



Letter from Eugene

A Return to Campus

by Daniel Anderson, Professor of Poetry • July 2021

It has been some time since we have shared with you the recent accomplishments of our many alumni and faculty. You'll see from the updates below that the UO Creative Writing community has continued to thrive even in this difficult period. We're happy to be able to share the achievements of all who have been a part of our program over the years.

Perhaps one of the things we have missed most these past eighteen months does not distinguish us from anyone enduring the global pandemic. But the pleasures of conversation that were eerily absent from Alder for four quarters of study will be especially welcome when the new academic year commences.

Our writing requires silence and solitude. Our apprenticeship in the craft, however, demands a more rambunctious kind of engagement. Cautiously, this seems a moment to anticipate the resumption of our lively, love-driven debates about the poems and stories that mean so much to us, or make us

slightly mad, or baffle us, or, in the most amazing ways, dare us into thinking we just might, possibly, one day, compose a sentence or a line, a whole poem or story, an entire collection or novel, that would please those models and mentors whose own works first lured us into putting words on a page in the first place.

We hope this edition of our newsletter finds you well, walking with a somewhat lighter step, and reclaiming the time and imagination to lose yourself again in the art. And if you ever make your way to Eugene, be sure to stop in Alder and say hello. Regardless of where this finds you, stay in touch!

In the meantime, if you have news you'd like to share, please visit <https://crwr.uoregon.edu/alumni> and let us know what you are up to!

Daniel Anderson
Interim Director
AY2021-2022

Literary Reference

Poetry Faculty

Garrett Hongo
Daniel Anderson
Gerri Doran

Fiction Faculty

Mat Johnson
Jason Brown
Marjorie Celona
Karen Thompson Walker

Instructors

Brian Trapp (Career)
Michael Copperman

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Spotlight



Mat Johnson

Professor of Fiction

[UO names writing professor Mat Johnson its newest Knight Chair](#)



Jason Brown

Associate Professor of Fiction

[The Wrong Jason Brown](#)
[A son, his mother, and a legacy of abuse.](#)
The New Yorker



Claire Luchette

(MFA Fiction '15)

- Four Nuns and a Halfway House for Recovering Addicts [The New York Times](#)
- *Agatha Of Little Neon*, Four Young Nuns Go To Help Others, And Find Themselves ([NPR 8-minute listen](#))



Nathan Harris

Kidd Workshops '12

UO BA English '14

[Oprah Announces New Book Club Pick: *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris](#)

Faculty News

Daniel Anderson
Professor of Poetry

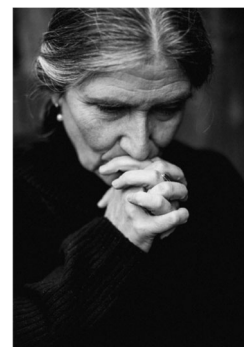
Danny Anderson has recently published work in *The Sewanee Review*. His long poem, "Heirloom" will appear in *The Hopkins Review* this summer (2021). Danny will serve as the interim director of the Creative Program for the 2021-22 academic year.



Geri Doran
Professor of Poetry

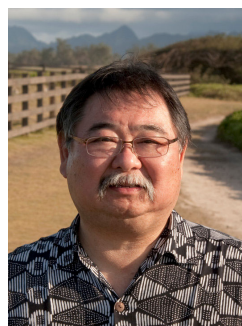
Geri Doran was awarded a UO Presidential Fellowship in Humanistic Study for 2020-2021, for her project "In the Quiet."

In Fall 2020, she was promoted to Full Professor.



Garrett Hongo
Professor of Poetry

Garrett Hongo published a memoir, "On My Therapist, Late in This Life" in the Summer 2020 issue of *Georgia Review*. Recent poems appeared in *terrain.org* and the anthologies *100 Poems to Break Your Heart* and *Together in a Sudden Strangeness*. His non-fiction work *The Perfect Sound: A Memoir in Stereo* will be published in February 2022 by Pantheon Books.



