

FSU TEAM ENGLISH

# NEWSLETTER



## Message from the Department Chair

Dear Team English,

March 16, 2025

As I get ready to step down from my role as Department Chair, I am feeling a mix of reflection and excitement—kind of like the feeling you get when you finish a big project and can finally take time to breathe. Leading the English Department at Fayetteville State University has been a true privilege, and I am incredibly grateful for the chance to work alongside such compassionate, dedicated colleagues. Each of you brings something unique to our department, and together we have built a space that encourages growth, challenges obstacles, and empowers our students.

If there is one thing I have cherished most, it is watching our students recognize their potential. There is something profoundly gratifying about helping them discover talents and intellectual capabilities they may not have fully realized. And in that process, I learn. I grow.

To my colleagues, thank you. Your support, your collaboration, your unwavering dedication to our students and to our shared vision have been inspiring. Together, we have created a remarkable story. I am proud of the work we have accomplished over the past eight years.

William Faulkner once said, “I believe that man will not merely endure; he will prevail. He is immortal, not because he alone among creatures has an inexhaustible voice, but because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance.” These words hold a special place in my heart, especially as I reflect on them from the library at Ole Miss. We have weathered storms, faced setbacks, and encountered moments of doubt—but through it all, we have not merely survived; we have prevailed. The spirit of this department, much like Faulkner’s words, is one of resilience, of refusing to be defined by our struggles. We move forward, we learn, and we thrive together.

Working with all of you has been an unforgettable journey, and I am genuinely thankful for the endless support you have given me along the way. I will carry the lessons and memories with me always. Here is to the future, to the continued success of our students, and to the incredible story we will create together.

With love and appreciation,

**Ji Young Kim**

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# Department Committees

## Composition

Beth Bir, Chair  
Heather Bass  
Alison Van Nyhuis  
Josh Murray



## Creative and Professional Writing

Brenda Hammack, Chair  
Dean Swinford  
Kyle Smith

## Curriculum/Academic Affairs

Micki Nyman, Chair  
Kyle Smith

## Department Newsletter

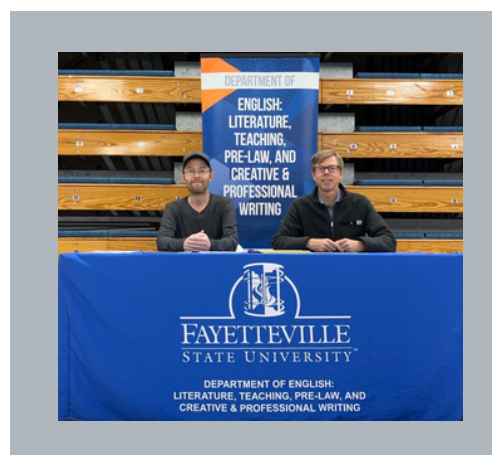
Heather Bass, Chair  
Kimberly Daye

## English Language and Literature and Online Degree Completion

Maria Orban, Chair  
Kimberly Daye  
Chuck Tryon

## English Secondary Education

Micki Nyman, Chair  
Beth Bir  
Maria Orban



## Faculty Senators (3 Years)

Beth Bir (2022-2024)  
Kyle Smith (2024-2026)  
Maria Orban (2024-2026)

## Graduate Programs

Nicole Ashanti McFarlane, Chair

## Linguistic Justice

Raymond Summerville, Chair  
Kimberly Daye

## Peer Assessment

Raymond Summerville (2024-2025)  
Alison Van Nyhuis (2024-2025)  
Josh Murray (2024-2025)  
Brenda Hammack (2024-2025)

## Pre-Law

Raymond Summerville (2024-2025)  
Alison Van Nyhuis (2024-2025)  
Josh Murray (2024-2025)  
Brenda Hammack (2024-2025)

## Recruitment/Marketing and Outreach: Social Media and Student Engagement

Nicole Ashanti McFarlane, Chair  
Brooksie Harrington  
Micki Nyman



## Return on Investment Evaluation

Chuck Tryon, Chair

## Student Internship and Partnership

Brooksie Harrington, Chair



# Student Organizations

## Writer's Club

**Micki Nyman,**  
Advisor  
**Annica Funchess,**  
President



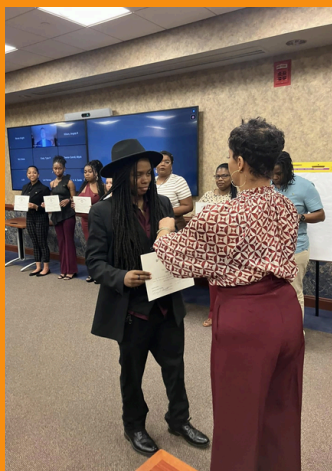
## Sigma Tau Delta

**Nicole Ashanti McFarlane,**  
Advisor  
**Zoe Hare,** President  
**Charlece Z. Corbin,** Vice President



## Sigma Tau Delta, International English Honor Society, Omicron Lambda chapter (ΣΤΔ-ΟΛ) Pinning Ceremony Inductees

**Tyler Cook**  
**Michael Dillow**  
**Ashton Glover**  
**Anissa Gray**  
**Courtney Grimes**  
**Ebony Grimes**  
**Leah Jones**  
**Axel Kabeya**  
**Eboni Manning**  
**Trisha Moore**  
**A'shante Owens-Carroll**  
**Vanessa Scott**  
**Shane Smeaton**  
**Arlene Tavani**  
**Daysia Wood**



