

Spring 2023

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

As we wrap up the academic year, this quarterly issue of the English Department newsletter highlights the work of our amazing undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and alumni. We encourage you to share your accomplishments with us so we can include them in our next newsletter.

Christopher Schedler, Professor and Chair

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Rayanne Mills is an English Language Arts Teaching major with a focus in Secondary Education. Rayanne writes, “I want to give back to the teachers that gave so much to me by becoming an English teacher and instilling a newfound love for language, reading, and writing in my future students. I have gained so much in my English courses as I have learned many new outlooks on feminist theory and the history of minority groups. And the education courses have taught me how to adapt and use my knowledge to ensure I am able to reach every student in the classroom. I have been fortunate enough to travel abroad to Ireland, England, Scotland, and Iceland, and getting to learn about the rich cultures and authors that have stemmed from

each place has inspired me to pursue a graduate degree for creative writing, potentially abroad in Ireland, in the near future. Thank you so much to all my professors at Central for making these last two years an enriching and gratifying experience!”

Luke Love is an English major in Professional and Creative Writing and a writer of poetry and fiction. His journey through college has been interrupted several times by chronic illness, disability, learning disorders, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, experiences he often explores in his writing. In his time away from college, Luke found community in spoken word poetry groups and open mic performances. When he returned to CWU in the Fall of 2022, he sought out a similar writing community on campus but found that the college’s writing club needed to be revived after the COVID-19 lockdowns. He has since been working to re-establish the Inklings Creative Writing Club as president of the revitalized student organization with a focus on providing access for online students. Luke plans on pursuing an MA or MFA in creative writing and hopes to one day pursue his passion for writing communities as an instructor.



Kahlyll Wilson (BA Professional & Creative Writing) has been admitted to the MS in Data Science & Strategic Analysis program at Stockton University.

Miranda Manzano (BA Professional & Creative Writing) has been admitted to the MFA program at Eastern Washington University.

Elliott Caldwell (BA Professional & Creative Writing) received a fellowship to attend the Port Townsend Writers Conference.

Bailey Simpson (BA Professional & Creative Writing) had her short story “The Devil on the Bus” accepted for publication in *Gekker Quarterly*.

English had the most student presentations of any department in our college at the Symposium of University Research & Creative Expression (**SOURCE**) with one student winning multiple awards!

English SOURCE undergraduate presenters:

Bailey Simpson (BA Professional & Creative Writing), **Noalani Deonarine** (BA Professional & Creative Writing), **Kristy Durham** (BA Professional & Creative Writing), **Claire Cook** (BA English Language & Literature), **Theresa Daigle** (BA Professional & Creative Writing), **Miranda Manzano** (BA Professional & Creative Writing), **Janelle Serio** (BA Professional & Creative Writing), **Jancy Sykes** (BA Professional & Creative Writing).

Noalani Deonarine (BA Professional & Creative Writing) won an outstanding undergraduate student presentation award and was selected as SOURCE Undergraduate Scholar of the Year!

At the College of Arts & Humanities award night, the following English students were recognized:

CWU Medallion Scholars (highest GPA):

Emily Borg (BA Professional & Creative Writing), **Chance Goodwin** (BA Professional & Creative Writing), **Aubrey Higdon** (BA Professional & Creative Writing), **Jennifer Malloy** (BA Professional & Creative Writing), **Zach Schloss** (BA Professional & Creative Writing), **Bailey Simpson** (BA Professional & Creative Writing), **Brittini Tovar** (BA Professional & Creative Writing), **Michele White** (BA English Language & Literature).

CWU President’s Scholars:

Miranda Manzano (BA Professional & Creative Writing), **Karla Maravilla** (BA Professional & Creative Writing and BA English Language & Literature), **Katlyn White** (BA Professional & Creative Writing).

CWU Outstanding Online Student Awards:

Luis Moreno (BA English Language & Literature) and **Karla Maravilla** (BA Professional & Creative Writing and BA English Language & Literature), who had a [featured graduation story](#) in Central Today.

