

Department of English and Comparative Literature

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

Celebrating 75 Years of Creative Writing at UNC



COLLEGE OF
ARTS AND SCIENCES

CONTENTS



**Greetings from
the Chair**

4



**75 Years of
Creative Writing
at UNC**

6



**Faculty Awards
and Honors**

12



**New Books from
the Department**

31



**The Department
Goes Global**

38



Faculty Briefs

40



Graduate Student
Successes

18



Undergraduate
Student Successes

22



Critical Speaker
Series

42



Alumni News

45

New Leadership

26

New Faculty

28

Retirement

48

Ways to Give

Please see
pages 7, 11
and 49.

Greetings

from Marsha S. Collins, Chair

Dear Friends and Alumni of Carolina's Department of English and Comparative Literature,

Greetings from Chapel Hill! As I write this letter, we are enjoying a beautiful, early Spring in our area. During this time of nature's spectacular renewal, I look back on a busy year of celebration and commemoration, great challenges and



hope for the future. For the first time since the onslaught of the global pandemic, we were able to work, study, and gather in person on a daily basis. To say the least, the feeling is a good one.

Together we have accomplished much this year, which you will see in the pages that follow. At the beginning of the year, we celebrated the life and legacy of our late colleague Randall Kenan and the posthumous publication of his book *Black Folk Could Fly* (2022). Featured speakers included Alane Salierno Mason, Vice President and Editor at WW

Norton; Tayari Jones, author of *An American Marriage*; and E. Patrick Johnson, author of *Sweet Tea*. In fact, this year marks the 75th anniversary of our famous program in Creative Writing. The year ended in joyous celebration—an awards ceremony for our always outstanding students and a graduation ceremony for our terrific majors, their families, and friends.

In between there has been a flurry of activity, milestones marked, and achievements made: awards for faculty and graduate students; books published and journals edited; professional conferences organized and/or attended; speaker series and film series; grants and accolades earned; dissertations and honors theses successfully defended; retirements and new hires. The seemingly mundane business of committee and department meetings, informal gatherings, meetings with students in person, and more has all taken on a special significance as we emerge from the immediate threat of the pandemic and into a new normal just beginning to take shape.



“During this time of nature’s spectacular renewal, I look back on a busy year of celebration and commemoration, great challenges and hope for the future.”

I end my first year as department chair with a feeling of tremendous gratitude. I am thankful for such an exceptional group of colleagues, the world’s best staff, and our superb, energetic students. Like others, I missed the unique energy and creativity of our department, and I am glad we are back in community and our campus is once again a beehive of activity.

I am grateful to all of you as well. You are an integral part of our extended community, of everything we do and achieve. I hope you will follow us on our website and on social media, and read about the department in the pages that follow. Your interest and your gifts are always welcome. But I also hope that as you read, happy memories will come to mind and a keen sense of the bright future ahead. Please share with us a sense of pride in the activities and achievements of our English and Comparative Literature Department and community 2022-2023!

With warm wishes,
Marsha S. Collins



Since 1947, UNC at Chapel Hill has been home to some of the most innovative writing in the South and in the nation, both from its faculty and its students. This year, we celebrate 75 years of creative writing at Carolina with a bounty of readings and performances for lovers of literature.

Chapel Hill has always been a magnet for writers. Some students arrive with the goal of becoming novelists, short story writers, essayists, poets, or dramatists. Others discover their calling while undergraduates. The University has long had a vigorous writing tradition, beginning when “Proff” Koch, Paul Green, and Samuel Selden worked with Thomas Wolfe, Kay Kyser, Betty Smith, Frances Gray Patton, and Howard Richardson in the early twentieth century. Beginning in 1947 and continuing for almost two decades, Jessie Rehder served as a one-woman program and published several books of her students’ work. Upon her death in 1966, Max Steele became director of Creative Writing and the program expanded to include such legendary writers as Doris Betts and Daphne Athas.

In the years since, Carolina’s Creative Writing program has been home to such luminaries as Randall Kenan, Lee Smith, Bland Simpson, Carolyn Kizer, Daniel Wallace, Pam Durban, Marianne Gingher, Gabrielle Calvocoressi, Stephanie Elizondo Griest, Tyree Daye, Alan Shapiro,

Michael McFee, Gabriel Bump, Michael Chitwood, and Algonquin Books founder Louis D. Rubin, among others. Hundreds of alumni have gone on to write books, films, albums, plays, and television shows, pursue graduate study in creative writing, and publish stories, poems, and essays in the world’s best journals, magazines, and newspapers.

Some highlights from our year of celebration appear in the following pages.



Honoring the Work of Randall Kenan

“Randall’s clear-eyed vision of the South set a tone for a generation of writers.”

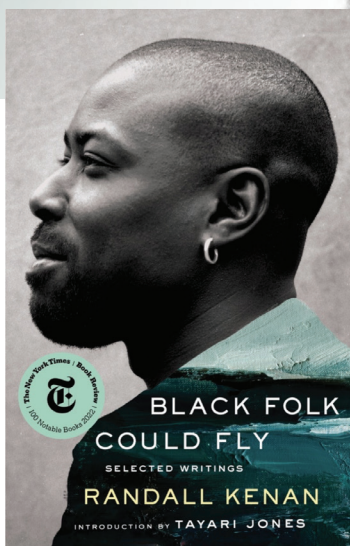
ROSS WHITE
Dir., Creative Writing Department

The Department of English and Comparative Literature celebrated the publication of Randall Kenan’s posthumous collection *Black Folk Could Fly* on September 11, 2022 in Hill Hall on campus.

Director of the Creative Writing Program, Ross White, writes of Kenan’s powerful work and influence:

“Our beloved colleague and friend Randall Kenan was one of the most influential writers in America. Hailing from a small town in Duplin County, Randall came to Carolina to study physics but found his voice as a writer. And find it, he did—Randall’s clear-eyed vision of the South set the tone for a generation of writers. Touching on subjects ranging from the women who raised him to James Baldwin to the lowlands of eastern North Carolina, these essays reveal the tenderness and heart behind Randall’s powerful intellect.”

Featured speakers at the event included Alane Salierno Mason, Vice President and Executive Editor at WW Norton & Company; Tayari Jones, author of



An American Marriage and faculty at Emory University; and E. Patrick Johnson, author of *Sweet Tea* and Dean of the School of Communication at Northwestern University.

More on *Black Folk Could Fly* from W.W. Norton:

“A personal, social, and intellectual self-portrait of the beloved and enormously influential late Randall Kenan, a master of both fiction and nonfiction.

“Virtuosic in his use of literary forms, nurtured and unbounded by his identities as a Black man, a gay man, an intellectual, and a Southerner, Randall Kenan was known for his groundbreaking fiction. Less visible were his extraordinary nonfiction essays, published as introductions to anthologies and in small journals, revealing countless facets of Kenan’s life and work.

“This powerful collection is a testament to a great mind, a great soul, and a great writer from whom readers will always wish to have more to read.”

In honor of Randall Kenan’s extraordinary legacy as a writer, we have created the **Randall Kenan Memorial Fund**. Our hope is to establish a program in his name reflecting Randall’s strong commitment to the value of bringing fellow writers to campus to nurture Carolina’s literary culture and enrich its intellectual environment.

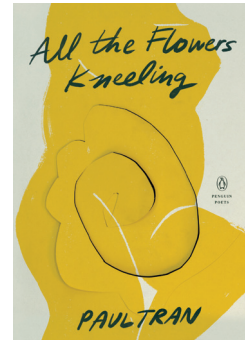
Your support enables us to honor Randall’s belief in the power of words and writers to promote vital conversations and to change our world.



Blanche B. Armfield Poetry Reading: Paul Tran

On September 13, 2022, poet Paul Tran gave a reading in Wilson Library and responded to questions from student writers.

Paul Tran is the author of the debut poetry collection, *All the Flowers Kneeling*, published by Penguin. Their work appears in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Best American Poetry*, and elsewhere. They earned their BA in History from Brown University and MFA in Poetry from Washington University in St. Louis. Winner of the *Discovery/Boston Review Poetry Prize*, as well as fellowships from the Poetry Foundation, Stanford University, and the National Endowment for the Arts, Tran is an Assistant Professor of English and Asian American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

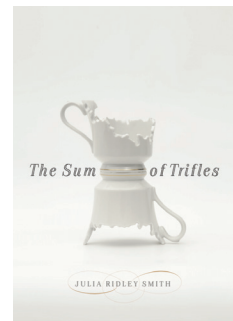


Kenan Visiting Writer Reading: Julia Ridley Smith

On September 22, Professor Julia Ridley Smith, former Kenan Visiting Writer, read to a packed room in Donovan Lounge. An author who works in multiple genres, her memoir, *The Sum of Trifles*, was published by the University of Georgia Press (2021) as a title in their Crux literary nonfiction series.

Smith's stories and essays have appeared in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Ecotone*, *Electric Literature*, the *New England Review*, and *The Southern Review*, among other publications, and her nonfiction was recognized as notable in *The Best American Essays 2019*.

Her short story collection *Sex Romp Gone Wrong* is forthcoming from Blair in February 2024.



Poet Matt Donovan Reads in Donovan Lounge

Matt Donovan is the author most recently of *The Dug-Up Gun Museum* (BOA Editions, 2022) and the collection of lyric essays, *A Cloud of Unusual Size and Shape: Meditations on Ruin and Redemption* (Trinity University Press, 2016). He is the recipient of a Whiting Award, a Rome Prize in Literature, a Creative Capital Grant, and an NEA Fellowship in Literature.

In addition to his poetry and nonfiction, Donovan frequently collaborates with his wife, the artist Ligia Bouton. Collaborative work includes *Inheritance*, a chamber opera about America's gun violence that's based on the life of Sarah Winchester, and the forthcoming *Missing Department*, a visual art and poetry erasure project that responds to missing person ads published in early 20th century pulp western magazines.

Donovan lives in Massachusetts and serves as the Director of The Boutelle-Day Poetry Center at Smith College.

Percival Everett Honored with Thomas Wolfe Prize

The English and Comparative Literature Department celebrated this year's winner of the 2022 Thomas Wolfe Prize, Percival Everett. This prize is awarded to contemporary writers with distinguished bodies of work in the honor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's own Thomas Wolfe. The winner is invited to campus to deliver a lecture to the wider University community. This year's lecture was held on October 6 in Moeser Auditorium in Hill Hall.

Everett is the author of twenty-one novels, six poetry collections, four short story collections, and a children's book. His most recent novel, *The Trees*, was the winner of the 2022 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, was a finalist for the 2022 PEN/Jean Stein Book Award, was longlisted for the 2022 PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction, and shortlisted for the 2022 Booker Prize. Alongside his extensive and genre-defying writing career, Everett is accomplished in jazz music, philosophy, and abstract painting.

Ross White, Director of the Creative Writing department, observed, "I can think of few writers whose restless and unyielding desire to experiment on the page more closely resembles the spirit of Creative Writing at Carolina, where we encourage students to probe the depths of what's possible with language and push past the comfortable confines of their own narratives to discover something essential about the human condition."

White added, "Percival Everett is a visionary. His writings challenge the literary orthodoxy

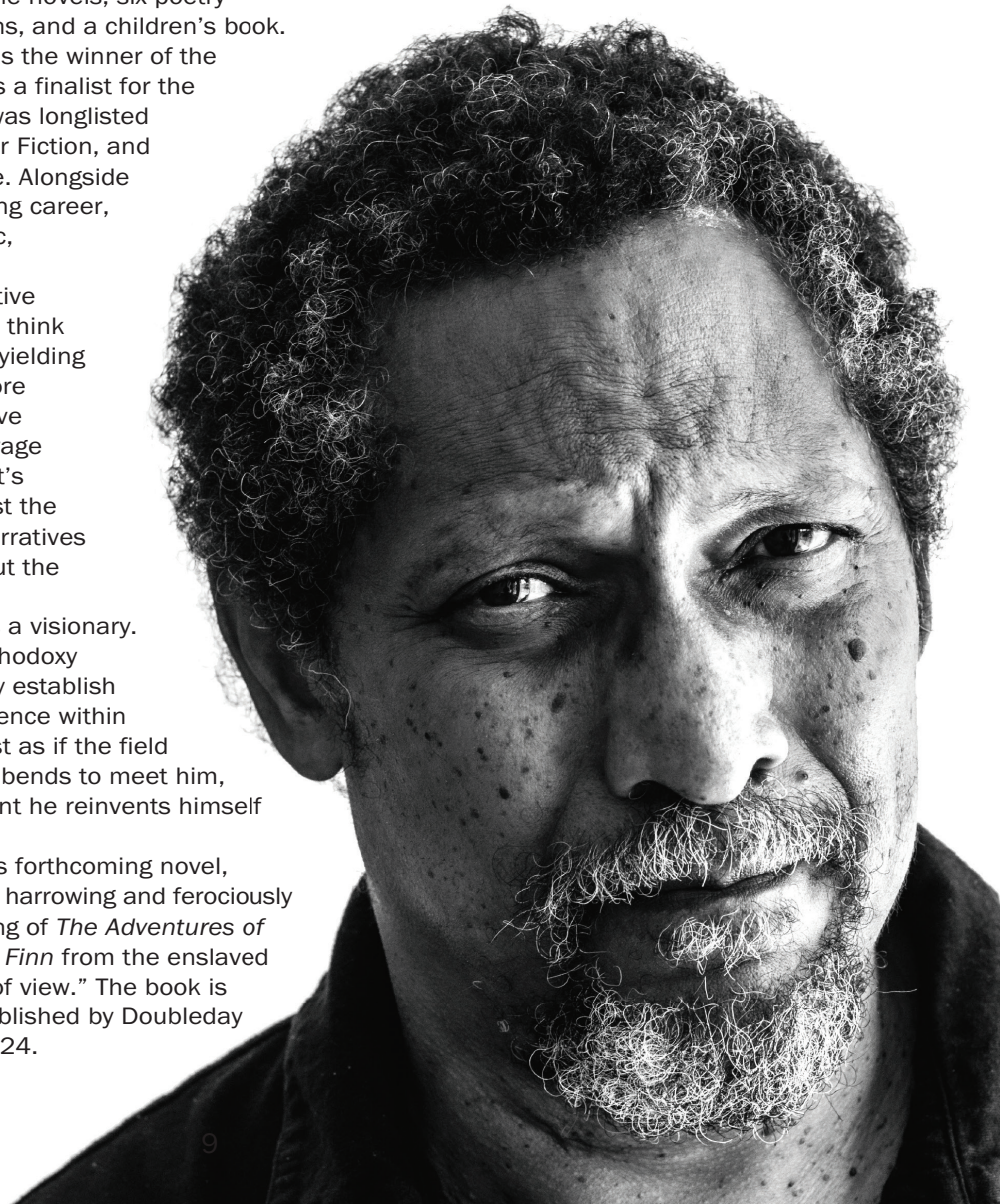
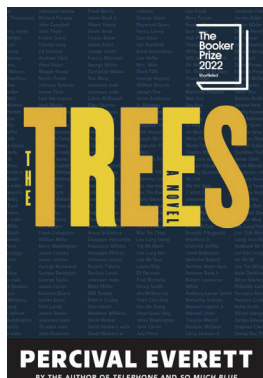
even as they establish his preeminence within it—it's almost as if the field of literature bends to meet him, at which point he reinvents himself again."

