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Writing & Linguistics News

Georgia Southern University

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Recent student & faculty news

February 19, 2017

Fall 2017

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

- Dr. Mimi Li’s article One wiki, two groups: Dynamic interactions across ESL collaborative writing tasks was named the Best Article of 2016 by The Journal of Second Language Writing.

Spring 2017

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

- The annual Senior Reading was held on April 27, 2017. Click here to see the featured readers!

- The first annual Fledge First-Year Writing Awards were held on April 26, 2017. Click here to see the award winners and featured readers!

- Major Brandi Hanna has been accepted into the MFA Creative Writing program at Louisiana State University, where she will concentrate in poetry writing.

- Minor Ashanti Hardy has been accepted into City Year, an AmeriCorps program. She will spend next year working in a city school in Jacksonville, Florida.
• **Major Asya Fields** has been accepted as a Corps Leader with the organization CitiYear. She will spend July 2017 through May 2018 in Washington, D.C., working with urban youth.

• **Major Kenneth Lee** has a creative nonfiction piece, “Orange Wings, Nylon Shorts, and Other Horrors,” in *Entropy* magazine.

• **Major Aleyna Rentz** has been accepted into the MFA Creative Writing program at Johns Hopkins University, where she will concentrate in fiction writing.

• **Major Courtney Sylvester** had her story “1 in 4” accepted by *Feminist Wire* and “Red Checkered Flannel” published in *GNU Journal*.

• **Alumna Selby Cody** published “Man on the Moon” in *GNU Journal*.

• After graduation in 2012, alumna **Grace Simmons** was deployed to Afghanistan, where her work consisted of technical writing. Currently, Grace is finishing up her thesis, which reviews how *Luke Cage*, a Netflix-Marvel web series, discusses political and social issues like police brutality. She hopes to defend in April and walk the stage in May with her Master’s degree in Communications with a focus on Public Relations from Bowie State University in Maryland. She ultimately plans to pursue a career working for a non-profit where she can use the skills she has acquired to help find resources and connections with other companies.

And recent faculty news:

• **Dr. Lisa Costello** published the article *Standing Up and Standing Together: Feminist Teaching & Collaborative Mentoring* in *Feminist Teacher*.

• **Dr. Mimi Li** published the article *Good or Bad Collaborative Wiki Writing* in the *Journal of Second Language Writing*.

• **Dr. Joanna Schreiber** published the article *Toward a Critical Alignment with Efficiency Philosophies* in the journal *Technical Communication*.

• **Professor Christina Olson**’s second book of poetry, *Terminal Human Velocity*, was released by Stillhouse Press.

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**Fall 2016**

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

• **Major Aleyna Rentz**’s story, “Girls on Hands and Knees,” has been accepted for publication by *Hobart*.

• **Major Genevieve Dietz** has new work appearing in *Polychrome Ink*.

• The *2016 Honors @ Georgia Southern magazine* features multiple Writing and Linguistics majors and alums, including **Cassie Beasley** and **Kate Beasley, Aleyna Rentz, Devan Pride, Kristin Flippo**, and **Maggie DeLisle**.

And faculty news:
• **Dr. Lori Amy** is [featured in a Faculty Spotlight](#).

• **Dr. Lisa A. Costello** helped pilot a new digital resource housed at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), which goes live nationally December 2016. Georgia Southern is one of approximately 20 universities nationally that are participating in this pilot project and Dr. Costello was chosen competitively to be amongst the initial trial group of six teaching faculty from across the nation.

• **Professor Drew Keane** analyzes the lyrics of “No Flocking” by Kodak Black in a feature from *The George-Anne*.

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**Spring 2016**

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

• Major **Michael Conner** has been accepted into the MFA Creative Writing program at American University.

• 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.”

**Fall 2015**

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

- Majors [Aleyna Rentz](#) and [Barbara Jayne McGaughey](#) contributed to the article *The Evolving Identity of an Undergraduate Major in Writing and Linguistics*, published in *Composition Studies 43.2*.
- Major [Aleyna Rentz](#) also has the short story “A Mean Heart” in *the current issue of Deep South magazine*.
- Major [Brice Knight](#) has had a story accepted for publication in *Stymie*.
- Alumna [Maureen O’Leary](#)’s short story “I’m Not Going Far” appears in *the current issue of Gravel magazine*.
- Alumna [Amanda Malone](#)’s short story “He’s All Humanity” was nominated for a Pushcart Prize by *Cheap Pop* magazine. Read more about Amanda’s experience as a Writing & Linguistics minor!
• Alumna Cassie Beasley’s debut novel, *Circus Mirandus*, was chosen by Amazon editors as their best book of 2015 for ages 9-12 and made the *New York Times* best sellers list. Read more about Cassie’s experience as a Writing & Linguistics major!

The Department of Writing and Linguistics is housed in the [College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences](#). The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences is the largest of the eight colleges that make up Georgia Southern University, and it plays a central role in every student’s core of knowledge. CLASS, also described as the University’s College of the Creative Mind, prepares students to achieve academic excellence, develop their analytical skills, enhance their creativity, and embrace their responsibilities as citizens of their communities, their nations, and the world.
Kate Beasley campus visit on March 22

February 19, 2017

The Department of Writing and Linguistics is pleased to announce that Georgia Southern graduate Kate Beasley will return to campus to talk about her first book, *Gertie’s Leap to Greatness*, which was published in October 2016. Kate graduated with a degree in Writing and Linguistics from Georgia Southern, then earned a Master’s in Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. *Gertie’s Leap to Greatness* features Gertie Reece Foy, who likes to think of herself as 100% Not-from-Concentrate AWESOME. When Gertie decides that she absolutely must become the greatest fifth-grader in the universe, she lands herself smack-dab in the middle of all kinds of trouble. *Gertie’s Leap*, which is intended for young readers, is receiving positive attention from publications including *School Library Journal*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *Goodreads*.

On Wednesday, March 22, 2017, Kate will visit with classes at 11:15 am (COBA 1111), 1:25 pm (COBA 1111), and 4:00 pm (COBA 1107). Space is limited, but students, faculty, and families—and especially young readers—are welcome to attend. For more information about Beasley’s campus visit, please contact Dr. Terry Welford.

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