



## *The Common Reader* Newsletter for the ECU English Department

### Message from Interim Department Chair Lida Cope

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Hello, English faculty, students, alumni, and friends!

With some trepidation, faculty and students returned to the classroom in the fall, hoping for a COVID outbreak-free semester. With much relief, we succeeded with only sporadic reports of illness. The intense two years of the pandemic have left a mark, and it will take some time for everyone to emotionally heal and adjust to the “new normal;” but our classes did return to the usual combination of mostly in-person and some on-line teaching.

Other changes marked the fall semester. We welcomed two Assistant Professors of Writing Studies, **Desiree Dighton** and **Constance Haywood**, whose work supports our BA, MA, and PhD programs as well as our new BS in Professional Writing and Information Design. Additionally, five Visiting Assistant Professors – **Ahmed Dadzie**, **Cameron Green**, **Brendan Stephens**, **Ekaterina Sudina**, and **Jessica Walker** – began teaching first-year composition and specialized courses *(Continued on the next page)*



### Wendy Sharer Named Distinguished Professor by Harriot College

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**Wendy Sharer** was named a Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor at the 2022-2023 convocation.

The designation is the highest honor given within the college and is conferred upon a faculty member whose career exemplifies a commitment to and a love for knowledge and academic life as demonstrated by outstanding teaching and advising, research and creative productivity, and professional service.

“What sets Dr. Sharer apart for this honor are the deep and ongoing connections in her work between scholarship and practice. Dr. Sharer’s scholarship is impressively and profoundly shaped by and enacted in her teaching, mentoring, service, and leadership,” said **Marianne Montgomery**, Associate Professor of English and Harriot College Associate Dean for Faculty and Student Affairs.

## Veteran to Scholar Boot Camp Receives NC Humanities Grant

**Anna Froula** (right) and Sheena Eagan (Brody School of Medicine) have been awarded a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council. The grant will support the seventh iteration of ECU's Veteran to Scholar Boot Camp in August 2023 with cost-sharing support from ECU's Harriot College, the Brody School of Medicine, and the Mason Fund.



Supporting student veterans, the program helps build community and understanding by cultivating discussions about war experiences through the study of humanities texts and film. These intimate conversations facilitate camaraderie, providing student veterans a supportive cohort to help ease their transition into the student population and prepare them for academic success.

Froula, Eagan, and their team – which includes **Andrea Kitta**, Nicole Kukuchka (MA, '21), Nicole Messina, **Sean Morris**, **Zachary Perkinson**, and Jonathan Vincent – also recently published “Odysseus Goes to University: The Veteran to Scholar Boot Camp” in the *Journal of Veterans Studies*.

### Interim Chair's Message *(continued from the previous page)*

in creative writing, linguistics, and technical writing, gaining invaluable experience as they prepare to enter the job market in their respective fields.

And after bidding farewell to long-time Lead Administrator **Laura Jolly**, we were delighted to be joined by Lead Administrator **Nevonia Brown** and Administrative Support Associate **Nikita Barnes**.

In late fall, the Department began searching for a permanent Chairperson and for an Assistant Professor of Linguistics. With the search committees hard at work, we expect to host finalists for both positions this spring. We also hope to begin a search for two fixed-term faculty members with expertise in the teaching of composition and business writing.

As we conclude our hiring season in the spring, the Department's executive committee will again reevaluate its tenure-track priorities as we continue to work to reinforce our ranks in several other areas of English study.

The semester ended on a happy note with the Fall 2022 Commencement activities including two graduation ceremonies held by the Harriot College, complete with an evening reception to celebrate our graduates and thank their families for supporting them these past few years.

We invite you to visit the Department website to watch our outstanding graduating BA and MA students' speeches and to consider helping us fund scholarships, awards, and professional development opportunities for our students. *Go English!*

## Publications & Creative Activity

**Margaret Bauer.** “Cold Mountain: Book to Film: Epic War Novel to Love Story.” *Mississippi Quarterly*.

**Margaret Bauer.** “One Hell of a Book (By a North Carolina Writer) Receives the National Book Award for Fiction.” *NCLR*. [Review]

**Margaret Bauer.** “Leap of Faith.” *storySouth*.

**Nikki Caswell** (with Rebecca Johnson). “Centering Emotion at the Writing Center: An Approach to Tutor Training.” *Literacy and Learning in Times of Crisis: Emergent Teaching Through Emergencies*.

