

Wordsworth



The Newsletter of Lewis & Clark's English Department

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2019 TEACHER OF THE YEAR: PROFESSOR KAREN GROSS

Lewis & Clark's Pamplin Society of Fellows has named Associate Professor of English Karen Gross the 2019 Teacher of the Year. Gross, who specializes in medieval literature, has been at Lewis & Clark since 2005. She holds a master's degree from Cambridge University and PhD from Stanford University.

Created in 1994, the Teacher of the Year award honors faculty members who go above and beyond to enhance students' learning experience both within and beyond the classroom. Winners are selected annually by a committee of Pamplin Society fellows from nominations the society collects from the student body.

Gross, a prolific scholar and author, has also contributed to Lewis & Clark and the lives of her students as the leader of two overseas study programs, and as fellowships advisor for the college, providing guidance and support to students seeking information about national grants and awards. Katie Kowal BA '17, recently named a Rhodes Scholar, thanked Gross personally for her counsel. In 2008, Gross was recognized with the Graves Award for humanities teaching excellence.

We want to hear from you!

Drop us a line to let us know what you've been up to, where you're living, and what plans you're making. You can email the department at english@lclark.edu or write to :

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"There's enjoying a subject, and there's allowing the warmth of it to bleed into and define the practice of teaching," said Tian-Ai Aldridge BA '19, who presented the Teacher of the Year award. "I'm so inspired by all the work we do together and all the journeying we do together, in our studies and in our art," said Gross. "This means so much."

Newsletter Staff:

Project coordinator & designer
Sarah Lind-MacMillan
Contributing writers:
Arista Engineer
Justin Howerton
Sydney Owada

Special thanks: *Debbie Richman*



ENGLISH MAJORS ESTABLISH LC DANCE COMPANY

Sydney Owada



The connection between the English department and dance has been long-standing, especially with the involvement of majors with the Theatre department's fall performance Dance X, the student-produced Dance Y show in the spring, and Professor Rishona Zimring's exploration of dance, which can be seen in her book *Social Dance and the Modernist Imagination in Interwar Britain* (2016). Such an overlap in the interest of movement and literature was emphasized when majors Kelleen Cummings ('18) and Sydney Owada ('19) established LC Dance Company with Abbie St. Vaughn ('18) in 2018. LC Dance Company is now largely responsible for running workshops and Dance Y; once run without structural support, Dance Y will have had its first funded performance in its 8-year run this spring.

The creation of LCDC was in response to the strong desire to provide a movement space for students that did not require them to participate in Dance X or Y to gain dance experience as well as to make Dance Y part of a larger dance company that engaged culturally with both the LC and Portland dance communities. The push for inclusivity mirrored Cummings' own investigation of how to stay involved with movement when the body is unable; under the guidance of Professor Zimring, Cummings found herself writing constantly about the body for her Virginia Woolf seminar paper as well as for her poetry portfolio. Owada similarly finds the shared qualities between dance and literature influential; during the choreography process for Dance X, she let the medieval poem *Pearl* inform the images recurring throughout her piece as well as allowed the work to inspire the representation of the perceptions of grief.

NATALIE DIAZ AT LEWIS & CLARK

Arista Engineer

Diaz is a Lannan Literary Fellow and a Native Arts Council Foundation Artist Fellow. She was awarded a Bread Loaf Fellowship, the Holmes National Poetry Prize, a Hodder Fellowship, and a PEN/Civitella Ranieri Foundation Residency, as well as a US Artists Ford Fellowship. Diaz teaches at the Arizona State University Creative Writing MFA program.

In addition to reading poems from her collection *When My Brother Was an Aztec*, Diaz shared pieces she was working on. These were interspersed with a discussion of her general writing process and experience with specific poems. "I come to poems that show me something of my life; that ask me questions," she said, talking about the appeal of leaning into the unknown, to take an image and use the process of writing to "crack it open like an egg." Sharing from her collaborative project with Ada Limón, "Envelopes of Air", Diaz emphasized the advantages of having another voice or specific audience to directly interact with.

After the reading, it was clear that her careful attention and generosity to the world not only manifested in her poetry, but also in the time that she took to speak to each person while signing books. The advanced poetry writing class had the incredible opportunity to have dinner with Diaz and Lewis & Clark professors Mary Szybist and Jerry Harp that night. The evening left everyone with a head full of powerfully strange images and the desire to explore them through poetry.

