

# The English Broadside

English Department Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2013

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## Cotton Fields, Cows, and Campuses—

All Part of the “Country of Life” in the College of Humanities

In the most recent edition *Flycatcher’s Journal*, an on-line literary review created and edited by 2013 MAPW graduate Christopher Martin, Martin’s opening editorial asks readers to consider the authenticity of one’s journey through life. Martin suggests that the truest paths in life are revealed in ambitious, imaginative forms of expression created by artists who remain committed to “grappling with wholeness.” Martin writes that poets, artists, and writers have the capacity to guide “human reflection” down the passageways that can “heal our severed connections between each other [that] seem almost irreparable.” Perhaps those of us in the humanities might even be said to have the *responsibility* to be the recorders of “authentic” human reflection.

At times it does seem that all roads to human understanding are scuttled by a lack of vision and ensnared in what seems to be a combative and incomprehensible world. However, Martin expresses the hope that there are dedicated visionaries who can find the secret map to the heart of humanity as imaginative artists whose work leaves precious clues, like a trail of mythical bread crumbs, leading us back on the road home. Martin compares this landscape of reflection and understanding to “Rilke’s idyllic country they call life.”

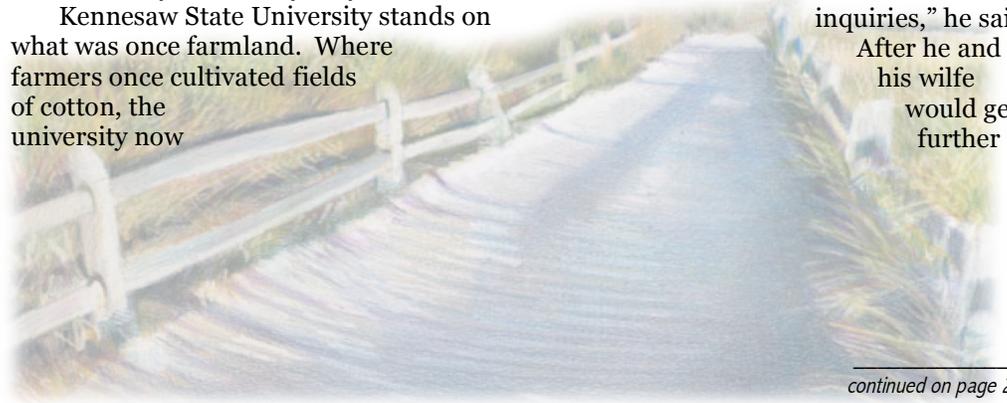
Kennesaw State University stands on what was once farmland. Where farmers once cultivated fields of cotton, the university now

cultivates fields of human expression. Now near its fiftieth anniversary, KSU has transformed the rural cotton country, but it is still a vast terrain with many fields to follow and holds an abundance of both “beauty and terror” for its explorers. However, it is also a place with creative “people who know secret things”—it is, perhaps, a path that reimagines Rilke’s country of life.

Still, forging into new ground is never easy. KSU’s transformation from a small, community-focused junior college to its current status was a rough road at times, but visionary, creative leaders with ambition, imagination, and fortitude tackled untried territory that built KSU into a large state university. From its very beginnings as Kennesaw Junior College, the school’s first president, Horace Sturgis, remembers the frustration of trying to *literally* find the road to the new school’s preconstruction building site.

Feathers of snow wafted in the wind on the gray December day Sturgis and his wife set out on a journey to locate the new school’s site—a 312-acre abandoned cotton field formerly owned by J. “Steve” Frey, Sr.

Sturgis recalls: “We drove out ... we had to make several inquiries,” he said. After he and his wife would get further



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“These trees  
shall be my books,  
And in their  
barks my thoughts  
I'll character,  
That every eye  
which in this forest  
looks  
Shall see thy  
virtue witness'd  
everywhere.”  
—Shakespeare

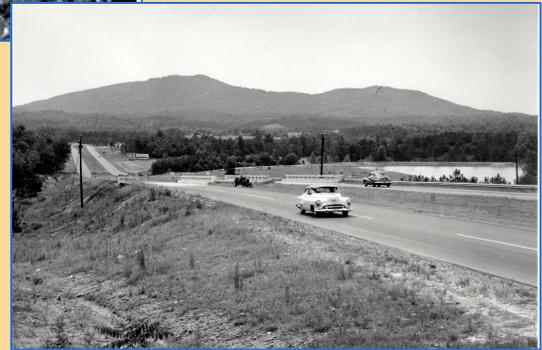
## Cotton Field Becomes Ground for Fields in the Liberal Arts

