

The Write News

Read
more
inside!

SSU FACULTY & STAFF
THE WRITE ATTITUDE
NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2015/Issue 4

**Critically Acclaimed
Author & Scholar at SSU**

Faculty Development
Seminar & Workshops

2014-2015 QEP
Retrospective

I WRITE

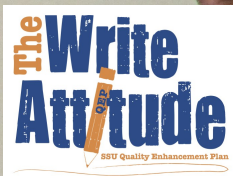
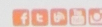
to Inspire and
to Stay Organized!

What about you?

The Write
Attitude



qep.sasasmsstate.edu



*Jordan Ogden,
Career Development
Specialist, Career Services*

The Write News

SSU FACULTY & STAFF THE WRITE ATTITUDE NEWSLETTER SPRING 2015/Issue 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Write News keeps students, faculty, and staff aware of important information and events related to writing; demonstrates how strong writing skills are necessary in the professions; and showcases 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 ideas for speakers, articles, essays, poems, and other enlightening writing samples and experiences with us.

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

Faculty Writing Fellows

Become a Faculty Writing Fellow and help our students improve their writing skills at the SSU Writing Center 3

Faculty Development Seminar

QEP is accepting applications for the next Faculty Development Seminar. Have you applied yet? 4

Testimonials 5

Author Karen Abbott

Writing Advice from a *New York Times* Bestselling Author 6

Harvard Scholar Dr. Ali Asani

Islamic Knowledge, Pluralism, and Writing 7

2014-2015 QEP Retrospective

Critically Acclaimed Authors & Poets 8

QEP Lunch & Learn Series 9

Faculty Development Workshops 10

The Write Attitude Radio Shows 11

QEP-Sponsored Writing Showcases 12

“I Write! What About You?” Campaign

Thank you to SSU participants 13

SSU Faculty Poetry

Sjohnna McCray: *Portrait of My Father as a Young Black Man* 14

Chad Faries: *Chapter lxxxiv PITCHPOLING* 14

QEP: All About Writing 15

**Become a Faculty Writing Fellow
and help our students improve
their writing skills at
the SSU Writing Center**



**APPLY NOW FOR
2015-2016**

What is a Faculty Writing Fellow?

Faculty Writing Fellows (FWFs) are faculty members that log a minimum of 75 hours per term at the SSU Writing Center.

What does a FWF do?

FWFs primarily work with student writers in their disciplinary area of expertise, but are available to help any student in need.

FWFs also conduct research on best practices in pedagogy and writing instruction in their discipline and deliver one QEP Faculty Development Workshop to share their findings.

What are the Requirements?

This is a paid position. In order to be considered, you must be recommended by your department chair or dean.

How do I apply?

Go to [tinyurl.com/
FacultyWritingFellows](http://tinyurl.com/FacultyWritingFellows)

*If you have any questions,
please contact Dr. Lisa Yount
at yountL@savannahstate.edu
or 358-3151*

THANK YOU!

We would like to sincerely thank our **2014-2015 FWFs** for helping our students improve their attitudes about writing.

Dr. Adegboye Adeyemo

COST, Natural Sciences and Chemistry

Dr. Andrea Moore

COST, Natural Sciences and Biology

Dr. Behrooz Kalantari

CLASS, Political Science and
Public Affairs

Dr. Dustin Michael

CLASS, English

Dr. Jordan Dominy

CLASS, English

Dr. Linda Samuel

CLASS, Social Work

Instructor Marlene Seidman

CLASS, Humanities and Fine Arts

QEP

qep.savannahstate.edu

SSU Writing Center

[www.savannahstate.edu/class/
writing-center/](http://www.savannahstate.edu/class/writing-center/)

QEP is accepting applications for the next Faculty Development Seminar.

Have you applied yet?

The Write Attitude Faculty Development Seminar is an 8-week instructional program led by Dr. Lisa Yount. It is designed to teach the best practices in pedagogy and writing instruction across the curriculum.

Candidates are chosen based on their support of QEP initiatives and willingness to enhance student learning through writing.

Participants engage in surveys, implement additional writing in their classrooms, give a brief presentation on their teaching experiences, and assess activities over three semesters.

Along with the skills and pedagogical knowledge afforded by the seminar, participants also receive an **honorarium** for their efforts and the title of **QEP Teaching Fellow**.

Apply here: tinyurl.com/FacDevSem

Applications are due Friday, October 16, 2015.

