



THE ROADRUNNER

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Ga. Author of the Year visits DSC

by Sarah Blevins
staff writer

Liberal Arts 206 just wasn't big enough.

The conference room where the DSC Literary Reading Society meets usually has more than enough seating, but on Feb. 26 the author of the novel up for discussion was on campus as part of the fifth annual Dalton State Book Festival.

The students and faculty lining the walls outside 206, hoping for a seat inside, therefore had to be rerouted to Goodroe Auditorium.

Onstage sat the author herself: northwest Georgia native Kimberly Brock, the Georgia Writers Association's 2013 Author of the Year.

The main event of the Book Festival was a reading by Brock later that evening, but she had agreed to speak more informally to the book club earlier in the day.

Many in attendance clutched copies of her first novel, *The River Witch*, which tells the story of 24-year-old Roslyn Byrne, an ex-ballet dancer, broken in more ways

than one, who travels to coastal Georgia with hopes of putting her life back together after a car wreck and a miscarriage.

On Manny's Island she meets Damascus, a 10-year-old girl who brings both adventure and wonder into her shattered life. As Roslyn spends the summer there, she becomes involved in the mysteries of Damascus's family, the Trezevants, who have problems and secrets of their own.

By the end of the novel, the summer has faded into the crisp beginning of fall, and both Roslyn's and Damascus's lives have changed dramatically.

Lydia Knight, director of Dalton State's Roberts Library, described *The River Witch* as "interesting and different." She said it "pulls in a lot of southern elements like the importance of family, spirituality, and conservative religious groups."

Knight first learned about Brock and her novel in a 2013 newspaper article. About the same time, she started hearing Brock's name in conversations around campus, so she visited her website, learned



Georgia Writers Association's 2013 Writer of the Year Kimberly Brock fields questions Feb. 26 in Goodroe Auditorium.

more about her, and soon invited her to campus to take part in the Book Festival.

"I always look for local authors to come and speak on campus

about their work," Knight said. "I'm very interested in our local history and in local authors."

(see Brock, page 5)



Campus, local runners compete in Roadrunner Runaround 5K

With dozens of runners at his back, DSC senior and cross country team member Aurelio Jacobo heads north on College Drive, in front of Roberts Library, during the inaugural running of the Roadrunner Runaround Saturday, March 29. Ninety-one students, faculty, and members of the Dalton State community participated in either the 3.1-mile race or a one-mile walk. The course took runners from the student center, south along George Rice Dive, north on College Drive, through Wood Valley Apartments, to the Brown Center, then zig-zagging back through campus to end at the athletic field. Proceeds went to support cross country team scholarships. For more race photos, see page 4.

Whodunit?

Theater 2100 to stage psychological thriller

by Amy Hartline
staff writer

You could always stay home this weekend and watch *Dexter* or *Bates Motel* on TV.

Then again, you could also get off the couch, drive a few miles, and watch something a lot more exciting—a live thriller acted out onstage right in front of you.

Dalton State's THEA 2100 is presenting its spring 2014 play, Emyln Williams's *Night Must Fall*, April 3-5 at Dalton's City Park Elementary School Auditorium.

Much of the play's action centers on a missing or perhaps even murdered woman, but *Night Must Fall* isn't your typical whodunit. More than most thrillers do, the play pushes viewers to look into the minds of its characters.

Jackie Daniels, assistant professor of communication and theater arts and the play's director, compares *Night Must Fall* to a controlled burn.

"You have to focus on when to make the fire stronger or when to push it back," Daniels said. "Only, instead of a fire, we are trying to control when the audience feels tension and when they feel relief."

Throughout the course of the play, suspense and mystery build, leading to a tense, edge-of-your-seat experience.

Night Must Fall opens on a dreary day in Essex, England, in the 1930s. We watch as Mrs. Bramson, an elderly hypochondriac, throws another tantrum in front of her niece Olivia, Olivia's suitor Hubert, and members of her household staff.

News soon arrives that a local woman has gone missing. A detective named Belsize shows up to question those at Mrs. Bramson's, quickly coming to suspect that the missing woman may have been murdered.

Suspicion and mystery both grow as the house flies into a flurry of excitement and fear as everyone talks about the case and police start digging for a body in a nearby rubbish pit.

