

2019-
2020

EFL NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3

*Lander University:
2019-2020 Newsletter*

Inside the Issue



Credit: Little Bird Creations,
Beaufort, SC.



2020 EFL GRADUATES

The Dept. of English & Foreign Languages celebrates its 2020 spring and summer graduates. p.02

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Lander University English Secondary Education alumnus, Alphonso Stevens, shares about life and teaching amidst 2020 and gives advice to current students and future educators. p. 05

NEW VOICES FROM THEN TO NOW

Drs. Jeffrey Baggett and Misty Jameson and student editor, Jami Berkebile, share how student literary journal, *New Voices*, has changed since its beginnings and adapted amidst the pandemic. p. 06

DEPT. OF ENGLISH & FOREIGN LANGUAGES WELCOMES DEAN ROLLINS

The Department of English & Foreign Languages is thrilled to welcome Dr. Mark Rollins as Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities and Professor of English.

LANDER CHOOSES NEW DEAN

by Jeff Lagrone; originally published Apr 04, 2020

Lander University's College of Arts and Humanities has a new dean: Dr. Mark Rollins, the current dean of the Humanities Division at Young Harris College.

"I am thrilled to be joining the team at Lander University and to help continue the impressive momentum the university has achieved. It's exciting to become a part of a vibrant and growing institution," he said.

A professor of English, Rollins's primary area of interest is 19th century, 20th century and contemporary British literature and culture. He has taught at Young Harris since 2004, the year in which he was awarded a Ph.D. by the University of Georgia.



Dean Rollins and son Quinn enjoy one of their favorite hobbies, running, at the Swamp Rabbit Trail in Greenville, SC.

Rollins praised Lander's senior leadership for their work in developing pre-professional programs, while maintaining a firm grounding in the liberal arts.

"I look forward to finding additional ways to develop in-demand courses and programs in the College of Arts and Humanities," he said.

Consulting faculty, staff and students about their vision for the college and its programs will be the first thing he does when he starts work on July 1.

"I plan to be a faculty-friendly dean who works collaboratively to manage change and seek improvements," he said.

The College of Arts and Humanities reaches every student at the university through the general education core curriculum, and a sizeable percentage of students major or minor in one of its programs.

"I want their experience in our courses to be the best that it can be," he said.

Rollins's wife, Wendy, will continue her work as an associate professor of English at the University of North Georgia, in Dahlonega. The couple have a 13-year-old son, Quentin.

Dr. Scott Jones, provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs, welcomed Rollins to Lander.

"Dr. Rollins has a record as an effective leader. In his previous institution, he was repeatedly placed in charge of crucial projects and initiatives, leading effectively by building consensus. As Lander University continues to work to best position itself for the future, his leadership and abilities will prove invaluable," he said.

CONGRATULATIONS, 2020 GRADUATES!

JAMI BERKEBILE

English-Professional Writing, Spring 2020

Jami Berkebile is originally from Toledo, Ohio but moved to Greenwood, SC ten years ago. She started college at Piedmont Tech. before transferring to Lander in the Fall 2017. Berkebile graduated as an English major with a focus in Professional Writing and worked as an editor for New Voices 2020. She plans to take what she has learned and apply it towards her future career in writing and publishing. *Picture not available.*

KAITLYN BLAKLEY

English, Spring 2020

Kaitlyn Blakley, a Ware Shoals native, earned a B.A. in English with a minor in Psychology. Blakley says, "I graduated from there [Ware Shoals] in 2016 and knew I wanted to attend Lander University for my college degree." Blakley won the English Award in Spring 2020 and stated that she earned the Pat Sease Scholarship two semesters in a row. Additionally, Blakley graduated Cum Laude and earned the Golden L.



De'areyes Bryant



English-Secondary Certification, Spring 2020

De'areyes Bryant is originally from Calhoun Falls, S.C., the same town from which he also graduated high school. Bryant graduated in Spring 2020 Magna Cum Laude with a B.A in English with a Secondary Certificate. He is currently staffed as a core writer with two publications: *Off Colour* and *Comic Book Debate*. Additionally, Bryant has taken a job teaching at Carolina High Academy in Greenville S.C where he will be teaching English 4 and Yearbook and Journalism.

