

Cheers From the Chair

Here Comes Everybody!

It's truly a pleasure to see everyone IN PERSON and IN EPB, to walk the halls and watch the work (and play) of the department getting done. And it's an honor to be DEO of a department whose students, faculty, and staff work and play so well together, in mutual support of our shared mission to read and write and teach and learn collaboratively and productively. This fall I am overjoyed to welcome *Kaveh Akbar* as Associate Professor of English and Director of our English and Creative Writing Major, and *Paige Lewis* as Assistant Professor of English. Both are celebrated poets and creative writers and will contribute energy, insight, and innovation to our department. I'm also happy to announce that *Hayley O'Malley's* courtesy (0%) appointment in the department has been approved. Yay Hayley! In addition, please welcome our Collegiate Visiting Writers, *Sara Gilmore* (poetry), *Michael Julius Idani* (fiction), *Kathleen Maris Paltrineri* (Literary Translation), and *Gabriella Tully Claymore* (Nonfiction). Finally, we have some wonderful new staff to celebrate: *Andrea Cramer* (TA and RA Coordinator and Assistant to the Directors of GEL and the ECW Major), *Christine Norquest* (Academic Advisor), and *Shannon Yost* (Curriculum Coordinator & Assistant to the DEO).

Courtesy of Shannon, we proudly introduce a new spiffed up pdf format for Reading Matters, your go-to source for news about the University of Iowa English Department.

Loren

Staff Matters

Kate Berta's poem, "[To be a child again]," was recently published at *The Cincinnati Review* and she was resident at the Hambidge Center in July.

NWP coordinator *Corey Campbell* published a short story in the latest issue of [The Gettysburg Review](#).

Faculty Matters

Eric Gidal's article "Industrial Transport and Political Economy in Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine" was published in a special issue of *Studies in Romanticism* (Summer 2022), *An Inventive Age: Writing of the Industrial Revolution, 1770-1830*, edited by Jeremy Davies. A short forum devoted to the issue may be found [here](#).

Blaine Greteman is co-leading a Obermann Working Group in Spring 2023 with the Theatre Department's Mary Mayo, on "Shakespeare 2023: The folio at 400 and the plays now." Along with Deborah Whaley, Adam Hooks, and others, we're hoping to plan talkbacks, film screenings, and other events for fall 2023 (the 400th anniversary of the printing of Shakespeare's first folio – but really just an excuse to get lots of people together). If you want in – whether you're faculty, staff, or a student – contact [Blaine](#).

Harry Stecopoulos' essay "Warm with Topsy Embraces': Allen Ginsberg, the US-China Writers' Conferences, and Queer Internationalism" has just been published in *The Oxford Handbook of Twentieth-Century American Literature* (Oxford, 2022), edited by Leslie Bow and Russ Castronovo.

Jonathan Wilcox recently published an essay, "Imagination at the Edge of the World: Luxuriating Women in Vercelli Homily VII and a Resistant Audience," in *Global Perspectives on Early Medieval England*, ed. Karen Louise Jolly and Britton Elliott Brooks (Cambridge: Boydell, 2022), pp. 77-93.

Melissa Febos is the recipient of a 2022 Shearing Fellowship from the Black Mountain Institute at UNLV. She is currently in residence in Las Vegas (<https://www.unlv.edu/news/release/black-mountain-institute-announces-2022-23-fellows>). She has also received an Eccles Centre Visiting Fellowship from The British Library, where she will be researching her new book this spring (<https://www.bl.uk/eccles-centre/fellowships-and-awards/fellowships-previous-holders>). Her essay, "The Wild Sublime Body" (published last year in *The Yale Review*) has been selected for the 2023 Best American Essays anthology by editor Alexander Chee.

Doctoral Student Matters

Matthew Helm spent the summer in the New York Public Library's Theatre on Film and Tape Archive watching old performances of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America* and Harvey Fierstein's *Torch Song Trilogy* as he continues to plug away at his dissertation. With equal parts excitement and trepidation, Matt bids farewell to Iowa City – his home for the last six years – to join the American Studies Department at TU Dortmund in Germany as a Graduate Research and Teaching Fellow. There he will teach graduate and undergraduate courses of his own design and dive deeper into his research. Auf Wiedersehen!

Rajorshi Das submitted two review publications (from June-July) and one invitation (from February): 2022 Review of *Queering tribal folktales from East and Northeast India* by Kaustav Chakraborty, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, Vol. 58, No 3, pp. 437-438; 2002 Review of *Queer in Translation: Sexual Politics Under Neoliberal Islam* by Evren Savci, *Sexualities*, Vol. 0, pp. 1–2; and 2022 “Pop Cinema: Gender and Sexuality,” Lecture and Open discussion hosted by Bageecha: The Gender & Queer Collective of Department of Social Work, University of Delhi, 26 February.

PJ Zaborowski spent the past summer interning with the Library of Congress's LC Labs team as part of the Iowa Digital Internships in the Humanities program. In May, he presented his paper “Misdo no Messenger: Death and Delivery in The Alliterative Morte Arthure” at the 57th International Congress of Medieval Studies. The paper received the Fair Unknown Award, and an expanded version will be appearing in issue 33.1 of the journal *Arthuriana* early next year. PJ will be ringing in the new year by presenting a paper on the fetishization of Shakespeare's First Folio at the 2023 MLA conference.

This summer, ***Jamie Chen*** presented papers at The American Comparative Literature Association's Annual Meeting, the International Murdoch Conference, and the International Conference for the Study of the Narrative. She subsequently contributed a conference writeup to the 2022 issue of the *Iris Murdoch Review*. She is currently the PhD representative for the IDEAS committee and co-chair of GEL's Textbook Committee.

Creative Writing Matters

Hannah Bonner has been accepted into the [Open City x Another Gaze Critics Workshop in London](#) and her poem "Among the Nouns at the Apocalypse" was published over the summer in [TriQuarterly](#).

Nonfiction Writing Matters

The Nonfiction Writing Program will collaborate with the creative writing MFA program at Paris 8 University on an international transmedia project involving students from both programs writing essays on the topic of belonging. Editors of the French literary magazine *Frictions* and *The Iowa Review* will coordinate as French and American MFA students develop their writing projects and then re-develop them in podcast form, to be aired by *Frictions* and subsequently published in both French and English. NWP students, watch for the announcements of an informational zoom session in November and a podcast boot camp in April! More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Alumni Matters

Stephen J. West (MFA, Creative Nonfiction), had his debut book published this summer by [Kelson Books](#).

Dianne Welsh (Class of 1978) published a new book August, 2022. [Entrepreneurial Family Business: From Survival to Success](#) tells the story of the Boyt Company, one of the earliest small manufacturers in Iowa. The book chronicles the successes, including the creation of soft-sided luggage from the sporting goods line that revolutionized the luggage industry. Each chapter ends with lessons learned. The author's family played a major role in the business and its evolution.

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