

SPRING 2017

# The English BROADSIDE

The English Department's Newsletter  
Kennesaw State University



Fussing Over a  
Magazine

Ashlee Bagnell

Taking a Look at  
#Gender

Bianca Brochu

The Professor's  
Perspective

Judy Benowitz

# Content

**03 Letter from Sheila Smith McKoy**

Sheila Smith McKoy

**04 Sharing Personal Stories**

Stevi Dinizio

**06 Taking a Look at #Gender**

Bianca Brochu

**08 How Important are Internships?**

Mary-Evelyn Clark, David Landers, Taylor Lively

**10 Getting to Know You**

Stevi Dinizio

**14 Video Interviews**

**16 Alumni Spotlight**

**18 Fussing Over a Magazine**

Ashlee Bagnell

**20 The Professor's Perspective**

Judy Benowitz

**22 Internship Profiles**

Katherine Adamson & Kayla Trawick

**23 Writer Spotlight**

The Writers of The English Broadside

**The English Broadside** is a publication of the KSU Department of English.

**Department Chair**  
Dr. Sheila Smith McKoy

**Editor**  
Stevi Dinizio

**Editorial Assistants**  
Evan Avers  
Taylor Lively

**Photo Credit**  
Cover photo licensed from Fresh Idea at Adobe Stock. All other images remain the property of the contributors.

**Font Credit**  
Fonts licensed from Adobe TypeKit and FontSquirrel.

**Kennesaw State University**  
Department of English  
1000 Chastain Road  
Kennesaw, Georgia 30152  
(470) 578-6297

**Follow us on Twitter**  
[@KennesawEnglish](#)

## Letter from the Chair

This past academic year, the English Department had the chance to create some exciting opportunities for our faculty and our students. In addition to beginning the process of revising our curriculum, the scholarship and creative output of our faculty has been phenomenal. As importantly, our graduates are doing well in the workplace. Our MAPW students continue to work in the writing field, publish well, and extend the work of the Department. These accomplishments reflect why it has been an honor to serve as chair of this wonderful department.

In this issue of The English Broadside, we feature interviews with our new faculty members – Na-Rae Kim, Michelle Miles, and Clarice Moran – who joined our department in the fall. In addition, we also highlight the accomplishments of Martha Bowden and Margaret Walters, both of whom retired in June after decades of contributing to the life of our department. I want to take this opportunity to welcome Martha and Margaret to our distinguished list of emeritus professors. This issue of The Broadside also focuses on the work of our interns and our graduates; in short, it highlights our shared accomplishments as a department.

Amid the daily reminders that we are “under construction” as Kennesaw State University invests in the addition to the English Building, we have continued our excellence as a department. In addition to publishing numerous articles, book chapters, poetry, fiction and making films, our faculty have published over a dozen books this year. I am pleased to note that eleven of our faculty - Letizia Guglielmo, Jeanne Bohannon, Martha Bowden, Margaret Walters, Mike Tierce, Rochelle Harris, Tony Grooms, Chris Palmer, Keith Botelho, Ashley Sheldon, Molly Brodak - were recognized as the inaugural recipients of the English Department’s SSP Awards. As we complete the work for the 2016-2017 academic year, as we reminisce about the eventful year this has been for our department, college, university and nation, it is gratifying to know that the work we do matters.

# Sharing Personal Stories

## Engaging Students with the Atlanta Student Movement

by Stevi Dinizio

*“I believe in organic cultivation. If you present students with the opportunity to make a difference, they will rise to that challenge.”*  
Dr. Jeanne Bohannon

During the fall 2016 semester, Dr. Jeanne Bohannon and her Topics in Digital Rhetoric students began an innovative digital humanities project. The project archives the people, places, and events revolving around the Atlanta Student Movement (ASM) sit-ins of the 1960’s.

Bohannon’s grandmother, who worked as a cashier in the Rich’s Department Store during these sit-ins, inspired the project.

“My grandmother and several of her Rich’s employees brought food down to the students at a sit-in,” says Bohannon. “That act of kindness was like a little seed that started me thinking about the Atlanta Student Movement and what those sit-ins meant. I wanted to figure out how to take that personal narrative and create a public digital humanities project.”

Soon after the spark was created, Bohannon met one of the leaders and co-founders of the ASM, Dr. Lonnie King. Through this new friendship and her

personal commitment Civil Rights, the Digital Humanities project and course came into being at KSU.