Participants representing various academic units on campus will be selected.

Areas covered during this Spring 2015 seminar include:

- ✓ How to motivate students' critical thinking and knowledge comprehension through writing.
- ✓ How to design effective writing assignments for your particular course/discipline.
- ✓ High- and low-stakes writing. Which is best for certain assignments and skill attainment?
- ✓ How to give student feedback that balances content with correctness.
- ✓ Creating assignment instructions that enable students to grasp what you want from them.
- ✓ Productive peer review.
- ✓ How to manage the grading load efficiently and effectively.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Lisa Yount at yountL@savannahstate.edu or 358-3151

Faculty
Development
Seminar

Dr. Pedro Rivera

CLASS, History

“This workshop emphasized and demonstrated the importance of writing and provided the tools (especially the textbook) to design meaningful assignments.”

Dr. Susanne Toney

COBA, Economics

“I have already recommended this workshop to colleagues. I found it well worth my time. I struggled with using writing in my highly quantitative principles of economics courses. Attending the workshop helped me to be more creative in finding ways to incorporate writing assignments that were beneficial to my students.”

Dr. Mir Hayder

COST, Engineering

“In the engineering technology programs, we do not have many writing components in the junior and senior level courses... This seminar has really helped me to identify some ways to provide our students with some other types of technical writing .”

Dr. Linda Samuel

CLASS, Social Work

“This was a very rewarding experience for me that I know will enhance my teaching and hopefully provide a better learning experience for my students. This seminar should be mandatory the second year for all junior faculty.”

Dr. Rebecca Setliff

COBA, Management

“Participating in the faculty development seminar with a focus on writing in the classroom gave me new techniques, and more important, a new way of thinking about writing. The conversations and shared stories with other faculty helped validate my own concerns and gave me new insights to consider. And, along with everything else, the book we were given is great; I use it to this day.”

Dr. Samuel Dolo

COST, Mathematics

“The seminar was inspirational and encouraging. My favorite part was ‘Assignment Design.’ The mini exercises Dr. Yount conducted were very helpful. I look forward to next semester to implement what I’ve learned. Dr. Yount was very knowledgeable of the content and ideas of the seminar and I am glad I participated.”

Dr. Tara Cox

COST, Marine Sciences

“Thanks again for such an awesome class. I am definitely going to miss our Wednesday mornings. It was time set aside for me to just think about how I teach.”

Darryl Thompson

CLASS, Performing Arts

“I would most certainly recommend this workshop. No matter how many years one has been teaching, a refresher is always needed. And for the new teacher, there is a lot of good assessment information.”

Testimonials

Writing Advice from a *New York Times* Bestselling Author

By Sandra Earley, Journalism and Mass Communications, CLASS

Karen Abbott is a writer who knows how to tell a story and sell a story, and she's not even making them up. She writes well-researched history on provocative topics with wide appeal. "Sizzle history," some have called it.

Abbott, who began her career as a magazine writer, is the author, most recently, of *Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War*, (Harper, 2014). She spoke at Savannah State University in February through the Savannah Book Festival. She was brought to campus by the university's QEP program, a sponsor of the festival.

Ideas for books and articles can come from anywhere, Abbott told students. The idea for *Liar* came from a bumper sticker she read while sitting in traffic in Atlanta. The idea for one of her other books, *Sin in the Second City: Madams, Ministers, Playboys and the Battle for America's Soul*, came from



Assistant Professor of Online Journalism Sandra Earley (right) interviews critically acclaimed author Karen Abbott (left).

genealogical research on a 19th century relative.

Abbott also urged students to discover the joy of research. She told students about going into archives and holding history – documents and artifacts – in her hands. While working on *Liar*, she remembered finding the black silk sack one of the women spies made and used to hide information rolled up in her hair.

Not only was the bag thrilling to find, she told students, it also

demonstrates the importance of democratic access to public documents, old and new, so that old and new stories can be told.

The method of write-as-you-go for a long project was another tip from the author. Write up information and research right after it is collected, she said. That way the writing of a book or long magazine article doesn't seem so daunting.

**More about
Karen Abbott:
karenabbott.net**

Islamic Knowledge, Pluralism, and Writing

By Dr. Mohamed H. Mukhtar, Social & Behavioral Sciences, CLASS

As we cope with brutal killings in the Horn of Africa and savage mass murdering in the Middle East, Nigeria, and Pakistan, we are overwhelmed with reports that blame Islam and hold Muslims responsible for these heinous actions.

