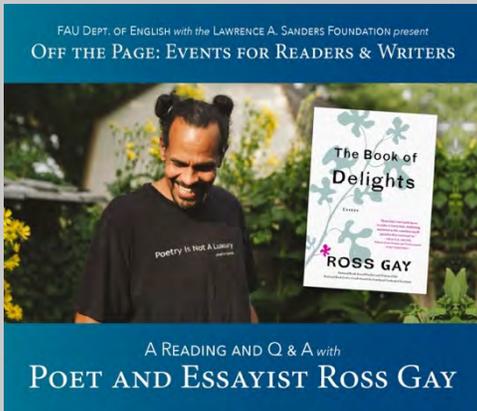


# department of ENGLISH



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The 2019–20 academic year was unlike any other in Florida Atlantic University's 60-year history. The once-in-a-century Covid-19 global pandemic transformed the way we live, interact, work, teach, and study. In the middle of the Spring 2020 semester, just as many students and faculty were poised to return to campus after Spring Break—Covid-19 forced all University courses and staff into remote modality, virtually overnight. Our English faculty did a magnificent job by quickly adapting their in-person courses to online formats, maintaining high instructional standards while making every effort to accommodate students who may have struggled with these remote modalities. The unprecedented changes to our ways of working continued through Summer terms, when all courses were taught by remote modalities. None of us, it is fair to say, have ever seen anything like it.

The Spring also brought more painful reminders of another virus that has afflicted our societies for far longer than Covid-19: systemic racism, as the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police demonstrated the persistence of racism and disregard of black lives in America. The police killings of Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Rayshard Brooks, sparked a global wave of protests and activism for Black Lives Matter that has transformed the political landscape of America and beyond. At FAU Dean **Michael Horswell**, Dean of the DFSCAL, and Provost **Bret Danilowicz** each responded by holding urgent public discussions about the crisis of systemic racism and attacks on black lives, and many of our English faculty and students took part in protests and forums addressing these deeply-rooted problems. Despite being one of the most racially and culturally diverse universities in the country, there is still much work to do at Florida Atlantic—as at many other institutions—to bring about a truly just, diverse, inclusive and equitable university community. The Department of English does not and will not tolerate discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender identity, social class, sexual orientation, or any other identification. We are committed to excellence in educating our diverse body of students and to nurturing and fostering the educational progress and development of all students who enter our classrooms—be they virtual or physical—offices, and libraries.

|                                |     |                                       |       |
|--------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Chair's Letter .....           | 1-2 | Honors Programs & Awards .....        | 7-9   |
| New Faculty .....              | 3-4 | Graduate Awards .....                 | 9     |
| Student Organizations .....    | 4   | English Grad Student Society .....    | 10    |
| Mary Faraci's Retirement ..... | 5   | Dept. Publications & Promotions ..... | 11-14 |
| Toni Morrison Symposium .....  | 6   | Alumni News .....                     | 14-15 |

Despite the traumatic events of Spring 2020, there is still much to celebrate and be proud of in the English department during 2019–20. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all our graduates and award winners who are listed individually later in this newsletter. Here, I will mention some of the most significant happenings of the past year. We began the year by welcoming a new member of our distinguished faculty, Dr. **Anthony Stagliano**, who joined us from New Mexico State University, having previously obtained his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina in 2015. A scholar of rhetoric and a film and media artist, Stagliano’s research concerns the intersections of material theories of rhetoric, media theory, and theories of technology. His films and media art pieces have been shown in festivals and galleries around the world. In September, our colleague Prof. **A. Papatya Bucak**, who published her first collection of short stories, *The Trojan War Museum and Other Stories*, with W.W. Norton in 2019, gave a powerful talk about the “Creative Writer in the Academy” at the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters at the FAU Faculty Research Showcase. Prof. Bucak also launched the English department’s “Off the Page” series in September with a well-attended reading from her acclaimed short story collection.

In the Fall and early Spring we conducted successful searches for two new tenure-track positions, resulting in the hire of Dr. **Timothy Miller**, (Science Fiction and Fantasy) who received his Ph.D. from Notre Dame; and Dr. **Regis Fox**, (early African-American literature), who received her Ph.D. from UC Riverside and returns to FAU as a valued colleague from 2013–16. A heartfelt welcome goes out to Tim and Regis. We are also excited to welcome our new Visiting Instructor Dr. **Kate Polak** (Ph.D., U. of Cincinnati) and Postdoctoral Fellow Dr. **Sari Carter** (Ph.D., Vanderbilt U).

The English department suffered a tragic loss in Fall 2019, when one of our most talented and hard-working M.A. students and graduate teaching assistants, **Nicholas Polycarpo**, was killed in an automobile accident on November 1. The memorial held for Nick by the English department was an outpouring of grief for a much-loved student and friend of many in the department. Earlier this semester, we also lost one of our valued faculty members, Dr. **Gabrielle Gutting**. An accomplished and highly-popular instructor at FAU for over twenty years, Gabrielle succumbed to breast cancer in late September. Only recently promoted to University Instructor, Gabrielle was a thorough professional and dedicated teacher for English. She will be greatly missed by colleagues, staff, and students.

In the Spring, before the pandemic moved all activities remote, Prof. **Sika Dagbovie-Mullins**, our Director of Graduate Studies, organized an international symposium on “Toni Morrison: Transnational Perspectives,” celebrating the

life and work of the late Nobel Laureate whose passing in August 2019 led to numerous expressions of admiration and awe for the inspiring life and career of one of America’s greatest novelists. The symposium brought in scholars from around the country including keynote speaker Yogita Goyal from UCLA, and received excellent attendance from the University and local community.

One sadness of the pandemic-induced move to remote learning and working, is that we were unable to hold the traditional commencement ceremony for our class of 2020 graduates. Despite this lack of an in-person graduation ceremony, many members of the department contributed to a virtual “**Congratulations Class of 2020!**” page on the [English department website](#), offering enthusiastic messages of congratulations to our graduating English majors and graduate students. Thanks go to Prof. **Julia Mason** for her hard work on this project. Also due to Covid, we were unfortunately unable to properly recognize the retirement of one of our longest-serving and most beloved colleagues, Prof. **Mary Faraci**. Mary retired in June 2020, after an extraordinary 47-year career at Florida Atlantic University. Our plans for a celebration to honor Mary had to be postponed, but we will bring her back as soon as we can for a festive reunion.

