

## Meet Our New 2009 Students

The Rhetoric and Composition program is excited to welcome its new students. In addition to Rory Lee and Natalie Szymanski who are continuing on from their Masters, the program has three new Ph.D. students and two new M.A. students. From a marathon runner to a ninja enthusiast, each of these new students has something unique to bring to the program.

Meet the Ph.D.s: Kendra Mitchell earned her B.A. in English from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), where her concentration was literature. After spending five years tutoring and researching in the FAMU Writing Resource Center, Kendra developed interests in marginalized languages, especially African American Vernacular English (AAVE), and their impact in writing centers, writing classrooms, and the academy at large.

Josh Mehler graduated from the University of Windsor, Ontario with an Honors B.A. in English Literature and an M.A. in English with a focus on Rhetoric and Composition. Josh's interests include investigations of visual rhetoric in design, comics, street art and film, information literacy, and the use of metaphor in the composition classroom, among others. Outside academics, Josh is interested in

ninjas, explosions and rock climbing, and has a slightly irrational fear of zombies.

Michael Sullivan graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa with a B.A. in English and an M.A. in Composition and Rhetoric. Michael's research interests include knowledge-transfer, assessment, student self-

efficacy, and the influence of new media multiliteracies on FYC pedagogy. In his free time, Michael enjoys marathon running.

Meet the M.A.s: Jessica Jackson holds degrees in Public Administration and English from FSU. She looks forward to refining her research interests, which focus on the impact of gender and culture on writing behaviors.

Caleb Sutton received a B.A. in English Writing with a minor in Spanish from the University of West Florida in Pensacola in 2006. He then worked as an ESL teacher/administrator in Trujillo, Peru, his home away from home. Caleb would like to study the validity of multiple literacies and World Englishes in the context of the composition classroom.



Jessica Jackson and Josh Mehler.



### STUDENT PROFILE

**Gilman Page, 2nd-Year M.A.**  
Boca Raton, FL

Gilman Page graduated with a B.A. in Creative Writing in 2007 from FSU. He is also an accounting specialist in the Office of Student Financial Services. His research interests include the intersection of civilian and military visual representations of war and the loss of knowledge in the workplace through technological advancement.

On September 3, 2009, Gilman and his wife, Lauren, welcomed with joy the arrival of their first baby girl, Nora Audrey—Nora, because it's pretty, and Audrey, in honor of Lauren's maternal grandmother. They are both extremely excited and can't wait to show off their parenting skills. Gilman plans to rarely use the baby's real name, opting for the alternative "Norgax-5" and "Norgon the Destroyer." He hopes to be that really embarrassing dad who dances in line at the supermarket while his daughter pretends to belong to the guy in line behind them.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**National Gallery of Writing** ✍  
Tuesday • Oct. 20 • Digital Studio

In celebration of the National Day on Writing, the Rhet/Comp program has created its own local gallery. Both faculty and students will exhibit their compositions and accompanying reflections here: <http://galleryofwriting.org/galleries/265917>  
Browse the gallery to learn more about FSU's Rhet/Comp community and what they think about composition.

# Faculty Spotlight

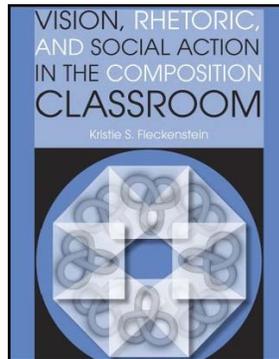
Dr. Fleckenstein is keeping busy this semester, to say the least. In addition to taking on new administrative duties, she is looking forward to the release of her new book and is already in the midst of producing another.

On November 24, readers can look forward to the release of *Vision, Rhetoric, and Social Action in the Composition Classroom*.

"It looks at social action, which has traditionally been construed as a goal that uses rhetoric as a vehicle for persuasion, not just through the lens of rhetoric, but through visuality," Dr. Fleckenstein explains.

Readers can expect Dr. Fleckenstein to address those things she was unable to speak to in *Embodied Literacies*, which received CCC 2005 Outstanding Book of the Year Award.

"The formation of certain visual habits, ingrained ways of seeing, and making sense of the world implicate rhetoric, and thus implicate strategies



for social action," she said. "Because our reality is created visually, the ways in which we change this reality must also be visual."

Refusing to take a breather, Dr. Fleckenstein is moving forward with another book project, *Picture Perfect, Word Perfect: Nineteenth-Century Photography and the Rise of a Modern Rhetoric*.

Growing out of questions unanswered in *Social*, this text explores a historical moment when there was a completely new visual technology introduced into the culture—photography.

"It investigates the intersection of nineteenth-century photography and rhetoric, particularly as manifested in issues of race and gender," she explains.

In addition to her scholarly pursuits, Dr. Fleckenstein has also taken over as the new Director of Undergraduate Studies. Her new responsibilities?

"A lot of little ones," she said. Scheduling all 2000 level and above undergraduate classes and supervising the TAs teaching those classes will be two of her new tasks. Dr. Fleckenstein will also be in charge of the Honors in the Major program in English and running the Literary Honor Society, Lambda Iota Tau.

That's not all.

She will be handling grade appeals and monitoring plagiarism issues as well.

"I'm looking forward to revisiting the undergrad curriculum with an eye to revision," Dr. Fleckenstein said. "I'm excited to be in a position to support that."



## Feminisms and Rhetorics

"Enabling Complexities: Communities/Writing/Rhetoric"  
October 7 • 10  
Michigan State University

### PRESENTATIONS

**Dr. Kristie Fleckenstein**  
Oct. 10 at 8:00 AM  
"Challenging Patriarchy and Imperialism: Visual Agency in Late Nineteenth-Century Photography"

**Leigh Gruwell**  
Oct 10 at 10:30 AM  
"Reimagining Debate as a Feminist Practice"

## SAMLA

"Human Rights and the Humanities"  
November 6 • 8  
Atlanta, GA

### PRESENTATIONS

**Kara Taczak**  
"Building a Community: The Road to a Student-centered Technology-Based Classroom"



The Faculty Professors.



Kara Taczak, Matt Davis, and Leigh Gruwell.

## News Notes



### Visiting Speaker Dr. Shirley Logan Thursday • Oct. 29

Professor Shirley Logan kicks off our Visiting Speaker Series with a presentation at 4:00 PM entitled "Free Floating Literacies, Then and Now." She will also guest lecture in Dr. Neal's Composition Theory class at 2:00 PM.