



Musings

Fall 2021 Newsletter
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Northwestern

Department of
English

WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings from University Hall! This fall's return to campus doesn't look quite like we imagined back in late June, during that golden moment after COVID-19 vaccines became widely available but before the onslaught of the Delta (and now Omicron!) variant. Nonetheless, it has been wonderful to return to University Hall! The hallways on the first floor are bustling with undergraduates on their way to class, while on the second floor faculty and grad students catch up in the copy room and chat as they refill their coffee mugs in the department office. The TA office under the eaves is once again buzzing with activity. We may all be wearing masks and leaving the windows open to improve airflow, but we are also, finally, back together.

Our challenge is to use the perspective we've gained over the past eighteen months – from the time apart, from the ongoing pandemic, from the national racial reckoning following the police murder of George Floyd – to make the community within University Hall more just, more equitable, and more inclusive. Graduate students have reinvigorated long-standing colloquia and collaborated with faculty to develop new research workshops in Antiracist Pedagogy, Transnational Cultural History, and Material Texts and Archives, along with a thesis workshop for advanced MFA+MA students. Faculty committees will be building upon the recent restructuring of PhD requirements by reexamining the undergraduate curriculum, with particular attention to our introductory lecture courses. The GRE is no longer required of applicants to our graduate programs, having been replaced by a holistic evaluation of each application with greater input from faculty subject specialists. Instead of being asked to emphasize a single period specialization, applicants can now define their interests at the intersection of historical periods, cultural groupings, geographic regions, critical methodologies, and objects of study. We are reducing the course ceiling in our undergraduate seminars to encourage critical discussion and support more intensive writing instruction in the aftermath of COVID, and starting next year we will be offering advanced graduate students new opportunities to develop and teach their own courses.

Although none of these changes are monumental in themselves, collectively they have already begun to change the intellectual and administrative structures that shape our interactions, just as surely as those interactions are shaped by the architecture of University Hall. They are just a few of the means by which we are working to build a better department.

With best wishes for a healthy and productive New Year,

Katharine Breen
Professor and Chair of English
Board of Lady Managers of the Columbian Exposition Chair



A WORD FROM EGSO

As we reflect back on the 2020-2021 academic year, one overshadowed by the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as racial injustices, it is important to acknowledge the members of our organization who organized virtual events to maintain a sense of community amid the restrictions of remote learning. We want to express our thanks to Paulina Jones-Torregrosa, Elena Bellaart, and Suzanne Scanlon – along with the other board members of EGSO – who organized virtual workshops and events throughout the past year to welcome new students, provide space for conversation, build skills and professionalization, and prompt discussions on diversity, equity, and inclusion in the classroom. A highlight was the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion anti-racist pedagogy workshop tailored specifically to teaching in the literature classroom, facilitated by Jones-Torregrosa and Scanlon, in conjunction with Nancy Ruggeri from the Searle Center for Teaching Excellence, in June.

The current academic year started off with a combined in-person and Zoom Collation, in which Johana Godfrey, Matthew Richardson, Michelle Huang and Reg Gibbons shared some of their research and writing. The new students-in-coursework and MFA+MA representatives Elizabeth Winter and Suzanne Scanlon worked hard to organize this year's peer-mentorship program, with the traditional mentor-mentee breakfast happening outside as a result of indoor COVID-19 restrictions. EGSO also held a welcome-back potluck on a windy but congenial day at the Lakefill, as well as another open forum with the Directors of Graduate Studies and Department Chair early in the Fall quarter.

As always, EGSO's events would not have been possible without the incredible generosity of the students and faculty members who gave their time to enrich the life of our department. Equally, none of this would have been possible without the peerless efforts of Kathy Daniels, David Kuzel, Nathan Mead, and Ashley Woods.

As Northwestern continues the process of returning to campus, it is all the more important that we maintain our support—verbally and materially—for the efforts of our colleagues working to make the university an equitable, anti-racist, democratic, sustainable, and enriching working environment. It is our hope that these objectives continue to direct and inspire our work in the years to come. For our part, in the coming year EGSO plans to organize events including colloquia, workshops, and salons to promote engagement and discussion both professional and informal between students in the Litowitz MFA+MA, Master's, and PhD programs.

Rio Bergh and Sreddy Yen, co-chairs

Suzanne Scanlon, MA+MFA representative

Allie Gibeily, students-in-candidacy representative

Elizabeth Winter, students-in-coursework representative

Irene Kim, archivist

Tyler Talbott and S. Yarberry, Graduate Policy & Placement Committee representatives

NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

Lydia Abedeen (MFA+MA - Poetry) is a poet from Orlando, FL. In 2021, she graduated from Emory University, having majored in creative writing and comparative literature. Her research interests encompass Bangladeshi identities, motherhood, intergenerational trauma, literary trauma theory, religion, cults, fairy tale, and mythology. She is a 2021 Tin House Scholar and Bucknell Seminar for Undergraduate Poets Fellow, and a graduate of the 2018 University of Iowa Between the Lines International Workshop.

George Abraham (MFA+MA - Poetry) is a Palestinian American poet from Jacksonville, FL. They are a graduate of Swarthmore College and Harvard University with degrees in mathematics and engineering, as well as being the author of the poetry collection *Birbright* (Button Poetry), a Kundiman Fellow, and a board member for the Radius of Arab American Writers (RAWI). Until recently, George taught Writing, Literature, and Publishing at Emerson College. Their creative interests include anti-colonial & multilingual poetics, experimental poetic forms, and queer ecopoetics. Their broader research interests are in digital humanities, computationally inspired poetics, and Palestinian, Southwest Asian, and North African diasporic poetry.