At the same time, Muslim extremists such as al-Shabab, ISIS and DAISH, al-Qa'eda, Boko Haram, and the Taliban spread venomous propaganda that demonizes the West and Judeo-Christian believers as the enemy of Islam, making them the cause for all the problems of Muslims. Amidst such disarray, the QEP program at Savannah State University sponsored Dr. Ali Asani, a Harvard scholar on Islam and Indo-Muslim languages and cultures to help demystify the issue.

Dr. Asani spoke to a Global Issues class on April 16, 2015, and addressed a university-wide audience on the 17th. The QEP staff also provided additional opportunities where students, faculty, and administrators could interact with Dr. Asani, such as a welcome dinner at the Olde Pink House and a luncheon discussion at the Presidential Dining Room on campus.

I participated in most of Dr. Asani's activities and enjoyed them greatly. He covered important topics of concern: proficiency in writing, understanding the essence of religions, and cultural literacy.

He emphasized the importance of writing and reading for the well-being of the individual. He drew on significant parables from the Quran to illustrate his points. The first verse revealed the Prophet Muhammad was to read *Iqra'*, and also indicated the tools of writing: *al-qalam*, the pen and *al-kitab*, the book (Quran 96:1). A very fascinating part of Dr. Asani's lecture was the multifaceted aspects of

Arabic calligraphy, particularly its artistry. In discussing knowledge, Dr. Asani stressed religious literacy. He pointed out how *ahl al-kitab*, People of the Book (Judaism, Christianity) and Muslims, often know little about their own religious texts.

Dr. Asani's presentations could not have been more timely. They provided essential insight for the thinking and attitudes of our SSU community as it pertains to critical issues about literacy, theocracy, democracy, extremism, women's rights, and the prospects of cooperation or conflict between the West and the Muslim world.



Harvard Professor of Islamic Religion and Cultures Dr. Ali Asani delivers a public lecture at Savannah State University.

2014– 2015 CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED AUTHORS & POETS



Political Science and Public Affairs Department Chair Dr. Benn Bongang (left) and Canadian Author Lawrence Hill (right).



QEP Director Dr. Lisa Yount (right) interviews Harvard Professor Dr. Ali Asani (left).



Instructor of English Pat West (left) and Author Karen Abbott (right).



Associate Professor of English & Creative Writing Dr. Chad Faries, Poet Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie, and SSU Students.

Oct. 2014

Canadian Author Lawrence Hill: *“The Black Loyalists of Nova Scotia: From Archives to Novel to Television Miniseries”* (Public Lecture & Classroom Discussion).

Partnership: CLASS & the QEP.

Nov. 2014

Author Tina Ansa: *“Is She Writing About My Family?! The Universality of ‘Family’ and Why it Resonates in Storytelling and Fiction”* (Public Lecture & Student Writing Workshop).

Partnership: JMC & the QEP.

Feb. 2015

Author Karen Abbott: *“Narrative Non-Fiction: Bringing the Past to Life Through Writing”* (Public Lecture).

Partnership: Savannah Book Festival & the QEP.

Feb. 2015

International Poet Sholeh Wolpé (Public Poetry Reading & Classroom Discussion).

Partnership: Georgia Poetry Circuit, CLASS & the QEP.

Mar. 2015

Poet Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie (Public Poetry Reading, Classroom Discussion & Student Poetry Workshop).

Partnership: Estuary & the QEP.

Apr. 2015

Harvard Professor Dr. Ali Asani: *“Knowledge, Pluralism, and Writing”* (Public Lecture, Faculty Salon & Classroom Discussion).

All events were FREE and OPEN to the public.



From left to right: Journalism & Mass Communications Department Chair Wanda Lloyd, Author Tina Ansa, and Instructor Deborah Johnson-Simon.