*“When we go out into the fields of learning, We go by a rough route”*—Josephine Mills



**(Left):** Steve Frey, Sr. (R) owned large tracks of Cobb County; he sold a 321-acre farm to developers in 1959, which is now part of KSU's campus. Sections of U.S. 41 and the I-75 corridor were once Frey's, and for years after he sold the Kennesaw farm, he held parcels all over East Cobb, including the location of the Big Chicken. Willie Cantrell (L) owned land adjacent to the Frey's property; Cantrell's old farm is now part of Swift-Cantrell park.

**(Right):** Only a few years before Kennesaw Junior College construction began, rolling fields of north Cobb County were transformed into a new stretch of U.S. 41 near Chastain Road. Kennesaw Mountain still stands as a silhouette in the background of today's Kennesaw State University.



directions, he said, “We’d drive along a little bit more [and] finally we located a little signpost in the ground, oh, about eighteen inches long. It said, ‘Future Site of Junior College’... on a hillside just in front of [Frey Lake]. But the actual land around that was all trees; there were cattle grazing in the fields.”

Georgia Governor Carl Sanders (1963-67) was a trailblazer and was responsible for establishing over a dozen junior colleges, including Kennesaw Junior College. As a state senator, he won support for the passage of Georgia’s Junior College Act of 1958. As governor, his focus on education was the linchpin supporting Georgia’s rocketing population and economy, which boomed when Lockheed’s Marietta plant opened in 1951. Thousands of engineers and technicians moved to the area with their young families in tow, but by the early 60s, the children of all those families were ready to start college. However, because there was a dearth of local college choices for liberal arts students, they started leaving the local area, or worse yet, leaving the state entirely.

Sanders, now 88, explained in a recent interview why he pushed for the junior colleges to be built during his administration. The reason is quite simple he said, “I wanted our young people to stay in Georgia” he says. As a means to entice college-bound students to remain in the northern metropolitan area, Kennesaw Junior College opened in 1963 under the guidance of President Horace Sturgis—Mr. Frey’s cotton farm bloomed into a field of dreams for liberal arts students.

As the northern metro Atlanta area has continued to grow over the last fifty years, so has KSU. The university cuts a large swath across the area it serves, now *far* beyond the boundaries of the old Frey farm, and draws students from all over the globe. KSU’s roots created a new academic landscape where students can pursue imaginative forms of human expression and reflection. The task before the English Department remains largely that of Kennesaw Junior College’s original mission: to cultivate the minds of

students drawn to liberal arts and provide fertile ground in which students may flourish and grow. KSU's English Department has grown along with the rest of the university and an abundance of outstanding students have found their calling in the field of English Studies—shepherds keeping the pastures of authentic human expression open to explorations of creative imagination.

## Outstanding Student Awards for English and MAPW Students

Three exceptional students from the English Department were honored during KSU spring ceremonies. They were officially recognized for their scholarly achievements in English and the Master's of Professional Writing program. The students below received the Department's "Outstanding Student" awards.



**Brooke Payne**  
Outstanding  
English  
Undergraduate



**Julie Fowkes**  
Outstanding  
Honors Program  
Undergraduate, English



**Christopher Martin**  
Outstanding MAPW  
Graduate Student  
Editor, *Flycatcher Journal*

## Is Help for Humanities in "Heart of the Matter"?

In June of this year, CNN Money, *Fortune*, and the *Wallstreet Journal* all commented on the "The Heart of the Matter," the just-released report by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, which was sent to all members of the U.S. Congress.

The business reporters all wrote that the report deserves praise for affirming the importance of the humanities and social sciences to the prosperity and security of liberal democracy in America. However, Peter Berkowitz, a Fellow at Stanford University, criticized the document in the *Wallstreet Journal* saying the report, "may do more harm than good" because it "fails to report the nature of the true crisis facing liberal arts education."

