

### FALL IS AROUND THE CORNER

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# NOTE FROM THE CHAIR



#### A NOTE FROM CHAIR WAYNE MILLER

This last year has been one of significant changes and transitions for the English Department. Led by Phil Joseph, the Literature and Film Tracks in English have merged into one Literature-and-Film Track, and, led by Joanne Addison and Kari Campeau, EWRT has launched a new Certificate in Writing and Editing with AI. These are both exciting developments that help position the Department toward the future.

Rodney Herring took over as Associate Chair and has been doing an outstanding job, and Miranda Egger has been doing excellent work in her new role as Composition Director. Michelle Comstock left us for the Dean's Office during the 2023–4 year and will be a Faculty Fellow there this fall. Sarah Hagelin continues to serve as Interim Chair of Ethnic Studies. And we've had several promotions in the Department! Nicky Beer was promoted to Full Professor, and Peter Franks, Kristen Golden, Christopher Doxtator, and Donald Hatcher were all promoted to Senior Instructor.

#### A NOTE FROM CHAIR WAYNE MILLER

The University's second round of budget cuts included incentivized retirements, and several of our longstanding and beloved faculty members took advantage of them. Pompa Banerjee retired in January, and Jeff Franklin, Cynthia Wong, and Ian Ying retired at the end of the spring semester. Additionally, Senior Instructor Chris Bodden—Academic Director of CU Denver's International College Beijing (ICB) Program—is leaving ICB for a move to Boston, and ICB Instructors Marcy Morris and Shauna Musser have also left (Marcy has retired; Shauna has returned to the States). Back here in Denver, Instructor Jack Gialanella has left the Department in anticipation of an impending move away from Colorado. We will miss all these wonderful colleagues, and we're excited for what's next for them!

Of course, all this leaving means new people are coming in! Last year, Veronica Jayne joined us as an Instructor in the ESL Academy. Veronica holds a PhD from Purdue University; she studied Spanish and Portuguese in South America and has taught English in both South Korea and China. And two new Instructors have joined us at ICB: Evan Coles-Harris holds a PhD in Linguistics from CU Boulder, and Matthew Jellick holds an MA in Teaching from the University of Southern California.

And now six new Emergency Instructors will be joining us to teach a variety of courses on the CU Denver campus. Christine Battista holds a PhD in Literature and Rhetoric from SUNY Binghamton and chaired the Media and Communications Studies Department at Johnson & Wales before its closing. L.A. Jennings holds a PhD in English from the University of Denver, where she's been teaching as an affiliate faculty member. Masoud Mahmoodi-Shahrebabaki holds a PhD in Literacy Studies from Middle Tennessee State University and has been lecturing at the University of California Irvine. Casey Rudkin holds a PhD from Michigan Tech and has taught all over the country—most recently at Kenai Peninsula College in Soldotna, Alaska. Tie Torres holds an MA from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and has recently taught at Community College of Denver. And Sara Webster holds an MFA from New York University's Writers Workshop in Paris; she's been a recent lecturer for both the English Department and the College of Arts and Media. Please help us make these folks feel welcome! I'm thrilled we've been able to hire such an excellent new cohort.

There are many other developments I could mention—Nicky Beer's Guggenheim Fellowship, Rainbow Cult's expansion into Meow Wolf, the fact that we're now offering competitive creative writing student scholarships to Summer Lit Fest at the Lighthouse, Kari Campeau's work expanding internship opportunities for our students—but in the interest of space, I'll simply close with one last important development: Fatima Esseili's daughter Noor was born on June 3, and Fatima will be on maternity leave this fall. Congratulations, Fatima, and welcome to the world, Noor!

# NEWS AND EVENTS

The 2024 Richard T. Dillon Award was awarded to Lexi Cipriani, which recognizes undergraduate excellence in the English Dept. Professor Dillon (1933-2015) taught in the Department from 1969-1999. His love of teaching, travelling all over the world, and linking literature to opera music endeared him to his students and colleagues. Annually, we honor his memory with this scholarship.

