LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

On behalf of the English department—our faculty and staff—it is my honor to celebrate you as the Class of 2020! While I wish I could be delivering these words to you in person at our graduation celebration, in front of your families, friends, and loved ones, it is my hope that this yearbook will convey the gratitude we feel for having shared this time with you as English majors, the pride we feel for what you have accomplished, and the belief we have that you can create a more just world. Congratulations on your graduation!

In this time of isolation, distancing, and hard reckoning with legacies of racial violence, settler colonialism, and systemic inequity, it sometimes feels like we collectively exist more in a shared time and history than in a shared place. But my hope is that as English majors you have come to understand that place is a way of being and a set of relations we hold. It is this sense of place that is evoked for me in the University of Washington's land acknowledgement, when we say that *the University of Washington acknowledges the Coast Salish people of this land, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Suquamish, Tulalip, and Muckleshoot nations*. This acknowledgment invites us to be more than just aware of where we are—the place we inhabit as guests; it invites us also to counter settler colonial epistemologies and to reimagine what it means to be and know in this place, in relation to others, past, present, and future.

To all of you—our BA, MFA, MA-TESOL, and PhD graduates—first and foremost, I want to acknowledge and thank you for your patience and good will over these last few months as we completed Winter quarter and launched into remote teaching and learning in Spring. You have all had to make adjustments and do the best you can under extremely difficult, stressful, exhausting circumstances compounded by racial and social inequities, health concerns, economic stresses, social distancing, child and family care, and care-taking in your communities. You have shown tremendous resiliency, courage, and generosity in adapting to these conditions. We would not have been able to teach in these conditions if you had not worked so hard to join and learn with us in them. I am confident we will emerge from this a stronger community, with an even deeper understanding for why our work matters and why we matter to one another.
You face a future that is challenging but also ready to be changed by those like you who are able to imagine and bring into existence a better one. Na’ilah Suad Nasir and Megan Bang, President and Vice President of the Spencer Foundation, recently wrote:

What if we recognized this moment as also a possibility to reconfigure life towards the world we want? What kinds of new questions would we ask, what kinds of reimagining might we do together?

As English graduates, you are prepared to ask new questions that help us reimagine how we can be together. This is because you have learned how to critically examine the frameworks that organize our ways of imagining. You have studied what these ways of imagining make possible and exclude, but also how they can be changed to imagine new possibilities—how the grammar of language shapes the grammar of our thinking and knowing, and also how literary, artistic, and critical uses of language can change the grammars of our thinking, relationships, and ways of being with each other.

These skills of higher order thinking, communication, creative problem solving, and adapting to and changing situations have long term, accruing economic value, as research has shown. But more than that, the future needs your ability to imagine in more than preconditioned, reductive ways others’ experiences, to understand others’ predicaments, and to engage multiple perspectives. It needs your ability to hold space for other people’s stories and learn from them. And it needs your tolerance for ambiguity, a tolerance that resists certainties and easy answers in order to understand and address complex issues more fully.

As we face the complex challenges ahead, no one discipline, no one group, no one nation is going to be able to address them alone. We need more than ever the ability to communicate and negotiate across meanings, languages, identities, and differences. It is common to end graduation remarks by quoting from an inspirational text or poem. But I want to conclude by encouraging you all to engage with others and the world like they are a poem: work hard to grapple with difficulty and be patient and generous as you do so; grant design to what might at first seem illegible; look for difference in what seems similar and similarity in what seems different (this is what metaphor and other forms of analogies train us to do); and work hard to examine your and others’ assumptions and biases. The skills you learn in English have prepared you for this. Hold on to them. Make good use of them. We need them more than ever!

Congratulations!

Anis Bawarshi
Professor and Chair of English
University of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

With the College of Arts and Sciences moving to a new humanities advising center, the English department will have to close our advising office at the end of this academic year. This marks an end of an era for the department. We are saying goodbye to three exceptional advisors who have been integral to your academic journeys.

Nancy Sisko, Tim Bradford, and Amy Feldman-Bawarshi have welcomed and guided thousands of students into and through the department. As graduating seniors, you know first-hand the difference they have made in helping you forge a successful, rewarding path through the major. If you completed a double major or applied for scholarship support or completed the honors program or studied abroad or worked through doubts and difficulties or applied for internships or been nominated for awards or found needed resources or explored career opportunities, chances are Nancy, Tim, and Amy played an important role. They have been your champions and exemplify the best of who we are as a department.

