

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 24



2019 - 2020

August

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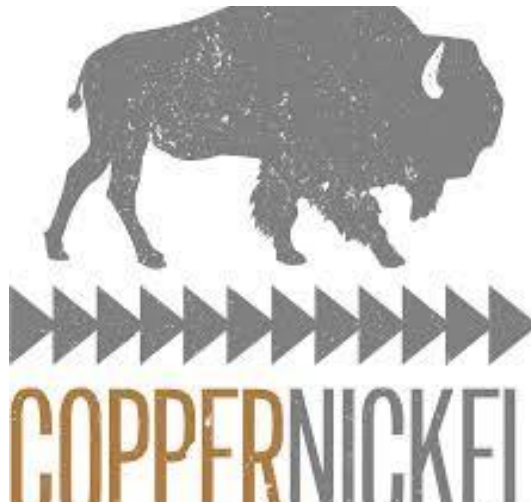
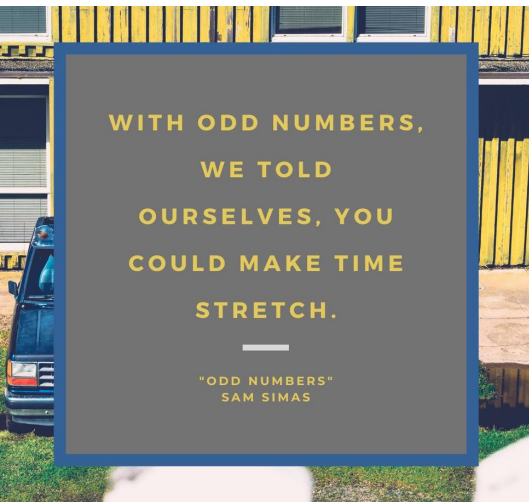
Art During a Pandemic: A
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A NOTE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

PHILIP JOSEPH

On the cover of last summer's newsletter, Chair Comstock and I were exchanging keys to the office in 1015 9th St. Park. Yes, those were the days. This summer, I make my peace, as do many of you, with the likelihood that we'll continue to teach, study, and do research from home, at least to start the fall semester. I'm sure you share my queasy feeling of being in limbo in all kinds of ways. News about the pandemic changes by the day. Events call out for a strong response, debates shift, all challenging us to rethink our aspirations, alliances, and sense of the possible. It's harder than ever to know how to act, let alone know where we stand. Amidst all the astonishing change and uncertainty, I feel so grateful to be part of a work community that remains as creative, collaborative, and passionately committed to reading and writing as ours. I'm inspired by our collective efforts and accomplishments—both the kind that get us promoted or accepted to graduate school, and the quieter kind that often go unrecognized. Thanks to Jenny for all of her wonderful work on this newsletter, which I hope you enjoy. And thanks to everyone for keeping faith in the value of what we do.

News



Copper Nickel Announces Editor's Prize Winners

Issue 29 of *Copper Nickel* features work from writers Derek Robbins, winner of the journal's Editor's Prize in Poetry, and Sam Simas, winner of the Editor's Prize in Prose.

Jake Adam York Prize Winner

Kathryn Smith is the winner of the 2020 Jake Adam York Prize. Smith's book, Self-Portrait With Cephalopod, will be published by Milkweed Editions in February 2021.

2019 Pushcart Nominees

2019 Pushcart nominees: Brandon Amico, Kaveh Bassiri, V. V. Ganeshanathan, Justin Jannise, Rebecca Lehmann, and Sarah Anne Strickley

