

Kelli Sowerbrower, Ph.D.
Literacy Coordinator
Newnan High School
Teaching and Learning Program
Georgia State University

158 Le Paradis BLVD
Sharpsburg, GA 30277

678-542-4491
Kelli.sowerbrower@cowetaschools.org

Education

2010-Present: Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning, concentration in Language and Literacy
Georgia State University

Department of Middle-Secondary Education and Instructional Technology

Committee: Michelle Zoss (chair), Dana Fox, Daphne Greenburg, Philo Hutcheson

Graduation date: May, 2015.

Dissertation title: Opening the classroom doors: Stories of English teachers' experience with three eras of education reform.

1999: M.Ed. in Education, with an emphasis in American Literature

University of North Texas

Teacher Certification, Secondary English (Lifetime English Certificate)

1993: B.A. English and Speech Communications

University of Central Arkansas

Certifications

State of Georgia: T-6 for Secondary English, grades 6-12; Gifted Education Endorsement

State of Texas: Lifetime Certification in English, grades 6-12

Professional and Academic Positions

Secondary Education: Academic

- 2012- Literacy Coordinator (all grades): Newnan High School. Newnan, GA
Duties include creating classes to build literacy and reading skills in struggling readers, ensuring the Read 180 program is being taught and utilized correctly, providing reading strategies to teachers in all subject areas, running the Literacy Café (reading lab).
- 2005-2012 American Literature Teacher (Grade 11): Newnan High School. Newnan, GA
Duties include teaching AP Language and Composition, Advanced and Collaborative American Literature students. I also serve as the Newnan High Book Club sponsor, SADD sponsor and Speech Editor for public speeches that students have to give.
- 2000-2005 English Teacher (Grades 7, 8, & 9): Hurst Junior High. Hurst, TX.
Duties included teaching all middle school grade levels, both gifted and regular. I served as Junior National Honor Society sponsor and ninth grade class advisor. I organized the annual poetry publication for English classes, and I also organized field trips to various poetry readings including one to hear Dr. Maya Angelou speak.

Secondary Education: Coaching

- 2012-2014 Assistant Wrestling Coach: Newnan High School. Newnan, GA
Duties included checking eligibility, completing necessary paperwork to ensure all wrestlers were current with physicals, training materials, and weigh-ins. I also travel with the team as the faculty coach when the head coach is unavailable.
- 2007-2012 Girls Assistant Soccer Coach: Newnan High School. Newnan, GA.
Duties include coaching both varsity and junior varsity soccer. This includes several state play-off berths and numerous Regional Championships.

Postsecondary Academic Positions

- Summer, 2015 Part-Time Instructor: Georgia State University Atlanta, GA.
EDRD 7630: Literacy in the Content Areas (Instructor of Record)
- Spring, 2015 Part-Time Instructor: Georgia State University Atlanta, GA.
EDLA 7550: Theory and Pedagogy of English Instruction (Instructor of Record; N=25). Duties included creating course syllabus, instructing students as they worked together in groups, assisting students in building portfolios that included EDTAP assignments, constructing rubrics, grading assignments, and collaborating with the Alliance Theater to complete final acting assignment (Paid position).
- Summer, 2012 Part-Time Instructor: Georgia State University Atlanta, GA.
EDRD 3400: Reading the World of 21st Century Texts (Instructor of Record; N=12). Duties included motivating students to complete assignments, assisting students with difficult tasks, constructing rubrics and assignments, and grading assignments. (Paid position)
- Spring, 2011 Graduate Research Assistant: Georgia State University. Atlanta, GA.
Duties included working with Dr. Michelle Zoss on the following tasks: editing articles, transcribing interviews, locating research and annotating it, as well as other tasks as requested by professor. (Paid position)
- Fall, 2010 Graduate Teaching Assistant: Georgia State University. Atlanta, GA.
EDLA 6550: Principles of English Instruction (Teaching Assistant with Dr. Michelle Zoss, N=30). Duties included planning, teaching, grading and working closely with Dr. Michelle Zoss while teaching a Master's level methods course focused on teaching literature and arts integration for the TEEMS English program. (Paid position)
- Summer, 2010 Graduate Teaching Internship: Georgia State University. Atlanta, GA.
EDCI 6600: Introduction to Secondary Teaching (Internship with Dr. Mary Deming, N=30). Duties included planning, teaching, grading and working closely with Dr. Mary Deming while teaching a Master's level methods course focused on teaching writing for the TEEMS English program. (Unpaid position)

