

The Write News

THE WRITE ATTITUDE NEWSLETTER
FOR SSU STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF
FALL 2015/Issue 5

Special: SSU's 125 Years
Before I Die wall at SSU

First Lady Michelle Obama
Recognizes Deep Center

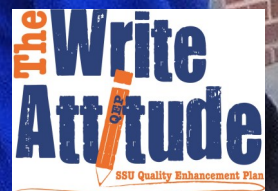
Acclaimed Authors Visit
Savannah State University

QEP Week 2015

Read
more
inside!



Photo: Jason Miccolo Johnson, Instructor in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications



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

Visit us:

qep.savannahstate.edu

Contact us:

qep@savannahstate.edu

Reading, Writing, and Reflecting on Legacy in SSU's Writing Program

By Patricia West, Instructor in the Department of English, Language & Cultures, CLASS

In order to keep the history of Savannah State University alive, it is necessary to find the stories and scholarly writing beyond the slogans such as, "Tell Them We Are Rising," those famous words spoken by the founder, Major Richard R. Wright, Sr. Such writing offers students the opportunities to read, write, interpret, and respond to a variety of texts by and about President Wright. Although it requires an effort to go beyond the convenience of an adopted textbook, there are several strategies recommended to go from legacy to lessons.

In Fall 2013, a theme I devised for ENGL 1102 was "Getting it 'Wright': Reading, Writing, Liberation, and Legacy," inspired by a statement made by current President Dr. Cheryl Davenport Dozier during the Fall Faculty Institute. To begin, the classroom conversation should focus on one of the earliest records of Wright's rise to fame and that is John Greenleaf Whittier's poem "Howard at Atlanta" which forever preserves those famous words that helped to frame the status of former slaves during the Reconstruction era. For that semester, I took selections from *Ways of Reading* which are based on ideas of liberation, cultural identity, contact zones, social consciousness, civil rights, and critical thinking in keeping with the legacy of SSU. Selections by Paulo Freire, Mary Louise Pratt, Kwame Anthony Appiah, and Tommie Shelby are connected to works in academic journals such as "And the Truth Shall Make You Free: Richard Robert Wright, Sr., Black Intellectual and Iconoclast, 1877-1897" by June O. Patton published in the Winter-Autumn issue of *The Journal of Negro History*, 1996, pp. 17-30.

Another helpful reading for consideration is from a professor at Western Michigan University -- Dr. Mitch Kachun's essay " 'A Beacon to Oppressed Peoples Everywhere': Major Richard R. Wright Sr., National Freedom Day, and the Rhetoric of Freedom in the 1940s." This selection draws upon the research and writing of Savannah State's own scholars in the social sciences.

And of course, we would have to include the foundational work of our own Savannah State scholars -- including the late Dr. Hanes Walton, Jr., and retired social science Professor Dr. Modibo Kadalie. Another source of this scholarship is co-author Dr. Kenneth Jordan, Full Professor in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Department, who along with Dr. Kadalie addressed the audience at the first National Freedom Day celebration and wreath-laying at Savannah State in February, 2014. Walton, Kadalie, Jordan, and others sorted through the Congressional Records and other documents that they claim helped to establish the first African-American holiday.

In Fall 2014, I adopted a theme called: "Smart, Bold, Proud: Ways of Reading Heritage, Identity, and Ideas Across Borders" to connect to Hispanic Heritage Week and visits by authors Lawrence Hill and Tina McElroy Ansa. This learning attitude was aligned to Savannah State University's objective to produce global citizens who can think critically, expressed through effective written and oral communications.

By extending the assigned readings to include the legacy and history of our institution, it provides more buy-in from our student stakeholders and motivation to follow great leaders. The success of these two special semesters can be measured in terms of authentic assessment and examples shared at the two National Freedom Day convocations: completed focused free-writing, interpretation essays, and creative poetic responses to learning about Maj. Richard R. Wright, Sr.



*Pictured: The Class of 1900. Front row, left to right: M. L. Whitmire, R.R. Wright (President), O. C. Suggs, (Vice President), E. W. Bisard. Back row, left to right: J.W.G. Haigler, F.A. Fields (Class Vice President), E. W. Houstoun (Class President), S. A. Grant (Class Secretary), E. McIntosh (Class Treasurer), E. A. Overstreet.
Photo Source: Savannah State University Archives, Asa H. Gordon Library*

"Tell' em we're rising!"

