

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2019

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Outgoing Chair Michelle Comstock exchanges office keys with incoming Chair Philip Joseph

A NOTE FROM NEW DEPARTMENT CHAIR PHILIP JOSEPH

The key to the chair's office has been passed. For those of you who have not been around this summer, I have been occupying the offices at 1015 9th St. Park for the last two months, doing my best to learn how to use the key. For the most part, learning what's involved has gone smoothly. When I encounter an obstacle, I jiggle the key this way and that, and when the figurative door still doesn't open, I do what any resourceful chair does in a pinch. I call out for the outgoing chair and the staff. Michelle, Francine, Jenny, Help!! Thanks to all of them—two wise veterans and a dynamic rookie—the transition has been mostly painless and full of fun. Enjoy reading about the Department's accomplishments and the directions in which we're headed. Welcome to the Department, Jenny, and thanks so much for putting together this newsletter and for diving right in and making a difference. See you all in August! --Phil



DEPARTMENT NEWS



We're launching a podcast!

"CultureKlatsch," a production of the English Department at the University of Colorado Denver, extends our conversations about contemporary culture by sharing nuanced, perceptive commentary on the content that matters most. The vast expanse of stories available through Netflix, Amazon, iTunes, and other streaming services has the ability to point our cultural lenses in a thousand different directions. CultureKlatsch examines the media that's most relevant to the current cultural moment and that's most likely to emerge in our everyday discussions with friends. Our aim is to recreate those spontaneous conversations we all have in coffee shops while delving deeply into what topical books, television, and movies have to tell us about who we are and what we care most about.

- Episode 1: *The Handmaid's Tale*
9.23.19

<http://www.cultureklatsch.com/>

LAUNCH PARTY

CultureKlatsch Celebrates its First Episode



JOIN US FOR FOOD, CONVERSATION, AND CELEBRATION

We'll be gathering to launch our new podcast, "CultureKlatsch," and to host a round-table discussion featuring guests from the first episode. Submit your questions for the panelists on CultureKlatsch.com and be a part of the conversation! We'll be livestreaming the discussion on Facebook for those who can't participate in person, and will share it as a supplementary episode on "CultureKlatsch."

THE DETAILS

September 26th, 4:00-8:00

The Tivoli Building, 6th
Floor: The Zenith Room

Refreshments will be served

RSVP: CultureKlatsch.com

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Department and
CultureKlatsch on social
media for news, updates,
discussions, and event
invitations.

COMIC BOOK GREATS VISIT THE CLASSROOM



Comic book author Sean Benner and artist Jorge Corona visited Assistant Professor Andrew Scahill's "From Literature to Film" class during Maymester. The class was focused on *Wizard of Oz* narratives, and discussed Corona's work in the comic book *Middlewest* (a contemporary *Wizard of Oz* story) as a commentary on abuse cycles. According to Scahill, the students were very excited to study sequential art as literature.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

PUBLICATIONS, AWARDS, AND PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Publications

Brian Barker published his third book of poems, *Vanishing Acts*, with Southern Illinois University Press.

Nicky Beer's poem, "The Magicians at Work," appeared in the November 2018 issue of *Poetry*.

Philip Joseph's article, "The Intelligence of the Female Adventurer: *Homeland* as a Secret History of War," will be published in *Genre*, Vol. 52.1. The article comes from his current project, a book on picaresque war narratives. Phil also has two book chapters coming out this year: one, "Regional Expressions of the Interwar and Post-World War II Periods," in the *Blackwell Companion to American Literature*, and another titled "Regionalism," in *Oxford Bibliographies in American Literature*.

John Tinnell published an Op-Ed in the *LA Times* entitled, "Are Scooters a Transit Solution or a Trojan Horse for Big Tech to Colonize Our Public Spaces?" on July 19.

Julie Vick's satirical piece, "Thank You for Calling the Writer Envy Helpline," appeared in *Electric Literature* on July 19.

Cynthia Wong's book, *Writers and Their Work: Kazuo Ishiguro*, came out in the spring. This third expanded edition is published by Liverpool University Press and distributed by Oxford University Press in the U.S.

Awards

Sarah Hagelin will receive the 2019 CLAS Award for Excellence in Teaching.

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FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

CONTINUED

Joanna Luloff and **Rodney Herring** were awarded tenure.

Emily Wortman-Wunder won the 2019 Iowa Short Fiction Award for her collection, *Not a Thing to Comfort You*.

Professional Accomplishments

Brian Barker and **Nicky Beer** were featured readers in BookBar's First Saturday Poetry Series on August 3rd.

Jeff Franklin was invited and funded in June to present a paper at the 24th annual International Lotus Sutra Seminar in Tokyo, Japan.

