

## Cheers From the Chair

We're Number Two! Those of you who've seen *The Emoji Movie* will appreciate the irony here, compounded by the fact that English is rarely mentioned amidst all the chest-thumping that always follows on the release of these ratings. So I want to remind you all that English is where it all started and, based on all the achievements listed below, where it's still happening as far as writing at Iowa is concerned. I see us as the incubator of the Writing University, the original breeding ground and homebase of the community of writers that now stretches across the campus and the city. And with our new major and new curriculum (forthcoming!) we will continue to be the engine that drives the writing machine of the new millennium across modes and media old and new. So as far as I'm concerned We're Number One in Number 2, with all due respect to Patrick Stewart....

Loren

## Faculty Matters

*Eric Gidal* has joined the personnel of [BlueGAP](#), a cross-disciplinary multi-institutional collaborative project designed to address nitrogen pollution through watershed communities, recently selected for Phase II funding under the NSF's [Convergence Accelerator](#) program. Over the next two summers, Eric and supported teams of graduate students from programs in the humanities (four each summer) will work with university and community partners on projects in storytelling, media, and environmental history. Students interested in collaborative public humanities who are enrolled in graduate programs in History, Art History, English, World Languages and Literatures, Philosophy, Classics, Religious Studies, Nonfiction Writing, Book Studies, Library and Informational Science, Geography and Sustainability Studies will be especially encouraged to apply.

In September, *Donika Kelly* accepted the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award in Poetry, presented by the Cleveland Book Foundation. She also shared new work at Prompt for the Planet: An Eco Cabaret performed at the Englert Theater. She was also a panelist on the 2022 Soul and Blues Festival Black Author Panel. In November, Donika will read at the Poetry [Pop Up Reading](#) at the Guggenheim Museum in New York City.

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## Faculty Matters

*Kathy Lavezzo* has been deep into Tolkien of late, thanks to her discovery that the LOR author dissuaded none other than Stuart Hall from becoming a medievalist at Oxford. Her piece on whiteness, Hall and Tolkien has been downloaded more than 1500 times and she has a forthcoming dialogue, with PhD candidate Mariana Rios Maldonado, on Tolkien and race in the journal *postmedieval*. She's at work on a review for the Los Angeles Review of Books of Amazon mega-series *The Rings of Power*, which should appear in early November.

*Sarah Minor* has a new essay called "The Listening Rooms" forthcoming in *Fence*. She curated and wrote the editorial letter for the most recent suite of video essays and cinemoems at [TriQuarterly Review](#).

*Anne Stapleton's* introduction to the Scottish LLC Forum's panel entitled "Materializing Scottish Cultures" was published in a supplement to *The Bottle Imp* (June 2022). The collection of essays may be found [here](#). In September, Anne Stapleton and Caroline Sheerin, co-chairs of the Instructional Faculty Policy Review Committee, presented their findings and recommendations to the AAUP EC, Faculty Council, and Faculty Senate (who voted to accept the Committee's report, available [here](#)).

## Emeritus Faculty Matters

Ed Folsom is traveling in France and Germany in October: he will give the plenary address to the "W. S. Merwin Across Borders" conference in Paris (Université Paris Cité), the first international conference on Merwin's work. Ed will then teach a Whitman Seminar at Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg as a distinguished guest professor and will give a university lecture there.

## Staff Matters

Lynne Nugent has been selected as co-chair of the Pan Asian Council (Diversity Council) and also is on the Council on the Status of Women at University of Iowa. If you have questions, please reach out to Lynne. Congrats Lynne and thanks for serving!

## Undergraduate Matters

Chapter advisor Anne Stapleton reports that Alpha Tau Iota, the UI chapter of Sigma Tau Delta (International English Honor Society), has had several productive weeks under the leadership of officers Nora Higgins, Rin Swann, Ella Michael, and Meghan Anderson. Events have included a collaboration with Love Letters for Literacy, to create literacy packets (alphabetical flashcards and hand-written letters) to donate to communities facing literacy inequity; an informative presentation about the Sigma Tau Delta convention held in Atlanta last spring; and the inauguration of the ATI library (in 311 EPB), which includes copies of *The Rock Eaters*, by Brenda Peynado, the book chosen by Sigma Tau Delta as the 2023 Common Reader. The chapter will also be inducting seven new members this month, so please congratulate the following students when you see them: Cameron Barnett, Summer Carlson, Sabrina Lacy, Anthea Rose, Lauren Sanyal, Olivia Shick, and Spencer Yost-Wolff.



## Alumni Matters

*Everett Hamner* (English Ph.D., 2008), Professor of English at Western Illinois State University, was selected to deliver the annual [John Hallwas Lecture](#) at WIU this October on the topic of "Welcome to Spaceship Earth: Reimagining Climate Action via Popular Culture."

BOA Editions, Ltd. is pleased to announce that *Amy Lee Lillard* of Des Moines, Iowa is the winner of the twelfth annual BOA Short Fiction Prize for her collection *Exile in Guyville*. BOA Publisher Peter Connors selected the winning manuscript.

## Doctoral Student Matters

*Torie Burns* is a recipient of the Spring 2023 Ballard & Seashore Dissertation Fellowship.

*Hannah Bonner* has been published in [Contrary Magazine](#). She also has a book review of Lisa Taddeo's *Ghost Lover* published in [The Rumpus](#).

*Maria Capecchi's* article "Practicing the Work of Worms: Lyric Voice, Grievable Lives, and Exile in Solmaz Sharif's *Look*" was just published in the *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association* (Fall 2020, Volume 53, Number 2). She is currently working on her dissertation, "Performing Early Modern Women: 1610-1680," with support from the Marcus Bach Fellowship.

*Darius Stewart's* lyric memoir, *Be Not Afraid of My Body*, has been sold to Belt Publishing and will be published as the press's lead title in fall 2023. His book-length collection of poems, *Intimacies in Borrowed Light*, was published in July with EastOver Press, and he has been invited to read from the collection in The Krause Series in Contemporary Nonfiction sponsored by The Nonfiction Writing Program, the Rufus & Louise Reiberg Series at Indiana University-Indianapolis, and the WANA Live! Reading Series sponsored by the Writers Association of Northern Appalachia. He is one of twenty nominees selected to apply to the prestigious Amy Clampitt Poet in Residence Program, and Iowa Arts Council Fellow DJ Savarese sponsored his participation in the Iowa Artist Professional Development Program. His essay, "Homecoming", is forthcoming in *The Arkansas International*.

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