

# CLA Newsletter

October 2021

Issue 06



## A Word from the Associate Dean:

by Denise Horn

It was a pleasure to meet many of you during our CLA faculty meeting a couple of weeks ago. As many of you know, I am joining WKU from the faculty ranks. I've been in academia for over 20 years, and have served as Department Chair, Associate Dean and other leadership roles. I hope to bring that experience to bear in my role as Associate Dean at CLA as we work together to foster a vibrant community of teachers and researchers.

I am a scholar of International Relations and throughout my career I have intertwined my research with my passion for international education. There is, in my mind, no better way to prepare our students for the world than to expose them to that world both through academics and international experiences. How fitting that I would find myself at WKU!

I am excited about the opportunities that are ahead of us: expanding our graduate offerings, thinking through new initiatives, bringing new and interesting voices to campus, and working to continue building our excellence in teaching and research. I am open to any ideas that you might have, and my (virtual) door is open.

Thank you to all of you who have already reached out to introduce yourself and say hello. Although I am not physically on campus, I can already feel the dedication this community has for WKU and our students. I am looking forward to meeting all of you in person, as well as meeting the new faculty who will be joining us in the Spring. I hope you have a great semester.

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## Faculty Spotlight: Dr. **Kyra Whitehead**

Written by Dr. Erin Schwartz

Part of the purpose of this newsletter is to help faculty get to know each other and to celebrate each other's accomplishments, projects, and work. We've decided to start a new **Faculty Spotlight** section, and we're kicking it off with Dr. Kyra Whitehead.

Kyra is an alumna of Drew University's Caspersen School of Graduate Studies, through which she completed her D.Litt, Doctoral degree in Global Studies, and received a graduate certificate in conflict resolution and leadership. She defended her dissertation in 2019, with a dissertation conducted at WKU. Her research works to establish an environment of peacebuilding in ESL classrooms by emphasizing the intercultural exchange of stories told through literature and the arts.

Here at WKU, Kyra specializes in teaching English for Academic Purposes (EAP), with a primary focus in Design. She has proven so valuable in that position, especially to Michael Graves College of Architecture and Design, that she's basically a member of that college too. She has grown into this position while working as the EAP Specialist for Design at WKU, she formerly served as the English Language Program Dean for Concordia Language Villages.

Working in partnership with faculty, staff, and students in Design, Kyra has written course materials for both the English and Design departments that offer the core of ESL teaching to a student body in need of specialized language learning. These materials include everything from vocabulary lists and lesson plans to activities and Powerpoint presentations, and are available to English faculty on request. She's also offering to conduct classroom workshops!

Topics include things like branding and advertising, color theory, storytelling and design, culture and design, finding descriptive language for design, and much more!

In addition to teaching ESL courses, Kyra also began teaching DSN 1100, Introduction to Design and Visual Culture, and a design-specific GE 2025 Research and Technology, where she continues to refine her pedagogical skills.

Kyra can be contacted at [kyraw@kean.edu](mailto:kyraw@kean.edu) or see her in her office, GEH C219.

Kyra's dedication and effort have produced a remarkable body of materials that is of huge benefit to the faculty and students of CLA. It's my pleasure to showcase her contributions to the school, and we look forward to what you will be able to accomplish in the future!

(Thanks to special guest editor, Dr. **Mieke Paulsen Bahmer** )

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## Charity Gala Announcement:

Submitted by **Jisu Kim**

A Charity Gala to support children with autism organized by CLA students!

This year, a charity gala to support children with autism will be held at the auditorium of Wenzhou Kean University on November 18, 7-9 PM.

The show will be organized by Professor Jisu Kim, from Communication, College of Liberal Arts, and her students in ID 2415 (Group Communication), as a part of their service-learning project.

To improve public awareness of child autism, we will introduce the concept of autism and offer some informative speeches, and promote fundraising events organized by a non-profit organization, WABC.

For the performances, students will play pianos, put on magic shows, dance, make interactive media content, and more! And we value the contributions of faculty and staff! If you want to share your talents with us and perform on stage (about 5 mins) to support our students and help children with autism, please let me know!

