



The Power of the Word - ENFL Newsletter

"We die. That may be the meaning of life. But we do language. That may be the measure of our lives."—Toni

Morrison

Faculty Highlights

Professor Jason Norman has a new book titled *New Jack: Memoir of a Pro Wrestling Extremist*, and it is top 10 in its division on Amazon.

Dr. Jennifer Malia participated in the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Conference in Philadelphia and signed copies of her new children's picture book *Too Sticky: Sensory Issues with Autism* (Albert Whitman, April 2020). *Parents Magazine* is also slated to do a film shoot with her family for their video series, "Parenting Against All Odds." Additionally, her *New York Times* essay, "My Daughter and I Were Diagnosed with Autism on the Same Day," will be reprinted in a special edition magazine.

Seraphine Omovi Kasongo, French Student



I am Seraphine Omoyi Kasongo, a junior biology major at Norfolk State University. Kinshasa, a city in the Democratic Republic of Congo, is where I was born. My family and I moved to the United States in January 2015 and now reside in the beautiful city of Hampton, Virginia.

Since childhood, I always had an affinity for science and medical interests.

I have never been hesitant about what I wanted to do or become in the future. My dream job is to have a career as a family doctor. Currently, I am enrolled as a full-time student and I work part-time at the Riverside Regional Medical Center. I intend to take and pass the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) so that I may apply to medical school.

French is my second language. Dr. Bonaventure Balla's class is exactly what I needed to learn French, to build my vocabulary, and to communicate via speaking and writing in French. If you want to learn or improve your French speaking and writing skills, I encourage you to register for Dr. Bonaventure Balla's French courses.

One of my long term goals is to open libraries in my hometown. I come from a place where access to certain things, such as books, is very limited. I would like for my people to experience what its like to have free access to books and other viable information.

Student Poetry

I love my black

by Abdul-Aziz Seck

I love my black so much so i hope it makes u uncomfortable
 I love my black so much i suppose you'd feel vulnerable
 So when you around me u feel the energy sourced from realms above
 For i am only a vehicle of progress and the spirits riding shotgun
 That thing you cant put your finger on
 Is the driving force of this lexicon
 Authenticity comes from within and i see alot of labels printed on
 So why do i see my black so mistreated it was clear
 Certain complexes demand flexing to hide fear
 So what have we here? Napoleon or maybe that of the gods
 One picks up a gun and badge while others equip privilege to build walls
 My child pay attention to how his story lies
 All they do is gloss their narratives over true stories textbooks always been the disguise
 Oh you thought I'd be fooled you jus don't understand

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Meet Dr. Tenenbaum



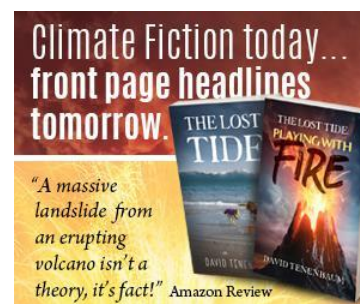
David Tenenbaum is a professor and novelist/screenwriter from Virginia Beach, VA. After having taught literature for 15

years, he found himself eager to try his hand on the production side of the craft. He's written four books and ten scripts, which include three film projects that have reached the finals of screenwriting competitions and two novels that were recently shortlisted at the Eyelands Book Awards. His movie, *After School*, a cautionary coming-of-age thriller, is currently



in development with producer Jeff Bassetti. Tenenbaum's script M.A.D. (Mutually

Assured Destruction), a political satire, is currently in production with BDP Entertainment.



More Student Poetry

“I love my black” continued

You only feel big on someone
else's shoulders so i wouldn't
expect you to overstand this...

Jus how do we spell irony?
Being in the loop and still
somehow misinformed

From bliss to scorn i see the
thorns below painted roses
Candy coated poison, false
dreams sold by marketing
schemes to disguise words
spoken

Jus how do you manage, where
are the standards

This all built off of the backs of
the oppressed so yeah have some
respect in your manners

My black history is not

plantations and thug music
You praised Columbus but ignore
when my mans musa do it

They praise puppets and the
master but ignore the strings take
em away and left with nothing to
control the scene

Put us in museums in shackles
but cover themselves in jewels
Kings queens all light you think
there no other hues

Things don't' look the same if
you parked next to a phantom
Good on the outside but under
the cover its tragic no
comparison passing

This Edition's Featured Student Poets



Mikyah Henderson



Abdul-Aziz Seck

The students read their work at an afternoon
poetry reading at the Chrysler Museum on March 1,
2020.