**Helena Feder.** “Cathleen Schine and the Comic Tradition.” *The Writer’s Chronicle*.

**Anna Froula.** “That’s How We Learn: Ben Fountain Talks with Student Veterans at East Carolina University.” *NCLR*.

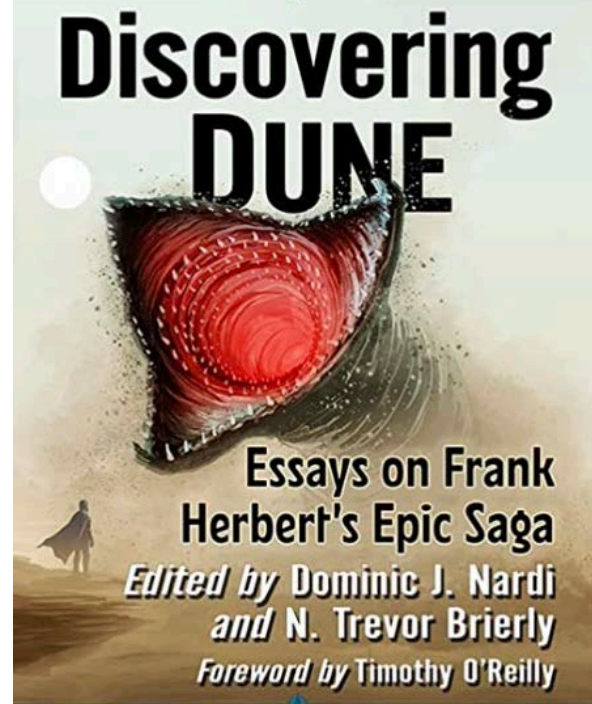
**Mark Johnson** (with Mahmoud Abdi Tabari). “Task planning and oral L2 production: A research synthesis and meta-analysis.” *Applied Linguistics*.

**Jim Kirkland.** “The Good, The Bad, The Endless In-Between.” *NCLR*. [Review]

**Abigail Morris, Tracy Ann Morse, Kimberly Thompson,** & PhD student **Zachary Singletary.** “Boundaries, Self-Care, and Empathy: Building an Empathic Teaching Survival Kit.” *Composition Studies*. [Special issue]

**Kirstin Squint.** “Native Souths.” *Routledge Companion to Literature of the U.S. South*.

Critical Explorations in Science Fiction and Fantasy, 81



*Discovering Dune: Essays on Frank Herbert’s Epic Saga* was recently published by McFarland. Professors emeriti **Don Palumbo** and **C. W. “Chip” Sullivan** are series editors for *Critical Explorations in Science Fiction and Fantasy*.

Other recent publications  
by faculty emeriti

**Lorraine Hale Robinson.** “You Can Come Home Again – and Be Lauded: Jim Grimsley Receives 2021 Hardee Rives Dramatic Arts Award.” *NCLR*. [Review]

**Tom Shields.** “Early Contact South.” *The Routledge Companion to Literature of the U.S. South*. [Spotlight section: La Florida]

**Liza Wieland.** “100 Days Project.” *NCLR*.

## Jenn Sisk Named Fellow for Mentoring and Inclusion

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**Jenn Sisk** has been named ECU's 2022-2023 Fellow for Mentoring and Inclusion. The appointment is co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost, the Office for Faculty Excellence, and the Office for Equity and Diversity.

Sisk spent the fall semester researching models and best-practices for faculty support across different roles and career stages; and during the spring semester, she will be coordinating with college representatives to build a more comprehensive understanding of the various supports

available to faculty across campus.

In addition to the fellowship and her work with the Office of Global Affairs, Sisk serves as chair of the Department's Fixed-Term Faculty Committee and as secretary of the Faculty Senate's Service-Learning Committee.

### Presentations

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**Erin Frost.** "Rhetorical Then/Now: Reproductive Rights." Coalition for Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition's Advancing the Agenda Committee. [Virtual]

**Anna Froula.** "Restaging the American Frontier in the Middle East." Writing Contemporary Wars and Contemporary Militaries: Film and Literature of Military Interventions from the Persian Gulf Wars to the Present Conference. University of Lausanne, Switzerland.