Everett's forthcoming novel, *James*, is "a harrowing and ferociously funny retelling of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* from the enslaved Jim's point of view." The book is set to be published by Doubleday in March 2024.

"Percival Everett is a visionary. His writings challenge the literary orthodoxy even as they establish his preeminence within it."

ROSS WHITE

Dir., Creative Writing Department





Frank B. Hanes Writer-in-Residence: Monique Truong



“Language and
silence, those
two things I
think, in one
form or another,
are at the core
of my writing.”

MONIQUE TRUONG

Frank B. Hanes Writer-in-Residence

The 2023 Frank B. Hanes Writer-in-Residence, Monique Truong, gave a reading on Tuesday, March 26, 2023 in Moeser Auditorium in Hill Hall. Award-winning Truong is the author of the novels *Body of Salt*, *Bitter in the Mouth*, and *The Sweetest Fruits*. She's also written choral works and operatic poems for the stage and has a forthcoming children's book.

In 1975, six-year-old Monique Truong and her mother left Vietnam as refugees. They came to America and were later joined, after the Fall of Saigon, by her father. They settled in Boiling Springs, North Carolina, before moving, again, to Ohio then Texas. She went on to graduate from Yale University and Columbia University School of Law before working as an intellectual property lawyer.

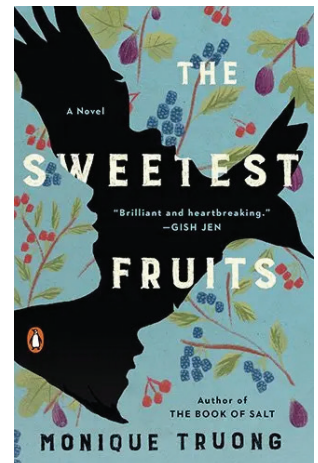
This forced removal from home—this wandering—has influenced a heartfelt sense of longing that colors all of Truong's creative work and has shaped her into the great cataloguer of diasporic malaise and beauty.

In the late 1990s, while editing *Watermark*, an anthology of Vietnamese American poetry and prose, Truong was inspired to write a short story about a man named Binh. The story, “Seeds,” grew into her bestselling award-winning first novel, *Body of Salt*, which follows Binh's experience in Paris as a cook for Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas. The story blends time, space, history, and cultures into a singular flowing narrative with wide-ranging power and announced Monique Truong as one of the world's most original artists and thinkers.

Her second novel, *Bitter in the Mouth*, set in North Carolina, outside Charlotte, tackles identity and inherited trauma, and challenges conventional understandings of race in the South.

A third novel, *The Sweetest Fruits*, released in 2019, is another impressive feat of historical fiction and innovative storytelling, and features the globetrotting exploits of Lafcadio Hearn, a famed translator.

In the twenty years since *Body of Salt* stormed the literary stage, Truong has received many honors, including the Dos Passos Prize, the New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Award, the Stonewall Book Award-Barbara Gittings Literature Award, the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize, the American Academy of Art and Letters Rosenthal Family Foundation Award, and the Asian American Writers' Workshop Van Lier Fellowship.





Help Launch Another 75 Years of Creative Writing at UNC



We can't do what we do without you.
Help build a strong foundation for
our next 75 years by making a gift:

The Randall Kenan Memorial Fund

Named for our esteemed colleague,
novelist, short story writer, essayist and
UNC professor Randall Garrett Kenan,
this fund will become an endowment
meant to fund future visiting writers.

The Daphne Athas Gram-O-Rama Fund

For support of our grammar-inspired
musical performances;

The Creative Writing Program

For general support of our initiatives.

FACULTY AWARDS AND HONORS

Danielle Christmas wins 2022 Hettleman Prize

Dr. Danielle Christmas has been honored with a 2022 Phillip and Ruth Hettleman Prize for Artistic and Scholarly Achievement. The prize is awarded to exceptional early-career faculty.

Christmas studies twentieth- and twenty-first century American literature and is an author of the forthcoming book, *Plantation Predators & Nazi Monsters in American Fiction and Film*, and a book-in-progress titled, *The Literature of Blood and Soil: White Nationalism and a New American Canon*.

“Danielle’s contributions to these literary studies are innovative and groundbreaking,” says Dr. Jeanne Moskal, professor in the Department of English and Comparative Literature. “Her research speaks decisively not only to specialists in her field but also



to non-specialists and the general public.”

Christmas has received a number of national awards to pursue this research, including support from the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the American Council of Learned Societies in partnership with the Mellon Foundation.

Most recently, her interests in Southern history, including Confederate monuments and lynching narratives, and visual art, have led to a number of presentations in partnership with UNC’s Carolina Public Humanities. She looks forward to expanding this work with research on white nationalist literature and peacebuilding initiatives through the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University.

NORTH CAROLINA LITERARY HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

The Department of English and Comparative Literature was once again well represented at the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame’s induction ceremony this year. Inductees were **Anthony S. Abbott**, **Carole Boston Weatherford**, **Charles Frazier**, **Bland Simpson** (pictured), and **Max Steele** — the latter two being longtime UNC Creative Writing professors and directors. Frazier, Simpson, and Steele are all UNC alumni.





Courtney Rivard and Jordynn Jack Receive Humanities for the Public Good Grant

North Carolina's industrial and military endeavors have led to high levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in our water systems, particularly in the Cape Fear watershed (shown in photo), which extends into 26 counties in North Carolina. While researchers at UNC have studied PFAS contamination and remediation efforts from a scientific perspective, we lack humanistic research that examines how individuals make sense of healthcare experiences that could be linked to PFAS.

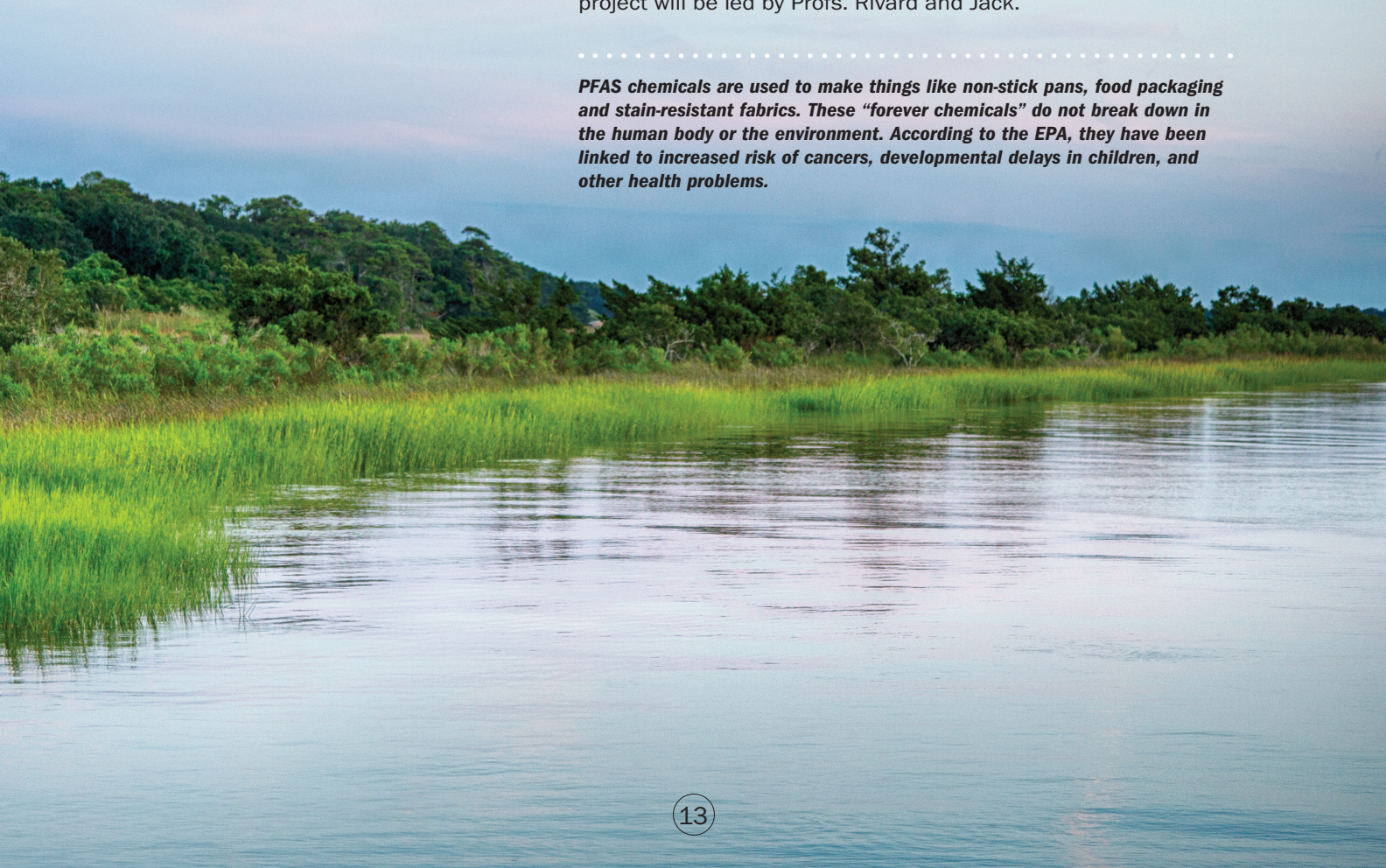
To address this gap, Courtney Rivard and Jordynn Jack have been awarded a Humanities for the Public Good grant to begin a public-facing digital humanities project, "Forever Chemicals in North Carolina: A Story Archive."

Together, the HHIVE Lab and the Digital Literary and Communication (DLC) Lab, both housed in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, have created a collaborative research project to conduct oral history interviews with North Carolinians who believe they have been affected by PFAS. This project will be led by Profs. Rivard and Jack.



.....

PFAS chemicals are used to make things like non-stick pans, food packaging and stain-resistant fabrics. These "forever chemicals" do not break down in the human body or the environment. According to the EPA, they have been linked to increased risk of cancers, developmental delays in children, and other health problems.



“It’s very humbling to see my name on a list with so many fantastic and accomplished teachers, and it feels great to be recognized.”



Søren Palmer Receives 2023 Chapman Family Teaching Award

Out of 876 nominations, Dr. Palmer was one of twenty-five recipients of the 2023 University Teaching Awards. The Chapman Family Teaching Award was established in 1993 to honor the distinguished teaching of undergraduate students.

Upon receiving the initial email about the award, Palmer didn’t believe he had won it:

“I’d kind of talked myself out of it] just to be safe, and then I received an email with no text and a PDF attached. The title was ‘UNC Teaching Awards,’ and I thought they were letting me know who won, and that it wasn’t me. I’d prepared myself for that outcome. And since the award is student nominated it really was an honor simply to receive that nomination, a line I was very well prepared to repeat. I was half-way through skimming the PDF before I realized I had won, and then had to read it a couple more times just to make sure. I waited half the day to tell anyone just in case it was a mistake.”

Palmer goes on to add, “Teaching isn’t always rewarded at the university level, but UNC in particular does a tremendous job of recognizing the value of teaching and the hard work that so many people put into their profession. It’s very humbling to see my name on a list with so many fantastic and accomplished teachers, and it feels great to be recognized.”



Gabrielle Calvocoressi Named the Beatrice Shepherd Blane Fellow at the Harvard-Radcliffe Institute

Poet Gabrielle Calvocoressi, Associate Professor of Creative Writing, has been awarded the prestigious Beatrice Shepherd Blane Fellowship at the Harvard-Radcliffe Institute for 2022–2023. Calvocoressi's work considers the effects of power, trauma, and compassion on the private and public body, particularly in relation to gender and the human vessel.

At Radcliffe, Calvocoressi will complete their fourth book of poems, "The New Economy." They will also begin work on a book of essays/introspections on the lyric poem and the poetics of their genderless body as it enters middle age and reckons with its own relentless biology.

Calvocoressi has been honored with numerous awards and fellowships, including a Wallace Stegner Fellowship and Jones Lectureship from Stanford University; a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award; a Lannan Residency Fellowship, in Marfa, Texas; and the Bernard F. Connors Prize for Poetry from the *Paris Review*. Their poems have appeared in such magazines and journals as the *Baffler*, *Boston Review*, the *Kenyon Review*, the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, *Poetry*, and *Tin House*.



Tyree Daye Receives the Schwab Academic Excellence Award for 2023

The Institute for the Arts and Humanities (IAH) has honored Tyree Daye with the Schwab Academic Excellence Award for 2023. The IAH recognizes one faculty member from each College of Arts and Sciences department in the arts, humanities, and qualitative social sciences. Selected faculty, nominated by their department chairs, may use the awarded funds to support their scholarship and creative activity.

A poet from Youngsville, North Carolina, Daye is the author of two poetry collections: *River Hymns*, the 2017 APR/Honickman First Book Prize winner, and *Cardinal* (Copper Canyon Press 2020). Daye is a 2017 Ruth Lilly Finalist and Cave Canem fellow. Daye's work has been published in *Prairie Schooner*, *New York Times*, and *Nashville Review*. Daye won the 2019 Palm Beach Poetry Festival Langston Hughes Fellowship, 2019 Diana and Simon Raab Writer-In-Residence at UC Santa Barbara and is a 2019 Kate Tufts Finalist. Daye most recently was awarded a 2019 Whiting Writers Award.



