

Volume 27, Issue 7

DEO Intro

Look! We Have Come Through!

It's been quite a year, folks, and let us rejoice in its ending. In this issue of *Reading Matters*, we recognize awards and accolades received by graduate students in the Nonfiction Writing MFA and English Literary Studies MA and PhD programs during academic year 2021-22. Before we recognize these achievements, I want to thank Director of Graduate Studies **Stephen Voyce**, who has been a tireless advocate for graduate students in the department, and **Brooks Landon**, who stepped in to direct the Nonfiction Writing Program through a truly challenging year. And as always our gratitude goes to **Cherie Hansen-Rieskamp**, the heart and soul of our graduate programs and the fount of all knowledge and wisdom about them.

I would also like to recognize the faculty and staff who train and coordinate Teaching Assistants in English, including Director of English & Creative Writing **Ed Folsom**, Assistant Director for the Foundations of Creative Writing course **Donika Kelly and Louisa Hall**, Assistant Director for the Provost Writing Fellows **Louisa Hall**, and Nonfiction Writing Program coordinator and English & Creative Writing Program Administrator **Corey Campbell**; Creative Nonfiction Writing course supervisor **Bonnie Sunstein**; Foundations of the English Major instructors **Kathy Lavezzo** and **Stephen Voyce**; General Education Literature Program Director **Blaine Greteman** and Assistant Director for the Provost Writing Fellows **Bennett Sims** and General Education Literature Program Administrator **Andrea Cramer**, who are assisted by a dedicated team of GEL graduate peer mentors and faculty teaching advisors.

Kudos to all, MFA, MA, and PhD students in English, for your impressive accomplishments as scholars, writers, and teachers during this most challenging year.

From the Director of Graduate Studies

As Dr. Glass mentions above (with considerable understatement!), it has been another trying year. But there is still excellent news, my friends!

Despite budgetary pressures at universities across the country, our PhDs and MFAs continue to find success after graduation. Since the start of Covid, former grads Alex Ashland, Makayla Steiner, Laura Hayes, Enrico Bruno, Annemarie Pearson, Caitlin Simmons, Ryan Furlong, Haley Larson, Benjamin Batzer, and Heidi Renee Aijala have found academic positions, while Rachel Walerstein, Katherine Ost diek, Chris Dolle, and Faith Avery have found exciting and creative jobs in allied fields outside of

academia. Recent graduates of the NWP, including Jenny Fran Davis, Brittany Means, and Emily Mester, have found publishers for their wonderful books. Congratulations!

The English Department continues its participation in the American Association of Universities PhD Education Initiative. Begun under Dr. Kathy Lavezzo's tenure as DGS, we've used these funds to revamp the Introduction to Graduate Studies course under the tireless leadership of Dr. Jen Buckley. We've continued a speaker series designed to introduce students to a wider range of jobs after the PhD, and we've implemented an ambitious internship program with the Library of Congress and the Stanley Museum.

Working with AGSE members and the indefatigable Cherie Hansen-Rieskamp, we've made changes to the PhD degree requirements in order to be more responsive to student needs. This included eliminating the US and British national requirement, streamlining the quals process, creating more flexibility in dissertation committee selection, along with modifications to the comp exam portfolio.

As always, the one person all faculty and grad students alike should thank is Cherie. Her institutional memory and even temper has kept the program going through one of its most difficult periods. Finally, I'd also like to thank the outgoing AGSE Committee members, Phil Zaborowski, Tove Conway, Jamie Chen, and Kyler Dill, for their steady leadership and dedication to the program.

2022 MFA Graduates

Brittany Bettendorf, "Honeycombing," (Louisa Hall, dir.)

Andrew Cardenas, "Route 91 to Paradise," (Andre Perry and John D'Agata, dirs.)

Gabriela Tilly Claymore, "Whose Work is Time Doing," (Kerry Howley, dir.)

Jenny Davis, "Wives and Girlfriends," (Melissa Febos, dir.)

Carey Dunne, "Miracle Cures," (Melissa Febos, dir.)

Jonathan Gleason, "Sacred Monsters," (Brooks Landon, dir.)