**Andrea Kitta.** "Are You Helping or Are You Buttering the Cat? Jorts and Disability Twitter." Jorts: Unbattered, Unbothered, Unionized. American Folklore Society Conference. Tulsa, OK. [Panel]

**Andrea Kitta.** "How to Have Theory in a Pandemic: Precarity, Autoethnography, and Belief Scholarship during COVID."

American Folklore Society Conference. Tulsa, OK. [Don Yoder Keynote Lecture]

**Andrea Kitta.** "What Exactly Were They Doing with That Bat Anyway? COVID Rumors and Conspiracies." American Folklore Society Conference. Tulsa, OK.

**Kirstin Squint.** "North Carolina Literary Review 2023: Highlighting North Carolina's Indigenous Voices." South Atlantic Modern Language Association. [Panel chair]

### *Typhoid Mary*

The Department co-sponsored a presentation of *Typhoid Mary* by actor-playwright

**Prudence Wright Holmes.**

The one-person play was hosted by the Gender Studies Program and supported by the ECU Women and Gender Office, School of Art and Design, Department of History, and Ethnic Studies Program.



Photo montage provided by Game P.L.A.Y.

## Game P.L.A.Y. Helps Build Trust Between Community and Police

When veteran instructor **Gera Miles** (right) and GameStop owner Dion Dail co-founded Game P.L.A.Y. (Police, Life, and Youth) in 2016, their vision was to “bridge the growing divide between communities and law enforcement, especially in the wake of several high-profile police shootings.”



Today, the award-winning non-profit is continuing to change the lives of hundreds of youths throughout the Greenville community by building trust and mutual respect.

Since its inception, Game P.L.A.Y. has partnered with local organizations to host several game days a year with events held throughout the county to involve as many groups as possible.



This past November marked the second time ECU students were the focus. Almost a dozen police officers and 60+ students attended the event, which was co-sponsored by the Main Campus Student Center, the ECU Police Department, the Department of English, and the Ethnic Studies Program.

Said Miles of the organization’s mission, “We provide a place where local police and young people can come together, play non-violent video games, and talk to one another about their relationship: where it is currently and how it can be positively reinforced for the future.”

## Transitions

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**Nikita Barnes** joined the Department as an Administrative Support Assistant.

**Nevonia Brown** joined the Department as the Lead Administrator.

**Lida Cope** is serving as the Department's Interim Chair for AY 2022-2023.

**Ahmed Dadzie** is a Visiting Assistant Professor in Rhetoric and Professional Communication for AY 2022-2023.

**Desiree Dighton** has joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Writing Studies.

**Helena Feder** was promoted to Professor.

**Cameron Green** is a Visiting Assistant Professor in Creative Writing for AY 2022-2023.

**Constance Haywood** has joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Writing Studies.

**Laura Jolly**, Lead Administrator, accepted a position in Global Affairs.

**Amanda Klein** was promoted to Professor.

**Anne Mallory** advanced in title to Teaching Associate Professor.

**Marianne Montgomery** assumed her new position as Associate Dean for Faculty and Student Affairs in the ECU Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. She also remains on faculty in the Department.

**Leanne Smith** advanced in title to Teaching Professor.



## Devra Thomas Joins NCLR Staff

**Margaret Bauer**, editor of the *North Carolina Literary Review*, welcomed digital editor **Devra Thomas** (above) to the staff.

Established in 1992, the award-winning journal is produced at East Carolina University and published and distributed by the University of North Carolina Press.

The digital editor position was made possible by a Spark the Arts grant from the North Carolina Arts Council.

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**Brendan Stephens** is a Visiting Assistant Professor in Literature and Creative Writing for AY 2022-2023.

**Ekaterina Sudina** is a Visiting Assistant Professor in Linguistics for AY 2022-2023.

**Jessica Walker** is a Visiting Assistant Professor in Creative Writing for AY 2022-2023.

## Department Welcomes Two Tenure-Track Colleagues

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The Department of English welcomed two Assistant Professors at the beginning of the fall semester: **Desiree Dighton** and **Constance Haywood**.

Desiree Dighton (right) holds a PhD in Communication, Rhetoric, and Digital Media from NC State University and an MFA in Fiction from Southern Illinois University. Her research broadly focuses on better understanding the rhetorical aspects of design in technical communication, built environments, and visualizations. In her rhetoric and writing classrooms, she enjoys tapping into her digital humanities training and professional background in editing and publishing to mentor and collaborate with students, often generating analytical and creative digital projects for the public.