2014-2015 LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

Patricia Lightfoot, Senior Retail Inside Account Manager at Brasseler USA: *“Writing in Effective Account Management: A View of Inside/Outside Sales”*

Sep. 2014

Amy Paige Condon, Associate and Digital Editor of Savannah Magazine: *“Telling Your Story”*

Oct. 2014

JJ Maxwell, Founder of J2 Media: *“New Media Strategies for Promoting Design, Fashion and Lifestyle Brands”*

Nov. 2014

Darrell Gartrell, International Entrepreneur and Author: *“Writing in a Global Society”*

Jan. 2015

Miller Bargeron, SSU Alumnus and Filmmaker: *“Writing the Vision: The Essential Writing Elements of the Filmmaking Process”*

Feb. 2015

Annabelle Carr, Editor of Savannah Magazine: *“The Pen as a Sword: The Martial Art of Editing”*

Mar. 2015

Martin F. Staunton, WSAV Reporter: *“How Writing Changed and Saved My Life”*

Apr. 2015

Faculty members are encouraged to suggest SPEAKERS for next year’s series. Free lunch is served to students attendees.



SSU Alumnus and Filmmaker Miller Bargeron, and SSU students.



SSU student (left) talks to the founder of J2 Media JJ Maxwell (right).



SSU students and Associate and Digital Editor of Savannah Magazine Amy Paige Condon (right).



Editor of Savannah Magazine Annabelle Carr, and SSU students.



Senior Retail Inside Account Manager at Brasseler USA Patricia Lightfoot, and SSU Students.



WSAV Reporter Martin F. Staunton, and SSU Students.

2014-2015 FACULTY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS



From left to right: Assistant Professor of English Dr. Jordan Dominy, and Lecturer of Psychology and Behavioral Analysis Dr. Tashala Jamison.



Former SSU faculty member and current Professor of Accounting at Armstrong State University Maliece Whatley.



Assistant Professor of English Dr. Dustin Michael.



From left to right: The QEP team, Dr. Lisa Yount, DeeDee Botticelli, and Adriana de Oliveira, with Professor of Political Science Dr. Behrooz Kalantari.

Sep. 2014

Dr. Kate McConnell, Virginia Tech:
"Everything You Need to Know about Rubrics to Effectively Evaluate Course-embedded Student Work"

Sep. 2014

Professor Maliece Whatley, Armstrong State University:
"Taking the Complexity out of the Complex: Preparing Accounting Students for Professional Writing"

Mar. 2015

Dr. Jordan Dominy, SSU/CLASS:
"The Good, the Bad, and the Wiki: A Report and Reflection on Wikis in the Classroom"

Apr. 2015

Dr. Andrea Moore, SSU/COST:
"Writing for the Sciences: How to Engage Students in Argumentative Writing in the Classroom"

Apr. 2015

Dr. Behrooz Kalantari, SSU/CLASS:
"Improving Writing in Political Science and Beyond: Things that Can be Done Easily"

Apr. 2015

Dr. Dustin Michael, SSU/CLASS:
"Writing Coaches and Writing Craft: A Report on Practices"



Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Andrea Moore, and faculty members Marlene Seidman (left) and Dr. Takayuki Nitta (right).

2014-2015 THE WRITE ATTITUDE RADIO SHOWS

Poetry in the Air explored the value of poetry, critically acclaimed poets, and original work by SSU writers.

Participants: SSU students, staff, and faculty members.

Poetry in the Air focused on poet **Nikki Giovanni**. **Participants:**

Nikki Giovanni, the President of SSU
Dr. Cheryl Dozier, SSU students, staff, and faculty members.

The Writers' Way featured Canadian author **Lawrence Hill**. **Participants:**

Lawrence Hill, SSU students, staff, and faculty members.

Poetry in the Air spotlighted **Estuary, SSU's Literary Magazine**. **Participants:**

Poets Sjohnna McCray, Sholeh Wolpé, Noah Blaustein, Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie, SSU students, faculty, and staff members.

Jan. 2015



Assistant Professor of English Dr. Kameelah Martin.

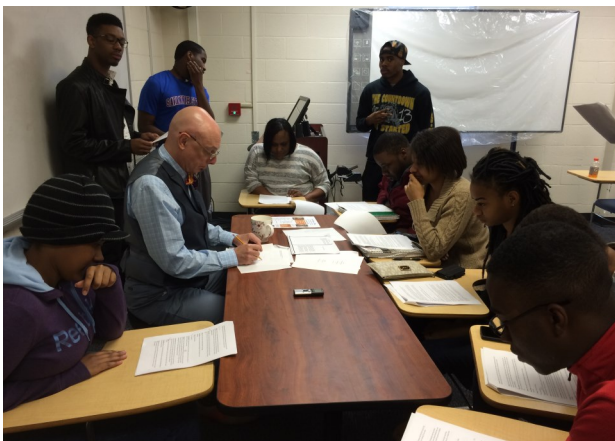
Feb. 2015



Assistant to the Director of the QEP Office and The Write Attitude Radio Show Host DeeDee Botticelli.