A Powerful Message Immortalized by a Poem

By Ryan Clark, Instructor in the Department of English, Language, & Cultures, CLASS

This year marks Savannah State's 125th anniversary, and so we look back at our legendary history and consider the important role of writing to both preserve and honor this history.

John Greenleaf Whittier's poem, "Howard at Atlanta," is a beautiful example of how writing has the ability to immortalize thoughts and words.

Whittier wrote this poem in 1869 after joining his friend, Union General O. O. Howard, in a visit to a school for African American children in Atlanta. Whittier came away impressed after a young boy, a freed slave, delivered a message to those in the North: "Tell them we are rising!"

The boy was Savannah State University's first president, Major Richard R. Wright, Sr., and the message has become a symbol of the university's mission as an institution of higher learning.

HOWARD AT ATLANTA

By John Greenleaf Whittier

RIGHT in the track where Sherman
Ploughed his red furrow,
Out of the narrow cabin,
Up from the cellar's burrow,
Gathered the little black people,
With freedom newly dowered,
Where, beside their Northern teacher,
Stood the soldier, Howard.

He listened and heard the children
Of the poor and long-enslaved

Reading the words of Jesus,
Singing the songs of David.
Behold! —the dumb lips speaking,
The blind eyes seeing!
Bones of the Prophet's vision
Warmed into being!

Transformed he saw them passing
Their new life's portal!
Almost it seemed the mortal
Put on the immortal.
No more with the beasts of burden,
No more with stone and clod,
But crowned with glory and honor
In the image of God!

There was the human chattel
Its manhood taking;
There, in each dark, brown statue,
A soul was waking!
The man of many battles,
With tears his eyelids pressing,
Stretched over those dusky foreheads
His one-armed blessing.

And he said: "Who hears can never
Fear for or doubt you;
What shall I tell the children
Up North about you?"
Then ran round a whisper, a murmur,
Some answer devising;
And a little boy stood up: "General,
Tell' em we're rising!"

O black boy of Atlanta!
But half was spoken:
The slave's chain and the master's
Alike are broken.
The one curse of the races
Held both in tether:
They are rising, — all are rising,
The black and white together!

O brave men and fair women!
Ill comes of hate and scorning:
Shall the dark faces only
Be turned to morning? —
Make Time your sole avenger,
All-healing, all-redressing;
Meet Fate half-way, and make it
A joy and blessing!

The Write Attitude Radio Show
Writing Our History: Legendary SSU
Listen to the poem read by
Ms. Jordan Ogden, SSU Alumna,
former Miss SSU & SSU Career
Development Specialist here:
[qep.savannahstate.edu/About-QEP/
Radio-Shows](http://qep.savannahstate.edu/About-QEP/Radio-Shows)

Nakia Stephens: from SSU to the Big Screen

By Sierra Walton, SSU Student and QEP Communications Intern

On October 22, 2015, the multi-faceted Nakia Stephens visited Savannah State University to share her story with students through a Lunch & Learn Lecture titled: "Do The Write Thing: Screenwriting." Students were able to get face-to-face advice about writing in the media, how to begin the process of screenwriting, and personal writing advice she utilizes herself. In one of the exercises, Stephens engaged students by asking them to write titles to a project they would do and a brief description of the plot. Students were excited to be able to tap into their imaginations by being challenged to write a brief synopsis of what their movie/film would be about.

Stephens holds several titles: award-winning screenwriter, independent filmmaker, producer. After graduating with her degree in Mass Communications from Savannah State University, she went to Los Angeles, California, to study screenwriting. During an interview with Stephens, she revealed that while in school at Savannah State University, many of her colleagues said that she had a niche for reading for the news. However, the SSU alumna said, "I did not want to be in front of the camera, I wanted to be the one writing the words." The young screenwriter explained how she discovered her true gift for writing in a course with Dr. Chad Faries. Being able to creatively develop stories based on how she viewed the world allowed her to brainstorm unique stories that interested her



Nakia Stephens, SSU Alumna, Filmmaker & Screenwriter, is the QEP Lunch & Learn guest speaker.

classmates and thus inspired her to become who she is today. Stephens shared that she did not get accepted into University of Southern California because of her writing. She says, "I thought, 'oh they don't know what they are talking about, my stuff was good.' Now looking back, my writing was horrible."