Interested in learning more of our graduates' accomplishments?

WATCH THE 2020 EFL SENIOR RECOGNITION CELEBRATION ONLINE ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL AT LANDER UNIVERSITY ARTS & HUMANITIES.

RAVYN BURGOS

Spanish & Business, Spring 2020

Ravyn Burgos graduated in Spring 2020 with a double major in Business-Healthcare Management and Spanish. Burgos was accepted for a teaching position in Spain. However, dates are postponed due to COVID-19. While at Lander, she worked in Academic Affairs and Tutoring Services. Burgos also served as a Resident Assistant, participated in the student government association, and was a cheerleader.

HONGYUN (ELENA) DING

English, Spring 2020



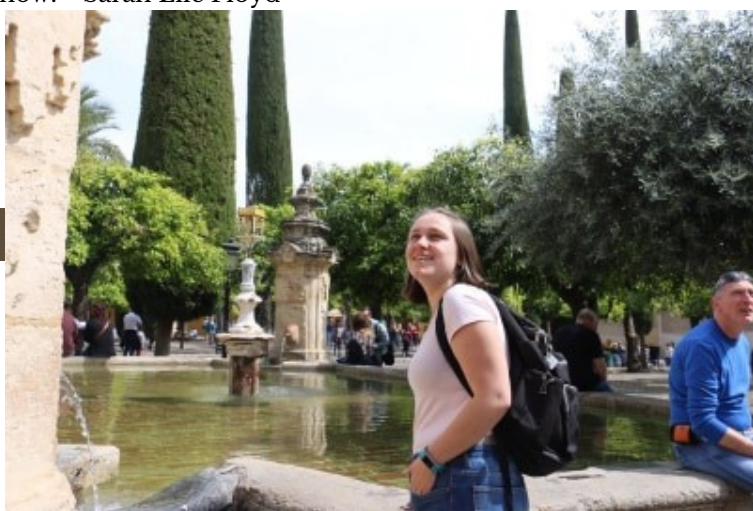
Hongyun, or otherwise known as Elena, Ding earned a B.A. in English in Spring 2020. Ding plans to attend UNC Charlotte for a Master of Educational Leadership (Higher Education). In addition to being an English graduate, Ding has a passion for music, as shown by her choice of minor while at Lander and hobbies. In her free time, Ding likes watching movies, playing video games, and playing music.



SARAH (ELLE) FLOYD

English-Professional Writing & Spanish, Spring 2020

"I am so proud of the research I have gotten the last four years. In 2017, I described a unique southern dialect for my Linguistics of the South class. In 2018, I presented a theory about causes of shyness that I wrote for a personality psychology elective. I also studied how Yoda's speech patterns differ between the original Star Wars trilogy and the prequels, just for fun. In 2019, I compared the two major political parties of Spain to the two major political parties of the United States. And in 2020, I surveyed ENGL 102 students to learn about communication and communication barriers in the writing classroom. I also had the privilege of being a Policy Research Fellow, helping Lander's Assistant V.P. Matt Braaten investigate university policies and strategic plans. I'm so thankful to Mr. Braaten and all my professors - Dr. Barnette, Dr. Cleveland, Dr. Craton, Dr. Mentley, and Professor Corbitt - who have helped me explore my interests. My plans were to pursue a TEFL certification in Madrid and then teach English abroad, but that dream will probably have to wait. God brought me to Lander four years ago. I can only assume He has something else interesting for me now." -Sarah Elle Floyd



