

The background is a collage of various college scenes. At the top, there's a classroom with students at desks. Below that, a group of students stands in a hallway. At the bottom, there's an outdoor event with a table and a group photo on a lawn.

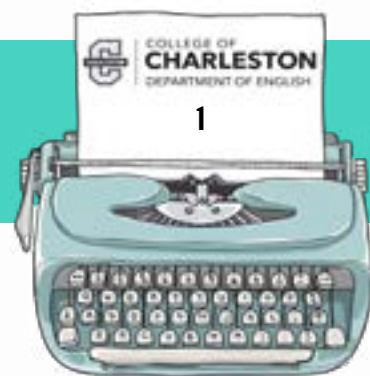
**College of Charleston  
Department of English**

# **FOLIO**

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**2023 - 2024**

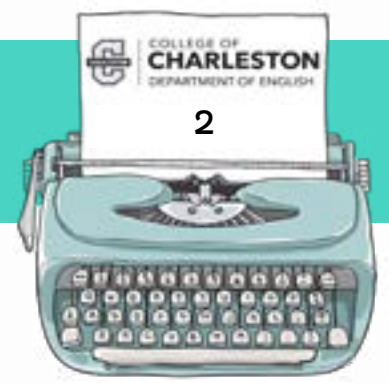
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# Masthead



## The Changing of the Guard

For years, *Folio* has been organized and edited by different English department faculty and staff. This year, students in ENGL 466: Advanced Study in Writing, Rhetoric, and Publication edited the newsletter for the first time. We, the students of ENGL 466, were tasked with designing each page. Next, we carefully gathered, created, and edited content to fill those pages. We are a motley mix of thirteen juniors and seniors. Some of us are majoring in English, while others are minoring. We doff our hats to our predecessors and hope you enjoy our collective effort.

## Meet the Editors!



Elizabeth  
Askins



Ryan Barry



Chelsea  
Brooks



Catherine  
Dankens



Jessica  
Davis



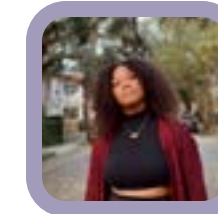
Anna  
Deason



Devin  
Dehollander



John Dreyer



Brayana  
Godbolt



Morgan  
Kelly



Madeline Ritger

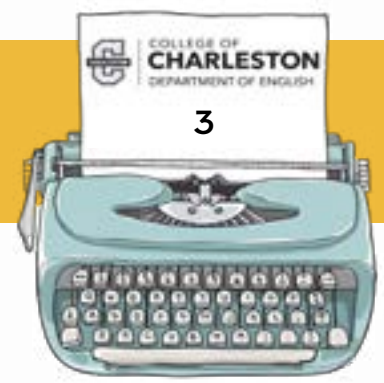


Ben Walpole



AJ Watson

# Stay Connected



Follow us to connect with alumni and stay informed about upcoming events, major spotlights, and other department news.



@englishcofc

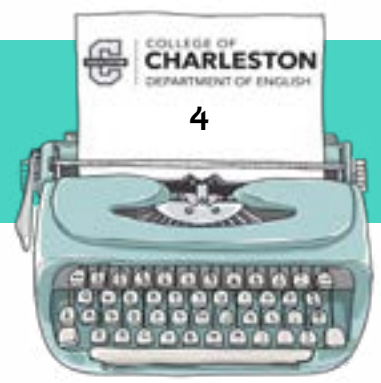


## Give to the Department

Your contributions help support student scholarships and awards, our visiting scholar and writing series, and other activities featured in Folio. Visit [giving.cofc.edu](https://giving.cofc.edu) and search for “English” to find out how you can give. Thank you!



# Alumni Notes



## Rachel Greene Phillips '22

Rachel joined the TeachCharleston program and is in her second year of teaching 6th grade ELA at Laing Middle School.

## Michael Plunkett, MFA '22

Plunkett's debut novel, *ZONE ROUGE* was acquired by Brandon Taylor at Unnamed Press in March 2024. The novel, which was his MFA thesis, is about a minesweeper who confronts the inescapable legacy of the past—weaving a tale of consequences, endurance, and the relentless pursuit of redemption across the pulverized villages and deadly munitions of Verdun a century after the end of the First World War. He was also accepted to the Stand-To Veteran Leadership Program where he will join a class of other bold leaders who are supporting our nation's veterans and their families. He was accepted into this program because of his role as Executive Director of The Literature of War Foundation which is facilitating and supporting book clubs for active duty military units all over the world.



## Joshua Garcia, MFA '21

Garcia published his debut poetry collection, *Pentimento* (Black Lawrence Press 2024), this spring. From an Italian word meaning “to repent,” a pentimento is an instance in painting when traces of an artist's earlier decisions or mistakes are visible through the final layer(s) of paint. Using modes of confession, ekphrasis, and biblical persona, *Pentimento* excavates a queerness entangled in one's faith tradition. Garcia lives and writes in Brooklyn, New York.



## Tanner Crunelle '20 (M.F.A. '24)

Crunelle was the M.F.A. program's Woodfin Fellow in poetry from 2022-2024. During this time, he also studied philosophy at the European Graduate School and worked for *swamp pink* literary magazine (Editorial Assistant) and the Charleston Literary Festival (Writer).



He also worked with Professor Julia Eicheberger on the Committee on Commemorations and Landscapes, publishing a peer-reviewed essay on CofC student activism that began as a research project while an undergraduate. He's soon moving to Ithaca, New York, where in the autumn he will begin earning a Ph.D. in Literatures in English at Cornell University--but service on the College of Charleston Foundation Board and mentoring in the CofC Women's and Gender Studies program will regularly bring him back home."