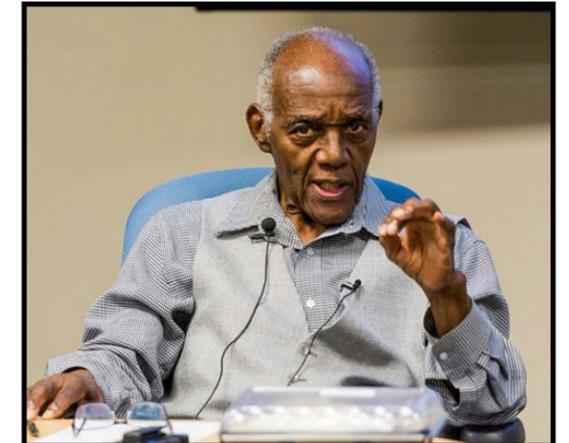
Since the 2016 fall semester, students involved in this project have searched through the archives at multiple universities and spoken with members of ASM. Their information can be found on the course’s web site, [anyonesittinghere.org](http://anyonesittinghere.org) (click the site’s name for more info). The website’s purpose is to educate others about ASM and share an important part of history.

Even more, Shiloh Gill, one of Bohannon’s students, collaborated with a few other students to create the Georgia Student Movement (GSM). Inspired by this digital humanities project, the group seeks to educate the public on the importance of individual voice and voting to get that voice heard.

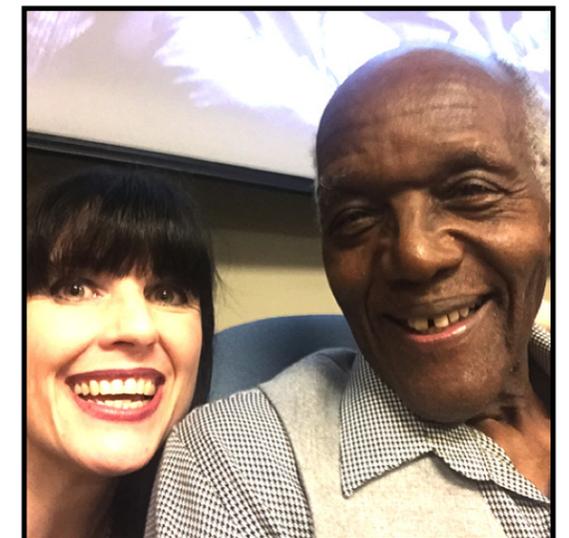
“The GSM is for everyone,” says Gill. “We have designed a structure that includes adults, all young people, churches, community leaders, and anyone else. If you have a passion for helping people and you want things to change locally or nationally, GSM is the outlet for that. Whoever you are or wherever you may find yourself in life, we have a place for you.”

In the future, GSM plans to expand from the KSU campus to all major, Georgia universities.

This summer, Bohannon will teach the Topics in Digital Rhetoric course again and the students will pick up where they left off in the digital humanities project. This time, the students have committed to using the website project to contribute to KSU’s digital archives.



Lonnie King speaking at Women of the Student Movement panel



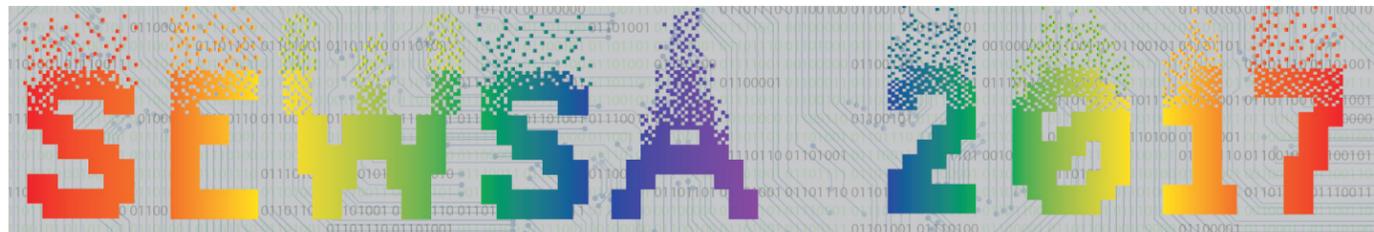
Jeanne Bohannon & Lonnie King

# Taking a Look at #Gender

## English Department Represents at SEWSA Conference

by Bianca Brochu

*Community support... made a huge impact on the conference's success.*



The English Department was significantly involved in the 41st Annual Southeastern Women's Studies Association (SEWSA) Conference, held March 23–25, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza in Atlanta, Georgia. The theme for this year's conference was #Gender: Embodying, Crafting, & Disrupting the Digital. In keeping with the theme of the conference, SEWSA's organizing committee live-streamed the keynote address and created the conference hashtag (#SEWSA17) in hopes of incorporating the digital aspect.

