



2021



MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY™

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

RHYMES & REASONS NEWSLETTER

THREE QUESTIONS

FOR LOURDES CARDOZO-GAIBISSO

Lourdes Cardozo-Gaibisso specializes in systemic functional linguistics, science literacy for minoritized populations, culturally and linguistically sustaining pedagogies, and TESOL. She earned her PhD in Language and Literacy Education at the University of Georgia, her MA in Education at Universidad ORT Uruguay, Montevideo, Uruguay, and her BA in English Language Teaching at the National Teacher Education College in Montevideo, Uruguay. She joined in the Mississippi State English faculty in the Spring of 2021.

Her research focuses on developing more equitable learning opportunities for multilingual migrant and immigrant youth, their families and communities. In addition to her research and teaching, Lourdes has served as education consultant for the World Bank's Regional Program for the Development of the Teacher Profession in Latin America and the Caribbean (2018-2019) and as Curriculum Development Specialist in Teacher Policy (2020) for the International Institute for Educational Planning, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IIEP-UNESCO).



Is there a big need for TESOL education in a state like Mississippi?

I believe there is a need for TESOL education in Mississippi, and more importantly, there is a need to build robust and sustainable networks with teachers, emergent bilingual students, their families and communities. The more we are able to address the demographic, cultural and linguistic change from a holistic and participatory perspective, the more likely we are to contribute to improving the lives of our students in the long run.

You also bring a very interesting research specialization in STEM education to Mississippi State. Can you tell us a little bit about your research in this area?

As part of my graduate assistantship at the University of Georgia, I spent four years working for LISELL-B (Language-Rich Inquiry Science with English Language Learners Through Biotechnology) a design-based

implementation research grant funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Ever since, I have discovered the key role science plays in the development of our worldview, inquiry skills and practices, and how, often times, students from culturally and linguistically minoritized backgrounds do not have the same opportunities to access quality science education. Thus, one of my research interests in science is connected to the role that language plays in the development of science literacy practices in multilingual students, and how to better understand and interpret those practices.

Before joining MSU, my research focused on the role that language plays in the development of digital literacy in pre-teens. I was the P.I. of the research project "Data Smart: Developing Social Media Literacies in Pre-Teens" funded by the National Agency for Research and Innovation (ANII) and Fundación Ceibal. This project worked with children (aged 8-12 years) in Uruguay and Australia and created a bilingual (English and Spanish) educational social media application ("app), FriendSend, to investigate young users'

knowledge of the technical features of social media platforms and how personal data are produced and processed as a consequence of use. The Data Smart Kids program was developed in collaboration with students and teachers at participating schools through an iterative design process.

I know that you have already been collaborating on grants with colleagues in the Department. What are some of the projects that you're involved with?

One of the things that I have enjoyed about my time here so far is the collaborative and generative climate the Department offers. This summer, for instance, Dr. Smith and I are running a Summer Institute on Working with English Learners for over 20 teachers funded by a GEER grant. The institute has been incredibly helpful in getting to know teachers from different districts and thinking about how to develop new projects and partnerships in the near future.

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TED ATKINSON published “Working toward a Southern Erotocracy: The Wages of Homosocial Labor in the *Magic Mike* Films” *Queering the South on Screen* (University of Georgia Press) and “Faulkner on *Omnibus*: A Portrait of the Artist as a Cultural Ambassador in the Making” in *American Studies*.

SHALYN CLAGGETT completed the manuscript for her book, *Equal Natures: Popular Brain Science in Victorian Women’s Writing*, and it is under review at a university press.

PETER DEGABRIELE published “Colonel Jack’s Pockets: Subjectivity, Money, and Metaphor” in a special issue of *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* entitled “The Novel as Theory.” His book, *The Drone Enlightenment*, is under review at a university press.

