

Ubiquity: The Journal of Literature, Literacy, and the Arts,
Community News Strand, Vol.1 No.1 Winter 2014, 1-5
Ubiquity: <http://ed-ubiquity.gsu.edu/wordpress/>

Thoughts from the Community News Strand Editor

© Gladys Ross Yarbrough

Georgia State University

Correspondence concerning this editorial should be addressed to Gladys Ross Yarbrough, Ph.D.,
Georgia State University, College of Education and Human Development, 30 Pryor Street,
Atlanta, GA 30303.

Contact: communityubiquity@gmail.com

Ubiquity: The Journal of Literature, Literacy, and the Arts, Community News Strand, Vol.1
No.1, Winter 2014

Thoughts from the Community News Strand Editor

If you were to look up the word “community” in the dictionary, you will find several definitions. However, for *Ubiquity*, the most appropriate definition comes from the Oxford Online Dictionary. It defines “community” as “*a feeling of fellowship* with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests and goals.” The Community News Strand is a part of *Ubiquity* because we wanted to create a forum that will exemplify the free flowing exchange of thoughts and ideas from both the community and academia. Specifically, we wanted to make our journal accessible to the larger community of “literacy folks” who represent non-traditional readers, writers, and learners. We formulated this paradigm because we support the African proverb of building “bridges,” not dams—to other communities. Information should be extended in all directions—instead of sealing it off and having walls all around.

Where have I seen this collaboration before?

A good example of the importance of connecting into the community is demonstrated in the movie *Selma*, a film that chronicles Dr. Martin Luther King’s heroic struggle to obtain equal voting rights in the South. This movement involved all sorts of members of the community: from the churches to the universities—all walks of life were involved in this epic struggle for freedom and justice. Community activists and supporters like Annie Lee Cooper, Viola Luizzo, James Reeb, John Lewis, and hundreds of young people marched hand in hand with their teachers and college professors to take a stand against oppression. It was these brave heroes and s/heroes that helped to pave a brighter pathway for future generations. Encouraging this connectedness is essential if we want to continue to speak out and fight against the latest trajectory of “isms” that bar our society from reaching its highest potential.

In essence, the Community News Strand is the embodiment of *Ubiquity* because we want to promote “that feeling of fellowship” between communities at-large and academia. To achieve this goal in the Community News Strand, we will be publishing community matters that relate to literature, language arts, literacy, and other important community issues. We welcome feature articles, fact sheets, newsletters, and letters to the editor.

We feature in this inaugural issue an article about the Study Hall, Inc., an afterschool program in Southeast Atlanta that has been providing free educational services to elementary students for nearly 25 years, and has been in partnership with Georgia State University for more than 10 years.

We look forward to hearing from you and the submission of news of interest about your community!

Gladys Yarbrough, Ph.D.

Community News Strand Editor

References

Community (n.d.). In Oxford Dictionaries online. Retrieved from

http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/us/definition/american_english/community¹

Selma (n.d.). In Imbd.com online. Retrieved from <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1020072/>²

Author Bio: Gladys Ross Yarbrough is a Collaboration and Resources for Encouraging and Supporting Transformations in Education (CREST-Ed) Project Director in the Middle and Secondary Education (MSE) Department at Georgia State University. Her research focuses on teacher beliefs and online learning and developing effective community partnerships. Dr. Yarbrough teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in literacy, specifically, reading and children's literature. She has been active in community service in her neighborhood and at Georgia State University. Dr. Yarbrough currently serves as a member of the board of directors at The Study Hall, Inc. and is the Faculty Advisor of Omicron Gamma Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society for the College of Education, Georgia State University.