Constance Haywood (left) holds a PhD in Rhetoric and Writing from Michigan State University. Her current research lies at the intersection of Black feminist theory and digital research ethics, merging theory and praxis from both areas in ways that both forward social justice and support writing and technical communication researchers. Alongside her expertise in Writing Studies, Haywood is also specialized to teach in areas of Women and Gender Studies. She is an active member of the Black Technical and Professional Task Force, the National Council of Teachers of English, and the CCCC Black Caucus.

## Michelle Eble Named Graduate School Faculty Fellow

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**Michelle Eble** (right) has been named an ECU Graduate School Faculty Fellow for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Her work will focus on faculty collaboration in the thesis-dissertation process and on the graduate faculty status process. She will also represent the Graduate School on various committees.

Eble currently supervises the graduate assistants who are teaching undergraduate technical writing courses, coordinates the Department's Rhetoric Writing and Professional Communication PhD jobs group, and serves as chair of ECU's Behavioral and Social Sciences Institutional Review Board.

She previously directed the Department's Graduate Studies Program and is a recipient of the Distinguished Graduate Faculty Mentor Award.



## Visiting Assistant Professors Hone Skills on Path to Their Careers

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Five Visiting Assistant Professors are teaching in the department during the 2022-2023 academic year. These non-renewable faculty positions were designed to provide experience for emerging scholars and writers as they seek permanent positions in academia. These instructors will be teaching composition in addition to at least one course in their respective disciplinary areas of specialization. Shown top to bottom are **Ahmed Dadzie, Cameron Green, Brendan Stephens, Ekaterina Sudina,** and **Jessica Walker.**



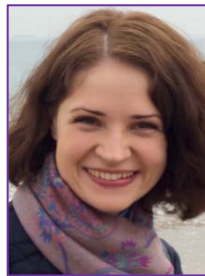
Ahmed Dadzie completed his PhD in Rhetoric and Professional Communication at New Mexico State University. His dissertation explored social media use in software documentation writing. He has been part of several grant-funded research teams and is experienced with multi-modal pedagogies.



Cameron Green, an ECU alumnus (BA '16, MA '18), earned his MFA from West Virginia University. He has creative publications in venues including *Touchstone Literary Magazine*, *Into the Void*, and *The Anthology of Appalachian Writers*. He received the Bill Hallberg Award for creative writing in 2016 and is currently working on his debut short story collection.



Brendan Stephens completed his PhD in Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Houston. His work has appeared in *Epoch*, *Carolina Quarterly*, *Pinch*, the *Notre Dame Review*, *Southeast Review*. His awards and honors include two Inprint Donald Barthelme Prizes, an Inprint Marion Barthelme Prize in Creative Writing, an Into the Void Fiction Prize, and a Sequestrum Emerging Writer award.



Ekaterina Sudina holds a PhD in Applied Linguistics from Northern Arizona University and an MA in TESOL from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Her research interests include second language acquisition, the psychology of language learning and teaching, and second language reading and writing. She has published articles in *Modern Language Teaching* and the *Journal for the Psychology of Language Learning*.



Jessica Walker received her MFA in Fiction from the University of Virginia and has continued to teach at UVa as an Echols Fellow. Her fiction and creative nonfiction can be found in *The American Scholar*, *Kenyon Review Online*, *Black Warrior Review*, and *The Indiana Review*. She has received the support of the Elizabeth George Foundation and the Sewanee Writers Conference and has won awards for investigative reporting.



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## Marame Gueye is a Strong Voice for Senegalese Women

**Marame Gueye** (right) was recently featured in international media for her work to end violence in Senegal.

As part of the UN Women's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and leading to the International Day of Human Rights, Gueye was among the women profiled in *Senepus*.

She was also featured in *Étoile Africaine* – an online magazine based in Dakar, Senegal – where she discussed her work at ECU, her feminist activism and literature, and her fashion. “Some people follow me on social media where I post pictures and speak about clothes as a marker of identity and part of my pedagogy when I teach Africa-related topics,” Gueye said.



