



FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK

The work we do in the SMU English Department has never been more vital than in today's uncertain times. While we face real pressures—shifting academic priorities, political debates over humanities' value, and broader societal challenges—history reminds us that literature, writing, and critical thought aren't luxuries but necessities. And we remain well-positioned to continue our vital work.

Our department exemplifies the enduring power of storytelling, of poetry, and of representation. As this newsletter demonstrates, we thrive through groundbreaking research, dynamic teaching, creative expression, and public humanities initiatives that extend far beyond campus. Every course, conversation, and event affirms our field's relevance and urgency. Our mentorship, perspective-expanding discussions, and influential scholarship demonstrate that our work matters profoundly.

We aren't merely observing change—we're shaping it. The SMU English Department is where literary arts and cultural studies are lived experiences, where stories and ideas actively transform the world. Amid uncertainty, we remain steadfast, adaptable, and unflappable. I'm proud to stand alongside each of you as we continue to elevate the humanities at SMU and beyond. Thank you for making this department the intellectual and creative force it is. I hope the pages ahead inspire you.

Warmly,

Dr. Christopher González
Chair, SMU Department of English

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR: MELUS Conference 2024



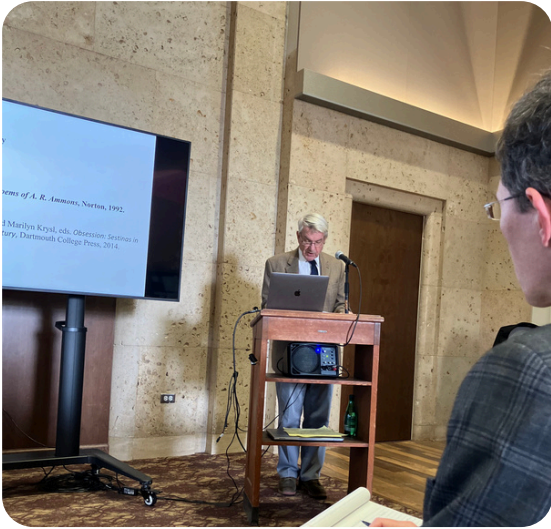
This past April, our department, led by Jacob and Frances Mossiker Chair Christopher González, hosted the 38th annual MELUS conference. The 2024 conference theme was “Roots/Routes of Resistance and Resilience,” and aimed to delve into the complex dynamics of resistance and resilience that have marked the Dallas area, Texas, and the nation itself. In their welcome letter, the co-directors Dr. González and Dr. Erin Murrah-Mandrill (UTA) state that “MELUS 2024 in Dallas seeks to uncover the foundational roots that anchor stories of survival and identity, as well as the routes that characters and communities navigate in their acts of survival.”

The conference consisted of a series of panels, roundtables, and workshops focusing on topics like “Apocalypse Ahora: The Many Worlds of Latinx Speculative Fiction,” “Landscapes of Struggle: Navigating Social, Environmental, and Cultural Injustice in Literature and History,” and “Challenging Perspectives: Confronting Racism and Orientalism in Asian American Literature.” MELUS 2024 also had keynotes from major critics and authors of multiethnic American literature: Professor Frederick Luis Aldama, Pulitzer Prize finalist Chang-rae Lee, Professor David Roediger, and the poet Claudia Rankine. Finally, MELUS 2024 commemorated the life and work of Professor John Lowe.

Our department was represented by faculty, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows who presented at the conference, including Christopher González, Jayson Sae-Saue, Shea Hennum, Kendall Dinniene, Ally Barber, Elijah Hook, Philip Bax, and Moises Hernandez. The conference was also supported by graduate student volunteers from SMU and University of Texas at Arlington.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR: Poetics Symposium 2024



The first biennial SMU Symposium on Poetic Form featured two packed days of lectures, readings, conversations, and meals. It gathered some of the English language's most distinguished scholars and poets (sometimes in the same body).