Mar. 2015

Apr. 2015



Assistant Professor of Theater & Speech Darryl Thompson and his SSU Oral Interpretation of Literature Students record for *The Writers' Way* radio show.



SSU Student and QEP Radio Show Producer Sierra Walton and the President of Savannah State University Dr. Cheryl Dozier.

Thank you very much SSU radio station team, students, faculty, staff, and special guests for helping The Write Attitude Radio Shows to get the word out about writing!

SSU Administrators, Faculty & Staff: Dr. Chad Faries, Dr. Cheryl Dozier, Darryl Thompson, DeeDee Botticelli, Dr. Dustin Michael, Grace Curry, Kai Walker, Dr. Kameelah Martin, Dr. Ryan Clark, Sjohnna McCray, Theron "Ike" Carter, and Dr. Ujjvala Bagal.

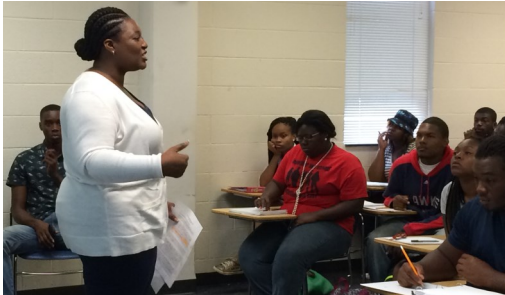
Special Guests: Lawrence Hill, Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie, Nikki Giovanni, Noah Blaustein, and Sholeh Wolpé.

2014-2015 QEP-SPONSORED WRITING SHOWCASES

September 2014

The Art of Legal and Persuasive Writing, with Attorney Whitney Williams. **Partnership: Department of Fine Arts, Humanities and Wellness & the QEP.**

Hispanic Heritage Week
Partnership: Student Affairs, CAS, Equity & Diversity, International Education Center, CLASS & the QEP.



Attorney Whitney Williams presents "The Art of Legal and Persuasive Writing" to SSU students.



Assistant Professor of Spanish Irina Tedrick and SSU students share their study abroad experiences at Hispanic Heritage Week.



SSU student award winners at COBA Research Day with Professor of Management & International Affairs Dr. John R. McIntyre (Georgia Institute of Technology).

February 2015

COBA Research Day
Partnership: G-LIBER Center & the QEP.

The 6th Annual Liberal Arts Student Conference
Partnership: Department of English, Languages, and Cultures; Department of Fine Arts, Humanities, and Wellness & the QEP.

April 2015

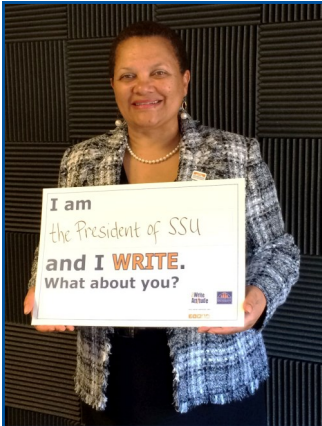
5th Annual Research Conference
Partnership: Department of Research and Sponsored Programs & the QEP.



SSU graduate and undergraduate student award winners at the 5th Annual Research Conference.

“I WRITE! WHAT ABOUT YOU?” CAMPAIGN

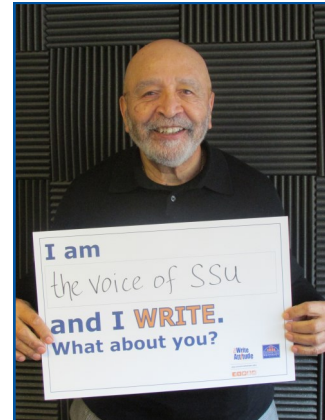
We would like to thank you kindly for your participation!
As SSU leaders and representatives, you help the QEP to inspire our students and community with positive attitudes about writing!