We know that the Fall 2020 will be very different from any previous start to an academic year, and that many challenges—instructional, financial, and logistical—lie ahead for our department, college, and University. As we continue to offer most of our courses online for Fall, we will strive to create and sustain new and exciting learning environments and experiences for our students. We will also be offering a number of lower-division WAC and IFP courses in-person on campus, in a vital effort to engage the newly-arrived first-year students and returning sophomores. While many of our planned events for Fall will not take place, or will occur in virtual formats, we look forward to engaging with you and coming back together as soon as it is safe to do so.

In the meantime, I extend a heartfelt welcome to all our new and returning faculty, staff, and students, and a sincere greeting and thanks to all our alumni. Let’s make 2020–21 a year to remember for the way we rose to meet these extraordinary challenges.

With all best wishes,  
**Oliver Buckton**  
Professor, Chair of English



# meet the new faculty



## SARI CARTER

Sari Carter ([carters@fau.edu](mailto:carters@fau.edu)) Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of English. Sari received her Ph.D. in nineteenth-century British literature from Vanderbilt University (2019) and taught as a Visiting Instructor in the FAU English department for the 2019-20 school year. Her research interests include intersections between ethics, aesthetics, and philosophical questions of subjectivity. Her postdoctoral project will be continuing to revise her dissertation into a longer book, tentatively titled *Ethical Subjectivity as Excess in Victorian Literature and Philosophy*. In addition to the first-year writing sequence, she regularly teaches Interpretation of Poetry classes, and this Fall 2020 semester she will also be teaching British Romanticism and later British literature survey courses.

## REGIS M. FOX

Regis M. Fox ([mannr@fau.edu](mailto:mannr@fau.edu)) Assistant Professor of English. Regis earned a Ph.D. in English from the University of California, Riverside. Her primary research interests include Nineteenth-Century American Literatures, Feminist Theory, and African-American Literary and Cultural Studies. She has published in such journals as *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* and the *Journal of American Studies*, and in edited collections, including *A Determined Life: The Elizabeth Keckley Reader*. A McKnight Junior Faculty Fellow for the 2015-16 academic year, she released her first book, *Resistance Reimagined: Black Women's Critical Thought as Survival* (University Press of Florida) in December 2017.



## TIM MILLER

Tim Miller ([millert@fau.edu](mailto:millert@fau.edu)) Assistant Professor of English. Tim received his Ph.D. in English from the University of Notre Dame in 2014. Originally trained as a medievalist with a dissertation on Chaucer and his reception history, he now works primarily on contemporary science fiction and fantasy literature. His most recent work explores representations of plants and plant being in literature with an emphasis on genre fiction and narratives of climate catastrophe. He has previously taught courses on science fiction and medieval literature at several other institutions, including Sarah Lawrence College and Marquette University. His articles have appeared in journals such as *Science Fiction Studies*, *The Chaucer Review*, *Extrapolation*, *Mythlore*, and *The Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*, among others.

## ANTHONY STAGLIANO

Anthony Stagliano ([astagliano@fau.edu](mailto:astagliano@fau.edu)) Assistant Professor of English. Tony is a scholar of rhetoric and a film and media artist, whose research concerns creative interventions into technologies of surveillance, biometrics, and control. His monograph on that research is under contract with the University of Alabama Press. His films and media art works have been shown in festivals and galleries around the world. His feature narrative film, *Fade*, was released theatrically, on DVD, and to streaming platforms such as Amazon. Before coming to FAU, he taught in the English Department at New Mexico State University for four years.





## KATE POLAK

Kate Polak ([kpolak@fau.edu](mailto:kpolak@fau.edu)) Visiting Instructor and Assistant Director of the University's Center for Excellence in Writing. Kate received her Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati, where she studied contemporary American and global Anglophone literatures, psychological and cognitive approaches, and comics studies. She spent the past seven years as a Visiting and Assistant Professor at Wittenberg University, where she taught composition, literature, and creative writing, and served as the Program Director for creative writing. Her book, *Ethics in the Gutter: Empathy and Historical Fiction in Comics*, was nominated for an Eisner Award. Her recent research focuses mainly on the representation of violence and genocide, historical fiction, and 21st century women writers, and she is working on a monograph exploring the effect of social media on practices of Holocaust memorialization, entitled *Excessive Feels: What is Empathy in the Age of the YOLOcaust?* as well as developing an edited collection *Days of Future Past*, on the intersections between historical fiction and science fiction with her husband, Dr. Ian MacDonald. Her current creative projects include a collection of poetry and a graphic memoir exploring teenaged girlhood during the 1990s, tentatively entitled *Top Heavy*.

# student organizations

## SIGMA TAU DELTA

Sigma Tau Delta is the national English Honors Society. Members attain academic recognition for their studies in English. Members may submit critical papers and creative work to the Society's annual publications, *The Sigma Tau Delta Rectangle* and *The Sigma Tau Delta Review*, or to the Society's two online publications, *The Sigma Tau Delta Newsletter* and *WORDY by Nature* (blog). Students are able to present research at the annual convention. A series of scholarships (valued up to \$5,000) and internships are also available. Overall, membership allows a student to be recognized for their academic achievement, while connecting them to career and academic opportunities and merits.

The Sigma Tau Delta Kappa Rho Chapter aims to share a love of literature with its fellow FAU students and the community. During this moment of unprecedented crisis, many are turning to literary works to imagine a way forward, one defined by resilience, hope, and endurance. The chapter will also be coordinating virtual writing events and movie nights with the English Club. If you would like more information about upcoming events and/or membership, please contact Shelby Johnson, faculty advisor at [shelbyjohnson@fau.edu](mailto:shelbyjohnson@fau.edu).



**SIGMA TAU DELTA**  
INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY

## FAU ENGLISH CLUB

The FAU English Club is back with quite an agenda for the 2020/2021 academic year! As we continue to practice responsible forms of social distancing, the Fall 2020 schedule will be primarily virtual: we are planning a film screening and tweet-along, a voter education campaign, group/virtual attendance at the Department's "Off the Page" series—beginning with Ross Gay on October 14—as well as the Miami Book Fair, bi-weekly Zoom meetings, academic and creative workshops, and more! We will also look forward to outdoor activities, including a visit to the Morikami Gardens and Museum along with a beach clean-up initiative with the Surfrider Foundation in the Spring! The Club is open to *all* English majors and minors and serves as an expressive outlet for students with similar interests and goals. Through events on and off campus, Club members can forge new social networks, cultivate scholarly and creative projects, and join the greater literary community beyond the classroom. Ultimately, the English Club's purpose is to enrich the lives of students attending Florida Atlantic University.

