

# Folia

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
SUMMER 2023

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# GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIRS



I'd like to thank my departmental colleagues and our wonderful students for making this past year a successful one for our programs and a rewarding one for me personally. It was great to return from COVID protocols, with mostly in-person meetings and class sessions. We ended the year with an impressive display of student work on English Day and a celebration of our graduates at commencement. I look forward to hearing back from those graduates, many of whom shared their plans for future endeavors, including travel, graduate school and the workforce. I'm also looking forward to Prof. Bill Russell's term as department chair and could not be more confident in his leadership. Finally, I want to thank Callie Fleming Renner, our administrative coordinator, for keeping everything running smoothly throughout our transitional year.

**Scott Peeples, outgoing interim chair**



I am honored to serve as chair of this department – and eager to get started. In preparing for this new role, nothing has been more helpful than the guidance provided by our two previous chairs, Scott Peeples and Myra Seaman. I am grateful to both of them and will strive to follow their lead, working closely with faculty, staff, students, and alumni to foster a positive, thriving community. We have a lot to look forward to this fall. A record number of incoming students. Innovative and exciting courses like Kenny Johnson's "Fire in Little Africa," which examines the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre through the lenses of literature, history, and music. And milestones, including the publication of Tony Varallo's award-winning new collection of stories, *What Did You Do Today?* I hope you will stay tuned throughout the year and share the experience with us!

**Bill Russell, incoming chair**

**We hope you'll enjoy what you read in the pages that follow, and that you'll continue to stay engaged with the Department of English. The success of our program depends upon the involvement of our alums, so please contact department chair Bill Russell at [russellw@cofc.edu](mailto:russellw@cofc.edu) or 843-953-4959 to give us an update, share your ideas, or let us know how you might be of service to the department and our students.**

# YOU DID IT, GRAD!

More than sixty students crossed the stage in Cistern Yard this spring to receive diplomas from our undergraduate and graduate programs. Some will go on to graduate school. Some will begin careers in education, journalism, marketing, technical writing – the list goes on. Some are still weighing their options.

## WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS AFTER GRADUATION?



**Margaret Bruce**

"I'll be attending University College Dublin in the Fall for a Master's in Human Rights Studies."



**Bailey Ford**

"Right now, I plan to spend a year working and writing and seeing what I can and can't get published since I'm graduating early. During that time, I plan to research graduate and MFA programs and see if any of them seem like the right fit for me."



**Brandon Eichelberg**

"After I graduate, I plan to pursue a TEFL certificate so I may teach English overseas. In the long run, I plan to attend graduate school and perhaps continue my study of literature."



**Allen Duggar**

"I don't have immediate post-graduation plans, but my ultimate goal is to go on to grad school in religious studies and hopefully land an academic job somewhere down the line."



**Taylor Ward**

"After college I would like to get involved in media or video game journalism, or see where my prospective job with Disney will take me!"



**Caden Albert**

"I am on track to be a graduate assistant for collegiate volleyball (currently talking with around 15 D1 programs) and I am completing my education certification with James Island Charter HS."



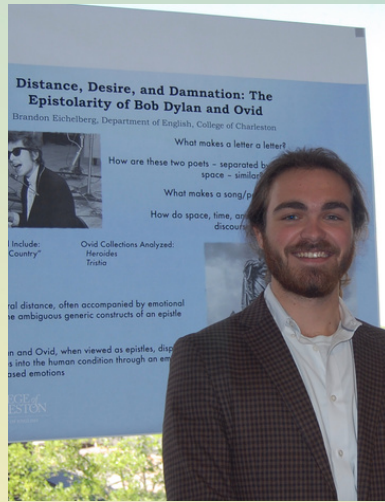
**Caroline Graham**

"I plan to teach English at Lucy Beckham high school. I'll either be teaching 9th or 10th grade!"



# English Day

English Day celebrates the accomplishments of senior English majors at the College of Charleston. Participants are nominated by professors for their work in upper-level courses, independent studies, and Bachelor's Essay projects.



The 31st annual English Day celebration was held on April 21, 2023. Students presented posters based on their research and read selections from their fiction and poetry. We had a strong turnout and an impressive program of student work, including 17 posters, 4 videos, and 8 readings.



## Sarah Margaret Goad Memorial Undergraduate Prizes in Poetry and Fiction

### Poetry

#### 1st Place

Samantha Barnhart, "Ripe for the Picking (Through the Unwitting Grapevine)"

#### 2nd Place

Jordynn Pinckney, "A Mother's Touch"

#### Honorable Mention

Mik Connor, "isaiah and i"

### Fiction

#### 1st Place

Margaret Bruce, "How to Deal with an Aggressive Rooster"

#### 2nd Place

Bailey Ford, "I Write Comics"

#### Honorable Mention

Anna Deason, "Summer Migrations"

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Elizabeth Askins, "On Felt Sense & Memories"

Peyton Baxley, "Pale Beauty: The Privilege of White Deception in *Vanity Fair*"

Margaret Bruce, "Modern Connections in Alexander Pope's *The Rape of the Lock*"

Laura Carnahan, "Code-Meshing for a New Literary Landscape"

Devin Dehollander, "*Blade Runner* (1982): How Our Perceptions Lie to Us"

Eliza Dinh, "Frances Ellen Watkins Harper: Activism through Poetry"

Adam Dorsheimer, "God, Satan, and Moral Trial in *Paradise Lost*"

Allen Duggar, "King Arthur and King Cornwall: Resurrecting the Arthurian Ballad"

Brandon Eichelberg, "Distance, Desire, and Damnation: The Epistolarity of Bob Dylan and Ovid"

Bailey Ford, "The New Southern Gothic"

Joey Kirkman, "The Fall of Icarus in Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*"

Julia Miller, "Usability Study and Report: Evaluating the Charleston County Public Library's Website"

Brendan Montesinos, "Walking, Creativity, and Finding Flow through the Talking Heads"

Catherine Quarles, "Teaching Queer Southern Lit"

Luke Shaw, "A Little God: A Podcast"

Dorian Steele, "Female Anger in the Horror Genre"

Taylor Ward, "The Not-So-Bright Side of Life: Using Pope's *Essay on Criticism* to Understand *The Life of Brian* Controversy"