Mat Johnson
Professor of Fiction

Mat Johnson has completed the final edits on his new novel, *The Invisible Things*, to be published by One World/Penguin Random House in Spring 2022. Over the pandemic, Johnson spent time as a story editor on an AppleTV project, and a co-producer on a Netflix series, both to be announced at a later time.



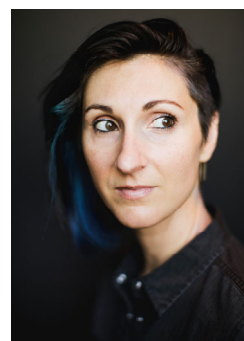
Jason Brown
Associate Professor of Fiction

Jason Brown has publishing news covering the last two years: he published essays in the *LA Times*, *Narrative*, *Bowdoin Magazine*, and *Northwest Book Lovers*; a short story appeared in *Best American Short Stories 2020* and another was published in the *Pushcart Prize Anthology 2020*. His collection *A Faithful But Melancholy Account of Several Barbarities Lately Committed* won the Maine Book Award and an Independent Publisher Book Award.



Marjorie Celona
Assistant Professor of Fiction

Marjorie Celona published a short story in *Hazlitt* and a personal essay in the PNW issue of *Wildsam*, and received a Canada Council for the Arts grant for their in-progress short story collection. Next year, Marjorie will be in residence at the Historic Joy Kogawa House in Vancouver, BC, where they'll be working on their third novel, an exploration of non-binary motherhood. ■



From Around the O



Twelve Words: Thoughts of Compassion Capture What Words Cannot

Brian Trapp

CRWR Career Instructor (Fiction)

Brian Trapp is a 2021-22 Steinbeck Fellow in Creative Nonfiction at San Jose State University. He also was awarded an Elizabeth George Foundation grant for his novel-in-progress and a Tin House Summer Writing Residency. He published a memoir essay, “You Robbie, You Baka,” in Longreads and has a reconsideration of Stanley Elkin’s *The Magic Kingdom* forthcoming in the Cincinnati Review.



Creating the Writer

Andi Butts

(Kidd Workshops '21 • Poetry)

As the Kidd creative writing workshops turn 30, a poet reflects on a year in the program. ■



Culturally Responsive Teaching

Culturally Responsive Teaching Fellowships were created to support teaching practices and resources that are culturally responsive, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive. They support the Composition Program’s first-year writing sequence (WR 121, 122/3) requirement to better serve all students and faculty, but especially those who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. The project is not focused on the immediate development of a new course, however, it is intended to result in widespread changes in teaching practices, which may ultimately result in change to the program’s curriculum.

Mike Copperman

MFA Fiction '06

Mike received a Williams Instructional Fund Grant to support the work he and tia north (MFA Poetry '14) are doing to support anti-racist/anti-oppressive pedagogy as Culturally Responsive Teaching Fellows in the Composition Department. He received the 2021 Thomas F. Herman Award for Specialized Pedagogy, an annual UO Distinguished Teaching Award.



