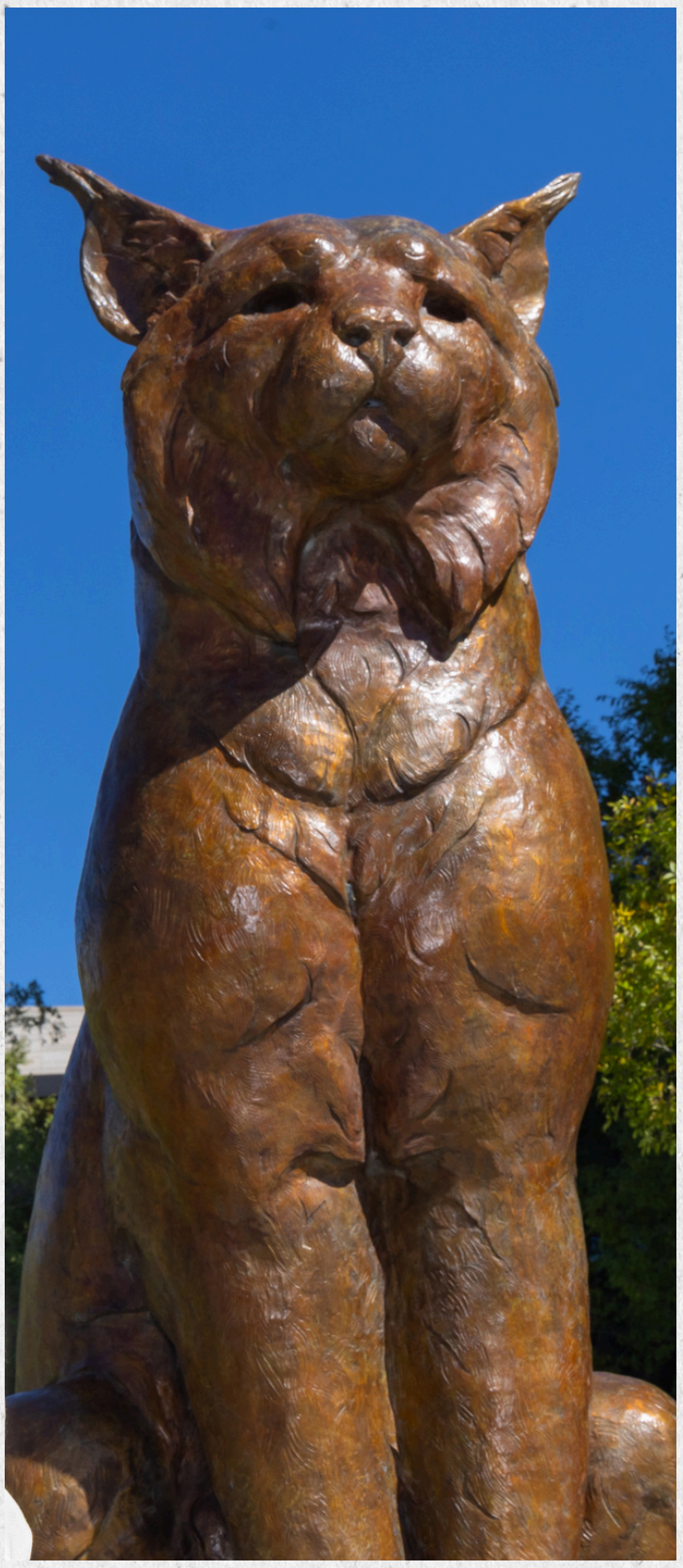
AUGUST
2026

CU DENVER ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 30



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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR
WAYNE MILLER



First things first: 2026–7 will be my fifth and final year serving as Chair of English. This past spring, after I announced I would be stepping down, the Department elected Rodney Herring to take over in fall 2027. Rodney has been Associate Chair for the past three years and has done amazing, invaluable work. He already knows pretty much everything he needs to know to serve as Chair—but, just to make sure, this fall he'll be shadowing the current Chair (me!), a practice many of the departments in CLAS have begun over the past couple years. He'll then be on sabbatical in spring 2027, so he'll show up bright-eyed and bushy-tailed when he returns. I'm very excited to see where the Department goes under his leadership.

Meanwhile, this past year has been productive and excellent for English. Michelle Comstock was promoted to Professor, and Kari Campeau was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor. Molly Kugel was promoted to Senior Instructor, and Kyle Crawford, Paul DeMarte, Lisa Spears, and Julie Vick were all promoted to Principal Instructor—a new rank awarded for sustained teaching excellence. Congratulations to all!

At International College Beijing, Instructor Thomas Kaufmann has finished his first year teaching for us, and Christopher Ott has joined us as a new Instructor. Welcome aboard!

At International College Beijing, Instructor Thomas Kaufmann has finished his first year teaching for us, and Christopher Ott has joined us as a new Instructor. Welcome aboard!

NOTE FROM THE CHAIR
WAYNE MILLER

As ever, the Department continues to produce significant scholarship and creative work. Perhaps most notable in this past year, Instructor Christine Battista published the co-edited book Mediated Feminisms, Politics, and Pop Culture: An Intertextual Anthology, and Copper Nickel had three (!) pieces chosen for the Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses annual anthology—our best showing yet.

In the sad news category: Emerita Professor Mary Rose Sullivan—one of the founding members of the English Department—passed away in September 2025. Brad Mudge, Colleen Donnelly, and Elaine Beemer all wrote lovely remembrances, which can be found on the Department website. And Instructor Michael McLane, who retired from CU Denver in 2022, passed away in February 2026. In May, his family hosted a memorial in the Washington Park Boathouse, and many of our faculty were in attendance.