The play is not without its sense of humor, though. Minor characters such as Hubert, Mrs. Bramson's cook Mrs. Terence, and her simple-minded maid Dora provide comedic relief.

The goal, Daniels says, is to ease the amount of tension and suspense with more comedic moments.

"We have to carefully manipulate the audience's reactions to what is going on onstage," she says. "We want to control when the audience laughs and when the audience screams."

And with *Night Must Fall*, she adds, that's relatively easy. "The play has a good mix of comedy and tragedy. It's like a tightly fit puzzle, and we have to fit all of the pieces together."

Later on in the play, another visitor arrives. His name is Dan, and he's recently enjoyed a night of fun with Dora, who is now carrying his baby.

Dan is young, charismatic, and maybe just a bit too confident, and those who auditioned for *Night Must Fall* were only mildly surprised when Daniels double-cast the role. Freshman Nate Payne and junior Scott Reese—who will each play two shows—have slightly different



staff photos by Amy Hartline

Top: Kenna Bright's Mrs. Terence gets yet another earful from Jasmyne Fletcher's Mrs. Bramson. Bottom: Nate Payne, as Dan, begins to work his magic on Mrs. Bramson.

approaches to the character, but both do a superb job of playing the lively young man and bringing suspense to the show.

Daniels says she double-cast the role because she knew playing it would be good for both Payne and Reese as young actors.

Both, she says, "will have to look into Dan's motivation for each scene and how it fits into his motivation for the entire play, as well as how he got to where he is and developed the feelings he has."

Dan, it turns out, can charm not only a simple housemaid but even the cranky Mrs. Bramson. He becomes a constant presence in her house,

each day attempting to make everyone happier with music and humor.

Olivia, however, suspects that there may be more to the young man than her aunt knows. Olivia longs for excitement, and the almost simultaneous appearance of Dan and disappearance of the missing woman lead her to believe that he has a darker, more sinister and exciting side than he usually shows.

Night Must Fall appealed to Daniels because of characters like Dan. The play gives her and her cast a chance to really delve into their

(see *Whodunit*, page 5)

ROADKILL

The same rules that apply to driving should apply to walking down stairs and through doors. I am tired of trying to walk through the right door and people trying to come in the same door from the opposite direction.

Why aren't there more private toilets on campus? Please make sure the redesigned student center has at least one private toilet.

Please don't play the piano in the student center unless you are classically trained. Practice at home.

One good thing about Dalton State is that the old, cruddy gym has been renovated, and the lights are bright and don't look like they are going to fade out at any second.

"Money is tight. . . . I have an idea! Let's buy a new Dodge Charger!" —Dalton State College

The street lights lining the sidewalk from Sequoya need new bulbs. I've tripped several times walking back to my car.

There should be benches in Liberal Arts so students don't have to sit against the walls and block the hallways.

The food is way too expensive here. It tastes good, but I could drive half a mile down College Drive for a better tasting meal for the same price or less. Please make food more affordable.

If you're in the student center, be considerate of others. Don't yell or be obnoxious. There are some in there who study, want peace and quiet, or are just trying to catch a quick nap. When in doubt, don't shout!

I'm all for being in happy, loving relationships, but no one wants to see people all over each other in the student center. Take it to the parking lot, people. There is such a thing as too much PDA!

I'm impressed with the communication systems DSC has in place. Whether by text, e-mail, or Facebook, we're always kept in touch with what's happening.

The space outside the student center looks really cheap. I don't like the wooden benches. They look like something my dad would make me help him build on a Sunday.

If you need to get onto your Dalton State e-mail account or GeorgiaVIEW, you can use the computers in the student center. Just allow yourself at least 30 minutes to get logged on.

You can take the PAX-RN exam only twice? Yep. If you fail it the second time, sorry. Find a new dream!

Disrespect and disbelief in the DSC classroom

by Meagan Smith
guest columnist

I honestly cannot believe what happened in my Spanish class a few weeks ago.

I was sitting on the front row, discussing the previous night's homework with some classmates, when in walked our professor.

As on any other day, she came in with a smile and a "Buenos dias!" We responded (in the worst accents imaginable).

