

# DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

414 E. Clark St. | Dakota Hall 212 | Vermillion, SD 57069



UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH DAKOTA

# DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

**2023-2024  
GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Department Chair: Dr. Darlene Farabee  
Darlene.Farabee@usd.edu

Interim Coordinator of Graduate Studies:  
Dr. Prentiss Clark  
ENGLGradCoordinator@usd.edu

Department Email: English@usd.edu

Website: [www.usd.edu/english](http://www.usd.edu/english)

Phone: 605.658.6850







**REBEKAH BAHN**  
**(MA-CREATIVE, 2023)**

is a first-year English-Creative Writing master's student from Volga, South Dakota. She received her undergraduate degree in English at USD with a minor in Music and two certifications in Professional Writing and Digital Marketing. She graduated with a Summa Cum Laude distinction.

**NICOLE BIEVER**  
**(PHD-CRITICAL, 2022)**



**JORDAN BIGGERSTAFF**  
**(PHD-CRITICAL, 2021)**

is a third year PhD student. She earned her bachelor's degree in English from Augustana University in 2018 and graduated with her MA from USD in the spring of 2021. Her areas of interest include contemporary literature, feminist criticism, and revisionist literature. When Jo is not teaching or working on her coursework, she can be found drinking lots of tea and hanging out with Ophelia, her guinea pig.

**SNEHA CHAKRABORTY**  
**(MA-CRITICAL, 2022)**

has completed her Masters in the Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University, India. She is trained in Classical Dance form Bharatnatyam. Her research interests include Feminist Studies and Post-Colonial (histories of partition). She wants to expand her research on the intersectionality of caste-class and gender focusing on the systematic oppression of marginalized communities. She is also interested in Latin American Studies focusing on themes like magic realism and anti-imperialism. On her leisure time, she likes to binge watch crime-thrillers.



**JEREMY CHRISTENSEN**  
**(PHD-CRITICAL, 2023)**

grew up in the Black Hills of South Dakota, earning his bachelor's in speech communication and history at Black Hills State University and his master's in communication studies at The University of South Dakota. Since then, he has completed his coursework for the Ph.D. in English at USD. For the past twenty years Jeremy has served as an instructor of communication and English at both two year and four-year colleges in states ranging from Wyoming to

North Carolina and currently works as a communication instructor at a college in Steubenville, Ohio. In addition to teaching, he has coached competitive academic debate, built half-a-dozen programs, and coached his teams to multiple national and state championships. His primary areas of interest are popular culture and critical theory with a focus on late-twentieth century literature and the theories of Michel Foucault and Giorgio Agamben. Jeremy has three children and lives with Ashley, his wife, in Weirton, West Virginia.



# 2024 EMILY HADAD GRADUATE TEACHING AWARD

The Emily Hadad Graduate Teaching Award recognizes overall excellence in teaching and a demonstrated commitment to student learning. Applications will be reviewed by English Department faculty and will be evaluated according to the following criteria: Performance within and beyond the classroom (measured by cover letter, and IDEA scores / comments); articulation of pedagogical methods and aims; course organization and assignment design; evidence of commitment to students' intellectual growth and academic success. All graduate instructors are invited to apply.

**APPLICATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:**

- \*A **1-2 page single-spaced formal cover letter** (business format). The cover letter should describe your teaching methods/approaches/principles/goals. For example: What is most important in your pedagogy? What goals do you have for students and how do you help students to meet these goals? What is your approach to mentoring? How do you nurture inclusive excellence and diversity? Think of the cover letter as a teaching statement; a portrait of you as a teacher or a snapshot of you in the classroom.
- \*A **list of courses taught** at USD — including individualized course titles (if applicable). This is your teaching history at-a-glance.
- \*The **IDEA scores** for all of your classes (organized into a single, easily readable, table or chart) and a chronological list of the student comments that accompany the IDEA scores.
- \***Two sample syllabi**. Each syllabus should include a brief (1-2 paragraph) description of any innovative/unique aspects of the course; for example, exercises you developed to enhance student learning / engagement / success.
- \***Two sample writing-assignments** (the handouts / guidelines that you distribute to students)
- \***An example of your best work**. This might be an assignment, a study guide, a lesson plan, an exam, a grammar exercise, etc. Please include a brief (1-2 paragraph) description of why you consider this your best work.

