

# THE D.E.N.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

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## PROGRAM UPDATES



### The **Creative Writing Program**

Visiting Writers series was cut short due to moving classes online; however, the program hosted Cate Marvin, and Devi Laskar's visit will be rescheduled for 2020-2021. Many students attended the AWP Conference this year in San Antonio. The program has successfully enrolled a full MFA cohort class for 2020-2021.



A group of **Literature Program** alums met up with two current MA students at the Southern Studies conference at Auburn University at Montgomery for two panels convened by Dr. Katie Simon. A highlight of the weekend was a lunch where the current students and alums compared notes about graduate schools admissions, coursework, thesis advising, qualifying exams, and other conference ideas for the future.

## RSO UPDATES

**Literary Guild** discussed best-selling novels from the past 100 years to kick-start the year 2020. Many new and recurring members engaged in conversations about literature and film, and the club collaborated with the Women's Center to discuss feminist literature and authors.

Romanticism Club changed its name to the **Romantic-Victorian Affinity** and covered topics such as illness, disability, and the body, as well as writing about love. After the campus closure, it had three meetings online, and alumni are joining in as well. Michael Faulknor, BA '17 and MA '19 joined the group for readings from and discussions of the Brontës; and the club had meetings online about Romanticism and solitude, and Romanticism and dreams.

**Shakespearean Circle** read *Troilus and Cressida* and *Comedy of Errors*, and it also had a crossover meeting with Romantic-Victorian Affinity where the two groups read Charles and Mary Lamb's *Tales from Shakespeare*. The group had a fun performance night at the Chapel of All Faiths at Central State, which was open to the public and well-attended. Since the pandemic, the club has kept up with weekly readings to complete King John and had an online alumni reunion.

## COURSE UPDATES

In **Dr. Lauren Pilcher's GC2Y** course "The Real World: Documentary in the Netflix Era," students engaged the distance learning environment of COVID-19 by creating video diaries and short documentaries depicting "reality" during the pandemic. Olivia Tompa's [COVID-19: Living Amidst a Global Pandemic](#) compiles essential interviews with the most affected, Kendall Profitt's [With Distance](#) offers a poetic take on the experiences of social distancing, and Kassie Arrington's [COVID-19...](#) captures the unexpected thoughts and feelings of a friends and family of all ages.

In **Dr. Sevcik's "Intro. to British Literature"** course, students set up Instagram accounts highlighting their favorite British authors. In particular, check out freshman Briann Heinssen's account dedicated to Virginia Woolf: @brit\_lit\_woolf. Students also created websites to help them organize their research on major periods of British Literature. Izzy Willingham and Shannon Murray created an excellent site called "A Breath of Fresh Eyre: British Literary Eras" <https://britlit2020.wixsite.com/website>. Brush up on your knowledge of British literature, history, and culture this summer!

## PUBLICATIONS

**Bryant, Paul Stephen.** [MFA Student] "My Gay Farm." [Essay] *Wraparound South*, Spring 2020.

[georgiasouthern.libguides.com/wraparoundsouth/spring2020/my\\_gay\\_farm](http://georgiasouthern.libguides.com/wraparoundsouth/spring2020/my_gay_farm).

---. "RIS: Missing Things." [Short Story] *Ripples in Space* from iHeartRadio, 8 Mar. 2020. [www.iheart.com/podcast/256-ripples-in-space-31097899/episode/ris-missing-things-58895975/](http://www.iheart.com/podcast/256-ripples-in-space-31097899/episode/ris-missing-things-58895975/).

**Friman, Alice.** [Retired] "About Hope." [Poem] *The American Journal of Poetry*, vol. 8, 2020. [www.theamericanjournalofpoetry.com/v8-friman.html/](http://www.theamericanjournalofpoetry.com/v8-friman.html/).

---. "Buttercup, That Laughing Flower." *Cumberland River Review*, vol. 9, no. 2., Apr. 2020. [crr.trevecca.edu/article/buttercup-that-laughing-flower](http://crr.trevecca.edu/article/buttercup-that-laughing-flower).

---. "Home Repair" and "The Catalyst." [Poems] *James Dickey Review*, vol. 35, 2019, pp. 40-42.

---. "Hygiene" and "Insomnia in Moonlight." [Poems] *The Gettysburg Review*, vol. 32, no. 3, Autumn 2019, pp. 390-92.

---. "Of Youth, the Body, and the Sea." [Poem] *Phi Kappa Phi Forum*, vol. 100, no. 1, Spring 2020, p. 34.

---. "The Scarf." [Poem] *Prairie Schooner*, vol. 93, no. 4, Winter 2019, pp. 59-60.

**Gentry, Marshall Bruce.** "The History, and the Future, of Flannery O'Connor Studies," Review essay on *The Critical Reception of Flannery O'Connor, 1952-2017: "Searchers and Discoverers,"* by Robert C. Evans. *Resources for American Literary Study*, vol. 41, no. 2, 2019, pp. 399-404.