Inger Brodey Earns NEH grant for "Jane Austen's Desk"

Adapted from an article by Kim Spurr, College of Arts and Sciences

Imagine getting to know Jane Austen better by entering a virtual room modeled after Chawton Cottage, where the beloved author did most of her writing. Scroll around and click on various objects — paintings, a portable writing desk, a quill and more — to delve deeper into her writing and her world.



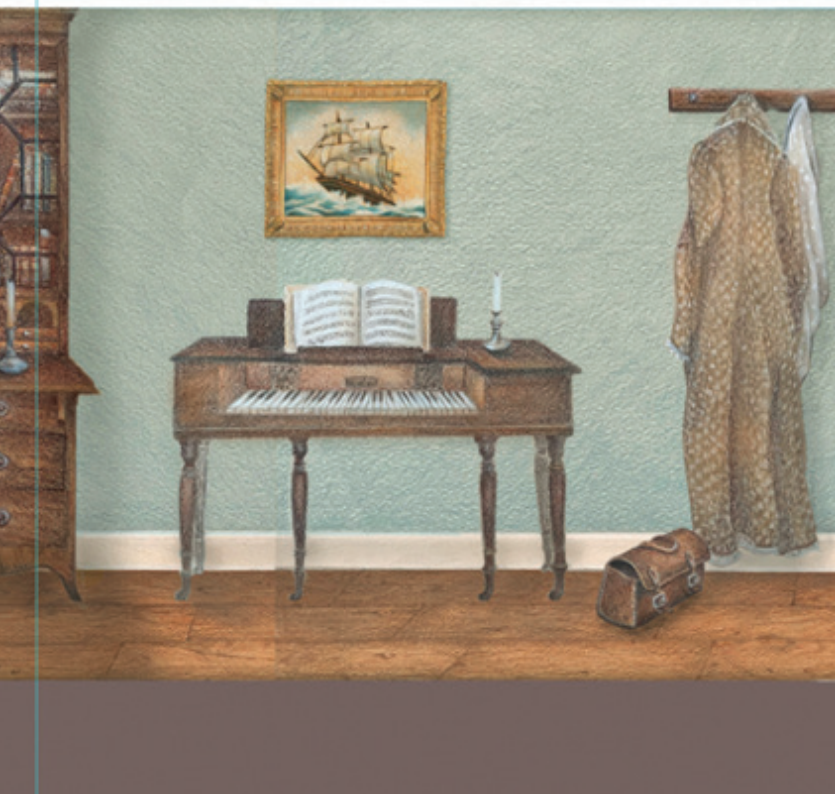
Principal investigator **Dr. Inger Brodey** (below, left) and project manager **Sarah Schaefer Walton** (right) were both inspired by the idea of the old J.K. Rowling website (before the advent of "Pottermore") in envisioning the digital humanities project "Jane Austen's Desk." Brodey is associate professor of English and comparative literature, and Walton is a Ph.D. candidate in that department.

"We loved how you could mouse over, see magic happening and interact with the objects," said Brodey. "It's going to feel like a 360-degree view of the room: you can go left and right, up and down, and hover over various objects. For instance, clicking on a painting of a ship will make the ship rock and the waves splash, and it may take you to maps showing the travels of Jane Austen's family members and illustrate how she traveled vicariously through extensive correspondence with them."

"We will also share with users what she was reading at the time. Want to know what inspired her? We'll link to books and articles so that you can read alongside her," Brodey added.

Brodey and a multi-institutional team have just received a second grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the project. The first was a \$30,000

[IF SCROLL RIGHT]



discovery phase grant. This second grant, for \$100,000, was announced this month by the NEH and will support development of the prototype. The NEH recently awarded \$28.1 million in grants for 204 humanities projects across the country; only 15 were given in the “Digital Projects for the Public: Prototype” category.

Brodey said the prototype phase for Jane Austen’s Desk extends through December 2024; the group will apply for implementation grants with the plan of launching major enhancements in 2025. Scholars from the following institutions will be a part of the project: University of Texas at Austin, NC State University, Auburn University, Arizona State University, Delta State University and Marist College. Harriet Wu, graphic designer for the project, created the artist’s rendering of Austen’s writing room.

Brodey also consulted with UNC’s Digital Innovation Lab and Joseph Viscomi, professor of English and comparative literature and co-creator of the William Blake Archive, in the discovery phase for Jane Austen’s Desk.



DOECL WILSON LIBRARY FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

Professor Laurie Langbauer, Elisabeth McClanahan Harris, and Mandy L. Fowler were awarded Wilson Fellowships for 2022–2023.

The Wilson Special Collections Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill offers these competitive awards annually to graduate students and faculty internally and from outside of the institution.

Dr. Laurie Langbauer, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, won the Rare Book Collection’s Marjorie Bond Research Fellowship for the project titled: “The Spectacle of Early Promise in Britain, 1768–1880.”



Elisabeth McClanahan Harris, a DOECL Ph.D. candidate, was awarded a Southern Studies Pre-Dissertation Prospectus Fellowship for the prospectus titled: “Affordances of the Asylum.”



Mandy L. Fowler, a DOECL Ph.D. candidate, won the Rare Book Collection’s McLendon-Thomas Award for the project titled: “The Healing Art: Early Modern Practices of Giving and Receiving Care.”

GRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESSES



Dailihana Alfonesca Honored with Pushcart Prize Nomination

Dailihana Alfonesca, a Literature, Medicine, and Culture master's student, is a scholar and a creative writer. Her creative writing works to process and combat the mental health struggles and traumas of Latina and migrant women.

Recently, Alfonesca's short story "Spanish Soap Operas Killed My Mother," was nominated for a prestigious Pushcart Prize.

Dailihana Alfonesca joined the Department of English and Comparative Literature this fall. She felt compelled to join the department at the urging of ECL Health Humanities professors, Kym Weed and Jane Thrailkill. Before pursuing a graduate degree, Alfonesca served in the US Army, worked in fashion merchandizing in New York City, and earned her bachelor's degree at Francis Marion University in South Carolina.



Christopher Catanese awarded the 2022 MLA Public Humanities Incubator Award and Fellowship

Doctoral candidate Christopher Catanese was honored with a Public Humanities Incubator Award and Fellowship from Modern Language Association to pilot an environmental and public humanities event series focused around thematic of "land, labor, and literature" and seeking to highlight place-based alternative economic models, racial and environmental justice, and histories of resistance.

With the grant, Catanese says: "Beginning in Spring 2023 we plan to begin an ongoing series of roundtable events (co-hosted by local institutional partners like the NC Botanical Garden, Stagville Plantation, Triangle Land Conservancy, etc.) that put scholars in conversation with local practitioners outside the academy (workers, activists, community leaders, nonprofits, etc.)."



Joshua Cody Ward Wins the Graduate Student Essay Award at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association conference (SAMLA 93)

A North Carolina native, Joshua Cody Ward joined the Department of English and Comparative Literature in Fall 2022. His field is Modern and Contemporary American literature broadly (1900-Present), specifically Literature of the American South and African American Literature. His research interests include the archive, textual studies, editorial scholarship, intertextuality, and the Novel.

Ward's paper was titled "Publishing the Black Arts Movement: Editors, Anthologies, and Canonization." The piece comes with a small monetary award, presentation of the award at SAMLA 94 this fall, and publication of the piece in *South Atlantic Review*. Ward will also present at SAMLA 94 with a paper titled "Charles Johnson, Ishmael Reed, and Black Women's Writing in the 1980s: Perceptions versus Reality."



Ariannah Kubli Wins Arlene Feiner Memorial Research Grant

Ph.D. candidate Ariannah Kubli has been awarded the Arlene Feiner Memorial Research Grant for Women's Studies from the Working Men's Institute in New Harmony, Indiana. One grant is awarded annually for archival research that will advance the study of "women's issues, efforts and accomplishments."

Kubli says, "For my project, I will examine the marginalia present in the nineteenth and early twentieth-century volumes of women's writing in the WMI's collection in order to learn more about the ways working-class readers interacted with books written by women. The WMI was founded in 1838 as a library for manual laborers, so their collections provide the unique opportunity to study books read, handled, and likely annotated by working people. I'll be traveling to New Harmony in March to conduct my research and give a public talk on my findings."



Hannah Skjellum-Salmon Publishes in *Black Camera*

Ph.D. candidate Hannah Skjellum-Salmon's "'Can't Be No Worse Out Here': Radical Queer Black Ecologies in Barry Jenkins's *Moonlight*" was published in *Black Camera*.

Their work has also appeared in *The Carolina Quarterly* and *Outtake Magazine*.

Skjellum-Salmon is a scholar of Black and African American literature and film of the 20th and 21st centuries with a scholarly focus on Black LGBTQ film, literature, and archives. Previously, they were awarded with an Early Stages Departmental Dissertation Fellowship.



Doug Stark Honored with Edwin Bruns Prize from the Society for Literature, Science & the Arts

Ph.D. candidate Doug Stark's research and teaching concerns twentieth- and twenty-first-century philosophy, cultural theory, literature, film, art and new media—specializing in the history and theory of games. His essay "Playing with Habit: David Sudnow's Video Game Pilgrimage." was awarded the 2022 Edwin Bruns Prize.

Stark's dissertation, *Gaming as a Way of Life: Towards a Biopolitics of Play*, addresses a present phenomenon that confounds traditional theories that define play by its autonomy from everyday life, namely, a preponderance of the game structures that saturate our contemporary world purport to exercise proficiencies pertinent beyond the scene of play — such as the apps on our phones that offer points, dangle badges, and display leaderboards to motivate exercise, language-learning, task-management, and even sleeping.



Stephanie Kinzinger Publishes in *Nineteenth-Century Literature*

Stephanie Kinzinger's article "Embodied Cognition in Edgar Allan Poe: Eureka's Cosmology, Dupin's Intuition" was published in *Nineteenth-Century Literature* in December.

Stephanie Kinzinger is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of English and the Game Studies Initiative Project Manager in the Digital Literacy and Communications (DLC) Lab Gaming Initiative. She focuses on American literature, science, technology, and critical game studies. Broadly conceived, her research examines how scientific and technological advancements during the nineteenth century engendered significant shifts in interpreting reality and consequently in writing fiction. Her dissertation uses literary theory and critical game studies to explore how the formal and political possibilities of video games are anticipated—and sometimes preemptively challenged—by American literature from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century.

Kinzinger has also been honored with a 2023 Thompson-Lumiansky Departmental Dissertation Fellowship and a 2022 Humanities Initiative Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Theodore Nollert Achieves Historic Raise for Graduate Student Stipends as GPSG President

When English and Comparative Literature Ph.D. candidate Theodore Nollert was elected as GPSG President in February 2022, his platform centered on "building a foundation to tackle both long-standing systemic issues and smaller problems." These concerns included the increase of the stipends of graduate students, concerns over health insurance, and state advocacy efforts.



Nollert is a fourth year English Ph.D. student studying the connection between literary genres (such as poetry and drama) and political movements (like republicanism) in the British Isles between 1550 and 1700. Nollert previously served as president of the Comparative Literature and English Graduate Student organization, CoLEAGS. He also joined the Cabinet of GPSG under the Swamy Administration to serve as Director of Employment Affairs.

In September, Nollert went before the UNC Board of Trustees to advocate for the support of the stipend increase.

Nollert built a case for the increase using stipend data from Carolina and peer institutions. He compared both raw and adjusted stipend data from Carolina to schools of similar mission; quality of faculty, staff, students and programs; and research productivity.

In raw stipend amounts, Carolina ranked last place among similar institutions. When stipend amounts were adjusted for cost of attendance and a nine-month service period, Carolina ranked 11th out of 15 universities. The comparatively low stipend created recruitment struggles for graduate candidates.

“We have competitive programs. We have world class faculty. But the pay made it hard for people to come here. I think one of the things that was compelling to the chancellor, provost, deans and the Board of Trustees is that this creates an access issue, which influences the diversity of the campus,” Nollert said. “The low stipend relative to the cost of attendance made it harder for us to provide the kind of advanced training Carolina has to offer.”

At the November 4th faculty council meeting, the council unanimously passed a resolution to “support an increase in minimum stipends and a plan to provide regular pay increases for graduate students.” On Jan. 1, 2023, Carolina implemented the single largest increase in University history for minimum graduate student stipend amounts.

The Jan. 1 increases bring the minimum stipend amounts to \$16,000 for master’s students and \$20,000 for doctoral students, both for a nine-month service period.

The new minimum amounts bump Carolina up to seventh out of 15, assuming the other universities’ stipends remain flat. “Moving up those four places, that is good progress. I think it’s proof that we have at Carolina a successful model of collaborative, data-driven advocacy,” Nollert said. “I think it sets us up for a lot of success over the next five years to support the mission of the University and for the various governments to support their constituents as they collaborate with central administrative partners.”

Provost and Chief Academic Officer J. Christopher Clemens expressed his support for graduate students. “Our campus, community and state benefit when we support our current students and entice the best and brightest to come study at UNC. Raising the stipend was an important step toward making our commitments tangible.”



Mindy Buchanan-King Publishes in *Edith Wharton Review*

Ph.D. candidate Mindy Buchanan-King’s article titled, “Architecture as Precarity: Edith Wharton’s Haunted *Hudson River Bracketed*” will appear in an upcoming issue of *Edith Wharton Review*.

Originally from Virginia, Buchanan-King received her B.A. from Emory & Henry College and her M.A. from the College of Charleston. Her master’s thesis focused on Edith Wharton’s use of Romanticism in conceptualizing the artistic self in *Hudson River Bracketed*. Her graduate research is currently focused on questions of photography and medicine in late 19th-/early 20th-century U.S. literature, artistic conceptualizations and the history of “disfigurement,” and representations and interpretations of World War I *les gueules cassées* (“men with broken faces”) in wartime medical photography, illustrations, and narratives. She is pursuing the graduate certificate in Literature, Medicine, and Culture.

Undergraduate Victoria Wlosok to Publish Novel

The day Victoria Wlosok received the call from her agent that she had gotten a two-book deal with Little, Brown, she was in shock. “I couldn’t believe I was actually going to be a published author, and I also couldn’t believe I was starting my career with a Big Five publisher while I was still a freshman in college. It was honestly one of the best days of my life.”