LARA DODDS published “Happy Accidents: Critical Belatedness, Feminist Formalism, and Early Modern Women’s Writing” in *Criticism* and “Hester Pulter Observes the Eclipse; Or, The Poetics of the Astronomical Event” in *JEMCS*, and won the College of Arts and Sciences Humanities Teaching Award.

LOURDES CARDOZO GAIBISSO and **MEGAN SMITH** won a \$34,285 GEER grant that will develop materials for English language learners in Mississippi.

BECKY HAGENSTON published six new stories. Her new short story collection, *The Age of Discovery and Other Stories*, won *The Journal’s* Non/Fiction Prize and will be published by Mad Creek Books/Ohio State University Press in summer 2021.

Emerita Professor **SHIRLEY HANSHAW** published *Re-Membering and Surviving: African American Fiction of the Vietnam War* (Michigan State University Press).

WENDY HERD was honored this spring by a College of Art and Sciences by a Robert E. Wolverton Legacy Award. Dr. Herd passed away last fall. We continue to honor her life and legacy at Mississippi State

GINGER PIZER won the Irvin Atly Jefcoat Award for Excellence in Advising, the university’s highest award for advising.

HOLLY JOHNSON published “Preaching the Imago Dei: Robert Rypon’s Sermon for Trinity Sunday” in *The Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures*.

MICHAEL KARDOS published two short stories, “Reality TV” and “The Wish,” the former of which was nominated for a Pushcart Award. He published an essay in *Creative Writing: Drafting, Revising, Editing* (Palgrave), and his novel *Bluff* was translated into Turkish.

MATT LITTLE published “Revisit to Kibosh—Rejecting the Irish ‘cap of death’ Etymology” in *Comments on Etymology*.”

KELLY MARSH published “Recovery in the Suspended Serials of Roddy Doyle” in *Narrative*, and an invited response “Dual Narrative Progression and the Critique of Privilege.”

ELIZABETH MILLER published “Between Enclave and Counter-public: Doubled Rhetorical Space and the Civil Rights Mass Meeting” in *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*. She also completed the manuscript for her book, *Liturgy of Change: Rhetorics of the Civil Rights Mass Meeting*, and it is currently under review at a university press.

BONNIE O’NEILL published “Authority, Affect, and Impersonality in Lydia Maria Child’s Social Criticism” in *ESQ*, and “The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society: ‘An ever-evolving circle’” in *The Concord Saunterer*.

CATHERINE PIERCE published *Danger Days*, her fourth collection of poems. It won the Mississippi Institute for Arts and Letters Poetry Award. She also published fifteen poems and two essays.

DAN PUNDAY published “Metalepsis and Emotion in Unnatural Stories.” *Unnatural Narratology: Extensions, Revisions, and Challenges* (Ohio State University Press) and “Digital Writing: Authorship and Platform” in *World Authorship* (Oxford).

ERIC VIVIER published “Thomas Nashe’s Unprofitable Satire” in *Modern Philology*.

ANDREA SPAIN had her article, “Professional Life, Childhood, and Fantasy Solutions: Middle-Class Alienation in the Fiction of J. D. Salinger and the Films of Wes Anderson” accepted for publication in *Post45*.

DHANASHREE THORAT published “Modalities of Data Colonialism and South Asian Hashtag Publics” in *Feminist Media Studies*, “Digital Infrastructures and Technoutopian Fantasies: The Colonial Roots of Technology Aid in the Global South” in *Exploring Digital Humanities in India: Pedagogies, Practices, and Institutional Possibilities* (Routledge), and her essay “Colonial Topographies of Internet Infrastructure: The Sedimented and Linked Networks of the Telegraph and Submarine Fiber Optic Internet” reprinted in *South Asian Digital Humanities: Postcolonialism Mediations across Technology’s Cultural Canon* (Routledge).

JERVETTE WARD created and Chaired “Digital Humanities as Activism” in at the Modern Language Association Conference in alliance with the College Language Association, as well as “Afrofuturism: Diasporic Visions” at that conference. She served as the Vice President of the College Language Association.

