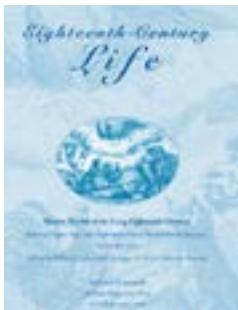




English Newsletter

April 2026

English Does . . . Work in the Field



Aside from faculty regularly publishing their research in national and international journals, members of the department also edit academic journals. This work influences the field of English Studies and is part of what gives UW's Department of English a national reputation.

Current department Chair Michael Edson and Professor Emeritus Cedric Reverend co-edit "Eighteenth-Century Life," a multidisciplinary journal published by Duke University Press that explores the long eighteenth century. The journal is published three times a year (winter, spring, and fall) and receives submissions from scholars, graduate students, lawyers, independent researchers, and more. Drs. Edson and Reverend scout articles and academic talent at various conferences and track scholarly trends and conversations as they relate to the journal. In his role as co-editor, Dr. Reverend loves helping people publish their work and enjoys the mentor and advisory role he plays for new writers.



Drs. Kelly Kinney and Rick Fisher are co-editors for "Prompt: A Journal of Academic Writing Assignments." Published twice a year through the

Public Knowledge Network, an open access scholarly publishing platform hosted by Simon Fraser University, "Prompt" features reflective essays about interesting and adaptable college-level writing assignments. The assignment prompts are also published, which situates the journal as a generative resource for faculty who teach writing across the curriculum. Drs. Kinney and Fisher evaluate submissions, work with reviewers and authors during revision, and oversee the final production. Dr. Fisher enjoys the revision work, which makes strong submissions even more appropriate and fitting to the goals and readership of the journal.

This work is not ancillary to the department. It comes into the curriculum and enriches student learning while also offering students internship and professionalization opportunities.

HIGHLIGHTS

Mercy McAndrew (MA '26) accepted an offer to pursue a PhD in Rhetoric & Writing at The University of Texas at Austin in the fall. McAndrew's research focuses on feminist and performative rhetorics. Specifically, it examines relations among the female body, domestic labor, and popular mediations of womanhood. McAndrew thanks the various mentors she has had in her six years at UW appreciates their support and encouragement. She is excited for this new academic adventure at Austin.

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Thank You Julianne Couch

Julianne Couch compulsively checks her email. Teaching asynchronous online classes full time from three states away requires diligence and consistent engagement with students. This will change soon. After 28 years of teaching and service in the department, she will retire at the end of this academic year.

Julianne began teaching in the Department of English in 1998. “I’d been living in Laramie since 1994, working a variety of jobs in town,” she says. “It never occurred to me that I’d teach again. But UW was here, it seemed interesting, so I applied.” Over the years, Julianne’s work left a lasting mark on the department. She served as the Writing Programs Director, helped develop the writing minor, and created new courses that remain popular with students such as Writing for Non-Profits and Editing for Publication. Current Writing Programs Director Michael Knievel says of Julianne: “She is an accomplished, successful writer, and I have long admired how she brings that professional experience into her classroom to the benefit of her students and the program.” Joyce Stewart adds that as director, Julianne “proved invaluable in keeping the program strong and highly functioning,” and that she

“played a large role” in making it “very well-respected ... by outside reviewers, the administration, and [in the] department itself.”

April Heaney remembers Julianne as “one of the English Department’s most warm, devoted, and accomplished community builders.” She played guitar at department events and was the leader of The Write Tones, a jam band composed of English faculty. Though its membership was fluid, Julianne was its center and, as Knievel says, the group “enriched the community and built comradery and fun.” Paul Bergstraesser recalls Julianne’s weekly radio program titled “Speaking of Writing” that she hosted on KOCA 93.5 FM, a low-power radio station that broadcast from the Laramie Plains Civic Center. She often invited English faculty and MFA students on the show to talk all things literary and to read their work. The show was “a valuable asset to the Laramie Community,” Bergstraesser says.

Even with all that, Julianne still managed to write several books including “Jukeboxes & Jackalopes,” a collection of essays about the small town bars of Wyoming, and “Traveling the Powerline,” which explores how different forms of energy production shape the landscape and the people who inhabit it. Her most recent book “Searching for Here,” a memoir, was published in 2025.

Julianne’s future is unwritten. “I’m an adventurer,” she says. “Often when I wake up in the morning, I feel an urge to do the darndest things. Sometimes, I actually do them.” This is the spirit that brought her to Wyoming so many years ago. “We’ll see what’s next!” she says.

IMPORTANT DATES

Keywords: Empathy

April 15

12-1:30 pm

Coe Library 506

Keywords for the Public Humanities is a series that examines important ideas in publicly engaged research and practice

Circle Up: Practical Tools for Civic Engagement

April 16

6:00-8:00 pm (Food @ 5:30)

LPCC Pheonix Ballroom

A hands-on workshop featuring activities dedicated to civic education, community organizing strategies, staying engaged for the long haul, and arts-based engagement

Laramie Zine Fest

May 2

11:00am-3:00 pm

Laramie Plains Civic Center

A collaboration between English, UW Libraries, and the Laramie Plains Civic Center, Zine Fest creates space for local creatives to share their work and build community

English . . . Presents



English graduate students and faculty participated in panels and presented posters at the second annual College of Arts & Sciences Humanities Summit. The event celebrated the 250th anniversary of the nation and used this context to explore the future of the humanities, covering topics such as advancing the humanities in public life and the relevance of humanities education and research.

