

# Department of English

## Congratulations to the Class of 2022!

Nicole Elizabeth Araujo \*\*\*  
Owen Barrett Bernsee  
Mikayla Jo Bourassa  
Hannah Elisabeth Cain  
Madison Springer Cropley \*\*\*  
Chloe Elizabeth Dearborn \*\*  
Madison Rose Ellingsworth \*\*\*  
Alyssa Rose English \*\*  
Abigail Whitney Foss \*\*  
Kyle Nicholas Frazier  
Julia Elisabeth Gay \*\*\*  
Samantha S. Halmos  
Kevin Gerard Hill  
Kailee Elizabeth Jellison  
Maverick Lynes \*  
Shelbea Ann Makela  
Ashleigh Joyce Miller  
Ryan J. Mullett  
Prudent Ndiokubwayo  
Nicole A. Niehoff  
Caleb James Robert Nottingham  
Alexander Lawrence Strout \*\*  
Reilly Anne Sullivan \*  
Stephanie Walsworth  
Courtney Paige Yount

\* Cum Laude \*\* Magna Cum Laude  
\*\*\* Summa Cum Laude



## Professor Eve Raimon Retires

After 27 years as a dedicated teacher and scholar, Professor Raimon has announced her retirement from the University of Southern Maine.

Professor Raimon started her career as a reporter in New York and Vermont. When she joined USM in 1995, she taught at Lewiston Auburn College and then joined the English Department in 2011. Professor Raimon's areas of teaching and research focus on African American literature and gender studies. Her 2007 collection, *Harriet Wilson's New England: Race Writing and Region*, edited with Barbara White and JerriAnne Boggis, was the first anthology devoted to author Harriet Wilson. Her book *The "Tragic Mulatta" Revisited: Race and Nationalism in Nineteenth-Century Antislavery Fiction* (2004) examines how the mixed-race enslaved woman was a vehicle for explorations of race and nation in the mid-nineteenth century. Recently, she has turned her attention to memoir writing and participated in the prestigious Macondo Workshop of socially-engaged writers in 2019.



Professor Raimon's courses, ranging from topics such as "Black Writing Matters," "Women Writing Across the Color Line," and "Slavery and Public History" to "Writing the War on Terror," were socially relevant and keyed to current events. Her students benefited from an innovative curriculum that engaged them in thinking about important issues of the day and taught them to become successful writers in multiple modalities and genres. During her tenure, she was an active member of the Women and Gender Studies Council and was awarded the Kathleen I. MacPherson Outstanding Feminist Faculty Award in 2017. She also worked closely with USM Special Collections and the Maine Humanities Council and served on the Faculty Senate in a role that upheld a commitment to shared governance. Her contributions to the English Department and to the life of the university will be greatly missed, but we wish her peace and joy as she pursues her current writing projects and moves on to her next adventures.

~ Lisa Walker, Associate Professor  
Department of English

## Return of the O'Brien Poetry Event



March 10<sup>th</sup> saw the return of the O'Brien Poetry Event with acclaimed poet Ada Limón. Because of the pandemic the reading was held virtually, however this allowed us to reach a larger audience of over 100 attendees. To watch the event, visit <https://tinyurl.com/bdzju57s>

Recently it was announced that Ms. Limón will become the 24<sup>th</sup> Poet Laureate of the United States. <https://www.loc.gov/programs/poetry-and-literature/poet-laureate/>

## Celebrate Writers



(L to R: Lea Smith, Chloe Dearborn, Megan Wyss, Gabe Stokes, Zachery Morin, Professor Ouellette, Professor Waldrep)

This year also saw the return of *Celebrate Writers*. Held on April 27, 2022, students from ENG 100 College Writing, ENG 102 Academic Writing, and ENG 301 Poetry Writing were honored for their writing. We also honored an outstanding writing tutor and students who completed a thesis for their creative writing minor.

## Faculty Fellows Workshop



Sitting: Casandra Dove, Daniel Panici, Back row: Lydia Savage, Carrie Kancilia, Bernadette Esposito, Erin Crowley-Champoux, Sarah Needleman, Kathryn Turner, Maureen Ebben, Nancy Gish, Jocelyn Armes, Jessica Ouellette, Richard Bilodeau, David Pierson, Ashley Towle, Amy Amoroso, Lisa Hibl, Judson Merrill

To support faculty in their teaching of the new core course, WR13, Writing in the Discipline, Director of Writing Programs, Assistant Professor Jessica Ouellette, coordinated a series of workshops over four days, June 6-9. Devoted to helping faculty enhance their teaching skills, workshops included “Writing for the Sciences,” “Writing What You Think: Revision as Analysis,” and “Grammar Glamour” and were presented by several USM faculty members.

