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

It was a busy spring in the English Department, with most classes offered in-person and an increasing number of on-campus events. With the community, we celebrated reading and Indigenous lives in North Carolina today through the NEA Big Read – Greenville, which culminated in a well-attended reading in the student center by U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, sponsored by the Whichard Distinguished Professorship in the Humanities. Audience members from Oakwood School students to Choctaw elders represented a wide range of ages and experiences; and everyone seemed moved and inspired by Harjo’s poetry, stories, and presence.

We were also busy this spring with hiring. Joining us in the fall will be two new
Assistant Professors in the field of writing studies: Constance Haywood and Desiree Dighton. Haywood, who recently completed her PhD at Michigan State University, researches and writes about Black feminist research ethics. Dighton holds a PhD from NC State and recently worked at Marist University; her scholarship focuses on using data visualization tools for understanding housing and gentrification. Both bring needed expertise to our PhD, MA, and undergraduate programs, especially the new BS in Professional Writing and Information Design.

This fall, we are also welcoming five new Visiting Assistant Professors to the department. These emerging scholars and writers will be with us for 2022-23 and will teach composition as well as courses in their areas of specialization. They will also work with mentors to advance their scholarship and their career goals. The five visiting faculty are Ahmed Dadzie (technical communication), Cameron Green (fiction), Brendan Stephens (fiction), Ekaterina Sudina (linguistics), and Jessica Walker (fiction).

As we say hello to these new colleagues, we also say goodbye to others. Tom Shields retired after a long and distinguished 33-year career in the department. Guiseppe Getto moved on to a new tenured position at Mercer University. Charles Woods and Sarah Lonelodge left us for tenure-track opportunities at Texas A&M – Commerce and Eastern New Mexico University, respectively. Sarah Meador headed to a PhD program at Ball State. And Ben Abel took a position with ECU University Communications. We wish all of these colleagues well in their new adventures!

Finally, this spring was my last semester as Chair of English, as I am moving to a position as Associate Dean for Faculty and Student Affairs in Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. It has been a privilege to lead English over the past six years, and I know it is on a great path.

In the next issue of the newsletter, you’ll hear from Interim Chair Lida Cope. I look forward to cheering on the department’s next steps under her leadership.

Go English!

**During 2021-2022, English faculty…**

- published 10 books, 21 articles, 33 chapters, 38 creative works, and 2 essays in volumes from conference proceedings;
- gave 62 conference presentations or readings;
- served on 221 committees or initiatives at the department, college, or university level (apart from administrative assignments);
- directed or co-directed 3 interdisciplinary programs in the Harriot College of Arts and Sciences; and
- served as editors, co-editors, and editorial board members of numerous journals, including 3 published by the department: *North Carolina Literary Review*, *Tar River Poetry*, and *The Lookout*.
East Carolina University was one of 61 organizations nationwide selected to receive 2021-2022 National Endowment for the Arts Big Read grants. A variety of events were held over a six-week period, culminating in an on-campus visit by the country’s first Native American U. S. Poet Laureate, Joy Harjo (above).

According to English Department Chair Marianne Montgomery, who directed the project, the goal of NEA Big Read – Greenville was “to educate the community about the history of southeastern Indigenous peoples, enrich the community through cultural events related to tribal nations, and advance ECU’s mission to serve the public and transform the region.”

ECU Chancellor Philip Rogers, Harriot College Dean Allison S. Danell, Tribal Chairwoman of the Waccamaw-Siouan Indian Tribe Pamela Young-Jacobs, Executive Director and Tribal Administrator of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe of North Carolina Jamie K. Oxendine, and other community leaders kicked off the semester-long series in Uptown Greenville in February.

LeAnne Howe (left) – an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and a prolific writer of fiction, poetry, drama, literary criticism, and screenplays – screened her film Searching for Sequoyah at the Greenville Art Museum later that month.

Continued on the next page
The evening began with a virtual performance by Pembroke native and Lumbee-Tuscarora member Charly Lowry, who sang and played the traditional Native American hand drum.

The documentary’s viewing was followed by a community panel that included Howe and members of the Lumbee tribe.