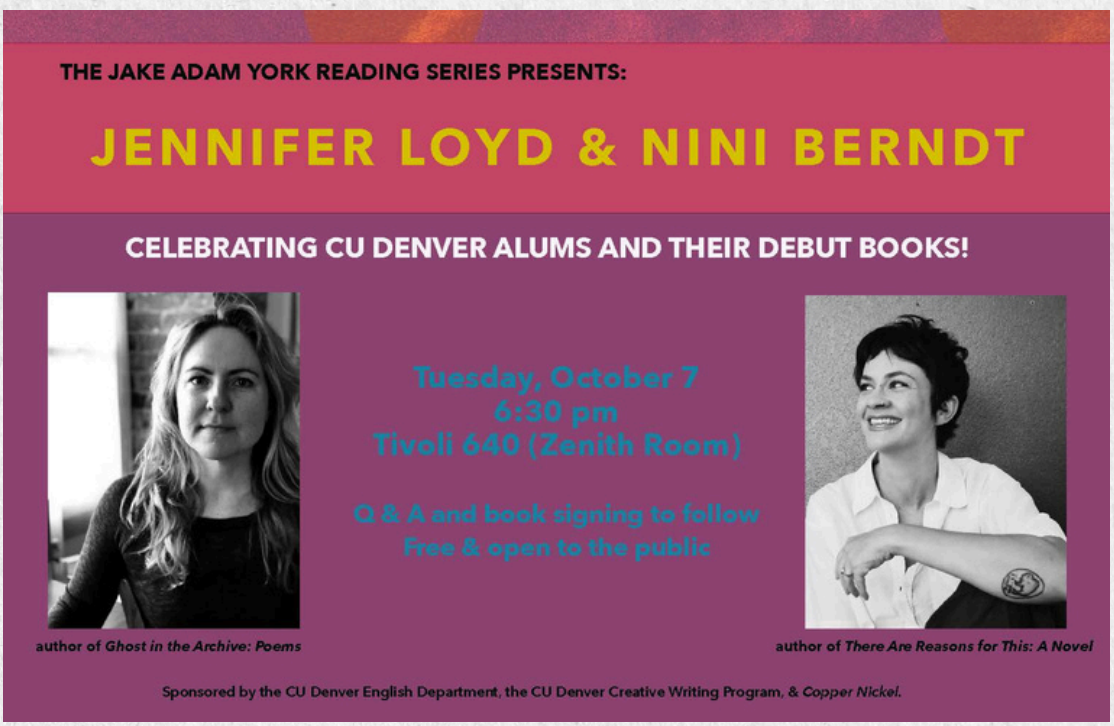
Less sad, but still sad: Professor Sarah Hagelin has taken a job at James Madison University and is leaving us. Professor Hagelin taught brilliantly for us for fourteen years, and though we're happy she's landed in a place she really wants to be, we're sad to see her go.

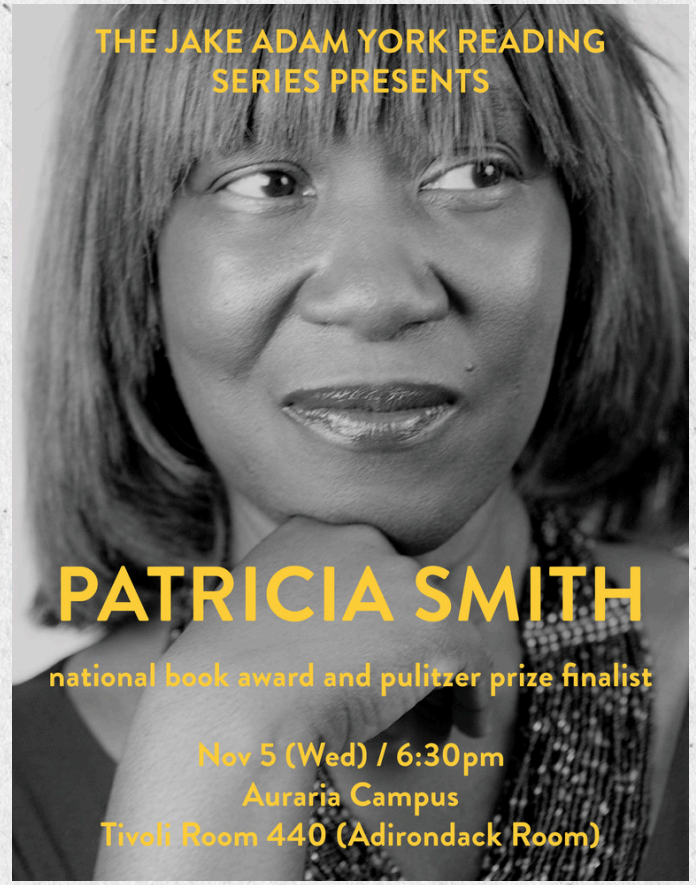
All in all, the moment we're living in continues to be complex and difficult for those of us in the Humanities. Humanities undergraduate enrollments have declined significantly—at some schools as much as 50% in the past two decades—and we at CU Denver haven't been immune to this trend. What's more, the advent of generative AI has raised lots of thorny ethical, practical, and pedagogical concerns for those of us whose work focuses on the interpretation and deployment of language.

But I'm pleased to say that the English Department has been working incredibly hard to explain the value of an English major—which just this year Forbes magazine ranked as the most versatile major in higher education—and to reshape our offerings to meet our students' needs in this new moment. The Department has designed multiple new certificates and microcredentials; the Lit-Film major has been revised considerably to offer students more flexibility; we've significantly expanded our internship opportunities; and we now offer an MA in English Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics. Building on the Creative Writing program's Jake Adam York Reading Series, the EWRT program will, in 2026–7, bring two renowned nonfiction writers to campus to read from their work, which will help further expand the visibility of EWRT and the Department. All of this is the result of serious and sustained work by our faculty over and above their teaching and research.

And it seems like the work is paying off! I'm pleased to say that our major and graduate student enrollments are up by nearly 13% since this time last year. My hope is that this turn is just the beginning for us. We have an incredibly talented and dedicated department, and an English major remains one of the best, broadest preparations for a whole host of career and educational paths. I'm so glad to see students again finding increasing value in what we do, and I'm grateful to our faculty who have been working so hard to make that happen.