"What a strange and lucky thing that we have come to poetry," says Natalie Diaz, paraphrasing Mark Strand during her poetry reading at Lewis & Clark College on February 7th, 2019. What a strange and lucky thing that we had the opportunity to welcome her here.



Partnership & Involvement in Special Collections

Sydney Owada

Whether it be through classroom engagement, exhibit curation, or access to unique research materials, Watzek Library Special Collections and Archives is a valuable partner with Lewis & Clark's English Department.

Just ending this month is *Shaping the Bible: 500 Years of Interpretation, Translation, and Reformation*. Curated by Emily Price (English '18), Sydney Owada (English '19), Mae Johnson (Art History '19), and Robert Kugler (Paul S. Wright Professor of Christian Studies), this exhibit explored the ways readers adapted the Bible to suit their needs with a particular focus on translation and annotation. The display featured manuscripts and print works from the fifteenth to twentieth century, including a 1574 German Luther Bible and a 1638 Geneva Bible.

Professor Rishona Zimring will consult with Special Collections on exhibits associated with the upcoming Modernist Studies Association conference in Portland in the fall of 2022. This will be Prof. Zimring's second collaboration with Special Collections, having curated in 2013 with Casey Newbegin (English '12) *E. McKnight Kauffer, Gwen Raverat, and the Illustration of Modernity*. (Poet, teacher, and archivist Paul Merchant also contributed to that show.)

Many English majors have recently held practica in Special Collections, working under the supervision of Dr. Hannah Crummé, Head of Special Collections and College Archivist. Bryan Miller (English '20) currently contributes to *Vietnamese Portland: Memory, History, Community*, a multi-year project documenting the experience of Vietnamese Americans in Portland. Justin Howerton (English '21) has been assisting Associate

Professor Karen Gross with cataloguing the medieval manuscript fragments. Beja Wolf (English '19) participated on *Medicine in the West: Power, Authority, and Knowledge Exchange between Native Americans and the Corps of Discovery*, an exhibit done in partnership with the Ray Warren Symposium on Race and Ethnic Studies.

Some exhibits connected with recent symposia have also drawn upon the Kirschner-Moskowitz Collection, donated by retired Senior Lecturer Susan Kirschner; this trove of correspondence and papers spans 150 years, giving insight into the professional and personal lives of a prominent Austrian-Jewish family, including the archaeologist Otto Benndorf and the medical pioneer Ludwig Moskowitz.

Dr. Crummé is especially interested in developing Special Collections' holdings in rare or unique editions of literature that can be used in teaching. In early April, the College acquired a 1687 edition of Thomas Speght's collected works of Chaucer, which features a frontispiece of the poet with heraldic lineage and a glossary in which "Old and Obscure Words [are] Explained." This volume complements the College's copy of Ben Jonson's first folio from 1616.

But it is not just early literature that Special Collections holds. Watzek is the depository for the papers of William Stafford, who taught at LC for over thirty years. Thanks to Prof. Emeritus John Callahan, the College holds a rich collection of materials related to

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REVIVAL OF THE FIR ACRES WRITING WORKSHOP

Justin Howerton and Don Waters

After a three-year hiatus, the Fir Acres Writing Workshop has been revived. The massively successful creative writing program took place this summer on campus and hosted sixty students and five faculty leaders from all corners of the United States.

The Fir Acres Writing and Thinking Workshop began in 1989 as a supplemental program associated with Bard College. English professor Don Waters has revived the creative writing program and re-named it the Fir Acres Writing Workshop. Waters implemented a new curriculum with closer focus on fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction, and he's emphasized the importance of students getting out and exploring the city of Portland. This summer, Waters incorporated some of the schedules from past years as a logistical guide to planning events

and activities, but nearly everything else was a product of his own vision. His *modus operandi* for the program is to create an inviting artistic community in which students and faculty feel comfortable sharing, generating, and revising fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction in an open and inclusive community. As part of the Workshop's dynamic curriculum, Waters also introduced electives into the program, which students selected during the first week based on their preferences. This year the electives were Social Justice and the Creative Writer, Magical Realism, Japanese Poetry, Flash Fiction, and Surrealism and the Avant-Garde.

