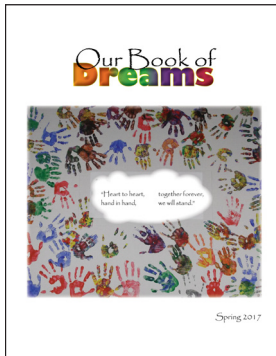


## FINDING OUR DREAMS



In May of 2017, 68 second graders from R.B. Dean Elementary School in Maxton received a special gift: a poetry book, *Our Book of Dreams*, composed of their own original work. The book came into being from the service-learning projects of several UNC Pembroke classes. The approximately 80 UNCP freshmen in instructors Deana Johnson's and Amy Williams's service-learning composition courses hosted a special reading party in February of 2017 for the second graders. Inspired by the community's drive to move forward in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, they focused on the theme of "dreams" and the hope needed to envision and sustain them.

After the elementary students read from a series of books about Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech, they rotated in small groups through six literacy

stations led by UNCP students, engaging in activities such as writing and revising a dream poem and illustrating that dream. A lunch of pizza slices, assorted snacks, and cold lemonade made possible by generous donations from Domino's Pizza of Pembroke topped the event.

With the help of Sara Oswald's Computer-Assisted Editing and Publication Design class, each child's poem from the reading party was published and distributed to the young authors at a special "dreamsicle" celebration. UNCP students also took home some valuable memories. Randy Rodriguez wrote that "helping the kids write made me think about the dreams I had back when I was young, and it really made me think about how growing up and being exposed to new things really changes your dreams," while Dilano Medina noted how the skills learned in composition mattered to these young students.

## New Faculty Profile: Dr. Nikki Agee

**NIKKI AGEE** came to—and remains passionate about—the study of rhetoric and writing studies because of an awakening. In a graduate class on postmodern rhetoric at the University of Texas, El Paso, Dr. Agee remembers that she and her peers read about the ways that language constructs our realities and our subjectivities. "For the first time, I understood that rhetoric wasn't merely a study of constructing argument or of studying the work of Aristotle and Plato," she says. "I gradually experienced a kind of awakening to the power of language and to the notion that there wasn't an area of our lives or being that wasn't in some way shaped or motivated by rhetoric."

Dr. Agee brings her study of language to life across a host of innovative courses; she also brings to her classrooms unique experiences across disciplines and workplaces. During her graduate studies, she served as a research associate in UTEP's Department of Metallurgical, Materials & Biomedical Engineering and worked as a technical writer and editor for the Department of Civil Engineering. Dr. Agee also enlisted in the U.S. Army—and now serves in the U.S. Army Reserve. For Dr. Agee, her ROTC classes during her days as an undergraduate were life-changing. "My ROTC class challenged me in non-academic ways, and it forced me to practice skills that I'd never had to use in college," she says. "None of these skills came easy to me, and I learned many lessons the hard way," she remembers.

As Dr. Agee thinks about teaching at UNCP, it might be her experience overcoming challenges—no matter what—that inspires her advice for students. "In terms of life lessons, I want students to know that everything's possible," she says. "The 'impossible' just takes longer and requires a lot more time, effort, and dedication."

## ETFL FACULTY IN ACTION

ETFL faculty shared the results of their scholarly and creative endeavors in multiple media and venues during the 2016-2017 academic year, publishing poems as well as articles in fields ranging from medieval British literature to composition. They traveled to conferences throughout the US, and one in the UK, to present papers and participate in conversations with other scholars on topics ranging from Appalachian literature to the use of technology in foreign language classrooms.

One faculty member traveled to Cuba with a theater group from a California university to hold theater workshops and critical analyses of texts with Cuban artists. Another traveled to DC with faculty from other NC universities to lobby our Congressional delegation on the value of the humanities. Three ETFL faculty members were honored in May 2017 for outstanding teaching and service-learning. All in all, our faculty were engaged throughout the year in creating and communicating knowledge and skills in the many disciplines included in our department.



## ETFL STUDENTS HONORED AT RECEPTION

Graduating seniors and other students were honored at an awards reception on 24 April 2017.

### English and English Education Awards

John Green Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Sydney Blake

Sue Betty Locklear Endowed Memorial Scholarship

Candy Guinn

Grace Loving Gibson Endowed Scholarship

Jordan Williams

Outstanding Senior in English

Miriam Letson

Outstanding Senior in English Education

Alicia Kate Leonard

### Theatre Awards

Kay McClanahan Endowed Memorial Scholarship  
In Dramatic Arts

Jessica Martinez

Albert D. Dunavan Scholarship in Theatre

Darian Rolle

Outstanding Senior in Theatre

Adam Hurley

### Foreign Languages Awards

Beatrice Locklear Brayboy Endowed Scholarship

Zelma Addin Lopez

Deon Greene Memorial Annual Scholarship

Hailey Maries Naifeh

Keily Ariana Ramirez

Outstanding Senior in Spanish

Kayla Marie Lane

With this issue, *The Beacon* reboots as a quarterly. Watch for more faculty—and student—profiles and news of Fall 2017 events in our next issue, coming in January 2018.

## New Faculty Profile: Dr. Brandy Brown

**BRANDY BROWN**, who hails from Aberdeen, Washington, joins the department this year as Assistant Professor of English and Director of the Writing Center. Dr. Brown's journey through the academy has been one of evolution and discovery: "I loved being involved in theatre, but by the end of my [undergraduate] degree I knew I did not want to make it my career." In the graduate program at UNC Greensboro, Dr. Brown focused her studies on "feminist rhetorics, critical theory, and American pragmatism," which "helped me understand how my personal experience shapes my perspective of the world. It gave me language to talk about, and analyze, how I felt and fit in the world." Dr. Brown is excited to share with students her passion for rhetoric: "I wish people understood just how helpful it can be to think critically about the world around us," she says, "and, about composition, I wish more people would understand that writing is a skill that is in constant development. It develops over our lifetime, and requires consistent practice."

She "wants students to understand that there is no magical 'good writer,' who has mastered every writing task. By the time we get truly good at writing in one context, the situation shifts and we have to adapt and develop new writing skills." Her primary goal then is to have them "think of themselves as adaptable and practicing writers."

"As a writing center director," she says, "I work closely with the student consultants in the center. They have been incredible at making me feel welcome and helping me to adapt to this new place. Also, the students in my Composition and Writing Center Theory and Practice classes have been wonderful. They are interesting, ready to learn, and patient with me as we all get through our first semester here."