## Departmental Highlights

### 2024 in Review

**Dr. Eric Hyman**  
**Receives Emeritus**  
**Team English bids**  
**farewell to Dr. Joshua**  
**Murray**  
***Glint Literary Journal***  
**launches its 15<sup>th</sup> Issue**



(cont. page 7)



**Michael Dillow**

## Student Spotlight

What is your area of interest and why?

I'm interested in the intersection of visual art and literature. They play critical parts in what I call the cycle of inspiration, where artists feed off one another.

What do they hope to do with their degree?

I plan on taking my degree terminal and teaching higher ed, specifically English in foreign countries. After I complete my masters, I intend on moving to South America or Europe to do my doctoral work.

What do you like about being a Bronco or Team English?

We have such wonderful faculty in the English department. It's an honor to get to work with such an accomplished and talented group of people.

What was the coolest thing you ever did: personal, professional, or scholarly?

I was the founding secretary of the Fine Arts club at FTCC. In 2013, we were selected for Cows On Parade, a nationwide public art installation that supported children's hospitals.

What do you like to do for fun?

The majority of my free time is spent in my garden, where I pride myself on growing finicky heirloom tomatoes, super-hot peppers and an assortment of herbs and tea ingredients.



Professor Spotlight

### **Brooksie Harrington**

"African American Sacred Music and the Romantic Aesthetic" (2020)

"CHOKE" (2020)

"The Invisible Thread: Authorial Integrity and the Trope of the Child Slave in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and *NightJohn*" (2011)

<https://www.uncfsu.edu/dr-brooksie-harrington>





## Alumni Alert

### Michael R. Jackson II

What did you like about being a Bronco or part of Team English?

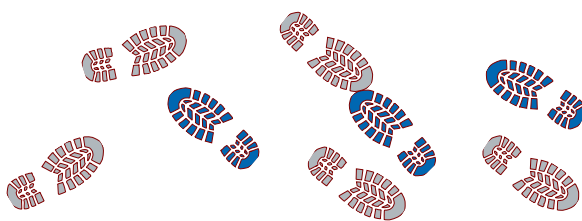
**What didn't I love?** One of the things I truly cherished about being a part of Team English and being a Bronco was the openness and camaraderie that surrounded me. The relationships, whether professional or personal, have had a lasting impact on my life. Team English, in particular, felt like a second family from the very beginning. Often after classes you could find me in Butler just talking with staff about any and everything. The support and encouragement from everyone in the department created a welcoming atmosphere that I'll always treasure. The countless hours spent chatting, collaborating, and getting to know each other are some of my fondest memories from my time at Fayetteville State University (FSU). It wasn't just about academics; it was about the community we built together, and that connection has stayed with me over the years.

What are you doing now?

After graduating from FSU, I moved to Detroit, Michigan, to pursue my Master's in English with a focus on Rhetoric and Composition. During my time there, I worked as a graduate teaching assistant, instructing courses like Introduction to Academic Writing and Intermediate Writing. Teaching those courses was an incredibly formative experience, as I learned just as much from my students as they did from me. I graduated from the program last year, and now I'm continuing my academic journey as a PhD student in the Communications, Rhetoric, and Digital Media (CDRM) program at North Carolina State University. I'm honored to be on a Provost Fellowship, which allows me to focus on my research during my first year without the responsibilities of teaching. (Cont. Page 5)

## Wellness Tip

Take a hike (or a walk)! Walking is a great way to be physically active and mentally well. Sitting at a desk for hours uninterrupted by physical activity can leave you mentally drained and taking a short walk adds a much-needed mental break, some Vitamin D, and a new perspective. You may even be inspired by a change in environment. A 2019 study by MaryCarol R. Hunter, Brenda W. Gillespie, and Sophie Yu-Pu Chen found that spending at least thirty minutes in nature can reduce stress. Time to get those steps in!



## Composition Corner

**Consider beginning class with an activity! Research from David Sousa's *How the Brain Learns* (2011) points to the first quarter of class playing an important factor in student learning. Here are some activities to try:**

- Have students race each other to find specific scholarly sources using the Library Database
- Make a Kahoot! off of the previous lesson's content
- Think-Pair-Share to analyze popular ads
- Have students form small groups to unscramble citations

## Alumni Alert: Michael R. Jackson II Cont.

(Page 4 Cont.) Although I miss being in the classroom, this time has given me the opportunity to dive deeply into my research, which is largely shaped by my experiences at FSU. I'm currently working on projects that intersect affect theory and Critical Race Theory, with a publication in progress. My time at FSU continues to inform and inspire my work every day.

What was the coolest thing you ever did: personal, professional, or scholarly?

