



Out of IOWA

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

FALL 2019

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A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR: *CLAIRE F. FOX*



Professor and Chair of English Claire F. Fox

Dear Friends of the UI Department of English, I am pleased to introduce *Out of Iowa* 2019, featuring departmental highlights from this fall and the past academic year. This issue highlights the amazing literary and scholarly publishing activities that are taking place in the Department of English, from novels, monographs, and edited volumes to innovative courses, journals, and book series that bring together faculty, staff, students, and communities of readers and writers across the globe.

This fall the English Department welcomes four new faculty who are profiled in this issue:

Louisa Hall (Fiction), William Rhodes (Medieval and Renaissance), Elizabeth Rodriguez Fielder (Literature and Culture of the Americas, African American, and Latinx Literatures), and Bennett Sims (Fiction). Their presence is already having a huge impact on our curriculum, and you can learn more about their interests and publications in this issue.

As I near the end of my term as chair, I want to express my appreciation to all of the English alumni and friends of the Department with whom I've connected through this publication. If you would like to participate in the life of the Department, there are many ways to get involved. Our undergraduate students are eager to learn more about the career paths taken by former English majors, and graduate and undergraduate students alike seek opportunities to have internships and develop mentoring relationships with UI alum. Please contact me if you'd like more information.

Finally, thanks to writer Rachel Walerstein and designer and editor Kate Conlow for their fine work on this issue.

Warmest wishes for the holiday season and the New Year,

Claire F. Fox
Professor and Chair of English

Because Writing

The rich history of the English Department's four journals

The Department of English is an active participant in the Writing University here at Iowa. Boasting four departmental journals and six faculty edited book series, there are plenty of new publications to look forward to over the course of the year. When one considers this overwhelming output alongside the new books, articles, and ongoing born-digital projects undertaken by members of the English department, it's astonishing to note how few coffee cups occupy our desks!

The journals hosted by the department all have a long history. Founded in 1970, *The Iowa Review* (TIR), the English Department's resident literary journal, publishes three editions a year. Aside from publishing a wide range of fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, translations, photography, as well as emerging forms, TIR also has a publication record of heavy hitters such as Joyce Carol Oates, James Alan McPherson, and recent campus visitor Eula Biss. Roy J. Carver Professor of English Dr. Ed Folsom, meanwhile, has been editing the *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* (WWQR) since 1983, when he was co-editor with William White, before taking over as sole editor in 1990. The Spring 2019 issue coincides with and highlights several of the "Whitman at 200" celebrations that have been taking place this year. The WWQR is also one of two open access journals hosted by the Department of English. The *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies* (IJCS) is the other peer-reviewed, open access journal and is edited by graduate students in the department. IJCS in recent years has also partnered with the graduate student run Craft, Critique, Culture Conference, asking moderators to vote on the most compelling papers from each session to be considered for the "Conference Highlights" section. Finally, the *Philological Quarterly* (PQ) is the oldest journal coming out of the department. Established in 1922 and currently edited by Dr. Eric Gidal,

the journal takes a historical approach to the study of literature that spans from the medieval European period up through the end of the nineteenth century. With a specific emphasis on the materiality of texts, PQ complements several of the book series edited by faculty in the department.

For example, Dr. Matthew P. Brown is the editor of a new series at the University of Iowa Press. Titled "Impressions: Studies in the Art, Culture, and Future of Books," the series is interested in scholarship that thinks about books themselves as an "expressive media." For scholars of book history and practitioners of the book arts, "Impressions" is a joint project between the University of Iowa Press and the University of Iowa Center for the Book that celebrates, according to the series webpage, "the dynamism and resilience of the book format." Also housed at the UI Press are the "Iowa Review Series in Fiction" (edited by Harilaos Stecopoulos), and the "Iowa Whitman Series" (edited by Ed Folsom). The Whitman series has been running strong under the inimitable editorial eye of Dr. Folsom (since 2001 to be exact, when the Press's then editor, Holly Carver, convinced him to edit an official Whitman series). Meanwhile, the fiction series has published two novels since 2018.

The University of Iowa Press is not hoarding all of our faculty knowledge however. Three other members of the English Department edit book series for other notable university presses as well. Dr. Corey Creekmur, who is jointly appointed in Cinematic Arts, Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies, and English, for instance, edits the "Comics Culture" series out of the Rutgers University Press. The series recognizes comics of all varieties, from mainstream comic books to graphic non-fiction, produced between the late 19th-century and the present. While books in the series contribute to the growing field of comics studies, they are also designed to appeal to comics fans



and casual readers who seek smart critical engagement with the best examples of the form. Dr. Lori Branch contributes her expertise to The Ohio State University Press as editor of the series in "Literature, Religion, and Postsecular Studies." Publishing scholarship on the influence of religion on literature and of literature on religion from the sixteenth century onward, there are three new titles coming out this year. And finally, Dr. Loren Glass spearheads the "Post45" series out of Stanford University Press with Dr. Kate Marshall (University of Notre Dame). "Post45" publishes groundbreaking work on U. S. culture after the Second World War, and while the series focuses on American literature and culture, it also considers work that takes seriously the decreasing specificity of a national literature in the wake of the "American Century."

