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Winter 2025

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our Winter 2025 issue of the English Department newsletter, which highlights the work of our amazing undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and alumni. We encourage you to share your accomplishments with us so we can include them in our next newsletter.

**Christopher Schedler**, Professor and Chair

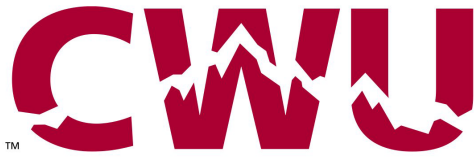
## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



**Lindzie Ashby** is an English major in Professional & Creative Writing with a passion for social justice and advocacy. She has pursued interdisciplinary course work in writing and literary studies and presented her research on “Post-Feminist Sensibility in *Gods of Jade and Shadow* by Silvia Moreno Garcia” at SOURCE 2024. Lindzie has applied to Master’s programs in technical communication, racial and environmental justice, and postcolonial literary criticism, with acceptances from University of Amsterdam, Temple University Japan, and Minnesota State University, Mankato. While she has yet to decide which school she will attend, she is excited for the opportunities that await and looks forward to using her writing and editing skills to support nonprofit organizations through grant writing and drive meaningful change with her work.

**CarolJean Metzelaar** (Minor LLIT) was selected to participate in a Student Leadership panel and a [spotlight video](#) for Women’s History Month.

**Christian Bauer** (BA PCW) and **Jeanee O’mara** (BA PCW) received fellowships to attend the Port Townsend Writers Conference in Summer 2025 through a partnership between the Professional & Creative Writing program and the Centrum Foundation.



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## GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Lisa Amick** is a second-year student in MA Literary Studies & Teaching and teaches high school English and US History in Bonney Lake, WA. Lisa's graduate research focuses on the impact of AI in composition pedagogy and digital literacy in the classroom. She presented her web text on AI in the composition classroom at SOURCE 2024. During her teaching practicum, Lisa developed curriculum that applied composition theory to reading and writing instruction in the high school classroom, and she serves on a committee to establish priority standards for digital citizenship in her school district, ensuring AI is thoughtfully incorporated into educational practices. Lisa's MA exam will focus on applying literary theory to 19th-century British literature and exploring themes of identity and reality in the modern romantasy genre. After graduating, Lisa plans to pursue English teaching positions at community colleges in Western Washington.



**Paige Milatz** (MA PCW) has two poems forthcoming in *Canyon Voices*, the student literary arts magazine at Arizona State University.

**Wendy "Rattles" Shaw** (MA PCW) had her creative nonfiction work "Fire on the Mountain" accepted for publication in *Woods Reader*.

**Sheila Richardson** (MA PCW) will present her research on queer pedagogy and autonomy in the classroom at the International Conference on the Arts in Society in May.

**Jordan Cagle** (MA PCW) received a residency scholarship to attend the Port Townsend Writers Conference in Summer 2025 through a partnership between the Professional & Creative Writing program and the Centrum Foundation.

## FACULTY NEWS

**John Ribó** will present his paper on "'The 21st-Century City': Latinx Los Angeles in Alex Abella's *The Killing of the Saints*" at the MELUS Conference in April.

**James Seth** presented on Early Modern Maritime Theatre and the Carnavalesque at Ohio State University's Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies' annual symposium in February. He will present a lecture and workshop in April for Maritime Folknet Seattle on how maritime music evolved among multilingual/multinational crews, and he was selected for a research sabbatical in 2025-26.



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**Katharine Whitcomb** was awarded an Artist Residency from the Virginia Center for Creative Arts for a two-week residency at Moulin À Nef in Auvillar, France. She also served on the AAUW International Fellowships jury in the Arts & Humanities, which awards tuition funding to enable women from under-represented countries to complete Masters and PhD programs at universities in the US.

**Maya Jewell Zeller** has a book forthcoming on [The Wonder of Mushrooms](#) in Fall 2025.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Mousa Khuwayjah** (MA TESOL) was admitted to the PhD program in Applied Linguistics at the University of Mississippi for Fall 2025.

**Karla Maravilla** (BA LLIT and BA PCW) had two poems “Maria’s Jawbone” and “Declaration from the Hopyard” published in [Palette Poetry](#). She is currently an English PhD student & Joseph Gaia Distinguished Fellow in Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame.

## LION ROCK VISITING WRITERS SERIES

Lion Rock Visiting Writers Series presented its first reading of the year highlighting Banned Books on January 23 at the Brooks Library. Our readers included Pamela McMullin-Messier, Arviso Alvord, Craig Chapo, **Sheila Richardson**, **Rhonda Muller**, Marty Blackson, Sasha Wohlpart, Rachel Kirk, **Christopher Schedler**, and **Seanse Ducken**, who joined in raising awareness for a relevant cause.

A virtual visiting writer, Safia Elhillo, led a Q&A for the students of Taneum Bambrick's Multi-Genre Writing course. The class discussed elements of fiction and poetry in the lyrical novel, *Bright Red Fruit* with a Sudanese American protagonist leading the artistic journey.

On February 13, Marcelo Hernandez Castillo offered a craft talk during the day and a reading in the evening at Brooks Library. He captivated the audience with his unique voice as he read from his poetry and stories, speaking truth to the immigrant experience. He ended the evening with a reading from his memoir *Children of the Land*.



We closed the quarter on March 4 with a virtual student reading focused on magical realism and current events. **Jeanee O'mara**, **Irene Goetz**, **Johanna Deletti**, **Jeramiah Michaud**, and **Sheila Richardson**, recited prose and poetry. They summoned their imaginations from paper to the screen in riveting tales of folklore and creative authentic expression.



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## MANASTASH

This year's [Manastash](#) student literary journal will be published in Spring 2025 with the theme Invisible Worlds. A launch party is scheduled for May 14 at the CWU SOURCE conference.

## OPPORTUNITIES

*GetLit!* Literary Festival takes place this year the weekend of April 12 in Spokane. A group of English students and faculty will attend the festival through the support of the College of Arts & Humanities.

Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association conference will be held in Spokane in October.

## MAKE A DONATION

To make a donation to the [English Department](#), use the **Give to English** button on any of the department webpages. You can donate to our general department Fund for Excellence, Scholarships, Lion Rock Support Fund, or Manastash Student Literary Journal.

April 24 is the #GiveCentral annual day of giving for CWU. You can make a donation to the English Department's **Access & Opportunity Scholarship** to provide educational access to English majors from diverse school districts and Tribal Compact Schools. Every dollar donated through #GiveCentral will be matched up to \$5000 with a donor gift to our English department scholarship endowment!

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