

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

CLASS OF 2021 YEARBOOK



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 2021! 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 (along with the link to a graduation video it contains) 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 can sometimes feel 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 in part 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 fifteen months as we pivoted to remote teaching and learning. You have all had to make adjustments and do the best you can under extremely difficult, stressful, exhausting circumstances. 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 reimaging 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, including how, and on whose terms, we become legible to one another; but you have also studied 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 transforming 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); work hard to examine your and others' assumptions and biases; and take care in listening, encountering, and dwelling in the words, conditions, and experiences of others. 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



[This video link offers words of congratulations & best wishes from your professors.](#)

OUR GRADUATES

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE



Joseph Concannon

Dissertation: The Now Criticism: Vernacular Poetry Scholars from 1990-2005

Chair: Brian Reed

"Like signal esoteric sips from the communion wine." Chyeah!

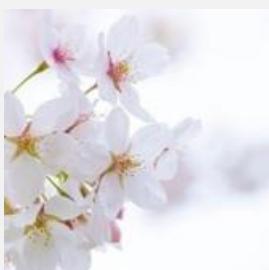


Thaomi Michelle Dinh

Dissertation: The Politics of Care: Historical Retrieval in Vietnamese American Cultural Production

Chair: Habiba Ibrahim

"It's an honor just to be Asian" -Sandra Oh



Lydia Marie Heberling

Dissertation: California Indians Dreamin': Formal and Aesthetic Innovations in Pacific Coast Native Literatures and Arts

Chair: Chadwick Allen



Belle (Bom) Kim

Dissertation: Speculative Capital and Its Wastes: Race, Labor, and War in the Age of Financialization

Chair: Eva Cherniavsky

Thank you to my family, friends, and professors for all their support.

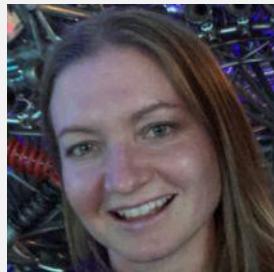


Shane Peterson

Dissertation: The Rhetorics of Crisis and Apocalypse in the American Intermountain West

Chair: Candice Rai

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE



Kathleen Reeves

Dissertation: Motherhood and Freedom in Women's Writing After 1970

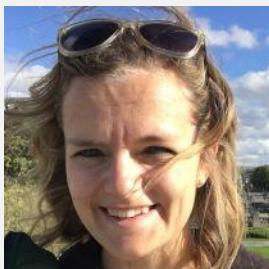
Chairs: Tom Foster and Eva Cherniavsky

MASTER OF ARTS FOR TEACHERS (OF ENGLISH TO SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES)

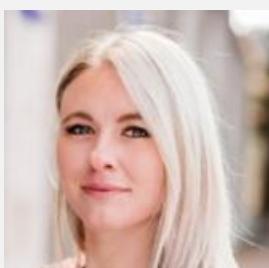
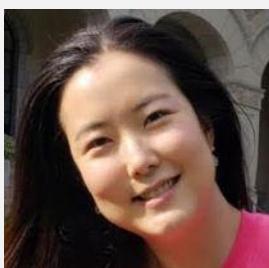


Birgul DOGAN OZ

Words cannot describe how MATESOL and UW changed my perspective. Many thanks to all my professors and the coolest cohort!



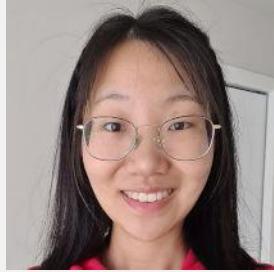
Rachel Goodrich





Sophie Leung

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and, most of all, love of what you are doing." ~Pelé



Xie Xi

MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN CREATIVE WRITING



Emily Lynn Huso



Haines Whitacre

Many thanks to the other brilliant writers and thinkers I've had the chance to grow my art with during my time at UW.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CREATIVE WRITING



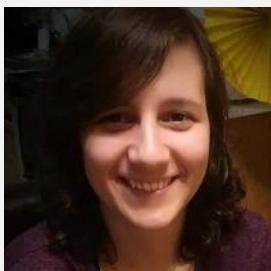
Hafsa Abdinasir Abdinur

After all no woman is an island: Thank you mom & dad.



Raquel Gordon

Thanks Mom and Dad!