Dr. Cheryl Dozier, President of Savannah State University



Nikki Rech, Outreach Service Librarian, SSU Library



Theron "Ike" Carter, Director of SSU's Radio Station



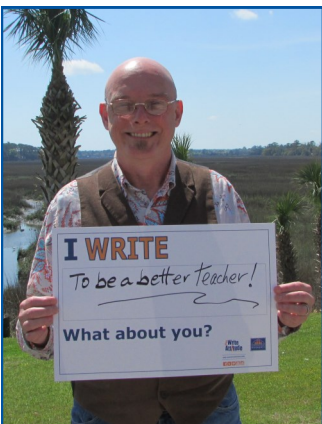
Francisco Duque, Academic Advisor, Center for Academic Success



Jaleesa Morris, Academic Advisor, Center for Academic Success



Jordan Ogden, Career Development Specialist, Career Services



Darryl Thompson, Assistant Professor of Theater & Speech, CLASS



Dwight Williams, Police Officer Sargent, Department of Public Safety



Joline Kevy, International Education Specialist, International Education Center

Sjohnna McCray

Portrait of My Father as a Young Black Man

—Cincinnati, Ohio 1987

Rage is the language of men,
layers of particulates fused.
Rage is the wine
father pours to the ground

for men whose time has passed. Rage
is gripped in the hands

like the neck of a broom held tight. Rage
gets stuck in the throat, suppressed.

Rage is a promise kept.

Sjohnna McCray teaches in the Department of English, Languages, and Cultures at Savannah State University. His poetry collection, Rapture, was selected by Tracy K. Smith as the winner of the 2015 Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets and will be published by Graywolf Press in 2016. McCray's poems have been published in numerous journals, including Chicago Quarterly Review, Shenandoah, and The Southern Review.

Congratulations, Professor Sjohnna McCray!

You can listen to an interview with Sjohnna McCray conducted by Chad Faries. McCray also reads “Portrait of My Father as a Young Black Man” and “In Need of Subtitles” on *Poetry in the Air*, a *Write Attitude Radio Show*. The show was aired on April 22nd, by 90.3 FM (WHCJ), and it is available online at qep.savannahstate.edu/About-QEP/Radio-Shows.aspx

Also, you can read poems written by Sjohnna McCray, Chad Faries, Sholeh Wolpé, Noah Blaustein, Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie, and many more original pieces from SSU students, alumni, and faculty members in *Estuary's* latest issue.

Chad Faries

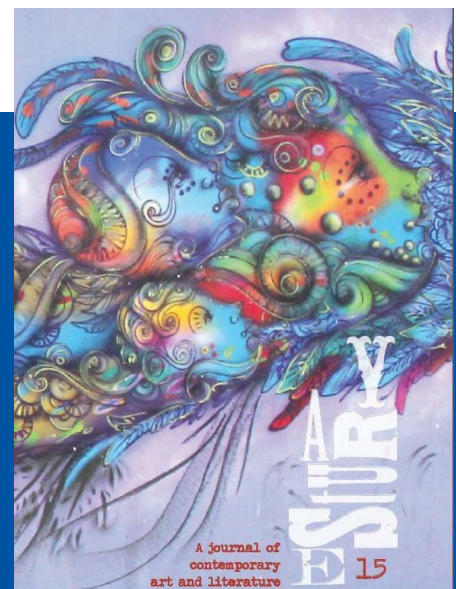
Chapter lxxxiv

PITCHPOLING

Anoint the wood, slide
bravely. Span the foaming void!
Loft your lance! Quiver.

Independence spouts
red, and I am dead again.
Quaff the living stuff.

Chad Faries is an Associate Professor of English & Creative Writing at Savannah State University, and Editor of Estuary, SSU's Literary Magazine. Faries is the author of two collections of poetry, The Border Will Be Soon and The Book of Knowledge, as well as a memoir, Drive Me Out of My Mind. He is also a recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship. This poem comes from a series of works inspired by Moby Dick.



Would you like to bring **speakers from your field** to campus to share their writing experiences at **with our students?** They can be our guest speaker at a **QEP Lunch and Learn**. Let us know!

Motivate your students to participate in the QEP writing workshops, events, contests, and competitions!

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**.

On-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

The QEP would love to **partner with your program in writing-related projects, contests and events.** Please contact us with ideas for next year!

Please encourage your students to use **smarthinking.com** and to have their papers reviewed at the **SSU Writing Center!**



facebook.com/WriteSSU



twitter.com/WriteSSU



instagram.com/write_ssu

Website:

qep.savannahstate.edu

Email:

qep@savannahstate.edu