



Musings

2024 Newsletter
Volume XXVIII

Northwestern

Department of
English

WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings from University Hall! The past year has been an eventful one globally, nationally, and institutionally, as well as in the English Department.

Many of you are no doubt aware of last spring's pro-Palestinian protests in Deering Meadow, which took place within sight of University Hall. A number of English department graduate students and faculty joined the protests. Others mentored affected students from a range of backgrounds and participated in teach-ins and lectures, including a prominent speaker series on the history of Israel and Palestine cohosted by the Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) Studies Program, the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies, and the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs. More recently, our own Sarah Schulman, Ralla Klepak Professor of English, has been featured in the local press for leading a protest against Northwestern's new policy limiting demonstrations and other expressive activities, which bans demonstrations at the Rock before 3 pm among other restrictions. As is all too common in such cases, nobody asked those of us who teach and work in University Hall whether and to what extent we've experienced disruptions from protests adjacent to our building, or even whether there's a drop-off in room utilization starting at 3pm. (From the perspective of the chair's office, there doesn't seem to be.)

Also last spring, the members of Northwestern's graduate student union ratified their first contract with the University. The contract provides substantial pay raises for graduate student workers, including a minimum stipend of \$45,000 for AY 2024-25, as well as increased clarity about work rules and new grievance procedures. The stipend increase reverses a long decline in graduate support relative to both inflation and peer institutions – something that English department faculty had been advocating for years on behalf of our graduate students and failing to achieve. At the same time, the agreement with the union cost the University more than it had initially budgeted, creating a deficit that the University has decided to address, in part, by reducing support for advanced graduate students. These cuts have been accompanied by increased teaching requirements for those same students, imposed by Weinberg College.

While these decisions were made far from the department, they have had a major impact within it, with department officers working overtime to secure funding and teaching for students whose dissertation completion plans were suddenly in jeopardy. While the process was nerve-wracking, the department was able to draw on a combination of student-banked quarters, Weinberg funding, and the department's own endowed funds to support all our students through the end of AY 2024-25 year. We are especially grateful to the donors who made this possible!

Looking forward, the department has joined with the Kaplan Institute and other humanities units across Weinberg to make the case for six guaranteed years of funding for all students who are making good progress on their dissertations. At the same time, we are looking inward for ways to streamline the path through our PhD program, including reexamining the language requirement and the length of the dissertation. Some of these conversations are arguably overdue: dissertation length is not an important consideration for non-academic positions, while academic presses are increasingly imposing word limits on first books by tenure-track assistant professors. At the same time, the department feels strongly about continuing to extend support for ambitious projects that work across languages and traditions, or that require extensive archival research or mastery of a major theoretical corpus.

Amidst these developments in our graduate programs, the yearly work of the department goes on. We were delighted to welcome three new faculty members and one new staff member this fall. Sarah Dimick was hired in a joint search by the English Department and the Program in Environmental Policy and Culture. She joins us from Harvard as an advanced Assistant Professor and has already established a reputation as a sought-after teacher and mentor in the environmental humanities. Noah Chaskin and Kalisha Cornett are both Assistant Professors of Instruction who hold joint appointments as Weinberg College Advisers. Noah received their PhD from our department before teaching for us as a VAP for several years. We are thrilled to welcome them back in this new role and look forward to learning from them about universal design in learning and other aspects of accessible pedagogy. Kalisha is a seasoned adviser with experience at the University of Chicago and in Northwestern's School of Communication, as well as teaching expertise in film studies. We are very pleased that she will start teaching for us next year, while also bringing her advising perspective to bear on departmental deliberations. Jessica Masi, our newest staff member, recently began an appointment as Managing Editor for *TriQuarterly*, the department's literary magazine. She comes to us with an impressive publishing background and a raft of good ideas for raising the journal's profile. You can find faculty bios for Kalisha, Noah, and Sarah on p. 3 and a feature on *TriQuarterly* on p. 18.

Many of you know Kathy Daniels, the department's beloved long-time Business Administrator. Kathy will be retiring in early 2025 and we will miss her enormously, even as we wish her well in this new chapter of her life (which is rumored to involve plans for learning the ukulele!). Next year's *Musings* will include tributes to Kathy. Please write to Nathan Mead (n-mead2@northwestern.edu) if you have a story you would like to share!

With warmest wishes for a happy and healthy 2025,

Katy Breen

NEW FACULTY

Noah Chaskin's research explores the representation and construction of femininity in the long eighteenth century from the perspective of queer theory and disability studies. Their scholarship considers the ways that narrative form and content interact in establishing narrative and cultural norms, showing that the structure of a given text might complicate or subvert that text's apparent—or even stated—ideology.

Their work can be found in *Women's Writing*, *Modern Philology*, and *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*. Their most recent chapter, "Ill Femininities and the Problems of Protagonism in Jane Austen's Novels," is forthcoming in *The Oxford Handbook of Disability and Literatures in English: 1700-1900* (2026). Professor Chaskin teaches disability studies and is invested in accessibility, inclusivity, and the principles of universal design in learning (UDL).



Kalisha Cornett's research is primarily concerned with the political and aesthetic representation of space in post-classical Hollywood Cinema. She is also interested in the influence of art, advertising, and mass culture on American cinema of the counterculture/Vietnam era. Her research focuses on the ways in which various aesthetic practices influenced emerging modes of American independent cinema of the 1970s. Her teaching interests include the history of Hollywood and genre theory.

Sarah Dimick is jointly appointed in the Department of English and the Program in Environmental Policy and Culture. Her research focuses on portrayals of climate change and environmental justice in contemporary global Anglophone literatures. Her first book, *Unseasonable: Climate Change in Global Literatures* (Columbia University Press, 2024), examines how the environmental arrhythmias of an overheated world jar literary and cultural forms. Ranging from Marshallese spoken word poetry to Indian science writing to canonical American literature, *Unseasonable* argues that knowledge of climate change is constructed, conveyed, and amplified via the literary.

Professor Dimick's writing has appeared in journals including *ISLE*, *Contemporary Literature*, *Post45: Contemporaries*, *Mosaic*, and other venues. Her research has been supported by the Harvard Radcliffe Institute, the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at Edinburgh University, and the Greenhouse at the University of Stavanger. She currently serves as a co-editor for *Under the Sign of Nature*, a book series in the environmental humanities published by University of Virginia Press.



A WORD FROM EGSO

As the temperature drops and frost coats the library windows, EGSO would like to reflect on the past year and recognize the many events within our community thus far. At Fall Collation, we had the chance to reunite with fellow students and faculty as well as meet new members of the PhD, MA, and the Litowitz MFA+MA cohorts and catch up on summer excursions (language learning trips, camping on coasts, gratuitous amounts of iced coffee to get us through dense theory). The department congregated in Harris Hall to celebrate the start of the quarter, with presentations by Susie Phillips, Elizabeth Winter, Mitchell Johnson, and Daisy Hernández. Isabel Griffith-Gorgati (3rd year PhD) organized our peer mentor program—hosting a delightful morning peer mentor meet-up in the Hagstrum room with coffee, bagels, and conversation. Around Halloween, Sof Sears and Emely Taveras (2nd year MFA+MA students) hosted the first (spooky-themed) creative writing salon, where the 1st year MFA students shared new works, as did some PhD students. It was an enjoyable evening of lovely food prepared by Emely and fantastic readings from our students.

