

February 2017

MAPW Alumni Profile: Jarnea Paden

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Recommended Citation

(2017) "MAPW Alumni Profile: Jarnea Paden," *MAPWriting*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 1 , Article 7.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/mapwriting/vol1/iss1/7>

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Jarnea Paden

“MAPW gave me writing courage, and a nature to embrace my idealist views and become visionary”



Jarnea Paden and son, Jrue



Jarnea Paden and daughter, Jai

Jarnea Boone Paden (09) is a Creative Writing/Composition Rhetoric graduate of the MAPW program.

While studying at KSU, I was able to seize the opportunity to serve as an editorial assistant, after completing an internship in the College of the Arts (COTA) public relations office. In addition to directing a team of five intern writers and photographers, and writing unassigned pieces, I wrote over eight issues for *Flourish* magazine.

This experience granted me my first “real life” magazine cover story. It also provided me with an additional opportunity to write an article highlighting the partnership between the Atlanta Ballet and the KSU Dance Department that appeared in *Atlanta ShowGuide Dance 2010*.

After obtaining my degree, I married, and shortly after was lucky enough to acquire teaching and freelance tutoring positions, as well as part-time work in Human Resources.

Using the Composition/Rhetoric side of my degree first, I worked as a certified professional writing tutor for a local college and was hired as an Adjunct Instructor for a technical college, serving for a short time as Associate Dean of General Studies.

I was able to secure a position as an online English Composition adjunct for the Dual Enrollment program at a Georgia high school but am currently choosing to “pause” my adjunct teaching to begin a parenting blog

and to place a greater degree of focus on the antics of Jrue, my toddler, and Jai, my baby girl.

I have a full-time position as a Human Resources Generalist and Office manager with a local security company, but I stay warm in my writing by journaling and micro blogging each day, and through daily human resources writing tasks.

Presently, I am in the exciting “business plan” stage of a parenting blog I’m attempting to find the time to launch, since the birth of Jrue in 2013.

MAPW gave me writing courage, and a nature to embrace my idealist views and become a visionary. When I first began the program in 2006, I would balk at unorthodox, unearthed ideas and scurry from “my own characters’ voices,” speech that would haunt me for hours after I was done writing for the day.

Now, I allow myself to be free, and this freedom has given me permission for more exploration and has made me more creative, more able to be empathetic in my day career, and of course, has made me one heck of an imaginative, story-telling mommy.

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