ALL PAGES OF THE APPLICATION SHOULD BE NUMBERED AND SHOULD INCLUDE YOUR NAME.

**PLEASE SUBMIT ONE COMPLETE ELECTRONIC COPY OF YOUR APPLICATION TO THE APPROPRIATE D2L DROP BOX (ON THE GRADUATE PROGRAM D2L PAGE) WITH THE SUBJECT LINE "HADDAD APPLICATION-LAST, FIRST NAME"**

**DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2024**

# 2024 GRADUATE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

THE GRADUATE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD RECOGNIZES EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF A GRADUATE STUDENT TO THE TEACHING MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA. THE

GRADUATE STUDENT MUST HAVE SERVED AS A GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT OR GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD AND TAUGHT COURSES DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR OF 2023.

## APPLICATION MATERIALS:

- Video of nominee teaching in a classroom setting (10 min. max)
- Cover Letter
- CV
- Letter of Support
- Teaching Portfolio

Two students will be awarded with the 1st place winner receiving a \$600 honorarium and the 2nd place winner receiving a \$400 honorarium.

Applications must be submitted electronically as a single PDF file by email to grad@usd.edu.

**DEADLINE TBA**



**ELIAS JOEL DONSTAD**  
(PHD-CREATIVE, 2022)

is a second-year PhD student and 2022-2023 Wolfe scholar. He is also the recipient of the Standing Proud scholarship from Sioux Falls Pride for the 2023-2024 school year. He graduated from USD with his M.A. in English May 2022. His poetry has been published in Lyrical Iowa 2019 and 2020, Bourgeon Magazine, and Silent Spark Press's Remarkable Poetry. Elias hopes to pursue a poetic project focused on the bodily experience of gender-affirming surgery and community relationships.

**WENHUI DUAN**  
(MA-CRITICAL, 2022)

is a second-year M.A. student. She comes from China. She graduated from the university in her homeland with a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in Chinese-English Translation and Interpreting. She has worked as an interpreter and translator for a company for one year; a senior high English teacher for two years. In her school life, she has read and translated many literary works. Her interest lay in romance novels of different writers, especially those involving female characters' marriage and happiness. And her graduation thesis dealing with the same topic discusses the tragedy of Tess. She aims to deepen her understanding and research in literature and try a new frontier creative writing



**RIFATH AFRIN ANAHOLY EASHA**  
(MA-CRITICAL, 2022)

comes from Dhaka, Bangladesh. She graduated from Jahangirnagar University with a B.A. in English and a M.A. in Applied Linguistics and ELT. She has taught ESL, literature, theory, and fiction at a university and has become interested in 20th-century American literature and African American literature in the process. Her interests extend to fantasy, mystery, post-colonialism, poetry, and literary criticism. She enjoys reciting, reading, listening to music, watching dramas, and traveling.

**ALEC FAIMAN**  
(PHD-CRITICAL, 2023)

is interested in modernist literature and the intersection of literature and philosophy. His MA research focused on aesthetic responses to existential crises in modernist literature, and he is looking forward to exploring new ideas in courses and future research projects.



**KACIE FODNESS**  
(PHD-CRITICAL, 2013)

is a PhD candidate specializing in nineteenth-century American literature at the University of South Dakota. Her research considers the poetics of possibility, conclusion, and unfinished forms in the long nineteenth-century. Kacie's dissertation, titled "Unfinished American Writing," explores how Walt Whitman, Edith Wharton, Herman Melville, and Emily Dickinson challenge the requirements for closure in the text and how this practice of unfinished writing generates new possibilities for readerly participation.



**KATHRYN FORD**  
(MA-CRITICAL, 2023)

is from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She graduated from Augustana University for her undergraduate degree, where she majored in English literature and minored in French.