## Gardner Dorton, MFA 2019

Dorton has been published in journals like *Crab Creek Review*, *Rattle*, *The Florida Review*, *Narrative*, *The Greensboro Review*, and elsewhere. His chapbook "Stone Fruit" was published in 2021 by Glass Poetry Press. His debut full-length collection is forthcoming this September 2024 with Thirty West Publishing House. Aside from poetry, he works as a contract copywriter and has contributed to over 12 Golden Addy winning campaigns.



## Nicole Hill '17

I'd love to share that I got engaged this past December and am going to be married in June 2025.



## Abigail Fleming '13

Fleming has been promoted to Reprint Coordinator/Senior Editor for The History Press, a division of Arcadia Publishing.



## Raena Shirali, MFA '12

Shirali is the author of two collections of poetry. Her first book, *GILT*, was released by YesYes Books in 2017 and won the 2018 Milt Kessler Poetry Book Award. Published by Black Lawrence Press in October 2022, her second book, *summonings*, won the 2021 Hudson Prize and was shortlisted for the 2022 Julie Suk Award. Winner of a Pushcart Prize and a former Philip Roth Resident at Bucknell University, Shirali is also the recipient of prizes and honors from VIDA, *Gulf Coast*, *Boston Review*, & *Cosmonauts Avenue*. Her work has appeared in *American Poetry Review*, Academy of American Poets' *Poem-A Day*, *The Nation*, *The Rumpus*, and elsewhere. Formerly Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Muzzle Magazine*, Shirali now serves as Faculty Advisor for *Folio*—a literary magazine dedicated to publishing works by undergraduate students at the national level. She holds an MFA in Poetry from The Ohio State University. This year, she was promoted to Associate Professor of English at Holy Family University in Philadelphia.

## Gale Thompson '08

Thompson was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor at Young Harris College this year. Her third collection of poetry, *Mountain Amnesia*, won the 2023 Colorado Prize for Poetry and was published in December 2023. Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Diane Seuss wrote of *Mountain Amnesia* that “Thompson has crafted nothing less than a sacred text.” A poem from this manuscript, “The Divide,” also won the 2022 Academy of American Poets Emily Dickinson Prize. Over the last year, Gale has traveled and read in a number of places, including Colorado State University, Wells College in NY, Seattle, and Kansas City. She continues to live in the north Georgia mountains, where she works as an editor in book development for YesYes Books and directs the creative writing program at Young Harris College.



## Alyson Sinclair '03

Sinclair is the Publisher of *The Rumpus*, an independent online lit and culture magazine. Founded in 2009 in San Francisco, *The Rumpus* focuses on publishing emerging and historically underrepresented voices. Sinclair became the Publisher in 2021 and also runs Nectar Literary, a boutique literary publicity agency for authors and literary nonprofits. She currently lives in Asheville, NC.

## Lauren Wier Lyon '03

She has taught English Language Arts for 14 years in Charleston County. She served as the 2023-2024 Teacher of the Year for Lucy Beckham High School and won the Bengal Spirit of Honor Award from the graduating class of 2023. She lives in Mt. Pleasant with her husband and two girls.

## Danielle Zahn '01

Since March of 2023, Zahn has been the department chair for English, Speech, and Journalism at Trident Technical College.

## Natalie Parker Bluestein '87

Bluestein recently joined the Boards of the ETV Endowment of SC and the Jewish Endowment Fund. She still practices family law in Mt. Pleasant, SC.

## Helen (Swain) Stine '77

After receiving her undergraduate degree in English from, Helen went on to get her Master's in education and counseling, raised a family, traveled extensively, and enjoyed a successful career running military child development programs. While her experiences over the years exposed her to a rich repository of characters and events, it was her childhood memories of family and friends and the hauntingly beautiful landscape of the Lowcountry that provided Helen with everything she needed to craft her first novel. *The Truthful Story*, a work of literary fiction with YA appeal, has won multiple awards since its publication and is a tribute to the land and the people that shaped her life. Helen's love of storytelling





has also branched into independent filmmaking, and she has been a producer on several award-winning films. Stine lives with her husband in Villa Rica, Georgia, where she is actively involved in running the local literary festival (and working on her next book!). She can be reached at [Helen@helenstine.com](mailto:Helen@helenstine.com), through her website [www.helenstine.com](http://www.helenstine.com), and on Facebook and Instagram.

*The Truthful Story* is an award-winning novel set in 1960s Charleston, S.C. about a family tragedy that leads to unanswered questions and the discovery of a powerful gift that could save them all. Cover design by Rebecca Lown (J.K. Rowling's *The Casual Vacancy*, *My Life as a Rat* by Joyce Carol Oates) and cover illustration by Debra Lill (Neil Gaiman's *Stardust*, David Wroblewski's *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*). *The Truthful Story* is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble.com, and many local bookstores.

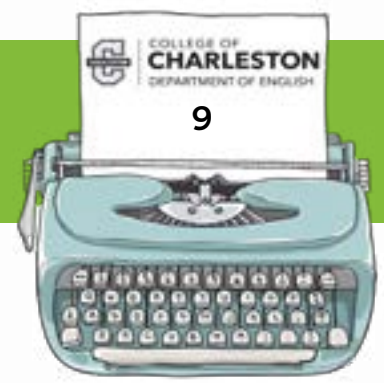


## Lucas Carpenter '68

Carpenter is the author of four collections of poetry, one book of literary criticism, a collection of short stories, and many poems, essays, and reviews published in more than twenty-five periodicals, including *Prairie Schooner*, *The Minnesota Review*, *College Literature*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Kansas Quarterly*, *Carolina Quarterly*, *Concerning Poetry*, *Poetry* (Australia), *Southern Humanities Review*, *College English*, *Art Papers*, *San Francisco Review of Books*, *Callaloo*, *Southern History Journal*, *Chicago Quarterly Review*, *Short Story*, *Berkeley Fiction Review*, *the Chattahoochee Review* and *New York Newsday*. He was a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar at the University of Leuven in Belgium in 1999-2000. He is Charles Howard Candler Professor of English, Emeritus, at Emory University.