Gyasi Hall, "How Come Black Folks Can't Just Write about Comics?," (Bonnie Sunstein, dir.)

Jessica Kraemer, "Startling Forms of Refusal," (Kerry Howley, dir.)

Dylan McGonigle, "Repeat Listening or Disappearing Boys," (Sarah Minor and Brooks Landon, dirs.)

Jamila Osman, "Memory Palace," (Inara Verzemnieks, dir.)

Tatiana Schlote-Bonne, "Don't Be So Dramatic," (Bonnie Sunstein, dir.)

Sanjna Singh, "Chase," (Melissa Febos, dir.)

Andrew Tan-Delli Cicchi, "Hometown," (Inara Verzemnieks, dir.)

MFA Publications, Presentations, and Awards

In 2020-2021, **Ilana Bean** has received the Englert Nonfiction fellowship and MFA Summer Fellowship. Her essays appeared in Chicago Review of Books and Gawker, and she presented at CCC Conference, The Englert, and Mission Creek Festival.

Hannah Bonner's essay "Being Alice Twice: A New Moon Report" was published in *The Essay Daily* in December 2021. Her poem "Pelt" was published in *The LaHave Review* (2021) and "And When He Told Her It Was Truly Over This Time" was published in *Rattle* (2021). In February 2022 she helped curate and facilitate a dialogue on video essays from *TriQuarterly* at PS1 alongside Dr. Sarah Minor and Joshua Bohnsack. She also had her collage film "Asymptote Acoustic" screen for Joy Block Visualizer, Vol. 1, and she will be doing a performance piece for Open Air Media Festival entitled "Can You Care for Me?" in May 2022.

Georgie Fehringer was awarded the MFA Summer Fellowship and the Buckley Fellowship. Their written work, "Here" was published in *The Chicago Review*, Brink v.2, and *The Black Warrior Review* issue 48.1. Georgie will read at the Mission Creek Festival, with the Writers of Color series and will present creative work at the CCC conference in April.

Asha Galindo published "Fat Call" in *Oxford Magazine (OxMag)*. She also performed as part of the Iowa Graduate Living Stories Project. Asha is a recipient of the MFA Summer Fellowship for 2022.

Jonathan Gleason published "Exit Wounds" in *New England Review*, and "Bitter Joy" in *Michigan Quarterly Review*.

Gyasi Hall published "Eminem Drop-Kicked Me in This Dream I Had" in *Brink*.

Jamila Osman won the *Black Warrior Review* Flash Contest for her piece "Sunday School."

Tatiana Schlote-Bonne's essay "Suspicious Minds" was published in *Narrative Magazine* and was named a finalist in their 30 Below Contest.

Spencer Wilkins was awarded a Diversity Scholarship to the Elk River Writers' Workshop. The conference takes place in Yellowstone County Montana, focusing on naturalist writing by BIPOC writers. His workshop will be led by Guggenheim recipient Camille T. Dungy.

MFA Fellowships and Department Awards

CLAS Visiting Writer in Nonfiction 2022-2023

Gabriela Tully Claymore

Iowa Arts Fellows 2022-2023

Caelainn Barr

Connie Chen

Ardrianna Kane

Mofiyinfoluwa Okupe

2022 Underrepresented Minority Thesis Fellowship

Gyasi Hall

Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio Summer Fellowship

Larson Fritz

MFA Summer Fellowship 2022

Sarah Adler

Ilana Bean

Georgie Fehringer

Asha Galindo

Stanley Award for International Research

Rebecca Flowers

Marcus Bach Fellowship

Mason Hamberlin

Englert Nonfiction Fellowship

Ilana Bean

Herodotus Awards

Larson Fritz

Cathryn Klusmeier

Wyatt Williams

Buckley Fellows

Carey Dunne

Georgie Fehringer

Jonathan Gleason

Tatiana Schlote-Bonne

Andrew Tan-Delli Cicchi (*Honorary Fellow*)

