

Cheers From the Chair

Dear Colleagues and Coworkers,

Snow is general all over Iowa. It's falling on the parking lot of EPB and further west upon the fields of Kinnick. And it's falling too upon every acre of dormant corn where the hopes for Christina Bohannon lie buried.

Let's all stay warm and give thanks that we're still safe on our little blue island in a blood red sea.

And here's some good news to make your soul swoon.

Loren

Faculty Matters

Donika Kelly and UI undergraduates *Alyjah Carter*, *Sydney Mayes*, and *Victor Resendiz* conducted a generative poetry workshop in three African American Literature classes at City High School on October 24th. In total, they worked with ninety-two eleventh grade students and facilitated writing in small groups. The high school juniors wrote autobiographies in response to Rita Dove's "Fifth Grade Autobiography," and thirty-one students submitted work for the anthology chapbook. They are grateful to Mr. Shamari Scott, who opened his classroom to them, and his students for being game and making such inspiring work!



Faculty Matters

In September, *Harry Stecopoulos* presented a paper on Meatloaf, rock, and obesity at the Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present conference. In November, he served as a respondent to a panel on speculative fiction at the American Studies Association conference.

Donika Kelly was a finalist for the 2022 Granum Prize. She was also featured in a documentary about the winners of the Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards, which premiered Thursday, November 3rd at 9 p.m. on WVIZ.

Public Books recently published, "[Failure's Gifts](#)," by *Tara Bynum*.

Staff Matters

Nonfiction Writing Program coordinator, *Corey Campbell*, was awarded a fiction residency at the Vermont Studio Center for summer 2023.

Alumni Matters

Dan Champion (PhD graduate, 1989) had a selection of his poems, "[A Playbill for Sunset](#)," published in July 2022 by Ice Cube Press.

Undergraduate Matters

Students in Alpha Tau Iota remain actively engaged in a variety of experiences on campus, promoting interest in literature, language, and writing and providing opportunities for service projects and social gatherings. In the last month, Alpha Tau Iota inducted seven new students to the chapter, partnered with Cover to Cover to make tie-blankets (to be paired up with books and then donated to the Iowa City Shelter House), and held a scavenger hunt celebrating ATI's ten years as the UI chapter of Sigma Tau Delta (International English Honor Society)—and the semester is not yet over!



Graduate Student Matters

Kassie Baron was voted People's Choice in the [Three Minute Thesis](#) Competition and is the Society of Early Americanists' [Junior Scholar of the Month](#) for the month of November!

Hannah Bonner's poem, "Obituaries" appeared in [Bear Review](#) and four poems were published in the latest issue of *The Carolina Quarterly*. *Hannah* also has her latest review of Cynthia Cruz's *Hotel Oblivion* published in [The Rumpus](#).

Darius Stewart's essay, "Dearest Darky" (published originally in *Gargoyle* #74), was listed among the Notable Essays and Literary Nonfiction of 2021 in *The Best American Essays 2022*.

Nonfiction Writing Program MFA students *Larson Fritz* and *Spencer Wilkins* were named the winner and runner-up of the inaugural NWP Book Trailer Prize, judged by NWP alum John Bresland. Prof. Inara Verzemnieks announced the winners at FilmScene, where both book trailers were screened.

The NWP awarded the inaugural Writing Masters Award to the following MFA students for their contributions to the program's community outreach:

Rebecca Flowers, Martha Strawbridge, Aaron Pang, Connie Chen, Fi Okupe, Grace Morse, Stephanie Krzywonos, Larson Fritz, and Sarah Khatry.

Wyatt Williams was interviewed for a recent issue of [The Sun](#). His essay "[How Your Cup of Coffee is Clearing the Jungle](#)" for *The New York Times Magazine* was a notable selection in *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2022*.

Rajorshi Das presented at the National Women's Studies Association conference as Moderator and co-presenter, "Transformation Pedagogy and the Classroom as a Site of World-making," National Women's Studies Association (NWSA), Roundtable in Minneapolis, November 10-13, 2022. She also was a presenter of "Upper Caste Practices and Queer Aspirations in India," NWSA, Paper session. *Rajorshi* also has received the T. Anne Cleary International Dissertation Research Fellowship.