Luckily, some very successful and impressive people have a heart for liberal arts and support humanities education as a keystone for success across all fields.

"It's technology married with liberal arts, humanities, that yields us the result that makes our heart sing. And nowhere is that more true than in these post-PC devices." —Steve Jobs

"The goal should be that everybody gets a chance to read great books and participate in the richness that humanities brings us." —Bill Gates



## Dr. Dominica Dipio Delighted with Her Experience at KSU

Fulbright Scholar Enticed to KSU for Its Leadership and Southern Hospitality

Dr. Dominica Dipio had her pick of universities that would have been happy to host her as a resident Fulbright Scholar for the 2012-2013 academic year. Yet, after visiting and speaking with administrators at a number of universities, including Cornell, Pennsylvania State University, and Champlain College's Emergent Media Center, Dipio chose Kennesaw State University's English Department for her residency during her year-long scholarship abroad.

Dipio offers her thoughts enthusiastically and often breaks into warm, open smiles as she speaks. When asked why she chose Kennesaw State University instead of other prestigious schools, she gives a timid laugh and explains, "It's cold up there! I would like to be a little warmer!" But she then says, "What made up my mind to come here were the people I had talked to here. I just got a good feeling the department chair [Dr. Rice] and the other professors and decided that I wanted to come here."

Dr. Dipio, Chair of the Literature Department at Makerere University in Uganda, has used her time as a Fulbright scholar at KSU to research the role of African folklore as a means of passing on traditional wisdom through storytelling. However, Dipio's ultimate goal is to migrate African cultural and oral literature to modes of new media that allow a greater

variety of formats to be used to enhance the expression of African literature and reach a far broader audience.

She talks passionately about filmmaking as her preference for communicating African literature and folklore to new audiences. She explains her thoughts further, "Film also enriches the ways that young Africans to share their ideas. These young people are waiting for ways to express themselves, their ideas and their own stories."

Dipio searches out diverse African aesthetic, ethnic, and cultural expressions and then showcases the unique wisdom of tribes' traditions in film and performance media. She says her research and work is a way to celebrate tribal similarities and differences. "The folklore is rich with wisdom," she explains effusively, "it is descriptive and engaging and asks young people to consider questions: Where are you going? What are your values? Where do things go wrong? What do these stories contribute to deeper understanding?"

These are the issues she has been able to research using both Western and African literary theory during her stay at KSU, and she plans to continue using new media and film to reinvigorate the study of African literature when she returns to teaching at Makerere University.

While Dipio was with KSU's English Department, she collaborated with Dr. Cherif Diop to co-author a journal article, and Dr. Kendall Klym was so enchanted with her interpretative compilation of African folktales

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**(Left):** Dr. Dominica Dipio, Chair of Makerere University's Literature Department and colleague Danson Kayana. Dipio is the producer of the film, "Crafting the Bamasaba," and is author and contributor to numerous books on the value of traditional oral forms literature a high-tech world.

that he asked her to submit them all for publication in an edition of *Flycatcher Journal*. Dipio left Kennesaw for Kampala, Uganda at the end of this June, but before she left, she spoke very highly about her experiences and association with professors in the English department and other professors in the College Of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Dipio's film "Crafing the Bamasaba" traces the role of Uganda's Bamasabe folklore as a repository of traditional wisdom. **(Right):** Bamasaba ceremony



## Department's Second World Literature Conference

### Literature Conferene Organizes Successful Annual Event

The 2013 World Literature and Film Conference at Kennesaw State University focused on "scenes in texts that tend to fall outside the frame of what tends to be the focus of mainstream media." The conference participants particularly questioned the disparity between the way that the lives of different genders are represented infilms and on television. While the conference focused on how women are depicted in the media, some presenters also pointed to the ways that alternative gender groups' lives are often poorly depicted or ignored in novels, films, music, poetry, and art because marginalized groups complicate society's "normal" cultural values.