ROBERT WEST published seven poems and has completed work on his forthcoming essay collection *Robert Morgan: Essays on the Life and Work* (McFarland). It includes a previously unpublished essay, “The Missing as Muse: Treatments of Absence in the Poetry.”

KELLY MARSH and **DAN PUNDAY** organized the 2020 International Society for the Study of Narrative conference in New Orleans, with Mississippi State as the host.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

ANNIE FALOR WATSON, CLASS OF 2008



In August of 2004, I arrived at Mississippi State University in my yellow Ford Ranger. I was 18 years old and 1532 miles from home. My two moms brought me to campus. The drive was a straight shot on Route 66 from my hometown of Flagstaff, Arizona to Memphis. One right turn. South to Winona. One left turn. And we were rolling into Starkville. I wish I had a nickel for every time that I was asked, “You aren’t from around here, are you?” But I always felt welcome, and I came to the South to learn things that I couldn’t have learned anywhere else.

I spent most of my days running and reading. I had the privilege of wearing maroon-and-white and competing for MSU in cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track. My intertwined athletic and academic aspirations filled my days. On humid fall mornings, we ran at 5:00am. After practice, I took Honors English Composition at 8:00am with Dr. Holly Johnson. There were only 8 students, and I knew, without a doubt, that my heart belonged in Lee Hall.

My favorite study spot was any table by a window in State Fountain Bakery where I bought two cookies for 50-cents. In the sunshine of that café, I highlighted and annotated Shakespeare, Dickens, Milton,



Chaucer, Whitman, Dickinson, Hurston, and Faulkner. Shout-outs to Dr. Anderson, Dr. Claggett, Dr. Dodds, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Raymond, and Dr. Polk: You taught me how to craft an original thesis, how to infuse my own writing with a snippet of a quote, and how to close read a text with a feminist lens. Your homework gave me something to think about on 10-mile tempo runs at Noxubee Wildlife Refuge and long bus rides through Arkansas. Most importantly, you taught me to analyze the world. You welcomed my analysis, gave specific feedback, and showed, constantly, how much you cared. You offered me a space for criticality-- a space where my identities and my family were welcome. You helped me find community and voice, and I am forever grateful for the difference you made in my life.

As a D1 athlete, I wanted to run fast. As an English major, I wanted to write something that mattered. I am so grateful for my coach (Al Schmidt) and my Bulldog teammates. Likewise, I am so grateful for my classmates in the English Department, including Lauren Shook, Tyler Trimm, Courtney Kimbrough Dueitt, and Melody Pittman Dale. We were the ultimate study group. We supported each other, and it was a privilege to work alongside you on those late nights at Mitchell Memorial Library.

After graduating from State in 2008, I went back home to pursue a Master's degree in English and Secondary Education. I taught high school English in public schools for almost a decade, and for the last three years, I have taught future-teachers in the College of Education at Northern Arizona University. I am currently pursuing my PhD in Curriculum & Instruction. The theoretical framework that I bring to educational research (one of critical pedagogy, cultural responsiveness, and social justice) is largely inspired by the foundational work that was cultivated in English classrooms at MSU. In 2019, I authored my first children's picture book (*Is 2 a Lot?*), which was named a Mathical Honor Book for its exploration of number sense and comparative quantity. Note the bulldog on page 10! In 2021, I authored my second picture book (*My Monster Moofy*), which received a Kirkus Starred Review. It's about a little girl and her cat, and it features figurative language or a poetic device on each page.

As an MSU alum, I felt prepared for every academic and professional opportunity. My future is likely filled with some mix of writing, teaching, research, publishing, and running. I always knew that it would be. I aspire to be impactful and authentic in all that I do, just like the mentors and friends that I found in Lee Hall. Hail State!