This year's workshop staff was one of the components that distinguished the workshop from past iterations. The faculty included writers who teach at Harvard, Iowa Writers' Workshop, Washington University, and the University of Hawaii. Coming from incredibly diverse and specialized backgrounds, the faculty are also prolific writers in their fields. In past years the writing instructors often came from academic backgrounds. This characteristic does not detract from their literary capabilities in any way, but a trained faculty of working writers benefited the program and exposed the students to the ins-and-outs of "the writing life."

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FACULTY NEWS & UPDATES

KRISTIN FUJIE HAD AN EXCITING YEAR OF TEACHING THAT INVOLVED TWO COURSES SHE'D NEVER TAUGHT BEFORE: A SENIOR SEMINAR FOCUSED ON "REGIONAL MODERNISM" AND THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT'S SURVEY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE. BOTH WERE INCREDIBLE LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND, AS USUAL, SHE HAD HER WONDERFUL STUDENTS TO THANK FOR IT. SHE IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON AN ESSAY DEVOTED TO FAULKNER'S FIRST NOVEL, TITLED "TWO ROTTEN TRICKS": WAR AND SEX IN SOLDIERS' PAY." HER ARTICLE, "THROUGH A PIECE OF COLORED GLASS: FAULKNER, RACE, AND MEDIATION," WILL BE PUBLISHED IN MODERN FICTION STUDIES



THIS COMING FALL. SHE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO HER UPCOMING SABBATICAL, WHICH SHE PLANS TO SPEND READING WIDELY, WRITING FREELY, AND MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, FINALLY WATCHING GAME OF THRONES.

THIS SUMMER, **KAREN GROSS** VISITED THE ABBEY OF MONTECASSINO FOR A WEEK-LONG MANUSCRIPTS WORKSHOP. SHE RECENTLY RECEIVED A FELLOWSHIP FROM THE NEW YORK

PUBLIC LIBRARY TO SUPPORT A FEW WEEKS OF RESEARCH WITH THEIR COLLECTIONS.

JERRY HARP'S POEMS APPEAR IN RECENT ISSUES OF DECEMBER, NOTRE DAME REVIEW, AND PRESENCE. HIS REVIEW OF TRACY K. SMITH'S MOST RECENT BOOK OF POEMS IS FORTHCOMING IN PLEIADES. WITH LC ALUM ERICA TERPENING-ROMEO, HE CO-AUTHORED "UNCERTAIN TEXT: STUDENT AND TEACHER FIND THEIR WAY ONSTAGE IN ROMEO AND JULIET" FORTHCOMING IN HOW AND WHY WE TEACH SHAKESPEARE (ROUTLEDGE). HE APPEARS AS A TALKING HEAD IN THE SHORT DOCUMENTARY "FROM STORYTELLER TO CYBERSPACE: THE LEGACY OF WALTER J. ONG." LATELY HE HAS BEEN COLLABORATING WITH LC THEATRE PROFESSOR STEPAN SIMEK ON THE LATTER'S TRANSLATIONS OF THE PLAYS OF ANTON CHEKHOV.

ANDREA HIBBARD'S ARTICLE "CANNIBALISM AND THE LATE-VICTORIAN ADVENTURE NOVEL: THE QUEEN V. DUDLEY AND STEPHENS" WAS PUBLISHED IN THE MAY 2019 ISSUE OF ELT (ENGLISH LITERATURE IN TRANSITION). SHE ALSO SPENT SIX WEEKS OF SUMMER 2018 DOING RESEARCH WITH L&C ENGLISH MAJOR CASSIDY CURRA. THE PROJECT WAS FUNDED BY A L&C FACULTY-STUDENT COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GRANT. THE TITLE OF THE PROJECT WAS "THE CLITHEROE ABDUCTION CASE, MONA CAIRD, AND THE LATE-VICTORIAN MARRIAGE QUESTION."