She placed her books on the desk and had just started the day's lesson when, right in the middle of a sentence, someone I didn't recognize walked through the door holding what looked to be a withdrawal slip.

Never mind the fact that class was going on—she walked right through the classroom and up to the professor and said "I need you to sign this" in an insubordinate manner.

I remember thinking, "This lady is at least my age or older, but she definitely doesn't act like it." I wouldn't have been as surprised at her demeanor had she been fresh out of high school, but this lady was just that, a lady.

Or, looking back on it, maybe she was only an adult. "Lady" may be pushing it.

"Lady" is supposed to designate the social equivalent of "gentleman." "Lady" is a respectful term used to refer to a woman with class.

A lady wouldn't have displayed the type of malevolent disrespect that, I soon found out, had only just begun.

The professor responded to the request calmly and politely. She asked for the reason behind the request, informing her that she was not comfortable signing the form without one.

The professor offered examples, suggesting work, family, other reasons of that nature.

The student rudely snatched up the professor's pen, and as she wrote her reason on the form she announced, "If you have to have a reason, there you go."

She slammed the pen down and said, "The problem is you!"

I remember seeing the look on my professor's face as she glanced up, probably realizing that her entire class had just witnessed this malicious confrontation.

I can only imagine how embarrassed, hurt, and/or disrespected she felt.

It took every woosah I had within me to maintain my ladylike disposition. When my professor glanced at the class I darted my eyes in the opposite direction, hoping she wouldn't notice the shock on my face.

After the intruder stormed back out, class proceeded as if it were any other day. Nobody said a word about the incident.

Days went by. It had been nearly two weeks, but what had happened that day still ate at me. Finally, my professor came to class earlier

than usual one day, and I just couldn't keep my mouth shut any longer.

"I cannot believe what that woman said to you the other day!" I blurted out.

She looked at me, seemingly puzzled. "Well, I wasn't going to say anything about that," she said, "but since you brought it up . . ."

She looked down at her papers, possibly debating whether or not to proceed.

"I'm not the only professor on campus that this type of thing has happened to," she said.

She didn't say it, but I will: this type of behavior is completely unacceptable. The student's action was disrespectful not only to the professor but to us students as well.

I pay to take classes, and it was not fair for that student to interrupt my class time just because she'd decided she wanted no more of it.

Furthermore, it is ungracious to put other people in a situation in which they have to witness such an incident—especially in a formal, professional setting, which is what college classrooms should be.

At the beginning of each semester, professors give students a syllabus. Among its contents is a section indicating the professor's office hours.

If the student needed to drop the class, she probably had the syllabus and therefore could have easily looked up the professor's office hours.

They would've been the time and place to discuss such matters.

My professor, ever the professional, spoke privately about the matter more calmly than I fear I could have.

"A student who has a complaint," she said, "should try to talk with his or her professor first and try to resolve the issue. It never is appropriate behavior to create a public scene when somebody has an issue with another person.

"Talking with someone in a calm, civilized manner will help both parties. Also, a student should respect the rights of other students and never disrupt a class."

Even with all that being said, I have to add that there is NEVER a time or place for a student to so completely disrespect a professor.

Would Aristotle have acted that way toward Plato? I think not.

Reading and writing once were limited to the powerful and elite. I know we all can read, but our ability to interpret some material isn't quite there yet, and that's why we need our professors—to teach us to read, metaphorically speaking.

They are the elite of this campus. They are the teachers, and we are the students, and we should respect that hierarchy—even when we have differences with them.

**HELP US FILL THIS SPACE
(AND MUCH BIGGER ONES)**

If you're interested in writing or photography, see the staff box on page 5.

Roadrunner Runaround 2014



Nearly 100 local walkers and runners, ages 9 to 72, gathered at the George Rice Drive starting line at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 29, for the inaugural Roadrunner Runaround 5K and one-mile walk. Center: Ringgold's Jacob Bradley, wearing the yellow tanktop and number 68, placed first overall with a time of 16:22.70. Bottom left: Professor of Biology Kerry Dunbar, who placed first in the men's 50-and-over division, leaves the Wood Valley Apartments to follow the course through central campus. Bottom right: Bradley streaks past Memorial Hall on his way to the athletic field and a first-place finish.

