

Author Profiles

Zsa Boykin holds a B.B.A. and B.S.E. from Georgia State University and a Masters of Education from Kennesaw State University. She presently teaches sixth, seventh, and eighth grade gifted students at Lindley Middle School, a Leonard Bernstein/Grammy Foundation Artful Learning School, in Mableton, Georgia. Zsa was a 1996 Fellow of the Kennesaw Mountain Writing Project (KMWP) and since then has served the National Writing Project site as a member of the Project Outreach Leadership Team, Summer Institute Mentor, and Chair of the Advisory Council. Zsa was her school's 2003-2004 Teacher of the Year.

Toby Emert is an assistant professor in the Education Department at Agnes Scott College. He specializes in courses for future language arts teachers, and he draws on his background in theater, counseling, and diversity education to create learning spaces that are both imaginative and nurturing for his students. Earlier in his career, he taught English and drama in middle and high school and coached competitive forensics teams. His creative and scholarly writing appears, among other places, in *The ALAN Review*; *Borderlands*, *The Texas Poetry Review*; *The Oregon Review*; *Zone 3*; *The Panhandler*; and *Combating Heterosexism: Strategies that Work* (Columbia University Press).

Sandra Grant has taught middle and high school English to gifted, honors, and ESOL students in Florida and Georgia. Before becoming a teacher, she worked in the business sector and holds a masters degree in management and human resources. Sandra received her Educational Leadership Certification in June 2003 from Kennesaw State University. She served as Chair of the KMWP Advisory Council, 2002-2003. Sandra is currently an English teacher and the Writing Coordinator at South Cobb High School.

Carol P. Harrell teaches in the English Education program at Kennesaw State University but taught middle and high school English for fifteen years. She has worked with writing projects in Florida and Indiana, and she leads teachers workshops in Atlanta on the teaching of writing and reading. During the last few years Carol directed, as part of a federal School-to-Work Grant, the Kennesaw Regional Business and Education Collaborative, a partnership between business and education leaders, a project designed to ease students' transition from the school setting to the work environment. She currently directs a federal GEAR UP partnership grant.

Renee Kaplan, a KMWP teacher consultant, received her B.A. from the University of South Florida and M.Ed. from the University of Miami. A National Board Certified teacher, she instructs eighth grade language arts at Mabry Middle School, Cobb County, Georgia. She also serves as a Regional Museum Educator of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and designs national educational programs. She received the 2004 Spirit of Anne Frank Educator Award from the Anne Frank Center in New York and the 2005 Distinguished Educator Award from the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust. She has been a recipient of numerous teacher fellowships.

Deborah Kramb, a Nationally Certified teacher, is a K-5 math facilitator for Cobb County School District north of Atlanta, where she served as a mentor teacher to student and first-year teachers. She has taught fifth grade and a multi-age class in a Title One school as well as bilingual kindergarten and first grade in Orange County, California. She has her Master's Degree in Reading from California State University, Fullerton, and her Education Specialist Degree in Early Childhood Education from Georgia State University, where she is currently working on a Ph.D. She serves as a teacher consultant through the Kennesaw Mountain Writing Project and has presented on Differentiation and Writing at the Primary Level for university audiences.

Sarah Robbins is author of *Managing Literacy, Mothering America: Women's Narratives on Reading and Writing in the Nineteenth Century* (University of Pittsburgh Press) and of *The Cambridge Introduction to Harriet Beecher Stowe* (Cambridge University Press). She is co-editor of *Writing America: Classroom Literacy and Public Engagement* (Teachers College Press) and *Writing Our Communities: Local Learning and Public Culture* (NCTE). A K-12 teacher for over fifteen years, she is director of Kennesaw State's National Writing Project site. She has also co-directed numerous public scholarship programs in the humanities, including *Domesticating the Secondary Canon*, *Making American Literatures*, and *Keeping and Creating American Communities*.

George Seaman has worked in the Cobb County School District for sixteen years. During that time he has taught British Literature and World Literature. He has also taught freshman composition at Kennesaw State University. He attended the summer institute of the Kennesaw Mountain Writing Project in 1996 and later served as Chair of the Advisory Council. In 2002 he earned National Board Certification and has worked twice as an assessor for the National Board.

Andrew Smith is Supervisor of Professional Development for Cobb County Schools. Andrew has been involved in the Kennesaw Mountain Writing Project since the summer of 1996, including working with the High School Honors Program and serving as a Summer Institute Teacher Mentor and Continuity Program Co-Director. He earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees from Kennesaw State University's English Department.

W. Scott Smoot teaches drama and history to grades 6-8 at The Walker School, an independent school north of Atlanta. He received his Master of Arts in Professional Writing at Kennesaw State University in 2001. For the Keeping and Creating American Communities project, he led students to create an original musical from real-life family stories. His essay on that process was published in *Writing America* (Teacher's College Press, 2004). With the Kennesaw Mountain Writing Project, he has served as creative-writer-in-residence and as a teacher consultant developing smarter ways to use technology in the classroom. His writings and musical compositions can be sampled at www.smootpage.com.

Linda Stewart is an English instructor at Kennesaw State University. At the University of New Hampshire, she earned a Master of Arts in Teaching and a Master of Arts in English Literature. She served as pilot teacher coordinator for the "Keeping and Creating American Communities" project and as faculty co-director for the KMWP site. Conference presentations include CCCC, WPA, GCTE, NCTE, ASA, the Virginia Woolf Conference, the Oklahoma State NWP, and the Georgia-Carolina Conference. She also contributed essays to *Writing America: Classroom Literacy and Public Engagement* and *Writing Our Communities: Local Learning and Public Culture*.

Leslie Walker teaches AP and tenth-grade Literature/Composition at Campbell High School. She earned both her B.S. in Secondary English Education and her Master of Arts in Professional Writing at Kennesaw State University. Leslie was a 1998 Summer Institute fellow of the KMWP and led one of the curriculum teams for the Keeping and Creating American Communities program. Her teacher research essays have been published in *Writing America* (Teachers College Press) and *Writing Our Communities* (NCTE).

Victoria Walker holds a B.S. in Early Childhood Education and a Master of Arts in Professional Writing from Kennesaw State. She has taught

students from kindergarten to fifth grade and is currently working with kindergarten students at Mountain Road Elementary. Vicki has been affiliated with the Kennesaw Mountain Writing project since 1997. At the KMWP summer institute, she has held leadership roles as a reading/writing group coach and a creative-writer-in-residence, and she has also served as Chair of the Advisory Council.

Kathleen Blake Yancey is the Kellogg W. Hunt Professor of English at Florida State University, where she directs the graduate program in rhetoric and composition. An upcoming president of NCTE, she is past Chair of the NCTE College Section, past President of the Council of Writing Program Administrators, and the past Chair of the Conference on Composition and Communication. She has co-edited, edited, or authored several books, among them the recent *Teaching Literature as Reflective Practice* (NCTE). A former co-director of the National Writing Project site at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte, she has written over forty articles and book chapters and consults widely on issues and topics connected to K-12 composition and writing across the curriculum.

Dede Yow is on the English faculty at Kennesaw State University. She teaches courses in Southern Literature and gender studies, and she has published essays on Southern fiction writers Mary Hood, Larry Brown, and Bobbie Ann Mason. She co-directed Kennesaw State's 1995 NEH Summer Institute "Domesticating the Secondary Canon," developing a curriculum program for middle and secondary teachers of English and history. She is currently serving as a Faculty Fellow for Diversity Across the Curriculum in KSU's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, and she is co-authoring a history of Kennesaw State University with Professor Tom Scott of the History Department.