



**KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY**

NORMAN J. RADOW COLLEGE OF
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Master of Arts in Professional Writing

**Spring 2026
MA in Professional Writing
Capstone Showcase
&
2025-2026 Awards**

Saturday, May 2, 2026
10:00 AM

English Building,
Rooms 102 & 103

Room 102

We encourage you to join any presentation in progress.

- 10:00-10:05 Welcome
- 10:05-10:12 **Savannah Jackson** (Creative Writing)
Depths of Power (novel)
Advisors: Mary McMyne, MFA & Dr. Andrew Plattner
- 10:12-10:19 **Allison Rayburn** (Composition & Rhetoric)
An Ecology of the Monstrous: How Readers Shape and Are Shaped by Monster Romance (research thesis)
Advisors: Dr. Laura McGrath & Dr. Amanda Pratt
- 10:19-10:26 **Jenny Rissen** (Applied Writing)
Documenting Sustainable Social Media Workflows: Supporting Student Professionalization in Faculty-Student Teams (thesis)
Advisors: Dr. Erin Bahl & Dr. Laura McGrath
- 10:26-10:33 **Marianna Gibson** (Creative Writing)
Ordinary and Out of Reach (poetry collection)
Advisors: Dr. Kurt Milberger & Jenny Sadre-Orafai, MFA
- 10:33-10:40 **Sarah Moore** (Composition & Rhetoric)
app-uh-latch-uh (creative nonfiction)
Advisors: Mary McMyne, MFA & Dr. Amanda Pratt
- 10:40-10:47 **Aly Neill** (Creative Writing)
Empire of Raventhorne (TV pilot script)
Advisors: Albert Lee, MFA & Mitch Olson, MFA
- 10:47-10:54 **Christiana Cooper** (Creative Writing)
Parallels (screenplay)
Advisors: Dr. Aaron Levy & Anna Weinstein, MFA
- 10:54-11:01 **Rachel Bradley** (Creative Writing)
Songs of a Phoenix (creative nonfiction/memoir & poetry)

Advisors: Dr. Regina Bradley & Dr. Ralph Wilson

- 11:01-11:08 **Courtney Chester** (Creative Writing)
Crossing the Line (teleplay)
Advisors: Dr. Andrew Plattner & Anna Weinstein,
MFA
- 11:08-11:15 **Veronica Pérez** (Creative Writing)
The Weight of Knowing: Of Aura and Void (novel in
progress)
Advisors: Dr. Christopher Palmer & Dr. Andrew
Plattner
- 11:15-11:22 **Sydnee Newsome** (Creative Writing)
In Too Deep (feature-length screenplay)
Advisors: Garrard Conley, MFA & Anna Weinstein,
MFA
- Intermission/Reconvene in Room 102*
- 11:30 2025-2026 MAPW Awards
Concluding Remarks

End of Program

Reception

Room 103

We encourage you to join any presentation in progress.

- 10:00-10:05 Welcome (Room 102)
- 10:05-10:12 **Laura Fortenberry** (Applied Writing)
Life Story Work with a Person Living with Dementia: From Theory to Practice in the Informal Setting
(research thesis)
Advisors: Dr. Jeanne Law & Dr. Laura McGrath
- 10:12-10:19 **Jordyn Hatten** (Creative Writing)
Through Darkness Into Light (poetry collection)
Advisors: Jenny Sadre-Orafai, MFA & Dr. Ralph Wilson
- 10:19-10:26 **Chesley Richards** (Creative Writing)
The Last Day (novel)
Advisors: Garrard Conley, MFA & Dr. Andrew Plattner
- 10:26-10:33 **Jazmyne Hambrick** (Creative Writing)
Greenwood (pilot script)
Advisors: Albert Lee, MFA & Anna Weinstein, MFA
- 10:33-10:40 **Mark Trager** (Creative Writing)
Dead Trees and Etz Chaim: A Messianic Jewish ethnographic reflexive poetry chapbook (poetry chapbook)
Advisors: Dr. Lara Smith-Sitton & Dr. Ralph Wilson
- 10:40-10:47 **Beth Hill** (Applied Writing)
Don't Frankensteint Your Stories (and Other Oh-So-Practical Advice for Novelists) (nonfiction)
Advisors: Mary McMyne, MFA & Dr. Andrew Plattner
- 10:47-10:54 **Frederick Drayton** (Creative Writing)
The "World of Magic" Suite (fiction collection)
Advisors: Dr. Kurt Milberger & Dr. Andrew Plattner