The KSU English Department's faculty members and students both contributed to the success of the conference. Associate Professor of English Dr. Letizia Guglielmo served as the conference co-chair with Dr. Stacy Keltner, Coordinator of Gender and Womens Studies and Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies. Several professors from the English Department were members of the SEWSA 2017 organizing committee, including

Dr. Jeanne Bohannon, Dr. Laura Davis, Dr. Tammy Powell, Dr. Nancy Reichert, Dr. Lara Smith-Sitton, and Dr. Griselda Thomas. English majors also conducted editorial work on the SEWSA Conference program as a part of a class community engagement project, including Ashlee Bagnell, Alexandra Franklin, Willie Holsey, Demarrio James, Will Owen, and Kayla Trawick.

English Department Chair, Dr. Sheila Smith McKoy, screened her latest film, *Maama Watali and Luwero: A Conversation about War, Peace and Gender*, on Saturday evening of the conference. The film focuses on war survivors in the Luwero Region of Uganda. It received exceptional reviews from conference-goers. With other scholars at KSU, Davis, Guglielmo, and Powell led a pre-conference workshop entitled "Teaching Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Online: A Workshop on Feminist Digital Pedagogies."

There were over fifty discussion panels held throughout the course of the conference. Several examples of these panels include:

- "Teaching and Inclusivity" in which MAPW student Bailey McAlister presented a paper
- "#Misogyny" with Dr. Allison Davis

and Guglielmo

- "Teaching in the Digital Age" with Dr. Powell
- "Cybersecurity: The Battle, Cost, and Gendered Workforce of the Digital," where Reichert served as a moderator
- "The Synecdoche Model: Cultivating Connections, among Self, Classroom, Community, and Text," presented by Dr. Rochelle Harris

- "Creating Sista Circles: Chronicles from a Women Faculty of Color Post-Tenure Support Group," which involved Thomas

The final panel session of the conference included URCA grant recipient and undergraduate English student Lindsey Walden, who was on the panel entitled "Academia Interrupted: The Impact of Cancer on College Careers" with English Department faculty members Smith-Sitton, Constance Briggs, and Alesia Miller Schnur.

Guglielmo believes this year's conference met everyone's expectations. She mentions that the community support, including those from the English Department, made a huge impact on the conference's success. The English Department's involvement in SEWSA 2017—from both faculty and students—represented the department quite well.



Photo Credit: Pete Rorabaugh

# How Important are Internships?

## Learning How and Why to Get an Internship

by Mary-Evelyn Clark, David Landers, and Taylor Lively

*"[My role is] to help students and employers see the value of hiring students with English studies degrees."  
Dr. Lara Smith Sitton*

In a study conducted by the AACU (Association of American Colleges and Universities) in 2014 with Hart Research Associates, 94% of employers would be more likely to hire a college graduate with internship experience. The English Department is committed to helping students see the value of pre-professional experiences that moves them into the community.

Internships afford students the opportunity to learn in real-world settings to gain both field-specific knowledge and a broad range of transferable skills. These skills are in demand by employers today, and include such skills as critical thinking and both oral and written communication. Ethical decision making and working within groups are other highly valued skills gained by those who participate in internships. Employers not only value but endorse the opportunity for students to gain this valuable hands-on education.

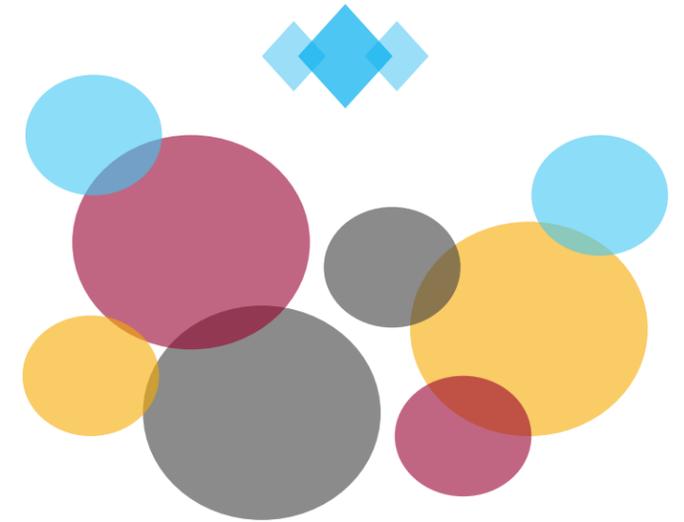
In addition to gaining skills during the internship, students have the

opportunity to explore careers of interest outside of the classroom, which can be quite valuable when making professional or career decisions. Participation in internships not only helps recent graduates acquire a job but also to turn that job into a long-term, successful career.