STUDENT EXPERIENCES IN THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT THIS YEAR



JOSEPH NEWELL

Over the past two years as an English major at Mississippi State, I've experienced a heap of benefits and growth as a writer. From entering taking survey literature courses, then transitioning to more strenuous research courses, the program has shaped me into a writer, researcher, and communicator that can efficiently formulate original ideas and present them effectively in many settings.

I had the privilege of testing these skills when I participated in the 2021 Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium. I presented research with the help of faculty mentors Dr. Lara Dodds and Dr. Dhanashree Thorat. This symposium had many benefits other than me placing first in the Arts and Humanities category. As a first-time participant, I witnessed and partook in the revision and presentation process of presenting in a formal setting. Additionally, my mentors' guidance taught me the ability to present an extensive research project

within a specified time. Having to condense research while still presenting the most critical points improved my ability to offer cohesive and precise introductions, connections, conclusions, and alternations of presentational tones. These skills are essential in thriving in the professional community of researchers and writers.

Being an English major not only contributes to my development as a writer and researcher but also benefits my personal growth. Faculty and professors in the English department at Mississippi State University encourage students to explore and make connections with their peers by sharing ideas, poems and writings, and contributing to literary discussions. These things continue to aid an introvert like me to be more vocal and social with those around me. Additionally, being an English major has taught me to be more open-minded and accepting to those who possess different beliefs, customs, and practices. Being an English major changed me from the nervous student I was when I first entered and morphed me into a scholar who is comfortable connecting, exploring, and contributing to the expanding community of literary scholars.

The professors are more than educators to me. Faculty in the English department are like my second family that I can always turn to if I need help or an encouraging word that helps me get through failures and trials. As an upcoming senior English major, I look forward to furthering my exploration of all that the English Department offers. I am eager to be challenged academically, developed as a writer, and motivated by the endless support of faculty and professors that make being an English major one of the best choices I have made at MSU.

SAM KEALHOFER

I remember the department announced its new internships right as I was set to graduate in May of 2020. I was excited to hear the news because I wanted to use the writing and research skills I developed through the program to try a career outside of the classroom. MSU's College of Arts and Sciences Research Support Team was interested in hiring an intern who could help publicize all the research efforts of the college's faculty in fields like the arts and humanities as well as the biological, social, and physical sciences. My colleagues encouraged me to use my background in writing, especially creative writing, to show the bigger picture of the college. Throughout the internship, I read as much as I could and made content like articles, podcasts, social media posts, and videos to highlight the importance of these research efforts.

The internship was a unique chance for me to demonstrate the value an English master's graduate can bring to the workplace. The college graciously hired me on full time and tasked me to continue telling their story. It has been a great experience and I am so thankful for the opportunity.





AVERY FERGUSON

This past summer I had the opportunity of working remotely as the Convention and Events Intern for the Modern Language Association (MLA). Working for the MLA not only solidified my passion for event planning in the humanities but also taught me the exceedingly relevant skills needed for working remotely.

The staff at MLA was a pleasure to work with, and I left not only having learned more about planning academic conferences but also having learned about all the departments within the MLA and how they function.

I applied to this internship after Dr. Shalyn Claggett shared the job posting with my graduate student cohort. My past experiences planning events on campus like TEDxMSState and assisting Dr. Jervette Ward with the College Language Association's annual convention gave me the background and skills that made me feel this was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. Both Dr. Claggett and Dr. Ward served as mentors throughout my application process, and I am grateful for their continuous support and investment in not only myself but all of our department's graduate students.

This internship involved a host of different tasks that allowed me to assist with all that goes into planning the MLA's annual convention that usually hosts about 5,000 attendees from all over the country and world. This year, their convention has been planned to involve both in-person and online sessions, so the fluidity of the status of the pandemic was always a challenge in the staff's decision-making processes. Some of the projects I worked on included researching the extensive history of MLA forums which culminated in a report, reading and correcting program proofs, scheduling the online sessions while avoiding subject and time zone conflicts, researching and planning excursions and potential new exhibitors for the convention lineup, writing plenty of copy for emails to members, formal letters involving information about session details, and making sure that session titles, descriptions, and participants were all correct in the program.