In addition, Gueye was among the scholars invited to a three-day celebration of Senegalese author Boubacar Boris Diop, who wrote the seminal novel *Murambi: The Book of Bones* about the Rwandan genocide. Diop is the recipient of the 2022 Neustadt International Prize for Literature, and Gueye was part of an online panel of scholars discussing his work.

Gueye is currently working with Maky Madiba Sylla to co-produce a documentary on Diop's life and work.

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## Outreach

**Helena Feder** was interviewed by WITN-TV during Banned Books Week.

**Christy Alexander Hallberg** discussed her novel *Searching for Jimmy Page* on the podcasts *Bookin'* and *#badasswriters*.

**Christy Alexander Hallberg** was interviewed on *Rock is Lit* by

### Poetry Reading

The Contemporary Writer's Series and the Department of English sponsored UNCG poet **Stuart Dischell**, who read from his new book, *The Lookout Man*.

**Margaret Bauer, Randall Martoccia, and Liza Wieland.**

**John Hoppenthaler** was interviewed in *Studies in American Culture*.

**Donna Kain** was interviewed by WITN-TV during Banned Books Week.

**Andrea Kitta** served on an advisory board about big data and vaccinations at the University of Lund in Sweden.

**Kirstin Squint** and author-filmmaker LeAnne Howe were interviewed on the podcast *New Books Network* about Squint's edited collection *Conversations with LeAnne Howe*.

## Awards & Honors

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**Margaret Bauer** received the Department of English Tenured/Tenure-Track Service Award.

**Michelle Eble** was appointed the 2022-2023 Graduate School Faculty Fellow.

**Celestine Davis** was selected as a subject matter expert and will work on course design projects.

**Helena Feder** received a Faculty Support and Reassignment Award.

**Maramé Gueye** received a Faculty Support and Reassignment Award.

**Christy Alexander Hallberg's** *Searching for Jimmy Page* was named a Shelf Unbound 2022 Notable Indie Book. The novel was also a finalist in the music category at the 16th National Indie Excellence Awards.

**Mark Johnson** received the Department's Bertie Fearing Excellence in Teaching Award for Tenured/Tenure-Track faculty.

**Andrea Kittá** was named a Fellow of the American Folklore Society.

**Anne Mallory** was presented the 2022 Fixed-Term Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching at Harriot College's convocation.

**Jenn Sisk** received the Department of English Fixed-Term Faculty Service Award.

**Jenn Sisk** was named the OFE/OED 2022-2023 Fellow for Mentoring and Inclusion.

**Leanne Smith** was selected as a subject matter expert and will work on course design projects.

**Kirstin Squint** received the Department of English Research and Creative Activity Award.

**Kimberly Thompson** received the Department's Bertie Fearing Excellence in Teaching Award for Fixed-Term faculty.

## Leadership Training

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**Lida Cope** participated in the 2022 BRIDGES program, "Leading in a Time of Transformation," which is hosted annually by UNC-Chapel Hill.

**Desiree Dighton** completed the Office for Faculty Excellence's Active Learning and Leadership Program.

## Faculty Workshops

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The Writing Foundations Program hosted UNCC scholar **Jan Rieman**, who spoke to instructors about "Developing a Trauma-Aware Pedagogy."

Sgt. **Stephanie Carnevale** of the ECU Police Department presented "Run! Hide! Fight!," an active shooter awareness safety workshop.

The following faculty – who were nominated by their students – were named Honored Instructors by Campus Living:

**Maramé Gueye**

**Timm Hackett**

**Kate Harrington**

**Mark Johnson**

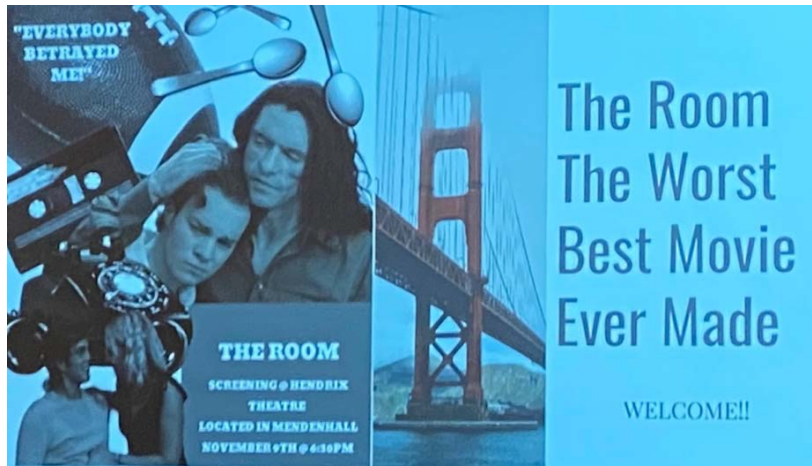
**Angela Raper**

**Ekaterina Sudina**

**Reginald Watson**

Periodically, I teach FILM 4980: Topics in Films Aesthetics.

