

## Brothers, Sheila C

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**From:** Hippisley, Andrew R  
**Sent:** Friday, December 13, 2013 9:51 AM  
**To:** Brothers, Sheila C  
**Subject:** MFA Creative Writing  
**Attachments:** ENG\_MFA-Pgm\_new\_2013Dec11\_Req-to-Classify-II.doc;  
ProgramsCommitteeMFAProgramCW-1.doc

(attached revised narrative; memo of revisions)

This is a recommendation that the University Senate approve, for submission to the Board of Trustees, the establishment of a new MFA program: Creative Writing, in the Department of English, within the College of Arts & Sciences.

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Dr Andrew Hippisley  
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<http://linguistics.ac.uky/edu/users/arhipp2>

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**NEW MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM FORM**  
 (Attach completed "Application to Classify Proposed Program"<sup>1</sup>)

**RECEIVED**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

|   |   |                                      |  |                              |                       |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| College:  | Arts & Sciences                                       | Department:                          | English  | OCT 30 2013                  |                       |
| Major Name:   | Creative Writing                                      | Degree Title:                        | Master of Fine Arts  | OFFICE OF THE SENATE COUNCIL |                       |
| Formal Option(s):   |   | Specialty Fields w/in Formal Option: | Fiction/Poetry/Creative Nonfiction                               |                              |                       |
| Date of Contact with Associate Provost for Academic Administration <sup>1</sup> : | 10/21/11 and 11/7/11                                  |                                      |  |                              |                       |
| Bulletin (yr & pgs):  | n/a   | CIP Code <sup>1</sup> :              | 23.1302  | Today's Date:                | 03/14/13              |
|   |   | Print Title:                         | Creative Writing   |                              |                       |
| Accrediting Agency (if applicable):   |   |                                      |  |                              |                       |
| Requested Effective Date:   | <input type="checkbox"/> Semester following approval. | OR                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specific Date <sup>2</sup> : | Fall 2014                    |                       |
| Dept. Contact Person:   | Julia Johnson   | Phone:                               | 859-257-4629   | Email:                       | julia.johnson@uky.edu |

**CHANGE(S) IN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

|    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Number of transfer credits allowed<br>(Maximum is Graduate School limit of 9 hours or 25% of course work) | 9   |
| 2. | Residence requirement (if applicable)   | MFA students must satisfy Graduate School residence requirements as outlined in The Graduate School Bulletin  |
| 3. | Language(s) and/or skill(s) required  | N/A   |
| 4. | Termination criteria  |   |
| 5. | Plan A Degree Plan requirements <sup>3</sup> (thesis)   | <p>The thesis component of the MFA degree consists of a substantial body of original writing (hereafter, simply "thesis") and an oral examination. Both are required for successful completion of the MFA degree.</p> <p>The thesis will be a substantial body of original writing—over 120 pages of fiction (short stories, novella or novel) or non-fiction, a collection of approximately 48 poems, or an equivalent thesis of mixed genre. A committee of three faculty members chosen by the student and approved by the Director of Graduate Studies must approve the thesis. The thesis director is chair of the committee; the other members act in an advisory capacity, evaluate the thesis, and provide recommendations or added provisions for its eventual acceptance.</p> |

<sup>1</sup> Prior to filling out this form, you MUST contact the Associate Provost for Academic Administration (APAA). If you do not know the CIP code, the APAA can provide you with that during the contact.

<sup>2</sup> Programs are typically made effective for the semester following approval. No changes will be made effective until all approvals are received.

<sup>3</sup> If there is only one plan for the degree, plans involving a thesis (or the equivalent in studio work, etc.) should be discussed under Plan A and those not involving a thesis should be discussed under Plan B.

### NEW MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM FORM

|     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| 6.  | Plan B Degree Plan requirements <sup>3</sup> (non-thesis)  |   |
| 7.  | Distribution of course levels required<br>(At least one-half must be at 600+ level & two-thirds must be in organized courses.)   | at least one-half must be at 600+ level   |
| 8.  | Required courses (if applicable)   | At least 9 hours of graduate writing workshop, ENG 607  |
| 9.  | Required distribution of courses within program (if applicable)  | <p>(1) At least 9 hours of creative writing workshops focusing on the candidate's chosen genre</p> <p>(2) At least 6 hours of courses related to the study of creative writing genres, such as Craft of Poetry or Craft of Creative Nonfiction, Special Topics in Poetry/Fiction/Nonfiction. On top of this, courses in Creative Writing Pedagogy and Publishing and the Profession, etc., will be offered.</p> <p>(3) At least 6 hours of graduate courses designated as ENG, at the 600 or 700 levels offered by the English department (for example, Contemporary American Poetry or Studies in Modern British Literature).</p> <p>(4) At least 3 hours must come from a focus area outside the English department. With the guidance of the Director of the MFA Program, MFA students must choose a focus area of study that will take them beyond the MFA pursuit proper: two graduate-level courses in History, Film, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Appalachian Studies, letterpress book-art printing, Women's Studies, Fine Arts, etc., offered by various UK colleges.</p> <p>(5) 6 thesis hours</p> |
| 10. | Final examination requirements   | Oral Exam—MFA students must defend their thesis in an oral examthesis/oral exams  |
| 11. | Explain whether the proposed new program (as described in numbers 1 through 10) involve courses offered by another department/program. Routing Signature Log must include approval by faculty of additional department(s). | Additional courses work will include programs currently affiliated with English.  |
| 12. | What is the rationale for the proposed new program?  |   |

The English Department of the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Kentucky proposes a new two-year residency Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) in Creative Writing to address an educational need in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The College of Arts & Sciences proposes to expand the already existing undergraduate Creative Writing Program at UK to the graduate level. The proposed MFA in Creative Writing will afford interested individuals from across the nation the opportunity to pursue advanced study in the various areas of creative writing (from poetry to fiction) in which our faculty have established national reputations. Having a graduate program in creative writing will more closely align UK with its benchmark institutions, while also providing an educational opportunity for citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Currently, there is not a single residential terminal graduate-level degree in creative writing being offered in Kentucky.

Of the three MFA degrees offered in the state, all are low or limited residency programs. Our proposed MFA in Creative Writing Program, by contrast, would be a two-year full-residency program, becoming the only such program in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

## NEW MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM FORM

Our intention to provide a full-residency creative writing program at the graduate level, offering the terminal degree of Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, is supported by the fact that many writers who seek an advanced degree and who are from this region, wish to remain in this region to pursue graduate studies. Therefore, a new MFA in Creative Writing Program at UK is well positioned to serve a real educational need in the Commonwealth.

# NEW MASTERS DEGREE PROGRAM FORM

## Signature Routing Log

**General Information:**

Program Name: Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (MFA)

Proposal Contact Person Name: Julia Johnson Phone: 7-4629 Email: julia.johnson@uky.edu

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Identify the groups or individuals reviewing the proposal; note the date of approval; offer a contact person for each entry; and obtain signature of person authorized to report approval.