Looking back to last Winter Quarter, Sam English (PhD candidate) organized an advice session for second-year PhDs to hear from those in their third year about constructing their reading lists, along with other advice on preparing for their qualifying exams. Sam English, Ryan Nhu, and Eliza Feero also organized mock exams for the third-year cohort, with resounding success. Ryan Nhu hosted a cozy potluck for grad students and friends at his apartment in January. It was a haven of delightful warmth on a snowy winter's night! In January, graduate students enjoyed attending job talks for visiting faculty candidates, but even more so enjoyed breakfasting with all four candidates, including our own wonderful Sarah Dimick. On the MFA side, writer Raven Leilani visited campus and gave a wonderful reading for our students.

In March, Michaela Corning-Myers and Agam Balooni (both PhD candidates) worked with Nathan Mead to organize our recruitment weekend. The weekend consisted of tacos in the graduate office lounge, mingling in the Hagstrum room over coffee, dinners around-and-about Evanston, and was capped off with a tour of campus on the perfect spring day—with, of course, faculty meetings, lectures, and classes taking place amidst our socializing. Ryan Nhu and Dawn Angelicca Barcelona organized a marathon reading of Theresa Hak Kyung Cha's *Dictee*, followed by a collaborative collage that can be viewed in the graduate student office. The event brought together undergrads, graduate students, and faculty who all participated in reading the poem aloud.

Last spring, Sam English organized both a prospectus roundtable and a fellowship advice session with the Office of Fellowships. Tyler Talbott gave a mock job talk in April which was not only fascinating and well-attended, but was the talk he presented during recruitment for his current position at Creighton University. Adam Syvertsen and Philip Ellefson hosted an AI and Pedagogy workshop with Jeff Masten that had attendees thinking through the uses (and difficulties) of AI in the classroom setting. Graduate students Irene Kim, Avey Rips, and Rio Bergh presented papers at American Cultures Colloquium throughout the schoolyear. The ACC also hosted professors M. Murphy, Hsuan Hsu, and Adrienne Brown for captivating talks paired with informative graduate student events, such as a workshop on publication and a creative discussion on research methodology.

Many of the English department's members have been (and continue to be) impassioned about and essential to the ratification, and fair, thorough implementation of, the Graduate Student Workers Union's recent contract, which was initially agreed upon during the last academic year. We're confident that our community will continue to show solidarity with and support each other in this way.

It is shaping up to be a wonderful school year and we are proud of the community we've been able to foster. Additionally, we are immensely grateful for the help and organizational genius of English Department staff members Kathy Daniels, David Kuzel, Nathan Mead, Colin Pope, and Ashley Woods. Thank you all!

EGSO Co-chairs: Sof Sears & Emely Taveras (MFA+MA), Michaela Corning-Myers (PhD)

Students in Coursework Representative: Isabel Griffith-Gorgati

Students in Candidacy Representative: Kayla Boyden

Archivist: Sam Aftel

GPPC Representatives: Rio Bergh & Sarah Nisenon

NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

Temperance Aghamohammadi (PhD) is an Acolyte of the Exquisite. She is an Iranian-American poet, medium, and critic. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *The New England Review*, *ANMLY*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Hopkins Review*, *The Missouri Review*, *Annulet*, and elsewhere. Her scholarship revolves around global *avant garde* poetry and poetics, focusing on critical hermeneutics, sound studies and sonics, nonrepresentational modes and techniques, and prosody, as well as philosophy and visual art. She holds an undergraduate degree in the Writing Seminars and Anthropology from Johns Hopkins University and recently completed an MFA in Poetry at Washington University in St. Louis.

Maggie Allan (PhD) just earned her undergraduate degrees in English and Environmental Studies in Ohio University's Honor Tutorial College. Her undergraduate thesis analyzes British and American science fiction imaginaries of the early 1960s through the lens of the critical theory tradition of the Frankfurt school to confront the narrowed ecological and imaginative dimensions of the Anthropocene. Along with popular culture and science fiction studies, her research interests include Marxism, critical theory and pedagogy, labor history, and utopian fiction. Throughout and after college, she has worked as a journalist for *Appalachian Voices*, a farmer, and a union organizer.

Eric Aston (PhD) graduated from the University of Washington in 2022 with a BA in English and Philosophy. Broadly, he is interested in modernism, psychoanalysis, and Marxism—and, more specifically, in listening for the harmonies and dissonances created between these traditions as they adapt (or fail to adapt) to the political and cultural crises of the interwar period. Most of his writing in this field, up to this point, has focused on the work of William Faulkner, Sigmund Freud, and Jean-Paul Sartre. Until recently, he worked as an English tutor at Walla Walla High School.

Hayon Cho (PhD) received her BA in English Language and Literature, with a minor in French Language and Literature, from Seoul National University in 2021. She went on to receive her MA in English Literature from the same university in August 2024, and is the recipient of the Fulbright Graduate Program Award. Her research focuses on contemporary representations of American slavery and African American racialization in fiction and dramatic literature. She is also interested in comparative race studies, concentrating on Korean (or Asian) and African American experiences.

Callum Goetz (PhD) is a Mellon Cluster Fellow in Global Avant-Garde and Modernist Studies. His literary interests include American literature, Arabic literature, modernism, postmodernism, surrealism, political economy, critical theory, and deconstruction. Callum received his MA in English from New York University, having written his thesis on theories of metaphor under Prof. Robert Young, and his BA in History from Brown University.

Annie Howard (MFA+MA – Creative Nonfiction) is a journalist, historian, urbanist and organizer currently living in Bridgeport. Her written work has appeared in *The Chicago Reader*, *The Guardian*, *The Baffler*, *Slate*, *Pitchfork*, *The Nation*, and elsewhere. Annie works as a housing organizer and is currently fighting to pass the Just Cause for Eviction ordinance in Chicago's City Council. You can also catch her radio show *City Dreams* on Lumpen Radio every first and third Wednesday at 10 am.

Jon (Won) Lee (MFA+MA - Poetry) is a Korean-American poet, visual artist, and writing consultant. He received his BA from the University of Chicago and did graduate work in creative writing at the University of Oregon, where he studied with Garrett Hongo and Matthew Dickman. His poems explore diasporic consciousness, grief, and the double binds of relationality. His work appears in *Tinderbox Poetry Journal*, *Action*, *Spectacle*, and *Airplane Reading*.

River Ngu (PhD) was born in Borneo, Malaysia and raised in California and New York, both the suburbs and the city. They graduated from Princeton four years ago, where they studied English and anthropology. They conducted fieldwork on autonomous migrant squat communities in Athens, Greece and analyzed walking as a mode of constructing and deconstructing identity in mostly contemporary novels. After graduation, they worked on oral history and documentary projects on social housing and queer sports in New York. At Northwestern, they are interested in bringing together psychoanalytic, historicist, and queer methodologies to theorize narratives of development and nondevelopment in diasporic Asian American/Anglophone cultural texts.