Fernanda Cabrera, Asma Al-Masyabi, and Isaac Dolores were awarded the 2023-2024 the Michael S. Gorniak Award in Creative Writing. Michael Stewart Gorniak was an ebullient spirit and a tireless writer, always searching for new ways to express himself, improve his art, and to help others. Michael worked for the UCD Student Newspaper and in the UCD Writing Center and in various efforts in the Denver Metro community to create support networks for artists. More than anything, Michael wanted to change the world with his words.

The 2024 Rex Burns Award for best graduate essay went to Shannon Anglemire, for "CRT in DCSD: Addressing the Extent to Which CRT is Present in the Douglas County School District Equity Policy".

### CU Denver's Creative Writing Program is proud to announce the winners of the Inaugural Lit Fest Creative Writing Scholarships!

The scholarships are offered by CU Denver's Department of English and Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities; applicants are evaluated by a committee of Creative Writing faculty. The winning students will each have \$1000 for tuition and expenses to attend the Lighthouse Writers Workshop's annual Lit Fest, taking place in Denver, June 7-14, 2024. Winners will also present on their Lit Fest experiences and read some of their creative work at the annual Research & Creative Activities Symposium (RACAS) in the Spring 2025 semester.



**Grayson Adams** is a writer and graphic/web designer in Denver, Colorado. They are currently an intern at *Copper Nickel* and worked previously as lead graphic designer at *Heavy Feather Review*. Their work has thus far appeared in *Obscura*, and they are pursuing a creative writing major and screenwriting minor at CU Denver.



Asma Al-Masyabi is a poet, writer, visual artist, and student based in Colorado. She is a Scholastic Silver Medal Poetry winner and ruth weiss Foundation Emerging Poet Award winner with publications in *The Cincinnati Review, Subnivean, Santa Clara Review,* and more. She's currently pursuing a degree in creative writing at the University of Colorado Denver and looks forward to a career filled with words and art, her two biggest passions.



Fernanda Cabrera is a junior at CU Denver majoring in English (Creative Writing) and Spanish (Literature and Language). She is a recipient of a 2022–2023 Michael S. Gorniak Scholarship. She has volunteered as a teacher assistant in a dual-language classroom, and she has volunteered as an interpreter for migrants applying for work authorizations. She also loves hanging out with her dog,

What is Lighthouse Writers Workshop? "Lighthouse Writers Workshop is the largest literary arts center in the Rocky Mountain West. For more than 20 years, we've provided quality instruction, community events, and artistic support for writers and readers of all levels, ages, and backgrounds."

What is Lit Fest? "Lit Fest is an eight-day celebration of writers and readers, an extravaganza of weeklong and weekend advanced workshops, craft seminars, readings, salons, business panels, agent meetings, and parties."