# STUDENT AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## CONSEULA FRANCIS ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

DeCoria Owens

## ANNA B. KATONA AWARD IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Brandon Eichelberg

## ENGLISH ALUMNI AWARDS

Caroline Vincent  
DJ Rouse

## MACY EZELL COOKE SCHOLARSHIP

Dorian Steele

## DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

Annabella Benvenuti  
Bailey Ford

## TRANSFER STUDENT AWARD

Tabetha Judy

## HSS SCHOLARS

Adam Dorsheimer  
Catherine Quarles

## OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Tabetha Judy Joey Kirkman Caroline Lamm  
Sydney Maguire Bailey Ford Peyton Baxley  
Margaret Bruce Allen Duggar

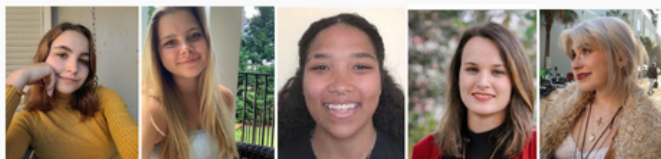
## MFA STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Kangkang Kovacs** (MFA '23) was selected as one of two inaugural recipients of the Excellence in Experiential Learning Graduate School Award. Kangkang also won the MFA Prize in Fiction for her novel excerpt, "Plum Snow," and was awarded second place in the Porter Fleming Literary Competition for her essay, "Firecracker Bill."

**Hailey Williams** (MFA/ARCM '23) won the MFA Prize in Poetry for her poem, "L'Origine du Monde by Gustave Courbet, 1866." She was also selected to be an intern for the Library of Congress, working remotely full time on research with the American Archive of Public Broadcasting.

**Tanner Crunelle** (MFA '24) won the Clyde Robinson Poetry Prize for his poem, "Ode from a Grecian Porch."

**Hackwriters.com, a 24-year-old international on-line magazine, has published ENGL 305 course writings of 5 writing, rhetoric, and publication students:**



Izzy Adler Junior English/ WGS, WRP  
Mary-Martha Beard Senior English, WRP  
Brayana Godbolt Junior English/ WRP  
Katherine Jordan Senior English/Music, WRP  
Audrey Kelly Sophomore Comm, WRP



"Checklists Make Great Life Rafts"



"Letting Go of Momma Honda"



"They Act Like They're Scared of Us."



"Saved by a Bagel"



"The Iron Lady and the Violin"

Read them here:

<https://www.hackwriters.com/checklistIA.htm>  
<https://www.hackwriters.com/MommaHondaMMB.htm>  
<https://www.hackwriters.com/respectwomen.htm>  
<https://www.hackwriters.com/BagelKJ.htm>  
<https://www.hackwriters.com/ViolinAK.htm>



# HSS Scholars



TWO GRADUATING SENIORS FROM EACH DEPARTMENT ARE HONORED EVERY YEAR BY THE DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



ADAM  
DORSHEIMER

**Educational Highlights:** At CofC, I have been able to hone my teaching skills in various roles, including as a faculty member at Lighthouse Writers Workshop, a Japanese language tutor at CofC's Center for Student Learning, and a teaching apprentice for a 200-level sociology course. I have continued to pursue my love of creative writing, publishing a number of poems and short stories over the course of my student career. I have been honored to receive several scholarships and awards for my achievements. From the Department of English, I am grateful to have been granted the Lancelot Minor Harris and Marilyn Shiely Coste Scholarships. Additionally, I am proud to have received the Outstanding Student Award in Sociology, the Center for Creative Retirement Gerontology Award, and the Outstanding Student During the Third Year of Japanese Language Studies Award.

**Research Focus:** During my junior year, I had the opportunity to write a research paper on Natsume Soseki's *Kokoro* for my Introduction to English Studies course. This project allowed me to craft an interdisciplinary essay on how the educational and intellectual culture of Japan in the Meiji era influenced one of the most important novels of its time. This project sticks out for me because of the immense joy I found in using the research process to explore my academic curiosity.

**Future Plans:** In the most immediate future, I plan to travel and visit with family. Afterwards, I will be seeking employment in areas that will allow me to use the skills I have cultivated to help others. I am also considering a move to Japan, where I would teach English as a second language.



CATHERINE  
QUARLES

**Educational Highlights:** From coming in as a Lightsey Fellow and taking Gothic Lit as my FYSS, to studying abroad in London and learning about British Gothic Literature, to entering a Marketing Internship with 303 Associates, I have gained so much along my path as an English major. I have also loved being involved in the community as a member of the Student Advisory Group to the English Department, representing the English Department as an HSS Ambassador, and teaching as a Peer Facilitator. I have enjoyed membership in Sigma Tau Delta, Phi Kappa Phi, and the National Society of Leadership and Success. I have presented my work at two Sigma Tau Delta International Conventions, and I was fortunate to win the Outstanding Poster in the Humanities Award at the 2023 Student Expo. As a studio art minor, I was proud to show my work in Young Contemporaries 2023, for which I was awarded Best in Show.

**Research Focus:** I pursued an Independent Study on Queer Southern Literature with Dr. Julia Eichelberger. In my paper, I explored the ways in which departures from heteronormative and binary categories of identity reveal and threaten the entrenched power structures of race, class, and gender in the South. I analyzed texts by Eudora Welty, Flannery O'Connor, Tennessee Williams, and William Faulkner, as well as the podcast *S-Town*. I feel it is necessary now more than ever to recognize the historical and contemporary significance of queer expression in the South.

**Future Plans:** I will be attending The Citadel's English, Master of Arts program in the fall. I am very excited to pursue my master's degree while I continue to gain experience in marketing with my current employer, 303 Associates.



# Outstanding Students



**THIS AWARD RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING ENGLISH MAJORS. THE RECIPIENTS OF THIS AWARD ARE VOTED ON BY THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT FACULTY.**



**PEYTON BAXLEY**

Literature & Film



**MARGARET BRUCE**

Creative Writing



**ALLEN DUGGAR**

Creative Writing



**BAILEY FORD**

Creative Writing



**TABETHA JUDY**

Writing, Rhetoric, & Publication



**JOEY KIRKMAN**

Creative Writing



**CAROLINE LAMM**

Writing, Rhetoric, & Publication



**SYDNEY MAGUIRE**

Writing, Rhetoric, & Publication

# English Major Spotlight



Last year English major **Michael Stein '24** revived the Chrestomathic Literary Society, an undergraduate organization founded at the College of Charleston in 1848.