Stephens admits that she failed to revise her portfolio when she submitted it for consideration at USC. She shared how easy it is to write a draft one of an assignment and then think the process is over, when really, it takes several drafts and different phases of making revisions to finally make it to a final draft of quality.

Another important insight that she discussed is the importance of going deeper into the world of writing by using more descriptive words to describe her characters

versus keeping details about them on a surface level. "I wasn't getting deep into the details of screenwriting. I was just really good at storytelling, but I wasn't advanced in the details of character analysis." When the young, independent filmmaker realized this necessity, her scripts grew tremendously.

One could learn a lot from Nakia Stephens. She is a prime example of how writing can help one achieve their dreams to their full capacity. Writing is more than paper and pen -- it is about developing ideas and organizing them in a way to convey a story in its entirety. Once that is mastered, the pen no longer controls us, but we control the pen.

Tips from Nakia Stephens:

1. Rewrite! Your first draft is never amazing.
2. Do what you can with what you have. The more you do it, the better you get at it.
3. Always create with the intention of helping others.

Nakia Stephens' films/ web series:

- *Muse* (film)
- *Jusqu'a la Mont* (film)
- *Suga Water* (film)
- *Life Under Construction* (web series)

Visit:
damnwriteoriginals.com

QEP WEEK 2015

Five Days Dedicated to Improving Attitudes about Writing

By Kiara Lewis, QEP Student Outreach Coordinator

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) hosted its annual QEP Week from September 14 – September 18, 2015. Each day was dedicated to the mission of improving attitudes about writing.



Students write proposals to improve SSU.

Beginning on Monday, the “**Write for Change**” event took place in the Student Union with the theme, “How would you improve SSU?”. Topic categories ranged from campus safety, school spirit, and the University’s image. Students also had the option of creating their own topic. Writers had the opportunity to not only voice their opinions, but to highlight the necessary steps to form a solution. Prizes were awarded to the best written suggestions.

On Monday evening, **Dr. Desmond Delk**, author and former SSU faculty member, delivered a wonderful presentation on “Writing *I Love My SSU!* Children’s book.” Dr. Delk followed his lecture with a workshop on Tuesday, “**Composing Stories for Children**,” accompanied by his illustrator, **Mr. Morgan Adams**. The partners worked hands-on with student, faculty, and staff attendees who were interested in gaining knowledge on creating their own books for kids.



SSU Students, Staff Members, and Organizations at the 2nd Annual D.I.Y. Professional Workshop.

The **2nd Annual D.I.Y. Professional Workshop** took place on Wednesday evening. The workshop began with two presentations, one from **Ms. Tawauna Dixon** from the SSU Writing Center on “Personal Statements” and the other from **Mrs. Jordan Ogden** from **Career Services** on “Resume Building.” Attendees participated in a “speed dating” styled rotation in the second half to different organizations’ tables. **Sisters Striving for Excellence, Inc.**, taught a lesson on business dinner etiquette. **Delta Sigma Pi Fraternity, Inc.**, taught attendees how to prepare for an interview and conducted a mock interview at the end of their presentation. Attendees gained valuable information for post-graduation.

On Thursday, **Lady Mahogany**, 94.1 The Beat radio personality and Blessings in

a Book Bag Director, was the guest speaker for our Lunch and Learn Series. Students gained insight about how writing plays a role within radio and nonprofit organizations, while enjoying a boxed lunch.

The QEP partnered with **Dining Services** for Friday’s “**Write to Inspire**” event in the cafeteria. The SSU community had the opportunity to write encouraging words to their fellow Tiger brothers/sisters, in order for them to stay motivated on their journeys to success. Prizes were awarded to the most inspiring messages.

Special thanks were given to all students, faculty, and staff who made the QEP Week a success. Hard work definitely paid off for the QEP Team!



SSU Students, SSU Faculty member Dr. Rose Metts, and Lady Mahogany at the QEP Week 2015 Lunch & Learn event.

“I Love My SSU!”

Desmond Delk leads SSU students through his journey all over the country and the world, sharing his children’s book I Love My SSU!