As the number of journals and books series edited by members of the English Department shows, keyboards are busy here in Iowa. Moreover, it is a testament to the breadth of knowledge and intellectual generosity housed here in the Department of English at the University of Iowa. ♣

BECAUSE GREECE

During the 2019 Winter Session, John D'Agata and 18 undergrad English and English & Creative Writing majors packed a semester's worth of writing into a 12-day trip to Greece for "The Land of the Muses: Traveling Like a Writer" study abroad course. Students spent time writing at Plato's Academy in Athens and visited sites such as Lion Gate (home of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra), the Temple of Apollo at Delphi (where the Plutarch worked as a priest), Olympia (site of the first Olympic Games), and the Parthenon on the Acropolis in Athens.



BECAUSE SIGMA TAU DELTA- ALPHA TAU IOTA CHAPTER

In addition to orchestrating events on campus, in April 2019 ATI President Nick Dolan garnered national attention at the Sigma Tau Delta International Convention in St. Louis, where he won first place in the category of British and World Literatures for his essay, "Mad Humanists: Frankenstein and Naturphilosophie!" Nick's professional delivery and thoughtful responses to pointed queries by attendees earned his audience's respect, especially given the early panel time of 8:00 a.m. Dolan presented his essay as a part of a larger panel titled Frankenstein and Science. Dolan's essay discusses how the stereotypical "mad scientist" image of Victor Frankenstein, prevalent in pop culture, owes much more to film adaptations of the novel than to the novel itself. "Winning was an honor," Dolan said. "It was satisfying to know that I'm capable of writing about literature in a way that others could find informative or entertaining." Congratulations Nick!

BECAUSE SCIENCE

Hannah Gulick, an English & Creative Writing and Physics & Astronomy major, was named one of this year's Goldwater Scholars. A member of the University of Iowa Honors Program, she is also a licensed ham radio operator, a graduate of rocket school, and an editor of *Fools Magazine*. Gulick conducts research on HaloSat, a NASA funded CubeSat that is searching for missing matter in the Milky Way's Galactic Halo with Dr. Philip Kaaret. Congratulations Hannah!

BECAUSE BROADWAY

John D'Agata has been especially busy this last year, with his book *The Lifespan of a Fact* being transformed into a Broadway play. In October 2018, the Nonfiction Writing Program led a group of 25 undergraduate students to New York City to attend a showing of the Broadway adaptation. After the show they were treated to a private conversation with playwrights David Murrell and Jeremy Kareken and a surprise visit from the cast. While in NYC, the group also visited three major publishing houses: *Vice* magazine, where an NWP alumnus is a senior editor and chatted with the students about working at a magazine; the William Morris Agency, where an NWP alumna is a senior agent and chatted with the group about working as a literary agent; and W.W. Norton, where D'Agata's editor met with the students and talked about the publishing industry.