The keynote poet, Jericho Brown, winner of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize, gave a moving reading that ended with an extended standing ovation. Jonathan Culler delivered a very well-received keynote talk, "Lyric Form in Contemporary Poetry." Other participants included Stephanie Burt, Maureen McLane, Jahan Ramazani, Anthony Reed, and Evie Shockley. Chen Chen, Tarfia Faizullah, and moderator Mag Gabbert participated in a creative conversation about innovation and inheritance. Panels considered a range of topics such as Shakespeare's sonnets, erasure, historical poetics, and form in eighteenth-century poetry. The symposium concluded with a group poetry reading hosted by the *Southwest Review*, where many award-winning poets shared their work.



Planning has already started for the second SMU Symposium on Poetic Form, scheduled for March 1-2, 2026. Confirmed participants include Ada Limón, Anahid Nersessian, Ben Lerner, Camille Dungy, Patience Agbabi, Virginia Jackson, Jahan Ramazani, and Stephanie Burt. A panel on editing poetry will feature the editors of *Poetry* and *Pleides*, and the poetry editors of *Paris Review* and *Granta*.



The symposium is part of a larger initiative: SMU Project Poëtica. This initiative is led by David Caplan (Founding Director of Project Poëtica and Symposium Organizer) and currently supported by graduate students Rosanne Brooks (Symposium and Project Poëtica Coordinator) and Marimac McRae (Social Media Co-Manager) as well as undergraduate student Jordan Young (Social Media Co-Manager).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR: Frontera Festival 2024

Last April, *Southwest Review* hosted the Frontera Festival, a yearly festival which brings together diverse voices from across the Americas. The festival was held April 12-13 and consisted of a variety of events hosted at Wild Detective, the Kessler Theater, and the Texas Theatre that brought together both attendees from SMU and the wider DFW area.

The first day of the festival hosted a conversation with Los Bros Hernandez, co-creators of the comics series *Love & Rockets*. The evening continued at the Kessler Theater and featured live music from Los Tigres de Borges, Special Interest, and Bass Drum of Death.

On Sunday, April 13, *Southwest Review* Editor-in-Chief Greg Brownderville hosted an afternoon of live “phantom readings” at Wild Detectives. That evening, the festival continued at the Texas Theatre with an acoustic performance by writer and musician Willy Vlautin and a conversation between William Boyle and Barry Gifford about the film adaptation of Gifford’s novel *Wild at Heart* by David Lynch. The evening concluded with a screening of the film.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR: Public Humanities Workshop 2024



This past May, the English Department partnered with The Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies to host a week-long workshop on Academic Writing for the Public, led by prolific essayist, journalist, and scholar Jonathan Malesic. Participating students read and discussed public-facing articles and essays and participated in targeted workshop activities throughout the week, producing their own pieces for potential publication. Participants circulated their writing and received dedicated feedback from both their peers and Dr. Malesic on the quality and accessibility of their work, along with potential avenues for expansion, alteration, and eventual publication. The workshop featured prominent guest speakers Willard Spiegelman (Professor Emeritus of English at SMU and long-time contributor to such press outlets as *The Wall Street Journal* and *Dallas Morning News*) and Rhonda Garelick (columnist for *The New York Times*'s Style section, John Cranford Adams Distinguished Professor of Literature, and founding director of Hofstra University's Interdisciplinary Institute for Public Humanities), who shared their experiences with public-facing academic writing and coached participants in the many potential avenues for their writing skills and areas of expertise. Participants in the workshop gained marketable skills and heightened confidence in appealing to a wide audience.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR: ERAH Graduate Student Conference 2024



At the end of October, the inaugural English, Religious Studies, Anthropology, and History (ERAH) Graduate Student Conference was hosted at Hughes-Trigg Student Center. Sponsored by the English Department, the History Department, the Anthropology Department, and DCII, ERAH is the culmination of collaborative work between our English PhD students and graduate students in Anthropology and History. The conference brought together forty-six graduate and upper-level undergraduate students in the humanities from sixteen universities and prioritized the development of interdisciplinary connections and the fostering of an environment not only friendly to junior graduate students but actively tailored to those with little to no conference experience. The conference also featured professionalization workshops which focused on applying to fellowships and grants, turning a conference paper into an article, and refining an abstract.