WORDS OF WISDOM FROM ELLE FLOYD

College Tips for Underclassmen

- The world is a beautiful place. College should deepen your appreciation of that beauty. If college is draining your appreciation for beauty, something's wrong.
- Work hard in your gen-eds. You never know when you might need that GPA boost or that professor's positive regard.
- Make friends with your professors. 90% of them are really cool people who want to help you and have awesome wisdom they'll share with you. Some of them will move heaven and earth to help you succeed.
- Take an upper level course in your field ASAP. That way you'll know if you really like it. Don't wait until year 3 to explore your chosen field. It is much easier to change your major as a freshman than as a junior.
- You don't have to join everything. Really. Join clubs you like, but don't sign up for 6 extracurriculars your first week. You'll thank me come month 3.
- Make A's your first years. That way you can afford to make lower grades in harder classes later without tanking your GPA.
- Don't procrastinate...much.
- Do undergraduate research if you can. It looks good on a resume, and it's fun.
- Take classes that interest you (even if you don't qualify. Sometimes if you ask the professor really nicely, they'll let you in anyway.)
- Get a job and start a Roth-IRA before you have bills to pay.
- Study abroad. I cannot stress this enough. It will change your life because it will broaden your horizons, change the way you think, build your confidence and independence, internalize your locus of control, and increase your empathy. To prove my point, to the left below is a picture of me exploring an ancient Moorish palace in southern Spain.

”

The world is a beautiful place. College should deepen your appreciation of that beauty. If college is draining your appreciation for beauty, something's wrong.

“

EMILEE FULLER

English, Spring 2020

During Emilee Fuller's time at Lander, Fuller served as a Resident Assistant, President of the Lander English Club, and President of Lander Spectrum. This past Spring, Fuller was also honored with the "James 'Curtis' Harkness Diversity Award." While interning at the Office of Student Affairs, Fuller realized her passion was in Higher Education. She is attending UNCW this fall for a Master's in Higher Education. Fuller says, "I've enjoyed my time at Lander more than I can explain, and the English Department has been a huge part of that. I would not be where I am without the support of the amazing professors and staff."



TAYLOR GIBSON

English-Secondary Certification, Spring 2020



Taylor Gibson, a Easley, SC native, earned a B.A. in English with a secondary education certification. Gibson, a proud member of Zeta Tau Alpha, says, "I am excited to be a graduate of Lander University and to soon begin my teaching career. I have accepted a teaching position with Greer High School for the 2020-2021 school year. I have such a passion for literature, as well as being in the classroom, and I am ecstatic to be able to start my teaching career and instill that same love for English in my students." Gibson graduated from Lander with Cum Laude and Golden L.

”

I have such a passion for literature, as well as being in the classroom, and I am ecstatic to be able to start my teaching career and instill that same love for English in my students.

-Taylor Gibson

“

MARIE MARULLO

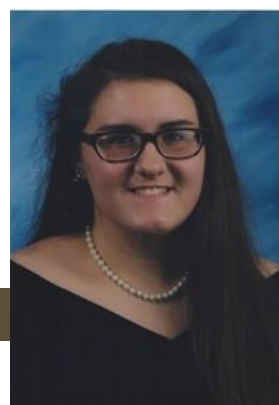
English-Professional Writing, Spring 2020

"Thinking about the future has always been my top priority, as John Lennon once said, 'Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans.' During my time at Lander University, I've accomplished more than I thought. I was unsure about my future, considering my passions were towards English Literature and writing. Whenever I walked through the doors of Lander, I found my place of discovery. I'm thankful for my professors for giving me the courage to be myself and to succeed. After graduating, I would like to put forth my skills in the business industry, maybe as a copywriter/other career paths, and move back to Greer to spend more time with my family." - Marie Marullo



ALISON RODRIGUEZ

English-Professional Writing, Spring 2020



Alison Rodriguez is a keen-eyed reader and eloquent writer noted for her consistent, insightful work as an academic writer. A graduate in English-Professional Writing, Alison is a member of Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society. She is proud of earning both her AA and BA degrees in just three years.

Congratulations also to our well-deserving Summer 2020 graduates:

Ronald (Trey) Strange III and John Visbisky.

TREY STRANGE EARNED HIS B.A. IN ENGLISH.

JOHN VIBISKY EARNED HIS B.A. IN ENGLISH.