As director of English Advising, Dr. Nancy Sisko has also advised the department on curriculum revisions and initiatives while helping us connect our work to other departments and local communities. During the pandemic, Nancy has supported the department and our students through everything we have faced. It could not be more deserving that she was named Adviser of the Year by the UW Association of Professional Advisers and Counselors.

The Department of English would like thank Nancy, Tim, and Amy for their dedication, care, and support.

I have been so honored to work with you. Though it is my job to make sure that you all are well and have made your way through your degrees with efficiency and precision, it is I who have been given the gift of your questions, concerns, queries and communications.

Especially during this challenging COVID closure, I have learned from you. You have managed this very difficult time with grace, courage, compassion and understanding. Even in your own moments of fear or uncertainty, I have seen all of you reach out, give gratitude and offer help.

You have had the courage to declare a major that the outside world questions as valuable. Your studies in the humanities will carry this generation through to a complex understanding of culture and equity that will bring us to a more fair world. I believe in you.

–Nancy Sisko
Dear Graduating Seniors,

It was an absolute pleasure working with you over the past several years in the English advising office alongside Nancy and Amy. I am very proud of your accomplishments and in the spirit of celebrating your achievements and your next steps forward I would like to share a few quotes. I picked these because they seem to resonate in this moment, voice some of the many sentiments that I would like to convey to you, and are way less verbose than if I tried to say it with my own words.

“You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.” -Maya Angelou

“Cherish these nights, cherish these people. Life is a movie, but there'll never be a sequel.” – Nicki Minaj, All Things Go

“Never become so involved with something that it blinds you. Never forget where you from; someone will remind you.” – DMX, It’s On

“I wanted a perfect ending. Now I've learned, the hard way, that some poems don't rhyme, and some stories don't have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next. Delicious Ambiguity.” — Gilda Radner

Please stay in touch and all my best, Tim Bradford

Dear Graduating Seniors,

It is with greatest pleasure that I congratulate you on your successes and achievements which have culminated in your baccalaureate degree from the University of Washington. Well deserved! Congratulations!

Serving alongside my wonderful advising colleagues, Nancy and Tim, I unequivocally say that working for you—for English language & literature and creative writing majors—was a daily privilege and an honor.

You are creative problem-solvers, astute critical thinkers, mindful analysts, and conscious learners. As you venture onward toward your next chapters I hope that over the years and along the way you are able to draw upon the many pragmatic critical and analytical skills you acquired as English majors. I also hope you keep in touch. Mostly, I wish you well.

Best Wishes, Amy Feldman-Bawarshi
OUR GRADUATES

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

**Lubna Alzaroo**
**Dissertation:** Settler Colonial Infrastructure: Necropolitics and Ecology in the U.S. and Palestine  
**Chair:** Eva Cherniavsky  
Thank you to my wonderful family and friends who have supported me.

**Judy-Gail Baker**  
**Dissertation:** Intellectuals stan intellectuals: 아미* translinguality as motile learning  
**Chair:** Anis Bawarshi  
Without you I would not have been ready for the Brave, New World we live in now!

**Claire Evelyn Barwise**  
**Dissertation:** It Girls and Old Maids: Satiric Wit and the Single Woman in the Anglo-American Novel (1918-1958)  
**Chair:** Jessica Burstein

**Sumayyah Daud**  
**Dissertation:** The Demarcation Zone: The Victorian Search for a Global Past  
**Chair:** Jesse Oak Taylor

**Laura M De Vos**  
**Dissertation:** Spirals of Transformation: Turtle Island Indigenous Social Movements and Literatures  
**Chairs:** Habiba Ibrahim and Dian Million  
Special thanks to Justine James, Lanada Brown, and the Quinault Nation Elder Program, as well as to the Duwamish, first caretakers of the lands the University of Washington occupies.
Navid Ebrahimzadeh
Dissertation: The Lonely Remains: Waste in Postwar American Fiction
Chair: Jessica Burstein
"Shall I project a world?"