**English Club Advisor:** Stacey Balkan, [sbalkan@fau.edu](mailto:sbalkan@fau.edu)

**Fall 2020 Office Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday, 2:00–4:00pm

concerning

# MARY FARACI

on her retirement



Mary with Eric Lachance

## BY TAYLOR HAGOOD

I could write a book on everything Mary Faraci means to me and to the English Department, the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, and Florida Atlantic University as a whole. She has inspired and amused students with her utterly unique blend of humor, insight, wisdom, and vision. Despite the years of accumulating experience, Mary has nevertheless always managed to stay the very same age as the students themselves in her heart and spirit. They know she not only cares and empathizes but that, in many ways, she is one of and with them. So many times when my office was across from hers I would hear her laughing wholeheartedly with students, commiserating with them, even scheming with them at times, for she was very much on their side.

And yet she was equally on the side of the university, the department, the college, and her colleagues, and I was very lucky to have her as my mentor. I began to glimpse how special Mary is on my interview: my flight was delayed, which required a change of schedule leading to Mary and I having dinner alone at the Crab House in Jupiter. As I enjoyed that soft January night talking with her, while pelicans drifted down to their perches against the backdrop of the lighthouse, I listened to her pitch-perfect, wit-laden description of the advantages of this job. Little did we know when we parted company that night that her father would pass away within hours. Yet, even though I did not see her again during the rest of the interview I felt a remarkably deep bond. We have celebrated that dinner almost each year since.

Once I was hired and began my job, Mary's mentorship was unerring. Navigating a department, with its personalities, quirks, and feuds, can be very challenging for a young faculty member, and Mary always had the right advice. Mary genuinely loves her colleagues, and she knows better than just about anyone how to keep the peace and to do so with fairness. She can advise when to speak and when to be quiet, always with an eye to achieving the best thing for everyone. Meanwhile, if ever I ran into a snag with teaching, I always knew I could come to her with any questions or concerns, and always she knew the correct thing to say. And there have been so many things she has said to me that have stuck: one she had gleaned from her brother-in-law, "Pay now, or pay later," a comment full of depth when she spoke it. The one that made the biggest difference in my career as a scholar came when I was trying to decide about whether or not to accept certain publication invitations, and she replied, "Taylor, time is not on our side." I have not always done a good job of remembering that in my personal life, but I took the lesson well when it came to scholarship, and I am always grateful to her for it.



Mary with Kritzia Sanabria (top);  
in Florence, Italy (below)



Mary enjoying retirement  
poolside with her sister

Again, I could write on and on for hundreds of pages about Mary. She has been much more than a colleague or even mentor to me. In so many ways she is a family member, an aunt who makes me feel secure, that she is always on my side. I love her with all my heart, and I know that whatever I have done right as a colleague, teacher, and scholar derives from her guidance and influence and that everything I have done wrong in those capacities has been from my own willful ignoring and departing from that guidance and influence. I am sorry for anyone who has not been mentored by her, for channeling Mary is always the right thing to do, and I hope to do so much better from now on because she will no longer be in the meetings, smiling in her mischievous way, making sure to touch base with everyone, providing just the right take on whatever new policy has come down the pike or whatever difficult situation has arisen. Every department needs a Mary Faraci, and yet there is only one.

And let me say that I hope the one and only Mary Faraci enjoys retirement. I hope she gets to spend plenty of time in Florence. I hope everyone she meets gets to enjoy her brilliance and humor the way I have. And I hope that her personality lingers in the halls and walkways of Florida Atlantic University forever.

# TONI MORRISON:

## transnational perspectives

Since her death in August 2019, countless writers, scholars, and public figures have offered powerful reflections about literary great, Toni Morrison. Nelly Rosario thanks Morrison “for living our best life.” Jesmyn Ward asserts, “I was wandering. Toni Morrison found me.” On Friday, February 28th, the Department of English (with support from the College of Arts and Letters and The Study of the Americas Initiative) hosted *Toni Morrison: Transnational Perspectives*. Keynote Speaker Yogita Goyal began the symposium with “Toni Morrison and the Aesthetics of Refuge,” a section of her recent monograph, *Runaway Genres: The Global Afterlives of Slavery* (NYU Press, 2019). Goyal’s talk was followed by Anne Margaret Castro’s “Audiobooks and Theological Performance: Morrison’s Reading of Baby Suggs,” Jafari Sinclair Allen’s “‘Here, in this place,’: Toni Morrison’s Ethnographic Sensibility,” and Nelly Rosario’s “Song of Morrison: A Eulogy.” The symposium allowed audience members and panelists alike to reflect upon Morrison’s words and continue to think about the power and import of her work.



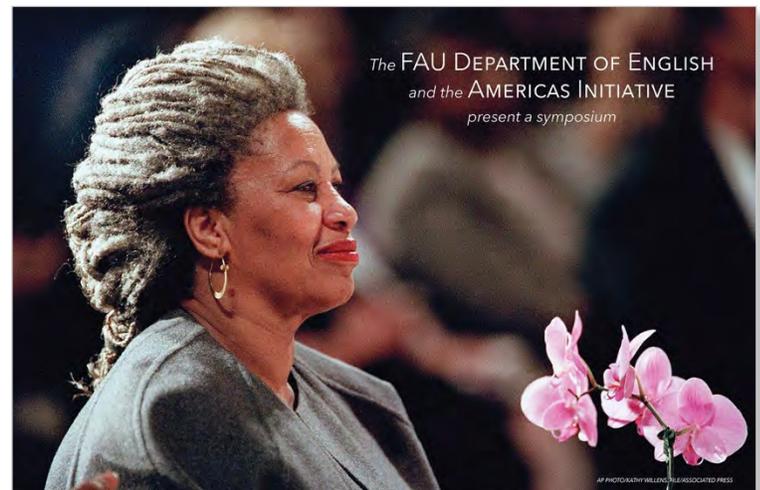
Keynote speaker Yogita Goyal



Yogita Goyal and Nelly Rosario



Nelly Rosario, Jafari Sinclair Allen, Anne Margaret Castro



The FAU DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
and the AMERICAS INITIATIVE  
present a symposium

# TONI MORRISON:

## TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28 | Student Union, Majestic Palm Room, FAU Boca Raton

10:30-11 am: Refreshments



**11 am Keynote Speaker:**  
Yogita Goyal (UCLA),  
“Toni Morrison and the  
Aesthetics of Refuge”

Anne Margaret Castro  
(Florida International  
University), “Audiobooks  
and Theological  
Performances: Morrison’s  
Reading of Baby Suggs”

**12-1 pm: Panelists**  
Jafari Sinclair Allen  
(University of Miami),  
“‘Here, in this place,’: Toni  
Morrison’s Ethnographic  
Sensibility”

Nelly Rosario (Williams  
College), “Song of  
Morrison: A Eulogy”  
credit: Sandra Moran

Free and open to the public. More info by email to Sika Dagbovie-Mullins,  
Ph.D., at [sdagbovi@fau.edu](mailto:sdagbovi@fau.edu) or phone at 561-297-3830.