The reading was organized to give student poets from NSU
and ODU a chance to write and perform new work in
conjunction with an exhibit of photographs by African
American photographer Keris Salmon called
The Architecture of Slavery.



Diamond Broughton



Kimberlyruth Printess

To: blk/rhetoric

by Diamond Broughton

Black/

In the heat of the sun
I find the home
you'll never be able
to trace me back to.
Shores.
Chains/ wood/ and waves.
Buy/ sign/ and tear apart.
Is my ancestor's chopping block really
art? If that's the case should I start/
to collect the bars from jail cells
bottle up cops' luck and weed smells
from traffic stops turned fatal.
Should I frame
every fallen angel
that got acquitted?
Exhibits
Of firehoses, nooses, and nightingales.
I'll collect sound bites
of all the white girl whistles
that never happened.
I'll go through the trouble
to even track down
the one from my great uncle.
Should I — marvel at the records kept
inept/ and freckled with flashbacks of
attacks with no atonement How much
film
would I need
to capture
the infinite moment
an "I don't see color" coward
was scared of the color

Black/

in the wet of the water.
Call me Yemaya's daughter.
Only God knows how many slaves
she taught to swim/ and baptized
blue.

Other News and Highlights



Christina Pinkston, Ph.D. is, for a second year, the originator of a round-table session for the (50th in 2019 and now 51st) Annual Convention of the Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA). Her round-table session is titled "Exploration of 'isms' in Literature: Purpose, Politics, Pragmatics, and Profundity." Not only will Dr. Pinkston serve as

Chair of the round-table session, but also she will speak as a panelist on the topic "Examination of Purpose, Politics, Pragmatics, and Profundity of Colorism and Symbolism in the 'Title-ism' of Select Literary Works." Dr. Pinkston has approved seven university scholars to make presentations as panelists, which should generate a vibrant and thought-provoking discussion from all involved.

Dr. Gary Wilkens will present his original poetry at the 2020 PCA/ACA National Conference in Philadelphia on April 18. His presentation is titled "Southern Gothic Blues Poetry: The Dupree Cycle." Fun Fact: this will be his 5th consecutive year presenting at this conference.



Student Poetry Continued

“blk/rhetoric” continued

No scent/ no odor.

Search no further.

I’m the surviving hope
of the antebellum’s slaughter.

My origins don’t lie
in the belly of a slave ship
or the crack of a slave whip.
It exists/ in harmonious shades of

Black/

in the chill of the moonlight.

Every color
surviving the same plight.

We lit ain’t got no light.

I’ll bring you
the flyest iambic pentameter
of Black English vernacular.

Can’t go one day
without touching something
a Black man made

or a Black woman saved.

Black babies beautiful in
every shade.

Ain’t a museum big enough
to curate everything Black
folks gave.

I don’t need another reminder
that I carry the strength of the
slave. I am here to remind you that
my bloodline is brave.

My trauma is not for
the white gaze
or anyway to celebrate

the genius
we take for granted
everyday.

Black.



So We Walk by Mikyah Henderson

So We Walk

in the spirits of the shriveled cries and suffering times of ancestors chained by
the oppressors bearing the scars from our aggressors

So We Walk

in the shadows of the kings and queens who fought for dreams that we may see
is beyond our means but the very first step is to fully understand is believe

So We Walk

Through the thorn encrusted paths of pain

Having insults replacing our god-given names

Mourning the legends who were slain

Masking their glories with old massa given shame

So We Walk

in strut filled strides because now is Our time to let our Shea butter baby Melanin
Magic shine

With our Nefertiti’s tresses hold our crowns up high

So We Walk

Hoping maybe they realize we too come from royalty

Knowing for a fact and never maybe

That we refuse to carry the label of talentless imprisoned coonskinned tar babies

So We Walk

For those taken from our reality

By the means of injustice and brutality

So We Walk

With hearts filled with both joy and misery

So We Walk

Bearing the souls of those that tell us to keep fighting for Our Vic

So We Walk

With our minds curious and fully open to rewriting their and creating our
History

So We Walk

Other News and Events



Sigma Tau Delta Xi Nu Chapter Induction Ceremony for new inductee Covetta Griffin on March 5, 2020.

Spring Game Night with our English majors!



Dr. Jennifer Malia signing copies of *Too Sticky! Sensory Issues with Autism* at the American Library Association Midwinter Conference.



Professors De Leon-Menjivar and Ponack join in on the fun!

Publication Information: *Cristina De Leon-Menjivar*, Chief Editor of the ENFL (Recruitment) Newsletter

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