



The Power of the Word - ENFL Newsletter

"If you don't like someone's story, write your own."—Chinua Achebe

Upcoming Events

On March 30th, the English Department will participate in the Spring 2019 Open House.

The event will take place at Joseph G. Echols Memorial Hall at 10 a.m.

Faculty members from the ENFL department will be on hand to offer information about department programs and opportunities students can find as English majors.

Visit <http://www.nsu.edu/admissions/open-house> for more information and registration information.

Sigma Tau Delta

On February 26th Sigma Tau Delta will host the 36th annual Images in Black Voices Black History Month Program.

The event will take place in the Student Center in Room 138C and feature student interpretations about Black migrations.

Mikayla Brown, English Major

Mikayla Brown is a junior and was recently inducted into Sigma Tau Delta, an English Honor Society, and serves as the NSU chapter Vice-President. We had the opportunity to catch up with Mikayla and gain some insight into her experience studying English at NSU.



1. Why do you enjoy studying English?

English gives me the freedom to not only explain how others felt but also to explain how I felt as well. I get to see history through literature through another's eye, and that is quite extraordinary. I love the fact that with English if I can prove what I say, I will never be wrong. It's not like saying two plus two is four. That is the only answer there is to it. With English, there are so many ways you could analyze one sentence. You never get bored or run out of things to talk about because there is always another angle to work.

2. What has been your favorite class so far and why?

My favorite class has been African American Lit with Dr. Melody Williams. She made the class very interesting and enjoyable. Dr. Williams was never predictable because we would go over writings and authors that most or none of the class had heard about. I was introduced to new authors such as David Walker; I still reference him when I write to this day. She did not make us read the authors who had already been seen; she introduced us to the ones left in the shadows.

Mikayla Brown Continued

3. What do you enjoy most about being at NSU?

I enjoy the family aspect and how not only faculty, but students as well are committed to helping their peers achieve goals. I love the people I work with in different organizations I am a part of such as Her Campus NSU, Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society, The National Society of Leadership and Success, Golden Key Honor Society, and NSU Sociological Honor Society.

4. What are your future career plans?

In the future, I plan to open my own Arts and Media schools. In public schools, there are no longer arts programs, and academics are not always great. I will have a school with both academics and the arts for minority students. This will give them the opportunity to grow and participate in things other than the academics they might not be able to do outside of school. The school would consist of programs such as music production, video production, mass media, art, dance and more. The school would also offer AP classes for math, science, art and more.

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Meet Our Dept. Chair



Dr. Désiré Baloubi, ENFL Department Chair, recently took some time out of his busy day to give us a look into his background and motivations.

1. Where are you from and where did you earn your degrees?

I proudly call myself a citizen of the world. I've lived and studied in three continents—Africa, Europe, and America. Upon completing High School in Benin (West Africa), I began my college undergraduate education in Ghana at the University of Legon in Accra, and I completed both my undergraduate and graduate studies at the National University of Benin Teachers College, where I earned a Master's degree in Teaching English and Spanish. Then I received an M.A. in Applied Linguistics, with special reference to English Language Teaching, from the University of Durham in England (UK). Finally, the Fulbright scholarship I received through a nationwide competition in Benin gave me the uniquely humbling opportunity, privilege, and honor to earn both a Master's degree in Information and Communication Science and a Ph.D. in English (Applied Linguistics and TESOL) at Ball State University in Muncie, IN.

2. What do you enjoy to research?

My primary area of research is morphophonemics/morphophonology, and I am also passionate about sociolinguistics (dialectology and language and culture), pragmatics, language acquisition, language teaching approaches and methods, and cross-cultural communication. In my spare time, I contribute articles to overseas newspapers (*Matin Libre* and *Cocorico*) in French in Benin.

Dept. Chair Continued

3. What do you enjoy most about working at NSU?

My NSU students! Everyone in any class I teach is my friend.

4. Which class is your favorite to teach and why?

In the absence of Undergraduate and Graduate English Linguistics, I am torn between The History of English (ENG 410) and Public Speaking (ENG 285).

It is intriguing to share with students the history and development of English, their native language, from birth to the present. This makes a direct link to Public Speaking, where it is critically important to help students develop vital communication skills not only for any career opportunity but ultimately for life in any human society.

5. What is your hope for the English department?

My hope for the Department of English and Foreign Languages—by the way, I prefer to say World Languages—is to attract and recruit hundreds of new students to enroll in a 21st-century English program. CHANGE is coming!

ENFL Faculty Offer Innovative Takes on Courses

In a creative twist, Dr. Uzzie Cannon has developed a hip-hop themed English 102 class to help students understand how to write critical analyses through the lens of urban culture. In Dr. Cannon's class, she aims to develop students' critical thinking, reading, and writing skills through persuasion and argument. To achieve this end, she uses hip-hop culture as the primary subject of examination. Students consider artists like Cardi B and her rise to fame with "Bodak Yellow" while also investigating the notion of authenticity and representing one's "hood." They also talk about the allure of "trap music" and its impact on "drug culture." As an academic literacy, this thematic subject invites students to use their familiarity with hip-hop music to delve deeper into this subculture to both celebrate its impactful dimensions while also uncovering inherent problems therein.

Last semester, NSU graduate, author, and Visiting Professor Curtis Bunn taught English 214, introduction to creative writing. This class taught students about theme, character development, meaningful dialogue, pace, scene-writing, and more. The students' work is showcased on a special website created for the course: www.nsucreativewriting.com.

Monthly Essay Competition

This month's essay competition topic is Women's History Month, and the committee welcomes any personal creative writing submissions up to 2,000 words. Submit your short stories, creative non-fiction narratives, poems, or song lyrics of at least 20 lines.

For submission, follow these guidelines:

Type the creative work using Times New Roman font, 12-point type, and double-space throughout the work.

Attach a cover page that includes a centered title, your name, student identification number, email address, and submission date. Submit your entry in MAD 264 before 4:00 p.m. on March 15th.



ENFL Faculty Lead NSU's National Society of Leadership Success



On February 19th, Dr. Désiré Baloubi and Dr. Christina Pinkston met with more than 80 NSU students who will soon be inducted into the newly-established chapter of the National Society of Leadership Success. The society was founded in 2001 by Gary Tuerack and is the nation's largest leadership honor society.



Dr. Christina Pinkston, NSLS Advisor, with young leader Jada B. at the NSLS Orientation on February 19.

Madison Hall Highlights

Innovative and unique teaching takes place every day in Madison Hall. Here are some of our students and faculty in action.



Dr. Jennifer Malia's children's literature class actively engage in "Picture Book Fridays."

Melisande Corlett, President of the NSU Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, during the organization's latest induction ceremony.



Dr. Uzzie Cannon and Professor Judah Lamar proudly represent Zeta Phi Beta and Phi Beta Sigma.