**Internal College Approvals and Course Cross-listing Approvals:**

| Reviewing Group        | Date Approved | Contact Person (name/phone/email)                                | Signature |
|------------------------|---------------|--|-----------|
| MFA Planning Committee | 08/07/13      | Julia Johnson / 7-4629 / julia.johnson@uky.edu                   |           |
| English                | 08/07/13      | Jeff Clymer, Chairperson, English / 7-2901 / jeff.clymer@uky.edu |           |
| College of A&S EPC     | 08/07/13      | Anna Bosch, Associate Dean / 7-6689 / bosch@uky.edu              |           |
|                        |               | / /  |           |
|                        |               | / /  |           |

**External-to-College Approvals:**

| Council                      | Date Approved | Signature  | Approval of Revision <sup>4</sup> |
|------------------------------|---------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Undergraduate Council        |               |  |                                   |
| Graduate Council             |               | Dr. Brian A. Jackson<br><small>Digitally signed by Dr. Brian A. Jackson<br/>                     DN: cn=Dr. Brian A. Jackson, o=University of Kentucky, ou=Graduate School,<br/>                     email=c+US<br/>                     Date: 2013.10.30 10:44:10 -0400</small> |                                   |
| Health Care Colleges Council |               |  |                                   |
| Senate Council Approval      |               | University Senate Approval   |                                   |

**Comments:**

<sup>4</sup> Councils use this space to indicate approval of revisions made subsequent to that council's approval, if deemed necessary by the revising council.  
Rev 8/09

# REQUEST TO CLASSIFY PROPOSED PROGRAM

## **Section I (REQUIRED)**

|     |   |   |              |
|-----|---|---|--------------|
| 1.  | The proposed new degree program will be (please check one):<br><input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Masters* <input type="checkbox"/> Doctoral* <input type="checkbox"/> Professional* |   |              |
| 2.  | Have you contacted the Associate Provost for Academic Administration (APAA)?  |   |              |
|     | YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | Date of contact: 10/21/11   |              |
|     | NO <input type="checkbox"/>   | (Contact the APAA prior to filling out the remainder of this form.) |              |
| 3.  | Degree Title:   | Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing                             |              |
| 4.  | Major Title:  |   |              |
| 5.  | Option:   |   |              |
| 6.  | Primary College:  | Arts & Sciences   |              |
| 7.  | Primary Department:   | English   |              |
| 8.  | CIP Code (supplied by APAA)   |   |              |
| 9.  | Accrediting Agency (if applicable):   |   |              |
| 10. | Who should be contacted for further information about the proposed new degree program:  |   |              |
|     | Name: Julia Johnson   | Email: Julia.Johnson@uky.edu  | Phone: 74629 |
| 11. | Has the APAA determined that the proposed new degree program is outside UK's band?  |   |              |
|     | <input type="checkbox"/> YES (Continue with the Section II* on a separate sheet.)   |   |              |
|     | <input type="checkbox"/> NO (This form is complete. Print PAGE ONE & submit with appropriate form for new program.)   |   |              |

## **Section II (Attach separate pages.)**

I. Submit a one- to two- page abstract narrative of the program proposal summarizing: how this program will prepare Kentuckians for life and work; any plans for collaboration with other institutions; and any plans for participation in the Kentucky Virtual University.

II. Provide a comprehensive program description and complete curriculum. For undergraduate programs include: courses/hours; college-required courses; University Studies Program; pre-major courses; major courses; option courses; electives; any other requirement. Include how program will be evaluated and how student success will be measured. Evaluative items may include, but are not limited to retention in the major from semester to semester; success rate of completion for core courses; and academic performance in suggested program electives.

\* After filling out this form, you must also submit a form for New Undergraduate Program, New Master's Program, or New Doctoral Program. There is no form for new professional programs.

## REQUEST TO CLASSIFY PROPOSED PROGRAM

III. Explain resources (finances, facilities, faculty, etc.) that are needed and available for program implementation and support.

Answers to the questions below are also required by Kentucky's Council on Postsecondary Education for proposed new programs outside of UK's band. Please visit their website (<http://cpe.ky.gov/planning/keyindicators/>) for more information about the questions.

### IV. Academic Program Approval Checklist

#### 1. Are more Kentuckians prepared for postsecondary education?

##### A. Entrance requirements:

1. Test scores (GRE, GMAT, LSAT, MCAT, ACT, SAT, etc.).
2. High school/college GPA.
3. Other required discipline knowledge unique to the proposed program.

##### B. Transfer requirements:

1. College transfer GPA.
2. Recommended/required preparatory courses (prerequisite courses).

##### C. Recruitment plans

1. Plans to ensure success of students coming from "feeder institutions" (either colleges or high schools).
2. Recruitment and marketing strategies to enroll a diverse student population.

#### 2. Are more students enrolling?

##### A. Explain the demand for the program by providing the following information:

1. Anticipated number of students from other majors (including undeclared).
2. New students entering the programming (including transfers).

##### B. Detail recruitment plans (include specific plans to attract non-traditional students, including minorities, and to address gender related issues.)

##### C. Contact the Associate Vice President for Employment Equity to obtain EEO plan and status information.

#### 3. Are more students advancing through the system?

##### A. What is the anticipated time-to-graduation for full-time students entering the program?

##### B. Explain any cooperative or practicum experience required to complete the program.

##### C. Why do you desire to offer the program? (See 2A) Why is UK the right place to offer this program?

1. Include a list of other Kentucky institutions offering similar or related programs at this and other levels.

## REQUEST TO CLASSIFY PROPOSED PROGRAM

2. List courses from in-state institutions that will transfer into the program.
  - a. 48 Hour General Education Transfer Component.
  - b. 12 Hour Transfer Articulation Agreement.
3. List courses offered that will transfer into similar programs at other state institutions.
4. Provide information about completed, signed articulation agreements.

### D. Delivery

1. What plans are in place for delivering this program through the Kentucky Virtual University or other distance learning technologies? (Council on Postsecondary Education wants special attention given to KVVU courses.)
2. What courses can be offered in a non-traditional mode?

### E. Collaborative Efforts

1. Future proposals must provide evidence of consultation with other programs in the state and either documentation of collaborative agreements or strong arguments for why they are not feasible.
2. Collaborative agreements should define shared use of resources to improve program quality, efficiency, and student placement.

## 4. Are we preparing Kentuckians for life and work?

- A. How does the program prepare Kentuckians for life and work?
- B. What are the accreditation expectations for this program?
- C. Are there licensure, certification or accreditation requirements for graduates of this program?
- D. What are the projected degree completions?

