MAPW PROGRAM WELCOMES TWO NEW FACULTY MEMBERS
Two new faculty members are joining the MAPW in Fall 2020. Anna Weinstein will be joining as an assistant professor of Creative Writing-Screenwriting and Garrard Conley will be joining as an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing-Nonfiction.

Professor Anna Weinstein

Anna is the founding editor of the Perform: Succeeding as a Creative Professional book series, which offers practical, real-world discussions about how to make a living and a life working in film, television, and the performing arts. She publishes interviews with feminist film scholars and women directors in Film International, and her current book, Writing Women: Creating Complex Female Characters for Film and Television, is under contract with Routledge. Anna has had ten feature-length screenplays place in dozens of competitions and festivals over the years, including the Austin Film Festival, Chesterfield Writer’s Film Project, American Zoetrope, and the top 5% of the Academy Nicholl Fellowship. She has written film and television scripts for Furthur Films, Permoveo Productions, and Voyage Media, and she is currently writing several commissioned screenplays. Previously, she taught at Auburn University. She holds degrees from the University of California-Riverside and from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She will be teaching screenwriting in Spring 2021.
Garrard’s memoir, *Boy Erased* (Riverhead 2016), now a major motion picture, was nominated for a Lambda Literary Award and was featured as a top 2016 nonfiction book by *O Magazine*, “Buzzfeed Books,” and “Shelf Awareness,” among others. It has now been translated in over a dozen languages. His novel, *The Great Revelation* (Riverhead), about a family navigating the New Light revivals of 18th Century New England will soon be published. His fiction and nonfiction have been widely published in journals and anthologies. For three years, he was the IB literature instructor at the American College of Sofia in Bulgaria. He has also taught at Auburn University and University of Miami; and, has instructed in the prestigious Grub Street Memoir Incubator Program and at the Fine Arts Center in Provincetown. He holds degrees from Brooklyn College, Auburn University and Lyon College. He will be teaching Creative Nonfiction in Fall 2020.

"From the minute I first set foot on KSU’s campus,” Garrard told students, “I knew I wanted to return to the South. With such a vibrant and diverse community, along with the English department's strong commitment to writing, I can tell we're going to have a lot of fun. The students I guest taught on my candidate visit were fantastic writers, not only on the sentence-level, but also in terms of imagination. I loved seeing early writers who aren't afraid to play with genre, to experiment, to really draw from the sources that bring them joy as readers. Above all, I want to bring this sense of play and possibility into my classroom. The student always comes first for me: Tell me where you want to go, and I'll help you get there.”
THE HEADLIGHT REVIEW ANNOUNCES CHAPBOOK CONTEST WINNER

The Headlight Review has launched! The online literary journal is edited by MAPW students Justin Briley, Dominc Ligon and Lauren Conte and was the brainchild of then students Brody Smithwick and Ashley Shaw. Headlight Review is advised by Professor Andy Plattner and now Community Advisor Brody Smithwick. The magazine can be found at [www.theheadlightreview.com](http://www.theheadlightreview.com). Submissions are accepted from the public. The issue features an interview with Pulitzer Prize winning poet Jericho Brown and a tribute to former MAPW affiliate faculty member, Molly Brodak. The Facebook page can be found [here](http://www.facebook.com).

In addition to editing and publishing submissions, the literary journal sponsored an international chapbook contest, the first of the planned annual competition. The 2020 winner is Anietie Isong’s *Someone Like Me and Other Stories*. Dr. Isong’s manuscript was chosen over a strong group of finalists that included “All the Beauty that Remains” by Chika Unigwe, “Easy Lives” by Deborah Fleming, “Hurricane Machine” by Kim Bradley and “Sugar Mountain: Stories” by Erica Plouffe Lazure.

*Someone Like Me and Other Stories* earns Dr. Isong the first prize of $500. He receives 25 free copies of the chapbook, which will be published in Summer 2020. Each participant in the competition will receive a copy of the winning chapbook, as well. Copies of *Someone Like Me and Other Stories* will also be available for purchase through The Headlight Review website.

![Anietie Isong, winner of the Headlight Review Chapbook Contest 2020](image)

Dr. Isong has worked as a researcher, speechwriter and public relations practitioner in the United Kingdom, the Middle East, and Africa. His first novel, *Radio Sunrise*, won the 2018 McKitterick Prize, administered by the Society of Authors, UK. He has spoken at the Birmingham Literature Festival, Marlborough Literature Festival, and Henley Literary Festival, among other literary festivals.