Yaa Nkrumah (PhD - CLS) holds two Bachelor of Arts degrees from Howard University in African Studies and Political Science, where she graduated *summa cum laude*. Yaa's scholarly investments interrogate embodied performance and the role of women in West African Islamic literary traditions, analyzing how women speak through the narrative as a form of

societal critique and simultaneous religious devotion. Broadly, she is interested in the role of women in the Black radical tradition and exploring the literature of the African diaspora.

James Ortiz (MA) recently graduated from Vanderbilt University with a BA in English and History. His primary interests are in 19th-century American literature and environmental histories of the 20th- and 21st-centuries. Specifically, much of his scholarship focuses on the works of Herman Melville and Edgar Allan Poe and their efforts to construct worlds of decentered human subjectivity as methods to reveal systems of inherent violence surrounding them. He also served as Vice President of Vanderbilt's Bird and Bug Club and enjoys getting in touch with and learning about the natural world.

Wenshu Qiao (PhD) earned her BA in English and Psychology from Mount Holyoke College in 2020, followed by an MSt in English from the University of Oxford in 2021. Her master's thesis focused on the presence and boundary of the auditory sense and Whitman's language about sympathy in *Leaves of Grass*. Wenshu's research interests include nineteenth and twentieth-century American and British poetry, the history of senses and emotions, affect studies, cognitive poetics, and media studies. Before moving back to the United States, she worked as a journalist in China.

Rafael Reza (MA) recently finished a BA in English with a concentration in Literary History at DePaul University, where he focused on the major trends of European and American literature in the 18th-21st centuries. As co-president of DePaul's Indigenous Alliance, he combined community outreach within the American Indian community of Chicago with his professional career. He volunteers as a tutor and support for Native students in their own academic pursuits, and also enjoys road trips, collecting vinyl, and saving abandoned plants.

Ronnie Rose (MFA+MA - Creative Nonfiction) is a writer and Fulbright fellow (Mexico 2017-18), and until recently, director of a community-based nonprofit for youth in Oakland, CA. He holds a 2022 MA in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from San Francisco State University, where he cultivated an interest in second-language writing development

and teacher written feedback. He has worked in a variety of educational environments, including teaching at Mexico City's second-largest public university, assisting in academic writing courses at SFSU and UC Berkeley, tutoring adolescents in East Palo Alto, and leading activist workshops across North America. He is the co-founder of an international animal rights organization, co-creator and producer of the now-defunct *The Green Pill* podcast. He has raised over \$15 million to support homeless and systems-impacted youth, as well as adults recovering from substance use disorders, through grant writing, capital campaigns, and funds development. Ronnie has been vegan for 18 years and lives with an 18-year-old former street dog named Ira.

Before moving to Chicago, **Robin Seiler** (MFA+MA - Poetry) lived in Washington, DC, where she worked in communications on issues such as reproductive freedom and combatting book bans. Her poems seek to blur boundaries between internal and external landscapes, exploring desire, the mystical/apophatic, sound, synesthesia, and connections between queer identity and nature. Her poems have been published in *L'Ephemere Review*, *Silk + Smoke*, and *Bowery Gothic*.

Alaia Snell (PhD) recently completed her undergraduate degree at the University of North Texas, where she earned her BA in English Literature, BS in Economics, minors in Spanish and History, and a certificate in Latinx and Mexican-American studies. Grounded in racial and climate justice advocacies, her research interests include Indigenous studies, decolonial methodologies, speculative fiction, and the environmental humanities. Her work specifically studies connections between multiracial narratives of climate migrants, community-building projects in the face of forced displacement, and the role of traditional knowledges in imagining extra/planetary futurity, which she began exploring as an undergraduate with support from the Ronald E. McNair Fellowship. Her scholarship on Asian-American counterstory, inspired by AsianCrit Theory and her mother's Vietnamese cooking, is published in *Writers: Craft and Context* and preparing for republication in Aja Y. Martinez's second edition of her award-winning book *Counterstory: The Rhetoric and Writing of Critical Race Theory*. Her most recent project on Octavia E. Butler, space colonization, and Indigenous astronomies

is forthcoming in Oxford Press's *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*.

Avi Waldman (PhD) received her BA and MA from the University of Chicago in 2022. She wrote her master's thesis on temporality, nationalism, and utopian impossibility in the novel *Isra Isle*. Her research interests include postcolonialism, Jewish-American literature, American literature of the 20th-century, theories of nationalism, and Marxism. She recently taught writing to undergraduates in the social sciences core program at the University of Chicago.

Ruiyi Zhu (PhD) received her BA at Amherst College for English and Classics in 2024. She is interested in early modern drama and literature, affect theory, and psychoanalytic theory, as well as BIPOC/global/de-colonial reclaimings and appropriations of Shakespeare. Her undergraduate thesis was a Bataille/Kristevan reading of Shakespeare centered around excess and the affective quality of femme corpses in Shakespeare plays. Rui enjoys bouldering, theater, manuscripts and artifacts, and the horror genre.

JOB PLACEMENT (2023-24)

George Abraham (MFA+MA 2024) - Writer-in-Residence at Amherst College

Clay Cogswell (PhD 2021) - Instructor in English at the University of Mississippi

Harrison Graves (PhD 2024) - Assistant Professor of English at Loyola University Chicago

Ilana Larkin (PhD 2022) - Assistant Professor at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy (starting 2025)

Christopher Lombardo (MFA+MA 2023) - Program Coordinator in the School of Communications, Northwestern University

Surya Milner (MFA+MA 2024) - Instructor of English at Montana State University/Gallatin College

Kate Scharfenberg (PhD 2024) - Lecturer at Loyola University

Tyler Talbott (PhD 2024) - Assistant Professor at Creighton University

Anna Zalokostas (PhD 2024) - Postdoctoral Teaching Scholar at North Carolina State University

DEGREES COMPLETED (2023-24)

Lydia Abedeen (MFA+MA)

MFA Thesis: "Half-Wife"

MA Thesis: "A Crack in the Mirror: How Horror Animation Invents a Genre of Trauma"

George Abraham (MFA+MA)

MFA Thesis: "When the Arab Apocalypse Comes to America"

MA Thesis: "Palestinian Spectrality: Unfiltered Forms and Haunted Excess in Contemporary Palestinian Novels"

Yemí Ajíşebútú (PhD - CLS)

Dissertation: "Oríkì and Being: The Yorùbá Consciousness in Africana Diasporic Fiction and Art"

Kaitlin Browne (PhD)

Dissertation: "The Mark of Baptism: Character, Kinship, and Race-Thinking in Fourteenth-Century Romance"

May Dugas (MFA+MA)

MFA Thesis: "Book of The Unthought"

MA Thesis: "The Shape of Trauma: Objects Symbolic of the Unconscious in Story"

Philip Ellefson (PhD)

Dissertation: "Slum Stories: Rental Housing Architecture and Narrative Form in Urban U.S. Fiction, 1854-1954"