## 5. Are Kentucky's people, communities and economy benefiting?

- A. Describe external advisory groups involved in the development of this program (e.g., disciplinary groups, community, government, business, labor interests).
- B. What are the employment expectations for graduates? Document the contributions of the program to current workforce needs in the state.
- C. What other benefits to the Kentucky's community and economy will the program provide?
- D. Explain specific benefits of the program.



## **REQUEST TO CLASSIFY PROPOSED PROGRAM**

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (MFA)

### **Section II**

#### **I. ABSTRACT NARRATIVE**

The English Department of the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Kentucky proposes a new two-year residency Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) in Creative Writing to address an educational need in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The College of Arts & Sciences proposes to expand the already existing undergraduate Creative Writing Program at UK to the graduate level. The proposed MFA in Creative Writing will afford interested individuals from across the nation the opportunity to pursue advanced study in the various areas of creative writing (from poetry to fiction) in which our faculty have established national reputations. Having a graduate program in creative writing will more closely align UK with its benchmark institutions, while also providing an educational opportunity for citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Currently, there is not a single residential terminal graduate-level degree in creative writing being offered in Kentucky.

The College of Arts & Sciences is well equipped to satisfy this need with a creative writing faculty who have achieved a superb record in publication and in designing and teaching creative writing courses at the undergraduate level. MFA candidates will benefit from instruction by this faculty and they will thereafter be positioned to enter a global, competitive field that demands the engagement and discipline that the MFA in Creative Writing provides. These graduates not only will be well equipped for the teaching of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction, but also for writing and publishing for a national literary audience. Their study will be well-rounded as well as focused, and will provide MFA candidates with a wide range of academic and professional training.

Since 1947 the UK English Department has nourished writers of the commonwealth with course offerings in creative writing. Included among the undergraduate level program's student writers and faculty (past and present), are writers with national reputations: Wendell Berry, James Baker Hall, Guy Davenport, Ed McClanahan, Jane Vance, Gurney Norman, Nikky Finney, Erik Reece, Frank X Walker, Julia Johnson and Bobbie Ann Mason. The MFA in Creative Writing usually involves not just the production of literature as a priority, but also involvement in literary discourse and apprenticeship, and therefore, creative writing naturally positions itself at the graduate level.

Of the three MFA degrees offered in the state, all are low or limited residency programs. Our proposed MFA in Creative Writing Program, by contrast, would be a two-year full-residency program, becoming the only such program in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The current low/limited MFA in Creative Writing Programs in Kentucky are:

- Eastern Kentucky University (MFA, brief-residency, 12-day to 1 month residencies)
- Murray State University (MFA, low-residency, 36 days)
- Spalding University (MFA, brief-residency, 10-day residences per semester)

Our intention is to build a first-tier national MFA in Creative Writing Program as one of the bold and high-visibility steps that UK can take in becoming a Top 20 university over the next decade, one that is vital to the College of Arts & Sciences' Envision 2020 initiative.

We thus have modeled our MFA in Creative Writing Program after highly ranked MFA Programs such as those at Columbia University, The University of Iowa, The University of Virginia, Johns Hopkins University, University of Michigan, among others. Our objective is a *national* program capable of recruiting both regionally and across the country, and of contributing to UK's national reputation as a topflight university. The doctoral program in English is one of the highest-ranked programs at the University—and ranks in the top 15 nationally according to the 2010 National Research Council. We envision a creative writing program that will foster pride in everyone associated with it, one that will benefit the students and the university. We will recruit and produce quality MFA candidates who, upon graduation, will take their places in the national literary community, and who will contribute to that community through their teaching, writing, publications, scholarship, and professional accomplishments. These results, in turn, will benefit the university and the community financially, socially, intellectually and culturally—from the simple enrichment of campus life in the department and the college to the complex and hard-to-measure benefits of increased national public attention and acclaim.

The establishment of a full-residency creative writing program at the graduate level, offering the terminal degree of Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, is supported by the fact that many writers who seek a MFA degree and who are from this region, wish to remain *in this region* to pursue graduate studies. Therefore, a new MFA in Creative Writing Program at UK is well positioned to serve a real educational need in the Commonwealth.

These are the core elements of a top quality MFA Creative Writing Program:

- A wide recruiting net
- An active, publishing faculty
- Workshop classes that provide personal attention
- A visiting writers series
- A nationally distributed literary magazine (print and online)
- Membership and alignment with the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP)
- A physical site for the program center (faculty offices in close proximity, student gathering spot)
- An integrated literary study

It must be emphasized that being a first-tier creative writing program naturally produces a range of rewards both personal and institutional. Thus, we have designed a program that we believe has the highest probability of local, regional, and national success.

The UK MFA in Creative Writing Program will:

- Aim to compete with the best MFA programs in the nation
- Start small and aim for excellence
- Seek to attract high quality, highly motivated MFA students
- Fit readily and comfortably into the English Department at UK
- Utilize all interested UK English faculty
- Offer MFA students a sophisticated program of artistic and literary study, which includes substantial scholarly study and writing
- Dovetail perfectly with the undergraduate program in CW
- Make the most of the literary traditions at UK
- Put MFA students in contact with writers of national and international reputations
- Acquaint MFA students with the arts and areas of scholarship and creativity outside of literature
- Provide experience with diverse genres of creative writing
- Invite MFA students to participate in the design of their educations (student-centered learning), which is not limited to interdisciplinary study, and thereby connecting A & S with other colleges at UK
- Include an introduction to literary publishing (both print and digital forms)
- Provide information on possible or alternative career paths for writers
- Produce a national literary magazine to promote a national presence for the program
- Develop and expand the program, but manage growth to maintain target excellence
- Support extensive community outreach programs, provide MFA students with rewarding teaching experiences not just within, but also outside, of UK
- Use technology in and beyond the creative writing classroom in new and innovative ways

## **REQUEST TO CLASSIFY PROPOSED PROGRAM**

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (MFA)

### **II. COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

#### **1. A Rigorous and Diverse Curriculum\***

The course of study leading to the UK MFA in Creative Writing degree is very flexible and interdisciplinary in scope, combining a studio/research curriculum. The UK MFA in Creative Writing Program will place equal emphasis on fostering the artistic process of the MFA student, as well as his or her literary study and related creative or scholarly work. All MFA candidates must fulfill the University regulations, as stated in The Graduate School Bulletin.

At the core of the curriculum are the writing workshops that concentrate on the craft of fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. The second-year thesis hours are dedicated to shaping each student's work into book form. In addition, students must defend their thesis in an oral exam.

