



The English Times: Spring 2019

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Check out the new English Department Blog, [The Next Chapter](#)

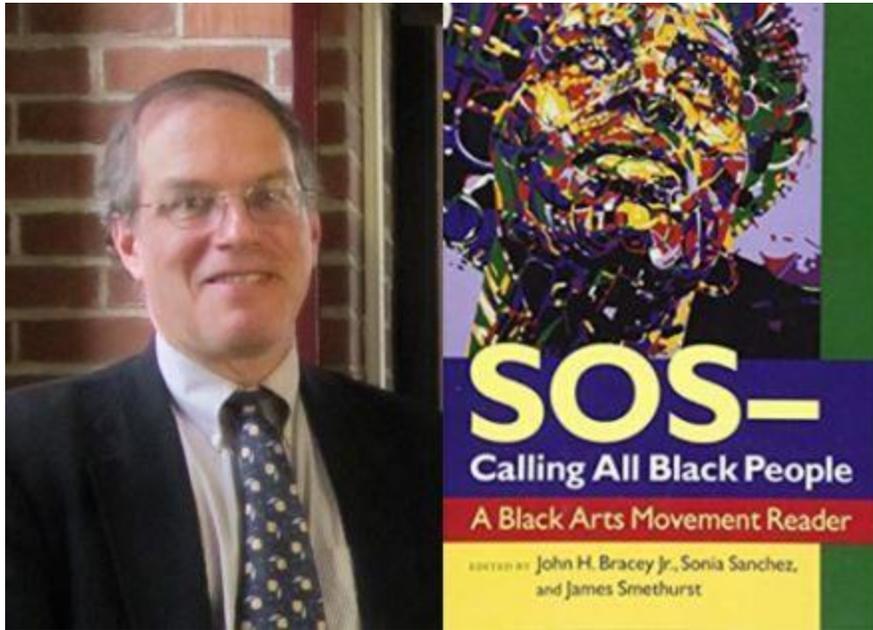
Faculty News



Betsy Huang was officially named the Associate Provost and Dean of the College. From a Clark Now article: "Huang has been at Clark for 16 years, starting as an assistant professor of English. She was tenured and promoted to associate professor in 2010, and holds the Andrea B. and Peter D. Klein Distinguished Professorship. She served as Clark's first chief officer of diversity and inclusion from 2013-16 and now serves as director of the Center for Gender, Race, and Area Studies."