Harrison Graves (PhD)

Dissertation: "Dark Gardening in the Vertigo Cold: Black Masculinity and Ungendering in the Contemporary Literary and Cultural Imagination"

Jinjia Hu (MA)

MA Thesis: "Medical and Un-medical Women: Analysis of Women's Medical Authority and Representation in Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* and Agatha Christie's *Curtain: Poirot's Last Case*"

Jackson McGrath (MFA+MA)

MFA Thesis: "Dear Thano: Letters from James Perry Wilson 1943-1963"

MA Thesis: "Minute Bodies"

Surya Milner (MFA+MA)

MFA Thesis: "The Far West: Essays"

MA Thesis: "A Long Halloo"

Jessica Ramirez (PhD)

Dissertation: "The Treatment of Blackness in Puerto Rican Literature"

Kate Scharfenberg (PhD)

Dissertation: "Nations Taking Place: Unsettling Geographies in Indigenous and American Literatures"

Cameron Schell (PhD)

Dissertation: "Violent Scenes and Glorious Prospects: Representations of the British Slave Trade in the Long Eighteenth Century"

Adam Syvertsen (PhD)

Dissertation: "A Light From Nowhere: Utopian Fiction and Politics in the Atlantic World, 1802-1859"

Tyler Talbott (PhD)

Dissertation: "Plotting Ethnonationalism: Race and Novel Theories of the Nation Since the Victorians"

Han Xu (MA)

MA Thesis: "The Conundrum of Power and Emotion in Shakespeare's *Richard II*"

Anna Zalokostas (PhD)

Dissertation: "Object Lessons: Free Trade, Race, and the Literature of Globalization"

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Dawn Angelicca Barcelona (MFA+MA)

Dawn's chapbook, *Roundtrip*, is set to be published by Finishing Line Press in March 2025, and was named second honorable mention in the 2023 New Women's Voices Chapbook Contest. She won second place in Singapore Unbound's 10th Annual Poetry Contest for her poem, "Human Resources," which was also named a finalist for the *14Hills* Stacy Doris Memorial Poetry Award. Her poetry was recently published in *Atlanta Review*, *Stoneboat Literary Journal*, *Tyger Quarterly*, and *SUSPECT*, and further poetry, fiction, and nonfiction of hers is forthcoming in *Brink*, *Reed Magazine*, and *Tampa Review*. Over this past summer, Dawn attended the Sewanee Writers' Conference, Kenyon Review Writers Workshop, and Juniper Summer Writers' Institute, and also interned with StoryStudio Chicago through Northwestern's Chicago Humanities Initiative, building out their Chicago Stories Project program.

Jennifer Comerford (PhD)

In December 2023, Jennifer was invited to give an online talk at Chawton House (Hampshire, UK) titled "Jane Austen's Pancakes, and Other Recipes." Her article, "Hand in Hand: The Erotics of Touch in Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*," was published in *Women's Writing* in July. She was also appointed a 2024-2025 Dibner Research Fellow in the History of Science and Technology at the Huntington Library for a period of two months.

Michaela Corning-Myers (PhD)

This past summer, Michaela published an entry on the life and works of Margaret Fuller in *The Literary Encyclopedia*: www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=1654

Mitchell Johnson (MFA+MA)

Mitchell's essay "On Delivery" was published in the Spring 2024 issue of *n+1*. He also received the Emerging Writers Award from StoryStudio Chicago and attended the Disquiet International Literary Program, where he was longlisted for the prize in fiction.

Paulina Jones-Torregrosa (PhD)

Paulina's interview with Dr. Patricia Romney of the Third World Women's Alliance was accepted for publication. Their co-authored article, "Working Together Accomplishes Much More: A Conversation with Dr. Patricia Romney," will be published in the journal *Feminist Theory* in December 2024.

Allison Gibeily (PhD)

Allison was awarded the 2024-25 Lawrence Lipking Fellowship through the Newberry Library, which she used over the summer to conduct research on European encounters with and understandings of Arab oral storytelling culture in eighteenth-century Aleppo. She also received the Herzog Ernst Fellowship and has been studying post-classical Christian Arabic manuscripts at the Gotha Research Library in Germany. Her article "Bartering Knowledge, Imposing Silence: Indigenous Guancho Presence in Thomas Sprat's *History of the Royal Society of London*" is forthcoming in volume 54 of *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*.

Alaia Snell (PhD)

Alaia's most recent project on Octavia E. Butler, space colonization, and Indigenous astronomies was published in the Fall 2024 volume of *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*.



University Archives, Northwestern University Libraries. "Senior class on steps of University Hall [1877]", Alexander Hesler Photograph Collection

FACULTY NEWS

Brian Bouldrey's novel *The Good Pornographer* has been accepted for publication in late 2025 by the University of Wisconsin Press. He and Rachel Jamison Webster joined William & Mary's Director of The Lemon Project at the annual Institute for Pilgrimage Studies conference for a panel on the Banneker boundary stones of Washington, D.C. This year, he was promoted to Associate Professor of Instruction.

Tracy C. Davis's book *Liberal Lives and Activist Repertoires: Political Performance and Victorian Social Reform* (Cambridge University Press, 2023) was shortlisted for the 2024 Outstanding Book Award by the Association for Theatre in Higher Education, was a finalist for the American Society for Theatre Research's 2024 Barnard Hewitt Award for Outstanding Research in Theatre History, and received Honorable Mention for the same. A subsequent book, *The Cambridge Guide to Mixed Methods Research for Theatre and Performance Studies*, co-edited with Paul Rae, was published by Cambridge University Press in spring 2024.

This past summer, **Sarah Dimick** spent two months as a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Edinburgh. While there, she finished copyedits on her first book, *Unseasonable: Climate Change and Global Literatures*, which was published by Columbia University Press in October. She also began research for her second book at the archives of the International Network of Street Papers, located in Glasgow.

The first chapter of **Sheila Donahue's** novel *Curious Monster* won 2nd place in *The Masters Review* 2024 novel excerpt contest. <https://mastersreview.com/>

Kasey Evans has been appointed co-editor of *The Spenser Review* alongside colleagues Jeff Dolven (Princeton University) and Claire Falck (Rowan University). *The Spenser Review* is published three times annually and includes reviews of recent books and influential essays, short essays, and writing of various kinds related to the work of Edmund Spenser and Renaissance scholarship generally.

Christine Froula's article "Torvald's Question: Italo Svevo and James Joyce Stage Modern Masculinity" appeared in *Comparative Drama* (Spring-Summer 2024), and she presented "Heroic Abjection: *Exiles* and the Pharmakon" at the XXIX International James Joyce Symposium in Glasgow in June. She contributed "Late Bloomsbury's Dialectic of Enlightenment" to

the forthcoming *Cambridge History of Bloomsbury* and, in October, presented "Leslie Stephen's Dialectic of Enlightenment" at a conference on "Leslie Stephen: Thinking with and against His Times" at the Sorbonne Nouvelle.

Susannah Gottlieb's *Auden and the Muse of History* (finalist for the 2023 Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism) has been shortlisted for the Modernist Studies Association's Book Prize.