Kayla Boyden (PhD) graduated with her BA in English and African American Studies from UC Irvine, and earned an MA in African American Studies from UCLA, where she completed an MA thesis utilizing Black radical feminism to analyze Black contemporary poetry, including traditional poetry and rap music as radical disruptions to conceptions of subjectivity or the human. Utilizing an interdisciplinary approach, she thinks about methods and theories from various disciplines including English, Performance Studies, and Gender Studies to open up her analysis of Black contemporary poetry. Her interests more generally are Black contemporary poetry, critical theory, and Black feminist thought.

Emma Cohen (PhD) graduated from Haverford College in 2017 with a BA in History of Art. Her undergraduate work focused on affective atmospheres and encounters with mortality in performance contexts. She is interested in histories of emotion and sensation, and she is particularly curious to explore states of unruly embodiment such as illness and madness in early modern literature. Before returning to Chicago, she was based in

New York, where she worked as a dance artist and writer.

May Dugas (MFA+MA - Creative Nonfiction) graduated in 2020 from the University of Cincinnati with a BA in English and a Copyediting and Publishing certificate. Psychology and quantum physics are overarching themes in her fiction and nonfiction writing. Her research includes non-local physics of consciousness, focusing on how it rearranges commonly-held beliefs about death and the psychology of trauma, as well as how it affects our relationships and the processes of neuroplasticity to overcome and cope.

Charlotte Goddu (PhD) grew up in Boston, MA. After graduating from Columbia University in 2018 with a BA in English, she spent a few years as a fact-checker. Her primary academic interests are medieval studies, gender and sexuality, and queer theory.

Jackson McGrath (MFA+MA - Nonfiction) is from Miami, FL. In 2019, he received a BFA in Studio Art from The Cooper Union in New York City, where he explored hybrid forms and documentary strategies. Now he is raising a nice puppy named Magnolia.

Surya Milner (MFA+MA - Creative Nonfiction) is originally from Austin, TX, and in 2019 she graduated from Bowdoin College, where she studied English Literature, Asian Studies, and Arabic. After earning her BA, she taught at a high school in Fes, Morocco. Her nonfiction projects investigate the interstices between race, place, and memory.

Brittany Neil (MA) is a teacher from Libertyville, IL who graduated from Lawrence University in 2018 with a BA in English and minors in Education Studies and Music (French horn). She spent the last three years teaching high school English in Wisconsin in a small, rural district. Her interests include Gothic and Modernist literature with a look into the presentation of women and sexuality in literature. In the mornings she can be found walking her dog.

Ryan Nhu (PhD) earned his BA in creative writing and law, history and culture from USC, where he completed two honors theses: the first, on contemporary literary representations of interracial desire; the second, on prisons, sex education, and gay male identity amid



AIDS, 1980-1992. A recipient of the Discovery Scholar Prize and a fellowship from the Bucknell Seminar for Undergraduate Poets, he is interested in affect and aesthetics, comparative race and ethnicity, psychoanalysis, queer theory, and comparative African and Asian American literatures.

Sarah Nisenon (PhD) is from Hillsborough, NJ, and graduated in 2020 from the University of Michigan, having earned a BA with honors in English. During her time there, she authored a thesis entitled “Can We Ever See Their Faces? An Exploration of Hurricane Katrina Memorializations” which examines the ways in which experimental forms of memorializations challenge dominant history. Her current research interests focus on ecocriticism, visual culture, and the possibilities of memorializations in response to trauma.

Phoebe Pan (PhD) graduated from Oberlin College in 2020 with a BA in English; prior to that, there was a long and memorable stint in classical piano. Her current research area includes early modern literature, with a focus on poetic and scientific texts relating to processes of metamorphosis and change. Her academic-adjacent interests include fabulist cinema, internet culture, and public humanities work. In her spare time, Phoebe serves as a groundskeeper for Soupbone, a humanities collective.

Angad Singh (PhD) grew up in New Delhi, India, and graduated from the University of Chicago in 2019 with a BA in English and History. While at UChicago, he focused on postcolonial studies as well as gender and sexuality studies, and wrote his senior thesis on the representation of queerness in Arundhati Roy’s

fiction. Currently, he is particularly interested in the connections between marginal texts, sexualities, and geographies.

Yasmin Yoon (PhD) grew up in South Korea and completed her BA in International Studies at Johns Hopkins University in 2019. She currently works as a community organizer on issues related to immigration justice. She hopes to address questions of race and the Human through the lens of new materialist and ecofeminist scholarship in Asian/American studies. She is always looking for an opportunity to brag about her two chonky cats.

