

MAPW Writing Bulletin

The Magazine of the MA in Professional Writing at KSU

Congratulations to the Spring 2020 MAPW Graduates!

Chelsea Adamczyk

Capstone title: “Corporate Monster”

Description: A screenplay—When a paranoid, ex-druggie finds something nefarious in her bank’s files, she learns of a massive, dark underbelly of conspiracy lead by corporations, mutated reality TV show stars, and an interdimensional foe hellbent on Armageddon.

Advisors: Chris Palmer and Mitch Olson

Chelsea says, “I want to thank Mitch Olson and Chris Palmer for their brilliant feedback and expertise during my Capstone experience. I’m truly proud of this work, and I’m excited to keep expanding the weird universe I’ve created. The screenwriting classes in the MAPW have opened my eyes to my new favorite genre of writing, and I greatly appreciated the high expectations that were required from me. My plans for the future are to submit my script to film festivals, to apply for screenwriting fellowships, and to film a short version of the feature as soon as this summer.”

Aanuoluwapo John Adesina

Capstone title: “Carlota Lucumí”

Description: A novella that follows the historical Carlota Lucumí from the time of her capture in

Yorubaland in Nigeria to her leadership in the slave rebellion at the Triunvirato Plantation in Matanzas, Cuba during the “Year of the Lash,” 1843-1844. Aanu travelled to Cuba to do research on site.

Advisors: Tony Grooms and Melanie Sumner

Aanu says, *“The research I embarked on while pursuing my degree on the MAPW program has provided me the opportunity of seeing the value in creating stories that bring people closer to worlds that they never knew existed. Ultimately, my goal is to make a noteworthy contribution to the Nigerian literary community.”*

Courtney Bradford

*Courtney is the Outstanding CHSS Graduate Student for MAPW
and a recipient of a MAPW Community Engagement Award.*

Capstone title: "Community Engagement in Writing Programs: Preparing Students for Success in Professional Settings."

Description: Building from a graduate career with significant emphasis on community engagement, including a practicum capstone component created in an internship with a North Georgia nonprofit, this capstone explores how community writing and service learning projects enhance and transform academic writing programs, while creating new professional and civic opportunities for students.

Advisors: Todd Harper and Lara Smith-Sitton

Courtney says, *“Being a part of the MAPW program was a wonderful opportunity that enriched both my academic and professional lives. The classes and the professors prepared me to enter professional environments and gave me the confidence in my ability to pursue a PhD.”*

Michael Anthony Chisholm

Capstone title: "The Lantern and the Sword"

Description: This capstone is a creation myth weaving poetry into supernatural and mythological fiction that takes readers on a fast-paced, action-filled exploration into the

complexities of a familial relationships while exploring themes of death and afterlife. This project serves as an essential and needed foundation for a longer novel series.

Advisors: Jenny Sadre-Orafai and Lara Smith-Sitton

Michael says, *“I dedicate this project to my family and loved ones for their constant support and*

I want to offer my sincere thanks to my committee advisors Dr. Lara Smith-Sitton and Professor Jenny Sadre-Orafai for being a driving force throughout my time in the MAPW program and this project.”

Ashley Crisler

Ashley is a recipient of MAPW Work-In-Progress Award.

Capstone title: "Violet"

Description: A young adult fantasy in which Violet, the strong-willed princess of Atheria, struggles to find her place in the Kingdom, and with the help of magical allies, save the Kingdom from those who would usurp her father’s throne.

Advisors: Tony Grooms and Andrew Plattner

Ashley says, *“The MAPW program helped me hone my writing skills and fueled my desire to submit my work for publication. Before joining the program, I never considered that my writing was good enough or interesting enough that others would want to read my story, but now that I have published some of my work, I believe otherwise. It is thanks to the encouragement and patience of my professors that I have grown so much as a writer, as a teacher, and as an editor.”*

Shiloh Gill-Garcia

Shiloh is the recipient of the MAPW Exceptional Research Award.