Daisy Hernández celebrated the release of the tenth anniversary edition of her memoir, *A Cup of Water Under My Bed* (Beacon Press), for which she penned a new preface. Her most recent book of nonfiction, *The Kissing Bug: A True Story of a Family, an Insect, and a Nation's Neglect of a Deadly Disease* (Tin House, 2021), was adopted as a common read at Case Western Reserve University, where she delivered the keynote speech for the incoming 2024 class. The book has also been translated into Italian. Her essay "The Buddhist Journalist" was published in the magazine *Tricycle: A Buddhist Review*, to which she is a regular contributor.

Jim Hodge contributed his essay, "'The Cure of Depression,'" on the relation between memes and depression, to a special issue of *Representations* on the topic of "meme aesthetics."

In 2024, **Susan Manning** served one final quarter as DGS of the Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama (IPTD) before turning over the position to a colleague in Theatre. She will continue serving as Director of the graduate cluster in Critical Dance Studies until her retirement in 2026. She is currently finalizing the manuscript for a two-volume anthology coedited with Lizzie Leopold (IPTD 2027), titled *Dancing on the Third Coast: Chicago Dance Histories* and including the research of many Northwestern affiliates—Nadine George-Graves, Shayna Silverstein, Francis Aparicio, Megan Geigner, Rebecca Rossen, Mario LaMothe, Elizabeth Schwall, Jessica Friedman, Jessica Ray Herzogenrath, Pam Krayenbuhl, Queen Zabriskie, Samuel Dorf, Caroline Shadle, Rachel Russell, and Michael Landez.

Juan Martinez published these stories in 2024: "The Long March" in *Chicago Quarterly Review*, "Lesser Demons of the North Shore" in *The Sunday Morning Transport*, and "My Refugee" in *Ploughshares*. Two stories are forthcoming: "Commission Piece" in *EPOCH*, and "Mechanical Servants Inc. LLC, Glendale Heights, Illinois" in the Latine horror

anthology *The Ghosts of Where We Are From*. He also published two essays on the DNC in *The Believer*, as well as a piece on editing fiction for *The Chicago Review of Books*.

Jeffrey Masten recently published his essay “Marlowe’s Queer Futures: *Edward and Richard, the Second*” in *Histories of the Future: On Shakespeare and Thinking Ahead*, ed. Carla Mazzio (U Penn Press). In December 2023, the essay was awarded the 34th Calvin and Rose G. Hoffman Prize for a Distinguished Publication on Christopher Marlowe, an award overseen by Marlowe’s own school, the King’s School, Canterbury. Masten’s essay “Frolic” is forthcoming in early 2025 in *Logomotives: Words that Change the Early Modern World 1400-1700*, ed. Marjorie Rubright and Stephen Spiess (U Edinburgh Press). He presented work on editing in the “Textual Failure” seminar at the Shakespeare Association last spring, and he spoke on the opening plenary panel at a symposium on “Marlowe, Shakespeare, and Editorial Futures” at the Folger Shakespeare Library this October.

In a fit of possible insanity, **Barbara Newman** applied for—and got—the position as next editor of *Speculum*, the journal of the Medieval Academy of America. She will begin the five-year term on July 1, employing some of Northwestern’s best recent Medieval Studies Ph.D.’s as editorial staff. This is her final year of full-time teaching, as she will teach just two classes a year while serving as editor. During the past summer she completed a translation of Honorius Augustodunensis’ *Key to Natural Philosophy*, sinking ever deeper into the luminous abyss of Neoplatonism. She also wrote a couple articles for festschrifts, including one on “Double Judgment and the

Death of Saints,” and inched closer to publishing a few more that languish in the eternal pipeline.

Mariajosé Rodríguez Pliego’s dissertation, “Foundational Futures: Nationhood, Migration and Environment in the Literatures of Abiyala,” received the Joukowsky Outstanding Dissertation Prize.

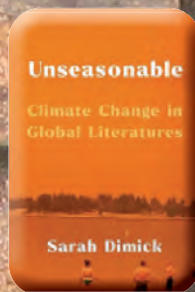
Sarah Schulman has many updates to share. Her new book, *The Fantasy and Necessity of Solidarity*, will be published on April 22 by Thesis Books, an imprint of Penguin Random. Harvard and the Schlesinger Library have purchased her archive of 68 boxes, dating from 1968-2024, with the aim of making them available to researchers. She served as a judge for the National Book Award in Nonfiction. Other activities and publications of note include two translations of her work (a French edition of *Ties that Bind* and a Spanish edition of *Conflict is Not Abuse*); essays in *The Nation*, *Atlantic Magazine*, and *New York Magazine*; liner notes for the Criterion Collection’s “All the Beauty and Bloodshed,” directed by Laura Poitras; a contribution to the exhibit catalog for a retrospective on the artist Nan Goldin; and a series of interviews edited by Will Brantley and published by the University Press of Mississippi. Sarah’s work is also the subject of a new critical study, *Queer Kinship in Sarah Schulman’s AIDS Novels* by Jaraslaw Milewski, published by Routledge in 2024.

Charif Shanahan’s second collection of poetry, *Trace Evidence: poems*, was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award; longlisted for the National Book Award in Poetry; and winner of the Publishing Triangle’s Thom Gunn Award, the Lambda Literary Award for

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS



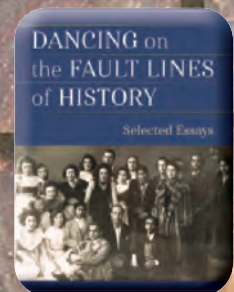
Tracy C. Davis, ed.
The Cambridge Guide to Mixed Methods Research for Theatre and Performance Studies
co-edited w/ Paul Rae



Sarah Dimick
Unseasonable: Climate Change in Global Literature



Reg Gibbons
Three Poems



Susan Manning, ed.
Dancing on the Fault Lines of History, selected essays

Gay Poetry, and a Whiting Award. Named a best poetry book of 2023 by *The Guardian* (UK), the book was also a finalist for the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Legacy Award in Poetry. For AY 24-25, Shanahan is the recipient of a Kaplan Institute for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship.

Laurie Shannon organized the Third Anne Lister Society (ALS) Meeting, held in Yorkshire in April 2024, where 21 speakers presented new research on the Regency diarist and queer polymath. Over the last three years, the ALS has hosted 54 talks. In collaboration with Oxford University Press, the Calderdale Council and the West Yorkshire Archive Service, Shannon continues planning a complete scholarly edition of Lister's five-million-word, partly encrypted diary—a monumental text in the history of English writing. She presented “Queer Jingles: Apples and Etymologies in the Lister Diaries” at Cambridge University's “Queer and Trans Philologies” conference. In October 2024, she delivered the Janel Mueller Memorial Lecture at the University of Chicago, entitled “From Eden to the Anthropocene: Shakespeare's Natural History of Humankind.”