Conference goers were lucky to hear from and interact with two keynote speakers: Dr. Kristina Downs of Tarleton State University and Dr. Marta Figlerowicz of Yale University. SMU English graduate students worked together to make the conference possible, from the conference founders and co-organizers Lindsey McClure and Ally Barber, to volunteers and presenters.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR: SLSA 2024



Climate Diasporas SMU

On November 8 to 11, our department, led by Rajani Sudan, and University of Texas—Dallas co-hosted the 2024 Society for Literature Science & Arts conference, themed “Climate Diasporas.” The conference sought ways to think through the co-constitution of climates and diasporas. Today more than ever, these are mutually informed concepts. They are also plural, with ‘climate’ describing everything from political moods to affective exchanges to habitats to global temperatures. Likewise, “diaspora” indicates not just migrations and movements of people but dispersions more broadly including those of other animals, plants, germs, ideas, ideologies, cultures, and concepts.

The conference enjoyed panels on various topics, including “Disturbing Drifts: Deciphering Movement in Entangled Environments,” “‘Invasive Species’: The Ethics of Ecological Regulation,” and “The Liminality Between Body and Tech: Divided or Doubled.” SLSA 2024 also hosted plenary speeches from artist and Chair of the Fine Arts Department at the School of Visual Arts Suzanne Anker and Jussi Parikka of Denmark’s Aarhus University. Our department was well-represented at the conference; Najeeba Shahim, Ahlam Atallah, Atithi Lyall, Gayathri Suseel, and Moises Hernandez all presented their research.



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEW HIRES



Dr. Juliet Shields

Kahn Chair in Humanities

Hi, Dr. Shields! We're thrilled that you've joined the department. What's your research expertise? Is there a project you're particularly excited about right now?

I work on literatures of the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Anglophone Atlantic world, with emphases in print culture, diaspora studies, settler colonialism, and women's writing. Broadly speaking, I'm interested in how authors distant from centers of literary power, whether geographically or ideologically, got their work into print. I've recently taken on a role as general editor for a series of critical editions of out-of-print works by Romantic women writers to be published with Edinburgh University Press, and I'm excited about getting that started on that project.

What do you like to do in your free time?

In my spare time, I scout out sites for the feminist-socialist commune for disaffected academics that I plan to establish when I retire. My love of reading has survived twenty years of doing it for a job, and I consume voluminous amounts of contemporary fiction—at least a book a week, often more. I volunteered as a dogwalker and kitten foster parent at the Seattle Humane Society for eight years and hope to find somewhere similar to volunteer once I get more settled in Dallas. There will probably be a number of dogs and cats at the commune, maybe some goats, too.

How would you describe your time at SMU so far?

So far, my time at SMU has given me a lot to think about. I'm coming from the University of Washington, which is a very large under-funded and STEM-focused public university, and it's a new experience to be in a department and university at which there doesn't seem to be a mentality of scarcity and defensiveness. Given the ongoing decimation of US higher education, it does feel a little like I've chosen to kick back in my peaceful office in beautiful Dallas Hall and watch Rome burn.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEW HIRES

Dr. Crystal Donkor

Assistant Professor



Hi, Dr. Donkor! We're so happy to have you here. Where have you come to us from, and what's your research expertise?

I am so, so happy to be here. I am an NYC native but my previous appointment was in the Hudson Valley at SUNY New Paltz, some 90 miles north of the city.

My research expertise spans some really interesting and generative areas that drive my work in many different directions. I am a Black Studies trained scholar specializing in the study of African American literature in the long nineteenth century, at the intersections of Black feminisms, gender, and print culture.

Is there a project you're particularly excited about right now?

