On October 20th, Susan Davis, producer of WUNC's popular radio show, "The State of Things," was a guest in "Documenting Lives" my Writing 20 course that investigates the methodological, ethical and writerly challenges of producing documentary work. Davis, who has worked in radio for over 15 years spoke to my classes about researching, writing and producing stories for radio. A published poet with a B.A. in English Literature and Art History and an MFA in poetry, Davis began her presentation with a humorous account of the importance of good writing: during her first interview for a job in radio as an editor for NPR's Marketplace, a show that focuses on the economy, the producer began by telling her she was completely unqualified for the job. He went on to say, however, that he had called her in for an interview because her cover letter was the best he had ever read. Davis got the job. Davis followed up this introduction with a discussion of the importance of clarity, conciseness and "spoken language" in writing for radio and how these characteristics are true for just about any kind of writing. We listened to and analyzed snippets of aired radio shows and then prepped the students for their follow-up assignment: 3 minute radio stories about a trend on Duke Campus. Working in teams of three, students went into the field with recording devices and came away with stories that ranged from the humorous and ubiquitous late night snacking habits of college students, to the more serious and particular politics of Occupy Duke. The stories can be heard at [http://sites.duke.edu/documentinglives/](http://sites.duke.edu/documentinglives/).