

## Cheers From the Chair

Dear Colleagues and Coworkers,

Happy Holidays! For this last issue of Reading Matters I want to extend my deepest gratitude to all of you for your service to the English Department, and your support for me as DEO. I can only do this job because you all do your jobs so well, and each issue of Reading Matters reminds me of the remarkable reciprocity that makes our work meaningful and rewarding. And one reward we all deserve is some rest. Please get some over break, and I'll see you all next year.

Loren

## Faculty Matters

*Deborah Whaley's* co-edited book [Keywords for Comics Studies](#) made the [Choice Outstanding Academic Title for 2022](#) and the top 75 titles designated by community college librarians. This is a rare designation for an anthology and this type of scholarship.

Deborah has also been busy with the following:

- Conducted a DEI Workshop for the English Department at Providence College on December 15.
- In November, was a panelist on CDSC Sponsored Panel: La Marr Jurelle Bruce's How to Go Mad Without Losing Your Mind and Liat Ben-Moshe's Decarcerating Disability. She delivered a poem and paper in response to two books on critical disability studies.
- Co-hosted a brunch as co-chair of the committee on American Studies Chairs and Directors of Departments, Programs and Centers. Participated in a round-table on Building and Sustaining Programs Through Crisis on Friday, November 4 10:00am to 11:45am, Hilton New Orleans Riverside.

Postgraduate Visiting Writer, Michael Julius Idani, was awarded a Courage to Write grant from The de Groot Foundation and a John Lewis Writing Grant from the Georgia Writers Association.

*Donika Kelly's* poem "[A Problem of Knowledge](#)" is featured in the online exhibition [Before Law](#), "an assemblage of nodes and points relating to the interconnectedness of beings and the legal frameworks that seek to organize, discipline, and control them." Two of her poems, "This is a room where nothing can happen" and "What I Would Hold," were published in *Gulf Coast: A Journal of Literature and Fine Arts*, as a part of "Altered Space," a poetry curation by francine j. harris. Donika also gave two poetry readings in New York City in November, at Baruch College and the Guggenheim Museum, respectively.

## Staff Matters

Nonfiction Writing Program coordinator *Corey Campbell* has a new flash fiction piece forthcoming in the journal *Fictive Dream*.

## Graduate Student Matters

Rajorshi Das was invited to be part of a panel at the JDSOLA UG Lecture Series on November 22, where their paper titled, "Savarna Queer Aspirations and the Narrative of Indian Hindu Exceptionalism" was discussed. They also translated a short story for *Medical Maladies: Stories of Disease and Cure from Indian Languages*, edited by Dr. Haris Qadeer.

## Alumni Matters

*Taylor Bradley* (2013 alum) had her debut novel, [There's No Place Like House](#), released on December 9th.

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UI English alums, [please let us know about your career](#).

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