Cropper Creative Writing Contest Winners

At the Cropper Student Reading on April 25, 2019, the winners of the 2018-2019 Cropper Creative Writing Contest were announced! Winners were awarded in each category: fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, and will receive $125 each. Both winners and runners-up will receive publication in The Alcala Review’s Fall issue. The winners and runners-up are:

- Poetry Winner: Marisa Hanson
- Poetry Runner-up: McKenna Christian
- Fiction Winner: Leilee Ghassemi
- Fiction Runner-up: Hayden Witt

- Nonfiction Winner: Marisa Hanson
- Nonfiction Runner-up: Jake Sanborn

Pictured, left to right: Hayden Witt, Marisa Hanson, Jake Sanborn, and Leilee Ghassemi (not pictured: McKenna Christian)

Congratulations to all!! For more info: https://www.sandiego.edu/cas/english/creative-writing/cropper-creative-writing-contest.php, or contact Dr. Halina Duraj, Director for the Cropper Center for Creative Writing, at: hduraj@sandiego.edu.
A big “Thank You!” to Dr. Halina Duraj, Director of the Cropper Creative Writing Center! After six years, Halina Duraj, PhD, has announced that she will step down as the Director of the English Department's Lindsay J. Cropper Center for Creative Writing. Professor Brad Melekian will take over the role as of Fall 2019. Melekian has been deeply involved in the Cropper Center ever since he began teaching nonfiction writing and other courses for the English Department in 2008, and he was instrumental in helping the department develop a nonfiction writing track within the creative writing emphasis. Melekian will serve as director for two years; then Professor Malachi Black, our full-time poetry faculty member and advisor to the Alcalá Review, will serve for the following two years, after which the position will continue to rotate among full-time creative writing faculty members biennially. Duraj stated “With Melekian’s and Black’s leadership, I am excited for the future of creative writing at USD!”

Congratulations to all of our seniors graduating with the Creative Writing Emphasis in the English major, who read from their own works at our Cropper Creative Writing Student Reading on April 25, 2019!

The English Department's Creative Writing Emphasis (fiction, nonfiction and poetry) is comprised of four rigorous, upper-division creative writing courses in which students practice the dedication and commitment required of the serious writer. These courses hone critical reading, creative thinking, and writing and communication skills. Such skills are not only essential to the budding writer, but are also highly valued in all professional fields and are integral to the creation of a well-rounded graduate of a liberal arts college. More information on Creative Writing Emphasis: www.sandiego.edu/cas/english/program/creative-writing-emphasis.php.

Seniors who participated in the reading were (alphabetical order):

- Ashley Barraugh
- Joe Duffy
- Zach Bernstein
- Leilee Ghassemi
- Omar Jawdat
- Marisa Hanson
- Gurleen Kang
- Stephanie Meraz
- Nicole O’Farrill
- Hayden Witt

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“THE BEGINNING IS ALWAYS TODAY.”

—Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley
**English Dept Announcements**

**Alcalá Review Publishing Party**

The Alcalá Review celebrated the release of their latest issue on May 8, 2019. The event featured a reading by the English Department's own Prof. Alexis Jackson, and selections from the journal read by their authors. For more information please visit alcalareview.org.

Copies of the journal are available for purchase online at: alcalareview.org/subscribe.

“Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail.”

– Ralph Waldo Emerson
Poetry Collaboration with Kearny High School Biology Students

Thanks to a microgrant provided by USD’s SOLES E2E Incubator, *Alcala Review* staff members Oliver Thiel, Michayla Mabourakh, and Fiaza Qureshi, joined by Dr. Malachi Black, recently partnered with Kearny High School biology teacher Lesli Horowitz to help her students compose sonnets on endangered species for a book project entitled *Endangered Poetry*. With Dr. Black, AR staff visited Kearny High between the months of March and May to introduce the sonnet form and help Kearny students compose, revise, and finalize their contributions to the volume, which was in turn designed and produced by Ms. Horowitz in conjunction with the students of her Kearny graphic design class. The project was conceived by Ms. Horowitz and made possible by the E2E Incubator.

INST 450 Epicuriosity

Dr. Atreyee Phukan’s and Dr. Jonathan Bowman’s Spring 2019 INST 450 Epicuriosity: Cuisine, Culture, Community class snapped a class photo! English majors in the course included: Nicholas Cohn; Casey Huang; Kristen Jensen, Lauren Keller, and Bailey Phelps.

