Fall 2019

Professor Olson Teaches in Georgia Film Academy Initiative

In July 2019, MAPW Screenwriting Professor Mitch Olson instructed two sessions for Georgia Film Academy’s (GFA) Secondary School Initiatives. In the first session, he instructed dramatic writing for film, TV, & theater for sixteen high school teachers from ten Georgia school districts around Savannah and Statesboro. In the second session, Mr. Olson instructed thirty-eight teachers from nineteen school districts. The second session was held at Pinewood Atlanta Studios, a leading film studio with which GFA has a partnership.

The GFA and the Georgia Department of Education are instituting a year-long dramatic writing course for high school English programs across the state for which Mr. Olson and others provide teacher training. “As the film and television industry continues to boom here in Georgia, it’s critical that industry professionals partner with educators to cultivate opportunities for young, emerging talent to be exposed to, and trained for, careers in this industry,” Mr. Olson said. MAPW professor and GFA education director Dr. Aaron Levy was also involved in the program.

Dr. Regina Bradley Praised as Hip Hop Pod Cast Co-Host

Dr. Regina Bradley, Assistant Professor of English and African Diaspora Studies, is the host of the podcast, “Bottom of the Map,” broadcasted by WABE, Atlanta’s NPR affiliate, 90.1 FM. Subscribe for free here: Apple Podcasts | Spotify | Google Play Music | Stitcher. Follow the show on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. The podcast covers topics about Southern Hip Hop culture.

“Regina and I first met when Floyd Hall, who is now producer of ‘Bottom of the Map’, booked us as guests on the The WonderRoot Podcast series in 2013. From there, I’d cite her invaluable ‘Outkasted Conversations’ series in my own work as a journalist,” said her pod-cast host, music journalist Christina Lee said when asked about her earliest memory of Dr. Bradley’s work.
“‘Bottom of the Map’ wouldn’t be what it is today, without Regina’s smarts and sharp wit. Each week folks look forward to what Regina has to say, because of her lived experience growing up in the South and she’s able to smartly contextualize the region’s hip-hop. Regina helps listeners understand appreciate Southern hip hop as a cultural artifact,” Ms. Lee added.

When asked about her fondest memory recording “Bottom of the Map”, Ms. Lee shared the following story.

“I remember we were both exhausted going into taping the ‘Faith is What You Make It’ episode. Then, [musician] Pastor Troy arrived for his interview, and without prompting, called Regina a ‘down south Georgia girl’ as a play on his own song ‘D.S.G.B.’ This man had no idea that Regina calls herself a ‘D.S.G.G.’ in real life because of her Albany, Georgia upbringing. But the way her face lit up reminded me of how fortunate we are to do this podcast, based on our life’s work.
Kelley Bostian Heads Rhetoric Society of America Chapter:

An Interview

MAPW student and Teaching Assistant Kelley J. Bostian is the 2019-2020 president of KSU’s Rhetoric Society of America (RSA) chapter. The chapter was founded in 2018-2019 by alumni Morgan Carter. Drs. Laura McGrath and Sergio Figueiredo are co-advisors. Additionally, Dr. Figueiredo is one of fourteen invited Visual Rhetoric scholars that will produce one to two vision statements for the future of visual rhetoric studies as part of the Rhetoric Society of America 2020 Mini-Institutes; and, Dr. McGrath will be presenting “All Negative Comments Will Be Deleted: Theorizing Hospitality on Instagram” at the 2020 RSA conference.

What is your earliest memory of rhetoric?

I wish I could say my earliest memory of rhetoric was a fond one; however, it was definitely traumatic, confusing, and likely similar to many college freshmen. I took an English 1101 course my first semester of college (2013) and was assigned a basic rhetorical analysis. It wasn’t until after submitting the paper that I realized there was a major difference between an analysis and a summary, a difference that landed me a whopping “C-“. After declaring my major as English a year after taking ENGL 1101, I took an “Intro to Rhetoric” course and began to understand the err of my ways.

In this same introductory course, I received an “A-“ on a more advanced version of a rhetorical analysis, and my interest in the subject only snowballed from there.