JOB PLACEMENT

Katherine Blankenau (PhD 2021) - two-year Visiting Assistant Professorship at Mount Marty University in Yankton, SD

Arif Camoglu (PhD 2020, CLS) - Assistant Professor of Literature at NYU Shanghai

Brad Dubos (PhD candidate) - two-year Public Humanities Fellowship with The New-York Historical Society

Maria Dikcis (PhD 2021) - Emerging Voices Fellow at the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), Postdoctoral Researcher on Mass Incarceration & Policing Fellow at the Rank of Instructor, and Pozen Family Center for Human Rights at The University of Chicago

Tony Papanikolas (PhD 2020) - Visiting Assistant Professor in English at St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens, FL

DEGREES COMPLETED

Jeremiah Barker (MFA+MA)

MA thesis: *Trauma / Porn: Suicidality and Sociality in “Shortbus” (2006) and “A Little Life” (2015)*

MFA thesis: *Spare*

Rishika Batra (MFA+MA)

MA thesis: *“The Smallest Cell Remembers”: Colonial Universality and the Science of the Word in the Poetry of M. NourbeSe Philip*

MFA thesis: *Song for the First Possibility*

Katie Blankenau (PhD)

Dissertation: *Entertaining Strangers: Hospitality and Early Modern England’s Literary Marketplace*

Samantha Botz (PhD)

Dissertation: *Sympathetic Subjects: Politics, Feeling and the Space of Narrative in the Long Eighteenth Century*

Min Li Chan (MFA+MA)

MA thesis: *“Now is Pretty Creepy”: Miranda July’s Art, Surveillance Capitalism, and Networked Life*

MFA thesis: *Don’t Look It Up*

Clay Cogswell (PhD)

Dissertation: *A Victorian Disposition: Emotional Susceptibility in the Nineteenth-Century Novel*

Maria Dikcis (PhD)

Dissertation: *Ink, Wave, Signal, Code: Multiethnic American Poetry’s Media Ecologies After 1965*

Erica Hughes (MFA+MA)

MA thesis: *Lyric (In)Capacity and the Archive in Contemporary Black American Poetry*

MFA thesis: *Black Women Standing Ankle-Deep in Pacific Water*

Sarah Mason (PhD)

Dissertation: *A Sociable Silence: Silence and Sympathy in the Victorian Novel*

Alicia Pederson (PhD)

Dissertation: *The Greener Inhumanity of Renaissance Pastoral: A Posthumanist Reading of the Bucolic Literature of Early Modern England and Italy*

Natalie Rose Richardson (MFA+MA)

MA thesis: *Why Look at Rattlesnakes*

MFA thesis: *A Uniquely American Animal*

Serena Simpson (MFA+MA)

MA thesis: *I Love Myself When I’m Laughing*

MFA thesis: *I Hope This Sounds Like Home*

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Katharine Breen
Machines of the Mind:
Personification in
Medieval Literature
 UChicago Press



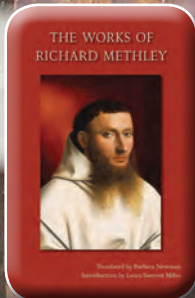
Reginald Gibbons
Renditions
 Four Way Books



Rebecca Johnson
 (co-translator)
A Dove in Free Flight
 Upset Press



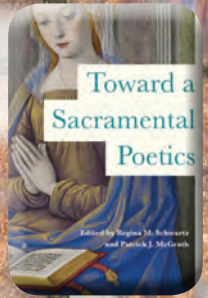
Barbara Newman
 (translator)
The Works of Richard
Methley
 Liturgical Press



Barbara Newman
The Permeable Self: Fine
Medieval Relationships
 UPenn Press



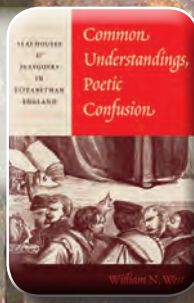
Regina Schwartz
 (co-editor)
Toward A Sacramental Poetics
 Notre Dame UP



Julia Stern
Bette Davis Black and White
 UChicago Press



William N West
Common Understandings, Poetic
Confusion: Playhouses and
Playgoers in Elizabethan
England
 UChicago Press



Kelly Wisecup
Assembled for Use: Indigenous
Compilation and the Archives
of Early Native American
Literatures
 Yale UP



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Katharine Breen's second book, *Machines of the Mind: Personification in Medieval Literature*, was published by the University of Chicago Press in spring 2021. It argues that personifications are powerful tools for thought that help us to remember and manipulate complex ideas, testing them against existing moral and political paradigms. She continues as co-editor of the scholarly journal *Yearbook of Langland Studies* and is delighted to be working with third-year PhD student Maria Vieyetz, who is the YLS editorial assistant for 2021-22.

John Bresland competed in the Chicago Triathlon on August 29th, 2021, placing first in his age group with a time of 2:18:15.

Nick Davis presented material from his book-in-progress about the movies of 1999 at the annual Screen Conference. The talk centered the abrupt and eclectic surge of trans* and gender non-conforming imagery and narratives in international cinema at the turn of the millennium. He has two new essays appearing shortly in edited collections: one a feminist reading of Todd Haynes's experimental study of Bob Dylan, *I'm Not There* (2007), and one about opaque protagonists and stylistic innovations in recent queer films like *Moonlight* (2016), *Spa Night* (2016), *Tomcat* (2016), and *They* (2017).