# Beyond the English Major



Beyond the English Major is not only a capstone course but an opportunity for graduating seniors to practice promoting themselves as well-rounded, creative, detail-oriented thinkers. Over the semester, we explored numerous career possibilities. We discovered that our extensive experience analyzing literature and film has equipped us with critical skills, from storytelling, to synthesizing arguments, to collaborative problem-solving. These abilities will differentiate us in our future professional and academic endeavors. Each of us produced a portfolio that showcases through evidence-based writing the skills that will take us Beyond the English Major.

## Spring 2024 Students



Lily Flowers

Driven by a need to learn and explore the breadth of creative possibilities, I have honed my skills in interpreting and working with ambiguous information, storytelling, and producing original—if not sometimes unorthodox—content and solutions.

Portfolio: <https://lilyflowers4.wordpress.com/>



Brooke DiMarzio

During my time at The College of Charleston, I have developed a strong foundation in storytelling, communication, and market analysis. My studies in Marketing and Education have provided me with a well-rounded skill set, allowing me to understand consumer behavior and the importance of effective communication in a sales profession.

Portfolio: <https://brooke21140.wordpress.com/>



Julie Bhullar

Empathetic and dedicated professional with United States military and literature/film studies backgrounds, informed by a multiethnic, first-generation worldview, utilizing critical thinking and collaborative problem-solving skills to navigate the professional sphere.

Portfolio: <https://juliannabhullar.wordpress.com/>



Declan Bohner

Throughout my schooling at the College, I have further explored a keen love of media and its creation. Through dissection and creation of literature during my four years at the College, I have explored my skills and garnered a newfound respect for not just talent, but the essential hard work to bring upon a great work. My passion for music has cultivated an interest in further pursuing a career in both making and analyzing music in tandem.

**Portfolio:** <https://declanbohner.wixsite.com/declan-bohner-1>



Mallery McKay

A passion for reading and pop culture, my major in English has helped me sharpen my analytical writing style while understanding and contextualizing the various genres and periods of literature and film. I am an avid storyteller who wants to create fiction material that produces an emotional reaction for its readers.

**Portfolio:** <https://mallerymckaywp.wordpress.com/>



Michael Stein

Adaptable, detail oriented, proactive writer and mediator attending Washington & Lee Law School, planning to work in Elder Care law to ensure clients receive the autonomy and dignity that everyone deserves in their final days.

**Portfolio:** <https://steinml9.wixsite.com/michaelsteinportfoli>



Hannah Webster

As an English major at the College of Charleston, I love diving into language, literature, and storytelling, especially focusing on themes like identity, culture, and social justice. Whether I'm writing essays, analyzing poetry, or exploring fiction, I'm passionate about understanding how language shapes our perceptions. With my English degree, I'm sharpening my critical thinking and communication skills while advocating for the influence of language on our worldview.

**Portfolio:** <https://hannahmwebster.com/about-me/>

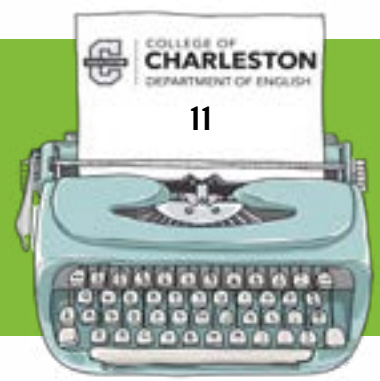


Madison McMahon

My life goal is to increase empathy, harmony, and beauty in the world by deeply affecting individuals and evoking emotion and connection through my writing and photography. I wish to help individuals learn how to love themselves, each other, and the world around them.

**Portfolio:** <https://madisonmcmahonportfolio.wordpress.com/>

# From Graduation to Securing a Job



## Catherine Dankens

On any given weekday morning, 2023 graduate Sydney Maguire, is already sitting at her desktop, mind and body ready to complete her daily tasks as Hope Service’s Communication Manager. Maguire, on average, clocks in to work remotely at 5:15 am after letting her dog Pepper out. Ambient music usually plays in the background through a black Sonos speaker, specifically Khurangbin radio

*“Just because it’s different doesn’t mean it’s bad.”*

on Spotify. Her roommates can also overhear the “ping!” of a Microsoft Teams notification in their quaint, historical Charleston home. Surrounded by a few dirty coffee mugs, plates with pastry crumbs, and a dog-eared copy of *Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 1*, Maguire fits the English major stereotypes well.

Aside from her professional yet somewhat causal work style, there is also a widespread anxiety Maguire felt around a year ago that is shared with almost every graduating senior of the College of Charleston, especially in the English department: What am I expected to do after I graduate from college, and how the hell am I supposed to provide for myself financially with an English degree?

One life principle helped Maguire transition from graduating senior to a College graduate to a young working professional: “Just because it’s different doesn’t mean it’s bad.” This seemingly simple quote has guided Maguire through her transition from being a student for the time being. “Before jumping straight into graduate school just because I was comfortable with the practice of being a student, I wanted to explore my options as a young professional. So, I decided to work for my parents’ company, Hope Services, a mental and behavioral healthcare service provider.”

Even though Maguire admits she had a leg up compared to some of her peers, this is mainly because her parents own the company for

which she works. However, Maguire shared a few common fears with the rest of her graduating class. “At first, I was really scared to start a regular 40-hour-a-week job. I was scared about corporate burnout, which seems to be a common fear among almost everyone in our generation. I think that because I was so accustomed to being in school, I didn’t know how that would go. But I like this setup much more; I have much better boundaries because there’s no homework, and my day is done once I’ve worked eight hours, and I love it!”

