

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Eugenio María de Hostos Community College,
The City University of New York



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English Department Newsletter

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Contents

Chair's Message	1
Editors' Note	1
New Faculty Spotlight	2
Faculty Reading List	2
Department Throwback	2
English 10 Reflection	3
New Publication Features	3-4
NEH Grant Recipient	4
Faculty Accolades	5
Distinguished Faculty Award	5
Upcoming Events	6

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Chair's Greeting By Jason Buchanan



As we move through this Fall Semester, I want to wish everyone a safe, productive, and fun semester. The English Department, as always, is an exciting place. We have people producing excellent scholarship, teaching engaging courses, and performing vital service to the college (and university). This document is an excellent testament to the superb work that we have done and will continue to do. I eagerly await what everyone will accomplish for the 2023-2024 Academic Year.

Editors' Note



We are excited to present to you the Fall 2023 issue of the English Department Newsletter. This issue marks a number of new developments for our department. First, we are delighted to hail in Prof. Jason Buchanan's first term as incoming Chair of English, following the fabulous tenure of outgoing Chair Prof. Heidi Bollinger, who led our department last year alongside of Prof. Clarence Robertson, who has stayed on as Deputy Chair. Our Newsletter also marks a new transition as well. It is a great delight to welcome Prof. Alison Lowenstein as new incoming Assistant Editor, picking up from Prof. Elizabeth Porter, who served as Assistant Editor since the publication's inception. New to the department herself, Prof. Lowenstein is featured in our New Faculty Spotlight on page 2. A notable feature of this issue is our faculty, who are recognized for their many stellar achievements, including publications, grants and honors. The feature on page 4 publicizes Prof. Krystyna Michael's receipt of a \$250,000 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant, along with co-PI, Prof. Mathew K. Gold (CUNY Graduate Center). The grant will be used to create an Institute for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities. The publication feature on page 3 introduces *Clearing the Stage* (Bottlecap Press, 2023), Prof. Anne Lovering Rounds's new poetry chapbook dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic; the feature on page 4 discusses Prof. Lou Bury's fascinating, genre-blending new book, *The Way Things Go* (Punctum Books, 2023). The retrospective on page 5 covers the dazzling career of Prof. Cynthia Jones, who was recently honored with the Distinguished Faculty Award at the Hostos Community College 55th Anniversary Gala. Page 5 also features our recurring segment on Faculty Accolades, which details recent publications, honors, awards, presentations and performances by our fabulous faculty. Students remain the heart of our department's investments. Prof. Heidi Bollinger discusses her joyful discoveries teaching English 10, our co-requisite Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) course pair to English 110, in a feature on page 3. Finally, don't forget to check out the Faculty Reading List on page 2 to discover new books recommended by members of the English Department, and the Upcoming Events list on page 6 to discover all the new noteworthy events taking place this term in the English department.

The English Department thanks the contributors for this issue: Jason Buchanan, Heidi Bollinger, Lou Bury, William Casari and Hostos Community College Archives, Hostos Gala/Hostos Division of Institutional Advancement, Alison Lowenstein, Krystyna Michael, and Anne Rounds.

New Faculty Spotlight

Alison Lowenstein, MA

Lecturer, English



Q: Tell us a bit about yourself.

A: I'm a native New Yorker who has lived in three boroughs—grew up in Queens, spent my 20's in Manhattan, and eventually settled in Brooklyn. I was an adjunct at City Tech before I came to Hostos. However, I've had many jobs from travel editor to ghostwriter. For years, I wrote a middle grade series using a pseudonym, which was set in the Minecraft Universe, despite never having played the game. I love writing essays, short stories, humor pieces, plays, and I have recently started to write micro-fiction.

Q: What most excites you about your new position at Hostos?

A: After years of being an adjunct, I'm thrilled to have a full-time position at Hostos because I've always loved teaching and mentoring students. When I was an adjunct, I wanted to participate in more departmental and college-wide activities including committees and service-related roles at the college but felt that my opportunities were limited. I'm excited to be part of the Hostos Community. For instance, I'm delighted to work with Professor Muñoz as the assistant editor for this newsletter!