What I can say is that there's a project I am just dying to get off my plate, and the imagined relief that will bring me is really exciting—does that count? In all seriousness, 2025 is the bicentennial anniversary of Frances Ellen Watkins Harper's birth. I have been working on an article about an understudied serial novel of hers, for some time, that I hope will be meaningful to larger understandings of Harper in American historical, cultural, and literary memory. The most thrilling aspect of the project, at the moment, is the recovery of a lost source due to some not so careful recordkeeping on my part. Following my most recent lament about this problem, a dear friend stepped in and saved the day and now I can finally see the finish line.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEW HIRES

What do you like to do in your free time?

How I spend my time fluctuates according to where I am living and what the daily rhythms of life are in that place. The social scene in Dallas seems to be pretty event based and so part of what I have been doing with my free time is attending dynamic public and private events across the city. Although, if I do an assessment, most of my time is spent discovering new coffee shops and this is something I absolutely love to do. The perfect spot will have free WIFI, good food, and a properly made iced/hot chai with oat milk. The most important thing, however, is that I can feel welcome to stay for a 4-hour stint, even if I stop making purchases. After browsing nearly 10 shops, I've found two spots that hit the mark!

How would you describe your time at SMU so far?

I can say that I am really delighted to be here, both at SMU and in Dallas. And I think delighted is just the right word because so many people seem delighted by my presence, whether it's the students or the faculty and staff that I interact with across campus. There is nothing as joy inducing as truly feeling welcome somewhere, and the welcome that I have received since I've begun at SMU has only affirmed my instincts about the place.

I would also characterize my time here as quite the whirlwind—from the events to the new courses, to simply acclimating to all that newness. But I welcome it, and I also look forward to truly settling in. For me, that would mean knowing the campus better and understanding its rhythms. What I am most looking forward to in the next phase of things is getting more acquainted with the English department's graduate students.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEW HIRES



Deanna Hooper

Assistant to the Department Chair

Over the summer, Deanna Hooper joined the English Department as our new administrative assistant. She clearly has a wonderful effect on the Department given her recent promotion to Assistant to the Department Chair! She came to us with five years of experience working in academic support in the United Kingdom, along with some time working as a community service probation officer. In her free time, Deanna loves crafting activities and is planning to attempt embroidery for the first time. Her dog recently came to Texas, so her free time has been happily filled with puppy playdates and walks. Deanna is pleased to be at SMU: "I've really enjoyed getting to know people at SMU and everyone in the English Department. Everyone has been so welcoming, and it's made my transition back home so much easier."

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEW HIRES

Christopher Smith

Program Coordinator



In September, Christopher Smith joined the Department in the new position of Program Coordinator. Chris has been working with Charles Wuest, our Director for Programming, and the rest of the Programming team to support the department's various events and programming initiatives, including venue and financial management, publicity, developing partnerships, and developing new initiatives. Chris has an extensive background in arts administration, event planning, and marketing. He has developed and managed a variety of events at the Chicago Art Department, the Chicago High School for the Arts, Theatre Projects, Arts Fort Worth, and in the English Department at Oregon State University, where he received an MFA in creative writing. In his free time, Chris attends live performances in all genres, visits museums, volunteers, goes hiking and camping, listens to too many podcasts, writes poetry, runs the Santa Fe Trail, talks to strangers' pets, produces site-specific theatre, and supports organizations he is a member of, like The Ghost Club and ASSAP. Chris tells us that he is enjoying his time at SMU: "So far, I've been delighted by the incredible people who keep this place running: staff, faculty, students—all so creative and kindly supportive of a newbie. The depth and breadth of work happening here has also been a joy. There are so many exciting programs, wonderful resources for our community, unique teaching initiatives, and events of all shapes and sizes!"

