

**READ  
MORE!**

# *The Post*



**FORT HAYS STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
AND MODERN LANGUAGES

# 2025



**Write  
Better!**



Photo by Bob Duffy  
Photo background added by Andy Tinknell

## Message from the Managing Editor

I had the pleasure of working with another fun and talented editorial team from my spring 2025 Professional Editing class, as evidenced by their “awkward photos” and the “scrapbook” design theme they selected. I’m impressed by their creativity and InDesign skills (with not much prior experience) – and I hope you will be impressed as well. Many thanks to student design editor Perla Zamorano, whose keen eye and willing, helpful spirit were a gift to this managing editor, the other contributing editors and this publication.

—Dr. Cheryl Hofstetter Duffy

## Editorial Team

Back row, l to r: Elizabeth Clingan, Dr. Cheryl Duffy, Perla Zamorano.

Front row, l to r: Olivia McGillivray, Adia Reynolds, Audrey Ball.

**Managing Editor:** Dr. Cheryl Hofstetter Duffy

**Design Editor:** Perla Zamorano

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Fort Hays State University is a regional comprehensive public university serving more than 16,500 students on campus, online, and via a global network of international partner campuses. FHSU’s innovative academic and co-curricular programs push the boundaries of knowledge and drive solutions that serve the public good. The caring community of teacher-scholars and education professionals that are the hallmarks of the FHSU experience provide an accessible and quality education that shapes the engaged global citizen-leaders of tomorrow. Academic excellence, affordability, and extensive student support services make FHSU the best value in higher education anywhere.

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# Comic LOVERS UNITE

**What do a dinosaur necklace, a webcomic and a fellowship with the Library of Congress all have in common? All belong to Dr. Allison Bannister, a new faculty member in the department!**

Since coming to Fort Hays State University in fall 2024, Dr. Allison Bannister has been an active member of the English and Modern Languages Department. She has wasted no time in getting comfortable with the department's activities and finding herself and her teaching style in the classroom.

Before coming to FHSU, Bannister had spent two years in a postdoc, teaching in the Writing Program at Northeastern University. She mainly taught first-year writing, but she also got to dabble in the arts, media and design side of writing.

"When I was starting on my dissertation, I applied for a Swann Foundation Library of Congress fellowship. That fellowship was incredible, and I got to see some pretty exciting comics. They have a fabulous collection of comics, some as old as the late 1800s, but their collection is primarily 1950-1970," Bannister says.

Bannister's Ph.D. and master's degree focused on cartoon studies, and her bachelor's degree focused on interdisciplinary studies.

She's interested in how we look at words across different disciplines. "On a stage, in illustrations, in texts," Bannister enthuses. "English, theater, art and communication were the fields in my bachelor's."

The study of cartoons is where Bannister thrives. She hopes to teach a graphic novel class and, eventually, a course about Graphic Medicine.

"It's a branch of comic studies that is really interested in patient narratives that focus on health," Bannister says. "There's a whole branch out there for this comic type. Scholarship, graphic narratives, autobiographical opportunities — it's an interesting crossover between the humanities and nursing or other health areas that look at how we connect with patients and see health in the body."

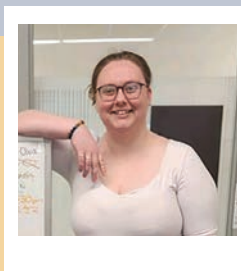
Bannister's innovative take on the classroom will enrich the department for all students. First-year students are in good hands, and students further in the program have much to look forward to.

To read Bannister's personal webcomic, visit her website at <https://basicletepathy.com>.



## About the Writer

Olivia McGillivray is a senior in the writing concentration. She loves creative writing and can often be found talking about books. She will be a fiction editor after graduating.





# What's **NEW** in the department?

We've seen a department merger, faculty changes and the online availability of the English M.A. Still, the Department of English and Modern Languages continues to change.

Take a look at what else is new.

## **Need for Speed: Accelerated English M.A. Program**

In fall 2022, the department began offering select students in their junior year of their English undergraduate degree the opportunity to get a head start on their English M.A.

The accelerated program allows undergraduate students to complete six to nine graduate credit hours of 600-level electives during their senior year for dual credit. Faculty can nominate exceptional students, or students can express an interest in the program.

Prospective accelerated M.A. students are held to the same admission requirements as traditional students: a 3.0 GPA, two letters of recommendation and a personal statement.