- 10:54-11:01 **Tiffany Wells** (Creative Writing)
This is What Happens (poetry collection)
Advisors: Mary McMyne, MFA & Jenny Sadre-Orafai, MFA
- 11:01-11:08 **Vanessa Martin** (Creative Writing)
Lights of Magic: A Modern YA Fantasy Novel (novel)
Advisors: Mary McMyne, MFA & Dr. Amanda Pratt
- 11:08-11:15 **Blake Sydnor** (Creative Writing)
Ghosts of the Resistance (screenplay)
Advisors: Albert Lee, MFA & Mitch Olson, MFA
- Intermission/Reconvene in Room 102*
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Reception

Capstone Presenters

Rachel Bradley is an upcoming graduate in the MAPW program with concentrations in Creative Writing and Applied Writing. Throughout the program, she has developed various creative works ranging from poetry to fiction, and has completed research covering topics within World Englishes, and Film & Television. She has earned two graduate certificates: the first in Screen & Television Writing, and the second in Professional Writing for International Audiences; published a co-authored article, *Social Media as a Communal Space for Language and Black Youth*; and received award recognition for her short film screenplay *Much Is Required*. Rachel has also worked as a Graduate Research Assistant for the entire length of her program under Dr. Abigail Alexander, and Dr. Dominique McDaniel.

“I’ve taught Rachel on both the undergraduate and graduate level. Her evolution as a thinker and as a writer has been a joy to witness. Her writing is vulnerable yet confident, personal yet familiar, and I cannot wait to see how she continues to evolve on her writing journey.”

– Dr. Regina Bradley

“Rachel Bradley’s writings are eclectic in exploring the genres of memoir, poetry, and flash fiction. They are lyrical and employ metaphor and allegory to express the coming-of-age of a woman establishing her own voice.”

– Dr. Ralph Wilson

Courtney Chester is a writer from Georgia. She has received a BA in History and a MA in Professional Writing from Kennesaw State University (KSU). Her prose work has been published in *The Greyhound Journal*, *The Literary Fantasy Magazine*, and *Corvus*. She also served as a writer for KSU’s Game Narrative Lab’s award-winning first game, Corporation Inc. In her free time, Courtney enjoys playing video games, reading, and patiently waiting for George R. R. Martin to release *The Winds of Winter*.

“Courtney’s completed pilot script Crossing the Line is a unique and complex achievement. She has created memorable characters in Odette

and Daniel; they are two people in love living in a world that does not want them to be together. Courtney's manuscript tackles race relations in both North and South during the 1970s and does so with intelligence and insight. Her professionalism as a student was evident throughout the process; she was a joy to work with."

– Dr. Andrew Plattner

"Courtney is so deeply gifted... such an open and giving writer, and ridiculously smart. It's been an absolute joy watching her wrestle with this project, rewriting and rewriting like a true pro. I can't wait to get updates on all the competition placements. Congrats on this exceptional work, Courtney!"

– Anna Weinstein, MFA

Christiana Cooper is a creative writer and communications professional based in Atlanta, Georgia. She is currently a Communications intern at a non-profit in Downtown Atlanta, where she creates strategic, donor-focused content. Her creative work centers on character-driven storytelling that explores themes of realism, youth, and identity. With her Capstone project, *Parallels*, she explores how grief, class, and environment can shape a young person's mindset and future. Christiana loves creating stories that are both emotional and, most importantly, realistic. After graduation, she plans to continue pursuing a career in communications within the film industry.

"Here's what's super solid about Christiana - she already operates professionally, hitting all deadlines and commitments for this project, typically early, and with tremendous organizational and presentational prowess that will serve her well as she steps into the professional marketplace. Here's what's special about Christiana - she can write! Her story structure hits all the marks, but dang , she's funny! Which is all-the-way refreshing! Bravo!"

– Dr. Aaron Levy

"Christiana is a natural screenwriter. She's tremendously funny, and her characters are always so full, so alive, and always navigating those difficult spaces of trying to be their best selves in the midst of something

traumatic. I've truly treasured the chance to work with you on so many screenplays, Christiana — what a gift you are!”

– Anna Weinstein, MFA

Frederick Drayton is a graduate student pursuing his Masters of Professional Writing degree in the fields of Creative Writing and Applied Writing. When Frederick Drayton graduated from Valdosta State University with a bachelor's degree in psychology (and a minor in mass media), he did not expect he would be here, in the Metro Atlanta/Marietta /Kennesaw area, writing about the things he currently does. Moving forward, Frederick Drayton intends to apply to Creative Writing Ph.D. programs and law schools. Frederick Drayton is content.