**Neville, Kerry.** "Four Travel Memoirs that Tackle Big Issues Everyone is Dealing with Right Now." *Lonely Planet*, 20 Mar. 2020. [www.lonelyplanet.com/articles/travel-memoirs-for-social-distancing](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/articles/travel-memoirs-for-social-distancing).

---. "Home-Being." *Lonely Planet*, Apr. 2020. <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/articles/travel-memoirs-for-social-distancing>.

---. "Recovery and Sobriety During the Pandemic." *The Fix*, [www.thefix.com/recovery-and-sobriety-during-pandemic](http://www.thefix.com/recovery-and-sobriety-during-pandemic). 3 Mar. 2020.

---. "Practicing Our Principle in Perilous Times." *The Fix*, May 2020. [www.thefix.com](http://www.thefix.com).

**Lammon, Martin.** *The Long Road Home: Poems.* Finishing Line Press, Apr. 2020.

**McBrayer, Mary Kay.** [MFA Graduate] *America's First Female Serial Killer: Jane Toppan and the Making of a Monster.* Mango Publishing Group, 2020.

**Monk, Dalton.** [MFA Student] "Do It Like This." *New York Tyrant Magazine*, 17 Feb. 2020. [magazine.nytyrant.com/do-it-like-this-dalton-monk/](http://magazine.nytyrant.com/do-it-like-this-dalton-monk/).

**Selgin, Peter.** *Your First Page: First Pages and What They Tell Us About the Pages that Follow Them.* Revised Workshop and Classroom Edition, Broadview Press, 2019.

---. *The Kuhreihen Melody: Nostalgic Essays.* Serving House Books, 2019.

---. "Memoir: How We Write About Ourselves." Interview by Roz Morris. *Nail Your Novel*, 15 Mar. 2020, [nailyournovel.wordpress.com/2020/03/15/memoir-how-we-write-about-ourselves-an-interview-with-peter-selgin-peterselgin/](http://nailyournovel.wordpress.com/2020/03/15/memoir-how-we-write-about-ourselves-an-interview-with-peter-selgin-peterselgin/)

## PRESENTATIONS & READINGS

**Allmond, Emily.** [MA Student] "Environmental Justice in Jesmyn Ward's *Salvage the Bones*." Ecocritical Approaches to Southern Literature. Southern Studies Association, Auburn University at Montgomery, 31 Jan. 2020, Montgomery. Conference Presentation.

**Bowlin, Catherine.** [MA Graduate] "Southern Land, Black Embodied Labor, and Conjuring in 'The Goophered Grapevine.'" Hauntings, Conjurings, and Injustice in the Works of Charles Chesnutt and Octavia Butler. Southern Studies Association, Auburn University at Montgomery, 1 Feb. 2020, Montgomery. Conference Presentation.

**Capers, Kelly.** [MA Student] "It's Not All Black and White: A Woman's Resistance in Hamid Sulaiman's *Freedom Hospital*." Gender, Sex, and Resistance in Literature of the Middle East. Women and Gender Studies Symposium, Georgia College & State University, 10 Apr. 2020, Milledgeville. Conference Presentation.

**Cudmore, Ross.** [MA Student] "No Daughter of Mine: Examining Toxic Masculinity in The Middle East Through *Sitt Marie Rose* and *A Rebel in Gaza*." Gender, Sex, and Resistance in Literature of the Middle East. Women and Gender Studies Symposium, Georgia College & State University, 10 Apr. 2020, Milledgeville. Conference Presentation.

**Friman, Alice.** [Retired] Poetry Reading for Forrest Shearer, Percy Miller Memorial Lecture. "Revelry and Reverence." The Southern Humanities Council Conference, 1 Feb. 2020, Baton Rouge. Reading.

---. Poetry Reading, University of Indianapolis. 29 Feb. 2020, following 28 Feb. concert performance of Bloom to Bloom, a set of five art songs by using poems by Friman as lyrics. Bloom to Bloom had previously been presented by student singers at the University of Texas at El Paso. Reading.

---. Poetry Reading and Q/A session for Prof. Beth Gyls's MFA Poetry class at Georgia State University, via Zoom. 9 Apr. 2020.

---. Taped reading of three poems ("Hygiene," "Insomnia in Moonlight," "On the Overnight Train") posted on website of *The Gettysburg Review*, May 2020, [www.gettysburgreview.com](http://www.gettysburgreview.com).

**Gentry, Marshall Bruce.** "Reconsidering Flannery O'Connor's Grotesque and Predicting the Future of O'Connor Studies." Revelry and Reverence, Southern Humanities Council Conference, 31 Jan. 2020, Baton Rouge. Conference Presentation.

**Jones, Eric.** [MA Student] "Call of the Mother, Land : Gender and the Palestinian Narrative of Return During the *Nakba* and Today." Gender, Sex, and Resistance in Literature of the Middle East. Women and Gender Studies Symposium, Georgia College & State University, 10 Apr. 2020, Milledgeville. Conference Presentation.