Celestine Davis, English Department faculty member and director of the Down East Flick Fest, facilitated the evening’s events.

To round out February, Vice-Chief of the Haliwa Saponi Marty Richardson (left), Indigenous historian and archivist, presented “Cultural and Historical Diversity of Southeastern Natives” in the main campus library’s Faulkner Gallery. He is working for revitalization of the Tutelo-Saponi language and for federal recognition of the tribe.

In March, Catherine H. Garner gave a lecture on the music of Native American composers Louis W. Ballard, Jerod Tate, Dawn Avery, and Nicole Elyse DiPaolo (with text by Alex Posey) at ECU’s A. J. Fletcher Recital Hall. The evening’s musical performers were Catherine Gardner (soprano), Catherine H. Garner (piano), Raegan Knox (soprano), Timothy Nowak (cello), Douglas Moore-Monroe (clarinet), and Chris Ulffers (bassoon).

The culminating event of NEA Big Read – Greenville was the March 31 on-campus visit of Muscogee (Creek) Nation member Joy Harjo, who discussed her collection An American Sunrise with a full house on the ECU campus. Earlier in the day, she visited several ECU classes and interacted with students and faculty. Over 650 copies of her An American Sunrise were distributed free to the public during the semester.

Programming partners for ECU’s NEA Big Read – Greenville included Sheppard Memorial Library, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Whichard Distinguished Professorship, ECU Department of English, ECU Gender Studies Program, Down East Flick Fest, Pitt County Council on Aging, ECU’s Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, East Carolina Native American Organization, and ECU School of Music.

The Common Reader • Spring 2022
**Publications & Creative Activity**

**Margaret Bauer.** “There Is No Road Less Traveled.” *Chautauqua.*

**Margaret Bauer.** “Queen Me.” *Blast.*


**Gabrielle Brant Freeman.** “Searching for Jimmy Page.” *ENC Community Magazine.* [Review]


**Marame Gueye** translated subtitles for the documentary film *El Maestro Laba Sosse* into English. She also published a review of the film on the website *Africa is a Country* and joined filmmaker Maky Madiba Sylla for a screening and question-and-answer session at the New York African Film Festival.


**John Hoppenthaler.** “After Robert Motherwell’s Two Figures.” *Live Encounters.*

**John Hoppenthaler.** “First Light.” *Live Encounters.*

**John Hoppenthaler.** “Hummingbirds and Eagles.” *Live Encounters.*

**John Hoppenthaler.** “The Venus of Willendorf.” *Gargoyle.*

**John Hoppenthaler.** “At 2 AM.” *Appalachian Lit.* Inaugural issue.


**Jim Kirkland.** “Poems of Love and Loss.” *North Carolina Literary Review Online.* [Review]

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An untitled haiku by **John Hoppenthaler** was chosen to be displayed at a variety of sites in Newton, MA, as part of Poetry Newton’s Haiku Newton Project.
Marianne Montgomery received the James R. Talton Jr. Leadership Award, which recognizes committed servant leaders within ECU who exhibit “exemplary performance” in fostering the development of others and demonstrating strong character and ethical professionalism.

Chancellor Philip Rogers (left) presented the award at the Chancellor’s Horizon Awards for Service reception in March.


Wendy Sharer. “Feminist Rhetorical Challenges to Significance, Certainty, and Disconnection.” College English. [Review]

Amber Flora Thomas. “Some Ways We Live Beyond Your Death.” Ecotone.


Awards & Honors


Cheryl Dudasik-Wiggs. Mentorship recognition. ECU Women and Gender Office.

Michelle Eble. Charles Moran Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Field. Computers and Composition.

Grace Horne. Honored Instructor. ECU Campus Living.

Donna Kain. Mentorship recognition. ECU Women and Gender Office.

Jim Kirkland. Honored Instructor. ECU Campus Living.

Jim Kirkland. Finalist. ECU Alumni Association Outstanding Teaching Award.

Gera Miles. Centennial Award for Excellence: Spirit. ECU Chancellor’s Horizon Awards for Service.