Some of my biggest takeaways from this internship were learning how to work and collaborate in a remote environment as well as learning about the extensive amount of detail and work that it takes to plan such a large academic conference. The detail involved with planning this kind of conference only increased when considering the status of the pandemic as well as an event format that includes both in-person and online components. Communication is vital to planning events like these and working remotely forced us all to overcommunicate to get tasks completed accurately. The MLA also gave its summer interns the opportunity to network by hosting weekly Zoom meetings hosted by each

department within the MLA, so interns could learn about everything from publications, graphic design, as well as MLA programs. The MLA's work culture was supportive of its employees and all aspects of their well-being and thrived on collaboration between all of the MLA's departments, and it was an honor to get to experience a summer working for the organization that is so integral to my role as a graduate student in English!



STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

KUDOS FOR OUR STUDENTS, ALUMNI, AND SUPPORTERS

Howell and Elizabeth Gwin Scholarship Winners:

Kristopher Witcher, Riley Stephens, Deshalia Murray and Kameron Keel

Eugene Butler Creative Writing Award:

Lindsey Fisher, Madison Brown, Reagan Poston, Anthony Coffman, and Isaac Huckaby

Dr. Richard F. Patteson Endowed Scholarship:

Avery Ferguson

Mildred Freeman Shurlds English Annual Scholarship:

Emma Anders

Roger LaMoyne Dabbs Memorial Scholarship:

Jackson Keel and Kameron Keel

Helen W. Skelton Endowed Scholarship:

Katelyn Wyatt and Bylan Bufkin

Ann Pittman Andrews Memorial Endowed Scholarship:

Anna Tucker

Peyton Ward Williams, Jr. Distinguished Writing Award:

Reagan Poston for her paper "The Economy of Virtue in Persian Letters."

Brasher-Dazey Paper Award: **Jesse Ivy**

Stacey Goff Endowed Scholarship: **Taylor Anderson**

William H. Magruder Memorial Scholarship: **Riley Stephens**

English major **Reagan Poston** (BA 2021) has accepted an offer to pursue her MFA in fiction, with a teaching assistantship, at the University of Nevada-Reno.

Dylan Buffkin, Tara Burrows, Rebekah Grisham, Kimberlyn Ivy, Mackenzie Jackson, Hannah Phillips, Cameron Temple, Rebecca Van Pamel, and Anna Claire Tucker were inducted into Mississippi State's Phi Beta Kappa chapter.

Neveah Payne was selected for the Black Europe Summer School (BESS), which will take place in Amsterdam this summer.

Riley Byars won first place in the Gender Studies undergraduate essay contest with her essay, "From Darkness to Light: Gendered Norms, Puritanism, and The Scarlet Letter"

At the Mississippi State Undergraduate Research Symposium, **Joseph Newell** won first place in Arts and Humanities with his essay, "Dickinson, Displacement, and her use of Defense Mechanisms to Cope with Psychological Trauma" and **Lindsey Downs** won second place with "Loss, Reckless Behavior, and Jane Austen's Realism in *Sense and Sensibility* and *Persuasion*."

JaKara Singleton and Cheryl Zant were chosen as Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory (HASTAC) scholars to work on digital projects.

TESOL student **Olivia M. Steil** was selected for the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program for U.S. citizens

Ann Clair Tucker (BA 2021) was accepted to multiple law schools, and has chosen to attend Mississippi College in Jackson.

Joy Cariño (BA 2020) was named a finalist for the Fulbright Award.



Tarah Burrows placed first in both the poetry and fiction categories in the 2020 Undergraduate Writing Contest. Her poem “A Student’s AP English Midterm 2020” and the short story “One Body” went on to represent MSU at the Southern Literary Festival in the spring. Sam Nieman’s poem “Gazing at Stars” was selected as runner-up in the poetry category.

