HERE COMES EVERYONE: Latest News From the Lives of Alumni

Kaitlyn Abrams (BA ’13) is currently pursuing her MFA in English at the University of Maine.  
https://english.umaine.edu/people/kaitlyn-abrams/

Sarah Appleton (MFA ’16) currently teaches English at Cranbrook Schools in Michigan.

Amber Asbjornsen (BA ’02) works as Director of Development in the College of Science and Engineering at Western Washington University.  
https://cse.wwu.edu/college-science-and-technology/pirtlea

Roberto Ascalon (MA ’16) recently procured a position teaching spoken word at The Northwest School in Seattle. 
http://centerforartandthought.org/work/contributor/roberto-ascalon

Suzanne Bair (BA ’14) recently published a nonfiction piece, “More Than A Diagnosis Code,” in Tiny Tim Literary Review. Her articles and photography have
appeared in *Bellingham Alive!, North Sound Life,* and *North End Metro* magazines.

**Rebecca Baker (MA ’17)** will begin pursuing her PhD at the University of California - Santa Barbara in the fall of 2017.

**Zachary Beare (MA ’10)** is a tenure-track Assistant Professor of English and serves as Associate Director of First-Year Writing at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln.

**David Beaumier (BA ’13)** is Assistant Publishing Director at Village Books as well as Editor and Publisher of *Barking Rain Press.*

**Eric Bellscheidt (MA ’88)** is Executive Editor at *Automotive Content Experience.* He was formerly a Digital Media Editor and Content Strategist for Microsoft.

**Elizabeth Chicken (BA ’01)** teaches at West Valley High School in Yakima. She was recently selected as one of twenty-five teachers from around the nation to spend a month in Washington, D.C., studying Shakespeare at the Folger Shakespeare Library.

**Peter Dunau (BA ’12)** is a communications specialist at *Mountaineers Books* and was a content manager for *Visit Spokane.*


**Steven Funcke (BA ’12)** works as Predator Global Marketing Manager for Acer.

**Gabe Galanda (BA ’97)** co-chaired the Who Belongs? conference last year in Tucson, Arizona, on the topic of Native American disenrollment. He works as managing tribal lawyer of *Galanda Broadman PLLC,* and was chosen by his peers for inclusion in the 2017 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in the areas of Gaming Law and Native American Law, for the 11th straight year.

**Mike Ginn (BA ’11)** recently worked as Social Media Manager for the Emmy winning show @midnight.


**Chad Helder (MA ’01)** is an instructor at Front Range Community College in Fort Collins, Colorado.

**Paige Hermansen (MA ’09)** works as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Composition and *Rhetoric* at Westfield State University in Massachusetts.
Kelsey Hopstad (BA ’06) is in charge of Career Exploration and Future Orientation through Americorp at Grays Harbor College.

Brent Lewis (BA ‘08) is an associate professor at Umpqua Community College and former fiction editor of Sundog Lit.

Jessica Lohafer (MFA ‘14, BA ‘10) published her first piece of fiction, “How to Build a Budget” in Ghost Parachute.


Kristoffer Mayfield (BA ’98) was voted Trial Lawyer of the Year in California by the Capital City Trial Lawyers Association. This year, he won a judgement in the amount of 5.6 million against Amtrak for its refusal to cover the healthcare of an employee injured on the job. He works as an attorney in Oakland, California.

Tanya Perkins (BA ’09, MA ’11) was recently hired to start in the fall on tenure line at Indiana University East, where she has been working as Creative Writing Coordinator. Her stories have been published in The Forge Literary Magazine, Second Hand Stories (podcast), and Storyscape Journal, among others.

Alexa Peters (BA ’14) writes the “Smartist” column at Amy Poehler’s Smart Girls in addition to being a freelance writer for The Seattle Times. Her articles have appeared in Seattle Weekly, Seattle Magazine, City Arts Magazine, and Fretboard Journal, among others.

Lindsay Petrie (BA ’14, MFA ’16) works as a project manager at a language translation and interpretation company, Gateway Languages, Inc.

Andrew Pine (BA ’16) is currently teaching English at Cranbrook Schools in Michigan.

Millie Reinhardsen (BA ’12) is a digital advertising analyst at CDK Global, the largest global provider of integrated information technology and digital marketing solutions to the automotive retail industry.