Last year, while a Faculty Fellow in the Kaplan Institute, **Tracy Davis** drafted a book entitled *Activist Repertoires: Liberal Lives, Victorian Performances*. She also launched a few new initiatives. [six!], a consortium with Northwestern and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, the University of Ghana, University of Tel Aviv, Cologne University, and JNU-Delhi, was supported by a Buffett Institute Global Campus Collaborative Grant that brought together faculty and graduate students to learn about international theatre festivals and then to curate a virtual festival. Supported by an NSF grant, she co-directed with Suzan van der Lee (Department of Earth Sciences) a 3-week session, NU-Geopaths, aimed at increasing high school students' awareness of study and career options in the earth sciences, emphasizing the importance of recruiting under-represented minorities and women to adopt this as a major and training graduate student mentors. She launched an editing project with Paul Rae (University of Melbourne) on mixing methods in theatre and performance research. In 2021-22, she is the sponsor for Dr. Prateek, a visiting Fulbright Post-doctoral Fellow from Birla Institute of Technology and Science Pilani (Rajasthan), who is working on a project about productions and adaptations of Henrik Ibsen's plays in India.

Betsy Erkkila's new book *The Whitman Revolution: Sex, Poetry, and Politics* was published in fall 2021 by Iowa University Press. Her article "Phillis Wheatley on the Streets of Boston and in the Atlantic World" was published as a "Provocation" in the fall

2021 issue of *Early American Literature*. She is currently working on a book entitled *The Abigail Adams Affairs*, which reads against Abigail Adams as the ideal republican wife and mother and Abigail and John Adams as everybody's ideal republican couple. This book focuses on Abigail Adams's epistolary flirtations over many years with various powerful male figures, including James Lovell, the secretary of foreign affairs in Congress, Royall Tyler, the epic poet and playwright, and Thomas Jefferson, whom she described as "one of the choice ones of the earth."

Harris Feinsod recently chaired Northwestern's Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee, co-authoring a new academic freedom policy that the Faculty Senate approved unanimously in July 2021. His new and forthcoming scholarship falls in two areas: theories and methods for Comparative Literature, and the "Blue Humanities" broadly defined. Recent talks include "Comp Lit from the Standpoint of Deglobalization" at the American Comparative Literature Association, and "Rotterdam circa 1930" for the ACLA seminar on "Modernism's Working Waterfronts," which he co-organized with Nicole Rizzuto. New publications on maritime topics appear in *The Baffler* and *Comparative Literature*, and he was awarded a Provost Faculty Grant for Research to support his book project "Into Steam: The Worlds of Maritime Modernism." In October 2021, he participated in a collaboration of artists, scientists, and humanists using ecoacoustic techniques to study the endangered ecosystems of the Virginia Barrier Islands, and he is currently giving a new undergraduate seminar on the unnatural ecology and cultural history of Lake Michigan.

On September 30th, **Reg Gibbons** was awarded the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame's Fuller Award for lifetime achievement. The ceremony was virtual and included several speakers and a live interview, and celebrated not only Reg's published work as a poet, fiction writer, translator, editor, essayist, and book reviewer, but also his contributions to three literary institutions: At Northwestern, his editorship of *TriQuarterly* magazine (1981-1997) and from 1981 till the present, his teaching at the university; the Guild Literary Complex, a not-for-profit Chicago literary presenting organization co-founded in 1989 by Reg and others (Reg served as a board member until only a few years ago); and the American Writers Museum (180 N. Michigan Ave., Second Floor, Chicago)—Reg was a member of the "Content Leadership Team" and remains on the National Advisory Council. Reg's novel *Sweetbitter*, which won the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award when first published in 1995, will in 2022 be reissued in a third paperback edition. Earlier this year, Reg led virtual writing workshops sponsored by the literary magazine *A Public Space* (NYC), the writers' center Gemini Ink (San Antonio TX), and StoryStudio (Chicago). During February and March of this year, he gave (virtual) readings from his most recent book

of poems, *Renditions* (2021), sponsored by Malaprop's Bookstore (Asheville NC), Malvern Books (Austin TX), Left Bank Books (St. Louis), The Loom (Harrisville NH), Gemini Ink (San Antonio TX), George Mason Univ., and other venues. Reg and Ilya Kutik (Slavic Languages and Literatures), have (finally!) completed their translations of *Selected Poems of Boris Pasternak* and also of Kutik's own selected poems, *A Wasp of Time*, and have submitted both mss. to publishers.

Michelle N. Huang will be giving keynotes for the "Transboundary Connection: Language and Cultural Studies in the Era of 'New Humanities'" conference at Jilin University and the Post45 graduate symposium at Northwestern. Recent articles were published or are forthcoming in *American Literature*, *Contemporary Literature*, and *ASAP/Journal*. She recently completed a film essay, "Inhuman Figures: Robots, Clones, and Aliens," in collaboration with Northwestern's Media and Design Studio.

Rebecca Johnson published a new essay, "Cross-Revolutionary Reading: Visions of Vietnam in the Transnational Arab Avant-Garde," in *Comparative Literature*, and a co-translated volume of poems by Faraj Bayrakdar, *A Dove in Free Flight* (Upset Press). She continues to serve as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Arabic Literature* and the Director of the Program of Middle East and North African Studies.

Justin L. Mann has two pieces forthcoming before the end of 2021. His article, "Black Insecurity at the End of the World," will be published in the Fall 2021 issue of *MELUS Journal*, and interrogates the relationship between blackness and pandemic in Colson Whitehead's 2010 novel *Zone One*. His special issue of *ASAP/Journal* (co-edited with Maia Gil'Adi) *New Worlds of Speculation* examines works of contemporary art and literature that contemplate current and emerging forms of racialization.

