

# THE TATLER

Bringing you new developments within the English Department

Volume 18 Issue 1

July 2020

## 18<sup>th</sup> Conference on Contemporary English Language Arts and Pedagogy held on Oct. 30-31, 2019, at Claflin University



“Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum and E-learning” was the theme of the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference on Contemporary English Language Arts and Pedagogy on Oct. 30-31, 2019, hosted by

Claflin University.

This mission of the conference is to provide educators throughout the southeastern region a forum to discuss the pivotal role of reading and writing in the secondary and postsecondary curriculum.

This conference featured panel discussions and presentations on several topics including: teaching and learning in the digital age; studying and teaching literature (including World Literature and travel literature); creative writing/ Creative writing pedagogy; composition pedagogy; and teaching foreign languages.

Dr. Anthony Graham, Provost, Winston-Salem (NC) State University, was the keynote speaker for the opening day of the conference at 1 p.m. in the Health and Wellness Center. The title of Graham’s speech was “*I Can Read, But I Struggle with Comprehension —College Students Who Struggle with Reading and Implications for University Faculty.*”

Prior to his appointment as provost at Winston Salem State University, Graham served in various leadership positions in the Department of Education at North Carolina A&T State University -- including chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Previously, Graham worked as a high school English teacher and as an academic counselor/lecturer in the Center for Student Success at NCA&T.

Dr. Farhat Iftekharuddin was the featured speaker for the plenary session on Thursday (Oct. 31) at 11 a.m. in Ministers’ Hall. Iftekharuddin currently works with academic infrastructure development in developing countries. He designs academic, administrative, physical, and fiscal structures for international universities that wish to implement the United States’ model of higher education. He is a retired professor of English from the University of Texas at

Brownsville. Dr. Iftekharuddin has over 20 years of experi-

ence in developing and teaching on-line courses.

## Claflin Hosts: Dr. Vijay Prakash Singh, Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence 2019-2020



During 2019-2020, Dr. Vijay Prakash Singh was a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at Claflin University. Dr. Singh is a professor of English in the Department of English & Modern European Languages at the University of Lucknow in India. Dr. Singh’s areas of

research are the Nineteenth Century Novel, Modern Fiction, and Travel Narratives. His Ph.D. dissertation was on the fiction of American novelist Henry James. He has published research papers and book reviews in Indian anthologies like the *Panjab University Research Bulletin*, *Commonwealth Review*, the *Indo American Review*, and *The Eastern Anthropologist*. His articles have appeared in international journals such as the *South Asian Review*, and *Tibetan Review* as well as in anthologies published by *Cambridge Scholars*. He has been an Academic Associate at the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies in Shimla, a center for postdoctoral research in the humanities. He has published two books: a selection of major colonial and postcolonial travelogues on the Himalayas and Tibet entitled *Mountain Travelogues on the Himalaya and Tibet* published by Pilgrim Publishers, and a collection of short stories entitled *A Day in the Life of Ghulam Sarwar and Other Stories* published by Writer’s Workshop, Kolkata. Dr. Singh taught one section of English 201 for the fall semester of 2019. He taught English 403 with Dr. Bormann. He resumed teaching English 201 and was delivering guest lectures to other English classes when the campus shut down and all classes went online after spring break in 2020. Dr. Singh delivered two public lectures and gave two guest lectures at the local high school. He also presented at Claflin’s 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Pedagogy Conference. Dr. Singh returned to India in early June 2020. During the pandemic lockdown period from March to June 2020, he engaged in research and writing.

## 2020 Seniors Make Plans

Dayjai Washington graduated in December 2019. She believes that “No matter the trials you endured in life, keep God first, remain focused on your goals, and you will find success within your reach.” Her career goal is to become an officer in the US Army.

She states: “It was a rewarding college experience. I was given the opportunity to enhance my skills in the fields of my choice, English and Criminal Justice. I became more knowledgeable in these curricula and a well-rounded individual through diverse experiences and networking with others.”

Nyeema Haigler is a graduating senior and her motto for success is “If I speak it into existence and continue to work hard, there’s no reason I shouldn’t get where I want to be by 30 years old.” After graduating, she plans on attending law school. She is currently applying for internships that are with the NYC Mayor and a foundation called “Sadie Nash”, and she wants to start getting involved in advocacy work in her community before she receives her JD and license to practice law. She stated that her four years at Claflin have changed her. She is aware that Claflin and the state of South Carolina is a part of her story now, and she says that she will forever be connected to this place, Claflin, for making her who she is today.

LaNishia Boyd is a graduating senior and her motto for success is “The sky is not the limit; it’s just a view.” Her plans after college involve attending NCA&T joining a graduate program to pursue her M.A. in English and African American Literature. She will also be continuing her research in college graduate prison education. She says that her four years at Claflin were eye opening. She is a first-generation college student, and she says that it was a great pleasure breaking ground in college.

Tanika Carolina’s feelings about graduation are *Veni, vidi, vici; I came, I saw, I conquered.* She plans to go straight into the workforce while seeking to complete requirements to become a TESOL teacher. Her years at Claflin were eventful. She has many memories and knowledge that she will certainly cherish forever. She was instilled with skills that will take her far in life.