Charles Woods. Kairos Service Award. The Big Rhetorical Podcast.

Research Grant

Margaret Bauer received a Community Research Grant from North Carolina Humanities for a project titled “Teaching North Carolina Literature.”
More than 200 diverse scholars gathered May 19-21 at East Carolina University for the Computers and Writing Conference. Themed “Practicing Digital Activisms,” the conference was a hybrid event that attracted an additional 200 scholars virtually.

Participants came from all over the country, and some from abroad, to take part in the first face-to-face conference in writing studies since 2019. This conference was originally scheduled for 2020 but, like many events, it fell victim to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, online events were scheduled; but the actual conference was put on hold until this year.

The conference was organized by Erin Clark Frost, Michelle Eble, and Will Banks and received support from the University Writing Program, the Department of English, and the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.

The department was well represented at the conference. In addition to having many graduate students presenting their original research, ECU’s own Morgan Banville was recognized by the journal Kairos with a Graduate Student Research Award. Charles Woods received multiple awards for his innovative The Big Rhetorical Podcast. Lastly, Michelle Eble received the Charles Moran Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Field by the Computers and Composition journal.

One of the major additions to the Computers and Writing conference this year

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was the creation of a new series of virtual presentations called “Emergent Voices.” To recognize the significant impact that early career scholars are having on the field, conference organizers invited six speakers to create virtual presentations that were featured at different times during the conference, and that were available to all conference attendees, on-site or virtual.

Among this group, **Constance Haywood**, an ECU alumna who will return to the department this fall as a new Assistant Professor, was featured with her talk “Gifts of Knowledge and Embodied Experience: Black Feminist Contributions to Digital Research Ethics.”

The following faculty from the Department of English presented at the conference: **Benjamin Abel, Matthew Cox, Donna Kain, Kimberly Thompson**, and **Charles Woods**. PhD students **Nicole Allen, Morgan Banville, Codi Renee Blackmon, Gordon Byrd, Kasen Christensen, Bess McCullough, Amanda Patterson-Partin, Jayde Rice**, and **Jason Sugg** also presented their research to the Computers and Writing community.

Organizers welcomed several PhD alumni back to ECU. Alumni who gave presentations included **Janine Butler, Kerri Flinchbaugh, Temptaous Mckoy, Ruby Nancy, Cecilia Shelton**, and **Stephanie West-Puckett**.

With the focus of the presentations and workshops on Digital Activisms, participants were able to share knowledge about how digital spaces can simultaneously maximize opportunities for social justice while – at times – falling short of making the significant changes many would like to see in the world. Topics ranged from sharing knowledge about common health issues to COVID journeys of exploration. The event ended with a social at Stumpy’s Hatchet House in downtown Greenville.
Presentations


**Matthew Cox.** “Queer & Embodied Stories of Mentoring Digital Activism.” Practicing Digital Activisms. Computers and Writing Conference. ECU. [Panel]

**Celestine Davis.** Starlight Café, Greenville. [Reading]

**Helena Feder.** “What Matters Most.” Gender to a Tea. ECU.


**Gabrielle Brant Freeman.** Starlight Café, Greenville. [Reading]

Since retiring from the English Department, **Ron Hoag** completed a two-year term as president of The Thoreau Society and a follow-up year on the board as immediate past president, his 22nd and final year of intermittent board service.


**Anna Froula.** “ECU’s Veteran to Scholar Bootcamp.” Daughters of the American Revolution. Greenville.

**Anna Froula.** “What SNL Got Wrong: Group Watching True Crime During the Pandemic.” Society of Cinema and Media Studies. Virtual.

**Tom Herron.** “Teaching in Virtual Reality in the Humanities and Social Sciences.” Laupus Library. ECU.


**Andrea Kitta.** “Bat Soup and Signs of the Beast: COVID Legends and Conspiracy Theories.” The Ohio State University.

**Andrea Kitta.** “Talking to Others about the COVID Vaccine: How to Discuss Legends, Rumors, and Conspiracy Theories with Your Loved Ones.” The Ohio State University. [Workshop]

Tracy Morse. “Inclusion through Empathy: A Program Value.” Conference on College Composition and Communication Convention. Virtual. [Panel]

Tom Shields. “Reconsidering the Lost Colony: What We Don’t Know and Why We Don’t Know.” Friends of the Library Annual Meeting. ECU.

