Screening and Lecture

The Department of English Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion held a virtual screening and discussion with filmmakers of Far East, Deep South, the award-winning documentary film about a Chinese-American family’s search for their immigrant roots in the American South.

Dr. Chika Unigwe gave the 18th Annual Begemann-Gordon Lecture with a talk entitled “The Travellers: The Women of On Black Sisters Street and (Nego)Feminism.” The presentation was co-sponsored by the Women and Gender Studies Program and the Women’s Center.

The Department of English Newsletter

Lecture

The department co-sponsored, with the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, the Office of Inclusive Excellence, and the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, the Keynote Lecture of the Women’s and Gender Studies Symposium by Dr. Karen L. Kilcup titled “Bugs and Sheep, Cassowaries and Crows: A Special Talk on Children’s Literature and Environmental Justice.”

Book Club

African Writers Festival

The Creative Writing Program in partnership with the College of Arts and Sciences and the International Education Center hosted a virtual African Writers Festival. The celebration of creativity from Africa brought diverse African writers and thinkers together for two days of conversations, readings, and performances.

Arts & Letters

Arts & Letters Fall 2020 Issue hosted a reading (via Zoom) by the prize winners in Fiction, Poetry, and Creative Nonfiction, whose work is featured in this issue of Arts & Letters.

Readings

The Creative Writing Program hosted Dr. Carolyn Forché, Dr. and Mrs. Barry Dargugar Distinguished Visiting Scholar, for a virtual public reading entitled "Writing in the Aftermath: Poetry and Prose of Witness" and Q&A.

Alumni Readings included retired faculty Alice Friman and Dr. Martin Lammon and former students TJ Sandella and Kristie Johnson.

The Visiting Writers Series included virtual readings from new creative writing professors Dr. Kerry James Evans (poetry and Dr. Chika Unigwe (fiction). The Martin Lammon Reading Series continued virtually with readings from Caleb Bouchard, MaryBeth Cooper, Auden Eagerton, Avery James, Amelia Longo, Dalton Monk, Courtney Schmidt, William Warren, and Shannon Yarbrough. The program held two Virtual Graduation Readings celebrating MFA graduates and undergraduate creative writing graduates.
Eleven undergraduate students of Literature Program professors presented at the Georgia College Student Research Conference. Anne Elise Beals, Allison Bell, Katie-Rose Borrello, Brieann Heinssen, Lyssa Hoganson, Hannah Lee, Cailyn Rushin, Shelby Lyn Snipes, Ansley Tweedall, Taylor Whittington, and Ellen Yeudall presented on topics including Shakespeare, Frankenstein, the Ecogothic, Austen and Feminism, Chopin and Marxism, James and Foucault, Chaucer’s Students, McCullers and Queer Theory.

Four MA students, sponsored by Literature Program faculty, presented at the Women’s and Gender Studies Symposium. Colin Bishoff, Kelly Capers, Makkalath Fahiym, and Eric Jones presented on topics including Hawthorne and the Panopticon, Rowlandson and Puritan Society, Wharton and Postmodern elements, Erdrich and Grover and Campbell. MA student Chenglam Ku moderated the panel on gender in early America. Undergraduate students Abby Giordano and Isabelle Morris, sponsored by Literature faculty mentors, presented on monstrous women in popular media and Beth Henley’s rebellious women characters. Former literature students Catherine Bowlin, Alina Venick, and Darbyshire Witik served as panelists on Dr. Jordan Cofer’s Graduate and Professional Schools Information Panel at the symposium.

Professor of English and Associate Vice President for Inclusive Excellence gave a lecture and hosted a discussion on Toni Morrison called “Literary Legacies: Reflections on the Life and Legacy of Toni Morrison” on the occasion of her 90th birthday. The event was co-sponsored by the Cultural Center and the Office of Inclusive Excellence.
Class Projects

Dr. Craig Callender’s students virtually joined Poet Laureate Simon Armitage for a talk on Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, which he translated.

In the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters, Dr. Stefanie Sevcik’s GC2Y Sex and Resistance class participated in CbEL service-learning projects organizing virtual events for the GCSU Women’s Center & LGBTQ+ Programs. They hosted eight events in the fall semester and eight events in the spring semester on topics ranging from global feminism to masculinities to sex trafficking.

Dr. Joy Bracewell and Dr. Stefanie Sevcik co-hosted a virtual exchange with the students of Dr. Emma Zhang and Dr. Fiona Wong of Hong Kong Baptist University in November. Students from their ENGL 2110 World Literature sections participated in a virtual symposium around Hong Kong author Xi Xi and one of her short stories, "A Girl Like Me.”