RECENT NEWS:

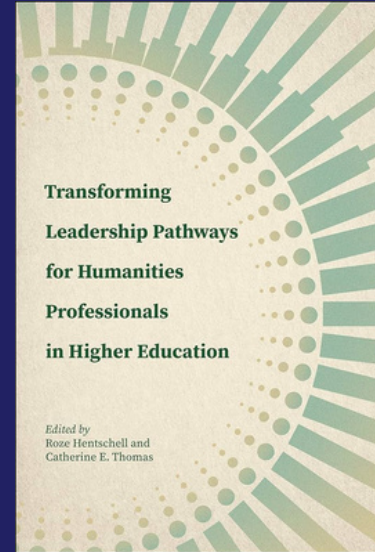
Faculty Accomplishments

Darryl Dickson-Carr was awarded the 2024 Caren E. Prothro Faculty Service Award. In 2023, Dr. Dickson-Carr also published “What it Takes: How to Develop Academic Leadership” in *Transforming Leadership Pathways for Humanities Professionals in Higher Education*, edited by Roze Hentschell and Catherine Thomas and published by Purdue University Press. He also was the Guest Editor and wrote “Introduction: Talking about the Publish Humanities” for vol. 159 (2022) of *ADE-ADFL Bulletin*. Finally, Dr. Dickson-Carr was the Guest Co-Editor and wrote “Introduction: Black Laughs Matter” for *Studies in American Humor*, 8:2 (2023).

Christopher González was recently elected president of MELUS! He also recently appeared on two podcasts, sharing insights from his collegiate athletic career and his literary expertise. On Talk'n Throws Podcast, he reflected on his years as a shot putter, and on the *Project Narrative Podcast*, he discussed Junot Díaz's recent work of flash fiction, "The Books of Losing You," with Prof. James Phelan. Check out the episodes on the Talk'n Throws Podcast and Project Narrative Podcast.

Christine Jones's co-written musical, *The Scarlet Letter Musical*, received a concert showcase performance at Greenroom 42 in New York City in September. The concert was produced by new play incubators Broadway DNA and MusicalWriters.com, which seek to foster opportunities for new work to enjoy premiere opportunities.

Dan Moss was awarded The Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor Award. The judges highlighted the fact that he fosters an environment where his students “become deeply engaged with the complexities of language and meaning.” He is well-known for “generosity, kindness, and nurturing approach.”



Pauline Newton's 2014 article “Walking with Her Muse: An Interview with Shirley Geok-lin Lim” will be reprinted by University of Mississippi Press. In addition, Dr. Newton’s article “Collecting Seeds of Destiny in Li-Young Lee’s *The Wing Seed: A Remembrance*” will soon be reprinted by Cambridge Scholars Publishing. Finally, Dr. Newton’s review of *The Postcolonial Millenium: New Directions in Malaysian Literature in English* (eds. Grace V.S. Chin and Mohammad A. Quayum) is forthcoming in the *Southeast Asian Review in English*.

Samyak Shertok, a Hughes Fellow in Creative Writing from 2022-2024, has been awarded the prestigious Donald Hall Prize for Poetry. The national award celebrates exceptional emerging poets and is part of the AWP Award Series. Congratulations to Samyak!



DEPARTMENT INITIATIVES:

Project Poëtica



SMU Project Poëtica aims to make SMU a center of English language poetry. We promote poetry on campus, in Dallas, and far beyond the city.

In September, we hosted a visit by the poet and editor Jenny Molberg and sponsored her reading at the Wild Detectives as part of their Inner Moonlight series. In November, Erika Meitner visited campus for a week as the inaugural SMU Project Poëtica Writer-in-Residence. In February, the poet Terrance Hayes and scholar Rita Felski participated in a creative conversation. Hayes also gave a vibrant poetry reading and Felski delivered a lecture titled “On Resonance.” Finally, in the fall of 2025 Tracy K. Smith, former Poet Laureate and winner of the Pulitzer Prize, will visit the campus to give a reading and participate in a creative conversation and Junot Diaz, also a Pulitzer Prize winner, will read his fiction.

SMU Project Poëtica also launched a new publishing initiative with Bridwell Press, a new press at SMU. Too often, brilliant poets struggle to find a place for their second or third books or books they wrote with other collaborators. SMU Project Poëtica / Bridwell Press seeks to publish these important books. We support poetic careers and broaden the culture’s notion of creativity beyond a single author.