Q: What are you excited to bring to the classroom?

A: I'm excited to hopefully inspire students to enjoy reading and writing, both in the classroom and their lives outside the college. Truthfully, my favorite part of teaching is seeing students feel comfortable sharing their ideas. This semester, I'm teaching a Creative Non-Fiction class to students at Hostos Lincoln Academy, and I'm very excited to teach that class.

Department Throwback!

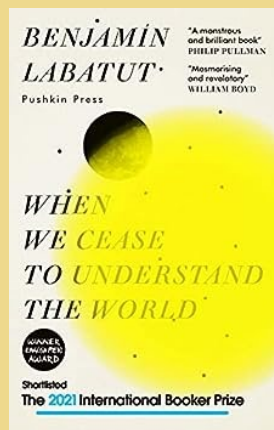
Hostos English in 1974



Front Row Left to Right: Profs. Silverman, Perl and Lardin, Chairperson; Villanueva; Cardona, Secretary; McLean; Lim. Second Row Left to Right: Callender; Diaz; Huntington; Brodtkin, Ronald; Pederson; Third Row Left to Right: Sigwart; Leff; Wynn; Kirby; Kirby and Wiley. Absent: Profs. Fisher; Quirogas; Velasquez; Keyes, Scarry.

Hostos Community College is 55 years old! To mark the occasion, we asked Hostos Archivist William Casari to dig up a photographic memento from the early days of the English Department. This photograph is from the Hostos Yearbook circa 1974. Credit: Hostos Community College Archives.

Fall Faculty Reading List

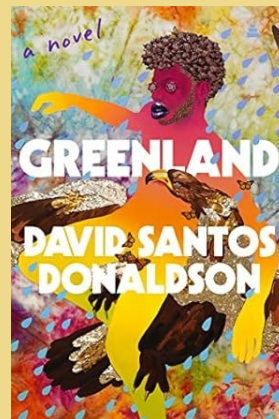


Benjamin Labatut, *When We Cease to Understand the World* (2021): "I've been praying my whole life for a book this dark and strange."

– Prof. Bernardini

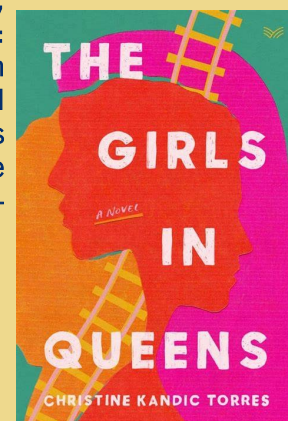


Jo Baker, *Longbourn* (2013): "*Pride and Prejudice* told from the perspective of the servants. Unexpectedly moving and beautiful." – Prof. Milsom

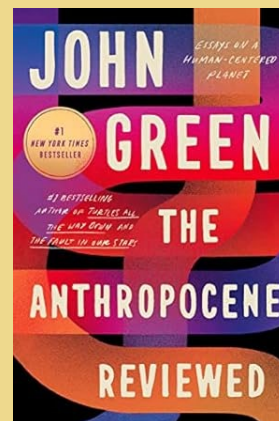


David Santos Donaldson, *Greenland* (2022): "a young author writing about the secret love affair between E.M. Forster and Mohammed el Adl [...] a contemporary Black queer man finding his true north through history and introspection with a hint of the supernatural."—Prof. Rice-González

Christine Kandic Torres, *The Girls in Queens* (2022): "female friendship set in working-class Queens. I love the way Torres depicts this part of NYC and the struggles of the community." – Prof. Lowenstein



John Green, *The Anthropocene Reviewed* (2023): "a book of five-star reviews of random items/events/people/etc. [...] it's funny and humane, and kind of perfect for English 110." – Prof. Barber



Reflections on Teaching English 10 By Prof. Heidi Bollinger



I am teaching the co-curricular Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) course, English 10: Accelerated Writing Skills, and it is won-

derful to see how in the small group setting, students feel more comfortable reflecting on their educational journeys. For example, one student shared that it was his first time writing an essay—ever!—because as he explained, that was not part of his education in Ecuador. Another student who grew up in Yemen agreed, saying that essay assignments were one of the many surprises she encountered when she began college in the United States. I do not think that students would have shared these personal observations so readily in the ENG 110 setting. The intimate circle of conversation in English 10 provides space for this. It is wonderful to see students take a genuine interest in learning about each other-- and it is helpful for me as an educator to learn more about my students and what they bring to the classroom.