Susan Manning is co-director of "Making Modernism: Literature, Dance, and Visual Culture in Chicago, 1893-1935," a summer seminar at the Newberry Library funded by the NEH. Applications for the 2022 seminar opened this fall. "Making Modernism" reflects her current research and her coediting of a two-volume anthology titled *Dancing on the Third Coast: Chicago Dance Histories*. At this fall's meeting of the Dance Studies Association, she moderated a panel of authors engaged in the project, and she also received the Dixie Durr Award for Service to Dance Research.

Juan Martinez has a new story forthcoming in *Small Odysseys*, an anthology celebrating the 35th anniversary of NPR's "Selected Shorts" which will also be performed in New York's Symphony Space in March 2022. Another story is forthcoming in *The Morning*

Transport, a newsletter that will e-mail subscribers stories every week. Lastly, his novel, whose tentative title is "Extended Stay," has been accepted for publication by University of Arizona Press's Camino del Sol series, and is expected out in the world in 2023.

Barbara Newman survived the (first) plague year in good health and celebrated on November 7th with the adoption of two "victory cats," Minnaloushe and Mirifico. She also published two books in 2021. *The Works of Richard Methley* is a translation of all the extant Latin texts by that 15th-century Carthusian monk—the last major English mystic before the Reformation. These texts have just recently been edited and are little known. Barbara's new monograph, *The Permeable Self: Five Medieval Relationships*, was published by Penn in September. This ambitious study uses a new model of personhood to explore five types of relationship—between teacher and student, saint and penitent, lovers, mother and child, God and the devil—from the standpoint of "coinherence," or mutual indwelling. An interdisciplinary project, it works across the fields of cultural history, literary criticism, and theology. This fall Barbara is excited to be teaching a new course on "The Global Middle Ages," exploring (inter alia) *The Arabian Nights*, *The Tale of Genji*, and the mission of William of Rubruck to the Great Khan.

Regina Schwartz and Patrick McGrath edited *Toward a Sacramental Poetics*, published in December 2021 by the University of Notre Dame Press. It features essays by Rowan Williams, Jean-Luc Marion, Subha Mukherji, Hent de Vries, Paul Mariani, Lori Branch, John Milbank, Stephen Little, Kevin Hart, and Ingolf Dalfurth investigating the meanings and uses of sacramental poetics in a wide variety of contexts: from Dante to Hopkins, from the King James Bible to Dracula, from Shakespeare to Wittgenstein.

Laurie Shannon gave a lecture last fall on Pliny's impact on Shakespeare's natural history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; she also conducted a workshop there (for early modern grad students) on shepherding ideas into sustained projects (both on Zoom). In February 2021, she gave a Zoom lecture entitled "Anne Lister's Queer & Natural History." This lecture, hosted by the Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies, featured in the program for LGBT+ History Month at the University of York. A new essay, "Silly Creatures: *King Lear* (with Sheep)," was published in *The Routledge Handbook of Shakespeare and Animals*.

In her role as coordinator for the Anne Lister Society, Shannon also participated in Lister's successful nomination as the namesake for York's tenth college, the new Anne Lister College. She traveled to England in October 2021 to participate in the opening celebrations. These included a hybrid evening panel ("Gentleman Jack: the life and legacy of Anne Lister") that also featured writer and producer Sally Wainwright OBE and Gary Brannan, Keeper of Archives at

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York's Borthwick Institute, and was chaired by BBC presenter Emma Barnett. Live and on livestream, she and Wainwright attempted to cut a surprise cake in the daunting shape of a large top hat.

Julia Stern's new book, *Bette Davis Black and White* will be published by the University of Chicago Press in January 2022. A work of film history, star studies, and memoir, the book traces Davis's role as an advocate for racial equality against the background of American cross-racial feeling from the late 1930s to 1989. Using the memoir form, Stern unfolds the way Davis's film introduced her young teenaged self to racial fantasy & its disruption by the actress's brilliant Black costars.

Rachel J. Webster's book of creative non-fiction, titled "REUNION: Benjamin Banneker and a Family Finding Ourselves in the American Story" was acquired by editors Sarah Crichton and Shannon Criss at Henry Holt. The book integrates both oral histories and archival research as it tells stories of the author's ancestors, including Revolutionary era scientist and almanac author Benjamin Banneker. In the process, it outlines the ways that race was constructed in the early years of the country—through women's bodies and the fracturing of families. "REUNION" is slated for publication in Winter 2023.

Kelly Wisecup is a Mellon Foundation/Newberry Consortium on American Indian and Indigenous Studies Fellow at the Newberry Library in 2021-22, where she is at work on a project called "Indigenous Anthologizing in the Great Lakes." Her monograph, *Assembled for Use: Indigenous Compilation and the Archives of Early Native American Literatures*, was published in November 2021 by Yale University Press. In winter 2022, Library of America is publishing *Plymouth Colony: Narratives of English Settlement and Native Resistance from the Mayflower to King Philip's War*, a collection of primary sources and scholarly framings, which Wisecup co-edited with Lisa Brooks.

Wisecup, with **Kasey Evans**, **Harrison Graves**, and **Nina Moon** and supported by an Alumnae Curriculum Innovation Grant, is completing a project to rethink the early American and early British literature surveys through anti-racist pedagogy. 2020-21 saw the publication of articles on "Resisting Archival Nostalgia" in *Women's Studies* and a catalog entry on David P. Bradley's "The Married Woman" for the Block Museum's *Thinking about History* exhibition catalog. Wisecup was recently appointed to the editorial board of *American Literature* and invited to contribute as an associate editor to Broadview Press's *Anthology of American Literature*.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

George Abraham's (1st year MFA+MA) book, *Birthingright* (Button Poetry, 2020), was recently named a winner of the 2021 Arab American Book Award in Poetry (from the Arab American National Museum). George also had essays come out with *Guernica* and *them* in fall 2021.