Editor's Prize Winning Poem and Short Story

"Postmodern Cradle Song"
Derek Robbins

"Odd Numbers"
Sam Simas



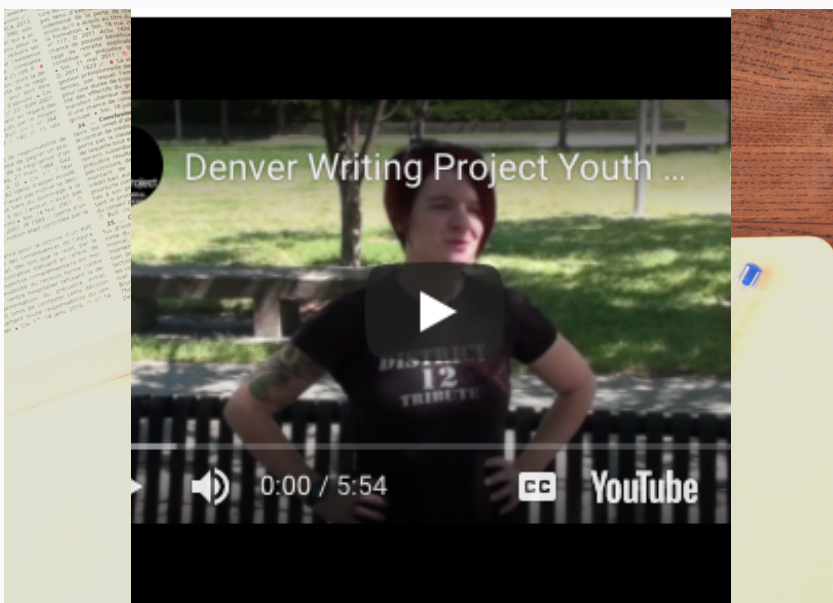
Credit: Kathrynsmithpoetry.com



DENVER WRITING PROJECT

New Graduate Course Offered in Summer 2020

ENGL 5140 is an online Denver Writing Project course focused on teaching argument writing in grades 4 - 12+ with the National Writing Project's College, Career, and Community Writers Program. Coursework provides participants the opportunity to engage in the study of researched-based writing pedagogy while nurturing themselves as writers.



DWP hosted a free, online workshop for teachers in July, called "Institute for Sustainable Teaching." DWP director Kyle Crawford describes sustainable teaching as a practice that "puts educators first, fosters self-compassion and renewal, cultivates a collaborative community, values an integrated approach to education, and values thriving over surviving." This workshop was the first of its kind, with 35 educators in attendance.

The 2020 Invitational Summer Institute and the Advanced Institute was offered entirely online (for the first time!) this year, from June 8th -12th, and was free of charge.

2020 Summer Institute guest authors included [Mark Overmeyer](#), [Nicole Piasecki](#), and [Jovan Mays](#).

DWP has partnered with the Philadelphia Writing Project (PWP) on a research project called "Digital Discourse," which will examine, over the course of five years, the use of open, online digital platforms to discuss literature in secondary language arts classrooms. The project will launch August 22, 2020.

The Young Writers Camps went online this year, offering a series of free writing workshops with varying themes. Another series focused on the use of Minecraft as an exploration of literature, and an online writing camp took place in June for writers in grades 2 - 12.



NEW CAREER RESOURCE PAGE FOR ENGLISH MAJORS

WHAT'S OFFERED

- Local job list
- Job databases
- Links to resources such as the [CU Denver Career Center](#) and [LynxConnect](#)
- Ideas for job searching during the pandemic
- Links to virtual job fairs and tools
- Articles about the career benefits of majoring in English

LOCATED ON THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT WEBSITE

Our new [Careers for English Majors](#) page is designed to help our majors and alumni find fulfilling work that allows them to utilize the skills gained in our English programs. The page features a specially tailored job list for English majors searching for positions in the Denver area, and connects users to the university's many career services.

Jenny Dunnington is offering one-on-one career conversations with students who would like help brainstorming ideas before meeting with one of the university's career counselors or taking their next steps.



Q&A WITH KARI CAMPEAU

Kari Campeau is the department's new Rhetoric and Composition Assistant Professor. She'll start teaching with CU Denver this fall.

What has it been like to prepare for a new chapter of your life during a global pandemic? Have there been any surprising challenges or fortuitous events?

I'll start with fortuitous: My PhD defense date ended up being the first week that the University of Minnesota closed campus for COVID. As you can imagine, I had to quickly translate my talk to a remote form. But with a lot of remote tech support from my department's administrators as well as support and flexibility from my committee, everything went just fine. Still, it was a little anticlimactic to finish up, shut my laptop, and walk downstairs from my home office (an actual office) to my husband Nathan's home office (the kitchen table). I thought we might just go for a walk and then get back to work, but then Nathan said, "Wait, is someone at the door?!"

And, sure enough, I opened the front door to a spaced out crowd of friends and neighbors! The entire front of our house was decorated with balloons, there was a card table with champagne and cupcakes, and bright blue tape marked the sidewalk to show people where to stand to maintain six feet of separation. I was totally surprised (and a little embarrassed), but it meant so much to me that my friends gathered during this time of so much stress, and precarity to celebrate with me.

One of my friends even showed up sporting his full academic regalia!