Lila Jean Faith Guerrero

Phi Sigma Theta, Annual Dean's List, Poet. Thank you, Mom, for all your support.
"The sun will shine on us again" -Loki.

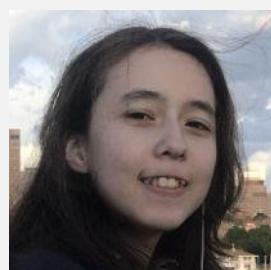


Jiying Guo



Julia Marie Knox

Magna Cum Laude, Dean's List, Favorite Book: *Black Beauty*, Thank you to my family! <3



Eileen Lynch

Love and thanks to everyone who's supported me over the past few years - I'll always appreciate my time here and all that I've learned along the way.



Caitlin McKeand



Zoë Love Mertz

"Still there are seeds to be gathered, and room in the bag of stars." - Ursula LeGuin. Emerson College MFA. Love to Mom, Dad, James, Lucy, Owen, Jenna and Belle and all the rest.



Mac Murray



Rosalynda Romo

I want to thank my family for all their support! Especially my mother who always believed in me and my passions!

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CREATIVE WRITING



Gabriela Tedeschi



Niko Maclean Vernic

Thank you Mom, Dad,
Grandma and Grandpa!



Abbie White

"I want, by understanding myself, to understand others.
I want to be all that I am capable of becoming." -
Katherine Mansfield

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

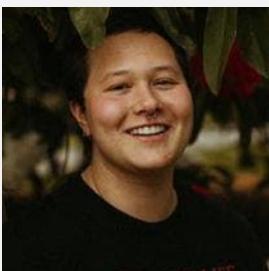


Mohammad Adam



Kaley M. Aldrich

"This is exactly what Margaret Atwood warns us about!" Rhodes Finalist, Phi Beta Kappa, College Honors. Beginning graduate school in the fall at NYU.



Oleander Shay Aurandt

"Kill your darlings."



Alessandra Frances Barkus

All my love and gratitude to my dad and mom, Joseph and Adriana Quinn, to my sister Olivia, to my husband Kyle, and to the University of Washington. We did it!



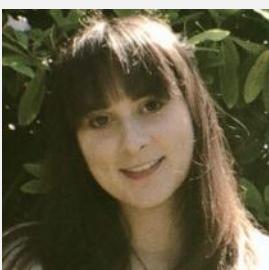
Nikolaus Jacob Hergert Bautista

Faith, Family, and Country. Thank you, God. Thanks, Mom, Pops, Grandpa, Lucy, and Dusty. Thank you for being here for me.



Baylor Blair

Starting a Master's in Teaching program this fall with an English endorsement



Elizabeth Brewer

Phi Beta Kappa, Dean's List. Forever grateful for my family, God, and the Pacific Northwest.



Jaime Lynn Brown

Hi Mom!



Alexis Malia Marcelino Calma

"It is the surest test of genuine love, that it brings back our early simplicity to the worldliest of us." — Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Marble Faun*



Brandon Canonica

I want to thank my mom, dad, and brother for helping me on my college journey.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE



Sean Canonica

I'm grateful for my college education and everyone who has supported me along the way.

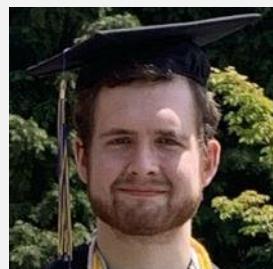


Elissa M. Carey

I'll remember philosophers, adventurers, friends, and enemies and learned their wisdom, as well as professors who introduced me to those characters in our books. Thank you.



Emma Noel Duim



Ewan Garret Philip Cameron



**Jencarlos Osvaldo
Feliciano-Ponce**

"The sky is falling, the wind is calling. Stand for something, or die in the morning." - Kendrick Lamar



Gracen Fitzsimmons

Thank you to all the women in my family for helping me accomplish this degree.



Adam Graves

I am willing to speak when speech might elude and silence may harm, and integrity towards values such as this has been a primary benefit throughout life.



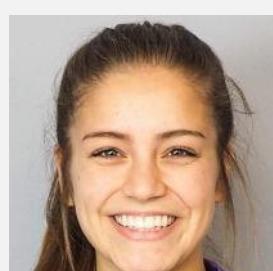
Rebecca Marie Hollman

Majoring in English is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. I'm so grateful to all the professors, friends, and family who have helped me get here.