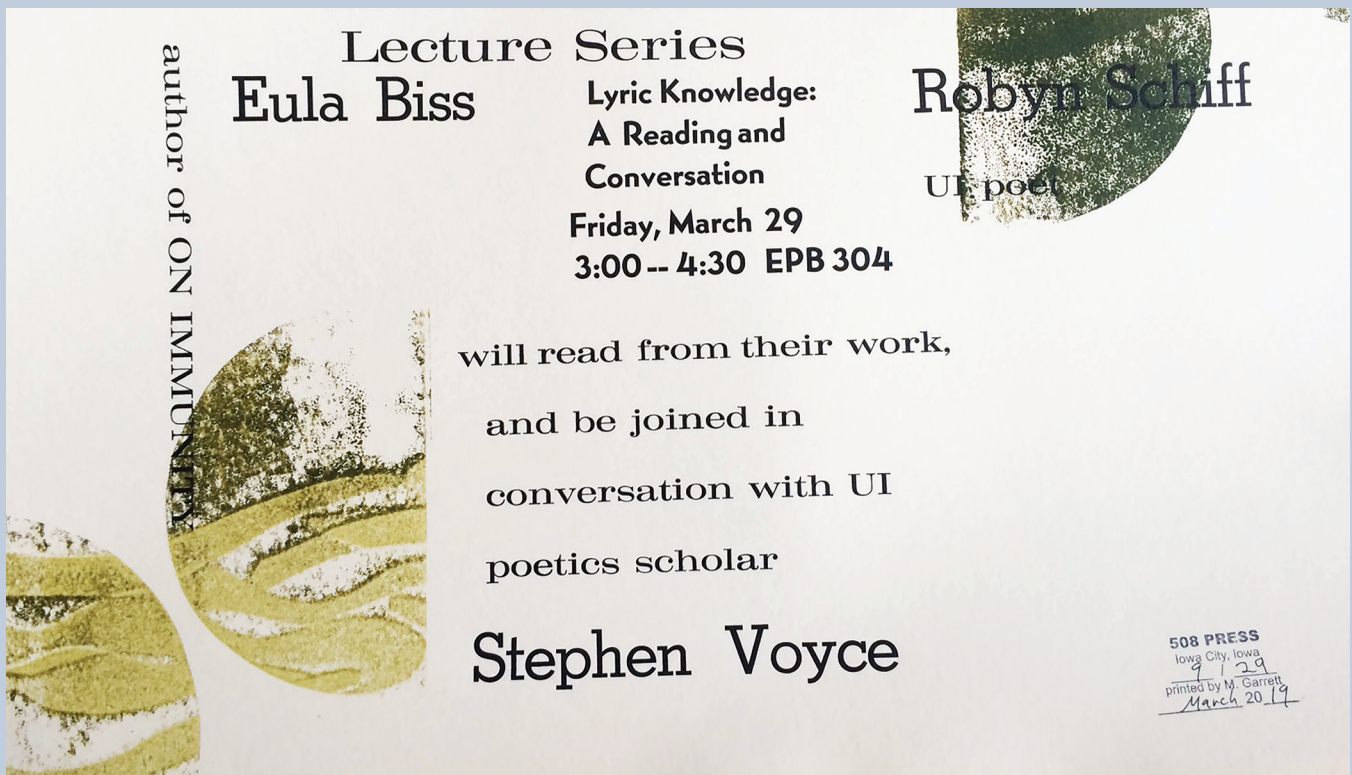


BECAUSE SCHOLARSHIP

Austin Hughes is the 21st student in University of Iowa history to be named a Rhodes Scholar. Having majored in both English & Creative Writing as well as Japanese Language and Literature, Hughes will study pre-modern Japanese literature and representation of Japanese culture in English literature over the same historical period at Oxford University. He ultimately hopes to become a professor in comparative literature, as well as a writer. "I want to write poems for a global audience and try to find a way to integrate the humanities in a way that goes beyond academia and gets more people excited about the things I'm excited about," he says. "I want to be an educator and a connector." Congratulations Austin!

BECAUSE AWARDS

Undergraduates in the Department of English are phenomenal scholars across the board, as indicated by the awards they receive annually. Check out photos from the 2019 English Undergraduate Recognition Ceremony on the last page of this issue.



M. Garrett of 508 Press in Iowa City created original letterpress posters for the inaugural Morris Sessions.

Morris Sessions

An inaugural showcase of the English Department's creative and research strengths

On March 29, 2019, Dr. Stephen Voyce and Professor Robyn Schiff kicked off the inaugural Morris Sessions. Named for the exceptional poetics scholar and former UI English professor Dee Morris whose generous donation made the event possible, The Morris Sessions showcase the creative and research strengths of the Department through at least one public event in Gerber Lounge or a similar venue and another targeted specifically toward undergraduate students. For this first event, Schiff and Biss proposed a double-reading from their respective work; while the former is a poet (you may have read Schiff's *A Woman of Property*), the latter is an author of non-fiction (Biss most recently published *On Immunity: An Inoculation*, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in criticism). As long-time collaborators, Robyn Schiff and Eula Biss explored the

politics, aesthetics, and formal challenges of incorporating information into both poetry and the personal essay in the discussion which followed. Working in the role of moderator, Stephen Voyce situated their work within the history of documentary poetics, fully rounding out the stated goal of the Morris Sessions to cut across at least two methodological or curricular areas of the English Department. The event also included a craft lecture by Biss that focused on "Writing with Research" open to all undergraduate English and English & Creative Writing Majors, as well as a session with TAs of the Foundations of Creative Writing course and the Provost's Visiting Writers to discuss the pedagogical pleasures and challenges of teaching across genre. As the packed events testify, the inaugural session was a huge success and demonstrates the promising future of the Morris Sessions. ♡



Eula Biss (above), Robyn Schiff, and Stephen Voyce were in conversation at the inaugural Morris Sessions, named for Professor Emerita Dee Morris.



Walt Whitman at 200

Celebrating the renowned writer's bicentennial

One of many events organized by the newly founded Walt Whitman Initiative, the Walt Whitman at 200: Bicentennial Symposium coincided with an exhibit in the University of Iowa Main Library Gallery that ran this Spring. With renowned scholars giving talks throughout the months of May and June, the Symposium and exhibit celebrated the famed poet's 200th birthday year. The exhibit was organized by Dr. Ed Folsom, Dr. Stephanie Blalock who is a Digital Humanities Librarian with the UI Libraries and an Associate Editor for the Walt Whitman

Archive, and James O'Neil, a PhD student in the Department of English. According to Dr. Folsom, holding the event in the Library Gallery, with speakers and audience members surrounded by Whitman artifacts, was deeply inspiring: "[it was] as if in some odd way Whitman himself were present." Several speakers even walked around the exhibit during their talk, pointing to specific photographs of manuscripts to illustrate a point. The festivities concluded with a dinner for the Friends of the Libraries in the exhibit space. ♡

Johnson Society Gathering

The Central Region Society celebrates its 60th

"After the exercises which the health of the body requires, and which have themselves a natural tendency to actuate and invigorate the mind, the most eligible amusement of a rational being seems to be that interchange of thoughts which is practiced in free and easy conversation; where suspicion is banished by experience, and emulation by benevolence; where every man speaks with no other restraint than unwillingness to offend, and hears with no other disposition than desire to be pleased."