Though most film studies courses strive to provide students with the accepted canon of “quality films” like *Citizen Kane* and *Casablanca*, this course focuses on those texts existing on the margins of good taste: “trash cinema.”



We discuss what qualities categorize a film alternately as trash – as “bad,” “low brow,” or “cult” – and how taste cultures and taste publics are established. We discuss why certain films are believed to have “cultural capital” and why and how trash cinema rewrites the rules about which films are worth watching.



The class project for the fall semester course was for the students to host their own interactive, cult film screening of the notoriously bad movie, *THE ROOM*.

They designed the posters, flyers, and promotional materials; advertised the event on campus and through social media; developed a list of “rituals” for the audience to perform; and assembled prop bags for the night of the screening.

This year’s event was a great success, despite it being our first “post-pandemic” screening of this film.

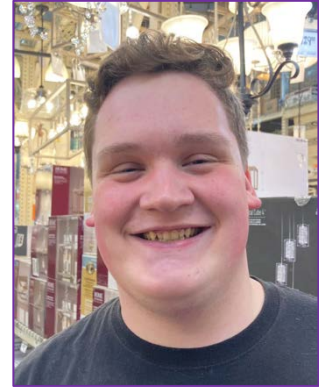
Thank you to the English Department for funding this event!



## Connor Daniel Receives 2022 Carolina TESOL Award

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Senior **Connor Daniel** (right) is the recipient of the 2022 Debbie O'Neal Award, which is presented annually by Carolina TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages).



This memorial scholarship, created and funded by the Carolina TESOL Association, provides \$500 for an outstanding undergraduate or graduate student with an interest in linguistics and/or TESOL.

Daniel is majoring in Speech Pathology and minoring in Linguistics and is passionate about helping children and adults communicate. After graduating, he plans to set up a practice in Speech Pathology before returning to the university to teach.

This eponymous award honors a Department colleague who played an active role in the school's University Language Academy, whose Intensive English Program is designed to help prepare international students for study in American institutions. **Debbie O'Neal** died in an airplane accident in 2013.



### Service

**Nicole Griffith** (shown), a student in **Jenn Sisk's ENGL 1100** service-learning class, was inspired by ECU Women and Gender Office's mission to collect hygiene products from and for her peers.

## Alumna Selected For Prestigious Project

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**Meredith Stewart Lin** (BA '08, MA '10, TESOL certificate '12) has been selected by the United States Department of State for an English Language Specialist virtual project titled "Designing Challenging Reading Comprehension, Listening, and Writing Exams for Academic Purposes" at Antonine University in Baabda, Lebanon.

The program recruits American academics and professionals in the fields of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, Applied Linguistics, or related fields to conduct programs overseas ranging from two weeks to three months.

## Publications

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**Gordon Byrd** (PhD student). “Comradery through Competition on the Links.” *Carolina County*.

**Zachary Singletary** (PhD student) with faculty members **Abigail Morris**, **Tracy Ann Morse**, and **Kimberly Thompson**. “Boundaries, Self-Care, and Empathy: Building an Empathic Teaching Survival Kit.” *Composition Studies*. [Special issue].

## Awards & Honors

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**Morgan Banville** (PhD student) was the recipient of the 2022 Bertie Fearing Excellence in Teaching Award for doctoral students.

**Sarah Barefoot** was named an Honored Instructor by ECU Campus Living.

**Mary Myers** (MA '22) was the recipient of the 2022 Bertie Fearing Excellence in Teaching Award for graduate students.

**Rocky Patacsil** was named an Honored Instructor by ECU Campus Living.

## Grants

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**Morgan Banville** (PhD student) received a grant from the Council of Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication to support her dissertation research.