"Reviving the Chrestomathic Literary Society has been one of the top honors of my undergraduate career.

"I'm so proud to bring back such a significant piece of our College's rich history and tradition. As we celebrate its 175th anniversary this year, the Society has evolved into a much needed and vibrant part of our campus community.

"I am deeply grateful to contribute to the legacy of the College, and I know that all of our members are as well.

"To follow along, come find us at 26 Glebe St., and follow us on Instagram (@chrestomathicsociety)."

Stein gained courtside experience this summer through an internship with the Office of the Virginia Attorney General made possible by a Career Center Internship Award.

"I've learned all about the VA Court System, criminal appeals, and elder abuse. However, what resonated most with me personally was the opportunity to support victims.

"I chose to study English and pursue this path because I believe that words can make a world of difference.

"Working with victims, I have been assured of this belief: that communicating clearly, effectively, and empathetically can mean allowing someone a moment of calm in a tornado of unrest. Even if you don't think your words matter, they can be a moment of refuge during an onslaught of fear. It's the small things -- a few simple words here and there that really mean 'I'm here with you' -- that matter."

Read more on [The College Today](#).



# *Beyond the English Major*

“Beyond the English Major” is the capstone course for the Literature and Film concentration. But you might think of it less as a conclusion and more as a gateway to what comes next, whether that is work or graduate study.

Here are our LF Seniors' English Stories, in which they share their motivations for choosing and committing to the major.

“WHAT WILL I DO WITH MY LIFE?” AND OTHER EASY QUESTIONS TO ANSWER BY PEYTON BAXLEY

THIS IS WHY I'M HERE BY EMMA BARRIOS

“OH, YOU'RE AN ENGLISH MAJOR?” BY TAYLOR WARD

A STORY ABOUT A STORY BY BEVAN BUNCH

SO, WHY AM I STUDYING LITERATURE? BY BRANDON EICHELBERG

IN DEFENSE OF MY OWN INTERESTS BY ZOE REALE

DISCOVERING ENGLISH AS A SCIENCE KID BY OLIVIA HOWE

WHY CALCULATING THE VALUE OF LITERATURE IS IMPOSSIBLE BY ADAM DORSHEIMER

# Study Abroad

## SPOLETO, ITALY



CofC students interested in travel writing and literature have been returning to Spoleto, Italy—Charleston's Sister City—for over a decade. Perched atop a hill, the ancient city of Spoleto overlooks the vast Umbrian valley to the North.



This past spring, professors Anton Vander Zee and Gary Jackson led a group of 16 students on an adventure that included a weekend in Florence alongside a range of excursions: truffle hunting in the foothills around Pettino, a private wine tasting, multi-course group dinners, and a bike excursion along the stunning converted Spoleto-Norcia railway. Classes were held at the famed Hotel Gattapone overlooking the sacred forests of Monteluco and just steps from the iconic Ponte della Torre—the "bridge of towers" used as an aqueduct in Roman times. Students were also able to take advantage of a long free weekend, taking trips to Rome, the Amalfi Coast, Pompei, and Orvieto. Professors Gary Jackson and Yunah Kae are already planning next year's study abroad adventure!

# Faculty Spotlight



Congratulations to Professor Kathy Béres Rogers, who received the College of Charleston's Distinguished Service Award this year.

Kathy's service in diverse capacities has transformed our campus; it has provided unique learning opportunities to students she engages in academic service-learning projects; and it has improved the lives of members of the larger community. Kathy provides vital leadership in creating new spaces for academic and cultural exchange on our campus. She shapes the community through the investment of her time, her scholarship, her creativity, and her activist commitment. With these, she makes connections across and beyond campus that provide paths to learning and understanding, serving all of our community members including, but not exclusively, our students.

It's great to see Kathy recognized for her tireless efforts in establishing Medical Humanities at CofC (and MUSC), as well as her work as co-chair of the Neurodiversity Initiative, her leadership in service learning, and many other service projects on and off campus.

# Faculty Notes

**Prof. Terence Bowers'** article, "John Locke, Ecological Imperialism, and the Narration of the Land in Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*--A Tale of the Anthropocene," will appear in *Studies in Philology* this fall (2023).

**Prof. Laura Cannon** is entering her sixth year of teaching at the College, during which she's enjoyed working with freshmen and creative writing students. Partnering with the school's REACH program has been particularly rewarding during this time. The Park Circle coffee shop she co-owns turned 10 years old in June and continues to surprise and delight with its various demands. During maternity leave for her second daughter this past January, she restructured a manuscript that toggles between fiction and memoir. The most recent book inspiration for her own creative work is *World of Wonders* by Aimee Nezhukumatahil.

**Prof. Bonnie Devet** continues her publishing of articles and making presentations at conferences. This last year saw three articles arrive in the world. One publication focused on the teaching of style: "Style Matters: Revitalizing the Revitalizing the Third Canon of Rhetoric" (*The CEA Critic*). The other two publications examined issues for directing the Writing Lab: "When Classmates Know You're a Writing Center Consultant" (*WLN: A Journal of Writing Center Scholarship*) and "Decolonizing a Writing Lab: Training Consultants through Analogies" (*Praxis: A Writing Center Journal*). In fact, "When Classmates Know...." has been nominated for the "outstanding article of the year." Travel to conferences was also on the agenda, with presentations at the two College English Association Conferences ("Style Matters: Revitalizing the Study of Style" and "Write Like a Roman! Using the Progymnasmata with Modern Students"). "Style Matters" was even chosen "best in session" at the CEA conference. International travel also occurred with a presentation at the International Writing Center Association Conference held in Vancouver, British Columbia.