Andrew Scahill was featured in the documentary, *Scream, Queen!: My Nightmare on Elm Street*. Andy served as a horror genre expert in the documentary, which held its Denver premiere on July 16, 2019. The documentary is an exploration of the queer afterlife of *Nightmare on Elm Street 2* and its star, Mark Patton, a closeted man who was blackballed by an AIDS-phobic Hollywood in the 1980s.

Cynthia Wong was elected to the Editorial Advisory Board at Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey, and, after a trip to Morocco, earned the right to say she's traveled to all seven continents.

Big Life Moments

Philip Joseph and **Gillian Silverman** have plenty of reasons to celebrate, as all three of their boys graduated in the spring! (Gideon from lower school, and Desi and Jules from middle school.)

David Keener moved to Sugar Hill, GA in May, where he is hoping to continue teaching Core Composition courses.

Student Updates

ACHIEVEMENTS

Undergrad **Ahja Fox** received a \$900 EURECA! travel grant to attend the 2019 Boldface Conference, a conference for emerging writers, at the University of Houston.

Junior Reina, after coming to the U.S. from Guatamala when he was 10 years old, earned a BA in English Writing with an emphasis in poetry, and minored in Spanish and Ethnic Studies because of his appreciation for stories that are seldom taught in public education. He later earned a Master's degree in Secondary Education from CU Denver, and is currently pursuing a PhD through the School of Education and Human Development (SEHD). Junior is a first-generation student who has overcome many barriers, from learning English to adjusting to the U.S. education system. He has fond memories of the CU Denver English Department, including the time he spent working with Jake York, being published in the first edition of *The Copper Nickel*, and working on his writing with Michelle Carpenter, Jeff Franklin, and Cate Wiley, among others. After graduating in 2006, Junior worked as a Business Coordinator, then at CU Denver as a middle school and high school coordinator at the Center for Pre-Collegiate and Academic Enhancement Programs, which has expanded into the Summer Bridge Program for incoming CU Denver freshmen. One of Junior's favorite experiences with the English Department was being able to pursue his own poetry.

Samantha Wiselogel is this year's winner of the Rex Burns award. Sam wrote her paper, "Gender Bending Genre: How Hannah Snell Belongs to and Changes the Adventure Genre," for Philip Joseph's "Genres of Writing" class in Fall 2018, which focused on the evolution of adventure narratives from the 16th century to the present. The Hannah Snell narrative that Sam wrote about is a lesser-known 18th-century memoir featuring a cross-dressing female soldier. Sam will be extending her work on Hannah Snell this year in her MA thesis, which examines the 18th-century literary uses of costuming and masquerading to challenge gender roles.

Brianna Wyckoff, who earned her MA in 2019, just accepted a position as an 11th-grade English teacher at DSST Cole High School.

HONORS STUDENTS

Fall 2018

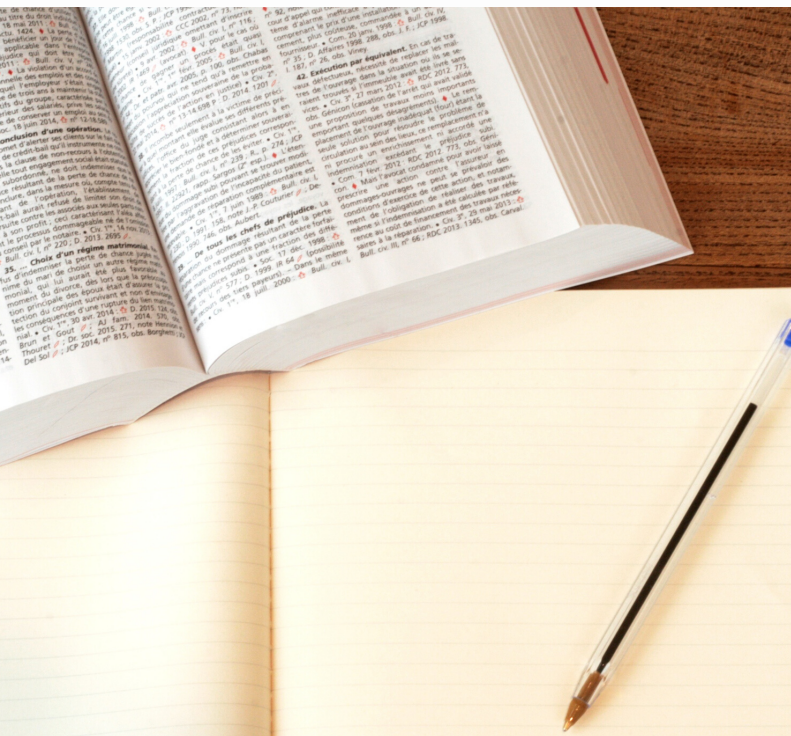
Kelly Foster: *summa cum laude*

Kara Klein: *magna cum laude*

Robert Lewis: *magna cum laude*

Nathan Novotny: *summa cum laude*

Eleanor K. Smith: *magna cum laude*



Spring 2019

Elizabeth Marsh: *Magna cum laude*

Joe Roessler: *Magna cum laude*

J. Salazar: *Magna cum laude*

LeShaye Williams: *Magna Cum Laude*

Julie Wright: *Magna cum laude*

Congratulations, MA Graduates!

