OUR MISSION

Predicated on our passion for academic excellence and the building of a community of scholars, The Vibrant Voice sets out to showcase the achievements of our faculty, staff, and students, and to disseminate our programs, events, and announcements to the university community and beyond. The newsletter creates sturdy bonds between the department and the alumni, and facilitates mutually productive professional relations. Published once a year, in both print and digital form, The Vibrant Voice is apolitical and congruent with the mission of the English Department.
WORDS FROM DEPARTMENT CHAIR

The new edition of *The Vibrant Voice* represents another successful year for the Department of English. As the articles about our alumni, our current majors, and our faculty indicate, our academic, career and community outreach has been impressive. I congratulate all those who are celebrated in this edition—and commend all those who have contributed to the department’s activities this year.

Moreover, we continue to use the newsletter as a vehicle for connecting with our alumni and the broader community. Please contact us about your activities and successes; we would welcome an opportunity to spotlight events around the community and highlight your accomplishments. If you would like to be a part of our newsletter in the future, please email me at BarbaraGoodman@clayton.edu. It would be wonderful to hear from you.

**Dr. Barbara Goodman**
Office: G110A
Phone: 678-466-4711

ONLINE CLASS OFFERINGS

The Department of English continues to develop its online course offerings. In fact, if you wish, you can complete about 90% of the major (Literature or Writing) online. The department offers online courses in both the Core courses (First-Year Writing and Survey of Literature) and upper-level courses (required and elective courses). As a department we are determined to offer alternative delivery systems such as hybrid and online courses without compromising our academic rigor and integrity. With some students preferring online courses, others preferring seated courses, and many preferring a combination of online and seated courses, we will continue to offer all varieties of delivery systems in all areas of the major each semester. If you have any questions or concerns about the program and its desire to serve your needs by enhancing its delivery systems, contact Dr. Goodman (ext. 4711 or BarbaraGoodman@clayton.edu).
“Writing is an act of faith, not a trick of grammar.” -E. B. White
Dr. Christopher Jonas Ritter joined the Department of English as an Assistant Professor of English in the fall of 2014. He earned a doctorate degree in Rhetoric and Composition from Washington State University in 2010, with concentration on digital rhetoric, particularly in digital games. His Master’s research focused on David Foster Wallace and postmodern American literature. He has also completed graduate coursework in the analysis, composition, and pedagogy of contemporary and digital rhetoric, technical communication, and literature.

Professionally, Dr. Ritter has taught at the college level since 2002 in technical and professional communication, designing for the Internet, digital game studies, multimedia authoring, American literature, personal statements & impromptu writing, first-year composition, and world civilizations. From 2010 to 2013, he held a Marion L. Brittain Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Georgia Institute of Technology and ran a client-based technical communication course that provided communication consulting for local nonprofits, small businesses, and startups. In 2013-14, he co-taught a pilot version of technical communication that was integrated with the School of Computer Science’s capstone design projects course, in which student teams planned, composed, and delivered client-based and entrepreneurial applications.

Scholarship wise, Dr. Ritter has published individually and collaboratively. His scholarship focuses on teaching, rhetoric, art, and history. Additionally, he presented at local, regional, national, and international conferences; led workshops on pedagogy and digital technologies, and has given interviews on studying and teaching games. The Department is happy to have Dr. Ritter as a colleague.

Follow the Clayton State Department of English on Social Media

Facebook: www.facebook.com/

Instagram: claytonstateenglish

Twitter: @CSU_English

JaCinta Ragland, the English department’s social media intern, blogs weekly about literature, departmental events, and life as a CSU English major. Her blog can be found here: http://goodreads1912claytonstateuniversity.wordpress.com/.
Dr. Eugene Ngezem
Publications:
“Cultural Clash and Collapse: Despoliation, Dissension, and Dispossession in Manjula Padmanabhan’s Harvest” published in Indian English Literature: Issues and Challenges

Dr. Robert Pfeiffer
“Blackbird” and “At Thirty-Three” published in Iodine Poetry Journal.
Review of Adrian Matejka’s The Big Smoke published in H_NGM_N.
“Transfiguration” published in Indefinite Space.
“Manicuring the Self: Creative Nonfiction in the Age of Social Media” presented at SAMLA.
Artistic Performance:
Decatur Book Festival 2014: Participated in the College Day Poetry Reading by representing Clayton State University (with colleague Brigitte Byrd).

