

# *The English Times: Spring 2022*



## **Statement from Professor Neuman, Chair of the English Department**



### **"Homecoming, 2022 Edition"**

In October of 2018, the English department held a Homecoming event to celebrate 50 years in Anderson House. Alumni from across the decades and across the world came to celebrate. It was a wonderful occasion to reconnect and to return to a place that for so many of us feels like a kind of home, no matter how long we have been away.



Who could have guessed that—less than two years after that Homecoming—a global pandemic would so disrupt our access to this place and to so many places that we rely on as sites of our communities?

We have been resourceful and resilient. Perhaps I am biased, but it seems like Clarkies in particular have been absolutely remarkable in facing extraordinarily challenging circumstances that, just over two years in, still continue to evolve.

The class of 2020 graduated virtually, but we all hung out online and met a lot of proud families from all over the world. The class of 2021 was able to graduate in person under the bright sun on Dolan Field, and although we couldn't hold our regular reception yet, there were photo ops a plenty on the steps of Anderson House.



This year we have returned to in-person events again. With modifications. For Chowderfest last October, we ate under a big tent after a hybrid panel of alumae shared their professional journeys with a crowd of current undergrads. For Wassail in December, we circled round the fire pit outside of Goddard Library, keeping as warm as we could with hot chocolate, hot cider, and good cheer. And this May we will celebrate student accomplishments at our first outdoor Spring Fling, while taking a few whacks at a piñata for stress relief as we go into finals week! Happily, we will be in person for the 2022 commencement. We will even have an indoor/outdoor reception back at Anderson House to follow.



In fall of 2022, we plan to continue this careful return to in-person events. We are

planning a kickoff event in early fall to welcome new students and faculty, to reconnect with old friends, and to celebrate the many contributions and achievements of members of the English department. We think this will be a great way to launch a kind of year-long Homecoming. Beyond the joys of just being able to share a bowl of chowder or congratulate a classmate in person, there will be a return to some of those everyday interactions at Anderson House that are so foundational to the sense of the English department community. In fall 2022, expect to queue up for in-person office hours and enjoy those accidental conversations in hallways, look forward to grabbing a quick cup of coffee and some conversation in the lounge before class, and anticipate many more events—large and small, planned and impromptu—as we return to Anderson House in fall.

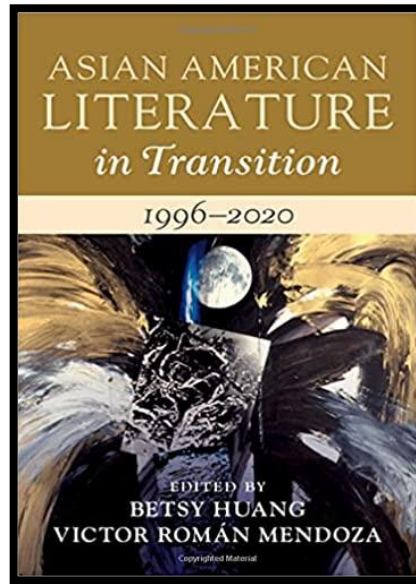
Have a great summer, everyone.

Welcome back. Welcome home.





## FACULTY NEWS



Please extend your congratulations to **Professor Betsy Huang**, who recently published *Asian American Literature in Transition: 1996-2020*, the last volume in a four-volume series. As noted in the preface, the series, "encompasses diverse literary traditions of the experiences of Asians in the Americas within the context of multiple historical, political, economic, and sociocultural forces."



On February 24, **Professor Nicolyn Woodcock** spoke on a virtual panel with the

University of Minnesota's Asian American Studies Program, titled: "Emerging Bites: New Directions in Asian American Food Studies." The presentation was adapted from their works-in-progress for the *Eating MORE* Asian American food studies reader (NYU press).

Lastly, with simultaneous joy and sadness, the English Department announces that **Nicolyn Woodcock** will be leaving to take up the position of **Assistant Professor of English at Medaille College in Buffalo, NY** starting in fall of 2022.