The main benefit is that the accelerated program “shortens the M.A. to a year very easily if you double duty the courses,” says Dr. Eric Leuschner, Chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages.

Leah Ayers, an accelerated M.A. student and recent B.A. graduate, recommends the program. Ayers is starting a teaching position at Prairie Hills Middle School in Hutchinson, Kansas. She will continue working on her M.A. as she begins her teaching career. “Even if you don’t finish your master’s, just getting the credits in is helpful,” says Ayers, who received a bump in her starting salary for having graduate credit hours completed.

## **FHSU's Writing Center and the Three Affiliates**

Within the past three years, FHSU has become affiliated with three schools: FHSU Tech Northwest in Goodland, Kansas; FHSU Tech North Central in Hays, Kansas; and FHSU Tech Northeast in Beloit, Kansas. Affiliate schools have access to various services offered by FHSU: on-campus housing, library resources and the Writing Center. This access has prompted “increased traffic from our Goodland affiliate,” says Lisa Bell, Writing Center Director.

As the affiliation is still new, however, the increase in student numbers has not been difficult to handle. “Students in Goodland are using our online appointment system, which integrates with Zoom, so we can see and talk to them about their writing fairly easily,” says Bell.

Bell has been in contact with the affiliates to promote the Writing Center’s services. In particular, she has been discussing the change with an FHSU alum, Tanner Callis, who teaches composition at the Goodland affiliate school.

The biggest challenge the Writing Center has faced with FHSU Tech Northwest is navigating the time change, as Goodland is on Mountain time, whereas FHSU is on Central time.



Leah Ayers

## Sound Familiar?



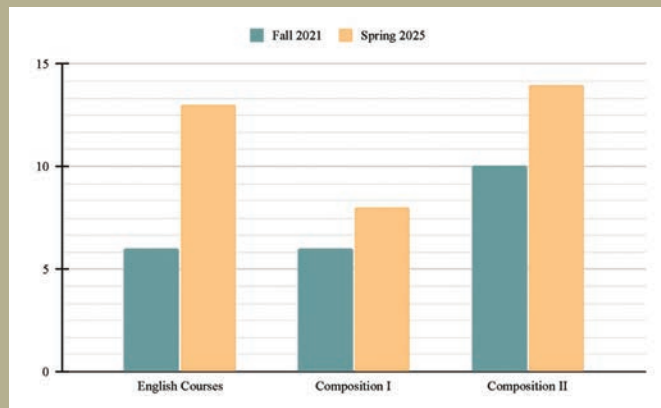
You might recognize Tanner Callis from his articles “Submission Received!” and “The Foundry Lounge” in the fall 2021 edition of The Post. Tanner graduated from FHSU with his English M.A. in spring 2023. Soon after, he was hired by Fort Hays Tech Northwest, where he just finished his second year teaching. Other than teaching, Tanner keeps up with the publishing world, reads literary classics and continues to play in the Hays Symphony, which he’s been with for 10 years.

## Into the Digital Age: Shift Toward Online Courses

The department has offered basic composition courses online for years, but an entire English degree has been completely available online only since 2023. “A student could have entered in ’23 and could complete the literature and teaching degree in fall 2025,” says Leuschner.

The writing concentration is currently not available online due to staffing and difficulties adapting specific courses for online delivery. The department, however, is working toward it.

Despite the increasing number of classes being offered online, not all professors in the department offer online courses. “I’m not forcing anybody to teach online,” says Leuschner. “Most faculty are willing to, and do, teach online,” but the main criterion is “willingness,” Leuschner explains.



Number of Online Courses

Dr. Perry Harrison, linguistics professor and Director of Graduate Studies, initially did not believe that online learning could offer the same “value and experience” as in-person learning. He has since realized that “online learning and in-person learning are such different organisms that saying one is superior to the other doesn’t work.” Harrison credits a multi-module course structure, Zoom recordings and the whiteboard feature on Zoom with making the online learning experience more positive.



## About the Writer

Audrey Ball is an English (Writing) major working on a minor in Communications. She is also pursuing a Grant Writing certificate. She enjoys crochet, time with friends and hairless cats.