Jodhi James

Dean's List. Thank you to my family for their constant love and support. I am also grateful for the care and guidance from the professors and advisors in the UW English department.



**Patricia Adrianna
Kirschenbaum**

"Dey left widout me.. dey do dis EVERY YEAR." -Sid

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE



Evyn Grace Kuske

Alpha Omicron Pi, Phi Alpha Delta, English Honors Program, Attending the University of Oregon School of Law to pursue a J.D. this fall.



John Le



Yang Emily Liu

"If flowers can teach themselves how to bloom after winter passes, so can you"

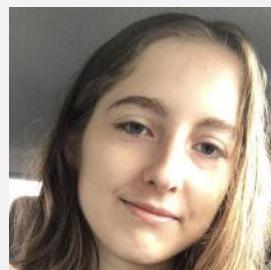


Rae Lo

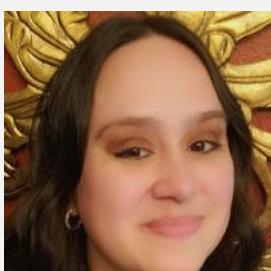


Rachel Lauren Loots

Jeremiah 29:11



Sandy Lukes

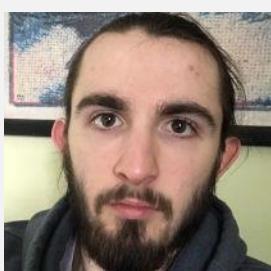


Madelynne Elise Lumsden

Dean's List, Graduating with Honors. A huge thank you to my parents, my fiancé, and my family and friends. I couldn't have done it without you.



Micah Lusignan



Felix Aidan Lyons

Let's go.



Laura P. Martinez

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE



Teddy McDonald



Kalee Lynn O'Neal

"No matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger — something better, pushing right back." -Albert Camus



Fernanda Oropeza-Ramirez

Thank you mom, dad, Caro, Vero, Frankie, and of course Pumpkin and Cloe for supporting me throughout these years! Los quiero mucho!!!



Anna Payne

Honors English, John Kimball Woolley Scholarship awardee, Comparative Literature and English, Dean's List, starting graduate school in Canada this fall, thank you Mom and Dad!



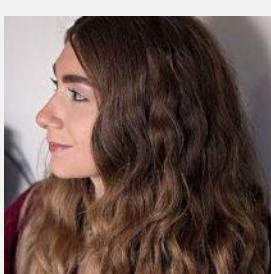
Olivia Danielle Perrone

Honors Program, Cum Laude, Delta Gamma. Thank you to Nancy Sisko for always being there and Kevin Craft & Andrew Feld for the best abroad program.



Courtney Renaud

English Departmental Honors Student.



Ali Saunders

Dean's List, English Honors. Thank you Taylor, Mom, & Ross: You made the impossible possible.

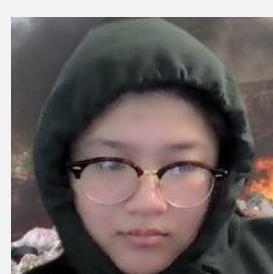


Heather Simpson



Ashley Fay Smith

Dean's List, Future Educator, Favorite Book: *To the Lighthouse*.



Crystal J. Song

"should i learn Letters first? or choose the path of Numbers? a question every baby must ask it self" -dril

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE



Heather M Spell

Thank you to everyone who ever told me a story. Future Ms. Spell ready to take on the world! :-)



Grace Marian Teebken

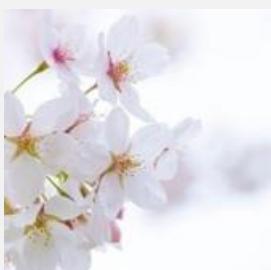
"I have so many unread books but for some reason I keep rereading Eragon." Phi Beta Kappa.



Audrey Vikenes



Yennhi Vohoang



Sumeet Kaur Waraich

Dean's List



Aradia Elenor Webb

Thank you so much to the English department faculty and staff for your resilient and triumphant dedication to your students.



Kathryn Weber

Dean's List



Madison Wiesner

Thank you to my family and friends for supporting me during my undergrad and into an MAT this summer!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2021!