Otherwise, moving during a pandemic is stressful, but I'm also constantly reminded of how grateful I am for health, family and friends, and meaningful work.

What are you most looking forward to as you get to know Colorado?

A lot! I'm really excited to get to know a new city and state and to find new communities here. I have been constantly updating a Google Doc of hikes and running routes I am excited to explore (suggestions are welcome!), and I've long wanted to race in the [Bolder Boulder 10K](#). This semester, I'm teaching two online and community-engaged courses; over the summer, I've been meeting virtually with the course's community partners, and it's exciting to already be learning a little bit about different organizations in and around Denver. One of the partners ([Hearts & Horses](#)) invited me out to see their horses and ranch in Loveland, CO, so I am very excited for that visit!

Are there any specific literary quotes that help you stay positive during challenging periods of your life?

Hmm, I don't think there is particular quote or even a particular text that I've

been turning to, but I have been interested in all the different types of coronavirus or quarantine diaries that have been circulating -- all kinds of people putting their experiences into writing and collectively documenting / shaping this emerging moment. I've enjoyed *Sewanee Review's* [Corona Correspondences](#) ([Danielle Evans'](#) piece has been one of my favorites), Slate's series of [Coronavirus Diaries](#), and *New York Times Magazine's* Quarantine Journal, to throw out a few.

What is your favorite terrible movie or TV show? One that you love despite its lack of critical merit.

Well, in keeping with the quarantine theme here, I did start *Love is Blind* back in March, and, yes, it was awful, but I had to stick it out to see what happened to everyone at the end!

Is there anything you'd like the English department to know about you that wasn't mentioned during your campus visit?

I'm looking forward to joining you all!!

English Graduates

SPRING 2020



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR UNDERGRADS!

Brown, Desiree Marilee; Bye, Gabrielle Naomi; Duncan, Emily Lauren; Franke, Amanda Rose; Gropp, Kayla Christine; Hartz Jr., James Craig; Hickenbottom, Ven Corbet; Jablon, Shayla Ann; Labiak, Larysa Hope; Linenberger, Anna Kathleen; Lowman, Tyler David; Lutz, Madison Raeanne; Maioli, Max Arthur; Muncy-DeLeonardo, Casey; Rodriguez, Vanessa; Stanchfield, Caitlin Elizabeth; Sykes, La Tecia; Ulibarri, Diego; Welter, Baylea; Witthohn, Alec Ross

Alexander, Eric Edward; Mills, Anne Christine; Scott, Amy Brooke; Scott, Amy Brooke; Makooi, Milahd Walker; Nguyen, Esther; Hibbard, Tara Sue; Knight-Lang, Jacob Alexander; Mondik, Stephanie; Shappell, Sofia Rolande; Lyons, Joseph McLean; Sun, Karley Q; Baranick, Shaun; Daugette, Devan; Dupin, Patrick Steven; Gonzalez, Liliana; Howington, Kyle Nathan; Ketting, Shannon Michelle; Kuhn, Jonson Yaeger; Mullis, Emily Anne; Pelham, Lauren; Ramos Ramirez, Jaqueline; Whyte, Gina Raquel; Zwinck, Katarina Alyce; Ames, Ethan; Bolton, Austin RJ; Cagnoni, Agustin; Armstrong, Scott Leighton; Beckerman, Riley Jaden; Cedillos, Marnie Janet; Chairez, Leticia Paulina; Nyazi, Susie Nura; Frank, Haley Lauren; Giordano, Kirstyn; Robinson, Egypt Leatrice



Virtual Commencement

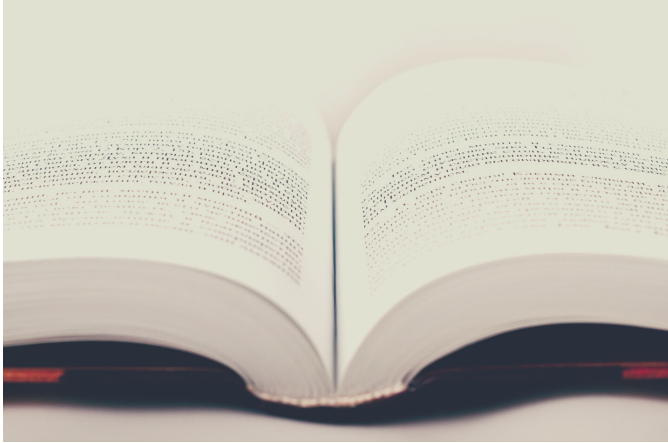
Spring 2020 commencement ceremonies were virtual this year. Recordings can be found on the university's [Commencement page](#) until the end of the year.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2020!

