

CU DENVER ENGLISH DEPT.

2023 NEWSLETTER



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STAY CHILL AND RELAXED!

Sandy Cheeks wants to remind everyone to enjoy the last couple of days of summer before we kick it into high gear! Stay sane everyone!



I050 NP NEWS

Everyone please remember to walk by and wave goodbye to our old 1050 house. A lot of cherished memories there as it housed our esteemed professors Pompa Banerjee, Teague Bohlen, Gillian Silverman, and Ian Ying.

On a brighter note, it has been completely refurbished and restored as it will be used as the flagship of the new restoration of the historic Ninth Street Park of the displaced Aurarians.

Rita Gomez, who was an original resident of the home at 1050, was present with her family to cut the ribbon for the restoration on May 12th, 2023. We look forward to the restoration of the rest of Ninth Street Park!



A NOTE FROM CHAIR WAYNE MILLER



Despite the climate of budget cuts at CU Denver in 2022–2023, English thrived in many ways throughout the year. Sarah Hagelin and Gillian Silverman were both promoted to Full Professor, and their co-authored book *The New Female Antihero* won the Susan Koppelman Award. Nicky Beer won a Guggenheim Fellowship, and her poetry collection *Real Phonies and Genuine Fakes* won the Lambda Literary Award in Bisexual Poetry. Fatima Esseili was tenured, and Miranda Egger was promoted to Clinical Teaching Track. Miranda also took over as Composition Director, and Rodney Herring stepped into the role of Associate Chair. Michelle Comstock was one of three co-recipients of a \$150k National Endowment for the Humanities Grant. Molly Kugel-Merkner's poetry collection *Groundcover* was published in the fall, John Tinnell's scholarly biography of Mark Weiser was published in the spring, and Kari Campeau's book-in-progress is now under contract. *Copper Nickel* was ranked 10th in poetry and 34th in fiction out of more than 700 regularly publishing literary journals in America, and Andy Scahill's Rainbow Cult Film Series continues to thrive.

On a sadder note, retired professors Rex Burns and Joel Salzberg passed away. And—less sad (but still sad!)—Alexander Lumans has left us for Europe, and Pompa Banerjee is scheduled to retire in early 2024. We'll miss them terribly.

Beyond these milestones, losses, and markers of success—and despite the regular predictions of the death of English and the Humanities that keep bubbling up into the public discourse—our collective efforts focused on the nuances of language and human experience continue to be fundamental. The growth of AI and ChatGPT doesn't diminish the importance of our work; it expands it (as Joanne Addison knows well, having led this summer's CLAS working group on Artificial Intelligence). We're headed toward some of the most consequential trials in US history—a fact that also highlights the importance of English, since the legal professional is rife with English majors. As I write this at the end of the hottest month on record—and as authoritarianism gains more significant footholds around the world—I am absolutely sure that the work we do in English has an essential role to play in helping to explain and unpack the narrative and rhetorical complexities of our moment. So: onward!

NEWS AND EVENTS

Fernanda Cabrera, Kinzey Gill, and Yesenia Olivas-Jimenez were awarded the 2022-2023 Michael S. Gorniak Scholarship.

Kendall Mallon's series of podcasts were chosen as the winner of the Rex Burns Award for best graduate essay of the year!

Doran Seff was awarded the Richard T. Dillon Scholarship award, which recognizes undergraduate excellence in the English Department. Lexi Cipriani was awarded as the follow-up runner for the Dillion Scholarship. Congratulations to you both!