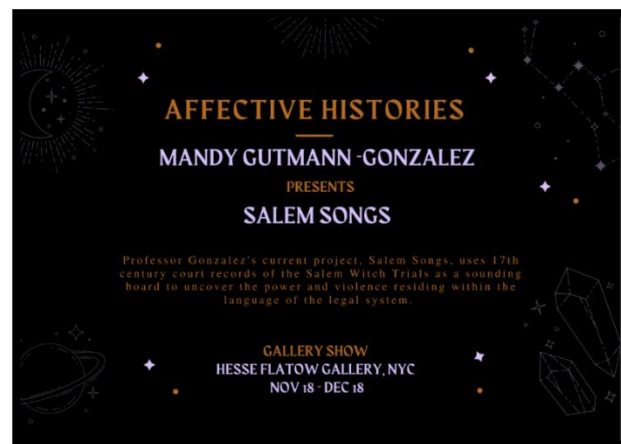


**Professor Justin Shaw** was recently awarded two fellowships for the Spring 2022 year. "I'll be participating in the new CU Advance Fellowship, which is supported by the Office of the Dean of the Faculty (Esther Jones), and is focused on peer

mentorship across the disciplines at Clark, professionalization, and research/writing support. I'll also be a member of the inaugural cohort of faculty fellows of the North Star Collective. Funded by the New England Board of Higher Ed, this new fellowship fosters research, collaboration, and peer mentorship across disciplines and 13 institutions for BIPOC junior faculty. I'm excited about both opportunities and look forward to meeting colleagues, to building good habits, to learning much about the professoriate, and to the work I'll be able to produce through these fellowships."

Professor Justin Shaw was also recently selected to participate in the Open Educational Resources for the Promotion of Academic Excellence, Equity, and College Affordability Project. "Through this project, we aim to increase awareness and adoption of OER by supporting you, as a member of a small cohort of Clark Faculty, in understanding, identifying, and adapting OER in undergraduate courses being taught during the Fall 2022 Semester. By participating in this project, you and your colleagues will support the dissemination of knowledge by contributing to the scholarship of teaching and learning around OERs, contributing to OER repositories, and sharing experiences through a panel presentation to the Clark community."

Additionally, Professor Shaw also spoke at the Harvard English Graduate Student Renaissance Colloquium on a paper titled "In Little Show": Anatomizing Melancholy and the Quintessence of Shakespeare".



**Professor Mandy Gutmann-Gonzalez's** project *Affective Histories* was on display at the Hesse Flatow Gallery in New York City from November 18<sup>th</sup> to December 18<sup>th</sup>. *Salem Songs* used 17<sup>th</sup> century court records of the Salem Witch Trials as a sounding board to uncover the power and violence residing within the language of the legal system.

Additionally, congratulations to Professor Mandy Gutmann-Gonzalez, who was recently appointed Associate Professor of Practice and will be joining the faculty full-time starting the fall of 2022!



**Clark University | February 2022**  
**Women In Horror Month Schedule**

**February 1 - February 28**  
Menstrual Hygiene Drive for Clark U & LIFT Worcester  
(in partner with MassPIRG)  
Drop off Location: Goddard Library 2nd floor next to the info desk

**February 2**  
Welcome to Women In Horror Month: Student Panel  
JC 218 | 2pm-4pm

**February 4**  
Screening: *The Love Witch*  
JF 218 | 7pm-10pm

**February 9**  
*Final Girl* Poetry Reading with Daphne Gattlieb  
Poetry Contest Results  
JC 218 | 2pm-4pm

**February 14**  
Bloody Valentines for Final Girls

**February 16**  
Women in Horror Art Show  
JC 218 | 2pm-4pm

**February 22**  
Women in Horror Character Dress Up Day

**February 25**  
Screening: *Jennifer's Body*  
JF 218 | 7pm-10pm

Instagram: @WHMClarkU

A graphic illustration on the right side of the poster. It shows a hand with a skeletal structure, colored in shades of red and white, holding a large, bloody knife. The background of the poster is a gradient from orange to red.

## Women in Horror Month

February marked the celebration of Women in Horror month, organized by **Professor Jackie Morrill**. The month was a huge success, featuring a menstrual hygiene drive, a poetry reading, film screenings, and more! Please read Monica



Sager's article from the Next Chapter [here](#) to learn more.



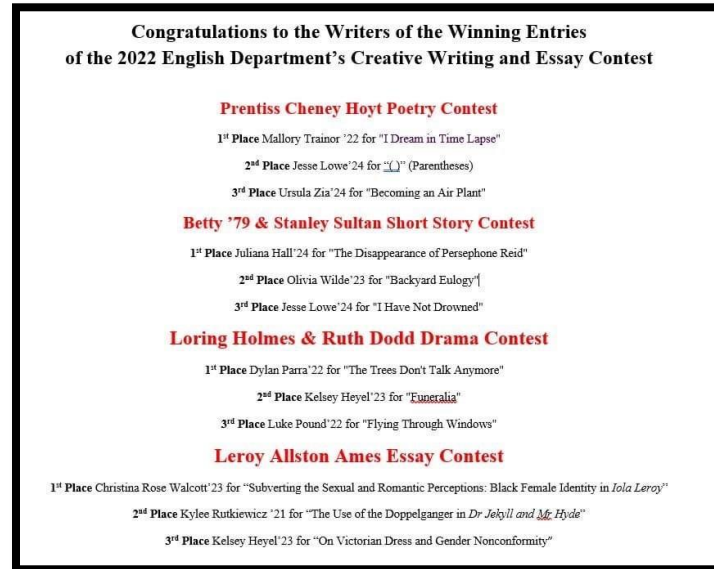
**Professor Elizabeth Blake** had an article republished in *The Mining Journal* over winter break about how Betty Crocker “represents a cultural ideal rather than an actual woman.” Linked [here](#) is her article.

### STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to exemplary seniors within the English Department: **Henley Ballou, Emily Dean, and Leah Brooks** whom all were nominated to Phi Beta Kappa!



Congratulations to **Alex Wells** on a successful defense of his MA thesis titled, "Peeling Back the Skin: An Analysis of Non-Human Characters in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and Quantic Dream's *Detroit: Become Human*."



Congratulations to the above students who were recognized in the Writing Contests!

From **Brett Iarrobino** (B.A.'21, M.A.'22): "At the end of March/beginning of April, I had the pleasure of attending the annual [International Convention](#) organized by [Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society](#)! As some of y'all already know, I've been working for Sigma Tau Delta's Board of Directors in a number of student leadership capacities since April 2020, when I first joined as a Student Representative for our region, before being promoted to voting Board member status as a Student Advisor in April 2021.

At the convention, I served as a staff member facilitating various student workshops and moderating paper presentations when necessary. Easily the most exciting part, however, was when I had the honor of introducing our first keynote speaker of the week, inaugural poet and author Richard Blanco! I was invited to prepare and provide a brief preface to Richard's work and ~set a tone~ for his speech, the reading of his work, and why he belonged at our weekend getaway of exploring and celebrating literature.

If you need a refresher or an intro on Richard Blanco and his work, he's an incredible Cuban American writer who delivered the inaugural poem, "One Today," at the 2012 inauguration of President Obama. He's an amazing artist whose work often traces the lived experiences of Latinx acculturation and queerness. He's also incredibly funny! When we spoke before our addresses, he thought fondly of the time he visited Clark. [Leir Chair Robert Tobin dug this old ClarkNow piece up](#) - Blanco's first memory of campus seems to be having to move across it to allow more space for his giant crowd, which this article corroborates!"

Update from **John Morano** ('92), a professor of Journalism at Monmouth University,

"I'm completing my 34th year at Monmouth University. I just stepped down as Faculty Adviser to the student newspaper (the paper won six *University Newspaper of the Year* National titles while I worked with them). I've also spent the last year and a half as *Special Projects Producer* and *Senior Writer* for Forrest Galante of *Animal Planet* and *Discovery*. This summer, my plan is to put pen to paper on the next installment of the Eco-Adventure Series, writing a new novel, *An Incomplete Forest*. This story will primarily be about wolves."

Congratulations to **Stephen C. Buckley** ('86), who is celebrating his 25th Anniversary this year as Executive Directory at MIT!

**Sheila Hones** (MA '79) has a publication that will be released on May 11: The New Critical Idiom volume on *Literary Geography*. It is linked [here](#). There's also a new book series at the University of Wales Press, *Literary Geography: Theory and Practice* (co-edited by Sheila Hones and James Thurgill). It is linked [here](#).

**Phil Lerman** ('76) recently hit the bestseller list: He co-authored "Woke Up This Morning: The Definitive Oral History of the Sopranos" with Sopranos actors Michael Imperioli (Christopher Moltisanti) and Steve Schirripa (Bobby Bacala). The book debuted at number six on the New York Times list in November. He has recently moved to New York City where he's working on another celebrity autobiography.

**Laura Barker** was recently promoted to Senior Technical Writer at TaskUs, where she oversees technical documentation for Waymo, Google's autonomous driving car division. There are also open positions for technical writers and senior technical writers at TaskUs. They are looking for people with strong writing

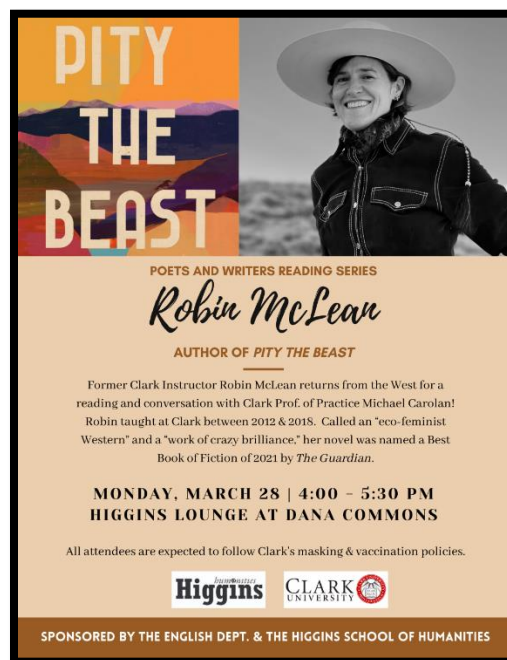
backgrounds who don't need to have technical writing experience. Recent grads can see all the jobs [here](#). Laura would be happy to talk to any students interested in learning more about technical writing.