# “Let my pen write veins on paper ...”

## FHSU’s incumbent poet laureate: Eileen Veatch

Eileen Veatch is many things: an undergraduate studying English with a writing concentration, a motorcyclist and FHSU’s current poet laureate. The role of poet laureate is one she was only recently appointed to with the graduation of the prior position-holder, Liam Brown. But her life has been defined by verse and rhythm. Between the lines of poetry lie her lived experiences eloquently repackaged into stanzas.

Veatch has published one collection of poetry thus far, entitled *3am Notes*, with the hopes of pursuing further publication through traditional routes later down the road. For now, she works alongside faculty such as Morgan Chalfant and Linda McHenry to bring to life her vision of all that poetry can mean in her community. Veatch’s work proves that poetry is more than something to be studied in the rigidity of the classroom. Poetry can be the voice of a generation, and Veatch stands at the center stage of this cultural open mic.

As FHSU’s poet laureate, Veatch functions as a representative, resident artist and outreach coordinator. Veatch has a broad scope in mind for her tenure as poet laureate.

“My goal is to do online events to reach people outside of Kansas,” Veatch says.

While Hays has an active poetry subculture, Veatch is more ambitious than mere underground currents. She imagines and details large-scale poetry-themed events. Prior poet laureates hosted events such as “black-out poetry,” where novices took pages of unused books and blotted out all but a few words with a black marker, resulting in a brand new poem.

These dreams are as exciting as they are nerve-wracking. For Veatch, the most difficult part of being the poet laureate is “trying to come up with events, and trying not to be disappointed. I want large events, but I can’t let myself get discouraged if there is a low turnout.”

The poetic pulse of Hays is alive and beating, but Veatch wants more than anything to strengthen it into a resounding aspect of our community. Until then, she said she will be working with Morgan Chalfant to publish her next book.

*3am Notes* is an apt title for Veatch’s first published poetry collection, as Veatch’s journey began on a sleepless night five years ago. From “a girl who is a little too sad and loves the moon a little too much” comes a poignant translation of her inner thoughts transposed to paper. Her works touch upon topics such as love, emotional strife and life through the lens of girlhood.

In putting pen to paper, she found a creative outlet and a talent that would pave the way for where she is today.

Insomnia drove her to pick up the pen, but the thrill of challenges and contests spurred her forward. It was one such challenge that earned Veatch her first book publication.

“Let my pen write veins on paper,  
and let my heart beat out blood.  
I’m gutting myself with this pen.  
Could you like me for me?”

“My Therapy Is Your Therapy” by Eileen Veatch



Scan to listen to a reading  
of Veatch’s Poetry

Veatch, above all else, works to promote poetry and poets as a whole. She advises any fledgling poets with the hopes of spreading their wings to tap into the variety of opportunities Hays offers. The Hays Public Library hosts an annual contest, and the Art Walk occasionally displays poetry alongside other creative expressions.

Inspired by the likes of Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman, Veatch also hopes to inspire poets today.

Hays—and Kansas at large—is alive with the creative heartbeat of writers, thrumming just beneath the surface. Poetry is just as relevant as ever, and Eileen Veatch works as the FHSU poet laureate to exhume that beating heart, drawing it out from the dark of insomnia-ridden nights and into the light to be appreciated for the art that it is.

“Poetry doesn’t have to be as strict as school teaches it. It can be whatever you want it to be,” Veatch says. “Just. Write. Don’t worry about what others think about it, just write.”



Eileen Veatch

“So, I let myself close my eyes and  
Mourn for the person I should have been.  
I screamed with the thunder.  
The kind of scream that makes your  
Gut squeeze and hands clench.  
Suddenly, July days turned to October nights.”

“The Song of October” by Eileen Veatch



That’s me!

#### About the Writer

Adia Reynolds is an English major with a writing concentration who has been published fifteen times for her short stories and poems, and hopes to eventually publish the novels that sit in her head all day. When she is not writing, she thinks about writing.



# Still growing

## Spanish Club FHSU gains 7 times previous membership

by Audrey Ball



Spanish Club FHSU survived for over two years with just three in-person members. During the 2024-25 school year, however, membership increased sevenfold.

In spring 2023, Spanish Club FHSU had only enough in-person members to fill three officer positions: president, vice president and treasurer. The club now has eight in-person members alongside 13 online members, whom club officers welcome.

The club has hosted events for at least the past 18 years to celebrate Hispanic culture and Spanish language with the community, regardless of participants' culture.

