

Spring 2024

## 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.

We also say farewell to our department home for over 50 years in the [Language & Literature building](#).

**Christopher Schedler**, Professor and Chair

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



**Colin Long** is an English Professional & Creative Writing major, native Virginian, and lifelong student of fiction, mythology, and lore. After nearly three decades of personal dedication to the craft, he began writing professionally as a freelance editor. He's now been a technical documentation specialist for six years, producing specialized manuals and guides for a variety of projects. CWU's writing-specific degree caught his attention and encouraged him to end an 11-year educational hiatus. He was drawn to the PCW program for its unique ability to

contribute to his studies as both a professional and creative writer. He's had the privilege of assisting in the revival of the Inklings Writing Club, completing a technical writing internship, and discovering new work via the Lion Rock Visiting Writers Series. As for the future, he will use his degree to obtain a General Schedule (GS) level position and advance his writing career as a civilian federal employee. He would like to close with a word of thanks to professors Smith, Wilson, Seth, Zeller, Cavazos, Ünal, Welsh, and Bambrick for their part in expanding his horizons and getting him excited about learning again. He is truly grateful!

**Zane Deyoung** (BA Professional & Creative Writing) is a featured artist in the exhibit [Taking Up Space: Eight Transgender Artists](#) at the Center on Contemporary Art in Pioneer Square, Seattle, June 6-28, 2024. Zane's art pieces incorporate their poetry with photographic images, centering around identity, memory, and violence.

**Luke Chavez** (BA Professional & Creative Writing) has been admitted to the MFA program at Western Washington University.

English was again well represented at the Symposium of University Research & Creative Expression (SOURCE) with our students winning multiple awards! English SOURCE undergraduate presenters: **Lindzie Ashby** (BA Professional & Creative Writing), **Ashley Ayling** (BA Professional & Creative Writing), **Clair Cook** (BA Language & Literature), **Anna Gillihan** (BA English Language Arts Teaching), **Coy Ryan** (BA Language & Literature), and **Lori Swanson** (BA Professional & Creative Writing).

**Anna Gillihan** won a SOURCE outstanding undergraduate presentation award. English awards went to **Lori Swanson** for outstanding undergraduate presentation and **Lee Beck** for outstanding undergraduate creative writing at the *Manastash* launch and reading.

At the College of Arts & Humanities award night, the following English students were recognized: Marji Morgan Outstanding Student Award: **Sasha Mitchell**. CWU Medallion Scholars (highest GPA): **Diana Braskich, Nicholas Cain, Hannah Chung, Tammy Dahlquist, Zane Deyoung, Sarah Larsen, Rayanne Mills, Sara Rodriguez, Janelle Serio, Lori Swanson, Michele White**. CWU President's Scholars: **Lilly Montgomery**

CWU Outstanding Online Student Awards: **Luke Chavez** (BA Professional & Creative Writing) and **Zane Deyoung** (BA Professional & Creative Writing).

## GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Amber Dukes**, a graduate student in the MA English: Professional and Creative Writing program, writes: During my time at CWU, I have taken classes such as Advanced Creative Nonfiction Writing, Studies in Fiction, and Advanced Literature and Critical Theory. I am primarily a romance reader and writer, so these classes pushed me beyond my comfort zone, but also helped me grow as a student and writer. In these classes, I was exposed to Barbara Christian, Ursula K. Le Guin, Stuart Hall, and Michael Swanwick. My piece "A Hairstory" was written for a class assignment and published by *Cool Beans Lit* in December 2023. In February 2023, I read a short story during a Lion Rock Visiting Writers Series event. After earning my MA from CWU, I am considering pursuing a PhD in Creative Writing.



English SOURCE graduate presenters: **Lisa Amick** (MA Literary Studies & Teaching), **Miranda Gardner** (MA Professional & Creative Writing), and **Mariah Sebastiani** (MA Literary Studies & Teaching). English awards went to **Miranda Gardner** for outstanding graduate student creative writing and **Mariah Sebastiani** for outstanding graduate student presentation.

**Mariah Sebastiani** was selected as the Graduate Student Association speaker for this year's [graduate hooding and commencement ceremony](#).



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## FACULTY NEWS

**Maya Jewell Zeller** was selected as [University Distinguished Professor for Scholarship/Artistic Accomplishment](#).

**Xavier Cavazos** received the [Eric Hoffer Medal Provocateur Award](#) for *The Devil's Workshop*.

**Ali Ünal** had his short story "In a Nutshell, We Are All Dying" accepted for publication in the Fall issue of *Willow Springs*.