As Director of Community Engagement in the English Department, Dr. Lara Smith-Sitton views her role as "an opportunity to help students and employers see the value of hiring students with English studies degrees." Smith-Sitton approaches the process of helping students find internships not by simply selecting the internships for them, but by helping them identify career interests. She offers a series of workshops throughout the semester as a space for learning about and preparing for internships. Students are given the opportunity to research different internship opportunities, including those offered by specific organizations before deciding on which ones to pursue.

"Internships during college and graduate school are most valuable when they are structured as learning experiences with support from faculty and resources," Smith-Sitton explains. She sees these as "experiences where students build upon what they learn from their coursework to develop new skills and knowledge." Her hope

is to develop academic support programs through pedagogical structures and mentoring that allow students in the major, minor, and graduate programs to maximize their internship opportunities.



For additional information about upcoming internship workshops or earning course credit for an internship, contact Dr. Smith-Sitton at [lsmith11@kennesaw.edu](mailto:lsmith11@kennesaw.edu).



# Getting to Know You

## An Interview with the English Department's Newest Assistant Professors

by Stevi Dinizio

*"I intentionally introduce literature with clashing opinions so students can start to see a perspective different than their own."*

Dr. Na-Rae Kim

One of the best parts about being an English student at KSU is meeting the professors. I have had one great professor after the other, and I know I will be sad when I graduate. Each professor seems accessible and genuinely concerned about my education and career. On top of that, they teach with excellence and diligence. I may not teach one day, but I want to be like my professors. I want to learn as much from them as I possibly can, in both my writing and my character.

I met with three of our newest assistant professors, Na-Rae Kim, Michelle Miles, Clarice Moran, and asked them about teaching at KSU.



## What do you teach at KSU?



**Na-Rae Kim:** I've been teaching World Literature and Asian American Literature, which is cross-listed in American Studies. Asian American Literature is an interesting course because people come with different perspectives depending on their discipline. I'll probably repeat that course for many years.

I've also taught in Asian Studies and, next spring, will teach a course for the Masters of American Studies program about the Literatures of the Americas.



**Michelle Miles:** As a member of both the Honors College and the Department of English at KSU, I teach classes that connect these two disciplines. Currently, I'm teaching an upper division seminar on the regional literature of Northern Ireland. I also frequently offer British Literature surveys and Honors colloquia courses and seminars on topics ranging from the short story genre to interdisciplinary courses on Ireland.



**Clarice Moran:** I am in the English education program, so my teaching and responsibilities are connected to preparing future English language arts teachers. This year, I am teaching ENGL 3241, which is a course for future English teachers on integrating technology and digital media into the curriculum. I also teach ENGL 3250, which is a course on how to teach and assess writing in the middle grades. And, I supervise four student teachers in high schools in Cobb and Cherokee counties.

## Have you taught in the past?

**Kim:** This is my first teaching job, but I taught as a grad student at the University of Minnesota. I mostly taught numerous Asian American Studies courses.

**Miles:** My Ph.D. is in English with a focus on Modern and Contemporary Irish and British Literature. I have taught a range of courses related to these specific fields of interest. I've also offered numerous ENGL 1101 and 1102 courses and various seminars at Emory University, Clark Atlanta University, Georgia Tech, and even my undergraduate university, Montana State.

**Moran:** I was a middle school teacher in England and a high school teacher in North Carolina. I had a teaching assistantship that allowed me to teach methods for future middle grades English language arts teachers, a reading course for future teachers in all content areas, and a course on integrating technology into the curriculum.

## What got you interested in teaching?

**Kim:** It's rewarding to teach because you can see the students grow, even in just one semester. College is an influential time for students, and they grow academically as well as personally. I find it fascinating that I get to be a part of that.

**Miles:** From my earliest days, I've been an ardent reader. And with a love of reading came a desire to share and communicate what I learned with others. My passion for imaginative exploration drives my work as does a profound desire to foster the creative development of my students.