Publications and conference presentations are useful, but most important are the honors accrued by Dr. Devet's Writing Lab consultants and Advanced Writing students. The Writing Lab consultant Mollie Bowman was named CofC's Student Employee of the Year; then, she was chosen by the National Student Employment Association (NSEA) as one of 19 students across the United States as Student Employee of the Year. The consultant Colette O'Neill (Bio/Sec Ed, Junior) used her Writing Lab experience to write "Why Are Writing Lab Clients Not Excited About Their Writing?" which was published by the Palmetto State Writing Center Association Newsletter. And, then, seven students in English 305 (Advanced Writing) had their personal voice, travel writings, or opinion pieces published online at an international magazine archived at the British Library.

**Prof. Mike Duvall** organized a roundtable conversation for the annual meeting of the American Literature Association in Boston in May on "Framing the American Literature Survey and Engaging Our Survey Students." In June, he gave an online lecture for the Renwen Society of the China Institute in America on Yan Phou Lee, the first Asian American to publish a book in the United States. His literary

historical essay on Yan Phou Lee will appear in the Fall/Winter 2023 issue of *Global Nineteenth-Century Studies*. "Writing for Children in the Era of Chinese Exclusion: Yan Phou Lee and *When I was a Boy in China*" analyzes Lee's 1887 book, first published in a children's magazine, in light of his purposeful work to become a writer in the service of the Chinese and within the context of a children's periodical market rife with writing centered on the real and imagined lives of children in other locations--geographic, social, racial, and ethnic. Dr. Duvall looks forward to teaching a first year experience seminar this fall on what American Literature can teach us about race, equity, and inclusion.



researching and sharing a more complete history of the College and our surrounding neighborhood, using physical signage, online publications, and in-person learning. This year the CCL installed a new exhibit on the life of Septima Poinsette Clark. They published online essays, installed a mural by Natalie Daise in the Education Center atrium, and held a celebratory event in February. Those who contributed to this project were English faculty Valerie Frazier (co-chair of the CCL), Simon Lewis, Joe Kelly, and Susan Farrell, English alumni Harlan Greene and Tanner Crunelle, and students in the 1967 Legacy Scholars program (directed by Valerie Frazier). They also added stories to Discovering Our Past and created a virtual tour to complement the College's second annual Maroon Walk for Juneteenth. "I hope to continue researching a topic that Samantha Hooker '22 started working on in one of my classes in 2022: a clandestine school for enslaved people, right where some of the English Department's offices are--so stay tuned!"



Working along with students and other faculty, **Prof. Julia Eichelberger** created a new LibGuide, Exploring the Indigenous South, to guide people interested in the past and present experiences of Native Americans in our region. Prof. Eichelberger is a co-chair (with Valerie Frazier) of the Committee on Commemoration and Landscapes (CCL). The CCL is charged with

Prof. Eichelberger taught a new class, Studying Southern Literature and Cultures, and this fall will teach Charleston Writers, Coming of Age in Southern Spaces, and Introduction to English Studies. She continues to work on a book of letters by Eudora Welty and completed an essay "Visionary and Incomplete: Comparing Cultural Landscapes of Faulkner, Wright, and Welty" for a volume on Faulkner and Mississippi modernists Welty and Wright. "I was also very excited that Catherine Quarles '23 won a prize for the poster presented at the CofC Expo in April. This poster, which she also shared at English Day, represents a course she designed, Teaching Queer Southern Literature, during an independent study and a Southern Studies Capstone project she did with me."



**Prof. Susan Farrell** has been on sabbatical for the past academic year, working on her book, *The Good War and the Lousy Little Book: The Making of Kurt Vonnegut's Slaughterhouse-Five*. She published two articles last spring, one on Kurt Vonnegut's depiction of real-life American Nazis in his novel *Mother Night*, which appeared in the *Journal of Modern Literature*, and the other about poison and gender in Shirley Jackson's novel *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*, published in the most recent edition of the journal *CEA Critic*. She is looking forward to teaching in Trujillo, Spain, next fall and to being back in the classroom at CofC in the spring.



**Prof. Kenneth Johnson II**, seen below at the 2nd annual Juneteenth Maroon Walk, was a host for the luncheon, where they played card games, chatted, and had a soul food feast.



This summer Prof. Johnson had the amazing opportunity to lead an essay writing workshop for the Senior Project hosted by the Office of Admissions, Access Initiatives, and Pre-College Programs.

The project invites seniors from across the country to an immersive, on-campus experience where they meet with faculty, administrators, and students to become familiar with all CofC has to offer them as their next home. They discussed how student narratives amplify college admissions essays and tangible ways to include those narratives to bolster their admissions applications. Students were excited to know their lived experiences were not only necessary, but valued in the college admissions process, and eager to write, edit, and revise.



Having just returned from co-teaching the Spoleto, Italy Study Abroad 2023 Summer program, **Gary Jackson** came back to two interviews published in *West Branch* and *underbelly* – discussing new poems, the importance of revision, and his love of *The Uncanny X-Men*. He recently published poems in *Copper Nickel*, *Gulf Coast*, and *Bellingham Review*, and was invited to work with an independent nonprofit, Humanities Kansas—to celebrate Kansas poets and wildflowers in an illustrated chapbook, *Wild Words*, published this summer.

**Prof. Joe Kelly** is teaching travel writing in Trujillo, Spain, this Fall. He's currently at work on a book called, *The Liberals: How America Learned to Tell the Truth, Reinvent Democracy, and Beat Fascism*.

**Prof. Simon Lewis** has continued to do a fair bit of reviewing for the *P&C* as well as scholarly journals, such as *African Studies Review*. He has a couple of essays coming out in the fall: an article on representations of Charleston in African American poetry, "Truth and Reconciliation in Charleston, SC—Slavery Central," in the *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies*; an essay comparing the Nobel laureates Abdulrazak Gurnah and V.S. Naipaul, "Abdulrazak Gurnah and V.S. Naipaul: Memory of Departure vs. Enigma of Arrival," forthcoming in Lokangaka Losambe and Tanure Ojaide, eds., *The Routledge Handbook of the New African Diasporic Literature* (2023); and an afterword, "Atlantic Port Cities – Creole Spaces" in Blake Scott and Jacob Steere-Williams, eds., *Port Cities of the Atlantic World: Sea-Facing Histories of the US South* (University of South Carolina Press, 2023)

On the admin prof. service front, Prof. Lewis is beginning his second year as a member of the Executive Council of the ALA, serving on the conference organizing committee, and as Director of the REI Initiative at the College. The latest issue of *Illuminations*, #38, appeared in June.