The contest judges were MAPW faculty members Anne Corbitt, Anthony Grooms, Andrew Plattner, William Rice, and Melanie Sumner, and Community advisor Brody Smithwick.
MAPW ALUM LISA RUSSELL IS DISCOVERY CHANNEL EXPERT


MAPW STUDENTS JONQUIL HARRIS AND PEYTON SIBERT PUBLISHED IN MLA GRADS BLOG

Congratulations to MAPW students Jonquil Harris and Peyton Sibert for their publications in the Modern Language Association’s “MLA Grads Blog” special focus entitled "Graduates Studies in the Time of Coronavirus." The MLA is the foremost professional organization for scholars of language and literature in the United States.

Jonquil’s piece can be found in the section entitled "Seeking Empathy & Community" and Peyton's piece can be found in the section entitled "Mental Health Struggles and Survival Techniques." The short essays can be found at [https://mlagrads.mla.hcommons.org/2020/04/](https://mlagrads.mla.hcommons.org/2020/04/).
They submitted the essays as an assignment in PRWR 7600/Practical Internship called "Research & Publishing." **Dr. Lara Smith-Siton** teaches the course.

**SMITH-SITTON AND SMITHWICK PUBLISH ON JAIL WRITING**


**ALUM MORGAN CARTER ACCEPTS PhD OFFER IN WISCONSIN**

Morgan Carter (2019) has accepted an offer from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to study in the PhD program in Public Rhetorics and Community Engagement. She has also accepted a teaching position. Morgan was a member of 2017 MAPW Teaching Assistant Cohort and the founder of KSU’s Rhetoric Society of America chapter.

**ALUM JASON BROWN PUBLISHES SECOND BOOK**

**Jason Brown**

**Jason Brown**’s (2018) latest book has been published. Called *I Wasn’t Expecting All This: Memoir of a Grateful Coach*, it is a collaboration with long-time KSU softball Coach Scott Whitlock on his memoir: The project started as a Directed Study under **Dr. Anne Richards**.

Whitlock’s career began in 1985, when Kennesaw State University hired him as assistant women’s basketball coach and assistant slowpitch softball coach. In 1986, he took over as head softball coach and was instrumental in building one of the most respected college softball programs in the country.
ALUM MELVA ROBERTSON EARN DOCTORATE, READIES BOOK ON LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION IMPACT

Melva Robertson (2005) has earned her doctoral degree in Strategic Leadership from Regent University. Her concentration is Leadership Coaching where she will continue her work in helping people develop career strategies. A book, "Recognizing the Impact of the Leadership Brand," derived from her dissertation, is planned for publication at the end of 2020. Melva is the Director of Communications for the Laney Graduate School at Emory University.

Melva Robertson

SERGIO FIGUEIREDO INKS DEAL TO EDIT PARLOR PRESS SERIES
Professor Sergio Figueiredo has recently signed a contract to co-edit with Anastasia Salter (UCF) and Jason Helms (TCU) a comics and graphic narrative book series for Parlor Press. The series will be announced later this year.

PROFESSORS PLATTNER AND GROOMS NOMINATED FOR TOWNSEND AWARD

Professors Andy Plattner and Tony Grooms were nominated for the prestigious Townsend Award for Fiction for 2020. Andy was nominated for his collection of stories, Dixie Luck, and Tony for his novel, The Vain Conversation. The Townsend Award, which honors the late Atlanta Magazine editor Jim Townsend, is given biennially to authors who live in or are native to Georgia. Previous winners include Alice Walker and Ha Jin.
Andy’s stories, published by Mercer University Press, are character studies of hardy gamblers, look-on-the-bright-side salesmen, and other brands of optimistic Southerners. The collection also includes the Faulkner Award-winning novella, *Terminal*, a tale that finds a husband and wife reuniting in hopes of finding one final cash-out at the windows. Tony’s novel, an honor book of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, was selected by Pat Conroy for his Story River Books imprint. It follows characters involved in a post-World War II lynching in Georgia.

Both Plattner and Grooms teach fiction in the MAPW.

**CEBULSKI’S LATEST**
Alum Jeff Cebulski’s latest articles for *Chicago Jazz Magazine* can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

[Chicago Jazz Magazine](#)
ATLANTA STUDENT MOVEMENT ARCHIVE PARTNERS WITH CNN
Dr. Jeanne Law-Bohannon is currently working with producers at CNN to have veterans of the Atlanta Student Movement talk about their direct action in 1960. This collaboration grows out of her ongoing work on the Atlanta Student Movement Archive (https://atlstudentmovement.kennesaw.edu). 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.

NEW ESSAY BY ALLA UMANSKIY TO BE PUBLISHED

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Erin and Michael Bahl on the birth of Zoe!
Mustafa Abubaker served as the MAPW Promotions Assistant for 2019-20. Sarah Williams will be the Promotions Assistant for 2020-2021. Please send your news items to tgrooms@kennesaw.edu.

www.chss.kennesaw.edu/mapw