## NEWS AND EVENTS

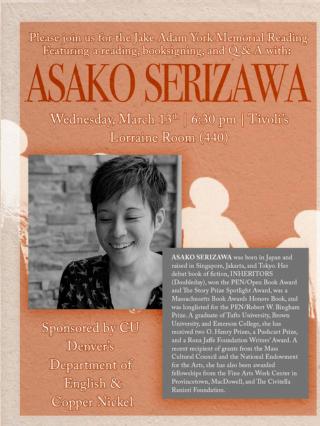


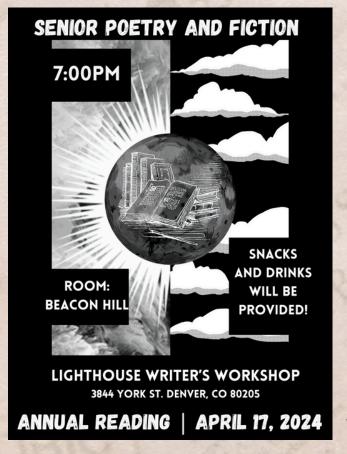
The University of Colorado Denver **CREATIVE WRITING READING SERIES RANDALL MANN & STEPHEN SEXTON** Wednesday, November 8 / 6pm Tivoli Building / Zenith Room 640 / Auraria Campus A queer poet, critic, and medical writer, RANDALL MANN is the author of six poetry collections, most recently Deal: New & Selected Poems (Copper Canyon, 2023). He has received the Kenyon Review Prize in Poetry and the J. Howard and Barbara M. J. Wood Prize from Poetry magazine, and his books have beer shortlisted for the Lambda Literary Award and the California Book Award. He lives in San Francisco. "Mann uses his own history to interrogate the experience of American life beyond the cis, white, heteronormative bubble, and he imbues his questions with humor and rhythm." Northern Irish poet STEPHEN SEXTON is the author of two poetry collections: If All the World and Love Were Young (Penguin, 2019) and Cheryl's Destinies (2021). He has won the UK National Poetry Competition, the Forward Prize for Best First Collection, the E. M. Forster Award, and the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature. He teaches at Queen's University Belfast and lives in Derry. "Sexton's flair comes in balancing the otherworldly with the very ordinary, acutely observed detail . . . joyous and often very, very funny." — Poetry Review

free and open to the public / all are welcome

"A poetry debut fit to compare with Seamus Heaney."

-The Times





### FACULTY NEWS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Anthony Ballas published a piece for Protean Magazine titled, "Philosopher Divya Dwivedi Among Latest Targets of India's Right Wing". Tony discusses Dwivedi's criticism of India's caste system and backlash. He was also interviewed by the Iran's Book and Literature House for Iranian Book Week. Anthony & Dr. Gerald Horne coauthored a piece contextualizing the recent SAG & WGA strikes within the history of class struggle in Hollywood dating back to the 40s & 50s, & in the labor movement more broadly. They discuss Red Scare politics, past & present in this piece.

**Teague Bohlen** published a piece in Westword covering Andrew Scahill's Rainbow Cult, its success and upcoming sold-out movie screening of Sister Act at Meow Wolf.

Colleen Donnelly has been leading Accessibility Operations Team out of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, whose goal is to making the CU Denver campus accessible and inviting for all.

Jo Luloff received a fellowship from the Corporation of Yaddo in Saratoga Springs, New York in support of my novel-in-progress. She spent the month of July, 2024 at this artist and writers' residency. Yaddo was established in 1900, and it is one of the oldest and most storied artist residencies in the country. Wayne Miller's poem "Toward a Unified Theory," originally published in American Poetry Review, received a Pushcart Prize and was reprinted in the 2024 Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses anthology.

Bradford Mudge will be giving two conference presentations this fall, both on Joshua Reynolds and his portrait of Mai, recently purchased jointly by the NPG and the Getty. In addition, Professor Mudge has two essays forthcoming, one on the theory of portraiture and another on the self-portraits of Thomas Patch.

**Nicole Piasecki** had a CNF piece adapted to radio on *This American Life*. The episode is called "Letters! Actual Letters!" and Nicole's story is "Act 1".

Andrew Scahill had a keynote speaker, poet Kerrie Joy, deliver the sermon for the Rainbow Cult showing of Sister Act at Meow Wolf. The Showing was on February 4th. John Purfield just had a book review published in enculturation of Debra Hawhee's "A Sense of Urgency: How the Climate Crisis is Changing Rhetoric".

**Emily Wortman-Wunder** will have an essay that will come our in the fall issue of the *Colorado Review*. Also, the inaugural issue of Adjunctification that she has been involved with has finally gone online and it an article by Emily and Anthony Ballas.