“Frederick Drayton’s capstone, The World of Magic Suite, The Emergence of a Light Novelist features short stories and the opening chapters of a fantasy novel. While developing his capstone, Fredrick displayed interest in various story-telling forms; his influences include David Foster Wallace and Yoshihiro Togashi. His committee commends his willingness to listen and learn and we’re happy for his progress as a budding fiction writer.”

– Dr. Kurt Milberger & Dr. Andrew Plattner

Laura Fortenberry has made a career crafting effective communication. Her professional background includes technical editing and writing for a professional engineering society and an environmental consulting firm, where she collaborated with scientists, engineers, and technicians to craft clear, compelling, and accurate client-focused documentation. Laura now applies her writing and editing skills in the nonprofit and community-centered sectors, where she develops grant proposals, fundraising materials, and life-story-based narratives that advance organizational missions and improve communication for programs serving families experiencing housing insecurity.

“It has been such a pleasure to be a small part of Laura's journey as she leveraged both her writerly ethos and her emerging expertise in

generative AI to produce critical resources for dementia caregivers. Her future work is a much-needed addition to this field of study.”

– Dr. Jeanne Law

“Laura’s project addresses a gap in support resources for loved ones and caregivers of people living with dementia. She used her research to create a well-designed guide on life story work that is particularly innovative in its attention to and use of AI.”

– Dr. Laura McGrath

Marianna Gibson is a poet and writer. Day to day she teaches high school English and manages a small homestead in North Georgia. There, she tends to an impressive rose garden and hangs out with her husband, dogs, cats, and honeybees.

“Marianna Gibson’s poetry grows from the earth like flowers and vines. Her capstone project, “Ordinary and Out of Reach,” explores grief, reproduction, and the trauma and joy of animal husbandry in tender detail. It has been a true pleasure to watch Marianna’s poetry mature over the course of her time in the MAPW program, and we look forward to her next steps.”

– Dr. Kurt Milberger

“I’m incredibly grateful to have known Marianna and her work for nine years. Her poetry is trancelike, masterful, brilliant. To spend time with her poems is to be fully immersed. It’s walking into the woods, then into a bright clearing.”

– Jenny Sadre-Orafai, MFA

Jazmyne Hambrick is a Georgia native who is a professional self-starter, writer, editor, and media specialist with 7+ years of experience in editorial, live events, production, and marketing. Jazmyne's goal is to become a Television Producer, and she is determined to start her own production company, Glass Slipper Productions. She is a Life University alumna who earned my bachelor's degree in human ecology. Furthering her education, she is pursuing a master's degree in professional writing and a graduate certificate in television and screenwriting at Kennesaw State

University. Her work overall centers on broadcast television, pop culture news, entertainment news, fashion, beauty, and sports. She has written for *BUST* magazine, and for four years, she was the lead sports media assistant for Life University's Sports Director. Now, she is a logger for the hit reality show *Dish Nation*.

"In recent years, we've seen growing interest in Greenwood, the bustling predominantly African-American district in Tulsa, Oklahoma, once known as "Black Wall Street," which was tragically destroyed in 1921. With her television pilot, Jazmyne takes us on a truly memorable journey into this once-forgotten world through the eyes of a gifted but troubled young woman named Ruby."

– Albert Lee, MFA

"Jazmyne has been developing an incredibly high-concept idea for her television series. It's been a pleasure watching this project take shape this semester. I'll look forward to updates on her future work. Wishing you all the best in your career, Jazmyne!"

– Anna Weinstein, MFA

Jordyn Hatten is a creative writer with a focus on poetry that explores mental health, identity, and strength. My work often centers on personal experiences, transforming moments of pain and uncertainty into language that connects and heals. Through my capstone project, I have deepened my voice by experimenting with structure, imagery, tone, and vulnerability on the page. I have always aimed to create pieces that resonate with honesty and intention. As I continue growing as a writer, I hope to continue using my gift of storytelling while to assist my overall purpose of empowering others to be true to themselves.

"I admire so much about Jordyn's poetry, but most of all, I admire her willingness to let the reader into her lived experiences. Her honesty and vulnerability as she bravely confronts who she is are beyond noteworthy."

– Jenny Sadre-Orafai, MFA

"Jordyn Hatten's poetry investigates the self as a locus of struggle for identity, stability, and optimism. Some of her best poems are spiritual in their affirmations."

