

## From the Chair

Guess who's back? Back again!  
Loren's back, tell a friend!

Now this looks like a job for me,  
So everybody just follow me,  
'Cause we need a little community,  
'Cause we need some idiosyncrasy...

That's right, everyone, I'm back as DEO of English and honored to serve all of you in any and every way I can. Welcome to the first Fall 2024 edition of Reading Matters wherein we collectively celebrate your achievements, accolades, and awards. I also want to take this opportunity to welcome our incoming faculty, students, and staff. First and foremost, I want to welcome **Tom Lin**, who joins us as Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, along with his partner, **Pia Struzzi**, who joins us as a Visiting Assistant Professor. And I want to welcome **Alicia Wright**, who joins us as the new Managing Editor of *The Iowa Review*. Welcome to all our VAPs (**Tommy Mira y Lopez**, **Matthew Helm**, **Hajrije Kolimja**, **Tobias Veeder**, **Wyatt Williams**, and **Nina Lohman**) and our four Collegiate Visiting Writers (**Bader Alawadhi**, **Hannah Bonner**, **Elise Bickford**, and **Aidan Ziliak**). And welcome to our new graduate students and undergraduate majors! I look forward to working with and supporting all of you.

Finally, I want to thank, and belatedly welcome, **Tara Atkinson**, who joined us last year as Academic Coordinator of our Graduate Program and has been managing our departmental website and producing Reading Matters.

Rock on!

Loren

## Faculty Matters

Hayley O'Malley has joined the faculty at Rice University as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Art History.

Deborah Whaley's book, Disciplining Women, appeared recently in a NY Times article about Kamala Harris, on Iowa Public Radio's River to River and in the Alabama Reflector. She will also interview Meshell Ndegeocello on 9/25 as part of Hancher's Infinite Dream Festival.

Donika Kelly was recognized by CLAS for being mentioned in student exit surveys as a professor who had a pivotal influence on their education.

Recent NWP grad and current CLAS Visiting Writer, Hannah Bonner's first book of poems, Another Woman, was published by EastOver Press in August. This summer she published film criticism in The Brooklyn Rail, the Los Angeles Review of Books, and Screen Slate.

Matthew Helm, recent PhD grad and current Visiting Assistant Professor, will publish his essay "The Goddess in the Machine: Audre Lorde, Donna Haraway, and the Radiophonics of Zami: A New Spelling of My Name" in the next issue of differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies. Based at Brown University, differences is one of the premier journals in the humanities.

Jen Buckley and Dean Bakopoulos's Anton & Olga TV pilot was featured by the Obermann Center.

Unexplained Presence by Tisa Bryant was re-issued by Wave Books with a new afterword by Margo Jefferson.

In July, Matt Brown and Beth Yale (History/Center for the Book) presented the paper "Global Things and Lab Craft" at the SHARP Conference in Reading, England, as part of a 90-minute session dedicated to the UI Center for the Book's NEH-sponsored initiative "Global Book Cultures and the Student Laboratory." In June, Brown and Yale led the third of three summer seminars supported by the NEH grant, which has gathered faculty and graduate students from Art History, Asian Languages and Literatures, Classics, English, History, Religious Studies, Spanish and Portuguese, and UI Special Collections to discuss pedagogy, hands-on learning, and global book history.

Earlier this month, Eric Gidal and David Cwiertny (Civil and Environmental Engineering, Chemistry) presented their work with the Blue-Green Action Platform at the annual Iowa Water Conference. Their talk, "From Data to Stories: The Blue-Green Action Platform (BLUEGAP) and the Role of Arts and Humanities in Addressing Nitrogen Pollution," accompanies an exhibit of creative content produced by two consecutive teams of UI graduate students, including our own Richard Frailing (MFA-Nonfiction), Liv Kane (MFA-Nonfiction), Adelina Pineda Canganeli (PhD), and Kaden St Onge (PhD). For those of you who missed the water conference, you can hear Dave and Eric talk about their work and the benefits of community-engaged cross-disciplinary projects on the latest episode of the podcast Gulf Streams.

David Gooblar was invited to lead three seminars for faculty and grad students at Harvard on the subject of cultivating trust in the classroom.

In late July, **Harry Stecopoulos** delivered a talk entitled “Thomas Sutpen’s French Lessons: Multilingualism in Absalom, Absalom!” at the 50th Annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference in Oxford, Mississippi. Harry’s essay on Rachel Kushner will appear in the next issue of *The European Review of Books*. Shorter pieces on Hisham Matar, Garth Greenwell, and Iowa City’s literary scene are forthcoming in *The Michigan Quarterly Review*, *The Common*, and *Public Books*.

**Melissa Febos** was awarded a Visiting Fellowship from the American Library in Paris, and named a Scholar of Note, a distinction given to “particularly outstanding” candidates. She will spend the month of January in Paris, researching and writing at the library.

Inscribing Sovereignties, **Phillip Round**’s latest book, was published by the University of North Carolina Press.

**Kaveh Akbar**’s *Martyr!* is on the longlist for the National Book Awards.

## Graduate Student Matters

**Rajorshi Das** (PhD) published a review of Moon Charania’s *Archive of Tongues*.

MA student **Rachel Poppen** received certification from the Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA).

**Cary Stough** (PhD)’s essay review on “translators’ notes” in the Cleveland Review of Books was mentioned in Bookforum’s “Paper Trail”.

Connie Chen (NWP) and Aileen Tierney (PhD) shared their final presentations for the Graduate College’s Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio Fellowship.

## Alumni Matters

**Michael Phillips** (class of 1996) published a children’s book titled “The Ice Cream Tree,” aimed at igniting creativity and curiosity in young minds.

**Harrison Cook** (2019) published an article on Tolkien and Dune.

The latest book by **Jerald Walker**, Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing at Emerson College and 1993 graduate, was published by HarperCollins September 10. The book is titled Magically Black and Other Essays.

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