

The Write News

**THE WRITE ATTITUDE
NEWSLETTER
FOR STUDENTS
SPRING 2015/Issue 4**

**Brianna Sanders,
SSU student and winner of
The Write Attitude
Competition on Instagram**

I WRITE

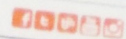
to inspire people and to
release emotions

What about you?

**The Write
Attitude**



SSU Quality Enhancement Plan



**Read
more
inside!**

**The QEP &
The Community
Interviews with QEP Lunch
& Learn Special Guests
Student Poetry**



The Write News

SSU STUDENT
THE WRITE ATTITUDE NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2015/Issue 4

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The Write News is a means of keeping students, faculty, and staff aware of important information and events related to writing, demonstrating how strong writing skills are necessary in the professions, and showcasing our SSU authors.

The Write News is the newsletter of **The Write Attitude, the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) at Savannah State University**, a campus-wide initiative to enhance student learning by improving attitudes about writing.

Please share your articles, essays, poems, and other enlightening writing samples and experiences with us.

Visit us:
qep.savannahstate.edu
Contact us:
qep@savannahstate.edu

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Kiara Lewis, SSU Student

The Henry and Beezus Project

The QEP team worked to improve fourth grade students' attitudes about writing

By Kiara Lewis, SSU English Student and QEP Intern

Working with three fourth grade classes at Thunderbolt Elementary School this past fall on the *Henry and Beezus* Project really taught us college students how to slow down, be patient, and, most importantly, be selfless. As a team, Lasasha Dawson, Diamond Cozart, Ashleigh Montford, Brandon Best, Dr. Rose Metts, and I actively worked with one another to continue the outreach work originally developed by Dr. Metts. Our group met with the students every week to discuss and write about Beverly Cleary's classic book *Henry and Beezus*. Our ultimate aim was to enhance students' learning and



Associate Professor of English
Dr. Rose Metts

improve their attitudes about writing. This should sound familiar, right?

That is the initiative of the Quality Enhancement Plan. We developed instructional learning plans and outcomes to implement this goal. The lesson plans consisted of trivia questions, vocabulary, expository writing, and reviewing previous chapters of the story to make sure the students comprehended and retained what they learned. We also allowed the students to "popcorn read" in order to get them involved, become more confident in reading aloud, and to improve their reading skills.

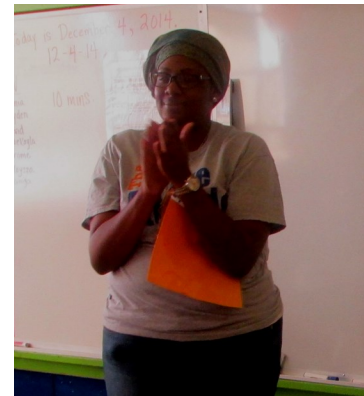


From left to right: SSU Alumni Brandon Best and Lasasha Dawson

We chose this book because it is a fun story that allowed the students to gain an understanding of storytelling and recognize various themes within a story. My favorite exercise was one in which

students read a chapter with the theme of perseverance, and they had to write about a time when they had to persevere.

We provided students with folders they were allowed to decorate, to keep track of their progress. We would also give the students written feedback on their work, always keeping them motivated and eager to continue to write.



QEP Student Ambassador
Ashleigh Montford

From beginning to end, we saw students improve, and some students keep impressive writing for fourth graders! It was sad when the project ended, because every time we showed up, their excitement reminded us just how much of a positive impact we shared in their lives.

Writing the Vision: The Essential Writing Elements of the Filmmaking Process

By Sierra Walton, SSU Mass Communications Student and QEP Intern

Filmmaker, author, business consultant, and Savannah State University alumnus, Miller Bargeron was a QEP Lunch & Learn series guest speaker. Bargeron shared his advice on the essentials of writing for film. More than fifty students listened intently to Bargeron as he described the process of coming up with a story that a person wants to tell. He also discussed researching, drafting, and bringing the vision to life.

“Everyone is so used to seeing the final product, but there are many drafts that come before that,” Bargeron says.

The different stages of drafting before approaching the final draft must be taken seriously in order to produce a masterpiece and to avoid plagiarism. Writing as a process is key.

When it comes to bringing a story to life, there is more than just grabbing a camera and shooting. It takes planning, writing, organizing, casting, and more. The most important part of bringing a story together is its creation. Whether your story is fictional or real, all stories have to seem believable by the viewer.

As director and producer of *Stubborn As A Mule!*,

Bargeron discussed his process of bringing the film to life. Since his film is based on true events, he had to devote a majority of his time to interviewing people and researching information to add credibility to his work.