Wlosok’s upcoming novel, *How to Find a Missing Girl*, is a sapphic YA thriller that follows amateur teenage detective Iris Blackthorn as she investigates the disappearance of her cheerleader ex-girlfriend—who also happens to be the creator of a notorious local true-crime podcast about Iris’s missing older sister. Wlosok adds, “It’s full of mystery, probably more than a normal amount of *Scooby-Doo* references, and a lot of LGBTQ+ representation.”

Wlosok, a sophomore, is a prospective English and business administration double major. While her writing style has been influenced and formed through media outside of coursework, she has been impacted by many of her classes. “I think every class at UNC has shaped me in some way. In the spring semester of my freshman year...I took ENGL 117: Mystery Fiction with Professor Henry Veggian, where we studied several influential mystery fiction writers—Poe, Doyle, Mosley, Christie, and Pynchon among them—which made me appreciate mystery novels and their foundational role in shaping thrillers, which are what I write.”



Wlosok is very hopeful that this novel resonates with readers of YA thrillers who do not typically see themselves represented in this genre. “There are traumatic themes within the novel, but it’s also humorous and joyful and has a big-hearted cast, so it’s not completely dark and gritty. Ultimately, it’s a book I’m very proud of, and I hope other teens can read it and feel like it was written for them, because it was.”

Gram-O-Rama Returns to the Stage



Congratulations to the Gram-O-Rama team and Professor Ross White for another year of hard work and for an incredible show!

This year's Gram-O-Rama performance was titled "Past the Participle of No Return," and was full of colorful linguistic hijinks. The Gram-O-Rama cast performed two shows in 2022 — on November 29 and December 3.

Gram-O-Rama was created for undergrads who love word play, music, rhythm, sketch comedy, performance, nonsense, and the circus possibilities of language. Longtime faculty member Daphne Athas designed this course (based on her book by the same

name) to encourage writers to experiment with grammatical functions, style, rhythm, and sound. At the end of the course, students perform a show based on their work throughout the semester.

This year's show was directed by Ross White, with performances by Mathew Atisa, Lydia Boshart, Alyson Cabeza, Mattie Collins, Spencer Cruz, Tori Danielik, Lauren Flors, Bradley Griffin, Cassandra Kutay, Christopher Lipscomb, Hayley Minter, Jake Morgan, Danielle Richmond, Zinny Ubezou, and Tyson Weeks.



DOECL Undergrads Serve as Short Story Resident Writers

The Department of English and Comparative congratulates Maude Kneale, Cynthia Liu, and Helena Walsh on being selected as the Fall 2022 Resident Writers at Short Story UNC. This fall's residents are all members of the department. Throughout the semester, the short story machine in Davis Library will exclusively dispense stories from these three student authors.

Read about the Fall 2022 writers



Maude Kneale is a junior studying English and Philosophy. She enjoys exploring the deeper meanings and hidden virtues of the mundane within her writing. The ultimate goal of her work is to expose the lessons (as well as beauty) that can be found in ordinary moments. When not writing, you can find her spending time in the Blue Ridge mountains with family and eccentrically named pets.



Cynthia Liu is a senior from Morrisville studying visual journalism, French, and English. Her work has been published in *Cellar Door*, *Arts Everywhere*, *AAJA*, *NCAAT*, and *Hearst*. She is a big fan of Mary Oliver, em dashes, and sitting in coffee shops at all hours.



Helena Walsh is a junior from the UK majoring in Global Studies & History with a minor in Creative Writing. In her work, she explores the wide, wide plains of belonging via pint-sized licks at childhood, homeland, nature's whimsy, dysmorphia, America, and love. Driven by a contagious love for sound and form (and constant attempts to spread such enthusiasm to many as exasperated ear), she writes and lives similarly to most poets of her generation — with Heaney in her ear, Limón in her head, and Gay in her heart.

Students Win Mini-Max Awards

Seven honorees read their work at an awards ceremony in January in Donovan Lounge.

Established by former UNC Creative Writing Program Director Max Steele, the Mini-Max Award challenges writers to write large in a pithy way — in a story no longer than 750 words.

FIRST PLACE (\$200)

Delaney Phelps — “Chicken”

SECOND PLACE (\$175)

Senami Kugblenu — “Rotten Work”

THIRD PLACE (\$150)

Benjamin Foster — “Topsoil”

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Naomi Ovrutsky — “How To Talk To Your Inner Child”

Georgia Chapman — “To Feel a Burn”

Emma Nelson — “Waiting”

Student Wins Bland Simpson Award

The Bland Simpson Award is nonfiction writing contest open to all undergraduate students. Students are invited to submit creative nonfiction essays of the highest literary standard in such forms as memoir, travel and nature writing, and belles-lettres, up to 5000 words.

2023 WINNER (\$1000)

Maggie Helmke — “Hungry Hands”



Luna Hou Wins First Place in *One Teen Story*

Congratulations to Luna Hou for taking first place in *One Teen Story*’s annual short fiction contest. Her winning piece, “Railroads,” was drafted and revised in ENGL 132H, Intro to Fiction Writing, where her talent was already undeniable.

Luna Hou is a Chinese-American writer studying English and Creative Writing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She was a 2020 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards National Gold Medalist in Flash Fiction and has work forthcoming in *the blue route* and *The Kudzu Review*. When she isn’t writing, you can find her inhaling a dirty chai latte, scouring the poetry shelf of her local secondhand bookstore, or godmothering her friends’ pets.

“And so, under
mansions of stars and
the rabbit on the moon,
Mama spun me a tale
— a careful, halting tale
with the English she
had taught herself.”

LUNA HOU
“Railroads”

Dr. Marsha S. Collins Elected Chair

Marsha S. Collins is the new chair of the Department of English and Comparative Literature.

A Professor of Comparative Literature, Collins specializes in the literature of Early Modern Europe, especially the Literature of Early Modern Spain in its European context. Her research focuses on romance and other idealizing fictional forms, literature and the visual arts, early modern lyric poetry, and Early Modern European court culture. She has written on romance, pastoral, ekphrasis, and early modern subjectivity, among other topics, as well as on authors such as Cervantes, Unamuno, Galdós, Góngora, Lope, and others. She is currently writing a book on “Friendship and Community in *Don Quixote*.”

We thank Dr. Mary Floyd-Wilson as she leaves this position after five years and welcome Prof. Collins as she succeeds Prof. Floyd-Wilson. Read below about Prof. Collins’ vision for her time as chair:

“I think the pandemic had a profound impact on my thinking and gave me time for reflection on many different things. I’m sure that is in no way unique, but even during the recent, pre-pandemic years I was aware that higher education is undergoing huge changes and changing rapidly



at that. I am deeply concerned about the future of the arts and humanities, which I have always believed are an integral part of what makes us human, and wanted to do what I could to help position our department and strengthen it for the future.

“We’ve always been leaders on this campus, and I’m hoping we can continue to demonstrate that leadership in showing the importance of the arts and humanities in educating good, responsible global citizens, as well

as shaping a good and just society. I have a lot of experience—and extremely varied experiences—in academic leadership, but also as a scholar, teacher, and mentor. The moment seemed right to mobilize those experiences to do what I can to help my department.

“We are an extremely diverse and busy department with such a variety of programs, as well as scholarly and pedagogical interests. We will need funding to make sure those programs remain robust and continue to grow into the future. So being proactive in fundraising and in the development of good donor relations, also the exploration of new sources of funding, are all extremely important. I’m especially concerned with funding for our graduate program and students, as well as for our departmental programs in general.

“ECL is also making strides in matters of diversity, and this is another high priority for me, not just in hiring practices, but in every aspect of what we do. We need to keep pushing forward in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion as values that strengthen us as a community and suit our actions to our words in realizing that belief. Globalization and interdisciplinarity are also important. They have always been key to my own academic career, but I believe they are also key to the future of higher education as most of the issues and problems in the world today

.....

“I am deeply concerned about the future of the arts and humanities, which I have always believed are an integral part of what makes us human.”

are global and interconnected. These matters require solutions that are global in focus and cross disciplines, or at the least, require interdisciplinary collaboration. Our department models globalization and interdisciplinarity and I am committed to continuing our movement in that direction.

“Mentoring is also an important activity for me. One of the most rewarding experiences I have had in recent years has been an increased focus on mentoring colleagues and helping younger scholars progress in their careers. In this regard I hope to help my colleagues in the department and our graduate students initiating careers, whether in or outside of academe, in realizing their full potential.

“Finally, we have reached a new phase in the pandemic when I believe we can start to look back and take stock of where we have been, what our takeaways might be, and how we might build on that knowledge. I’m convinced that departments that do the important work of “processing the pandemic,” of working together to assess this global, world-changing experience and its impact

Collins hopes the department will provide leadership in “showing the importance of the arts and humanities in educating good, responsible global citizens, as well as shaping a good and just society.”

.....

on our lives and profession, will be more strongly positioned for the future. This project is an important one for us to tackle starting this year and will provide us with new insight on who we want to be as a department and how we propose to get there. Informally, we’ve already begun this process just by being together in person and in community more often, but we have more work to do as we move ahead!”

Ross White Named Director of Creative Writing

In July 2022, Ross White stepped into the role of Director of Creative Writing, following the path laid out by Daniel Wallace, who served as director for the previous eleven years.

An award-winning poet as well as a beloved professor of poetry, editing, podcasting, and the ever-popular Gram-O-Rama, White enters this position with an extraordinary record of service, both here at UNC and in the larger literary community.

He is the Executive Director of Bull City Press, a Durham-based literary press focusing on chapbooks of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. He has served

as editor of *Four Way Review*, a foundation board member of *Beloit Poetry Journal*, an instructor at The Colrain Poetry Manuscript Conference, and an instructor at various comedy theaters. He is the host of two podcasts, *The Chapbook* and *Trivia Escape Pod*.

Prior to coming to UNC, White served as Dean of Distance Education and Director of Distance Education at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, Associate Director of LEARN NC, and the Executive Director of the North Carolina Virtual Public School.

As one UNC student said of Prof. White, “He pushes us out of our intellectual comfort zone to become the most well-rounded versions of ourselves.”



Ross White is the author of *Charm Offensive*, winner of the 2019 Sexton Prize, and three chapbooks: *How We Came Upon the Colony*, *The Polite Society*, and *Valley of Want*. His manuscript in progress, *Guilt Ledger*, was selected by Edward Hirsch to receive the Larry Levis Post-Graduate Stipend from Warren Wilson College, where he earned his MFA in Creative Writing. His poems have appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *New England Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Poetry Daily*, *Tin House*, and *The Southern Review*, among others. He has received scholarships from the Bread Loaf Writers Conferences in Vermont and Sicily.

We are grateful for his willingness to take on this role.

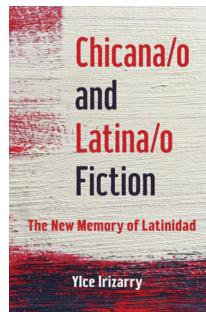
NEW FACULTY

Ylce Irizarry

Dr. Ylce Irizarry joins the department as Associate Professor and Norman and Dorothy Eliason Scholar. Irizarry's research areas include all things Latinx, including Chicanx and Latinx and cultural production, Hispanic transnational literatures, Caribbean historical fiction, Visual Rhetorics, and *Testimonio*.

Irizarry writes, "Generally, I am interested in what and why: what representations of Latin@ experience look like and why authors have made the specific generic, linguistic, and visual choices that ultimately appear in their work."

Her first book, *Chicana/o and Latina/o Fiction: The New Memory of Latinidad* (U of Illinois Press, 2016), received awards from the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies



(2018) and the Modern Language Association (2017). All of the texts discussed are from the contemporary period and the chapters are organized by pairing books written by authors from two of these four major Hispanic descended groups within the US: Cubans, Dominicans, Mexicans, and Puerto Ricans.

Irizarry's current book project, *Cartographies of Erasure: Latinx Speculative Narrative since 1992*, argues Latinx cultural

production creates a decolonial cartography of erased bodies since 1492: BIPOC peoples, other-than-human animals, and topographic (air, and, water). The book centers the stories — told, retold, and imagined — of the erased. In shorter scholarship, her articles and book chapters appear in venues including *Chiricú Journal*, *CENTRO: Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies*, and *Symbolism: An International Journal of Critical Aesthetics*. Book chapters appear in these edited volumes: *Latinidad at the Crossroads: Insights into Latinx Identity in the 21st Century* and *Latinx Environmentalisms: Justice, Place, & the Decolonial*.

Shane Peterson

Dr. Shane Peterson joins the department with a Ph.D. in language and rhetoric from the University of Washington in Seattle and a BA in English with minors in editing and creative writing from Brigham Young University.

His research primarily centers on the rhetorics of crisis, apocalypse, and precarity, both historically and in contemporary settings.

He is particularly interested in how the affective qualities of crisis rhetorics are



embodied and enacted in American political spheres, scientific discourses, religious communities, and more public, everyday contexts. He is also interested in developing new pedagogies of crisis, namely on how to teach writing and research during ongoing periods of disruption and uncertainty.

One feature that drew Dr. Peterson to UNC was the DLC's Gaming Initiative, including the critical game studies. "I was excited about the possibility of teaching game theory courses and working with a digital literacy lab, especially at a public university with a rich history as long as UNC's...I'm interested in teaching and research about the intersections between video games and environmentalism, specifically how games engage with questions related to human-driven climate change."

A fun fact about Professor Peterson is that he used to work as a ghost writer. Unfortunately, according to Dr. Peterson, this job "is not as scary as it sounds."

Steven Gotzler



Dr. Steven Gotzler joins as Assistant Director to the Digital and Literacy Communications Lab. His research explores the intersections of work discourse, intellectual culture, and critical theories of race, gender, and the environment. He also has related interests in the digital humanities and critical game studies.

Gotzler is currently working on several projects. He is co-authoring an essay with Roopika Risam (Dartmouth College) and Vineeta Singh (Virginia Commonwealth University) coming out in *Ethnic Studies Review*—the essay inaugurates a distributed special issue on “Abolitionist Pedagogies and Pedagogical Labor” that will be published in ESR over the next two years.