Amber Flora Thomas. Starlight Café, Greenville. [Reading]


Charles Woods. “We Interrupt This Syllabus: Using Podcasts as Networked Texts with Activist Potential in the Writing Classroom.” Computers and Writing Conference. ECU. [Workshop]

Magic Words, Magic Worlds: Form and Style in Epic Fantasy was recently published by McFarland. Professors emeriti Don Palumbo and C. W. “Chip” Sullivan III are series editors for Critical Explorations in Science Fiction and Fantasy.

Professional Board

Erin Clark Frost. At-large member. Consortium of Doctoral Programs in Rhetoric and Composition.

Editorial Team

Tracy Morse and Wendy Sharer. Editorial team. WPA: Writing Program Administration. Anie Patterson-Partin (PhD student) will join them as an assistant editor.
Transitions

**Ben Abel** has begun working with the ECU News and Communications team on the Health Sciences campus.

**Guiseppe Getto** accepted a tenured position at Mercer University.

**Corina Jury** moved to a position in Student Affairs.

**Sarah Lonelodge** was hired into a tenure-track position at Eastern New Mexico University.

**Sarah Meador** is entering a PhD program at Ball State.

**Tom Shields** retired from teaching after 33 years.

**Charles Woods** accepted a tenure-track position at Texas A&M-Commerce.

Fellowships

**Michelle Eble.** Faculty Fellow. ECU Graduate School.

**John Hoppenthaler.** Residency fellowship. Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Amherst, VA.

**John Hoppenthaler.** Residency fellowship. Dairy Hollow Writers Colony. Eureka Springs, AK.

**Jenn Sisk.** Faculty Fellow. ECU Office for Faculty Excellence.

Marianne Montgomery has been appointed Associate Dean for Faculty and Student Affairs in the ECU Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.

Three English faculty members participated in the Summer Research and Creative Activity Institute, which was sponsored by the Office for Faculty Excellence. **Gabrielle Brant Freeman** worked on poems that will make up her next collection, and **Grace Horne** and **Randall Martoccia** provided writing support for the institute’s participants.
Congratulations to Margaret Bauer on reaching her Silver Anniversary as editor of North Carolina Literary Review.

Since taking the helm of the journal in 1997, she has spent the past 25 years working tirelessly to transform NCLR into the Old North State treasure it has become, providing a platform for both North Carolina’s emerging writers and its literary legends, as well as some of the state’s most gifted visual artists. Under her leadership, the annual print publication has added two online issues and has earned numerous awards, including the Best Journal Design award in 1999 and 2010, the Parnassus Award for Significant Editorial Achievement in 2007, and the Phoenix Award for Significant Editorial Achievement in 2014. She and the NCLR staff were awarded the ECU Centennial Award for Excellence in Ambition in 2017.

Because of her extraordinary success as editor, scholar, and educator, she was named one of ten ECU Women of Distinction in 2007 and received the university’s Lifetime Achievement Award in Research and Creative Activity in 2014. In 2017, she received the North Carolina Award for Literature from Governor Roy Cooper. The following year, the North Carolina Humanities Council presented her with its highest award, the John Tyler Caldwell Award for the Humanities.

As a member of NCLR’s staff since 2005, I have had the joy of working alongside this talented professional on the journal and witnessing firsthand her dedication to NCLR and ECU. I am honored to call her my friend and colleague. Kudos, Margaret!

The North Carolina Literary Review sponsored several public events during the spring semester.

Poetry Editor and former ECU English professor Jeffrey Franklin read from his new collection, Where We Lay Down, along with two local poets who had been finalists in NCLR’s James Applewhite Poetry Prize competition. Franklin also read with Amber Flora Thomas at Pamlico Books in Little Washington.