Educational opportunities through the club include online and

in-person Spanish language tutoring and a monthly Tertulia – an informal gathering for participants of all skill levels to practice their Spanish skills over games and desserts. The tutoring has been offered since October 2022 thanks to Madison Stanton, Spanish Club President since July 2022. “I love helping people understand Spanish and get familiar with Hispanic Culture,” says Stanton, a Spanish tutor for the club.



Tertulia - May 2025

For those more skillfully inclined, Spanish Club FHSU hosts an annual talent show and weekly Hispanic dance lessons on campus and over Zoom. The club co-sponsors the lessons, which have been held with the department since 2008.

Despite previously low membership, the club, regardless of size, has always dedicated itself to celebrating Hispanic culture with students and the wider community. Spanish Club FHSU hopes to add more tutors eventually and continue to grow.

For more information about Spanish Club FHSU, their many events and activities, and ways to get involved, scan the QR code or use this link: <https://www.facebook.com/SpanishClubFHSU>.

## Fighting Censorship

### FHSU English professors recommend their favorite banned book

by Elizabeth Clingan

#### To Kill a Mockingbird

“This book is a must-read because of its insightful treatment of race and class in America. This is a book to be relished by readers of all ages.”

-Dr. Cheryl Duffy

#### The Handmaid's Tale

“The novel is about the political control created by fear, violence, misinformation, censorship and the repression of speech and literacy. It is a story about the importance of freedom of expression.”

-Dr. Sharla Hutchison

#### The Perks of Being a Wallflower

“This book is fantastic because it speaks to adolescents (especially those in high school), and it addresses organic thoughts and feelings that are not always openly discussed.”

-Dr. Amanda Stinemetz

#### Charlotte's Web

“For generations, this book has been a family staple to introduce children to important themes such as fairness, equity, problem-solving, risk management and most of all the idea that love and friendship can come in many different forms.”

-Linda Smith

#### Fahrenheit 451

“Bradbury uses the irony of the book-burning firemen to get at the suppression of thought that is the real danger to society; the books are only a symptom. It's also a hopeful book in a way, though, since the human drive for thought and connection persists, even in the dystopian world he draws.”

-Dr. Lexey Bartlett

#### The Catcher in the Rye

“The novel reveals the truth about what it means to not know who you are and be brave enough to attempt to answer that question, knowing you will almost certainly fail.”

-Dr. Brett Weaver





## FHSU Alumna Spotlight: Erica Meneses-Corona

From overcoming language barriers to guiding at-risk students, Erica Meneses-Corona's journey showcases the resilience and power a diverse education can provide. She is a 2017 Fort Hays State University alumna with a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish. "Taking modern languages courses helped me out of my comfort zone," she says. Her passion for helping others is evident as she reflects, "I love helping students and feel like I am a compassionate and caring person." Her passion has also translated into her professional roles.

Meneses-Corona worked as the multicultural admissions counselor at FHSU for almost two years. She collaborated with the Hispanic College Institute, held every summer, and hosted numerous Spanish-speaking orientation sessions for parents of the Access to Academic Opportunity Grant students. She later taught English in China for six months before the COVID-19 pandemic. After returning to the U.S., she took a break and, in 2023, earned a master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs from FHSU. Before her current role as Assistant Director of Retention, Persistence, and Multicultural Engagement, Meneses-Corona served as Interim Coordinator for Student Engagement at FHSU. She also completed internships at the Rhode Island School of Design and Walt Disney World.

As the Assistant Director of Retention, Persistence, and Multicultural Engagement, Meneses-Corona helps retain students at risk of failing. Meneses-Corona and her director contact these students and connect them with various support services from FHSU such as tutoring, counseling, the Writing Center and opportunities to get involved on campus to help ensure their success.

And, clearly, this alum knows how to achieve success!



### About the Writer

Perla Zamorano is a junior majoring in Public Relations and Advertising. She is also pursuing Spanish and English minors. Perla enjoys reading, cooking, traveling and art.



# Isaiah Russell:

## The Man, The Myth, The Student Representative of Sigma Tau Delta

by Olivia McGillivray

Being a student representative and a chapter president involves a great number of responsibilities, and Isaiah Russell is making the most of his time with Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society.

Fort Hays State University has long had an active chapter of Sigma Tau Delta. In 2024, Dr. Lexey Bartlett, associate professor of English, became President of Sigma Tau Delta International (See *The Post*, 2024). That same year, when Sigma Tau Delta International's board selected the regional representatives, Isaiah Russell became the High Plains Student Representative. Russell was a junior in the English program at the time of his appointment. He was in the writing concentration and was president of the chapter.