**Barbara Mosberg Morrison** ('72) is the author of *Innocent: Confessions of a Welfare Mother*--praised by Hillary Rodham Clinton--and two poetry collections. A new audiobook of *Innocent* read by the author will be released in July 2022. For more information, see [www.bmorrison.com](http://www.bmorrison.com).

**“Darlene Ann Dobisch (Patterson)** B.A. Voice Performance and English Literature 1995, has been hired as a lecturer for Vocal Pedagogy and Voice Teaching at the Johannes Brahms Conservatory in Hamburg, Germany. She starts in April 2022 and will be responsible for building the program with a focus on Jazz Music. She has been a lecturer for business English and International Management and Communication at the University of Applied Sciences in Hamburg since 2013 and with her new position, will now be teaching at the college level in both her areas of expertise. She has Clark University’s Music and English departments to thank for being able to acquire the qualifications to teach in diverse settings.”

From **Atulya Chaganty** ('11): "I wrote up a little piece for a report titled "HX Report Aligning Our Tech Future With Our Human Experience" and it was actually published! Linked [here](#)

## DEPARTMENT NEWS & EVENTS






**Professor Michael Carolan** hosted a reading and conversation with Robin McLean, author of *Pity the Beast*, for the Poets and Writers Reading Series in the Higgins Lounge at Dana Commons on Monday, March 28th from 4:00-5:30 pm. The copies of Robin McLean's book were also sold at the campus store! The event was sponsored by the English department and the Higgins School of Humanities. You can read more about the event in the article written by Monica Sager for the Next Chapter [here](#).


*Poetic Prisons: Reading and Writing Ghazal  
with Daniel W.K. Lee*

In this session focused on the poetic form *ghazal* ("guzzle"), poet Daniel W.K. Lee will discuss what is most compelling and challenging about working within the boundaries of prescribed forms and what it means to mess up and mess with them.


Wednesday, April 13, 4:15-5:30pm  
via [Zoom](#) (Meeting ID: 939 9134 8630)



Daniel W. K. Lee is a third generation refugee who traces his ancestral roots/routes through China's Guangdong Province; Saigon, Vietnam; and Kuching, Malaysia as well as Chicago, New York, and Seattle. He now makes his home in New Orleans along with his dog Camden. Lee is the author of *Anatomy of Want* (2019) and his writing and poetry have also been widely published online and in print, including in the Lambda Literary Award-nominated anthology *Take Out: Queer Writing from Asian Pacific America* and the Lambda Literary Award-winning anthology *I Do/I Don't: Queers on Marriage*, among many others. For more, visit [danielwklee.com](http://danielwklee.com).



*This event is free and welcomes the Clark community and beyond.  
It is generously sponsored by the English department and the Higgins School of Humanities.*

CLARK UNIVERSITY  HIGGINS

**Professor Nicolyn Woodcock** hosted "Poetic Prisons: Reading and Writing Ghazal" with poet Daniel W.K. Lee on Wednesday April, 13, 4:15-5:30 pm via Zoom.

In this session focused on the poetic form ghazal ("guzzle"), Lee will read some of his poetry and discuss what is most compelling and challenging about working within the boundaries of prescribed forms—as well as what it means to mess up and mess with them.

Daniel W. K. Lee is a third-generation refugee who traces his ancestral roots/routes through China's Guangdong Province; Saigon, Vietnam; and Kuching, Malaysia as

well as Chicago, New York, and Seattle. He now makes his home in New Orleans along with his dog Camden. Lee is the author of *Anatomy of Want* (2019) and his writing and poetry have also been widely published online and in print, including in the Lambda Literary Award-nominated anthology *Take Out: Queer Writing from Asian Pacific America* and the Lambda Literary Award-winning anthology *I Do/I Don't: Queers on Marriage*, among many others. For more, visit [danielwkle.com](http://danielwkle.com).

### **THE NEXT CHAPTER BLOG POSTS**

Check out the English Department Blog [The Next Chapter](#)

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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. Drop us a line! We love to hear from you.