This is a tough one to answer because I've had so many meaningful experiences across all aspects of my life. Professionally, I would say the coolest thing I've done was teaching my own courses for two years right after finishing my undergraduate degree and moving to Detroit on my own. It was both exhilarating and humbling to be responsible for guiding students through their academic journeys. Outside of that, I've had the privilege of giving guest lectures on various topics, and one of my favorites was on affect theory. I also really enjoyed presenting on the implementation of digital rhetoric in the technical community. What's been the coolest part of my career is that I've been able to combine so many of my passions—teaching, researching, and sharing knowledge—and I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to do all of these things so early in my career.

What do you do for fun?

For fun, I'm most often surrounded by books—whether I'm reading, exploring new genres, or (more frequently) adding to my collection. I have a bit of a book-buying obsession! In addition to reading, I really enjoy spending time in nature, especially here in Raleigh. There are so many beautiful nature trails and parks to explore, and I love taking long walks to unwind and clear my mind. Gardening is another hobby I'm passionate about. It's a peaceful and grounding way to spend time, and I find it's a great balance to the intellectual demands of my work.

What advice do you have for current students?

My advice to current students is simple: make the most of your time as part of Team English by building strong relationships and seeking mentorship from the incredible faculty you have at FSU. The relationships you form with your professors and peers will be the ones that support you throughout your career and beyond. Don't be afraid to reach out for guidance, collaboration, or simply a good conversation. Mentorship is essential for growth in any field, and the faculty at FSU are not just experts in their areas; they genuinely care about your development and success. Take advantage of the opportunities they provide, and trust that those connections will open doors you never expected.

## Tutoring Available to Students

Writing Center

Located in 216B Helen T. Chick Building

Hours of Operation

Monday – Thursday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Friday: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Upswing

<https://uncfsu.upswing.io/>



## Departmental Highlights (cont.)

### 2025 in Review

**Dr. Raymond Summerville becomes The African American Folklorist of the Month for January 2025**

**Team English welcomes Chelsie Luttrell as administrator**

**Sigma Tau Delta Pinning Ceremony**

**Writer's Club Hosts Spring Poetry Slam**

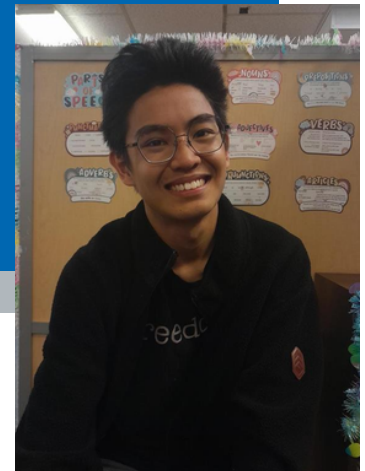
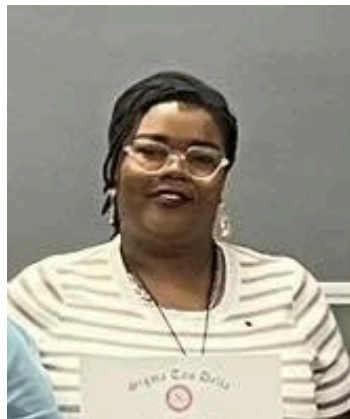
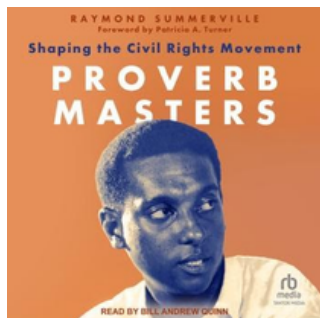
**Wayne State University Visit**

### Faculty Publications

**Brenda Hammack's "Living Dead Woman Sonnets published in *The Red Ogre Review* (2024), *The Queen's Review* (2024), *Collidescope* (2024), *BlazeVox* (2024), *Mudlark* (2024), and *Eclectica Magazine* (2025)**

**Raymond Summerville's Proverb Masters came out in audiobook (2024), read by Bill Andrew Quinn**

**Heather Bass's "Review of Elysha Chang's *A Quitter's Paradise*" published in *Glint's* 15<sup>th</sup> Issue**



## RESEARCH

### Student Publications

**Yuliannie Zayas Berrio's "Review of Peter J. Hoelsing, *Kusamira Music in Uganda: Spirit Mediumship and Ritual Healing*" published in *Journal of Folklore Research Reviews***

**Thed Bostic's "Review of Christa C. Jones, editor, *Djeha, the North African Trickster*" published in *Journal of Folklore Research Reviews***

**Rene Pintac-Divinagracia's "Review of Jack Zipes, *The Operated Jew and the Operated Goy: Two Tales of Anti-Semitism*" published in *Journal of Folklore Research Reviews***

**Krestine Whaley's "Review of Navid Sinaki's *Medusa of the Roses*" published in *Glint's* 15<sup>th</sup> Issue**

**Eboni McKinnon-Manning's *A Cut Above: The Williamses Integrate LeDroit Park* published by Nancy Yost Literary Agency, Inc**