<p>COPPER NICKEL READING SERIES</p>	
<p>ERIKA KROUSE reading from</p>	<p>THE 2023 JAKE ADAM YORK MEMORIAL READING PRESENTS: EMILY PÉREZ</p>
<p>TELL ME EVERYTHING: THE STORY OF A PRIVATE INVESTIGATION</p>  <p>Part memoir and part literary true crime, <i>Tell Me Everything</i> is the mesmerizing story of a landmark sexual assault investigation—right up the road at CU Boulder—and Krouse herself, working as the private investigator who helps crack it open.</p> <p>Q&A and book signing to follow</p> <p>Tuesday, October 4 at 6PM LoRaine Good Room, Tivoli 444 free & open to the public</p> <p><small>Sponsored by the CU Denver English Department, the CU Denver Creative Writing Program, and Copper Nickel</small></p>	<p>POETRY READING</p>  <p>In <i>What Flies Want</i>, disaster looms in domesticity: a family grapples with its members' mental health, a marriage falters, and a child experiments with self-harm. With its backdrop of school lockdown drills, #MeToo, and increasing political polarization, the collection asks how these private and public tensions are interconnected.</p> <p>Q&A and book signing to follow</p> <p>Tuesday, April 4 at 6:00 PM Tivoli 640 (Zenith Room) free & open to the public</p> <p><small>Sponsored by the CU Denver English Department, the CU Denver Creative Writing Program, and Copper Nickel</small></p>

RAINBOW CULT SPRING SEASON

FEB 14: THE BIRDCAGE
MARCH 14: BRING IT ON
APRIL 18: CLUE

SIE FILMCENTER (2510 E COLFAX)




YOUR FAVORITE CAMP FILMS WITH CALLBACKS, PROPS, DRAG PERFORMANCES, CONTESTS & MORE!

HOSTED BY
DR. ANDY SCAHILL
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF FILM
CU DENVER

RAINBOWCULTDENVER.COM

Senior Fiction Reading



Join the senior fiction workshop for a group reading! Enjoy diverse works of fiction and poetry over food and drinks. Anyone is welcome!

When: April 20th, 7 - 9 p.m.

Where: Grandma's House
1710 South Broadway, Denver CO 80210

Buffet-style catering and a cash bar!
No Entrance Fee!

FACULTY NEWS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Anthony Ballas published an article on Nov. 22nd, 2022 for *Caribbean Quarterly*, covering Dr. Alyssa Sepinwall's book, *Slave Revolt on Screen: The Haitian Revolution in Film and Video Games*. On Dec. 14th, Anthony provided a short commentary for *Monthly Review* on the Haitian Revolution and Gerald Horne's book *Confronting Black Jacobins*. On Jan. 14th, 2023, he wrote a review for Mark Steven's book, *Understanding Marx, Understanding Modernism*. Anthony also contributed two entries to the *Encyclopedia of London's East End*, one for David Lynch's *Elephant Man* and Alfred Hitchcock's *The Lodger: A Story of the London Fog*. On Jun. 1st, he interviewed Daniel Tutt on his book *Psychoanalysis and the Politics of the Family: The Crisis on Initiation*. Anthony's interviews with Dr. Gerald Horne have been accepted by a publisher and are expected to come out with an edited collection next year with a preface by Dr. Charisse Burden-Stelly.

Nicky Beer's book *Real Phonies and Genuine Fakes* was a finalist in the category of Bisexual Poetry for 2023's Lambda Literary Awards. Nicky won a Guggenheim Fellowship in Poetry.

Teague Bohlen participated in the Prairie Futures residency this summer 2023 and will have a series of essays published in the Yuma Pioneer and in-full in a book later this winter. He regularly writes for *Westword*, writing a few articles a week covering arts, literature, politics, pop culture, and celebrity interviews. He recently got to talk with Henry Winkler, who told him that he was very cool. Teague says this is probably the best compliment a kid from the 70s could receive.

Kari Campeau published two research articles; one with participants who enrolled in a phase III Covid vaccine trial and a second study about Covid vaccines experiences and discourse.

Michelle Comstock jointly received an National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant alongside two other professors for \$149,197.

Miranda Egger won the CLAS IRC Excellence in Teaching Award on Feb. 21st, 2023.