– Dr. Ralph Wilson

Beth Hill, author of *The Magic of Fiction: The Writer's Guide to Writing and Editing*, is a writing consultant and has been a fiction editor for 17 years. She's creator of *The Editor's Blog*, where for years writers have found constructive tips and encouragement; she loves to laugh and cry over great stories. Beth has an MBA she never uses but every day draws on knowledge from a dance/choreography background to help writers structure dynamic stories. Beth hopes her capstone project becomes the first of a dozen books about writing that she publishes in the next 10 years.

"The conversational craft essays in Beth Hill's creative nonfiction collection, Don't Frankenstein Your Stories, draw lessons about the craft of novel-writing from creators in surprising disciplines: engineers, weavers, painters, and even—as the title would suggest—mad scientists. Beth's analogies are surprising, clever, and above all, entertaining. Working with her on this collection was a true pleasure."

– Mary McMyne, MFA

"Beth Hill's love of writing is omnipresent in her capstone project, Don't Frankenstein Your Stories (and Other Oh-So-Practical Advice for Novelists). In her manuscript, Beth offers ideas and guidance for the new novelist, in part keying on ways to break down unnecessary barriers while also engaging readers in the process of going forward. Beth is an excellent writer and editor, and her high level of skill is evident in her manuscript. Beth's enthusiasm and professionalism were evident throughout the capstone process. She has been a model student."

– Dr. Andrew Plattner

Savannah Jackson, a 23-year-old from Arabi, GA, is an avid lover of all things, fantasy and myth. Her writing draws from various myths and legends from around the world. As a teacher, writing is a massive part of her life and she loves sharing that love of reading and writing with her students.

"I really enjoyed working with Savannah Jackson on her lovely middle-grade fantasy novel-in-progress, Depths of Power, which explores grief

through the lens of Greek mythology. The opening chapters are full of vivid descriptions of Greece and an otherworldly underwater city, and the premise beautifully evokes the fluid nature of grief.”

– Mary McMyne, MFA

“Savannah’s capstone features early chapters of her promising fantasy novel, Depths of Power. The main character Evie is guided by two lights: the sea, and the voice of her mother. They eventually lead to her exploration of an underwater kingdom. The writing is rich and surprises abound. It is terrific work and Savannah is on her way to completing what we know will be a successful novel. We salute her hard work and wish her a great future.”

– Dr. Andrew Plattner

Vanessa Martin is a writer and poet based in northwest Georgia, with a love for mysteries and coming-of-age stories. Graduating from the MAPW program with a concentration in Creative Writing and a support area in Composition and Rhetoric, Vanessa hopes to continue creating new stories, experimenting across genres, and growing as a writer. Vanessa plans to submit short stories and poems for publication and to continue working on her novels.

“Vanessa Martin’s contemporary YA witch-lit novel, Lights of Magic, follows a grieving young witch in Hartford, Connecticut who starts hallucinating eerie lights after her mother’s death. Vanessa is a masterful reviser; I truly enjoyed watching her develop this project into a page-turner with opening chapters that feature a suspicious warlock, a sister hiding in a cellar, and a dark coming-of-age ritual.”

– Mary McMyne, MFA

“Vanessa’s project brings the context of historical New England witch trials to bear on a fantastical and mysterious present in a gripping narrative that leaves the reader wanting to know more at the end of each chapter. Through a commitment to intricate world building and the subversive use of magic as a vehicle for exploring power, Vanessa’s writing is a timely portal to exploring grief, morality, and agency.”

– Dr. Amanda Pratt

Sarah Moore – I am currently teaching 7th grade ELA at Pepperell Middle School in Lindale, Georgia. In the MAPW program, I have a composition and rhetoric concentration, and I intend to pursue a doctorate degree after graduation.

“Sarah Moore's hybrid-genre capstone, app-uh-latch-uh, combines voice-driven creative nonfiction (CNF) about her almost-Appalachian childhood and her experience teaching Appalachian students with a critical exploration of dialect, English education, poverty, and linguistic justice. Her CNF, full of lyrical passages written in dialect, sings.” – Mary McMyne, MFA

“Sarah's capstone project represents a vivid snapshot into a nuanced set of important inquiries, framed through the creative nonfiction lens of her own experiences coming to terms with her relationship to both the language of Appalachia and the education system. Sarah shares poignant scenes walking her family's land in West Virginia juxtaposed alongside glimpses of her life as an under-resourced teacher in north Georgia, ultimately providing a picture of hope and progress for valuing linguistic diversity and all that comes with it.”
– Dr. Amanda Pratt

Aly Neill is a 23-year-old Atlanta screenwriter from Canton, Georgia. With a bachelor's degree in media and entertainment and a minor in music business, she is finishing her master's in professional writing at Kennesaw State. She enjoys writing comedies with elements of drama and romance as well as writing fantasies. When she's not busy being a grad student or consuming media, she loves photography, concerts, nature, thrifting, and creating relatable content. She hopes to work on an A24 flick, series, or video game soon. If none of these options work out, Aly plans to fly off on a dragon with her cat.

