

# THE CURRENT

Our monthly newsletter celebrates the latest publications, acceptances, projects, presentations, awards, accolades, teaching highlights, activities, and more of English faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2024

## Publications, Exhibits, & Acceptances



On October 27, 2024, **Buddy Levy**'s article "Schley: The Navy Man Who Saved Greely" was published in *The History Reader*. Published in conjunction with National Navy Day, Levy's piece chronicled the exploits of Cdr. Winfield Scott Schley, who was tasked in 1884 with attempting to rescue stranded members of the Lady Franklin Bay Expedition (including its leader Lt. Adolphus Greely) from Cape Sabine, Ellesmere Island, Canada. The article is available here:

**Cameron McGill**'s poem "46.7324° N, 117.0002° W" will be published in the *Poetry Is Bread* anthology forthcoming in 2025 from Nirala Publications, India.

**Bibhushana Poudyal**'s monograph, *Gendering South Asia: Rhetorical Non-Phallic Bodies in the Global South*, is forthcoming 2025 from Routledge. This book looks at how gendered female bodies and non-phallic bodies are rhetorically constructed to function in two extremized spaces—the private and the public—in South Asia and the South Asian diaspora. In doing so, it examines the politicization of South Asian genders and sexualities in a larger colonial and global capitalist structure.

"Revisiting English Graduate Education and the *TYCA Position Statement for Preparing Teachers of English in the Two-Year College in a Post-Pandemic World*," by **Patty Wilde, Wendy Olson, and Carolyn Calhoon-Dillahunt** (alum), is forthcoming 2025 in *Preparing Writing Program and English Department Graduate Students for Successful Careers at Two-Year Colleges*, edited by Erin Lehman and Joseph Janangelo (Peter Lang).

Global Campus undergraduate English Major **Rachel Moncada** has published a powerful personal essay that she wrote in English 302 in *The Writing Disorder*. The title of the essay is "[Sam](#)."

**Aaron Oforlea** and **DJ Lee** published the book chapter "(Not)freedom" in *The Cambridge Companion to Romanticism and Race*, Cambridge University Press, 2024, edited by Manu Samriti Chander, pages 78-97.

A new creative work up at [EcoArts on the Palouse](#) features **Julian Ankney** and **Linda Russo** in dialogue through poems they wrote, each reading the shadows shaped by choreography embodied on Kamiak Butte; the collaboration is a response to an EcoArts project published several years ago by then WSU Psychology grad student **Hannah Levy**. Both works feature videos by our very own Super Senior alumnus **Ally Pang**; the video for Julian's poem was created by DTC Major **Alyssa Zepeda**, and the pages for "Two Poems for Kamiak Butte" were created by English/CW Major/Minor **Chloe Cramer**. Alyssa and Chloe were EcoArts Interns. The work is fantastic, especially during Native American Heritage Month and Julian's poem is an example of her language revitalization work. The collaboration itself grew out of Linda's desire to indigenize EcoArts on the Palouse – to go beyond the Land Acknowledgement, and to give voice to an Indigenous perspective on an important cultural site.

**Desiree Hellegers** has several recent pieces in Counterpunch: "['Tis the Season to Talk Climate Collapse, Nuclear Colonialism, and Freeing Leonard Peltier](#)," on December 11. She also read an excerpt of this article on [KBOO Radio](#). "['Every Seed We Plant': Notes Toward a Nuclear-Free Future](#)" was published on January 3, 2025.

## Conferences, Readings, Workshops, Performances, & Presentations

**Pamela Thoma** organized and presented in a roundtable panel titled "'Getting in the Way': Disrupting the Neoliberal Promise of Institutional Transformation through Community Engagement" at the 2024 annual meeting of the American Studies Association in Baltimore (November 14-17). Other presenters in this "Presidential Session" for the theme "Grounded Engagements in American Studies" included Jigna Desai (University of California Santa Barbara), Tracey Deutsch, (University of Minnesota), and Sujata Moorti (Middlebury College).

**Pamela Thoma** attended the National Women's Studies Association. Other WSU students and faculty attending the conference included **Sezin Zorlu** "Lack of Bodily Autonomy of Women in Underserved Communities before and during Covid-19," and **Marian Sciachitano**, "Re Calling Grace Lee Boggs: Misogynasia in Everyday Life and (R)evolutionary Struggle." The NWSA program for paper titles, as well as names of other WSU grad students, faculty, and alumni can be found [here](#).

