

Message from Dr. Sheila Smith McKoy, Chair of the Department of English

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Welcome from Dr. Smith McKoy

Welcome to the MAPW Program at Kennesaw State University. It is my great pleasure to greet you as new members of our community of students and faculty who contribute to this unique program. The KSU MAPW Program is unique. You were wise to select a program that enables you to excel in a primary and secondary program, and one that provides opportunities in Applied/Professional Writing, Composition and Rhetoric, and Creative Writing. Our program is enriched by the diversity of our students and faculty. This, in turn, will enrich your writing, your experiences in the program, and your working lives as professionals. As importantly, students receive one-on-one mentoring from our faculty who have worked professionally in their fields, both within and outside of academia. For over twenty-one years, we have been graduating successful professionals whose work has made our program one of the most sought after programs in the state and region.

We are excited to welcome 13 students to the program this fall. Each of you will find that our outstanding faculty contribute to the excellent reputation of our program. The Kennesaw State University English Department is home to a cadre of Creative Writers working in poetry, fiction and non-fiction who are superb writers and teachers. Our Applied Writing faculty have distinguished records in their professions and in the classroom. Our Composition and Rhetoric Faculty are highly trained in the history, theory and practice of their discipline. All of our MAPW faculty are active writers, teaching professionals and researchers. That is why they are committed to mentoring their students in class and individually. They assure that you will work hard, but they are also dedicated to assuring that your experiences in the program prepare you for your next steps as professionals. They are committed and incredible.

As new members of our community, you will also have the opportunity to connect with our graduates. Our graduates are working as faculty, as writers, as editors, as publishers, and in above-the-line positions in the film industry. They are working in digital and virtual spaces. They are fulfilling their destinies as graduates of this exciting program. Some are even teaching in the department, opening worlds of possibilities for our undergraduate students. As members of the MAPW community, you will also have the opportunity to expand the reach of your work by participating in internships, presenting at conferences, and collaborating with your peers and professors.

You will find that our program is also well-recognized in the wider community. Kennesaw is a part of the Atlanta Metropolitan area. As you already know, Atlanta has a long and remarkable history as both a cultural and business capital. What you will shortly learn is that our location provides our students with additional inspiration and opportunities enhanced by the educational, cultural and social networks available in the area.

Simply put, the MAPW Program empowers our students to truly demonstrate how and why writing connects us all. Your acceptance into our program opened the door to the next, best step in your professional development. Let's do some great work together.

Dr. Sheila Smith McKoy

Chair of the English Department