For more information on the co-curricular ALP program in the English Department at Hostos Community College, CUNY, visit the department's community learning site at: <https://hostosenglish.commonsgc.cuny.edu/eng-10/>

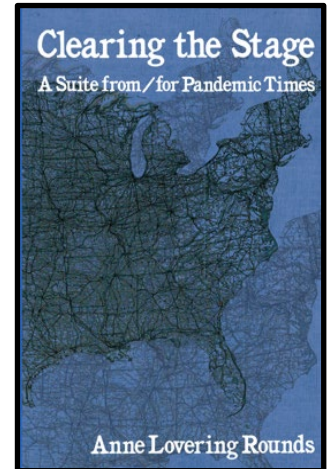
Prof. Anne Lovering Rounds Publishes *Clearing the Stage* (Bottlecap Press, 2023) Book Release Feature



2021).

The English department congratulates Prof. Anne Lovering Rounds for the publication of her new chapbook, *Clearing the Stage: A Suite from / for Pandemic Times* (Bottlecap Press, 2023). This is Professor Rounds's third book of poetry, following her debut poetry collection, *Variations in an Emergency*, which was awarded with Ravenna Press's Cathlamet Prize for Poetry in 2014; and its follow-up, *Little Double Elegy for All of You Elegy for All of You* (Ravenna Press,

Drawing from Prof. Rounds's musical background, the title of the suite originates from a collaboration with artist, podcast producer and violinist Carson Marshall, whose work creates sound-based spaces of tension and repose. Similarly, *Clearing the Stage* draws readers into what Prof. Rounds describes as a "polyphonic elegiac space, meeting a historical moment and its aftermath that call out for inclusive poetry." Prof. Rounds composed *Clearing the Stage* as a long-form elegy while living and working in New York City during the Covid-19 pandemic, which served as a backdrop and inspiration for the poetry. Indeed, the social and psychological effects of these "pandemic times" manifest throughout the collection. Specimen 10, for instance, reflects aspects of the disjointed connectivity that many readers will associate with the early days of Zoom meetings replacing in-person interactions. (As some might recognize, the poem is in fact a transcript of an English department meeting.)



The book is divided into three semi-sequential parts reflecting stages of the pandemic: "Prologue," "Specimens," and "Not / Epilogues." Poems in the "Specimens" section reflects aspects of the initial stages of the pandemic; touching on such ideas as America's fall and the major societal rifts that followed from shifting events in March and April 2020. Rounds here draws language from Walt Whitman, "the godfather of New York poetry," and other twentieth-century luminaries such as Frank O'Hara and Allen Ginsberg. The prologue and epilogue, while filling the conventional roles of opening and closing the collection, also speak to the "nebulous character of the pandemic" and "the notion that it may always be, in some sense, unknown and unfinished." Where the fractured collective memory of our "pandemic times," seems to dominate, *Clearing the Stage* takes stock and remembers, pulling reader/listeners toward confronting the past and "sitting with dissonance and release." As the speaker remarks in one of the final verses of "Not / Epilogues:"

Accept nostalgia
for before there was a before

This collection serves as an urgent rejoinder to the cultural push toward forgetting in witness to a shared history.

Clearing the Stage is now available for purchase from [Bottlecap Press](https://www.bottlecappress.com/).