Helen Thompson was invited to a seminar on science and fictionality at Aarhus University in Denmark in November 2024, where she gave a talk on cosmetic recipes, criminal autobiography, and chemistry entitled “The Whore's Realism.” She will workshop an article, “Pawns, Enslavement, and Literary History: *Oroonoko*, *The Royal African*, and the Royal African Company Letters,” at the Eighteenth Century Seminar at the Newberry Library on Friday, January 31. Another article on the Royal African Company, “Mercantilism, Enslavement, and Form: The Royal African Company's Rawlinson Archive,” is forthcoming in *Eighteenth-Century Studies* in July 2025.

Rachel Jamison Webster's book, *Benjamin Banneker and Us*, was chosen as a Best Book of 2023 by *The New Yorker* and an Editor's Pick by the *New York Times*. The book was also a finalist for the Chautauqua Prize and the People's Choice Award from the Library of Virginia. In August, Rachel was awarded the Culture-Light Award from the Sri Chinmoy Foundation for her teaching and writing. The award recognizes those “igniting the creative spark that may serve an evolving humanity.”

Kelly Wisecup's recent book, *Assembled for Use: Indigenous Compilation and the Archives of Early Native American Literature*, was

awarded the 2023 *Early American Literature* Book Prize. She also received a Mellon/National Historical Publications and Records Commission Planning Grant to prepare a digital edition of the manuscript periodical *The Ojibwe Muzze-niegun*, created by the Ojibwe poet Jane Johnston Schoolcraft and her family. The Planning Grant collective includes NU English alum Bradley Dubos (now at Ohio State University) and other scholars of Indigenous periodicals and poetry. Her essay on Simon Pokagon's birchbark books, “Printing and Circulating Simon Pokagon's *The Red Man's Rebuke* and *The Red Man's Greeting*,” was published in *As Sacred to Us: Simon Pokagon's Birch Bark Stories in Their Contexts*, edited by Blaire Morseau. She gave invited talks at a Rare Book School class held at the Newberry Library and at the Museum of the White Mountains in Plymouth, NH.

Tristram Wolff gave several talks this past year from his ongoing short book project called “Not Feeling It: Critique and Affect After Hazlitt,” at the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) conference in Montréal, and at the British Association for Romantic Studies (BARS) conference in Glasgow. He is also hoping to develop another short book project, emerging from several past talks, on the redeployment of romanticism's “folk” concept in Haiti and Harlem. In June 2024, Pushkin Press put out his translation of *Background for Love*, a novella written by his grandmother Helen Wolff in 1932 (which was first published posthumously in 2022). An essay titled “Lyric Exposure,” part of a special issue for the journal *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*, will come out in 2025 — in no small part thanks to several iterations of his Northwestern graduate course “Lyric Environments” (taught in 2020 and 2022).

GRADUATE STUDENT & ALUM PROFILES

Nat Happe (MFA+MA student)



Since starting the Litowitz Creative Writing program in 2022, I have been focused primarily on producing a memoir-in-essays investigating the sometimes painful, sometimes tender, and often surprising relationships we have to violence. I am primarily interested in the stories we tell ourselves about violence, and the barriers that taboo, identity, sexuality, and our own bodies impose on the act of describing. Work from this collection has been supported twice in the past by the Tin House Summer Workshop, and a chapter from this project was recently selected as the winner of the 2024 DISQUIET Prize, which included a full scholarship to attend the DISQUIET International Literary Program in Lisbon, Portugal. Over the last two years, pieces of this project have been featured (or are presently forthcoming) in *The Kenyon Review*, *Guernica*, *Ninth Letter*, and *Indiana Review*.

Susanna Sacks (PhD 2019)

I work in the English Department (soon, we hope!, to be renamed Literature and Writing) at Howard University, where I have been since 2022. Before moving to Howard, I taught for three years at the College of Wooster, a teaching-intensive institution in Ohio. Working at Wooster accelerated my growth as a teacher and mentor, and deepened my understanding of academic administration. But, after nine years in the Midwest, I was eager to move closer to family on the East Coast. I feel immensely fortunate to have found a position teaching African literature in a department that centers Black Studies and Afrodiasporic Literature.



My work—both scholarly and personal—is invested in understanding how global systems and platforms shape individual lives, and the tools literature gives us to work against (or live within) those systems. Working at Howard has helped me expand my research into the influence of international systems on African literature. My first book, *Networked Poetics: The Digital Turn in Poetry from Southern Africa*, was released by UMass Press in February 2024. The book tracks how young poets across southern Africa built communities online to sustain their movement work on the ground. When I began the project, I wanted to explore how poetry was used to construct collective identities; as the project developed, I became increasingly interested in how global systems of valuation shape literary form.

Exploring these questions over the past few years has taken my writing in a range of directions: from co-editing special issues on *Sound Studies from Africa* (with NU CLS PhD Scott Newman) and a cluster on *Reading with Algorithms*, to articles on protest theatre as historiography (*PMLA* 138.1) and IGO funding and performance poetry (forthcoming Matthew Kilbane's volume *Expressive Networks*). My current book project, tentatively titled *A World of Debt: African Literature in the Wake of Structural Adjustment*, explores the role of debt in the cultural imaginary in southern Africa. I want to understand what it means that market systems dominate so much of our cultural imagination, how international debt shapes the state's relationship to its citizens, and what other models literature can offer.

Olivia Xu (PhD student)

While I came to the U.S. (and Northwestern specifically) in 2018 committed to becoming a Victorianist, I am happy to find myself, six years later, with a broader range of interests and perspectives that may strain against the very category of “Victorian Studies.” My dissertation, “Multilingualism of the Other: Writing the Novel in Translation East and West, 1818-1910,” uncovers a translational history of the novel amidst the tectonic shifts of two imperial language regimes in the long nineteenth century: the rise of global English and the decline of classical Chinese. Countering the familiar narrative that the novel form rises in Europe and is subsequently translated elsewhere, my project argues that translation is a prerequisite for the novel to become novelistic. Through an Anglo-Chinese comparative lens, I read novelistic forms such as historical mimesis, frame narratives, free indirect discourse, and heteroglossia as translingual and translational technologies that facilitate the imperial (de)formation of two world language hegemonies. Integrating translation as a form, the English novel legitimizes its national language to operate seamlessly on a global scale as a world-translating language, whereas the Chinese novel has to formally grapple with the waning universality of classical Chinese, once a literary lingua franca of East Asia. An article-length version of one of my chapters, “Lin Shu and Dickens’s Chinese Form,” was solicited for publication in the journal of *Victorian Studies*. Another essay from this project, “Taking Fidelity Philosophically: *Romola* and the Historical Novel as Translation,” has been accepted by *English Literary History*.



I am currently working on an article that grew out of a course I designed and taught for the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures in Spring 2024. In this class, “Reading China in Translation,” we read historical and contemporary theories of translation in relation to R. F. Kuang’s award-winning fantasy novel *Babel* (2022), which tells a counterfactual history of the nineteenth century when translation makes all the difference in the world, including Britain’s domination of China. Inspired by the incredibly rich discussions we had as a class, I’m developing an article that traces the relationship between England and China from the nineteenth century to the present, which testifies to a tangled history of colonial aggression, inter-imperial collision, Cold War antagonism, and neoliberal cosmopolitanism.



