



English Newsletter

September 2026

English Connection: Community



The UW Department of English is excited to welcome another academic year. At a time when new technologies challenge human value, and when politics and public life challenge social bonds, English remains committed to sustaining human stories and community. Through the

study of texts and cultures across the fields of literary studies, rhetoric and writing studies, and creative writing, English creates connections. It connects us to each other, our pasts, and helps us to collectively imagine and create our futures.

This is, and has been, the work of English. This summer we continued this tradition. Dr. Kelly Kinney, with the help of Allison Gernant, hosted the Council of Writing Program Administrators national conference. This conference celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Wyoming Resolution, a watershed moment in Writing Studies that established important precedents for the field and charted a course for its future. Scholars and program administrators from across the country returned to revisit the resolution, ask and answer difficult questions related to the economics, politics, and culture of higher education, and, again, chart the future of the field.

Dr. Scott Henkel hosted the Working-Class Studies Association Conference. As an international and interdisciplinary organization, the conference brought together academics, activists, artists, educators, thinkers, and organizers from across the world to share global and local perspectives of working-class culture, art, experience, and history.

English continues the work of bringing people together to discuss important topics through author talks and invited speakers, the Keywords for the Public Humanities series, The Shepard Symposium for Social Justice, and more. You can find out more about these events and all things English by following us on Facebook and Instagram.

A final note: Thank you for reading our newsletter. Each month of the academic year this newsletter is sent to over 2,000 alumni, students, faculty, and others who make the UW English community. We are only stewards to a program with a long history of which you're a part. We are today because of who and what came before. Together we make its future.

HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations Dr. Peyton Lunzer

Last spring Peyton Lunzer successfully defended her dissertation, *Stories We Call Home: An Ecological Approach to Life Writing*, and graduated with her PhD in English from Indiana University. Lunzer earned her MA in English from UW in 2017 and has been teaching in UW's English and LeaRN programs since 2022.

McCracken-Flesher Receives Tartan Award

Caroline McCracken-Flesher was honored by Scottish Coalition USA, receiving the 2026 National Tartan Day Award for her advocacy on behalf of the Scottish American Diaspora. The award is presented annually and recognizes exceptional Scottish American community leaders.

(307) 766 - 3189

@englishdept@uwyo.edu

www.uwyo.edu/english/



College of Arts and Sciences
Department
of English



MA Student Participates in Publishing Workshop

This summer, Virginia Hicks was selected for the competitive *Los Angeles Review of Books* (LARB) Summer Publishing Workshop Fellowship that took place from June 22 to July 24. In the workshop, publishing industry professionals from a variety of houses spoke and hosted office

hours with students, including employees from Penguin Random House, Hachette, Red Hen Press, Chronicle Books, Milkweed, and more. Virginia spoke to ten different industry professionals one-on-one throughout the duration of the program.

Hicks also collaborated with other Fellows to create a mock “imprint” for a start to finish 5-week publishing pipeline simulation, going through editing, design, marketing, and sales presentations for their chosen book. The workshop ended with each imprint presenting their sales pitch for their chosen book, including specs like cover design, special additions (like sprayed edges), price, size, season release, and BISACs.

IMPORTANT DATES

Keywords: Built from the Fire

September 16

12-1:30 pm

Native American Resource and Cultural Center
200 s. 10th St.

This event will include Eric Trujillo, Philipp Gabathueler, Jacquelyn Bridgeman, and *Built from the Fire* author Victor Luckerson. The discussion will delve into the work of the public humanities from multiple disciplinary perspectives.

Luckerson, whose 2023 *Built from the Fire*, explores the history and resilience of the Greenwood neighborhood in Tulsa, Oklahoma, site of one of the worst acts of racist violence in American history, will also visit classes in English, COJO, and American Cultural Studies.

Tom Lin Reading and Talk

September 24

7 pm

McMurtry Reading Room in Coe Library

Lin will read from his new novel *Babylon, South Dakota* with a discussion to follow. Lin is also the author of *The Thousand Crimes of Ming Tsu* and the recipient of the 2022 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fic-



Welcome Back Katy Storch

Katy Storch (UW MFA '24) returns to the Department of English as a Program Associate. In this role she will assist with administrative tasks that support MFA candidates as they navigate the program.

A writer and visual artist, Storch's fiction has appeared in *The Los*

Angeles Review, and her nonfiction earned her the 2026 Frank Nelson Doubleday Memorial Writing Award for Writing by a Woman. She grew up in southern California, taking annual summer vacations in southeast Idaho, and has fond memories of camping, fishing, and hiking there, in the land where her mother was raised. Later, she taught Physics and English as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Mozambique. Her visual art and writing explores themes that span these worlds.

Storch is the recipient of a Jentel Artist Residency and support from the Wyoming Arts Council. She loves train travel and mountain biking, and spends much of her free time at home, drafting her first novel.

English Rocks!



This summer Kent Drummond brought 13 students to England for a class titled “Rock and Roll Tourism: The Beatles and Beyond.” Splitting time between Liverpool and London, they studied the ins and outs of the literary and music tourism industry. Students toured the childhood homes of Lennon and McCartney, went to the Cavern Club where the Beatles played, and visited The Globe Theatre and Charles Dickens's house. through their adventures students learned how to create and market cultural experiences for new generations of people increasingly distant from the artist.

Drummond returned later in the summer with a group of alumni for a similar experience. While there, they spent an evening talking with Patty Boyd, former wife of both George Harrison and Eric Clapton, and figure of one of Rock's most famous love triangles!

