



# CU DENVER ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

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August 2022, Issue 26

# A NEW YEAR, A NEW START

The CU Denver English Dept. Welcomes Wayne Miller as  
the New Department Chair

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## A NOTE FROM NEW DEPT. CHAIR WAYNE MILLER

At the end of last week, Phil handed me the key to the Chair's office in Ninth Street Park, and now I'm writing this note while taking a break from moving in my things. It's humbling to step into a role of leadership and advocacy for this Department full of wonderful and dedicated teachers, scholars, and writers—particularly after Phil's vital and compassionate work shining a light for us as we moved through Covid's many uncertainties. Covid, of course, is still here, swelling and diminishing its numbers—but it seems clear that as a campus and a culture we're approaching something a bit steadier and closer to "normal" than we've seen these past two years. I find myself—despite the difficulties and insecurities that still surround us—full of gratitude and cautious optimism. I'm grateful to Phil not only for his work as Chair, but also for the generous amount of time and energy he spent getting me up to speed, and I'm also grateful that Michelle is staying on as Associate Chair, lending her expertise to the Department's continuing operations. I'm thankful for Francine's steady hand, and I'm enthusiastic that Emilio is back with us. And I'm very excited that Fatima has joined us as Director of the ESL Academy. I hope, as we find ourselves with more time together in-person than we've had in recent years, that the community of this Department will continue to be an invaluable resource for each of us. I look forward to the conversations that lie ahead!

# THANK YOU PHILIP JOSEPH FOR THESE LAST THREE YEARS

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A few words from outgoing Chair  
Philip Joseph:

Thank you all for your support and commitment over the last three years, and special thanks to Michelle Comstock whose generosity and judgment have been tremendous and who has been both a great friend and the best academic collaborator. As I turn over the chair keys, I'm excited about more time for writing and teaching. At the same time, I'll miss the teamwork that has been the best part of this job. We have challenges ahead, but also a shared investment in what we do and in our culture of work, ideas, creativity, and friendship. That goes a long way. The department is in good hands with Wayne and Michelle at the helm. It's been energizing to work with Wayne over the last few weeks and to catch him up on where we stand and what lies ahead. Welcome also to Fatima Esseili, our new faculty member in linguistics and the new Director of our ESL Academy. I look forward to continuing our work together!



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Good Luck to all  
your future  
endeavors Phil! The  
Dept. wishes you the  
best and we are  
eager to see all your  
work and  
accomplishments!



## PLEASE WELCOME FATIMA ESSEILI TO THE ENGLISH DEPT.!

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Welcome Fatima! We are excited to meet you and are looking forward to working with you! We know you will like it here and we are looking forward to seeing your work!

Fatima Esseili is Associate Professor in the Department of English, and Director of the ESL Academy. With over 15 years of experience in the field of Second Language Studies, Fatima has taught a variety of graduate and undergraduate courses in national and international contexts including China, Lebanon, Mexico, Qatar, and the UAE. Fatima's research interests in applied linguistics include the teaching and learning of English with emphasis on second language writing and assessment, world Englishes (language policy, politics of English, intelligibility), and intercultural rhetoric.

# DEPARTMENT NEWS AND EVENTS

## ENGLISH DEPT. STUDENT AWARDS

Stephen Milligan's essay, "Person-Place and Thing-Power: Transcorporeality in Elizabeth Bishop's 'The Fish,'" has been chosen as the winner of the Rex Burns award for the best graduate essay of the year!

We are pleased to announce that Daniel Trevithick, Lejla Muric and Celeste Briefs are the winners of the 2021-2022 Michael S. Gorniak Scholarship.



We are very happy to announce that Rachel Davis, Lejla Muric, and Jonathan Prater are co-winners of the Richard T. Dillon Scholarship award, which recognizes undergraduate excellence in the English Department.

Congratulations also to Sara Webster and James Watkins for winning honorable mentions!

## ENGLISH DEPT. EVENTS

As part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, CU Denver Women & Gender Studies and the Phoenix Center at Auraria present:

Dr. Sarah Deer: "Safety and Sovereignty: The Story of Violence Against Native Women and Two-Spirit (LGBTQ+) People"



April 14th, 2022

# KEEP TALKING

# END THE STIGMA!

**A SPECIAL COLLABORATION WITH THE PHOENIX CENTER**

The Office of Case Management is hosting a storytelling event April 25th to end the stigma surrounding mental health. Stories can be performed by yourself or a volunteer. Students, staff, and faculty are all encouraged to submit a story about their experiences with mental health. Deadline to submit is March 30th.