Brock

(continued from page 1)

During the question-and-answer session that afternoon, Brock said her inspirations for writing *The River Witch* were as varied as an article in a southern women's magazine, a segment on a morning TV show, and her own experience growing up in northwest Georgia.

"I've told stories all my life," she said, but she said she didn't publish *The River Witch* until 2012 because it takes so much longer to write a story than to simply tell one.

"Writers have to pay more attention to detail," Brock said. "They have to collect as much information as they can in order to make the story real."

Whodunit

(continued from page 2)

characters' personalities and figure out their deeper motivations.

Daniels says she is particularly interested in Olivia. She says the niece is "intrigued . . . by not just how but why people act the way they do."

Daniels says that both she and Olivia are people watchers interested in why people respond to one situation in so many different ways.

In addition to Payne and Reese as Dan, the production features freshman Jasmyne Fletcher as Mrs. Bramson, freshman Roniqua Wright as Olivia, and senior Josh Beard as Lord Chief Justice and Detective Belsize.

Also involved are sophomore Sean Self as Hubert, freshman Kenna Bright as Mrs. Terence, sophomore Alyssa Stromley as Mrs. Bramson's

Much of that information came from her own life, she added.

"I wrote what I knew. If I made things up, they would have lost their value."

Knight said that Brock's novel brings back to the literary world the deep magic of the South, which she said has often been stereotyped thanks to movies like 1972's *Deliverance*.

"There are a lot of wrong ideas about the South and those living in it," Knight said. "People like to hold onto their views of a given society's standards. But I hope the novel will clear things up in regards to the South and those living in it."

She also hopes *The River Witch* will motivate younger southern writers to tell their own homegrown tales.

nurse, and freshman Amy Hartline as Dora.

The cast has been rehearsing in Goodroe Auditorium, the setting for all previous THEA 2100 productions, but will be presenting *Night Must Fall* in the auditorium of Dalton's City Park Elementary School because of the play's physical requirements.

Night Must Fall requires a box set, meaning that it needs various types of scenery and multiple entrances and exits onstage.

Daniels says that one of the reasons she chose a play that would require such a difficult set was because she "wanted to do something that asked a little bit more of the class" than previous THEA 2100 productions have.

At the beginning of the semester, students had little to no experience with set construction. The auditorium stage was little more than an empty space.

"We had nothing to begin with," Daniels says. "No scenery, no furniture, no props."

Brock herself said much the same in Goodroe Auditorium.

"My advice to all beginning writers is to be persistent," she said. "Then, don't worry whether or not your story is going to be published because no one who reads any book reads the same story."

Brock is now working on her second novel, which, she said, will be set in north Georgia during the Civil War.

"And that's the only hint I'm giving about it," she said, laughing.

To read *The River Witch* yourself, visit Roberts Library. Knight said several copies are available for checkout.

To learn more about Brock, visit www.kimberlybrockbooks.com.

Now, three months later, students have built both scenery and set pieces. They have been hard at work building, painting, even bringing in props from elsewhere to enhance the reality of the play.

"The class," Daniels says proudly, "has created all of it."

Night Must Fall will be performed at Dalton's City Park Elementary School Auditorium (405 School St.) at 7 p.m. April 3 and 4 and at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. April 5.

Entrance is free for Dalton State faculty, staff, and students, \$5 for the community.

To get involved in DSC's theater program, sign up for THEA 2100 (CRN 80055) in the fall or e-mail Jackie Daniels at jldaniels@daltonstate.edu.

If you're interested in acting or play production but don't need course credit, look for e-mails and posters around campus announcing the original play to be staged in the fall.



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**Amy Hartline—staff writer,
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MacKenzie Mathis—staff writer

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Dr. Keith Perry—faculty advisor

Interested in writing a guest column? Have an opinion you'd like to express in a letter to the editor or an entry in **ROADKILL**? E-mail us at roadrunnernews@daltonstate.edu.

Interested in becoming a staff writer or photographer? E-mail Dr. Keith Perry at kperry@daltonstate.edu or sign up next semester for **ENGL 1111, Student Newspaper Practicum (CRN 80169)**, or **ENGL 2100, News Writing and Reporting (CRN 80179)**.