—Samuel Johnson: Rambler #89 (January 22, 1751)

The Johnson Society of the Central Region held its 60th Annual gathering at the University of Iowa on April 12–13 of 2019. Organized by this year's President Dr. Eric Gidal and hosted by the Department of English, *Philological Quarterly*, and the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, the gathering featured ten speakers from institutions near and far, who presented scholarship on a range of topics in eighteenth-century literature, with an emphasis on the good doctor and his circle. Participants included Celia Barnes (Lawrence University), Anne Vila (University of Wisconsin–Madison), David Alff (University

of Buffalo), Robert Markley (University of Illinois), Bradford Boyd (Arizona State University), Lucinda Cole (University of Illinois), Tili Boon Cuillé (Washington University), Janet Sorensen (University of California - Berkeley), Joshua Swidzinski (University of Portland), and Mark Vareschi (University of Wisconsin - Madison). Topics included convulsive aesthetics and readerly criticism, public works and political economy, witches and cows, comparative poetics and media metaphors. We hope that the spirit of Curt Zimansky was smiling. ♡



Service Learning

Undergraduate students visit Iowa City schools

The service-learning sections of the English Department's General Education Interpretation of Literature course continue to flourish. These two sections—which graduate student instructors apply to teach—are part of a partnership with Grant Wood Elementary School, serving one of Iowa City's largest populations of low-income and minority students. Instructors and students in these sections read with 4th and 5th graders for thirteen weeks of the semester, then host the elementary students at the University of Iowa for a culminating event that introduces them to campus. The partnership with Grant Wood means UI undergraduates in this class not only hone their skills as writers and readers, they are also encouraged to think about literacy as a communal act and the ethics of working with young readers.

The University of Iowa students sung the course praises in their evaluations of last Spring's session, with comments like: "I loved going to Grant Wood, I would recommend a service learning class to everyone." Another called the class "incredibly worthwhile and important." Following last winter's extreme weather, which caused members of the course to miss one session at Grant Wood, the principal requested an extension of the visits longer into the semester. Although the culminating visit is usually handled by the course supervisor and General Education Literature program director, Blaine Greteman, and Grant Wood staff, this year at least 20 Iowa students took time out of their day to help show the students around and participate in the workshops, and ended the day taking photos with them. Funded by the Irwin family, the service-learning sections of Interpretation of Literature promise to continue being an integral part of the General Education Literature Program. ♡



Craft, Critique, Culture Conference



With the theme “Speaking of Violence,” the Craft, Critique, Culture Conference held in April 2019 was once again a weekend of rigorous and generous intellectual engagement. Each year, the conference is organized by a team of graduate students from the Department of English. This year’s team included Caitlin Simmons, Rachel Walerstein, Victoria Burns, Konrad Swartz, and Kassie Baron—although the many volunteers, from faculty who moderated several panels to graduate students who helped with registration and moderated panels, deserve a hearty round of applause. Events kicked off with a pedagogy roundtable on how to navigate “hot moments” in the

classroom before they become “hot messes.” Across both days of the conference there was an excellent range of panels that included a screening from current MFA candidates in the Cinematic Arts program, readings of excerpts from our friends in the Non-fiction Writing MFA program, as well as discussions on memory, indigeneity, masculinity, and much more. On Friday April 5, there were also two lectures, including the plenary lecture delivered by the department’s own Dr. Marie Kruger, who presented her research on the representation and commodification of traumatic memory in South African visual culture. The day concluded with the keynote lecture from Dr. Jack Halberstam of Columbia University, who gave an exciting talk on the principles of “anarchitecture” and its possibilities for (re)building a radical future. After a weekend of discussing the myriad violence that manifests in our world, the conference ended on a note of care in remembrance of Dr. Linda Bolton who passed away during the Fall. Current and former students were invited to share a memory or to read something which reminded them of Dr. Bolton in order to recognize the profound effect she had during her time as a teacher. As always, it was a memorable weekend that showcased excellent graduate student scholarship and strengthened our intellectual community both locally and regionally. ♡

Graduate Highlights

Anna Williams received her PhD in 2019 after successfully defending the first ever dissertation to be composed as a six-chapter audio essay. You can read more about “My Gothic Dissertation” or listen to it for yourself on Dr. Williams’s website: <https://www.annawilliamsweb.com/my-gothic-dissertation.html>

Julia Lucas, an MFA student in the Nonfiction Writing Program spent the summer retracing the 465-mile journey by foot of her great, great, great grandmother. Lucas shared her experience on the UI Graduate College website, which you can read at <https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/news/2019-05-16/follow-mfa-students-journey>.

