

Volume 27, Issue 5

Miles to Go....

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
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It's been a busy and turbulent semester so far, with no end in sight and miles to go before we get some sleep. So let me congratulate everyone on the mileage we've already covered. Despite administrative apathy and legislative lunacy, we've navigated the worst of the pandemic with integrity and compassion, and I want to thank all of you for your mutual commitment to our mission and to our collective health and well-being under trying circumstances. And I want to congratulate all of you for continuing to write and publish and win fellowships and awards despite all the distractions and disasters. It's been a long and difficult journey, and we still have a long way to go, but I'm confident in our team, and honored to travel alongside you. I promise peaceful stops once spring is here.

Faculty Matters

Congratulations to **Matt Brown** who, with Elizabeth Yale, has [received a \\$150,000 Humanities Initiatives grant](#) for their project titled "Global Book Cultures and the Student Laboratory: Undergraduate Education at the UI Center for the Book."

Congratulations to **Tara Bynum**, who has been awarded an Early Career Scholars Award from the OVPR to fund her DH project, *Six Degrees of Phillis Wheatley*. Tara has also received a fellowship from the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at University of Pennsylvania for AY 2022-2023!

Congratulations to **Melissa Febos**, who was [awarded a 2022 National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship](#) and whose book *Girlhood* was named a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in criticism. Melissa also published an essay in the New York Review of Books called "[Jeannette Winterson, My Therapist, and Me.](#)" Additionally, her fourth book, *Body Work*, will be released on March 15.

Congratulations to **David Gooblar** and **Donika Kelly** who were awarded CLAS Old Gold Fellowships for summer 2022.

Donika Kelly's poem, "[Sixteen Center](#)," was published online and in a recent print issue of *The New Yorker*. Additionally, her poem, "[Self-Portrait with Father](#)," was selected by Victoria Chang as part of a series in *The New York Times Magazine* where the editor chooses poems from recently published books.

Will Rhodes' article, "The Apocalyptic Aesthetics of the List: Form and Political Economy in *Wynnere and Wastoure*," just came out in print in *The Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*, 52.1, January 2022.

Harry Stecopoulos' essay "The Heat of Modernity: *The Great Gatsby* as Petrofiction" has just been published in *The Cambridge Companion to American Literature and the Environment* (Cambridge, 2022), edited by Saran Ensor and Susan Scott Parrish.

Grad Matters

Congratulations to **Maria Capecchi**, who was awarded a Marcus Bach Fellowship for Graduate Students in the Humanities to support the completion of her dissertation, "Performing Early Modern Women: 1620-1680."

Congratulations to **Jamie Chen**, whose paper "The Ends of Imagination: Trauma Narrative in Arundhati Roy's Prose and Politics" won the MMLA's 2021 Graduate Student Paper Prize.

Congratulations to **Mason Hamberlin**, who was awarded a Marcus Bach Fellowship for Graduate Students in the Humanities to support the completion of their dissertation, "The Queer Mormon Suicides."

Jeremy Lowenthal's essay "The 'Murderous Music' of Ted Hughes' *Birthday Letters*" was accepted for publication in *Poetics Today*.

Undergrad Matters

Four ATI members had work accepted for the 2022 Sigma Tau Delta Convention, to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, March 30-April 2. Congratulations to **Noreasa Higgins, Cassidy Pekarek, Corinne Swann, and Brett Zach!**

Scholarship Matters

The English Department has received a \$200,000 bequest from Melvin Blough to be directed to scholarships. Melvin Blough received his BA in English in 1972, but he did not limit the scholarships to undergraduates. Therefore, we have created a Melvin J. Blough Scholarship Fund with "Funds to be used towards scholarships for students studying in the English Department." It can be used for either graduates or undergraduates.

Alumni Matters

Myriam J. A. Chancy's (PhD 1994) new novel, *What Storm, What Thunder*, has received praiseful reviews from [Kirkus Reviews](#), [Good Reads](#), and [Book Marks](#).

Sarah Fay's (PhD 2013) memoir [*Pathological: The True Story of Six Misdiagnoses*](#) will be published by HarperCollins on March 15, 2022. It has already received a starred [Kirkus review](#) and will be reviewed by *The New York Times* in March.

In Memoriam

The English Department is saddened to recently learn of passing of longtime English Department faculty member and NWP founder Carl Klaus. Carl Klaus was founder of the Nonfiction Writing Program and Professor Emeritus at Iowa. He authored numerous books and inspired generations of nonfiction writers.

Upcoming Matters

Faculty Colloquium: Maddie McGann, "Viral Reception and the Crisis of Time in Mary Shelley's *The Last Man*" - February 18, 2022 | 3:30 PM | Zoom

Fahri Öz Talk - February 22, 2022 | 3:15-4:45 PM | 219 Jessup Hall

The Krause Series in Contemporary Nonfiction: Translator Bela Shayevich in Conversation with Professors Brooks Landon and Jan Steyn - February 23, 2022 | 7:00 PM | Prairie Lights Books Virtual

The Krause Series in Contemporary Nonfiction: Elissa Washuta in Conversation with Prof. Melissa Febos - March 22, 2022 | 7:00 PM | Prairie Lights Books Virtual

Faculty Colloquium: Harry Stecopoulos, "Thermal Violence in *Native Son*: Richard Wright's *Energy Unconscious*" - March 31, 2022 | 3:30 PM | Zoom

Faculty Colloquium: Bennett Sims, "*Solaris and Solaristics*" - April 15, 2022 | 1:00 PM | Zoom

Faculty Colloquium: Deborah Whaley - April 22, 2022 | 3:30 PM | Zoom