Matthew Beeber's (PhD candidate) article, titled "Nancy Cunard and the 1930s Coalitional Anthology" was accepted for publication in *Comparative Literature*. According to the journal, the volume is forthcoming in December 2022.

Rio Bergh's (3rd year PhD) article, *Blackness in the "Grey Area": Representations of Virtuous Labor in Venture Smith's "Narrative,"* will be published in volume 56.2 of *Early American Literature*.

Min Li Chan's (MFA+MA 2021) essay, *Now is Pretty Creepy*, on surveillance capitalism and Miranda July's conceptual art, was recently published in the Fall 2021 issue of *The Yale Review*. She was offered a place this past summer at the Sewanee Writers' Conference, where she worked with Aisha Sabatini Sloan and Amitava Kumar.

Jayne Collins (PhD candidate) had 3 articles accepted for publication this past year. "John Clare in Neon: Environmental Crisis and the Poetics of the Field," solicited for a special issue on "Romanticism and Wilderness," was published this summer in *Wordsworth Circle*. She was asked to contribute a catalogue essay for the first major retrospective of artist and poet Jen Bervin's work at University of Illinois Galleries. Titled "Silken Ecologies," the essay is forthcoming in early 2022. Lastly, "Ecopoetic Antinomies: Inscription and Voice in Jen Bervin's *Silk Poems*" has been accepted at *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*. Jayne continues to teach in the Chicago Field Studies program in the Environment, Science, and Sustainability track, as she's been doing since Winter Quarter 2021.

Maria Dikcis (PhD 2021) was invited to contribute a chapter on transcultural agency in 20th- and 21st- century ethnic American poetry to *The Cambridge Companion to American Poetry and Politics Since 1900* (forthcoming 2022). This year, she also began to serve as an Editor-at-Large for the Chicago Literary Archive - an independent, open-source digital research guide to Chicago's literary, printing, and publishing history from 1837 to the present.

In October 2020, **Brad Dubos** (PhD candidate) accepted a three-year volunteer position on the board of directors for Calumet & Cross Heritage Society, a nonprofit founded by Brothertown Indian Nation citizens. Calumet & Cross is dedicated to protecting Brothertown's historic sites and to preserving and sharing Brothertown cultural materials. It also hosts a weekly book club, open to the public, featuring literature and scholarship related to Brothertown people and history. This fall, he has also been a Mellon Graduate Research Assistant at the Newberry Library's D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies.

Erica Hughes (MFA+MA 2021) accepted an offer of admission from the Program for Writers PhD in English at the University of Illinois at Chicago, which started Fall 2021. In the past year, she has published or has poems forthcoming in the following literary magazines: *Poet Lore*, *The Offing*, *Wildness Magazine*, *Protean Magazine*, *Chicago Quarterly Review*, and *Propter Nos*. She was a finalist for the Elinor Benedict Poetry Prize for sections from her long poem "The Accounts of Mammy Pleasant." She was also a participant in the prestigious writer's workshop, the Palm Beach Poetry Festival, where she worked with Vievee Francis. Additionally, she has finished her first poetry manuscript, tentatively titled *Black Women Standing Ankle-Deep in Pacific Water*—which she is currently sending out to publishers and book prizes.

Paulina Jones-Torregrosa (PhD candidate) was selected for the yearlong Teaching Assistantship in Gender and Sexuality Studies for 2021-22, a position in which she'll be teaching a Spring Quarter course of her own design titled "Women of Color Feminisms."

Nina Moon (PhD candidate) is a recipient of the American Associate of University Women's American Fellowship, supporting

her dissertation writing in 2021-22. She has also been supported during the Fall Quarter by the Newberry Library's Lawrence Lipking Fellowship. During her time in residence, she researched eighteenth-century travel narratives and contact between white settler colonists and Native Americans in the Newberry's Edward E. Ayer Collection. Finally, she was awarded the Kate B and Hall J. Peterson Fellowship from the American Antiquarian Society, funding research in their archives in Worcester, MA, where she plans to examine their collection of eighteenth-century manuscript women's letters and diaries, focusing especially on descriptions of travel, cross-racial contact, and representations of women of color.

S. Yarberry (2nd year PhD) has their first book of poems, *A Boy in the City*, forthcoming from Deep Vellum in May of 2022. Their essay "Some Thoughts on the Monostich" will be appearing in *Annulet: A Journal of Poetics*. You can find recent poems of Smith's in *AGNI*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, and *Pinnwheel*.

Anna Zalokostas (PhD candidate) was selected as a 2021-22 fellow in the Kaplan Humanities Institute's Franke Fellowship Program. Anna participated in the Cornell History of Capitalism Summer School, a 2 week virtual program in July 2021 focused on economic methods for humanists—an intensive crash course on applying quantitative methods and economic theory to historical research.

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In 2019, **Kellen Bolt** (PhD 2018) won the Melville Society's Hennig Cohen Prize for his article "Squeezing Sperm: Nativism, Queer Contact, and the Futures of Democratic Intimacy in *Moby-Dick*," which was published in *ESQ*.