For more of Strange's and Visbisky's accomplishments, view the EFL Senior Recognition Celebration on the [Lander University College of Arts & Humanities' Youtube channel.](#)

MEKENSIE THERRIEN

Spanish & Psychology, Spring 2020



"During my years at Lander, I challenged myself to take as much from my college experience as possible. I majored in both Psychology and Spanish, minored in therapeutic horsemanship, and earned an Honors College medal. I managed to graduate with a 4.0, and earned the Golden L award. I am proud of my accomplishments, but am also humbled by the support I received and the opportunities to succeed that were awarded to me. I count myself extremely blessed and am thankful that God enables me to achieve my dreams with a network of loving people who encourage me along the way..."

Being a member of the Honors College gave me more life experience than I ever imagined, including my first true experiences of travel. In the Fall of 2016, the New York trip gave me a hunger for adventure and discovery. Thanks to scholarships and a tremendous amount of help and guidance from Dr. Mentley and Dr. Craton, in the Spring of 2018, I studied abroad in Madrid, Spain, at Tandem Escuela Internacional, where I dedicated a semester to learning Spanish. I was as humbled as I was thrilled to become a world traveler, especially before my 20th birthday. Before becoming a Lander student, I never thought that would be possible for me. This experience gave life to my Spanish major...

I am so thankful to the professors who enriched my education so well, who not only filled me with their knowledge, but also challenged me to think for myself, uplifted me during difficult times, invited me into their homes, and mentored me in both academic and practical endeavors. I am thankful to Lander for introducing me to my husband and some of my dearest friends. I am thankful to God for making a way for me, when I believed my background would prevent me from being able to be where I am today." -McKensie Therrien

SARAH WILLIAMS-SHEALY

English-Secondary Certification, Spring 2020

Sarah Williams-Shealy graduated as an English, Secondary Education major and a member of Sigma Tau Delta. While at Lander, Williams-Shealy also worked as a Lander University writing tutor and was a member of Lander University's Honors College. In addition to these pursuits, she has also served as a South Carolina Teaching Fellow and studied abroad in Cambridge, England. She plans to teach English in a South Carolina secondary classroom this school year.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Interview by Melody Johnson

ALPHONSO STEVENS, 2016

Tell us about your job.

I am currently an English teacher at Catawba Ridge High School in Fort Mill, SC. I've been teaching 7th grade English for the past 4 years, and I'm excited for the new experiences this change will provide.

In Spring 2020, you were a featured speaker for the Minority Education: Issues of Diversity and Inclusion in Education Panel here at Lander University. Could you please expound upon this topic and how you advocate for students within the classroom and the day to day?

This is a topic that I hold near and dear to my heart. I became a teacher because I wanted to not only teach children, but I also wanted to advocate for children who need a person to help

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT CONT.

them achieve their own personal goals. Part of that is creating a space in my classroom where minority students are heard and taught in a way that works for them. In my classroom, the inclusion of different cultures and experience kind of happens naturally. Being an English teacher, I am allowed a little bit of freedom in the types of books I teach to my students. I always try to select books that show main characters from different cultures and perspectives. Additionally, on a more personal level, I make it a point to develop a relationship with each of my students so that they will be more willing to hear and listen to what I have to say. I think it's very important that a student is able to trust their teacher. If a student is willing to trust you, they are going to be willing to learn from you.

What did you learn as an LU English, Secondary Education major that is now valuable in your job?

I learned several concepts at Lander that I now use almost daily in my career in education. I learned from Dr. Willis and Dr. Barnette that it is okay to show students who you really are. Meaning, I try not to hide my quirks from my students. It helps students realize that I am a real person just like them. I learned from Dr. Anderson how to conduct lessons day to day. He showed me that if I try to lecture everyday, students wouldn't respond well to it. Additionally, he taught me to allow space for my students to practice. He said "You shouldn't be doing all the work, the students have to be able to do the work too". This advice led me to be able to create a bit of a timeline that every lesson should follow and has made my life as a teacher that much easier.