**Prof. Bret Lott** was featured in a recent article in *The College Today* on teaching writing with humor and goodwill. Check it out [here](#).

Congratulations to **Prof. Malinda McCollum** on being promoted to Associate Professor!

**Prof. Scott Peeples** is writing a book about Bob Dylan, so earlier this summer, he spent a week in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in the archives at the recently opened Bob Dylan Center. Scott had the opportunity to look at some of his notebooks and drafts of song lyrics, as well as correspondence from other performers and public figures. The week of his research trip coincided with a terrific music-and-ideas conference, Tulsa Switchyard, so he was also able to hear a lot of good music and attend presentations by Art Spiegelman, Natasha Trethewey, Maia Kobabe, and others.





**Prof. Kathy Béres Rogers** ran the NYC marathon! And she's been working hard on her book: *Out of the Age of Reason: Narratives of Romantic Era Cognitive Disability*. She just returned from looking through archives in London (the London Municipal Archives and the Bethlem (Bedlam) Archive) as well as in Brighton (the Sussex archives) to find lived experiences of what the Romantics diagnosed as "idiocy" or "imbecility." She found some interesting things, probably the most interesting being the number of foreigners diagnosed as such because they understood not a word of English, the "woman" who was considered an imbecile because they "thought she was a man," and the "imbecile" who was diagnosed as such because he was a "sodomite." She's excited to get back in the classroom and share some of her findings with her students!

Congratulations to **Prof. Emily Rosko** on her promotion to Professor!

**Prof. Bill Russell** spent the fall on sabbatical, pursuing a new research project on the curious and revealing tendency of early modern poets to compare themselves to magpies. This made him all the more excited to spot some real magpies on a spring break trip to Italy with Prof. Bret Lott and the fantastic students enrolled in Prof. Lott's First-Year Experience course on food writing. (There they are below, hunting for truffles and making ravioli.)





After completing her 5-year term as department chair in July 2022, **Prof. Myra Seaman** started a year-long sabbatical. She performed extensive research for a new project on anonymity and literary value in late medieval England, which included time spent with medieval manuscripts in London, Dublin, Oxford, and Cambridge (thanks to support from the HSS Dean's Discretionary Fund). An article from that project will be published in the journal *Textual Practice* this fall. Prof. Seaman presented a paper at the New Chaucer Society conference in Durham, England, and another at the Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, and attended the Modern Language Association conference in San Francisco. She spent a couple of months getting to know Chicago, where her daughter lives, while some invasive work was being done on her townhouse to correct construction defects. She also visited friends in Italy and in Serbia. Thanks to being on sabbatical, she had the chance to attend a large number of events at the Charleston Literary Festival in November. She also took two different week-long bike trips: one last July from Santa Fe to Taos, NM, and this year, she mountain-biked and camped along the Continental Divide trail in Montana. She took up bouldering (at the gym, not out in the wild!) and continued learning Spanish (finally, at long last, mastering the subjunctive mood). She's eager to get back in the classroom this August, when she'll be teaching Medieval Feminism and two sections of First-Year Writing.



The Wren Library at Trinity College, Cambridge, where Prof. Seaman worked with medieval manuscripts in June 2023 (at a table behind a large statue by Bertel Thorvaldsen of Lord Byron, alum of Trinity College, Cambridge—you can get a glimpse of the statue at the center of the room far in the distance).



Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico



In late April, **Prof. Meg Scott Copses** journeyed to Queens University in Belfast, Ireland, as a guest lecturer. Because of her expertise in creative writing, composition, and embodied pedagogy, she was asked to help study-abroad students “radically revise” their final projects. Students participated in a two-part walking and writing activity that moved them around Belfast. The walk culminated at the Peace Walls, a stretch of murals on walls raised to separate warring factions of Belfast during the civil war that citizens refer to as The Troubles.



Prof. Scott Copses teaching in Belfast, Ireland

**Prof. Anton Vander Zee** led the Department's study abroad trip to Spoleto, Italy, in May and June, teaching a course on contemporary genres of travel writing. While in Italy, he also delivered a paper at the annual International Walt Whitman Week Symposium in Rome and spent a few weeks exploring Tuscany and Umbria with his family. This year, Vander Zee completed work on two projects—an essay on teaching the contemporary African American sonnet and an edited collection on honors first-year seminars—and he looks forward to getting back to his scholarship on the poet Walt Whitman's late work in the coming year.



The class, The Global Honors Writing Workshop, was an interdisciplinary seminar, which meant student projects were wildly varied—ranging from political science and social justice to feminist rhetorics, history, travel writing, and tourism. Dr. Meg (as students call her) challenged the class to use movement as a catalyst for writing, thinking, and revising—a practice she's used with countless students here at CofC.

Dr. Meg's travels continue this summer as she returns to Greece for a family holiday.



# What did you do today?

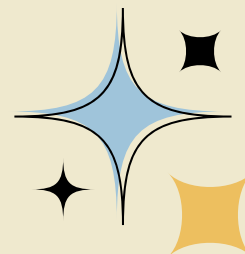


ANTHONY VARALLO

**Prof. Anthony Varallo** won the Katherine Anne Porter Prize in Short Fiction for his story collection *What Did You Do Today?*, forthcoming from the University of North Texas Press in November. He will have a book launch, Wednesday, 11/15, at [Buxton Books](#) at 5:30pm.

The stories in *What Did You Do Today?* explore the ordinary and the offbeat as if they were one and the same, asking what it's like to be alive and what makes us human. With warmth, humor, and wonder, these stories suggest that the past is always alive in the present and that even the most fleeting relationships have the power to change us forever. In these short narratives, nothing is negligible, and all experience is transformative. You can pre-order *What Did You Do Today?* [here](#).

