

# The Write News

**SSU STUDENT  
QEP ONLINE NEWSLETTER  
SPRING 2014/Issue 2**



**WORLD-RENOWNED POET  
NIKKI GIOVANNI  
MEETS THE SSU FAMILY  
AND SPEAKS ON  
THE TOPIC OF “WRITING AND  
EMPOWERMENT”**

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**SSU LIVE!  
ULEXIA WEST AND OTHER  
SSU STUDENTS READ  
THEIR ORIGINAL POEMS  
TO THE PUBLIC AT  
AN ART GALLERY IN  
DOWNTOWN SAVANNAH**

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**and much  
more  
inside!**

**The Write  
Attitude**  
SSU Quality Enhancement Plan

# The Write News

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**The Write News** is a means of keeping students abreast of important information and events related to writing, demonstrates how strong writing skills are necessary in nearly every profession, and showcases our student authors.

**The Write News** is an online newsletter brought to you each semester.

**The Write News** is part of **The Write Attitude**, which is 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:**  
[www.qep.savannahstate.edu](http://www.qep.savannahstate.edu)  
**Contact us:**  
[qep@savannahstate.edu](mailto:qep@savannahstate.edu)

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## Why I Decided to Become a Blogger

By Trelani Duncan

I started my first blog three years ago and immediately fell in love. I now recommend blogging to everyone. Below are the top five reasons why:

### #1: It further develops your critical thinking skills.

Whenever you update your status on Facebook or Twitter, you are microblogging. Traditional blogging, on the other hand, is longer in length. You are expounding on your ideas versus briefly expressing them in a sentence or two. This process requires you to reflect, consider various perspectives, and think a little deeper. These critical thinking skills go beyond the blog and apply to your personal, academic and professional life.

#### Check out these blogs:

**The Tiger's Roar**  
tigersroar.com/category/blog

**SSU Mass Communications:**  
4170imjustsaying.wordpress.com

**Trelani Duncan:**  
SoFundamental.com

### #2: It is a digital journey of self-discovery.

When I first started blogging, I wrote about everything: school, relationships, exercising, goals, spirituality, etc. As time passed, my blogs became a little more focused. My topics began centering on young women who wanted more than society's expectations. Through this exploration, I discovered my purpose in life. As if that wasn't enough, I was later contacted by a company with a similar focus, who wanted to pay me to blog on their website.

### #3: It assists in unearthing and honing your writer's voice.

Just as no two people are just alike, no two people have the same writer's voice or style. Having a voice makes writing less intimidating and more of a journey, regardless of the topic. However, unless you write often, you'll never discover your writer's voice. Additionally, the more you write, the more you'll hone your writing style. Blogging provides the perfect opportunity to do both.

### #4 It diversifies your skills.

More and more companies, whether a small business or large corporation, are beginning to add blogging to their marketing plans and budgets. As a blogger, you will enter the workforce with this skill already under your belt. You'll be viewed as more valuable since your employer won't have to hire a third-party to do the job. Furthermore, blogging offers several multimodal options. You can record and upload videos, images, voice recordings, set up newsletter subscriptions, and, most importantly, write on topics that will move people to act (and buy!).

### #5 It's free!

There are tons of free blogging websites. All you have to do is choose a site, a domain name, a theme/template, and start typing. Added bonus: it also serves as a free archive. You also have the option of sharing your articles with your friends on Facebook and Twitter or keeping it private.

#### So what are you waiting for? Start blogging today!

If you want to share your blog with us, please send the URL to:  
**qep@savannahstate.edu**

## A Legend Visits the College By The Sea

*Savannah State University's very own QEP had the honor and privilege of having the world renowned poet, literary genius, and activist, Dr. Nikki Giovanni speak to all in attendance about "Writing and Empowerment."*

*By Sylvia Alls, SSU Mass Communications Student*

On January 30, 2014, over 500 guests attended Dr. Nikki Giovanni's presentation on the topic of "Writing and Empowerment" at Savannah State University. At the end of the event, students, faculty, staff, and community members asked questions and had a chance to get autographs and pictures with the author.

Giovanni is known for speaking her mind; she let this nation know what was bugging her, what was testing her, and what was making her happy. When people are empowered, they can move mountains and Giovanni did that by penning her thoughts on paper. Her words have moved, encouraged, stirred and started fires within many.

During an interview I did with Giovanni while she was on campus, she mentioned something very interesting. She said in relation to the importance of knowing black history, "you have to read your poets, and you have to read your novelists, and you have to listen to the songs... you have to read the poetry... [for instance] you have to read Gwen Brooks to know what was going on in Chicago...."