**Katharine Whitcomb**, faculty emerita **Karen Gookin**, and graduate student **Mariah Sebastiani** were among the poets performing work in a National Poetry Month showcase at Hal Holmes Community Center in Ellensburg, organized by Ellensburg Poet Laureate Marie Marchand in April.

**Josh Welsh** presented on "Writing Abundance in the Face of Student Silence and Nonparticipation in Online Classes: Preliminary Results from Focus Group Research" at the 2024 CCCC conference in Spokane WA in April.

**James Seth** presented on "Staging the Sea: Literal and Metaphoric Naumachia in Early Modern Anglo-Iberian Culture" at the 2024 RSA conference in Chicago IL in March and "The Rhetoric of 'Strange Fish': Caliban, Kalicho, and the Language of Indigenous Selfhood" at the 2024 SSA conference in Portland OR in April. He was invited to speak at a symposium on the Maritime/Blue Humanities hosted by the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at the Ohio State University in February 2025.

**Dan Martin** presented on "Archival Research and Uncovering an Abundance of Composition History at the Washington State Normal School at the Turn of the Twentieth Century" and co-presented with **Madison Flint**, **Austin Fricke**, and **Mariah Sebastiani** on "Mocking It Up: Preparing GTAs to Teach First-Year Writing" at the 2024 CCCC conference in Spokane WA in April (see photo below).





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## ALUMNI NEWS

**Zach Schloss** (BA Professional & Creative Writing) was accepted into the MFA program at Western Michigan University.

**Jeanine Bator** (BA/MA English) teaches English and History at Sunnyside High School.

**Samantha Ludlow** (MA Literary Studies & Teaching) works as a recruiter and advisor for the STEM Teaching program at CWU.

**Dani Redican** (MA Literary Studies & Teaching) works as Post-traditional Academic Advisor at the University of Maine in Farmington.

## LION ROCK VISITING WRITERS SERIES

This Spring, Lion Rock regularly hosted craft talks, public readings, and virtual visits to bring some of the most gifted writers to campus. On April 11, we hosted author **Callum Angus**, a trans writer and online writing workshop teacher who also edits the literary journal *Smoke and Mold*. Callum gave a craft talk titled “Chimeric Writing, Limbic Architectures: writing about that which resists language” and a public reading from his short story collection *A Natural History of Transition*.



For our signature Spring event, we partnered with the President’s Office to invite climate change author and professor **Roy Scranton** to our campus! Part of the “Living with Climate Change Series,” this two-day event sparked lively discussions through on- and off-campus talks, readings, and panels! On April 25, Scranton offered a craft talk on “Witnessing Climate Change” and later delivered a public lecture from his new book *Ethical Pessimism: Climate Change and the Limits of Narrative*. On April 26, Scranton was joined by a group of climate change experts and community members in a panel discussion titled “Optimism and Pessimism about the Anthropocene: Is It the End of the World As We Know It?” at the CWU Public Library.

For the final Spring event, CWU’s own **Maya Jewell Zeller** delivered a spell-binding lecture and reading around poetry, nature writing, and sustainability. On May 21, Zeller gave a public reading from her latest poetry collection *out takes/ glove box*, where she discussed the wunderkammer of the body, intersections of gender and socioeconomic class, lyric imagining, hybrid creative works, narrative signposts, deep image, and inventing/experimenting with form. The next day for her craft talk, she offered an all-genres generative session titled “Eco-justice & the poetics of spells.”





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Virtual Visits continued this Spring with Ali Ünal hosting two literary agents, **Laura Southern** and **Kate Johnson**, in his Advanced Fiction Writing class. Both speakers discussed the current fiction market and shared important tips and strategies for agent queries. Taneum Bambrick hosted author **Cher Bazile**, whose short story students read in the Fiction Writing class.

## MANASTASH



This year's [Manastash](#) student literary journal was published in Spring quarter with the theme **Humanity vs. Machine (AI)** and copies can be purchased through the [CWU Bookstore](#). The new volume of *Manastash* was a collaborative project put together with the effort of 41 students who took ENG 484 and ENG 485 *Manastash* practicum courses, 26 contributors, several vendors, and the support of many CWU departments. The [Manastash launch and reading party](#) at this year's SOURCE was one of the largest ever with over 80 attendees in-person and online. We also hosted winners of the inaugural [CWU College in the High School Writing Contest](#).

## OPPORTUNITES

Next year will be the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of the *Manastash* student literary journal, and [submission](#) for this landmark issue is now open on the theme "Invisible Worlds."

## 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, Lion Rock Support Fund, DEI Scholarships, or *Manastash* student literary journal.



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