Capstone title: “Dual Lives Assimilation Literacy”

Description: A study of English language literacy among recent Latin immigrants-

The research questions in this study seek to flesh out the idea of assimilation and its effect on Latin immigrants to the USA. The questions used to guide this study deal with the effects of the dominant language on a Latin immigrant, if it is possible to have a grounded native language identity and feel accepted in American society, and if an immigrant can hold on to their overall cultural identity. These questions also serve as parameters for what scholarship I examined, what interview questions I chose, and how the interviews were formatted. Through this, the nature of the project was discovered and marked as an opportunity to provide a platform for Latin immigrants and to describe their journey with English Language Literacy.

Advisors: Jeanne Bohannon and Laura McGrath

Shiloh says, *“Without the support of my dearest God, my family, and my amazing classmates and advisors, this process would have never come to such a successful end. I appreciate everything that this program has given me. I genuinely do not believe that I would have experienced a better education anywhere else! From the professors to what you learn, this program prepares you for your career in remarkable ways!”*

Thank you as well, Professor Grooms, for all the ways that you have helped me in undergrad and grad school! I appreciate it deeply!”

Pearl Harris

Pearl is a recipient of a MAPW Community Engagement Award.

Capstone title: “Kennesaw State University English Majors at Work: Careers in Unexpected Places Description of the Problem”

Description: Looking to better understand the range of career opportunities for English majors, this capstone includes data from interviews of KSU alumni, where study participants make connections between the skills and abilities gained in their coursework and degree programs and the job titles and duties they hold in industry.

Advisors: Letizia Gulielmo and Lara Smith-Sitton

Pearl says, *“I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Smith-Sitton and Dr. Guglielmo for your patience and guidance. I wish to show my gratitude to Terri Brennen, Dr. Giddens, Director Grooms, Dr. Harper, and Dr. Marcano, as well as, the Writing*

Center. I had many questions and you tried to answer them all. I am indebted to my MAPW student colleagues. You made the workload and stress bearable. I wish to acknowledge the support and great love of my dad, mom, brother, grandmother, and extended Atlanta family for your words of encouragement.”

Taylor Smith

Capstone title: “Forgiveness, Freedom and in the Inmate Issue: Inmate 001”

Description: An interactive text-based video game designed to immerse players in scenarios from jail.

Advisors: Jeffery Greene and Melanie Sumner

Taylor says, *“Dear MAPW, There is not enough I can say about how much I thank heaven that I chose KSU and this program. Your patience and understanding as a department is unsurpassed.*

Everyone truly cares about student work/life balance, but yet set the bar for rigor in writing and learning. This Masters in Professional Writing has influenced me heavily as I lead others and will positively influence the writing profession as your advisees influence others. I am SO thankful I chose KSU for many reasons, with a main one that of the honor of getting to experience such great minds. You all are my heroes.

“Thank you so so much for your passion for our profession and educating. Class meetings were always eye-opening, I loved every book we read and I will forever appreciate your efforts in helping me become an international storyteller in your abroad opportunities! You challenged me to reach higher and further than I thought I could, while at the same time offering grace, kindness and compassion when my life was turned upside down. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for being so encouraging and invigorating to keep us motivated and supported throughout this program. The knowledge, passion for writing and industry leadership provides us with a priceless model for our own careers. I am so grateful to be an alumni of the MAPW program.”

Keith Stillman

Keith is a recipient of MAPW Work-In-Progress Award.

Capstone title: “This Book is a Book of Secrets: A novel, part one”

Description: A psychological thriller that follows Mink as she comes of age in a town that suspects her father of murdering her mother.

Advisors: Tony Grooms and Andrew Plattner.

Keith says, *“In my time as an MAPW student, I had access to a dedicated group of instructors whose experience and knowledge shepherded me from literary neophyte to professional writer. There is no other institution which offers the same variety of skills as the MAPW program, and in the current market for job readiness, the necessity of skill flexibility cannot be overstated. The MAPW program is a stepping stone to the next level-- whether that be continued education, a flourishing career in the private sector, or a commitment to the craft of creative writing.”*

Samantha Weinberg

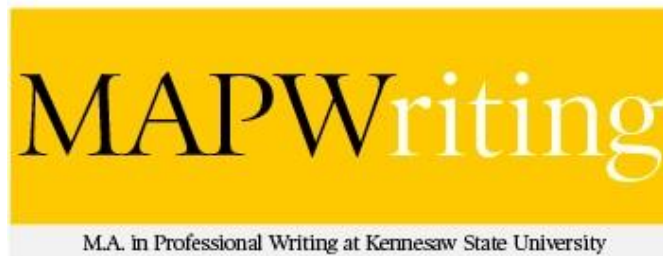
Samantha is the recipient of the MAPW Public Service Award.