By Sierra Walton, SSU Student and QEP Communications Intern

Former Savannah State University Faculty member, Dr. Desmond Delk, discussed the different stages to composing and producing his children’s book, *I Love My SSU!*, during QEP Week 2015.

From the brainstorming and pre-writing stage to the final drafting stage and publication, Delk emphasized the importance of every phase. Though Delk was already familiar with the various stages of the writing process, he was unaware of how challenging it would be to write and publish a children’s book. For example, when children start reading, one of the most important things for them is seeing vivid images and pictures. Delk had to find an artist that could do just that and also portray the Tiger Pride that our

campus emits. He got that in former student and freelance artist, Morgan Adams.

SSU students enjoyed listening to Delk talk about his trip across the country, taking pictures of “Tiger” (what he calls the book) with landmarks and memorable places along his way. He also shared videos of when he went to Africa and presented *I Love My SSU!* to young students and also taught them some SSU chants. The audience was honored to hear some of the African students say they wanted to attend SSU in the future.

SSU members who participated in the workshop had the opportunity of receiving an autographed version of the *I Love My SSU!* book by Author Dr. Desmond Delk and Illustrator Morgan Adams.



The author and illustrator of I Love My SSU! book, Dr. Desmond Delk and Morgan Adams, share their experience with SSU Students, Faculty, and Staff members on how to compose stories for children.

STUDENT OPINION

“During the D.I.Y. Professional Workshop there was a great turn out. It was very informative. I learned how to create a resume, a personal statement, and a cover letter. There were also different organizations that were a part of the workshop and each had their own individual presentation. The representative from Career Services was very helpful to the students that attended the workshop - especially to the ones that did not know what a cover letter was and how to make an excellent one. The presentation by Sisters Striving for Excellence was on table etiquette. It was very beneficial because most people today do not know how to conduct themselves at the table. Overall, the whole professional workshop experience was great. I would advise more students to attend workshops like this one because they are really valuable and can prepare them for their future

**Delorse Moore,
SSU Student and
QEP Ambassador**

Georgia Poetry Circuit Poets Margot Schilpp & Jeff Mock Visit Savannah State University

On November 6th, 2015, Poets Margot Schilpp and Jeff Mock visited Savannah for two events that were free and open to the public. Schilpp and Mock, partners in life and profession, gave a poetry lecture at Savannah State University and a poetry reading at The Book Lady Bookstore, located in downtown Savannah. In addition, our

special guests participated in an interview for a future broadcast of Poetry in the Air, a Write Attitude Radio Show. The interview was conducted by Michele Rozga, Instructor in the Department of English, Language & Cultures, CLASS. These acclaimed writers were brought to Savannah State through the Georgia Poetry

Circuit, a consortium of ten Georgia colleges and universities working together to bring poets of national and international reputation annually to all members' campuses. Our University is the only HBCU that is part of the consortium. Estuary, CLASS, and The Write Attitude are partners and sponsors of this program.

The Lost Children, by Jeff Mock

I

One step in and the woods close like a fist.
The sky is blue until it's black, and cold
Lays its white over tuft and stone. The fire
Sputters while they sleep, crackle giving way
To ash. They can't see it, but the new moon
Is a hole in the sky. Hansel, your father
Lacks a heart, and for you, Gretel, he lacks
A spine. Remorse becomes him. Such a world:
Cruelty disguised as kindness, and kindness
Gnaws an old bone. The woods close like a fist.
What luck we make we make our own. A bow
And arrow bring blood and feathers, a morsel
Of tender breast, then the scrabble of neck.
Enough squirrels make a cloak, enough boughs
A hut, enough twigs a fire. But that is
Another, better story. The new moon
Closes up and a bright scythe slits the sky.

II

The woods at night are never quiet. Hush.
The leaves with golden eyes breathe, and hold. Hush.
Wood cracks. The knotty pine unravels. Hush.
The wind is a sleek beast in a crouch. Hush.
An acorn falling sounds like cannon. Hush.
Hush, children, hush. The woods at night—. The woods—.
Hunger brought you here and here it leaves you.

...

*More about
the Georgia Poetry Circuit:
www.berry.edu/gpc*

On Decorum, by Margot Schilpp

I was taught to arrive at consequences
from the underside, ready to pay the

toll price piper cost.

