

GRAVY #62 WINTER 2016



First Helpings



LEFT TO RIGHT:
Jennifer V. Cole;
Osayi Endolyn

GRAVY GETS A STIR

THIS EDITION OF GRAVY marks my twenty-sixth consecutive issue as editor. Let's be honest: You need a break from me, dear reader. And given the circumstances, I am happy to oblige. By the time you read this, I will be at home on maternity leave, reading mysteries with my feet up and a quiet, sleeping baby snuggling by my side. That's how it's supposed to go, right? Just making sure.

Beginning with this issue, we welcome a new associate editor to Team SFA. Shortly after Osayi Endolyn came to us as a writer (check out her piece on Hoppin' John in the summer 2016 issue), we had an inkling she was just the person we needed to expand our editorial team. Not to brag or anything, but we were right. You'll read more about Osayi when you turn the page. Her thoughtful perspective

brings a new energy to our editorial mission, and we are excited to work together to improve and expand Gravy in 2017 and beyond.

In addition to Osayi, I am extremely excited to entrust the spring 2017 issue of Gravy to the capable-doesn't-begin-to-describe-it hands of guest editor Jennifer V. Cole. Following a long tenure at Southern Living, Jennifer now freelances for publications from Esquire to Fast Company to Garden & Gun to, yes, Gravy. ("A Ghost in the Freezer," from our spring 2016 issue, was the most-read Gravy story on our website this year.) When she's not hosting bourbon-fueled gatherings on the front porch of her Birmingham home, she's on a trip to Sicily, or Mexico City, or Cartagena. Follow her on Instagram if you can handle the ensuing jealousy and wanderlust. —Sara Camp Milam

L: Pablaux Johnson; R: Andrew Thomas Lee

FEATURED
CONTRIBUTOR

REGINA N. BRADLEY



REGINA N. BRADLEY, a native of Albany, Georgia, is an assistant professor of English at Armstrong State University in Savannah. She teaches and researches on post-Civil Rights African American literature, hip-hop culture, and race. At the 2016 Southern Foodways Symposium, she blew the audience away with a talk about the cornfields and cornbreads of her youth in Albany, an excerpt of which begins on page 38 of this issue. We caught up with Bradley after the Symposium to introduce her to Gravy readers.

What are you currently working on?

I'm currently finishing my first academic book, titled *Chronicling Stankonia: OutKast and the Rise of the Hip Hop South* (UNC Press). In it, I theorize the Hip Hop South, the cultural and generational shift that takes place with young black Southerners after the Civil Rights Movement. In particular, I focus on how the Atlanta hip-hop group OutKast is the foundation of the hip-hop South and how they influence the cultural expression of younger black Southerners outside of the arc of the Civil Rights Movement.

Which books, movies, and television shows do you look forward to catching up on during the semester break this winter?

When I'm not writing, I will make time to plunder Netflix: *Black Mirror*, *Hemlock Grove*, and rewatching *Marvel's Luke Cage*. I also plan to catch up with my comics: *Harrow County*, *Elf Quest*, *World of Wakanda*, and *Black Panther*.

What are some of your favorite books to teach as an English professor?

I try to pledge allegiance to the Black South and our writers as much as possible. I love teaching Kiese Laymon's novel *Long Division* and his collection of essays, *How to Slowly Kill Yourself and Others in America*. Jesmyn Ward is always in the rotation, especially *Men We Reaped*. I'm teaching her novel *Where the Line Bleeds* for the first time next semester, and I'm excited!

What classes are you teaching in the spring?

This spring I'm teaching a class on OutKast and their impact on how we render expressions of contemporary Southern black identity. I am also teaching two sections of a course called Ethics in Literature. My focus for the course is the question, "What are the ethics of #BlackLivesMatter in literature?" Some of the texts we're reading include Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Edward P. Jones' *The Known World*, and Damian Duffy and John Jennings' graphic novel adaptation of Octavia Butler's phenomenal book *Kindred*.

Pablaux Johnson