If accommodation(s) for a disability is required call TTY 1-800-955-8770  
or e-mail [sdagbovi@fau.edu](mailto:sdagbovi@fau.edu) five days prior to the event.

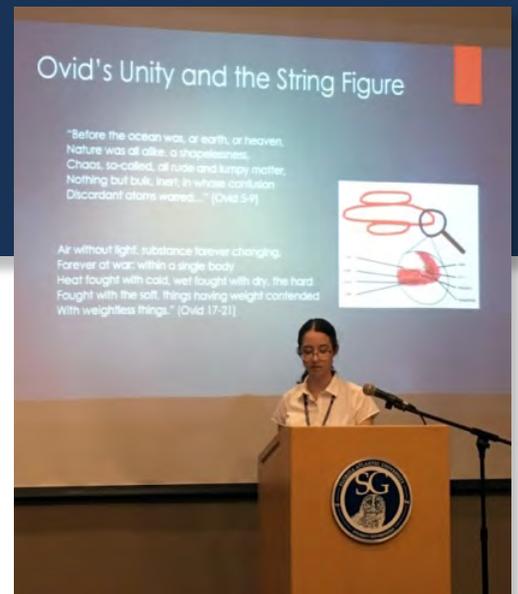
DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT  
COLLEGE OF  
ARTS AND LETTERS



# honors programs

## 2018-2019 ENGLISH HONORS PROGRAM

The Honors in English Literature Program provides the opportunity for qualified majors to undertake advanced literary research in a community of their undergraduate peers over the course of an academic year. On Wednesday, April 17, the 2018-2019 English Honors Program students presented their thesis research to faculty, family, and their peers. In addition, **Ellie Vilakazi** and **Morgan Hunn** delivered poster and oral presentations at the 9th annual Undergraduate Research Conference and **Tully Turk** published a selection from his thesis in FAU's *Undergraduate Research Journal*. For more information on the Honors Program, see [fau.edu/english/englishhonors](http://fau.edu/english/englishhonors)



Morgan Hunn, presentation at FAU's 9th annual Undergraduate Research Conference



Ellie Vilakazi, poster presentation at FAU's 9th annual Undergraduate Research Conference

**Madeline Elizabeth Garcia** | Ecological Mutations, Compound Organisms, and Intelligent Life in Jeff Vandermeer's *Annihilation*

**Morgan Hunn** | Mythic Unity: Challenging the Violence of the Human/ Non-Human Binary through Mythologically-Inspired Literature

**Rebecca Nicole Montana** | "A Child Weaned on Poison": Surviving Madness, Motherhood, and Munchausen's in Gillian Flynn's *Sharp Objects*

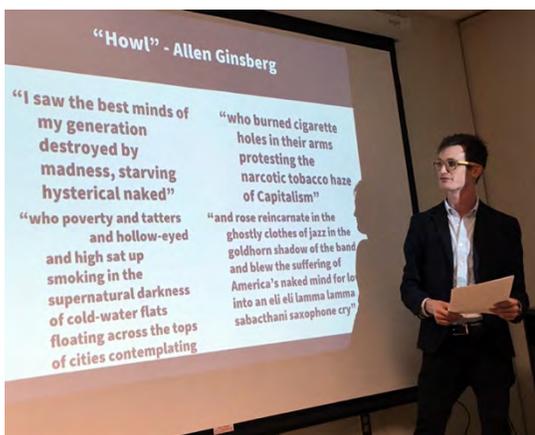
**Shaimaa Quadri** | De-Formed Personhood: Traces of the Impersonal in Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and Brontë's *Villette*

**Charlie Richards** | "The Beautiful Flower Bed Beyond the City Wall": Nature, the Garden, and the Botanical Other in E.T.A. Hoffmann

**Franco Smigliani** | Violence in Watching: Exploring Social Media's Narrative Perspective, Representation, and Narcissism through Jeffery Eugenides' *The Virgin Suicides*

**Tully Turk** | Man's Clones: Anthropomorphosis Understood through Pope's *Essay on Man* and Ginsberg's "Howl"

**Ellie Vilakazi** | Intermediating Politics through Subjectivity in Tlhabi's *Khwezi: The Remarkable Story of Fezekile Ntsukela Kuzwayo*



Tully Turk, published in FAU's *Undergraduate Research Journal*



Congratulations to our 2018-2019 Honors in Literature graduates: Charlie Richards, Shaimaa Quadri, Ellie Vilakazi, Madeline Garcia, Rebecca Montana, Morgan Hunn, Tully Turk, & Franco Smigliani

## 2019 – 2020 ENGLISH HONORS

**Ariana Anderson** | Pacific Island Literature: Understanding the Genre

**Erika Blankman** | Irish Landscapes of Traumas, Ghosts, and Fate: Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* and J. M. Synge's *The Aran Islands*

**Maycee Forester** | The Process of Death Eating in Literature with Real World Applications

**Jessenia Hernandez** | Prophet Instead of Priest: The Transition from Oppressive Religious Upbringing to Liberating Spiritual Possibility in Jeanette Winterson's *Oranges are not the Only Fruit*

**Amanda Peebles** | The Dystopia of Women's Natural Bodies: How Post-Apocalyptic Patriarchy Uses Religion to Control Women and Nature in Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* and Miller's *Mad Max: Fury Road*

**Amanda Serrano** | The Fairer Sex: False Empowerment and *Game of Thrones*

**Asuka Takahashi** | Magic as Strength: Witchcraft in Pop Culture and Women's Empowerment

## 2020 CREATIVE WRITING HONORS

**Madison Borowick** | Untitled

**Gabriela dos Santos** | Upon Entry into Womanhood

**Jiong Gao** | Diary of a Tired Gen Z Med Student

**Jenna Isaacs** | Determining Fate

**Hunter Johnson** | The Nexialist

**Katie Prock** | Yesterday We Were Girls

## 2019 CREATIVE WRITING HONORS

Students in the Honors Creative Writing Program enroll in Honors Creative Writing Seminar (Spring) in order to facilitate the completion of the creative writing thesis and expand students' understanding of the craft of writing. The Honors Creative Writing students read from their theses on April 19, 2019. For more information, see [fau.edu/english/creativewritinghonors](http://fau.edu/english/creativewritinghonors)