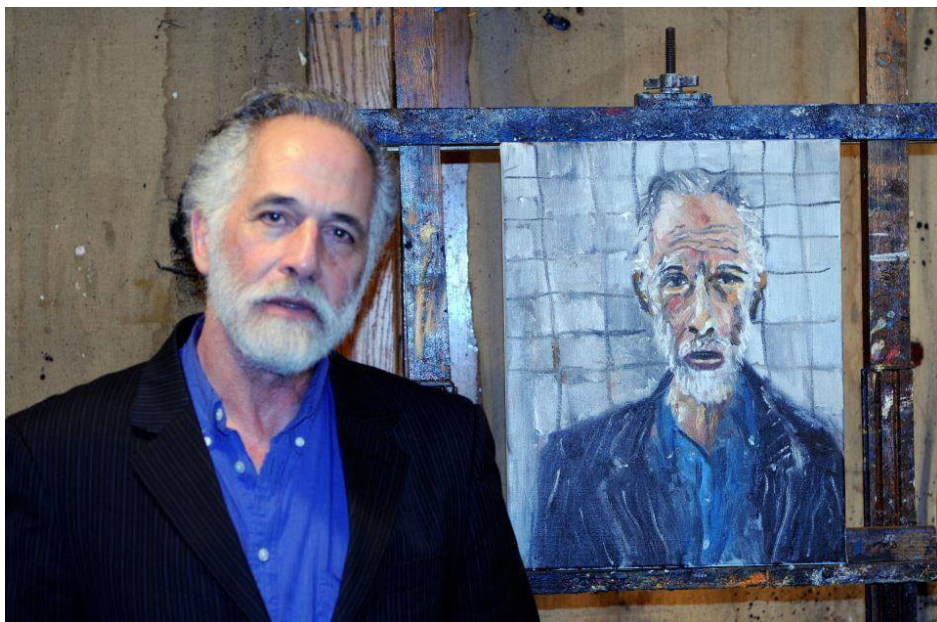
tia north

MFA Poetry '17

Appointed by the Department of English, tia will serve as the UO’s Associate Director of Composition beginning Fall 2021. She served as the Inaugural Culturally Responsive Teaching Fellow for 2020-21 and was recently awarded a significant grant from the Williams Fund, one of the largest in their history, to support Culturally Responsive Pedagogy and Training. tia served as a judge for the Washington State Poet Laureate and welcomed Rena Priest as the first indigenous poet to the position in April. Her writing has appeared in *Hawai’i Pacific Review* and is forthcoming in *National Geographic*. ■



Alumni News



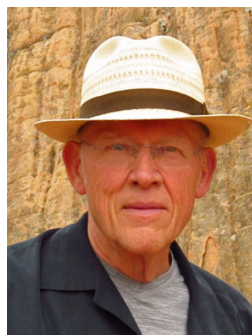
Ira Sadoff
MFA Poetry '68

Ira Sadoff's eighth book of poetry, *Country, Living* (AliceJames Books) was released in June 2020. Individual poems published in *The New Yorker*, *APR*, and elsewhere. Publishers Weekly wrote, "Sadoff evokes complex philosophical ideas with a deceptive simplicity through. This is an accomplished addition to his impressive body of work." A starred review from *Library Journal*, "A widely respected, anthologized, and awarded writer of both poetry and fiction, Sadoff is regarded as something of an elder statesman among poets. Here he returns with his eighth collection of poetry (after *True Faith*) to continue his exploration of culture and memory."

Author of eight collections of poetry, a novel, a critical book on

Contemporary American Poetry, *The Ira Sadoff Reader* (a collection of stories, essays, and poems), and has received awards from the Guggenheim Foundation, the NEA, Poetry Society of America, Shestack Award from APR. He taught at Colby College, Iowa Writers Workshops, University of Virginia MFA program, Warren Wilson MFA program, and elsewhere.

Jim Heynen
MFA Fiction '73



Jim Heynen's new collection of short-short stories titled *The Youngest Boy* was released April 2021. Jim is associate professor emeritus, St. Olaf College, currently living in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Kathryn Kramer
MFA Fiction '75

K. L. Kramer produced, directed, and wrote the interview questions for a Saddleback College Webinar with film director Edoardo Ponti on March 19, 2021. On Mar 25, 2021, at 8:38 PM, Jo Ann Post emailed her colleague writing, "That was the best film interview I've ever seen including as DVD extras and at film fests. Very thoughtful questions and Mr. Ponti gives excellent answers. I first saw the movie through the Museum of Tolerance which has virtually shown some very interesting films lately. However that showing concentrated on the song which eventually won a Golden Globe with Ponti, the songwriter and singer as interviewees. The Saddleback interview covered so much more, and I thought your idea of reading well written compliments about the film was outstanding. I've never seen that done before."

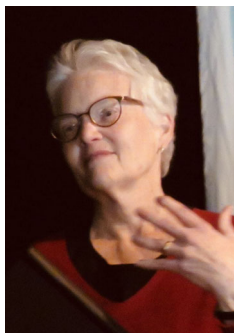
A graduate of UCLA and the University of Oregon MFA writing program, Kathryn Kramer became a catalog and photographer for FILMEX and a writing instructor with CSU Long Beach (poetry), UCI, and several community colleges. She now specializes in creative writing and film as literature courses (including Film Analysis Through Literary Critique) for Saddleback's Emeritus Institute and has won the AFI Independent Filmmaker prize.

