

Faculty Bios

A sampling of our MA English and Creative Writing faculty members



MA English and MA English & Creative Writing

Jana Richman

Jana Richman is the author of a memoir, “Riding in the Shadows of Saints: A Woman’s Story of Motorcycling the Mormon Trail,” and two novels, “The Last Cowgirl,” which won the 2009 Willa Award for Contemporary Fiction, and “The Ordinary Truth.” Her essays have appeared in The New York Times, Quarterly West, and in the anthologies “In Fact: The Best of Creative Nonfiction” and “Comeback Wolves.”

Richman has an MA in journalism and an MFA in creative writing from the University of Arizona. She has received fellowships from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, Norcroft Writer’s Colony, Writers at Work, Hedgebrook Writer’s Colony and the Millay Colony where she was a New York Times Foundation fellow. She writes about issues that threaten to destroy the essence of the west: overpopulation, overdevelopment, loss of open space, and rapidly dwindling water aquifers. She writes a monthly blog called “One Woman’s Meat: Notes From Escalante,” which can be found at www.janarichman.com.

Marc Schiffman

Marc Schiffman first began teaching at the University of Massachusetts, where he received his graduate degree. Then he secured a teaching position with the University of Maryland Asian Division. For six years he taught in their Asian Division, spending three years in Okinawa, Japan, and three years in South Korea.

After leaving the University of Maryland Asian Division he moved to Thailand to become the department head of English at an international college. Presently, he lives in the United States and has been teaching for Southern New Hampshire University online since 2000.

He has published short stories in a variety of literary journals and his novel “The Man Who Controls the Earth” is available on Amazon.

Over the years, he has traveled a great deal to other Asian countries such as Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Indonesia. Schiffman has been fortunate to combine travel, one of his passions, with writing and teaching, two of his other main passions. He looks forward to working with you and exploring the magic of the written word.

Jason Dew

Dr. Jason M. Dew was born and raised in Warren County, Pa., and is the author of two novels, “All the Bad Things” (2011) and “Gadly Plain” (2013). He earned a BA in English from Lock Haven University and an MA and Ph.D. in Literature and Criticism from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. In addition to teaching for Southern New Hampshire University, he is an associate professor of English at Georgia Perimeter College where he is also the Honors Program coordinator for the Dunwoody campus. He lives in Atlanta, Ga., with his wife and three daughters. More can be learned about Dew by visiting www.jmichaeldew.com.

Theresa Mohamed

Dr. Theresa Mohamed resides in Syracuse, N.Y., where she is a professor of English. She grew up in the Bronx, N.Y., where she attained her AA from Bronx Community College and BA and MA in English from The City College of New York. She received her Ed.D. in Educational Theory and Practice with a minor in English from Binghamton University.

She is the author of “Election 2008: A Conversation in Heaven” (2011), an edited collection titled “Essays in Response to Bill Cosby’s Comments About African-American Failure” (2006), and other articles and papers. She served as associate editor for the International Journal of Diversity in Organizations, Communities and Nations (2010-11). She has presented at international conferences, including England’s Oxford Round Table and also delivered lectures at Tongji University in Shanghai, China.

Joan Fagan Smith

Joan F. Smith is an English and creative writing professor, competitive dance instructor, and LivingSocial copywriter residing just outside of Boston, Mass. She earned her MFA in Creative Writing from Emerson College after obtaining two Bachelor of the Arts degrees in English and Social Science from Providence College. For the most part, Smith focuses on fiction and memoir in her creative works. She has published short stories, poems, academic papers, and a multitude of journalistic articles both online and in print editions around the globe.

Currently, Smith is working on two novels and a variety of short stories. In her spare time, she attends dance workshops, shops, reads, pretends to love cooking, designs jewelry, runs and exercises. Smith believes in two mantras: read all work out loud, and sweat every day.

Ellen Yarborough

Dr. Ellen Yarborough was born in Peterborough, N.H., and currently resides in Portsmouth, N.H., with her son and her husband. She completed her undergraduate studies in English and Communications at Regis College in Weston, Mass., and received her MA degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and her Ph.D. in English Education from Arizona State University. Yarborough has experience teaching at both the high school and college levels, and is passionate about the preparation of future English language arts teachers. She loves travel, food, writing and books by virtually any author, but she especially loves books by Joan Didion and David Foster Wallace. She has been teaching for Southern New Hampshire University since 2011.

Nathan R. Elliott

Dr. Nathan R. Elliott graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2006 with a Ph.D. in nineteenth-century British literature. He is especially interested in the interaction between science and literature. Elliott has published articles with *The Hopkins Quarterly*, *European Romantic Review* and *Nineteenth-Century Studies*. Currently, he is working on a book project about nineteenth-century biology and the novel. He lives on the west coast of the island of Newfoundland with his wife and son.

