



English Newsletter

March 2026

English Does . . . Action



The Department of English creates opportunities for students to put their learning into action and involvement.

Dr. Kent Drummond and his English 2025 class attended the play “Cowboys and East Indians” at the Denver Center for the

Performing Arts. “Cowboys and East Indians” is based on an award-winning collection of short stories of the same name written by Nina McConigley, who received an MA in English from UW. McConigley adapted the play in collaboration with Wyoming native Matthew Spangler.

The upcoming 2026 Humanities Summit is set to feature faculty and students from the Department of English. The theme of the summit, Humanities in Action, will emphasize awareness of the present and chart the future of Humanities through interdisciplinary relationships across UW, our state, and the nation. The summit is presented alongside USA 250 national and Wyoming-wide celebrations of the founding of the United States. The summit will take place on March 26th & 27th and feature keynote speakers, poster presentations, displays, and more.

Public Humanities graduate students Shifa Ijaz and Hallie Guidry

along with Dr. Phillip Goodwin traveled to Colorado State University to meet with students and faculty from their Writing, Rhetoric, and Social Change English MA program. Ijaz and Guidry presented their current research projects while Dr. Goodwin discussed the relationships between public humanities and community engagement. This trip set the foundation for developing a regional scholarly community and possibilities for future collaboration among students in both programs.

HIGHLIGHTS

Cecilia Curiel (MA '25) accepted an offer to pursue a PhD in American Literature at New York University in the fall. Curiel will focus on 19th century literature in the context of women's reproductive justice, bodily autonomy, and citizenship. Curiel credits her professors and the UW Department of English for their support, especially her mentor Dr. Arielle Zibrak whose guidance, she notes, gives her confidence as she enters this next phase of her studies.

 (307) 766 - 3189

 englishdept@uwyo.edu

 www.uwyo.edu/english/



UW

College of Arts and Sciences
Department
of English

English Does . . . Global Connections



Public Humanities PhD student Aqsa Ishaq participated in World Languages Day. Throughout the day she conducted five workshops titled “Songs, Script and Fun in Urdu.” Over 100 K-12 students in total attended her workshops.



The Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board awarded English Professor Caroline McCracken-Flesher a Fulbright Specialist Program award. Her project at Morocco’s Cadi Ayyad University will facilitate knowledge exchanges and establish partnerships that benefit participants, institutions, and communities both in the U.S. and overseas.

UW English Alumnus Steve Watt (MA ‘75)



Steve Watt was named the 2026 A&S Outstanding Alumni of the Year. While at UW Watt’s work focused on Shakespeare and Elizabethan tragedy. His MA thesis examined the influence of emblem books on early modern drama and later became the foundation for his first published article. During

his time at UW, mentors Ric Reverand and Art Simpson shaped his career in lasting ways, modeling a commitment to supporting students both during and long after graduation.

Watt spent 34 years at the University of Indiana-Bloomington serving in a variety of roles including chair of English, A&S Associate Dean for Strategic Planning, and founding administrator and first Associate Dean of the School of Art, Architecture + Design. Over the years, he collaborated with many former students on edited collections, articles, and conferences, relationships that deeply enriched his professional life.

Outside academia, Watt is a longtime swimmer, musician, and investor. He continues to value writing with a clear “through line,” a lesson he carries into every project.

IMPORTANT DATES

Keywords: Engagement

March 25

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.

Humanities Summit 2.0

March 26-27

Various Locations

This year’s theme “Humanities in Action” forges the future of Humanities through interdisciplinary relationships all across UW, Wyoming, and the nation.

Co-Creating Place: Art as Social Practice

April 1

2:30-4:00 pm

University of Wyoming Art Museum

An experiential collaboration between English and UWAM that uses hands-on collective art making to build community and a sense of place.

English . . . Breaks Bread



Public Humanities Phd Student Abdalrahim Abuwarda leads other students and community members in preparing traditional Palestinian food as part of the communal experience of Relative Theatric’s production of “FEAST.” The audience and cast and crew shared this meal and communed over food before the start of the play.

“FEAST,” written by Megan Gogerty, reimagines the Beowulf story as a cautionary tale against the rising forces of authoritarianism. When AGATHAE, an ancient magical creature disguised as a middle-aged lady, invites us to her dinner party, she attempts to form a truth and reconciliation committee to address the wrongs committed by our forefathers, only to discover in her grief that she may have accidentally helped to create the patriarchy.