A combined event – the NCLR Alex Albright Creative Nonfiction Prize Virtual Reading and the 2022 Winter Online Issue Launch – was hosted by North Carolina Humanities and featured readings by Albright award finalists and recipients. Senior Associate Editor Christy Hallberg was a special guest. This event was planned and moderated by ECU graduate and undergraduate students who were serving on the NCLR staff.

Also student-organized was “Poetry by North Carolina Poet Expats,” which was hosted by North Carolina Humanities and featured readings by 2021 James Applewhite Poetry Prize finalists and recipients.
Kirstin Squint (left) has served as the Whichard Visiting Distinguished Professor in the Humanities: English and Gender Studies for the past three academic years. During that time, she brought nationally and internationally known writers and speakers to campus in addition to having taught courses for the Department of English and the Gender Studies Program.

A scholar who interweaves the fields of gender studies, Native American studies, U.S. multi-ethnic studies, and Southern literature studies, Squint joined the tenured faculty of ECU’s Department of English in fall 2021 as an associate professor.

The Whichard Chair partnered with English Department Chair Marianne Montgomery, director of NEA Big Read – Greenville, to bring Joy Harjo, LeAnne Howe, and Marty Richardson to Greenville for spring presentations that were free and open to the public.

She was recently featured in the “Faculty Focus” section of ECU’s summer issue of East Magazine.

**Publications**

- *Conversations with LeAnne Howe.* University Press of Mississippi.
- “Tribalography in Motion: LeAnne Howe.” *Postindian Aesthetics: Affirming Literary Indigenous Sovereignty.* [with Kenneth Roemer]

**Presentations**

- “Narrative Reliability and ‘the Mooney book’ in Riding the Trail of Tears.” Modern Language Association Convention.
- “Joy Harjo’s *An American Sunrise.*” ECU Lifelong Learning Program.

*Continued on the next page*

**About the Whichard Professorship**

The Whichard Visiting Distinguished Professorship in the Humanities is housed in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences and is made possible through a generous donation by the Whichard family in honor of David Julian and Virginia Suther Whichard of Greenville.
National Poetry Month recognition in the Faulkner Gallery included students reading their original works. Participating students were Ashley Mills, Owen Starr, Alex Pickins, Kaitlin Butler, Lauryn Hopkins, Liz Wynne, Thekra Hindi, Rieneke Ausherman, Cassandra Marjoram, Blake Rose, and Ryan Winter. Associate Professor Amber Flora Thomas (far left) said, “Performance is part of poetry. Many of the poets in the course have been with me for years. I've been working with them since they were freshmen, so we've been together a long time; and this is really an accumulation of a lot of work.”

Whichard Chair  Continued from the previous page

• “The Role of Water in Joy Harjo’s An American Sunrise.” Gender to a Tea. ECU Gender Studies Program.


• “Joy Harjo’s An American Sunrise.” Pitt County Council on Aging.

Service

• Completed a five-year term as a member of the Executive Council for the Language, Literature, and Culture Southern United States Forum.

• Spoke at an event celebrating the opening of LeAnne Howe’s archive at the University of Oklahoma’s Western History Collection.

• Presented LeAnne Howe with the Richard Beale Davis Award for Distinguished Lifetime Service to Southern Letters on behalf of the Society for the Study of Southern Literature.

• Served on the ECU Voyages of Discovery Steering Committee, which selected the 2021-2022 slate that included Citizen Potawatomi Citizen author Robin Wall Kimmerer.
Rock ‘n’ Roll Novel Gains Whole Lotta Love From Critics

**Christy Hallberg**’s novel *Searching for Jimmy Page* has gone into a second printing, and the author has been busy publicizing her work.

- **Readings:** Lucid and Pinecones & Pages Literary Festival.
- **Podcasts:** Rock in Retrospect, Ridiculous Rock Record Reviews, Rock School, London Rock, Writer’s Bone, Drinks with Tony, Analog Smile, and The Rock is George.
- **Awards:** 2022 Distinguished Favorite in General Fiction, Independent Press Award; Honorable Mention in Fiction, BookFest Awards; Distinguished Favorite in General Fiction, Independent Press Awards; and Best New Fiction and Fiction General, American Writing Awards.

