

"It takes a thousand voices to tell a single story."  
~Native American Proverb

"*O-Wa-Ki-Ya*" is a Native American term meaning "to cause to write."

In the early 1930s, MSU's Writing Club, composed of aspiring journalists and—to quote an article from 1934—"other varieties of scribblers," created the *O-Wa-Ki-Ya*, an annual publication sponsored by M.S.U. that contained the best of the feature articles, short stories, one-act plays, poems, informal and formal essays written by the members of the Writer's Club. It was the only published literary effort of its kind.

The *Owakiya* had fallen by the wayside by 1965 and was replaced by the *Midwestern State University Quarterly*. Another incarnation of the publication, called *Ahimsa*, existed at some point between 1965 and 1969.

In 1975, the Press Club brainstormed and created the first issue of *Voices*. Editor Kathy Weber and faculty advisor Tom Hoffman combined student art and literature, faculty essays, and newspaper publications in this first issue, which honored the inauguration of the new MSU President Dr. John Barker. It featured art and literature from 15 different departments on campus. It was financed by a \$2,600 allocation from the MSU Board of Regents and was sold at the MSU bookstore, as well as other bookstores within the city. In 1977, the Student Publication series began.

Funding from the student allocation fees was cut from *Voices* in 1992, and a non-too-small crisis of existence threatened to relegate *Voices* to the dusty shelves of the archives. A strained relationship between the Student Government Association (SGA) and the *Voices* staff led to tension on campus for those involved. By 1993, corporate contributions from Mr. Jim Lonergan, then publisher of the *Wichita Falls Times and Record News*, in the amount of \$1,200 and a personal contribution of \$3,300 from MSU President Dr. Louis J. Rodriguez saved the almost-sinking ship.

*Voices* remains stubbornly and steadfastly the only permanent forum for students on campus to express themselves freely through their inspired artwork, original writings, and other artistic endeavors.

In its first 15 years of publication(1975-90), *Voices* won 12 state awards from the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association for overall effort and for individual categories of student entries. For several years afterwards, however, *Voices* was not submitted to the competition. In 2006, its competitive spirit was revitalized and was awarded the following at the 2006 T.I.P.A.:

- \* 1<sup>st</sup> place—short story
- \* 2<sup>nd</sup> place—cover design
- \* 3<sup>rd</sup> place—general excellence
- \* 5<sup>th</sup> place—overall literary magazine sweepstakes

The same year, four entries from *Voices* were presented to and received great praise from the 2006 Student Conference for Research and Creative Arts at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Professor Gary Goldberg was the faculty advisor for all art contributions until 2010. His dedication to selecting and photographing outstanding student art work has given *Voices* its stunning visual appeal for several years. In 2010, editors were surprised when they received art submissions from students themselves, which increased art submissions by 50 submissions. Professor Goldberg remains a vital supporter for the editors and continues to select artwork from the art department. In 2012, Professor Jennifer Yucus was asked by the editors to help them form a jury for the art submissions that they received from students outside of the art department and an "internship for credit" for graphic design students. Some of those who rallied to help *Voices* in the past—with supplies, layouts, adjustments, the running of the shop, and more—were Gerald Williams, Angie Lewis, Clyde Bennett, and Jim Henson.

In 2016, Professor John Schulze became the faculty advisor for *Voices*. He expanded the journal's scope by making it a regional arts and literature journal that accepted student submissions from Texas, Oklahoma,

and New Mexico. The 2016-17 issue earned First Place for Overall Excellence in Division 3, and the 2018-19 issue earned First Place in Overall Excellence for a Literary Magazine and an Honorable Mention for the cover from the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association.

2021 is another year of transformation for *Voices*. While still student-focused, the journal now accepts submissions from across the country. *Voices* has gone nationwide!

Past and Current Faculty Advisors:

**1975 & 1983-92**– Professor Tom Hoffman

**1977–82**– Professor Jim Hoggard

**1993–2004**– Professor Robert Johnson

**2005–14**– Professor Sue Henson

**2016**– present- Professor John Schulze

Student editors of *Voices* have been as follows:

**1977**

Russell Hill, Sue Vernon

**1978**

Diane Hooten

**1979**

Donald Eubanks, Wolfgang

Richter

**1980**

Douglas Beck, Connie Cooper

**1981**

Lois Sullivan, William Payne

**1982**

Michael Dowd, Laurie Stroh

**1983**

Dale Tisdale

**1984**

Dale Tisdale

**1985**

Eloise Splawn Kerr

**1986**

Eloise Splawn Kerr

**1987**

Freda J. Fuller

**1988**

Freda J. Fuller

**1989**

Lloyd Henry

**1990**

E. Maurine Joyner

**1991**

Sonny Armstrong

**1992**

Jannett Theriault

**1993**

Jean Hall

**1994**

Jill Ross

**1995**

Susie Burks

**1996**

Jason Welch

**1999**

Erin DeCuir

**2000**

Nick Bagherpour

**2001**

Heather Goodwin Tarman

**2002**

Maria Ifcic

**2003**

Freda Fuller-Coursey

**2004**

James Cochrane

**2005**

Paige Dickerson

**2006**

Elizabeth Bourland-Hawley

**2007**

Christian McPhate

**2008**

Christian McPhate

**2009**

Joel Morrow, Darylie Williams,

Lauren Miller, Mary Yehle

**2010**

Adam Henson, Breanne Sill

**2011**

Adam Henson, Breanne Sill

**2012**

Adam Henson, Breanne Sill, Ruth

Black; Web Archivist-Jaron Judd

**2013**

Editor in Chief- Breanne Sill;

Assisting Editor- Ruth Black;

Editors- Cody Parish, Andi

Wisdom, Alexis Desire, Mike

Winters, Talor Kindig, and Kendell

Penington

**2014**

Editor-in-Chief- Talor Kindig;

Assisting Editors-Ginger Bartush,

Cody Parish, Kendell Penington,

**2016**

Whitney Atkinson,

Mallory Evangelista,

Ashlee Fandrich, Lexi Murphy

Lane Riggs, Brittany Williams

**2017**

Whitney Atkinson,

Mallory Evangelista,

Ashlee Fandrich, Lane Riggs, Kalli

Root; Technical Editor- Jonathan

Henderson

**2018**

Nathan Conard, Alondra

Escobedo,

Carrie Horton, David Milks,

Cody Peterson, Jessica Odom,

Morgan Lowe, Miles Mireles

**2019**

Nathan Conard, Autumn Fredline,

Gracie Glebe, Lauren Ordner,

Tristan Thompson, Grace Tschlis,

Yerasly Duran, Nathan Endo, and

Charles Grissom

**2020**

Ashton Bayliss, Meredith Berend,

Jane Browning, and Stephanie

Robledo

**1997**  
Jeannette Richmond  
**1998**  
Kimberly Tucker

Mike Winters, Bee Quesada,  
Caitlin McNeely  
**2015- No Issue Published**

2007 was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the student-run *Voices*. Publications can withstand the test of time, and *Voices* is proof of that.

“Our lives begin to end  
the day we become silent  
about things that matter.”

– Martin Luther King Jr.