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Madison Flint is a graduate student in the MA English: Professional and Creative Writing program, who writes poetry and fiction. She serves as a teaching assistant in the English Department, teaching ENG 101: Academic Writing I. She recently led a workshop “Letters to a Garden” at the CWU Wildcat Farm that highlighted the poetry of Ross Gay, one of the events for the Lion Rock Visiting Writers Series sponsored by the CWU Library and NEA Big Read Grant. The workshop fostered participants’ interests in gardening and creating epistolary poetry in response to their engagement with the land. Madison has two poems published in the current edition of *Manastash*, and she co-presented on a panel at SOURCE about her experiences at the AWP Conference.

English SOURCE graduate presenters:

Madison Flint (MA Professional & Creative Writing), **Austin Fricke** (MA Professional & Creative Writing), **Miranda Gardner** (MA Professional & Creative Writing), **Sam Ludlow** (MA Literary Studies & Teaching), **Mariah Sebastiani** (MA Literary Studies & Teaching), **Susan Wenzel** (MA Professional & Creative Writing).

Austin Fricke (MA Professional & Creative Writing) published his creative nonfiction piece “Star Jelly” from his memoir-in-progress in *Door is a Jar* magazine (Spring 2023)

Monica Monk (MA Professional & Creative Writing) received a fellowship to attend the Port Townsend Writers Conference. She also published a [book review of Rue](#) by Kathryn Nuernberger in *Flyover Country* literary magazine.

FACULTY NEWS

Josh Aubol, Paula Collucci, Kevin Leaverton, and Dan Martin were selected to attend the High Impact Practices (HIP) Summer Institute and received funding to revise our Humanities courses.

Xavier Cavzos had his poem “[Columbia Basin Pygmy Rabbit](#)” from *Cascadia Field Guide* published in the online journal Terrain.org

Michel Eliatamby-O’Brien had a chapter on “Narrativizing Unarrival: Digital Autographics by Asylum Seekers in the Pacific” published in the [Routledge Handbook of Refugee Narratives](#) and gave two virtual talks for the Digital Ethics Futures Lab at Dartmouth and the Centre for Migration Studies at University of British Columbia. They co-edited a special journal issue of *Continuum: Journal of Media and Cultural Studies* with a co-written article on “[Archives and Autographics: Reanimating Diaspora in the Transpacific.](#)” Their research project on TransRural Lives received funding support from the Pride Foundation.

James Seth won the Outstanding Faculty Research award from the College of Arts & Humanities.

Josh Welsh had a chapter on “Rhetoric and Silence in Corporate America: Ending the Patent War between Google and Microsoft” published in the [Routledge Handbook of Descriptive Rhetorical Studies and World Languages](#). He received a Faculty Research/Creative Activity Support Award for his research project titled “Understanding Student Silence in Online Classes.”

Maya Jewell Zeller received a research fellowship from St Edmund's College, Oxford University, for Spring 2024 and a Faculty Research/Creative Activity Support Award for her creative project titled “*Misbehaving Memoirs* and *Into the Wreck*: Immersive Research, Writing, and Revision.” Her co-authored [Advanced Poetry](#) textbook is now available for pre-order.

Faculty receiving promotions this year: **Josh Welsh** (Full Professor), **Sarah Sillin** (Associate Professor with early tenure), **James Seth** (Associate Professor with early tenure), **Dan Martin** (Associate Professor with early tenure), and **Paula Collucci** (Senior Lecturer).

ALUMNI NEWS

Ben Groen (BA/MA Professional & Creative Writing) was the English representative for the College of Arts & Humanities Alumni Day and [shared his experiences](#) teaching abroad in South Korea, producing travel videos, and working as a technical writer.

Olivia (Hirschey) Marrese (BA Professional & Creative Writing) gave an [alumni talk](#) on designing and writing conversations for AI chatbots.

Heather Ely (BA Professional & Creative Writing) will be starting an MFA program at Glasgow University in the Fall.

LION ROCK VISITING WRITERS SERIES

This Spring, Lion Rock hosted craft talks, public readings, and virtual visits nearly every week to bring some of the most gifted writers and editors to campus.