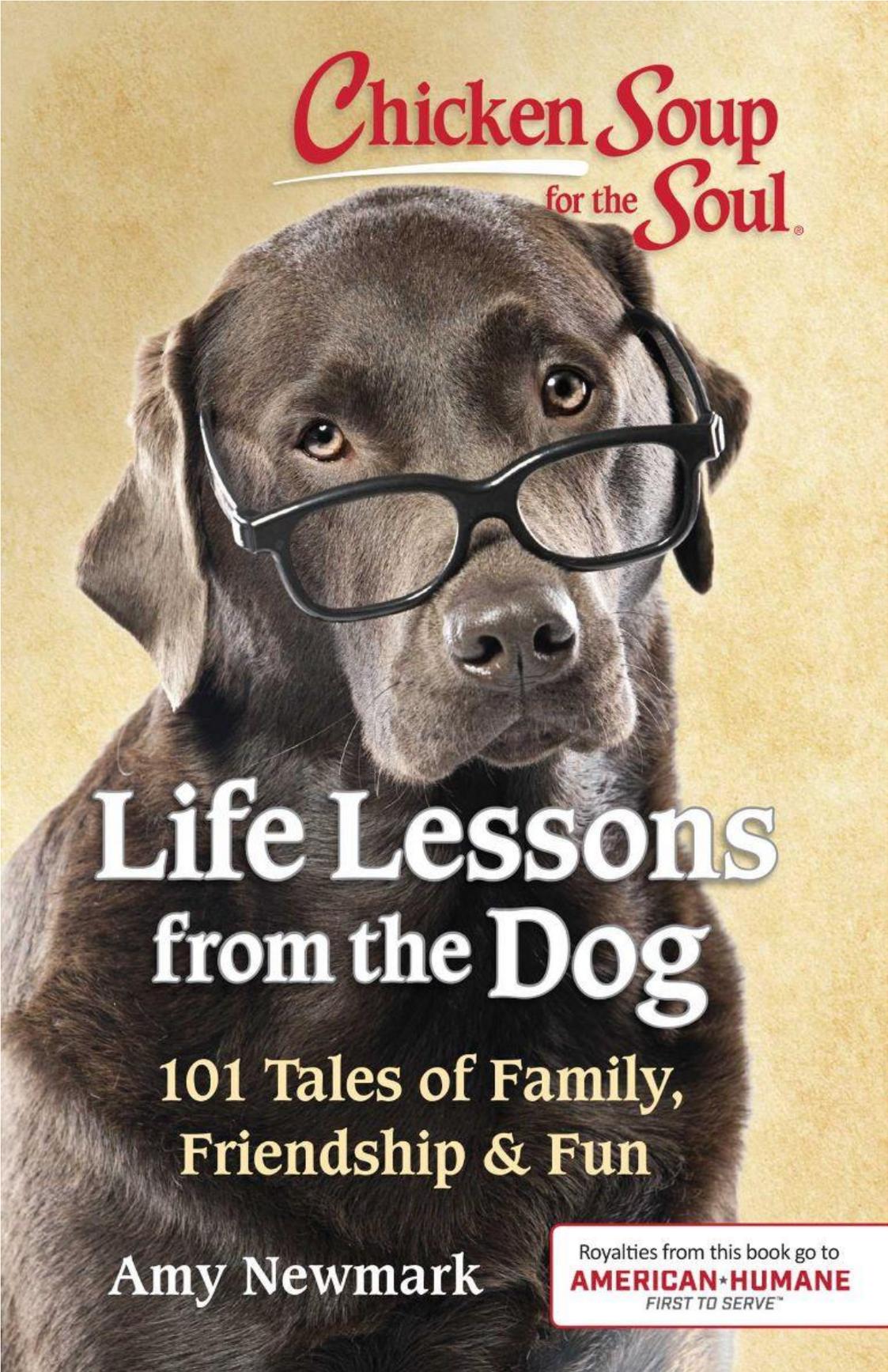


Dean **Esther Jones** has been invited to give a keynote lecture at The Ohio State University to commemorate the Department of African American and African Studies 50th anniversary. An alumna of the program, (M.A. 2001), Jones will kick off the special symposium titled “This Is Us: African American & African Studies at 50 Years” at the Wexner Center for the Arts, Friday, September 13, 2019.



Professor **Kourtney Senquiz** invited **James Smethurst**, from the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies at UMass Amherst, to come to Clark this month to speak to students in Professor Senquiz's Radicalism & Black Arts Movement course. Professor Senquiz invited Smethurst because the class is using his *SOS—Calling All Black People: A Black Arts Movement Reader*, a text that Dr. Smethurst edited with John H. Bracey Jr. and Sonia Sanchez, and thought the students would enjoy the opportunity to ask Smethurst questions about his research on the Black Arts Movement. Smethurst has previously spoken at Clark about the Black Arts Movement at the request of Winston Napier..

Student News



Chicken Soup
for the Soul[®]

Life Lessons
from the Dog

101 Tales of Family,
Friendship & Fun

Amy Newmark

Royalties from this book go to
AMERICAN+HUMANE
FIRST TO SERVE™

Lucy Barrett ('21) took English 111: Creative Writing: Nonfiction in Spring 2018 and wrote an essay about her family's pet, Agnes.

After the class workshopped her essay, she revised and submitted the essay for publication.

The essay, "Dogwood," appears in the recently published collection: Life Lessons from the Dog: 101 Tales of Family, Friendship & Fun edited by Amy Newmark, published by Chicken Soup for the Soul, distributed by Simon & Schuster.