### STUDENT/ALUMNI NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Asma Al-Masyabi has won the 2023 Emerging Poet Award from the Ruth Weiss Foundation for her poem "The Future I Feed My Brother." The award comes with a \$1,500 grant. The Ruth Weiss Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to create opportunities to support poetic artists through their annual grant program. Asma published "Loss for Words" in The Cincinnati Review. She is a Scholastic Silver Medal Poetry winner with publications in Subnivean, the Santa Clara Review, the Riverstone Literary Journal, and more. She often uses poetry as a way to process the world, as she does with "The Future I Feed My Brother," which she dedicates to her younger brother. She's currently pursuing a degree in creative writing at the University of Colorado Denver and looks forward to a career filled with words and art, her two biggest passions.

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

**Kendall Mallon**'s series of podcasts were chosen as the winner of the 2023 Rex Burns Award for best graduate essay of the year!

Doran Seff was awarded the Richard T. Dillon Scholarship award for 2023, which recognizes undergraduate excellence in the English Department. Lexi Cipriani was awarded as the follow-up runner for the Dillion Scholarship.

### CONGRATS TO OUR 2023-2024 UNDERGRAD GRADUATES

#### **FALL 2023 GRADUATES**

Abdikadir, Hawa
Alvarez, Rachel
Davis, Michelle
Donovan, Lucia
Gautam, Priyanka
Leer, Bethany Grace
Lowe, Kayla Kristen
Ludwig, Samantha Alexis
Ratliff, Taylor Rae
Spector, Zoe Shalom
Starr, Nathanial
Templeton, Lisa
Wagner, Brittany Lee
Wolff, Anise Ester Lucille

#### **SUMMER 2024 GRADUATES**

Hannah Anderson
Juliet Ariza
Nicholas Coleman
Julia Jacobs
Hannah Levy
Jett Kassab
Jackson Robinson
Michael Rodriguez
Doran Seff



#### SPRING 2024 GRADUATES

Aghanoury, Padideh Anderson, Hannah Arevalo, Omar Barela, Sierra Victoria Bonner, Elaina Jewel Burns, Jefferson Calzadillas Sotelo, Edith Campbell, Jackson Jude Allan Cook, Madison Curtis, Daisy Donnon, Deana Maureen Erdman, Anna Ernster, John-Taylor Fish, Frances Leanne Galloway, Estalina Aileen Maxwell Henley, Julieanne Shelby Horton, Juniper R Knodle, David R Levy, Hannah Louise Maas, Samantha Louise Muric, Lejla Noonnak-Sanitkhum, Naliya Pason-Guy, Nathan Perry, Zackarie Petre, Drew Michael Ashour, Tarek Cutchin, Amelia Anne Galloway, Daphne Lorelei Gray, Shirl Keelie Huang, Kaiyin Noonnak-Sanitkhum, Naliya Pason-Guy, Nathan Rubio-Villa, Raquel Solis, Nayeli Zhao, Yining Points, Maxwell Potter, Veronica Victoria Riepe, Tayler Michelle Rodrique, Jack Lucas Schmidt, Danielle Marie Valt, Brandon Luis Vanmorter, Danielle Rose Willison, Stephen

Yustat, Alyssa Drew

# CONGRATS TO OUR 2023-2024 MA GRADUATES

Casey McGill
Annalise Benjamin
Harsh Ghaghada
Kendall Mallon

Hanan Oteif
Lilly Wadding
Harry (Hap) Weir
Michael Wright



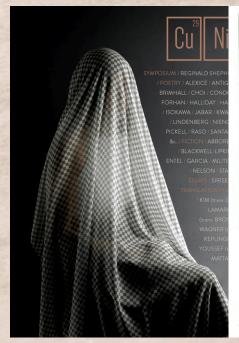
# COPPER NICKEL

In 2023-4, Copper Nickel continued its regular, biannual publication schedule.