**ERIN FRINK**  
(PHD-CRITICAL, 2017)

**JUSTIN GRAY**  
(PHD-CREATIVE, 2018)

completed his B.F.A. at Brooklyn College. He completed his M.A. in creative writing at the University of South Dakota and is now completing his Ph.D. and his creative dissertation, a short story cycle titled Celebration Palms, under the direction of Dr. duncan b. barlow at USD.



Justin recently presented a paper "Labor, Race, and Oakland: What Sorry to Bother You Teaches Us About Power of Multicultural Labor Collectivity" at the 2023 Modern Language Association conference in San Francisco. The impressive range of genres in which Justin has published demonstrates both his skills and his interests. His recent publications include a short story "The Outlaws" in Coming of Age in Florida (Florida Roots Press 2022) and The Pact a one-act play published in Patchwork Literary Magazine (Winter 2022). Justin was also recently named as one of two recipients of the inaugural Wayne Weber Graduate Student Scholarly Activity Award from US

**TALITHA GREAVER**  
(PHD-CREATIVE, 2023)

is a first year PhD candidate studying English with a specialization in Creative Writing. Originally from Yankton, SD, she earned her MFA in Creative Writing at Minnesota State University, Mankato, and her undergraduate degrees at University of Nebraska—Lincoln. She aims to write hopeful stories, is interested in Magical Realism, and dabbles in poetry and embroidery in her free time. She cares for a mischievous cat named Cellar Door.



**AVERY GUESS**  
(PHD-CREATIVE, 2015)

2024

**WAYNE WEBER GRADUATE STUDENT  
SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY AWARD**

*Recognizing graduate students' scholarly activity, in all the realms of graduate student work.*

EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH HONORS A GRADUATE STUDENT WHOSE ENGAGEMENT IN THE TRIPARTITE GOALS OF THE DEPARTMENT RISES TO AN EXCEPTIONAL LEVEL. CONSIDERATIONS ARE BASED ON THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THE ANNUAL REVIEW FORM (DUE IN EARLY SPRING) AS WELL AS THE STUDENT'S SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES INCLUDING PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, ENGAGEMENT WITH PEDAGOGICAL QUESTIONS, AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES.

**CURRENT ENGLISH GRADUATE STUDENTS ARE AUTOMATICALLY CONSIDERED FOR THIS AWARD THROUGH THEIR TIMELY SUBMISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT TO THE APPROPRIATE DROP BOX ON THE GRADUATE PROGRAM D2L PAGE.**

**DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 15, 2024**

*This award is named for Mr. Wayne Weber, who generously provided a substantial gift to support English graduate education. Mr. Weber was a 1951 graduate of the college of A&S with a major in English. Mr. Weber spent his life career as a teacher in California. teaching in Madeira, Klamath and Crescent Elk, where he taught for 27 years before retiring in 1958. He also taught English and writing classes at College of the Redwoods- Del Norte for eight years, as well as serving on the college's advisory board for several years. The Department of English is deeply grateful for Mr. Weber's support of graduate education.*





**ETHAN STONE**  
**(MA-CRITICAL, 2023)**

is a first-year M.A. student, having completed his undergraduate studies in the spring of 2023 at the University of South Dakota and earning a B.A. in English (Creative Writing) and a B.S. in Biology (Conservation and Biodiversity). He plans on studying the evolution of Gothic literature and how it portrays the feelings of the times, first starting at its origins in British Romantic literature and later delving into its integration within American literature.

He is originally from Broken Arrow, OK, but has since moved many, many times. He enjoys listening to both metal and acoustic music, playing video games, painting, and writing experimental short stories when struck with the occasional bout of manic inspiration and motivation.

**ANNA VAN HOLLAND**  
**(MA-CRITICAL, 2023)**

is a first-year MA student in the Literary Studies Critical Specialization. I also attended USD for my undergrad and graduated with a BA in English in Fall 2022. I enjoy studying Literary Criticism and 20th/21st Century Literature and I also enjoy reading fantasy and mythology for fun outside of my studies. I'm excited to be back at USD this fall!