Dr. Jennifer Parrott
Presentations:

Dr. Brigitte Byrd
“Line Shackles 9” published in Anthology of Georgia Poems
“Line Shackles 1” published in Ampersand Review
Artistic Performance:
Decatur Book Festival 2014: Coordinated and participated in the College Day Poetry Reading by representing Clayton State University (with colleague Robert Pfeiffer). Other participating local universities and colleges were Agnes Scott, Georgia Tech, Emory University, Spelman College, Georgia State University, Morehouse College, Clark Atlanta University, and Georgia Perimeter.
Sponsored Research:
Recipient of C.A.S.E. (Creative Activities and Scholarship Enrichment) to work on a new poetry collection project, “The House-Cage,” which deals with the intrusion of human habitats into wildlife habitats. The project encompasses language as a social place, a site of both philosophical inquiry and political address.

Dr. Amy Sanford
Publications:
“New Directions for Writing and Reading.” Oregon English Journal. 36(1), 19-21.
Presentations:
“Facing our dragons: Wrestling with the canon, censorship, and the Common Core through YA Literature.” LSU Young Adult Literature Conference and Seminar, Baton Rouge, LA.
“Finding a Place for Informational Texts in an Undergraduate Adolescent Literature Class.” Paper presented for a Panel Session: Lighting the Fire and Wrestling with the Canon: Re-inventing the English Classroom through YA Literature at the NCTE Annual Convention, Boston, MA.

Dr. Kathryn Pratt Russell
Presentations:
"Charlotte Smith's Trees, Gender, and Late-Eighteenth-Century Literature" at the SAMLA annual conference in Atlanta, GA, on November 8, 2014.
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Mary Lamb
- Tommy Clonts University Professor, 2014-2016
- Lamb, Mary R., ed. Connections: Guide to First-Year Writing @ Clayton State University. Fountainhead P, 2014
- CSU Professional Award Recipient, 2014

Dr. Susan Copeland
- Promoted to Full Professor
- Chosen as new director of MALS Program

FACULTY EXCHANGE

Dr. Sangeeta Sharma, an Assistant Professor of English, a journalist for the Times of India, and chair of the Department of English at Birla College, India was a visiting faculty exchange at Clayton State University in spring 2014. As in 2012 when she first visited the Department, she taught a variety of English classes. Dr. Sharma’s background and the lushness of her knowledge were assets for students in the classes she taught. Besides teaching mainstream literature, Dr. Sharma also discussed the caste system and gender roles in India, a discussion which seamed with our World literature classes, as well as our Postcolonial discourse. The Department was thrilled to have Dr. Sharma as a valued colleague and appreciates the warm reception she had from the university community, including the university leadership.

From left to right, Dr. Nasser Momayezi, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Sangeeta Sharma, visiting faculty from Birla College, India; Dr. Tim Hynes, CSU President; Dr. Madhavi Thakurdesai; and Dr. John Michael Crafton, former Provost of CSU.
Room 224—The Writers’ Studio

What is Room 224? I’m glad you asked.

The Writers’ Studio is located in Room 224 of the Arts and Sciences Building, and the student consultants under the direction of faculty director, Dr. Sipai Klein, are there to assist you in person or online to answer questions about writing etiquette. The Studio has expanded its student outreach in order to meet the needs of students who are taking classes on campus, online, and those enrolled in Fayette Center. So far this semester, the Writers’ Studio has had more than a combined 1000 face-to-face and online consultations, which shows an average weekly increase of 20 percent. Students attending writing consultations consistently rate their sessions with positive feedback, and have indicated their future use of the service, and the intention to recommend its use to other students.

Who are the writing consultants? The consultants are students like you who enjoy reading, writing, listening to jazz, skydiving, working with youth groups, and many other hobbies and pastimes. What sets them apart is the training they’ve received from university faculty and their unwavering commitment to helping fellow students become better writers and facilitators of language. One of the consultants has been working in the Writers’ Studio since 2011, which in itself demonstrates the level of dedication that exists among consultants. Additionally, half of the consultants have a current or future endeavor of working in the field of teaching English, so working in the Writers’ Studio affords them an opportunity to work one-on-one with students, and to enhance skills that will be of benefit to them when working in group or individual classroom settings.