Cindy-Lou Rhodes-Holland (MFA ’16) will begin pursuing her PhD at the University of Texas - Austin in the fall of 2017.

Rob Rich (MFA ’16) wrote the article, “Better With Beavers: How partnerships with a rodent are helping to restore watersheds the Pacific Northwest,” which was published in Earth Island Journal. His work has appeared in Camus, High Country Journal, and others.

Cailey Snyder (BA ’16) has been accepted into Woodring’s Master in Teaching program.

Kendon Smith (MA ’15) was accepted to the University of Michigan Ph.D. Program in Linguistics. Previously, he taught at Skagit Valley College.

Travis Smith (BA ’98) accepted the position of principal at Ramapo High School in Franklin Lakes, New Jersey. Prior to that, he was the Assistant Principal at Arthur L. Johnson High School.

Mara Steele (MA ’13) received four years of funding for the PhD program in English at the University of Iowa. She is now in her second year.

Patricia Swanson (BA ’14) is currently living in Philadelphia where she is earning her MFA at the Tyler School of Art at Temple University. www.patriciaswanson.com

Alanna Tritt (BA ’08) is a communications associate at Columbia Legal Services at the University of Washington Evans School in Seattle.

Jesse Ulmer (BA ’15) is an AmeriCorps Training Facilitator at the YMCA in Olympia, and Workforce
Development Youth Programs Specialist. Her fiction has appeared in *The Yellow Chair Review* and *Pins & Needles: A Journal of Contemporary Fairy tales*.

**Austin Van Kirk (MFA ’16)** was accepted into Wayne State University’s PhD Program in Literature with funding, where he will continue his scholarship on queer identities and 20th century American Literature. He has spent the last year teaching English at Jackson College.

Julie Marie Wade (MA ’03) released a new collection of poems, *Catechism: A Love Story* with Red Hen Press. It was selected by C.D. Wright as the winner of the 2014 AROHO/To the Lighthouse Award. [http://www.juliemariewade.net](http://www.juliemariewade.net)

Hana Waldenberg (BA ’16) has been hired as a paid marketing intern and corporate writer at Dawson Construction in Bellingham.

Zoe Elizabeth Wise (BA ’13) received three years of funding for the MFA program in Creative Writing at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.


Anna Wolff (MA ’08) became a tenured faculty member at Whatcom Community College in 2017 and received the 2016 Whatcom Community College Foundation Faculty Excellence Award along with Katherine Burns. She is active in the WCC diversity committee and serves as faculty advisor for the Writers of Whatcom student club.

**Tracy Wysaske (’15)** works as a systems analyst for Xbox Live Quality Organization at Microsoft.

Fond Farewells

**Tribute to Linda Flanagan**
Linda Flanagan, the English Department’s Program Coordinator, will retire from Western at the end of June. In her 21 years with the English Department, she has been indispensable to its smooth operations. Linda has long been the welcoming face of the English Department as she is very often the first person that students, faculty, and visitors encounter when they enter the department. As Program Coordinator, Linda has advised students, one-on-one, assisting them in planning their schedules so they can complete their degree in a timely manner. Her deep knowledge of our curriculum and our degree programs, together with her warm, calm manner, have enabled her to help countless students. Linda has also been essential in helping department faculty in a variety of ways, including the annual creation of the schedule of classes. Thanks to her, we have been able to configure the 300+ classes (exclusive of English 101) in a way that serves our students’ academic needs. Linda has been our go-to person for everything from registration matters to securing office supplies to last-minute emergencies. We will miss her very much, but we wish her a great next chapter.

**Farewells**
Last year, we said goodbye to Oliver de la Paz, a poetry professor, and to Meredith Pugh, a linguistics instructor, who accepted positions at Holy Cross College. This year, Kristin Mahoney, a Victorian literature professor, and Kaveh Askari, a film studies professor, are leaving Western to assume positions at Michigan State University. We are grateful for their excellent teaching, their outstanding creative and scholarly work, and the many ways all of them contributed to our department and the university.

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The Latest From Your Faculty

Kaveh Askari
Kaveh Askari served as Associate Professor in Residence in the Communication Program at Northwestern University in Qatar.