## Awards Presented by Friends of Library

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At a ceremony held in Joyner Library’s Janice Hardison Faulkner Gallery, the following students received W. Keats Sparrow Writing Awards:

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Kathryn Fox

Engineering with biomedical concentration  
“AI Integration in Surgery: The Medical Field’s Death Sentence or Lifeline?”

ENGL 2201 instructor of record:

**Marc Petersen**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Isabella Benitez

Psychology  
“Stigma Around Anxiety & Depression in Hispanic/Latino College Students”

ENGL 2201 instructor of record:

**Nicole Allen** (graduate teaching assistant)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Courtney Gibbs

Clinical laboratory science  
“Possible Effects of Psychedelic Micro-dosing on Mental Health”

ENGL 2201 instructor of record:

**Cheryl Dudasik-Wiggs**

### Honorable mention: Anna Sykes

Violin performance  
“Piecing Together the History of the ECU Orchestra”

ENGL 2201 instructor of record:

**Anne Mallory**

The W. Keats Sparrow Writing Award recognizes excellence in research and writing by students in East Carolina University’s English 1100 and 2201 composition classes.

The award is sponsored by the Friends of Joyner Library and is named in honor of the late **W. Keats Sparrow**, Professor Emeritus of English and former Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

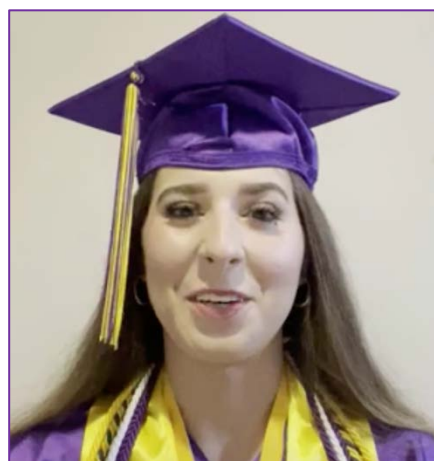
## Outstanding English Graduates Named by Department

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**Suzanne Williams** (left) was named the Department's Outstanding Graduate Student. As a newly minted recipient of a master's degree in technical communication, Williams stated that "as English linguists and rhetoricians, literature scholars and teachers, writers and communicators, we understand that the right words at the right time have power. They can comfort us in our grief, ignite a beacon of hope, and provide the fortitude to redefine our limitations." With this knowledge, she encouraged her fellow graduates "to rewrite the possibilities of tomorrow."

**Lauren Cekada** (right) was named the Department's Outstanding Undergraduate Student. With a Bachelor of Arts degree in hand, she advised her graduating class to "take a day to be proud of your accomplishment," putting aside the anxiety about "what comes next [because] you are diligent, creative, amicable, and more. You are strong. You made it through an actual pandemic like it never even happened and are still graduating. So be confident. Be proud. And be strong for what comes next because anything that comes your way, you can handle it!"



## Congratulations to the Fall 2022 Graduating Class!

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East Carolina University's Fall 2022 Commencement Ceremony was held in-person at Minges Coliseum on December 16.

Later that day, Harriot College of Arts and Sciences hosted two college recognition ceremonies and a dessert reception at the Main Campus Student Center.

The following students received Bachelor of Arts degrees in English: **Rachel Brown, Lauren Cekada, Brianna Dilldine, Jordan Hooper, Ronni Hopkins, Ashley Mills, Javoures Sutton,** and **Kailauna White.**

The following students received Master of Arts degrees in English: **Sarah E. Barefoot, Tawneé Benedetto, Sarah Byrd, Nancy M. Childs, Kathryn H. Dyer, Brian Gregory, Emily A. Justice, Adam V. Laviano, Lora S. Leary, Roger A. McComas, Eric C. McCrimmon, Margaret McGregor, Alexander W. Pickens, Mattalyn E. Rouse, Jordan N. Wiggins,** and **Suzanne M Williams.**

## Alum Jamal-Jared Alexander is Lauded for His Research, Activism

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As a student in our department, **Jamal-Jared Alexander** (MA '17) received a 2016 National Diversity Award from the Council for Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication.

And he has been quite busy since he graduated from East Carolina University – most notably becoming an Assistant Professor in English at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville!

