

THE CURRENT

Our newsletter celebrates the latest publications, presentations, awards, teaching highlights, activities, and more of English faculty, graduate students, alumni, staff, and undergraduates.

SPRING 2025

Publications, Exhibits, & Acceptances



Julian Ankney will have a poem published called “Net Zero” in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, for their Climate Change Division in the anthology *Writing the Land* (WTL). The book will be published in October 2025.

Buddy Levy's newest book (his 9th) *Realm of Ice & Sky: Triumph, Tragedy, and History's Greatest Arctic Rescue* (St. Martin's Press) was published on January 28, 2025. The book was positively reviewed in the Jan 29 issue of [The Wall Street Journal](#) and in the February 1 issue of [AirMail News](#) (founded by former *Vanity Fair* editor).

Markosia Books published **Jeff Jones**'s graphic story collection [Bloodshot World](#). BookPeople in Moscow has copies.

Cameron McGill has poems forthcoming in *The Kenyon Review* (Winter '26 issue) and *Hayden's Ferry Review* (upcoming issue #76).

Richard Lassiter, a WSU MA English alumnus, published “Ghost Hunting” in the *Roadrunner Review*, Issue 7.

Alexander Hammond (Emeritus) published “WSU's Palmer C. Holt Poe Source Collection: Findings and Research Potential,” *The Edgar Allan Poe Review*, 25 (spring 2024): 37-47. The article, an updated version of a paper presented in 2022 at the Poe Studies Association Conference in Boston, sums up his on-going bibliographical research in WSU's Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections (MASC), work done with the generous support of the Department of English.

WSU MA English alumnus **Marc Schumann**'s short film "Take Me Somewhere Nice" is premiering throughout the American West this spring. [View the trailer on YouTube.](#)

Take Me Somewhere Nice Official Trailer

Desiree Hellegers published two recent pieces in *Counterpunch*: "["Every seed we plant': Notes Toward a Nuclear Free Future.](#)" And here's a reading from it that aired on [KBOO Radio](#):

Desiree Hellegers has also published the poem "["The Word on Mary"](#) in the recent issue of *Counterpunch*.

Conferences, Readings, Workshops, Performances, & Presentations

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

During the span of Jan 27-Feb 7, **Buddy Levy** appeared on about 20 (combined) radio shows and podcasts in support of *Realm of Ice & Sky*, including numerous national programs and NPR affiliates. *Realm of Ice & Sky* was also an Amazon Editor's Pick for Feb 2025, an Apple Books Best Books of Feb 2025, and an Apple Audio Books "Must Listen" for Feb 2025.

On Feb 5, **Buddy Levy** gave a presentation at the Kenworthy Performing Arts Theatre in Moscow, ID. Levy has upcoming presentations and book signings for *Realm of Ice & Sky* in late Feb-mid March at the Boulder Bookstore (Boulder, CO); Steamboat Books (Steamboat Springs, CO); Hilcrest Branch Boise Public Library (Boise, ID); and the Community Library (Ketchum, ID).

WSU English Club (faculty advisor **Laura Kuhlman**) was featured in the [Daily Evergreen](#) in February for bringing author Tara Karr Roberts to campus.

WSU MA English alumnus **Richard Lassiter** read as a visiting writer for the GCSU's Creative Writing Program where he is an MFA student on February 25. He read with author Matthew Carey Salter.

Christel Woods arranged for Professor Alan Rice, the Director of the UCLan Research Centre in Migration, Diaspora and Exile and Co-Director of the Institute for Black Atlantic Research at the University of Central Lancashire, UK, to visit Pullman and discuss his work in "Curating the Black Atlantic" on March 21. Sponsored by the **English Department** and the **Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies** (Director **Pamela Thoma**).

Dr. Sidney Calkin, from the School of Geography at Queen Mary University of London gave a webinar on "Abortion Pills and the Pharmaceutical Geographies of Autonomous Health" on

March 21. Sponsored by the **English Department** and the **Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies** (Director **Pamela Thoma**).