NWP Video Prize 2022

Larson Fritz

Mason Hamberlin

Sanjna Singh

2022 UI Council on Teaching- Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

Jonathan Gleason

Andy Tan-Delli Cicchi

2022 Carl Klaus Teaching Award

Tatiana Schlote-Bonne

Andrew Tan-Delli Cicchi

Magdalena Award

Andrew Tan-Delli Cicchi

Roxanne Mueller Award

Mason Hamberlin

2022 Incoming MFA Graduate Students

Caelainn Barr

MSc, Columbia University

Journalism

Connie Chen

BA, Wellesley College

English

MDiv, Harvard University

Religion and Literature

Richard Frailing

BS, Old Dominion University

Biological Sciences

MFA, Iowa State University

Creative Writing and Environment

Spencer Jones

BA, Swarthmore Collge

Sociology and Education

MA, Brown University

Secondary Teaching - Social Studies

Liv Kane

BA, Kenyon College

English and Film

Stephanie Krzywonos

BA, Wheaton College

Philosophy

Grace Morse

BA, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Global Studies and Hispanic Literature and Cultures

MofiyinfoLuwa Okupe

LLB, University of Durham

Law

Jenny Singer

BA, Barnard College

English

Shigraf Zahbi

BA. Jamia Millia Islamia

English

MA Graduates with Portfolio

Neala Arnold
Jamie Chen
Daisy Morales Trejo

PhD Graduates

Jaclyn Carver, "Louisa May Alcott's *Hospital Sketches: The*

Commonwealth Newspaper and Abolitionist Priorities," (Kathleen Diffley, dir.)

Christopher Dolle, "Inter / -Species / - Net /-Sect," (Barbara Eckstein & Stephen
Voyce, co-dirs.)

Danielle Kennedy, "Survival Poetics: AIDS, Affect, Form, and Time," (Naomi
Greyser and Jennifer Buckley, dirs.)

Brady Krien, "Magazine Ecology: Environmental Knowledge Infrastructures in
Nineteenth-Century Periodicals," (Eric Gidal, dir.)

***Jeremy Lowenthal**, "The Media Unconscious of Confessional Poetry," (Garrett
Stewart and Marie Krugter, co-dirs.)

James O'Neil, "*The Late-Life Whitman: Understanding the Creative Expressions of*
Senescence," (Ed Folsom, dir.)

E Mariah Spencer, "Lady of Contemplation: On the Education and *Copia* of
Margaret Cavendish," (Blaine Greteman and Adam Hooks, co-dirs.)

***Konrad Swartz**, "Englising the Audience: Reading War in British Literature, 1750-
1830," (Eric Gidal, dir.)

*2022 Summer

PhD Qualifications

Sarah Barringer

Margaret Bowlin

Sydnee Brown

Tove Conway

Camille Davis

Riley Hanick

Matt Ma

Daisy Morales Trejo

Thelma Trujillo

PhD Comprehensive Examination Completed

Annie Burkhart

Rajorshi Das

Reid Dempsey

Kyler Dill
Bryanne Estes
Joshua Foley
Conor Hilton
Ivo Ivanoff
Kathleen Shaughnessy
Bronwyn Stewart
PJ Zaborowski

2022 PhD Fellowships and Departmental Awards

Lulu Merle Johnson Fellowship

Alexus Williams

Iowa Recruitment Fellowship

Madelyn Matsubara

Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship

Matthew Helm

Jeremy Lowenthal

Graduate College Post Comp Research Award

Maria Capecchi

Rajorshi Das

Reid Dempsey

Graduate College Summer Fellowship

Maria Capecchi

Rajorshi Das

Bryanne Estes

Conor Hilton

Maddison McGann

Kathleen Shaughnessy

Helen K. Fairall Scholarship

Tove Conway

Bryanne Estes

Carolyn Gonzalez

Meredith Stabel

Frederick P.W. McDowell Dissertation Scholarships

Maddison McGann

Freda Dixon Malone Dissertation Scholarship

Maria Capecchi

English Department Best Essay Prize

Jeremy Lowenthal

Edwin Ford Piper Memorial Scholarship

Torie Burns

2022 Council on Teaching- Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

Annie Burkhart

Department and College Teaching Awards

John C. Gerber Teaching Award

Jamie Chen

W.R. Irwin Teaching Award

Camille Davis

E Mariah Spencer

MA and PhD Publications, Presentations, and Awards

Torie Burns is the recipient of the English department's 2022 Edwin Ford Piper Memorial Scholarship.