The course “on ‘Epicuriosity’ combines literary inquiry with communication theories to explore how habits and rituals surrounding food define cultural and communal identity.”

Sigma Tau Delta New Officers 2019-2020

Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, announced new officers for 2019-2020! They are:

- President: Mina De Guia
- Vice President: Jake Sanborn
- Secretary: Gurleen Kang
- Treasurer: Gabriel Rementeria

Congratulations to all!

For more information on Sigma Tau Delta, go to: [www.sandiego.edu/cas/english/resources/honor-society.php](http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/english/resources/honor-society.php).
English Dept Announcements

English Awards at Honors Convocation

Congrats to English majors Leilee Ghassemi and Kathryn Querner on their special awards in English, bestowed on them May 7, 2019, at Honors Convocation!

- **Leilee Ghassemi**: Literary Achievement Award
- **Kathryn Querner**: Scholastic Achievement Award

Congratulations, Leilee and Kathryn!

Sister Mary Hotz, Prof. Deborah Sundmacher, and Prof. Timothy Randell at Honors Convocation reception.

Writing Program Award at Honors Convocation

Congrats to Writing Center Coordinators Nina Montejano and Mary Powell on their special awards in the Writing Program, bestowed on them May 7, 2019, at Honors Convocation!

- **Nina Montejano**: Outstanding Contribution to the Writing Center
- **Mary Powell**: Outstanding Contribution to the Writing Center

Congratulations, Nina and Mary!!

—VINCENT VAN GOGH

“What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything?”

Bianca Canales, and Prof. Timothy Randell

Congrats to Bianca Canales for her Award for Distinguished Service to the Southeast San Diego Tutoring Program!
Welcome English Majors & Minors!

The English Department welcomes the following new English majors & minors:

- **Madison Vertson**, English major, Music minor

Welcome to the Department of English!

Writing Center’s Night Against Procrastination Photos

The Writing Center’s Night Against Procrastination was held on May 10, 2019. Thanks to all who stopped in! More WC information: [www.sandiego.edu/cas/writing/writing-center/](http://www.sandiego.edu/cas/writing/writing-center/).

“It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.”

—Harry S Truman
Student News

Join the Humanities Center Student Board 2019-2020

Apply online for the 2019-20 Humanities Center Student Board. We are looking for students who are interested in humanities and want to represent the voice of our diverse student body. Student board members will help conceive ideas for events, design student-led programs, voice student views about the Center, and work to attract prospective students to participate in the success of the center. Open to all undergraduate students regardless of major. For more info and to apply: https://www.sandiego.edu/cas/humanities-center/student-board.php.

Student Spotlight: Zach Bernstein

Zach Bernstein, Senior (English major with Creative Writing emphasis, and Philosophy minor) will be attending the New York State Summer Writers Institute at the Skidmore College campus in Saratoga Springs, New York, this summer for both sessions of poetry in July. His professors will be Campbell McGrath and Vijay Seshadri.

Zach also had two poems published in the Alcala Review and one poem being published in High Noon magazine.

Congratulations, Zach!

Hugo Werstler Grad Student Project

Hugo Werstler, (English, 2014) Writing Program Executive Assistant and graduate student of SOLES Master's Program in Higher Education Leadership, is participating in the Learning and Teaching Capstone Presentations on Thursday, May 16, 2019, 12:00-2:30pm in the Mother Rosalie Hill Hall lobby. As a first-year student in the Higher Education Leadership program, Hugo will be presenting his proposal for his research project that will take place over the next 2 years. Each year the students in the Department of Learning and Teaching present their culminating research studies. The goal of these presentations is for students to share what they have learned as novice educators. Candidates from the MEd Programs will present the findings from their Action Research or Case Study projects.

The purpose of Hugo’s Action Research project is to study the use of student collaboration in order to develop his abilities as an employee and emerging leader in higher education. Hugo will focus on his role within the Writing Center community, in order to help the organization transition into the new Student Learning Commons in Fall 2020.

