by Sarah Blevins
staff writer

Liberal Arts 206 just wasn’t big enough.

The conference room where the DSC Literary Reading Society meets usually has more than enough seating, but on Feb. 26 the author of the novel up for discussion was on campus as part of the fifth annual Dalton State Book Festival.

The students and faculty lining the walls outside 206, hoping for a seat inside, therefore had to be rerouted to Goodroe Auditorium.

Onstage sat the author herself: northwest Georgia native Kimberly Brock, the Georgia Writers Association’s 2013 Author of the Year.

The main event of the Book Festival was a reading by Brock later that evening, but she had agreed to speak more informally to the book club earlier in the day.

Many in attendance clutched copies of her first novel, *The River Witch*, which tells the story of 24-year-old Roslyn Byrne, an ex-ballet dancer, broken in more ways than one, who travels to coastal Georgia with hopes of putting her life back together after a car wreck and a miscarriage.

On Manny’s Island she meets Damascus, a 10-year-old girl who brings both adventure and wonder into her shattered life. As Roslyn spends the summer there, she becomes involved in the mysteries of Damascus’s family, the Trezevants, who have problems and secrets of their own.

By the end of the novel, the summer has faded into the crisp beginning of fall, and both Roslyn’s and Damascus’s lives have changed dramatically.

Lydia Knight, director of Dalton State’s Roberts Library, described *The River Witch* as “interesting and different.” She said it “pulls in a lot of southern elements like the importance of family, spirituality, and conservative religious groups.”

Knight first learned about Brock and her novel in a 2013 newspaper article. About the same time, she started hearing Brock’s name in conversations around campus, so she visited her website, learned more about her, and soon invited her to campus to take part in the Book Festival.

“I always look for local authors to come and speak on campus about their work,” Knight said. “I’m very interested in our local history and in local authors.”

(see Brock, page 5)

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Ga. Author of the Year visits DSC

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Campus, local runners compete in Roadrunner Runaround 5K

With dozens of runners at his back, DSC senior and cross country team member Aurelio Jacobo heads north on College Drive, in front of Roberts Library, during the inaugural running of the Roadrunner Runaround Saturday, March 29. Ninety-one students, faculty, and members of the Dalton State community participated in either the 3.1-mile race or a one-mile walk. The course took runners from the student center, south along George Rice Drive, north on College Drive, through Wood Valley Apartments, to the Brown Center, then zig-zagging back through campus to end at the athletic field. Proceeds went to support cross country team scholarships. For more race photos, see page 4.
Whodunit?

Theater 2100 to stage psychological thriller

by Amy Hartline
staff writer

You could always stay home this weekend and watch Dexter or Bates Motel on TV. Then again, you could also get off the couch, drive a few miles, and watch something a lot more exciting—a live thriller acted out onstage right in front of you.

Dalton State’s THEA 2100 is presenting its spring 2014 play, Emlyn Williams’s Night Must Fall, April 3-5 at Dalton’s City Park Elementary School Auditorium.

Much of the play’s action centers on a missing or perhaps even murdered woman, but Night Must Fall isn’t your typical whodunit. More than most thrillers do, the play pushes viewers to look into the minds of its characters.

Jackie Daniels, assistant professor of communication and theater arts and the play’s director, compares Night Must Fall to a controlled burn.

“You have to focus on when to make the fire stronger or when to push it back,” Daniels said. “Only, instead of a fire, we are trying to control when the audience feels tension and when they feel relief.”

Throughout the course of the play, suspense and mystery build, leading to a tense, edge-of-your-seat experience.

Night Must Fall opens on a dreary day in Essex, England, in the 1930s. We watch as Mrs. Bramson, an elderly hypochondriac, throws another tantrum in front of her niece Olivia, Olivia’s suitor Hubert, and members of her household staff.

News soon arrives that a local woman has gone missing. A detective named Belsize shows up to question those at Mrs. Bramson’s, quickly coming to suspect that the missing woman may have been murdered.

Suspicion and mystery both grow as the house flies into a flurry of excitement and fear as everyone talks about the case and police start digging for a body in a nearby rubbish pit.

The play is not without its sense of humor, though. Minor characters such as Hubert, Mrs. Bramson’s cook Mrs. Terence, and her simple-minded maid Dora provide comedic relief.

The goal, Daniels says, is to ease the amount of tension and suspense with more comedic moments.

“We have to carefully manipulate the audience’s reactions to what is going on onstage,” she says. “We want to control when the audience laughs and when the audience screams.”

And with Night Must Fall, she adds, that’s relatively easy. “The play has a good mix of comedy and tragedy. It’s like a tightly fit puzzle, and we have to fit all of the pieces together.”

Later on in the play, another visitor arrives. His name is Dan, and he’s recently enjoyed a night of fun with Dora, who is now carrying his baby.

Dan is young, charismatic, and maybe just a bit too confident, and those who auditioned for Night Must Fall were only mildly surprised when Daniels double-cast the role. Freshman Nate Payne and junior Scott Reese—who will each play two shows—have slightly different approaches to the character, but both do a superb job of playing the lively young man and bringing suspense to the show.

Daniels says she double-cast the role because she knew playing it would be good for both Payne and Reese as young actors. Both, she says, “will have to look into Dan’s motivation for each scene and how it fits into his motivation for the entire play, as well as how he got to where he is and developed the feelings he has.”

Dan, it turns out, can charm not only a simple housemaid but even the cranky Mrs. Bramson. He becomes a constant presence in her house, each day attempting to make everyone happier with music and humor.