Refereed Presentations

- Sowerbrower, K., Klein, S., & Zoss, M. (2015, July). *The storied experiences of English teachers*. Panel presentation at The International Federation for the Teaching of English (IFTE) and Conference of English Education (CEE) Summer Conference, New York, New York.
- Sowerbrower, K., Jago, C., Klein, S., Linder, R., McDowell, C., & Windhoff-Olsen, M. (2014, Nov.). *The conversation is still happening: Integrating Common Core Standards*. Symposium presentation at the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Washington, D.C.
- Sowerbrower, K., & McDowell, C. (2014, Nov.). *The future is now: Connecting with the next generation of English teacher educators*. Roundtable presentation at National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Washington, D.C.
- Sowerbrower, K. (2014, Apr.). *Teaching school: English teachers' classroom experiences during three eras of educational reforms*. Paper presentation at the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Philadelphia, PA.
- Sowerbrower, K. (2014, Mar.). *Teaching school: English teachers' classroom experiences during three eras of educational reforms*. Paper presentation at the Southern Historical of Educational Society (SHOES), Birmingham, AL.
- Sowerbrower, K., & French, L. (2014, Feb.). *Batman is not a superbero and I can prove it: Teaching the argument to struggling writers*. Teaching presentation at the Georgia Council for Teachers of English Conference, Pine Mountain, GA.
- Sowerbrower, K., Jago, C., Klein, S., Linder, R., McDowell, C., & Windhoff-Olsen, M. (2013, Nov.). *The conversation continues: Integrating Common Core Standards*. Symposium presentation at the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Boston, MA.
- Sowerbrower, K., Brown, A., Cohen, J., & Sieben, N. (2013, Nov.) *Stop bullying now: Sharing strategies for change*. Roundtable presentation the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Boston, MA.
- Sowerbrower, K., Selland, M., & Brown, A. (2013, July). *Navigating a PhD program*. Panel presentation at the Conference of English Educators (CEE). Biannual Summer Conference, Ft. Collins, CO.
- Sowerbrower, K. (2013, Feb.). *An argument for a history of literature*. Paper presentation at the Southern Historical of Educational Society (SHOES), Charleston, SC.
- Sowerbrower, K., Brown, A., & Herbach, G. (2012, Nov.). *The intersection of sport, education, and society in English education (2nd Annual)*. Featured roundtable session at National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Las Vegas, NV.
- Sowerbrower, K., & Rodesiler, L. (2012, Nov.). *The future is now: Connecting with the next generation of English teacher educators*. Roundtable presentation at National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Las Vegas, NV.

Sowerbrower, K., Brown, A., Johnson, L., Lewis, M., Rodesiler, L. (2011, Nov.). *Supporting graduate students in English education*. Panel presentation at National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Chicago, IL.

Sowerbrower, K., Allen, E., Brown, D., Pelissero, A., & Rodriguez, S. (2011, Nov.). *Crafting our identities: Examining critical literacy practices in elementary, middle, secondary, and college classrooms*. Paper presentation at National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention, Chicago, IL.

Sowerbrower, K., Brown, A., Johnson, L., Lewis, M., Rodesiler, L. (2011, July.). *Supporting graduate students in English education*. Panel presentation at Conference on English Education (CEE) Biannual Summer Conference, New York, NY.

Invited Presentations

Sowerbrower, K., & French, L. (2014, Jul.). *Batman is not a superhero and I can prove it: Teaching the argument to struggling writers*. Teaching presentation at the Summer ELA Academies for the Dept. of Education, Cartersville, GA.

Sowerbrower, K., Puckett, C., & Roach, S. (2014, Jan.) *I hate math, and reading is for nerds!* Keynote presentation at the SSTage Annual Conference, Athens, GA.

Sowerbrower, K. (2013, June). *Language and Literacy PhD program overview: A web seminar for incoming and new Language and Literacy PhD students*. Panel leader for webinar presentation for the Global Conference in Doctoral Preparation Web Series, <http://globalconversationsindoctoralpreparation.wordpress.com>.

Sowerbrower, K., & Campbell, T. (2012, Jan.). *Pre-Quals 3G*. Webinar presentation for the Global Conference in Doctoral Preparation Web Series, <http://globalconversationsindoctoralpreparation.wordpress.com/>.

Publications

Sowerbrower, K. (2014, September). Because all books count! *Journal of Language and Literacy Education*. [Online]. Retrieved from <http://jolle.coe.uga.edu/>

Significant Professional Service

Conference on English Education (CEE) Graduate Strand Leadership Committee

This committee is currently developing a day of sessions built around the needs of graduate students at the CEE summer 2015 conference. We have also created an annual newsletter to for all graduate students who belong to CEE.

Manuscript reviewer for the following scholarly journals (number of times):

- *English Education* (2)
- *English Journal* (1)

Service

Service to the Profession

Memberships

National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)

Conference on English Education (CEE)

Member of the Graduate Leadership Team for CEE

International Reading Association (IRA)

Alpha Upsilon Alpha, honor society chapter of International Reading Association (AUA)

Professional Training Courses

2003 New Jersey Write Traits Training: Keller Independent School District. Keller, TX.

I was selected to participate in a three-week writing course based on a National Writing Project. During this time, we were given many strategies to assist other teachers in our school, as well as students, to better writing instruction. I also was assistant editor to the publication that was produced during this course.

2002 Write Traits Training: Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD. Hurst, TX.

I was selected to attend a weeklong training in the five writing traits that was to be used as the main strategy used at Hurst Middle School. I trained other teachers in our school to use these five traits in our English classes.

Research Interests

Teacher narratives about their experiences with educational reforms in the classroom

Teacher narratives about ongoing professional development

Historical narratives about the origination of English as a subject

Teaching Interests

Educating and mentoring students in teacher preparation courses

Adolescent literacy