Michael Bryson's (PhD 2001) edited collection, *The Routledge Companion to Humanism and Literature* is forthcoming in March 2022.

Melissa Daniels-Rauterkus (PhD 2012) was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor at the University of Southern California in 2021. In addition, her first book, the 2020 *Afro-Realisms and the Romances of Race: Rethinking Blackness in the African American Novel*, won the 2021 SAMLA Studies Book Award, as well as an honorable mention from the MLA for the William Sanders Scarborough Prize.

Marcy Dinius (PhD 2003) was supposed to spend the 2020-21 academic year on a Fulbright teaching fellowship at Waseda University in Tokyo, but had to decline and reapply because of the pandemic. Having been awarded a second Fulbright, she'll be teaching from March through August 2022 at Tsuda University and Ochanomizu University, both in Tokyo as well. Her book *The Textual Effects of David Walker's "Appeal"* is forthcoming in late March 2022 as one of the last books in the Material Texts series at Penn Press, a project whose roots go back to her postdoc teaching at Northwestern. Also, in 2020-21, Marcy founded an advocacy chapter of the American Association of University Professors at DePaul University, and was elected its first president. She has been working closely with the Northwestern

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chapter's president, Jorge Coronado, as they organize together to face the many significant challenges in higher ed.

Bonnie Etherington (PhD 2020), and her thesis *One Salt Water: Writing the Pacific Ocean in Indigenous Protest Literatures Post-1990*, was chosen by the Australian Association for Pacific Studies (AAPS) as winner of the 2021 Tracey Banivanua Mar PhD Prize. Named after the late Tracey Banivanua Mar, a Pacific historian, colleague, and friend to many within the AAPS community, the prize recognizes the most outstanding PhD thesis by an AAPS student member working in the field of Pacific Studies. Etherington will also be taking up a position at the beginning of 2022 at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand as a Lecturer (the NZ equivalent of the American rank of Assistant Professor) in Literary and Creative Communication.

In 2021, **Becky Fall** (PhD 2016) published "Sense / Nonsense" in *Shakespeare / Text*, edited by Claire M.L. Bourne, and "'The Best Fooling': Every Man Out of His Humour, Twelfth Night, and Early Modern English Nonsense Games" in *The Edinburgh Companion to Nonsense*, edited by Anna Barton and James Williams. Edinburgh. With Noémie Ndiaye, Lia Markey, and Christopher Fletcher, Becky is co-curating a public exhibition at the Newberry Library called *Seeing Race Before Race*, part of a collaborative project with the RaceB4Race collective scheduled to open in Autumn 2023. She'll also be contributing catalog entries for an associated publication of the same title, currently under contract with ACMRS Press.

Carissa Harris (PhD 2012) co-edited a special issue of *The Chaucer Review*, titled "The Ethical Challenges of Chaucerian Scholarship in the 21st Century," with Sarah Baechle. She also published an essay, "Crooked Instruments: Obscene Scribal Creativity in Oxford, Bodleian MS Laud Misc. 416," based on a discovery she made on a research trip funded by Northwestern's Graduate Research Grant (*Modern Philology*, May 2021).

Jackie Hendricks (PhD 2013) wrote and self-published a children's book in 2021. One of the California wildfires burned through her town, destroying about a third of her neighborhood and its infrastructure and displacing her and her family for most of 7 months. The book, titled *Albert's Ashes: A Peacock's Tail*, was inspired by the wild white peacock that lives in her neighborhood and who survived the fire.

Hosanna Krienke's (PhD 2016) first book, *Comalescence in The Nineteenth-Century Novel*, was released in Summer 2021 by Cambridge University Press.

After 14 wonderful years in the English Department at Cornell, **Jenny Mann** (PhD 2006) accepted a new faculty position at NYU in 2020, with a joint appointment in the English Department and the Gallatin School. In addition, her new book, *The Trials of Orpheus: Poetry, Science, and the Early Modern Sublime*, was published in October by Princeton University Press.

Jennifer Michael (PhD 1996) has happily completed her term as Chair of the English Department at Sewanee, and is shifting more energy toward her scholarship. She's working on a chapter for a forthcoming Palgrave volume, *Blake's Manuscripts: Palimpsests and Puzzles*, edited by Mark Crosby and Josie McQuail, and also has a second poetry chapbook forthcoming in 2022 entitled *Dubious Breath*. She also authored part of an exhibition on Blake's Biblical illustrations at the William Blake Archive.

In August 2020, **Laura Passin** (PhD 2012) started a new job as a high school English teacher at St. Mary's Academy in Englewood, CO, a historic high school for girls which issued the very first diploma of any kind in the then-territory of Colorado in the 19th-century. She's continued to pursue her career as an independent scholar and writer outside of teaching, including delivering a recent guest lecture, "Made of Stories, Not of Atoms: Muriel Rukeyser's Poetic Legacies," at the University of Cologne, reading as a featured poet at the virtual election night event with the American Studies department at the University of Bamberg, and leading professional development seminars for the Newberry Teachers' Consortium. Her chapbook, *All Sex and No Story*, was published by Rabbit Catastrophe Press in 2019, selected by Tiana Clark as the winner of the Girls Like Us chapbook contest. Her first full-length book of poems, *Borrowing Your Body*, was released in early November 2021 by Riot In Your Throat Press. Her poems have recently been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net, and have appeared in *SWIM Every Day*, *Moist Poetry Journal*, *Rise Up Review*, *Cotton Xenomorph*, and *West Trade Review*.