April 25th, 2022



## Tulsa Glitterary Conference

June 2-5, 2022 on Zoom & Live

For more info and to apply: [www.tulsaglitterary.org](http://www.tulsaglitterary.org)



CHEN CHEN  
Poetry



RAHNE ALEXANDER  
Creative Nonfiction



COURTNEY HARLER  
Fiction

- Free online workshops open to LGBTQ+ writers
- Live craft classes and readings open to the public

**Deadline to apply for workshops: May 15, 2022**

Sponsored by the Tulsa Artist Fellowship

June 2nd - 5th, 2022

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# FACULTY/TA NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS

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Wayne Miller received a \$10,000 National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Translation Fellowship to support his collaborative translation of the short story collection *Sellers of Chaos* by the Albanian writer Moikom Zeqo. Wayne Miller's 2021 poetry collection "We The Jury" won the Colorado Book Award in Poetry.

Anthony Ballas discusses the events of January 6, 2021 in an interview with *Iranian Labour News Agency*. Ballas is also featured in *The Tehran Times*, where he discusses racial violence in American Cinema. He also did a piece reviewing the novel "[Title]" for *3AM Magazine* as well as having an interview with Gerald Horne for *Monthly Review*.

Associate Professor Nicky Beer's essay, "My Brother Says 'What the Fuck'" (originally published in *The Cincinnati Review*), was listed as "Notable" in *Best American Essays 2021*.

John Tinnell and Cameron Blevins of the History Department have been awarded a CU system-wide Next Award for their proposal, *Data Advocacy for All: An Open Access Digital Repository for Innovative Data-Driven Curricula*. The grant provides \$297,000 of funding over three years. As part of the proposed project, John will be revising ENGL 3084: Multimedia Composition, to fit the goal of teaching data literacy, which will frame data literacy as a useful tool in environmental advocacy work.

Senior Instructor Miranda Egger successfully defended her dissertation, and is now Dr. Miranda Egger! Dr. Egger received a CETL Teaching Enhancement grant. The grant will fund an experimental inquiry group of six English faculty members, who will read theories of contract grading and develop a plan for implementation. The participants will then apply these new assessment practices to their English writing courses during Spring 2023.

Kari Campeau published three articles in *Technical Communication Quarterly*. The first "It Makes Everything Just Another Story": A Mixed Methods Study of Medical Storytelling on GoFundMe., co-authored with Yee Thao, focuses on the implications of digital storytelling on crowdfunding platforms like GoFundMe. The next two articles were published as part of a research team from the University of Minnesota's Department of Writing Studies. The articles, which appeared in the *Journal of Technical Writing and Communication* and in *JMIR Human Factors*, examine user experience among voice patients at an Ear, Nose, and Throat clinic.

Sarah Hagelin and Gillian Silverman published their new book, *The New Female Anti-Hero: The Disruptive Women of Twenty-First Century US Television*, with the University of Chicago Press. Sarah and Gillian landed an article on the subject of their book in *The New York Times*, entitled "Why We Love Lazy, Drunk, Broke Women on TV."

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# FACULTY/TA NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS

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Bradford Mudge has published two essays this year and is at work on a new book on the eighteenth-century English portrait. After being interrupted by the pandemic, he is returning this summer to the Walpole Library at Yale to complete his fellowship.

Nicky Beer's new book of poems, *Real Phonies and Genuine Fakes*, was published by Milkweed Editions. The book was reviewed in *Publisher's Weekly*.

Jeff Franklin had a whirlwind poetry tour in North Carolina in April, reading from his new collection, *Where We Lay Down*. He gave five readings in five days, in Greenville, Washington, Chapel Hill, Greensboro, and Sylva, with 500 miles of driving. He read with nine other poets, including Catherine Carter, Keith Flynn, Amber Flora Thomas, and Mark Soto-Smith. He taught a workshop at ECU and represented the North Carolina Literary Review at the North Carolina Writer's Network conference at UNC Greensboro. He hung out with old friends and had a blast. On the home front, he's been invited to read in Boulder by the Colorado Poets Center and in Loveland as part of the Columbine Poets Summer Solstice series.

Colleen Donnelly published two articles, "Claiming Chaos Narrative, Emerging from Silence" in *Disability and Society* and "Culture Frames the Experience and Responses to Psychotic Delusions" in *Hektoen International*. Colleen also received the President's Fund for the Humanities Grant for Disability, Intersectionality, and Social Justice. She will be having a symposium come November. In her personal life, she hiked Machu Picchu and the Temple of Apollo in Delphi.