- Jasmine Newell
- Joshua Nielson
- Jennifer Marisol
Tayler
- Samantha Wiselogel

CAMPUS EVENTS



CREATIVE WRITING READING SERIES

AYŞE PAPATYA BUCAK

On September 16th, 2019, Ayşe Papatya Bucak read from her collection, *The Trojan War Museum and Other Stories*, described by *Publishers Weekly* as, "remarkable, inventive, and humane." Her work has appeared in *Creative Nonfiction*, *Witness*, *Kenyon Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Pinch*, *The Iowa Review*, and *Brevity*.



CATHERINE PIERCE

Catherine Pierce, author of *The Tornado is the World*, gave an on-campus reading on October 17th, 2019. Pierce was named a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellow in 2019, and has poems featured in *The Best American Poetry*, *American Poetry Review*, and *Ploughshares*, among other publications.

Photo Credit: Megan Bean / Mississippi State University

CAMPUS EVENTS

Continued



PODCAST LAUNCH

On September 26th, 2019, we celebrated the launch of the English department's new podcast, CultureKlatsch. We hosted a pizza party and facilitated a panel of faculty members and students who discussed the topic of the first episode: The Handmaid's Tale. Since then, CultureKlatsch has aired three more episodes: "Jordan Peele & Millennial Horror," "Oscar Season: The Best Films of 2019," and "Connectivity and Creativity in Isolation," which featured student narratives about life during the pandemic.

RETURN TO OZ EVENT

Writer Sean Benner and artist Jorge Corona came to campus on October 9th, 2019, for a discussion about adapting *The Wizard of Oz* into comic book form. The two comic book greats also visited campus last Spring, as guest speakers in Andrew Scahill's "From Literature to Film" course.

RETURN TO OZ:
Reimagining **THE WIZARD OF OZ** in Comic Books

Join writer **Sean Benner (West of Oz)** and Eisner-nominated artist **Jorge Corona (Middlewest)** for a Q&A and book signing!

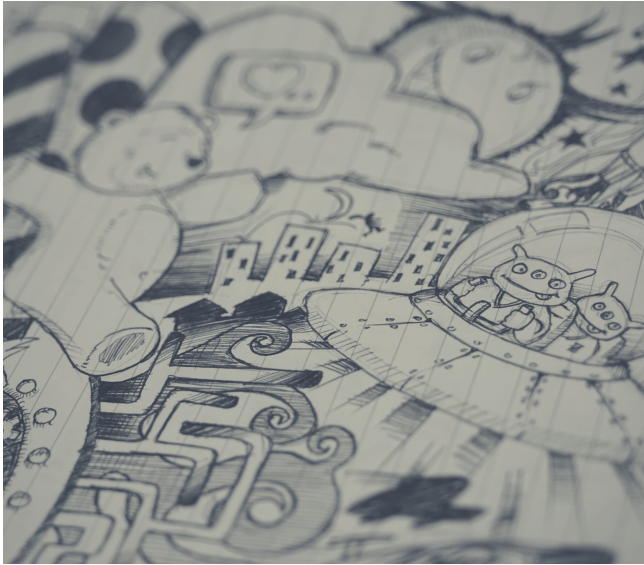
Wednesday, October 9 at 7pm, North Classroom 1806

Sponsored by the DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH and the DENVER WRITING PROJECT

The poster features a vibrant, comic-style illustration. In the center, a young boy with dark hair, wearing a red jacket over a white shirt, holds a pink heart. He stands in a field with a small white house in the background. To his left, a large, fiery, orange and red monster with multiple heads and limbs is depicted. To his right, a large, blue, tentacle-like monster with yellow eyes and a wide, toothy mouth is shown. The sky is dark with yellow lightning bolts. The text is in various colors and fonts, with the title in large, bold, blue letters at the top.

