Recent student & faculty news

April 15, 2016

The Department of Writing and Linguistics is pleased to announce recent student news:

- Writing and Linguistics major Michael Conner has been accepted into the MFA Creative Writing program at American University.
- Writing and Linguistics alum Conner White has been accepted into the MFA Creative Writing program at Iowa State University.

And faculty news:

- Dr. Jinrong Li’s article “Rethinking the Role of Automated Writing Evaluation (AWE) Feedback in ESL Writing Instruction,” which appeared in the *Journal of Second Language Writing* (Vol. 27), recently earned an honorable mention in the selection for the journal’s Best of 2015 Award.
- Professors Julie Douberly, Alicia Spence, and Amanda Hedrick spoke to students at Statesboro’s William James Middle School on Career Day about their careers in teaching writing at Georgia Southern University.
- Professors Christina Olson and Jared Yates Sexton attended the Voices of the Middle West Literary Festival at the University of Michigan, where Olson was a speaker on a panel titled “Unheard Voices in Publishing” and Sexton was a speaker on a panel titled “Storytelling as Community.”
- Professor Leigh Ann Williams represented Georgia Southern at the annual meeting of the National Writing Project in Washington, D.C., an annual event to meet with members of Congress to garner support for the National Writing Project. While on Capitol Hill, she met with Georgia Representatives Rick Allen and Buddy Carter, among others.
- Dr. Lisa Costello and Dr. Jinrong Li served as members on the Ask-a-Feminist interactive panel hosted by the Georgia Southern chapter of the National Organization for Women.
- Professor Laura Valeri recently held a two-hour talk with Ezra Pound’s daughter, the poet/writer Mary De Rachewiltz, and completed a twenty-one day research residency with the CINI foundation in Italy.
- Professor Andy Berger traveled to Bowling Green, KY, to present at the 2016 Kentucky Philological Association Conference. His presentation was called “Podcasting: A Multimodal Approach in the Composition Classroom.”
- Professors Laura Valeri, Jared Yates Sexton, Christina Olson, and Benjamin Drevlow attended the 2016 Association of Writers & Writing Programs conference in Los Angeles, CA.
- The Department of Writing and Linguistics hosted its sixteenth *Student Success in Writing Conference* at the Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah, GA. Led by co-chairs Dr. Peggy Lindsey and Professor Nan LoBue, the conference attracted 116 teachers from high schools and two-year and four-year institutions in 14 different states. Georgia Southern faculty from several different departments presented, including the following from the Department of Writing and Linguistics:
  - *Professor Nan LoBue* presented “Discourse Analysis: A Bridge between Grammar Instruction and Writing Practice.”
  - *Professor Natalie James* presented “Teaching with YouTube: Online Media as Model Texts.”
  - *Dr. Melissa Carrion* presented “Communication Theory in the Composition Classroom: Aligning Social Scientific and Rhetorical Approaches to Persuasion.”
  - *Dr. Mimi Li* presented “Three Heads are Better Than One: Dynamic Interactions in ESL Collaborative Wiki Writing.”
  - *Dr. Janice Walker, Dr. Jinrong Li and Professor Leigh Ann Williams* presented “The LILAC Project: Coding Student Information-Seeking Behaviors.”
• Professor Monique Bos presented “Choose Your Own Rubric (Sort of).”
• Dr. Ellen Hendrix presented “Bridging the Gap: Knowing What They Need to Know.”

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