**Aleya Siegel** | Temptation

**Rebecca Nicole Montana** | Girlhood, Grotesque

**Madeline Garcia** | Distorted Divine

**Jessica Kavanagh** | Butterfly Effect

**Rachel Miller-Shaked** | Transcendence



Congratulations to our 2019 Creative Honors students (with Professor Andrew Furman): Aleya Siegel, Andrew Furman, Jessica Kavanagh, Rebecca Montana, Madeline Garcia, and Rachel Miller-Shaked

# outstanding ENGLISH SENIOR awards



The English Department recognized **Rebecca Nicole Montana** (pictured left receiving her Honors Creative Writing certificate and cord from Andrew Furman) as the 2018-2019 Outstanding English Senior Award recipient. **Asuka Takahashi** received the 2019-2020 award. These students were nominated by multiple faculty members for their performance in challenging courses, their contributions to creating an intellectual environment in class discussions, and the strong writing and research skills exemplified by their honors theses.

# professional & technical writing

# CERTIFICATE



Congratulations to our PTWC Certificate earning graduates! For more information about the PTWC, see [fau.edu/ptwc](http://fau.edu/ptwc)

## 2018-2019

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Beatriz Acosta-Tsvilin | Danielle Ott     |
| Yeva Amirjanyan        | Skyler Ozuna     |
| Jennifer Batista       | Franco Smigliani |
| Mycaela Everly         | Haley Tiso       |
| Alexander Liong-A-San  | Serena Torres    |
| Rachel Miller-Shaked   | Sloan Viner      |
| Shavantay Minnis       | Kira Wolak       |

## 2019-2020

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Micheka Avril      | Max Mallinger   |
| Madison Borgel     | Marissa Marx    |
| Lindsey Cartwright | Madison Meglio  |
| Mykera Crawford    | Yoshia Reuven   |
| Jacob Domosh       | Darby Robbins   |
| Faith Fusillo      | Aleya Siegel    |
| Carolina Guterres  | Asuka Takahashi |
|                    | Christy Yancy   |

# graduate student

# AWARDS

The 2018-2019 Howard Pearce M.A. Thesis Award went to **Denario Kelly** for “Provoking Southern Christianity: Baptists, Methodists, Schisms, and Slavery.”

The 2019-2020 Howard Pearce M.A. Thesis Award went to **Cynthia Wedding** for “Veins of Oppression in *Under the Feet of Jesus*.”

The 2019 Swann Awards to support graduate summer travel to conduct research for a writing project went to **Emily White, Chey Wollner, Brittany Rigdon**. There were no 2020 awards due to COVID travel restrictions.

The Angela Griffin Award recognizes graduate students with the highest academic achievement in their first year in their respective program(s):

M.A.: **Lucas Townsend** (2019), **Drew Hudnall** (2019), **Alyssa Prawl** (2020).

M.F.A.: **Matthew Hawkins** (2019), **Colton Martin** (2019), **Justin Piesco** (2019), **Benjamin Wilson** (2019), **Chey Wollner** (2019), **Eileen Winn** (2020), **Merkin Karr** (2020), **Haley Keane** (2020), **Meg Marcum** (2020).

The English Department presented a small monetary award in recognition of the dedication of the following GTAs:

Most Promising GTA: **Abigail Reinhard** (2019)

Outstanding GTA: **Emily White** (2019) and **Cynthia Wedding** (2019)

Outstanding Ph.D. GTA: **Steve McGeary** (2019)

# english graduate student society

## WELCOME TO THE PARTICULARLY STRANGE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR FROM THE ENGLISH GRADUATE STUDENT SOCIETY!

President: **Shannon Krieger** (she/her, M.A.)

Vice President: **Nate Cleaver** (he/him, M.A.)

Vice President of GTAs: **Eileen Winn** (they/them, M.F.A.)

Treasurer: **Justin Piesco** (he/him, M.F.A.)

Secretary: **Aaron Guile** (he/him, M.F.A.)

**First-Year Student Liaison: position currently open to all new grad students!**

The English Graduate Student Society is an FAU accredited organization that works to promote academic camaraderie throughout the semester. While the Fall semester would usually see EGSS hosting an array of informational events, the pandemic has reconfigured our goals for this semester... among other things. We are currently focused on supporting fellow graduate students through the struggle that is our existence right now.

The marvelous Eileen Winn and their beautiful assistant Justin Piesco have developed a Discord page which is functioning as what was once the GTA office, CU 311. The dark mode layout of Discord is particularly adept at recreating the cave-like haunt we loved in the Before Times. It is a space for everyone to connect, disperse advice, and complain liberally & generally. If you would like to join in, please contact EGSS via the email below and a link will be sent to you. Additionally, we will be hosting a few Friday night Zoom hangouts in order to fight the growing sense of isolation between graduate students.

Speaking of relatively isolated graduate students, we want to acknowledge the incoming graduate students. They are not only teaching for the first time ever, they're managing *online* teaching for the first time ever, too. Teaching hybrid or virtual courses and learning the ropes of graduate school is no small feat. As the English Graduate Student Society, we want to support our new cohort members and we also want their perspectives, input, creativity, and voices. We are currently accepting applications for the First-Year Student Liaison position with EGSS. Please contact any of the current EGSS

officers with any questions: we would love to take a break from our homework and talk to you! In fact, we will be kind of heartbroken if you don't. One way we want to work to support the incoming cohort members is to lead workshops that will help make teaching and being in school at least 1% less strenuous. Our workshops will cover topics like how to make lesson plans, an overview of MLA formatting for returning students, tips for grading and giving feedback on student writing, making time to write and read for yourself, and how to look like you're not crying on Zoom (even though we all are).