Stop by SOLES during Thursday's dead-hours and cheer Hugo on!
Honors Program: 2019 Honors Colloquium

Congrats to our English majors who presented at the 2019 Honors Colloquium, the Honors Program’s presentation of its theses over May 4 & 5, 2019! Some of our English majors who presented are pictured here:

“**If you do not think about your future, you cannot have one.**”
—John Galsworthy
NEW Fall 2019! ENGL 244

This Fall, Dr. Black is offering a three-credit course dedicated to the broader literary and historical context surrounding *The Alcalá Review*, USD’s flagship literary journal. This lower-division course is aimed at students with a general or specific interest in literature, the arts, creative writing, and/or literary publishing, and it allows students to participate in the alternately expressive, scholarly, and practical work associated with the publication of *The Alcalá Review*. Activities in Dr. Black's ENGL 244 will include close reading exemplary poems, stories, and essays; taking related excursions through various aesthetic movements in literary history; creative writing and analytical peer critique; evaluating, generating, and editing potential journal submissions; event planning and promotion; creative performance; and print and web design. By pursuing these ends, this course hopes to enlarge undergraduate research activity at USD while equipping students with array of analytical, creative, and practical skills translatable both to future coursework and to the workplace.

For more info: malachiblack@sandiego.edu. CRN# 4421.

English Senior Project

Will you be a senior next year? Do you love research and enjoy writing? Would you like to spend an entire semester researching and writing about a topic that you care deeply about, and then present your work in a colloquium, and even have the opportunity to publish your work? Then register for the Senior Project course for fall 2019! (Senior Project, English 495, Fall 2019, Thursdays 6 to 8:50; instructor, Maura Giles-Watson.)

All current juniors should consider joining the Senior Project course for the fall of 2019. This course offers you the unique opportunity to undertake semester-long in-depth research on a new topic or to deepen your scholarly engagement with a topic you are interested in and about which you may even have written for another class. This course is highly recommended for all students, but especially for those of you considering graduate work or other employment in which critical reading, writing, research, and presentation are essential components.

At the Senior Project Conference on November 21, 2019, Senior Project participants will present a ten to fifteen minute snapshot of their independent research projects, on which they will continue to work until the end of term. Their completed projects will be approximately 25-30 pages in length and will be suitable for use as a writing sample for graduate school admissions or employment purposes. Students who wish to publish their senior projects will have the opportunity to do so via DigitalUSD (https://digital.sandiego.edu/), the university’s electronic publishing platform. Each Senior Project participant gets to choose her or his own topic and then each student develops an argument and theoretical approach in consultation with a faculty advisor, with the Senior Project instructor, and with fellow students during brainstorming and workshopping sessions.

A Senior Project informational meeting will be held during the spring term. In the meantime, for more information and a course prospectus contact the Senior Project instructor, Maura Giles-Watson (mgileswatson@sandiego.edu).
Intersession 2020: Shakespeare in London!

Take ENGL 240/420 Shakespeare in London, England this coming January Intersession 2020. See theater plays and take excursions to Stratford-upon-Avon (Shakespeare’s birthplace) and other London sights!

Enrollment in the Shakespeare course is limited to 15, so students should apply early; they need to apply by September 25, 2019 to be eligible for need-based scholarships.

More info: Dr. Maura Giles-Watson at mgileswatson@sandiego.edu, or www.sandiego.edu/international/study-abroad.

“WE KNOW WHAT WE ARE, BUT KNOW NOT WHAT WE MAY BE”

—William Shakespeare

Summer 2020 in Southern Italy!

Planning ahead…spend Summer 2020 in Italy with Professors Atreyee Phukan and Beth O’Shea! More info: phukana@sandiego.edu or bethoshea@sandiego.edu.
Student News

New: First Generation Student Association

The First-Generation Student Association’s (FGSA) mission is to establish a support system, provide services and workshops, foster a sense of community, and encourage pride for the First-Generation College Students at the University of San Diego. Alejandra Ramirez, along with Julia Heaton & Stella Kilfoy, are research assistants for the First-Generation College Student Action Team. Our goal is to promote the presence of the first-generation community at USD by starting a First-Generation Student Association. To join or find out more information, please email: aleramirez@sandiego.edu.

Summer 2020 in London!

Take ENGL/THEA 367: London Plays in Production with Dr. Cynthia Caywood and Dr. David Hay in Summer 2020 in London, England!