Rachel Walerstein was awarded the Edith Wharton Society Award for Archival Research to travel to the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University. The award will allow her to complete the third chapter of her dissertation, “Masculine Gestures: Imitation and Initiation in American Modernism.”

Kathleen Shaughnessy was a member of the inaugural group of graduate students who participated in the Mellon-funded Humanities for the Public Good internship through the Obermann Center. During this past summer, Shaughnessy was an intern with Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development (IVRC&D), a non-profit headquartered in Amana, Iowa. The internship saw Shaughnessy working on a 40-page written document about the 77-mile Iowa Valley Scenic Byway that would supplement the IVRC&D’s existing audio tour, appealing to and educating potential visitors.

Brady Krien has been recognized for making exceptional contributions in the classroom and beyond with the 2019 Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) Excellence in Teaching Award.

Paul Schmitt was a member of the inaugural group of graduate students who participated in the Mellon-funded Humanities for the Public Good internship through the Obermann Center. During this past summer, Schmitt was an intern with Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development (IVRC&D), working with and learning from the community in Vinton, Iowa to compose a flood resilience report and interactive story maps about the history of flooding in the area.



Along with getting to know Vinton residents and officials through public events, Paul Schmitt also toured flooded areas and went door-to-door to gather stories. “We wanted firsthand experiences and feelings about what it means to go through a flood, but we know flood events are traumatic,” Schmitt says. “It’s understandable that not everyone wants to talk about their experiences at a public meeting; it calls back a lot of emotions.” Photo by Miranda Meyer

Spotlight: New Faculty

LOUISA HALL

Adding to the growing track in English & Creative Writing, Louisa Hall comes to the University of Iowa by way of Montana State University, where she was the Western Writer in Residence. Hall is a prolific writer with three novels, two works of young adult fiction, poetry, and several articles of criticism. Her most recent novel, *Trinity*, was a *New York Times*'s Editor's Choice and was recently awarded the Langum Prize for Historical Fiction. With French and Italian translations forthcoming, *Time* magazine noted that "*Trinity* sounds a wake-up call to those who have failed to ease the threat of planetary destruction through a slowness to effect controls on fossil fuels, other environmental dangers and, indeed, nuclear weapons. If they took action, the world would change."

Professor Hall's courses draw on her expertise as a writer whose work incorporates science, history, and biography. Exploring everything from how science can refresh and elevate fiction, to the pleasures and hazards of writing biographical fiction, the workshops she leads promise to be exciting explorations of the possibilities open to the young fiction writer. Professor Hall received her PhD from the University of Texas at Austin.



WILLIAM RHODES

William Rhodes joins the Department of English after completing a period as a postdoctoral fellow in the Humanities Center at the University of Pittsburgh. Before that, he received his PhD from the University of Virginia where he was a 2013 Bradley Fellow. During the 2014–2015 academic year, Professor Rhodes was also the recipient of a Schallek Fellowship awarded by the Medieval Academy of America.

Dr. Rhodes specializes in medieval and Renaissance literature and the environment, and his current book, *Land, Labor, and Power*, considers the influence of late medieval agrarian writing on early modern colonial thought. His next project is a study of apocalyptic literature from late antiquity to early modernity. Although he usually teaches medieval and Renaissance literature, he sometimes strays beyond the bounds of period

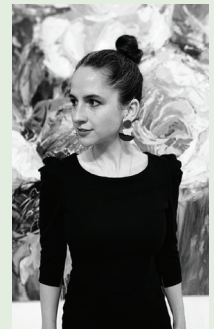


and geography in his courses. This fall, his first course at the University of Iowa will be on the uncanny and the untimely in modern short stories.

ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ FIELDER

Coming to the University of Iowa from the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Elizabeth Rodriguez Fielder specializes in 20th- and 21st-century American literature and culture with an emphasis on Southern Literature. While at Pittsburgh, Dr. Fielder was also a faculty fellow at Pitt's Humanities Center where she worked on completing her manuscript, *Cultural Activism and the Civil Rights Movement*, a multidisciplinary study of creative activism and performance by minority artists and revolutionaries in the 1960s and '70s.

Dr. Fielder received her PhD from the University of Mississippi. During the 2014–2015 academic year she was a Full Year Dissertation Fellow at the University of Mississippi and in 2016, she was awarded the Stuart A. Rose Library Short-Term Fellowship from Emory University. This academic year, she will teach courses on performance, activism, Latinx literature, and queer of color writing and criticism.