**LeeAnn Hunter** presented “Reproduced without Permission: Women’s Work and Sexual Trauma in Edith Johnstone’s *A Sunless Heart*” at the 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-Century British Women Writers Conference held in Boulder, CO in May 2024.

**LeeAnn Hunter** co-presented “Creative Circles: Building Peer Support for Writing, Scholarship and Professional Goals” as part of a team of interdisciplinary scholars at the Women’s Leadership Conference held in Moscow, ID in April 2024.

From **Thabiti Lewis**: WSU will host the 2025 CLA Conference in Vancouver, WA, April 23-26, 2025. Several of our faculty and graduate students will participate and present.

On December 2, 2024, **Buddy Levy** was a guest on adventurer Erik Weihenmayer’s [No Barriers Podcast](#). Levy co-authored a book with Erik Weihenmayer (*No Barriers: A Blind Man’s Journey to Kayak the Grand Canyon*, St. Martin’s Press, 2017). Levy’s appearance on the podcast will be posted sometime in January. Levy spoke with Weihenmayer about Levy’s forthcoming book *Realm of Ice & Sky: Triumph, Tragedy, and History’s Greatest Arctic Rescue* (St. Martin’s Press, Jan 28, 2025).

The following folks presented on October 26 at the 2024 Annual Conference of the Two-Year College (English) Association of the Pacific Northwest in Bellingham, WA: **Erika Jarmon** and **Wendy Olson**: “Unheard Voices: The Importance of Linguistic Diversity in DEI Statements”; **Brigitte Hinnant** and **Patty Wilde**: “Considering the Local: Designing Preliminary Research Projects Focused on Local Topics”; and **Carolyn Calhoon Dillahunt**(alum), **Wendy Olson**, and **Patty Wilde**: “Evolving Preparation and Professionalization for Changing Two-Year College Landscapes.”

**Johanna Phelps** presented at the Engagement Scholarship Consortium International Conference in Portland, OR (October 7-10, 2024). Part of a symposium session, she presented “One Page: A Sustainable Path to Recognize Community Engaged Faculty,” informed by her current role as faculty lead for community engaged pedagogies and research on the Vancouver campus.

**Johanna Phelps** led a panel of interdisciplinary faculty participating in the WSUV Community Engaged Scholars program titled “Community Engaged Faculty Fellows Programs: Reflections on Sustainability and Growth.” In a poster session, she also shared “Findings from Longitudinal Data: Community Engaged Learning in Technical Writing Courses,” including data that supports the value of informed community engagement projects in such courses.

**Johanna Phelps** was invited as a speaker for the 2024 Annual Oregon State Engagement Conference (December 6, 2024). Phelps presented the keynote address, titled “Discovery in Dialogue: Exploring Opportunities for Community Collaboration,” with Maria Hines, the founder and director of Blue Sky Minds (a nonprofit dedicated to an equitable, sustainable & economically vibrant food system for the Okanogan region in WA). Sharing insights from their pedagogies, practices, and research that has developed from their ongoing

partnership, their discussion provided strategies for developing reciprocal, iterative community-campus collaborations.

**Michael Delahoyde**, on his monthly live Zoom show *Shakespeare Illuminated*, sponsored by the Shakespeare Oxford Fellowship, presented *Macbeth*. This and the special episode “Chaucer Hidden in Shakespeare” is being prepared for YouTube viewing. Here is the Shakespeare Oxford Fellowship’s announcement: [The Tragedy of Macbeth](#)

**Buddy Levy** recently traveled to Athy, Ireland, as an invited speaker at the 2024 Shackleton Autumn School (Nov 9-11, 2024). Levy presented a talk on his book *Empire of Ice & Stone: The Disastrous and Heroic Voyage of the Karluk* (St. Martin’s Press, 2022). Levy’s book fit the Shackleton conference because of its polar exploration subject matter and also because two members of the ill-fated *Karluk* voyage had been with Ernest Shackleton on his Nimrod Expedition (1907-09) and they figure prominently in a disastrous episode in *Empire of Ice and Stone*. [The Shackleton Autumn School](#) is an annual event/conference supported by the Shackleton Museum and dedicated to subject matter related to Irish-born explorer Ernest Shackleton and polar research and exploration more generally. After the conference, Levy spent time in Reykjavik and Selfoss, Iceland, doing exploratory research on the Vikings and early Icelandic culture.