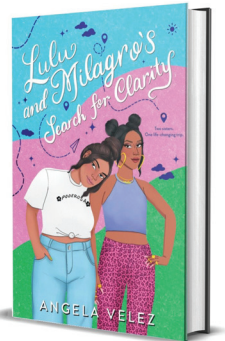
One of the areas that drew Professor Gotzler to UNC was “the dynamism of the writing program, and the opportunity to build and execute assignments with students that leverage digital tools and multimedia to develop core rhetorical competencies.”

Angela Velez



Angela Velez grew up in Baltimore, Maryland. She received her BA from Columbia University and her MFA in Fiction from the University of Pittsburgh, where she was a K. Leroy Irvis Fellow. Her debut Young Adult novel, *Lulu and Milagro's Search for Clarity* was a 2022 Junior Library Guild Gold Standard selection.

Velez is a member of Las Musas, a children's literature marketing collective for Latinx women and marginalized people whose gender identity aligns with femininity. She has received the 2019 Peter Taylor Fellowship from *The Kenyon Review* and she was a 2019 ProjectArt Artist in Residence. Her work has appeared in *The Billfold*, *Electric Literature*, *Brit + Co*, and *Aster(ix) Journal*. She lives in Durham, with her piles of books, three plastic flamingos, and one wobbly disco ball.



A. Kendra Greene



A. Kendra Greene is the author, illustrator, and audiobook reader of *The Museum of Whales You Will Never See*. Her fascination with the relationship between stories and objects appears to be taking the shape of a trilogy, with current book projects including a bestiary about embodiment and a poison cabinet about the fearsome material we hold onto in collections.

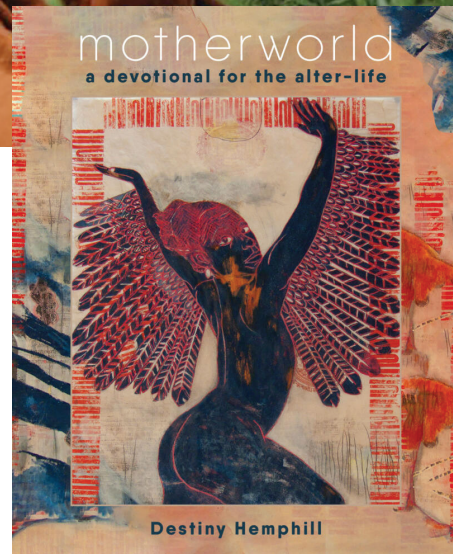
She has taught at the University of Iceland and the University of Texas at Dallas, but she became an essayist in the first place because of a Fulbright grant to South Korea. A graduate of the University of Iowa's Nonfiction Writing Program and the Center for the Book, she has since been the Dallas Museum of Art Writer-in-Residence and a Fellow at Yaddo, MacDowell, and Harvard's Library Innovation Lab. She comes to UNC straight from a Dobie Paisano fellowship, spent rambling a historic ranch close enough to the Austin Zoo to hear the lions at twilight, roaring or yawning, depending on whom you ask.

Poet Destiny Hemphill Named Kenan Visiting Writer

The 2022-23 Kenan Visiting Writer in the Creative Writing Program is Destiny Hemphill. Professor Hemphill received her B.A. at Duke University and her M.F.A. from the University of South Carolina.

Hemphill's interests include Afro-pessimism, Black mysticism, critical geography, and Black radical traditions. One of Prof. Hemphill's current projects is her debut poetry collection titled *motherworld: a devotional for the alter-life*, out now from Action Books.

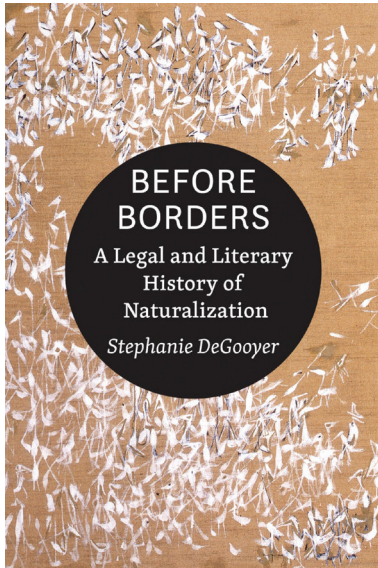
When describing the structure of her book, Hemphill says, "Organized in three movements, the poems in *motherworld* seek to represent a world-to-come as already accessible within the now, even if only in glimmers. Both presentist and futurist in impulse, it asks: If this current world is made manifest through modes of violence ritualized and institutionalized through colonial structures, how do we



undo this? What budding ways of being can be glimpsed from where we are?"

In speaking to what drew Hemphill to UNC, she says, "I have orbited UNC for a while. When I was doing my undergraduate at Duke, I collaborated with student poets and campus organizers at UNC. Most recently, what drew me to UNC is the Kenan Visiting Writers Program. It is such an amazing opportunity to devote more time to my craft and pedagogy."

NEW BOOKS FROM THE DEPARTMENT



Before Borders: A Legal and Literary History of Naturalization

In her new book *Before Borders: A Legal and Literary History of Naturalization*, **Dr. Stephanie DeGooyer** reconstructs how prose and legal fictions came together in the eighteenth century to dramatically reimagine national belonging through naturalization. The bureaucratic procedure of naturalization today was once a radically fictional way to create new citizens and literary subjects.

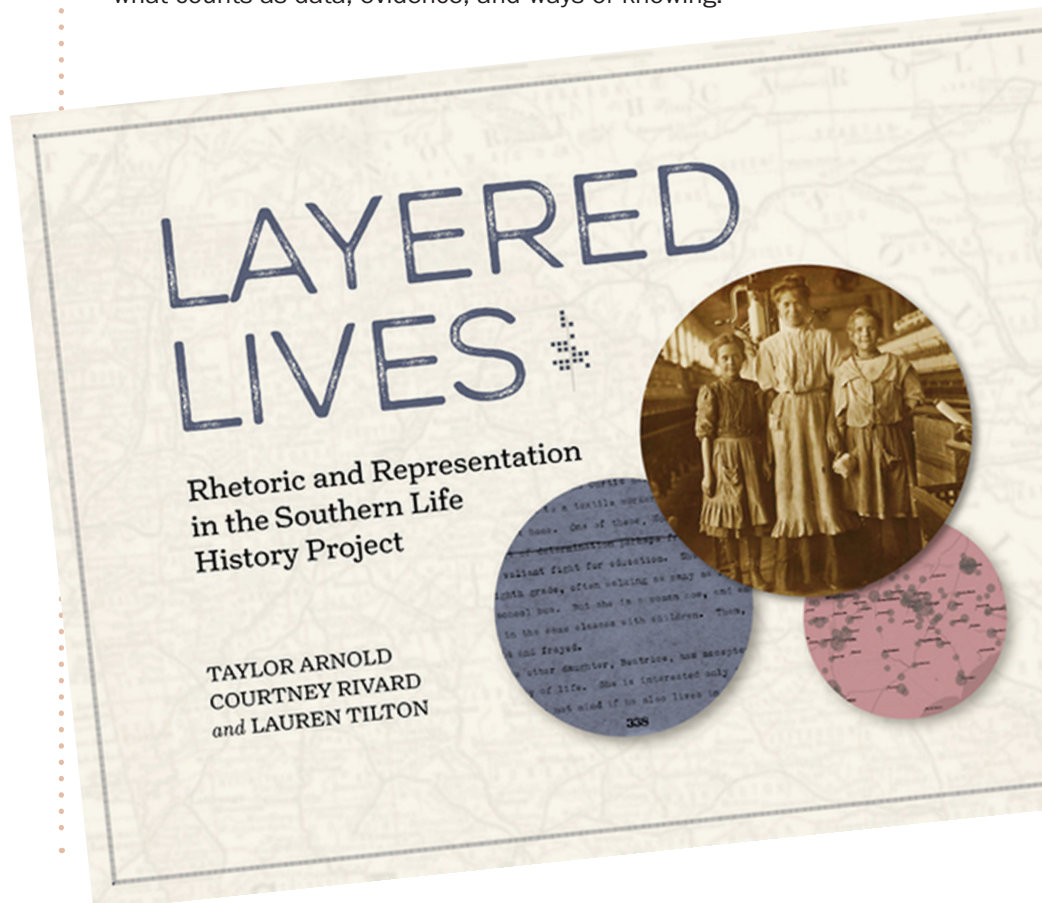
Before borders determined who belonged in a country and who did not, lawyers and judges devised a legal fiction called naturalization to bypass the idea of feudal allegiance and integrate new subjects into their nations. At the same time, writers of prose fiction were attempting to undo centuries of rules about who could — and who could not — be a subject of literature.

Layered Lives

This August, DOECL Professor **Courtney Rivard** released *Layered Lives: Rhetoric and Representation in the Southern Life History Project*. This book was written alongside Lauren Tilton, an Associate Professor of Digital Humanities at the University of Richmond, and Taylor Arnold, an Associate Professor of Linguistics and Data Science at the University of Richmond. *Layered Lives* is published through Stanford University Press.

In an innovative digital format, *Layered Lives* recovers the history of the 1930's Southern Life History Project through an interdisciplinary approach that combines close readings of archival material with computational methods that analyze the collection at scale. The *Layered Lives* “about” page explains The Southern Life History Project as “a Federal Writers’ Project initiative, put unemployed writers to work during the Great Depression by capturing the stories of everyday people across the Southeast through a new form of social documentation called ‘life histories.’”

In this book, Arnold, Rivard, and Tilton “grapple with the challenges of what counts as social knowledge, how to accurately represent social conditions, who could produce such knowledge, and who is and is not represented. Embedded within such debates are also struggles over what counts as data, evidence, and ways of knowing.”



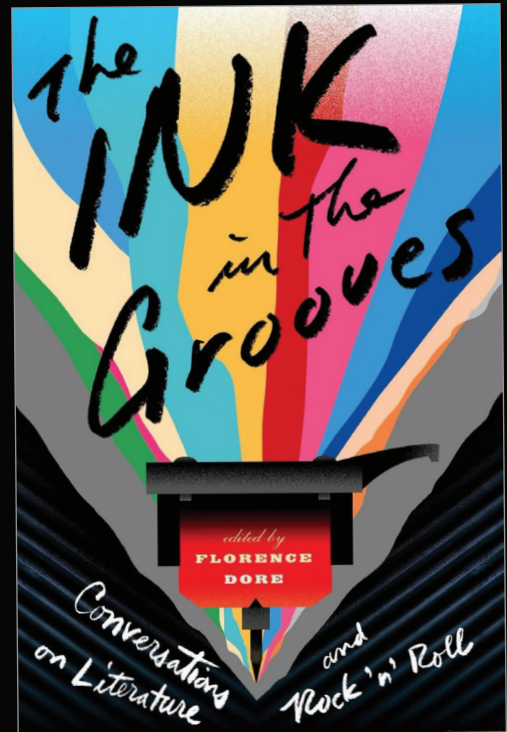
Texts, Touring and Teaching

Prof. Florence Dore's New Album and Book

Finishing her tenure as Director of Graduate Studies of the Department of English and Comparative Literature this past July, Professor Florence Dore keeps herself busy, as she just released her new rock album, *Highways and Rocketships*, and a new book, *The Ink in the Grooves: Conversations on Literature and Rock 'n' Roll* (Cornell University Press).

Touring the American South, Dore took both her album and book on the road in a "traveling public humanities program." Dore has long worked both as a songwriter and as a scholar of the intersection of literature and rock; her most recent monograph is titled *Novel Sounds: The American Novel in the Age of Rock and Roll* (Columbia University Press, 2018).

Most recently, *Highways and Rocketships* was named Best Americana Album of 2022





Simpson Celebrates Successes

Bland Simpson Celebrates Ramblers Anniversary and Audiobook Release

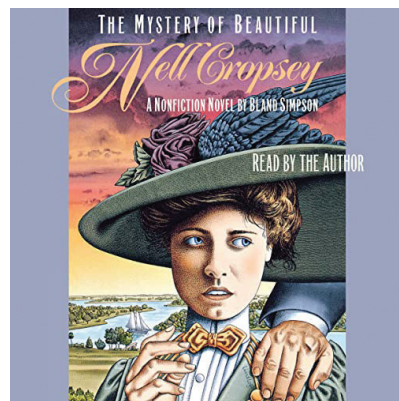
Bland Simpson and his fellow Tony Award-winning Red Clay Ramblers celebrated the internationally acclaimed string band's 50th anniversary this fall.

WUNC-FM named the Ramblers "Back Porch Music" artists of the year, and the *New York Times* saluted the ensemble as "a fantasy roadhouse band from a vanished rural America." WNCW-FM's music director Martin Anderson has also called The Red Clay Ramblers "the house band of North Carolina."

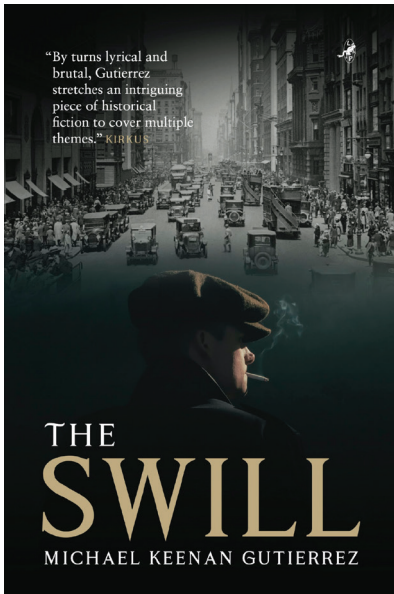
The Red Clay Ramblers first performed in Chapel Hill and Durham as a banjo-fiddle-bass trio (with Tommy Thompson, Bill Hicks, and Jim Watson) in Fall 1972; pianist Mike Craver joined in 1973, as did trumpeter

Jack Herrick (UNC '70) in 1975). Clay Buckner came in as fiddler in 1980, pianist Bland Simpson (UNC '70; now Kenan Professor, English/Comp Lit/Creative Writing) in 1986, and guitarist Chris Frank in 1987. Herrick, Buckner, Simpson and Frank have been the Ramblers' core four for the past 35 years, working with Sam Shepard on scoring his films *Far North* (1988) and *Silent Tongue* (1994), working in musical theatre around the U.S. and in Europe, and touring the Middle East and North Africa for the U.S. State Department as well.

