

# ENGLISH TIMES: FALL 2022



## FACULTY NEWS



**Professor Justin Shaw** and Valerie Sperling co-authored an op-ed in the Telegram & Gazette. Together they deem the rise of technology and capitalism to further individualistic tendencies, resulting into social capital organizations and participation to fall. [Click here to read.](#)

**Professor Justin Shaw** and English and History Major **Christina Rose Walcott '23** wrote a paper about the architectural and human histories of The English Department's home, English House. This essay was the result of Professor Shaw's Directed Study Research Seminar with Christina Rose Walcott over the Spring '22 semester. [Read here.](#)

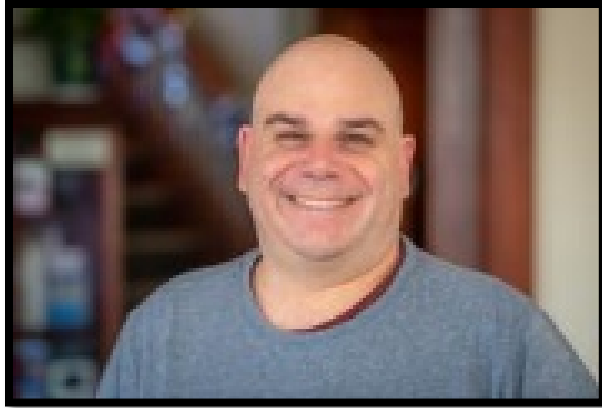


Death is one of the only certainties in life, and **Professor Jackie Morrill** analyzes the death and decline of her grandparents through the lens of the horror genre. In an essay published by The Critical Flame, Morrill investigates the mundane horror of Alzheimer's and other dementia like diseases through recent films, *The Taking of Deborah Logan* (2014) and *Relic* (2020). [Click here to read.](#)

Professor Jackie Morrill also appeared on Worcester Public Radio's "Radio of Horror" segment on October 16<sup>th</sup>. She discussed a range of topics surrounding horror genre. [Click here to learn more about her conversation.](#)

On Thursday October 20<sup>th</sup>, Professor Jackie Morrill presented at the NEPCA conference. Clark graduate student Mallory Trainor and undergraduate student Katie Healey presented on the panel with Professor Morrill.

Lastly, Professor Jackie Morrill has been mentioned in Pulse Magazine's October issue, written by Clark student John Keough. While the website hasn't been updated with this publication, the story can be found in hard copies, available in coffee shops around Worcester.



**Professor Phil Lemos** has recently completed Clark University Diversity and Inclusion Program, which is sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. This year-long program is designed to teach staff, faculty, and graduate students to create an inclusive community on Clark's Campus. The program strives to strengthen diversity, equity, and inclusion as participants comprehensively analyze the ways to build a more welcoming community. Congratulations Professor Lemos on this accomplishment!



**Professor Michael Carolan** takes a deep dive into his family heritage going back to July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1874. Through a familial lens, Carolan analyzes how Irish immigrants and Ireland's history has played an intricate role in American history. And uses his family as an example for larger systemic global issues today. His article was published in The Irish Central Newsletter. [Click here to read.](#)

### **Welcome Professors**

Join us in welcoming new professors to the English Department.

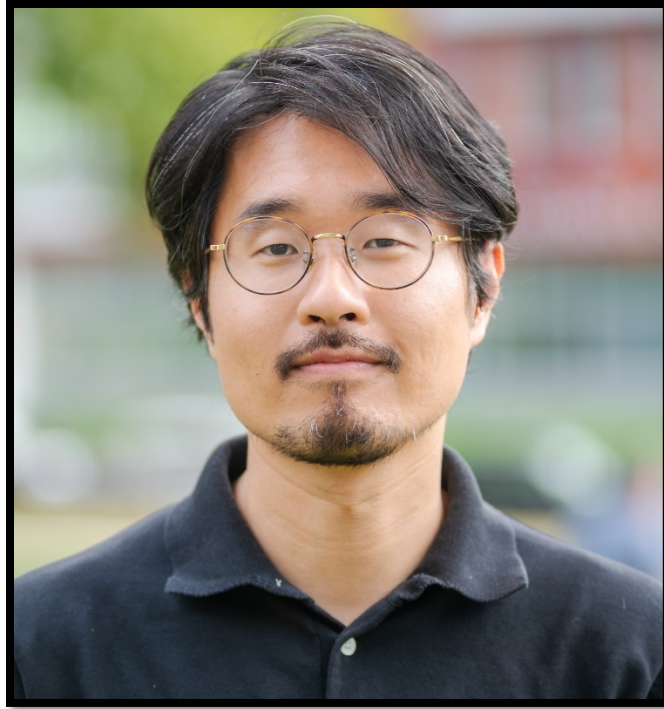


**Dr. Spencer Tricker** started teaching at Clark University in Fall 2022. He completed his Ph.D. in English at the University of Miami in 2018 and taught at Longwood University in central Virginia for the last three years.