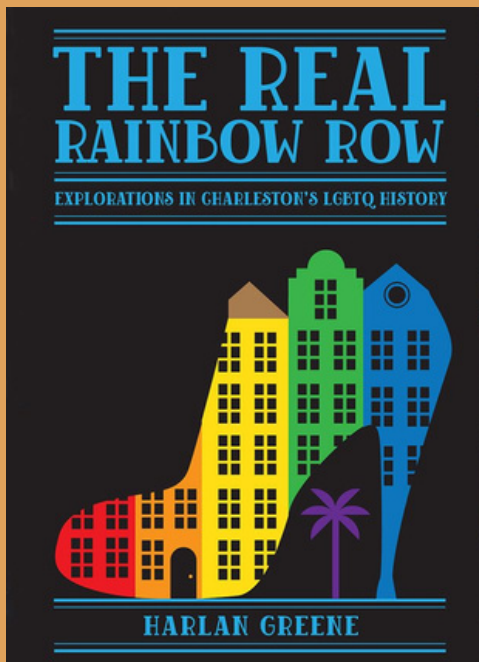
**Prof. Chris Warnick** began directing the Writing, Rhetoric, and Publication (WRP) program, teaching a new course in usability and document design. He continued co-editing the scholarly journal *Literacy in Composition Studies* and is looking forward to drawing on this experience as he develops a new WRP capstone course, for Spring 2024, on editing and publication. His clawhammer banjo skills have improved ever so slightly and he has recently taken up the even more unhip hobby of stamp collecting, focused on Iceland, Ireland, and other places he has visited or plans to visit. He eagerly awaits the next installment in the *Fast and Furious* universe.



# ALUMNI NOTES

**James A. Carter '73** is a retired high school English teacher and adjunct professor. He was a member of the The Chrestomathic Literary Society when he was an English major. The Chrestomathic Society was revived by English major Michael Stein in 2022.

**Harlan Greene '74** is the outreach archivist and project coordinator for the SC LGBTQ Oral Histories, Archives, and Outreach Project in Special Collections at the College of Charleston's Marlene & Nathan Addlestone Library. This year he discussed his book, *The Real Rainbow Row: Explorations in Charleston's LGBTQ History*, with *The College Today* and was profiled by English major Zoe Reale in "Discovering Passions with Harlan Greene."



**Natalie Parker Bluestein '87** has practiced Family Law at Bluestein & Douglas since 1999. Mrs. Bluestein has received the Women of Distinction award from the Girl Scouts of America, The Compleat Lawyer (Gold) award from the University of South Carolina School of Law, is the former President of the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association and the former president of the Charleston County Bar Association. She is the Ninth Circuit Chair for the South Carolina Bar Association's Resolution of Fee Disputes Board and is also a Regional Chair for the organization, positions she has held since 2005 and 2009, respectively. She is AV-rated in Martindale-Hubbell by her legal peers. Natalie and her husband have two English Springer Spaniels, four cats who run the house, and lots of fish. They enjoy working out together, competing in classic car shows, attending plays, musicals, and concerts, and going to as many sporting events as possible!

**Leigh Jones Handal '81** has recently become a regular columnist for *The Post and Courier*. Her "Do You Know Your Lowcountry" column illuminates the historical people, events, and places that have shaped who we are as a community today. Her third book, a rewrite of the popular *Charleston Then & Now*, is set for release in March 2024. She owns her own tour company, *Charleston Raconteurs*, and serves as Chief Advancement Officer at the American College of the Building Arts. Last fall she was named Outstanding Professional Fundraiser by the S.C. Lowcountry Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.





**Melissa C. Johnson '89** After almost two years at Penn State in the role of Associate Vice President and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, central Pennsylvania is becoming more familiar to Melissa Johnson. She and her husband are enjoying the more temperate summer weather, hiking in the beautiful mountains, and all the wonderful farm-fresh food grown locally. She misses teaching but is looking forward to teaching a first-year seminar for first-generation college students at Penn State this fall. Charleston is still one of her favorite places, and she hopes to get back for a visit to the city and the College soon.



**Lisa Broome '92** is Associate Director, LSA Honors Program at the University of Michigan.

**Madelyn Cocke Caraway '93** works for The Marston Group, PLC. She lives in Memphis, TN, with her husband, Kirk Caraway, and their two sons, Caleb and Lucas, who are both in high school. They stay busy with their sports and travel.



**Michelle Asha Cooper '95** is Vice President for Public Policy & Executive Director of Lumina's Washington, D.C. Office.



**Tina Cundari '96** joined Smith Robinson in March 2023 after serving as an Assistant United States Attorney and Chief of the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office in South Carolina. Tina is married to Cory Manning, also a lawyer, and they have a 14-year-old English Springer Spaniel named Jo Jo. Read more about Tina in a profile written by English major Peyton Baxley [here](#).

**Lief Fitzpatrick '99** is the Assistant Public Works Director in Matthews, NC. Lief's interests are economic development, intergovernmental relations, performance management, and the equitable distribution of greenspaces.

**Isabel Gardett BA '00 MA '04** works as a ghostwriter, writing anonymously. Read more on Isabel in a profile written by English major Brandon Eichelberg [here](#).

**Elizabeth L. Williams '00** is a high school counselor for Sumter School District.

**Jimmy Butts '04** recently had his book *Strangely Rhetorical* come out with Utah State University Press. He has enjoyed thinking differently with students from the various places he has taught writing, including Louisiana State University, Wake Forest, Clemson, Winthrop, and Charleston County High Schools. He is interested in postmodern writing styles and the future of composition and rhetoric and has published in *Communication Design Quarterly*, *Textshop Experiments*, *Pre-Text*, and elsewhere.



**Alicia Weir '04** lives with her husband, Kevin, and kids, Ben (5) and Gabby (3) in Atlanta, GA. She works remotely for Vanguard, the largest asset management company in the U.S., which is based in Malvern, PA. She leads a team of five awesome user experience and market researchers within Vanguard's Financial Advisor Services business. "It's a job I love, and where I find myself constantly using the writing skills and rhetorical techniques I learned from CofC's amazing English professors!"



**Jeremy Ekberg MA '05** earned his Ph.D. in English from the University of Alabama in 2011. He is assistant professor in the English Department at Fort Hays State University (Kansas), where he specializes in teaching writing and research to undergraduate students.