Total credits must add up to twenty-four hours of coursework for the degree following a plan drawn up in consultation with the MFA Program Director. The twenty-four hours must be distributed as follows:

- (1) At least 9 hours of graduate writing workshop, ENG 607
- (2) At least 6 hours of graduate courses organized around a topic, theme, or genre.
- (3) At least 6 hours of graduate courses designated as ENG, at the 600 or 700 levels offered by the English department (for example, Contemporary American Poetry or Studies in Modern British Literature). ENG 780, Directed Studies, may be taken only with permission of the Director of Graduate Studies; ordinarily it cannot be repeated.
- (4) At least 3 hours must come from a focus area outside the English department. With the guidance of the Director of the MFA Program, MFA students must choose a focus area of study that will take them beyond the MFA pursuit proper: for example, two graduate-level courses in History, Modern & Classical Languages, Literatures & Cultures, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Appalachian Studies, Gender & Women's Studies, Music, Theatre, Art and Visual Studies, etc., offered by various UK colleges. Courses from other departments can fulfill this requirement with the approval of the Director of the MFA Program and the Director of Graduate Studies, based on course description and/or syllabus.

## MFA Thesis

The thesis component of the MFA degree consists of a substantial body of original writing (hereafter, simply “thesis”) and an oral examination. Both are required for successful completion of the MFA degree.

The thesis will be a substantial body of original writing—over 120 pages of fiction (short stories, novella or novel) or non-fiction, a collection of approximately 48 poems, or an equivalent thesis of mixed genre. A committee of three faculty members chosen by the student and approved by the Director of Graduate Studies must approve the thesis. The thesis director is chair of the committee; the other members act in an advisory capacity, evaluate the thesis, and provide recommendations or added provisions for its eventual acceptance. For specific instructions regarding the format of the thesis, the student will be advised to obtain a copy of "Instructions for the Preparation of Theses and Dissertations <<http://www.rgs.uky.edu/gs/thesdissprep.html>>" from the Graduate School.

TABLE 1: MFA COURSES

Table 1 lists sampling of courses in the Department of English meeting MFA course requirements. These are existing courses offered in the Department of English. The number in parentheses after each course title indicates the number of credit hours of the course.

|   |
|---|
| ENG 607 Graduate Writing Workshop (Subtitle required) (3) |
| ENG 601 Essays and Creative Nonfiction (3)                |
| ENG 605 Editing (3)                                       |
| ENG 681 Studies in Film (3)                               |
| ENG 781 Seminar in Film (3)                               |
| ENG 771 Seminar in Special Topics (Subtitle required) (3) |
| ENG 690 Studies in Literature and Gender (3)              |
| ENG 748 Master’s Thesis Research (3)                      |
| ENG 753 Seminar in American Literature Since 1900 (3)     |
| ENG 609 Composition for Teachers (3)                      |

TABLE 2: SAMPLE PROGRESSION TOWARD THE MFA IN CREATIVE WRITING DEGREE

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| YEAR 1                               |   |
| <i>Semester 1</i>                    | <i>Semester 2</i>                             |
| Graduate Writing Workshop (3)        | Graduate Writing Workshop (3)                 |
| Seminar in Special Topics (3)        | Seminar in Film (3)                           |
| African Americans in Appalachia (3)  | Seminar in American Literature Since 1900 (3) |
| YEAR 2                               |   |
| <i>Semester 1</i>                    | <i>Semester 2</i>                             |
| Graduate Poetry Workshop (3)         | Essays and Creative Nonfiction(3)             |
| Studies in Literature and Gender (3) |   |
| Thesis (3)                           | Thesis (3)                                    |

## Objectives

To respond to the Commonwealth's need for a full-residency creative writing program at the graduate level, offering the terminal degree of Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, To produce quality MFA candidates who will take their places in the national literary community, and who will contribute to that community through their teaching, writing, publications, scholarship, and professional accomplishments. These results, in turn, will benefit the university and the community financially, socially, intellectually and culturally—from the simple enrichment of campus life in the department and the college to the complex and hard-to-measure benefits of increased national public attention and acclaim.

Students graduating with an MFA in Creative Writing will

1. Gain a fuller knowledge of the theoretical and historical contexts for the writing and reception of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction, demonstrating an enhanced knowledge of

- 1.1 a broad knowledge of literary history

- 1.2 The forms, genres and aesthetic principles of literatures in English

2. By choosing a focus area of study that will take them beyond the MFA pursuit proper, further enhancing their own writing/research. For example, students may choose at least one graduate-level courses in History, Modern & Classical Languages, Literatures & Cultures, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Appalachian Studies, Gender & Women's Studies, Music, Theatre, Art and Visual Studies, etc., offered by various UK colleges.

3. Develop the discipline appropriate to a professional writer, specifically by enhancing their abilities to

- 1.3 Create a body of publishable poetry, fiction, or nonfiction

- 1.4 Read and critique the work of others

- 1.5 Deliver/perform their work to a larger audience

Deployment of objectives across the curriculum:

Goal 1

Objective 1.1

Emphasized in ENG 753, ENG 690

Objective 1.2

Emphasized in ENG 771, ENG 681

Goal 2

Emphasized in variety of graduate courses offered across the university.

Objective 2.2

Emphasized in ENG 607

### Objective 2.3

Publication in refereed student and profession journals; presentation/performance as part of conferences and literary events.

Skills gained over the course of the MFA are reinforced and integrated in the culminating project, the thesis (ENG 748)

### **Financial Assistance**

The Department of English will admit a mixture of students who **do not** require funding and those who require assistantships. The Department of English employs teaching assistants in its program for a stipend plus full tuition remission per academic year. Second-year MFA students on assistantships will teach a nine credit hour load split between fall and spring semesters. MFA students also teach their own classes provided they are SACs qualified, which requires 18 credit hours of graduate classes. MFA teaching assistants will typically be assigned as assistants to large lecture courses, such as ENG 107, Introduction to Imaginative Writing, or will have eligibility for English assistantships in the Division of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Media. We expect to enroll on average 500 students per year in the new ENG 107 course, increasing the demand for graduate teaching assistants in the area of creative writing.

### **Advising**

MFA candidates who have not selected a faculty advisor upon entering the program should do so during their first year of study. The Director of the MFA Program may assign her or him a temporary advisor. The candidate should consult with the advisor about choice of courses, progress of thesis, and etc..

## **2. Accomplished Faculty\***

A strong creative writing program has a faculty of published writers who have distinguished themselves as teachers and writers, as a stable and diverse faculty, and a faculty that is professionally active through national, regional, and local service. .A good program has a low faculty-to-student ratio (**1 to 6 or fewer**) which ensures MFA candidates with frequent and extensive critiques of their work and their theses, and is essential to a first-tier national MFA in Creative Writing Program. At the end of the YEAR 2 of the new MFA program, assuming a full total enrollment of 12 students, each faculty member should have 2-3 advisees. This number should increase to 3-4 advisees in YEAR 3.