Alexander (left) earned his PhD in Technical Communication and Rhetoric at Utah State University where he led and collaborated on several university initiatives related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. He

- served as USU's Diversity Recruitment Officer, reporting to the Provost;
- served as mentor to the Black Student Union;
- developed teaching collaborations with the USU Inclusion Center;
- co-led and hosted the university's Juneteenth celebrations; and
- was the principal founder of USU's Graduate Student of Color Association.

In recognition of his leadership, USU awarded him

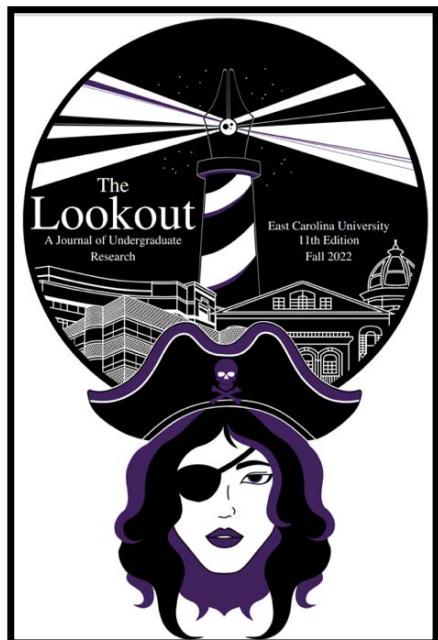
- a Presidential Doctoral Research Fellowship;
- the university's first Diversity and Inclusion Assistantship;
- a Diversity Award during his 4<sup>th</sup> year as a doctoral student;
- the USU Robins Award for Achievement of the Year;
- the USU Robins Award for Organization of the Year (with the Graduate Student of Color Association); and
- the College Graduate Researcher of the Year Award.

Alexander was also the recipient of the 2020 Association of Teachers of Technical Writing Amplification Award, which supports the research contributions of underrepresented scholars in the field.

In 2022, he co-authored (with Rebecca Walton) "Relational Recruiting: Using Black Feminist Theory to Inform More Socially Just Graduate Program Recruiting," which was published in *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication* [Special Issue: Enacting Social Justice].

And his article (co-authored with Avery C. Edenfield) titled "Health and Wellness as Resistance: Tactical Folk Medicine" – originally published in *Technical Communication Quarterly* – was named the 2022 Association for the Rhetoric of Science, Technology, and Medicine Article of the Year.

*Go English!*



## Student Creations Showcased

The following students in **Donna Kain's** ENGL 3870 Introduction to Editing and Publishing course completed work on Volume 11 Issue 1 of *The Lookout: A Journal of Undergraduate Research at East Carolina University*: **Isaiah Acevedo, Anna Armstrong, Rachel Brown, Dasani Cropper, Matthew Davis, Quadir Holmes, Jordan Hooper, Megan Howell, Blaine Leggett, Ellie Martin, Sarah Pearce, Tristan Roach, Blake Rose, Xavier Scales, Stephen Smith, Javoures Sutton, and Kailauna White.**

*The Lookout* is a journal of undergraduate research and creative writing dedicated to showcasing the writing prowess of students from all disciplines at the university. The current

issue (above) includes research papers, literary analyses, poems, and creative writing and is the first issue that includes work representing an original music composition.

Also during the fall semester, the following students in **John Hoppenthaler's** ENGL 3840 Introduction to Poetry Writing presented a public reading of their work: **Sophia Bennett, Onyx Bradley, Liam Crowley, Chityah Evans, Martha Nebab, Chandler Nimons, Amari Quick, Jake Seagraves, and Jordan Wisniewski.**

Find us on social media  
and at  
[English.ecu.edu](http://English.ecu.edu)

### Scholarships Available

The Department of English offers a variety of scholarships to qualified undergraduate and graduate students:

Charles and Patricia Moore  
Scholarship in English

Ebbs Scholarship

Friends of English Scholarship

McKinley and Barbara Price Study  
Abroad Endowed Scholarship

Russell Christman Memorial Scholarship

Bill Hallberg Award

Debbie O'Neal Award

Paul Farr Memorial Essay Contest

Note that awards are dependent upon funding levels and may not be offered every year. External, national, and international scholarships are also available to students.

### The Fine Print

If we missed any news-worthy events that took place before December 15, 2022, or – yikes! – made an error, please forward a gentle note to TCR editor Cheryl Dudasik-Wiggs at [dudasikwiggsc@ecu.edu](mailto:dudasikwiggsc@ecu.edu).