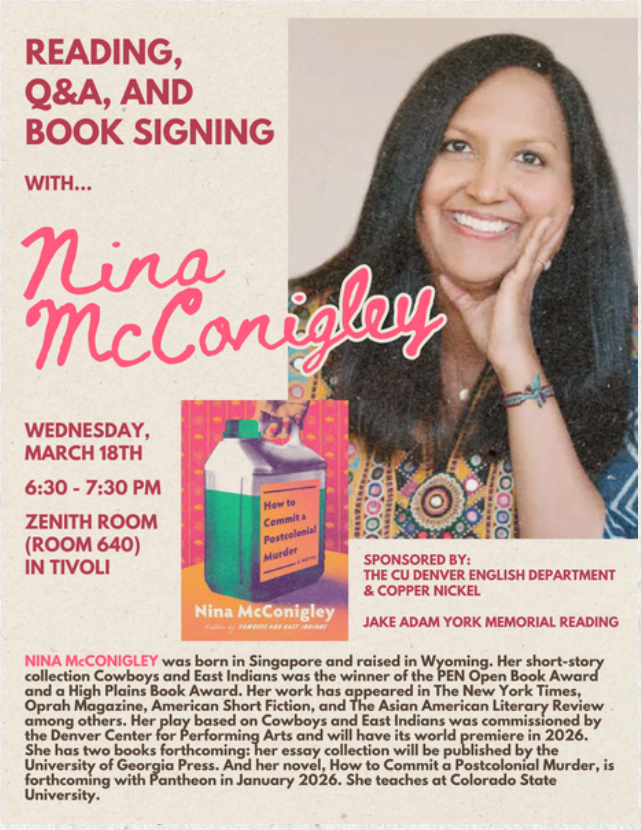
NEWS & EVENTS

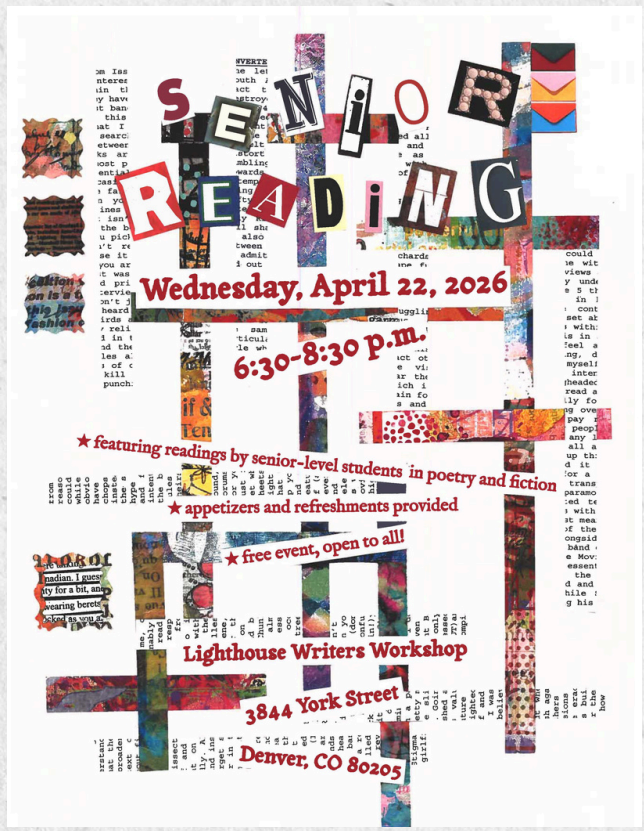

THE JAKE ADAM YORK READING SERIES PRESENTS:
JENNIFER LOYD & NINI BERNDT
CELEBRATING CU DENVER ALUMS AND THEIR DEBUT BOOKS!
Tuesday, October 7
6:30 pm
Tivoli 640 (Zenith Room)
Q & A and book signing to follow
Free & open to the public
author of Ghost in the Archive: Poems
author of There Are Reasons for This: A Novel
Sponsored by the CU Denver English Department, the CU Denver Creative Writing Program, & Copper Nickel.


THE JAKE ADAM YORK READING SERIES PRESENTS
PATRICIA SMITH
national book award and pulitzer prize finalist
Nov 5 (Wed) / 6:30pm
Auraria Campus
Tivoli Room 440 (Adirondack Room)


THE JAKE ADAM YORK READING SERIES PRESENTS
STEVEN ESPADA DAWSON
CU Denver Alum / Ruth Lilly Fellow / Pushcart Prize Winner / Madison WI Poet Laureate
Feb 26 (Thurs) / 6:30pm
Auraria Campus
Tivoli Room 640 (Zenith Room)

NEWS & EVENTS





CU Denver's Creative Writing Program is proud to announce the winners of its 2026-7 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 12-19, 2026. 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 2027 semester.



Riona Fryer is a Colorado-based undergraduate pursuing BAs in English (Creative Writing) and Philosophy. She works as an associate editor for *Copper Nickel* and is serving her first term as president of CU Denver's creative writing club. To date, her work has appeared in ACCs *Progenitor* and *The Sentry*, and her short story "Amaranthine" has been nominated for the 2026 AWP Intro Journals Award. She hopes you have a nice day!



Gale Khayut is a Creative Writing, Psychology, and Philosophy major at CU Denver. Rather than being scattered, she prefers to frame her pursuits as a well-rounded education of the human condition. She has presented an anthology of short stories at the Research and Creative Activities Symposium (RaCAS) in 2025, and been a EURēCA! Summer Fellow. She is currently volunteering as a research assistant in Dr. Krista Ranby's lab for a smoking couples cessation study, and reads for *Copper Nickel*.



Nathan Moreno is a handsome middle-aged student pursuing a degree in creative writing at CU Denver. He is a former DMG machine operator, a USMC veteran, and once published a play in *Progenitor*. When not writing short stories and poems he enjoys summer road trips, hiking Echo Lake, suffering winter ennui, and playing Euchre. His cat is named Toby.

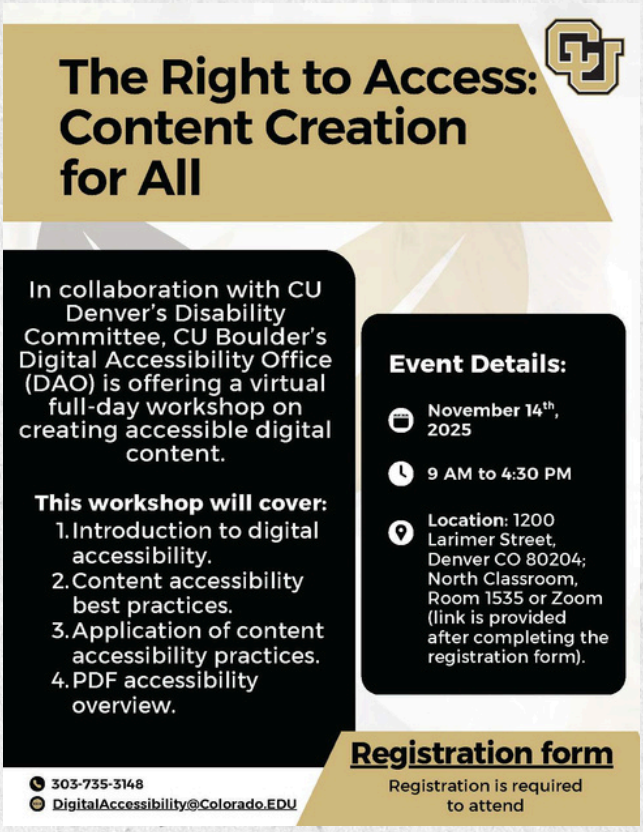
What is Lighthouse Writers Workshop? "Lighthouse Writers Workshop is the largest literary arts center in the Rocky Mountain West. For more than 20 years, we've provided quality instruction, community events, and artistic support for writers and readers of all levels, ages, and backgrounds."

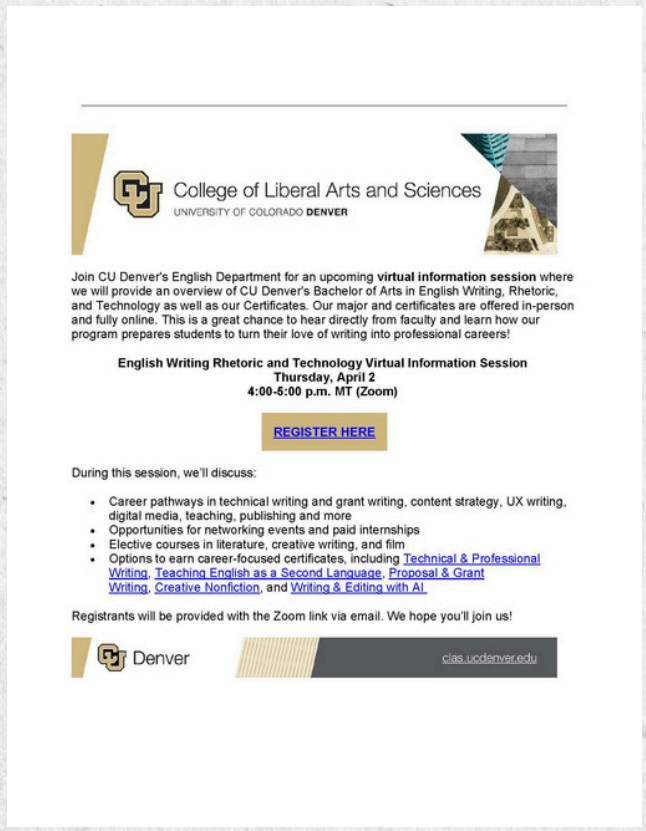
What is Lit Fest? "Lit Fest is an eight-day celebration of writers and readers, an extravaganza of weeklong and weekend advanced workshops, craft seminars, readings, salons, business panels, agent meetings, and parties."

