

**From:** Jennifer Garmon <jennifer.garmon@okemosk12.net>

**To:** Rod Ellis <rodellis1000@aol.com>

**Subject:** Re: Atkins Alumni visit

**Date:** Wed, Nov 15, 2017 2:49 pm

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Rod,

Thank you so much for your kind words, and for arranging last week's visit. It was a joy!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Garmon

English Teacher, Okemos High School

On Fri, Nov 10, 2017 at 5:52 PM, Rod Ellis <[rodellis1000@aol.com](mailto:rodellis1000@aol.com)> wrote:

Thank you, Christine, for welcoming back "the best and the brightest" Okemos Alumni. The Atkins sisters ('85 & '86) are wonderful Alumni role models for current OHS students. One only finds out later in life as to the "spark" in one's career...and, Elizabeth and Catherine just might be that spark to an aspiring writer, TV host or for all those careers that are enhanced by good and creative communication. Jennifer Garmon has a wonderful creative writing class that is motivated by her enthusiasm for the subject. Okemos is very lucky to have a teacher of such fine quality and I am delighted to have met her.

My many thanks to Hedlund Walton for making the perfect connections and to Alena Zachery-Ross for your encouragement to reconnect with the "best products" of an Okemos education!

*Rod Ellis*

Okemos Class of 1965

[616-437-3706](tel:616-437-3706)

[rodellis1000@aol.com](mailto:rodellis1000@aol.com)

OkemosAlumni.org

Okemos Alumni Association

Chair, Alumni Relations Okemos Education Foundation

**From:** Jennifer Garmon <jennifer.garmon@okemosk12.net>

**To:** Atkins Greenspan <atkinsgreenspan@gmail.com>; Rodellis1000 <rodellis1000@aol.com>

**Subject:** Re: Author visit to Creative Writing class (?)

**Date:** Wed, Nov 15, 2017 2:48 pm

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Dear Catherine, Elizabeth, and Rod,

Thank you so much for taking the time to visit my Creative Writing class last week. It was such a joy to have you here!

Catherine and Elizabeth: I found myself energized by your passion for writing--and my students enjoyed hearing your stories. I'm reading *Rosemary* right now, and already one of my students has asked if she can borrow it when I am finished.

Rod: Thank you for arranging this event for us. I appreciate it!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Garmon

English Teacher, Okemos High School

On Wed, Nov 8, 2017 at 6:03 PM, Atkins Greenspan <[atkinsgreenspan@gmail.com](mailto:atkinsgreenspan@gmail.com)> wrote:

Will do!

Thank you so much, Jennifer!

Catherine & Elizabeth

On Nov 8, 2017, at 6:02 PM, Jennifer Garmon <[jennifer.garmon@okemosk12.net](mailto:jennifer.garmon@okemosk12.net)> wrote:

This all sounds great! Thank you for sending your bios and an outline for class. I am looking forward to meeting you!

P.S. When you arrive, please enter through the main office doors so that you can sign in as a visitor. :-)

On Wed, Nov 8, 2017 at 5:04 PM, Atkins Greenspan <[atkinsgreenspan@gmail.com](mailto:atkinsgreenspan@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi, Jennifer.

We are super excited to visit your class in the morning. Here's how we'd love for the visit to go:

1. Here's a link to our bios so you can give a [brief introduction](#);
2. We'd like to talk to your students about our journey from being creative writing students at OHS to where we are now;
3. Then we'd like to have a Q and A.
4. We will leave a few minutes for a random giveaway of a copy of Catherine's young adult novels (3) as well as our mother's memoir, which we've just published. (We'd like for this to be a surprise.)

How does that sound?

Please feel free to text or call us at [775.200.6523](tel:775.200.6523). We look forward to seeing you tomorrow.

Thank you again for the opportunity to come to your class.

Sincerely,

Catherine & Elizabeth

On Nov 7, 2017, at 8:20 AM, Jennifer Garmon <[jennifer.garmon@okemosk12.net](mailto:jennifer.garmon@okemosk12.net)> wrote:

Dear Catherine,

Sorry for the delayed response. It is parent-teacher conference week, so much busier than usual! Here are a couple of links from the Creative Writing Class web site I created a couple of years ago. (We have since switched to another web platform, so some of the info might be outdated, but I think it gives you a good overview.)

- Course outline: [https://garmon-okemos.weebly.com/uploads/3/1/1/3/31136891/cw\\_course\\_outline\\_rev\\_2016.pdf](https://garmon-okemos.weebly.com/uploads/3/1/1/3/31136891/cw_course_outline_rev_2016.pdf)
- Weekly assignments--creative nonfiction, fiction, lists, etc: <https://garmon-okemos.weebly.com/major-assignments.html>
- Poetry (pastiche): <https://garmon-okemos.weebly.com/poetry.html>
- Writer's Notebook prompts (every Mon, Wed, Fri): various prompts from Natalie Goldberg, Julia Cameron, Karen Benke, Janet Burroway, and others
- Students are also reading independent novels and memoirs of choice.

Thank you again for your interest in visiting us!  
Jennifer

On Thu, Nov 2, 2017 at 10:00 PM, Atkins Greenspan <[atkinsgreenspan@gmail.com](mailto:atkinsgreenspan@gmail.com)> wrote:

Jennifer,

We're so excited to come to your class! We'd love to know what the students are working on. Do your students journal? Write short stories? Poetry?

Thank you!

Feel free to email or call or text.

Sincerely,  
Catherine  
[\(775\) 200-6523](tel:(775)200-6523)

On Nov 2, 2017, at 7:58 AM, Jennifer Garmon <[jennifer.garmon@okemosk12.net](mailto:jennifer.garmon@okemosk12.net)> wrote:

Thank you! My Creative Writing class is 2nd hour, and class that day runs from 8:40-9:28. What shall I do to help prepare students for your visit?

On Wed, Nov 1, 2017 at 4:23 PM, Atkins Greenspan <[atkinsgreenspan@gmail.com](mailto:atkinsgreenspan@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello, Rod and Jennifer.

We would be honored!

Thank you.  
Catherine Greenspan & Elizabeth Atkins

On Nov 1, 2017, at 12:43 PM, Rodellis1000  
<[rodellis1000@aol.com](mailto:rodellis1000@aol.com)> wrote:

Yes, that will work great. I will contact Catherine  
Atkins to put you two in touch to discuss content.  
Rod Ellis

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 1, 2017, at 8:14 AM, Jennifer  
Garmon  
<[jennifer.garmon@okemosk12.net](mailto:jennifer.garmon@okemosk12.net)>  
wrote:

Dear Mr. Ellis,  
I am a Creative Writing teacher at  
Okemos High School, and Hedlun  
Walton forwarded your message to me  
regarding "Two Sisters Writing"  
potentially visiting on Nov. 9. Could we  
work together to arrange for an author  
visit to my class? I teach Creative  
Writing 2nd hour, and class that day runs  
from 8:40-9:28. Please let me know if  
this could work!

Thank you,  
Mrs. Jennifer Garmon  
English Teacher and PRISM co-advisor  
Okemos High School

Elizabeth - [313-492-5718](tel:313-492-5718)  
Catherine - [775-200-6523](tel:775-200-6523)  
[www.atkinsgreenspan.com](http://www.atkinsgreenspan.com)

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