## Betsy Sholl Receives Doctor of Humane Letters Degree at the May 2022 Commencement Ceremonies

Betsy Sholl is one of Maine’s most accomplished poets, publishing nine collections of poetry and three chapbooks. Her poetry has been widely anthologized and has appeared in *Field*, *Ploughshares*, *The Kenyon Review*, and *TriQuarterly*. From 2006 to 2011, Ms. Sholl served as Poet Laureate of Maine. Her latest book of poetry, *As If a Song Could Save You*, will be published by the University of Wisconsin Press in the fall of 2022.

Ms. Sholl taught as an assistant professor of poetry writing from 1982-2013. She not only regularly taught the Poetry Workshop but advised students as well. She was an invaluable resource for the Department of English in helping to launch and organize our prestigious O’Brien Poetry reading each fall. Her connections among poets throughout the country allowed USM to attract some of the leading poets to visit our campus.

Ms. Sholl was a founding member of Alice James Books, a nonprofit poetry-publishing house at the University of Maine, Farmington, meant to provide women with greater access to publishing. Throughout her time in Maine, she has received several poetry awards, including the 1991 Association of Writers and Writing Programs Award, the 2015 Maine Literary Award, and the Felix Pollak Prize, as well as fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Maine Arts Commission.

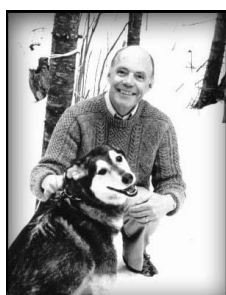


Photo by Janet Carper

## Thomas Carper (1936-2021)

Professor Tom Carper, an acclaimed poet, passed away on June 9, 2021. Professor Carper taught in the English Department for thirty years. He published four books of poetry, two with Johns Hopkins University Press, that were acknowledged as major works of New Formalist poetry. Simultaneous with his last book of poetry he published a book on prosody with Routledge. Professor Carper’s papers reside in the Special Collections of the Glickman Family Library on the Portland campus. He was 84 and lived in Cornish, ME with his wife, Janet.

<https://www.pressherald.com/2021/06/13/obituary-thomas-robson-carper/>

# Faculty Highlights

**Mr. Mike Bendzela's** prize-winning flash fiction, "Fertility: A Parable," from his book *Metazoan Variations*, was reprinted in *Two Sisters Writing & Publishing Annual Anthology for International Writers* in June 2022. A short story, "At Shelley's Window," has been accepted by Quillkeepers Press for inclusion in their Fall Equinox Anthology, *Harvest*, to be published in a few months.

**Dr. Alexander Champoux-Crowley** contributed to an article published in the *WPA: Writing Program Administration Journal*, "The Laborious Reality vs. the Imagined Ideal of Graduate Student Instructors of Writing."

**Professor Carrie Kancilia** presented at the James Joyce Symposium on June 15<sup>th</sup> at Trinity College Dublin on Joyce's gendered characterizations of aging. She also published a book review for a collection of essays edited by Jeremy Colangelo, *Joyce Writing Disability*, for the *James Joyce Literary Supplement* and presented at the PCA conference in June on aging tropes in HBO's *Succession*.

**Professor Jane Kuenz** contributed a chapter to the book *Life in Plastic: Artistic Responses to Petromodernity*, edited by Caren Irr, and published in 2021 by the University of Minnesota Press.



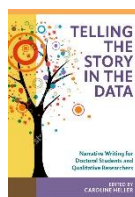
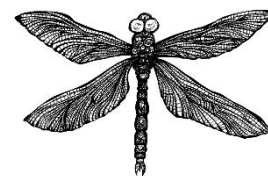
**Dr. Michelle Menting** presented at the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) biennial conference last August (held virtually). She recently had poems appear in *SWWIM*, *EcoTheo Review*, and *About Place* journals, and has fiction and nonfiction forthcoming in *Passages North*, *Cincinnati Review*, and *Allium Review*. She has been invited to return this summer as poet/artist-in-residence on Isle Royale National Park, an international biosphere reserve, where she will also serve as mentor for their teen artist program.

On August 13, 2021, **Professor John Muthyala** gave a lecture on "Digital Humanities: Writing and Designing Across the Curriculum" for the online Refresher Program organized by the Department of English Language Studies, University of Hyderabad (UoH), India.



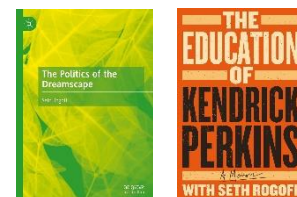
**Professor Jessica Ouellette** co-edited, with Katherine Fredlund and Kerri Hauman, *Feminist Connections: Rhetoric and Activism Across Time, Space, and Place*, published by the University of Alabama Press. Her co-edited collection received an honorable mention for the 2022 Winifred Bryan Horner Outstanding Book Award.