Capstone title: “Writing as a Nonprofit Leadership Tool”

Description: When writers use their skills towards a nonprofit’s mission, they can help enhance communities and change lives. There are roles in the nonprofit sector that are very writing centric, such as grant writers and communication specialists, that writers commonly hold. However, writing is also a necessary skill for those in management or leadership positions in nonprofit organizations. This capstone project explores the kinds of writing skills and deliverables that are critical to the responsibilities of nonprofit managers and how writing impacts the effectiveness of nonprofit managers and organizations.

Advisors: Kim Haines-Korn and Lara Smith-Sitton

Samantha says, *I would like to thank my committee members, Dr. Smith-Sitton and Dr. HainesKorn, for their guidance and support.*



MAPW *Writing Bulletin*

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The MAPW Faculty is pleased to announce the following award winners for
Academic Year 2019-2020

MAPW CHSS AWARDS WINNERS 2019-20

Courtney Bradford

OUTSTANDING CHSS GRADUATE STUDENT FOR MAPW

A recognition presented by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
as advised by the MAPW Faculty

Faculty Honoree

Dr. Lara Smith-Sitton

Edward Gadrix

CHSS HOMECOMING STUDENT HONOREE

A recognition presented by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
as advised by the MAPW Faculty

Melva Robertson

CHSS HOMECOMING ALUMNA HONOREE

A recognition presented by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences
as advised by the MAPW Faculty

Melva Robertson (MAPW 2005) has earned her doctoral degree in Strategic Leadership from Regent University. Melva is the Director of Communications for the Laney Graduate School at Emory University.

MAPW PROGRAM AWARDS WINNERS 2019-20

These are awards are presented by the MAPW faculty for outstanding achievements that realize the learning, creative and service goals of the MAPW program

Roger Poole

THE MAPW EXCEPTIONAL TEACHING AWARD
for enthusiastic engagement as a Teaching Assistant in the English Department

Walter Lawrence

THE MAPW EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD
for enthusiastic support of MAPW's cultural programming by organizing events and clubs

Ashley Crisler

THE MAPW WORK-IN-PROGRESS AWARD
for diligent pursuit of novel writing

Edward Gadrix

THE MAPW WORK-IN-PROGRESS AWARD
for diligent and award winning pursuit of screenwriting

Keith Stillman

THE MAPW WORK-IN-PROGRESS AWARD
for diligent pursuit of novel writing

Pearlie Harris

THE MAPW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD
for research about internships, community writing, and service learning partnerships and editorial work on Green Card Voices

Courtney Bradford

THE MAPW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD
for efforts to support children through research and editorial work for Green Card Voices and the Advocates for Children Nonprofit

Shiloh Garcia

THE MAPW EXCEPTIONAL RESEARCH AWARD
*for research supporting the Atlanta Student Movement Archives
and study of immigrant English language acquisition*

Samantha Weinberg

THE MAPW PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD
*for an impactful internship with the Food Security for America Nonprofit,
contributing to a grant proposal that enabled the organization to begin an expanded food
delivery service in the Metro Atlanta*

Lisa Russell

THE MAPW DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD:
*Lisa Russell (MAPW 2012) is adding a third book to her “lost towns” series. This latest book,
The Lost Mill Towns of North Georgia (History Press Library), focuses on the growth of
industry in North Georgia and its impact on local farming communities. Lisa was featured as an
expert on an episode of The Discovery Channel’s “Expedition X.” This episode explored what’s
under Lake Lanier and refers to Lisa’s second book, Underwater Ghost Towns of North Georgia.*

The logo for MAPWwriting features the text "MAPWwriting" in a serif font. "MAPW" is in a larger, bold font, and "writing" is in a smaller, regular font. The text is white and set against a solid yellow rectangular background.

M.A. in Professional Writing at Kennesaw State University