Prof. Lou Bury Publishes *The Way Things Go* (Punctum Books, 2023) Book Release Feature



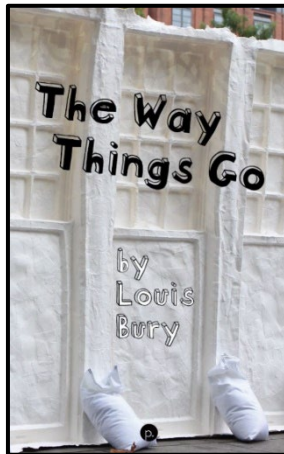
The English Department congratulates Prof. Lou Bury for the publication of his new book, *The Way Things Go* (Punctum Books, 2023), following his debut work, *Exercises in Criticism* (Dalkey Archive, 2015). Bury has been working on this new monograph for several years, and he presented a preview of the work at the English Department's Faculty Reading Series back in the fall of 2021.

Bury reports that the title of this new book originated from a cult classic 1987 Fischli and Weiss film of the same name; the film portrays such refuse items as bags of trash, car tires, and oil drums knocking into one another in a "Rube Goldberg-esque chain reaction." Similarly, this genre-blending book mixes poetry, art and life writing to explore the theme of anticipatory grief, or mourning someone or something before they're gone. The theme of the book also dictates its unique structure: each subsequent chapter decreases in length by exactly one sentence, from a 71-sentence-long opening chapter, to a 70-sentence second chapter, then to 69 sentences in the third chapter, and so forth, down to just one sentence in the final chapter. Bury describes this last single-sentence chapter as "a book-length Oulipian melting snowball." The gradual diminution of the chapters viscerally portrays the author's intersecting concerns with such issues as personal loss, climate change, and time's inevitable passage.

Bury's introspective book also weaves together elements of his personal biography, touching such matters as his sister's lupus and heroin addiction, as well as his grandmother's experience as a Holocaust survivor, with discussions of such pressing global concerns as the Sixth Mass Extinction, COVID-19, and the ongoing war in Ukraine. Throughout, Bury considers "the disruptions that occur as 'things go,' as well as the continuity that remains."

Bury's narrative is not resigned to any preformed conclusions, however. The book ultimately urges the reader to reconsider their own relationship to and apprehension with the future, particularly prompting reflection on the personal vulnerability that dictates one's own compulsions toward optimism or pessimism. As such, the book's themes and content present their own urgency for the reader to engage in personal contemplation over life's inherent instability, particularly in the backdrop of the chaotic and volatile world in which we live.

The Way Things Go is now available for purchase from [Punctum Books](#).



Above: Bury credits the cover art to Gabriela Salazar's work "Low Relief for High Water" (2019-2021)

Prof. Krystyna Michael Receives Major Grant from National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)



Professor Krystyna Michael is thrilled to be co-principal investigator along with Professor Mathew K. Gold (CUNY Graduate Center) on a major grant of \$250,000

from the National Endowment for the Humanities to offer an Institute for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities. Their project, Open Education Publishing Institute: Collaborative Knowledge and Social Justice will bring together 15 scholars in summer 2024 to design open educational resource publishing projects that foreground diverse, anti-racist perspectives and bring students in as co-creators of knowledge. The institute will combine virtual meetings with a three-day, in-person intensive session held at the CUNY Graduate Center. Stipends for the 15 participants will cover travel, lodging, incidentals, and training. The institute will continue virtually with co-working sessions, a technology workshop, and affinity discussion groups. At a showcase in January 2025, participants will share their completed projects. Open educational practices and open educational resources (OER) are particularly important for community colleges and other institutions that serve diverse communities not only because of the cost savings they afford, but also because of the opportunities they provide for students to participate in the co-production of course content. Professors Michael and Gold are excited to see the ways participants' projects will push curricula beyond traditional canons by incorporating the diverse voices and experiences of students into their publishing projects.

Cynthia Jones Receives Distinguished Professor Award

The English Department congratulates Cynthia Jones for being honored with the Distinguished Professor Award at the 55th Anniversary Gala hosted by the Hostos Foundation this past spring. On April 26th, 2023, Jones was presented with the award honoring her distinguished career in service to Hostos Community College.