Bruce Beasley
Bruce Beasley's poem, “Comes the Reckoning,” appeared in the Yale Review. All Soul Parts Returned, is forthcoming from BOA Editions.
https://brucebeasley.net/

Nicole Brown

Elizabeth Colen
Elizabeth Colen’s book, What Weaponry: A Novel in Prose Poems, was published in the summer of 2016 by Black Lawrence Press.

Jeremy Cushman
In 2016, Jeremy Cushman’s article, “Recasting Writing and Voicing Bodies: Podcasts Across a Writing Program” written with Shannon Kelly, was included in the SoundWriting Pedagogies digital collection, compiled by Courtney Danforth and Kyle Stedman. Additionally, his article “Ethnographic Actions and Small Stories: Making Sense of Auto Technicians Making Sense,” was included in Research Methods Companion for Research in Practice.
https://soundcloud.com/j-cushman

Kristin Denham

Dawn Dietrich
Dawn Dietrich attended the National Association for Diversity Officers in Higher Education,” as part of the WWU President’s Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, in San Francisco, CA, March 13-17, 2016. She presented her paper, “Mediating the Digital Frame:

Trinh T. Minh-ha's The Fourth Dimension,” at the Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association Conference.

Geri Forsberg
In 2016, Geri Forsberg’s work was featured in Confronting Technopoly: Charting a Course towards Human Survival, edited by Phil Rose, and in Jacques Ellul as a Model of Border Crossing, forthcoming from Peter Lang Publications. Additionally, she attended a conference at UC Berkeley and was a respondent on a panel at the National Communication Association Conference, “Communication’s Civic Callings,” in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Allison Giffen

Bruce Goebel
Bruce Goebel's eight-part lesson plan “Comparing William Carlos Williams’s Poetry with Cubist Paintings” was published in Read/Write/Think.

Carol Guess
Carol Guess's latest book, Your Sick, written as a collaboration with both Kelly Magee and Elizabeth Colen, was published this year by Jellyfish Highway Press. Instructions for Staging, co-written with Kristina Marie Darling, is forthcoming from Broadstone Books.

Nancy Johnson
Nancy Johnson’s article, “Meeting Characters in Caldecott Books: What Does This Mean for Today’s Readers?”, appeared in The Reading Teacher, co-

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authored with Miriam Martinez and Melanie D. Koss. She was awarded the 2015 Golden Apple Award from the Whatcom County Library System. She continues to direct the WWU Children’s Literature Conference.

Kristiana Kahakauwila
http://www.kristianakahakauwila.com/

Laura Laffrado

Christopher Loar
Christopher Loar’s review of Eighteenth Century Poetry and the Rise of the Novel Reconsidered, edited by Kate Parker and Courtney Weiss Smith, was published in The Scriblerian. His papers, “Pindaric Cosmology,” and “Hearing the Object: Audial and Visual Materials in Jago’s EdgeHill,” were delivered at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies.

Anne Lobeck
Anne Lobeck is currently working on the second edition of Discovering Grammar: An Introduction to English Sentence Structure, forthcoming from Oxford University Press. She is also under contract for Why Study Linguistics? with Routledge Publishing.
https://works.bepress.com/anne_lobeck/

Kathleen Lundeen

William Lyne

Kelly Magee
Kelly Magee’s most recent collection of short stories, The Neighborhood, is currently available through Gold Wake Press. Additionally, A Guide to Strange Places: Stories, a chapbook of short fiction, was published by Red Bird Chapbooks in 2016. Her prose has recently appeared in Booth, Granta, Hobart, and Eleven Eleven.
http://kellyelizabethmagee.com/
http://elevenelevenjournal.com/2016/11/16/kelly-magee/

Kristin Mahoney
Kristin Mahoney’s essay, “Camp Aesthetics and Inequality: Baron Corvo’s Toto Stories,” appears in the anthology Economies of Desire at the Victorian Fin de Siècle: Libidinal Lives, published by Routledge. Additionally, her essay, “Michael Field and Queer Community at the Fin de Siècle” was published in the Victorian Review.

Mary Janell Metzger
Brenda Miller
Brenda Miller’s work has recently been featured in *Brevity*, *The Normal School*, *Sweet*, and *Rappahannock Review*, among others. Much of her work published this past year has been in the form of collaborative essay, written with Western Washington University alums Lee Guylas and Julie Marie Wade. “Camera: A Collaborative Essay” with Julie Marie Wade was featured in the *Kenyon Review*, and “Golden Angle” with Lee Gulyas appeared in *Sweetlit*.