Her publications include the novel *Rack Focus* and a collection of poetry, *Photographing Love*.

Maxine Scates
MFA Poetry '75

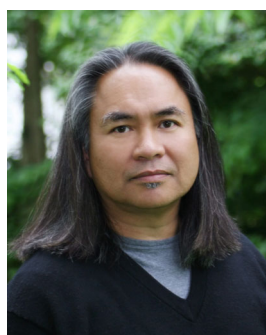
Maxine Scates' fourth book, *My Wilderness*, will be published in the Pitt Poetry Series (University of Pittsburgh Press).

She is the author of three previous collections of poetry, *Undone* (new Issues), *Black Loam* (Cherry Grove) and *Toluca Street* (University of Pittsburgh Press). She is a coeditor, with David Trinidad, of *Holding Our Own: The Selected Poems of Ann Stanford* (Copper Canyon). Her poems have appeared widely in such journals as *The American Poetry Review*, *Agni*, *Court Green*, *Ironwood*, *New England Review*, *The New Yorker*, *Ploughshares*, *Poetry* and *Virginia Quarterly Review*. She has received the Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize, the Oregon Book Award for Poetry, and two Pushcart Prizes among other awards. She has taught at Lane Community College, Lewis and Clark College, and Reed College.



Eugene Gloria
MFA Poetry '92

Eugene Gloria, the author of four books of poems—*Sightseer in This Killing City* (Penguin-Random House, 2019), was awarded the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award in Poetry (September 2020), *My Favorite Warlord* (Penguin, 2012; winner of the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award), *Hoodlum Birds* (Penguin, 2006), and *Drivers at the Short-Time Motel* (Penguin, 2000; a National Poetry Series selection and recipient of the Asian American Literary Award). He is the John



Rabb Emerson Professor of Creative and Performing Arts and English Professor at DePauw University.

Cai Emmons
MFA Fiction '98

Cai Emmons published a collection of short stories, *Vanishing*, in March 2020. Her newest novel, *Sinking Islands*, will be published in September 2021.

Cai Emmons is the author of five books of fiction: the novels *His Mother's Son* (winner of the Oregon Book Award), *The Stylist*, *Weather Woman*, and the forthcoming *Sinking Islands*, as well as a collection of short stories, *Vanishing*, winner of the Leapfrog Press fiction contest. Emmons's short work has appeared in such publications as *Ms. Magazine*, *TriQuarterly*, *Narrative*, *Arts and Culture*, *The Santa Monica Review*, *LitHub*, and *Electric Literature*, among others. Before turning to fiction she wrote plays and screenplays, and she has taught film and fiction at various universities, most recently at the University of Oregon. She is now a full-time writer.



Major Jackson
MFA Poetry '99

Jackson was recently appointed Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Chair in the Humanities at Vanderbilt University where he is also Professor of Creative Writing.

Erin Hoover
MFA Poetry '05

Erin Hoover (MFA '05, Poetry) will join the faculty of Tennessee Tech's Department of English in August 2021 as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Poetry Writing. Tennessee Tech has es-



established Creative Writing concentrations in its B.A. and M.A. programs, and Hoover will teach undergraduate and graduate courses in poetry writing, literature, and academic writing. TTU's program amenities include an annual, student-produced literary magazine, *Iris Review*; involvement in selecting visiting writers through its Center Stage program; and an active Creative Writing Club.

Most recently, Hoover taught at Hendrix College from 2019-2021 as the Murphy Visiting Fellow in Poetry. In addition to an M.F.A. from University of Oregon, she holds a Ph.D. in English from Florida State University. Her poetry collection, *Barnburner*, was published by Elixir Press in 2018 and won a Florida Book Award in Poetry. She serves on the executive committee of the C.D. Wright Women Writers Conference, hosted biannually at University of Central Arkansas, and has held past leadership positions with the *Southeast Review* and *VIDA: Women in Literary Arts*. New poems are published or forthcoming in the *Cincinnati Review*, the *Florida Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, and *Shenandoah*.