Departmental Accolades Publications

- Bury, Louis. *The Way Things Go*. Punctum Books, 2023.
- Lowenstein, Alison. "Don't Let the Sun Go Down." *Oldster Magazine*, 7 Sept. 2023, oldster.substack.com/p/dont-let-the-sun-go-down.
- Lowenstein, Alison. "Gen X Guide to Brooklyn Nightlife." *Brooklyn Magazine*, (Winter 2023), 22-25.
- Muñoz, Victoria. Review of *Keywords of Identity, Race, and Human Mobility in Early Modern England*, by Nandini Das, João Vicente Melo, Haig Z. Smith, and Lauren Working, in *Renaissance Quarterly*, 76.2 (Summer 2023): 717-718.
- Muñoz, Victoria. Review of *Exile, Diplomacy and Texts: Exchanges between Iberia and the British Isles, 1500-1767*, by Ana Sáez-Hidalgo and Berta Cano-Echevarría, eds., in *Renaissance Quarterly*, 75.3 (Fall 2022): 1042-1044.
- Muñoz, Victoria. Review of *Hercules and the King of Portugal: Icons of Masculinity and Nation in Calderón's Spain*, by Dian Fox, in *Comparative Drama*, 56.3 (2022): 342-345.
- Rice-González, Charles. "Confederate Grinder." *Obsidian: Literature & Arts in the African Diaspora*, 48.2 (2023): 119-128.
- Porter, Elizabeth. "Corequisite English and Community College: Modeling Supportive Course Design and Process-Driven Learning in Times of Crisis." *Pedagogy* 23, 2 (2023): 275-288.
- Rounds, Anne Lovering. *Clearing the Stage: A Suite from / for Pandemic Times*. Bottlecap Press, 2023.

Presentations & Performances

- Choi, Christine. "The Myth of the 'Good Woman': Forced Motherhood in the mid-Victorian Period." British Association for Victorian Studies (BAVS) 2023 Conference, 30 August - 2 September 2023, University of Surrey, Guildford, UK. Presenter.
- Choi, Christine. Informal talk on pedagogical praxes in teaching Victorian and Anglo-based nineteenth century writing. Undisciplining the Victorian Classroom Twitch Week, 26 June 2023, Online. Invited speaker.
- Choi, Christine. "Victorian Freaks and the Humorous Uncanny in the The Woman in White." MMU PGR/ECR Long Nineteenth Century Seminar – Humour and Satire in the Long Nineteenth Century, 22 June 2023, Online. Presenter.
- Muñoz, Victoria. "Virtue's Empire: Anglo-Spanish Literary and Political Relations in Tudor Iconography." Reframing the Tudors: Art, History, and the Invention of a Colonial Empire, Fordham University, Lincoln Center, NY. Public lecture.
- Porter, Elizabeth. "White Feminism and Plotting Women in Eighteenth-Century London." American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS). St. Louis, MO. March 10, 2023. Roundtable Paper.
- Soto-Franco, Juan. "Between A and I... Tips to use AI." 2023 DR- TESOL Annual Convention, 28 July 2023, Catalonia Convention Center, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Presenter.
- Widney, Chris. Full length play, "Daisy And Lou's Big Move To Jupiter." Staged reading, Round The Bend Theatre Company. Woodstock, NY. 6 October 2023.

Congratulations

- To Heidi Bollinger for her promotion to Full Professor.
- To Christine Choi, for being awarded an ADELANTE Grant and a Cycle 54 PSC-CUNY Research Award for her project, "The Myth of the 'Good Woman': Forced Motherhood in the mid-Victorian Period."