When did you first hear of the RSA?

I first heard of RSA in the Spring of 2020. The former chapter president, Morgan Carter, was spreading the word about the organization and asked if I wanted to join.

What compelled you to helm the RSA chapter?

Well, to put it nicely, I was presented with what we like to call a “false dichotomy” in the rhetoric biz. Many of the original founding members of RSA graduated in Spring of 2020, and I was told that I either needed to become an officer in the organization or the organization wouldn’t have enough officers to be recognized officially by KSU’s RSO (Registered Student Organization). Long story short, there was a power vacuum and I saw an opportunity to fill a void and keep a valuable student organization alive for a few more years.

What is your vision for the chapter?

This year, RSA has one major focus: to become an affiliated chapter of the national organization. KSU’s RSA has only been around for a little over 2 years, and a lot to the founding members focused on getting the organization affiliated as a registered student organization. After this academic year, and our inevitable climb to chapter status under my stoic leadership, subsequent chapter president(s) will be able to focus on getting RSA into rhetoric-focused conferences and maintain chapter status. If all goes well, by
the time I concede the all-consuming power of RSA president the organization should be a well-oiled machine that links like minded graduate and undergraduate students together for years to come.

**How does this role as President speak to and inform your track in the MAPW program?**

I’m in the Applied Writing track in the MAPW, and I have to admit that taking on the responsibility of presidency has definitely sharpened my time management and delegation skills. For anyone interested in working outside of academia, involvement in student organizations (albeit even a rhetoric themed organization) is immensely valuable to a resume/CV. Leadership skills are always in demand.

**Advice for aspiring rhetoricians?**

Question everything and keep an open mind. In the pursuit of understanding and evaluating all available means of persuasion, rhetoricians should always seriously consider arguments they fundamentally disagree with. I’ve found that, especially in the contemporary political climate, this is a practice many scholars subscribe to in theory but fail to execute in reality.

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Alumna **Zola Matingu**, MAPW 2018, is working as an editor and technical writer with Duluth, Georgia-based technology company **Viasat**. The company provides internet and streaming services.

MAPW **Professor Bill Rice**’s short story "Bounty Hunters" appeared in the July 2019 issue of **Gray’s Sporting Journal**, and his article "Wolf Watchers" appeared in the summer 2019 issue of **Big Sky Journal**. "Wolf Watchers" was based on the research Dr. Rice did on wolves in Yellowstone National Park when he taught an MAPW course, Writing about the West, in 2013. Further research was done in New Mexico during Dr. Rice’s faculty renewal leave in 2016.

MAPW **Student Ed Gadrix**’s grant proposal won $5,000 from the City of Marietta for Theatre in the Square for the production of an August Wilson play in the summer of 2020. Ed’s proposal resulted from study in **Dr. Elizabeth Giddens’s** grant and proposal writing class. In addition to successful grant writing, Ed earned a Higher Education Teaching Certificate through Harvard University’s Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, presented by HarvardX for his studies from June 2019 to September 2019. Also, Ed received notification from the **International Independent Film Awards** that for the summer session. His film script. “The Magician,” was recognized as the winner for the session.
Gabrielle Fulton, Assistant Professor of Writing for Stage and Screen, served as staff writer on the inaugural season of the Will Packer produced Oprah Winfrey Network drama “Ambitions”. The first season of the show began running this fall.

“I didn’t know much about my inheritance, even though it was buried just down the hall from where I slept,” is the first sentence in MAPW alumnus Peter Bein’s memoir, Maxwell’s Suitcase. In August 2019, Peter’s memoir was featured in an article the Marietta Daily Journal. The memoir is about Peter’s exploration of his father through items the elder Bein, a Jewish escapee from Hitler’s Germany, hid in a suitcase. Read the article here. The book was published in 2018 by Journey Home Press. Visit www.peterbein.com.
MAPW Assistant **Professor Erin Bahl** received the Computers and Composition **Hugh Burns** Distinguished Dissertation Award for her 2018 digital dissertation “Refracting Webtexts: Invention and Design in Composing Multimodal Scholarship.” The national award is given annually to the author of a dissertation in the field of Computers and Composition Studies. Dr. Bahl was honored during the presentation awards ceremony at the annual Computers and Writing Conference. Dr. Bahl’s dissertation examines invention practices in designing “webtext” scholarship in order to understand the drafting process. More about this dissertation can be found [here](#).