So before saying “Action!” grab a pen and paper, create a script, perfect the story, and organize the information.



SSU alumnus and the Director of *Stubborn As A Mule!* Miller Bargeron speaks about “Writing the Vision” at a QEP Lunch & Learn.

Stubborn As A Mule! is an internationally award winning documentary that presents historical facts and contemporary commentary regarding the call for reparations for African-Americans.

To watch
Stubborn As A Mule!,
go to
www.youtube.com/watch?v=4PDtoE7tsBk

The QEP & Savannah Black Heritage Festival developed a Student Essay Contest based on *Stubborn As A Mule!*
Our winners:
Imani McIntyre & Shayanna Bonner

An Interview with Annabelle Carr, Editor of Savannah Magazine

Sierra Walton: What do editors look for in good writers?

Annabelle Carr: *You have to be a passionate reader, more than anything. I can always tell if a writer is really a writer by their ear. If they can hear when something sounds wrong, if they can hear the rhythm and can instinctively self-correct,*

“Magazine editing is a lot of collaboration with art....”

if they can evoke something, almost invoke something, create, and catalyze a response in people... If that doesn't happen, then they might be able to deliver good

facts in a timely manner, but they're not going to give me everything I need as a writer.

Sierra Walton: What are some skills or qualifications a person must have to be a successful editor?

Annabelle Carr: *For an editor, you need those same skills [that are embodied in a good writer], but then you also may have that even higher vision of what's going on. It's not just about filling a certain niche within the magazine or within the publishing world, but it's about really seeing the big picture and what else you can add to it...that ability to shift focus from high level to minutiae very quickly and precisely.*

Sierra Walton: What do you enjoy most about being an editor?

Annabelle Carr: *I love sitting down and getting ideas together for a new issue. We start out with just a few ideas about what each issue's theme is going to be, and then we get to find out what's going on right now that ties into the theme, and we get to think visually about the magazine, as well as word-wise. Magazine editing is a lot of collaboration with art, so that's really fun.*

“I can always tell if a writer is really a writer by their ear.”

That high-level planning period is really, really fun, and then when you get into executing it and when reality starts to try to measure up to your expectations and it can't, that can be a little bit of a downer. And so then this other fun part comes in where you are fighting to make it as good as it can be and to get it as close to your vision as possible. You win some and lose some, but it's a fun battle.



SSU Student and QEP Communications Intern Sierra Walton (left) interviews the Editor of Savannah Magazine Annabelle Carr (right).

More about
Savannah Magazine:
savannahmagazine.com

The Write Attitude Radio Show: What's "write" about that?

WSAV Reporter Martin F. Staunton shares the difference between writing for radio and TV

By Sierra Walton, SSU Mass Communications Student and QEP Intern

In a recent interview, Martin Fitzgerald Staunton, WSAV Reporter and a QEP Lunch & Learn guest speaker explained, "There is a difference between radio and television broadcasts." This is because these different platforms require two different ways of writing.

"Always remember when you're talking about broadcast television or broadcasting an image, that you use words that support the pictures. In radio, your words *are* the pictures. You can also use sound. All of these things paint a mental image for a person when you're

listening to the radio," Staunton explains. There are several factors that go into the



Martin F. Staunton, WSAV Reporter, is one of the guest speakers at the QEP Lunch & Learn series. This event gives students an opportunity to learn and network with community leaders, local employers, and SSU Alumni.

process of producing a successful radio show. The script is one of the most important parts of the show. It holds the show together and adds fluidity, making it easier to transition from one part to another.

Creating a script for a radio show requires organization as well as a strong idea of sensory detail. Since none of our listeners can see what we are talking about, it is the writer's job to use powerful imagery that will tap into their imaginations. However, for TV broadcasting, the pictures are right there in front of the viewer, making it easier for them to get a clear view of what is going on.

The QEP expanded into new mediums to better reach the Savannah State University campus and a broader community. In January 2015, the QEP partnered with WHCJ 90.3FM, SSU's Radio Station, to produce a series of **Write Attitude Radio Shows**.

SSU students, faculty, staff, and community members have helped

produce, contribute, and broadcast the show. The **Write Attitude Radio Shows** include writing, poetry, fiction, grammar mechanics, interviews with critically acclaimed authors, poets, writing in the professions, and much more.