For more info, email ccaywood@sandiego.edu or dhay@sandiego.edu, or www.sandiego.edu/international/study-abroad/.

"All great achievements require time."
—Maya Angelou
Student Writing Opportunity

College Magazine seeks Student Writer. We’re seeking writers who are passionate about the college experience. College Magazine writers capture student life through weekly articles. The writing opportunity begins with a 7-week writer training to tackle active voice, show vs. tell, interviewing sources and more. Working closely with our editors, writers transform their writing skills and ultimately uncover their voice. Writers also learn social media and SEO tactics necessary for the real world of journalism.

The writer position is 10 hours a week. It’s a volunteer, intensive, and challenging writing experience. Our graduates have gone on to careers at Mashable, Vox, NBC, Seventeen Magazine, U.S. News & World Report, Redbook, National Geographic, Random House, Rachael Ray Magazine and Washingtonian. We welcome applicants from all majors. Previous writing experience for a college-level publication is a plus.

To apply, please send your resume to editorial@collegemagazine.com, with subject “College Magazine Student Writer” by the deadline May 30, 2019, 6 p.m. EST. *

William Faulkner-Wisdom Competition

Sponsored by The Pirate’s Alley Faulkner Society, Inc, a non-profit literary and educational organization, this competition includes eight categories and eight prizes! They are looking to find new, talented writers, and assist them with finding literary agents and publishers. The Novel/Book Fiction Prize is $7500, the Nonfiction Book Prize is $2000, the Novella, Short Story, and Novel-in-Progress prizes are $1500, the Essay and Poetry prizes are $1000, and the High School Student Prize is $750. There is something for everyone, so read more here: https://faulknersociety.org/william-faulkner-wisdom-competition/competition-guidelines/. Entry fee is $10-$200. The deadline is May 31, 2019. *

Alumni News

James Cho (English major with Creative Writing Emphasis, 2017) will begin attending law school at Boston University this Fall 2019.

Congratulations, James!

Dom Shank (English major with Creative Writing Emphasis, 2018) won a nonfiction fellowship to this summer’s Martha’s Vineyard Institute for Creative Writing. This fall, she’ll begin the Ph.D. program in English at U.C. Irvine.

Congratulations, Dom!

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English alumni: Send us your updates & photos! Please email to English@sandiego.edu.

“Summer afternoon, summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.”

--Henry James

*Disclaimer: Paid and unpaid internship or job opportunities, and other information posted here for informational purposes only. The postings do not constitute an endorsement by the University of San Diego of the opinions or activities of the internship, job opportunity or information posted.
Faculty News

Faculty Milestones

At the College of Arts and Sciences year-end celebration on May 10, 2019, faculty milestones were honored. In English they are:

- **Cynthia Caywood** is celebrating 35 years teaching at USD. Congrats, Cindy!
- **Malachi Black** is celebrating 5 years teaching at USD. Congrats, Malachi!

Employee Annual BBQ

All USD employees are invited to the annual Employee BBQ, to be held this year on Friday, June 7, 2019, on the Valley Field. USD’s “Day at the Beach BBQ—Summer Fun!” will immediately follow the President’s Forum that day. Look to your emails for your invite (emailed 5/9/19).

Employee Bingo

**Wed. June 12, 12:00–1:00 p.m., in Salomon Hall, Maher: Employee Bingo.**

All faculty, staff, & administrators welcome for a fun hour of bingo. Come for one game-card, or come for them all. Great USD swag to win!!

Founders Chapel Tour

The tour will be offered by Sr. Virginia Rodee, RSCJ on Tuesday, May 21, at 1 p.m. Please meet in the chapel foyer. You are invited to a guided tour of Founders Chapel, often called the "hidden jewel of USD". The chapel, begun in 1951 and completed in 1953, was designed by Mother Rosalie Hill and contains much history and treasured art. Bishop Charles F. Buddy dedicated the chapel on February 2, 1954. RSVP to office-formission@sandiego.edu.

Poem in *The Paris Review*


Congrats, Malachi! [www.theparisreview.org](http://www.theparisreview.org)

"And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer."

—*F. Scott Fitzgerald*

This is the last issue of the English Dept. Newsletter for the 2018-2019 academic year. Have a wonderful summer and we’ll see you in the Fall! And to our graduating seniors, congratulations and best wishes!! 😊