

Emerging Writers

Volume 3

Article 1

1-10-2021

Introduction and Acknowledgments

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Recommended Citation

(2021) "Introduction and Acknowledgments," *Emerging Writers*: Vol. 3 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/emergingwriters/vol3/iss1/1>

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Emerging Writers: An Introduction

The Emerging Writers contest grew out of a common desire among teachers of first year composition courses at Kennesaw State University to publicly recognize the excellent and creative work of our students. In 2011, Jenny Sadre-Orafai and Dr. Allison Davis planned and coordinated the first contest, gathering submissions, securing first-round essay reviewers from within the KSU community, inviting esteemed national judges to make final essay selections, and hosting the Emerging Writers reception in April. As a result of their vision and ongoing work and the contributions of numerous faculty, students, and staff, you now view the 2020 volume of our Emerging Writers collection of student essays.

Each year, we have seen the contest grow, with increasing numbers of student essay submissions written for English 1101 and 1102 courses. And as the contest has grown, the final publication has continued to take shape. Our first two volumes were printed and formatted in-house, and for next four years, the text was published professionally by Fountainhead Press. In 2018, we moved to Digital Commons to digitally publish future volumes.

Beyond our commitment to celebrating first year student writing and to seeing this work published, faculty teaching within the program also have made a commitment to integrate the Emerging Writers essays within their courses. We are excited to share this work with you and hope that it will help shape your own writing and research process.

Dr. Letizia Guglielmo

Professor of English

Acknowledgments

We wish to acknowledge each of the students who submitted selections written for their English 1101 and 1102 courses to the Emerging Writers Contest and the faculty who encouraged their students to submit work for consideration. We also wish to thank our 2020 national judges:

Creative Non-Fiction: Kerry Neville, award-winning author

Academic: Bruce Ballenger, Emeritus Professor of English, Boise State University.

Short Essay: Andrea Lunsford, Emerita Professor of English, Stanford University

Most importantly, we extend our thanks to M.J. Severson, Jenny Sadre-Orafai, and Allison Davis for creating, planning, and coordinating the contest and for their continued commitment to recognizing and celebrating the excellent work of our first-year writing students.

Looking to the Future

As the Emerging Writers Contest has continued to evolve over the last 10 years, the faculty has agreed that we will begin prioritizing publication over the contest in the future. While 2020 marks our last year of contest activities, we're excited to expand our publication with future special issues that will continue to celebrate the excellent work of Kennesaw State University's Emerging Writers.

The Kennesaw State University Writing Center

The KSU Writing Center is dedicated to helping all KSU students write successfully. Our friendly, highly trained writing assistants (undergraduate and graduate students and faculty members) are passionate about writing *and* about helping others write. Writing assistants will work with you on writing assignments for any class or subject and at any stage of the writing process, from brainstorming a topic to polishing a final draft. Visit us in English Building, Room 242 on the Kennesaw campus; Johnson Library, Room 121 on the Marietta campus; at one of our satellite locations; or virtually, using our live audio, video, or chat features.

Appointments are strongly encouraged and can be made on our website or in person. To learn more about our how we can help you become a better writer, as well as to find out about our workshops, special events, and online resources, visit: writingcenter.kennesaw.edu. Be sure to like us on Facebook (Kennesaw State University Writing Center) and follow us on Twitter (@KSUWC)!

Mary Lou Odom

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