BENNETT SIMS

A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, Bennett Sims has taught at Bard College and Grinnell College before returning to the University of Iowa as a professor in the Department of English. While a candidate in the Workshop, he held a Truman Capote Fellowship and a John C. Schupes Fellowship in Fiction.

Sims is the author of the novel *A Questionable Shape*, which received the Bard Fiction Prize and was a finalist for The Believer Book Award, and the collection *White Dialogues*. He is a recipient of a Michener-Copernicus Society Fellowship and the Joseph Brodsky Rome Prize at the American Academy in Rome. His fiction has appeared in *A Public Space*, *Conjunctions*, *Electric Literature*, *Tin House*, *Zoetrope: All-Story*, as well as in the Pushcart Prize Anthology. ♡



Retirements



In her 30-year career with the Department of English at the University of Iowa, **Dr. Barbara Eckstein** has been a true force of nature. As one of her most recent students, Chris Dolle explains, “Working with Barbara changed the entire trajectory of my academic career. But more importantly, it also changed the way I think about and interact with the world.” An important figure in bringing humanities perspectives to interdisciplinary research and

teaching initiatives in environmental studies, Dr. Eckstein’s work reminds us to think deeply about how the stories we tell about place and the environment matter. She is the author of two books, *The Language of Fiction in a World of Pain: Reading Politics as Paradox* (1990) and *Sustaining New Orleans: Literature, Local Memory, and the Fate of a City* (2005), as well as coeditor with James Throgmorton of *Story and Sustainability: Planning, Practice, and Possibility for American Cities* (2003). Aside from her impressive list of publications, Dr. Eckstein was also a co-organizer of the 2015 Obermann Center for the Humanities Symposium: *Energy Cultures in the Anthropocene*. Her impact will certainly live on in the interdisciplinary partnerships she has helped the department cultivate, first, with the People’s Weather Map, a web-based, interactive map of severe weather stories in Iowa (<https://peoplesweathermap.org>) and second, in the service-learning partnership for the General Education Literature in English program that Dr. Eckstein inaugurated with Mark Twain Elementary School in Iowa City. Perhaps most importantly, her mentorship of both undergraduate and graduate student projects, as well as her continued role on the Research Council and ongoing commitment to the administrative side of the English Department means that this weather event is far from over. Congratulations on your retirement, Dr. Eckstein!

Dr. Horace Porter, the F. Wendell Miller Professor of English and American Studies, retired in December 2018. A member of the Department of English at the University of Iowa since 1999, Dr. Porter also served as the Department Executive Officer for American Studies and African American Studies from 2012 to 2017, as well as for African American World Studies from 1999 to 2004. Dr. Porter has published five books during his illustrious career: *Stealing the Fire: The Art and Protest of James Baldwin* (1989), *Jazz Country: Ralph Ellison in America* (2001), *The Making of a Black Scholar: From Georgia to the Ivy League* (2003), and finally, *Dreaming Out Loud: African American Novelists at Work* (2015). In addition, he is also one of the editors of *Call and Response: The Riverside Anthology of the African American Literary Tradition* (1998). Dr. Porter was also consulted on the first documentary film to focus on the private life of famous Marshalltown, Iowa native, Jean Seberg. The film, titled *Movie Star: The Secret Lives of Jean Seberg*, was released in 2014. More than just a distinguished scholar, Dr. Porter was an esteemed mentor whose influence is best described in the words of his former student, Samuel Fitzpatrick, PhD: “I think it is sufficient to say that, had it not been for Dr. Porter’s guidance, encouragement, and friendship, I would not have completed the arduous, soul-crushing process of obtaining my doctorate. I also hope that, as he enters this new phase of his life, he can rest assured knowing that his distinguished service to the University of Iowa has deeply touched the lives of students and mentees who will continue to pay homage through their work. I am forever grateful for the journey, the trials, and the tribulations that began with a warm greeting, and an unforgettable conversation with Dr. Porter during my first year of study. Enjoy your retirement, sir, and as always, thank you so very much.” Congratulations indeed!



Memorials

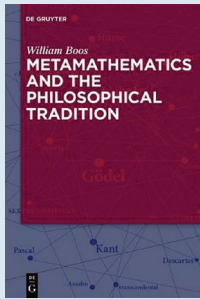
Oliver Steele

The Department of English mourns the loss of Dr. Oliver Steele, who passed away on December 5, 2018. Dr. Steele was hired to teach in the department in 1967, staying on until his retirement in 1992. As his request to have memorial donations sent to the Southern Poverty Law Center demonstrates, Dr. Steele was a committed social justice advocate as well as teacher. To view the full obituary, featuring tributes from English faculty members Miriam Gilbert and Florence Boos, please visit: <https://clas.uiowa.edu/faculty/oliver-steele-1928-2018>.

