

**Dr. Dorothy Dodge Robbins, Department of English**

Charlotte Lewis Endowed Professor of English & Coordinator, Graduate Studies in English  
**University Senate Chair Award 2021 Nominee from the College of Liberal Arts**

I am honored to be among the nominees for this prestigious award, and I thank you for your consideration. The requested information appears as follows.

**I. Courses Taught (plus overall teaching rating per course)**

<b>Fall Quarter 2016</b>
ENGL 363 <b>3.8</b>
ENGL 307 <b>3.2</b>
<b>Winter Quarter 2017</b>
ENGL 363 Technical Presentations <b>3.9</b>
ENGL 211 Intro to Brit Lit: Romantic to Present <b>3.7</b>
<b>Spring Quarter 2017</b>
ENGL 483 Virginia Woolf Seminar <b>4.0</b>
ENGL 363 Technical Presentations <b>4.0</b>
HNRS 203 Foundations of Modern Civilization <b>Rating Not Available</b>
<b>Summer Quarter 2017</b>
ENGL 575 The Graphic Novel <b>RNA</b>
<b>Fall Quarter 2017</b>
ENGL 363 Technical Presentations <b>3.7</b>
ENGL 211 Intro to Brit Lit: Romantic to Present <b>3.7</b>
<b>Winter Quarter 2018</b>
ENGL 561 Writing for Technical Publications <b>4.0</b>
ENGL 461 Writing for Technical Publications <b>3.9</b>
<b>Spring Quarter 2018</b>
ENGL 402 Women Writers <b>3.6</b>
ENGL 363 Technical Presentations <b>3.9</b>

HNRS
<b>Summer Quarter 2018</b>
ENGL 475/575 Literary London (Tech London Study Abroad Program) <b>RNA</b>
<b>Fall Quarter 2018</b>
ENGL 412 20 <sup>th</sup> Century British Novel <b>4.0</b>
ENGL 363 Technical Presentations <b>4.0</b>
<b>Winter Quarter 2019</b>
ENGL 561 Writing for Technical Publications <b>4.0</b>
ENGL 461 Writing for Technical Publications <b>4.0</b>
ENGL 583 Virginia Woolf & Theory <b>4.0</b>
<b>Spring Quarter 2019</b>
ENGL 211 Intro to Brit Lit: Romantic to Present <b>3.6</b>
ENGL 575 Onomastics <b>3.5</b>
HNRS 203 Foundations of Modern Civilization <b>RNA</b>
<b>Summer Quarter 2019</b>
ENGL 575 Graphic Literature <b>RNA</b>
<b>Fall Quarter 2019</b>
ENGL 363 Technical Presentations <b>3.6</b>
ENGL 307 Lit Theory & Criticism <b>3.1</b>
<b>Winter Quarter 2020</b>
ENGL 211 Intro to Brit Lit: Romantic to Present <b>3.9</b>
ENGL 561 Writing for Technical Publications <b>3.9</b>
ENGL 461 Writing for Technical Publications <b>3.7</b>
<b>Spring Quarter 2020</b>
ENGL411 19 <sup>th</sup> Century British Novel <b>4.0</b>
ENGL 211 Intro to Brit Lit: Romantic to Present <b>3.7</b>
HNRS 203 Foundations of Modern Civilization <b>RNA</b>

<b>Summer Quarter 2020</b>
ENGL 583 British Detective Fiction <b>RNA</b>
<b>Fall Quarter 2020</b>
ENGL211 Intro to Brit Lit: Romantic to Present <b>3.8</b>
ENGL307 Lit Theory & Criticism <b>3.9</b>
<b>Winter Quarter 2021</b>
ENGL561 Writing for Technical Publications <b>4.0</b>
ENGL461 Writing for Technical Publications <b>3.7</b>
ENGL412 20 <sup>th</sup> Century British Novel <b>3.4</b>

## II. Statement of Beliefs

My highest priority is the education of students at Louisiana Tech University; they are the reason I am a professor. Tech has provided me the opportunity to teach students in person on campus, virtually online (even before the pandemic made it fashionable!), and abroad in London through our Tech-London Study Abroad Program. Meeting a class for the first time, I like to tell my students that I have the best job in the world. Seeing some incredulous faces, I respond, “I get paid to read, write, and discuss books. I cannot think of anything else I would rather do professionally in the entire world.” Truth. In all of my classes, whether course titles include the words *literature* or *theory* or *technical communication*, I am, primarily, a teacher of writing. Writing is an essential part of our humanity. In the act of committing our thoughts to paper (or increasingly, to digital formats) we seek to understand ourselves, other peoples, and the environments that surround us. As readers, our lives are enriched by the ideas of those writers we encounter, some who address us from our own time and others who call out to us from the past; their texts provide important cognitive connections that bridge time, space, and cultures. I emphasize to students that writing well is a transferable, transformative, and highly sought skill in the workplace. More importantly, I believe writing and reading will help our students, as it has helped us, to live examined and fulfilled lives now and into the future.

