

Deborah Davis Schlacks, PhD
Professor of English Emeritus
Writing & Library Science Department
University of Wisconsin-Superior
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Past Positions:

Professor of English (2006-18), University of Wisconsin-Superior
Associate Professor of English (2001-06)
Assistant Professor of English (1996-2001)

Administrative Work at UW-Superior:

Coordinator of Writing across the Curriculum, 2009-15
Department Chair, 2001-06, 2008, 2012-18
Coordinator of Freshman English, 1999-2009, 2010-11

Courses taught: Developmental Writing, College Writing I, College Writing II, English Grammar, Technical Writing, Advanced Expository Writing, The Art of Persuasive Writing, Writing Women, Women Writing (crosslisted with Gender Studies), Introduction to Rhetoric, Writers of the Jazz Age, World Literature I, World Literature II, Literary Criticism, Business & Professional Writing, one segment of a learning community seminar

Lecturer of English, Department of English, University of Nevada-Las Vegas (1986-96)

Courses taught: College Writing I and II, Multicultural American literature surveys, World Literature surveys, Grammar, Advanced Composition

Degrees:

PhD in English with a concentration in rhetoric, 1986
Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas
Areas of specialization: rhetoric and composition; 20th-century American literature

MA in English, 1982
Texas Woman's University

BA in Psychology, *cum laude*, 1978
Baylor University

Publications:

“Creeping, Damp Souls of ... This North’: F. Scott Fitzgerald’s Upper-Midwestern Gothic in ‘The Ice Palace.’” *Re-Visions of Eden: The Idea of the Midwestern Gothic*. Ed. Brandi Homan and Julia Madsen. Forthcoming.

- “Pilgrim’s Regress.” *Alcott’s Imaginary Heroes: The Little Women Legacy*. Ed. Merry Gordon and Marnae Kelley. Pink Umbrella Books, 2018.
- “‘I’ve Tried to Be Nice’: The End of Niceness in Fitzgerald’s ‘Bernice Bobs Her Hair.’” *Midwestern Miscellany*, Special Issue on F. Scott Fitzgerald, 45.2 (Fall 2017).
- “F. Scott Fitzgerald, Trickster: Images of Irishness in Edmund Wilson’s *Bookman* Essay.” *F. Scott Fitzgerald Review* 14 (2016).
- “St. Paul, Minnesota, St. Paul Academy, and St. Paul Academy *Now and Then*.” *F. Scott Fitzgerald in Context*. NY: Cambridge UP, 2013. 105-13.
- “Echoes of the Middle Ages: Teaching the Medieval in *The Great Gatsby*.” *Approaches to Teaching Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby*. Approaches to Teaching World Literature Series. NY: Modern Language Association, 2009.
- Review of *Persons in Process: Four Stories of Writing and Personal Development in College*, by Anne J. Herrington and Marcia Curtis (Urbana, IL: NCTE, 2000), and *Writing and Healing: Toward an Informed Practice*, ed. Charles M. Anderson and Marian M. MacCurdy (Urbana, IL: NCTE, 2000.) *WPA Journal* 24 (Spring 2001): 103-08.
- “Giving a Voice to Depression-Era Women: The Fiction and Non-Fiction of Meridel Le Sueur.” *Speaking Out: Women, Poverty, and Public Policy: Proceedings of the Twenty-Third Annual Women’s Studies Conference*. Ed. Katherine A. Rhoades and Anne Statham. Madison: University of Wisconsin System Women’s Studies Librarian, 1999. 236-43.
- American Dream Visions: Chaucer’s Surprising Influence on F. Scott Fitzgerald*. NY: Peter Lang, 1994.
- “*The Great Gatsby* 1974: A Colossal Frost?” *Popular Culture Review* 2 (December 1990): 81-87.

Technical Writing Publication (editor):

Casino Gaming and Lighting Recommended Practice. Illuminating Engineering Society, 1995.