The Red Clay Ramblers' *50 Songs and Tunes* album is currently available at <https://redclayramblers.bandcamp.com/>



Bland Simpson, through UNC Press, released the read-by-the-author audiobook of his nonfiction novel *The Mystery of Beautiful Nell Cropsey*.



The Swill

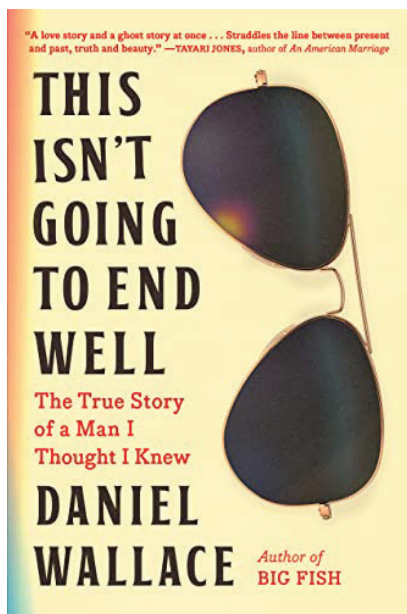
Michael Gutierrez's second novel, *The Swill*, follows Joshua Rivers, his pregnant wife, and his criminal sister as they “eke out life” in their speakeasy, The Swill. This bar has been a consistent shelter for the Rivers family from the strife occurring outside in the surrounding, rough Irish neighborhood, The Bonny. As Joshua allies with his sister, Olive, in a job that reaches back into the history of the Rivers family, the ability of The Swill to protect this family is put to the test.

When Gutierrez started this novel in 2011, it was very different than he had anticipated. It was not meant to be a crime novel and the first full draft was 500 pages long. *The Trench Angel*, Gutierrez's first novel, was about a photographer during the First World War. In speaking to the shift in genres and approaches to this project, Gutierrez notes, “I think crime fiction is one of the overlooked genres, but it talks about socio-political issues in a way that other forms of fiction may not get to because of the tastes of ‘polite society.’ It has a way of bringing you into a world that you may have never entered.”

Gutierrez adds that historical fiction talks about the present just as much as it does the past: “We often try to forget our negatives in history, but this novel largely works with revealing what happens when we ignore those negatives.”

Daniel Wallace offers praise for *The Swill*: “I can’t resist: *The Swill* is swell. It reads like the princely offspring of Chandler and Lehane. It’s sharp, witty, violent. It’s a sort of political/historical thriller, but what made it important to me is that it’s really about family, all kinds of family.”

“It’s sharp, witty, violent ...
what made it important to
me is that it’s really about
family, all kinds of family.”



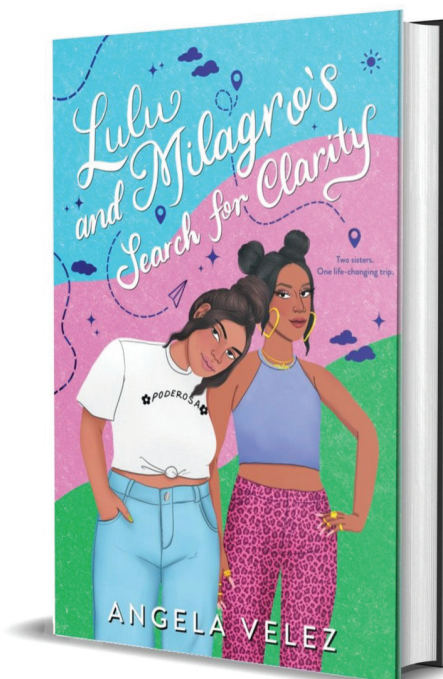
This Isn't Going to End Well: The True Story of a Man I Thought I Knew

In **Daniel Wallace's** powerful new book, the bestselling author of *Big Fish* tries to come to terms with the life and death of his multi-talented longtime friend and brother-in-law, who had been his biggest hero and inspiration, in a poignant, lyrical, and moving memoir.

If we're lucky, we all encounter at least one person whose life elevates and inspires our own. For Daniel Wallace, he had one hero and inspiration for so much of what followed: his longtime friend and brother-in-law William Nealy. Seemingly perfect, impossibly cool, William was James Dean, Clint Eastwood, and MacGyver all rolled into one, an acclaimed outdoorsman, a famous cartoonist, an accomplished author, a master of all he undertook, William was the ideal that Daniel sought to emulate.

But when William took his own life at age 48, Daniel was left first grieving, and then furious with the man who broke his and his sister's hearts. That anger led him to commit a grievous act of his own, a betrayal that took him down a dark path into the tortured recesses of William's past. Eventually, a new picture of William emerged, of a man with too many secrets and too much shame to bear.

This Isn't Going to End Well is Daniel Wallace's first foray into nonfiction. Part love story, part true crime, part a desperate search for the self and how little we really can know another, *This Isn't Going to End Well* tells an intimate and moving story of what happens when we realize our heroes are human.



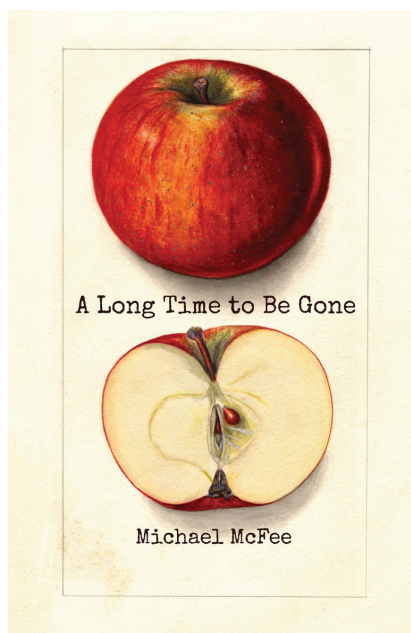
Lulu and Milagro's Search for Clarity

Congratulations to new Creative Writing Professor **Angela Velez**, whose novel *Lulu and Milagro's Search for Clarity* is out now in paperback.

Velez's debut has been featured on the TODAY show, named one of the "Best New YA Books of 2022" by Popsugar, and chosen as one of "7 Not to Miss 2022 YA Books with Latinx Protagonists" by School Library Journal.

Angie Cruz, author of the award-winning novel *Dominicana*, says, "Angela Velez weaves humor and heartbreak gifting us an irresistible, funny and propulsive novel about sisters. *Lulu & Milagro's Search for Clarity* offers up a fresh take on the road-trip novel. It's a brilliant exploration of girlhood and the challenges young women face when torn between personal dreams and ties to family."

This March, Velez participated in a panel at AWP titled "Intergenerational Echoes: Stories That Defy Expectations and Empower Young Lives," alongside authors Tracey T. Flores, Guadalupe Garcia McCall, and Alessandra Narváez Varela.



A Long Time To Be Gone

Michael McFee's seventeenth book, *A Long Time To Be Gone*, was recently published by Carnegie Mellon University Press. He is giving readings from this new collection during the coming months in Chapel Hill, Pittsboro, Burnsville, and Durham. He read in Donovan Lounge on March 7 with novelist Michael Gutierrez.



A native of Asheville, Michael McFee '76 has taught in the Creative Writing Program at UNC-Chapel Hill since 1990. He is the author of twelve books of poetry — including five published by Carnegie Mellon University Press: *We Were Once Here*, *That Was Oasis*, *Shinemaster*, *Earthly*, and *Colander* — and two collections of essays, *Appointed Rounds: Essays* (Mercer University Press) and *The Napkin Manuscripts: Selected Essays and an Interview* (University of Tennessee Press).

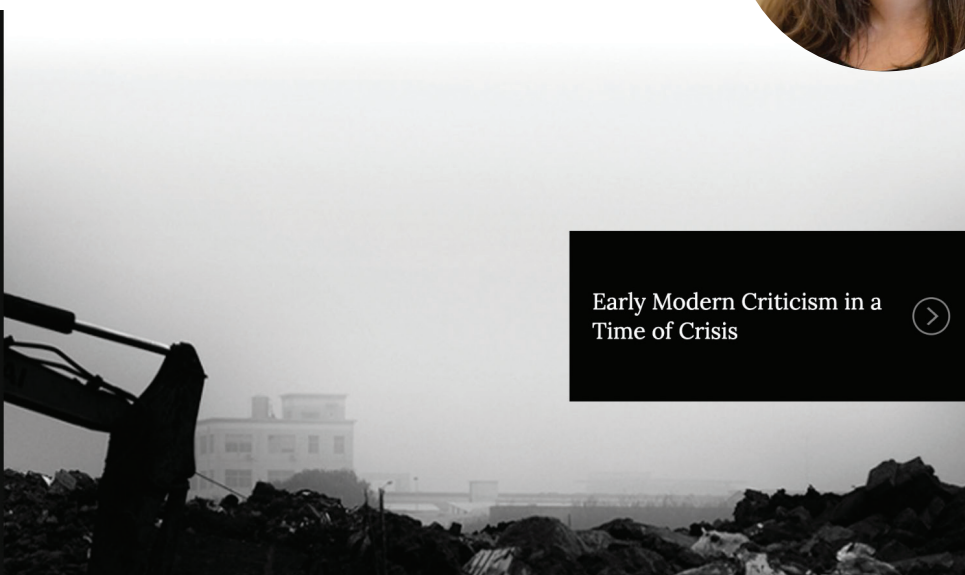
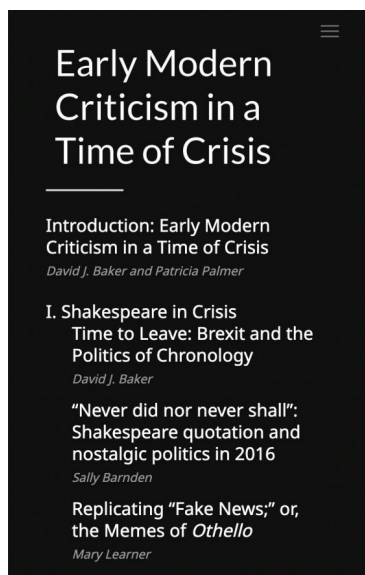
He has received the James Still Award for Writing about the Appalachian South, from the Fellowship of Southern Writers, and the Thomas Wolfe Memorial Literary Award from the Western North Carolina Historical Association.



DOECL Members Publish in New Collection

Early Modern Criticism in a Time of Crisis, co-edited by Patricia Palmer and our own **David Baker** (right, top), features the work of three Department of English and Comparative Literature members: recent graduate Katharine Landers (now a professor at Utica University), Ph.D. candidate **Mary Learner** (right, lower), and Prof. Baker. The volume “explores our critical practice while we work in a world characterized by crisis.”

Early Modern Criticism in a Time of Crisis was published online by emcIMPRINT (UC Santa Barbara).



Liberty or Justice for All?

This February, DOECL Professor **Philip Gura** published a new book titled *Liberty or Justice for All?: A Conversation across the American Centuries* through the University of Georgia Press. This book brings together the work of Jonathan Edwards, Ralph Waldo Emerson, William James, and John Rawls on the topic of the just society.

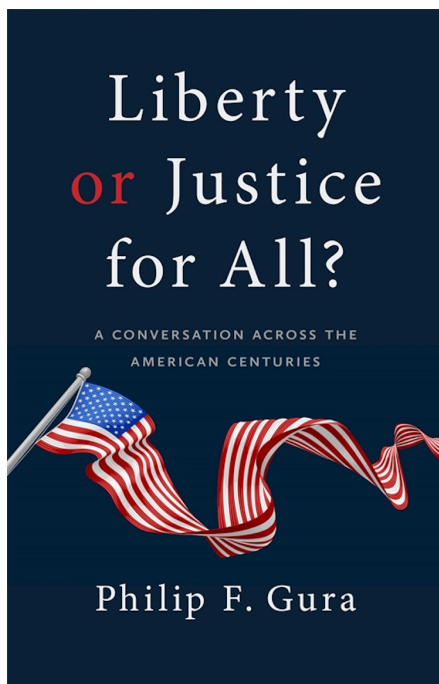
Liberty or Justice for All? “traces a striking pattern—the vexed relationship of individual liberty to inclusive social justice—in an elaborate fabric, woven over more than three centuries of American history.” This book is a riveting story of faith, politics, and ideas that brings to life four of America’s greatest thinkers, whose dialogue across the ages has never been more relevant.

Gura has dreamed of working on this project since the beginning of his academic career: “Many years ago, when I was a graduate student, one of my mentors pointed to a row of books on the top shelf of his bookcase and said that they were by the four greatest thinkers the country had produced. I never forgot that day and always dreamed of doing a book that centered on them, to try to figure out what that teacher meant. This is the result.”

His favorite part of this project was “without doubt” working with John Rawls’ work: “I had never written about someone who was virtually my contemporary and had a steep learning curve to be able to understand his contribution to the philosophy of social justice, and how what he thought fit with the ideas of the other of my subjects.”

Throughout his career, Gura has prided himself in not repeating himself, always pushing to take on different subjects and methods of inquiry:

“At one point, I spent several years learning about nineteenth-century music history; at another, about the subtleties of American Puritan radicalism; at another, about the development of the nineteenth-century novel; at another, about the varieties of antebellum reform. To be sure, before this I had written an intellectual biography of Edwards and had given some pages to Emerson’s contribution to Transcendentalism; but my focus herein on civic discourse took me into more new territory. Challenging myself in this way, I never have been bored with what I do.”



**“I never have been bored
with what I do.”**

Joe Fletcher Leads the Honors London and Oxford Study Abroad Program



Dr. Joe Fletcher writes: “This past summer I had the privilege of serving as faculty director for thirteen students in the Honors London & Oxford Study Abroad program, attempting to fill the large shoes of Dr. Christopher Armitage, who led the program for forty years. This summer’s six-week course was ENGL 249H, ‘British Romanticism and Contemporary Issues,’ and we spent three weeks in London, a week in the Lake District, and two weeks in Oxford. It was an enriching and exciting experience.