When asked about her experience in the department’s Writing, Rhetoric, and Publication concentration, Maguire has nothing

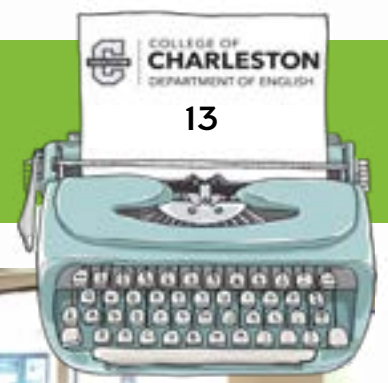


but shining things to say about the concentration. One class that really stuck with her was Embodiement and the Writing Process with Dr. Meg Scott Copses. “I genuinely wish every writer could take this course,” Maguire says. “Dr. Meg’s class is really the glue that holds everything together in my writing practices. That’s where I learned how to keep my process healthy and productive. Without the skills I learned there, I know I’d be working myself towards major burnout.”

Another class Maguire has found helpful was Introduction to Writing Studies. What made this course stand out in Maguire’s memory was its emphasis on hard skills. “Before I took Intro to Writing Studies, I was helping people turn their essay assignments into effective outlines and editing statements for my parents’ work. I was basically thinking, ‘Wow if only I could do this for work.’ We talked about technical writing in my first WRP class, and I changed my major within a semester!”

When Maguire was asked whether she would change anything about her experience in the English department, it was clear she had little to no regrets and was satisfied with her decision to switch to English. “As a self-proclaimed ‘English person,’ I didn’t realize how confident I would be when I left this program, especially when I came into it as an underclassman. The WRP concentration and the English program in general here at CofC have given me the skills to advertise not only my work as a writer but also as a communicator and a young professional in the modern day.”

# English Day



The 32nd annual English Day celebration was held on April 5th, 2024. English Day participants are nominated by faculty to present their research and/or creative works. This year's program included poster presentations from seventeen students and six readings.



## PRESENTATIONS

Kaitlyn Walker, *Domesticity and Motherhood in Sylvia Plath's Ariel*

Brynn Dybik, *Sublime Madness: Wordsworth's Forsaken Indian Woman*

Lily Flowers, *What is Obscenity? Rethinking Filth and the Genius of John Waters*

Morgan Kelly, *The Collector: How Gender Expression Transcends Medievalism and Modernism*

Madeline Ritger, *The Domesticated Gothic: Violence in Northanger Abbey*

Micheal Stein: *The Crisis of Jamaican Masculinity in Wages Paid*

Christine Vessell, *Southern Values in Transition: Eudora Welty's Response to Eugenics through "Lily Daw and the Three Ladies"*

Emily Currey, Zoë Wicomb and *Playing in the Light*

Samantha Barnhart, *Charging the Force: Autotheory's Queer Virtue and the Plural Self in Maggie Nelson's The Argonauts*

Hannah Everage, *Harry Potter: A Realistic Demonstration of and Guide Through Grief*

Julianna Gomex, *The Importance of Manga in English Studies*

Chloe Forkerway, *Removing the Veil: Exploring Violence Against Black Women in Zora Neale Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Elizabeth Askins, *Limitations Stemming from Class Differences in the South as Told Through Southern Tribes*

Bailey Schellhorn, *The Complete Maus: A Survivor's Tale Has Changed Holocaust Literature Due to its Postmodernist Approach and Perspective*

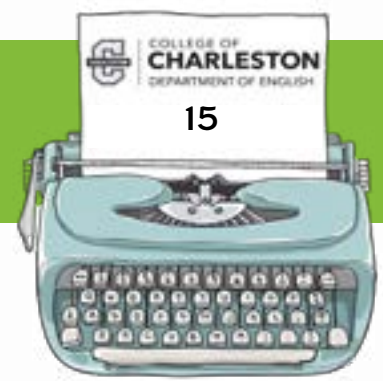
Brooke DiMarzio, *Art, Identity, and Repression: Fun Home's Triumph Over Censorship*

Madison McMahon, *Vape of the Mock*



See the Student Accomplishments section to learn about winners of the Sarah M. Goad Prize, HSS Scholars, and more!

# Student Accomplishments



## Student Awards

**Anna B. Katona Award in American Literature**  
Michael Stein



Izzy Adler



Anna Deason



Makenna Kaminski

**Humanities & Social Sciences Scholars**  
Dorian Steele  
Michael Stein



Maggie May



Dorian Steele



Michael Stein

**Departmental Honors**  
Izzy Adler  
Anna Deason  
Makenna Kaminski  
Maggie May  
Dorian Steele

## Outstanding Students

Izzy Adler	Rina Hameid	Tiffany Leggett	Christine Vessell
Anna Deason	Olivia Howe	Adam Maresh	
Julie Gomez	Eli Johnson	Ali Shafer	

## Sarah Margaret Goad Memorial Prizes

### Poetry

Dorian Steele  
Maggie Davis  
Kaitlyn Walker

### Fiction

Mik Connor  
Natalie Martusciello  
Anna Deason



# Humanities and Social Sciences Scholars

## Dorian Steele



I've been so lucky to participate in CofC's English department through creative and scholarly avenues with the help of my professors. Dr. Russell was kind enough to invite me to the Student Advisory Board, Dr. Carens was invaluable in honing my research from my independent study into a proposal on female anger in contemporary horror movies that won the Macy Ezell Cooke Scholarship, and I won first place for the Sarah Margaret Goad Memorial Prize for poetry in the Spring of 2024.