One line will feature books by poets who have already published at least one collection. Edited by Katie Condon, the line will publish Rebecca Gayle Howell’s *Erase Genesis* and Luisa Muradyan’s *I Make Jokes When I’m Devastated*. Another line, edited by David Caplan, will feature books written by more than one author. January saw the publication of a collaborative two-books-in-one, Denise Duhamel and Maureen Seaton’s *Tilt* and Aaron Smith and Maureen Seaton’s *Beautiful People*. Together, they offer a moving tribute to Maureen Seaton, who passed away in 2023. Another book, *Spotted Pony*, will feature collaborations between Leila Chatti, Chen Chen, Tarfia Faizullah, Mag Gabbert, and Carly Joy Miller. Finally, edited by David Caplan, a third line will highlight scholarly and creative works about poetics.

DEPARTMENT INITIATIVES: Narrative Now Initiative

Led by Chris González, the Narrative Now Initiative (NNI) aims to be a pioneering force, focusing on the art and study of storytelling. The NNI will pay close attention to stories by and about marginalized cultures, exploring innovative narrative structures, voices, and mediums whose presence has too often been isolated or ignored. Narrative Now seeks to challenge and expand the narrative landscape, embracing a future where storytelling reflects the complex, multimodal world of the twenty-first century. This initiative will encourage a holistic approach to narrative study and practice across cultures, epochs, and forms. So far this year Narrative Now has hosted multiple events, from the *Pachinko* screening and Q&A, to Dr. Robyn Warhol's lecture, to Alison Bechdel's week as Artist-in-Residence.



EPISODE SCREENING AND Q&A
Chang-rae Lee with writers and producers from Apple TV+'s *Pachinko*

SMU English
NARRATIVE NOW INITIATIVE

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

SMU English's Narrative Now Initiative Inaugural Writer-in-Residence
ALISON BECHDEL, AUTHOR OF *FUN HOME*
January 27-31, 2025

AN EVENING with ALISON BECHDEL
Conversation and Q&A

DATE: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 | **TIME:** 6:00 PM
LOCATION: Oren Family Auditorium, Hughes-Trigg Student Center,
3140 Dyer St, Dallas, TX 75205
Books Available for Purchase at the Event

Part of a week of Bechdel events across SMU campus. Reserve your seat and learn more about the other exciting opportunities:



INCLUDING SPECIAL GUEST, HILARY PRICE
ALISON BECHDEL IN CONVERSATION WITH HILARY PRICE
Thursday, January 30, 2025
6:00 p.m.



The initiative will consist of a number of core programs, including:

- **Global Voices Residency:** A multi-day visit residency program for writers and storytellers working in various mediums, focusing on those bringing fresh, compelling perspectives to the narrative arts and to the SMU community. Chang-rae Lee and Alison Bechdel (2024-2025)
- **Critical Narrative Analysis Series:** Lecture series focused on the critical analysis of narratives across mediums, including literature, film, digital media, and oral storytelling. One lecture per semester of a top narrative thinker or scholar. Robyn Warhol (F24) and Alan Nadel (S25)
- **Global Storytelling Forum:** A biennial fall-semester event that brings together storytellers, scholars, and practitioners from around the world to share and discuss innovative narratives (to be launched in fall 2025).
- **Narrative Theory Summer Symposium:** A symposium in late-August for department's PhD students and for grad students working with narrative theory. The seminar is a culmination of a year-long mentoring program involving SMU, UT-Austin, and the Ohio State University.