Outreach

ECU’s Veteran to Scholar Bootcamp, led by **Anna Froula**, was highlighted on the National Endowment for the Humanities website in the article “Odysseus Goes to University.”

**Marame Gueye** was a guest on the *Africa is a Country* podcast to talk about feminism and gender-based violence in Senegal.

**Donna Kain** was interviewed twice by WNCT-TV to discuss International Women’s Day.

**Andrea Kitta** was interviewed about vaccination and pandemic lore on *Folkwise*.

**Amanda Klein** was a guest on Minnesota Public Radio’s *MPR News Show*, where she discussed the appeal of reality television.

**During 2021-2022…**

- **North Carolina Literary Review** published one online issue and its 31st print issue. The theme was “Writers Who Teach, Teachers Who Write.”
- **Tar River Poetry** published two issues.
- **The Lookout**, a journal of undergraduate student writing that is produced and edited in ENGL 3870 Introduction to Editing and Publishing, published one issue.

All three publications are housed in the Department of English.

Follow us at [English.ecu.edu](http://English.ecu.edu) and on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
Tom Shields (right), who came to ECU in the fall of 1989, retired at the end of the spring 2022 semester. In his time with the English Department, Shields served – among other roles – as Graduate Director, chair of the English Department Personnel Committee, and Department Parliamentarian.

A specialist in early American literature, Shields has focused on America’s multicultural and multilingual traditions. He has published original research on Spanish and English writers as well as on Native and European American stories of their earliest encounters from the sixteenth-century to modern retellings. This cross section of what constitutes American literature has informed his teaching. “Along with more specialized courses, I’ve taught American literature surveys almost every semester since I arrived,” says Shields. “These include those especially for English and English Education majors, which means – for better or worse – I’ve had my influence on how American literature is taught in the schools in eastern North Carolina and beyond.”

Shields has also taught composition, bibliography and research methods, and North Carolina-focused courses. “Some of my most special memories include getting the chance to teach The Frontier in American Literature and Film with Anna Froula and an honors seminar on the Roanoke colonies with Charlie Ewen from Anthropology.” One outcome of teaching with Froula was a journal article about their experiences, “Captive Students and Dueling Podia: A Collaborative Approach to Teaching the Frontier in American Literature and Film;” and Shields and Ewen have a book manuscript submitted for potential publication about Roanoke and “The Lost Colony.”

Shields says that “perhaps the most important thing about teaching and doing research in an English Department is to understand that despite their differences, all the areas of English Studies add to understanding the way a text works. Linguistics, literature, rhetoric, cultural studies, folklore, creative writing, technical and professional writing, general composition, and the visual and aural elements of film and print arts all work together to create the meaning we are trying to interpret.”

Shields plans to spend more time working in the garden and around the eight acres he and his wife, Claire, live on outside of Edenton. But he will also continue his research. Getting to use the shaded emeritus parking spaces alongside Erwin Building while using the library is one of the first perks of retirement he plans to use.

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Publications & Creative Activity


Kasen Christensen (PhD student). “Digital Activism in the Comment Section: How Fiber Arts Content Creators Build Community through Comment Moderation.” Practicing Digital Activisms. Computers and Writing Conference. ECU.

Carleigh Davis (PhD ’18), Temptaous Mckoy (PhD ’19), Cecilia D. Shelton (PhD ’19), and Erin Clark Frost. “Embodying Public Feminisms: Collaborative Intersectional Models for Engagement.” IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication.


Gary Carter (BA ’73) has had a good run recently! His poetry and short fiction have appeared in Sky Island Journal, Deep South Magazine, Dead Mule, The Voices Project, Silver Birch, Live Nude Poems, Delta Poetry Review, and Main Street Rag.

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Stephanie West-Puckett (PhD ’17, MA ’01) “Radical Museology/Radical Pedagogy: Curating Beyond Boundaries.” Practicing Digital Activisms. Computers and Writing Conference. ECU. [Panel]

Grant

Morgan Banville (PhD student). Council of Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication to support her dissertation research.