**Moran:** My mother was a major reason I became interested in teaching. She was a high school English teacher in public schools in Florida for 33 years. She always seemed to have so much fun and loved her students deeply. She really is an inspiration to me!

## Why did you choose KSU?

**Kim:** I was interested in the many Asian Americans that are in the South. Most people think it's only black and white. I noticed there hasn't been a highlight on the Asian Americans, and yet there are so many refugees and immigrants here. That's one of the reasons I applied for this job.

**Miles:** As a recipient of a George J. Mitchell Scholarship in 2001, I was fortunate to be one of eleven students from across the United States selected to complete a Master's degree in Ireland. This prestigious award changed my life and opened doors of opportunity I scarcely knew existed. I came to KSU out of a desire to offer support to students interested in the same sort of opportunity.

**Moran:** The incredible stature of these professionals, as well as the thriving and outstanding English education program, really drew me to KSU. I feel incredibly lucky to be part of the English department, and, particularly, the English education program. I feel like I drew the winning lottery ticket.

## What do you want your students to learn from your courses?

**Kim:** If I'm teaching Gen Ed, I want to expose my students to different types of literature and learn that literature is actually really fun. In other classes, I want to show that the world cannot be seen from just one perspective. I intentionally introduce literature with clashing opinions so students can see a perspective different than their own.

**Miles:** I hope my students learn that writing and reading are practices that reside at the very core of our human natures. Studying literature is a means of engaging—imaginatively, emotionally, theoretically, and psychologically—with our world and its intricate history.

**Moran:** I want my students to know that they should be authentic human beings in the classroom, acting and teaching in a way that feels like them, rather than trying to live up to an ideal. In addition, I remind them that relationships are the most important factor in student success.

Click for the Video

# Retiring Professors

A video interview with the English Department's beloved retiring professors

by Pinell Demarrio James and Gabbi Lewis



**Martha Bowden** joined the English Department at Kennesaw State University in 1992. She received her PhD from the University of Toronto in 1981, and her specialties include British Restoration and Eighteenth-Century studies. Bowden has published numerous essays and book chapters throughout her career. Her latest book, *Descendants of Waverley: Romancing History in Contemporary Historical Fiction* (Bucknell University Press, 2016), offers innovative insights into the use of romance in historical fiction. In 2013, she received the KSU Foundation Distinguished Professor Award.



**Margaret Bennett Walters** is retiring after twenty years of service to Kennesaw State University. Walter's career has brought forth many accomplishments, including service as the Executive Director of the Georgia Writers Association and the recipient of the Distinguished Graduate Faculty Teaching Awards in 2003 and 2011. In 2011, she published a biography entitled *A. L. Burruss: The Life of a Georgia Politician and a Man to Trust* (Kennesaw State University Press). President Jimmy Carter reviewed this work as "a genuine contribution to Georgia history." While she has taught numerous courses, popular topics have included technical writing, editing, creative nonfiction, and the biography. After retirement, Walters plans to continue writing and travel with her husband of thirty years.

# The Story Behind the Student

Click for the Video

MAPW students share their personal stories about the journey to KSU

by Stevi Dinizio



**Hannah Lozano** is in her final year of the MAPW program. When she's not doing schoolwork or working at an advertising agency, she spends most of her free time doing photo shoots for her photography business. She is a lover of all things related to weddings, chocolate, and cats.



**Daniel Lumpkin** is an award winning writer and journalist who has written for international, national, and local publications. He has written on several topics but his favorites include: technology, education, religion, and baseball. Lumpkin is an advocate for nonprofits and drinking a beer after class.



In addition to school and her job, **Maryann Lozano** is the director of the Bell Choir at St. Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church in Atlanta, where she is also a Lay Eucharistic Minister and Sunday School teacher. The rest of her free time is consumed with reading, napping, and keeping the cat off of her keyboard.



**Kristen Tardio** grew up in Las Vegas, NV to native Italian parents. She graduated summa cum laude with her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Nevada Las Vegas Honors College in 2013. Along with writing and editing, she is passionate about ballroom dance, interior design, and Coldplay.

## Mackleen Desravines' New Web-Series, "The Adjuncts"

**M**APW alumna and filmmaker Mackleen Desravines produced her first web series entitled "The Adjuncts." The series, co-produced and co-written with fellow MAPW alumna Imani Marshall-Stephen, launched on October 21, 2016.