Maria Capecchi interned at the Library of Congress's LC Labs as an inaugural member of the Iowa Digital Internships in the Humanities during Summer 2021. Fall 2021 she completed her dissertation prospectus meeting and earned a Graduate Certificate at the Center for the Book. Capecchi presented papers at the Midwest Modern Language Association, the Newberry Library's Multidisciplinary Graduate Conference, and Craft, Critique, & Culture. She was awarded the Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Fellowship for Spring 2022 and the Graduate College Summer Fellowship for Summer 2022.

Jamie Chen spent two weeks in the summer off 2021 physically at home in Taiwan, and virtually in workshop with the Project Summer Narrative Institute, reading and developing projects on narrative studies. She currently serves as the acting secretary of the Associate of Graduate Students in English, as well as the president of the 2022 Craft Critique Culture Conference Planning Committee. The conference took place in a hybrid format, with the title "Margins Marginalia Marginalized." In November 2021, Jamie presented at the Midwestern Modern Language Convention, and received the Graduate Student Paper Prize for her paper "The Ends of Imagination: Trauma Narrative in Arundhati Roy's Prose and Politics." This summer, Jamie will be presenting her paper, "Triple Agent: Practicing Heteroglossic Empathy in *The Sympathizer*," at The American Comparative Literature Association's Annual Meeting. She will also be travelling to Chichester in West Sussex, England to present at the International Murdoch Conference and the International Society for the Study of the Narrative. She is pursuing a certificate with the Center of the Book and earned an MA *en portfolio* from the Department of English this semester.

In March of 2021 **Riley Hanick** presented papers on Tan Lin at the University of Toronto's Book History and Print Culture Colloquium, "The Book Out of Order: Structure, Inversion, Dissent," and on Lisa Robertson at "Fragments of Touch: Haptic Readings and the Limits of Sensation," hosted by the Université de Montréal. In July he shared work for the virtual symposium "Charlotte Mew and Friends: Decadent and Modernist Networks." During the summer he completed *Nine Pivots*, a web-based ekphrastic essay focused on a selection of work from the UI Stanley Museum of Art and Special Collections. Funded through a Graduate Digital Internship in the Humanities, it will be hosted by the Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio. In 2022 his article "Enfolding the Hand, Entrancing the Eye: Erica Baum's *Dog Ear*" was published in *Open Library of Humanities*. He presented work on Renee Gladman at Carnegie Mellon's "Bridges and Borders: Crossings in Language and Culture" and at UI's own "Craft Critique Culture: Margins, Marginalia, Marginalized" in April. In May he will present on the Southampton Rebellion for the CUNY-Brooklyn conference "Relighting The Crossroads: Historical and Cultural Encounters between Haitians and African Americans" and in June he is scheduled to speak about César Aira at the American Comparative Literature Association's annual meeting.

Matthew Helm received the Ballard and Seashore Fellowship for the Spring Semester of 2022 and has been hard at work on the dissertation since then. He presented excerpts from the project at the University of Virginia's GradCon 2022: Networks and at the Craft Critique Culture conference here at the University of Iowa. Later this May, he will present his work on Carson McCullers at the American Literature Association Conference in Chicago. Matthew has two publications forthcoming this summer: "Nathaniel Hawthorne's Reframing of That '—which Milton tells about': Literary Influence and Blithedale's Queer Masque" in *The Nathaniel Hawthorn Review* and "Discerning Love, Recuperating Hope: The 'Search for God' in Carson McCullers' *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*" in *Religion & Literature*. In addition, at the close of this semester, Matthew will have completed the requirements for the Graduate Certificate in College Teaching.

Brady Krien was recognized with a 2022 OVPR Graduate Research Excellence Award. He has also had a chapter accepted into the *Digital Futures of Graduate Study in the Humanities* collection, forthcoming from the University of Minnesota Press.