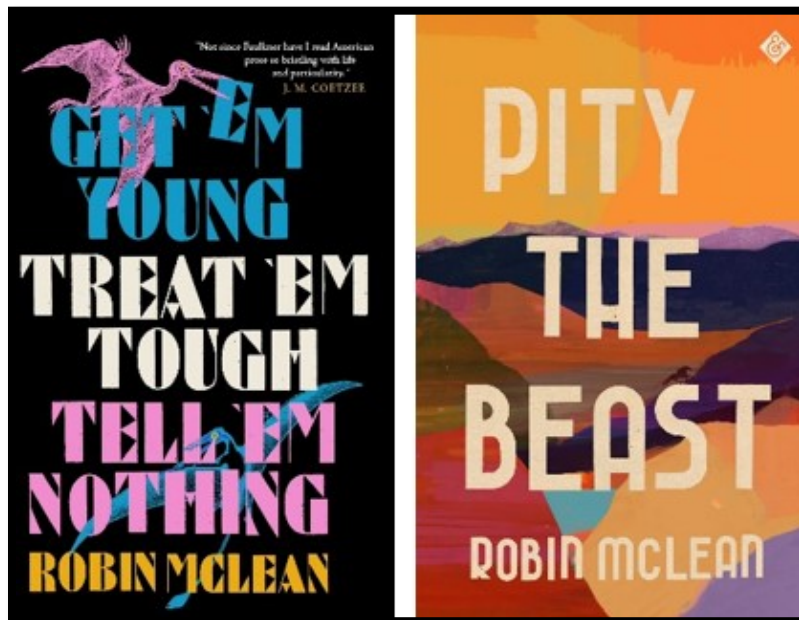
As a scholar of nineteenth-century American literature and transpacific studies, Dr. Tricker's research explores issues of race, U.S. imperialism, and immigration. His book project, *Imminent Communities: Liberal Cosmopolitanism and Empire in Transpacific Literature (1849-1924)*, examines these issues in relation to geopolitics, periodical culture, and literary aesthetics. He has published critical essays on South and Southeast Asian characters in Melville's *Moby-Dick*, mixed race Chinese American identity in the stories of Sui Sin Far, representations of Asia and Asian religious thought in the writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson, and the complex history of Afro-Asian solidarity and conflict during the Philippine-American War (1899-1902).

At Clark, Dr. Tricker looks forward to teaching a variety of courses related to nineteenth-century American literature, paying special attention to issues of race and ethnicity, imperialism and diaspora, gender and sexuality, geography and the environment. His Fall 2022 seminar "Transpacific Crossings in Nineteenth-Century Literature and Culture," will examine canonical Anglo-American authors like Herman Melville and Mark Twain in relation to Asian and Pacific writers of color, including Lili'uokalani (Hawai'i), José Rizal (Philippines), and Wong Chin Foo (China/United States). In future semesters, he also plans to offer a course on the detective narrative, tracing this genre's emergence in the work of Edgar Allan Poe through to more recent examples in literature, film, television, and other media.





**Professor Jeff Noh** is Visiting Assistant Professor of U.S. Multiethnic and Asian American Literature at Clark University. His areas of specialty are in post-1945 U.S. literature, race and ethnicity studies, Asian diasporic culture, and media studies. In spring of 2023, he will be teaching ENG 297/397: Fictions of Asian America and ENG 181: Major American Writers II.



Former Clark Instructor **Robin McLean** has a new collection of stories *Get'em Young, Treat'em Tough,*

*Tell'em Nothing* and the paperback of her debut novel *Pity the Beast* was launch with Grubstreet's Debut Series and Porter Square Books on October 18<sup>th</sup>. And on October 21<sup>st</sup>, she is holding another reading at The Odysee in South Hadley with Karen Shepard. Shepard recently spoke with Professor Spencer Tricker's ENG 281/381 class.

## STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS

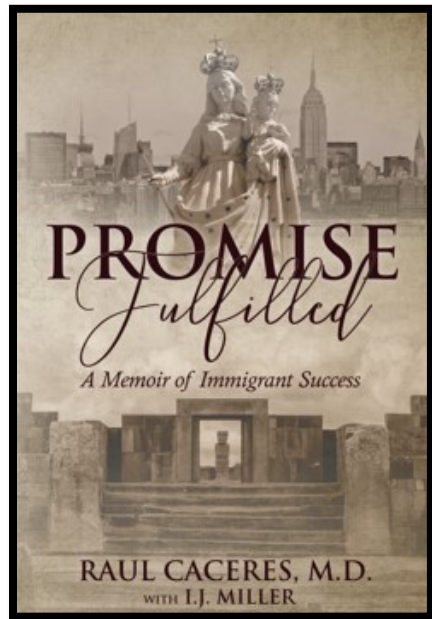
Clark alum, **Azariah Kurlantzick**, has returned to campus as a First-Year Success Advisor. During their time at Clark, they worked as a Writing Center Consultant and Peer Success Advisor. Now, they will be advising First-Years on to make the most out of their Clark experience

Former student office assistant to the English Department, former English Major, and current Clark employee, **Shaylyn Hopley Malko**, has recently been awarded Clark University's third annual [\*President's Achievement Awards for Inclusive Excellence\*](#). This award highlights people who are at the forefront of inclusivity on Clark's campus and the totality of the Worcester community.

Recent Clark University undergraduate alum and English major **Tereza Lopez '22** currently works as Assistant Director of Domestic Recruitment for the graduate Admission department.

Poet and Clark alumnus, professor emeritus **John Brand** rose from blue-collar steel worker in Sheffield, England, to Professor Emeritus of English was, in no small part, a result of his education at Clark. Professor Brand has recently published his debut anthology: "Things I Might Have Said". His book is aimed at promoting increased poetic literacy among people of all ages by making poetry fun, approachable, and engaging.

"Things I Might Have Said" includes short, entertaining tales with a few, serious poems sprinkled in. His favorite tack is to add an unexpected, humorous twist or play on words (i.e. double entendre). Professor Brand believes that most people actually like poetry, they just don't know it yet. Professor Brand is currently putting together a book tour full of poetry readings and signings so keep a look out for more information.



**Ira Miller**, Clark English Major grad, class of '77, just completed his seventh book earlier this year. He co-wrote a memoir of prominent plastic surgeon, Dr. Raul Caceres under his pen name, I.J. Miller.

**PROMISE FULFILLED**, *A Memoir of Immigrant Success*, is a fast-paced, dramatic memoir that illuminates the life of Dr. Raul Caceres, a man of deep religious faith, from Oruro, Bolivia, who emigrated to the U.S., served in the U.S. Army, became a renowned plastic surgeon, and gave back to his home country by starting a burn center called the Tiwanaku Project in Oruro to treat indigent children and adults at little to no cost. Here is the Amazon link to the book, which includes an excerpt and advanced quotes: <https://amzn.to/3wadn5O>

To learn more about Ira's writing visit [ijmiller.com](http://ijmiller.com).

**Tamara (Levi) Beck**, Class of 1968, has found her passion in blogging. She has created a large body of work online, ranging from theatre reviews to political opinion pieces to countless poems. While she usually self-publishes her poems, she recently submitted a quartlet of poems to the New Yorker.

