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NORMAN J. RADOW COLLEGE OF
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

FOCUS ON FACULTY



NOVEMBER 2023: FEATURING
WILLIAM CARTER

Focus on Faculty
November 27, 2023



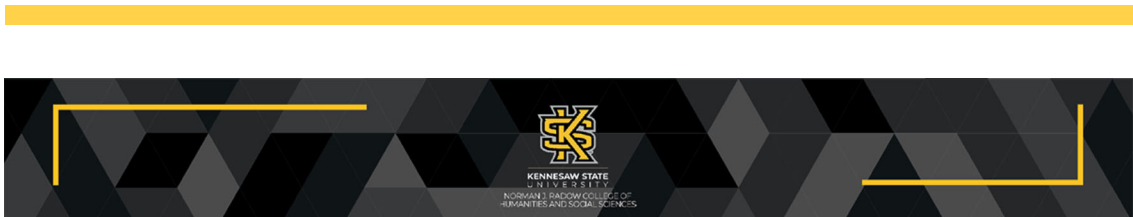
Disabled Professor Fosters Authentic Engagement

William Carter, lecturer of English, writes creative nonfiction about his life as a disabled American. In his memoir, *Getting Better*, Carter describes the first eight months after a car accident that left him with a traumatic brain injury. Carter is working with Running Wild Press on his memoir which is expected to be released in January of 2025. Carter also runs *Side Effects of a Brain Injury*, a weekly show on Instagram Live, where he interviews brain injury and stroke survivors.

On the first day of classes, Carter always tells his story, explaining that his first semester of college was not even a year after his accident. For this reason, he knows what it is to struggle with college, and he wants to make

sure his students do not struggle in the same way. Carter finds that students are better at sharing their authentic selves in the classroom when he opens up this way. A recent student comment made his heart light up: “Your class is the only one where I feel comfortable being myself.”

Carter prioritizes student success in a number of ways. First, he requires students to go to their choice of campus events because the students who really struggle are often the ones who are not involved. He wants to help them find their place, so they are more likely to succeed. Next, he always offers extra credit for visiting the Writing Center, ensuring that students can recover if they have had a bad moment in the semester. Additionally, his students are developing a service-learning project they think exemplifies the best response to suffering.



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