The idea for the web series came from Desravines' own experiences as an adjunct professor and aspiring writer. While doing a direct study with former Kennesaw State University professor, Jeffrey Stepakoff, Desravines learned the difficulty of writing a script.

"During one conferences with Dr. Stepakoff, he put his pen down and said sternly, 'How bad do you want this? If you want it bad you can do one of two things - go to Hollywood and work your butt off until you get on a show, or create something of your own, while living in Atlanta, and make Hollywood come to you.' From there I gave birth to "The Adjuncts."

After writing the script, Desravines learned there was much more to creating a web series than just writing the story.

"Putting together a team, managing a team, figuring out budgets, schedules, and so on is no joke. I never lost sight of the goal, which is what motivated me to



keep going - and the end result was positive. I'm wiser as I prepare for season two."

Desravines credits her time at KSU as preparation for her current job as a full-time professor of English at Georgia Highlands College. Not only did her KSU professors encourage Desravines to become a better writer, but they also taught her how to teach college students.

"My writing career, of course, benefited from being around writers, being in workshops and getting critiqued by my professors and classmates. I grew a lot and learned from the bonds I made with my classmates. "

To watch the entire first season of "The Adjuncts," visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) or [www.theadjuncts.com](http://www.theadjuncts.com).

## Christopher Martin's Published Novel, *This Gladdening Light*



"For a child who remembers how to be human exists within you. Follow it: Those who search for it will find it."  
-from the *Gospel of Mary*, quoted in *This Gladdening Light*

**A**lum Christopher Martin recently published his debut novel, *This Gladdening Light: An Ecology of Fatherhood and Faith*. The creative nonfiction novel is part memoir, part essay collection, and part spiritual journey.

"I'm not really trying to tell anybody where to look or what to look for," says Martin. "I'm just trying to record the memory of [being a] child as best I can, and if the creative struggle helps anybody with their search, wonderful. And if at the end of the day it's just a story, that's wonderful, too."

Martin spent about eight years writing *This Gladdening Light*. He was inspired by many moments in his life, rather than one situation.

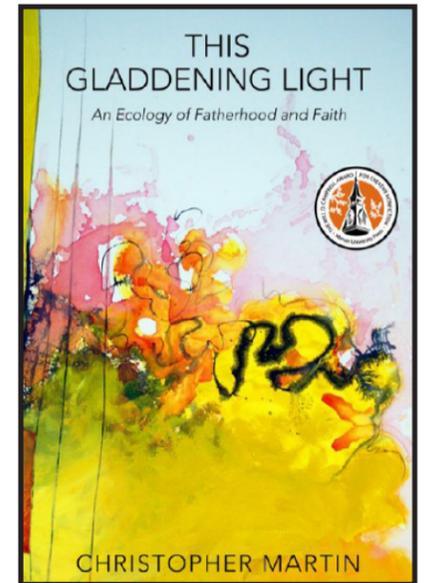
"I wrote it piece by piece rather than cover to cover, so in that sense there are dozens if not hundreds of places where I got the ideas for this book. Like falling while stroller-jogging through a Civil War battlefield with my kids, that led to some

kind of thought worth exploring further. From those moments, I just wrote."

Although Martin does not pinpoint a specific inspiration for his book, he does give recognition to Dr. Linda Niemann, professor of English at KSU. Martin took two of her Creative Nonfiction courses while studying in the MAPW program.

"Dr. Niemann helped me understand that the real work was to be a seeker, to follow each spark rather than compartmentalize my approach and box myself in before I even really started. Funny enough, every essay I sat down to write just absolutely knowing it would be part of the book didn't make the book at all."

Currently, Martin works as a part-time professor in the KSU English Department and is a contributing editor for *New Southerner*. *This Gladdening Light* is published with Mercer University Press.



Cover Art by Scott Neely

# Fussing Over a Magazine

## The Revival of the Red Clay Review

by Ashlee Bagnell

*"I think it only stands to reason that we should have a literary journal which showcases the expertise of a Masters of Arts in Professional Writing program."*  
JoAnn LoVerde-Dropp

Literary magazines are a sometimes-forgotten source of creative works from the brightest artists. These artists produce a variety of content, from poetry to art pieces. KSU formerly printed a literary magazine called *The Red Clay Review*, and this year it is coming back with a vengeance.

