

Emerging Writers

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Acknowledgements and Author Biographies

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Acknowledgements

Over the last ten years, the Kennesaw State University English Department has celebrated writers in its First Year Composition program by holding an annual contest and reception called the Emerging Writers Contest. Part of the contest included publication of the winning students' writing. As the department and program have grown over the years, the contest has evolved into the journal you are reading now. In fact, the essays in the May 2021 issue of the *Emerging Writers Journal* mark the first time that students submitted to a journal rather than a contest, as well as the first time that emerging student editors participated in the publication process.

The journal's goal echoes that of the original contest – to showcase excellent first-year student writing. The essays you see here were written in Composition I or Composition II courses at KSU. After submission to the journal, they were ranked by faculty readers in the English Department and then edited by student editors and the journal's general editor. They represent students finding their voices as they explore issues of social justice, technology, language, and popular culture.

I would like to thank Connie Briggs, Keaton Lamle, JoAnn LoVerde-Dropp, and MJ Severson for reading and ranking journal submissions. Special thanks to Laura McGrath for being a faculty reader, as well as for coordinating this issue's student editors. These editors provided excellent feedback during preparation for publication, so it's with great pleasure that I acknowledge the hard work of Jocelyn Crowder, Taylor Davis, Emma Downing, Emmie Fields, Carly Heugel, Conor Kelly, Elise Mogelgaard, and Taylor Reimann.

Finally, thank you to all the KSU first-year writers – those published here, and those that continue to write in and out of the classroom. We look forward to reading more of your submissions in the future!

Allison C. Davis
General Editor

Author Biographies

Desiree Bevineau (“The Need for Police Reform”) is a sophomore attending Kennesaw State University and is a part of the Criminal Justice program pursuing forensic science. Engaging hobbies that Bevineau thoroughly enjoys are reading and writing, specifically poetry. The injustice surrounding mishaps within law enforcement urged Bevineau to write this article. The first lady Veronica G. Bee of *The Winning Church* inspired Bevineau to become a writer, and Bevineau aims to reshape the world through writing like Anne Frank.

Nix Bradley (“Mental Illness in Horror Films”) is a Psychology major with a minor in Sociology at Kennesaw State University. Nix has a passion for stopping the stigma surrounding mental illness and an interest in how mental illness disproportionately affects marginalized communities. They live in Lawrenceville with their spouse and their two pets, Pumpkin and Wendy.

Alex Guerra (“The Future of Artificial Intelligence”) is a Computer Science major at Kennesaw State University. He is extremely interested in humanity’s future, and especially in how technology will play a role in the coming years. He plans to graduate and become part of the force that is pushing for tech to remain a benefit to all who use it.

Michael Isaac (“Not Considering Esports as ‘Real Sports’ is a Failure of Logic”) is a freshman at Kennesaw State University, who is studying Electrical Engineering and is a fan of football, as well as competitive gaming.

Cierra Johnson (“The Light Switch of Language: Code-Switching”) is a hard-working freshman at Kennesaw State University, where she majors in nursing. This article stems from her own personal experience. She is from Warner Robins, Ga, where she recently graduated from Houston County High School in 2020. Recently, she has become a member of the National Honor Society.

Jake Page (“The Effects of Steroid Use in Sports”) is a student at Kennesaw State University and is 18 years old. He has been an avid sports player and fan for his entire life, especially when it comes to baseball, and has tons of experience learning about the ins and outs of the many factors that affect sports and how they operate. For any additional questions, Jake can be contacted through direct message on Instagram @jake.page.

Robert Zachary (Zach) Shanks (“The Health Effects of Video Games”) is 19 years old and grew up in Acworth Georgia. He is currently enrolled as a freshman at Kennesaw State University, where he studies dance and marketing. His Instagram is @Zachshanks01.

Citlalli Solis (“The Racial Inequalities of the American Public School System”) is a Political Science major with a minor in International Affairs at Kennesaw State University.