Chris Handzlik. Weinberg College Archives, Photographer unknown, 2014

ALUMNI NEWS

Lydia Abedeen (MFA+MA 2024)

In September, Lydia joined the PhD program in Creative Writing at the University of Nebraska.

Toby Altman (PhD 2017)

Toby is now an Assistant Professor at Michigan State, as well as the Director of the Center for Poetry in their Arts and Humanities Residential College.

Sarah Blackwood (PhD 2009)

Sarah has edited a new edition of Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, which is being published in February 2025 under Norton's new inexpensive teaching text imprint, The Norton Library.

Jayme Collins (PhD 2022)

The next season of Jayme's ongoing audio documentary series, "Archival Ecologies," is forthcoming in 2025. It builds on field research done this past summer in Norway, Svalbard, and an Ice Core research facility in Denver to tell stories about the relationships between ice and archives during climate change. In connection with the Archival Ecologies book project, which builds on material gathered for the audio series, Jayme was on a one-month fellowship this fall at the Harry Ransom Center, looking at the papers of Peter Waters, a foundational figure in the field of conservation and Chief of the Conservation Division at the Library of Congress from 1971.

Maria Dikcis (PhD 2021)

Maria has been named an ACLS Leading Edge Fellow, a program made possible by a grant from the Mellon Foundation. Under its auspices, Maria will be working as the Communications Manager of the City Bureau, a nonprofit civic journalism and media lab here in Chicago.

E. Hughes (MFA+MA 2021)

In addition to the release of their poetry collection *Ankle-Deep in Pacific Water* (Haymarket Books, 2024), a number of works by and interviews with E. have been, or soon will be, published. "On the Exquisite Corpse: Blackness and Inexpressibility," will be included as a chapter in the forthcoming *Open Coffin: Philosophical Meditations on the Lynching of Emmett Till*. Two interviews appeared in *Truth out* and *The Art Section* respectively; "Giving Voice to 'Silent Casualties': A Dialogue with E. Hughes" with Robert Stalker, and "Juneteenth Reminds Us That 'Freedom' Is an Ongoing Project" with Dr. George Yancy. E.'s poem "Bulldagger in the Garden" will appear in *Wildness Journal*; "Everything All at Once" in *Healing Verse Poetry Line*; "As It Is," "This Way," "On Love," and "Another Way to Say Dying" in the *Colorado Review*.

Jim Lang (PhD 1997)

In the fall of 2023, Jim took up the position of Professor of the Practice at the Kaneb Center for Teaching Excellence at the University of Notre Dame. His new book, *Write Like You Teach: Taking Your Classroom Skills to a Bigger Audience*, will be published in April of 2025 by the University of Chicago Press. The book argues that faculty can expand the audiences for their research by drawing from their experiences in the classroom to enhance their public writing opportunities.

Ilana Larkin (PhD 2022)

Ilana is currently on fellowship at the American Antiquarian Society and will start her job as an Assistant Professor in the Humanities Department at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Fall of 2025.

Janaka Lewis (PhD 2009)

Along with her promotion this past summer to Professor of

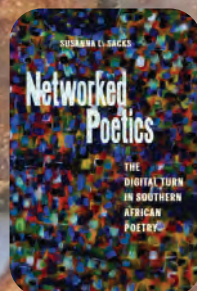
ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS



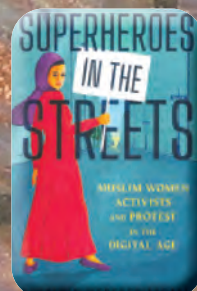
Bill Buege
Lone Prairie, poems



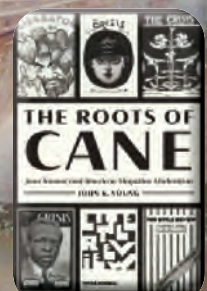
E. Hughes
Ankle-Deep in Pacific Water, poems



Susanna L. Sacks
Networked Poetics: The Digital Turn in Southern African Poetry



Kimberly Segall
Superheroes in the Streets: Muslim Women Activists and Protest in the Digital Age



John K. Young
The Roots of Cane: Jean Toomer and American Magazine Modernism

English at UNC Charlottesville, Janaka has taken on a new role as Associate Dean of Curriculum and Student Success in the College of Humanities & Earth and Social Sciences.

Christopher Lombardo (MFA+MA 2023)

Christopher's short story, "Rust," was published in Volume III of *Twelve Winters*. In May, he began working as a Program Coordinator supporting curricular initiatives and academic advising in Northwestern's School of Communication.

Celia Marshik (PhD 1999)

The "Material Modernisms" book series, which **Celia** co-edits at Palgrave MacMillan, had two titles come out in recent months: *The Vacuum Cleaner: A Cultural Investigation* by Maud Ellmann and *Modern Manuscripts and the Pre-history of the Digital Humanities* by Alex Christie. More information about the series and these books can be found here:

<https://link.springer.com/series/16274>

Adam Syvertsen (PhD 2024)

Adam's article "'I'll wait no longer': Emigration, Speculation, and Utopia in Martin R. Delany's *Blake*" was published in the Fall 2024 edition of *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists*.

Tyler Talbott (PhD 2024)

On February 21st, Tyler will be at the Newberry Library in Chicago as part of this year's British Studies seminar series. Tyler will be presenting work on Channel 4 and Black British film workshop collectives that he completed in fall 2023.

SKELETONS IN THE ATTIC

by Nathan Mead

Before being turned over to the English Department in the mid-1900s, University Hall served a kaleidoscopic array of functions, housing a chapel, a library, classrooms, student dormitories, and Northwestern's Natural History Museum.

In its day, the Museum occupied a significant portion of the building's fourth floor, overlapping the space now dedicated to graduate student offices. I was recently pointed in the direction of some photographs of the space from the 1870s, which give an interesting look at a time when the building served a very different function.

Along similar (though less ancient) lines, the photograph immediately to the right is from the 1950s, unearthed some time ago by Dr Laura Braunstein (PhD 2000). The whale skeleton, by then suspended from the ceiling, had apparently become either a study aid or divinatory tool. During finals week, students would throw coins into the skeleton: if the coin fell, the whale was advising you to keep studying. If not, you were free and clear. As for the whale itself, I've managed to use some digital trickery to make legible the grim and at least somewhat apocryphal story recorded on the sign that used to accompany it.