Current full-time, tenured or tenure-track, Creative Writing faculty at UK:

Julia Johnson (poetry)  
Gurney Norman (fiction)  
Erik Reece (non-fiction)  
Frank X Walker (poetry)

New faculty hire, 2014 (non-fiction)

### **3. Excellent Students and Support for Students\***

#### ***3a. Selective Admissions***

We envisage that fall 2014 will see our first cohort of MFA students. The MFA in Creative Writing will be a rigorous and selective program, enrolling a handful of students each year. Admission will be competitive, with the acceptance of the candidate into the program determined by a strong writing sample of original works, a statement of purpose, three letters of recommendations, undergraduate transcripts, and GRE quantitative and verbal test scores. Students with a Bachelor's or Master's may enter into advanced courses directly. The guidelines from the Graduate School require a grade point average (GPA) 2.75 for undergraduates, and a 3.00 for transferring graduates. The UK MFA will require an overall GPA of at least 3.3 (B+) overall for any entering student, including those without a bachelor's in English. International applicants interested in the UK MFA program will be encouraged to apply and will be handled on a case-by-case basis with advice from the Office of International Affairs. All admissions will be handled by an admissions committee made up of members of the MFA planning committee.

#### ***3b. Strong Recruitment of the Best Students***

A logical first step is to reach out to institutions across the nation, both to those where an MFA in creative writing does not exist, and to those where the MFA is non-residential. The departments will be sent promotional materials for distribution, and our faculty will visit and communicate directly with certain of these programs. Taking advantage of Kentucky's geographic position, will recruit students from across the nation, in competition with the top graduate creative writing programs in the country.

In addition, the creative writing faculty has a substantial network of connections ranging across US and international institutions. We will use this network to promote the new MFA in Creative Writing degree. We will use professional magazines, journals, and newsletters, such as *The Writer's Chronicle* (the magazine of the Association of Writers & Writing Programs) to advertise the program, as well as direct mail solicitations to undergraduate programs in creative writing and other universities similarly positioned.

#### ***3c. Student Demand***

There are currently 233 English majors. In fall 2013, the department added a Creative Writing Option to its Major. There are currently 233 majors in the department. At the undergraduate level, there is increasing student demand for creative writing courses in the English Department. We expect many of our MFA Program applicants will include UK undergraduate students.

The number of undergraduate students enrolled in creative writing at UK:

2012-2013 Academic Year:

Fall: 367

Spring: 233

Total: 600



2013-2014 Academic Year:

Fall: 416

Spring: 367

Total: 783

We expect to enroll a class of 6-8 students in Fall 2014. We anticipate at least 1-4 of those students will come from our undergraduate program. As the program builds, we expect this number to increase, along with the number of candidates we are able to admit.

#### **4. *Strong Administrative Support\****

**The MFA Program Director** will serve as advisor for all creative writing graduate students within the English Department. The director designs and oversees their plans of study, maintains a database of their progress toward degrees, monitors their grades and teaching, makes assignments for undergraduate teaching responsibilities in creative writing, plans thesis deadlines, oral exams, etc. The MFA program director provides strong leadership in planning, staffing, devising curriculum, recruiting students, and advocating the needs of the program to the administration. An additional and critical role of the director is to serve as ambassador for the program, promoting the program within UK, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and at national venues.

The MFA Program Director reports directly to the English department Chair and oversees and executes all functions having to do with the graduate creative writing program. It is understood that the administration will provide the program sufficient autonomy with regard to curriculum, admissions, the MFA budget, graduate support, facilities, and personnel. Some of these responsibilities will be executed individually by the director, some will be executed through the program coordinator/administrative assistant, and some delegated for execution to interested MFA faculty. The Director of the MFA program will chair the MFA planning committee. The committee's responsibilities will include (1) program evaluation and development, (2) outreach, (3) student support (4) TA support and administration, and (5) advising. The program will always maintain a mutually supportive relationship with the English department and with the university's leadership.

#### **Appointment of MFA Director**

FALL 2013     MFA Program Director appointed (Julia Johnson, Associate Professor)  
(3-year contract)

The MFA Program Director will be appointed by the Chair of the Department of English, and will be evaluated through the FMER process.

## 5. Other Assets and Infrastructure\*

An effective program also has the assets and infrastructure that characterize any good college or university. Assets and infrastructure at UK include the following:

- ✓ Affiliated literary publication/s (*Limestone, Pluck!*)
- ✓ A large and thriving English Department
- ✓ Division of Writing, Rhetoric and Digital Media
- ✓ Excellent libraries and literary Archives
- ✓ Local and regional writers conferences of national reputation and literacy centers (Kentucky Women Writers Conference, The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning)
- ✓ Existing infrastructure (UK and Lexington's vast array of spaces for workshops, conferences, readings, gatherings, computer labs, etc.)
- ✓ Affiliated programs (Appalachian Studies, African Studies, Environmental Studies, Gender and Women Studies)
- ✓ Campus and local bookstores (support special events with visiting writers, faculty, & student authors)
  
- ✓ The University Press of Kentucky
- ✓ The Twenty: A Kentucky Young Writers Advance
- ✓ A rich and long history of writers living and working in Lexington

*(\*These are the five general categories established by the Association of Writers and Writing Programs "Hallmarks of a Successful MFA Program in Creative Writing")*

## 6. Assessment

There will be two different kinds of periodic assessment: (1) programmatic assessment and (2) student assessment. For (2) we will use the standard assessment exercise adopted for our bachelor's program: student learning outcomes measured against specified rubrics, using artifacts such as portfolios and essays. For (1) we will use student evaluations for individual courses, and schedule periodic program reviews. We will also monitor graduation rates and graduate destinations.

The intended student learning outcomes of the MFA Program in Creative Writing:

- demonstrate the ability to thrive in a challenging writers' workshop in which students
- critique one another's work under the mentorship of an accomplished writer-teacher.
- demonstrate the ability to be an expert and wide-ranging reader.
- demonstrate attentiveness to revision. In addition to frequent reading and writing, the curriculum requires frequent revision of student work, and the teacher provides suggestions for improving the work as well as references to literary models that might be helpful.
- produce a publishable literary work, and demonstrate expertise in a primary genre to graduate.
- 

Student Learning Outcomes Related to Teaching:

Students in the UK MFA Program will demonstrate an understanding of and commitment to the range of responsibilities required of a teaching assistant or an instructor through teaching an introductory level creative writing course and/or assisting in the teaching of an introductory creative course. Learning outcomes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Organize and deliver content in a mode appropriate to audience
- Professionally critiquing one's own strengths and weaknesses as a teacher, and adjust one's own teaching as needed
- Demonstrate an understanding of the dynamics that exist in a particular writing classroom/workshop setting, including the differing viewpoints and learning styles of individual students
- Develop a critical vocabulary in pedagogy to identify and articulate various teaching methodologies and their relation to student learning styles
- Demonstrate the ability to develop an assignment or course schedule that responds to the class's stated learning goals

Assessment Method:

Supervisory review and comprehensive scores from student evaluations.