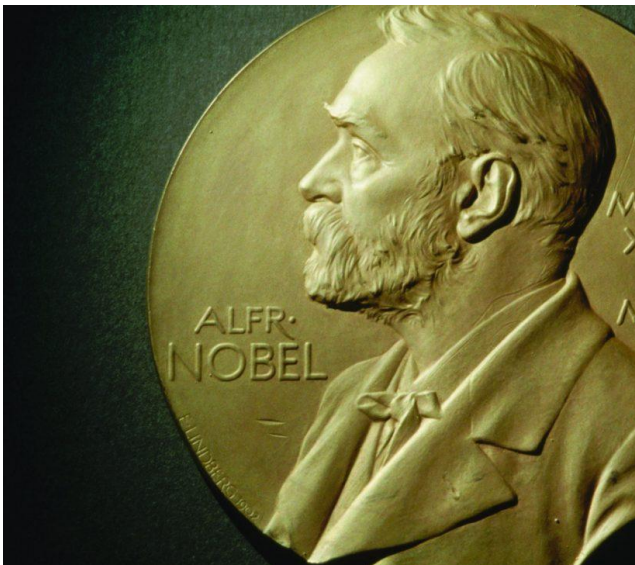
CAMPUS EVENTS

Continued



COMIC/GRAPHIC NOVEL WORKSHOP

On October 4th, 2019, The Denver Writing Project sponsored an interactive workshop designed for instructors who are interested in integrating comic books or graphic novels into their curriculum. The workshop was facilitated by Andrew Scahill.



NOBEL AT NOON

On November 21, 2019, Cynthia Wong spoke about the 2019 Nobel Prize in Literature during CU Denver's Nobel at Noon series. The series hosts CU Denver faculty speakers as they deliver presentations on the Nobel prize in their fields.

FACULTY NEWS

Publications and Interviews

Teaching assistant **Anthony Ballas** authored a chapter titled "First as Tragedy, then as Tragicomedy: Castration, Atopia, and Ab-Sex Sense," in the book *Reading Lacan's Seminar VIII: On Transference*, edited by Jonathan Dickstein and Gautam Basu Thakur, (Palgrave Macmillan). He also wrote two entries, "Psycho" and "Mulholland Drive," in *The Encyclopedia of Sexism in American Film*, edited by Salvador Murguía (Rowman and Littlefield).

Brian Barker was interviewed by NeonPajamas, during which he discussed his latest poetry collection, *Vanishing Acts*. He also wrote a piece for *Poetry Daily's* "What Sparks Poetry" series, focusing on Norman Dubie's "Ars Poetica."

Nicky Beer has a book of poetry forthcoming in Milkweed Editions (2022), titled *Real Phonies and Genuine Fakes*. Her poem "Etymology" appeared in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, Vol. 36 No. 1 & 2.

Teague Bohlen's flash fiction collection, *Flatland*, was published earlier this year, and was nominated for a Colorado Book Award. Teague was also nominated for a Pushcart Best of the Small Presses award, and has three stories being considered for inclusion. He was interviewed by *Split Lip*, in which a forthcoming story of his will appear, and has stories published in *Nice Cage* and *Defenestration* magazines. Teague also wrote the cover story of the January 15 issue of *Westword*, and his story "The Other Norma Jean" was nominated for inclusion in *New Fiction from the Midwest*.

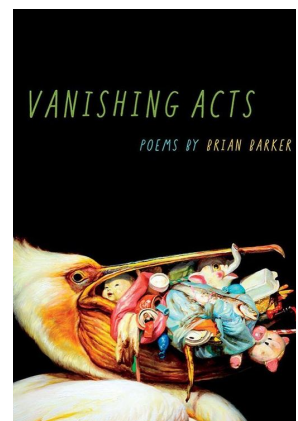
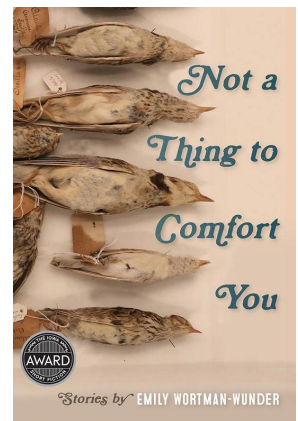
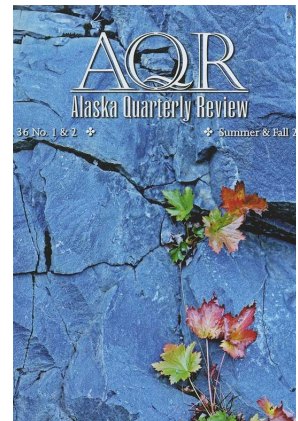
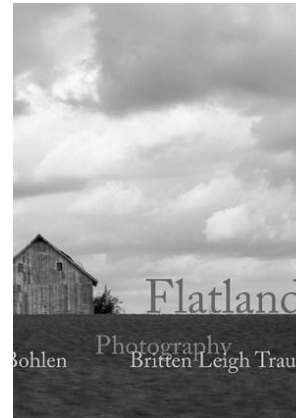
Colleen Donnelly published three online articles with PsychCentral: "Homeschooling the Village," "COVID-19 Challenges to OCD and ED Recovery," and "Responsibly Considering the Committing to Psychiatric Medication." She also published "Amorphous Pain" with the Society for the Advancement of Psychotherapy, "A Singular Choice: Considerations in using they in referring to LGBTQ+ individuals" in *Language*, and a short story titled "Projections," in *S/tick* 4:3.