pg 17



Photographer unknown

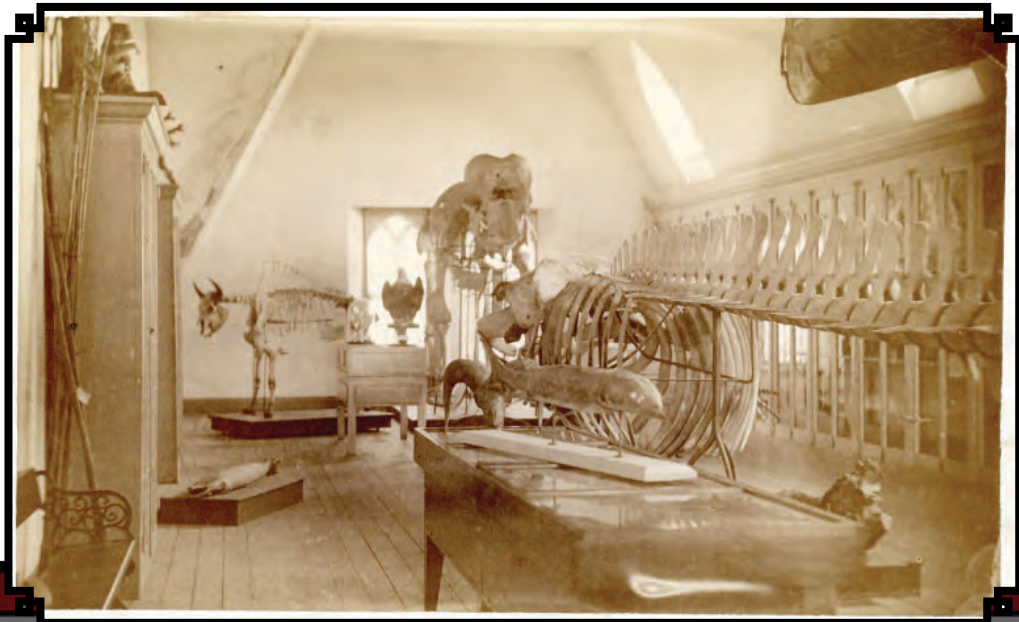


University Archives, Northwestern University Libraries. "Museum of Natural History", Alexander Hesler Photograph Collection



University Archives, Northwestern University Libraries Photographer unknown

BALÆNOPTER LATICEPS
 During the Civil War, a whale was killed in the Gulf of Mexico by a cannon ball, shot from a Confederate Cruiser. The body drifted upon the coast of Georgia and came into the possession of Professor Ward who prepared the skeleton for Exhibition. In 1875 it was brought to the Chicago Exposition and attracted much attention. It was valued at \$1000. At the solicitation of Dr Fowler the Class of 1878 N.W.U. bought and presented it to this Museum.



Northwestern University Museum of Natural History. Kevin Leonard

SPOTLIGHT ON TRIQUARTERLY

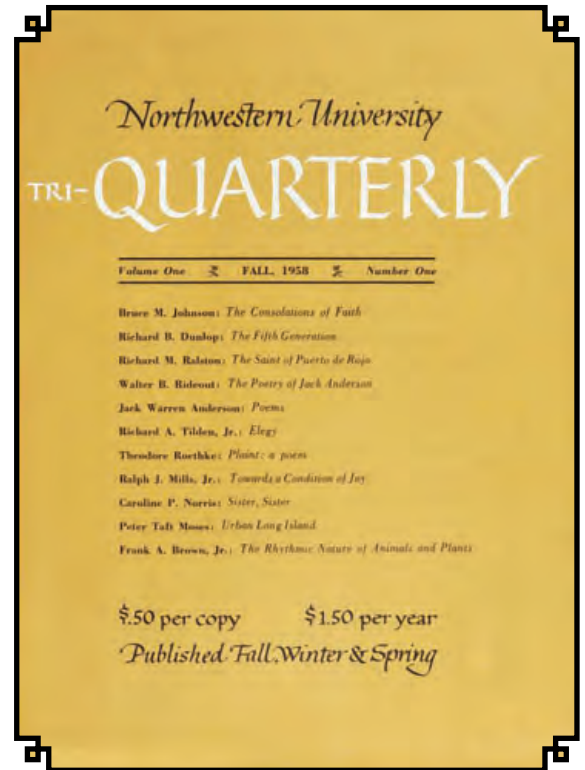
by Colin Pope

For sixty-six years and one hundred sixty-six issues, *TriQuarterly* has been the national literary outlet for Northwestern University. The path to its present home in the English Department has been circuitous, from its beginnings as a student literary journal—which published the early work of a young undergraduate named Saul Bellow—the journal has traveled around various organizations within the university, alighting in the Department of English in 1981. Later, it found a home for a time in the Northwestern University Press, continued on to the School of Professional Studies, all before finally returning to English in 2018. The journal has been housed here ever since, affording graduate students the opportunity to learn the inner workings of contemporary literary journal's publication. Every summer quarter, students in the Litowitz MFA+MA Program work with the editorial staff at *TriQuarterly* to vet submissions, generate content, and keep the journal on track as one of the most prestigious in the country.

Within the first three years of its turning into a national literary journal in 1958, *TriQuarterly* published poems, essays, and stories by Theodore Roethke, Ralph J. Mills Jr., Marge Piercy, W. D. Snodgrass, and Howard Nemerov. The journal would go on to feature a slate of writers that includes many of the major names of twentieth and twenty-first century American literature. The table of contents for its seventh issue, published in the Fall of 1964, contains criticism by Leslie Fiedler and Lionel Trilling, fiction by Richard Brautigan, and poetry by William Stafford, for instance.

Future issues would include original work by dozens of internationally-renowned writers, poets, and thinkers, including Joseph Brodsky, Roland Barthes, Anne Sexton, Czeslaw Milosz, Vasko Popa, Susan Sontag, John Berryman, Gabriel García Márquez, Joyce Carol Oates, Fredric Jameson, Jorge Luis Borges, John Ashbery, W. S. Merwin, John Updike, Alfred Kazin, Ken Kesey, Anthony Burgess, Jack Kerouac, William Gass, Edward W. Said, Noam Chomsky, Vladimir Nabokov, Annie Dillard, Hélène Cixous, Yehuda Amichai, Jane Smiley, Paul Theroux, J. G. Ballard, Leslie Marmon Silko, Raymond Carver, Cormac McCarthy, Edward Abbey, Ursula K. LeGuin, Derek Walcott, Carolyn Forché, Grace Paley, Rita Dove, Wole Soyinka, Adrienne Rich, Gwendolyn Brooks, Li-Young Lee, Chaim Potok, Alice Fulton, Sharon Olds, Billy Collins, Sue Monk Kidd, Ha Jin, Adam Zagajewski, Claudia Rankine, Louise Glück, Percival Everett, and David Foster Wallace.

This fall, *TriQuarterly* also has the great fortune of welcoming a new managing editor into a focused and refined staff role within the English Department. This position combines a number of smaller roles within the journal into a single, half-time position with a much greater presence on campus. Please join the Litowitz Program in welcoming Jess Masi! She comes to us with a wealth of experience, from her time as fiction editor and then managing editor at *Indiana Review* to her work with Chicago Review Press and Indiana University Press. She received her MFA from Indiana University and currently teaches at Wright College. We are excited to include Jess in the roster of the journal's incredible managing editors, which also includes our dear Reg Gibbons. With her help, *TriQuarterly* will seek to grow its name even further as an important local, national, and international literary outlet.



We are grateful to everyone who has donated to the department over the years. It is with your continued support that we are able to offer our graduate students the many opportunities for research and professionalization funding available to them.

We list here, with our most sincere thanks, our valued donors from this past year.

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Musings

2024 Newsletter
Volume XXVIII

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Musings

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Nathan Mead

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