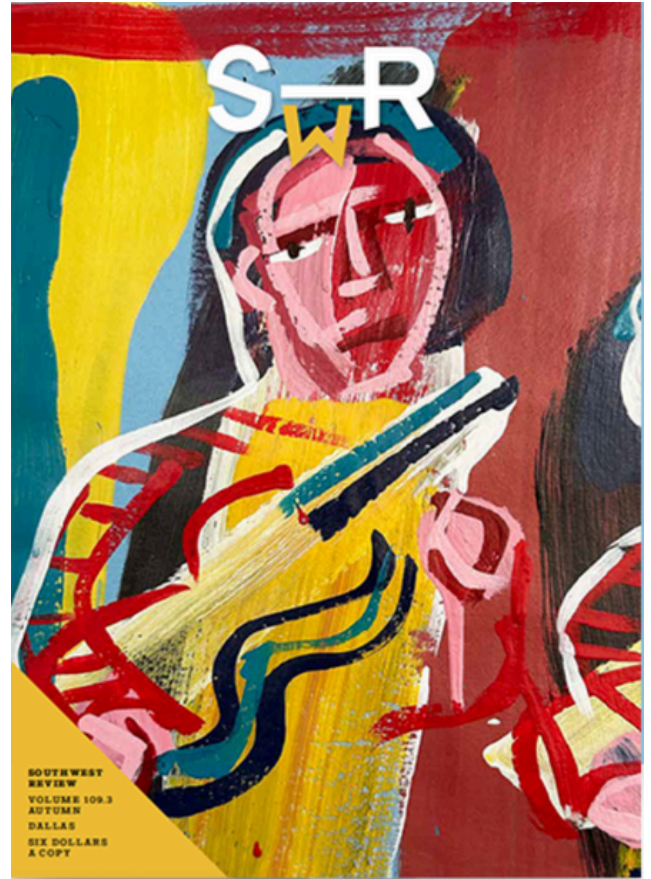
DEPARTMENT INITIATIVES: New Pony

Made possible by the generous support of SMU English, New Pony is a multimedia outlet whose primary productions include the literary magazine *Southwest Review*, a book series spotlighting cult authors, a spring festival of arts and culture called Frontera, podcasts, films, music, and more.

On October 8, 2024, New Pony published its first book: *Disappearances*, by Barry Gifford. The book launch was held on October 12 at the Canessa Gallery in San Francisco, hosted by New Pony and City Lights Bookstore. The next book in the series will be the first English-language edition of *Se Está Haciendo Tarde*, a novel by Mexican writer José Agustín, currently being translated for New Pony by Christina MacSweeney and Julián Herbert.

This fall, New Pony is releasing a special music issue of *Southwest Review*. It includes an Annie McDermott translation of a poem called “A Song for Rita” by the late Mexican poet Sergio Loo. The poem is about a Mexican rock star named Rita Guerrero, who died of cancer in 2011 at the age of 46. Loo himself died of cancer in 2014 at the age of 31. New Pony editor-in-chief Greg Brownderville traveled to Mexico City in July 2024 to conduct interviews for a podcast weaving together the stories of Guerrero and Loo. The podcast, now finished, will be accessible through a QR code in the music issue, as well as through Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

The music issue also includes an essay by Javier Rodríguez-Camacho about punk rock in late-nineties Argentina. New Pony is packaging the music issue with the vinyl edition of a seminal late-80s Argentinian compilation punk record called *Invasión 88*. New Pony worked with a Spanish record label to reissue the record, and is also printing—in both Spanish and English—the original zine that accompanied it. Both the record and the zine will be gifted to Southwest Review subscribers.



DEPARTMENT INITIATIVES: Dallas Literary Festival

Led by Sanderia Smith, the Dallas Literary Festival has a long tradition of bringing writers at various stages of their career to Dallas to discuss contemporary literature. Established in 1975, the Dallas Literary Festival remained a prominent figure in Dallas' literary scene through the late 90s before emerging again in the decades following. The Dallas Literary Festival aims to inspire robust conversations between guest speakers, SMU students and faculty, and the larger Dallas community. Prior festivals have focused on themes such as "turbulence" and "resilience."