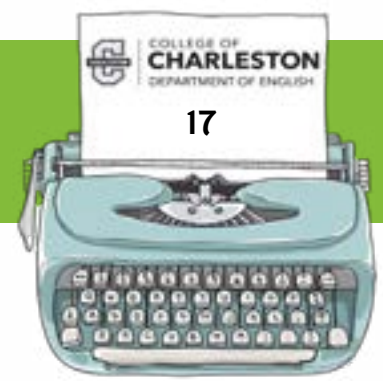
## Michael Stein



My focus in English has been interdisciplinary as an Honors College student minoring in Medical Humanities and Jewish Studies. I've interned with the Palliative Care department at MUSC and the Office of the Attorney General of Virginia, and I've been involved with the English community as the Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor of *Miscellany* literary and arts journal and the re-founder and President of the Chrestomathic Literary Society.

# Embracing the Surreal

Jessica Davis



Natalie Martusciello is a class of '24 senior. Having pursued her degree in English with a concentration in creative writing, her philosophy on writing is to “write well and with confidence.” During her time at the College, she has amassed quite a few publications, such as being featured in the *Santa Clara Review*. Most recently, she received the Sarah Margaret Goad Award. With her literary career just beginning, Martusciello is already developing a distinct style of writing by blending surrealism and bodily imagery.



Her writing career did not begin this way.

Martusciello admits it took her a few years to develop her interests and specialty in writing. She started as anyone: answering prompts in class, attempting to create a personal style. Her inspiration came during the writing of her short story “Grapefruit.” From there she delved deep into surrealism. Martusciello found herself drawn to themes that stir discomfort in her readers. In many of her pieces, she discusses her relationship to her body and mental health, oftentimes using fruit or animals to symbolize her experiences.

By taking these uncomfortable themes, Martusciello wants to strike a nerve in her readers. Whether it’s relatability, confusion, or mild discomfort, she wants the audience to feel connected to her writing.

However, subconsciously evoking discomfort in readers is a deliberate choice for Martusciello. “I want readers to experience the same level of discomfort that I do,” she admits, highlighting her desire to elicit strong emotional responses and forge meaningful connections through her writing. She wants to challenge her readers, perhaps even scare or disturb them. Martusciello wants her audience to question themselves and their actions after digesting one of her works.

*“Write well  
and with  
confidence.”*

It can be challenging to transform everyday themes into compelling stories. Captivating an audience with a “mundane” topic is no small feat. She often wonders, “How do I take these common themes and experiences and make them interesting to where the reader is engaged, but also make them unique from similar topics?” Her answer to this dilemma is to develop the details.

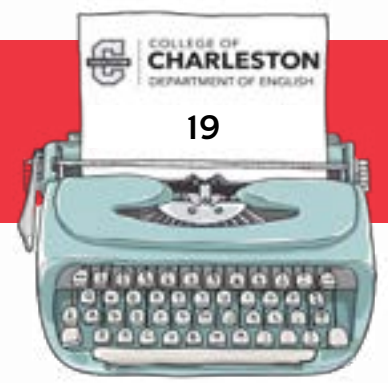
Martusciello claims that one of the best things a writer can do is invest in their characters. The story assumes a level of relatability that real people can connect to by having fully developed characters with unique personalities, likes, dislikes, personal issues, and even mental illness. When a character is unrelatable, the audience loses interest. A person in the story needs to act and be as real as a person outside of the story.

It’s these real-life connections, with distinct personalities, that separate Martusciello’s work from her colleagues. Despite using personal reflections in her work, Martusciello emphasizes the importance of separating herself from her work. “You automatically form an attachment to your writing,” she says. “I have to consciously separate myself from the work I’m turning in.” The ability to objectively step back and receive constructive criticism is pivotal for exploring new narrative angles. It can be demanding to create this separation, but it is essential to both the writer and the writing process.

As Martusciello navigates the realms of surrealism and emotional resonance, she remains committed to authenticity and innovation. “How can I honestly share this message in a way that’s unique and interesting?” she muses, highlighting a common fear for writers. Everyone wants to be different, act differently, and create ideas differently. New stories are created every day and consumers are quick to jump. How does an author stand out in the crowd? In a literary landscape hungry for originality, Natalie Martusciello continues to listen to her writing philosophy: “write well and with confidence.”



# Study Abroad



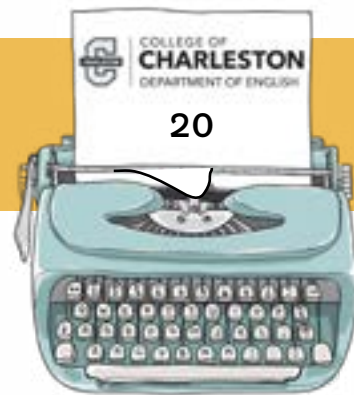
## Spoletto, Italy



*“One of the most enchanting experiences of my life”*

During the 2024 maymester, students interested in the art of travel, once again, returned to Charleston’s favorite sister city: Spoleto, Italy. Students spent three weeks in modern apartment housing and took two courses focused on travel writing and literature. professor Yunah Kae taught ENGL 300: Early Modern Romantic Comedy and the Italian Renaissance, with a concentration on the works of William Shakespeare, while professor Gary Jackson taught ENGL 399: Creative Writing: Travel, Place, Identity. This was only a fraction of their adventure across the map! Students got to explore and enjoy all that Italy has to offer through winery tours, truffle-hunting, a cooking class with a master chef, and other excursions. Students also had the opportunity to travel to Florence on a three-day all inclusive trip and take a day trip to Assisi.

# Internship Sponsors



A very special thanks to the organizations who sponsored for-credit internships this year. If your organization is interested in sponsoring an internship or you want to learn more about how an intern can help your organization, contact Chris Warnick at [warnickc@cofc.edu](mailto:warnickc@cofc.edu).