Bennington Review interviewed **Wayne Miller** about his work with *Copper Nickel* and his hopes for the journal's future.

Andrew Scahill discussed the psychology of the horror genre during an interview with *CU Denver News*, and was featured on the 50th episode of the podcast *Scream Kings*.

Julie Vick's book, *Babies Don't Make Small Talk (So Why Should I?): The Introvert's Guide to Surviving Parenthood*, is forthcoming in 2021.

Cate Wiley's play, "Sheltered," was a finalist for the Fratti-Newman Political Play Award in New York City, and "The Liberation" will receive a staged reading as part of the *HRC Showcase* in Hudson, New York, in November.



FACULTY NEWS

Continued

Publications and Interviews

Continued

Emily Wortman-Wunder published her debut collection, *Not a Thing to Comfort You*, with University of Iowa Press in October 2019. The collection of short stories won the Iowa Short Fiction Award and the Colorado Book Award for short story collections. Emily was also awarded a residency from the Aldo Leopold Foundation, and in July, participated in the online forum Readings by Writers.

Professional Accomplishments

Nicky Beer moderated an AWP panel titled, "Legible Prescriptions: Mental Illness and Writing about Medication." She also emceed online readings for the finalists of the Colorado Book Awards on April 17th.

Emeritus Professor **Rex Burns** received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Colorado Authors League, and has been accepted into the Colorado Authors Hall of Fame.

Miranda Egger was awarded a CLAS ACT grant for her research project, "Reading with Digital, Social Annotation: Encouraging Civic Participation in a Challenging Age."

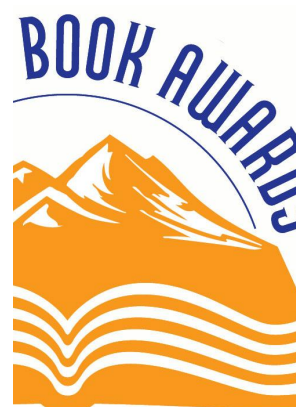
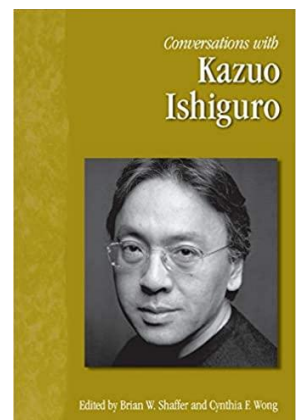
Wayne Miller was promoted to Full Professor.

Lisa Spears was promoted to Senior Instructor.

Nicole Piasecki was awarded a teaching enhancement grant from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. The grant will be used to develop Nicole's new special topics/personal essay course, which she'll be teaching this fall. She was also accepted to the MFA program at Colorado State, where she'll be focusing on non-fiction.

Cynthia Wong gave the keynote speech, "Cathartic Magnificence" in Kazuo Ishiguro's Fiction" at the International Ishiguro Conference, held at the University of Wolverhampton on February 1, 2020. Scholars from all over the world attended this UK conference to discuss 21st Century Perspectives on the Nobel-winning author.

Emily Wortman-Wunder won CU Denver's Provost Award for Excellence in Practices Related to Instructional, Research, and Clinical Faculty.



Student Achievements

Dan Anderson won the Rex Burns Award this year for Best Graduate Essay. His essay is entitled "Manchester By the Sea's Unsettled Masculinity: Sympathy for the Paternal and Patriarchal in a White Working Class Male Weepy."

Austin Bolton will be joining the University of New Hampshire's MFA program this fall.

Joel Casavant, a 2016 graduate of the Literature program, will begin his MA studies this Fall at the University of Chicago's Divinity School, with a concentration in the Hebrew Bible. He received a tuition scholarship, and plans to matriculate to the PhD program in Ancient Near Eastern Literature. Joel was also accepted to Yale University.