In her role at TTU, Hoover hopes to support expansion of the M.A. concentration in creative writing and to develop new courses in editing and publishing. "I'm excited to write and teach at a university with a culture of creativity and innovation, whether I'm helping students find value in writing within a profession or mentoring those seeking a life in literature," she said. (Erin Hoover | erinhooverpoet.com.)

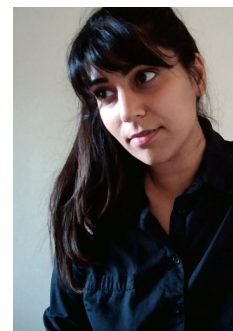
Julia Kolchinsky Dasbach MFA Poetry '13

Julia Dasbach, the Russian lit scholar, PhD in Comp Lit at Penn, was offered a 2-year teaching fellowship at Hendrix College, succeeding **Erin Hoover** (MFA Poetry '05).



Alycia Pirmohamed MFA Poetry '14

Alycia is a Canadian-born poet currently based in the United Kingdom. Her debut poetry collection, *Another Way to Split Water*, won YesYes Books' 2020 Pamet River Prize and will be published in Fall 2022. She is the author of the chapbooks *Faces that Fled the Wind* (BOAAT Press) and *Hinge* (Oxford Brookes' ignitionpress), and her awards include a Pushcart Prize, the Edwin Morgan Poetry Award, the Gulf Coast Poetry Prize, the Ploughshares' Emerging Writer's Contest in Poetry. Her work has recently appeared, or is forthcoming, in *The Paris Review Daily*, *Guernica Magazine*, *Poetry London Magazine*, and others. Alycia received her MFA from the University of Oregon and her PhD from the University of Edinburgh. She is currently a Postdoctoral Creative Writing Fellow at the University of Liverpool.



Jayme Ringleb MFA Poetry '15

Jayme accepted the position of Assistant Professor of English at Meredith College, a women's liberal arts college in Raleigh, North Carolina. Jayme will begin teaching in August 2021.

After receiving his MFA from the University of Oregon, Jayme earned his PhD at Florida State University, where he also received a postdoctoral teaching fellowship from 2020-2021. His first book, *So Tall It Ends in Heaven*, was accepted at Tin House Books, to be published in the fall of 2022 and edited by fellow alum Alyssa Ogi (MFA Poetry '15). Jayme's poems have appeared in journals such as *Poetry*, *Kenyon Review*, and *Ploughshares*. His editorial work includes service with PEN America, Pleiades Press, *The Adroit*



Alumni News (continued)

Journal, and *Southeast Review*. He is the recipient of an Academy of American Poets Prize, scholarships to the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and the Sewanee Writers' Conference, and fellowships to the Kenyon Review Writers Workshop and the Lambda Literary Writers Retreat. Find him online at: jaymeringleb.com.

Alyssa Ogi (MFA Poetry '15) received the Literary Arts' Oregon Poetry Community Fellowship.

Seelai Karzai (MFA Poetry '21) accepted a position as DEI Program Coordinator at Dartmouth College.

Natalie Staples (MFA Poetry '21) accepted a teaching position in English at the Chicago Academy of Arts.

Nic Anstett
MFA Fiction '21

Nic's story "Endings," which was written in her first year in the program, will be published in summer 2021 in *North American Review*." She also attended the Tin House Summer Workshop in July.



Maria Rigg
MFA Fiction '21

Mariah was named a 2020 Sewanee Writers' Conference Poetry Scholar. After the MFA, Mariah will move to Knoxville to join the University of Tennessee's PhD program in English and Creative Writing. ■



The following CRWR alum have been accepted to PhD programs beginning in Fall 2021:

Charles Neaves
MFA Poetry '20 → Texas Tech

Maha Abdelwahab
MFA Poetry '18 → Houston

Amy Streiter
MFA Poetry '16 → Ohio

Congratulations to all of our program alum!