Organized by **Trevor Bond** and the David Pollart Center for Arts and Humanities along with several faculty from the **Department of English**, WSU hosted two lectures by Dr. Emily Kopley in December: [“Virginia Woolf’s Poetry Library” on December 3](#) and [“The Lighthouse as Tree: Vanessa Bell’s Cover for To the Lighthouse and Virginia Woolf’s 1902 Edition of Wordsworth” on December 4](#). Kopley (BA Yale, PhD Stanford), is the author of *Virginia Woolf and Poetry* (OUP, 2021). She teaches at McGill University in the Department of Jewish Studies. WSU Libraries holds Virginia Woolf’s private library in their special collections.

## Teaching Highlights, Activities, & Innovations

Open Mic@Brused Books organized by **Linda Russo** closed out the 2024 Fall semester season with an open mic on November 12. To join the email list, send your email address to [lrusso@wsu.edu](mailto:lrusso@wsu.edu) or like the [Open Mic Facebook page](#).

**Writers Give Voice** reading and open mic, part of WSU’s National Day of Racial Healing, is on January 21st from 1:45-2:45p.m. at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art on the WSU campus. If you have a poem or short CNF piece (your own, or by a published author) on the day’s themes that you’d like to share, be in touch with **Linda Russo** at [lrusso@wsu.edu](mailto:lrusso@wsu.edu). The themes of the day are racial healing and the overall theme of “Keep on Pushing: Building Bridges to Sustainability.” Scheduled readings will be followed by an open mic – all are invited to read! Jada Rome will be a featured reader along with former Campus Civic Poets. There have been a few Brused Open Micers read in the past and it’d be wonderful to see you all there!

**Grant Maierhofer** started a small press with his 357 students called Index Press, that will then be incorporated into all future sections of 357 he teaches and offer internships to students in the department. They published an edition of Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*, as it's in the public domain, featuring a collaborative essay most of the students contributed to. Next semester they'll be publishing some of Flaubert and an experimental edition of Bernadette Mayer's *Utopia*. The press will also be publishing a series called Dromer, where writers write monographs on films focused closely on their subjective experiences as viewers. [Here is the site for the press.](#)

On Saturday, December 7, **English Department faculty and students** gathered in the Bundy Reading Room for a brunch/luncheon and to celebrate our graduating English majors.

## Awards, Honors, Prizes, Fellowships, & Grants

**Linda Russo's** award-winning poetry book *the verdant* was featured in the annual Morag Morris Poetry Lecture at the University of Surrey, UK, delivered by Carol Watts in November. "Land//marks: On poetry, attunement and the 'long long story of land'" considers attention to inhabited and living landscapes in the poetry of Gerard Manly Hopkins and Lorine Niedecker and three contemporary poets: Harriet Tarlo, Layli Long Soldier, and Russo.

**Bryan Fry** was recently promoted from Program Coordinator (2022) to Creative Coordinator of the Port Townsend Writers' Conference. This summer, in addition to hosting the conference's Open Mics, he will teach two performance-based workshops with Artistic Director and poet, Gary Copeland Lilley. He will also participate in the program's Public Reading Series, alongside Reginald Dwayne Betts, Claudia Castro Luna, Tess Gallagher, Terrence Hayes, Debra Earling and other PT faculty. Fry has also accepted the invitation to judge Pacific University's 2025 Writing Contests.

**Cameron McGill** was named a 2024 poetry finalist for the Four Way Books Larry Levis Prize judged by Ilya Kaminsky, the 2024 Iowa Review Awards, and the Ledbury Poetry Prize UK.

**Cameron McGill** is currently serving a two-year appointment on the Provost Office's newly combined MLK and National Day of Racial Healing committee.

**LeeAnn Hunter** was recognized as [Featured Faculty](#) at the WSU Football game on Aug. 31, 2024 by the WSU Provost's Office for her contributions to the College of Arts and Sciences Mental Health Initiative. The Mental Health Initiative's work was also featured in [WSU Insider](#) on September 6, 2024.

**DJ Lee's** poem "[New Brow](#)" originally published in *Cease, Cows Magazine* was nominated for Best of the Net.

## Message from the Chair

Again, as I read through this new (November-December 2024) issue of *The Current*, I am awestruck by the rich variety of activities completed by my colleagues: English faculty and students alike. From publications to public readings, conferences, and workshops; from pedagogical innovations that acknowledge our tremendous dedication to providing students with a transformative learning experience to the prizes and awards we've received honoring our commitments to the arts, to social justice, and to health and wellness – the English Department is a hive of creative-critical activity of which I am certainly proud to be a part. I encourage you to click on the links embedded here to explore further our considerable contributions to the broad, wonderfully interdisciplinary field of English Studies. Thank you.

Kirk

Professor and Interim Chair