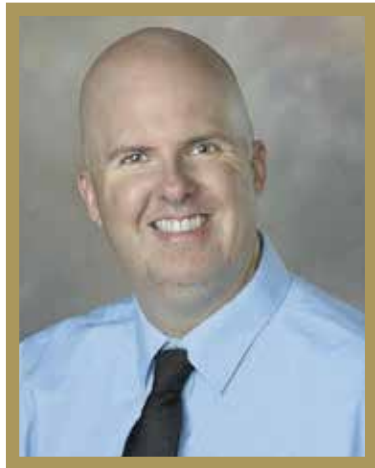


A View From the Mountain

a newsletter from the Lillian E. Smith Center



A New Director for the LES Center

Dr. Matthew Teutsch, who is currently lecturing at the University of Bergen in Norway as part of the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program, has been named Director of the LES Center. A native of Bossier City, Louisiana, Teutsch's academic work explores how African-American authors imagine and represent the South in their works.

Teutsch has served at the Ernest J. Gaines Center at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette (ULL), an international center that focuses on the work of the African-American author. While there, he collaborated on day-to-day operations of the center, worked with archival materials, generated grant support, and participated in outreach. Teutsch, who will also teach part-time, earned his M.A. from the University of Louisiana-Monroe and Ph.D. from ULL. He succeeds Craig Amason, the Center's founding director.

"Dr. Teutsch has a unique and broad skillset that is well suited for the LES Center," said Piedmont President James F. Mellichamp. "He will work to expand the reach of the Center, which is a wonderful cultural and educational resource for the college."

Teutsch will begin his work in May and move to the area with his family during the summer. "I am excited about continuing the work that Lillian E. Smith started to fight social injustice," said Teutsch. "I look forward to building, with the Advisory Board, upon the solid foundation that Craig Amason constructed during his time at the Center."

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Planned Giving

Planned gifts are a perfect way to provide fellowships for artists in residence at the Center or scholarship funds for students enrolled in the Lillian E. Smith Scholars Program at Piedmont College.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

piedmont.edu/endowment-planned-giving

Mark Elam, melam@piedmont.edu,
706-894-4214

LES Center Advisory Board

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Noel Dobbs Attends Service Conference

Noel Dobbs, a student enrolled in the Lillian E. Smith Scholars Program, is scheduled to graduate from Piedmont College as a Scholar this May. Noel's favorite contribution to her project portfolio for the program was her participation in the 21st Interfaith Health and Human Service Conference, hosted by Sisters United in Human Service in Atlanta. The conference focused on addressing social justice issues relating to health from a faith perspective. The conference took place in a mosque, and the women that hosted the event identify as Muslim women who are committed to fighting for access, action, and advocacy for the most vulnerable in society.

The three main faiths that were represented at the conference through attendance and panel members were Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. The overall theme of the conference was based on the idea that regardless of differences in religion, it is our duty as a community of faith to advocate and serve the marginalized within society. All three represented religions have a common understanding of "love thy neighbor," and this

conference focused on bringing this notion to action within our communities. As part of the conference, Noel completed a Social Justice Plan that identifies social organizations within her own community that she plans to work with in the near future.

"This conference encouraged me, as a woman of faith, to become even more active and to advocate for the most vulnerable in society who are not receiving basic healthcare and access to options for healthy living," Noel said. "During my time at the conference, I learned an overwhelming amount of information about social justice issues regarding health as well as new information about the Muslim faith."

After graduation, Noel will travel to the Dominican Republic for some mission work. She plans to take a gap year working before returning to graduate school to pursue a degree in either social work or international affairs.