Cynthia Wong was a guest lecturer at Swarthmore College for Dr. Madalina Meirosu's class on Literature and Artificial Intelligence, where she presented Kazuo Ishiguro's latest novel, *Klara and the Sun*. Dr. Wong also has two forthcoming book chapters on selected novels of Kazuo Ishiguro from Manchester University Press and the University of Cambridge.

Andrew Scahill filmed segments for a queer horror documentary over the past three years and now those segments will be turned into a mini-series, *Queer for Fear: The History of Queer Horror*, that is set to realize in 2022. Andrew also did an interview with Drag Race alum, BenDeLaCreme, that was published in *Metro Weekly*. They are planning a bigger interview for a national publication around Christmas 2022. Andrew is joining the LGBTQ community in reviving "eventized" film screening, or interactive film parties, in order to reunite audiences who were scattered by pandemic-era shutdowns of public culture. First showing for the *Rainbow Cult* series movie night began on Tuesday, August 16th, 2022 and will be happening every month at the SIE Film Center.

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# STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS

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John Purfield, a recent CU Denver alumnus of our MA program, has published his article “Bridging the Gap: Speculative Roles of Specific Intellectuals in Climate Justice” in *Rhetoric Review*. John is currently completing his dissertation at the University of South Carolina.

Ahja Fox, CU Denver English grad and former *Copper Nickel Editor*, has been named the new poet laureate of Aurora.

Martha Tesfalidet will be entering the English Ph.D. program at the University of California, Irvine this fall to study contemporary African diasporic literatures.

Tobias Tegrotenhuis was accepted as a fellow to the 2022 Lambda Literary Writer's Retreat for Emerging LGBTQ+. They received the 2022 Outstanding BA Undergraduate Award from CLAS.

Alejandro Lucero was admitted to the Bucknell Seminar for Undergraduate Poets, an extremely competitive national award. Alejandro also won first place in the Iris N. Spencer Poetry Award through West Chester University for his sestina, “Returning”.

Steven Espada Dawson, an alumnus of the Creative Writing program, won a \$25,800 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation. The National award is among the most prestigious a young poet can win and is open to all US poets between 21 and 31 years of age.

Kayla Drummond, who is completing an MA degree, will be chairing a panel on “Folklore and Fairy Tale in Gothic Literature and Film” at the 2022 NEMLA conference. The 2022 NEMLA conference was held in Baltimore from March 10-13, 2022

Creative Writing alumnus Taylor Kirby's essay, “The Scopophilic's Gift Shop,” which was originally published in *Cream City Review*, is now listed as a Notable Essay in *Best American Essays 2021*.





# Newest Addition to the English Dept.

We are excited to welcome Kristen Golden's newborn son Ari, to the English Dept. family. Ari was born on January 19th of this year! Kristen's daughter Eleanora is quite pleased with her new role as the older sister and calls Ari her "new baby"! Congratulations Kristen! We are looking forward to meeting Ari in the near future!



# CLAS English Dept. Graduates

Congratulations to our 2021- 2022 Undergraduates!

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Addison-Taylor, Corey; Aguirre, Robin; Aldrich, Jack; Anderson, Kayla; Bird, Ashleen Morgan; Burmaster, Joseph; Chipman, Justin; Clemensen, Skylar; Collins, Caitlin; Combs, Jason; Crisp, Elizabeth; Dao, Sang; Davis, Li; DeLuna Martinez, Marisol; Downing, Selina; Downs, Emma; Drake, Kendall; Duran Machuca, Sam; Egloff, Ryan; Ellson, Alexia; Ely, Eryn; Faktorovich, Megan; Franklin, Amber; Frisby, Alyssa; Gabriel, Madison Ann; Gomez Corona, Jasmine; Hamsher, Sarah; Harris, Nikki; Hombach, Beau; Huang, Yan Song; Jones, Alexis; Kemp, Teresa; Lancaster, Kennedy; Larson, Joel; Leckemby, Melissa; Lopez-Ota, Lauren; Lor, Destany; Lowery, Samuel; Magill, Casey; Martinez, Jacqueline; Mazzetta, John Thomas; Mendes, Courtney; Meyer, Priscilla; Moffat, Victoria; Montoya, Michael; Mundt, Travis; Neufeld, Benjamin; Parsons, Austin; Rampolla, Emily; Read, Jason; Robertson, Andrew; Roley, Sean; Rubio, Tony; Schwabauer, Rachel; Seavall, Nicole; Sorensen, Taylor; Stene, Caleb; Strommer, Quinn; Tegrotenhuis, Christina; Tran, Cindy; Vahrenhorst, Maria; Vernell, Skylar; Vogtsberger, Craig; Voss, Courtney; Waggoner, Lindsay; Weddington, Ashlen; Welter, John; Wilkerson, Savannah; Wu, Yixuan