Sarah Hagelin won the CLAS T/TT Excellence in Service Award on Feb. 21st, 2023.

Molly Kugel's new book *Groundcover* was published on Aug. 16th, 2022. Sidney Wade, author of *Deep Gossip: New and Selected Poems*, praised the book saying that "the poems are often incantatory".

Wayne Miller's poem, "Parable of Childhood" was the "encore" feature on the podcast The Slowdown on Dec. 9, 2022, hosted by US Poet Laureate Ada Limón.

Marcelle Morris, an ICB instructor, was awarded an English Language Specialist Project by the U.S. State Dept.

Andrew Scahill was interviewed by the *Denver Post*, Aug. 15th, 2022 on the launch of the Rainbow Cult series at the SIE center. He was then interviewed shortly after on Aug. 18th by KGWN Denver on his perspective of the film *Beast*. On Oct. 3rd, he had an interview on KGNU on the staging of the *Rainbow Cult* film series.

The co-authored book *The New Female Antihero: The Disruptive Women of Twenty-First-Century US Television* (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2022) by **Sarah Hagelin** and **Gillian Silverman** has won the Susan Koppelman Award for the Best Anthology, Multi-Authored, or Edited Book in Feminist Studies. The Award is given by the Popular Culture Association to one book published in the last three years and "recognizes groundbreaking feminist work in popular culture."

John Tinnell's new book, *The Philosopher of Palo Alto: Mark Weiser, Xerox PARC, and the Original Internet of Things* was published by the University of Chicago Press on May 25th. In June, Tinnell delivered talks about his book at Stanford University, Books Inc., the Palo Alto Research Center (formerly Xerox PARC), and to user experience researchers at Google.

Cynthia Wong contributed to the BBC Radio's "Exploding Library" show and discussed Kazuo Ishiguro's masterpiece, "The Unconsoled." She published two book chapters in 2023 on three of Ishiguro's novels with Manchester UP and Cambridge UP. She presented at the Arts and Humanities conference in Honolulu in early 2023: "Studying Literature with Empathy: Shifting from In-Class to Online Asynchronous Teaching."

STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS


Kinzey Gill, a student of the ENGL Dept., wrote a piece for *The Sentry* on the *Rainbow Cult* film series, its success, and future.

Brandon Heinz, a CU Denver English Alumn, received his PhD in Educational Studies from the University of Nebraska on May 2023.



Alejandro Lucero, who graduated in December with a degree in English-Creative Writing, has had his poetry chapbook, *Sapello Son*, accepted for publication by Bull City Press - a nationally renowned poetry press out of Dunham, North Carolina. This coming Fall, Alejandro will be attending John Hopkins University MFA program on a full scholarship plus a generous stipend.

2022 EDITORS SELECTION



SAPELLO SON by Alejandro Lucero of Denver, CO, the 2022 Editors' Selection

Alejandro Lucero is a writer from Sapello, New Mexico. A 2022 June Fellow at the Bucknell Seminar for Undergraduate Poets, as well as a two-time Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net nominee, his work can be found in *The Adroit Journal*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *The Offing*, *Salamander*, and *Salt Hill*, where he was a finalist for the Philip Booth Prize judged by Matt Rasmussen. He lives in Denver and serves as an associate editor for *Copper Nickel*.