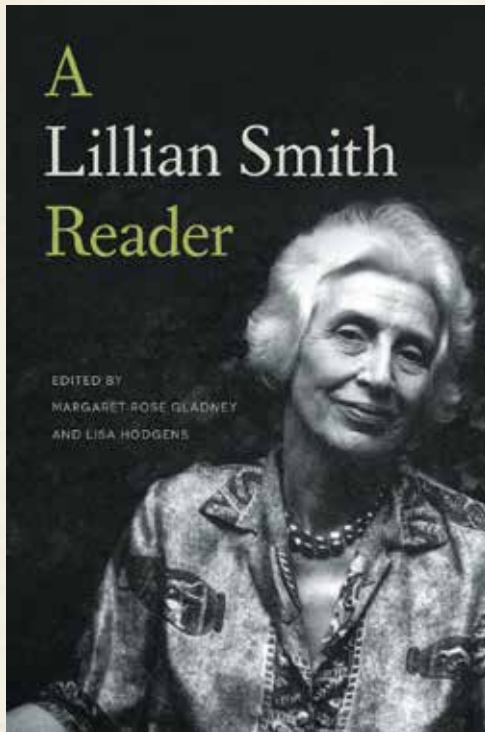


Emily Pierce Presents Conference Paper on Lillian Smith

Emily Pierce, a student enrolled in the Lillian E. Smith Scholars Program, is scheduled to graduate from Piedmont College as a Scholar this May. Emily presented a paper at the Southern Studies Conference at Auburn University in Montgomery in February. The paper was a section of her upcoming senior capstone project titled “Personal and Societal Traumas in Lillian Smith’s *Killers of the Dream*.” Her presentation was part of a panel called Trauma in Southern Literature. While attending the interdisciplinary conference, Emily took the opportunity to attend panels discussing moments in Southern history as well as photography, art, and creative writing.

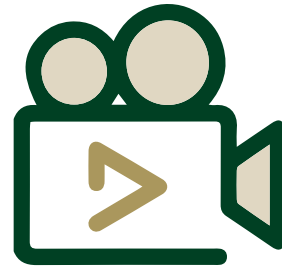
“I was nervous at the beginning of my presentation,” Emily said. “However, as I talked, I noticed how engaged the audience was. Some nodded during certain parts, some took notes, but none of them looked bored. They asked great questions afterwards, and it seemed well-received. Many people said they had never heard of Lillian Smith. Overall, it was an incredible experience, and I’m excited to continue my research as I finish up this project for capstone.”

Emily plans to begin graduate school in the fall, studying Southern literature and perhaps concentrating on the work of Lillian Smith.



Web-based Resources for *A Lillian Smith Reader*

A Lillian Smith Reader, an anthology edited by Margaret Rose Gladney and Lisa Hodgens, offers the first comprehensive collection of Smith's work and a compelling introduction to one of the South's most important writers. Piedmont College hosts a webpage to accompany the book containing a variety of electronic resources associated with Lillian Smith's life and work. Here you will find audio files of Lillian Smith reading from her own work, along with photographs, text documents, video clips, and more. Piedmont.edu/lilliansmith-resources



Documentary Film on Smith Set for May Release

Producers Hal and Henry Jacobs are putting the finishing touches on "Breaking the Silence," the documentary film on Lillian Smith. The father and son team anticipate holding the first of many screenings of the 60-minute film in Atlanta in mid-May. They are planning for other screenings at public events and festivals throughout the fall and spring 2020 before making the film available online.

"As more and more people hear about the project, via social media and word of mouth, we are finding a small but devoted coterie of people who talk about how much Lillian Smith has inspired them," Hal Jacobs said. "Many others ask, 'Why haven't I heard about her?' We hope the documentary appeals to both camps."

Hal and Henry believe the film will inspire more people by telling the fascinating story of Smith's life, the tremendous impact she made on the country in the 1940s and '50s, and how she became a "lost voice" after her death in 1966. They see the documentary as a conversation starter, bringing Smith's voice back into the national conversation around social justice issues. They also hope the film will lead people to her writing, starting with *A Lillian Smith Reader*, edited by Margaret Rose Gladney and Lisa Hodgens (UGA Press, 2016).

Piedmont College is financially supporting the production and has been actively involved in raising funds for it, resulting in generous gifts from Watson-Brown Foundation and Georgia Humanities. The producers launched a hugely successful crowdfunding campaign in fall 2018. They are extremely grateful for all investments in this important project.

Anyone with ideas for screening opportunities and Q&A sessions with the filmmakers is encouraged to contact Hal Jacobs (haljacobs@gmail.com).

PHOTO CREDIT Nikki Brugnoli Whipkey



Sarah Browning Wins 2019 Writer-in-Service Award

The LES Center is pleased to announce the winner of the 2019 Lillian E. Smith Writer-in-Service Award. Sarah Browning served for ten years as the executive director of Split This Rock, a national organization she co-founded based in Washington, D.C., the mission of which is to cultivate, teach, and celebrate poetry that bears witness to injustice and provokes social change. She was the associate director of The Fund for Women Artists (now WomenArts), providing fundraising and other support to women in theater and film. She was also the director of Amherst Writers & Artists Institute, which offers creative workshops and leadership development for low-income women and youth.

“I made a conscious decision not to let my life be guided by fear, but to challenge this manifestation of our nation’s psychic illness in my own mind directly and to build friendships and collegial relationships based on true human interaction, while doing what I can to dismantle institutional racism and using my privilege to amplify the voices of people of color,” Browning said.

Ms. Browning will receive a \$500 honorarium, a \$500 travel stipend, and a two-week residency at the Center. This Award is sponsored annually by a generous gift by Sue Ellen Lovejoy, a member of the LES Center Advisory Board. Congratulations, Sarah Browning!