Listen to the shows at qep.savannahstate.edu/About-QEP/Radio-Shows.aspx

Jan. 2015: Poetry in the Air explored the value of poetry and several critically acclaimed poets

Feb. 2015: Poetry in the Air focused on poet Nikki Giovanni

Mar. 2015: The Writers' Way featured author Lawrence Hill

Apr. 2015: Poetry in the Air spotlighted Estuary, SSU's Literary Magazine

International Poet Sholeh Wolpé Enchants SSU Audience

By Jocelyn Botticelli, SSU Staff member

Iranian-born and Trinidad-bred poet, editor, and literary translator, Sholeh Wolpé, graced the campus of SSU on February 5, 2015. She shared her works with students, faculty, staff and the larger community.

As part of the 2014-2015 Georgia Poetry Circuit, Wolpé was invited by CLASS and the QEP to come to campus to enchant us with her award-winning poetry.

Wolpé read many of her works in the Black Box Theatre, bathed in blue and pink lighting that created an illusion of a dream. This dream captivated the audience for an entire hour, after which she graciously autographed copies of her books and took pictures with many new fans.

Wolpé is a self-proclaimed exile. On the move since the age of 13, she now lives in the United States, but longs to re-connect with her homeland once again. Until then, she expresses herself through the written word.

“Poetry is everything,” she said. Even though she has embraced various religious and philosophical backgrounds, now her religion is poetry. She

explained it is her connection to all human beings. In particular, it is her mastery of imagery that keeps her readers so connected to her words.

Wolpé is a translator of international poetry and she stressed how important fluency of language and writing is in order to capture the essence of what the writer is trying to convey. Translation also is a way she feels that people can connect outside of the media and on a deeper level. Her three collections of poetry, *Rooftops of Tehran*, *The Scar Saloon*, and *Keeping Up with Blue Hyacinths*, are world-renowned and have won various awards.



Poet Sholeh Wolpé

To learn more about:
Sholeh Wolpé
www.sholehwolpe.com
Georgia Poetry Circuit
www.berry.edu/gpc/

2014-2015 Critically Acclaimed Authors & Poets at SSU:

Oct. 2014 - Canadian Author Lawrence Hill:

“The Black Loyalists of Nova Scotia: From Archives to Novel to Television Miniseries” (Lecture and Classroom Discussion sponsored by CLASS & QEP)

Nov. 2014 - Author

Tina Ansa: “Is She Writing About My Family?! The Universality of ‘Family’ and Why it Resonates in Storytelling and Fiction” (Lecture and Student Prose Writing Workshop sponsored by JMC & QEP)

Feb. 2015 - Author Karen

Abbott: “Narrative Non-Fiction: Bringing the Past Life Through Writing” (Lecture sponsored by the Savannah Book Festival & QEP)

Feb. 2015 - Poet Sholeh

Wolpé. (Poetry Reading and Classroom Discussion sponsored by Estuary, CLASS, the Georgia Poetry Circuit & QEP)

Mar. 2015 - Poet

Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie (Poetry Reading & Student Poetry Workshop sponsored by Estuary & QEP)

Apr. 2015 - Harvard Scholar Dr. Ali Asani:

“Knowledge, Pluralism, and Writing” (Lecture, Classroom & Faculty Discussions sponsored by QEP)

STUDENT POETRY WORKSHOP

New Ways to Bring Out the Writer in You

Poet Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie shares her magic with Savannah State University Students

By Sierra Walton, SSU Mass Communications Student and QEP Intern

Savannah State University students were exposed to new ways of tapping into their inner writer by using their senses. Poet Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie led students on a journey of various exercises that required them to utilize their imagination. She was able to help students pay attention to what they were taking in by opening their eyes, inhaling through their noses and feeling with their hands and their hearts.

The students wrote down what they saw throughout the day for the first exercise. Using what they observed, they had to create a haiku poem. From there Tallie passed around

an apple, pointing out that the students should look closely at the condition of the apple and its texture. The poet encouraged students to write a poem about the apple, but on one condition: they could not use the words, apple, red, fruit, temptation, or Adam and Eve. During the next exercise, she walked around, allowing students to smell an unknown scent. After smelling it, students had to write a poem based off of the smell. The last exercise was the most popular, according to the students. Tallie turned on a distinct jazz instrumental. Then, she told the students to imagine a setting or a place and to create

a poem based on what they imagined from the music.

It was more than a pleasure to be able to learn from Poet Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie; it was more of a surreal experience to be taught her magic. Her exercises made students more confident about their writing, and they inevitably discovered the magic within them. From something as simple as using the senses, Tallie taught that sometimes writing not only needs one to look, but to see, not only to smell, but to inhale, and not only to touch, but to feel. From there one's imagination will stretch to immeasurable distances.



From left to right: SSU students Sierra Walton, Olivia Botticelli, Jacob Evans, poet Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie, and SSU students Joshua Cliatt, Elizabeth Jackson, and Tom Bennet, Jr.