Dr. Bahl also shared her research entitled “Storied Objects: A Graphic Narrative Reflection on Material Metaphors and Digital Writing” for a Silo Smashers' lunch sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Studies Department on September 20.

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*Margin Matters: How to Live on a Simple Budget & Crush Debt Forever*, a finance guide written by Alumnus **Jason Brown** (2018) is now published. The book started as an assignment in Dr. **Anne Richards**’s Technical Writing class and progressed into a capstone project supervised by her and Dr. **Chris Palmer**. The book begins with Jason’s status as a newlywed, who paid off more than $400,000 in debt in just four years. It includes inspirational stories of others as well, and covers a number of topics such as the psychology of money, dying with debt, why your home is a bad investment, the real cost of college, expecting the unexpected, and differentiating needs from wants. More about Jason and his book can be found at [The Investigator](#), KSU research magazine.
MAPW Affiliate and Instructor of English Chris Martin published three poems in the new issue of Still: The Journal. Read the poems here. Chris also introduced Author Janisse Ray's Lifetime Achievement Award at the recent Georgia Author of the Year ceremony. Read his remarks here. Additionally, Chris was featured guest speaker at the summer 2019 meeting of the Georgia Poetry Society meeting. Chris is an MAPW alumnus and is teaching Creative Nonfiction writing in the program in Fall 2019.

MAPW Alumna Kathleen Brewin Lewis also published in the Summer issue of Still: The Journal. Her poem can be read here. Kathleen and three other KSU poets participated in the 2019 College Poetry Day Readings at the Decatur Book Festival. The program is sponsored annually by Poetry Atlanta, a regional poetry service organization. The book festival is the largest independent book festival in the USA and is held on Labor Day weekend. Reading along with Kathleen were MAPW students Kandace James and Laurel Lowe and undergraduate alumna Marianna Gibson.
MAPW Alumnus Dr. Tulasi Acharya has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of English at South Georgia State University. He will be teaching professional, business and technical writing. He began his duties in August 2019. A published novelist, (Running from the Dreamland) he recently published an academic book, Sex Gender and Disability in Nepal.

This summer 2019, MAPW Professor Jeanne Bohannon announced the launch of the Atlanta Student Movement Project website. The site archives interviews with leaders and participants in protests for African American civil rights in Atlanta in the 1960s. The project, supported by a $100,000 grant from the Rich Foundation, was inspired by research done by MAPW student Shiloh Garcia and developed by several undergraduate and MAPW students. Read more about how the project and how it originated here.
MAPW Alumnus and former Senior Lecturer of English Jeff Cebulski is writing for Chicago Jazz Magazine. Find his articles from Vol. 19, No. 11 here, here, here, and here.

Kandace James Wins LA LIVE Best Screenplay

Kandace James, a poet and screenwriter working towards her master’s degree in Professional Writing concentrated in Creative Writing has won an award for Best Screenplay in the 2019 LA Live Film Festival for “Cutting Teeth”, a comedy-drama about Kaden, a thirteen-year-old, burdened with black teeth that keeps her from being at peace with herself. Kaden is forced to reconcile her feelings towards her absent mother, and with the help of her grandmother, Kaden is challenged to overcome her anger.

“It was my first love. It was my first script I had ever written. It means so much to me. It’s a telling of a black girl. I wanted to represent the black experience.”

“In my head, I was happy to be nominated. I didn’t expect to win at all. I left two hours before the festival was over… and just two hours before my flight back to Georgia, I got an e-mail that I had won,” Kandace added. Kandace is mentored by MAPW Screenwriter Prof. Gabrielle Fulton.

A falling leaf is nothing more than a summer’s wave goodbye. –Unknown

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