Jeremy has published articles and book chapters on the works of Samuel Beckett, Jean-Paul Sartre, Eugene O'Neill, and Vladimir Nabokov, and has presented academic research papers at conferences in Europe, North America, Asia, and Australia. His book, *The Myth of Identity in Modern Drama*, was published in 2015. Prior to teaching at FHSU, Ekberg spent five years in China teaching American literature, literary theory, drama, ESL, and other courses to English majors and non-English majors. His interests include modern drama, twentieth-century world literature and culture, postmodernism and post-traumatic stress disorder and modern war literature. Dr. Ekberg will be teaching at a partner university in China beginning in the fall of 2023.

**Dana Nunley Charles '05** lives in Ashburn, VA, and has been the Sales Director at CARFAX for over five years. She enjoys golfing, coaching her 9-year-old daughter's soccer team, cooking, and spending time with family.

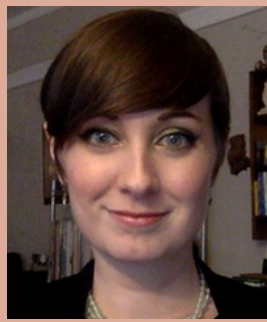


**Megan Stauffer '06** lives in Chapel Hill, NC, and is a perinatal therapist. She has an MSW and is working on her clinical license. She attended graduate school at UNC-Chapel Hill. Stauffer specializes in perinatal mood and anxiety disorders and works at a mental health facility called Anchor Perinatal Wellness in Raleigh.



**Michael T. Cooper '07** is a Partner and the Director of Civil Litigation at Apostolou Law Firm. Michael practices in the areas of catastrophic injuries and social justice cases.

**Erin Workman '07** has been tenured and promoted to Associate Professor of Writing, Rhetoric, & Discourse at DePaul University in Chicago, IL, where she also directs the First-Year Writing Program.



**Cassie Gilston (née Mandel) '10** works in Investor Relations at a hedge fund based in New York City. She lives with her husband and daughter in Manhattan.



**Avery Trainor '08** is Provost Marshal, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, MAGTF Training Center, in Twentynine Palms, California.

**Christopher Willoughby '09**  
"A lot has happened in the last few years since finishing my PhD in history at Tulane. I have had postdocs/Visiting positions at Penn State, Harvard University, The Huntington Library, and Pitzer College. I have also had the pleasure of publishing two books.



"In 2021, the Louisiana State University Press published a collection of essays entitled *Medicine and Healing in the Age of Slavery* that I edited with my good friend Sean Morey Smith. This past November, my book *Masters of Health: Racial Science and Slavery in U.S. Medical Schools* was published by the University of North Carolina Press. I have also been lucky to give a number of talks in support of the book at history departments, medical schools, and a nursing school as well as appearing in the documentary *Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery*. Finally, I am excited to say that in the fall, I will take up a new position as Assistant Professor of African American & African Diaspora Studies in the Department of Interdisciplinary, Gender, & Ethnic Studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. I am really excited to start this new journey in the West, and it feels fitting after double majoring in English and History (and nearly minoring in American Studies...) to end up in an interdisciplinary position like this. Thanks for the training!"

**Erin McPherson '10** finds herself working happily in digital media for her current company, 6AMCity. Some of the pieces she has enjoyed writing the most are pieces reporting on the local government developmental news. "I love being a participatory citizen," she says, "while creating content for others to learn about." Read more on Erin in a profile written by English major Taylor Ward [here](#).



**Anna Zoeller '10** works as a senior proposal specialist for a private company and teaches at Montana State University in Bozeman as time allows. "In my spare time, I am re-visiting some earlier work from my bachelors degree at CofC about Virgil's *Aeneid* and the Italian tradition hoping to get an article together some day as I am able. I also enjoy sharing poetry with my fellow writers at Valhalla Meadery in Bozeman and partaking in all the outdoor activities Bozeman has to offer."

**Meaghan Kelly '11** is the Administrative Editor for the *American Journal of International Law* and a Communications Editor at Columbia Law School. She has been working in academic publishing for the last ten years. She resides in Durham, NC, with her husband and their four-year-old son.



**Morgan Insley '13** recently rejoined the law firm of Blanco Tackabery as an attorney in the trusts and estates department. She and her husband, Isaac Hunter Insley, welcomed their second child, David Huntington Insley, in November 2022, making their daughter, Isla Claire Insley, a big sister!



Read more on Aurora in a profile written by English major Adam Dorsheimer [here](#).

**Aurora Harris '11** is Senior Director of Regional Strategy at Young Invincibles. After graduating from the College, Aurora spent some time doing historic preservation work in Charleston before eventually connecting with a network of her peers in Houston, TX, where she quickly worked her way up to high-level nonprofit leadership.

**Kristin Nichole Sarmiento '13** moved to Raleigh, NC, in 2015 after living abroad in Thailand, making it (seemingly) her permanent home. She is a content writer for Amelia Agency, which entails social media copy, external communications, online patient resources, and a lot of SEO. In her downtime, travel is still a big part of her life, along with getting out of her comfort zone with improv, and spending time with her chosen family (that she just so happened to meet at CofC).



**Jamie Carr '12** is a Senior literary agent at The Book Group where she represents adult literary and upmarket commercial fiction and narrative nonfiction. She is based in her hometown of NYC.



**Brittney Dilley Geary '12** is an Instructional Designer at George Mason University.



**Colleen Etman '13** is a PhD candidate in English at the University of South Carolina, where she recently received a Bilinski Fellowship that will fully fund the final year of her PhD so she can finish her dissertation. She also taught her most popular course yet, a themed ENGL 101 section on Star Wars as literature. Read more on Colleen in a profile written by English major Olivia Howe [here](#).





**Christina D'Antoni '15** just graduated with an MFA in Creative Writing from Arizona State University. She is a Kathryn Blair Swarthout fellow, the web editor of *Hayden's Ferry Review*, and a flash fiction reader at *Split Lip Magazine*. She's currently at work on a collection of short stories about the lives of people from the Gulf Coast post-Katrina. Her flash piece, "Polly, Underwater," was just published in Issue 49 of *Washington Square Review*. She's looking forward to escaping the Arizona heat and settling back into life on the east coast.



**Peter B. Spearman '15** is Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre at CofC. His work on *Doki Doki Literature Club* will appear in a forthcoming issue of *PARTake*. He has served as an instructor across courses in acting, theatre history, and media studies.