### III. RESOURCES AVAILABLE AND NEEDED FOR PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AND SUPPORT

#### 1. RESOURCES AVAILABLE

We believe that we are almost to capacity in the qualified faculty needed to support the proposed program in its *early* stages. Our current creative writing faculty all have substantial publishing records and national reputations in the areas in which they are teaching. Table 4 shows the mapping of courses to current faculty who are qualified *and* can commit to teaching in the MFA program on a regular basis.

TABLE 4: FACULTY RESOURCE RATIONALE

| <i>CW Course(s)</i>                           | <i>Qualified faculty who can commit to teaching in the MFA Program</i> |
|---|--|
| Graduate Writing Workshop (Subtitle required) | Johnson, Norman, Reece, Walker, New Fiction Writer                     |
| Seminar in Special Topics (Subtitle required) | Johnson, Norman, Reece, Walker, New Fiction Writer                     |
| Special Topics in Fiction                     | Norman, New Fiction Writer   |
| Special Topics in Poetry                      | Johnson, Walker  |
| Essays and Creative Nonfiction                | Reece, New Fiction Writer  |
| Editing                                       | Johnson, Reece, Walker   |
| Creative Writing Pedagogy                     | Johnson, Norman, Walker  |

TABLE 5: SAMPLE COVERAGE

| YEAR 1                                 |  |
|--|--|
| <i>Fall</i>                            | <i>Spring</i>                                  |
| Graduate Writing Workshop (Norman)     | Graduate Writing Workshop (Johnson)            |
| Essays and Creative Nonfiction (Reece) | Essays and Creative Nonfiction (Reece)         |
| Seminar in Special Topics (Johnson)    | Seminar in Special Topics (Walker)             |
| YEAR 2                                 |  |
| <i>Fall</i>                            | <i>Spring</i>                                  |
| Graduate Writing Workshop (Walker)     | Graduate Writing Workshop (New Fiction Writer) |
| Graduate Nonfiction Workshop (Reece)   | Graduate Nonfiction Workshop (Reece)           |
| Seminar in Special Topics (Reece)      | Editing (Walker)                               |
| YEAR 3                                 |  |
| <i>Fall</i>                            | <i>Spring</i>                                  |
| Graduate Writing Workshop (Norman)     | Graduate Writing Workshop (Johnson)            |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
| Seminar in Specials Topics (New Fiction Hire)  | Seminar in Special Topics (Norman)             |
| Editing (Reece)                                |  |
| YEAR 4   |  |
| <i>Fall</i>                                    | <i>Spring</i>                                  |
| Graduate Writing Workshop (Walker)             | Graduate Poetry Workshop (New Fiction Writer ) |
|  |  |
| Graduate Nonfiction Workshop (Reece)           |  |
| Seminar in Special Topics (New Fiction Writer) | Seminar in Special Topics (Johnson)            |
| Editing (Walker)                               | Special Topics in Creative Nonfiction (Reece)  |

## 2. RESOURCING ISSUES

The feasibility of this table is due in part to the full-time lecturers who regularly teach and will be available to teach undergraduate sections in creative writing. One tenure line faculty has reduced teaching to 2/1 for the next few years as editor of *Pluck!* (Walker). There are three tenure-track creative writing faculty with 2/2 teaching commitments (Johnson, Norman, Reece). We are currently searching for a full-time, tenure-track assistant professor position in fiction writing. To facilitate excellence in administration, the program director will need administrative support (i.e., student staff support). As the program expands, additional faculty lines and additional staff support may be required (additional faculty line should be at the Associate or Full Professor level, to fulfill the need for a “marquee writer”). The standard rules for hiring in the College of A & S will be used to increase the number of MFA faculty. We anticipate a need for a new hire in poetry to replace the recent transition of two poets out of the faculty (Finney and Vance). We anticipate 5-6 creative faculty teaching in the MFA Program in the next 5 years.

To facilitate contact with creative writing students and to make the best use of available faculty resources and expertise, the MFA Program Director should teach every semester. As befits a program of the quality we envision, the program should acquire and maintain a full membership in the AWP and other appropriate local, regional, and national associations to ensure that faculty members and MFA students have access to timely information about contemporary letters and the teaching of writing. Additionally, a quality program will support a reading series that brings well-established writers to campus. A reading series is an essential component of a writing program, offering an immediate connection to contemporary literature and exposure to a variety of voices and aesthetic approaches. The UK MFA in Creative Writing Program would be well-served to publish a national literary magazine, the better to expose our program to national attention from other “feeder” programs, and to represent UK on the national literary scene. This is a relatively inexpensive project that would use the existing resources of the program for editorial services, publishing a magazine of nationally solicited works, including special issues of national and regional appeal; the magazine could also sponsor a national fiction/poetry contest, the entry fees of which will partially support the magazine’s publication. MFA teaching assistants will be assigned to English lecture courses or to the Division of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Media.

### **3. EXTERNAL FUNDING**

As a faculty, the members of the Creative Writing Program recognize the increasing need to seek external funding for program support. With the help of the College of Arts & Sciences grants office, we will seek that external funding for additional MFA candidate support, additional support for Visiting Writers series, additional student support, and the planned literary magazine, through independent funding agencies and private foundations.



College of Arts and Sciences  
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202 Patterson Office Tower  
Lexington, KY 40506-0027  
859 257-8354  
fax 859 373-1073  
www.as.uky.edu

August 9, 2013

Dr. Lee Blonder  
University Senate  
203 Main Building  
Lexington, KY 40506-0032

Dear Dr. Blonder:

I am pleased to express the College's support for the English Department's proposed Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (MFA). The enclosed proposal has been carefully vetted by the college's Educational Policy Committee in close consultation with the Dean's office.

The College of Arts & Sciences is well equipped to satisfy this need with a creative writing faculty who have achieved a superb record in publication and in designing and teaching creative writing courses at the undergraduate level. Dovetailing perfectly with the undergraduate program in Creative Writing, MFA candidates will benefit from instruction by the faculty and they will thereafter be positioned to enter a global, competitive field that demands the engagement and discipline that the MFA in Creative Writing provides. These graduates not only will be well equipped for the teaching of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction, but also for writing and publishing for a national literary audience. Their study will be well-rounded as well as focused, and will provide MFA candidates with a wide range of academic and professional training.

