

Volume 27, Issue 1

A Journal of the Plague Year Part II: The Empire Strikes Back

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you who continue to be committed to our shared community, and its shared values of teaching and learning together. Despite the liabilities of our leadership and the inequities of our institutions, we are still united by our core purpose, which is to create and disseminate scientific and humanistic knowledge for the common good. Just by doing our jobs we are fighting the forces that are currently dividing us. The accolades and achievements listed below attest to this shared commitment, and they give me hope that our vision will prevail.

Faculty Matters

Melissa Febos' book, *Girlhood*, was published on March 30 and reviewed by *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic* & *Washington Post*. It was a national bestseller! Melissa was also featured on the MSNBC morning show, *Morning Joe*, on May 10. She had essays published in *The New York Times*, *The Yale Review*, *CrimeReads*, and *Elle.com*, as well as a feature in *The New York Times Magazine* and an op-ed in *The New York Times*.

Congratulations to Claire Fox, who in August was named M.F. Carpenter Professor.

Following the publication of her second full-length collection, *The Renunciations*, Donika Kelly's poems were published in *American Poetry Review*, *West Branch*, and the chapbook anthology *What Tells You Ripeness: Black Poets on Nature*. She also gave readings over the summer at the *Boldface Conference* at the University of Houston, the *Cornell College Summer Residency*, the *Schomburg Literary Festival*, the *Southampton Writer's Conference*, and the *NYU Low Residency MFA program* in Paris, France.

Sarah Minor is releasing her second book, *Slim Confessions: The Universe as a Spider or Spit*, from Noemi Press next month, on October 15th:
<http://www.noemipress.org/catalog/prose/slimconfessions/>.

Last March, Harry Stecopoulos delivered a lecture on Maxine Hong Kingston and US-Chinese literary exchange at the online conference "The Global Cold War." Harry's edited collection *A History of the Literature of the US South* appeared from Cambridge UP in July, and his essay "Telling America's Story to the World: Literature, Internationalism, Cultural Diplomacy" just came out in *American Literary History*.

Jonathan Wilcox published a manuscript-centered research article with some impressive images: "The Wolf at Work: Understanding Wulfstan's Compositional Method," in *Manuscripts in the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: Cultures and Connections*, ed. Claire Breay and Joanna Story, with Eleanor Jackson (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2021), pp. 141-53.

Grad Matters

This summer, Maria Capecchi interned at the Library of Congress as an inaugural member of the Iowa Digital Internships in the Humanities. She worked under the supervision of LC Labs on a research project to improve digital literacies, helping older Americans find and connect to the Library of Congress's digital collections. Along with this project, Maria participated in a Design Sprint, which you can read about at the Library of Congress Blog "The Signal."

This summer, Cathryn Klusmeier won a Pushcart Prize for her essay, "Gutted." The volume will be coming out this fall. Cathryn also has a book coming out this October, called *Against Reduction*.

Jeremy Lowenthal had two book reviews accepted for publication in the journals *Television & New Media* and *The Global South*. With the aid of the T. Anne Cleary International Dissertation Fellowship, Jeremy will be conducting archival research at the BBC Archives and the British Library this fall.

E Mariah Spencer is proud to announce the second annual Online Olio webinar series to be held this October. Affiliated with the International Margaret Cavendish Society and hosted by Digital Cavendish, the Olios specialize in bringing early career researchers into contact with their more experienced colleagues while creating digital content that can be used for teaching and research purposes. We focus on early women writers and this year our talented group of panelists will present on "Women Writing Skin" (10/02), "Rogue Thoughts: Cavendish and Mental Illness" (10/09), and the "Philosophy of Gender in Early Modern Studies" (10/16 and 10/17). Previous Olios can be viewed here. E Mariah also has a forthcoming book chapter titled "'Mistress of a World': Margaret Cavendish, Gender, and SF in Early Modern England" that will be published in the *Routledge Companion to Gender and Science Fiction* (2022). Additionally, she has two review essays that will be available later this fall in *Science Fiction Studies* and *Early Modern Women*.

Wyatt Williams' first book, *Springer Mountain: Meditations on Killing and Eating*, will be published on September 28, 2021 by University of North Carolina Press. An essay adapted from the book, "Eating the Whale," was published in the September issue of *Harper's Magazine*. "The Case of the Vanishing Jungle,"

an essay about coffee and conservation, was published by the New York Times Magazine and adapted for The Daily podcast in August.

Undergrad Matters

Students in Harry Stecopoulos' fall 2020 undergraduate honors class who collectively wrote a retelling of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* signed a film option with Independent Pictures and Fugitive Films.

Staff Matters

Corey Campbell's short story "In a Burning Volcano," about teaching fiction workshops in an Arizona prison, was selected by Yiyun Li as a finalist for the 2021 Salamander Fiction Contest. The story will appear in the Fall 2021/Winter 2022 issue of *Salamander*.

Alumni Matters

Lauryn Ash (English & Creative Writing BA 2014) was profiled on stories.uiowa.edu in "Merging a love of writing and gaming," which detailed her career and how she came to work on games such as *Marvel's Avengers* and *Dungeon Defenders II* since graduating.

Nichole Shaw (English BA 2021) was also recently featured on stories.uiowa.edu in "Giving voice to the voiceless," in which she discussed her passion for telling stories and giving voice to voiceless, her experience at the University of Iowa, and her future plans.

Upcoming Matters

Faculty Meeting - September 24, 2021 | 1:30-2:30 pm | Zoom

EC Meeting - October 1, 2021 | 1:30-2:30 pm | Zoom

The Krause Series in Contemporary Nonfiction: Wyatt Williams in Conversation with Cathryn Klusmeier -
October 5, 2021 | Prairie Lights Books Virtual

EC Meeting - October 8, 2021 | 1:30-2:30 pm | Zoom

Peter Nazareth Retirement Party - October 12, 2021 | 5:00-7:00 pm | Terry Trueblood *Subject to
confirmation*

EC Meeting - October 15, 2021 | 1:30-2:30 pm | Zoom