

# GGC School of Liberal Arts News: Creativity

## *Readings, Writing, and All That Jazz Set to Celebrate 20th Semester Anniversary*

Early in her time at GGC, Associate Professor of English Hsi-Ling Huang began contemplating a series of events that both promoted creative writing and also gave faculty opportunities to present their scholarly and creative work. Huang explained that she wanted the series to offer maximum flexibility and disciplinary inclusivity. She remembered, “We [would encourage] a variety of presentations, including creative writing, academic papers, live music, dancing, singing, dramatic presentations, and such.” Huang’s vision was first realized in 2010 under a slightly different title for the events. The spring semester of 2023 witnesses the 20th semester anniversary of what became *Readings, Writings, and All That Jazz [RWAJ]*. For those calculating the math, RWAJ went on hiatus for a few semesters during the height of the Covid-19 outbreak. In this interview Huang tells us about the origins of RWAJ, the joys of hosting events, the challenges, and surprising facts.

### **What is the early history of RWAJ, and what have been some of the significant changes over the years?**

In fall 2010, the series was called "English and Interdisciplinary Faculty Readings." Then in fall 2011, we decided to acknowledge the live music by changing the title to "Readings, Writings, and All that Jazz," which we are still using today. Beginning in fall 2019, we finally had a committee to plan for the reading series. Ever since President Stas Preczewski attended the reading series for the first time in spring 2016, it has become a GGC presidential tradition to attend once every semester. After President Preczewski, both Interim President Mary Beth Walker and President Jann L. Joseph have continued the tradition.

### **What have been the greatest surprises to you?**

The biggest surprise is how appreciative past presenters have been. Many of them returned to present multiple times because of the rare opportunity. I have also heard many appreciative comments from students. They say that they did not anticipate the presentations would be as good as they were. These reasons have been my motivation to keep doing it.

### **What have been some of the biggest challenges, and how were they overcome?**

Securing locations and marketing the events were two of the most persistent challenges. We have tried many different locations, such as LVIS, C 1100, and B 1500/1600. Due to conflict with classes or noise issues, we moved (*continued*)

### **RWAJ Images**



RWAJ in 2016: Drs. Niaz Khan, Antiwan Walker, Hsi-Ling Huang, and then GGC President Stas Preczewski.



Dr. Kendrick Savage reading *Poetry by Savage*, Spring 2022



Drs. Katherine Balsley and Irina Chernova-Escalante presenting the short film *Ad Meliora*, Spring 2022

## *RWAJ 20th Anniversary Continued*

to Cisco Auditorium. We also had to be flexible in terms of finding days and rooms to accommodate scheduling conflicts. Another challenge relates to marketing the events. We usually rely on faculty to announce the events and bring their classes. Because most GGC students are commuters, they do not stick around to participate in campus events. Without the encouragement of the faculty, it is hard to convince the students how great these events are.

### **What are some of the most memorable presentations and why?**

This is a hard question for me to answer. Since we were often short of staff and I was usually sitting at the sign-in table, I missed out on most of the presentations. However, I would say I really enjoyed the live music because the structure of Cisco really compliments the sound.

### **What vision do you have for the series moving forward?**

As the oldest (probably) of GGC events, I hope we can continue this tradition so that more students will be inspired by our talented faculty.

## *Readings, Writing, and All That Jazz Special 20th Semester Anniversary: Spring 2023*

### March 21, 3:30-5 p.m., Cisco Auditorium

**Dr. Todd Lindley, "Vignettes on Ecuador from a Wandering Geographer"**

**Dr. David Weiss, "Why Shakespeare?"**

### March 30, 3:30-5 p.m., Cisco Auditorium

**Dr. Jason Mosser, "The Great Divider: A Mock-Heroic Poem in Three Parts"**

**Dr. Dale Herndon, "Bridging Management Research and Practice:  
Theoretical Perceptions on Challenges and Opportunities"**

### April 6, 3:30-5 p.m., Cisco Auditorium

**Dr. Kathryn Gray-White, "The Road Lab (The fight for coeducation at UGA 1918)"**

**Dr. Kendrick Savage, "Poetry by Savage"**

### April 13, 3:30-5 p.m., Cisco Auditorium

**Dr. Whitney Holley, "Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed,  
Something Blue: Exploring Musical Tropes in Solo Oboe Repertoire"**

**Dr. George Darden, "Schooling in a galaxy far, far away"**

### April 13, 5-7 p.m., B-Atrium: RECEPTION: Celebrating 20 Semesters of Greatness

**All Sessions Open to the Entire Campus Community**