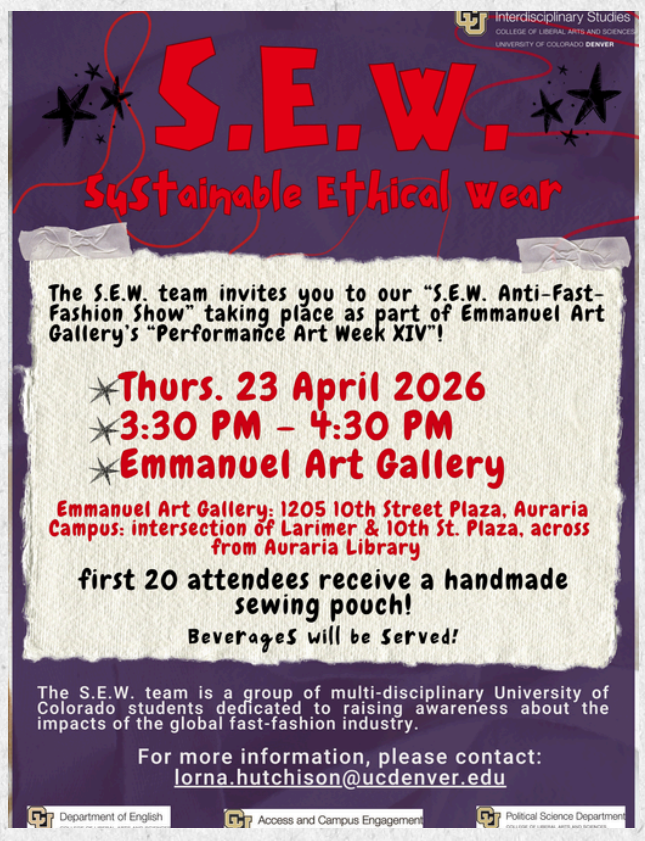
More information can be found at lighthousewriters.org.



NEWS & EVENTS

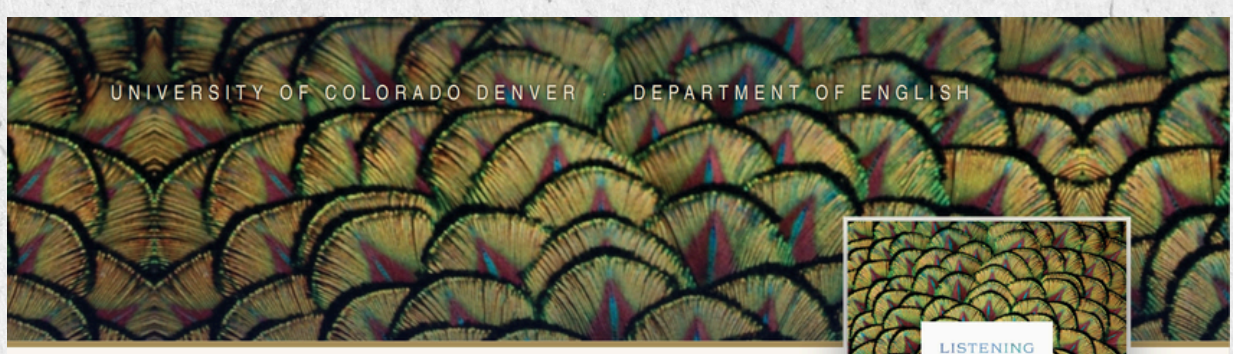

The Right to Access: Content Creation for All
In collaboration with CU Denver's Disability Committee, CU Boulder's Digital Accessibility Office (DAO) is offering a virtual full-day workshop on creating accessible digital content.
This workshop will cover:
1. Introduction to digital accessibility.
2. Content accessibility best practices.
3. Application of content accessibility practices.
4. PDF accessibility overview.
Event Details:
November 14th, 2025
9 AM to 4:30 PM
Location: 1200 Larimer Street, Denver CO 80204; North Classroom, Room 1535 or Zoom (link is provided after completing the registration form).
303-735-3148
DigitalAccessibility@Colorado.EDU
Registration form
Registration is required to attend

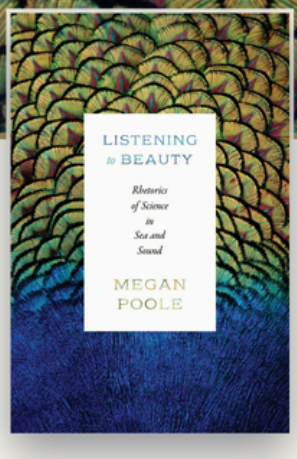

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER
Join CU Denver's English Department for an upcoming virtual information session where we will provide an overview of CU Denver's Bachelor of Arts in English Writing, Rhetoric, and Technology as well as our Certificates. Our major and certificates are offered in-person and fully online. This is a great chance to hear directly from faculty and learn how our program prepares students to turn their love of writing into professional careers!
English Writing Rhetoric and Technology Virtual Information Session
Thursday, April 2
4:00-5:00 p.m. MT (Zoom)
REGISTER HERE
During this session, we'll discuss:
Career pathways in technical writing and grant writing, content strategy, UX writing, digital media, teaching, publishing and more
Opportunities for networking events and paid internships
Elective courses in literature, creative writing, and film
Options to earn career-focused certificates, including Technical & Professional Writing, Teaching English as a Second Language, Proposal & Grant Writing, Creative Nonfiction, and Writing & Editing with AI
Registrants will be provided with the Zoom link via email. We hope you'll join us!
Denver
clas.ucdenver.edu


Interdisciplinary Studies
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER
S.E.W.
Sustainable Ethical Wear
The S.E.W. team invites you to our "S.E.W. Anti-Fast-Fashion Show" taking place as part of Emmanuel Art Gallery's "Performance Art Week XIV"!
Thurs. 23 April 2026
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
Emmanuel Art Gallery
Emmanuel Art Gallery: 1205 10th Street Plaza, Auraria Campus: intersection of Larimer & 10th St. Plaza, across from Auraria Library
first 20 attendees receive a handmade sewing pouch!
Beverages will be Served!
The S.E.W. team is a group of multi-disciplinary University of Colorado students dedicated to raising awareness about the impacts of the global fast-fashion industry.
For more information, please contact:
lorna.hutchison@ucdenver.edu
Department of English
Access and Campus Engagement
Political Science Department