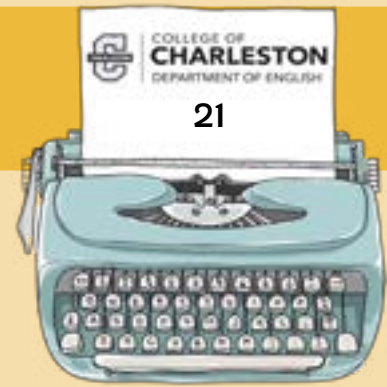
Evan Guthrie Law Firm



Cransage Hobbies



# MFA Student Spotlight



## Tanner Crunelle

Tanner is the English MFA's Woodfin Fellow in poetry for the graduate class of 2024. After completing his B.A. in English and Women's and Gender Studies at CofC in 2020, Tanner returned to CofC in 2022 to pursue an MFA in English. The English MFA program has allowed him to strengthen the relationships he had with English professors as an undergrad and has also provided a foundation for his continuing higher education as he pursues his Ph.D. Tanner has received a fully funded offer for a Ph.D. in English Literature at Cornell University and is also currently a semi-finalist for The Fulbright Program to study in South Africa.

Annie describes her experience in the MFA program as “generative, inspiring, and developmental.” She greatly values the small cohort size of the program, as she believes it allows students to form more intimate connections with each other. Annie's stand-out memories from the program include the class's spooky poetry/flash fiction Halloween party, her participation in the Epiphyte Reading Series at Bicycle Books, and having a poem published in *Rattle* magazine. Annie reflects, “The pride I feel when I think about the stories I was able to create during my two years here is also something I'll carry with me long after my time in the program ends.”

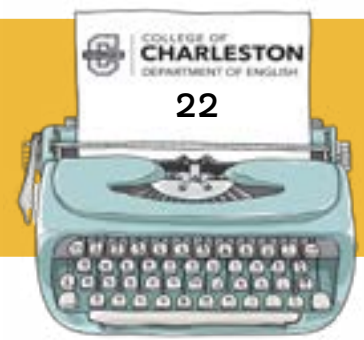


## Annie Grimes

## Ellen Gwin

Ellen attributes the diversity of readings in the MFA program to her growth as a writer. English MFA classes and workshops embrace personal perspectives on a piece in a way that generates unique, specific, and effective feedback from peers. The flexibility of graduate school coursework has also changed the way Ellen approaches her writing. “MFA classes become whatever you want to make of them—however much you put in, you'll get out of the course.” In 2021, Ellen's poem “I Am Fermenting” was published by *805 Lit + Art magazine*, and her poems “Birth of a Beer Bottle” and “Choosing Happiness” were both published in *Humankind Zine* that same year.

# Visiting Writers & Scholars



Some insight from Dr. Béres Rogers, who oversees the English Department's Intellectual Life Committee and its Visiting Writers & Scholars program: "Whether it is a visiting scholar or a Research and Writing Colloquium, where faculty present our own research, this is one of the few times that students and faculty can engage in vibrant academic inquiry...together."



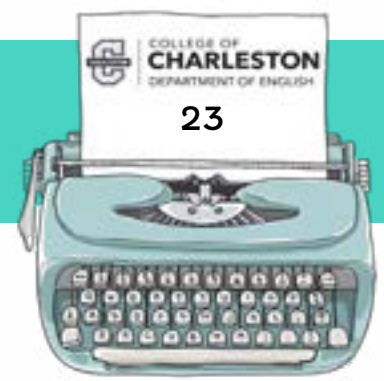
In February, Cajetan Iheka, our spring visiting scholar, gave a talk exploring the role of cultural productions like literature and film on our understanding and addressing ecological problems. Iheka used the Zimbabwean novel *Nervous Conditions* and the Liberian film *The Land Beneath Our Feet* as examples to show perspectives on resolving the environmental crisis from the perspectives of African authors and filmmakers.

Our fall visiting scholar, Dr. View, hosted a talk this past November titled "Everything is Us." Alongside Dr. Kenneth Johnson of the English Department, Dr. View discussed the past, present, and future of hip-hop and Black Art through the lens of his multimedia hip-hop project, [Fire in Little Africa](#). This project brings light to the tragedy and ongoing generational impacts of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. Fire in Little Africa comprises the titular twenty-one-track album *Fire in Little Africa*, as well as a podcast, and an award winning documentary film on the making of the album in its historical context.



Visiting in September as part of the *swamp pink* reading series, poet Ama Codjoe performed a reading from her most recent poetry collection, *The Bluest Nude*. The collection won the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize and was a finalist for the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Poetry, the Kate Tufts Discovery Award, and the Paterson Poetry Prize. Codjoe continues to work with the Rona Jaffe Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Jerome Foundation, among others, to spread awareness of social activism through her distinguished poems.

# Faculty Awards



**Colleen Glenn** received the **2024 Distinguished Teaching Award**, which honors those faculty members who are outstanding among the College's many exceptional teachers, typifying high standards and commitment to teaching excellence throughout their careers. Glenn was honored for her innovative classroom teaching, her individualized mentorship of students, and the extension of her teaching to study abroad programs and other areas.

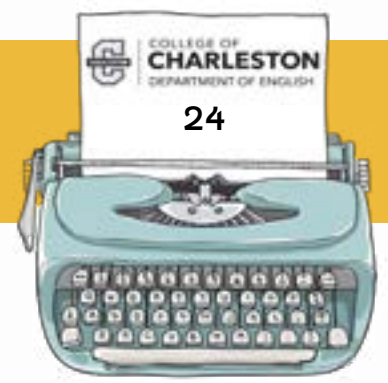
**Julia Eichelberger** was selected as a recipient of the **2024 Governor's Award in the Humanities** by South Carolina Humanities. This award recognizes Prof. Eichelberger's remarkable career as a scholar spanning more than 30 years as well as her substantial and ongoing commitments to our community—commitments that blend advocacy, public humanities, and historical reconciliation.