Scholarly Presentations:

- “Barbering and Beautifying: ‘Tonsorial Intentions’ in the World of ‘Bernice Bobs Her Hair.’” Fifteenth International F. Scott Fitzgerald Conference. Toulouse, France. June 2019.
- “Creating a ‘Safe House’: A Writing Center’s Mentor Program for Developmental Writers.” International Writing Centers Association Conference. Chicago, Illinois. November 2017.
- “Fitzgerald’s ‘A Night at the Fair,’ The Minnesota State Fair, and the Carnavalesque.” Fourteenth

International F. Scott Fitzgerald Conference. St. Paul, Minnesota. June 2017.

“‘Financing Finnegans’ and Financing Fitzgerald.” FitzFirst@Four (sponsored by Fitzgerald in St. Paul). St. Paul, Minnesota. June 5, 2016.

“Communication and Community: Service-Learning Projects for Writing Courses.” (With co-presenter Beth Grbavcich.) Session of the Lake Superior Summit on the Teaching of Writing and English as a Second Language. College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, Minnesota. February 2016.

“A Charming, Impish Irish Harlequin: The F. Scott Fitzgerald of the Edmund Wilson *Bookman* Article and Early 20th-Century Stereotypes of the Irish.” Thirteenth International F. Scott Fitzgerald Conference. Waterford, Ireland. July 2015.

“A Pebble Making Ripples in the Stream: A Writing Mentors Pilot Program at a Small Public Liberal Arts Institution.” Co-presenter: James Geidner. International Writing across the Curriculum Conference. Minneapolis, MN. June 2014.

“‘Better Than All of Them Put Together’: Race, Regionalism, and Masculinity in ‘Dice, Brassknuckles, and Guitar’ and ‘The Offshore Pirate’” Twelfth International F. Scott Fitzgerald Conference. Montgomery, AL. November 2013.

“Forging Connections: Faculty Development and Student Development via a Writing Mentor Pilot Program.” (With co-presenter Yvonne Rutford.) Midwest Writing Center Association Conference. Chicago, IL. October 2013.

“Among the ‘Swirl of Actors’ in the Public U: The Challenge of Cross-Disciplinary Instructional Outreach and Assessment.” (Session co-presented with Jamie White-Farnham and Carolyn Caffrey Gardner.) Conference on College Composition and Communication, Las Vegas, NV. March 2013.

“A Writing Center with a New WAC Focus.” International Writing Center Association Conference, San Diego, CA. October 2012.

“Somethin’ Still Going On: F. Scott Fitzgerald and the 21st Century Bob Dylan.” Tenth International F. Scott Fitzgerald Conference. Baltimore, MD. September 2009.

“The View from St. Paul, the Newman School, and Princeton: Fitzgerald’s Ireland.” American Literature Conference. Boston, MA. May 2009.

Creative Writing Selections. Women’s Studies Conference. Green Bay, WI. April 2008.

Creative Writing Selections. Women’s Studies Conference. Madison, WI. April 2007.

“Key Word ‘Public’: The Public Liberal Arts Mission and Its Impact upon Coordinating a Freshman Composition Program.” Council of Writing Program Administrators Conference. Newark,

Delaware. July 2005.

"Fitzgerald and Irishness." F. Scott Fitzgerald Conference. Hempstead, New York. April 2005.

"An Allusion of Astronomical Proportions: The Hair of Berenice and Fitzgerald's 'Bernice Bobs Her Hair'" F. Scott Fitzgerald Conference. St. Paul, Minnesota. September 2002.

"Of Pink Suits and White Daisies: The Social Construction of Whiteness in *The Great Gatsby*." F. Scott Fitzgerald Conference. Nice, France. June 2000.

"Fitzgerald's 'The Offshore Pirate': A Tale of Racial 'Passing' and the Power of the *Post*." Fitzgerald-Wolfe Conference. Asheville, NC. September 25, 1998.

"Paradise Revisited: Garden Symbolism in Fitzgerald's *The Beautiful and Damned*." F. Scott Fitzgerald Conference. Princeton, NJ. September 1996.