GRIFFIN EYE PRODUCTIONS
Heather Henson presents
HANDMADE PUPPET DREAMS
48HR
PUPPET
FILM PROJECT 2026
THE FINAL SCREENINGS
MAY 16
12pm PT / 3pm ET / 9pm CEST
5pm PT / 8pm ET / 4am CEST
MAY 17
(BEST OF AND AWARDS)
12pm PT / 3pm ET / 9pm CEST
Streaming exclusively on the Green Feather YouTube Channel

UPCOMING EVENTS





THE TIVOLI LECTURE SERIES IN NONFICTION

LISTENING *to* BEAUTY

An Interactive Book Talk



WITH

MEGAN POOLE

Assistant Professor of Rhetoric & Writing,
The University of Texas at Austin

Why does beauty matter to science? In *Listening to Beauty*, Megan Poole traces the way biologists' encounters with natural beauty orient the questions they ask and the discoveries they make.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 · 6:00 P.M.

TIVOLI STUDENT UNION, ZENITH ROOM 640 · AURARIA CAMPUS

Free and open to the public.

SPONSORED BY THE CU DENVER ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
FACULTY

Joanne Addison and Soumia Bardham received a $10,000 Seed Grant Awarded from CU Denver's RDO for a research project titled: “Intelligence, Equity, and Students’ Experience of AI: A Humanistic Inquiry in Public Higher Education” This seed grant will support the work we proposed in our initial application for a $350,000 grant submitted to the Mellon Foundation. Joanne’s article Building Relevancy and Engagement through Case-Based Learning in English Studies has been chosen as a featured publication for the WAC Clearinghouse's Preparing Students for Graduate and Professional Success series. In August she was an invited guest on EAB's podcast Office Hours with EAB (airing in the very near future).

Christine Battista co-edited a book titled, Mediated Feminisms, Politics, and Pop Culture: An Intertextual Anthology, (Palgrave July 2026). Christine also a chapter published in the book: "Seismic Feminism: Ontology, Rupture, and Imperial Capture—Reviving Joan Didion, Sylvia Plath, and Susan Sontag in the Shadows of the Second Wave".

Michelle Comstock was promoted to full professor and will start her new position as Associate Dean of Lifelong Learning and Community Partnerships in the CLAS Dean’s Office this fall.

Jean Daugherty had three presentations titled, “Connections Through Film and Stories: Enhancing Learning and Empathy,” “Cracking the Writing Code” and “You Can't Pour From an Empty Cup: The Importance of Self-Care” at the Peru TESOL Conference this August.

Torgeir Ehler has had three of his poems, “City Mine,” “Foxes” & “Written on an IRS Envelope” published in the Umbrella Factory Magazine.

Philip Joseph's book, Rogues in Combat: Picaresque Adventure and the Writing of War is in production and will be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in spring 2027.

Molly Kugel's book The Avant-gardeners: Emily Dickinson, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Anne Spencer, H.D. and American Botanical Culture is forthcoming from Bloomsbury Academic. She has a forthcoming chapter, “In nature nothing exists alone”: Rachel Carson and the Birth of the Contemporary Environmental Movement in The Handbook of Ecofeminism (Rutgers UP).

Jo Luloff received a Presidents Fund for the Humanities grant to carry out research for her novel, The Golem Binah, in Buenos Aires and Tigre, Argentina. She spent three weeks there this summer, meeting with historians, exploring the geography of the Piranha Riverways, and working with historical archives. Following her time in Argentina, she drafted her final chapters of the novel as a residency fellow at the In Cahoots artist residency in northern California.

Wayne Miller won a Pushcart Prize for his poem "The End of Childhood," originally published in Poetry magzine. His poetry collection The End of Childhood (spring 2025) was named Honorable Mention for the Forward INDIES Poetry Book Award as well as a best poetry book of the year by both Maggie Smith in her substack For Dear Life and the California Review of Books.

Brad Mudge's essay, "Joshua Reynolds’ Portrait of Mai: Portraiture, Money, and the Making of a National Treasure," will appear in the fall number of Eighteenth-Century Studies.

Nicole Piasecki published an interview with micro-memoirist, Beth Ann Fennell for Assay: A Journal of Nonfiction Studies, issue 12.2 and the Interview Project. Nicole also taught a micro-memoir workshop/teaching demonstration to the DWP summer institute participants on June 11th, 2026.

Casey J Rudkin has written two supplements for the Gooey Cube game company based in Colorado Springs. She has also contributed two locations (The Tattered Angel Inn and the Ebon Grove) and three characters (Yesac of Wa’ar, Malakai, and Caila Vist-Morga) to the Barrows Region supplement in that same adventure. Additionally, she co-wrote the Cruxxic Clash Gooey PvP adventure, along with Amber Parungao Davies and Eyad Alghool, which debuted at the Genghis Con game convention in Aurora last February.

Andrew Scahill recently returned from a sabbatical in Japan focused on research, international collaboration, and professional development. While there, he conducted a recorded interview with acclaimed Japanese horror filmmaker Kiyoshi Kurosawa, whose work has had a significant influence on contemporary world cinema and whose latest film The Samurai and the Prisoner gained widespread acclaim from Cannes.

Joanne Addison and **Miranda Egger** had an article accepted titled, “Centering the Humanities in the Age of Generative AI: How Two WPAs Are Shaping Institutional Policy, Pedagogy, and Research.” WPA.

Joanne Addison and **Fatima Esseili** had an article accepted titled, “Experience Sampling as Writing Analytics: Real-Time Data Collection for L2 Writing Engagement Research.”The Journal of Writing Analytics.

In late 2025, **Nicky Beer** and **Wayne Miller** were both named Honorary Members of Sigma Tau Delta, the Intentional English Honors Society, for their "exemplary contributions to American letters and literature." The 104 honorary members named by Sigma Tau Delta over the past 100 years include Edward Albee, Saul Bellow, Gwendolyn Brooks, Jamaica Kincaid, Li-Young Li, Stephen Spender, and Eudora Welty.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS **STUDENTS & ALUMNI**



Dante Chirichigno has been chosen as one of the recipients of the Dillon Scholarship. 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.

Jessica Dickinson was awarded the 2026-2027 Michael S. Gorniak Memorial Scholarship for her work as an associate editor and intern on *Copper Nickel*.

Riona Fryer has been chosen as one of the recipients of the Dillon Scholarship. Riona was also chosen as one of the winners of the 2026-7 Lit Fest Creative Writing Scholarship. Her short story “Amaranthine” was nominated for the 2026 AWP Intro Journals Award.

Joseph Gardner‘s paper, “The ‘Loser' Private Eye as Revisionist Genre Figure” has been selected for the Rex Burns Award for best graduate student essay of the year. This paper was nominated by Professor Joseph and chosen by the selection committee for its outstanding research and contribution to the field.