Sarah Faulkner
Chair: Juliet Shields
2018 UW Excellence in Teaching Award, 2019 NYPL Fellow,
2019 Chester Fritz International Research Fellow, 2019 Husky 100

Nancy Ann Fox
Dissertation: American Athena: A Feminist Sophistic Analysis of the Discourses of Women Servicemembers
Chair: Gail Stygall
"You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to
do it all the time." (Angela Davis)

Matthew Hitchman
Dissertation: Maritime Sensibility: Sentimentalism, Racial Capitalism, and a Critique of the American Maritime Genre
Chair: Eva Cherniavsky

Caleb Knapp
Dissertation: They Chose Instead Revolt: Slave Narratives, Sexual Violence, and the Black Radical Tradition
Chair: Alys Eve Weinbaum
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

David Kumler

Dissertation: Into the Seething Vortex: Occult Horror and the Subversion of the Realistic
Chair: Eva Cherniavsky

Live well, laugh often, love much. All cats are beautiful. The void awaits.

Caitlin Palo

Chair: Gary Handwerk

Post-Ph.D. Position: Program & Events Manager, Simpson Center for the Humanities

Terry Schenold

Dissertation: The Poetics of Reflection in Digital Games
Chair: Brian Reed

Move slow and understand things.

Sumyat Thu

Dissertation: Navigating and Responding to Raciolinguistic Ideologies: Refugee and Immigrant Students' Literacy Practices Across Contexts
Chair: Anis Bawarshi

Life has been wild, but as they say, every experience makes you stronger. I'm glad to finish what I started for this long journey. Love to my family and community.

Alan Williams

Dissertation: Queering the Transpacific: Race and Sexuality across the US and Japanese Empires
Chair: Shawn Wong
MASTER OF ARTS FOR TEACHERS  
(OF ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES)

Bryndis Margret Crider
Thanks Mom and Dad for inspiring me and taking care of me through my years in university.

Yining Huang
Thank you MATESOL, thank you English Department, thank you UW.

Wei Qiang
One TESOL Master, three CSE courses, three Stats classes and a cute baby. Thank you mom, dad, my husband, my son and my friend Amy. I love you.

MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN CREATIVE WRITING

Kym Lo-ammi Wilson Littlefield
Thank you Kemi Adeyemi. Thank you Habiba Ibrahim. Thanks to Rae Paris. Thanks Alys Weinbaum. Thanks CW Dept.! I did it for Braithwaite, Gumbs, Gladman, Roberson & who comes after.

Tim McAdams
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CREATIVE WRITING

Sophie R. Aanerud
"Create dangerously for people who read dangerously" -Edwidge Danticat

Gabriel Eliot Adler
“So long as you write what you wish to write, that is all that matters; and whether it matters for ages or only for hours, nobody can say.” —Virginia Woolf

Sumaya Abdinasir Ali
"Miracles happen all the time. We’re here, aren’t we?” -Marilyn Nelson
Hooyo & Abo, this is for you!!

Kristina Mae Bolton
History double major; Honors in English; Dean’s List; Editor for: Bricolage, AU; District Market student employee. Never give up on your dreams. Keep fighting.

Owen Crandall
Stop telling me I should write books about things.

Lauren E. Davis
Cum Laude, with Honors in English

Ragini Gupta
I am grateful for Amy Feldman-Bawarshi, Rebecca Hoogs, and Linda Bierds for giving me the space to express myself, and for encouraging me to navigate my writerly self.

Laurel Jessop

Eun Hye Kim

Jennifer Kumesan
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CREATIVE WRITING

Jeanette Sylvia Lin

Khadija Lokhandwala

Marcus A. Lux
UCLA MFA Screenwriting Student (Fall 2020)

Sarah McKay
Phi Beta Kappa
Beginning an MA in Hispanic Studies in autumn
Thank you to my wonderful family for your love and support on this journey!

Daniel O’Connell
Phi Beta Kappa
Arthur Oberg Award

Christian Orr

Zenia Rios
Dean's List

Kaitlyn M. Rufer
“Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if only one remembers to turn on the light.”
- J.K. Rowling

Autumn Spriggle

Sierra Stella
Phi Beta Kappa; Dean's List; Dean's Medal Nominee
Thanks to my mom and brother, my wonderful professors, and the London study abroad program.
Frankie T. Stoner
Dean's List
Favorite book: *Harold and the Purple Crayon*
Thanks Mom and Dad

Avery James Raab
Strand
Finally.

Kyle Tolson

Aubrey Tomiko
Unemori

Ali Michelle Wagner
Phi Beta Kappa
Dean's List
Pursuing a career in publishing and hoping to have my book on shelves one day.