# CLAS English Dept. MA Graduates

Congratulations to our 2021-2022 MA Grads

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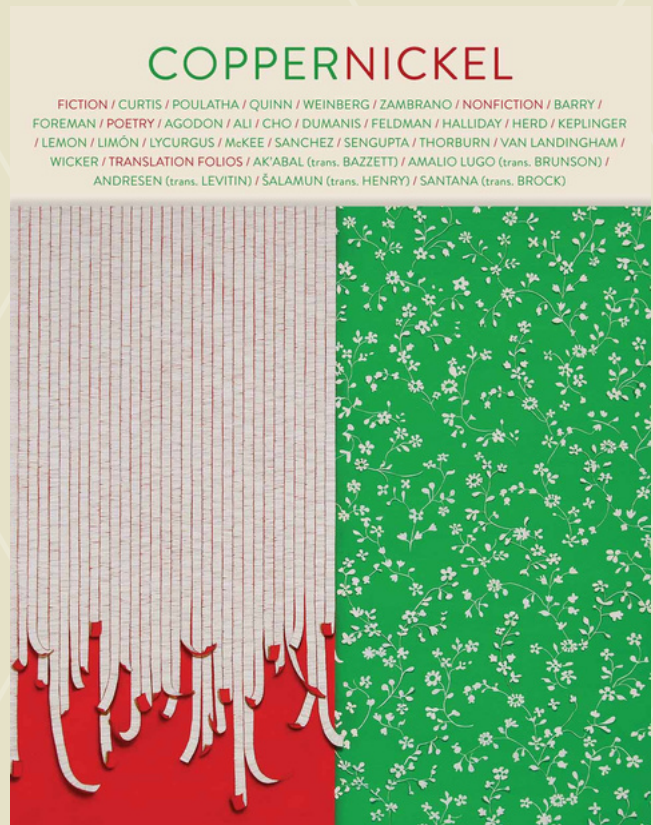
Allen, Katherine  
Finley, Brittney  
House, Jessica Erin  
Langfield, Megan Dempsey  
Martinez, Marrena Elaine  
Nyazi, Susie Nura  
Sheehan, Danielle  
Sleevi, Brian  
Vandal, Andrew  
Voiles, Joshua Michael  
Waddington, Natalie Renee  
Watkins IV, James Porter





# COPPERNICKEL

Each year Clifford Garstang ranks America's literary journals based on how often work from their pages gets reprinted in the prestigious Pushcart Prize anthology. In 2022, out of approximately 700 regularly publishing US literary journals, Copper Nickel is ranked number 11 for poetry and number 35 for fiction.



## ISSUE 34

### POETRY

Kelli Russel Agodon	Graham Hillard David
Abdul Ali	Keplinger Sophie Klahr &
Emily Banks	Corey Zeller
Sean Cho A.	Virginia Konchan Peter
Martha Collins	LaBerge Nick Lantz Lance
Kevin Craft	Larsen Alex Lemon Ada
brittney ray crowell	Limón Cate Lycurgus Marc
Michael Dumanis	McKee Amy Miller Kelly
James Ellenberger	Moffett Jenny Molberg
Chanda Feldman	Alicia
Gary Fincke	Mountain John A. Nieves
Melissa Ginsburg	Anna O'Connor John Poch
Matty Layne Glasgow	Lis Sanchez Indrani
Paul Guest	Sengupta Matthew Thorburn
Mark Halliday	Corey Van LANDINGHAM
Niki Herd	Marcus Wicker Corrie
Rome Hernández Morgan	Williamson

### FICTION

Madeline Haze Curtis  
 Maria Poulatha  
 Alyssa Quinn  
 Kate Weinberg  
 Tara Isabel Zambrano

### NONFICTION

Brooke Barry  
 Robert Long Foreman

### TRANSLATION FOLIOS

Humberto Ak'abal (trans. Bazzett)  
 Sophia de Mello Breyner Andresen (trans. Levitin)  
 Tomáš Šalamun (trans. Henry)  
 Sandra Santana (trans. Brock)  
 Jesús Amalio Lugo (trans. Brunson)