Gale Khayut was chosen as one of the winners of the 2026-7 Lit Fest Creative Writing Scholarship.

Lex Kopf was awarded the 2026-2027 Michael S. Gorniak Memorial scholarship for their volunteer work helping to organize the Senior Reading, editorial work on *Copper Nickel*, and involvement with the Creative Writing Club.

Nathan Moreno was chosen as one of the winners of the 2026-7 Lit Fest Creative Writing Scholarship.

Danielle Stanton has been chosen as one of the recipients of the Dillon Scholarship. 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.



CONGRATS TO OUR GRADUATES

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES
MA GRADUATES



<u>Spring 2026</u>
MA Gradutes

Fajer Alqatan

Addiejo Dale
(also: certificate in Women's and Gender Studies)

Joseph Gardner

Austin McAdam

Certificate in Teaching College-Level Literature and Film

Stacey Jensen
(also: certificate in Women's and Gender Studies)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES
BA UNDERGRADUATES

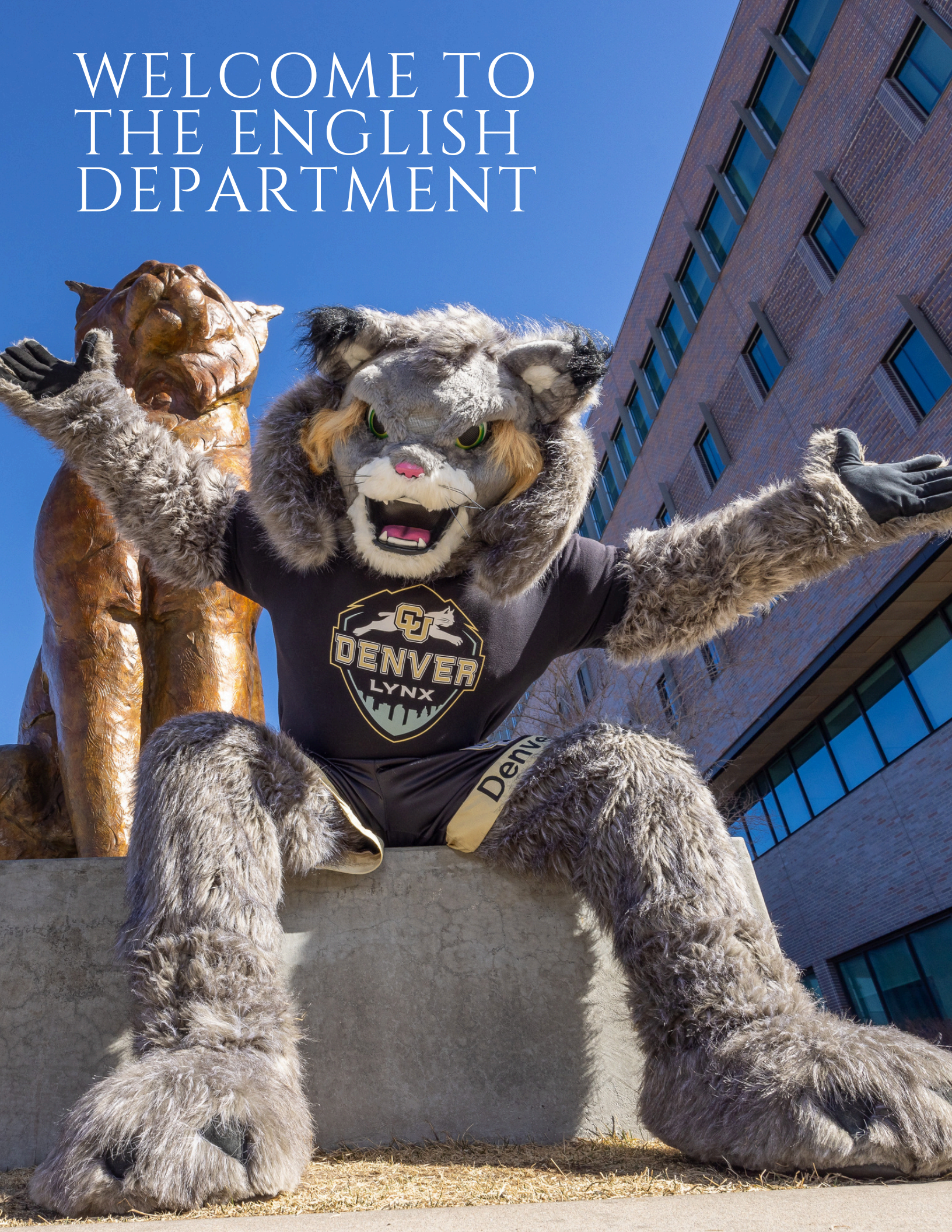
Fall 2025
Arvizu, Katelin Nicole
Cole, Noah Benson
Fleisch, Mackenzie Noelle
Fraser, Angela C
Hriso, Ethan Gregory
Schilken, Sommer
Schreier, Leah Janae
Machacek, Kate Joy
Wang, Jianyu
Baldwin, Aster Nikolas
Wolday, Kiyar H
Mesa, Kristin Marie
Hachenberger, Dylan Michael
Minatra, Bonnie Annabel
Garrett, Lindsay

Summer 2026
Brenstuhl, Randy Alan
Childress, Vivian G
Schuttler, Aidan

Spring 2026
Benneyworth, Isabel
Bi, Yue
Buchanan, Robin Ross
Childress, Vivian G
DelMargo, Paige Josephine
Easterly, Abigail
Edstrom, Annica Izabelle
Fuglei, Lillian
Guido, Emily Paige
Haney, Cassidy Arlene
Hawkins, Chase
Heater, Emily Thea
Hecker, Cornelius Gareth
Henderscheid, Jaycee James
Kreofsky, Nakira
Krohnfeldt, Caius Alexander-Acker
Li, Sihan
Li, Wumiao
Li, Yuting
Lovick, Charles Eric
Manyak, Danya Charles
Miller, Maya Rae Ringo
Moore-Munoz, Isabella Rae
Murphy, Maeve
O'Donnell, Lauren
Paciorek, Laura
Pence, Chloe Ann
Ponce, Jackie
Ross, Parker Aaron
Salgado, Adrian
Smith, Naomi
Stamenkovic, Victor
Teeples, Jodi
Wang, Jianyu
Winckler, Ellena Siena
Wu, Xinyun
Xu, Jingwen
Zamboni, Mason Thomas
Zhou, Mouxinye
Ziboh, Christopher



WELCOME TO THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



WELCOME TO THE ENGLISH DEPT. **TEACHING ASSISTANTS**



Danyelle Allen

Favorite book: Kindred by Octavia E. Butler

What I am studying: History with a focus on British History

One reason I am excited to teach writing at CU Denver: I'm excited to help students build writing confidence and develop skills they'll use throughout college and beyond, in a supportive environment that values diverse perspectives where everyone, including me, can learn from each other.



Priscella Arciga

So far, this year my favorite book has been "Finding Me" by Viola Davis.