Transition

June Sylvester Saraceno (BA ’79) directs the MFA program at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Mark Johnson, president of Carolina TESOL – Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages – announced that Vincent “Max” Kilgore (above) received the Debbie O’Neal Award at the annual TALGS Conference in February.

Kilgore (MA ’21, BA ’19) earned his TESOL certificate after receiving his BA from the department. During his graduate career, he worked as the senior editorial assistant for the North Carolina Literary Review. He recently began a job as a technical writer at BioSkyrb Genomics.

ECU’s Department of English and the Greensboro College Department of English, Communication, and Media Studies co-hosted the symposium.

The award honors the late Debbie O’Neal, a department colleague who played an active role in ECU’s University Language Academy.

Editorial Team

Anie Patterson-Partin (PhD student). Assistant editor. WPA: Writing Program Administration.
Awards & Recognitions

English (BA ’22) student **Thekra Hindi** (left) was among the recipients of this year’s Robert H. Wright Alumni Leadership Award, the most prestigious award presented by the ECU Alumni Association. Hindi was a quadruple major in English, chemistry, mathematics, and biochemistry and hopes to attend the Brody School of Medicine. Among her many activities, she is a creative writer and was a member of the 2021-2022 Voyages of Discovery Steering Committee.

After completing an undergraduate pre-med career path in biology that included numerous clinical, surgical, and research internships, **Ashten Loren Shope** (right) discovered a passion for writing. Motivated by that discovery, she entered the English department’s MA program, focusing on creative writing. This spring, she was named the department’s spring Outstanding Graduate Student, earning praise for her teaching and editorial work, most notably with the *North Carolina Literary Review*.

**Caroline Puerto** (left) was recognized as the department’s spring Outstanding BA Student. Not just a fine scholar, she is already an accomplished writer and editor, recently completing an editorial internship with *Tar River Poetry*. She has also coordinated social media and marketing for several novelists, volunteered as a photographer and media editor, and written two full-length novel manuscripts along with several shorter projects for which she plans to seek publishers.

**Morgan Banville** (PhD student). Graduate Student Research Award. *Kairos.*
**Ina Cariño** (BA ’16). 2022 Whiting Award. Whiting Foundation.
**Ina Cariño** (BA ’16). George Bogin Memorial Award. Poetry Society of America.
**Harley Gibson** (BA student). Friends of English Scholarship. ECU.
**Ian Jones** (BA student). McKinley and Barbara Price Study Abroad Endowed Scholarship. ECU.
**Vedika Modi** (BA student). Paul Farr Memorial Essay Award.
**Faith Richmond** (BA student). Charles and Patricia Moore Scholarship in English. ECU.
**Ashleigh Taylor** (PhD student). Outstanding Staff Award. ECU Student Affairs.
**Kailauna White** (BA student). McKinley and Barbara Price Study Abroad Endowed Scholarship. ECU.

*The Common Reader* • Spring 2022
Service Learning Students Donate Books, Snacks to Local Teachers

In early February, four members of the College of Education’s Living Learning Community who had taken Jenn Sisk’s service-learning section of ENGL 1100 last fall distributed books and snacks they had collected.

In addition to delivering these items to teachers at HG Sugg Elementary School, said Sisk, the future educators “also got to tour several classrooms and discuss the ways that COVID has impacted students in elementary school. This experience reinforced the research they did for my class, in the ways reading skills have decreased through pandemic learning and the many challenges our public-school teachers are facing.”

Several hundred donated books will provide opportunities for young students to learn the joys of reading. And the snacks – provided by the English Department and by Jim Kirkland – were especially welcomed by teachers who noted that many of their students often come to school without snacks and that these donations will help them provide for all their students during snack breaks. Helping to coordinate the event was teacher Reba Warren Jenkins, a former student of Sisk’s.