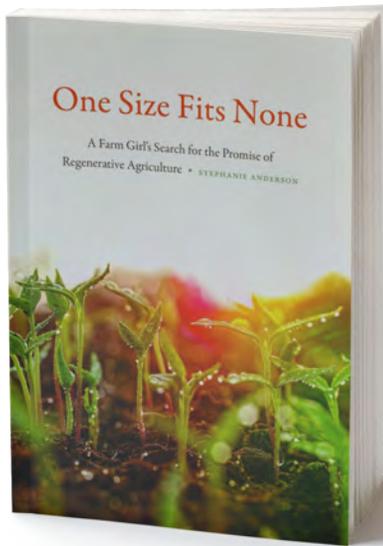
As for the Spring semester: the annual EGSS conference WILL happen, and happen safely, regardless of what ol' Rona plans on doing. The conference is a great space to present your academic work and gain experience for big-kid conferences. It's open to both M.A. and M.F.A. students, and the call for papers will allow creative submissions. This is something to think about as you work on your seminar papers this semester and start thinking about larger projects. We're excited to see what you come up with this semester and to share our research as a department. Something to look forward to in these "unprecedented times" besides a vaccine. Cheers!

We wish you all the best for the semester, for your writing and your students and your family. Be well, stay safe, and don't be chicken: join EGSS!

As always, all questions and suggestions are desperately encouraged.

Please help us: [fauegss@gmail.com](mailto:fauegss@gmail.com)

# department awards, promotions, & publications



**Don Adams** published “The Creativity That Drives the World: Prophetic Realism” in *Process Studies* and “It’s the World We Got to Deal With: The Exasperated Ethics of Graham Greene’s *Brighton Rock*” in *Soundings: A Journal of Interdisciplinary Humanities*.

**Claudia Amadori** earned promotion to Senior Instructor.

**Stephanie Anderson’s** *One Size Fits None: A Farm Girl’s Search for the Promise of Regenerative Agriculture* (U of Nebraska Press) has been selected as the Summer Reading book for the class of 2023 at Miami University of Ohio. The book won a 2019 Midwest Book Award in the Nature category. An excerpt appeared in *Terrain: A Journal of the Built + Natural Environments*. She published “Summers Like Watermelons” and “Century Village” in *South Dakota Magazine*, “What the Prairie Dog Knows” in *TriQuarterly*, “Atlas” in *Hotel Amerika*, “Regenerative agriculture can make farmers stewards of the land again” in *The Conversation*, and “Radioactive Prairie” in *Flyway: Journal of Writing and Environment*. Stephanie won an Instructor Professional Development / Research Award.

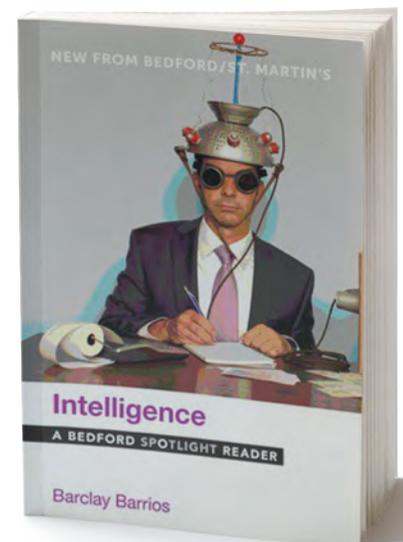
**Aiden Baker’s** (M.F.A.) “Bristle Worms” was published in the autumn issue of *Variant Literature Journal*.

**Stacey Balkan’s** essay “Anthropocene and Empire” was republished in *Think in Public: A Public Books Reader* (Columbia UP). Her article “Inhabiting the Chthulucene: Forging Tentacular Intimacies at the End of the World” appeared in *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*. Stacey’s essays “A Just Future for Cycling” and “Injustice in the Breeze” were published in *Public Books*. She was awarded two research travel grants from FAU’s Peace, Justice, and Human Rights Initiative.

**Barclay Barrios** and recent English M.A. graduate **Drew Hudnall** co-authored a publication in the April 2020 issue of *Pedagogy*. Barclay’s textbook *Intelligence: A Bedford Spotlight Reader*, was published in September 2020.

**Eric Berlatsky** published a book review in *Imagetext*. He accepted a new role as Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. He and **Sika Dagbovie-Mullins** co-edited *Mixed Race Superheroes*, forthcoming from Rutgers UP. They collaborated on “The Whiteness of the Whale and the Darkness of the Dinosaur: The Africanist Presence in American Superhero Comics from Black Lightning to Moon Girl” in *Unstable Masks: Whiteness and American Superhero Comics* (2020), “The Mixed-Race Child Within: (Psycho)Analyzing the Relationship between Race and Trauma in ‘Spider-Man: The Child Within’” in *Comics on the Couch*, special issues of *American Imago*, and “The Only Nerdy Pakistani-American-Slash-Inhuman in the Entire Universe’: Postracialism and Politics in the New *Ms. Marvel*” in *Ms. Marvel’s America* (2020).

**Corrine Binnings** (M.F.A.) published three poems in *The Caribbean Writer*: “And Before I Be A Slave,” “I Rest Me in the Thought” and “N----itis.”

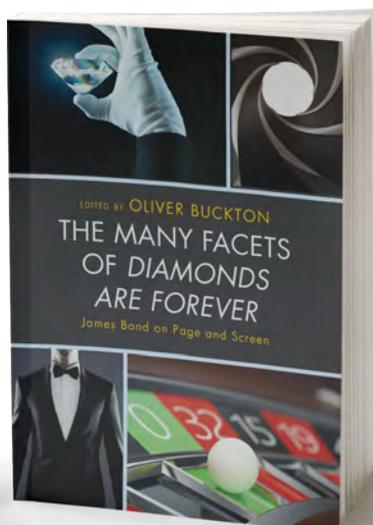
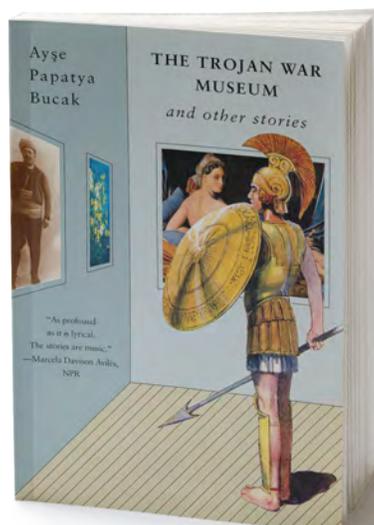


**Papatya Bucak** published “Good Fortune” in *One Story*, “The Trojan War Museum” in *Guernica*, “The Dead” in *Bomb Magazine*, “A Year in Reading” in *The Millions*, and her first collection of short stories, *The Trojan War Museum and Other Stories* (WW Norton). The collection received a starred review in *Publisher’s Weekly*, was a recommend book in *O: The Oprah Magazine*, and was short-listed for the prestigious PEN/Robert W. Bingham prize for debut short story collection. *The Trojan War Museum and Other Stories* won the Spotlight Award from The Story Prize. She was awarded a fellowship to attend the Summer 2021 Sewanee Writers’ Conference.