MA in English Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics

I'm excited to teach because I want to help students learn or improve their writing and ability to think critically, skills I believe are essential for success in higher education and beyond.

WELCOME TO THE ENGLISH DEPT. **TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

Samantha Camerino



I'm an MA student in English Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics and am excited to join the English Department this fall as a Teaching Assistant for Rhetoric and Composition. I earned a BA in Philosophy and a Master of Social Work and bring over a decade of experience in social work, clinical practice, and supervision, including work with unhoused communities and developing clinicians.

My academic interests are grounded in social work values, particularly human rights and social justice. I am interested in language as a means of self-expression and meaning-making, as well as the ways it shapes identity and reflects systems of power. I am drawn to writing that captures the richness of the human experience, particularly personal narratives that explore vulnerability, transformation, and interpretation.

Higher education has been deeply meaningful in my own life, and I hope to support students as they explore their voices and ideas. I am excited to teach writing at CU Denver because of its diverse community and the opportunity to learn from students with a wide range of perspectives.

Outside of work and academics, I enjoy gardening, traveling, attending live events, and spending time with my husband and dog.

Kayla Frawley



Eduardo Galeano inspired me in my 20s, he is a Latin American author who focused on writing the harms of capitalism in Latin America and the exploitation of people and places.

I am a graduate student in Political Science after working in policy advocacy for 8 years.

I love being on the journey of empowerment for and with others. Teaching has been something I have done in most facets of my career - as a Midwife I taught Midwifery students, as a policy advocate I thought working people how to engage in systems change, and as a parent I teach my son every day. I look forward to now being a teacher at CU and working with bachelor students that are just starting their academic journey, I know it will be different than anything I have done and I am excited to have the privilege of being with them on their journey.

WELCOME TO THE ENGLISH DEPT. **TEACHING ASSISTANTS**



Cassandra Green

My favorite movie in this season is Cruella! I also love Tahereh Mafi as an author.

I am currently studying English Literature. I'm really excited to teach writing, because people are inspiring in how they see the world and share their experiences.

I'm looking forward to seeing things through my students' perspectives. :)



Richie Joanis

Favorite book: Little Women

Program: English Masters

I am excited for the opportunity to help students hone their craft as writers by starting exactly where they are!

WELCOME TO THE ENGLISH DEPT. **TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

Caius Krohnfeldt



My favorite author is Jeff Vandermeer.

I am an Interdisciplinary Studies major on the Philosophy and Theory Track.

I am excited to teach writing for CU Denver because I think learning to write is one of the most important things that one can do in one's life; few other things can change the whole world for someone as clearly and effectively as writing can, and I want to be a part of that process for students more than anything.

Peter McGuire



My favorite author is Kurt Vonnegut and book is Breakfast of Champions.

I'm studying Public History, which is history and museum studies.

I'm excited to teach writing because writing is taught in a totally different way from how I practiced it in my career as a writer, so I would like to be more helpful to these undergrads than my teachers were for me.

WELCOME TO THE ENGLISH DEPT. **TEACHING ASSISTANTS**



Addison Page

Currently, my favorite authors have been Sally Rooney and Robin Wall Kimmerer.

I am studying Sociology.

I am excited to teach writing as the first step towards my professional academic career because writing is a skill that has a multiplicity of uses, which are exercised every day, and it is a skill that is essentially human, making this teaching assignment feel deeply important.



COPPERNICKEL



COPPER NICKEL

In 2025-6, Copper Nickel published issues 41 and 42, which featured translation folios from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Chile, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Québec, Spain, and Sri Lanka; cover art by Jensina Endresen and Danielle SeeWalker; and lots of new work by both renowned and newcomer poets, essayists, and fiction writers. Three of the pieces we published (by Keetje Kuipers, Kathleen McGookey, and Matthew Neill Null, respectively) were chosen for reprint in the Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses anthology, and on of the stories we published (by Ayşe Papatya Bucak) was chosen for reprint in the Best American Short Stories anthology.

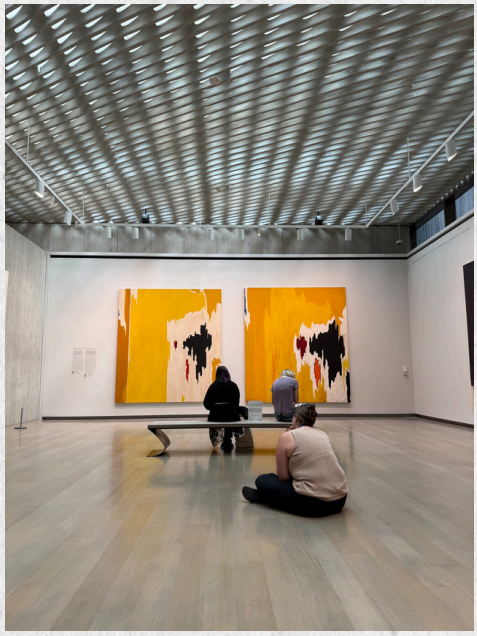
The Jake Adam York Prize received a record number of submissions in 2025-6: 982 full-length book manuscripts. After our team of screeners winnowed those down to 20 finalists, just Patricia Smith chose Elegy with Beautiful Child, by Constant Laval Williams, as the winning book, which will be published in January 2027. Meanwhile, Bo Hee Moon's Birthstones in the Province of Mercy, which was chosen by last year's judge Matthew Olzmann, was published by Milkweed Editions in January 2026.

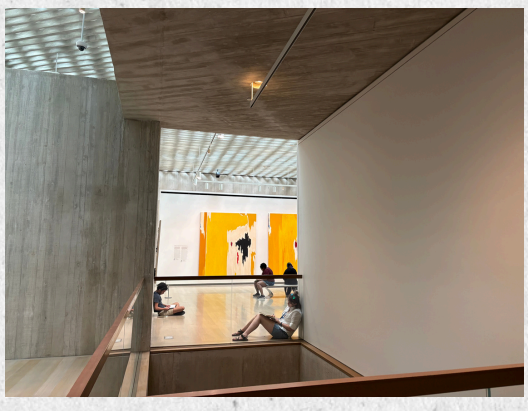
Denver Writing Project

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER**









We had an awesome summer!

We held four Young Writers Camps. Our biggest camp, on Auraria campus, had over 100 writers. We held a Bilingual Young Writers Camp at CU Boulder for the first time, and Vice Chancellor Farias spoke about writing and publishing his book, In the Company of Wolves We traditionally hold camps in Jefferson County School District and Cherry Creek School District, and we did again this summer in JeffCo at Pomona Junior/Senior high school and in Cherry Creek at Dry Creek elementary.

We also had a very successful Summer Institute, ENGL 5110. We had five teachers participate in the institute, including Andrea Madrigal, our very own Graduate Teaching Assistant. They saw presentations from Nicole Piasecki, Paul DeMarte, and Antonio Farrias as well as other teachers and writers. We also held a "writing marathon" at Clyfford Still Museum on July 20th for 10 Young Writers that went very well.