This is the second year that KSU's World Literature ad Film Conference has been a showcase for unique scholarly



topics. The English Department hosts the annual event, which is organized by a collaborative committee in the English Department lead by co-chairs Dr. Larrie Dudenhoeffer and Dr. Kahlil Elayan in conjunction with other collaborative professors in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

**(Top):** Graduate student Dudgrick Bevins (MAST) presents his paper at the conference.

**(Left)** Dr. Larrie Dudenhoeffer, one of the organizers of the annual conference, also presented a paper.

## Calling Students Down the Trail of the *Fall Line*

### Joe Sam Starnes Takes Students Down the Writer's Path

— Professor Tony Grooms

Joe Samuel Starnes inspires students: “I didn’t think I would like going to a reading,” said Melissa, a world literature student, “but it was fun.” Melissa, like many students who attended the public reading by novelist Joe Samuel Starnes on February 27, said her very first attendance of a literary reading was not only entertaining, but also a learning experience. It was her first time to meet a living author, and she learned that he was down to earth, hard working and accessible.

Starnes, the author of two novels, *Calling* (2005) and *Fall Line* (2011), visited Kennesaw State University as a writer-in-residence for the Writing, Reading and Outreach program of 2012-2013 sponsored by the English Department and the Georgia Writers’ Association. The program encourages professors to teach an author’s book, and brings that author to campus over several days to meet students in their classrooms. Starnes’s novel, *Fall Line*, selected as the focus novel, is a story about the damming of a river to make a hydroelectric lake in Georgia in the 1950s, and the book weighs the benefits of cheap energy against the loss of culture. Starnes met with students in world literature, composition, environmental writing, and careers for writers classes during the last week of February. He also delivered a reading and discussion for the general public.

Few events of any scale were held on the campus twenty years ago, so when the English Department held its three-day, multi-author Contemporary Literature and Writing Conference, there was little competition from other events. But with the present crunch for space, audiences and funding, it makes good sense to bring the writer to the students. Having students read and discuss the book with the author enriches the experience for both

student and author.” This is the fourth time that the English Department has sponsored such a program. Previously, David Anthony Durham, Etgar Keret, and as a pair, Lauren Myracle and Susan Rebecca White have visited classrooms. Faculty who have suggestions for future writers-in-residence should contact members of the English Advisory Council.

Starnes, a veteran journalist and public relations expert lives in New Jersey, but was raised in Cedartown in north Georgia. This fact strongly impressed Thomas, another world literature student, who also happens to be a native of Cedartown. He chatted with Starnes about their hometown after Starnes gave his presentation to the class. Thomas commented on how inspired he was, “that someone from his hometown had written and published a novel.”



**(Above):** Georgia author Joe Sam Starnes visited KSU as a writer-in-residence, a program sponsored by the English Department and the Georgia Writer’s Association.

## English Department's Faculty Accomplishments and Awards

### Dr. Jonathan Arnett

Dr. Arnett's article "To Do Is to Learn: The Value of Hands-on Research in an Introductory Research Methods Course" (co-authored with Dr. Garrett Ross) will appear in *Programmatic Perspectives*.

### Dr. Martha Bowden

Dr. Bowden co-authored an article entitled "Dialogue, Selection, Subversion: Three Approaches to Teaching Women Writers" with colleagues Karen Geviritz of Seton Hall University and Jonathan Sadow of the State University of New York. The article appears in *Lumen*, the Journal of the Canadian Society for Eighteenth Century Studies. Dr. Bowden is also the 2013 CHSS nominee for KSU Foundation Distinguished Professor, KSU's highest faculty award.

### Dr. Keith Botelho

Dr. Botelho's poem "Clean Lines" appeared in *The Threepenny Review*.

### Dr. Cherif Diop

Dr. Diop and Dr. Linda Johnston, Executive Director of the Siegel Institute for Leadership, Ethics, and Character, recently collaborated on the essay "Teaching About Africa: Violence and Conflict Management." That essay is a part of *Teaching Africa: A Guide for the 21st-Century Classroom*, a new book edited by Brandon D. Lundy and Solomon Negash and published by Indiana University Press. Dr. Diop was also awarded a CHSS Summer Research Grant for 2013.

### Dr. Jim Elledge

Dr. Elledge's book *Who's Your Daddy? Gay Writers Celebrate Their Mentors And Forerunners*, co-edited with David Groff, was published this year by the University of Wisconsin Press.