Giovanni was explaining that in



*Nikki Giovanni delights the SSU family during QEP Week 2014.*

order for this generation to understand the future, we have to read about the past, to become familiar with it. She expressed how important it is to read and write and to become knowledgeable in this day and age.

### ***Giovanni remembers what has empowered her: WRITING***

After graduating from Fisk University, she published her first poetry book entitled *Black Feeling Black Talk*. Like a rhinoceros coming full speed ahead, so was Giovanni's career. She started, would not stop, and could not stop. An author of over 30 books, a recipient of a number of awards and honors, Giovanni has remained humble throughout her life in the limelight; and remembers what got

her to where she is now, what has empowered her: writing.

The QEP did an excellent job in choosing Giovanni as the QEP Week 2014 keynote speaker. The QEP is a program that encourages students, as well as faculty and staff members, to develop an appreciation for writing and the benefits it has. If you are interested in honing in on your writing skills to become a better writer or to become the next Nikki Giovanni, visit Whiting Hall.

*To watch Nikki Giovanni's address to SSU:  
[qep.savannahstate.edu/Students/QEP-Week/Spring-2014](http://qep.savannahstate.edu/Students/QEP-Week/Spring-2014)*

*SSU Students Blog about Nikki Giovanni: [2107f13women.wordpress.com/?s=giovanni](http://2107f13women.wordpress.com/?s=giovanni)*



## Writing Skills are Essential for a Community Relations Specialist at Gulfstream

*Trelani Duncan interviews Miriam Hodesh*

### What does your job consist of at Gulfstream?

As a Community Relations Specialist for Gulfstream, I create and cultivate education programs that bring awareness of Gulfstream careers to K-12 youth and teachers. My job consists of collaborating, communicating and igniting a spark in students to pursue careers in the aviation industry as well as science, technology, engineering and math, known as STEM.

### How important is writing to your job?

Writing has been an important communication tool in every job I have ever had. Currently, I use writing to communicate to students, teachers and fellow Gulfstream colleagues. I write emails, memos, newsletters, blogs, commercials, invitations, letters, articles and grant applications. I have learned to write concise presentations and executive summaries of projects and proposals for members of our leadership team. Being able to capture thoughts and ideas on paper is extremely important.

### What is your attitude toward writing?

I have always struggled with writing. As a young student, I struggled with different learning abilities. I always had a writing tutor to help me compose papers and organize my thoughts. In college, I ALWAYS took advantage of the free writing lab. I learned at a young age to overcome any fear of asking for help. I have many strengths, and because writing is not one of them, I lean on those who enjoy editing and giving critical feedback to make my writing stronger.

I wanted to participate in this newsletter in hopes that some students reading this might

***“WRITING is a powerful tool. The written word lasts longer than we do – so learn to use it to your advantage.”***

relate to my story. If writing is not your thing, ask for help. I asked that the Senior Manager of External Communications for Gulfstream read over this article and was happy she could use her specific skill set to improve my message.

### Has this always been your attitude toward writing? If not, what changed it?

Having wonderful tutors changed my attitude about writing. One specific tutor in high school suggested I send my final term paper to an author I admired greatly. I had written a paper about a book he wrote, and when I heard back from him, it blew my mind! I framed the letter he wrote to me and have it hanging in my office.

***“WRITING has been an important communication tool in every job I have ever had.”***

### What advice would you lend to students regarding writing?

Writing is a powerful tool. The written word lasts longer than we do—so learn to use it to your advantage. Learn to ask for help. In my work world, I see a lot of emails. Emailing is a form of writing, and I take it seriously. Start now with writing proper introductory lines, complete sentences and signature lines. Pretend you are writing a hand-written letter; read it over and check the spelling before you send it. Write thank you notes, too. They are a dying form of communication that can really help you in your career and life!

### What is PLAGIARISM?

Quoting or summarizing someone else's words without giving them credit is called plagiarism. Whether or not it's intentionally done, it's a form of stealing. It is the act of taking the intellectual property of another author and claiming it as one's own.

### What are the LEADING CAUSES of plagiarism?

Not fully understanding what plagiarism is.

Procrastination and poor time management.

Fear of failure due to a lack of confidence in one's own work.

*Source: [ww.turnitin.com/en\\_us/resources/white-papers](http://ww.turnitin.com/en_us/resources/white-papers)*

### How do you AVOID plagiarizing?

Know exactly what plagiarism is.

Write thoroughly.