Haley Frank, a spring 2020 EWRT graduate, has been admitted to her top choice for law school, the University of Oregon. She is graduating with an English degree, law minor, and a strategic communication certificate.

Angelica Grijalva, a student in Evelyn Becker's ENGL 1020 course, was asked by Hope House Denver to contribute to the organization's blog. Angelica was part of a team of students who participated in an in-class exercise that required them to use ethos, pathos, and logos to persuade their instructor to give to a local charity of the team's choosing. When Angelica's team won, their instructor informed the organization of their powerful words.

Craig Hartz will be fully funded in Oregon State's MFA program.

FALL 2019 HONORS STUDENTS

Ven Hickenbottom: *summa cum laude*

James Hartz (Craig): *summa cum laude*

Anna Linenberger: *magna cum laude*

Layrsa Labiak: *magna cum laude*

Diego Ulibarri: *summa cum laude*

Spring 2020 Honors Students

Ven Hickenbottom: *summa cum laude*

James Hartz (Craig): *summa cum laude*

Anna Linenberger: *magna cum laude*

Layrsa Labiak: *magna cum laude*

Diego Ulibarri: *summa cum laude*

Student Achievements

Continued

Alumna **Jennifer Loyd** earned the prestigious Stadler Fellowship from Bucknell University.

Recent English Literature graduate **Shane Moffatt** was accepted in the MA program at Goldsmiths graduate School, University of London.

Veronica Nation won the 2020 Gorniak Scholarship.

Ali Rachel Pearl, who graduated with a BA in English Literature in 2009, published an essay called "On Tinder, Off Sex" in the "Modern Love" section of *The New York Times*. This October, the essay was listed as one of the newspaper's "25 Modern Love Essays to Read if You Want to Laugh, Cringe, and Cry."

Alyssa Romero, double majoring in English Writing and Philosophy, won a CLAS Annual Outstanding Excellence Award in the Bachelor of Arts category.

J Salazar was accepted to Florida Atlantic's MFA program.

Caleb Sanford's essay, "Ekphrastic Transposition: An Analysis of Binaries in Kiss of the Spider Woman," was chosen for honorable mention for the Rex Burns Award.

Samantha Wiselogel successfully defended her MA thesis with distinction on April 9th.



The latest episode of CultureKlatsch features podcast clips from:

Evelyn Becker

Claire Duncombe

Alyssa Haskel

Isabella Moore-Munoz

Alyssa Romero

Listen on cultureklatsch.com



2020 WINNERS

DILLON SCHOLARSHIP



\$1,500
scholarship



Awarded annually
to distinguished
undergraduate
students

Congratulations to:

Sang Duy Dao

Alejandro Lucero

Kaige Sellers

THE POWER OF ART DURING A PANDEMIC

A READING LIST

"The Poems That Poets Turn to in a Time of Strife," (Andrew LaVallee, *New York Times*)

"The Books Briefing: Turning to Fiction to Cope With Fear," (Rosa Inocencio Smith, *The Atlantic*)

"Six Digital Art Museums You Can Visit From Home," (Angie Jaime, *Teen Vogue*)

"Postcards from a Pandemic,"
compiled by *The New Yorker*

"What Can We Learn From the Art of Pandemics Past?" (Megan O'Grady, *New York Times*)

"Artist' Nikkolas Smith Combines Art And Activism Into A Singular Superpower," (Mandalit Del Barco, *NPR*)

"From Sa'di to Boccaccio: The Literary Legacy of Pandemics,"
(Hamid Dabashi, *Al Jazeera*)

"NYC Dance Troupe Turns Voguing Into A Rallying Cry For Black Lives Lost," (Curtis M. Wong, *Huffington Post*)



"How Did Writers Survive the First Great Depression?" (Jason Boog, *Lit Hub*)

"Say Thank You Say I'm Sorry,"
(Jericho Brown, *New York Times*)

"How Art Movements Tried to Make Sense of the World in the Wake of the 1918 Flu Pandemic," (Anna Purna Kambhampaty, *Time Magazine*)

"War Poems of the Pandemic,"
(Mark Rozzo, *The New Yorker*)

"New Anthology Collects Dozens of Poems About Pandemic," (Hillel Italie, *PBS News Hour*)

STAY IN TOUCH



FOLLOW THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA



FOLLOW CULTUREKLATSCH