**Maller, Dana.** [BA Graduate] "Cakewalking Justice: A Deconstructive Approach to Race and Law in Chesnutt's *The Marrow of Tradition*. Hauntings, Conjurings, and Injustice in the Works of Charles Chesnutt and Octavia Butler. Southern Studies Association, Auburn University at Montgomery, 1 Feb. 2020, Montgomery. Conference Presentation.

**McQuain, Jessica.** [MA Student] "Quiet Revolutionaries: Translating Ecojustice Ethics to Rural Activism for Poor and Working Class Whites." Ecocritical Approaches to Southern Literature. Southern Studies Association, Auburn University at Montgomery, 31 Jan 2020, Montgomery. Conference Presentation.

**Neville, Kerry.** "Inhabiting Language, Inhabiting Place: Ireland." Leaving Behind Our American Selves: On Writing Travel Essays from Time Abroad. AWP Conference, 6 Mar. 2020, San Antonio Convention Center, San Antonio. Conference Presentation.

---. "Language, Extinction and Conservation." A Pen and Paper Coalition: Writers as Engines for Conservation. Integrative Conservation Conference, University of Georgia, 8 Feb. 2020, Athens. Conference Presentation.

---. "The Wave of Translation." Recovery LitUp, AWP Conference and University of San Antonio, 5 Mar. 2020, San Antonio. Reading.

**Sevcik, Stefanie.** "Female Prison Art: Creative Insurgency in the Syrian Civil War." British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Association Conference. 22 Feb. 2020, Savannah. Conference Presentation.

---. "Learning Everyday Activism from Global Resistance Movements: Female Artists, Writers, and Bloggers." *Leading Change: A World of Opportunity*. Women's Leadership Conference. Georgia College & State University, 6 March 2020, Milledgeville. Conference Presentation.

**Simon, Katie.** Chair. "Ecocritical Approaches to Southern Literature." Southern Studies Association, Auburn University at Montgomery. 31 Jan. 2020, Montgomery. Panel Convener and Chair.

---. Chair. "Hauntings, Conjurings, and Injustice in the Works of Charles Chesnutt and Octavia Butler." Southern Studies Association, Auburn University at Montgomery. 1 Feb. 2020, Montgomery. Panel Convener and Chair.

## ACCOLADES

**Emily Allmond** [MA Student] received an Outstanding Graduate Assistant award from the Graduate School.

**Sandy Dimon** has been selected as a scorer for the 2020 AP English Language exam.

**Alice Friman** [Retired] received the Pushcart Prize for "On the Overnight Train," a poem originally published in The Massachusetts Review.

Alice Friman's poetry collection was reviewed by Sarah Carey in an article entitled "Running Side by Side" published in the EcoTheo Review, vol. 3, no. 2, 10 Feb. 2020. [ecotheo.org/2020/02/running-side-by-side/](http://ecotheo.org/2020/02/running-side-by-side/).

**Jessica McQuain** [MA student] was awarded the Sarah O. Dunaway Scholarship from the Friends of Georgia Archives and History to attend the 2020 Georgia Archives Institute.

**Kerry Neville** was The Kincaid School Weiner Fellow 2-3 Mar. 2020 at The Kincaid School in Houston.

Kerry Neville was the judge for the 2020 Iron Horse Review Fiction Chapbook Contest, the Kennesaw State 1st Year Composition Essay Prize, and the Creative Nonfiction Judge for the Carson McCullers Literary Awards Festival.

An excerpt from **Peter Selgin's** novel Duplicity was a finalist for the 2019 Craft First Chapter Contest, judged by Naomi Huffman of FSG Originals, [www.craftliterary.com/first-chapters-contest-2019](http://www.craftliterary.com/first-chapters-contest-2019).

"Cover Stories," an illustrated nonfiction hybrid, featuring Peter Selgin's book cover designs for famous novels and stories to go with them, was published in February in Grub Street Literary Magazine, [www.craftliterary.com](http://www.craftliterary.com).

Peter Selgin's 2016 memoir The Inventors was discussed on Episode #15 of the Books Are My People podcast, [www.buzzsprout.com/486445/2571328](http://www.buzzsprout.com/486445/2571328).

Peter Selgin's essay collection, The Kuhreihen Melody, was named a finalist for the 2019 BIG OTHER Book Award for Nonfiction, [bookshop.org/lists/2019-big-other-book-award-for-nonfiction-finalists](http://bookshop.org/lists/2019-big-other-book-award-for-nonfiction-finalists).

Peter Selgin led an online creative writing workshop for the Georgia Writers Association. He is also doing one-on-one manuscript consultations.

Peter Selgin has designed covers for several noteworthy projects, including two novels by Jerome Charyn, Cesare and Sergeant Salinger, both from Bellevue Literary Press. He has also been engaged to design an overall look and covers for a creative nonfiction anthology series with a social equity theme for Trinity University Press.