Festivities began on April 5 with a public reading at the Brooks Library by fiction writer **Alyssa Songsiridej**. Introduced by BA PCW student Khoa Le, Alyssa read from her critically-acclaimed debut novel *Little Rabbit* in a hybrid event, where both in-person and online attendees had the pleasure of engaging with her lyrical prose and interacting with her in a compelling Q&A session. The next day at noon, Alyssa returned to a packed Library Student Commons to give a craft talk titled “Premise vs. Promise,” where she discussed three short stories with the audience.

On April 19, **Taneum Bambrick**, an Ellensburg native, joined us in another hybrid event. The night at Brooks Library started with English faculty Seanse Ducken's poetry reading and introduction. Taneum began her reading with a short recap on the concept of "speaker" versus "poet" before delving into her captivating book of poetry *Intimacies, Received*. The following day, Taneum gave a craft talk titled "Skunk Works and the Power of the Side," highlighting the importance of a side project for a writer.



Our biggest event this Spring took place on May 3. In partnership with the Brooks Library, Lion Rock hosted poet-author **Ross Gay** as part of the NEA Big Read Grant, celebrating his *Catalogue of Unabashed Gratitude*. The day began with Ross Gay's afternoon craft talk at the Brooks Library, where he interacted with both in-person and online attendees to discuss creativity, gratitude, and joy. Later that evening in the SURC Theatre, MA LITT student Mariah Sebastiani gave a short poetry reading and introduced Ross Gay, who read from his poetry and nonfiction works, his jovial voice echoing through the theatre in both joy and sorrow throughout the night.

Virtual Visits continued this Spring with faculty inviting authors and publishing professionals to speak virtually with their students. Students in Maya Zeller's ENG 468/568 Contemporary Writer's Colloquium class welcomed author and editor **CMarie Fuhrman**. Fuhrman is the co-editor of *Cascadia Field Guide: Art, Ecology, and Poetry*, which features the work of CWU English faculty. Fuhrman discussed her experiences and life as an editor and poet and conducted a Q & A with the class. Ali Ünal hosted literary agent **Kate Johnson** in his ENG 464/564 Advanced Fiction class. From her home in England, Johnson spoke about her work at Wolf Literary services, as well as her background in editing. She shared her perspective on querying, finding and connecting with an agent and provided details on the writer and agent relationship. Finally, multi-genre author **CJ Hauser** took questions from Taneum Bambrick's ENG 366 Creative Nonfiction students. The author of "The Crane Wife," published in *The Paris Review*, as well as a memoir of the same name, Hauser delved into topics of form, vulnerability, and complexity in the genre of creative nonfiction.

MANASTASH

This year's [Manastash](#) student literary journal was published in Spring quarter with the theme **Back to Roots**. You can purchase copies of the current edition through the [CWU Bookstore](#).



The new volume of *Manastash* was a collaborative project put together with the effort of 37 students who took ENG 484 and ENG 485 *Manastash* practicum courses, 32 contributors, several vendors, and the support of many CWU departments. The *Manastash* launch and reading party at this year's SOURCE was a hybrid event for in-person and online audiences. Several contributors read their *Manastash* pieces, celebrating a strong year of creative writing and art. Thanks to a partnership with the Accessibility Studies program, the event was interpreted live by two ASL interpreters. Coming together to share our work was not only an educational opportunity, but a practical and empowering one as well.

OPPORTUNITIES

English majors/minors and all CWU students are welcome to join the [Inklings Creative Writing Club](#). Each month they host Writing Workshops where club members create themed submissions and share them to receive individualized feedback from multiple perspectives.

MAKE A DONATION

Thanks to the wonderful outpouring of support during the [#GiveCentral](#) annual day of giving, we raised \$1,310 for the English Department's **Diversity & Equity Scholarship** to provide financial support for students with diverse needs and awarded the scholarship to two deserving students.

To make a donation to the [English Department](#), use the **Give To English** button in the navigation menu of our website. You can donate to our general foundation Fund for Excellence, Scholarship Endowment, Lion Rock Support Fund, DEI Scholarships, or *Manastash* student literary journal.

FOLLOW US



[CWUEnglish](#)



[@CWU Writing](#)



[@CWU Lang Lit](#)

English.Department@cwu.edu

CWU is an EEO/AA/Title IX Institution.