**Dr. Katherine Peters** has an essay, "Dragonfly Timing," along with her illustration, in the Spring 2022 Issue of *The Hopper*. <http://www.hoppermag.org/dragonfly-timing>



**Ms. Rebecca Redlon** contributed two chapters to the book, *Telling the Story in the Data: Narrative Writing for Doctoral Students and Qualitative Researchers*, being published by Teachers College Press this fall.

**Dr. Seth Rogoff's** book, *The Politics of the Dreamscapes*, was published in August 2021 by Palgrave MacMillan. He also has an article in the April 17, 2022 edition of *Vol. 1 Brooklyn* <https://tinyurl.com/3j5spvpq> and his forthcoming book (Spring 2023), *The Education of Kendrick Perkins: A Memoir*, is being published by St. Martin's Press.

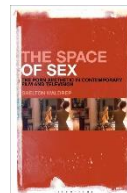


**Dr. Laima Sruginis'** article on the controversial postwar play, *Five Posts in a Market Place* by Lithuanian playwright Algirdas Landsbergis, was published in *The Journal of Baltic Studies*. <https://tinyurl.com/4dd9cbn6> She also took a collection of love letters written by the leader of the Lithuanian resistance, Juozas Lukša and his beloved, Nijolė Bražėnaitė, and edited them in the Lithuanian language. The book was published by the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore in Lithuanian as *Apie anuos nepamirštamus laikus: Juozo*



*Lukšos-Daumanto ir Nijolės Bražėnaitės Susirašinėjimas (About Those Unforgettable Times: The Correspondance of Juozas Lukša-Daumantas and Nijolė Bražėnaitė).*

Professor Shelton Waldrep's book, *The Space of Sex: The Porn Aesthetic in Contemporary Film and Television*, was published by Bloomsbury in 2021.



## 2022 Scholarship Winners

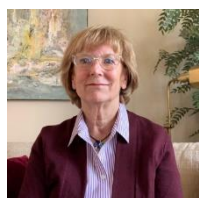
Molly Burne – English Department Scholarship  
 Josie Libby – C. Elizabeth Sawyer Scholarship  
 Ashley Lord – The Christopher Gelineau '04 and Lavinia Gelineau '04 Scholarship  
 Anna Parker – USM Classics Scholarship

*Congratulations to this year's winners!!*

### DEAN'S LIST Fall 2021

Nicole Araujo	Abby Foss	Maverick Lynes	Nex Staples
Willow Beavis	Alex Fraktman	Riley Mayes	Liliana Stewart
Cammie Breuer	Sydney Franks	Erin McKay	Reilly Sullivan
Tyler Byther	Julia Gay	Ryzen Mickeriz	Jessica Sutherland
Samantha Cote	Brinn Hall	Prudent Ndiokubwayo	Gretchen Thiele
Maddy Cropley	Samantha Halmos	Maggie Norris	Madi Vachon
Chloe Dearborn	Kevin Hill	Gwen Randall	Mary Wallace
Ricky Drouin	Lexy Latreille	Natalie Rogers	Kami Wert
Maddie Ellingsworth	Ashley Lord	Lea Smith	Lily Wilson

## Alumni Corner



Albert Einstein once said that the value of a liberal arts education is not the “learning of many facts but the training of the mind to think...” USM alumna **Janet O'Toole (1974)** is a fine testament to this philosophy.

As a freshly minted graduate with a BA in English, Janet began searching for job opportunities in the newspaper. To read the rest of Janet's story, visit <https://tinyurl.com/362syby>



**Prudent Ndiokubwayo (2022)** spent years sweeping up the notes and wrappers left behind in classrooms at USM. All the while, he couldn't wait to get his protective hands around the one precious piece of paper he worked so hard to earn—his diploma. He graduated on Saturday, May 7, with a bachelor's degree in English, which is even more remarkable considering he could barely speak English about 10 years ago. To read the rest of Prudent's story, visit <https://tinyurl.com/2fjx6n6y>

Congratulations to our students who are going on to graduate school:

- Nat Baldwin (2018), Wesleyan University, MA in Music
- Clyde Carey (2021), Columbia University, MFA in Creative Writing
- Rebekka Joensen (2021), Fordham University, Master of Studies in Law
- Alex Strout (2022), University of Maine, Orono, MA in English

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If you have tips or updates about your career or personal milestones, please send them to Pam LaRiviere at [harjula@maine.edu](mailto:harjula@maine.edu).