I had the privilege of interviewing Joann LoVerde-Dropp, a lecturer of English here at KSU, leading the revival of the journal. When I asked her to explain the literary magazine she stated, "We have this really dynamic graduate program here, the MAPW. I think it only stands to reason that we should have a literary journal which showcases the expertise of a Masters of Arts in Professional Writing program. You know, it just makes sense that a literary journal would be published by the MAPW program."

The class that will spearhead this revival as a community engagement project is called PRWR 6800 - Careers in the Literary Arts. Production of the *Red Clay*

*Review* will be a significant focus for the graduate students enrolled in this course in Fall 2017. Students will solicit and evaluate work for publication. The course professor, LoVerde-Dropp, will oversee the graduate students as they create the layout, edit, produce, publicize, and promote the journal.

But why all the fuss over a literary magazine? LoVerde-Dropp says the journal stands apart from others because "it is a literary journal designed and edited and published by graduate students, specifically for graduate students."

The journal will only take submissions from graduate students, and they will mainly be reaching for graduate students in the Southeastern United States, especially for the first issue, which will be published later this year.

A significant goal tied to the

journal is to bring back the Graduate Writers Association, as it was this organization that originally brought *The Red Clay Review* to KSU. The requirements to have the journal and the organization on campus have changed over the years and according to LoVerde-Dropp, the department "couldn't garner the interest needed in order to get the Graduate Writers Association back up just yet." However, she hopes they can get it back soon, especially with the *The Red Clay Review* back in print.

I am hopeful, like LoVerde-Dropp, that the revival of *The Red Clay Review* is successful to showcase the strong talent of students in the KSU program as well as other writers and artists in the Georgia area.

\*The revived literary journal will take on a new name: *The Crambo*.



Photo Credit: Pete Rorabaugh

# The Professor's Perspective

## Advice on the MAPW Capstone

by Judy Benowitz

*“Commit yourself to writing something in your capstone that you can publish after you finish the program.”*  
Dr. Bill Rice

Graduation dates loom, and capstone committees and their candidates strive to finish their work. This past semester, I dove into the MAPW capstone process and worked harder than I have in a long time. But the process also got me thinking about my capstone committee’s perspective. Not only did they provide me with edits, comments, and wisdom, but they simultaneously worked on other projects. This made me wonder: what have they learned about the capstone process? What would they tell their students about it before they dive in to the process?

With these questions in mind, I interviewed my capstone committee, Dr. Linda Niemann and Dr. Bill Rice, along with another frequent capstone committee member, Dr. Margaret Walters. Here is what they had to say.

Linda Niemann serves on my capstone committee and two other committees this semester. She has taught Creative Nonfiction at Kennesaw State University since 1999. She enjoys reading capstones that are fun and interesting. “I advise students to take advanced courses in their field of study,”

she says. “This way, students have about 150 pages when they enter the capstone process. They can polish these pages rather than try to generate pages in three months.”

Margaret Walters teaches Biography in KSU's English Department and serves on five capstone committees this semester. The Spring 2017 semester was her final semester before retiring. She enjoys seeing the full development of a student’s project, especially if it began in one of her classes. “Begin gathering material, research, and previous writing done on the subject before beginning the capstone,” she advises. “Also, line up committee members at least a year in advance; otherwise, you may find the desired faculty members have no more openings in their schedule for a capstone.”

William Rice has taught Fiction at Kennesaw State University since 2014 and serves on two capstone

committees this semester, including mine. “Finding the time for capstone work is difficult given the demands of a teaching schedule and my own writing,” he says. “Commit yourself to writing something in your capstone that you can publish after you finish the program.”

Personally, the biggest challenge I have encountered in writing my capstone is editing. I have been writing my memoir for seven years, with plenty of content, but I come from the stage with a BA in Drama. I am accustomed to fleshing out the scripts of other people. Writing is not intuitive to me like it would be for someone who has a background in English or Journalism. Rice has offered me guidance, and says I should pick up a freshman English textbook and study it. Knowing he is a wise and experienced teacher, I will take all the advice I can get.



Photo Credit: Pete Rorabaugh

## Amira Menkara - Intern with Georgia Legislature

By Katherine Adamson

**A**mira Menkara is currently an intern at the Georgia State Capitol as a Senate Aide for the Ethics Committee. Working under Senator Dean Burke, Menkara is responsible for assisting in arranging meetings, informing Legislators of bills or substitutes, researching information passed through various committees, and helping constituents with their specific needs when asked. From this experience, Menkara believes that her most valuable lessons learned have been about how much power the chairman or chairwoman holds and the importance of voting.