MARY SZYBIST WAS AWARDED THE 2019 GEORGE W. HUNT, S.J., PRIZE FOR JOURNALISM, ARTS & LETTERS FOR OUTSTANDING WORK

IN THE CATEGORY OF POETRY. THE PRIZE IS GIVEN ANNUALLY, ALTERNATING BETWEEN THE GENRES OF FICTION, NONFICTION, AND POETRY, BY THE SAINT THOMAS MORE CENTER AT YALE UNIVERSITY AND THE DIRECTORS OF AMERICA MEDIA. THIS YEAR MARY ALSO WON A PUSHCART PRIZE FOR HER POEM "WALKING IN FAST-FALLING DUSK WHAT IS BETWEEN US BESIDES," ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE PARIS REVIEW. SHE WILL BE TEACHING AT THE 2019 MIDDLEBURY BREAD LOAF WRITERS' CONFERENCE IN VERMONT THIS SUMMER.

RISHONA ZIMRING PARTICIPATED IN TWO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON LITERARY MODERNISM THIS PAST SUMMER. SHE GAVE A PAPER ON VIRGINIA WOOLF AND MEDICAL HUMANITIES IN NANCY, FRANCE, AND A PAPER ON KATHERINE MANSFIELD'S JOURNALISM AND THEORIES OF "SURFACE READING" IN KRAKOW, POLAND. SHE REPORTS THAT BOTH CONFERENCES, WHICH WERE RELATIVELY SMALL, PROVIDED EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES TO EXCHANGE IDEAS ABOUT SCHOLARSHIP AND TEACHING WITH SCHOLARS AND ARTISTS FROM MANY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, INCLUDING NOT ONLY FRANCE AND POLAND, BUT THE UK, IRAN, ITALY, GERMANY, SLOVAKIA, CHINA, JAPAN, INDIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND ROMANIA, AMONG OTHERS.

ALUMNI NEWS & UPDATES

TIAN-AI ALDRIDGE ('19) was selected as one of ten poets for this summer's Bucknell Seinar at the Stadler Center for Poetry & Literary Arts.

JOURNEY FETTER ('18) will be pursuing an MFA at Johns Hopkins University.

COLE HILDEBRAND ('17) will be commencing an MA in English at New York University.

PRACHI JHA ('09) has co-founded Daak" Postcards from the Attic, a curation of neglected literary and artistic works from the Indian subcontinent, which are shared through weekly emailed newsletters (<http://daak.co.n>); Prachi discussed this enterprise in a recent TEDx talk.

MAYA MACOMIE ('12) is beginning an MFA in poetry at The Ohio State University.

MORGAN MITCHELL ('16) will be pursuing an MA in English at New York University.

SYDNEY OWADA ('19) begins her PhD in English this fall at the University of Michigan.

EMILY PRICE ('18), currently a doctoral student in English at the Graduate Center, CUNY, was named a 2019 New York Botanical Garden-Humanities Institute research fellow. This summer, she will be working with on *De secretis nature*, or the Book of Secrets, researching its widespread use as an underground source of scientific knowledge with an eye toward raising public awareness of the diversity of scientific thought and medical practice in the medieval period.

KEVIN RYAN ('15) is completing his MS in Education at Purdue. He is still passionate about the Middle Ages.

HANNAH SALVO ('19) has been selected for the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET), a government initiative that employs native English speakers as language teachers throughout Japan. Founded in 1987, JET fosters cultural understanding and a global sense of community between Japan and foreign countries through language education. Hannah will be in Japan for at least one year, with the possibility of staying for up to five years.

HAINES WHITACRE ('17) will be starting an MFA at the University of Washington.

STUDENT AWARDS & HONORS

2018 DIXON AWARD RECIPIENT, KATIE MITCHELTREE

Katie Mitcheltree ('19), used her grant to research the papers of Mary Borden, a female writer who published poetry and short stories while serving as a nurse at the front line during World War I. Katie was interested in the under-representation of female voices in the poetry of World War I, despite close proximity to battles, which placed them under direct threat of gunfire and artillery and forced them to deal with the bloody aftermath of combat.

Over the summer of 2018, Katie traveled to two archives to examine Ms. Borden's papers: the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center at Boston University and the Churchill Archive Center

at the University of Cambridge in England. She examined manuscripts of Mary Borden's World War I book, *The Forbidden Zone*, poems Borden wrote during the battles of the Somme, as well as personal correspondence and letters exchanged between Borden and her second husband while at the front.