### Professor Tony Grooms

Professor Grooms' novel *Bombingham* has been selected as the Humanities Council of Washington D.C.'s common reader for the 2013 program year, which begins in May of 2013. Professor Grooms also received a Faculty Enhancement Leave Award from CETL for fall semester. This is a highly competitive award. Professor Grooms joins Dr. Martha Bowden and Dr. Linda Niemann as one of three in the English Department to receive the award.

### Dr. Letizia Guglielmo

Dr. Guglielmo's edited collection, *MTV And Teen Pregnancy: Critical Essays On 16 And Pregnant And Teen Mom*, was published this year by Scarecrow Press.

### Dr. David King

The column that Dr. King writes for the *Georgia Bulletin* has won a third place prize for Best Regular Column in the category of Culture: the Arts and Leisure from the Catholic Press Association.

### Dr. Kendal Klym:

Dr. Klym's story "The Dancing Plague" was shortlisted for the Prism International Fiction Prize. The story won first place in the *Puerto Del Sol* fiction contest. The award carries with it a cash prize and publication.

### Dr. Aaron Levy:

Dr. Levy published a number of stories and a play during the first half of 2013: "Lucy's Life" appeared in *Everyday Fiction*; "The Mall" appeared in *Blackheart Magazine*; "The Farm" appeared in *Linguistic Erosion*; "Starbucking" appeared in the *Bohemia Art And Literary Journal*; "The Zoo" was named runner-up for the 2012 Walker Percy Prize in Short Fiction by the *New Orleans Review*. His ten-minute play "Boltcutter Man" appeared in *Eleveneven*.

### Dr. Linda Niemann

*Learning Spanish: A Travel Memoir of Mexico*, has been accepted for publication by the University of New Mexico Press. This is a new direction for Dr. Niemann's work and reflects her longtime involvement with Study Abroad trips to Mexico.

### Dr. Anne Richards

Dr. Anne Richards, along with co-author Adrienne Lamberti, has had a new book series approved by Wiley. The series is titled "Engineering Transformation: Conflict, Crisis, and Adaptation." Dr. Richards also co-authored (with Adrienne Lamberti) "Gaming/Writing and Evolving Forms of Rhetorical Awareness: Potentials of Interactive Digital Media for Democratic Classrooms," an article that appeared in the journal *Pedagogy*. Dr. Richards' "A Two-Way Street: Institutional and Employee Ethics" appeared in *The Independent Voice*, the newsletter of the International Ombuds Association.

### Dr. H. William Rice

Dr. Rice's article on Robert Frost, "Sharing Those Woods, Dark and Deep," appeared in the March 22nd edition of *The Chronicle Of Higher Education*.

### Ms. Ellen Taber:

Ms. Taber's *Tybee Days* (co-authored with Polly Cooper and published by Kennesaw State University Press) has been selected and approved for reading room access for the Jefferson or Adams Building Reading Room in the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.

### Dr. Eva Thompson:

Dr. Eva Thompson has been invited to be editorial advisor for the Layman Poupard Publishing, LLC in the Mary Prince section of their forthcoming Gale Cengage multi-volume series *Nineteenth Literature Criticism*. Dr. Thompson will select the critical essays included in that section of the text, provide an annotated bibliography, and vet the final product before it is published.

## Fall Newsletter Preview...

### MAPW Students' Summer Adventures on the American Serengeti

Dr. Beth Giddens and Dr. Bill Rice led graduate students in the MAPW program on a Wild West summer excursion to Yellowstone National Park and Little Big Horn.

Dr. Giddens' students experienced the wilds of Montana and Wyoming for projects in her Feature Writing class. Dr. Rice's course, entitled "Writing History—Telling Stories," asked students to explore historical events, such as wolf eradication, wolf restoration, and the Battle of Little Big Horn, as topics for writing history or telling stories that are based in historical fact. Graduate students had an

incredible opportunity to consider the challenges and responsibilities writers face and examined the ways that professional writers shape readers' perception of history, culture, and nature.

Students and faculty met with ranchers, geologists, Native Americans, battlefield guides, wolf and buffalo biologists, among other authorities of western history. Wonderful photos and magical stories from this great adventure will be shared in the department's fall newsletter.



**(Left):** Dr. Rice's shows off his "wild" side, sporting antlers found in the fields of a remote valley. Dr. Giddens also spent two-weeks in back country terrain as part of two courses offered this summer for MAPW graduate students.