Have your work proofread by your professor, the [SSU Writing Center](#), and [Smarthinking.com](#)

Learn how to properly cite in the instructed format (APA, MLA, etc.).

Give yourself enough time to research, learn, write, and revise.

What are your thoughts on this issue? Share them with us via [email](#), [Facebook](#), or [Twitter](#).

## What is Plagiarism? (And Why You Should Care!)

By Trelani Duncan

### Why is the topic of plagiarism such a BIG DEAL?

1. It's unethical. It's taking someone else's hard work and not giving them credit. Although the information is accessible by the global community, it is still owned by its originator.
2. You're cheating yourself by refusing to take the time to learn the material and improve your writing skills. The ability to write well, think critically, and follow instruction will be essential to whatever field that you plan to work in.
3. Ignorance is not an excuse. Whether you are an undergraduate student, in grad school, or on the job, eventually all cheaters will be caught. Any attempts to explain that it was a mistake or that you "didn't know" are unacceptable.
4. Consequences include, but are not limited to: being reported to the Office of Academic Affairs, being reviewed by the division of Student Ethics, receiving an "F" for that assignment, failing the course, being placed on academic probation, and expulsion.

## SSU Students and Shane McCrae Shine as They Read Their Original Poems at Le Snoot Gallery in Downtown Savannah

After winning an SSU poetry contest, students participated in a workshop with poet Shane McCrae, and read their poems to an attentive and engaged audience at Le Snoot, an art gallery in downtown Savannah, on April 12, 2014.



From left to right: Mario Williams, Jerahn Thomas, Vanessa McQueen, Shane McCrae, Ulexia West, Tomara David, Jasmine Jones, Shaquita Fitzpatrick, Daryl Blalock, Aliyah Bryant and Professor Erika Brown.

### Congratulations to our students!

*Daryl Blalock*  
*Alyiah Bryant*  
*Tomara David*  
*Jose Diaz*  
*Vincent Deen*  
*Shaquita Fitzpatrick*  
*Jasmine Jone*  
*Vanessa McQueen*  
*Jerahn Thomas*  
*Ulexia West*  
*Jocelyn Williams*  
*Mario Williams*

The project was the result of funding from an SSU College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences grant, "C.L.A.S.S. in Downtown," and a partnership between the QEP and Seersucker Live.

#### More about Shane McCrae

Shane McCrae is a renowned American poet, author of three poetry collections *Forgiveness*, *Blood*, and *Mule*, and the recipient of a 2011 Whiting Writers' Award and a 2013 NEA Creative Writing Fellowship. McCrae teaches in the brief-residency MFA program at Spalding University.



#### More about Seersucker Live

They are a nonprofit organization that wants to show people that literature is entertainment, and to bring it to a wide and diverse audience.

**Seersucker**  
live

[www.seersuckerlive.com](http://www.seersuckerlive.com)



From left to right: QEP Student Ambassadors Kiara Lewis, Diamond Cozart and Ashleigh Montford; QEP Student Outreach Coordinator Brittany Chretien; and QEP Director Dr. Lisa Yount.

## Do YOU want to WORK with the QEP?

Please see our **OPPORTUNITIES** for SSU Students!

### Student Ambassadors:

The QEP Student Ambassadors are volunteers that assist in hosting campus initiatives and events that influence the larger student population to participate in and embody “The Write Attitude.”

### Student Writing Fellows:

These skilled student employees are paired with interested professors to assist with the writing in their courses.

### Tutors:

Peer tutors are student employees that assist other students with their writing projects in the SSU Writing Center.

**Contact us:**  
[qep@savannahstate.edu](mailto:qep@savannahstate.edu)

## How can the QEP change your attitude about writing?

*You’ll cultivate “The Write Attitude” as you write about subjects you are passionate about, or receive helpful feedback that tells when you are on the right track and where you need assistance. As you build confidence in your writing skills, you are more likely to embrace the opportunity to express yourself in writing.*

**Visit [qep.savannahstate.edu/Students](http://qep.savannahstate.edu/Students) and find out several ways to meet this goal!**

**ATTITUDE is everything!**

## BE INFORMED AND PARTICIPATE!

Visit and follow us to be informed about events, contests, and resources that can help you with your writing.

 [qep.savannahstate.edu](http://qep.savannahstate.edu)

 [facebook.com/WriteSSU](https://facebook.com/WriteSSU)

 [@WriteSSU](https://twitter.com/WriteSSU)

 [qep@savannahstate.edu](mailto:qep@savannahstate.edu)