



## **Student-Designed Studies within the MA in Transformative Language Arts Concentration**

Rhonda Patzia's study intersects Transformative Language Arts, disability studies, and embodiment studies. She conducted a photography and writing project focusing on body image and featuring women of many backgrounds and ages (for her practicum), and wrote a series of essays and vignettes about embodiment, disability, and writing for her thesis project.

Yvette Hyater-Adams' thesis, *Breaking Silences, Healing Lives: Creative and Expressive Writing for Middle Class African American Women*, maps the health and life challenges of African American women, traditional means of healing and transformation in the Black community, the role of psychology and certain developmental theories, the expressive arts in general and Transformative Language Arts modalities in particular, and finally her own model, Renaissance Muse, which she developed over the course of her Transformative Language Arts studies.

Brian Moore's *Healing Landscapes: Reconnecting with Self, Community and Earth Through Poetry* is a thesis project born of studying storytelling, memoir, mythological, cultural and spiritual roots of writing for and from the earth, ecology, and poetry therapy.

Stephanie Sandmeyer collects and archives family history through a gallery show she created of "Time Windows," boxes of both collages visual art and sound montages of conversations, songs and sounds. Her internship at the American Folklife Center in Washington, D.C., and her use of StoryCorps interviewing techniques as means of gathering oral histories, are key to her study.

Scott Youman designed and completed a practicum with incarcerated men interested in spirituality and writing, and wrote a memoir about coming of age exploring spirituality, memoir, mythology, masculinity studies, and cultural studies.

Suzanne Ebst's final work, *Keeping the Faith: Aesthetics, Feminism and the Words that Helped Me Stay*, consists of a young adult non-fiction book, aimed at Christian teenage girls, on spiritual development, and a study of how feminism can enhance spirituality, especially for young women.

Nancy Morgan's *Cancer Stories* brought together cancer stories from her own life, and her encounters with patients at a center research center where she facilitates Transformative Language Arts for individuals and groups, families and medical staff. Her study of psycho-oncology, expressive arts, and Transformative Language Arts led to his position as Arts and Humanities Director at a cancer research center.