Visit the Writers’ Studio at www.writerstudio224.com for more information on up-coming workshops. Sign-up for a writing consultation while you’re there! All workshops will be held at the Writers’ Studio. Hope to see you there!

-Cassandra Madden
I come from a long line of educators but wanted to focus my college career on literature and writing. Clayton State’s English Department was the perfect home for my exploration of these fields, and the classes and faculty at CSU helped to affirm, influence, and enhance my love of the written word. After graduating this past May, I wanted to try my hand at working in the burgeoning social media field and thought the skills of critical thinking and writing well would be utilized perfectly as a social media writer. While my English degree helped me secure my job and execute my duties successfully, I felt something was missing.

Since August 2014, I have been working with the Pre-Kindergarten class at Fernbank Elementary School in Atlanta. My studies at Clayton State showed me how important a love of education and community are to growth throughout all age groups, and I now believe I am fostering an early love of literacy, reading, and writing in young children that will inspire our next generation of learners, and possibly even future Clayton State students. (Rebecca Vaughn)

“Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart.” -William Wordsworth

After graduating from Clayton State, I went to North Carolina State University to pursue a degree in technical writing. The program was great for me as I learned a very different kind of writing than what I was familiar with. My degree was fully funded, and I was able to teach English 331 and 332 which are Communication for Engineering Sciences and Business and Management respectively. Teaching was great for me as I learned much about how different professions communicate, and I was able to develop my public speaking skills. Additionally, I learned a great deal about course development and instructional design.

I currently work full time as a technical writer and digital media consultant. I design all manner of communication, including manuals, technical specs, websites, white papers, product portfolios, and training seminars and videos. Although I do a lot of voiceover work and design work with various Adobe products, content is king; I write some kind of content every day. (Brittney Ragsdale)

The Vibrant Voice Committee
Dr. Eugene Ngezem, Chair
Dr. Robert Pfeiffer, Co-chair
Dr. Amy Sanford, Co-chair
Dr. Jennifer Parrott
Dr. Margaret Fletcher
Cassandra Madden, Student Assistant

You can add your voice to these vibrant voices by contacting Dr. Eugene Ngezem via email at eugenengezem@clayton.edu
ENGLISH DEGREE @ WORK

Sharon Cook, an employer of an English major, shares insight into how an English degree can be useful in corporate communications.

As Director of Corporate Communications for Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, Sharon Cook is responsible for hiring people who not only write well, but have excellent communication skills, and are capable of composing, reviewing, and editing any type of correspondence or publication that needs to be produced for the bank. Sharon stated that while none of the positions in Corporate Communications requires an English degree, persons of this caliber are always welcome due to the high volume of writing and publishing her department is responsible for. She went on to say that, “having an English degree in marketing and communications can be very beneficial, it brings a level of grammatical expertise to writing that marketing and communications degrees do not always offer.”

Sharon added a valuable member to her team in 2012 when she hired Meredith Moses. The job required a collaborative type of writing style that involves the entire team, and Meredith was more than up to the challenge.

When I spoke to Meredith concerning her work assignments, she mentioned that Sharon’s expectation is that Meredith has already proofed and edited her work before it’s passed to the team. Meredith feels that her English degree, and a love of reading and writing, has laid the foundation for her to do well in whatever career path her degree takes her. Before coming to the Bank, Meredith’s degree afforded her an opportunity to work in journalism and public affairs.

Cassandra Madden
STUDENT VOICES

English major Sharon Thompson-Young started her journey towards earning her degree with the assistance of Department Chair, Barbara Goodman. On the day of registration, Sharon arrived barely able to walk, but very excited about her future at Clayton State as an English major. Sharon had been in a car accident, but was determined not to miss orientation. As fate would have it, she was met by Dr. Goodman shortly after arriving on campus and was immediately instructed to take a seat. Dr. Goodman gathered all the registration information, and advised Sharon concerning the classes she would need to take. Sharon commented that, "Dr. Goodman made a huge impact on my decision to attend Clayton State."