Majesty Priester completed her degree in English and graduated in May 2020. Her goal is to join a graduate program in Counseling and pursue a career in this field.

Ronyee Jones completed her degree in English and graduated in May 2020. Her concentration was in Creative Writing, and she plans to enter the workforce full-time after graduation.

## Two News Faces in the Claflin University English Department

By Tiana Wilder

In the Fall of 2019, the English Department added two new members to their roster, Dr. Andreas P. Herzog and Ms. Tralynn Pullen. Dr. Herzog is a native of Germany who first came to America during a study abroad trip to California. He then attended the University of South Carolina to obtain his master's degree and Ph.D. Previously, he taught classes while he was completing his stud-



ies at USC. Dr. Herzog says that when he is teaching, he likes to have an open classroom environment so that students are comfortable sharing their opinions and thoughts within the classroom. He also believes in "Writing to Learn", an idea that he implements by having his students write as much as possible.

Ms. Tralynn Pullen is an Illinois native who obtained her masters in English from Western Illinois University. Due to her undergraduate school Kentucky State University, being an HBCU, Ms. Pullen felt that it was important to teach and give back to another HBCU, which was why she decided to come to Claflin. Ms. Pullen said that her boredom in her previous classes inspired her teaching style. In her classroom, Ms. Pullen incorporates different activities to keep students interested and focused in the classroom.

Dr. Herzog and Ms. Pullen offered advice to students who plan to become professors in the future. They both state that you should choose something that you love. Dr. Herzog stated that graduate studies can be tedious at times, so studying something you have a passion for will keep you motivated. Ms. Pullen offered advice to incorporate your personality into your teaching methods so that your class is not only interesting to your students but you as well.

## Edisto River Review Launch 2019 has a large audience

Thursday October 31, 2019, at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> Claflin University Language Arts Conference, Dr. Nick Robinson organized a launch event for the *Edisto River Review*

## Dr. Nick Robinson wins several awards in 2019-2020



**Nick R. Robinson, Ph.D.**, grew up in Junior Village, a Washington DC-based, government-run orphanage that was the oldest and largest institution of its kind in America. A ninth-grade dropout, Dr. Robinson earned a general equivalency diploma and graduated from the University of the District of Columbia. A graduate of the creative writing programs at Florida Atlantic University (2009, MFA) and the University of Missouri (2016, PhD), Dr. Robinson is currently an Assistant Professor of English at Claflin University. As someone who couldn't write a lick before graduate school, Dr. Robinson is proud that six of his manuscript chapters have been recognized as First Place Winner, First Runner Up, and Finalist in nine national/international writing contests over the past fourteen months:

07/20: 2013 Pulitzer Prize Winner in General Nonfiction, Gilbert King, selected First Place Winner, "Junior Village," *Southeast Review* 2020 Ned Stuckey-French Nonfiction Contest  
03/20: First Place Winner, "Our Institutions," 2020 *Dreamers Magazine's* Dreamers Nonfiction Writing Contest: Stories of Migration, Sense of Place and Home  
02/20: Finalist, "The Sweet Spot," *Sonora Review*, 2019 Nonfiction Contest—Encounter  
01/20: Finalist, "The Sweet Spot," 2019 Tucson Book Awards Festival, 2019 Writing Contest, nonfiction category (out of 747 submissions)  
10/19: First Runner Up, "Cherall," 2019 Words and Music Creative Nonfiction Writing Contest  
09/19: Finalist, "Mixing It Up with Mama," 2019 *Iron Horse Literary Review*, Photo Finish Contest  
08/19: Finalist, "Living with the Alvarezes," 2019 Bread Loaf Work-study Scholarship in Nonfiction  
06/19: Finalist, "Living with the Alvarezes," 2019 Hunger Mountain Creative Nonfiction Prize  
04/19: Finalist, "The Sweet Spot," 2019 Frank McCourt Memoir Contest

Dr. Robinson's work is forthcoming or has been published in *Southeast Review*, *New Ohio Review*, *Iron Horse Literary Review*, *Dreamers Magazine*, *SFWP Monthly*, *Quarterly*, and *Annual Volume 1*, and elsewhere. He was a contributor at the 2015 through 2019 Bread Loaf Summer Writers' Conferences, the 2016 and 2019 Tin House Summer Workshops, and the 2019 Kenyon Review Summer Workshop. Dr. Robinson has accepted invitations to attend the 2021 DISQUIET International Literary Program and Sewanee Summer Writing Conference. He's recently signed an Author Agreement with Miriam Altshuler of DeFiore and Company Literary Agency.

## Classes move Online from March 2020 due to Covid-19

In March 2020, the Honorable Henry McMaster, South Carolina's Governor, declared a state of emergency due to the pandemic. From March 23, 2020, Claflin University moved all face-to-face classes online to virtual instruction platforms. English professors used Microsoft Teams or Collaborate Teams on Moodle as needed. The senior projects of English majors were presented virtually using Teams. The events and festivities of Calabash were canceled. The Writing Center moved all tutoring online. The Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society's community service projects came to an abrupt halt. May 2020 graduates experienced a virtual commencement.

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