



KENNESAW STATE  
UNIVERSITY

NORMAN J. RADOW COLLEGE OF  
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

# FOCUS ON FACULTY



JANUARY 2023: FEATURING  
Lara Smith-Stitton, Ph.D. &  
Amanda Weed, Ph.D.



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JANUARY 27, 2023



**LARA  
SMITH-SITTON**

Ph.D., Associate Professor of English

Dept. of English

## Student-Centered Teaching, Community Engagement Foster Professional Success

Dr. Lara Smith-Sitton has been teaching at KSU since 2015. Her scholarship centers students by focusing on both career preparedness and high impact practices, including internships, community-based learning, global learning/study abroad, service learning/community writing, and undergraduate research. Her scholarship also directly informs her teaching and leadership in the English Department. Dr. Smith-Sitton has created collaborative opportunities between students and community partners such as Common Good Atlanta, Department of Juvenile Justice, Green Card Voices, and Clemente Course in the Humanities. Outcomes of these collaborations include, for instance, volumes such as Green Card Youth Voices: Atlanta. As the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Department of English, she works to re-envision the value of an English major and opportunities for students enrolled in English studies. She collaborates with faculty on an innovative revision to the BA in English that helps students align their academic studies with their professional interests; creates micro-credentials that help students show employers the depth and understanding of their professional skills; and develops programming for academic and professional success that is accessible and available to all students. In recognition of her efforts, she is KSU's current nominee for the USG Outstanding Teaching Award.



**AMANDA  
WEED**

PH. D., Assistant Professor of Communication

School of Communication & Media

## Award-Winning Faculty Member Cultivates Communication Excellence Among Her Students

Dr. Weed serves as the faculty advisor to the award-winning Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) chapter here at KSU. Under her professional guidance and mentorship, three of her PRSSA students won 2021 & 2022 PRSSA National Gold Key awards, which is the highest individual honor awarded to PRSSA members to recognize academic and leadership achievement. Additionally, the KSU chapter has won the "Star Chapter" Award in both 2021 and 2022, which is given to chapters that meet up to 11 standards in excellence in education, networking, and professional development. The KSU PRSSA chapter has also won four "Pacesetter" awards and won the 2020 Dr. F.H. Teahan Award for Chapter Development. Dr. Weed was our 2021 SOCM Outstanding Teaching Award recipient, and has been a Faculty Honoree for Outstanding SOCM students three times. Her digital and social media courses (undergraduate and graduate) integrate certification courses from HubSpot Academy, writing for blogs and LinkedIn Pulse, and strategic use of Twitter to showcase their work to a professional audience, all in addition to her strong research agenda in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL).

In 2021, she renewed her Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Accreditation in Public Relations (APR) credential. To renew APR, she must earn a minimum number of points assigned to various activities and achievements that demonstrate her expert knowledge in public relations. Only 156 university full- and -part-time faculty in the PRSA organization hold the APR credential, and she is the only employee at Kennesaw State who is APR-accredited.

Dr. Weed is an Assistant Professor of Communication and teaches primarily in the BS in Public Relations and Graduate Certificate in Digital and Social Media. Dr. Weed holds a PhD in Journalism and Mass Communication from the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University.

[Click here to Submit Your Faculty Focus nomination.](#)