Maddison McGann was awarded the CLAS Dissertation Writing Fellowship, the Honorable Mention MVSA Walter L. Arnstein Dissertation Prize in Victorian Studies, the MVSA William and Mary Burgan Prize for Outstanding Presentation by a Graduate Student, the Freda Dixon Malone Scholarship, the Frederick P.W. McDowell Scholarship, and the Graduate College Summer Fellowship. Her article, "Reading Reception in Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*," was accepted for publication in *Victorian Periodical Reviews*. In addition, Maddison gave an invited talk on pandemic time, narrative form, and Mary Shelley's *The Last Man* in the online Environmental Cultures Seminar Series at Cardiff University, and

presented (or is set to present) papers at MLA, ASLE, RSVP, MVSA, NASSR/BARS, and CCC.

Darius Stewart published poems and essays in *Cimarron Review*, *the Brooklyn Review*, and *Gargoyle*. His first full-length book of poems, *Intimacies in Borrowed Light*, will be published by EastOver Press in June 2022.

Thelma Trujillo is a 2022 Obermann Latinidades Scholar and will be participating in the Mellon Imagining Latinidades Workshop on Latinx Scholarship and Pedagogy in June. In July, she will be joining a cohort of PhD students in a six-week mentoring workshop organized by the Medieval Academy of America. She also presented her work on whiteness and the racialization of non-Christians in the sixteenth-century poem *The Lusians* at the 57th International Congress on Medieval Studies (ICMS).

PJ Zaborowski spent the summer of 2021 virtually browsing medieval manuscripts (and their fragments) with the Virginia Rare Book School, and physically browsing at the Newberry Library supported by the Aikin Award. PJ was part of the planning committee for the Newberry Multidisciplinary Graduate Conference, and he will be a presenter at UIowa's own interdisciplinary graduate conference in April. His paper for UIowa's Craft Critique Culture Conference is titled "Making the Medieval Modern: Leafbooks and the Demediation of Medieval Manuscripts." In May, he will present his paper, "Misdo No Messenger: Death and Delivery in the Alliterative Morte Arthur," at the 57th International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo. PJ currently serves as the president of the Associate of Graduate Students in English. He is pursuing a certificate with the Center of the Book and a MA in Library Information Sciences in addition to his PhD in English.

2022 Incoming PhD Graduate Students

Sophia Craig

BA, Purdue U-Indiana
English and Creative Writing

Aiden Kendrick

BA, U. of Albany State University
English

Sarah Landersholm Frank

BA, Loras College
English and Creative Writing

Madelyn Matsubara

BA, Grinnell College
English and French

Jennie Sekanis

BA, College of New Jersey
English and Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies

MA, College of New Jersey

English

Aileen Tierney

BA, University of Kentucky

English

Ellie White

BA, U. Of Michigan-Dearborn

English

Alexus Williams

BS, Mount Mercy

Communications and English

Placement Matters

Kyle Barton, ABD

Undergraduate Advisor, Academic Advising Center, University of Iowa

Benjamin Batzer. PhD, '20

Assistant Professor of English Education, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri

Alumni Matters

Douglas Dowland, Ph.D. 2010, The University of Virginia Press has issued a contract for his next book, tentatively entitled *Strong Nationalisms: Affect and Nonfiction from Vietnam to Trump*. It will be part of UVaP's book series *Cultural Frames, Framing Culture* and should be published in early 2024. In March, Douglas was the keynote speaker at the 2022 Intermountain Graduate Conference, sponsored by Idaho State University. His keynote was on "Reading the Face: What Medical Humanities Tells Us About Affect Theory." He was introduced by ISU Graduate Dean **Adam Bradford**, Ph.D. 2010, also an Iowa English alumn.

Kathleen Williams Renk, Ph.D. 1995, professor emerita of British literature at Northern Illinois University, recently published her new book, *Vindicated: A Novel of Mary Shelley*.

Taryne Taylor, Ph. D. 2014, has just obtained a position as Advanced Assistant Professor of Science Fiction Studies at her alma mater Florida Atlantic University.

Staff Matters

This spring **Corey Campbell** published a short story in the journal *Salamander*. She has another short story forthcoming in *The Gettysburg Review* later this year.

Hannah Sorrell gave birth to a baby girl, Isla Sorrell, on Friday, April 29th.