Our October 2023 issue featured translation folios from Italian (Elena Varvello), Russian (Anzhelina Polonskaya), and Ukrainian (Alex Averbuch), as well as a feature folio of South American women poets (Eliana Hernández Pachón, Claudia Magliano, and Úrsula Starke). American writers in the issue included International Latino Book Award—winner William Archila, Lambda Literary Award—winner Benjamin S. Grossberg, Grolier Prize—winner John Hodgen, Jake Adam York Prize—winners Yalie Saweda Kamara and Christopher Brean Murray, Audre Lord Award—winners Meg Day and Maureen Seaton, and National Book Critics Circle Award—finalist Sinéad Morrissey.

Our spring 2024 issue featured an expansive symposium on the work of Reginald Shepherd—brilliant African American poet and iconoclast who died in 2008 at the age of 45. Translation Folios in the issue included work translated from Arabic (Saadi Youssef), German (Jan Wagner), Italian (Vivian Lmarke), and Korean (Kim Hyesoon). American writers in the issue included Rilke Prize—winners Rick Barot and Paisley Rekdal, National Book Award—Finalist Tommye Blount, Hurston/Wright Legacy Award—winner Myronn Hardy, Whiting Award—winner Diannely Antigua, Guggenheim Fellow Geoffrey Brock, Amy Lowell Fellow Rebecca Lindenberg, Rome Fellow Mark Halliday, Betty Gabehart Prize—winner Jennifer Militello, Fulbright Scholar Matthew Lawrence Garcia, and Civitella Writing Fellow Hasanthika Sirisena.

Copper Nickel also continues to be one of three US journals that supports the Unsung Masters Series—a book series that each year brings back into print one "unjustly neglected" and/or out-of-print author. Wayne Miller is a co-founder and co-director, and Joanna Luloff is a board member. 2024's volume was on Beat and Black Arts poet Tom Postell, who was a significant influence on Amiri Baraka, and who was friends with Ornette Coleman and Allen Ginsberg (as well as many other mid-century Greenwich Village writers, artists, and musicians). Tom Postell: On the Life and Work of an American Master, edited by Michael C. Peterson and Anthony Sutton, is available at bookstores and via distributor Asterism Books.





ON THE LIFE AND WORK OF AN AMERICAN MASTER
Edited by MICHAEL C. PETERSON and ANTHONY SUTTON
THE UNSUNG MASTERS SERIES



POETRY / ARCHILA / ALLEN / BAZZETT / BEEDER / CHAN / DAHAL / DAY / FALOMO / GABBERT / IRWIN / KAMARA /

### DENVER WRITING PROJECT

The Denver Writing Project (DWP) had a great summer! At the beginning of the summer, we announced winners in the Fourth Annual Colorado Young Writers contest for writers ages 13-17 in Poetry, Fiction, and Non-Fiction. Some of those winners attended our Young Writers Camps (YWC).

We offered 3 YWC; one at Mandalay Middle School, one on Auraria Campus, and one at Dry Creek elementary school. 10 local teachers of writing facilitated the camps which served 120 young writers.

DWP hosted a week-long institute for teachers of writing during the first week of June. Teachers met in community as writers and teachers, formed writing groups to work on personal writing, and shared best practices for teaching writing. Teachers had the opportunity to work with local poet Jovan Mays and to learn about sustainable teaching practices - how teachers can sustain themselves in the profession of education.

Regarding Sustainable Teaching, the DWP hosted 4 Sustainable Teaching workshops last academic year. This fall a cohort of teachers of color will lead a Sustainable Teaching workshop series specifically for other teachers of color.

This fall will also mark the fifth, and final, year of the Digital Discourse grant. This is a grant that we won in early 2020 to explore the use of digital spaces in discussion of literature in secondary classrooms. Needless to say, the scope and focus of the work for this grant has changed. Three months in, we experienced a global pandemic, and everyone was using digital spaces. The work that this group has done, in partnership with the Philadelphia Writing Project at the University of Pennsylvania, is incredible. Today the work focuses on using digital spaces for equity in education, and of course, evolving AI technologies' intersections with reading and writing in secondary classrooms.