## Congratulations!



# Faculty Notes



## Terence Bowers



My article, “Rereading Shirley Jackson’s ‘The Lottery’ as a Tale of Jim Crow America,” will be published in the upcoming issue of the *Journal of the Short Story in English*.

## Laura Cannon

Experiencing the shift in relationship to those who we love, through their deaths, brings a profound invitation to use the season of grief as a means to create. In December I was a TEDx finalist with this very message, though not making the final cut to speak prompted an essay I wrote on the importance of rejection in the life of the writer. At their best, my ENGL 223 students continue to be remarkable people full of talent and promise. My 110 students continue to teach me about social media and I remind them about the world outside of it, though I think we share hope that we’ll continue to emerge from varying states of isolation. I planted a flower garden. I’m improving character voices during bedtime stories with my kids. I plan to write a grant to the SC Arts commission to fund a project to work with people in my neighborhood in compiling their own stories.



# Bonnie Devet



Prof. Bonnie Devet continues to focus on helping student writers. Dr. Devet and two former consultants (Mollie Bowman and Alex Tate-Moffo) co-wrote “The Psychological Disadvantages of Drop-in Synchronous Consultations,” a refereed article appearing in *WLN: A Journal of Writing Center Scholarship*. Two other consultants Lili Ross and Luke Shaw co-presented a workshop at the Palmetto State WC Association Tutor Retreat. Dr. Devet also develops her own research, presenting “Write Like a Roman! Using the Progymnasmata with Modern Students” at the College English Association annual Conference in San Antonio, TX, as well as delivering the paper “Fostering Threshold Concepts and Transfer through Style Pedagogy” at the College Composition and Communication Conference in Spokane, WA. Knowing that A.I. is a potential game changer for composition, she has trained consultants to handle GAI and has presented a CETL session on “The Writing Lab and A.I.”

# Mike Duvall

Dr. Mike Duvall continues to serve as Associate Chair of the department. This past fall, he enjoyed teaching a first-year seminar on race, equity, and inclusion in American literature. This spring, he is energized to be teaching Introduction to English Studies and a course in African-, Asian-, and Native American literature. He was recently named editor for the 19th century US Literature and Culture section of *The Literary Encyclopedia*, which publishes biographies of writers, scholarly descriptions of texts, and essays providing insights into the social contexts of the era’s writing. Dr. Duvall’s article, “Writing for Children in the Era of Chinese Exclusion: Yan Phou Lee and When I was a Boy in China,” was published in *Global Nineteenth-Century Studies* last fall. He eagerly anticipates the publication of another article, “The Curious Tale of The Scarlet Empire,” in *Utopian Studies* early in 2024.

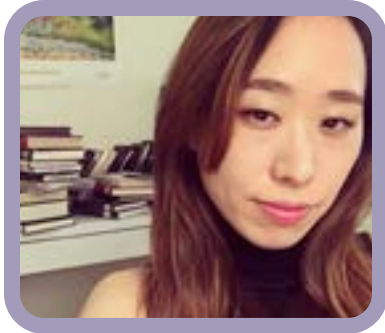


# Susan Farrell



Just returned from a semester teaching abroad in Trujillo, Spain, Susan Farrell is happy to be back on campus again, where she is especially enjoying teaching her graduate class on post-1945 American literature. She is busy finishing her book about the making of Kurt Vonnegut’s *Slaughterhouse-Five*, an interdisciplinary project that includes biography, history, literary criticism, and cultural analysis. Her most recent article, on women and poison in Shirley Jackson’s novel, *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*, appeared in the *CEA Critic* last summer.

# Yunah Kae



Yunah Kae is currently in her second year at the College, during which she has taught classes on Shakespeare, premodern English literature, eco-criticism, and race in early modern culture. She has recently published an article in *Exemplaria*, “Discerning Race: Humoralism and Jonson’s Comic Poetics in Every Man Out of His Humour,” and has won the Shakespeare Association of America short-term residential fellowship at the Huntington Library, where she will be conducting research for her book next summer. She is also nervous to run the Cooper Bridge 10K Run this year (her first run ever, and mainly at the insistence of her partner) and hopes that she can make it through without dying.

Joe Kelly is currently at work on his latest book for Bloomsbury Publishing, *The Liberals: How Americans Learned to Tell the Truth, Beat Fascism, and Re-Invent Democracy*. He continues to give public talks based on his third book, *Marooned: Jamestown, Shipwreck, and a New History of America’s Origin*. W. W. Norton just brought out the fifth editions of his intro to literature series, *The Seagull Books of Stories, Poems, and Plays*. In Fall of 2023, he and Dr. Susan Farrell led CofC English and Communication students on a semester-long study abroad at the College’s facilities in Trujillo, Spain.

# Joseph Kelly



# Simon Lewis



Following Abdulrazak Gurnah’s Nobel Prize in 2021, I had an old essay on him republished as a book chapter, and have a new one on him coming out shortly. My interest in Charleston led to an essay on the city’s representation in the work of three Black South Carolinian poets, as well as the Afterword to Jacob Steere-Williams and Blake Scott’s *Port Cities of the Atlantic World*, and the Foreword to Herb Frazier and Horace Mungin’s *Ukweli: Searching for Healing Truth*. In my upcoming sabbatical for 2024-2025 I will be embarking on 2 editing projects -- an essay collection on Black South Carolinian achievement, and an issue of the *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies* on contemporary African novelists in the US—and an article on South African poet Antjie Krog. I’m lining up to be the Vice-President of the African Literature Association, so my sabbatical should be plenty busy.