www.bullcitypress.com

CONGRATS TO 2022-2023 UNDERGRADS

FALL 2022 GRADUATES

Barrett, Jordan Lee - English Literature
 Briefs, Celeste Elizabeth - Creative Writing
 Connis, Rowan - Film
 Dickson, Julia - Film
 Emelio, Stephanie - Literature
 Fincher, Taylor - English Writing and Rhetoric
 Graham, Kendall Lauren - English Literature
 Griffith, Amber N - Creative Writing - Summa Cum Laude
 Iwan, Austin M - Creative Writing
 Johnson, Jacob Douglas - Film
 Lucero, Alejandro - Creative Writing - Summa Cum Laude
 Nelson, Vallisha Ruth - English Writing and Rhetoric
 Nunez, Angelica Maria - Creative Writing
 Risley, Morgan Michele - Creative Writing
 Rivera, Rozette - English Writing and Rhetoric
 Sanchez, Starz Faith - Film
 Gormley, Aubrey - Writing and Rhetoric Minor
 Knott, Timothy Don - Creative Writing Minor
 Laws, Lynesha Nicole - Writing and Rhetoric Minor
 Shapard, Samantha - Creative Writing
 West, Jared Andrew - English Literature

SUMMER 2023 GRADUATES

DeBonis, David Jonathan - Creative Writing
 Medina, Jessica Erica - English Writing and Rhetoric
 Nielsen, Beatrice J - Creative Writing
 Williams, Lea Marlene - English Writing and Rhetoric Minor



SPRING 2023 GRADUATES

Adamson, Kendall Lea - Writing and Rhetoric
 Balano, Daniel - Creative Writing
 Baldwin, Donovan - English w/ Secondary Education
 Beatty, Jennifer - English Writing and Rhetoric Minor
 Booker, Nevaeh - English Writing and Rhetoric Minor
 Carlin, Sophia Christine - Writing and Rhetoric Minor
 Carron, Matthew - English w/ Secondary Education
 Chandler, David Lee - English Writing and Rhetoric
 Comer, Aquantis - Creative Writing
 Davis, Rachel Kay - English w/ Secondary Language
 DeBonis, David Jonathan - Creative Writing
 Dempsey, McIntosh - Literature Major and Film Minor
 Drews, Kayla - Creative Writing
 Feingold, Jesse - English Writing and Rhetoric Minor
 Fish, Frances Leanne - English Writing and Rhetoric
 Gaugler, Marissa - English Writing and Rhetoric
 Hawkins, Steven Chase - English Writing and Rhetoric
 Herrera Ramirez, Stephanie - Writing and Rhetoric Minor
 Kim, Erica - Creative Writing Minor
 Klaus, Morgan Raye - English Writing and Rhetoric
 Kollars, Caroline Elizabeth - English Writing and Rhetoric
 Lara, Hannah Brooke - English Writing and Rhetoric Minor
 Leadbetter, Sara - English Writing and Rhetoric
 Lewis, Daniel - English Writing and Rhetoric
 Marchese, Alyssa - Creative Writing
 Mei, Yangsheng - English Writing and Rhetoric
 Meyer, Tyler - English Writing and Rhetoric
 Morton, Josh A - English Writing and Rhetoric Minor
 Moua, Hannah - Creative Writing Minor
 Nielsen, Beatrice J - Creative Writing
 Ngo, Tuyet Minh - English Writing and Rhetoric Minor
 Oliver, Ryan - English Writing and Rhetoric
 Pelich, Kelli - Writing and Rhetoric - Summa Cum Laude
 Pizana, Jose Rogelio - English Literature
 Propst, Torre M - English Writing and Rhetoric Minor
 Ryan, Jett Willem - English Literature - Summa Cum Laude
 Sargent, Charles Casper - Writing and Rhetoric Minor
 Sauermann, Willem Alexander - English Literature
 Sparks, Alexandra - English Writing and Rhetoric
 Thexton, Chariss Nicole - Creative Writing
 Tilbury, Dovlyn - Creative Writing Minor
 Trevithick, Daniel Ryan - English Writing and Rhetoric
 Turner, Elisa - English Literature
 Voss, Melissa Veronica - English Literature
 Wichman, Martha J - English Writing and Rhetoric
 Zhang, Wenjing - English Writing and Rhetoric Minor