**DANIELLE HARMS**  
**(PHD-CRITICAL, 2022)**



**AMELIA HARRINGTON**  
**(PHD-CREATIVE, 2020)**

is a poet and third-year PhD student on the creative track. They're living as well as they can under the circumstances, working on poetry, music, the PhD exams, and the dissertation. After their PhD Amelia has vague plans to move to Brazil or Portugal and learn Portuguese, but they haven't learned any Portuguese yet since they're still learning English, so who can say what will happen?

**ANDRE HAWKINS**  
**(MA-CREATIVE, 2022)**

Andre Hawkins (MA-Creative, 2022) earned his B.A. in English at USD during which he earned scholarships and awards for research, poetry, and writing ability. His B.A. initiated interests in absurdist literature, Shakespearean poetics, and fiction deriving from diasporic identities. He is an aspiring copywriter dabbling in poetry, short fiction, and attempting to learn Italian for his wife with whom he lives in Vermillion, SD.



**DARLA HITCHCOCK**  
**(PHD-CREATIVE, 2022)**

is a certified late bloomer working on a new career at an age when most people think of retirement. She earned her BA in Creative Writing at San Francisco State, her MFA in Writing & Publishing at Vermont College of Fine Arts, a Certificate in Manuscript Preparation at Long Island University in Brooklyn, NY. She is an enrolled member of the Delaware Tribe of Indians, and her work has appeared in Frontmatter, Mono, and The Jester.



**RIAH HOPKINS'**  
**(PHD-CREATIVE, 2022)**

is entering her second year in the PhD program as the new circulations manager of South Dakota Review. In Summer '23, Riah organized the publication of the first issue of Broken Antler Magazine, an all-woman run online horror literary journal, with her cohorts in the USD English department and fellow alumx from her MFA in Writing and Publishing at Vermont College of Fine Arts.

Riah is also the art curator of Canned, a literary magazine for the off kilter. Riah's writing interests include American music, obsession, monsters with feelings, loneliness, and dentistry. Her writing has been published by Hunger Mountain, Literary Taxidermy, Deep South Magazine, and The Gamer.



**ADDISON JENSEN**  
**(MA-CRITICAL, ACCELERATED, 2023)**

is a first-year MA student set to graduate with her English Bachelor of Arts in the spring of 2024. Her research interests include reboots and adaptations, mythology, and American folklore, the topic of her undergraduate honors thesis. As a graduate student, she hopes to expand her research into screenplays, sci-fi, horror, and Herman Melville, among other fascinations.

**Laurie Johns**  
**(PHD-CRITICAL, 2019)**

is a third year Ph.D. English candidate. Laurie earned both her M.A. in English and her B.A. in German from the University of South Dakota in 1986. She attended Frederick Alexandar Universität in Erlangen, Germany and has traveled extensively throughout Europe and southeast Asia. Her interests are diverse. She has been committed to the study of yoga since 2004. She also paints and writes poetry, and her work has appeared in The Briar Cliff Review.



**ELISABETH KLUIN**  
**(MA-CRITICAL, 2023)**

is a double major in History and English. Upon her acceptance into the 4+1 English Graduate program, she intends to test her creative and critical capacity through delving deep into critical feminist theory. Her research interests include critical theory, Marxist theory, feminist theory, queer theory, aesthetic criticism, historical criticism, and gender studies. She is active on campus



and serves as an ambassador for the University, the College of Arts and Sciences, and helps eager writers at the USD Writing Center. Additionally, Elisabeth serves as a Music Instructor for Brandon Valley's Marching Lynx. Outside of academics, Elisabeth enjoys performing with the University's Symphony Orchestra, attending the theatre, listening to her favorite musical artists, and training her horse. During her time here at USD, Elisabeth intends to enhance her academic, professional, and creative capacity by engaging in research surrounding experimental fiction, philosophy, and prose in relation to its relevance in contemporary literary circles.

**Jasmine Kulm**  
**(MA-CRITICAL, ACCELERATED, 2022)**

recently completed her undergraduate degree in May of 2023. Her interests include Early Modern drama, feminist studies, and creative writing. Outside of academia, Kulm works as a database editor for an open-source intelligence company. In her free time, she enjoys archery, traveling, and naturally, reading.