Katie presented her project, *Gender and the Role of War Literature in Shaping Collective Memory: The Wartime Writings of Mary Borden*, in the fall. Her project explored a prominent theme in both Borden's published writings and personal correspondence: memory, remembrance, and the role of writing in shaping collective memories of war.



2019 JERRY BAUM AWARD RECIPIENT, BRENDAN NAGLE



Brendan Nagle

This year's recipient of the 2019 Jerry Baum Award is Brendan Nagle for his paper, "A Dead World and an Immortal Fish: Virginia Woolf, Montage, and Temporal Collapse."

The Jerry Baum Award was established in 2007 by the Department of English, alumni, family, and friends to honor the memory of beloved professor R. Jerold (Jerry) Baum. The recipient is a senior whose senior-seminar paper addresses the relationship between literature and history and is recognized as outstanding by the English faculty. A \$250 prize accompanies the award.

Brendan's paper began as an investigation into Woolf's relationship to cinema, looking at the

ways that the burgeoning art of film might have had an impact on her writing. Given the distinct visual quality of her work, as well as her close proximity to the Post-Impressionist movement, she is often analyzed in relation to painting, but cinema, particularly cinematic montage, would seem just as important an influence on her particular style. From there he used Walter Benjamin's theories regarding modern technologies to connect Woolf's attitude towards the cinema to an experience she writes about in "The Sun and the Fish". Brendan's paper argued that cinema, just as does a solar eclipse in that essay, has the power to break down boundaries of time.

2019 SENIOR POETRY PRIZE AWARD

This year's winner of the Academy of American Poets Prize Contest goes to Yumi Wilson for her poem, "Ghost, Flower, Fish." Virginia Swenson received honorable mention for her poem, "In Spring."

Yumi Wilson



2019 Senior Fiction Award



Arista Engineer

This year's winner of the Lewis & Clark Fiction Award goes to Arista Engineer for her piece, "At His Feet."

HONORS THESES 2019

Tian-Ai Aldridge, *The Fractal of Salvation: the theodicy of T.S. Eliot's Four Quartets* in literary, symbolic, and structural variation

Arista Engineer, *Make Salads, Not War: Harmony and Fluidity in The Floure and the Leafe*

Noah Foster-Koth, *Angling Beneath the Surface: Reading the Fish in Virginia Woolf's Essays, Novels and Short Fiction*

Sophie March, *Limits and the Potential for Divine Communion: Intimations and Experiences of the Transcendent in T.S. Eliot's Four Quartets, Julian of Norwich's Revelations of Divine Love, and Dante Alighieri's Commedia*

Katie Mitcheltree, "It Knew No Boundaries": War Trauma and Cultural Trauma in Leslie Marmon Silko's *Ceremony*

Sydney Owada, God "the maker, the keper, the lover": Emotion, Estrangement, and Epistemology in Julian of Norwich's *A Revelation of Love*

Grace Wilson, Reading Through "The Sad Heart of Ruth": Sympathy, Exile, and Company in Keats's "Ode to a Nightingale"

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear friends of the English Department,

As we look forward to the coming school year, the Department is anticipating a significant change to Miller Fourth Floor: our administrative coordinator, Debbie Richman, who has served both English and History for 10 years, is leaving in October to assume the role of Executive Assistant in the Dean's Office. During her time here, Debbie has worked with four different English department chairs. She has helped us design course schedules, planned events, run search committees, supervised our work study students, and managed the budget. It will be hard to see her go. We will miss her expertise, her patience with our foibles, and her cheerful smile. Please join me in wishing her the best in her new position. Congratulations, Debbie—we know you will do well!