On a personal note on May 19th, 2026, my wife Alex and I welcomed Lindsay Jo Crawford to the world. We are all doing great!

SUSTAINABLE ETHICAL WEAR

S.E.W., "Sustainable Ethical Wear," was an anti-fast fashion show held on campus April 23 at the Emmanuel Art Gallery, as part of Performance Art Week. Over Spring term 2026, a group of multi-disciplinary CU Denver students developed this highly creative protest event aimed at raising awareness of the detrimental impacts of the global fast-fashion industry. Department of English and Interdisciplinary Studies Program professor, Dr. Lorna Hutchison, organized the event with CU Denver student lead Ariana Williams; both designed outfits along with the larger team.

Our S.E.W. team created fashion designs from donated and second-hand materials that interpreted the industry's most harmful impacts concerning human exploitation, climate change, environmental and waterways pollution, labor issues affecting women and children specifically, and the costs of unrestricted consumerism. Each of these issues were portrayed through textiles, via shape, color, texture, visual rhetoric, sculpture, and movement.

The show's final act displayed "Curated Combinations." These were up-cycled and thrifted outfits. Audience members participated in a sewing activity aimed at promoting basic sewing skills, such as repairing one's own clothing.

The S.E.W. event encouraged people to support small businesses, shop secondhand, explore new hobbies, develop sewing skills, collaborate with peers and community members on artistic production, and experiment with their personal, individual style. Audience members were wowed by the creative designs by student team Lead members Ariana Williams, Liliana Diaz-Cortinas, Hannah Stringfellow, Anya Flores-McDowell, and CSU collaborator and fashion student, Maya Driskell. Undergraduate students Abril Rodriguez Orduna (a team Lead member), Astrid Villalobos Chavez (who created the show's terrific slide show), Antonette Wismer, Nakita Locklear, and Interdisciplinary Studies Program graduate student collaborators Haley Witt, Violet Stoudt, and Caroline Bowden, were also key to the success of this endeavor.



The organizational and creative breadth of our S.E.W. team lead undergraduate students was impressive. They developed skills in a wide range of areas and formed a bond through our sewing workshops. This group of students put every piece of this complex event together, from a successful grant application to a S.E.W. Instagram account, to the significant academic research conducted on the global textile industry that informed the designs, to the designs themselves and their complex construction.

Student volunteer-models from Arapahoe Community College, Colorado State University, MSU Denver, East and South High Schools, and others, generously gave their time and brought the fashion designs to life. Thank you to our amazing models! Thanks also to talented DJ Danny Acree, photographer Paul Wedlake, Andrew Palamara at Emmanuel Art Gallery, Hayden Dollinger, who acted as one of our Usher-Jesters, the inspirational non-for-profit and businesses who partnered with us, donating second-hand clothing and sewing supplies, to all our campus community members who donated clothing, remnants, and supplies (your donations live on in the new and up-cycled outfits!), and to the financial support provided by the Center for Access and Campus Engagement (ACE Event grant), the Department of English, the Political Science Department, and the Interdisciplinary Studies Program. Finally, thank you Emmanuel Art Gallery for making our campus such a unique and creative center, and for including us in Performance Art Week.





NEWEST MEMBER OF THE ENGLISH FAMILY!



Lindsay Jo Crawford

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

On May 19th, 2026, Alex and Kyle Crawford welcomed their new daughter, Lindsay Jo Crawford to the world!

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

Jesiah Gabriel Zarate Estrada & Bryce Edward Zarate







Nana Foz (Francine) is enjoying her time with all her bear cubs! Sophia-bear, Jonah-bear, Si-bear, & Bry-bear!

In Memory of Mary Rose Sullivan



We celebrate the life of Mary Rose Sullivan, one of the founding members of the UC Denver English Department. Dr. Sullivan, a specialist in Victorian literature, was beloved by her students and as a mentor of young faculty members.
–Colleen Donnelly, Department of English

Mary Rose Sullivan taught us to read and write critically and inspired us to learn. She was one of the best professors I had in college; I would not have made it through my first year at UCD without her. She was always accessible for office hours and generous with her time and helping us to understand literature and assignments. (Also, I remember our final tests were graded and available the next day... with numerous comments. Impressive.) Mary Rose was my mentor, teacher, and friend.She was a great lady, and I will surely miss her presence in this world.
--Elaine Beemer, Former Student

The CU Denver English Dept. mourns the passing of Emeritus Professor Mary Rose Sullivan. Professor Sullivan was a distinguished scholar of Victorian literature and a beloved member of the University of Colorado Denver Faculty. Professor Sullivan joined CU Denver after earning her PhD from Boston University and pursued expertise on Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, publishing various and contributing greatly to her field. She was a dedicated educator, having been admired for her intellect, generosity, and lifelong commitment to education. Prior to her academic career, she served in the U.S. Navy obtaining the rank of Captain and serving with distinction. She shared a historic distinction with her sister, Captain Elinor Sullivan, becoming the first sisters to serve in any Navy around the world. She lived a fulfilling life, living to the highest ideals as an academic and servicemember, and she will be dearly missed.

It is a pleasure to write a note in remembrance of Mary Rose Sullivan. I met her in 1986 and worked with her in the English Department until her retirement and her return to her beloved Boston, MA. Mary Rose was a Victorianist and taught the British novel, that of women authors from Jane Austen to George Eliot and beyond, but she favored the Brownings and maintained a scholarly interest in the poetry of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Both in the classroom and as a colleague, she was kind and considerate, always helpful and always willing to shoulder more than her fair share. But, having come to academia from a successful career in the military—she was a Captain in the U.S. Navy—she also maintained a no-nonsense efficiency and an ability to cut through the occasional meandering and repetitive departmental discussion. She will be missed.
– Bradford Mudge, Department of English

Mary Rose Sullivan was a valued member of the English Department from the late 1960s through the late 1990s. In my capacity as Chair during some of those years, I was able to observe her skill as a teacher and her extraordinary rapport with students, especially older women. I also heard her present her work on the Browning letters,which was both diligent and learned Mary Rose was a good colleague, always willing to teach the course that needed to be taught and to serve on a committee that others shirked. She was faithful and disciplined, but she was not congenial. Her heart was in Boston with her friends and family. She arrived in Denver on the first day of the fall semester and left on the last day; the same in spring.. She stood aloof from such society as an urban university afforded.

Mary Rose was a devout Roman Catholic who attended mass several times a week. She taught our Bible as Literature course for many years but as far as I know never intruded her personal beliefs into the secular curriculum. A student once said to me, "Can't you find a Christian to teach this course?" I replied, "Trust me, we're doing the best we can."
– Elihu Pearlman

celebrating

THE LIFE OF

MICHAEL MCLANE

Jan 19, 1962 - Feb 11, 2026



SUNDAY MAY 3, 2026 AT 3PM

WASHINGTON PARK BOATHOUSE

701 S. Franklin St., Denver, CO 80209

We would love for you
to join us in sharing memories of Mike

Refreshments to follow