There was to be no nicotine

sullyng staining haunting ruining

the jacket's lining,
and the rest of the afternoon
was to be smooth with the muscle
of iridescent fish

flopping shivering shining dying

across the butcher's ice tray,
while a graveyard

yawned beckoned lay

in the distance, its stones
like teeth—elegant but useless
as a debutante's organza gown
or her hapless pearls. Know

understand believe trust

each throat closes in the presence
of the dead.

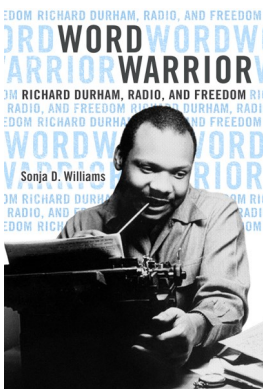
An Interview with Sonja Williams,

Professor in the Howard University Department of Media, Journalism, and Film & Author of the Book Word Warrior: Richard Durham, Radio and Freedom

Sierra Walton:

Can you tell us about your writing process and how it differs when you are writing for documentaries and the radio versus writing a biography?

Sonja Williams: *Writing for me and any other writer is re-writing. The ideas that you come up with initially may seem wonderful in your head but when you are forced to sit down at a computer or if you are doing it long hand, then you actually have to make it concrete. You start to see where the issues are or where some of the problems may be or where things are working well. What is the difference between writing for print, whether it's an eBook or hard copy, versus writing for the ear? There is not a lot of a difference. One of the things that was real familiar to me in starting this project was the research part of it. The research that I had to do for this book is the same kind of research that I had to do for the documentaries. You have to get into the subject.*



Professor, Media Producer and Author Sonja Williams at Savannah State University.

Photo: Jason Miccolo Johnson, Instructor in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications

Sierra Walton:

Based on your academic experience, can you explain the importance of reading and writing, especially for Mass Communication students?

Sonja Williams: *Writing is key in communications. Everybody thinks that because we're in this digital world, you can pick up a phone, you can go to a computer -- or who knows what it's going to be in the next 5 to 10 years -- but*

“Writing for me and any other writer is re-writing.”

if you are not communicating face-to-face, inevitably, you've got to write! How do you express yourself, so that someone who doesn't know you can understand where you're coming from and what you're trying to say? It has to be in writing. So writing is key.

But in addition to writing, the way you learn how to write and write well is by reading about people who are masters at it. As much as I knew about

“Writing is key in communications.”

radio, or thought I knew, because I am not a drama writer, I learned a lot about using drama and pacing from reading his [Durham's] work and listening to his work. Reading is also key.

Sierra Walton:

Have you faced any obstacles as a writer and, if so, how have you overcome them?

Sonja Williams: *I think all writers face obstacles, it's just a question of what's the obstacle of that time? At certain times, there may be different obstacles. I love to research and most writers do because you're digging, you're finding, and you're being surprised. I had to figure out how to keep Durham in the story because he's a part of this bigger universe that is fascinating and could make up a book in it of itself. Those were some of the challenges.*

More about Sonja Williams and her work: sonjadwilliams.com

Acclaimed Scholar Dr. Antonio D. Tillis Visits SSU

By Dr. Kameelah Martin, Assistant Professor of African American Literature in the Department of English, Language, & Cultures, CLASS

Savannah State University's QEP, "The Write Attitude," welcomed internationally acclaimed scholar, Dr. Antonio D. Tillis, to campus on September 28, 2015. Tillis, Dean of the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs and Professor of Hispanic Studies at the College of Charleston, presented a public lecture entitled, "Writing the African Diaspora Experience" wherein he addressed the possibilities of exploring and expressing one's cultural identity through writing. Tillis's objective was to "share with [SSU] how writing became a revolutionary tool for social protest, resistance, and cultural survival for three writers of African Ancestry in Latin America: Nancy Morejón from Cuba; Blas Jimenez from the Dominican Republic, and Conceição Evaristo from Brazil." Tillis emphasized to students, using quotes from Truman Capote, Maya Angelou, and Toni Morrison, how they must master