- To Sean Gerrity for the birth of his son, Colin Joseph Gerrity, born on May 2nd, weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz. Reports Gerrity: "He is a happy, healthy baby doing lots of smiling and laughing."
- To Sean Gerrity, for his book manuscript, "A Canada in the South: Maroons in American Literature," being contracted by SUNY Press as part of its Multiethnic Literature series.
- To Cynthia Jones, for receiving the Distinguished Professor Award at the Hostos Community College 55th Anniversary Gala.
- To Krystyna Michael, for being the co-recipient of a \$250,000 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant.
- To Alexandra Milsom, for her forthcoming article, "The Myth of History and Coleridge's Caribbean Bath" being previewed in the Keats-Shelley Association's inaugural online exhibit, "[The Caribbean and Romanticism.](#)"
- To Elizabeth Porter, for being awarded a 2023 IDEAS Project Development Grant for her project, "Plotting Women in Eighteenth-Century British Literature: Prehistories of Western Feminism."
- To Tram Nguyen for her promotion to Full Professor.
- To Tram Nguyen, PI, and Victoria Muñoz and Amina Tajbhai, co-PIs, for being awarded a 2023 IDEAS Project Development Grant for their project, "Multi-Generational Engaged Storytelling: A First Year Seminar Curricular Unit at Hostos CC."
- To Amina Tajbhai, for the arrival of her son, Adan Antonio Tajbhai-Urias, born August 27th, weighing 7 lbs. 12 oz.

News & Announcements

- Prof. Bernardini invites faculty to attend the upcoming PSC-CUNY bargaining session on Thursday, October 5th. The next orientation to attend a bargaining session will also be held on Thursday, October 5th, on Zoom. To register for an orientation, visit: <https://psc-cuny.org/issues/contract-a-peoples-cuny/i-want-to-attend-a-bargaining-session/>
- Profs. Bernardini and Muñoz, who have run the Faculty Reading Series for the past five years, are inviting colleagues who are interested in taking over as organizers of the series to reach out to them.
- Prof. Bury will be present at a launch party for his new book, *The Way Things Go*, on Tuesday, October 3, 6:30 PM, at Spencer Brownstone Gallery, where he'll be in conversation with critic Jillian Steinhauer. For tickets visit <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-way-things-go-book-launch-tickets-721321390697?aff=oddtcreator>.
- Prof. Bury will be reading with poet E.J. McAdams (who has his own new book, *LAST*) at Stand4 Gallery and Community Art Center on Saturday, October 21, at 3 PM.
- Prof. Lowenstein is hosting a public virtual Write-In for the New York Writers Coalition on October 5th at 7 PM. For more information, visit <https://nywriterscoalition.org/virtual-workshops/>
- Prof. Soto-Franco's poem, "George Floyd," was featured in its Spanish and English versions in the Fall 2023 CTL Reflections Newsletter.
- The Writing Center's Supplemental Instruction Program will be kicking off a series of Writing Labs at 12pm in the HALC Conference Room (C-596B) covering "Brainstorming" (9/28), "Paraphrasing" (10/5). "Thesis Statements" (10/19), and "Outlining" (10/26), and "Research" (11/2). Faculty are encouraged to invite their students to attend and/or bring their classes. Please contact Prof. Nguyen and Muñoz to make arrangements.

Term Meetings

- Developmental: Thurs., Sept. 28th and Wed., Nov. 29th | ENG 110: Wed., Oct. 11th and Wed., Dec. 6th | ENG 111 & Electives: Wed., Oct. 25th and Mon., Nov. 13th
- PSC-CUNY Union Chapter Meeting: Wed., Oct. 4th in B-503

HOSTOS WRITING CENTER PRESENTS

S.I. WRITING LABS

THURSDAYS AT 12 PM

DATE	TOPIC
9/28	Brainstorming
10/5	Paraphrasing
10/19	Thesis Statements
10/26	Outlining
11/2	Research

Join us in the HALC Conference Room, C-596B.

QUESTIONS?

Contact the Writing Center at
writingcenterhostos@gmail.com
 Office: 718-518-6678
 Online: 929-324-0333

A SCHOLARSHIPS OFFICE AND WC COLLABORATION

SCHOLARSHIP PERSONAL STATEMENTS

Learn pro tips for beautiful personal statements that will land you a Hostos Scholarship! There are over 25!!

ON ZOOM

OCTOBER 4TH @ 2 PM | **NOVEMBER 8TH @ 2 PM**

To register, email: writingcenterhostos@gmail.com
 Or come to: C-596A