Sharon currently holds the position of Corporate Development Manager of the Atlanta Community Food Bank. After she completes her English degree, Sharon wants to further her professional career by helping the growth and expansion of small businesses through grant writing.

-Cassandra Madden

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Kahdeidra arrived at Clayton State University in Fall 2010 as a dual-enrolled student. At first, she thought that writing courses in college would be a hassle, but soon came to realize that writing would be the least of her worries.

In 2012, she was inducted into the National English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta, in recognition of maintaining a high GPA in English related courses. Kahdeidra has also served as the Editor-in-Chief of The Bent Tree for the past two years.

Kahdeidra attributes her academic and extra-curricular success to the wonderful professors in the Clayton State English Department; without their constructive criticism she would not be where she is today.

As graduation approaches for Cassandra in May 2015, she often thinks of her time at Clayton State University as a grand experience she has been blessed to have. Cassandra has experienced the ultimate college experience with her involvement in major organizations such as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., AmeriCorps National Service Organization, and Campus Events Council. Cassandra is honored to be the current president of the Sigma Tau Delta International English Honors Society at Clayton State University.

Cassandra describes her learning experience at Clayton State as truly priceless. Her growth and development through the leadership and learning opportunities at Clayton State University has more than prepared her to venture out as an English educator.
In Memoriam
Kevin Gardiner
9/12/1989 – 10/1/2014

Kevin William Gardiner took my ENGL 2112 class and within a short while he distinguished himself in class via the quality and the content of his papers, exams, and discussions. He was one of my top-tier students in this class. I was pleasantly surprised that notwithstanding the fact that Kevin was a hard-working student, he was more interested in knowing his weaknesses, and how he could continue to improve his knowledge. Such propensity for striving to continue to improve is rare among top tier students like Kevin. He was a very disciplined young man who respected his peers and instructor, as demonstrated in the polite way he gave his views and asked questions. He will be deeply missed.

Dr. Eugene Ngezem
English Major Careers

Account Executive  
Actor/Actress  
Administrative Assistant  
Administrative Service Manager  
Advertising Copywriter  
Analyst  
Attorney  
Author  
Bank Officer  
Business Manager  
Circulation Assistant  
City Manager  
Clinical Information Specialist  
Communication Specialist  
Congressional Aide  
Copy Editor  
Customer Service Representative  
Desktop Publisher  
Director  
Documentation Specialist  
Editor  
Executive Recruiter  
Film Editor  
Financial Services Representative  
Financial Analyst  
Fundraiser  
Government Chief Executive  
Greeting Card Writer  
Human Resources Specialist  
Insurance Agent  
Interpreter and Translator  
Investment Counselor  
Law Enforcement Officer  
Legislator  
Librarian  
Literary Agent  
Loan Officer  
Management Analyst or Consultant  
Manuscript Reader  
Marketing Specialist  
Marketing Writer  
Medical Records Manager  
Narrator  
Newscaster  
Newspaper Professional  
Online Marketing Content Writer  
Paralegal/Legal Assistant  
Playwright  
Program Manager  
Property Manager  
Publication Editor  
Public Relations Specialist  
Publicity Assistant  
Publisher  
Radio Production Assistant  
Reporter or Correspondent  
Sales Representative  
Speech-Language Pathologist  
Speech Writer  
Social Scientist  
Teacher  
Television Announcer  
Underwriter  
Urban and Regional Planner  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Writer

STATEMENT OF EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY

Clayton State University is an equal employment, equal access, and equal educational opportunity and affirmative action institution. It is the policy of the University to recruit, hire, train, promote and educate persons without regard to race, color, national or ethnical origin, age, disability, gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or veteran status as required by applicable state and federal laws (including Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Sections 503, and 504, AREA, ADA, E.O. 11246, and Rev. Proc. 75-50). Clayton State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution. For questions or more detailed information regarding this policy please contact the Clayton State University Office of Human Resources at (678) 466-4230. Individuals requiring disability related accommodations for participation in any event or to obtain print materials in an alternative format, please contact the Disability Resource Center at: (678) 466-5445.