Read her Blogs here: <https://letmyimaginationgo.wordpress.com/>

<https://tandbontheaisle.wordpress.com/>

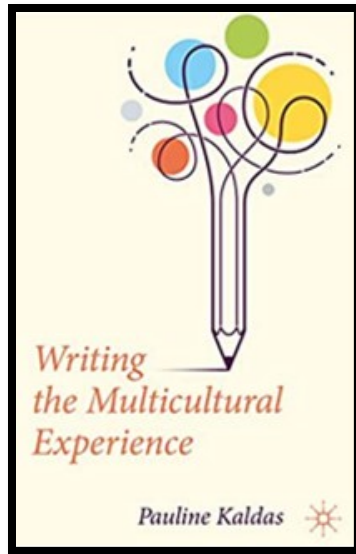
<https://allthebest.fitness.blog/>



**John Minigan** earned his bachelor's degrees in English and Mathematics at Clark in 1981. Currently, his solo adaptation of Washington Irving's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* had a world premiere at Greater Boston Stage Company in October and November. *The Boston Globe* called it "Splendid" and said "Minigan ... [gives] this familiar tale a fresh eye ... [and] captures both the thrill of the spooky story and its moral ... with subtlety and finesse." Joyce Kulhawik called it "Perfect for our times." The photo pictures actor Paul Melendy, and the photo is courtesy of Maggie Hall Photography and Nile Scott Studios. Links to reviews for the pull quotes [here for the Globe](#) and [here for Joyce Kulhawik](#). And, earlier this year, his play *Queen of Sad Mischance* was named the winner of the 2022 Judith Royer Award from The Kennedy Center and the Association for Theatre in Higher Education as well as the 2022 Louise Wigglesworth Excellence in Playwriting Award. More recent news is that it will have a producers' reading in January via TRU in New York, and an audio production later in 2023 from Dean Productions in L.A.

**Nicola M. Imbracsio**, Ph.D. is a proud graduate of Clark's English department (UG 1998) and happily shares that she is now an Assistant Dean in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota. In more good news, she recently married her partner of 10 years. Together they live in Saint Paul.





**Pauline Kaldas** graduated from Clark University with an English major in 1983. Currently, she works as a professor of English and Creative Writing at Hollins University. Pauline also recently wrote a textbook, *Writing the Multicultural Experience*, and has just been published by Palgrave Macmillan. [Link to Palgrave Macmillan.](#) [Link to book on Amazon.](#)

## DEPARTMENT NEWS & EVENTS



On Friday November 11<sup>th</sup>, the Higgins School of Humanities, the Program in Media, Culture & Arts, the Department of English, and the Office of Diversity and inclusion welcomed three guest speakers: Cajetan

Iheka, Min Hyoun Song, and Kari Well. Together they discussed the how storytelling could influence environmental change.



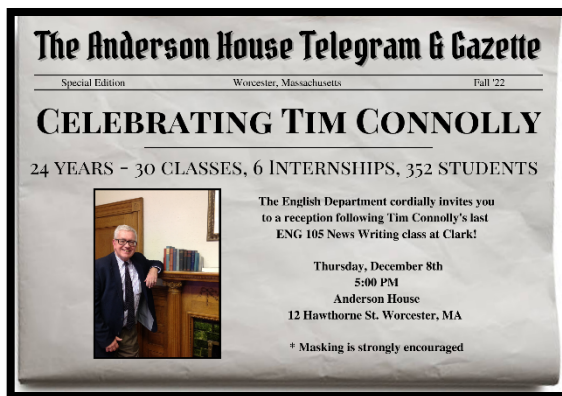
On Friday, November 18th, students and faculty gathered for the Poets and Writers Reading Series event featuring Monica Prince. Monica Prince is an author, professor of activist and performance writing, and the managing editor for the Santa Fe Writers Project. She spoke about her experiences as a poet, especially focusing on her most recent collection titled *How to Exterminate a Black Woman: A Choreopoem* and her forthcoming collection titled *Roadmap*.

On Saturday November 11<sup>th</sup>, Clark University held The New England American Studies Association to a colloquium titled, *In Pursuit of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*. This event focused on how DEI has shaped higher education and social norms throughout the US, and how it could be shaped in the future.





On Monday, December 12th, The English Department held Wassail, the annual holiday celebration. Students and faculty joined together on the last day of classes for cookie and gingerbread house decorating, as well as an array of treats and refreshments. After a challenging semester, members of the Department benefitted from this chance to unwind and enjoy each other's company!



On Thursday, December 8th, students, faculty, friends, and family gathered to celebrate Tim Connolly's 24 years of teaching following his final ENG 105 News Writing class. Attendees enjoyed refreshments and shared their favorite memories of Professor Connolly as well as their gratitude for his dedication to teaching.

### Find Us Online:

Follow us on [Facebook](#), Instagram, and [The Next Chapter](#).

If you have any news to share with us, please write a couple of lines about it and send it to [ga\\_english@clarku.edu](mailto:ga_english@clarku.edu) or to Professor [Meredith Neuman](#), Chair. Also, please remember to send us photos along with the text/post. We try to share photos with every post!

### THE NEXT CHAPTER BLOG POSTS

For more frequent content from the department, please check out the English Department Blog [The Next Chapter](#).

If you would be interested in being a guest writer for the blog and/or would like to be interviewed for an alumni profile, please contact us at [ga\\_english@clarku.edu](mailto:ga_english@clarku.edu).