"The 'Roots' of Nicole's Garden." College English Association Convention. New Orleans, LA. April 4, 1996.

"A Little *Little Women*." West Virginia University Colloquium on Literature and Film. Morgantown, WV. September 29, 1995.

"Gatsby's Mansion: Jazz-Age House of Fame." Twentieth-Century Literature Conference. Louisville, KY. February 26, 1994.

"Creating Tributes: Vision and Revision in Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and Chaucer's *The Book of the Duchess*." American Literature Association Convention. Baltimore, MD. May 29, 1993.

"The Good, the Bad, and The 'Old Sports' of F. Scott Fitzgerald." Far West Popular Culture Convention. Las Vegas, NV. January 23, 1993.

"Down with the Personal Essay." Modern Language Association Convention. New York. December 30, 1992.

"Waiting for Revelation in *Waiting for Godot*." Conference on Christianity and Literature, West Region. Seattle, WA. April 1990.

"Fitzgerald Reads Chaucer: Daisy Buchanan and Daisy/Alceste." American Comparative Literature Conference. State College, PA. March 29, 1990.

"Living Death: Images of Rebirth in the *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*." Popular Culture Association Conference. Toronto, Ontario. March 9, 1990.

"Paradise Revisited: Garden Symbolism in Fitzgerald's *Tender Is the Night*." Far West Popular Culture Association Convention. Las Vegas, NV. January 25, 1990.

- "*The Great Gatsby* 1974: A Colossal Frost?" Far West Popular Culture Association Convention. Las Vegas, NV. January 26, 1989.
- "In A Secret Place: Power in *The Trip to Bountiful* and *Tender Mercies*." Colorado Women's Association Convention. Denver, CO. May 8, 1988.
- "Is There Life after Graduate School?" South Central Modern Language Association Convention. Houston, TX. October 29, 1987.
- "Saints, Sirens, and Survivors: Hollywood's Treatment of Texas Women." First presented as a session of the seminar Texas Women: The Myth, the Reality. Denton, TX. April 19, 1985. Also presented at the Popular Culture Association Convention. Atlanta, GA. April 1986.
- "Entangling Estrangements: Paradox through Metatheatres in Wilder's *Our Town*." Conference of College Teachers of English Convention. Arlington, TX. March 1986.
- "Borzage versus Hemingway: Will the Real Catherine Barkley Please Stand Up?" Twentieth-Century Literature Conference. Louisville, KY. February 1986.
- "'Of the People, By the People, For the People': Walt Whitman's Democratic Rhetoric." South Central Modern Language Association Convention. Tulsa, OK. November 9, 1985.
- "Richard Crashaw and the Teresa Poems: A Theory of Inspired and Inspiring Art." Conference of College Teachers of English Convention. San Antonio, TX. March 8, 1985.
- "Neither Bloody Pastes Nor Twice-Cooked Pies: Harry Bailly as Nutritionist." South Central Modern Language Association Convention. Biloxi, MS. October 26, 1984.

Selected Service at UW-Superior:

Key Committee Memberships at UW-Superior:

- Personnel Council (2015-18)
- Gender Studies (1996-2016)
- WAC Advisory Group (ex officio, 2009-13)
- International Education Committee (1996-2009)
- Undergraduate Academic Advisement Committee (2001-08)

Liberal Arts Task Force, UW-Superior (2004-05)

Faculty Sponsor for the UW-Superior Figure Skating Club (2016-18)

Department Undergraduate Academic Affairs Council representative (2009-12)

Lake Superior Summit on the Teaching of Writing Planning Committee (2014, 2015, 2016)

Community Service:

Duluth-Superior Symphony Chorus (2018-19)

Assistant Treasurer, Friends of Margaret Engebretson (congressional campaign) (February-August 2018 primary season)

Scriptwriter and program editor, Superior Figure Skating Club annual ice shows (2004-12)

Treasurer and Board Member, Superior Figure Skating Club (2007-09)