SPRING 2019
MASTER OF ARTS

Barker, Lauren

Beckwith, Joslyn

Hipps, Kevin

Tesfalidet, Martha Hanna

Von Arb, Justine Alexa

Wyckoff, Brianna Lynn

Yanez, Justo Manuel

CAMPUS READINGS AND EVENTS

LINDA GREGERSON

Poet Linda Gregerson gave a reading on October 11, 2018. Gregerson is the author of six books of poetry, a Guggenheim fellow, winner of the Kingsley Tufts award, and a National Book Award finalist.



Photo Credit: Nina Subin

RAMONA AUSUBEL

Ramona Ausubel is a fiction writer with two short story collections and two novels. She is the winner of the PEN Center USA Literary Award for Fiction and the VCU Cabell First Novelist Award, and has been a finalist for several other prestigious literary awards. She read from her latest collection on November 5, 2018.



Photo Credit: Twin Lens Images

VICTORIA CHANG

Victoria Chang is a poet whose latest book, *Barbie Chang*, was published by Copper Canyon Press in 2017. She is the winner of a PEN Center USA Literary Award and a California Book Award. Chang gave a reading on campus on March 7, 2019.



Photo Credit: Margaret Molloy

6TH ANNUAL JAKE ADAM YORK MEMORIAL READING



Photo Credit: M. Sharkey

ALEXANDER CHEE

On April 11, 2019, Alexander Chee was the featured guest at the Sixth Annual Jake Adam York Memorial reading. Chee, who was voted one of *Out Magazine's* 100 Most Influential People of the Year in 2003, is the author of the novels *Edinburgh* and *The Queen of the Night*, as well as the essay collection *How To Write an Autobiographical Novel*.

The Jake Adam York Memorial Reading was established in 2014 in recognition of Jake Adam York, a poet and editor who taught at the University of Colorado Denver for twelve years and passed away suddenly in 2012. York's writing addressed important cultural and political issues; to honor this, the English Department and Creative Writing Program invite guest writers whose work is socially and politically significant to read their work at the Memorial Reading each year.

NEW FACES AND PLACES

Jenny Dunnington is the English Department's new administrative assistant. Last year, Jenny moved to Denver from Washington, D.C., where she earned her MFA in creative writing at American University. While living in D.C., she worked in the publications department of the American College of Gastroenterology, assisting in the production of the organization's two main academic journals and a monthly podcast showcasing the journals' latest articles. (She's no gastroenterologist, but can format a case report on manual stool removal like a boss.) Jenny also worked as an online crisis hotline staffer for RAINN and interned with the Women Thrive Alliance.

Jenny moved to Colorado with her husband, James, and their son, Finn. Sadly, Finn passed away last October, when he was four months old. Jenny and James are extremely grateful to be near their families here in Colorado, and to have met many wonderfully supportive people in their personal and professional lives.



Jenny Dunnington with her son, Finn



Meet **1059 Ninth Street Park**, the newest historical building to house English Department offices. Sometimes referred to as The Rundle House, the home was originally constructed in 1880 for William B. Rundle, who was, at the time, the manager of the Colorado Electric Company.

The house was acquired by the English Department last March.

1059 Ninth Street Park: "The Rundle House"

Student Memorial



Thomas James “Hack” Hyland, III

Written by Kinsley Alexander

Thomas James “Hack” Hyland, III passed away on March 17, 2019 surrounded by his family. Born in Denver in 1968, Tom attended Denver Public Schools and earned a BA in English Writing in 2002, from the University of Colorado at Denver. He worked as an independent landscaper and was a beloved fixture in his 7th Avenue neighborhood. In his free time, he dedicated himself to more creative pursuits. Tom’s passion for writing, storytelling, theater, and acting began in his childhood, when he, his siblings, and cousins would write and perform plays during family events. Tom was active in the theater department at East High School, where he performed in musicals and dramas. Following high school, he performed in community and semi-professional theater in Denver and at Seattle’s New City Theater. He earned his Screen Actors Guild eligibility for his role in an episode of *The Father Dowling Mysteries* (1989). Most recently, he played Aslan in C.S. Lewis’s *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, and Louis in Arthur Miller’s *A View From the Bridge*. In 2016, he was cast as John Ramsey in the documentary, *Casting JonBenet* (2017). Tom treasured his experience at CU Denver and always spoke fondly of his wonderful professors in the English Department.