Donor Profile

Sue Ellen Lovejoy

Sue Ellen Lovejoy joined the LES Center Advisory Board in 2017. She is a great-niece of Lillian Smith. Her mother was the daughter of Joseph Smith, Lillian's brother who was a Methodist minister in Mississippi.

Sue Ellen will always be grateful to Lillian's older sister, Annie Laurie, who informed her at the age of 17 "you have to know Lil." Peedie, as she was affectionately known, promptly devised a plan whereby Sue Ellen would drive her to Clayton that summer to spend four days. To be in Lillian's presence as a teenager was the experience and the challenge of a lifetime, as Peedie must have known it would be. Lillian's passion for social justice, devotion to the arts, and love of language made a powerful impression then and has served as a model for Sue Ellen's life ever since.

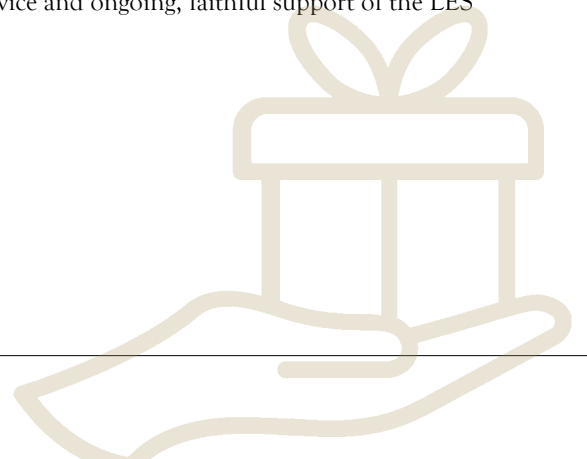
In 1968, Sue Ellen marched with Martin Luther King, Jr. in the Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike and following his assassination drove herself and a back seat crowded with orchids to Massachusetts where she made her home. There she created the first infant and toddler day care center in Western Massachusetts devoted to low-income adolescent mothers. Soon after, she established the first fine art and poetry gallery for females in the area; opening night featured Ethel Rosenberg's



poems written while imprisoned and read by her daughter-in-law. Sue Ellen has a Masters Degree in English Literature, taught at Western New England University, and is a published poet; she is currently the president of a company providing 401k education to employees throughout the country. She has been a social activist throughout her life and is supremely proud of her daughter and son for charting lives for themselves of compassion, leadership, and integrity.

She believes strongly that Lillian Smith's message of equality and respect for the dignity of every person has never been more relevant, and this country never more hungry for her voice. "Serving on the LES

Center Advisory Board is a great honor. Making a valuable contribution to the legacy of Lillian Smith has been a priority in my life, and now the opportunity to collaborate with such accomplished and dedicated members of the LES Board in doing so is a gift indeed." Each year on December 12 she commemorates Lillian Smith's birthday and their shared appreciation for the power and beauty of the written word by underwriting the Lillian E. Smith Writer-in-Service Award for the coming year. Piedmont College is grateful for Sue Ellen's dedicated service and ongoing, faithful support of the LES Center.



DONOR LIST SPRING 2019

LAUREL CIRCLE \$1,000+

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IN HONOR OF

**The following gifts were made to honor someone.*

Craig Amason

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Talbot D'Alemberte and
Patsy Palmer

Susan Montgomery

Cheryl Procaccini

Kyes Stevens

Bob and Mary Stevens

Jawole W. Zollar

James and Gayle Doherty

MEMORIALS

**The following gifts were made in memory of a loved one or friend.*

Wilbur Bailey & Eloise Baily Thompson

Bettina George

Curtis D. Bradford

Edward and Alice Ariail

Lillian E. Smith

Sue Ellen Lovejoy

Donors from January 1, 2018 - March 10, 2019. Please let us know if we inadvertently omitted anyone.

PIEDMONT COLLEGE

PO Box 429
Demorest, Georgia 30535



Art Studio is Open for Business

We finished the work on the art studio at the LES Center over the winter break, and it is now available for visual artists to use while in residence. The A-frame cottage is equipped with a restroom and a deep sink. The walls are lined with half-inch cork for hanging 2-dimensional art. The studio also has heat and air, making it comfortable throughout the residency season.

We are thankful to Nancy and Robert Fichter for donating this facility to the Center, and especially to Robert Fichter and Bill Watts for all their hard work and skill in building it. Blue Ridge Construction Company, which has been responsible for so many of the capital improvement projects at the Center over the last five years, completed the work on the art studio.

PIEDMONT COLLEGE

LILLIAN E. SMITH CENTER

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piedmont.edu/lillian-smith-center

