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Winter2024

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our Winter 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



Saige Johnson (BA English Language Arts Teaching) writes:

As an English secondary education major and a creative writing minor, my love of literature and especially poetry has grown so much over the last several years, and I want to thank my professors for their amazing support and encouragement of my development. I worked as a tutor in the Learning Commons and shared my appreciation for writing with students of all majors and levels, as well as practicing my own writing skills. This year, I had the great pleasure to be an intern for the Lion Rock Visiting Writer Series, and I got to meet so many wonderful authors, publishers, and students, which has given me insight into the technical side of the creative writing field. I've also been able to work on my own writing and learn about how I can begin to engage more as a poet and writer. This upcoming fall, I will be student teaching and will get to put all my learning to work as I officially enter the education field. I'm so grateful for all the wonderful experiences I've had at CWU and for all the support from everyone in the English department.

Zane DeYoung (BA English Language & Literature) was accepted into an MFA program at Western Washington University.

Alexus Mendoza (BA Professional & Creative Writing) was accepted into MFA programs at Western Washington University and University of Washington.



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GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Monica Monk has been a part-time graduate student in the MA Professional and Creative Writing program since Fall 2021, focusing on poetry writing. Monica has taught English Composition, English for Academic Purposes, and German at Tacoma Community College since 2008 and in the Washington State Community and Technical College system since 1999. Last summer, Monica was awarded a scholarship and funding to attend the Port Townsend Writers' Conference 2023, where she took part in Tess Gallagher's intensive poetry workshop, and she was chosen for a scholarship to attend LiTFUSE 2023. For the Lion Rock Visiting Writers Series in Winter 2024, Monica read her poem "Fragments: for G" and introduced CWU Distinguished Professor Katharine Whitcomb for a public reading of her new poetry collection *Habitats*. Monica's review of *Rue* by Kathryn Nuernberger, titled "Dark Matter," was published in the literary magazine [Flyover Country](#).



Sheila Richardson (MA Professional & Creative Writing) will have her work featured in the Ellensburg Poetry Chapbook project.

FACULTY NEWS

Dan Martin had his paper "Making Video Feedback for the First Time: A Case Study" accepted for publication in the *Journal of Response to Writing*.

Sarah Sillin presented her paper "Familial Cross-Dressing in *Theresa and Lucy Nelson*" at the C19 conference in Pasadena.

Maya Jewell Zeller published her co-authored textbook, *Advanced Poetry: A Writer's Guide and Anthology* with [Bloomsbury](#) and was featured in a story for [Central Today](#). She received a Faculty Creative Activity Support award to complete a research fellowship at Oxford University.

Katharine Whitcomb published her poetry collection *Habitats* with [Poetry Northwest Editions](#) and launched her book at events in Seattle, Ellensburg, and the AWP conference in Kansas City. She was named chair of the 2024 Poetry Fellowship Jury for the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown and will serve a second term on the International Fellowships Jury for AAUW.

Karen Gookin (Professor Emerita) had her chapbook of Montana poems, titled [The Hills Around Are Dust and Light](#), published in November 2023 by Poetry Box in Portland. Most recently her poems have appeared in the [Cirque Literary Journal](#) and [Shrub-Steppe Poetry Journal](#). She also was awarded the Yakima Coffeehouse Poets Tom Piers Poetry Prize 2022 for five themed poems.



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ALUMNI NEWS

Michael Essex (MA TESOL) earned his PhD in Education with a focus in applied linguistics from Temple University, Osaka, and is working as an assistant lecturer at Shikoku Gakuin in Japan.

Andrew Howie (MA TESOL) has been admitted to the PhD program in Second Language Acquisition at University of Maryland.

Victoria (Zencak) Thomas (MA TESOL) has been admitted to the PhD program in Linguistics at George Mason University.

Josue Stoutamyer (BA English/MA TESOL) works as an academic advisor in the College of Education & Professional Studies at CWU.

T.J. Tranchell (BA/MA English) has been admitted to the low-residency MFA program at UC Riverside, Palm Desert, and received the Founder's Award for most promising incoming writer.