Russell had attended an informational session hosted by Sigma Tau Delta that explained how to become a student representative. "I thought it was a good opportunity, since going to the convention and being able to participate in all of these events as a normal attendee was so fun, but I also thought it would be fun to give back in some way," Russell says. "I did not want to just show up and leave, but to be able to participate on a more organizational level."

Some of his responsibilities, Russell explains, are year-round, but there is also a divide between the expectations. "There's a pre-convention and post-convention part of the role." After the previous year's convention, when representatives are just starting, the position is all about writing blog posts, taking over regional social media accounts, getting introduced to working in

the organization and hosting the regional conferences. Around winter, the role transitions into pre-convention work. "Through the months leading up to the convention, the position is about promoting certain things and trying to get people involved through Sigma Tau Delta's social media outlets," Russell summarizes. "Hyping people up, basically."

At the convention, he hosted the trivia night and mentored presenters for Research in the Round to make sure they were ready for the conference—specifically with their visual aids and presentations. He also introduced a featured speaker.

As the chapter president, Russell hosted a day trip to Red Cloud, Nebraska, to visit the childhood home of Willa Cather, the spotlight author for the conference. "It was a grand old time," Russell declares.

Russell won a prestigious award at the conference, his second since joining the chapter. He won 3rd place in the British Literature category in 2024 and 1st place in the same competitive category in 2025.

Thanks in part to Russell's efforts as a student representative, the 2025 Sigma Tau Delta Convention in Pittsburgh, Penn-

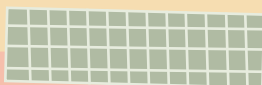
sylvania, was a success. Enjoying that success were FHSU students Audrey Ball, Elizabeth Clingan, Olivia McGillivray, Taylor Province, CJ Gibson and Isaiah Russell, all of whom presented scholarly or creative works. They were joined at the conference by co-sponsors Lexey Bartlett and Lisa Bell, as well as student Elio Dixon-Phillips.



# Check, check — Is this thing on?

## ***FHSU steps up to the mic as new regional coordinator for Poetry Out Loud***

by Adia Reynolds



Most high schoolers' first thoughts on how to spend their time outside of school is not "let's go recite poetry!" But Poetry Out Loud has stoked the flame of poetic passion in America's youth for the last twenty years. Established by the Poetry Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, Poetry Out Loud is an annual competition in which high school students nationwide memorize and perform poems in hopes of winning scholarships and other prizes. The state winner receives \$200 to keep, as well as \$500 in educational materials for their school.

Dr. Eric Leuschner, chair of FHSU's English and Modern Languages Department, says that "this year, we're going to start reaching out to high schools in the region by connecting through our alumni and through the curriculum of ENG 415: Techniques of Teaching English. Then those graduates can take the ideas and themes of Poetry Out Loud into the classroom."

Though this was not FHSU's first ever involvement with Poetry Out Loud, it was the first year volunteering as the regional host and judge. In 2024, only one student represented the Northwest and North Central counties of Kansas for Poetry Out Loud. While this means that they automatically progressed to further rounds, Leuschner points out that the minimal interest is due more to a lack of educational resources than to a lack of population size.

"It's an important skill — being lively on the mic as well as being able to interpret literature," Leuschner says.

"Poetry matters, and we want to get it out there so that it can shape lives."

**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS  
AND POETRY FOUNDATION PRESENT**

**POETRY  
OUT LOUD  
20 YEARS**





# In the world of literary writing

## Chalfant and Harrison Publish

What do dark fiction and books bound in human skin have to do with FHSU English professors? Morgan Chalfant and Dr. Perry Harrison can tell you. While professors are primarily associated with academic publications, Chalfant and Harrison have both found great success in the world of literary publishing.

Chalfant's achievements include 70+ published books, short stories and poems, and he was part of an anthology that was recently turned into an audiobook. Harrison has seen the fruit of his recent dive into fiction through the publication of three short stories, with five additional stories accepted for future publication.