Baylee Seeman (BA 2021) won third place in the Mississippi State Library poetry contest.

Six students completed internships in our newly-launched program:

Tarah Burrows, Friendly City Books (Columbus, MS); **Elisabeth Connell**, Starkville Area Arts Council (Starkville, MS); **Dorothy Higgs**, Friendly City Books (Columbus, MS); **Jackson Keel**, Westminster Christian Academy (Huntsville, AL); **Riley Stephens**, Watkins & Eager Law Office (Jackson, MS); **Aaron Waterson**, MSU, Governor’s Emergency Education Response (GEER) Grant (Starkville, MS).

Meghan Reed was the recipient of this year’s Martha’s Vineyard Institute for Creative Writing grant.

Allie Allsup is currently applying for jobs and internships. She plans to pursue a career in some form of writing or publishing position in the future wherever that may take her.

Madison Brown successfully defended her creative thesis “Taste of Grief & Other Unconventional Love Stories” in March. In the fall, she will enter the MFA program in Creative Writing at the University of Central Florida. She has been awarded full-funding and the Dean’s Fellowship for her studies.

Sam Dean will be joining the faculty at Gulfport High School where she will teach 9th grade English. She is excited about the opportunity to teach students the value of reading and finding their voice through writing. She hopes to also teach dual enrollment classes and AP courses in the future.

Juliana Jones will be attending the University of Delaware beginning in the fall in their PhD program, studying disability in 20th century American literature. She also successfully defended her thesis “‘No Pain, Just Tricky to Manipulate’: Sylvia Plath Across Genres” in February. Last March, she, Emma Moffett, and Jessica Flowers presented “Social Media Wizards and the Golden Tweet” at the Southwestern Writing Center Association Conference (SWCA). Juliana also presented her paper “‘Nobody Cares for a Letter’: Subverting the Epistolary with Epistle in Austen’s Emma” this May at the 2021 Narrative Conference.

Lindsey Fisher successfully defended her creative thesis “The Second Half” in March. Her poem by the same name won the Joy Taylor Rieves Academy of American Poets Prize, and it will soon be published on the Academy of American Poets website. She is currently applying for jobs in the world of editing and publishing.

Sinclair Portis will be attending Michigan State University where she will begin her PhD program in English. In April, she presented her paper “Blackness and Science Fiction: Understanding African American Culture and Identities through Speculative Fictional Texts” at the College Language Association Conference.

Katie Starliper will defend her Creative Thesis “Chess with Pigeons” this summer. She will also be joining the Mississippi State University faculty as a Lecturer in the Fall.

Yacine Soumare Iss Mamoudou will be entering the French MA Program in the Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures at Mississippi State University where he has also been awarded a teaching assistantship.

Katelyn Poe has been hired as a Journal Production Coordinator at *The American Journal of Public Health* in Washington D.C. Last summer she garnered a prestigious internship with the National Endowment for the Humanities, working as a Pathway Student Summer Intern in the NEH Office of Communications

Our other MA graduates are **Emma Moffat, Ryan King, Katherine Brown, Kelly Barton, and Sandra Currier**.

Michael Woods published “A “Defect of Justice”: Congregationalism, the Calvinist Problem, and the Unitarian Solution in Sylvester Judd’s Margaret” in the academic journal *Beyond the Margins*.

Leslie Joblin (BA MSU 2012) earned her PhD in English from the Pennsylvania State University. Her dissertation is titled “Reorienting the Avant-Garde: Novel Objects, Queer Sociabilities”

Annie Watson (BA 2008) will publish her second book this summer, *My Monster Moofy*.