CONGRATS TO OUR MA GRADUATES

Kim Gonsalves

Zach Lippman

Belle Fair

Andrew Dixon

Jakub Niedzwiecki

Ashley Gerber

Jessica Day

Hampton Harmon

Ann-Christine Stair

Erin Lococo



COPPER NICKEL

In 2022–3, *Copper Nickel* published issues 35 (fall 2022) and 36 (spring 2023), including work by MacArthur “Genius” Grant–winner Campbell McGrath; National Book Award finalist Leslie Harrison; Kingsley Tufts Award–winner Angie Estes; Los Angeles Poet Laureate Lynn Thompson; Guggenheim fellows Mark Halliday, Eric Pankey, and Michael Waters; James Laughlin Prize–winner Kathryn Nuernberger; Flannery O’Connor Award winner Siamak Vossoughi; and translation folios from China, France, Italy, Khazakhstan, South Korea, Spain, and Vietnam. According to Clifford Garstang’s rankings of the more than 700 US literary journals, *Copper Nickel* now ranks number 10 for poetry and number 34 for fiction. At the AWP Conference in Seattle, we celebrated the seventh year of the Jake Adam York Book Prize with readings by JAY Prize–winners John McCarthy, Kathryn Smith, Brian Tierney, Christopher Brean Murray, and Yalie Saweda Kamara.

JAY READING AT THE AWP CONFERENCE IN SEATTLE



CULTUREKLATSCH

TARGARYENS, TELEVISION, AND TRAUMA: WATCHING GEORGE R. R. MARTIN'S HOUSE OF THE DRAGON I.I7.23

This episode of CultureKlatsch discusses House of the Dragon (the Golden Globe winning prequel to Game of Thrones) in terms of spectatorship and genre. Host Jake Johnson, along with guests Kendall Adamson, Madison Cook, David Debonis, and Landon Sickler (all CU Denver students), create a roundtable discussion on a wide range of topics, including television consumption patterns and rituals, violence against women as a plot device, trauma and spectatorship, the cultural appeal of high fantasy television, the ways HOD mirrors current social relations, the politics of gender and colonialism, artistic intent and HOD as historical account, and the ongoing celebration of “masculine strength” in both GOT and HOD. They speak with several CU Denver professors—Dr. Sarah Hagelin (Ethnic Studies and English), Katy Mohrman (Ethnic Studies), and William Wagner (History)—as well as CU Denver film student Darcen McCampbel and spectators outside the university, Beth Hall and Allie Borgsmiller.



DENVER WRITING PROJECT

The Denver Writing Project had a wonderful summer!

We hosted four Young Writers Camps. The CU Denver at Auraria Camp brought over 100 young writers to campus during the first week of June. We also offered a camp at Willow Creek Elementary school and Standley Lake High School. As a result of a new partnership with Vintage Theater in Aurora, we also hosted a camp there in July.

The DWP Invitational Summer Institute (ENGL 5110), a 3-week institute for teachers of writing K-16 during the month of June, had 10 participants. This group was a wonderful mix of educators and writers who created an incredibly productive professional development community this summer.

The Digital Discourse Research Cohort, a grant funded research project sponsored by the National Writing Project, is entering its fourth year. The grant funded five years of inquiry and development into successful uses of digital platforms in secondary language arts classrooms. This group will begin sharing its findings this year, starting at the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention in November.

We continue to work on Community Writing events and engaging with new teachers and new young writers.



RAINBOW CULT

Assistant Professor Andy Scahill's monthly event Rainbow Cult celebrates one year of entertainment, community, and charity this month. Inspired by the gimmicks of William Castle and the audience participation of The Rocky Horror Picture Show, the event invites audiences to engage with celebrated cult movies like Clue, Serial Mom, or Death Becomes Her with callbacks, props, cosplay, and drag performances. Rainbow Cult events began as a way to reconnect the queer community in Denver post-COVID, but also to support a variety of local charities in Colorado, including the Transgender Center for the Rockies, Rainbow Alley LGBT Youth Services, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Fund, and Denver PFLAG, to name a few. To date, Rainbow Cult has raised nearly \$3,000 for local charities. For Prof. Scahill, the event brings together his varied scholarly interests in subcultural audiences, fandom, and the experiential quality of spectatorship.

