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Fall 2024

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our Fall 2024 issue of the English Department newsletter, which 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



**Maelim Lunaris** (BA English Language Arts Teaching) writes:  
In my two years as an ELAT major with a minor in Creative Writing, I have successfully revived the person I was prior to the pandemic. Reading and writing were hobbies I once held dear and drifted away from during the lockdown. As the president of the Inklings Writing Club, I have been blessed with the opportunity to meet like-minded individuals who share my love for elaborate fictional worlds. During my fall practicum, I was able to solidify my career choice as an English teacher who wants to spread this adoration for wonderful stories and deep conversations about our world. I want to thank my incredible professors for helping me reignite my passion for literature, education, and writing. I will be student teaching in the Spring and aim to take to my classroom all of the great feedback I've received. The future lies in the hands of today's students, and it is our job as educators to ensure they're inquisitive, driven, and empathetic individuals who will lead us all in the right direction.

Congratulations to the following Professional & Creative Writing students, whose works have been nominated by our faculty for Intro Journals Project awards from the Association of Writers & Writing Programs: **Lee Beck** "Cut your hair. Change your name" (poem), **Adam Dean** "The Big White Room" (short story), **Michele Trombly** "Anxiety Appeared" (poem).



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## GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Sheila Richardson** is a second-year student in the MA English: Professional and Creative Writing program and teaches English 101 as a Graduate Assistant. While mainly a fiction writer, they have expanded their studies to poetry, creative nonfiction, and hybrid works. Sheila's debut poem "Tell the Bees that I am Gone" was published in the Ellensburg Walking Chapbook in April 2024. They are currently working on a queer fantasy novel that revolves around finding community despite being othered by society, and their master's portfolio will be a collection of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. Sheila introduced author Callum Angus for the Lion Rock Visiting Writers Series last Spring and read their own creative nonfiction work "A Grief Obscured." During the graduate program, Sheila had the opportunity to attend the 2023 TYCA Conference in Yakima and the 2024 Get Lit! Festival in Spokane. They are the Managing Editor of *Manastash* student literary journal, overseeing the creation of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue to be published in Spring. After graduating, Sheila plans to become a doctoral candidate in creative writing with a focus on queer fiction.



**Amber Dukes** (MA Professional & Creative Writing) serves as a graduate research assistant on the NEH-funded grant project *TransRural Lives* under the direction of Professors **M. Eliatamby-O'Brien** (English) and Griff Tester (Sociology).

**Erin Moine** (MA Professional & Creative Writing) had her flash memoir piece "A Different Kind of Music" accepted for publication in *The Writing Disorder*.

**Monica Monk** (MA Professional & Creative Writing) had her poem "Post-Pandemic Professional Development Pantoum" accepted for publication in *On the Seawall* and three poems accepted for publication in *Anti-Heroic Chic*. She was nominated for an Intro Journals Project award from the Association of Writers & Writing Programs for her poem "Cybersecurity Training Video Sestina."

**Kendra Pitts** (MA Professional & Creative Writing) had a poem accepted and forthcoming in *Poor Yorick*.

## FACULTY NEWS

Welcome to our newest English faculty member, **John Ribó**, hired as an Assistant Professor to teach for three interdisciplinary programs: Latino & Latin American Studies, Africana & Black Studies, and American Indian Studies. John presented on a roundtable titled "Caribbean Groundings" at the American Studies Association conference in November, and he'll be presenting on a roundtable titled "Labor Conditions in Caribbean Studies" at the Modern Language Association conference in January.



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**Dan Martin** published two articles: "[Nationalism, Composition Textbooks, and Standard English at the Turn of the Twentieth Century](#)" in a special issue of *Across the Disciplines* and "[Making Video Feedback for the First Time: A Case Study](#)" in the *Journal of the Response to Writing*.

**Christopher Schedler** presented on "Fostering AI Literacy in Student Research" at the Pacific Ancient Modern Language Association conference in November.

**James Seth** will present a paper on "World Upside Down: Early Modern "Crossing" Rituals And The Carnavalesque" at the International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities in June.

**Josh Welsh** presented on "Writing Abundance in the Face of Student Silence and Non-Participation in Online Classes: Preliminary Results from Focus Group Research" at the Conference on College Composition & Communication and "Hyflex Learning: Challenges and Opportunities for the Form, Structure, and Technology of STC Instruction" at the Council for Programs in Scientific and Technical Communication conference.

**Katharine Whitcomb** had a poem featured on [Verse Daily](#) from her recently published poetry collection *Habitats*, which was reviewed in the current issue of [Tupelo Quarterly](#). Kathy will be interviewed for a forthcoming issue of *Tupelo Quarterly*, and she participated in a new book reading with fellow alumni at the Jack Straw Cultural Center.

**Maya Jewell Zeller's** memoir [Raised by Ferns](#) was accepted for publication by Porphyry Press and will be out in early Spring 2026. She worked on revisions during her sabbatical last year with a fellowship at University of Oxford and a 2024 Artist Trust Fellowship ([read her interview](#)). Maya also has new poems forthcoming in *Copper Nickel* and *Mid American Review*. In December, she presented work in "From the Vault: An Archival Poetry Project" in collaboration with the Inland Northwest Special Collection, nx<sup>w</sup>yx<sup>w</sup>yetk<sup>w</sup> Hall of the Spokane Public Library, as well as in conversation at a launch event for H.G. Dierdorff's *Rain, Wind, Thunder, Fire, Daughter*.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Octaviano Gutierrez** (MA English) earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor of English at Big Bend Community College.