Highlights included a trip to Keats House in Hampstead, a hands-on tour and archival manuscript workshop at Dove Cottage in Grasmere, boating on Lake Windermere, hiking to an outdoor class site within the ruins of Kendal Castle, and numerous museum visits, among them the Tate Britain, British Museum, and the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, for

the latter of which the faculty director’s clothes were still wet from a recent tumble into the River Cherwell during a punting mishap. Students also traveled widely on their own during weekends, including an excursion to Bath during Jane Austen week. They drew deeply from their time engaging with texts of the period in these various environments to produce impressive scholarly, creative, and journalistic pieces.”

Dr. Fletcher’s research focuses on the intersections of literature and natural philosophy in the long eighteenth century. He is the author of the scholarly monograph *William Blake as Natural Philosopher, 1788-1795* (Anthem), the poetry collection *The Hatch* (Brooklyn Arts Press), the novella *Jenny Haniver* (Bored Wolves), and five chapbooks. He is the Assistant Editor of the *William Blake Archive*.

LONDON/OXFORD HIGHLIGHTS (LEFT TO RIGHT):

*Hiking to an outdoor
class site within the
ruins of Kendal Castle*

*Boating on Lake
Windermere*

*A visit to Keats House
in Hampstead*

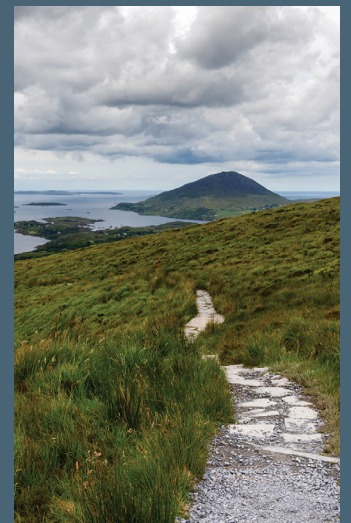
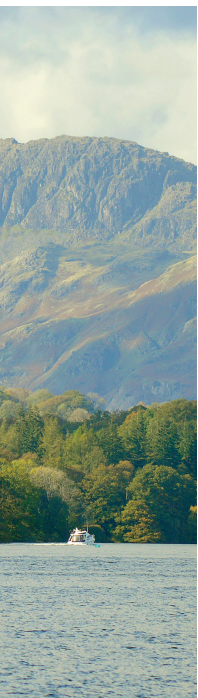




Michael Keenan Gutierrez Teaches UNC students in Galway, Ireland

Under Prof. Gutierrez's guidance, twenty UNC students spent three weeks writing travel and nature essays, while also exploring western Ireland. Activities included hiking Diamond Mountain in Connemara National Park, walking the edges of the Cliffs of Moher, taking a food and drink tour of Galway, and learning Irish dance from a former Riverdancer.

This was the first time the program had run since the pandemic. Prof. Gutierrez plans to return to Galway with a new group of students this coming summer.



FACULTY BRIEFS



Courtney Rivard has been selected to be a part of the 2022-2023 cohort in the Institute for the Arts and Humanities' Tyson Academic Leadership Program.

The program is designed to aid current and emerging leaders through a series of activities to develop leadership capacities, clarify career commitments, and build their leadership network.



The Department of English and Comparative Literature's J. Ross McDonald Distinguished Professor of English, **Daniel Wallace**, gave this winter's commencement speech on December 11. Wallace provided graduates with "instructions on how to become yourself."

The director of the DOECL's Creative Writing program for eleven years, Prof. Wallace is the author of six novels, including *Big Fish* (1998), *Ray in Reverse* (2000), *The Watermelon King* (2003), *Mr. Sebastian and the Negro Magician* (2007), *The Kings and Queens of Roam* (2013), and most recently *Extraordinary Adventures* (May 2017).

His seventh book, *This Isn't Going to End Well: The True Story of a Man I Thought I Knew*, will be published by Algonquin Books in April 2023.



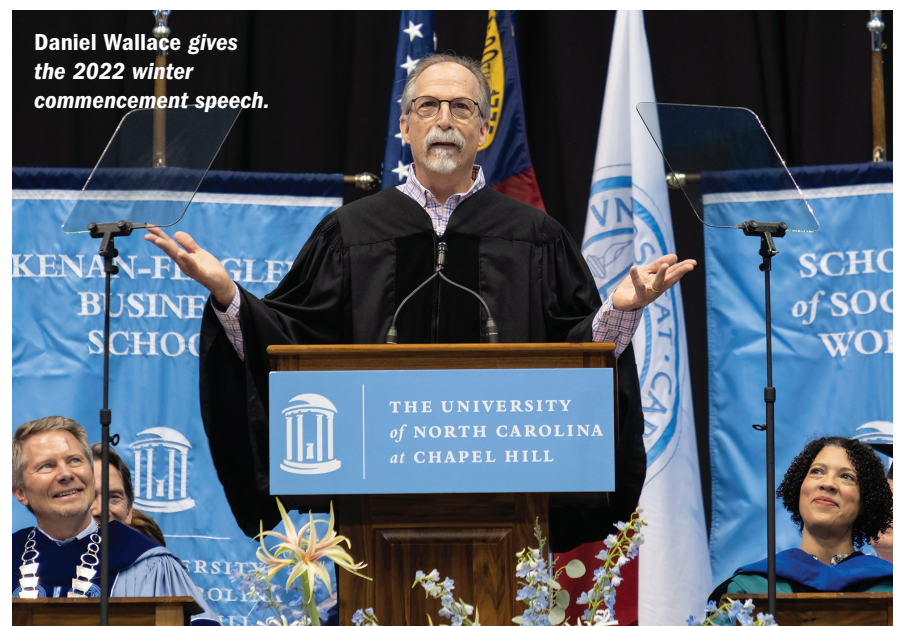
In July 2022, **Jessica Lynn Wolfe's** article "George Chapman, Edward Coke, and Crooked Justice" was published in the journal *The Seventeenth Century*.

Prof. Wolfe also has forthcoming articles on Thomas Browne and Renaissance number theory, on Chapman's translation of Homer, and on the Hakluyt circle and the intersections between classical humanism and colonial enterprise (the last of which began as a keynote at the 2021 Thomas Harriot seminar).

"Mostly, this past half-year, I have been combing through 2,400 pages of annotations to an edition of Thomas Browne's *Pseudodoxia Epidemica*, an experience by turns maddening and meditative," says Wolfe.



Harry Cushman and **Taylor Cowdery** (pictured) have been selected to receive Junior Faculty Development Awards. These competitive awards will support research and scholarly projects throughout 2023.





Steve Gotzler has stayed busy as the co-host of *Subject Matter: Table Top (SM:TT)*, a podcast about board games and the subject matter that animates them. On the pod he and his co-host explore the world of tabletop games by sitting down to play them with people who possess a deep understanding of the various themes, settings, systems, or content that players encounter in them.

Over the winter break SM:TT recorded a conversation with Elizabeth Hargrave, designer of the award-winning *Wingspan*, the need for games that deal with scientific subjects, and the challenges facing women designers in the table-top industry.

Most recently, he and his co-host sat down with Waleed Ziad, Assistant Professor and Ali Jarrahi Fellow in Persian Studies in the Department of Religious Studies here at UNC. They played *Pax Pamir*, a historical game about geopolitical conflict in 19th-century Afghanistan. In the episode, Dr. Ziad discusses his research which seeks to displace “Great Game” narratives about the region’s history during this period, and together they consider the problematic representations of Central Asian peoples and their cultures in table-top gaming.



María DeGuzmán presented her photographic experiments with the interplay between hydrodynamics and light for Dr. Geovani Ramirez’s literature and environmentalism(s) class at Virginia Tech.

She participated, by invitation, in a literary careers alumni mentorship session with undergraduate and graduate students from Harvard University’s Department of English.

She has been invited to be a consultant for James Madison University on the establishment of Latinx Studies programs.

Her essay “The Challenges of Displacement for the New Humanism” was published December 2022 in the E-Book *A LITERATURA NO CONTEXTO DO NOVO HUMANISMO*, ed. Priscila Campolina de Sá Campello and Terezinha Taborda Moreira (Belo Horizonte, Brazil: Editora PUC Minas, 2022).

Her photographs “Woman with a Vision Table” and “Blue Obscurity of the Future” were published in *Apricity*, the official literary & art magazine of The University of Texas at Austin.

Her photo-text visual poem “Sudden Empathy” was published in *Roanoke Review*’s 2022 Spring/Summer issue. She had another photo-text visual poem “Fable” accepted for Oregon State University’s literary journal *45thParallel*.

Her scholarly essay “Queer Trans Latinx Environmentalisms” was chosen for inclusion in *Mini-Reader #2* on Environmentalisms in Latinx Studies, an Open Educational Resource available online via The University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Press books site.



Stephanie Elizondo Griest (left) and **Inger Brodey** (right) have been awarded Faculty Fellowships at the Institute for the Arts and Humanities. The Faculty Fellowship Program provides on-campus, semester-long leaves for faculty members from the College of Arts and Sciences to pursue research and creative work that leads to publication, exhibition, composition, and performance. Elizondo Griest will be at the IAH in Fall 2023; Brodey will be there in Spring 2024.

CRITICAL SPEAKER SERIES

The Critical Speaker Series of the Department of English and Comparative Literature is a graduate-student-run program featuring outstanding and innovative scholars in the literary humanities. It showcases their contributions for the larger University community and the public.



**ELIZABETH
ANKER**

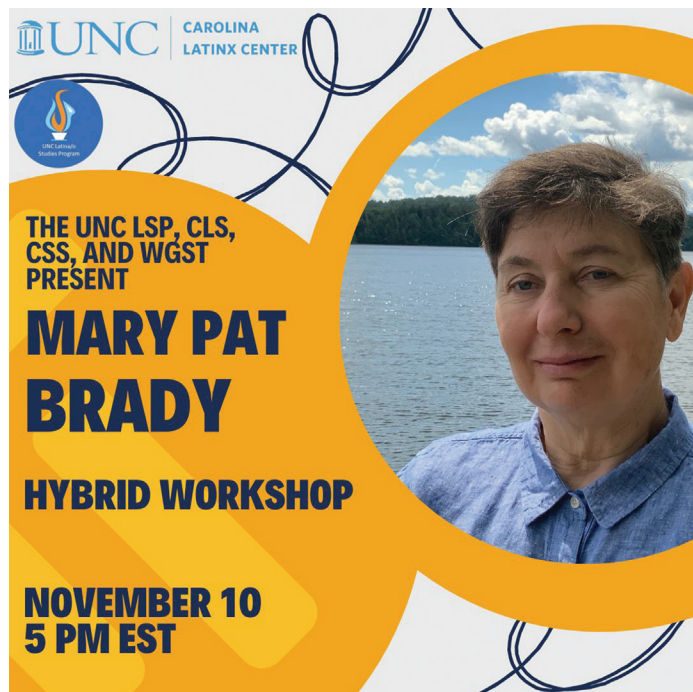
**LECTURE: 11/03
3:00 PM**

**SEMINAR: 11/04
10 AM**

UNC
ECL

Kicking off the series was Dr. Elizabeth Anker. Dr. Anker delivered a lecture titled “The Project of Theory Post-Dobbs” and led a graduate-exclusive seminar on her book *On Paradox* (Duke UP 2022).

Dr. Anker is an Associate Professor in the Department of English and Associate Member of the Law Faculty at Cornell University. She has published and taught in the areas of law and literature, human rights and humanitarianism, novel studies, literary criticism, postcolonial studies, immigration and citizenship, contemporary world literature, and legal and political theory.



UNC CAROLINA
LATINX CENTER

THE UNC LSP, CLS,
CSS, AND WGST
PRESENT

**MARY PAT
BRADY**

HYBRID WORKSHOP

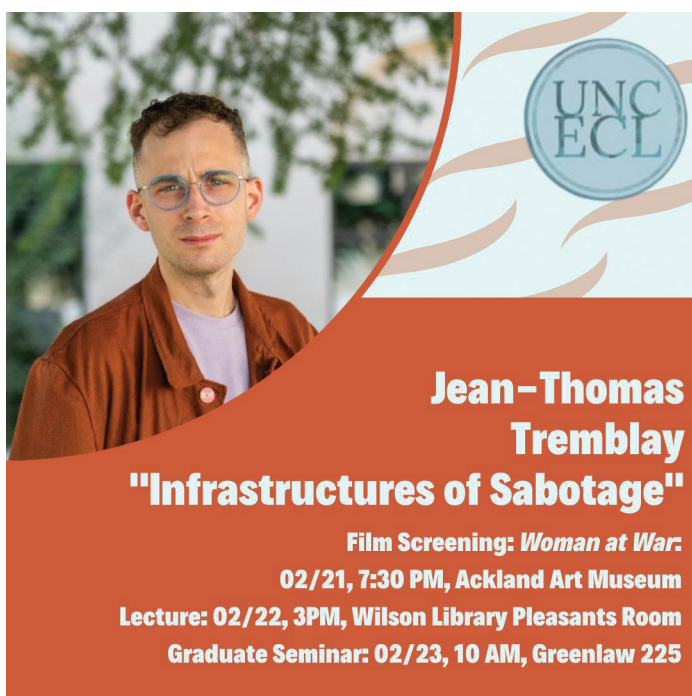
**NOVEMBER 10
5 PM EST**

Next, CSS co-sponsored a remote hybrid workshop featuring Dr. Mary Pat Brady with UNC Latina/o Studies Program, Carolina Latinx Center, and the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies.

Participants received and discussed electronic selections from Dr. Brady’s award-winning *Scales of Captivity: Racial Capitalism and the Latinx Child* (Duke UP 2022) with the author. Celebrated for its incisive and historically cogent analysis, Brady’s book traces the legacies of racialization and childhood, separately and together, to show how colonial power limits mobility.



In November, a book launch was held for our own **Dr. Stephanie DeGooyer**, celebrating the release of *Before Borders: A Legal and Literary History of Naturalization* (JHU Press, 2022). Dr. DeGooyer was joined by Duke faculty member Dr. Charlotte Sussman, as well as ECL Ph.D. students **Meleena Gil** and **Christopher Catanese**.



Dr. Jean-Thomas Tremblay co-hosted a screening of the 2018 film *Woman at War* with the UNC Film Studies Program, held a lecture titled "Infrastructures of Sabotage," and hosted a seminar for graduate students.

