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**English Professor Turk studies "vidding" and literary analysis by television series fans**

*Summary: Turk's interest lies in the vid creator's explanation of character development and behavior.*

(August 26, 2009)-Tisha Turk, University of Minnesota, Morris assistant professor of English, is an avid fan of the television series "Buffy the Vampire Slayer." Hard to believe? Take a peek in her office, and you'll see a large, framed artistic rendering of the cast. Take a look at her research, and you'll find it creeping in there as well as she studies the phenomenon of fan-made videos, a process known as "vidding."

A University of Wisconsin doctorate in English graduate, Turk's research, titled *The Rhetoric of Vidding: Arguments and Audiences*, explores legitimate literary analysis by fans of television series. A typical 'vid' usually consists of show clips set to music. Turk's interest lies in the vid creator's explanation of character development and behavior. While vids have been around since before VHS was the mainstream home video format, they have become more popular and prevalent with easy-to-use video editing software and the advent of Web sites like YouTube, which facilitate easy distribution.

Along with twelve other University of Minnesota, Morris faculty members, Turk is one of the first recipients of an Imagine Fund Award. The awards, funded by a grant from the McKnight Foundation, are unique to the University of Minnesota system and are designed to support the arts, music, and humanities. Turk will use her award to purchase research books in reception and audience studies.

Beginning her fifth year at the Morris campus, Turk teaches courses in 18th Century British Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, and College Writing. In her course Understanding Writing, she oversees training for students who work in the Writing Room, a peer resource for students seeking help with writing assignments. Turk says her research influences the courses she teaches. In fact, she and five students—Collin Sandoe '12, Rochester Joshua Johnson '10, Stewartville Katrina Floyd '10, Stewartville Ben Wheeler '09, Racine and Emily Holstrom '11, Austin—are planning a course called Participatory Culture that will explore intellectual banter between youth on the Internet.

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