## Bret Lott



I had the honor of showing up on a regular basis to around 100 students in a few classrooms around campus, where I dispensed some deeply stirring and sometimes gaseous observations on writing and words and the importance of making art. I also got to bring 16 of those students to Italy for spring break as the culmination of the FYE food writing course *Let's Eat in Italy and Write About It Too*. Finished a nonfiction book that will be out on June 18, *Gather the Olives*, personal essays on food and hope and the holy land. Smoked a grand total of seven pork shoulders, four briskets, 63 wings, and eight racks of ribs. Smoked 27 cigars too.

## Scott Peeples

Scott Peeples gave the keynote talk, "The Road to the House of Usher," at the Richmond, VA, Edgar Allan Poe Museum's Birthday Bash in January. He is currently teaching nineteenth-century American poetry and writing a book about Bob Dylan.



## Harriet Pollack



Harriet Pollack, Affiliate Professor of American Literature, had a busy year. She received a grant to work in the long-sealed, recently released family papers of the writer Eudora Welty. Then, for the University of Southern Mississippi's Center for Digital Humanities, she prepared an online introduction to Welty's photography, a "Digital Snapshot," contextualizing more than a thousand negatives and prints. In September, Pollack traveled to northern France to speak at Université d'Artois. And Pollack had three new articles accepted for publication: one on womanhood and whiteness in Welty's stories of Southern girlhood, a second on material culture in Welty's fiction and photography, and a third on Chestina Welty's letters and their mother-daughter relationship. Finally, Pollack's recent co-edited book *Eudora Welty and Mystery: Hidden in Plain Sight* garnered topical reviews in *Mystery Scene Magazine*, the *Eudora Welty Review*, *Women's Studies*, and *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*.

## Bill Russell



This was Bill Russell's last year at the College. He was honored to spend it serving as department chair and delighted to conclude his teaching career with two of his favorite courses, "Introduction to English Studies" and "Milton." This summer he and his family will move to Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Next fall those early modern magpies he so often chattered about will appear in *Studies in Philology* in an article entitled "The Two Pierides: Magpies and Imitative Poetics in Early Modern England."

## Myra Seaman

This year Myra Seaman returned from a sabbatical dedicated to researching anonymity in medieval English literature, which included exploring medieval manuscripts in the UK. She published her first article on the topic in March, titled "Anonymity, Canonicity, and Literary Value," in *Textual Practice*. This spring, she presented two talks related to this project. In teaching, Seaman returned to first-year writing after a few years away, led a proseminar version of her beloved Medieval Feminism course, and took on the Lit & Film capstone, which gave her the chance to reconnect with many alums. Last summer, Seaman enjoyed a 6-day camping and mountain biking trip on Montana's Continental Divide with her sister, and this summer, they plan to cycle around Crater Lake in Oregon. She's dedicated to improving her Spanish, bouldering abilities, and bass guitar playing, but can't claim to have achieved much success just yet.



# Meg Scott Copes



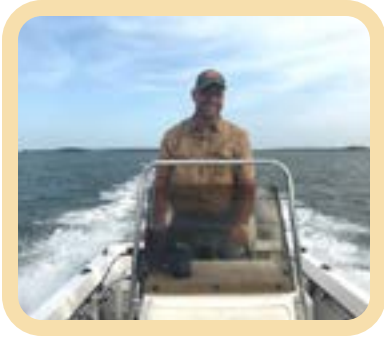
Meg Scott Copes recently published an article “Creative Composing: A Lesson Plan for Students, Teachers, and Teacher-Writers,” in *Peitho: Journal of the Coalition of Feminist Scholars*. In it, she reflects on early pedagogical training with Wendy Bishop, a pioneer in composition studies, who died of cancer, but not before making landmark contributions to both the creative writing and composition fields. This area of overlap—creative and critical thinking—continues to drive Meg’s teaching practice from freshman academic writing to her special topics course, Embodied Literacies. Dr. Meg’s alter ego is a dance, yoga, and exercise instructor, and she cultivates the synergistic relationship between movement and writing wherever she can. Last May, she was invited to Belfast, Ireland to lead an Honors Symposium on the connections between walking and writing.

# Anthony Varallo

Last fall, Anthony Varallo published a story collection, *What Did You Do Today?*, which won the 2023 Katherine Anne Porter Prize in Short Fiction (University of North Texas Press). In February he attended the AWP Annual Conference in Kansas City to promote the College’s MFA Program and literary magazine, *swamp pink*, and do a book-signing. This semester Varallo is enjoying teaching ENGL 403: Advanced Fiction Writing, serving as fiction editor for *swamp pink*, and directing our MFA Program. He has new stories in the current issue of *Harvard Review*. This summer he will be teaching two courses at the Iowa Summer Writing Festival in Iowa City, IA.



# Ford Walpole



Ford Walpole continues to enjoy teaching evening sections of English 110 at the College of Charleston, where he has worked since 1997. This year, he became chair of the English department at James Island Charter High School. He also began teaching Trident Technical College courses in English 101 and 102 to dual-enrollment students at James Island. Ford has long valued the insight teaching students at both the high school and college level affords him, and TTC allows yet another perspective. In addition, he published a monthly outdoors column for *The Charleston Mercury*. When he is not teaching, grading papers, or writing, Ford enjoys spending time with his family in the Lowcountry outdoors.

# Chris Warnick

Chris Warnick learned a lot working with the editors on this issue of *Folio* in our Advanced Writing, Rhetoric, and Publication capstone class—although all credit goes to these editors' brilliant ideas for enhancing the newsletter's usability. His research on the social, academic, and professional transitions CofC undergraduates experience during their junior year is forthcoming in *The Journal of the First Year Experience and Students in Transition*. He will continue to teach the department's internship class in 2024-2025, so if you'd like to share internship opportunities at your organization or learn more about how an English intern can contribute to your organization's mission, reach out to him at [warnickc@cofc.edu](mailto:warnickc@cofc.edu).