“My association with Aly goes back to ancient times when she was an undergraduate and I was visiting KSU for the first time. In the time since, through four MAPW classes—including one as a Double Owl candidate--Aly has distinguished herself with her ear for dialogue, eye for character detail, and ability to pull together a script in record time,

all of which is on display in this fantasy television pilot featuring an evil queen, flying dragons, star-crossed lovers... and a little bit of sex."

– Albert Lee, MFA

"It's been a pleasure working with and getting to know you these last few years. Congrats!"

– Mitch Olson, MFA

Sydnee Elise Newsome is a creative writer from Snellville, Georgia. Throughout her time in Kennesaw State's MAPW program, she has experimented with different genres of creative writing. She has had her creative works published, became a managing editor for *The Headlight Review*, and found her passion in writing screenplays. She credits the completion of her first feature film screenplay to the support of her family, friends, and capstone committee, Anna Weinstein and Garrard Conley.

"Sydnee's vision for film is truly inspiring. With a great ear for dialogue combined with a strong sense of incisive social commentary, Sydnee is a voice to watch. I'm honored to work with such a talented storyteller."

– Garrard Conley, MFA

"I've been so lucky to work with Sydnee as an undergrad and grad student. She has such a bright and vibrant voice as a writer — and from the very beginning, she's always had a wonderful visual understanding of screenwriting. It's been a delight watching you blossom these past few years, Sydnee!"

– Anna Weinstein, MFA

Veronica Pérez (she/her) is a queer, Puerto Rican creative writer and editor from metro Atlanta. A former managing editor of *The Headlight Review*, she holds a BA in Asian Studies from Kennesaw State University. Veronica finds joy in bolstering the voices of marginalized writers. You can read her poetry in *Viridine Literary* and *wildscape. literary journal* under the name Veronica Berry-Pérez. Follow her on Instagram @readwriteleadfight.

“Veronica has done outstanding work throughout her master's program. She's been thoughtful, empathetic, and innovative, infusing intercultural perspectives into all aspects of her professional writing. Her world-building and genre-mixing in her thesis have been delightful and gripping.”

– Dr. Christopher Palmer

*“Veronica’s capstone reflects an evolution. While drafting her stories, themes and plot lines changed; throughout, she stayed faithful to her characters and their world. The result is an in-progress novel, *The Weight of Knowing: Of Aura and Void*. Her introductory essay details her creative process and talks about where her story might go from here. She approached her work as fiction writers should, with enthusiasm and curiosity. We are happy and impressed with her capstone and thank her for her many contributions to our program.”*

– Dr. Andrew Plattner

Allison Rayburn is a student in the Composition and Rhetoric concentration and a current Teacher of Record from Dalton, Georgia. Her research interests are varied, including popular romance studies, romance rhetoric, and video games in education. When she is not grading papers or writing, she is tending to her four cats and reading some cozy monster romance. She plans to pursue a PhD in the coming years and is currently looking forward to a career in higher education.

“Allison leveraged her personal connection to the monster romance reader community while also providing insightful analysis of qualitative and quantitative research results from her highly successful online survey. Her research positions Allison as an academic expert on her topic.”

– Dr. Laura McGrath

“The enthusiastic response to Allison’s survey illuminates just how much her research questions tap into an extant desire for monster romance readers to express their relationships to this genre emotionally and otherwise. Ultimately providing compelling insight into the nature of disclosure and literary avenues for liberatory identification, this project

makes a significant contribution to an under-explored area of both rhetorical genre studies and romance studies.”

– Dr. Amanda Pratt

Chesley Richards retired in 2020 after a thirty-year career in medicine and public health. Originally from South Carolina, he is interested in southern fiction and mustard-based pork barbecue. As a MAPW student, Chesley published two stories online (*Like Last Time*, *First Do No Harm*). A third is scheduled for publication in 2026. Chesley, his wife Sophia and daughter Ana live in Alpharetta along with their Jack Russell terrier and three cats.