An Assistant Professor of Environmental Humanities at York University, Dr. Tremblay researches environmental and sexuality studies, as well as modern and contemporary literary, screen, and performance cultures. Their most recent book, *Breathing Aesthetics*, studies the way that difficult breathing can serve as both the embodied experience of and a critical lens into life under extractive capitalism and environmental racism, with readings of minoritarian works of experimental film, endurance performance, ecopoetics, and cinema-vérité.

Chatterjee “shows us the importance of literary texts in theorizing alternative political ways of being in the world.”

ZARENA ASLAMI
Michigan State University

Dr. Ronjaunee Chatterjee delivered a lecture titled “Lines of Thought: The Diagrammatic in Eliot, Hardy and Du Bois!” in Wilson Library’s Pleasants Family Assembly Room and held a graduate-student-exclusive seminar in the UNC Campus Y.

A professor of English at Queens University, Dr. Chatterjee’s recent publications include “Feminine Singularity: The Politics of Subjectivity in Nineteenth-Century Literature” (Stanford University Press 2022) and the award-winning essay “Undisciplining Victorian Studies.”



UNC English & Comparative Literature's
CRITICAL SPEAKER SERIES
& A19 PRESENT

UNC ECL A19

Ronjaunee Chatterjee

*"Lines of Thought:
The Diagrammatic in Eliot,
Hardy, and Du Bois"*

Lecture
March 23, 1:00 PM
Wilson Library
Pleasants Family
Assembly Room

Seminar
March 24, 12:30 PM
Campus Y
Room 207

Feminine Singularity
THE POLITICS OF SUBJECTIVITY IN
NINETEENTH-CENTURY LITERATURE
Ronjaunee Chatterjee

@criticalspeakerseries
@SeriesCritical

Tickets available now!

ALUMNI NEWS

Sarah Dessen '93 had her novel *Along For The Ride* adapted into a film for Netflix. The romantic drama premiered in May 2022.

Dessen is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of over a dozen novels for teens, including *The Truth About Forever*, *Just Listen* and *This Lullaby*. Her work has been published in over thirty countries and sold millions of copies worldwide. She is the recipient of the 2017 Margaret A. Edwards Award from the American Library Association for outstanding contribution to young adult literature. Her latest novel, *The Rest of The Story*, is now available in paperback.



Along for the Ride | Official Trailer | Netflix

Jillian Daly, a fall 2022 graduate, had her essay "A Strange and Beautiful Place: My Portable Paradise" featured online at *Coastal Review*. She drafted and revised this essay during Bland Simpson's creative nonfiction course.

Daly graduated from UNC with a Bachelor of Science in environmental science and a minor in marine science. She now serves as communications specialist for the North Carolina Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve. A North Carolina native, she learned to love the coast by spending her summers at Topsail Beach and, more recently, working for the North Carolina Aquarium on the Outer Banks. Now living in Beaufort, she is thrilled to be back on the coast, enjoying all the outdoor world has to offer, including surfing, sailing and kayaking.

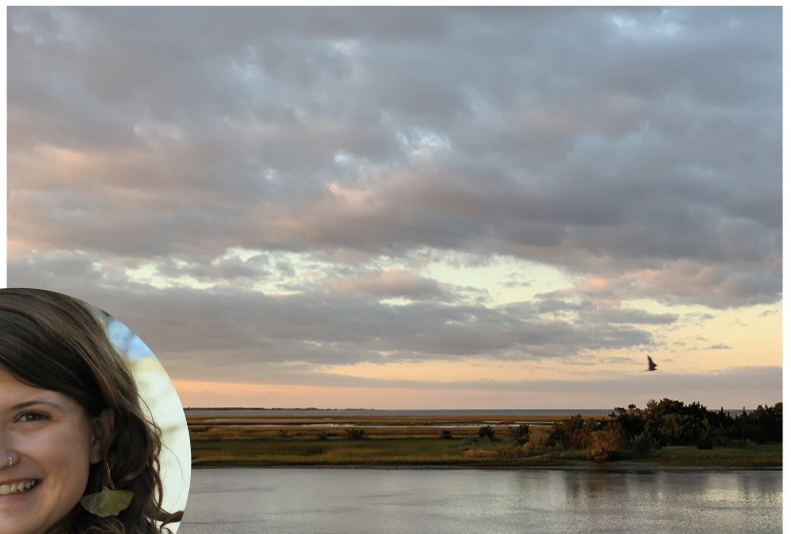


CoastalReview.org
A Daily News Service of the North Carolina Coastal Federation

Home News Our Coast Science Commentary Special Reports 🔍 f t

'A strange and beautiful place': My portable paradise

03/17/2023 by [Jillian Daly](#)



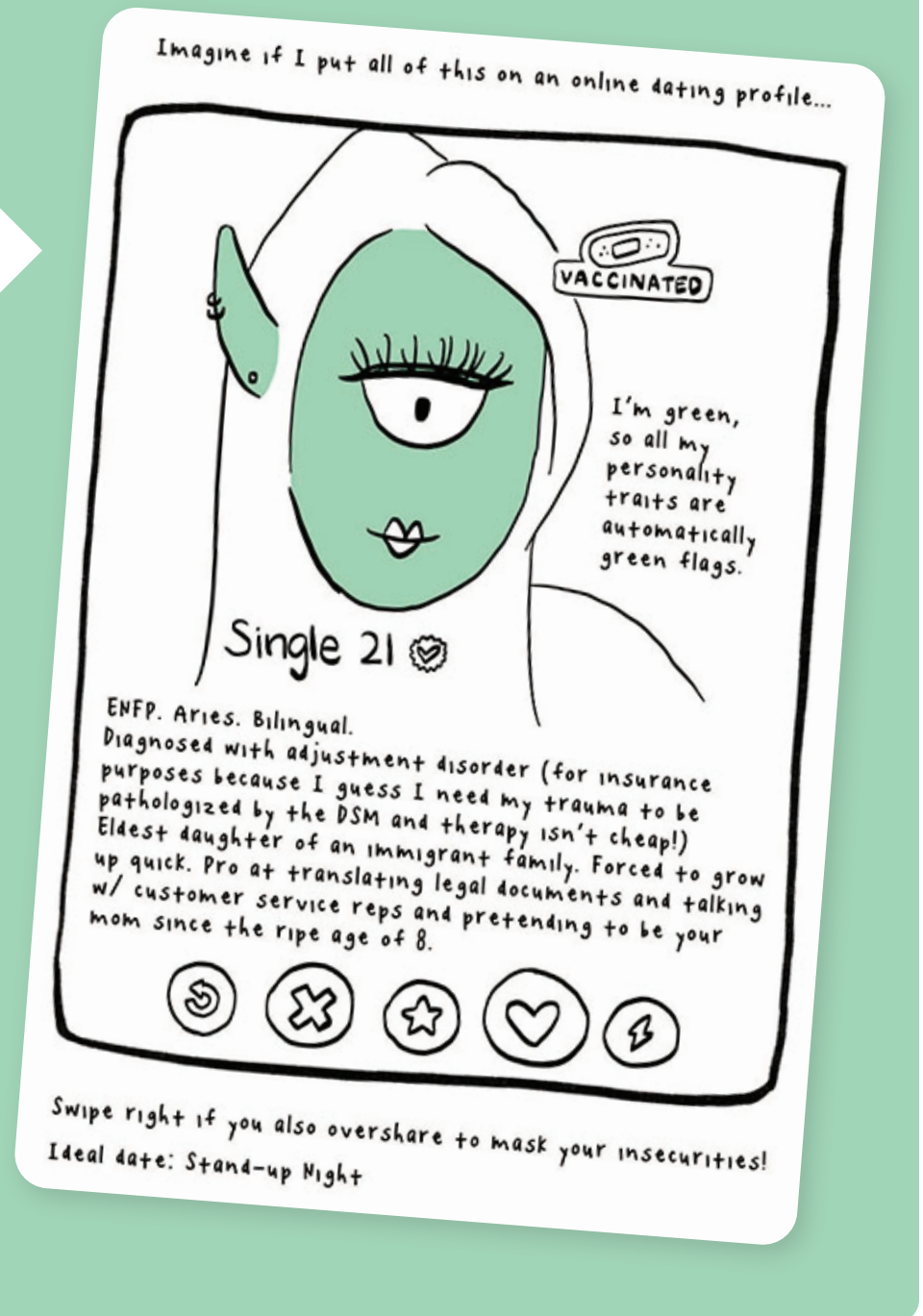
Cathy Choi, a 2021 graduate who completed an ECL minor in Medicine, Literature, and Culture recently published a comic in *Literature & Medicine*, a leading journal in the field. Choi originally created “No Space for Trash from Aliens” as the course project for Prof. Kym Weed’s ENGL 763: Introduction to Methods in Health Humanities, a core course in the Literature, Medicine, and Culture graduate programs that explores diverse methodologies and genres within the health humanities. After reading creative works and scholarship in *Graphic Medicine*, Cathy was inspired to explore the intersection of healthcare access, mental health, and comics.

Capitalizing on her interest in graphic pathographies, Choi composed her own comic that, as she explains, “gives a sampling of [her] life as a daughter of immigrants who are navigating the process of legal residency.” While playing with the concept of an “illegal alien” by representing herself as a green, one-eyed space alien, Choi uses the comic form to explore stigmas related to mental illness in Asian American communities, the challenges of navigating healthcare and legal systems, and the pressures that first-generation immigrants feel to uphold the myth of the “model minority.”

The comics medium was appealing to Choi because it can “appear playful at the surface” while also providing “commentary on politics, socio-economics, and other complex structures that affect and shape the everyday person.” Her comic does just that, crafting a multidimensional character who deals with the everyday stresses of balancing mental health, familial and cultural expectations, and responsibilities as an Asian-American “alien.”

The first panel is shown.

Choi’s character deals with the everyday stresses of balancing mental health, familial and cultural expectations, and responsibilities as an Asian-American “alien.”





Author Jenny Han '02, a Creative Writing alumna and now a #1 *New York Times* best-selling author, had her YA trilogy “The Summer I Turned Pretty” adapted into a series for Amazon Prime Video. The show debuted in June 2022.

Han is the creator and co-showrunner of *The Summer I Turned Pretty* series on Prime Video. She’s an executive producer on the films *To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before*, *To All the Boys: P.S. I Still Love You*, and *To All the Boys: Always and Forever*, all on Netflix. She’s also the creator and co-showrunner of *XO Kitty*, a *To All the Boys* spinoff series. Her books have been published in more than thirty languages.

BENEFIT for Artists in Puerto Rico
New! OCTOBER 15th • 3pm at PRTT

**HARLEM
HELLFIGHTERS
ON A LATIN BEAT**



Tickets from \$30
PregonesPRTT.org
718-585-1202

Pat Robinson ('13 BA Dramatic Art; Creative Writing minor) performed in the Puerto Rican Traveling Theatre on 47th Street in NYC. “Harlem Hellfighters on a Latin Beat” explores the history of black composer James Europe and his journey to Puerto Rico to recruit musicians for the famous military band. Robinson played both Governor Yager from Kentucky and Colonel Hayward, a leader of the Hellfighters.



Gavin Whitehead has been intrigued by the horror genre since the beginning of his academic career. His honors thesis at UNC-Chapel Hill was titled “Sit Still, Shut Up, and ‘Learn’: The Horror Film’s Treatment of the Classroom,” which earned him highest honors in 2012. Gavin graduated with a DFA (Doctor of Fine Arts) in Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism from Yale University in 2022.

Since his DFA, Gavin has found success in the world of podcasting. His podcast *The Art of Crime* was picked up by Airwave Media three

months after Gavin published the first episode.

In speaking to how his time with the DOECL prepared him for his career, Gavin thought back to his senior honors thesis:

“Writing the thesis certainly provided me with the skills I need to conduct large-scale research projects. After all, a ton of research goes into every episode of *The Art of Crime*. The senior thesis also made me a stronger writer. For the sake of clarity, I favor short sentences, and I developed that preference while working on my thesis.”

Professor Beverly Taylor Retires

The Department of English and Comparative Literature sends its well wishes to Beverly Taylor, who retired at the end of Spring 2022.



Specializing in Victorian literature and culture, especially poetry and women novelists, Beverly Taylor has published on Byron, Shelley, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Tennyson, Robert Browning, Elizabeth Siddal, Arnold, Carlyle, and

Charlotte Bronte. She has also written on nineteenth- and twentieth-century Arthurian literature, the poet Francis Thompson, Victorian art, Chaucer, Gottfried von Strassburg, and Neo-Victorian fiction.

Notably, Prof. Taylor was the department's first woman chair, and her tenure as such was widely celebrated.

Prof. Taylor's impact on the lives and careers of her students and colleagues is immeasurable. We are grateful for her many years of dedication and wish her the happiest of retirements.

“As I struggled towards tenure, Bev was a guiding light in my bewilderment. I am grateful for the many laughs we shared in the hallowed halls of ugly old Greenlaw. Her goodwill always brightened the place up for me.”

MARIANNE GINGHER
Professor Emerita, the Creative Writing Program



Then-chair Beverly Taylor in 2011 with faculty member Randall Kenan, author Elizabeth Spenser, and that year's Thomas Wolfe Prize recipient, Al Young

Contribute

TO THE DEPARTMENT

We strive to provide the best possible educational experience to our undergraduates and graduate students, to remain at the forefront of research in the arts and humanities, and to reach out to our constituents on campus, in our communities and state, and in the world at large. We're grateful for the support that helps us maintain these endeavors.

[Click here to make an online donation.](#)

To donate by check:

- Make check payable to "Arts and Sciences Foundation"
- Note in the memo line: "gift for Dept of English and Comparative Literature"
- Mail to: The Arts and Sciences Foundation
 Buchan House
 523 E. Franklin Street
 Chapel Hill, NC 27514

For questions about creating scholarships, fellowships, and professorships in the Department through a gift, pledge, or planned gift, please contact Josh Thornton, Associate Director of Development at the Arts and Sciences Foundation: Joshua.Thornton@unc.edu or (919) 843-7821.

.....

ABOUT THIS ANNUAL REPORT: Most of the content and photography in this newsletter was produced by the faculty and students who staff the Digital Literacy and Communications (DLC) Lab, including Dr. Sarah Boyd. Other photographs were contributed by faculty members, students, and alumni. The DLC Lab launched in 2018 under the leadership of Dr. Courtney Rivard.