Anna Cates

Dr. Anna Cates was born in Brunswick, Maine, in 1971 and currently resides in Wilmington, Ohio, with her cat, Freddie. She began her undergraduate education at George Fox University, majoring in Writing/Literature, and then received her BA in English (1995) from Asbury College. She then completed an MA in English (2000) and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction/English (2002) from Indiana State University. There, she won the I.S.U. Van Til Graduate Award for Writing (Spring 2001). Her final degree received was an MFA in Creative Writing from National University. She has been teaching for Southern New Hampshire University since 2004.

Jane Guttman

Dr. Jane Guttman's Ph.D., from Columbia University, is in the field of English and Comparative Literature. Her dissertation was on twelfth-century Provençal poetry.

Guttman started graduate school after having worked at various jobs and after having had two children. While she was bringing up her daughters, she finished graduate school and taught part time in colleges in NYC and Connecticut. After Guttman earned her doctorate, for personal and practical reasons, she changed careers, going to work in the computer industry where her degree in English helped immeasurably in her work with end-users: defining their requirements for systems development, training users of the systems and writing procedures.

She worked for Fortune 500 companies for over 20 years. Having taken early retirement from industry, she found she missed teaching and working with adults. She is delighted that teaching online combines her two careers — teaching and technology.

On a personal level, Guttman enjoys spending time with her four grandchildren — they always have such interesting things to say. Her hobbies center around animals; she paints portraits of wildlife and she is a NYS licensed wildlife rehabilitator specializing in turtles/tortoises.

David Makhanlall

A college teacher in Richmond, Va., for the last 10 years, Makhanlall has had senior materials management positions throughout his career, most recently as a trainer and documentation specialist with Hewlett-Packard. He holds an MA in English and creative writing, a purchasing management certificate from The City University of New York, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the final stages of his dissertation in “Media, Art and Text” (English and Textual Studies) from Virginia Commonwealth University.

He has had numerous books published for young adults in England and the U.S. information is available through Google. With two boys in college, and full-time teacher and student responsibilities, Makhanlall is still able to do a bit of gardening on the side, when not working on literary projects.

Rick Schnoll

Dr. Rick Schnoll was born, and currently lives, in Milwaukee... yes, the frozen tundra he likes to call home! He has been teaching professional/academic writing and linguistics since 1992, and is a current Ph.D. candidate in English (Professional Writing) at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Dr. Schnoll also earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master’s degree in linguistics from the University of Illinois-Chicago.

As a teacher, Schnoll had the opportunity to live and work in various parts of the world, with his favorite being Argentina. While he never did learn how to tango dance, he did meet his wife, so he considers it a win. Since 2006, he has migrated to teaching entirely online, which he enjoys very much. Schnoll understands both the challenges and rewards of online education on the student side as most of his doctoral coursework was accomplished online.

Apart from teaching and studying, there’s art and music, which have always been his passions. He has studied and played music (mostly the guitar) for most of his life, and for the past 10 years Schnoll has been involved with designing as well as building glass sculptures and lighting.

Lorianne DiSabato

Dr. Lorianne DiSabato earned her BA from the University of Toledo, her MA from Boston College and her Ph.D. from Northeastern University. DiSabato’s field of academic specialty is 19th and 20th-century American literature with a focus on nature writing. She publishes a daily weblog, “Hoarded Ordinaries,” which she illustrates with her digital photography.

In addition to teaching for Southern New Hampshire University’s College of Online and Continuing Education, DiSabato teaches first-year composition classes at Framingham State University. She is also a senior Dharma teacher in the Kwan Um School of Zen. She lives in Newton, Ma., with her husband and a menagerie of pets.

Kimme Nuckles

Dr. Kimme (pronounced “Kim”) Nuckles has been teaching college-level courses since 1993. She retired early as a college administrator at a private college in Michigan and began teaching online in 2009. Her Ph.D. is in English composition and rhetoric, and her research interests are in adult learning and college experiences. Both Nuckles and her husband completed their degrees as non-traditional students, which perhaps gave way to her interest in adult learners.

Nuckles’ MA is in reading, and she has a BA in English education. Prior to teaching college, she taught high school, alternative education, preschool and adult education. In the past, she co-authored two exercise books to accompany a handbook. She is currently co-authoring a book on adult learners, with a proposed publication date of 2014.

She and her husband are very close to their children and grandchildren. He retired as a chaplain in the USAFR and as a chaplain in the Department of Corrections. He now serves as pastor for a small church in their town. Nuckles’ hobbies include reading, quilting, knitting and scrapbooking when there is time, which isn’t often. She enjoys going to northern Michigan with her husband and traveling to other places when time allows.

Constance Bracewell

Bracewell holds a master’s degree in English from Appalachian State University and is currently a doctoral candidate and Diversity Fellow with the University of Arizona. Her dissertation is to be published by Edwin Mellon Press. Bracewell’s area of professional specialty is American Indian literature and diaspora studies as well as general American Literature.

Bracewell teaches courses within all of those content areas, as well as British literature, World literature, film and literature, business writing and composition courses. She currently teaches graduate classes in American literature at SNHU and also teaches online courses with Grand Canyon University, American Public University System and Mountain State University. In addition to these, Bracewell teaches traditional on-campus classes at the University of Arizona and Central Arizona College.

