

Winter 2023

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

In this quarterly issue of the English Department newsletter, you'll be introduced to 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



Luis Moreno is a double major in English Language & Literature and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, as well as a research fellow in the McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement program. Luis writes, "I completed my first quarter at CWU while in state custody - after serving 60 months of a 91-month sentence. I'm an English major, and yet I'll never have the words to express my appreciation for CWU. CWU's mission seeks to 'nurture culturally sustaining practices that expand access and success to all students,' and I can certainly attest to CWU's commitment to that objective." His McNair research project, "Analyzing Subcommander Marcos' Representation of Women in Fiction Through a Decolonial Lens: Looking Beyond the Gender

Binary," explores how representations of gender in Marcos' literature complicate the Western colonial gender binary. He has worked as a writing tutor and English Grammar peer tutor in the Learning Commons. His community involvement includes membership in the Flint Hills Community Care Team, Riley County's Community Health Improvement Plan's (CHIP) Behavioral Health Workgroup, and Live Well Geary County's Food Policy Council.

It's graduate school admission season, and many English majors have received good news:

Chloeanne Erickson (BA Language & Literature and BA Professional & Creative Writing) has been admitted to the MFA program at Emerson College with a scholarship.

T. Ellis (BA Professional & Creative Writing) has been admitted to the MFA program at Antioch University and was awarded an artist residency in France for Summer 2024.

Zach Schloss (BA Professional & Creative Writing) has been admitted to MFA programs at Sarah Lawrence, Texas State, and U Idaho.

Tiffany Pate (BA Professional & Creative Writing) has been admitted to MFA programs at Emerson College and U San Francisco, with a teaching assistantship.

Luis Moreno (BA Language & Literature) has been admitted to the PhD program at The Ohio State University and was awarded OSU's Inclusive Excellence Fellowship and their Graduate Enrichment Fellowship.

Karla Maravilla (BA Language & Literature and BA Professional & Creative Writing) has been admitted to PhD programs at Notre Dame, U Virginia, U Washington, U Oregon, and Indiana U, and MA programs at NYU, U Idaho, and Washington State U.

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Susan Wenzel is a graduate student in the M.A. English: Professional & Creative Writing specialization, who writes fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry. Susan is a career Navy veteran, and her diverse writing career spans more than three decades as a military technical writer, nonprofit environmental writer, and food and wine writer. Her latest project on the human rights crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) has given her writing deeper meaning and a global purpose. Her first piece on the issue, "[She Ran, About Rosalie Fish \(With Permission\)](#)," was published by the *International Human Rights Arts Festival*. Her second work, titled "[Positionality/Metacognition/Rhetoric](#)," was published in the human rights journal *Valiant Scribe*, which will also publish two more of her works: "[Say Her Name Part I](#)" (poem) and "Say Her Name, Part II" (found art piece).



Madison Flint (MA Professional & Creative Writing) won honorable mention in the [AWP Intro Literary Journals Project](#) literary competition for her poem "Kylix."

FACULTY NEWS

Dan Martin had a chapter "Metacognitive Experiences, Dialogic Pedagogies, and Designing Video Feedback" published in the collection [Reimagining the Humanities](#).

Maya Jewell Zeller's book manuscript *out takes/ glove box* was selected by Eduardo Corral for the [2022 New American Poetry Prize](#) and will be published in Fall 2023 by New American Press. She published a short story, "[What We Want From Our Superfoods](#)," in *Portland Review*. Her poem "Socioeconomic" appears in [I Sing the Salmon Home](#). At the recent AWP Conference, Zeller moderated and presented on the panel, "Misbehaving Memoirs," and shared her work at three offsite readings: "Sly, Witchy, Twisted, Free"; "A Celebration from New American Press"; and with authors from *Another Chicago Magazine*.

Ali Unal, Katharine Whitcomb, Josh Welsh, and Maya Jewell Zeller, along with undergraduate student Karla Maravilla, presented on “A Decade of Professional & Creative Writing at CWU” at the AWP Conference.

Katharine Whitcomb, Maya Jewell Zeller, and Xavier Cavazos have their work published in [Cascadia: Field Guide](#), which will be celebrated with readings at Gallery One and GetLit in April.

Katharine Whitcomb was awarded a three-week residency as a fellow at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts in January 2023 and granted a residency at The Writer's Room in the main branch of the Seattle Public Library for 2023.

Marisa Humphrey was selected to serve as an Early Table Leader for this year's AP English Language exam from among the thousands of AP readers who participate in exam scoring.

ALUMNI NEWS

Many English alums and current students attended the AWP Conference in Seattle:

Weston Morrow (MA English) is completing his MFA at the University of Illinois and presented his work at the *Diode* offsite reading to celebrate the publication of [Beyond the Frame](#), an anthology of Ekphrastic poetry in which he has three poems published. He also tabled for the literary journal *Ninth Letter* where he serves as an editor.

Jen (Dowd) Lynn (MA English) and undergraduate students Karla Maravilla and Zach Schloss presented at the "My Beats are Icky" offsite alongside faculty Xavier Cavazos.