Ben Pauley (PhD 2004) has just started a term as chair of the English Department at Eastern Connecticut State.

Gayle Rogers (PhD 2008) has been named Andrew W. Mellon Professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh. His newest book, *Speculation: A Cultural History from Aristotle to AI*, was recently published by Columbia University Press. He begins a three-year term on the executive committee of the Association of Departments of English in January 2022. His *New Modernisms* series (Bloomsbury Academic, co-edited with Sean Latham) has published its final planned volume, and he's now mostly looking forward to being able to travel more soon to see everyone.

Sarah Roth (PhD 2017) is the Upper School Director at Columbia Independent School in Columbia, MO.

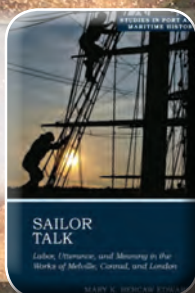
Abram Van Engen (PhD 2010) was promoted to full professor in 2021 at Wash U in St. Louis, and has been co-hosting the Poetry For All podcast with fellow alum Joanne Diaz, a project soon to be starting its fourth season.

ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS

Mary K Bercaw Edwards

(PhD 1984)

*Sailor Talk: Labor, Utterance, and
Meaning in the Works of Melville,
Conrad, and London*
Liverpool UP



Aaron Greenberg (PhD 2017)

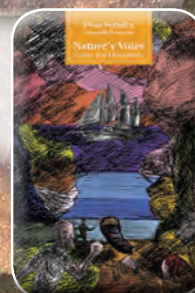
(editor)

Nature's Voice
bioGraph



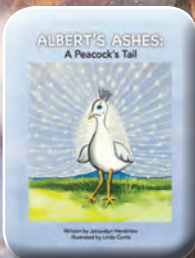
Aaron Greenberg

*Recorded Time: How to Write
the Future*
bioGraph



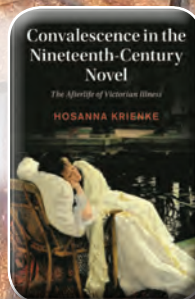
Jackie Hendricks (PhD 2013)

Albert's Ashes: A Peacock's Tail



Hosanna Krienke (PhD 2016)

*Convalescence in the Nineteenth-
Century Novel: The Afterlife of
Victorian Illness*
Cambridge UP



Jenny Mann (PhD 2006)

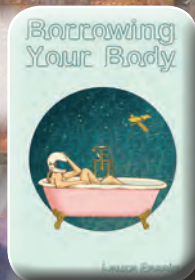
*The Trials of Orpheus: Poetry,
Science, and the Early Modern
Sublime*
Princeton UP



Laura Passin (PhD 2012)

Borrowing Your Body

Riot in Your Throat Press



Gayle Rogers (PhD 2008)

*Speculation: A Cultural History
from Aristotle to AI*
Columbia UP



GRADUATE STUDENT PAPERS & CONFERENCES

JANUARY 2021

Modern Language Association

Samantha Botz (PhD 2021)

panel – Archival Persistence

presented “Care in a Cold Climate: Preservation as Polar Epistemology.”

Jayme Collins (PhD candidate)

panel – Indigenous Epistemologies and Poetics: Thinking Outside the Archive

presented “Layli Long Soldier’s Quilt Poetics”

panel – Some Environmental Approaches to John Clare, organized by the John Clare Society of North America

presented “John Clare in Neon: Environmental Crisis and the Poetics of the Field”

Brad Dubos (PhD candidate)

presented “‘Here nature only reigns’: Jane Johnston Schoolcraft’s Ecological Attention” & “‘Their mingled music’: Notes from the Wheatley-Occom Soundscape”

FEBRUARY

Sixth Annual Post45 Graduate Symposium

Anna Zalokostas (PhD candidate)

presented “Generic Life: Globalization, Branding, and Household Labor in Harryette Mullen’s S*PeRM**K*T”

APRIL

American Comparative Literature Association

Jayme Collins

organized – panel/seminar with Kathryn Crim (Berkeley) titled “Language, Materiality, and the Weather”

presented “Gnomic Landscapes at Ian Hamilton Finlay’s *Little Sparta*”

Adam Syvertsen (PhD candidate)

presented “Unsettling Utopia’s Enclosure: Flight and Imagining Utopia in Martin R. Delany’s *Blake* (1859)”

Northwestern’s CLS Program’s series:

“What Are (and Aren’t) the Political Responsibilities of an Academic”

Brad Dubos presented on a panel with Kelly Wisecup

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Jean Hagstrum Prize for Best Dissertation

2019-20:

Bonnie Etherington (PhD 2020), *One Salt Water: Writing the Pacific Ocean in Contemporary Indigenous Protest Literatures*

2020-21:

Sara Černe (PhD 2020) *American Sediments: Race and Environment in Literature along the Mississippi after Twain*

Minnetta Nichols Hammer Award for Excellence as a Teaching Assistant

2019-20: **Nancy Jiang** (PhD candidate)

2020-21: **Olivia Xu** (PhD candidate)

Minnetta Nichols Hammer Award for Teaching Excellence

2019-20: **Kate Scharfenberg** (PhD candidate)

2020-21: **Jeremiah Barker** (MFA+MA 2021)

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

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Musings

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Musings

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