After a one-year hiatus, the Dallas Literary Festival returned on April 2-3, 2025. By opening the conversation to both literature and music, the DLF generates conversations about how we understand and relate to the theme of "country," whether it is "a place, an idea, a feeling, a musical genre, or something different." The Dallas Literary Festival continues its tradition of inviting nationally recognized writers to Dallas, bringing Alice Randall and Tomi Adeyemi into the fold of previous DLF participants such as John Updike, Kurt Vonnegut, Alice Walker, and many more.

Student Accomplishments

Ally Barber published a review of Jose O. Fernandez's *Against Marginalization* with *MELUS*. Her article "'I'm leaving evidence': Traumatic Rememory, Identity, and the Body in Gayl Jones's *Corregidora*" is forthcoming in *MELUS*. She also presented "'Vendido sanavabiche!': La Malinche in Jovita González and Eve Raleigh's *Caballero* and Américo Paredes's *George Washington Gómez*" at MELUS 2024 in April. Just a few days later, she presented "'Telling our own stories': Narration and Trauma in Emma Pérez's *Forgetting the Alamo, or, Blood Memory*" at Narrative 2024 in Newcastle. Through her work with the ERAH Graduate Student Conference, she was also awarded a DCII Research Cluster Grant.

Philip Bax presented a paper entitled "Portrait of the Artist as a 'Root Man': Depictions of Conjure and the Rhetoric of Romantic Racism in the Autobiographies of Frederick Douglass" at MELUS's annual conference in Dallas this past April.

Rosanne Brooks presented "Trance Gender: Automatic Writing, Spirit Mediums, and Gender Fluidity," at the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Conference this past March. She also presented "'This thing that turns and trips': Arthur Symons's Poetics of the Music Hall" at the Midwest Victorian Studies Association's Conference in April.

Over the 2023-2024 AY, **Kendall Dinniene** had two articles accepted to peer-reviewed journals and enjoyed attending both the LA Review of Books Summer Publishing Workshop and Duke University's Black Feminist Theory Summer Institute. Kendall just returned from a weeklong trip to Atlanta, supported by a grant from the Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute, where she conducted research that will ultimately contribute to her second book project.

Macklin Fanning's article "What is a *Philosophical Quixote*?" will be published this summer in *The Journal of Literature and Science*.

Elijah Hook was awarded the 2024 Pueppke Prize for his essay "Gutting the Sonnet: Jericho Brown's Duplex and the Poetics of Renovation." He also presented "Unreadability and Other Mercies: Practices of Narrative Withholding in Toni Morrison's *A Mercy*" at MELUS 2024 in April and, the following week, presented "'First I got myself born': Pro/Retrospection in Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*" at the Narrative Conference in Newcastle, UK.

Jody Sue Keahey was awarded the 2023-2024 Lon Tinkle Award for Excellence in Creative Writing.

Lindsey McClure was a Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute Summer Research Fellow for 2024 and, in her work with the ERAH Graduate Student Conference, was awarded a DCII Research Cluster Grant. She is also a member of the MLA Public Humanities Incubator Program 2024.

Vincent Mennella presented "Volpone Vindicated by the Alchemist at Court: Ben Jonson's Alchemies of Material Wealth" at the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference in Toronto in October.

Dakota Rose, a junior English major specializing in creative writing and theatre studies, was awarded the Spring 2024 Frances A. Mossiker Prize for Creative Writing.

Emily Snyder published a review of Anthony Macías's *Chicano Chicana Americana* in *MELUS*. She also was awarded a grant to attend and present her paper "The Artes of Logike and Rethorike: Dudley Fenner's 16th Century Educational Reform" at the 2024 Ramus Symposium in Wolfenbüttel, Germany.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

This newsletter was a months-long project and could not have been produced without the aid of numerous members of the English department, including but not limited to:

- Ally Barber
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- Lindsey McClure
- Marimac McRae
- Juliet Shields
- Christopher Smith
- Charles Wuest

Stay up to date on all department happenings by following us on social, keeping an eye on our website, or signing up for our e-blasts by sending an email to english@smu.edu with 'Newsletters' in the subject line.



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