What do you miss most about Lander University?

I really miss the community at Lander. I'll admit, I didn't always appreciate what Lander was giving me while I attended school there, but since leaving, I have found that I miss the feelings I had as I would walk across campus to class or to the Caf or to hang out with friends.

What's the most noteworthy experience you had since graduation?

I've encountered a number of noteworthy experiences since I graduated in 2016, but I think the biggest event was getting engaged to the love of my life, Amanda back in April.

2020 has been a strange year. Upon reflection, what words of wisdom or advice would you share with current students, future teachers, or us all?

I think the biggest thing we can take away during this time or during any time really is to take things day by day. While it's important to look at the big picture, I realize that it can be overwhelming to do that. Worry about the things that you can control, and the things that you can't control, you just kinda have to let them go. It does no good to worry and stress about the things you can't control. Just have an open mind and attitude toward whatever challenges you encounter, and do what you can.

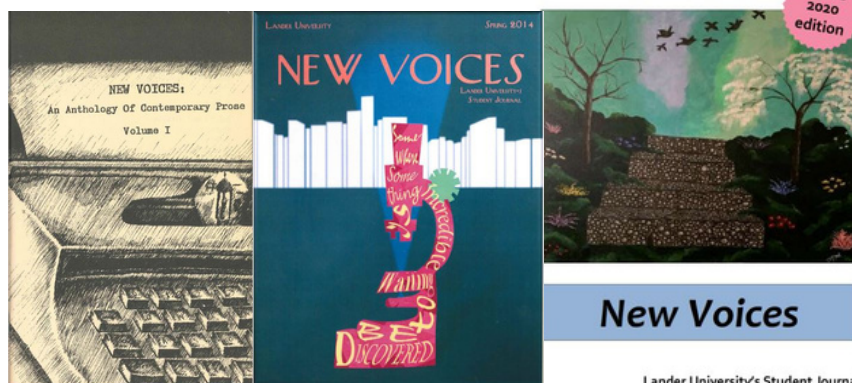
Lastly, be kind. It costs us nothing to be kind to one another. The world is mean and chaotic already. Don't add to that by being ugly and mean to each other.

NEW VOICES FROM THEN TO NOW

WHAT IS NEW VOICES?

by Drs. Jeffrey Baggett and Misty Jameson

[New Voices](#) is the only outlet on campus that students have for showcasing both writing and art. As such, it serves a vital function in the Lander community as a testament to our students' creativity and talent and as a recruitment tool to prospective students. It also allows our student editors to have important hands-on experience working for this type of publication.



Lander University's Student Journal

New Voices began in 1986 and, in the 2014 edition, was expanded beyond nonfiction and academic essays to include fiction, poetry, and visual art. Each year, between two and four Lander students serve on the Student Editorial Board; it is their job to work with the Faculty Advisors to select works for publication and awards, edit written pieces, and help arrange the final published version of *New Voices*. While we continue to maintain a small print run, we have expanded our range of readers by going online. Many of our writers and editors of *New Voices* have gone on to be published writers, professional editors, and award winners. 2015 alumnus, Robby Maynor, has published several short stories, was recognized by the South Carolina Academy of Authors, and in 2018 won the Larry Brown Short Story Award. We plan to improve and expand *New Voices* so that it will continue to provide a springboard for emerging writers and artists and a valuable training ground for students pursuing fields in publishing and editing. The 2021 edition of *New Voices* will also be a part of Lander University's Race and Identity Dialogue taking place this fall; we will be issuing a special call-for-submissions in the spring and, ultimately, selecting/publishing works that focus on race and identity.

WHAT DID *NEW VOICES* LOOK LIKE IN 2020?: BEING A STUDENT EDITOR IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC

by Jami Berkebile and edited by Dr. Misty Jameson and Mrs. Melody Johnson

This year's *New Voices* is different from any of the previous editions. This year, because of the Coronavirus, or COVID-19, outbreak, people were sent off campus as it closed for the rest of the term. So, instead of meeting in person, the editors had to get creative. There were emails sent back and forth between the Student Editorial Board and Faculty Sponsors and a rubric to fill out with all of our comments. One of the things I did, as one of the editors, was to send an email to the author of the piece, and we created a Google Doc that we shared. This allowed both of us to make comments and have the author review them before we made our final edits.

