two-hour workshop discussion of the guest scholar’s current research.

The Film Series
The Hudson Strode Program’s Shakespeare Film Series, started in 2014, aims to bring the Strode community of students, faculty, and staff together with members of the Tuscaloosa community by screening Shakespeare adaptations and related films either on campus or in a local historical theatre. The film selections range from popular movies like 10 Things I Hate About You to classical adaptations like Richard Burton’s Hamlet.

Improbable Fictions
In an effort to keep performance alive in our community, graduate students Nicholas Helms and Alaina Jobe Pangburn founded Improbable Fictions in 2010 to produce a number of staged readings each semester. Students and faculty across several departments cut, direct, and act in adaptations of Shakespeare’s works.

The Folger Shakespeare Library
The University of Alabama is a member of the Folger Institute Consortium, providing students with the opportunity to participate in workshops and seminars at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. Strode students have been consistently successful at gaining admission to and funding for highly competitive Folger programs.

Digital Humanities
Alongside the Alabama Digital Humanities Center (ADHC), the Strode Program is co-sponsor of The University of Alabama’s international Digital Humanities conference, Digitorium (https://apps.lib.ua.edu/blogs/digitorium/), and Strode students have the opportunity to participate in this event. All MA and PhD students have access to the ADHC for support with digital techniques for their research and teaching.
THE HUDSON STRODE PROGRAM FACULTY

Michelle M. Dowd
Hudson Strode Professor of English and
Director of the Program

David Ainsworth
Associate Professor

Alexandra Cook
Associate Professor

Tricia McElroy
Associate Professor and Associate Dean

Cassander L. Smith
Associate Professor

Emma Wilson
Assistant Professor of English and Digital Scholarship
Librarian with UA Libraries

Brad Tuggle
Assistant Professor, Honors College

Further information about the faculty can be found on the
Department of English homepage: english.ua.edu/people

HOW TO APPLY:
To be considered for Fall admission to the Strode Program,
applications must be received by December 20. Require-
ments and forms are available at http://english.ua.edu/
admissions. In recent years we have hosted a Strode
Admitted Student Weekend on campus in 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

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