**Oliver Buckton** published *The Many Facets of Diamonds Are Forever: James Bond on Page and Screen* (2019) and became the English Department Chair in Spring 2020.

**Melissa Criscuolo** published a poem, “Nightmare,” with *don’t die press* and “Oblivion” was published in *Portland Review’s* collection titled *Unchartable: On Environmental Unknowns*. She won an Instructor Professional Development/Research Award.

**Sika Dagbovie-Mullins** published “Performing White Innocence While Invoking Black Slavery in ‘Post-Racial’ Popular Culture” in *The Journal of Popular Culture* 52.3. She was awarded a sabbatical for 2020-21. She and **Eric Berlatsky** co-edited *Mixed Race Superheroes*, forthcoming from Rutgers UP. They collaborated on “The Whiteness of the Whale and the Darkness of the Dinosaur: The Africanist Presence in American Superhero Comics from Black Lightning to Moon Girl” in *Unstable Masks: Whiteness and American Superhero Comics* (2020), “The Mixed-Race Child Within: (Psycho)Analyzing the Relationship between Race and Trauma in ‘Spider-Man: The Child Within’” in *Comics on the Couch*, special issues of *American Imago*, and “‘The Only Nerdy Pakistani-American-Slash-Inhuman in the Entire Universe’: Postracialism and Politics in the New *Ms. Marvel*” in *Ms. Marvel’s America* (2020).



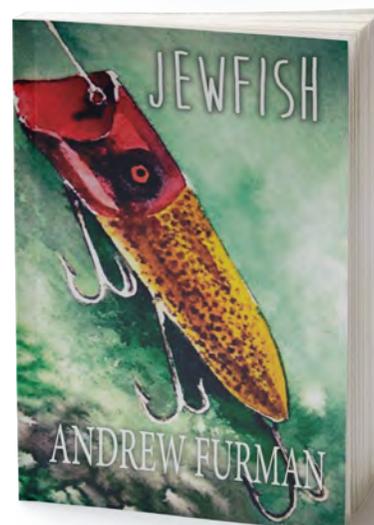
**Tochi Eze** (M.F.A.) published “We are Still Waiting” in *The Southampton Review*.

**Mary Faraci** published “Three Houses: A Book Built on William Morris’s ‘Golden Rule’” in *Useful and Beautiful*, the William Morris newsletter. She retired at the end of the summer 2020 semester after 47 years at FAU.

**Andrew Furman** published his novel *Jewfish* (Little Curlew Press), a story, “Dani Bloom,” in *Willow Springs Magazine*, an essay, “My Garden Tour,” with *ISLE*, and a story, “Dandelions of the Field and the Daisies Thereof,” in *Oyster River Pages*.

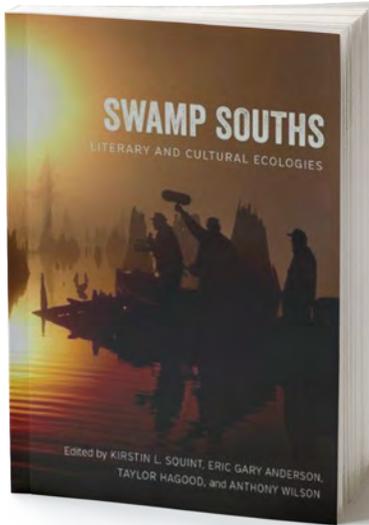
**Jeff Galin** co-authored “The Formation of a Professional Organization for Writing Across the Curriculum” for *Diverse Approaches to Teaching, Learning, and Writing Across the Curriculum* and co-authored “Tracking the Sustainable Development of WAC Programs Using Sustainability Indicators: Limitations and Possibilities” in *Across the Disciplines*.

**Sheryl Gifford** earned promotion to University Instructor.



**Charlie Gleek** (Comparative Studies Ph.D. candidate) published an essay in the Spring 2020 volume of *The Chattahoochee Review* and earned an appointment in the Humanities Program at the prestigious St. Anne's-Belfield School in Charlottesville, VA. Charlie will spend 2020-21 teaching Upper School courses while completing his dissertation, "Southern Fringes: Little Magazines, Paratext, and Larry Brown's Short Fiction."

**Gabrielle Gutting** earned promotion to University Instructor.



**Taylor Hagood** published "Key West Dreaming" in *Throomers*, "The Gothic Tradition in New Orleans" in the collection *New Orleans: A Literary History* (Cambridge UP), and a book, *Swamp Souths: Literary and Cultural Ecologies* (LSU Press).

**Matt Hawkins** (M.F.A.) published "21<sup>st</sup> Century Boy" in *Fugue* and won *The Southampton Review* Nonfiction Prize for "25 Fragments at 24."

**Jake Henson** earned promotion to Senior Instructor.

**Wendy Hinshaw** co-edited a special issue of *Reflections: A Journal of Community-Engaged Writing and Rhetoric*.

**Shelby Johnson** was named the Society of Early Americanists' Junior Scholar of the Month for June 2019. Shelby published "'An Observance of Silence to the Events': Formal Histories of the Haitian Revolution in Frances Burney's *The Wanderer*" in *English Language Notes*. She earned a Scholarly and Creative Accomplishment Fellowship for 2020-21 and won the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Society of Early Americanists Essay Prize for her piece "'The Fate of St. Domingo Awaits You': Robert Wedderburn's Unfinished Revolution."

**Erin Kiley** earned promotion to Senior Instructor.

**Ash Kini** had a short essay published as part of an online forum called "On Teaching in the Time of Covid-19" for the blog of the *American Studies Journal*.

**Stacy Lettman** was selected as a McKnight Junior Faculty Fellow and was awarded a Scholarly and Creative Accomplishment Fellowship for 2019-2020.

**Jennifer Low** published "Shakespeare in the Artist's Book: Sequence, Series, and Adaptation" in *Actes des congrès de la Société française Shakespeare*.

**Ian Macdonald** and **Carol McGuirk** wrote the exhibit labels for a display in Wimberley Library featuring early and pulp Science Fiction from the collection of friend-of-the-department Dr. Richard Meli and Heartwood Books.

**Margaret Marcum** (M.F.A.) had poems accepted by two publications: *Veganism* and *cc&d*. She published "From the Bay of Monterey" in *Flora Fiction* and "If You're an Animal" and "A Prayer for Animals" on [www.all-creatures.org](http://www.all-creatures.org) and "Oliver Sacks and Caring for the Whole Person" in the *Hektoen International Journal of Medical Humanities*.