2021 Kidd Prize Winners

The Creative Writing Program is pleased to announce the winners of this year's Walter and Nancy Kidd Writing Competition in Fiction and Poetry:

Fiction

Judge: writer, Jamel Brinkley

1st Place Aidan LaCroix
2nd Place Kaya Noteboom

Poetry

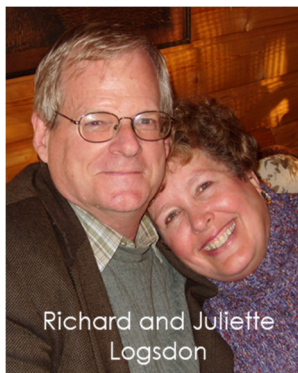
Judge: poet, Major Jackson

1st Place Katie Quines
2nd Place Grace Cromie
3rd Place Grace Cromie



Walter Evans Kidd (1901-1990)

Richard and Juliette Logsdon Prize in Fiction



Richard Logsdon was Senior Editor for *Red Rock Review*, a literary journal published by the College of Southern Nevada featuring works by poets and short story writers. While in that position, he met with Creative Writing Program faculty. Richard had himself won a writing award in 1971, the Sarah Harkness Kirby Award from the UO English Department for the best graduate student essay and was so inspired, he and his wife wanted to do something similar for other students and the Richard and Juliette Logsdon Scholarship for fiction writing was established.

2021 Winner:
Dan Cheung (MFA Fiction '22)

Miriam McFall Starlin Poetry Prize

*In honor of Miriam McFall Starlin
(1917—2015)*



The Miriam McFall Starlin Poetry Prize was established in 1997 by the late Glenn Starlin. It was created as a gift to his wife, Miriam, who read and wrote poetry her entire life, beginning as a girl after her bedtime, using a flashlight under the covers. Her first volume of poems, *Wait a Minute*, was published in 2006.

This prize offers a promising poet the freedom to pursue writing in the summer between their first and second years in the MFA program.

2021 Winner:
Lou Terlikowski (MFA Poetry '22)

Annual Giving Reminder

Consider giving to the **Creative Writing Program**. Your generous support helps us educate students, strengthen our program, and prepare tomorrow's writers—our future literary voices. There are a variety of ways to support the program and gifts of all sizes are a powerful investment in our mission and community. Whether you are making a one-time gift, making a pledge of recurring contributions, considering a planned gift, or establishing an endowed fund, donations to the program and program-related funds allow us to provide a competitive education for our growing body of undergraduates and graduate students.



- Writing Program Fund
- The Walter and Nancy Kidd Endowment
- Miriam McFall Starlin Poetry Prize
- Richard and Juliette Logsdon Prize in Fiction
- Beatrice Altoe Vargas Bagané Memorial Prize in Fiction

The faculty and staff in the Creative Writing Program are committed to advancing the educational and scholarly mission of the university and we thank you for your generosity. For more information, visit our webpage: <http://crwr.uoregon.edu/give-now/>. ■

POETRY (top L-R):

October 2021 Chad Abushanab
January 2022 Julia Dasbach
April 2022 Paisley Rekdal



FICTION (bottom L-R):

November 2021 Sameer Pandya
February 2022 Manuel Munoz
May 2022 Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah



Congratulations to the Class of 2021

- Will Alden • Nic Anstett • Marley Badolati •
- Tanisha Khan • Seelai Karzai • Ariel Machell •
- Loic Mulatris • Mariah Rigg • Lucas Rossi •

Call for Alumni News

The Creative Writing Program is extremely proud of its program graduates and strives to keep up with their wide-ranging successes. Alumni have a long history of success with publishing, translation, fellowships, and prizes. Graduates have received Wallace Stegner Fellowships, the Dylan Thomas Award (University of Wales), the Amy Lowell Scholarship, the Philip Levine Prize in Poetry, the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award, and other honors. We invite alum to submit news using our online form • <https://crwr.uoregon.edu/alumni/>.