# DENVER WRITING PROJECT

The Denver Writing Project held a week-long professional development workshop for teachers June 6th - 10th. Twenty teachers from Kindergarten to College gathered in community to support one another, write together, and share best practices of teaching writing. Poet and local educator Jovan Mays, educator and researcher Molly Robbins, and our very own Alexander Lumans presented a variety of workshops throughout the week. Jovan discussed ways of teaching and practicing idea generation. Molly discussed sustainable teaching; strategies for teachers to take care of themselves and make a career in education sustainable. Alexander Lumans led a workshop on world building. Multiple teacher-led demonstrations and plenty of time to write and restore filled out the rest of our time. We have repeatedly heard from teachers that the Denver Writing Project offers some of the most meaningful professional development because our work is teacher-centered and writing focused, this summer was no exception. We did great work with great teachers and writers.

The Denver Writing Project also hosted two young writers' camps, one on Auraria Campus and one at Greenwood Elementary in Cherry Creek Schools. 60 young writers grades 3rd through 12th attended the camp at UCD on Auraria Campus June 6th - 10th. The Greenwood Elementary camp had 20 writers grades 3rd - 6th. Young writers attended multiple workshops on writing poetry and fiction and other genres throughout the week. They shared their writing with family and friends at a reading at the end of the week and created a printed anthology of the great work they did this summer.





# CULTUREKLATSCH

Season 3

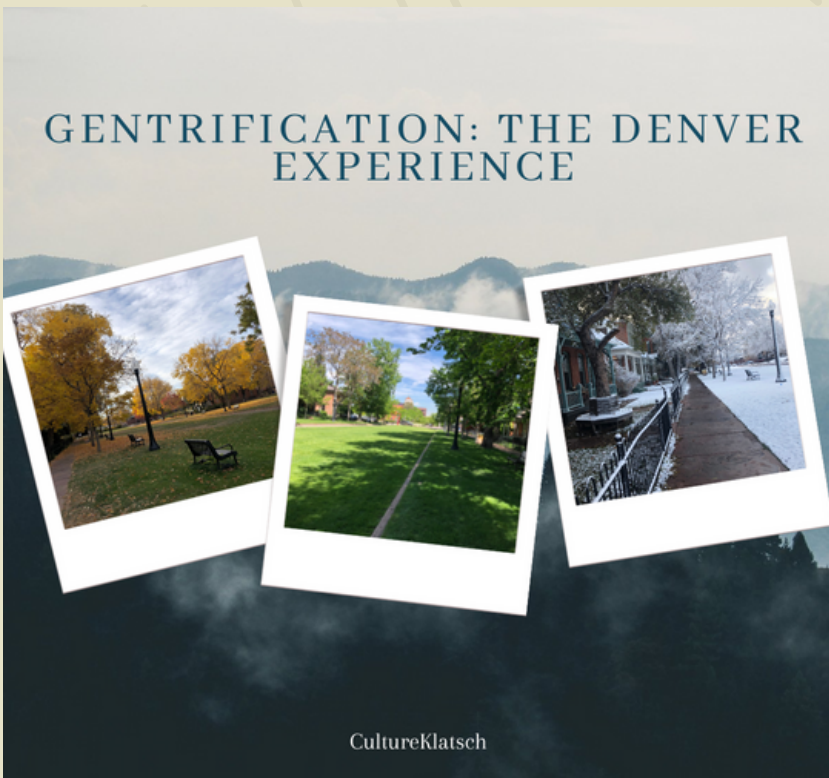


Marketing Mountains:

## Denver's Urban & Nature Balance

### Episode 1

We talk about the history and politics of gentrification here on the CU Denver campus, as well as in the Denver Metro Area. Many news organizations and libraries have documented the ongoing disenfranchisement of the “Displaced Aurarians”—a largely Hispanic neighborhood “relocated” by the Auraria Campus, which houses CU Denver, Metro State University, and Community College of Denver. However, very few news sources have framed that notorious displacement within Denver’s larger culture of gentrification.



CultureKlatsch

### Episode 2

This episode of CultureKlatsch dives into the complex relationship between Denverites and their environment. Specifically, this work explores the dynamic between Colorado's cultural values towards the outdoors versus the actions done to preserve the environment. It looks at the language used to promote “green” culture and the steps being taken (or that have been taken) to show an appreciation for the Rocky Mountains and plains.