**Carol McGuirk** published "The King and THE PEOPLE in Burns and Lady Nairne, with a Coda on Jane Austen's Favorite Burns Song" in *Studies in Scottish Literature* and earned a sabbatical for 2020-21.

**Becka McKay** published "Leviticus as Campaign Rally in Midsummer" in *Epiphany: The Borders Issue*, "Hook" and "Leviticus as South Florida Spring" in *Poetry Northwest*, "Elegy Begun in July" in *Beloit Poetry Journal*, "The Finches Remain Busy as Wrists" in *Free State Review*, and "The Bees Wear Their Heaviness So Well" and "The Speed of Light Is Too Slow for Some Physicists" in *Muzzle*.

**Susan Mitchell** published "The Dance" in *Together In A Sudden Strangeness: America's Poets Respond To The Pandemic*, eds. Alice Quinn & Deborah Garrison (New York: Knopf, 2020). The ebook and audiobook were published in June 2020 and the hardcover is forthcoming from Knopf in November 2020.

**Dan Murtaugh** was named Professor Emeritus.

**Ali Tal-Mason** (Comparative Studies Ph.D.) published a piece in *Slate* about Native American land rights that emerged from her work in Shelby Johnson's graduate seminar and "Voyage to the Marvelous: A Traveler's Guide to *The Kingdom of this World*" in *The Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry*.

**Kate Polak** published the poems "Heritage" in *Barzakh*, "Still Life of Panties on a Windshield" and "We Wake to Empire" in *Cathexis Northwest Press*, "Online Faculty Meeting Message Thread Villanelle" in *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, "Midwinter at the Gym" in *Unlimited Literature*, "On Captain Marvel Being Told That She Should Smile More" in *SWWIM Every Day*, and "Revenant" and "No Light Strike" in *Newtown Literary Journal*. Her poem "The Daily Tragedy" in *Plainsongs* won the *Plainsongs* 40th Anniversary Prize.

**Richard Potter** earned promotion to University Instructor.

**Carla María Thomas** published "The Case of *Poema Morale*: Old English Homiletic Influence in Early Middle English Verse" in *Remembering the Medieval Present: Generative Uses of England's Pre-Conquest Past, 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Centuries* and "The Medieval Literature Survey Reimagined: Intersectional and Inclusive Praxis in a U.S. College Classroom" in a collection titled *Disturbing Times: Medieval Pasts, Reimagined Futures*.

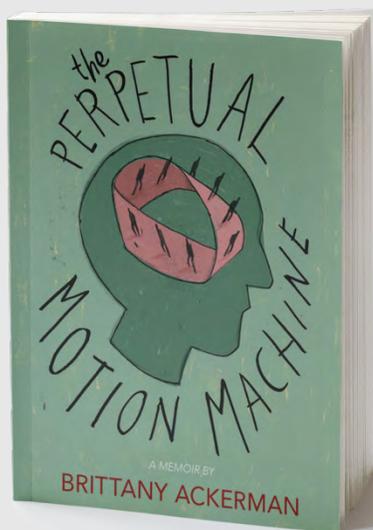
**Lilleth Treweek** earned promotion to University Instructor.

**Julieann Ulin** published "Who'll Buy Killarney? Social, Legislative, and Literary Responses to the 1956 Sale" in *New Hibernia Review* and a review of Bridget English's *Laying Out the Bones: Death and Dying in the Modern Irish Novel* in *James Joyce Quarterly*.

**Eileen Winn** (M.F.A.) published an essay in *The Breakup Book* (Purpled Palm Press) and a poem, "Seven of Pentacles," in an experimental poetry tarot at *blood orange*.

# ALUMNI

## news



**Brittany Ackerman's** (M.F.A.) memoir *The Perpetual Motion Machine* made a BuzzFeed list of best small press books. In 2019, the book was shortlisted for the Rubery International Book Award, Nonfiction.

**Ariana T. Anderson** (B.A.) was accepted to Loyola University New Orleans College of Law.

**Drew Hudnall** (M.A.) co-authored a publication in the April 2020 issue of *Pedagogy* with Associate Dean and English Associate Professor Barclay Barrios.

**Robert Curran** (B.A., M.A.) is completing the coursework stage of the Ph.D. in English at Florida State University.

**Caitlyn Davidheiser** (M.F.A.) published "Search History" in *Passages North*.

**Emily Donovan** (M.F.A.) and **Ben Kerns** (M.F.A.) released a five-part fiction podcast set in suburban Florida called "Donald August versus the Land of Flowers."

**Roger Drouin** (M.F.A.) is now Science Writer/Public Information Coordinator at the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium.

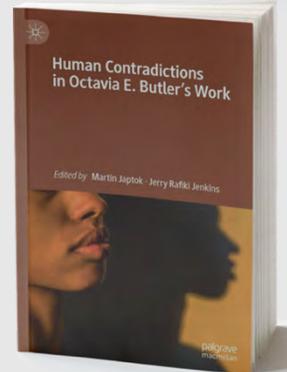
**Kristin McGlothlin's** (M.A.) *Drawing with Whitman* was co-winner of a Moonbeam Children's Book Award.

**Rebecca Montana** (B.A.) was accepted to Emerson College's M.A. in Publishing and Writing program.

**Micah Moreno** (M.A.) published "Survival by Any Means: Race and Gender, Passing and Performance in Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower* and *Parable of the Talents*" in *Human Contradictions in Octavia E. Butler's Work*, Eds. Martin Japtok and Jerry Rafiki Jenkins (Springer 2020). Micah was a thesis advisee of Sika Dagbovie-Mullins and the chapter was part of the thesis.

**Lucas Townsend** (M.A.) published "From Dimitrios with Love: Ian Fleming's Cold War Revision of Eric Ambler's *A Coffin for Dimitrios*" in *The International Journal of James Bond Studies*. Lucas is currently working towards his Ph.D. at Roehampton University, UK.

**Tully Turk** (B.A.) accepted a fully-funded place in Oregon State University's MA program and published a selection of his honors thesis, "Man's Clones: Anthropomorphosis Understood through Pope's *Essay on Man* and Ginsberg's 'Howl'" in FAU's *Undergraduate Research Journal*.



# giving to the FAU ENGLISH department

Tax-deductible donations to the Department of English are always needed and appreciated.

Donations help support our undergraduate and graduate students, as well as the various departmental programs seen throughout this newsletter.

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Thank you for your support!