The proposed MFA in Creative Writing will afford interested individuals from across the nation the opportunity to pursue advanced study in the various areas of creative writing (poetry, fiction, and non-fiction) in which our faculty have established national reputations. Having a graduate program in creative writing will more closely align UK with its benchmark institutions, while also providing an educational opportunity for citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Currently, there is not a single residential terminal graduate-level degree in creative writing being offered in Kentucky, and its establishment at UK would be a worthy achievement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Kornbluh". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Mark Lawrence Kornbluh  
Dean

MLK: aml

cc: Ruth Beattie, Acting Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs  
Betty Lorch, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs  
Ted Schatzki, Associate Dean for Faculty  
Jeffory Clymer, Chairperson, Department of English





Department of English  
1219 Patterson Office Tower  
Lexington, KY 40506-0027

859 257-7008  
*fax* 859 323-1072

[www.as.uky.edu/English](http://www.as.uky.edu/English)

TO: Dr. Andrew Hippenley, Chair, Senate Academic Programs Committee

FROM: Julia Johnson  
Associate Professor, English

DATE: October 22, 2013

SUBJECT: MFA Program Proposal in Creative Writing – additional information

Additional Information requested by the Senate Academic Programs Committee:

1. Indicate who will be the director of the program (we know you will be the first director, but this needs to be clearly stated in the proposal).

See p. 9

**Appointment of MFA Director**

**FALL 2013**

**MFA Program Director appointed (Julia Johnson, Associate Professor)  
(3-year contract)**

2. Faculty Rules:

- a. How is the director appointed, evaluated, and reappointed?

See p. 9

**Appointment of MFA Director**

The MFA Program Director will be appointed by the Chair of the Department of English, and will be evaluated through the FMER process.

- b. What rules will be used to increase the number of MFA faculty (after the newly-hired 5<sup>th</sup> member) or transition faculty out of the program?

See p. 12

**2. RESOURCING ISSUES**

The standard rules for hiring in the College of A & S will be used to increase the number of MFA faculty. We anticipate a need for a new hire in poetry to replace the recent transition of two poets from the faculty (Finney and Vance).

3. How many faculty are anticipated to be involved in the coming years (maybe 5 years from now).

See p. 12

**2. RESOURCING ISSUES**

We anticipate 5-6 creative faculty teaching in the MFA Program in the next 5 years.

3. A brief section listing the number of ENG majors and how many of these students are projected to continue through the MFA degree.

See p. 8

**3c. Student Demand**

There are currently 233 English majors. In fall 2013, the department added a Creative Writing Option to its major. There are currently 233 majors in the department. At the undergraduate level, there is increasing student demand for creative writing courses in the English Department. We anticipate several MFA program applicants will be UK undergraduate students, including English majors and non-majors who have been enrolled in creative writing courses.

The number of undergraduate students enrolled in creative writing at UK:

2012-2013 Academic Year:

Fall: 367

Spring: 233

Total: 600

2013-2014 Academic Year:

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Total: 783

We expect to enroll a class of 6-8 students in Fall 2014. We anticipate at least 1-4 of those students will come from our undergraduate program. As the program builds, we expect this number to increase, along with the number of candidates we are able to admit.

4. Review the text on page 7 (2. Accomplished Faculty section). If each faculty has 12 advisees (the maximum) then each faculty member could have up to 48 student committee assignments, which seems untenable. Obviously, the MFA program and faculty numbers will keep pace with the number of students in the program. It would be better to anticipate a smaller number of MFA advisees based on the number of ENG majors.

See p. 7

.A good program has a low faculty-to-student ratio (**1 to 6 or fewer**) which ensures MFA candidates with frequent and extensive critiques of their work and their theses, and is essential to a first-tier national MFA in Creative Writing Program. At the end of the YEAR 2 of the new MFA program, assuming a full enrollment of 12 students, each faculty member should have 2-3 advisees. This number should increase to 3-4 advisees in YEAR 3.

5. Clarify the TA situation. How will the program and ENG department accommodate the new MFA TAs? This could be tied to the projected number of students (item 3 above).

See p. 7

#### **Financial Assistance**

The Department of English will admit a mixture of students who **do not** require funding and those who require assistantships. The Department of English employs teaching assistants in its program for a stipend plus full tuition remission per academic year. Second-year MFA students on assistantships will teach a nine credit hour load split between fall and spring semesters. MFA students also teach their own classes provided they are SACs qualified, which requires 18 credit hours of graduate classes. MFA teaching assistants will typically be assigned as assistants to large lecture courses, such as ENG 107, Introduction to Imaginative Writing, or will have eligibility for English assistantships in the Division of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Media. We expect to enroll on average 500 students per year in the new ENG 107 course, increasing the demand for graduate teaching assistants in the area of creative writing.

6. Are there plans or needs for any new courses? If so, who will staff the new courses?

We expect to add new courses in the coming years and expect no issue staffing the new courses with the current faculty.

7. Provide more specific details about the assessment. You could reproduce the BS assessment referred to (maybe include this as an appendix to avoid undermining the flow of the proposal). Or you could add a different assessment plan. I've attached the assessment plan for the recently approved ENS program FYI. See p. 10

## 6. Assessment

There will be two different kinds of periodic assessment: (1) programmatic assessment and (2) student assessment. For (2) we will use the standard assessment exercise adopted for our bachelor's program: student learning outcomes measured against specified rubrics, using artifacts such as portfolios and essays. For (1) we will use student evaluations for individual courses, and schedule periodic program reviews. We will also monitor graduation rates and graduate destinations.

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- demonstrate the ability to thrive in a challenging writers' workshop in which students
- critique one another's work under the mentorship of an accomplished writer-teacher.
- demonstrate the ability to be an expert and wide-ranging reader.
- demonstrate attentiveness to revision. In addition to frequent reading and writing, the curriculum requires frequent revision of student work, and the teacher provides suggestions for improving the work as well as references to literary models that might be helpful.
- produce a publishable literary work, and demonstrate expertise in a primary genre to graduate.

Student Learning Outcomes Related to Teaching:

Students in the UK MFA Program will demonstrate an understanding of and commitment to the range of responsibilities required of a teaching assistant or an instructor through teaching an introductory level creative writing course and/or assisting in the teaching of an introductory creative course. Learning outcomes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Organize and deliver content in a mode appropriate to audience
- Professionally critiquing one's own strengths and weaknesses as a teacher, and adjust one's own teaching as needed
- Demonstrate an understanding of the dynamics that exist in a particular writing classroom/workshop setting, including the differing viewpoints and learning styles of individual students
- Develop a critical vocabulary in pedagogy to identify and articulate various teaching methodologies and their relation to student learning styles
- Demonstrate the ability to develop an assignment or course schedule that responds to the class's stated learning goals

Assessment Method:

Supervisory review and comprehensive scores from student evaluations.



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April 12, 2013

Dear Educational Policy Committee,

I write to express the English Department's wholehearted support for the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing. At the close of this letter, I include endorsements from our DGS, Professor Virginia Blum, and our DUS, Associate Professor Matthew Giancarlo.