**Brittany Helmick** (BA PCW) works as editor at University of Akron Press, which published and nominated Lena Halef Tuffaha's poetry collection *Something About Living* that won this year's National Book Award.

**Heather Ann Johnson** (MA English) is an Assistant Professor of English at Bellevue University.

**J. Kropla** (BA PCW) was hired as an Adjunct Professor of Writing at Clark College. They are also currently pursuing their MFA in poetry via Western Colorado University.



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**Matt Martinson** (MA English) is a Senior Lecturer in the Honors College and had "[Trout and Trout Remain](#)", which originally appeared in *Lake Effect*, listed as a Notable essay for *Best American Essays 2024*. Read the news story on [Central Today](#).

**Denise (Skaggs) Massar** (MA English) self-published a memoir titled [Matched](#) about her own adoption and the adoption of her son. Read about her book and life journey on [Central Today](#). She also made a virtual visit as a guest writer in the Publishing Strategies and Practice for Writers class.

**Shannon Wilson** (BA/MA English) was hired as a tenure-track Assistant Professor at Tacoma Community College after teaching for six years as a Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in English at CWU.

## LION ROCK VISITING WRITERS SERIES

In Fall, Lion Rock hosted faculty works in progress, student readings, and community poetry event.



The Faculty Works in Progress event kicked off the quarter on October 22, featuring a full lineup of current and retired professors, **Karen Gookin, Xavier Cavazos, Seanse Ducken, Lisa Norris, Katharine Whitcomb, and Ali Ünal**, who shared their work with an audience of in-person and virtual attendees. Eeritus Professors Gookin and Norris read from their latest poetry, while current faculty Cavazos, Whitcomb, Ducken, and Ünal shared works-in-progress in poetry, fiction, and nonfiction to conclude the first rendition of what we hope will be an annual event.

On November 12, we hosted a virtual student reading with "Emergence" as the theme, as ten student writers captured the audience with original works of poetry, romance, fiction, and hybrid writing: **Tyler Morello, Tonya McMillian, Jordan Cagle, Kelly Wilbanks, Viktor Volkov, Johanna Deletti, Katherine Lewis, Lucas Pierron, Ashley "Corie" Jones, and Adam Dean**. The wonderful event was organized and hosted by Lion Rock intern Johanna Deletti.

Our final event of the Fall quarter took place on November 22 at Gallery One in Ellensburg. Hosted by Professor **Taneum Bambrick** and organized in partnership with Kittitas County Pride, LGBTQIA+ Community Poetry Night was a celebration of poetry and the Ellensburg LGBTQIA+ community as a sold-out crowd enjoyed a night full of laughter, romance, and literature. English faculty, student, and alumni writers included **Lee Beck, Addey Christmann, Seanse Ducken, Saige Johnson, Twilah Mcadam, Caroljean Metzelaar, Sheila Richardson, A.I. Ross, James Seth, Michele Trombly, and Vesper Vander Zouwen**.



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## MANASTASH

### Manastash 2025 is open for submissions for the 35<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Issue!

This year, [Manastash](#) is seeking poetry, prose, and visual artwork around the theme **Invisible Worlds**. Please email your submission to [Manastash@cwu.edu](mailto:Manastash@cwu.edu). **Deadline: February 7, 2025**  
The realms of the unseen, the intangible, and the hidden aspects of existence. The metaphysical, the subconscious, the supernatural, and the surreal. Dreams, myths, and legends, as well as the boundaries between reality and fantasy. This theme invites authors, poets and artists to think outside the box and push the boundaries of traditional storytelling, offering readers a journey into the mysterious and the unexplored corners of the human experience.

#### Submission Guidelines:

- Prose includes fiction, creative non-fiction, and flash fiction. Please keep submissions under 2,000 words.
- All submissions must be original and not published elsewhere including personal blogs and collections.
- You can submit up to 5 entries per genre (poetry, prose, visual arts). Please submit each piece as a separate file. If submitting more than one poem, please send one file containing all your poems.
- Poetry, prose, and mixed media entries accepted in these file formats: .pdf, .doc, or .docx.
- Do not write your name or any identifying information inside the file. Submissions will be read blindly. Include your name only in the file name.
- Visual art entries must be submitted at publication-quality with at least 1920×1080 resolution and 300 dpi. Visual artwork is only accepted in these file formats: .jpeg, .png, or .tiff.
- All submissions should include a 50-word maximum biography, author/artist name, and title of work. Please inform us if the piece is titled “untitled.”

If you have any questions about the journal or your submission, contact [Manastash@cwu.edu](mailto:Manastash@cwu.edu).

## OPPORTUNITIES

The annual AWP (Association of Writers and Writing Programs) Conference takes place this year in Los Angeles, March 26-30.

*GetLit!* Literary Festival takes place this year the weekend of April 12 in Spokane. Headliners include Danez Smith and Maggie Smith.

The Port Townsend Writers Conference takes place this summer at Fort Worden (Port Townsend), July 13-20.



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## MAKE A DONATION

To make a donation to the [English Department](#), use the **Give to English** button on any of the department webpages. You can donate to our general department Fund for Excellence, Scholarship Endowment, DEI Scholarship, Lion Rock Support Fund, or Manastash Student Literary Journal.

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