Modeling the disciplined life of a researcher/writer for my students is central to my roles as educator and scholar. Frequently, I have a manuscript in process, such as my current *A Guide to Literary Onomastics*. In my classrooms, I reference the stages of my own work. As writers, my students and I face similar anxieties, blocks, deadlines, and I hope, periods of production, exhilaration, and achievement. In my twenty-one years at Louisiana Tech University, nothing has filled me with a greater sense of purpose than seeing students achieve success beyond the classroom through their own writing, whether they present their research at conferences or receive publication in scholarly or creative journals. Many of my students have become teachers and thus advocates of writers; others have become technical writers in a variety of fields and industries. Truly we are, as professors, in the business of educating our replacements, not just in our specific fields, but also in numerous occupations. As lifelong learners, ultimately our classroom is the world.

University service is essential for maintaining a community of scholars on our campus and beyond. Over the years, I have served on a number of departmental, college, and campus committees, but two of my favorites are search and tenure. I am privileged to help pick the people with whom I work and to support their endeavors once they are in place. With equal relish do I serve on honors and graduate theses committees as they afford me the chance to work closely with students as they launch their unique inquiries into the study of literature. In my role as Coordinator of Graduate Studies in English, fortunately, I do not have to choose between my cherished colleagues and my treasured students. This position allows me to serve equally both members of the Graduate Faculty in English and our MA students.

### **III. Selected List of Publications and Presentations**

#### Publications

*A Guide to Literary Onomastics*. Reviewed by Lexington Press; contract pending per revisions.

“Christ(i)ening Sleuths, Sidekicks, and Suspects: Naming Strategies in the Cozy Miss Marple Mysteries.” Solicited chapter for a forthcoming book on Agatha Christie. Edited by Mirko Casagrande, University of Calabria, Italy (forthcoming 2022).

“*The Life of Guy: Guy Fawkes, the Gunpowder Plot, and the Unlikely History of an Indispensable Word* by Allan Metcalf.” *Names* 69.3 (September 2021).

“*The Oxford Handbook of Names and Naming* edited by Carole Hough.” *Names* 66.2 (June 2018): 119-122.4

“*A Guide to the Notorious Bars of Alaska* by Doug Vandegrift.” *Names* 66.1 (March 2018): 59-61.

“R is for Rebecca: A Consonant and Consummate Haunting.” *Names* 64.2 (June 2016): 65-75.

#### Presentations

“Pleasant Sounds for Unpleasant Ends: Ngaio Marsh’s ‘Killer Names’.” 2021 American Name Society Conference, Virtual, January 2021.

“Onomastic Connections in Joann Sfar’s *The Rabbi’s Cat*.” 2020 American Name Society Conference, New Orleans, LA, January 2020.

“‘[Rosamond] Walks in Beauty’: Byronic Footfalls in Brontë’s *Jane Eyre*.” 2019 College English Association (CEA) Conference, New Orleans, LA, March 2019.

“Naming the Creature in *Frankenstein in Baghdad*.” 2019 ANS Conference, New York City, January 2019.

“‘As a woman, the whole world is my country’: The Influence of Keynesian Economics on Virginia Woolf’s Feminist Globalism.” 2018 Global Studies Conference at the University of Granada, Spain, July 2018.

“Ghosts of Tourists Past: Onomastic Hauntings in Three English Language Novels Set in Italy.” 2018 Names, Identity, and Tourism (NIT) Conference at the University of Basilicata, Italy, May 2018.

“‘Frighted by false fire’: Shakespearean Maneuvers in ‘The Purloined Letter’ and ‘A Scandal in Bohemia.’” 2018 College English Association (CEA) Conference, St. Petersburg, Florida, April 2018.

“The Descendants: Shakespeare’s Namesakes in Contemporary Fiction.” 2018 ANS Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, January 2018.

“You don’t say ‘Mr. Shakespeare’: Forms of Literary Address in *The Aspern Papers*.” 2017 ANS Conference, Austin, Texas, January 2017.

“The Yollands from Holland: Onomastic Conveyance of Otherness in *The Moonstone*.” 2017 CEA Conference, Denver, CO, March 2017.

#### **IV. Service**

In January 2021, I became the Immediate Past President of the American Name Society, which, despite its name, is international in both its scope and its membership. I have served this interdisciplinary onomastic organization as its vice president (2015-2017) and, most recently, as its president (2018-2020). Onomastics refers to the study of names and naming practices. Among my duties, I helped plan international conferences, prepared slates of candidates, reviewed articles for, and contributed to, our journal, *Names*, responded to media inquiries, and fostered emerging scholars in the field of onomastics. Regarding the latter, I remain an active member of our Emerging Scholar Committee, which offers to the selected emergent scholar a monetary award, the assignment of a mentor, and the opportunity to publish. Our meeting in New Orleans in January 2020 provided a highlight for me. Not only did I facilitate a conference in my adopted home state without embarrassing said state, I was able to accompany several Louisiana Tech graduate students who presented their original research in literary onomastics to an international audience from whom they received positive feedback. Proud was I. Understatement.

Closer to campus, I have delighted in my unofficial title: the Shakespeare Gardeneare (sic). More pleasant hobby than arduous service, I maintain the grounds of the GTM courtyard, aka the Shakespeare Garden, assisted chiefly by English Honors students and faculty from the School of Literature and Language. Recently, we got dirty sprucing up the courtyard for our annual Shakespeare Birthday Festival. For those of us who gathered in the Shakespeare Garden on April 23, 2021, it was reassuring to renew this springtime tradition after last spring’s necessary cancellation due to quarantine restrictions. If you need to stretch your legs or require respite from your academic work, do visit our campus’s “secret garden.” You would be most welcome, and, should the urge arise to pull a few weeds, I would not impede you.