**Kristen Barbour '16** is currently employed as an associate UX researcher at Indeed.com. Read more on Kristen and "The Wonderful World of UX Research" in a profile written by English major Bevan Bunch [here](#).

**Ashley Elizabeth De Peri '17** is the Manager of the Office of the Dean and Director in the Music Division of the Juilliard School in New York, NY.



**Ainsley Stollar '18** is a Communications Specialist at Bank of America and a Digital Communications Consultant at 24Foundation. She is also the founder and President of the 24Foundation Young Professionals Group in Charlotte, NC.



**Caroline Greenblatt '20** is a 6th-8th grade English Teacher at The Williams School in Norfolk, VA.

**Juliana Morehouse Locklear '21** "In November 2022, I was crowned Miss Maine USA 2023. My year has been filled with appearances with the non-profit Best Buddies, Boston Celtics Games, photoshoots, speaking engagements at schools and more. I had the opportunity to speak to my sorority at College of Charleston, Kappa Delta. I was privileged to visit Capitol Hill with the Alzheimer's Association to advocate for more federal support in finding a cure for the disease. I was part of a Golf Tournament fundraiser in Kennebunkport, ME, put on by the Bush Family. In April, my husband and I were married right at St. Philip's Church in Charleston. Then, we jetted off to Italy for a wonderful honeymoon on the Amalfi coast of Italy. Right when I returned from my honeymoon, I began pursuing my master's degree in clinical counseling. Going forward, I have more appearances booked and I am fully invested in the last leg of my preparation for the Miss USA 2023 competition, which will take place this fall. I am a proud alumna of the College of Charleston, and I am so grateful for the growth I experienced while a student there. Go Cougars!"





**Dawson O'Brien '21** "I am finishing up my second year of law school at Elon University School of Law. I'm slated to take the DC Bar Exam this coming February! At the school, my most important contributions have been to the Honor Council, working as the secretary. I'm also working on publishing an article about Data Privacy concerns in the US. I've been working as a remote in-house counsel intern for the insurance firm Asteya (based out of Florida), but after the Bar I plan on finding a career in legislative writing on Capitol Hill. I greatly credit CofC's English department - specifically the WRP minor and Prof. Jacob Craig - for my success in law school."



**Kathleen D. Hopewell '22** will receive her Masters of Public Policy and Human Development this August. She is the Student Ambassador for United Nations University-MERIT Communications Office in Maastricht, The Netherlands. Her research focuses on evaluating criminal justice responses to gender-based violence through linguistics. "In short, I am driven towards the places where linguistics, policy analysis and human rights not only intersect, but are synergistically linked."



**Katie Fleischman '22** is an Evening/Sunday Access and Instruction Specialist at Addlestone Library. She is currently a graduate student in the University of South Carolina's Master of Library and Information Science program. She is a hobbyist doll maker and doll collector. In her spare time she's usually curled up with her cat and a movie or video game.

**Brandon Eichelberg '23** "I have been completing a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) certificate course through a non-profit organization. With this course, I aim to combine my English language proficiency with not only my passion for teaching but also my passion for traveling. I am applying to multiple TEFL/ESOL positions overseas and I hope to set foot on foreign soil by early 2024."



**Gabrielle E. Loue '22** is Program Coordinator at Reading Partners. "I had the honor of serving with Americorps this past year, and in September I'm off to Edinburgh for graduate school!"

# VISITING WRITERS AND SCHOLARS

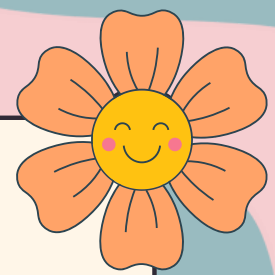
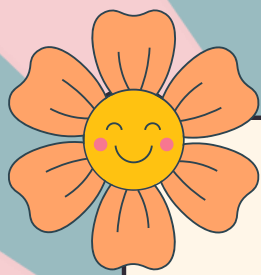


**Dr. Evie Shockley**, our fall visiting scholar, gave a talk in November drawn from her current project called "Black Graphics: 'Colorblindness' and the Survival of Black Being" on contemporary literary and visual artworks by Black artists situated at the intersection of text and image, investigating how such works can be understood as engaging, challenging, or circumventing the racial ideology of "colorblindness."

**Dr. Miles P. Grier**, our spring visiting scholar, gave a talk in February on what theatre lore concerning the spread of Othello's black makeup can tell us about the staging and effect of early performances of *Othello*. The talk explored the inky associations of transmissible stage blackness and its implications for the distribution of literacy and, more broadly, authority over the domain of knowledge.



In March, as part of our Dorothea Benton Frank Writing Series, bestselling novelist **Curtis Sittenfeld** visited the College and read to a full house at Randolph Hall, Alumni Hall. Sittenfeld was introduced by MFA director Anthony Varallo and Dorothea Benton Frank Fellow Kangkang Kovacs (MFA '23). She read from her short story "Show Don't Tell," which appeared in a 2017 issue of *The New Yorker*, and discussed her new novel, *Romantic Comedy*, before fielding questions from MFA students and other audience members. Read more about the event on the [swamp.pink](#) blog.



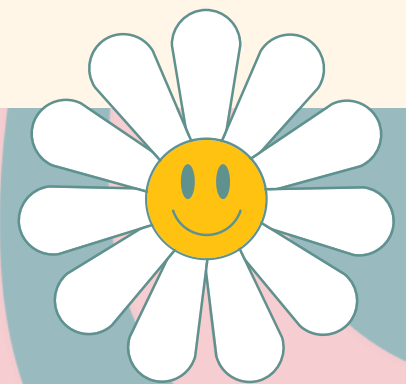
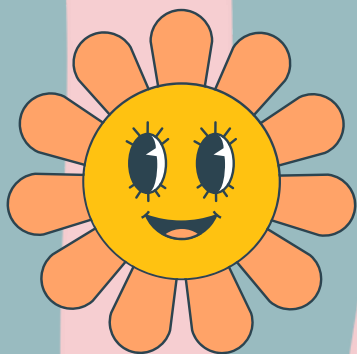
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