Linda Bolton

The Department also grieves the loss of Dr. Linda Bolton, who died on November 30, 2018. Dr. Bolton joined the Department of English in 1994 and remained a committed teacher, scholar, mentor, and friend during her brief illness with pancreatic cancer. This year’s Craft, Critique, Culture Conference concluded with a tribute to her long-lasting influence on the many students and colleagues who worked with Dr. Bolton during her time at the University of Iowa. To view the full obituary, please visit: <https://clas.uiowa.edu/faculty/linda-bolton-1955-2018>.

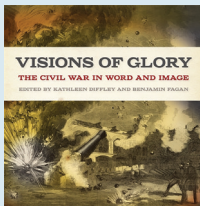
Recent Books by Faculty



Florence S. Boos, ed.
Metamathematics and the Philosophical Tradition, by William Boos

(De Gruyter, 2018)

Metamathematics and the Philosophical Tradition is the first work to explore the relationship between fundamental philosophical quandaries regarding self-reference and meta-mathematical notions of consistency and incompleteness. Using the insights of twentieth-century logicians from Gödel through Hilbert and their successors, this volume revisits the writings of Aristotle, the ancient skeptics, Anselm, and enlightenment and seventeenth- and eighteenth-century philosophers Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume, Pascal, Descartes, and Kant to identify ways in which these both encode and evade problems of a priori definition and self-reference. The final chapters critique and extend more recent insights of late 20th-century logicians and quantum physicists, and offer new applications of the completeness theorem as a means of exploring “metatheoretical ascent” and the limitations of scientific certainty.

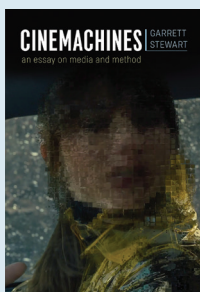


Kathleen Diffley and Benjamin Fagan (Auburn University), eds.

Visions of Glory: The Civil War in Word and Image

(University of Georgia Press, 2019)

Visions of Glory brings together 22 images and 22 brisk essays, each essay connecting an image to the events that unfolded during a particular year of the Civil War. The book focuses on a diverse set of images that include a depiction of former slaves whipping their erstwhile overseer distributed by an African American publisher, a census graph published in the *New York Times*, and a cutout of a child’s hand sent by a southern mother to her husband at the front. The essays in this collection reveal how wartime women and men created both written accounts and a visual register to make sense of this pivotal period.



Garrett Stewart
Cinemachines: An Essay on Media and Method

(University of Chicago Press, 2019)

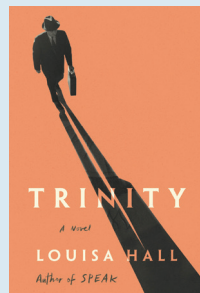
Engaging in fresh ways with revelatory special effects in the history of cinematic storytelling—from Buster Keaton’s breaching of the film screen in *Sherlock Jr.* to the pixel disintegration of a remotely projected hologram in *Blade Runner 2049*—Stewart’s book puts unprecedented emphasis on technique in moving image narrative. Complicating and revising the discourse on historical screen processes, *Cinemachines* will be crucial reading for anyone interested in the evolution of the movies from a celluloid to a digital medium.



Jennifer Buckley
Beyond Text: Theater and Performance in Print after 1900

(University of Michigan Press, 2019)

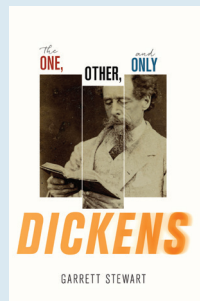
Taking up the work of prominent theater and performance artists, *Beyond Text* reveals the audacity and beauty of avant-garde performance in print. With extended analyses of the works of Edward Gordon Craig, German expressionist Lothar Schreyer, the Living Theatre, Carolee Schneemann, and Guillermo Gómez-Peña, the book shows how live performance and print aesthetically revived one another during a period in which both were supposed to be in a state of terminal cultural decline. While the European and American avant-gardes did indeed dismiss the dramatic author, they also adopted print as a theatrical medium, altering the status, form, and function of text and image in ways that continue to impact both the performing arts and the book arts.



Louisa Hall
Trinity

(HarperCollins, 2018)

Through narratives that cross time and space, a set of characters bears witness to the life of J. Robert Oppenheimer, one of the scientists credited with being the “father” of the atomic bomb, who later lobbied against nuclear proliferation. The men and women who fall into the orbit of a brilliant but mercurial mind—everyone from a secret service agent who tailed him in San Francisco, to the young lover of a colleague in Los Alamos, to a woman fleeing McCarthyism who knew him on St. John—all consider his complicated legacy while also uncovering deep and often unsettling truths about their own lives.



Garrett Stewart
The One, Other, and Only Dickens

(Cornell University Press, 2018)

The One, Other, and Only Dickens casts new light on the surprises of Dickensian phrasing and the restless undertext of his storytelling. For Stewart, this phrasal undercurrent attests both to Dickens’s early immersion in Shakespearean sonority and, at the same time, to the effect of Victorian stenography, with the repressed phonetics of its elided vowels, on the young author’s verbal habits long after his stint as a shorthand Parliamentary reporter. Across examples by turns comic, lyric, satiric, and melodramatic from the whole span of Dickens’s fiction, the famously recognizable style is heard ghosted in a kind of running counterpoint ranging from obstreperous puns to the most elusive of internal echoes: effects not strictly channeled into the service of overall narrative drive, but instead generating verbal microplots all their own.