Best,

Rachel Cole

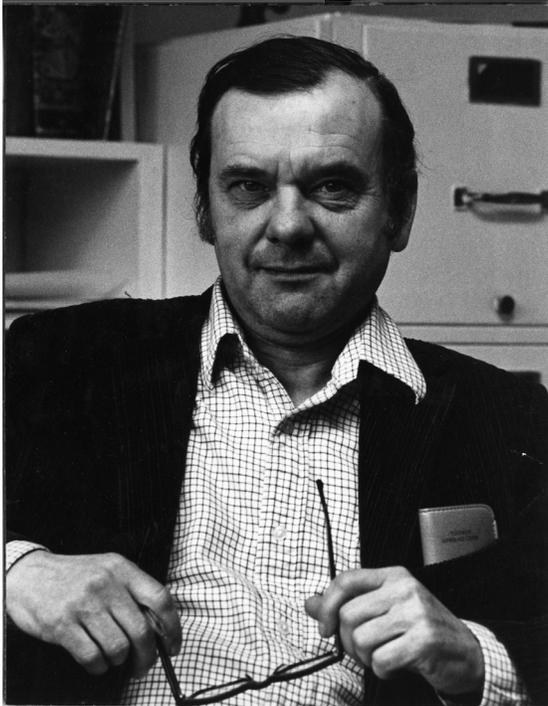
REVIVAL OF THE FIR ACRES WRITING WORKSHOP (*Continued from Page 3*)

In addition to three daily classes, there was an evening series of distinguished guest speakers, notably Lewis & Clark's very own Mary Szybist, who welcomed students and gave talks during the two-week of the program.

The program boasted off-campus excursions into nearby Tryon Creek and other Portland sites such as Powell's City of Books, the Portland Art Museum, the neighborhoods of Alberta Arts, Hawthorne, and Mississippi Avenue, and of course the Oregon Coast. Not only did these class trips introduce students to the surrounding area, but they served as sources of inspiration and revitalization during a period packed so tightly with workshops and writing. At the end of the Workshop, students compiled portfolios to share with their Workshop leader and their selected work was also included in the Fir Acres Anthology.

IN MEMORIAM: WILLIAM E. LUCHT

William E. Lucht, Professor Emeritus of English, passed away Friday, April 12, in his Portland home at age 96. Bill was born in Davenport in 1922 and grew up in Iowa. He had completed at least a year of college before being called up for World War II. Trained as an infantryman, he was shipped overseas, where he was stationed in Britain and fought in France. He met Valerie in Britain in 1945. In 1946 when she was able to secure passage over on a Norwegian troop ship, they were married in Cambridge, Mass.



Bill was among the early beneficiaries of the GI Bill, graduating from Harvard and returning to Iowa for graduate study. At the University of Iowa Valerie and he met William and Dorothy Stafford, Stafford back to school from Lewis & Clark when Morgan O'Dell encouraged faculty to pursue further graduate study in order to relieve the college budget during a slump. They became close friends, and Stafford encouraged Bill to consider Lewis & Clark. Bill applied when he completed the doctorate and started teaching at the college in 1960.

Professor Lucht's curricular focus was Shakespeare and 17th-century British literature. He brought to the presentation of his poets, Shakespeare, Donne, Herbert, Marvell, who themselves so valued wit, his own quiet grace and dry humor. He carried his teaching beyond the classroom, leading LC students on several overseas study groups to Britain, and for years sustaining the summer "Shakespeare in Ashland" program that drew both students and alumni.

His own research interest in Shakespeare centered on the interpretative nuances that grew out of experimental approaches to the plays' performances. In this vein, he was often consulted on campus when Shakespeare's or other 17th-century plays were to be staged; and he pursued his study in theater archives in Britain and Ashland.

Bill retired from Lewis & Clark College in 1987. He is survived by his wife, Valerie, and their daughters, Wendy (LC '72) and Sarah, and sons, Philip (LC '89) and Alec as well as Wendy's partner Harvey James, Sarah's husband, Don Alder, and Philip's wife, Jo Dickinson.

-- Written by Jack Hart, Professor Emeritus of English

PARTNERSHIP AND INVOLVEMENT IN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS *(Continued from Page 3)*

Three Days before the Shooting, which Prof. Callahan and Adam Bradley (English '96) edited for Modern Library (2010). The College also holds Katherine Dunn's papers, some of which were displayed in the 2017 exhibit *The Horror of Normalcy: Katherine Dunn, Geek Love, and Cult Literature*, curated by Assistant Professor with Term Mike Mirabile and Sydney Owada. Oregon Poetic Voices, assembled by then-Head of Special Collections and College Archivist Doug Erickson, is a comprehensive sound archive of Oregon poets from 1987-2012.

And the poets of tomorrow are also supported by Special Collections, with ENG 401 students designing broadsides for printing through the library's own Berberis Press, with guidance from Zach Selley, Associate Head of Special Collections and College Archivist.

Thanks, Special Collections. Here's to future collaborations!