Also, please join us for the **charity gala** on the event day. We will have many interesting speeches, performances, and activities on the day. Thanks!

For your reference, here is the press release about last year's gala:  
<https://wku.edu.cn/en/2021/05/15/57665/>

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## BAFTA

Submitted by **John Chua**

BAFTA has a student film competition whereby universities submit their best student films for awards. I taught Digital Video Production last spring, the only film class in the COM degree. For their final class project, the students had to each make a five to six-minute film. For the vast majority of the students, this is their first time taking a film production class. (With no university equipment available, the results were amazing.)

These I feel are the three best films, although they all could use further editing. Now I would like to submit one film to BAFTA and I am asking my colleagues to vote on which one. You can PM me directly with your choice. These three links are on Kean's Google drive. You need to open it after logging into Kean's email but please do not share the links outside the school.

- (1) <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YQmYc0SVvtaAy6BLkuBFKEqI6gLOZTnu/view?usp=sharing>
- (2) <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DHLSZzq20zNYILRGS6ShPUCI3b1uu9rf/view?usp=sharing>
- (3) <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VCpTapGs8L5fqGrqiaCyCjgUwLV2BuFU/view?usp=sharing>

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# Inktober 2021

Submitted by Erin Schwartz

## Let's create art! Inktober 2021 Art Challenge!

I want to invite all CLA faculty to participate in Inktober this year!

### ***What is Inktober?***

Inktober is a month-long art and creativity challenge created by artist Jake Parker. The challenge is intended to develop skills and daily habits. ([inktober.com](http://inktober.com))

### ***But I'm not an artist!***

It doesn't matter! Stick figures, random doodles, the point is creativity and having the stick-to-it-ness to see the challenge through to the end of the month.

### ***But what do I draw?***

Every day of the month has its own prompt, a word that serves as the theme of the day. Interpret the theme however you like.

### ***Can I get students involved?***

Yes! Of course! What a fun activity! Give students the prompt of the day, and let their imaginations run free!

### **Join me!**

I will be participating in Inktober by doing daily drawings and pinning them up on my office window (GEH B217). I'll also share pictures on social media. I want to encourage all CLA faculty to pick up their pens and join in! Whether you're just doodling on a napkin during lunch or breaking out a professional pen and ink set, post your daily drawings on WeChat and/or tape them up on your office door! What a great and interesting way to open up conversations with students about art and creativity, about interpretation and expression! Let's fill the hallways of GEH with art this month!



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## The Bunburyist:

Dear all,

*I write from an undisclosed location outside of Shanghai, where I am in quarantine... again. Still. I simply had to step out of my room for a smidgeon of fresh air and some supplies, but even though I had my mask on and even wore gloves for pity's sake, the officers did not approve and I have been returned to my room.*

*I don't know when I will be able to return to campus, but I look forward to seeing the new stadium! And it seems there will be a pool, as well, which will do me so much good I am sure. Swimming is so much less stressful for my poor joints.*

*The last faculty meeting and the introduction of Dean Horn was quite hopeful. It is so good to know that, whatever strain we are all working under, there are people who know what we are going through and are working to make it better. I am sure we all look forward to meeting our new Assistant Dean— is it assistant, or associate? Or is it just Our Dean In Wenzhou? At any rate, I look forward to seeing her in person, whenever she – and I— should happen to arrive.*

*All the best, my dearest friends and colleagues,*

*J. Bunbury*

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## Submit to next month's issue!

by **Erin Schwartz**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this month's issue! If you have something you want to share next month please upload it to the Google folder linked below. I would appreciate all submissions before **October 28, 2021**. Please email with any questions.

**Google folder for the November issue** (please use your Kean email address to login, if you don't have one, email submissions to me directly):

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PJHFvpt-CTsJjR8vWbrvyW6m3KiL\\_9ql?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PJHFvpt-CTsJjR8vWbrvyW6m3KiL_9ql?usp=sharing)

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