Faculty Awards

Jennifer Buckley, Assistant Professor of English, was recognized as one of this year's Dean's Scholars by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Dr. Buckley joined the Department of English faculty in 2011, where she teaches, researches, and writes about modern and contemporary drama, theater, and performance art in Europe, the U.K., and the U.S. In her first book, *Beyond Text: Theater and Performance in Print after 1900* (University of Michigan Press, 2019), Buckley details the complex relationship between text and performance within and among the avant-gardes. In her second book project, *Act Without Words: Speechless Performance on Modern Stages*, she examines why and how the concept of a "language" of gesture has attracted theater artists, writers, and theorists disenchanted with the capacity of spoken and written language to represent human experience. Buckley's published articles and essays range in subject from Bernard Shaw's comedies to Forced Entertainment's digital performances. A Collegiate Teaching Award recipient in 2018, Dr. Buckley earned the PhD in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University in 2011.

Kerry Howley, an Assistant Professor in the Department of English's top-ranked Nonfiction Writing Program, was a recipient of a 2019 Collegiate Teaching Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Howley is also a graduate of the Nonfiction Writing Program, and she joined the faculty in 2015. Howley is the author of *Thrown* (Sarabande, 2014), which has been translated into several languages and was a *New York Times* Notable Book, *New York Times* Editor's Choice, and pick for best-of-the-year lists in *Time*, *Salon*, *Slate*, and other venues. She is a contributing writer at *New York Magazine*, and her essays and stories have appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Harper's*, *Granta*, and *Bookforum*. Howley is an innovative

instructor of both undergraduate and graduate creative writing and has mentored many Nonfiction Writing MFA students through their theses.

Bonnie Sunstein, a Professor in the Department of English with a joint appointment in the College of Education, received the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Outstanding Outreach and Public Engagement Award in 2019. She joined the UI faculty in 1992, and since then has served as director of the graduate Nonfiction Writing Program (NWP) and the undergraduate writing program in the Department of English, as well as program chair of the English Education program in the College of Education. Throughout her career, she has focused on using writing as an avenue for engaging with young people and their communities. Highlighted in the press release announcing her award was the Lloyd-Jones Residency for Versatile Writing, which she designed and directed. Named for a former colleague, the late Professor Richard "Jix" Lloyd-Jones, and funded in part by his wife, former Iowa Senator Jean Lloyd-Jones, the program was a partnership among the NWP, College of Education, and the Office of Outreach and Engagement. The residency brought high-school students and their teachers from underserved schools around Iowa for an intensive, college-level writing experience, led by UI undergraduate and graduate student writing fellows, and then returned to their schools to work again with more students. The networks established by the Lloyd-Jones Residency are still active in the anthology of high school writing published annually by English undergraduate students enrolled in the Literary Publishing Track.

Alumni Highlights

Marilyn Abildskov (NWP MFA, 1997) published short stories in *Epoch* and *Story* magazines and an essay in *The Cincinnati Review*. Her short story, "Luciana in the Summertime," was awarded the Glenna Luschei Prairie Schooner Award.

Lynne Nugent (NWP MFA, 2004; PhD, 2010) won *The Florida Review's* 2019 Leiby Chapbook Contest for her collection of creative nonfiction shorts, *Nest*.

Thor Nystrom (NWP MFA, 2012) won the 2018 FSWA College Sports Writer of the Year award.

Dina Peone (NWP MFA, 2018) has joined the NWP as an Adjunct Assistant Professor while continuing to teach nonfiction at the University of Chicago. She was selected to be the Summer 2020 Writer-in-Residence at the Jack Kerouac House in Orlando, Florida, where she will live alone for three months and receive a stipend of \$1000. Her most recent essay, "An

Amputee Looks Through a Ring," will be published in *Poor Yorick: A Journal of Rediscovered Objects*.

Kristen Radtke (NWP MFA, 2012), was awarded a 2019 Whiting Creative Nonfiction Grant for her forthcoming book *Seek You: Essays on American Loneliness*. She has published work in the *Guardian* and *The New Yorker*.

Stefan Schoeberlein (English PhD, 2018), received the 2019 D. C. Priestestersbach Dissertation Prize in the Humanities and Fine Arts from the UI Graduate College in recognition of the excellence of his doctoral dissertation: "Cerebral Imaginaries: Brains and Literature in the Transatlantic Sphere, 1800–1880."

Sarah Viren (NWP, MFA 2011) received a Silver Winner for Essays award for her essay collection, *Mine*, in the 2018 Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Awards.

2019 English Undergraduate Recognition Ceremony