Recently, Department Chair Marianne Montgomery stressed the importance of service learning, which “helps students see how their writing and thinking skills can be used to make their communities better and helps them to transfer their knowledge from classroom study to professional practice.”
Instructor Emerita Continues Parallel Careers as Musician, Teacher

**Lorraine Hale Robinson**, Teaching Instructor Emerita, has been nationally certified as a music teacher for 2022-2023 by the American College of Musicians (ACM) in Austin, Texas. Using the professional name Lorraine Hale, she has achieved ACM national certification for over forty years; and her students regularly receive awards locally, state-wide, and regionally.

Hale’s piano students perform ten or more selections for the ACM’s in-person or online adjudications and also participate in the North Carolina Music Teachers’ Association adjudications and the North Carolina Music Association contests.

Her singers also perform in the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), taking top honors in this year’s highly competitive 2022 Mid-Atlantic Regional NATS event.

During her years in the Department of English, Hale directed the Center for the Liberal Arts, which was housed in the Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, and served as senior associate editor of the *North Carolina Literary Review*.

Undergraduate Director Touts Offerings by Donna Kain

As the English Department’s Undergraduate Director, I am fortunate to talk with students and parents about our programs. Students appreciate that we are a community committed to their success in a space where they receive individualized advising from a faculty member and where they are encouraged to connect with teachers.

In addition to interest in our BA and BS degrees, many potential students are surprised to hear about our certificates and minors. We now offer three of the eight certificates available in Harriot College with the 2022-23 addition of the Multicultural Literatures Certificate.

And we offer more minors than most departments in the college with the addition of the Professional Writing and Information Design minor. Go English!

The Fine Print

If we missed any news-worthy events that took place before May 31, 2022, or – yikes! – made an error, please forward a gentle note to *TCR* editor Cheryl Dudasik-Wiggs at dudasikwiggsc@ecu.edu.

**During 2021-2022,**

**English students...**

- completed 20 internships: 8 at the graduate level and 12 at the undergraduate level;
- gave 28 conference presentations;
- published 13 journal articles;
- were awarded 45 undergraduate degrees; and
- were awarded 39 graduate degrees

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Sherry Southard, Associate Professor Emerita, died July 19, 2022, at her home in Greensboro, NC.

After earning a PhD from Purdue, she taught at Oklahoma State University for 11 years and then retired from East Carolina University after 23 years. Students were her passion; and she was the recipient of numerous awards, including the inaugural Jay R. Gould Award for Excellence in Teaching Technical Communication, given by the Society for Technical Communication.

Her family includes her husband Bruce Southard, Associate Professor Emeritus, who chaired the department.

Message from TCR Editor Cheryl Dudasik-Wiggs

Your friend is your needs answered…the field which you sow with love and reap with thanksgiving…When you part from your friend, you grieve not; for that which you love most…may be clearer in absence as the mountain to the climber is clearer from the plain. – Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet

I have been contemplating friendship quite often over the past few months as Life continues to march forward at an ever-quickening pace. I welcome the new colleagues who will join us in the fall and send best wishes to those who are leaving the proverbial nest to find adventures elsewhere as I reflect on three colleagues with whom I have been particularly close.

As this newsletter is being finalized, Marianne Montgomery, our Chair of six years, has already begun her new duties as the Associate Dean for Faculty and Student Affairs in Harriot College of Arts and Sciences – and I can think of no one better suited to that charge. Steady and knowledgeable, just and imaginative, she will remain a faculty member in the Department after having used her leadership talents to establish a solid vision for its future.

Lost Colony expert and Department Parliamentarian Tom Shields retired at the end of the spring semester. His American literature classes overflowed with laughter and wisdom – just ask any of the hundreds of students he enthralled over the past 33 years – and I am already missing being able to visit his office on a whim so that we can catch up on each other’s lives.

But most profoundly, I ache for the loss of Sherry Southard, who helped guide and create many of the Department’s technical writing offerings. Her death – while not unexpected – has been felt by everyone whose life she touched. Her commitment to advising students is legendary; her love of justice and animals, immeasurable. The world is a sadder place without her in it.

In my melancholia, however, I am comforted again by Gibran, who counseled that “in the sweetness of friendship, let there be laughter and sharing of pleasures. For in the dew of little things, the heart finds its morning and is refreshed.” May the dawn of the new semester cradle us in memories and joy.