the rules of engagement for writing so that they can rearrange them to suit their own purposes. He honed in on the power of writing to create new histories, new narratives, new identities, and new experiences particularly for marginal groups of people for whom "the power to write was reserved for the white ruling elites." Doing the work of literary analysis, Tillis demonstrated how the genre of poetry is being used to rewrite histories and to redefine African ancestry a source of pride across the diaspora. He introduced students to Morejón's signature poem, "Mujer Negra" as well as Jimenez's poem, "Ser Negro en el Caribe Es" (Being Black in the Caribbean Is) for example. He likened the rise of Afro-Latino poetic voices and the reclamation of African identity to the American Black Power Movement in which James Brown shouted, "Say it loud, I'm Black and I'm proud!" Tillis was equally interested in an interactive

dialogue with SSU students about writing, language acquisition, and cultural identity. He shared his journey from working in the corporate world to studying Spanish language and literature at Howard University in Washington, D.C. It was a lecture, not unlike the one he presented, by Blas Jimenez at Howard University that changed his mind from pursuing international law to obtaining a doctoral degree. Tillis took special care to call out the young, black male students in the room, beseeching them to speak up and share their insights on writing as a tool of resistance because he believes "they have something meaningful to contribute" and the world needs to hear what they have to say. Tillis's lecture was well attended and it was followed by an exclusive interview that delved a bit deeper into his scholarship and international experience as a Fulbright Scholar, Study Abroad Program Director, and avid student of foreign language. The interview will air on the QEP Radio Show and will be uploaded to the QEP YouTube channel. Tillis's visit to Savannah was concluded with a fitting dining experience at Rancho Alegre, a Cuban restaurant located downtown. Tillis thoroughly enjoyed his visit to SSU, as he has a special affinity for HBCUs. He looks forward to visiting again, perhaps in the spring, to guest lecture in the African American Poetry course. It was a pleasure to have him and gain new perspectives on the power of writing across linguistic borders.



Dr. Antonio D. Tillis presents a public lecture "Writing the African Diaspora Experience" at Savannah State University.

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, QEP Director and Associate Professor of Philosophy. 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 participate 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.

Areas covered during the 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 it is you want from them.
- ✓ Productive peer review.
- ✓ How to manage the grading load efficiently and effectively.

Applications are due Friday,
January 8th, 2016.

Please apply here:
tinyurl.com/QEPFDS

Up to six participants
representing various academic
units on campus will be selected.

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.”

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.”

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

NATIONAL DAY ON WRITING: BEFORE I DIE

Before I Die Wall Installed at SSU to Celebrate the National Day on Writing



The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) established October 20th as the National Day on Writing. The idea is to celebrate writing and to recognize its importance in people's lives. On October 20th, 2015, at the Gazebo, SSU students, faculty, and staff members celebrated writing and life in a very special way.

The Write Attitude, SSU Writing Center, and Estuary partnered to bring the Before I Die wall to campus.



Photo: Jason Miccolo Johnson

Visit **OUR** own Before I Die wall website:
beforeidie.cc/site/savannah-georgia

Writers inspired all participants by listing their dreams, thoughts, and wishes on the Before I Die wall. Also, attendees ate together, heard a TED Talk presented by Candy Chang, the creator of the Before I Die project, and listened to poetry and stories written and read by SSU students, faculty, and staff members.

Special thanks to Dr. Chad Faries, Professor in the English, Languages and Cultures Department, and to the QEP Ambassadors who built, painted, and maintained the wall.



Before I Die is a global art project that invites people to reflect on their lives and share their personal aspirations in public space. This project was started by Candy Chang on an abandoned house in New Orleans after she lost someone she loved. More information: beforeidie.cc

First Lady Michelle Obama Recognizes Young Author André Massey and Savannah’s Deep Center at the White House

André Massey, 14, a Savannah public high school student, shared the stage with First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 to receive the country’s highest honor for youth arts and humanities programs on behalf of Deep Center’s Young Author Project.

“When I started Deep... I had no idea it would lead me the White House and meeting the First Lady of the United States,” said Massey. “I thought I was just going to write a few poems and maybe get a chance to read them in public. But, Deep did more than that—it changed my life. It showed me how to express myself, and through my writing, I reconnected with my father.”



First Lady Michelle Obama, Savannah Public High School Student and Deep Author André Massey, and Deep Center Executive Director Dare Dukes at the White House. Photo Source: Deep Center Facebook Page.