ENGLISH LEADS THE NEW FILM MINOR



Still image from Lee Vernon's short film, *Earn Your Success*

Literature in the twenty-first century is much more than just the written word, and that is why the English department is home to State's new interdisciplinary film minor. Students in this minor learn about film traditions and the cutting-edges of cinema as they take courses that introduce them to the technical languages of filmmaking, film history, global and national cinemas, and avant-garde and activist movements that have produced profound works of art, social change, and some of the most important stories and images that define and reflect our contemporary moment.



Dr. Andrea Spain led the creation of the interdisciplinary film minor, and she currently serves as its director. Spain notes that “film is an important addition to the English curriculum because much of the narrative work done by the short story and the novel also happens in cinema. Additionally, our film students explore how technological advances in film have transformed how literature is written. Students pursuing the film minor learn that narrative is still at the center of culture, but in changing forms.” The English Studies curriculum includes courses such as Introduction to Film, Film Theory, Race in the Media, and Literature and Film. The department has built connections with film scholars in Communication, Art, and the Shackouls Honors College to offer exciting courses from these disciplines such as Acting for the Camera and documentary film classes on Art and Activism.

Since 2019, thirty-two students have added a film minor. Not only are these students learning about film, they are making films and winning awards. The excitement of Film Studies at State has produced a new student group, *The Scene*, advised by Communications Instructor Melanie Harris. *The Scene* brings together students from all over campus with a passion for film, and each year they write, produce, and direct films. Film Minor and a member of *The Scene* Lee Vernon starred in, directed, and produced his short film, *Earn Your Success*. Vernon’s film earned top honors, selected by the Atlanta Black Film Festival and broadcasted on the popular streaming platform ROKU. Vernon describes his experience as a filmmaker at Mississippi State,

“I filmed it near Mississippi State’s campus . . . Once it was finished, I felt proud of it and looked for some places to send it for feedback. That’s when I found the Black Film Festival of Atlanta. They were looking for films about motivation, so I entered. . . . It feels great to have my work on a popular platform like Roku. I want as many people as possible to see it and continue seeing it as I grow and get better as a storyteller.”

Each year, Introduction to Film students also have the opportunity tell their stories through film. These first films include Joy Cariño’s *Harmony in Healing* (2019), Kylie LaBelle and Harley Graves’ *The Covid Chronicles* (2021), and *Bottom of the Chain* (2021) directed by Hannah Vandie.

In Spring 2021, Hannah Vanderberg became the first student to graduate with the Minor in Film Studies, and in the coming years many more will follow. We look forward to seeing how film will develop here at State.

“ Film is an important addition to the English curriculum because much of the narrative work done by the short story and the novel also happens in cinema. Additionally, our film students explore how technological advances in film have transformed how literature is written. Students pursuing the film minor learn that narrative is still at the center of culture, but in changing forms.”

- Dr. Andrea Spain
Director of Minor in Film Studies

THANK YOU

TO OUR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

Over the past 16 years, our generous alumni and friends have donated over \$370,000 to support our scholarships and awards as well as the English Advancement Fund, which helps to fund travel and equipment needs for faculty and students. In the last year, we have received more than \$21,000 in gifts and pledges to department scholarships and other funds, including large gifts to the Richard F. Patten Endowed Scholarship, the Price Caldwell Memorial Endowment, and the Cecil Hunter and Ann Pittman Andrews Memorial Endowed Scholarships. Most of the donations that we receive are much smaller, however: \$250, \$100, \$50, and even \$25. They all add up, though, and help to support programs and scholarships for our students.

This year we are particularly encouraging contributions to the Wendy Jean Herd Memorial Fund, which will support an annual award for the most significant student research in linguistics. Learn more about the award, and read reflections about Wendy's contributions to Mississippi State, on this page: <https://www.english.msstate.edu/faculty/wendy-herd/>.

If you're interested in making a tax-deductible donation to help us meet our needs, please contact Sara Frederick, Director of Development for the College of Arts & Sciences at MSU. You can reach her at her office number, 662-325-3240, or by email, sfrederic@foundation.msstate.edu.



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