Graduate Student Matters

NWP student *Spencer Wilkins* has curated a pop-up gallery titled "adaptations", which will run from 11/27-12/2. You can learn more about the gallery in an article featured in Little Village.

Nonfiction Writing Program MFA student *Jenny Singer* was selected by the staff of the Englert Theatre as this year's Englert Nonfiction Fellow.

Discursive Data Matters (Jon Wilcox)

The numbers are out from the Office of the Registrar's Profile of Students and it is evident that, in terms of undergraduate population, the English Department is impressively stable. The headline news is that in Fall 2022 English has 891 majors in our two degree programs. That returns us to the approximate 900 majors we have been serving for the past 5 years, suggesting last year's drop was an anomaly. The number for the degree in English held roughly flat year on year, while the number for English and Creative Writing increased by 46 students (or 6.5%).

Those numbers are mighty robust compared with our Big Ten peers. The University of Illinois offers a comparable pair of degrees and has 444 majors in the two. Michigan State has 364 in English, which includes Creative Writing, while Wisconsin has 283 in its single degree. Loren has already circulated the data showing proportion of faculty to majors, where Iowa's 1:25 looks strikingly unhealthy compared with Illinois' 1:9 or Michigan State's 1:12 (or any of the Big Ten schools). Most Big Ten English Departments have seen their numbers of majors drop by half in the last 5 years, while the listing below will show that ours have stayed pretty stable.

FALL 2022

891 majors

194 declared English majors

697 declared English and Creative Writing majors

FALL 2021

847 majors

196 declared English majors

651 declared English and Creative Writing majors

FALL 2020**902 majors****235 declared English majors****667 declared English and Creative Writing majors****FALL 2019****905 majors****250 declared English majors****655 declared English and Creative Writing majors****FALL 2018****923 majors****305 declared English majors****618 declared English and Creative Writing majors**

As ever, there are complications in the way the Office of Registrar tracks these numbers, although there is some virtue in using the same meant up a little this year. If that is the case, I will point out that is a fairly robust number, making the English degree cohort just a little smaller than Chemistry, Cinema, History, or Music, and significantly larger than most degree programs in CLAS. English and Creative Writing, on the other hand, is among the giants.

Graduate numbers are confused in this report because it includes Writers' Workshop MFAs in the English graduate numbers. I include numbers of graduate degrees granted below, along with my fuller record of ten years' data on English Department student numbers for anyone interested, with occasional omissions where I was apparently being sleepy for a year. Happy data delving!

FALL 2022**891 majors****194 declared English majors****697 declared English and Creative Writing majors**

Primary Program data:

English 142 (39 male, 102 female, 1 not reported; 28 underrepresented minorities, 1 int'l)

+ 52 non-primary (10 male, 41 female, 1 not reported);

ECW 610 (193 male, 399 female, 18 not reported; 130 minority, 12 int'l)

+ 87 non-primary (26 male, 59 female, 2 not reported)

English Education (primary program in College of Ed) 41 (13 male, 28 female; 5 minority) with an additional 41 non-primary (13 male, 28 female)

75 minors in English (21 male, 51 female, 3 not reported)

Entering First Year students who have declared:

English 29 (5 male, 24 female)

ECW 164 (48 male, 116 female, 0 not reported)

Degrees awarded 2021-2:

English 45 (12 male, 31 female, 2 not reported)

ECW 134 (41 male, 93 female, 0 not reported)

English Ed 21 (6 male, 15 female)

24 minors

13 MAs

10 PhDs

Faculty numbers: 32.75 FTE TT, + 0.5 FTE IF

FALL 2021

847 majors

196 declared English majors

651 declared English and Creative Writing majors

Primary Program data:

English 146 (30 male, 115 female, 1 not reported; 26 underrepresented minorities, 0 int'l)

+ 50 non-primary (13 male, 37 female);