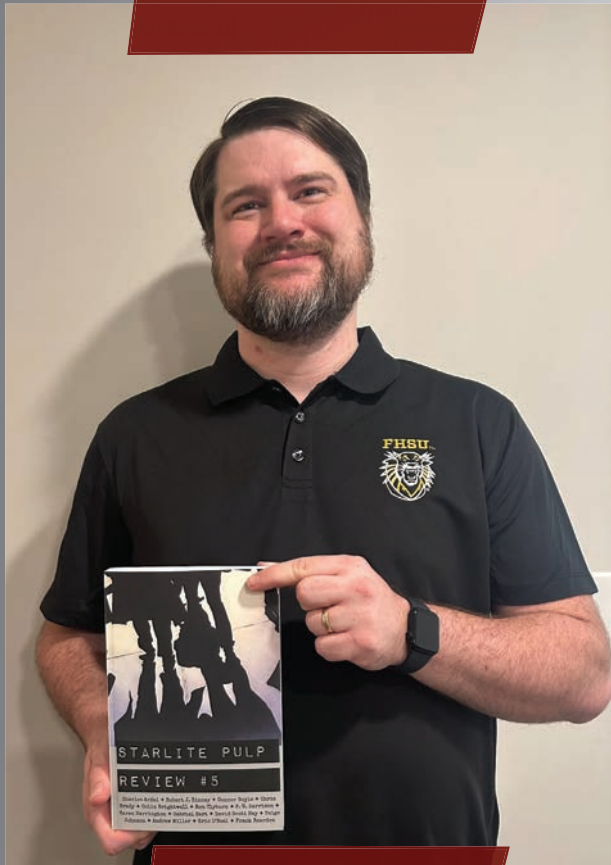
Chalfant's recent publication of "D'rix" – which can be found in *Wreckollections: Invasive Ideas of a Nightmare* – means a great deal to him. Not only did the publishers truly understand his story, but a friend of his also mentioned that the story did not sound like Chalfant. "That's the best compliment I've ever gotten," Chalfant says. "The reason it didn't [sound like me] was because it was the one time I wasn't worrying about censoring myself."

He has recently found motivation by writing stories with a reoccurring character. This character is featured in "D'rix" and has been featured in six other short stories Chalfant has written. His focus is currently set on publishing a short story collection involving both his previously published stories and several new ones, as well as finding a publisher for a novel he has written.



An encouragement for Chalfant has been his Writing for Publication class. The students' excitement for creative writing has fed into Chalfant's own excitement. "That helps, too, to see other people in an environment like that not just be critical but be excited about writing, because it's a lonely art," he says.

With his students, Chalfant emphasizes the importance of meeting deadlines, finding a personal space to write and not getting too comfortable in their writing. "Once you feel comfortable doing whatever you're doing, that is the moment you need to find some other avenue. That's where creativity lies – it's what you don't expect." He also encourages students to consistently send off their work.



Dr. Perry Harrison

Harrison, who audited Chalfant's Writing for Publication class for the 2025 spring semester, says that he learned much from the class and that the deadlines held him accountable in his own writing.

"I've achieved a lifelong goal in my professional career. It was about time I started feeding my creative side, and so I began to write fiction again," he says.

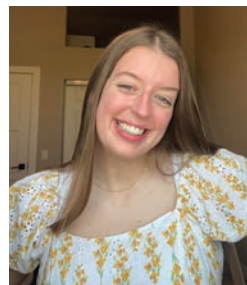
Harrison's first literary publication, a horror story published in *Starlight Pulp Review*, delves into the lives of the people whose skin was used to bind books. He currently has eight short stories out for consideration and has

several other stories in the early stages of production. The experience Harrison has gained through fiction writing has benefited both his scholarship and his teaching. "I was burnt out a fair bit in my academic writing, and publishing fiction has rejuvenated my interest in doing academic writing," Harrison says. "Being able to talk about writing habits and the writing process has added an entirely new perspective to my teaching since I've started writing fiction."

Harrison has been encouraged by working alongside Chalfant, receiving honest feedback from friends and family, and communicating with other writers. He urges aspiring writers to focus on how they can control their own writing. "Keep learning, keep working, keep revising, keep sitting down at the keyboard every day to put something down on the screen."

Harrison's most recent publication, "The Echo in the Altar," a Vietnam-era story derived from stories Harrison heard from his Vietnam veteran father, became available in April of 2025.

We look forward to many more literary publications from these two professors who excel in both teaching writing and producing it.



### About the Writer

Elizabeth Clingan is a senior majoring in English Writing. After graduation, she plans on earning her M.A. in English with the hopes of becoming a book editor someday.