Higher Education: Honoring our Connections to Place and Indigenous Communities. **Julian Ankney** invites all to join the 2025 Continuums of Service Conference in Seattle, Washington, March 26-28, 2025. "This event, held throughout the western U.S., focuses on honoring our connection to place." The 2025 theme is "Higher Education: Honoring our Connections to Place and Indigenous Communities." For Students & AmeriCorps Members: A special student pre-conference will be held on Wednesday, March 26th and students and AmeriCorps members pay one low rate for all events. Registration is open: [Get signed up on GivePulse today.](#)

Teaching Highlights, Activities, & Innovations

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. Index Press is doing a Brat book this semester, working with interns and 357 students to bring out a book inspired by Charli xcx's album. [Here's some further information.](#) They will also be publishing an edition of *Bouvard and Pecuchet* by Flaubert, and Bernadette Mayer's *Utopia*, featuring a great deal of WSU student work in each.

Nancy Bell organized the North American Computational Linguistics Open Competition again this year. Two Pullman High School students participated and although neither advanced to the next level of the competition, the puzzles were fun and challenging and we'll try again next year! Nancy was also the official pronouncer for Franklin Elementary School's Scripps Spelling Bee. Congratulations to the winners!

Open Mic@Brused Books (faculty advisor **Linda Russo**) met twice in January with record turnout and twice in February, when many turned out despite the snow. They also met March 20. To join the email list, send your email address to lrusso@wsu.edu or like the [Open Mic Facebook page.](#)

Professor **Johanna Phelps** led the Spring 2025 EDIC-PDC Workshop on January 29: Axiological Frameworks and Community Engaged Research. Professor Phelps serves as Faculty Lead for Community Engaged Pedagogies and Research on the WSU Vancouver campus. In 2024, she was appointed to an Associate Editor role with WAC Clearinghouse's *Perspectives on Writing* series. Alongside many articles and book chapters, she's the author of *Engaging Research Communities in Writing Studies: Ethics, Public Policy, and Research Design* (Routledge, 2021).

WSU Visiting Writers Series, co-directed by **Cameron McGill** and **Julian Ankney**, sponsored a reading & Q&A with poet Tyree Daye on Tuesday, March 4 in the Chinook Student Center. To view the reading, visit the [YouTube Stream.](#)

WSU Visiting Writers Series Vancouver, co-directed by **Julian Ankney** and **Cameron McGill**, hosted author Said Shaiye on February 11. To view the reading, visit the [YouTube Stream](#). The series will bring poet Chris Hoshnic on Tuesday, April 1st at 6 p.m. Watch Party in Vancouver Undergraduate Building 124. [YouTube Stream](#) | [Author Website](#)

In “**Writers Give Voice**,” the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art and the **English Department** hosted a reading and open mic program in response to the theme of the day, “Keep on Pushing: Building Bridges to Sustainability.” Readers included WSU Campus Civic Poets and Finalists, creative writing students and faculty, and student editors of WSU creative writing publications. All students, faculty, staff, and community members were invited to bring a poem to read during the open mic portion. Before and after the program, visitors were encouraged to view museum exhibitions, including *The Art of Food: From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation* and *Your Collection: Faculty Remix*. In collaboration with the Holland Terrell Library’s Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections, the event was accompanied by the opportunity to complete a letterpress printing of a relevant poem. View a [Livestream](#) of the event. WSU English Faculty organizers included **Cameron McGill**, **Linda Russo** [OpenMic@BrusedBooks](#) organizer, **Bryan Fry**, *Blood Orange Review* editor and English instructor, and **Colin Criss**, *Palouse Review* editor and assistant professor.

[The Daily Evergreen](#) wrote a feature about the **WSU English Department’s** involvement in the events.

Awards, Honors, Prizes, Fellowships, & Grants

Cameron McGill’s manuscript, *VIRGA*, was recently named a finalist for the Tupelo Press *Helena Whitehill Prize*.

Congratulations to **Nazua Idris**, who was awarded third place (\$500) in the College of Arts and Sciences Three-Minute Thesis Qualifier / Competition on March 4.

Johanna Phelps is this year’s recipient of the Faculty Service Award for Public and Community Engagement.

Congratulations to **MA Miller** (2025 Bayard Rustin LGBTQ+ Excellence Award) and **Jada Rome** (Campus Civic Poet) who received awards at the MLK Jr. Legacy Awards and Keynote Celebration. Thanks also to **Cameron McGill** and **Ashley Boyd**, who both served on the MLK Committee.

Message from the Chair

As I read through this new 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