

# English Events Target Nonmajors

The AEM/AGES Conference on Literature and Writing wants to attract non-English majors and foster discussion.

By Allison Rost  
Staff Writer

If you're a chemistry major who secretly scribbles poetry and prose on your lab manual, hide in shame no more.

Starting tonight and running through Thursday, the AEM/AGES Conference on Literature and Writing could provide liberation for those with literary aspirations.

The conference, organized by the Association of English Majors and the

Association of Graduate English Students, revolves around the theme of "New Directions."

Robin Brown, a graduate student in English, is one of the organizers. Although the conference is in its fourth year, Brown said it has always been low-key in the past.

This year, organizers want to change that.

"We want to go beyond talking about literature in a critical way," she said. "We're hoping for interest outside of the department."

Events kick off tonight at 5 p.m. in Greenlaw Hall, when several different panels and paper sessions will take place.

Such papers include "Quantum Mechanics and the Drama of Pinter" by Jim Speckart, which discusses chaos the-

ory and concepts of physics, and "Knowing Lolita: The Sexual Misbehavior of Eve in Eden" by Eric Goldman, which addresses understanding sexuality through Nabokov's adolescent nymph.

Paper sessions will be capped each night by receptions in Donovan Lounge, where Brown hopes informal conversation between professors and students will facilitate some lasting interaction.

"We hope to foster a better environment for discussion for undergraduates, graduates and faculty," she said.

Tonight's reception will feature newer faculty members discussing works of literature that have inspired them. English Professor Erin Carlston, who specializes in Modernist studies, is looking forward to participating in the discussion.

"I've done lots and lots of panels," she said, "but I've never participated as a faculty member in a panel organized by students."

Wednesday night's reception will feature appearances by prolific Southern authors Lee Smith and Hal Crowther, and faculty members along with graduate students will discuss the role of technology in the English classroom on Thursday.

For those itching to try their hand at more creative literary endeavors, plenty

of inspiration will abound at the conference.

At Thursday's children's literature panel, junior journalism major Becky Tench will read the children's book she wrote, which is now receiving attention from major publishers.

Tench took "Writing Children's Fiction" two years ago with English professor Ruth Moose, and wrote "A Place for the Little Green Pea" as a course assignment. Moose convinced her to send it to Penguin/Putnam in New York, and while Tench thought it would be an exercise in futility, the publisher called and said they were interested in pursuing it.

Tench is currently revising the book, but will read it and show off her illustrations at the conference.

While she is a creative writing minor, Tench never thought she would find such success with her writing. She encourages others to try it out.

"Most people are scared of creative writing," she said, "but if you just gave it a shot, you'd be amazed."

The AEM/AGES Conference runs through Thursday in Greenlaw Hall. The conference schedule can be found in its entirety at sites.unc.edu/aemages/.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.

# UNC Requests Funds To Light Bell Tower

By Jenny Fowler  
Staff Writer

Discussion is brewing over making several illuminating additions to one of Chapel Hill's most famous landmarks.

The University requested \$135,000 from the Board of Governors in February for a project that would light the Morehead-Patterson Bell Tower, along with possibly adding some aesthetic beauty to the existing shrubbery.

But even before the request was granted, Chancellor James Moeser and some other University administrators postponed the project in response to financial qualms that resulted from N.C. State University's decision to light their Memorial Tower red last fall.

Initially, N.C. State Chancellor Marye Anne Fox expected the seemingly painless project to incur fairly minimal costs.

But the final bill for N.C. State's lit tower was far more than Fox anticipated - \$112,000.

Moeser and University administrators hope proper planning and private funding will prevent a similar financial fiasco with UNC's Bell Tower project.

"We've continued to refine the project's plan," said Nancy Davis, associate vice chancellor for university relations. "Hopefully, we can continue shaving off some of the costs, and get all of the money from private funds."

Discussion to follow in N.C. State's footsteps and light the 69-year-old tower began shortly after Moeser took the post

of chancellor in August.

Ted Hoskins, an architect working on the project, said the plan is coming along nicely. "We just need a proposal from a consultant so we can start getting some concrete plans together," Hoskins said.

Hoskins said a consultant has been working with the grounds and facilities department to design the new lighting for the tower. He said lights will be placed directly behind the clock faces and in the section of the tower holding the bells.

Although N.C. State will light its tower for such occasions as athletic victory celebrations and academic achievements, UNC's tower would constantly be lit at night.

But Hoskins said the cost for the UNC tower's new lights has not yet been determined. "After the consultant gets a concrete plan together, we should be able to prepare a budget of exactly how much (the project) will cost."

The funding for UNC's project would have come from funds used for research projects. Yet Davis said she would like the project to be from private funds.

"We originally proposed that the project be funded with overhead receipts," Davis said. "But after public discussion, we decided it was appropriate to seek private funding."

As of now, UNC's famous landmark won't shine at night anytime soon, Davis said. "We won't begin actually work on the tower until all of the funds are raised."

The University Editor can be reached at udesk@unc.edu.

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