# From the Midwest to Manhattan

## *FHSU course brings literature to life in New York City*

by Perla Zamorano

“Flood-tide below me! I see you face to face! Clouds of the west—sun there half an hour high—I see you also face to face,” reads Dr. Smalley from Walt Whitman’s “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry” while on the Brooklyn Bridge. Elizabeth Leck recalls this as one of her favorite memories from a trip to New York City with Fort Hays State University.

The trip was part of the course titled *I Too Walk’d the Streets of Manhattan: The History and Literature of New York City*, taught by Dr. Kim Perez, History, and Dr. Matthew Smalley, English. From April 3 – 8, 2024, 11 students, Smalley and senior administrative assistant Amy Richecky explored the city that never sleeps.

The course delved into New York’s rich history, from Dutch colonies to the Native American tribes of the area, to its way of functioning as a portal for people to enter the United States. “Stories and lives circulate within Manhattan,” Smalley explains. “Literary awareness of the texts studied in this course also allows students to sense something like ‘ghosts’ of characters or authors.”

The tour allowed students to experience the city firsthand. “It’s easy to paint the city as this dangerous, terrifying place,” says Smalley, “but it is also a place of energy and opportunity.”

This resonated with Leck, who had spent her entire life in the Midwest. Going to a big city was “terrifying,” she admits. “But I was also excited because it was a good group of students and professors, and as soon as we started learning, I thought, ‘This class is going to be super cool.’”

Leck reframed her view of New York in a much more positive light that challenged her preconceptions. “Coming back,” she says, “I had a lot more courage trying all sorts of new things, specifically traveling. I was more confident in the classroom because I had a sense of what we were talking about, more so than just out of the pages of a book.”

Another of Leck’s favorite memories is standing at the top of Rockefeller Center. Its location at the heart of the district made it a perfect place to view the surrounding buildings, filled with different people and their stories.

Perez praised students for their “interesting insights and a willingness to learn,” while Smalley acknowledged the crucial presence and support of Richecky. He emphasized that the complexities of organizing the trip were simplified by her, as the planning was essential to the trip’s success. The planning made it easier for students and faculty to use a daily poem to guide them through the city.

Reflecting on the trip, Smalley and Perez share their hopes for the students. Smalley hopes they have left with an increased sense of the “wonder, beauty and atrocity of the world, and also confidence in their ability to explore the world not just through reading and writing but through travel and their work.” Perez hopes they appreciate the “rich and turbulent history of New York, which, in many ways, mirrors the history of our country.”



Manhattan Skyline

Back: Dr. Matthew Smalley, Scott Sakraida, Liam Brown, Janet Osinaike, Cambree Koehn, Bridget Fobi

Middle: Elizabeth Leck, Hannah Eller, Kati Rivera, McKena McBride

Front: Addison Speier, Amy Richecky, Maria Robles



Smalley reciting Whitman



# Other Student Travel

KATE



Olivia McGilvary and Dr. Cheryl Duffy  
KATE Conference

KATE



Dr. Cheryl Duffy, Isaiah Russell, Elizabeth Leck, Ainsley Green, Dr. Lexey Bartlett

KATE



Back: Dr. Cheryl Duffy, Olivia McGilvary, Ainsley Green, Lily Nash

Middle: Luci Cowser, Dr. Lexey Bartlett, Elizabeth Leck

Front: Isaiah Russell, Elio Dixon-Phillips, Cambree Kohn, Kati Rivera, Dr. Amanda Stinemetz

Kansas Book Festival



Elio Dixon-Phillips, Katy Harris and Tatom Smith

Kansas Book Festival



Tirzah Howery and CJ Gibson

Shakespeare Festival

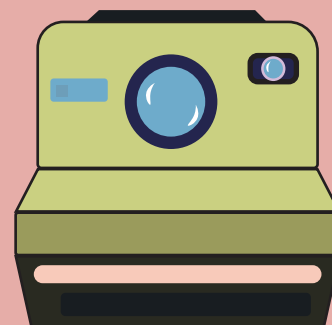


Much Ado About Nothing

Cavalier Conference



Olivia McGilvary, CJ Gibson and Elio Dixon-Phillips  
Presenters at the Cavalier Conference



# A Pair of Publications

from FHSU's English and Modern Languages Department

by Adia Reynolds

Literature and language are the name of the game for the FHSU English and Modern Languages Department, so it seems only natural that two of its professors have published books within the 2024-2025 calendar year.

