

From the Chair's Pumpkin Patch

I hear from my daughter that the local apple orchards and pumpkin patches have “gone commercial,” charging admission for the mere experience of wandering around a landscape of half-fermented fallen fruit. I’m gratified both that this makes her sound like an idealistic Peanuts character, and that Iowa English continues to offer our fall delights to all comers, regardless of ability to pay.

Among those are the **Krause Series in Contemporary Nonfiction**, which will welcome back Alumni Micah Fields on October 19. Equally pumpkin-spicy will be the conversation on October 24, led by Lori Branch, of the UI English group read, Olga Tokarczuk’s *Books of Jacob*, translated by our own UI Alum Jennifer Croft. And we’re well into a spooky good speaker series organized by Harry Stecopoulos and Garrett Stewart; if you missed Ryan Ruby on October 6, don’t miss Heather Love November 3 (and if you saw Ryan Ruby, and the brilliant response by our own Bennett Sims, you won’t need any reminder to attend the next one). And speaking of treats: Gayatri Spivak will be returning this week, October 12, at 6:30, to celebrate 50 years of the Translation MFA at Iowa.

All that excitement, plus as you’ll see below, our faculty, graduate students, and alumni are publishing, speaking, and living their best lives as writers for Fozzie Bear.

How do you like them apples?

Blaine

Faculty Matters

Matt Brown published “The Wisdom Business,” an essay to honor Michael Winship for a festschrift edited by Molly Hardy, Matt Cohen, and Nicole Gray.

On Sept. 22nd, **Harry Stecopoulos** delivered a lecture titled “Diasporic Diplomacy: Black Literary Ambassadors and the Cultural Cold War” at the Pennsylvania State University. On Oct. 4th, he presented a Zoom lecture titled “Reconsidering Transnational Literary Studies; US Literature in the Diplomatic Frame” for the University of Sydney. And on Oct. 6th, he discussed his book *Telling America's Story to the World: Literature, Internationalism, Cultural Diplomacy* at an online symposium sponsored by the Netherlands-based Roosevelt Institute for American Studies.

Contemporary Approaches to Shakespeare—An Obermann Panel Discussion

October 11 | 4-5pm | Old Capitol Museum

2023 is the 400th Anniversary of Shakespeare’s First Folio—the first collected edition of his works, and the first publication ever of plays including *Macbeth* and *The Tempest*. Why are we still reading and performing his works all these years later? How do we situate Shakespeare’s plays in a contemporary context? Join us for a roundtable discussion on Shakespeare in the 21st century. At this conversational panel, scholars will discuss Shakespeare in the context of race, prisons, and contemporary local productions. Free and open to all.

Panelists:

- **Blaine Greteman** (English)
- Gina Hausknecht (English, Coe College)
- Adam Knight (Producing Artistic Director, Riverside Theatre)
- Mary Mayo (Theatre Arts)
- Tracie Morris (Iowa Writers' Workshop)

Christopher Merrill has two books coming out this month: *On the Road to Lviv*, a book-length poem about Adam Zagajewski, cultural diplomacy, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and a team translation of a pair of classical Korean novels, *Sukhyang's Tale & Sugyong's Tale*.

Graduate Student Matters

Hannah Bonner published a piece in [Lit Hub](#) about the Refocus Film Festival in Iowa City.

Riley Hanick's essay "The Topographical Second Person in Charlotte Mew’s ‘The Forest Road’" will appear as a chapter in the forthcoming edited collection *Charlotte Mew: Poetics, Ecologies, Bodies* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2023). He is particularly indebted to Prof. Florence Boos, whose Victorian Literature class introduced him to Mew's writing in 2020."

Staff Matters

Katie Berta has had poems come out in *Poetry Daily*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Ninth Letter*, and *Bennington Review*. Her review of Anne Carson's *H of H Handbook* appeared in *Chicago Review*.

Sanjna Singh published *Choosing Flowers* in *Guernica*.

Alumni Matters

Sophia Katz '17 has moved her way at Disney to new position as a show writer and she comments on there what a dream it is.

“One of the best things about being a themed entertainment show writer is that sometimes, when you're really lucky, you get the chance to work with truly famous people - the real icons of entertainment - and you get to tell them what to say. And then, when the show comes to life, all you can do is sit there, laugh, and think, ‘How is this my life???’

‘Y'all... I wrote jokes for Fozzie Bear. ‘How is this my life???’

My congratulations and gratitude to everyone at Disney Live Entertainment who have been hard at work bringing a TON OF FUN to Destination D23's opening ceremony and DPEP presentation! I'm honored to be a part of this team.”

Nathan Hill's new novel, *Wellness*, was published last Month by Knopf and is an Oprah Book Club pick; he'll be back in town this week as part of the Iowa City Book Festival.

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