She resides in both Arizona and North Carolina. Her home community in North Carolina is the town of Newton, where she spends her late spring and early summer lazing in the swimming pool and spending time with her two granddaughters. Her children are now adults and out on their own, so it’s just herself, her husband and their two Weimaraners, Cobalt and Lakota.

Elisabeth Levi

Dr. Elisabeth Levi has taught all grade levels from first through graduate school. Much of her time in the classroom has been spent with ESL students. Her Ph.D. is from the University of Pennsylvania in educational linguistics with a focus on second language writing. She specialized in content-based ESL, and, as a high school administrator, has worked extensively with teachers on curriculum development, differentiated instruction, and collaborative, project-based learning. In her spare time, she loves baking, crocheting, and traveling to visit her nieces and nephews.

Robert Hammond

Robert Hammond is a screenwriter, film producer and author of a dozen books, including “C.B. DeMille: The Man Who Invented Hollywood” and “Ready When You Are: Cecil B. DeMille’s Ten Commandments for Success.” Robert has an MFA in Creative Writing and teaches classes in screenwriting, creative writing, filmmaking and film history. His film projects include the documentary “One Day on Earth” and epic biopic “C.B. DeMille.”

As an author and speaker on self-improvement and film-related topics, Hammond has appeared on hundreds of radio and television programs. His previous non-fiction book, “Life After Debt: Free Yourself from the Burden of Money Worries – Once and for All,” sold over 100,000 copies.

As the author of “Identity Theft: How to Protect Your Most Valuable Asset,” he was the spokesperson for Capital One’s Identity Theft Prevention Program. “Identity Theft” has been adapted into a screenplay, which is currently in development.

Robert lives in Walnut Creek, California, with his wife, a dog, and a cat.

David Layton

In 1994, Dr. David Layton received a Ph.D. in English from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Somewhere between the two events, he picked up a BA and an MA in English. Armed with 12 years of higher-level education and a sunny smile, Layton took on the burden of wandering the American west coast, taking his hard-earned wisdom and traveling the world to tell his lessons to those who need to hear them.

In that time, he taught English writing, business writing and literature in Washington State. Having completed his mission in Washington, Layton traveled south to California, where the need for English was mighty. There, he taught at several schools ranging from instruction of English as a foreign language to high school to community colleges. Feeling the lure of the Internet, he expanded out across the country by teaching online. Nowadays, Layton teaches literature, science fiction, composition, ethics, and public speaking. He is the author of “The Humanism of Doctor Who: A Critical Study in Science Fiction and Philosophy.”

Andrew Mathis

Dr. Andrew Mathis was born and raised in the Philadelphia, Pa., area and, with the exception of an eight-year sojourn in New York, has always lived there. He attended Villanova University and earned a Ph.D. in English in 2000 from New York University, where he focused on modern American literature. Dr. Mathis’ dissertation was largely concentrated on the fiction of John Steinbeck, but it also contained chapters on Mark Twain, Raymond Chandler, John Gardner, and postmodern authors such as Donald Barthelme and Thomas Pynchon. Since finishing his doctorate, he has taught at Villanova, Temple, the University of the Sciences and several other colleges in the Philadelphia area.

Christopher Lee

Dr. Christopher Lee has been teaching English at SNHU since 2003. Lee currently lives in Michigan, though he was born in NYC and grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., which he always considers home.

Lee has a Ph.D. from Columbia University, and is a medievalist and specialist in writing (professional, research, expository, and Internet) with an established history of online instruction and course development. He is particularly interested in pursuing pedagogical best practices using digital learning technologies and the latest findings from studies of teaching and learning (SoTL), and the field of educational neuroscience.

When not teaching, Lee is involved in traveling the Mediterranean and cooking, particularly Asian (and especially Indian) food.

Terri Beth Miller

As a professor of literature at SNHU, Terri Beth Miller is passionate about her subject and her students. She came to SNHU because of the special energy of teaching students from all walks of life and in locations all around world. Like many online faculty and students, Miller lives far from the SNHU campus, having just returned to her hometown of Johnson City, Tenn., a small city in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains.

Currently, Miller is a Ph.D. candidate in English at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and will earn her doctorate in May 2013. She is writing her dissertation on representations of embodied deviance (“human monstrosities”) in the British novel from 1850 to 1930. After completing her Bachelor of Arts in English at Tusculum College in Greeneville, Tenn., she relocated to Charlottesville, Va., to pursue her Master of Arts in English from the University of Virginia.

Miller’s areas of specialization include literary modernism, disability and postcolonial studies, and rhetoric and composition. Her essay “‘Reading’ the Body of Terri Schiavo: Inscriptions of Power in Medical and Legal Discourse” was recently published in Johns Hopkins University Press’ “Literature and Medicine” and her essay, “Stalking Grendel’s Mother: Biomedicine and the Disciplining of the Deviant Body,” appeared in the anthology, “Disability and Mothering: Liminal Spaces of Embodied Knowledge,” edited by Cynthia Lewiecki-Wilson and Jen Cellio, and published by Syracuse University Press.

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