*Fear, the Masses, and Right-Wing Imagination* by Dr. Claudio Aguayo-Borquez is a zeitgeist of history, politics and philosophy regarding the rise of conservatism in South American nations such as Chile, Peru and Brazil. Aguayo-Borquez is Chilean himself, but his inspirations lie deeper than nationality.



“What is the relationship between Latin America and capitalism? How do we deal with capitalism?” (Aguayo-Borquez)

These questions, when paired with riots sparked by economic turmoil in the region, provide a unique insight into the politics that inspired Aguayo-Borquez’s writing.

“The main conversation around *Fear, the Masses, and Right-Wing Imagination* is focused around how this book helps us understand modern right-wing thought,” explains Aguayo-Borquez. *Fear, the Masses, and Right-Wing Imagination* truly has sparked conversation, even earning Aguayo-Borquez multiple radio interviews in Chile.

*Fear, the Masses, and Right-Wing Imagination* is available as an Open Educational Resource (OER). This was a purposeful choice that Aguayo-Borquez incorporated into his publishing contract in order to ensure that his work would be accessible to people around the globe.



Dr. Claudio Aguayo-Borquez



Dr. Matthew Smalley has directed his research to the realm of American literature. Smalley is the author of *Resistance and the Sermon in American Literature: The Cultural Work of Literary Preaching from Emerson to Morrison*, a comprehensive text that analyzes the impact of religion upon American literature across time. Smalley emphasizes that the aim of the book was not to proselytize but to examine how American literature employs and recontextualizes the artistic elements of a sermon. *Resistance and the Sermon* does this by providing a timeline of American literature to supplement Smalley's primary argument—that American writers have been historically influenced by the art of the sermon, even while discussing non-religious topics.

"I was interested in this almost neurotic tic of American authors to invoke the qualities of a sermon into their works," Smalley says. "Many writers are attracted to the moral authority that elements of the sermon afford them, but are in equal parts repulsed by the dark side of religion's influence on history."

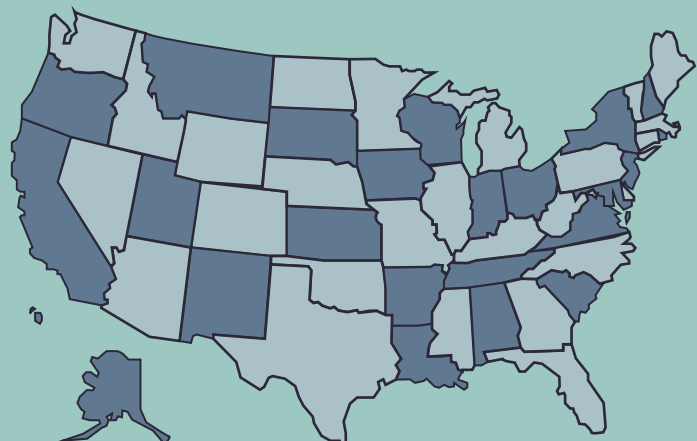
Smalley's book was published by Bloomsbury Press and is available for purchase online. He notes that his audience is primarily academic in nature. However, that should not deter other readers from exploring all that *Resistance and the Sermon in American Literature* holds within its pages.

Smalley continues, "The main tug of war I'm interested in is the way that the sermon becomes equally attractive to the sensuality of the human voice and the moral authority linked to the sermon. These texts I'm analyzing walk the line of elements the authors found attractive or repulsive about the sermon and widespread religion as a whole."

Both professors drew from the body of work that contributed to their doctoral dissertations. *Resistance and the Sermon in American Literature* and *Fear, the Masses, and Right-Wing Imagination* acknowledge cultural and political history, with the authors weaving those facets into their writing before drawing connections to modern events.



Dr. Matthew Smalley





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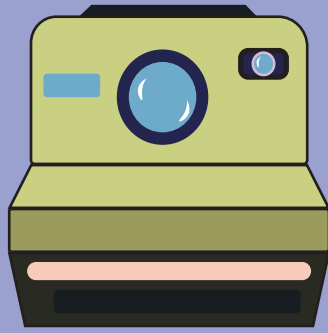
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l to r, top to bottom: Olivia McGillivray ,  
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