Zach Schloss (BA Professional & Creative Writing) published a [review of *The Devil's Workshop* poetry collection](#) by CWU Professor Xavier Cavazos and a conversation with Norman Antonio Zalaya and [review of his short story collection *Gente, Folks*](#) in the *Letras Latinas* blog.

Catherine Hodges (MA English) is the author of two poetry chapbooks and three full-length collections, most recently *In a Rind of Light* (Stephen F. Austin State University Press, 2020). Her first book, *Instead of Sadness*, was selected for the Barry Spacks Poetry Prize by Dan Gerber and published by Gunpowder Press in 2015. Professor Emeritus at Porterville College, she writes, edits, teaches privately: www.catherineabbeyhodges.com

A number of English alums were spotted at the AWP Conference in Kansas City:

Jarrett Ziemer (BA Professional & Creative Writing) read from his ars poetica "Inside the Bear" (see photo). **Brittany Helmick** (BA Professional & Creative Writing) attended as a book rep for U of Akron Press and read at an offsite event. **Wes Morrow** (BA/MA English) is working as a teacher and had an offsite reading. **Chris Rose** (MA English) serves as Dean at Portland Community College and completed an MFA in fiction writing at Western Colorado University.



LION ROCK VISITING WRITERS SERIES

This Winter, the Lion Rock Visiting Writer Series hosted craft talks, public readings, virtual visits, and student readings. Gifted authors, writers, and poets shared invaluable insights about poetry, publishing, and genre writing, as well as some of their inspirational written words.



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On January 31, accomplished poet and CWU professor **Katharine Whitcomb** gave a craft talk and a reading from her new poetry collection *Habitats*. Her craft talk focused on how to let your writing find its form while you revise. That evening, **Monica Monk**, a graduate student in the MA Professional & Creative Writing program, gave a short poetry reading and introduction. The public reading was widely attended, both in person and online, as Whitcomb read and spoke about the world around us and how we can find beauty and connection wherever we are.

On February 15, author and poet **Juliet Patterson** read from her memoir *Sinkhole: A Legacy of Suicide*. Her craft talk addressed challenging but important topics of discussion, such as suicide and the physical and environmental impacts of resource extraction. Patterson spoke about her own personal experiences with the healing power of writing and research. After an introduction from **Katharine Whitcomb**, the public reading was full of emotional prose, with Patterson's experience as a poet shining through her biographical text.



This quarter there were also three virtual class visits. Two authors, **JoAnna Novak** and **Kimberly Ann Southwick**, visited Professor Ünal's Manastash: Literary Editing class. Novak spoke on editing poetry for literary journals, while Southwick touched on the history and editorial process of *Gigantic Sequins*, a literary journal for which she is the founder and editor-in-chief. **Jami Nakamura Lin** visited Professor Bambrick's Creative Nonfiction Writing course, where she spoke on understanding hybrid literature, like visual essays, and the ties between fiction and nonfiction writing.

The Winter rendition of the Student Reading took place on February 29. Connected to this year's *Manastash* theme, Humanity vs The Machine (AI), the quarterly event allowed CWU students to share their powerful poetry and prose with our in-person and virtual attendees. **Sam Woods, Jeremiah Michaud, Noa Deonarine, Dani Redican, Tonya McMillan, Ashley Ayling, Jane Humen, Luke Chavez, Justin Kumar, Sheila Richardson, Sarag Larson, Kristy Durham-Robinson, Jared Goerke, Torrie Hoover, Tyler Dahl, and Shadae Ingram** offered a wonderful farewell to Winter and a warm welcome to Spring.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support these wonderful Lion Rock events!

MANASTASH

This year's [Manastash](#) student literary journal will be published in Spring 2024 with the theme Humanity vs. Machine (AI). A launch party is scheduled for May 15 at the CWU Source conference.



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OPPORTUNITIES

The [Hudson Prize](#), now in its 19th year, is open to poetry collections, short story collections, essay collections, and hybrid work. The winner receives \$1,000, publication, 10 copies of the finished book, and comprehensive marketing support. **Deadline: March 31**

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.

April 25-26 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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