For more info and upcoming events, visit rainbowcultshow.com

BIRDCAGE

FEB. 14TH, 2022

ROCKY HORROR

PICTURE SHOW

JUN. 11TH, 2022



A NEW EDITION TO THE ENGLISH DEPT. TEAM!



Harper Lynn Tinnell

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

On November 10th, 2022, Kim and John Tinnell welcomed their new daughter, Harper Lynn Tinnell! She was six pounds, fourteen ounces. According to John, "she has exhibited remarkable grip strength and a seemingly keen sense of wonder.



LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN THE NEW YEAR, THE TINNELLS.

In Memory of Rex Burns



The English Dept. will always remember Rex Burns. Rex passed away on Saturday, March 25th, with his family by his side in Boulder, CO. Rex was a valued professor, colleague, and department chair from 1968 to 2000. To date, Rex had written sixteen novels in three different series, plus another novel under the pseudonym "Tom Sehler". He is also survived by Erik and Karilea. We will never forget you Rex. Rest in peace!

*Dear Rex,
I pretend you are still in this
world, and I thank you for all
that you have done.
Best wishes,
Nancy Ciccone*

*Our students called you "Sexy Rexy." For my part, I was awed by your colorful Marine's vocabulary, and it still makes me laugh.
Susan Linville*

*Rex was fair, honest, and loyal to the English department in ways no one knew. He treated staff as equals and always had our backs...even if we were wrong. He was the first chair I worked with and he was great. We really appreciated him and his sense of humor. God bless you!
Elaine Beemer*

*So many students! So many novels! Such
great leadership!
Thanks for everything, Rex!
Bradford Mudge*

Rex Burns and I were colleagues from 1969 until his retirement thirty or so years later. He was a most valuable member of the department and the college -- hard working (a book a year most years), dependable, always a willing contributor to the community. I especially appreciated his efforts when I was chair for six years during the 1980s. He was as fine teacher, with, apparently, a touch of charisma. Although he affected a tough-guy image (he had been a wrestler at Stanford and afterwards for several years a Marine), his rich humanity manifested itself in his care for his disabled son Drew. Rex was not an easy person to know, and even, when after both of us had retired, we took to walking regularly in the mountains, he never revealed much of himself. We remained colleagues, not friends, to the end.

Elihu Pearlman

In Memory of Joel Salzburg



Joel Salzburg passed away peacefully at age 87 in Boulder, Colorado, where he had lived for the past 53 years. He was born in Brooklyn, New York, to Benjamin and Adele (Sufrin) Salzburg, immigrants as young children from Austria and Romania, respectively. He graduated from City College New York before heading west, receiving a Master's degree in English from Indiana University and Doctorate in English from the University of Oklahoma before his first teaching position at the University of Northern Iowa. He moved to Boulder in 1968 to take up a position in the English Department at the University of Colorado Denver which he held until retirement in 1999 at the rank of full professor. He was passionate about literature, moving from Henry James and Edgar Allen Poe to specializing in Jewish-American writers such as Philip Roth and Bernard Malamud. Joel's friends and colleagues appreciated his learned discourses on literature. He was active in various associations related to his work. He married Kathleen Blackie, who had come to Boulder from Scotland to take an editorial position at the University of Colorado Boulder, INSTAAR. Together they raised their children, Rachel and Graham, in Boulder and made many trips to the United Kingdom and Europe to visit family and to attend academic conferences. Joel enjoyed hiking and snowshoeing in the Boulder area and participating in book discussion groups. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Leonard. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen, and children, Rachel (Erick Eidus) in Oregon and Graham (Tammy Waite Salzburg), and grandson (Gawain Salzburg) in Massachusetts.