Olivia, however, suspects that there may be more to the young man than her aunt knows. Olivia longs for excitement, and the almost simultaneous appearance of Dan and disappearance of the missing woman lead her to believe that he has a darker, more sinister and exciting side than he usually shows.

Night Must Fall appealed to Daniels because of characters like Dan. The play gives her and her cast a chance to really delve into their
The same rules that apply to driving should apply to walking down stairs and through doors. I am tired of trying to walk through the right door and people trying to come in the same door from the opposite direction.

Why aren’t there more private toilets on campus? Please make sure the redesigned student center has at least one private toilet.

Please don’t play the piano in the student center unless you are classically trained. Practice at home.

One good thing about Dalton State is that the old, cruddy gym has been renovated, and the lights are bright and don’t look like they are going to fade out at any second.

“Money is tight... I have an idea! Let’s buy a new Dodge Charger!” —Dalton State College

The street lights lining the sidewalk from Sequoya need new bulbs. I’ve tripped several times walking back to my car.

There should be benches in Liberal Arts so students don’t have to sit against the walls and block the hallways.

The food is way too expensive here. It tastes good, but I could drive half a mile down College Drive for a better tasting meal for the same price or less. Please make food more affordable.

If you’re in the student center, be considerate of others. Don’t yell or be obnoxious. There are some in who study, want peace and quiet, or are just trying to catch a quick nap. When in doubt, don’t shout!

I’m all for being in happy, loving relationships, but no one wants to see people all over each other in the student center. Take it to the parking lot, people. There is such a thing as too much PDA!

I’m impressed with the communication systems DSC has in place. Whether by text, e-mail, or Facebook, we’re always kept in touch with what’s happening.

The space outside the student center looks really cheap. I don’t like the wooden benches. They look like something my dad would make me help him build on a Sunday.

If you need to get onto your Dalton State e-mail account or GeorgiaVIEW, you can use the computers in the student center. Just allow yourself at least 30 minutes to get logged on.

You can take the PAX-RN exam only twice? Yep. If you fail it the second time, sorry. Find a new dream!
Nearly 100 local walkers and runners, ages 9 to 72, gathered at the George Rice Drive starting line at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 29, for the inaugural Roadrunner Runaround 5K and one-mile walk. Center: Ringgold’s Jacob Bradley, wearing the yellow tanktop and number 68, placed first overall with a time of 16:22.70. Bottom left: Professor of Biology Kerry Dunbar, who placed first in the men’s 50-and-over division, leaves the Wood Valley Apartments to follow the course through central campus. Bottom right: Bradley streaks past Memorial Hall on his way to the athletic field and a first-place finish.
Brock

(continued from page 1)

During the question-and-answer session that afternoon, Brock said her inspirations for writing The River Witch were as varied as an article in a southern women’s magazine, a segment on a morning TV show, and her own experience growing up in northwest Georgia.

“I’ve told stories all my life,” she said, but she said she didn’t publish The River Witch until 2012 because it takes so much longer to write a story than to simply tell one.

“Writers have to pay more attention to detail,” Brock said. “They have to collect as much information as they can in order to make the story real.”

Whodunit

(continued from page 2)

characters’ personalities and figure out their deeper motivations.

Daniels says she is particularly interested in Olivia. She says the niece is “intrigued . . . by deeper motivations.

Daniels says that both she and Olivia are people watchers interested in why people respond to one situation in so many different ways.

In addition to Payne and Reese as Dan, the production features freshman Jasmyne Fletcher as Mrs. Bramson, freshman Roniqua Wright as Olivia, and senior Josh Beard as Lord Chief Justice and Detective Belsize.

Also involved are sophomore Sean Self as Hubert, freshman Kenna Bright as Mrs. Terence, sophomore Alyssa Stromley as Mrs. Bramson’s nurse, and freshman Amy Hartline as Dora.

The cast has been rehearsing in Goodroe Auditorium, the setting for all previous THEA 2100 productions, but will be presenting Night Must Fall in the auditorium of Dalton’s City Park Elementary School because of the play’s physical requirements. Night Must Fall requires a box set, meaning that it needs various types of scenery and multiple entrances and exits onstage.

Daniels says that one of the reasons she chose a play that would require such a difficult set was because she “wanted to do something that asked a little bit more of the class” than previous THEA 2100 productions have.

At the beginning of the semester, students had little to no experience with set construction. The auditorium stage was little more than an empty space.

“We had nothing to begin with,” Daniels says. “No scenery, no furniture, no props.”

Much of that information came from her own life, she added.

“I wrote what I knew. If I made things up, they would have lost their value.”

Knight said that Brock’s novel brings back to the literary world the deep magic of the South, which she said has often been stereotyped thanks to movies like 1972’s Deliverance.

“There are a lot of wrong ideas about the South and those living in it,” Knight said. “People like to hold onto their views of a given society’s standards. But I hope the novel will clear things up in regards to the South and those living in it.”

She also hopes The River Witch will motivate younger southern writers to tell their own hometown tales.

Whodunit

(continued from page 2)

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Sarah Blevins—staff writer
Amy Hartline—staff writer, staff photographer
MacKenzie Mathis—staff writer
Jorden Wade—staff writer
Dr. Keith Perry—faculty advisor

Interested in writing a guest column? Have an opinion you’d like to express in a letter to the editor or an entry in ROADKILL? E-mail us at roadrunnernews@daltonstate.edu.

Interested in becoming a staff writer or photographer? E-mail Dr. Keith Perry at kerry@dhaltonstate.edu or sign up next semester for ENGL 1111, Student Newspaper Practicum (CRN 80169), or ENGL 2100, News Writing and Reporting (CRN 80179).