

February 2017

MAPW Alumni Profile: Jessica Wilson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/mapwriting>



Part of the [Arts and Humanities Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(2017) "MAPW Alumni Profile: Jessica Wilson," *MAPWriting*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 1 , Article 13.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/mapwriting/vol1/iss1/13>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in MAPWriting by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu.

Jessica Wilson



Jessica Wilson

Jessica Wilson ('09) is Administrator for the [Georgia Writers Association](#) (GWA), a position formerly held by MAPW alumna Lisa Russell. The GWA has had a long and intimate association with KSU and the MAPW. One of its founders was Professor Tony Grooms, and since 2006, when it came to be housed at KSU, its executive directors have been KSU faculty. Professor Ralph Wilson has been a past director and Professor Margaret Walters is the current executive director.

The GWA is dedicated to encouraging and promoting writers throughout Georgia. Monthly workshops offer writers the opportunity to hear from successful, published writers and learn from their experiences. As the Administrator, Jessica organizes the events and runs the day to day business of the organization in consultation with the executive director and the Board of Directors, which includes MAPW alumnus and GWA President Christopher Ward. GWA has over two hundred active members. Members vary in writing genres and backgrounds, but, in concert MAPW goals, are striving to improve their work and to publish.

“To current MAPW students,” Jessica advises, “take advantage of available internships and to seek out writing groups, such as the Georgia Writers Association, to begin building professional connections in the local literary field. As a MAPW student I interned with Georgia Writers Association and that foundation of knowledge gave me an advantage when I applied for my current job

as Administrator to Georgia Writers Association.”

The GWA hosts two annual events, the [Georgia Author of the Year Awards](#) (GAYA) and the [Red Clay Writers Conference](#). The GAYA ceremony has the distinction of being the oldest literary awards ceremony in the Southeastern United States. It honors both independently published authors and those whose books are published by traditional publishing houses.

The Red Clay Writers Conference is the annual conference of the GWA. Red Clay has been hosted since 2009 to encourage and inspire writers across Georgia through a full day of panels and workshops that focus on the art and craft of writing. The next Red Clay will be held on April 22, 2017.

Other GWA projects include [Exit 271: Your Georgia Writers Resource](#), both a writer's resource magazine and a literary journal; and, [The Exit 271 Studio](#), an extension of the Exit 271. The Studio is comprised of a small group of nurturing editors who make revision and editing fun. According to Jessica, “We help writers revise their work like seasoned editors and get published.”

Q&A

Tell us about your writing projects, either those you pursue independently or those you pursue as a part of your job

Since graduation I completed a draft of my first novel between listening to great imaginings of my young daughter and the endless barking of my two rescue dogs. In January 2016 I returned to the English building as a KSU staff employee. “Coming home” to these halls is a dream job. I get to work with the literary community through Georgia Writers Association, as the Administrator to the organization.

What advice would you offer to current or prospective MAPW students?

Jessica Wilson: To prospective MAPW students I would cheer you on to take the leap and begin a new chapter in your life. You never know what doors will open for you with a MAPW degree!

More about me:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)