“Chesley has been a writer’s writer since I first met him in my Creative Nonfiction course. To discover that he is also an excellent fiction writer is no surprise. I can’t wait to hold a finished copy of his book.”

– Garrard Conley, MFA

*“I’ve had the privilege of working with Chesley both in the workshop and as a member of his capstone committee. His novel-in-progress, *The Last Day*, represents an impressive literary metamorphosis; this is a promising manuscript written by a student who has invested himself fully in the art of fiction writing. Chesley is a fantastic student. He has great days ahead, and we applaud his hard work and desire to write meaningful fiction.”*

– Dr. Andrew Plattner

Jenny Rissen is a writer, poet, and digital strategist focused on intentional, accessible communication and supporting student success. Her capstone combines research and real-world practice to create more thoughtful, sustainable digital communication. She is especially interested in digital rhetoric, storytelling, and audience-centered writing.

“Jenny’s capstone project demonstrates her passion for peer mentorship as a team leader through clear, accessible documentation.”

– Dr. Erin Bahl

“Jenny is an accomplished social media specialist who also served as the English department’s Graduate Professional Assistant for the Social Media and Branding Team. She used that experience and her professional knowledge to create a well-designed handbook for onboarding future student team members, a resource that addresses important related topics, such as student professionalization, rhetorical awareness, and ethical judgment.”

– Dr. Laura McGrath

Blake Sydnor My name is Blake Ashby Sydnor from Warner Robins, Georgia. I graduated from KSU in 2018 with a B.A. in English and enlisted in the Army as an Intelligence Analyst. I served as a Paratrooper in the 82nd ABN DIV, serving as a Team Leader and Squad Leader. Later serving as Intelligence Sergeant in 5th Special Forces Group and as a targeting analyst with a Special Missions Unit under JSOC. I’ve deployed four times—three to the Middle East and once to the Ukraine Border. In 2024, I entered the Green to Gold program to switch from NCO to Officer. I chose the KSU MAPW program and Georgia Tech’s ROTC program as my commissioning source.

“One of the most rewarding aspects of teaching in the MAPW program is the opportunity to work with students like Blake who bring a wealth of lived experience to their writing and to the classroom. Over the past two years, it’s been a pleasure for me to witness Blake’s steady growth as a screenwriter while learning about his experiences in the military, which he brings to this feature script that takes us on a secret mission in Nazi-occupied France during World War Two.”

– Albert Lee, MFA

“Excited to see where this journey takes you. Super talented. Congrats!”

– Mitch Olson, MFA

Mark Trager is in the KSU MAPW program with a focus in Creative Writing and a Technical Writing support. He has published a book of poetry called Shine in 2022 and his poetic and prose work have been published in anthologies and online journals. You can read more of Mark’s writing and purchase his book at MarkTrager.com.

He recently received 1st place in the KSU English department 2026 poetry contest. He and his wife Su reside in Canton, GA. He wants to dedicate all his writing to the glory of Yeshua the Messiah and Savior of all. Isaiah 53.

“Early in the MAPW program, Mark sought to learn more about other Southern Jewish poets, which led him to review archives at The William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum and the Atlanta Jewish Times. This research provided a rich foundation for a powerful capstone that combines poetry, primary research, and meaningful reflection about the intersection of faith and writing in his life. Working with Mark has truly been a privilege.”

– Dr. Lara Smith-Sitton

“Mark Trager's Capstone Project reflects in clear prose and illumines in transcendent poetry his distinct spiritual journey as a Messianic Jew raised deep in the American South. His work is informative and affirming.”

– Dr. Ralph Wilson

Tiffany Wells (she/they) is a writer based in Georgia. They are wrapping up their MA in Professional Writing and are exploring other degree options. Their poetry has been published in *Calliope*, *Wishbone Words*, *The Afterpast Review*, and Twisted Tongue Press.

“It was such a pleasure to work with Tiffany Wells on their poetry collection, This is What Happens, over the past year. An inventive and original poet, Tiffany proved themselves immensely skilled with revision and using voice and space on the page to create subversive poems with a unique style and wry voice that explore complex themes.”

– Mary McMyne, MFA

“From writing poems with footnotes to prose poems to found poems, Tiffany's voice is compelling and urgent as she interrogates and explores important topics like gender and multiculturalism. Her poetry is unflinching.”

– Jenny Sadre-Orafai, MFA

Thank you so much for attending, and
a special thank you to our MAPW
students and faculty.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026!
We are very proud of you!

Get Your Write On!

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