ECW 575 (193 male, 371 female, 11 not reported; 115 minority, 20 int'l)

+ 77 non-primary (24 male, 52 female, 1 not reported)

English Education (primary program in College of Ed) 45 (14 male, 31 female; 7 minority) with an additional 42 non-primary (14 male, 28 female)

57 minors in English

Entering First Year students who have declared:**English 26 (7 male, 19 female)****ECW 133 (41 male, 87 female, 5 not reported)****Degrees awarded 2020-21:****English 82 (24 male, 58 female, 0 not reported)****ECW 152 (40 male, 109 female, 3 not reported)****English Ed 23 (6 male, 17 female)****24 minors****4 MAs****9 PhDs****Faculty numbers: 30.75 FTE TT, + 0.5 FTE IF****FALL 2020****902 majors****235 declared English majors****667 declared English and Creative Writing majors****Primary Program data:****English 179 (48 male, 131 female; 21 underrepresented minorities, 1 int'l)****+ 56 non-primary (15 male, 41 female);****ECW 587 (180 male, 401 female, 6 not reported; 115 minority, 17 int'l)****+ 80 non-primary (31 male, 49 female)****English Education (primary program in College of Ed) 41 (10 male, 31 female; 10 minority) with an additional 38 non-primary (9 male, 29 female)****65 minors in English****Entering First Year students who have declared:****English 34 (8 male, 26 female)****ECW 121 (40 male, 80 female, 1 not reported)****Degrees awarded 2019-20:****English 57 (9 male, 47 female, 1 not reported)****ECW 116 (27 male 89 female)****English Ed 15 (2 male, 13 female)****28 minors****4 PhDs****Faculty numbers: 32.5 FTE TT, + 0.5 FTE IF**

FALL 2019

905 majors

250 declared English majors

655 declared English and Creative Writing majors

Faculty number: 30.0 FTE TT, +0.5 FTE IF

FALL 2018

923 majors

305 declared English majors

618 declared English and Creative Writing majors

In 2017-18 we awarded:

126 BA degrees (80 English, 46 in E&CW)

24 minors

4 MA degrees

5 Ph.D.s

Faculty numbers: 34.0 FTE TT + 0.5 IF

FALL 2017

853 majors

327 declared English majors

526 declared English and Creative Writing majors

In 2016-17 we awarded

153 BA degrees (137 English, 14 in E&CW)

25 minors

Graduate program: 68 Ph.D. students, 2 MA, 30 MFA in NWP. We award

19 MA degrees

4 Ph.D.s

FALL 2016

787 majors

681 declared English majors

106 declared English and Creative Writing majors

Of these:

588 English first majors (198 men, 386 women, 111 self-identify as minorities, 6 foreign)

93 second majors (28 men, 63 women, 2 not reported)

94 English and Creative Writing first majors (30 men, 64 women, 21 minorities, 4 foreign)

12 second majors (3 men, 9 women)

63 declared English minors

29 in English Ed.

In 2015-16 we awarded:

203 BA degrees

23 minors

11 MA degrees

13 Ph.D. degrees

Faculty numbers:

Tenure-track FTE: 37.25

lecturer FTE: 0.5

FALL 2015

794 majors

687 first majors (218 men, 467 women; 131 self-identify as minorities, 14 are foreign)

107 second majors (39 men, 67 women, 1 transgender)

In 2014-15 we awarded:

216 BA degrees

25 minors

13 MA degrees

16 Ph.D. degrees

Tenure-track FTE: 39.0

lecturer FTE: 0.5

FALL 2014

840 majors

697 first majors (241 men, 456 women; 117 ethnic minorities)

143 second majors (46 men, 97 women)

In 2013-14 we awarded:

220 BA degrees

29 minors

10 MA degrees

10 Ph.D. degrees

Tenure-track FTE: 39.75

FALL 2013

862 majors

735 first majors (260 men, 475 women; 112 ethnic minorities)

127 second majors

In 2012-13 we awarded:

227 BA degrees

30 minors

16 MA degrees

15 Ph.D. degrees

Tenure-track FTE: 39.75

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