Katlyn White (BA Professional & Creative Writing) attended the conference to meet her new internship mentor at *Floating Bridge Press!*

Also spotted at conference events, bookfair, and offsite readings were English alums **Sydney Erickson, Kyle Denner, Vanesa Arostegui, T.J. Tranchell, and Timory Malone**; current undergraduate students Theresa Daigle, Azula Wilson, T. Ellis, Saige Johnson, Janelle Serio, Hollis Zepp, and Tiffany Pate; and current graduate students Mariah Sebastiani, Susan Wenzel, Madison Flint, Monica Monk, and Austin Fricke (pictured with the editors of *Door is a Jar*, where his first work was published).



Olivia (Hirschey) Marrese (BA Professional & Creative Writing) recently completed her PhD in Linguistics from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and is now working as a Senior Conversational Designer at Quiq, a conversational AI tech company.

Anthony Krueger (BA Language & Literature) recently started a position as Troubled Youth Care Coordinator for the WISE (Wraparound with Intensive Services) program in Yakima, WA.

T.J. Tranchell (BA Language & Literature, MA English), an instructor at Columbia Basin College, was on campus to present a workshop on horror fiction writing for Professor Unal's Advanced Fiction Writing class and a workshop on community college teaching for current graduate students.

Denise (Skaggs) Massar (MA English) had an article "[How to Get Back to Your Abandoned Book in 3 Easy \(Kinda Hard\) Steps](#)" published in *Writer's Digest* and is working on finding a publisher for her memoir.

LION ROCK VISITING WRITERS SERIES

Join us in person or virtually for our [Spring lineup of Lion Rock writers](#), including Alyssa Songsiridej, Taneum Bambrick, and Ross Gay.



Lion Rock hosted two Seattle-based poets, **Luther Hughes and Jane Wong**, on February 10 at the Brooks Library. Their joint afternoon craft talk on the themes of "Voltas" & "Vulnerability" opened the door to their poetry reading in the evening, where both in-person and online attendees got the chance to engage with their stunning writing. From Hughes' reflection on his life to Wong's outspoken love for the food that helped her grow, it was a beautiful winter day filled with exquisite poetry and thought-provoking discussions. English majors Michael Puni and Janelle Serio introduced Jane Wong and Luther Hughes, respectively, while also giving a short reading from their own works.

The second rendition of the **Lion Rock Student Reader Series** took place on February 22 with 35 people joining online with another 10 in person to hear 11 student writers reading their poetry and prose. Readers included: Amber Dukes, Luke Love, Kristy Durham, Michael Puni, Maggie Gautschy, Skye Emerson, Khoa Lee, Zane Deyoung, Bailey Day, Janelle Serio and Max Erickson. The support from the audience created a welcoming and encouraging environment. The Lion Rock intern team looks forward to hosting our final student reading event in Spring, where we will listen to the poetry, fiction and nonfiction published in the new issue of *Manastash*.



On March 6, Lion Rock and the CWU President's office hosted **Taylor Brorby**, the Annie Tanner Clark Fellow in Environmental Humanities at the University of Utah, for a craft talk on "The Politics of Place and the Landscape of Imagination" at the Brooks Library and a public reading from his memoir, *Boys and Oil: Growing Up Gay in a Fractured Land* at the Museum of Culture and Environment. Brorby's craft talk examined creative nonfiction writing about fracking and extractive economies by analyzing an essay titled "Fracking: A Fable" by Barbara Hurd. After an introduction and reading by English graduate student Austin Fricke, Brorby's evening lecture explored his struggles with queer identity and disability during his boyhood growing up in North Dakota.

In Winter quarter, Lion Rock launched a new program called **Virtual Visits**, where faculty can invite editors, authors, and scholars to speak to their classes virtually in order to enrich our students' learning and professionalization. Professor Unal hosted two professional editors in his Manastash Literary Editing class: **Emily Nemens**, former editor of *The Southern Review* and *The Paris Review*, and **Meakin Armstrong**, former senior editor of *Guernica*. Nemens discussed her experience of breaking into the professional editing world and of working for two of the most prestigious literary journals in the US. Armstrong regaled students with his 16-year-long editorial experiences at *Guernica* as he provided invaluable insight in working with authors to help them find the best in their writing. The two virtual sessions attracted not only students in the class, but other English majors interested in editing as a career choice. Lion Rock will continue to expand Virtual Visits in Spring.

MANASTASH

This year's [Manastash](#) student literary journal will be published in Spring 2023 with the theme **Back to Roots**. A launch party is scheduled for May 18 to coincide with the CWU Source conference.

OPPORTUNITIES

From **Hollis Zepp** (BA Professional & Creative Writing), editor for Q & A Queer Zine—[Submissions for the Q&A Queer Zine](#) are open until April 30! We've published three issues, all available for free on our website. Any of the following are acceptable submissions, from anyone within the LGBTQ+ community:

- Poems (limited to five submissions per author)
- Flash fiction (limited to two submissions per author) 250-1000 words
- Short stories (limited to two submissions per author) 1000-5000 words
- Artwork (limited to five submissions per artist) submit as .pdf or .jpeg file, include a title

Email us at theqandaqueerzine@gmail.com or find us on Instagram @theqandaqueerzine.

[Mineral School Artist Residency](#) is open for applications until April 15.

MAKE A DONATION

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 for student scholarships, or Lion Rock Support Fund.

April 27-28 is the [#GiveCentral](#) annual day of giving for CWU. Please be on the lookout for more information about this opportunity to give back to Central, and you can pay it forward by making your

donation to the English Department's **Diversity & Equity Scholarship** to provide financial support for students with diverse needs.

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