Our SSU students had the opportunity to participate in a poetry workshop led by poet Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie.

To learn more about Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie: www.ekeretallie.com

These poems were written by students at the Student Poetry Workshop led by Poet Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie.

Sierra Walton, SSU Student

iv.

Woke up on the black ocean,
Wincing at the sun
With bleeding toes
Climbing and crawling on each note.

It is so dark
But the sun breaks
And then I am walking on the streets of Crooklyn,
Growing with each stride.
I see the police
And my brisk walk turns into a sprint
And I start running from the world.

I break into an apartment
Hurrily packed my bags
Kissed him goodbye
People waving hello or bye?
I run, I run, I run
Past the painters, bicyclers, the tourists and students.

I pull the string floom!
My wings emerge and I shoot up full blast
To the sun
Crying ashes
Feeling my smile burn into peace.

The brown people ate my ashes and grew wings too.

Joshua Cliatt, SSU Student

Memories of the Boy

Sweet tangible joy takes over me,
Wrapping my sinful soul with your quilt of salvation,
Though a man, yet in your eyes I am infantile.
I ask you to never let me fall, but sometimes I do
And you're there always with me forever and ever
To gather my hands, gather my arms, gather my feet
and
My beating heart to put me back together
Repairing me.

Tom Bennett, SSU Student

Good Ole Granny's House

Ooh!!
Grandma what is that?
What is what Aaron?
Sniff!! Sniff!!
That smell
Oh That
That's my buttermilk biscuits
Grandma I smelled those from my room
It hit me like a linebacker
I felt the taste before I got out my bed
Biscuits how could you wake me up?
That's what my legs said
But my taste buds are saying
Thank You.

THE WRITE ATTITUDE STUDENT PHOTO GALLERY



SSU Student Erica Relaford and Author Karen Abbott



Author Tina Ansa and SSU Student



SSU student and Fashion Marketing Professional JJ Maxwell at the QEP Lunch & Learn



*Assistant Professor of Theater & Speech Darryl Thompson and his students, after recording a piece based on *The Book of Negroes*, Lawrence Hill's novel. The performance was aired on *The Writers' Way*, a Write Attitude Radio Show.*



SSU students and Harvard Professor Dr. Ali Asani



Author Lawrence Hill and SSU Student during a classroom discussion



SSU Graduate and Undergraduate student award winners at the 5th Annual Research Conference

THE WRITE ATTITUDE SPRING CONTESTS

Congratulations to our 2015 Spring Contest Winners!

The Write Attitude Competition on Instagram

1 Brianna Sanders



1,508 Likes

2 Dartanion Jones



1,276 Likes

3 Rhonda Jones



603 Likes

Math & QEP Essay Contest

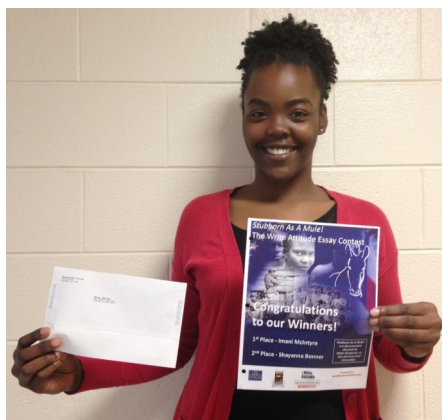
- 1 Dorion Baker**
- 2 Raven Davis**
- 3 John Murphy**

Paint Chip Poetry Contest

- 1 Frederick Barnes**
- 2 Benjamin McLin**

Stubborn As A Mule! Essay Contest

- 1 Imani McIntyre**
- 2 Shayanna Bonner**



SSU Student Shayanna Bonner

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Delta Eta Chapter Oratorical Contest

- 1 Elijah Jones**



SSU Student and member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Brandon Russell (left), and contest winner, SSU Student Elijah Jones

*Would you like
to be part of our
Write Attitude
Radio Shows?*

Send your name and
preferred contact information
to qep@savannahstate.edu

*Participate in the
QEP writing
workshops, events,
and competitions!*
You will learn, may
earn extra credit,
and could win cash
or other prizes!

*The Write Attitude
& The QEP*

The Write Attitude
is SSU's **Quality
Enhancement Plan
(QEP)**, a campus-wide
initiative to enhance student
learning by **improving
attitudes about writing.**

**Campus
Writing Resources:**

Asa H. Gordon Library

Career Services

Student Union, Room 115

Center for Academic Success

Whiting Hall, Room 253

Smarthinking.com

SSU Writing Center

Payne Hall, Room 201

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