

## From the Chair

I searched for a poem about falling leaves and found this one, “The Falling Leaves,” published by Margaret Postgate Cole in November 1915, at the height of the First World War.

Today, as I rode by,  
I saw the brown leaves dropping from their tree  
In a still afternoon,  
When no wind whirled them whistling to the sky,  
But thickly, silently,  
They fell, like snowflakes wiping out the noon;  
And wandered slowly thence  
For thinking of a gallant multitude  
Which now all withering lay,  
Slain by no wind of age or pestilence,  
But in their beauty strewed  
Like snowflakes falling on the Flemish clay.

Not only does this poem fit our November mood but its author, a socialist who helped her brother secure conscientious objector status from WWI and later went on to found the Society for Socialist Inquiry and Propaganda as well as the New Fabian Research Bureau, seems a fitting avatar and inspiration for our current moment. It reminds me that, no matter the historical circumstances or the political climate, poetry persists, and resists, and that’s why we continue to write and teach it.

For this issue of Reading Matters I celebrate our achievements, but I also reach out in solidarity ask you to join me in providing a safe and welcoming space for any student, staff, or faculty member who needs one.

Loren

## Faculty Matters

Melissa Febos wrote about dressing in midlife for LA Times Image Magazine.

Hannah Bonner reviewed Christine Smallwood's *La Captive* for Hyperallergic.

The fall issue of Open Rivers published "Fluid Impressions: Connecting Data and Storytelling in Iowa's Watersheds," co-authored by Eric Gidal and the six UI graduate students who produced creative content for the Blue-Green Action Platform in the summer of 2023, including our department's own Richard Frailing (MFA-NWP) and Kaden St Onge (PhD).

Patricia Foster (Emeritus) taught "Creating the Linked Short Story Collection" in the Iowa Summer Writing Festival, had a three-week writing residency at the Fairhope Center for the Arts, gave a reading with Frye Gaillard on "History as Memoir/ Memoir as History" at Page & Palette Bookstore, gave a lecture "The Grief Plot" at Auburn University as well as a reading and writing workshop with the OLLI Program at Auburn. She has an essay forthcoming in *The Linden Review*, has finished a memoir about marriage, illness, and a hidden past (surely popular!!!) and is working on a book of essays on the writing life. She will be the guest fiction editor at *The Louisville Review* in the spring.

## Graduate Student Matters

Bronwyn Stewart (PhD) received the People's Choice Award in this year's 3MT Thesis competition.

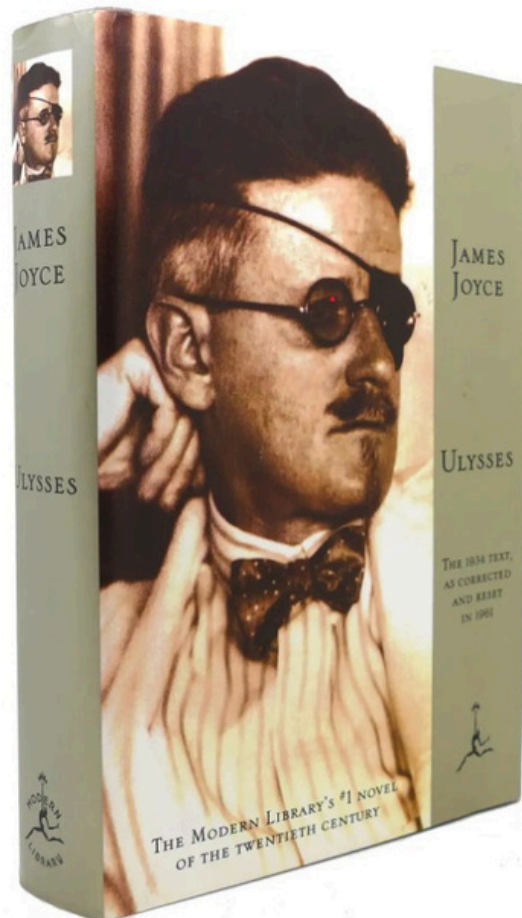
Heidie Senseman's (MFA-NWP) essay "In Praise of Christian Delight: A Note on Brian Doyle" will be printed in *Ekstasis Magazine* issue 11, forthcoming later this month.

Cary Stough's poem "Sonnet for Delmore Schwartz," published in *the Ocean State Review*, has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

Khaled Rajeh's translation of "A Bird in my House" by Fakhri Kavar appeared in the Fall 24 issue of *the Michigan Quarterly Review*.

## Staff Matters

Staff member **Corey Campbell** (NWP) read James Joyce's *Ulysses* this fall and loved it.



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