Suzanne Paola

Lysa Rivera
Lysa Rivera’s essay, “Chicano Cyberpunk after El Movimiento,” first appeared in *Aztlan: Journal of Chicano Studies*. It was included in *Altermundos: Latin Speculative Literature, Film, and Popular Culture*, published by the University of Washington in 2017. She was the recipient of a Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar Grant and delivered her paper “Novel Ecologies: Chicano Cyberpunk in the 1990s” at the University of California Riverside.

Donna Qualley
Donna Qualley’s “Revision as Backward Transfer” paper was delivered at the 2016 College of Composition and Communication Conference.

Nancy Pagh
Nancy Pagh’s latest book, *Write Moves: A Creative Writing Guide and Anthology*, was published in August of 2016 by Broadview Press. Her creative work was recently featured in *Sunset Liminal and Contemporary Haibun Online*. [https://nancypagh.com/](https://nancypagh.com/)

Christopher Patton

Kathryn Trueblood
Kathryn Trueblood’s story, “Taking My Father Hostage,” was published in the *Literary Medical Messenger*, Winter 2016. She received a Special Mention for The Christopher Doheny Award from The Center for Fiction for her collection, “The Medicated Marriage & Other Tales,” and the story, “Time Bomb Baby,” was a finalist for the Sustainable Arts Foundation Award. She continues to serve as advisor for “Stories Deployed: The Veterans Chronicles.”

Kathryn Vulic
Kathryn Vulic’s new essay collection, *Devotional Literature and Practice in Medieval England: Readers, Reading, and Reception* was...

**Theresa Warburton**
Theresa Warburton was awarded the Cogut Center for the Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow in Native American Literature and Culture at Brown University for the 2017-2019 academic years. She also received the Walter McClintock Fellowship, a Visiting Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University, where she did research for her article “Where Ocean Herself Was Born: Transnational Anarchism and the Transpacific Currents in Leslie Marmon Silko’s *Ceremony.*” Her essay, “A Similar Place Resistance and Existence in 21st Century Black and Native Women’s Memoirs” appeared in, *Cultural Studies = Critical Methodologies*. Her essay “Coming to Terms: Rethinking Popular Approaches to Anarchism and Feminism,” was published in *Perspectives on Anarchist Theory* by The Institute for Anarchist Studies.

**Kami Westhoff**
Kami Westhoff is the author of *Sleepwalker* and the recipient of the 2016 Minerva Rising Dare to Be Contest. In 2016 she published stories in *West Branch, Redivider, and Barnstorm Review*, and her poetry appeared in various journals including *Decomp, Menacing Hedge, Hermeneutic Chaos, Pretty Owl Poetry, Indianola Review, After the Pause, Tinderbox Poetry, Stirring, Anomaly, and Arsenic Lobster.*

**Christopher Wise**

**Greg Youmans**
Greg Youmans was a Writer-in-Residence at the Headlands Center for the Arts in Marin County, California, during the summer of 2016. That same year he published an essay, “ Suppressing the Revolt of the Perverts: Gay Activist Filmmaking and the Child-Pornography Panic of the Late 1970s” in the anthology *Porno Chic and the Sex Wars: American Sexual Representation in the 1970s* (University of Massachusetts Press), as well as articles on filmmakers Barbara Hammer and John Greyson in the journals *Found Footage* and *Jump Cut*. Youmans currently serves as Advisor for the Film Studies Minor.

**Ning Yu**
Ning Yu’s “A Formalist Analysis of Eight Poems of Autumn by Du Fu” was published by *Shanxi Review*, and his “Ecocritical Analysis of the Apes in Tang Poetry” was published by *Jilin Review*.

**In Memorium**
Former Western Washington University Professor Emeritus, Lawrence Lynn Lee, passed away on April 16, 2017 in Orangevale, California. During his career, he was president of the Western Literature Association in 1976; served as a Fulbright Scholar in American literature at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Poland from 1979-1981; and edited the critical journal, *Concerning Poetry* from 1969 to 1978. Professor Lee wrote and edited books and articles on the novelists Vladimir Nabokov, Walter Van Tilburg Clark, and Virginia Sorenson as well as western women writers. He also published short stories, poems, and translations of poetry.

http://www.gregyoumans.com/

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