Even though these changes were unexpected, the awards and honors associated with *New Voices* were still given as normal. Angel Turner's painting was chosen for the cover, Anna St. Claire Hyatt received the Dessie Dean Pitts Award for the best work of nonfiction, and Jordan Morse received the Creative Writing Award. When asked about her reaction to her piece winning, Jordan expressed, "I was surprised and honored that the story was chosen as the winning story. I had written it for my Writing Fiction class, and so it went through a couple of changes before it made it to *New Voices*. I just hope the readers enjoy the story."

Student Editor Biography:

Jami Berkebile was a student editor of *New Voices* for the 2019-2020 school year. She is originally from Toledo, Ohio, but moved to Greenwood ten years ago. She started college at Piedmont Tech before transferring to Lander in fall 2017. She was an English major with a focus in Professional Writing who plans to take what she learned working for *New Voices* and apply it towards her future career in writing and publishing.

CONGRATULATIONS, FACULTY & STAFF!



Dr. James Anderson,
Promoted to Associate Professor



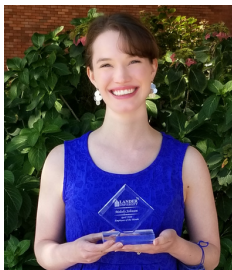
Prof. Lauren Corbitt,
Promoted to Senior Lecturer



Prof. Brittany Cuenin,
Promoted to Senior Lecturer



Dr. Misty Jameson,
Promoted to Professor



Mrs. Melody Johnson,
Lander Employee of the Month, Promoted to Professor
April 2020



Dr. Pedro Lopes,
Promoted to Professor



Dr. Renee Love,
Promoted to Professor



Prof. Kathryn
McLaughlin-Rojas,
Promoted to Senior Lecturer

WANT MORE EFL UPDATES?



@lander_efl



/LanderEFL



864-388-8265

mjohnson@lander.edu

NEW HUMANITIES MAJOR

by Graham Duncan: originally published Sept. 2, 2020

"The Humanities major provides students a broad, highly individualized, and multidisciplinary curriculum that provides them the essential critical thinking and communication skills they need to succeed in graduate school and the modern workplace."

Learn more here: <https://www.lander.edu/node/19489>



EFL HAPPENINGS



In Fall 2019, students in Dr. Scoggins' ENGL 303-Medievalism course put on a medieval play for their classmates.



The Writing Center now offers online and in-person office hours. Visit lander.mywconline.com to schedule an appointment.



English major, Angelina Vita celebrates finishing the first week of Fall 2020 classes.

CLIFFS NOTES

ON THE DEPT. OF ENGLISH & FOREIGN LANGUAGES

UPCOMING EVENT FOR CURRENT STUDENTS:
Interested in meeting fellow majors, chatting with your advisor, and learning more about your major? Join us October 27, 2020 at 4:00pm in the Amphitheater for an socially distanced meet & greet, with raffles, grab bags, Halloween candy, and more! Masks required, and costumes encouraged.



In January of Spring 2020, Prof. Martin's ENGL 450-Technical Writing students attempted to assemble bento boxes to demonstrate how crucial well-written instructions can be.



Thank you all who planned on participating in our EFL Roaring 20s Gala in March 2020! Although we had to cancel, we look forward to updating you when this event is able to be rescheduled.

The 2019-2020 EFL Newsletter was edited by the EFL Public & Alumni Relations Committee, Karen Hammond, Courtney Myers, Melody Johnson, Helena Burton, & Hope Salyer.



Front page graduation picture taken by Little Bird Creations in Beaufort, SC, and other pictures provided by faculty, staff, and student volunteers. Design crafted and text assembled by Melody Johnson.