"You should always fact check when deciding who to vote for, and know the crucial role you have when it comes to voting," Menkara says. "My eyes have been opened to what I want to do with my career thanks to this experience."

Menkara has a newfound interest regarding informing citizens of bills, ideas, or current issues through writing and reporting. In her future, Menkara wants what is best for the state of Georgia and hopes to apply more of her service to the public. Menkara applied for this internship through Kennesaw State University's Career Planning website, which she recommends students use as a resource.

## McKenzie Henderson - Intern with *Inside*

*Cheerleading Magazine*

By Kayla Trawick

**M**ckenzie Henderson tumbled and rolled to *Inside Cheerleading* magazine for her Spring 2017 semester internship. Henderson not only crafts weekly blog posts for the magazine's website but also assists with the content research and editing for pieces published later in the magazine. Two of her articles have been featured on the cover of the magazine in the February and April issues. Another opportunity Henderson takes advantage of is running *Inside Cheerleading's* social media when attending competitions, during which she explores the importance of social media concerning public relations and advertisement opportunities.

This internship allows for Henderson to explore writing styles necessary for journalists and editors. She wishes to feature these valuable skills in her writing portfolio. "This has been a valuable experience that has helped further cultivate my writing skills," she says of the internship. "I feel confident going out into the world and starting a career."

**Katherine Adamson** is a junior at Kennesaw State University. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a minor in Spanish. Currently employed at Sturgis Library as a student assistant and at Eastminster Presbyterian Church as a nursery caregiver, Adamson has learned to communicate with individuals of varying ages and backgrounds. Upon graduating in May 2018, she will pursue law school, where she will specialize in family, adoption, and child-advocacy law.

**Ashlee Bagnell** is affiliated with Kennesaw State University's Department of English.

**Judy Benowitz** is studying for her MA in Professional Writing at Kennesaw State University. She has a BA in Drama from the University of California, Irvine. Her work has been featured in *The Georgia Authority* and *Grits (Girls Raised in the South)*. In 2016, Benowitz received the Who's Who Among Students award in American Universities and Colleges. She is currently writing her memoir, where many of her short stories originate.

**Bianca Brochu** is affiliated with Kennesaw State University's Department of English.

**Mary Evelyn Clark** is an emerging author, having written three complete novels and countless other partial works since the age of fourteen. Currently, she is working on a dystopian novel called *Desecration* and a fantasy novel, *The Children of Yira*. She is an English major at Kennesaw State University who enjoys cooking, traveling, hiking, and caring for her many animals in her free time. She lives in the hills of North Georgia with her family.

**Demarrio James** is an English major at Kennesaw State University. He received an Associate in English and philosophy from Georgia Highlands College in 2016. At KSU, James plans to further develop his skills in communication and rhetoric to become an invaluable asset to any organization or entity. In his spare time, he enjoys reading poetry and practicing writing short stories. He has several poems he hopes to one day publish. He currently resides in Marietta, Georgia, with his mother and sister.

**David Landers**, a United States Navy veteran, will graduate from Kennesaw State University in the spring of 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts in English and a minor in professional writing. Upon graduation, Landers is looking forward to teaching English as a Second Language (ESL). He has taught a variety of topics throughout his previous career in public safety and health care and, most recently, has taught ESL on a volunteer

## Writer Spotlight, continued...

basis at a local church. He currently teaches in his Sunday school class in Woodstock, Georgia, where he and his wife, Missy, live and attend church.

**Gabbi Lewis** pursued an undergraduate degree in English and Film Studies in the Department of English at Kennesaw State University. She graduated in May 2017. As an avid reader and writer, she plans to pursue a career in literary and film writing, and hopes to incorporate international travel and perspectives into her writing after graduation. Lewis participated in an internship with the English Department at KSU, and built a body of original work, including several short stories and scripts for short films.

**Taylor Lively** is a senior at Kennesaw State University and is set to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in English and a minor in Professional Writing in spring 2017. Her involvement in a writing group called The Café Crashers and her current internship with the Georgia Writers Association grant her the opportunity to enhance her writing skills and work successfully in a group. Lively plans to apply for the Masters of Arts in professional writing program at KSU during her final semester.

**Kayla Trawick** is affiliated with Kennesaw State University's Department of English.



Follow us on Twitter  
@KennesawEnglish



The English Broadside is a publication  
of the KSU Department of English

Department of  
English