The English Department would like to congratulate **Natalie Mitchell** ('20) on publishing her essay, "Beached Whale", which she worked on in Prof. Carolan's

Creative Nonfiction workshop in the [Laurel Moon literacy magazine](#) at Brandeis University.

Natalie Mitchell is a junior at Clark University, majoring in Psychology and minoring in creative writing. After obtaining her undergrad, she hopes to continue on to get a PhD in clinical psychology and open her own practice as a couples therapist. In addition to writing fiction and creative nonfiction, Natalie also enjoys painting, singing a cappella with the Clark Keys, and skiing.

Alumni News



Prof. Sperling and **Melike Sayoglu** ('12) attended a book launch at Harvard on March 8th, on a panel celebrating International Women's Day. Read about the panel [here](#). Or click [here](#) to read the story about the publication of their book

Courting Gender Justice.

Photo credit to Clark News & Media Relations



Current undergrad **Danie Black** ('21) recently won the Elizabeth Bishop Manuscript Prize for content in the Bishop/Knight College Poetry Contest hosted by the Worcester County Poetry Association.



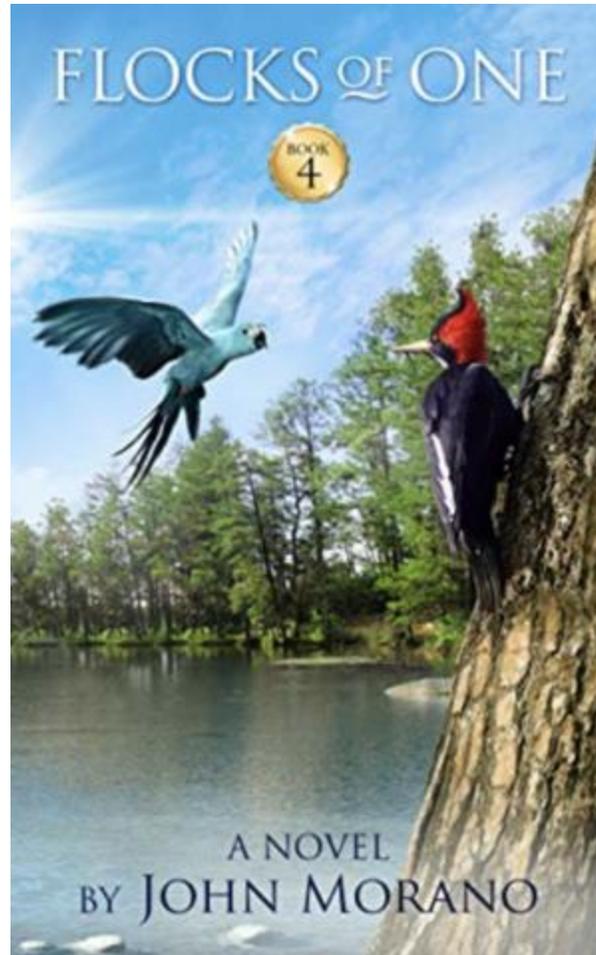
Clark in the News Weekly Update contains a **Thrive Global** interview with **English alum John Morano '82**.

[“If you give up, it’ll never happen,” an interview with bestselling authors Sara Connell & John Morano](#)

Thrive Global 4/10/2019

*“... **John Morano** [’82] is Professor of Journalism at Monmouth University in New Jersey. ... ‘It wasn’t until I studied at Clark University that I thought I might be a writer. I remember as a freshman at Clark, the season was just beginning and the basketball coach told us that a writer was coming to speak at Atwood Hall, and that as student-athletes, we were expected to attend and sit in the front row. ... A man sashayed onto the stage. He was wearing a long robe-like flowing outfit with a safari-type hat. He might have been inebriated. He was tiny, older. He stood at the podium and said, “Welcome, everyone. My name is Truman Capote.”” This story also ran on **Medium.com**.*

Prof. Morano was on campus last spring for the Department of English Alumni Series. He gave a talk and workshop titled "Giving Voice to the Voiceless: A journalist writes novels about endangered species and imperiled habitats".