Since 2008, Deep Center has connected nearly 2,500 students in Savannah’s public middle schools with a thriving community of writing mentors — local authors, poets, and journalists — to help them publish and share their stories.

Savannah State University students, faculty and staff members have been volunteering with the organization since its creation.

SSU volunteers have contributed to Deep’s mission as patrons, Writing Fellows, and board members.

We thank SSU and congratulate Deep for spreading positive attitudes on writing all the way to Washington D.C.!

SSU Volunteers
at Deep Center:

spreading

positive

attitudes on

writing!



Deep Board of Directors:

SSU faculty members Dr. Lisa Yount (Board Chair) and Dr. Chad Faries (Board Member).

Current Deep Writing Fellows:

SSU faculty member Dr. Michele Rozga and SSU student Shaniqua Brown.

Former Deep Writing Fellows:

SSU faculty members Dr. Kameelah Martin, Dr. Dustin Michael, and Dr. Joan Maynor (Faculty Writing Fellow Mentor); SSU Staff members Nikki Rech and Meaghan Gerard; SSU Alumni Antoinette Holt, Austin Christmon, Brittaney Harden, Cassandra Thompson, Chinetta Buford, De'Monica Banks, Kelsi Carter, Larissa McNeil, Mojo Roberts, Robin Robinson, Xavier Turner, and Zavietta Russell Stripling; and SSU former faculty and staff members B.J. Love, Joyce White, Trelani Duncan, and Shante' Smith.

Learn more about Deep Center and how to become a patron or volunteer at www.deepkids.com

THE WRITE ATTITUDE PHOTO GALLERY



SSU Chief Justice Maurice Nelson, Miss SSU Joi Zieh, and SSU President Kendall Walker.



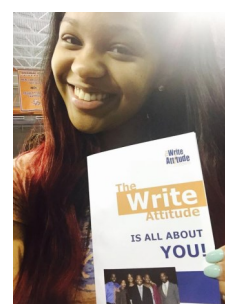
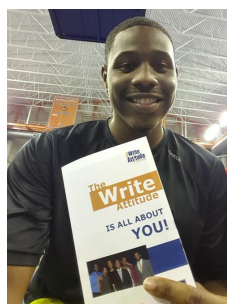
Kai Walker, Assistant Professor in the Journalism and Mass Communications Department, Sonja Williams, Howard University Professor and Author, and Wanda Lloyd, Associate Professor and Department Chairperson of Journalism and Mass Communications.



Angelique Serrano, Francisco Duque, Jessika Garcia and Tiffany Villanueva at the SSU Hispanic Heritage Week.



SSU Students at the QEP Lunch & Learn event.



SSU Freshman Students at the SSU Week of Welcome.



The QEP Student Ambassadors Delorse Moore, ShaRonda Battle, Tanachia Williams, Kadeshia Ready, Ashley Bennett, and Quortnee Jones.



Georgia Poetry Circuit Poets Jeff Mock and Margot Schilpp after an interview conducted by Michele Rozga, Instructor in the English, Language and Cultures Department.

THE WRITE ATTITUDE FALL CONTESTS

Congratulations to our 2015 Fall Contest Winners!

QEP WEEK 2015:
Write for Change

1 Enow Ayuk



2 Onevious Johnson



3 Tyisha Wells



QEP WEEK 2015:
Write to Inspire

1 Daniel Gardner



2 Annabelle Turner



3 Antonique Cowart

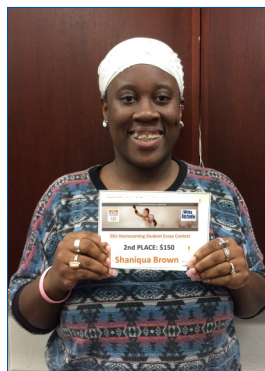


Homecoming
Essay Contest



1 Nativis Harris

2 Shaniqua Brown



3 Teisa Sterling

Freshman
Special Prize
Jaela Askew



CALLING ALL POETS!

*Would you like
to participate in
Poetry in the Air, a
Write Attitude Radio Show?*

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

*Participate in the
QEP writing
workshops, events,
and contests!*

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

FOLLOW US!

Get instant updates on
**The Write Attitude
workshops, events, and
contests!**



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... and CONTACT US!

qep@savannahstate.edu