FrontPage Students

Undergraduate students Patrick Sheets and Dontavius Wilson were interviewed for FrontPage here and here.
Student Organizations

**Literary Guild**

The Literary Guild elected officers (Bella Angell, Brandon Near, Em Gannon, Kayla Goode, Lily Dunlop, Angela Cote), updated social media accounts to establish consistency in communication, updated the Constitution for the organization, reestablished RSP membership status, applied for RSO funding, met multiple times with executive board to plan for 2021-2022 academic year, and hosted three events with consistent participation and attendance (and a healthy increase in participants for the last meeting). Event titles include "What are you reading?" "Short Stories," and "Acting April." The Literary Guild is excited to be able to return to f2f activities in the fall.

**Peacock's Feet**

The Peacock's Feet held an unveiling ceremony honoring the authors of the 2020-2021 edition of Georgia College’s undergraduate literary journal. Edited by Ava Leone and Matthew Malstron and advised by Professor Peter Selgin, the journal won the AWP National Program Directors’ Prize for Undergraduate Literary Magazines in the Design category. The judge commented, "The Peacock’s Feet is elegant in its simplicity and approach, yet simplicity here does not equate to poor quality or poor execution. The artwork pops off the glossy pages. The text is well spaced, easy to read, and fits the journal’s dimensions well. All aspects of this little journal are exquisitely executed." The 2020 45th edition is available here.

**Romanticism-Victorian Affinity**

The Romanticism-Victorian Affinity held regular book discussions and its Annual Graveyard Reading virtually. As is their tradition, they read a selection of poems about graves and graveyards from the 18th century "Graveyard School" up through present day. Participants were encouraged (but not required) to wear costumes.

**Shakespearean Circle**

Shakespearean Circle held weekly readings of Shakespeare plays virtually this year.

**Sigma Tau Delta**

The Sigma Rho Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society, held a virtual induction ceremony for new graduate and undergraduate members.


Publications, continued


---. "Contract Killing." [Poem] Penumbra, Spring 2019, pp. 120.


Neville, Kerry, Smith Luanne, Laskar Devi, eds. Say My Name: An Anthology of Women's Contemporary Short Fiction, Madville Publishing, Lake Dallas, TX, 2021.

Publications, continued


Presentations


Presentations and Readings, continued


— Group reading for Wicked Wit Anthology, via Zoom. 21 Nov. 2020.


— "Travelling While Staying in Place." Honors College, Georgia College and State University, Sept. 2020, GCSU, Zoom Lecture.

— "Selected Creative Nonfiction." Readings from Above the River, WritePace Limerick, Ireland Culture Night 2020, 18 Sept. 2020, YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2toJ7MuuPXA&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2g_jh191wrKb25cU3WYx09u01Rx7KxPg10u9P9RXF9N4ALe5UPgVpv xQ, Limerick. Reading.
—. “Selected Creative Nonfiction.” Dire Literary Series, Virtual Fridays, Boston, Massachusetts, 9 Oct. 2020, Facebook Live.


—. “Upsurge in Women’s Political Activism.” Gender and the 2020 Election, Georgia College and State University’s Women’s and Gender Studies Program, 27 Oct. 2020, GCSU, Zoom Panel Presentation.


Katie-Rose Borello [Undergraduate Student] won Best Oral Presentation at the Student Research Conference for her presentation, "Environmental Horror: Edgar Huntly, the Ecogothic, and Fear of the Unknown."

MaryBeth Cooper [MFA Student] won the Academy of American Poets’ Student Poetry Prize for "Everything I Hate About My Body."

Sandy Dimon was a Reader for the 2020 AP Language exam.


Tanner Howard [Undergraduate Student] won the Academy of American Poets’ Student Poetry Prize for "Woodworking."

Cheng Lam Ku [MA Student] was awarded Outstanding Graduate Assistant for the 2020-21 academic year.

Jeffrey MacLachlan was the featured faculty member in the Honors College newsletter: Honors 2020-2021 by Georgia College - issuu.

Melinda Martin received the Individual Service Excellence Award.

Kerry Neville’s recent co-edited anthology, Taboos & Transgressions: Stories of Wrongdoings received a starred review in Kirkus: https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/luanne-smith/taboos-transgressions/?fbclid=IwAR0DluOp4oVgtPeG_dJwyE6FqfhCKnx6kJDfjjiXJsnJVADeEA9TrMlkyw. Neville’s "Dream Home" was nominated for a 2021 Pushcart Prize.

Denechia Powell [MFA Student] received the Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award from GCSU for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Peter Selgin was interviewed by WRGC about his novel Duplicity: https://buff.ly/3tCnxcf. The novel was a semi-finalist for the 2020 Elixir Book Prize, short-listed for the 2020 Steel Toe Book Books Prize, and a finalist for the 2019 Craft First Chapter Contest.

Stefanie Sevcik was selected to represent GCSU to the USG for a two-year term as one of three Chancellor’s Learning Scholars. In this context, she led a Faculty Learning Community titled "Teaching (Transformatively) after COVID" on virtual and hybrid teaching strategies.

Shannon Yarbrough [MFA Student] received an Author Fellowship from the Martha’s Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing (MVICW), which supported her attendance at their virtual conference this summer, June 6-13. Yarbrough was also granted a residency with Wildacres Retreat in North Carolina.