The English Department is also delighted to have received a copy of **John Morano's** ('82) fourth novel, *Flocks of One*. Take a look at this book as well as his other three [here](#).

Oral Presentations: Session B

Lurie Conference Room, 4-5:20 p.m.

Higgins University Center

4 p.m.

Stereotypical Representations of Black Women in American and Turkish Popular Culture

Presenter: Melike Sayoglu

Adviser: SunHee Kim Gertz. Interdisciplinary,
Clark University

In this presentation, I will present a section of my dissertation which largely focuses on comparisons of nineteenth-century American and Ottoman slavery. More specifically, here, I will explore how cinematic portrayals of African Turkish women in the 1970s-80s illustrate some Othering aftereffects of Ottoman slavery, as it was understood in the Ottoman Empire and emerges in Turkey. I will draw a parallel to some stereotypical images from American popular culture that have been shaped by the history of slavery as well—namely the image of the Mammy and Aunt Jemima—to analyze stereotypical depictions of Black women in two Turkish films, Ertem Eğilmez’s *Süt Kardeşler* [literally means “Milk Siblings,” a Turkish expression denoting two or more children breastfed by the same woman] (1976) and Atif Yılmaz’s *Şekerpare* [a type of Turkish desert, here the name of the main female character] (1983).

On April 17th, **Melike Sayoglu** ('12) presented at the 17th Annual Graduate Study Multidisciplinary Conference here at Clark University. She presented

on her topic of the Stereotypical Representations of Black Women in American and Turkish Popular Culture. Input caption text here. Use the block's Settings tab to change the caption position and set other styles.



One of Clark's alumni, **Dr. Carol Bailey** ('99), who currently teaches at Westfield State University, invited **Melike Sayoglu** ('12) to present at the *5th Annual Cross-Cultural Symposium: Beyond Our Borders* which was held at Westfield State U. on March 22. Scholars addressed issues related to immigration, belonging,

identity, etc. Melike's presentation, entitled "Citizenship and Belonging in Turkey," was based on the chapter she wrote for the volume that SunHee Gertz, Betsy Huang, and Lauren edited, *Diversity and Inclusion in Higher Education and Societal Contexts: International and Interdisciplinary Approaches* (2018). Thus, she analyzed the formation of the Turkish nation-state, experiences of minority groups in Turkey, and the Turkish government's treatment of ethnic groups. Here's a picture of Melike and Dr. Bailey at this event.

English Department Events on the Horizon

On The Horizon...

Sunday May 19th, 2019, 11:00 a.m.: Commencement

Join the English Department in congratulating the graduating senior class.

Immediately Following Commencement: Commencement Reception

Join the English Department at Anderson House to see off the graduating English majors.

Refreshments will be served and light conversation is encouraged!

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AND STAFF INVITE OUR GRADUATES AND THEIR GUESTS

Commencement Reception



May 19, 2019

**Anderson
House**

*Immediately
following
Commencement*

Get Involved!

The English department is seeking alumni submissions for our blog “The Next Chapter.” Our current English majors would love to hear your advice concerning your academic or career path or another topic you think may be of interest. If you would like to contribute a blog post, email us with your name, year of graduation, and your potential topic. Check out alumni Jason Feifer’s post [here](#).

We welcome alumni guest bloggers on The Next Chapter! Contact us at ga_english@clarku.edu for details.

If you would like to support the excellent programming and research in Clark’s English Department, please donate: <https://alumni.clarku.edu/english>

Find Us Online:

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If you have any news to share with us, please write a couple of lines about it and send it to [Bruno Lieto](#) or [Sophie Stern](#) and/or to Professor [Stephen Levin](#), Interim Chair. Also please remember to send us photos along with the text/post. Now that we are on Facebook, we try to share photos with every post!



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