This summer, we also won a new grant from the National Writing Project (NWP) called the Pathways grant. This grant will support the dissemination of the NWP Pathways Project to more educators. The Pathways Project comes from the University of California Irvine School of Education in partnership with NWP and provides teacher with professional development on how to integrate cognitive strategies into reading and writing instruction to improve English learner outcomes.





# DENVER WRITING PROJECT













## RAINBOW CULT

Professor Scahill's Rainbow Cult has had a busy season, with two major immersive cult cinema events: first a special presentation of the drag camp classic To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything Julie Newmar at the Historic Elitch Theatre-Denver's oldest cultural arts venue! Over 300 folks attended Rainbow Cult's first Pride festival and movie event!

And on July 22 and 23, Rainbow Cult staged two sold-out showings of The Rocky Horror Picture Show with a full shadowcast and 360-degree digital projection in Meow Wolf Denver's cutting-edge performance space!





# THE ESL ACADEMY IS AN OFFICIAL IELTS TEST CENTER!

The ESL Academy is thrilled to announce that we are now officially an IELTS Test Center! You can find more details on our <u>webpage</u>. The center is now open for registration and candidates can easily schedule their tests by scanning the QR code on the attached flyer. For inquiries, candidates can email <u>ielts@ucdenver.edu</u> or call the ESL Academy at 303-315-2383. Please feel free to share this information with your networks, students, and any other interested parties. Thank you for your support!



The world's most trusted English test

ESL Academy, Denver, is a secure, easily accessible test center, set up with you in mind.

Offering IELTS Academic, and IELTS General Training, it is the perfect place to take your test without distractions.



### **Register today!**

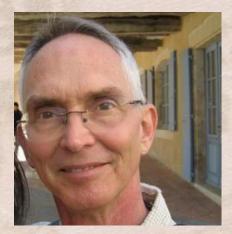
#### **ESL Academy, University of Colorado Denver**

1100 Lawrence Street #014 Denver, Colorado <u>ielts@ucdenver.edu</u>

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE



Pompa Banerjee taught courses in early modern literature and culture. Her research examined the literary and cultural dimensions of Europe's cross-cultural encounters in the global Renaissance, especially in the ways they shape identity and space in the age of discovery. She is also interested in European witchcraft and the gendering of the supernatural. She is the author of Burning Women: Widows, Witches, and Early Modern European Travelers in India (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003) and essays on Renaissance literature and travel narratives.



Jeff Franklin has been a professor at CU Denver since 2000. He has had the pleasure of teaching a wide range of literature and literary studies courses, especially in the history of the novel, nineteenth-century British literature and culture, critical theory, and poetry. His scholarship has come to focus on religion in Victorian Britain, Buddhism and alternative religions. He also teaches mindfulness meditation. He loves living in Denver with his wife, Judy Lucas, and being with their grown children and granddaughter. He loves to talk with family and friends, read, camp, hike, kayak, sail, ski, hang out at the beach, and sit in nature's beauty.



Cynthia F. Wong taught modern and contemporary literature and narrative theory. She studied Psychology and English at the University of the Pacific (B.A.) and medieval and modern literature at the University of Chicago (M.A.); her Ph.D. is from the University of Milwaukee-Wisconsin. Her research focus was on a study of space and geography in world literature, and she was recognized as one of the key North American scholars of Nobel-winning British author Kazuo Ishiguro. She is the author of Writers and Their Work: Kazuo Ishiguro (3rd edition, 2019) and has co-edited a volume of Ishiguro interviews (2008) as well as one of critical essays (2015). She received the CLAS Excellence Awards for Teaching (2004) and Research (2016).



lan Ying taught in Applied Linguistics and TESOL. He is the author of Investigating Reconstruction in a Second Language (Lincom Europa 2003). His research focused on Relevance-based pragmatics and Second Language Acquisition. His research interests also included the interface between cognition and second language acquisition.