As you have surely heard, University of Kentucky Professor Frank X Walker, the premier voice of Affrilachian poetry, will be inaugurated as the next Poet Laureate of Kentucky on April 24. Professor Walker commands wide-ranging attention as he leads an artistic movement whose political significance is matched only by its aesthetic power. As if that weren't enough, our Creative Writing Program is also home to two former Kentucky Poet Laureates, Professors Gurney Norman and Jane Vance. Additionally, Professor Julia Johnson, who chairs the MFA Planning Committee, was previously involved with the administration of the University of Southern Mississippi's Center for Writers, including coordinating its visiting writers series and editing its national literary journal, *The Mississippi Review*. In addition to being a widely-recognized poet, her wealth of experience is matched by her expert judgment, superb communication skills, and a deep commitment to making this graduate program among the finest in the country. Similarly, Erik Reece has recently joined us as a tenure-track assistant professor; a memoirist and writer of environmental-themed creative nonfiction, Professor Reece has established himself as a preeminent national voice. Most recently, we have hired DaMaris Hill, a novelist and poet who will join us in August and will hold a joint appointment in African American and Africana Studies. Affiliated faculty such as Professors Vershawn Young and Randall Roorda, both highly regarded in the field of creative nonfiction, help round out this stellar cast, as do highly reputed lecturers Cheryl Cardiff and Dan Howell.

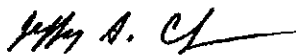
With a creative writing profile that already greatly exceeds most MFA programs, one might well ask why UK has not had an MFA Program before this. Conversations with Dean Kornbluh suggest that he too wishes to capitalize on this extraordinary moment in a

treasured and yet often underserved facet of Arts and Sciences. Given the existing fame of our creative writing faculty and the energy and skill of the MFA Program director, a UK MFA in Creative Writing will attract a strong contingent of talented students who can both benefit from our English department and enrich the undergraduate and graduate education it can provide. As colleagues to our literature and linguistics-based graduate scholars, these fledgling poets, novelists, short story writers and purveyors of creative nonfiction will enliven the mix and help break down increasingly outdated barriers between the disciplines. With all three groups enrolling in many of the same classes, I can imagine our graduate seminars becoming ever more exciting locales for intellectual exploration and career preparation. At the same time, MFA graduate students will be teaching undergraduate creative writing seminars, thereby sharing their talents with majors and attracting undeclared students to the major. Creative writing classes are popular among undergraduates nationwide, which suggests the presence of this talented new contingent will help increase our number of majors by enriching our curriculum.

Thank you for soliciting my views on how these graduate programs would enhance the English Department. What follows are comments from our DGS and DUS.

Please let me know if you need further information or have questions.

Sincerely,



Jeffery A. Clymer  
Professor and Chairperson

*Virginia Blum, Director of Graduate Studies:*

As the DGS, I am very enthusiastic about an MFA in Creative Writing. Because the English department has a number of nationally prominent creative writers, the DGS is often queried about an MFA by prospective graduate students. It's clear that this would be a highly popular degree and likely to achieve national recognition in the near future.

*Matthew Giancarlo, Director of Undergraduate Studies*

Speaking from the DUS's position, my expectation is that the proposed Masters program will have very positive effects on undergraduate education. These benefits will be directly related to the UG curriculum. We have introduced a new course related to Creative Writing, and it is important parts of our curriculum reform. ENG 107 is a large (110-165 students) UK Core class offering credit for Arts & Creativity. Having an MFA program at UK will provide a high-quality pool of graduate instructors who can be teaching assistants for this course.

**Ellis, Janie**

---

**From:** Nikou, Roshan  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 30, 2013 10:51 AM  
**To:** Blackwell, Jeannine; Blonder, Lee; Brothers, Sheila C; Ellis, Janie; Ett, Joanie M; Gebert, Frieda; Hanson, Roxie; Jackson, Brian A; Lindsay, Jim D.; Nikou, Roshan; Price, Cleo; Timoney, David M  
**Cc:** Johnson, Julia M; Clymer, Jeffory A  
**Attachments:** ENG\_MFA-Pgm\_new\_2013Oct30\_final.pdf

TO: Lee Blonder, Chair and Sheila Brothers, Coordinator  
Senate Council

FROM: Jeannine Blackwell, Chair and Roshan Nikou, Coordinator  
Graduate Council

The Graduate Council approved the following proposal and is now forwarding it to the Senate Council to approve. Attached file is the proposal that is not accessible via eCats' workflow.

MFA in Creative Writing

*Roshan Nikou  
The Graduate School  
The University of Kentucky  
105 Gillis Building - 0033  
Phone: (859) 257-1457  
Fax: (859) 323-1928  
[Roshan.Nikou@uky.edu](mailto:Roshan.Nikou@uky.edu)*

## Brothers, Sheila C

---

**From:** Johnson, Julia M  
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2014 8:23 AM  
**To:** Brothers, Sheila C  
**Cc:** Hippisley, Andrew R; Blonder, Lee  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed New MFA in Creative Writing

Dear Sheila,

Thanks so much for your note. Below is a note from Michael Tick, Dean of the College of Fine Arts, expressing support for the new MFA program in Creative Writing.

All best,

Julia

**From:** Tick, Michael  
**Sent:** Monday, January 06, 2014 12:45 PM  
**To:** Johnson, Julia M  
**Cc:** Jones, Nancy C  
**Subject:** Re: New Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

Dear Julia,

Happy New Year!

I have consulted with the Executive Committee of the College of Fine Arts on the proposed MFA in Creative Writing offered through the Department of English. We support this degree. Although we have no plans to offer the MFA in creative writing, we might at some point propose an MFA in Playwriting/Screenwriting, which we don't believe conflicts with Creative Writing, which we assume would focus on non-dramatic literature per se.

Michael

Michael S. Tick, Ph.D.  
Dean of Fine Arts  
University of Kentucky  
202 Fine Arts Building  
Lexington, KY 40506-0022  
(859) 257-1707

Julia Johnson  
Associate Professor | Department of English | University of Kentucky | 1277 Patterson Office Tower | Lexington, KY 40506-0027  
859.257.4629 | [julia.johnson@uky.edu](mailto:julia.johnson@uky.edu)  
<http://www.flying-object.org/catablog-items/the-falling-horse-julia-johnson/>

---

**From:** Brothers, Sheila C  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 09, 2014 1:06 PM  
**To:** Johnson, Julia M



**Cc:** Hippisley, Andrew R; Blonder, Lee

**Subject:** Proposed New MFA in Creative Writing

Hi, Julia. I'm writing with a gentle reminder about the SC's request in December that Dean Michael Tick submit a letter (or email) that expresses support for the proposed new MFA degree.

I'll be out of the office for the next two weeks, but I'll be prepping the Senate agenda when I return. That letter/email of support is necessary to put the MFA on the Senate agenda for February 11.

Please let me know if you have any questions – I'll be here today and tomorrow.

Sheila

*Sheila Brothers*

Staff Representative to the Board of Trustees

*Office of the Senate Council*

*203E Main Building, -0032*

*Phone (859) 257-5872*

*<http://www.uky.edu/faculty/senate>*