Tanner B. Whitney
Thank you to the entire Creative Writing program, namely Professor David Crouse, and to the London study abroad program.
Sophia Anderson  
Dean's List  
Favorite Book: *The Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx  
Thank you to my lovely family!

Addie Augsburger  
Phi Beta Kappa  
English Honors  
Cum Laude

Alice Brillhart

Katie Chua  
Thank you to the English department for all the readings completed on my favorite bench during Spring Quarter in Seattle.

Tara Elizabeth Darrow  
English Language Arts Endorsement  
Annual Dean's List Recipient  
Thank you Mom & Dad.

Daegen Tesfalem Asfaha

Badmaarag Batjargal  
I'd like to thank my family and UW.

Chelsea Marie Brogan  
Double degree in English and Biology (EEC)  
Thank you to my family & friends for always supporting me.

Ellen Cooper  
Dean's List  
Favorite Book: *Mrs. Dalloway*

Rachel Ann Dusin  
Dean's List; Teach for America 2020-2022 Corps Member; Beginning an M.Ed. in the summer; Psalm 138:3 NASB; Thank you to all who have supported me!
Maxwell Jonas Eberle
"The opposite of fear of death is...love of life!"
— DAVID HOCKNEY

Izaiha X. Ellis
I want to thank all of the wonderful professors and counselors in the English department. You will all be missed dearly and your dedication to students has been invaluable.

Dabin Han

Laurel Hecker
"Beware of those who speak of the spiral of history; they are preparing a boomerang. Keep a steel helmet handy."
—Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man

Amber Hsu
Thank you so much to my family for their never-ending support these past two decades, and to fate for allowing things to turn out the way they did!

Alana Catherine Edmondson
Beginning an English PhD program at Yale in the fall, working on Shakespeare and race. THANK YOU UW DEPTS OF ENGLISH & CLASSICS!

Cat Forwood-Knorr
Thanks Momma!

Hannah Elizabeth Harris

Sora Hong

Julia Hwang
Marissa Kahler
Double major in Economics and English; Minor in Diversity
Dean's List
Favorite Book: The Great Gatsby

Mary Kelleher
"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." –Maya Angelou

Hyun Jin Kim
Beginning MBA in the Fall
I am so grateful for being in CG my 4 years of undergrad!

Kaitlin Amber Kim
Thank you to God, my family, friends, and UW community for supporting me. So excited to be joining the Teach for America Houston Corps to teach high school English this fall!

Young Kwang Kim
We made it! Congrats 2020 Graduates :)

Kristi Laris
Step out your estimate. Step in your essence and know that you're excellent.

Kristy May Lee

Esteban R.G McDonald

Alexander Steinmann Obermeyer
Favorite Book: The Communist Manifesto by Karl Marx ;)
Thanks to the Parents

Erica Christy Lohelani Owan
Thank you to my family, friends, and community for reminding me that my voice and experience is important <3
Shreya Pakalpati
Thank you so much, Nancy! I'm beyond thankful to have you as an advisor, and I know my experiences as an English major wouldn't be as cherishable without your guidance!

Jasmine Pollard
Life is your birthright, they hid that in the fine print. Take the pen and rewrite it.

Michelle Radecki
“It took three schools, Battling cancer twice, To earn one degree” -Me

Erika May Aguilar Ramos
Favorite book: *Lolita*

Tiffany Amber Muña Solomon
~100 books later: I still don't like reading.

Chaewon Park
KSA!

Mackenzie M. Price
Phi Beta Kappa; Dean's List; English Honors Cohort
Captain of Husky Ski Team
Thanks mom and dad!

Maximilian Rachmat Ramawy
"There will always be an Asian who takes it to the next level" - Ryan Hayashi

Malik Sherif
To my family who've argued that I should pursue law my whole life, I finally am, you've won this one!

Peter Tracy
Thank you to Tyler Babbie and Mark Patterson: for guiding my transformation into a full-fledged student of literature.
Colleen Tufts
"Not the weight of the body but the fact of the body. Not the shape of the body but the needs of the body. How inconvenient to be made of desire."

Anyah Zhen Watson
Graduating with college honors and on the Annual Dean's List

Jessica Walls
As long as I'm living I will be grateful for my family.

Kellee Xing

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2020!