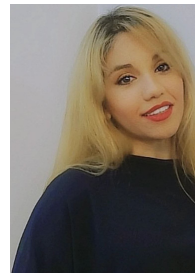
**STEPHEN SNYDER**  
**(PHD-CRITICAL, 2021)**



is a third year Ph.D. student (critical track) at University of South Dakota and a fulltime Lecturer of English at South Dakota State University. He graduated in 2014 with an M.A. from South Dakota State University after defending his thesis From Novel of Ideas to Pop Phenomenon: The Transmission of Atlas Shrugged into Popular Culture, a text that focused on Rand's widespread influence in both popular culture and rightwing populism. Areas of interest include

19th and 20th century American Literature, with a strong focus on interdisciplinary approach to literature. Additional scholarly interests include the American Renaissance, philosophy and literature, popular culture and media studies, African American literature, and American political history. His most recent research (and the eventual focus of his dissertation) focuses on the political novel (especially within dystopia fiction) and its influence on anti-government, anti-authority politics in America. Stephen has presented original scholarship at regional, national, and international conferences, and his awards includes the 2011 recipient for outstanding teaching assistant and the 2022 university-wide award for online teaching. He has taught courses in Composition, Literature, Technical Writing, and Diversity and Global Citizenship.

**NOUSHIN SOLEIMANIKONDORI**  
**(MA-CREATIVE, 2023)**

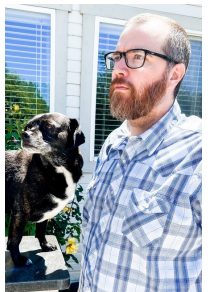


received her bachelor's degree in English Translation from Azad Tehran University – north branch – and her master's degree in English Literature from Ershad Damavand University. Her main field of interest in the degree was gothic, macabre, science fiction, speculative fiction, grotesque, absurd, and surreal. She has been teaching English for over 10 years in its various forms including comparative literature, phonetics, IELTS' skills, translation

methods and literary criticism. She is now studying Creative Writing as a second master's degree in University of South Dakota. Noushin has already translated over 13 literary works from English to Persian and has embarked on writing novels, short stories, and collections of poetry in English.

**MIKE SPEEGLE**  
**(PHD-CREATIVE, 2021)**

is a third-year Ph.D. student on a critical/creative track. His primary area of interest is in gothic literature and genre fiction, with a planned creative dissertation that explores the pall of intergenerational violence in agrarian central California. He was chosen as USD's 2021-2022 Wolfe Scholar and served as the graduate assistant for the 2022 Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature. Mike holds an MFA from Emerson College, where he founded the institution's first genre fiction periodical, Page Turner Magazine.







**TAYA SAZAMA  
(PHD-CRITICAL, 2018)**

holds a B.A. in English and Secondary Education from the University of Sioux Falls and a M.A. in English from the University of St. Thomas. Before beginning her doctoral work, she taught four years of high school English in South Dakota and is now entering her fifth year as a Ph.D. candidate on the critical track at the University of South Dakota. Her academic interests focus largely on 18th- and 19th-century British Literature with an emphasis on marriage, court-ship, education, and reader reception, though she also enjoys popular culture studies, the Romance genre, and television and film adaptations. In May of 2020, Taya received the Emily Haddad Graduate Student Teaching Award from the University of South Dakota. Her review of Karen Bourrier's Victorian Bestseller: The Life of Dinah Craik appeared in the 2021 spring issue of Victorian Periodicals Review. Recently, she co-organized a panel at NEMLA entitled "The Popularity of Feminist Storytelling" where she also presented her joint research project "Feminist Storytelling and the Legacy of Jane Austen."

**RACHEL SCHIEL  
(PHD-CRITICAL, 2023)**

was raised in Bellevue, Washington. She received her B.S. in psychology from Brigham Young University and her M.F.A. in creative writing from Chapman University, where she studied creative nonfiction (primarily personal essays and memoir). Rachael is interested in postmodernism, especially metamodern fiction. She is hoping to write her dissertation on the works of David Foster Wallace. She has published in The Concho River Review, Doubly Mad, and The Courtship of Winds.



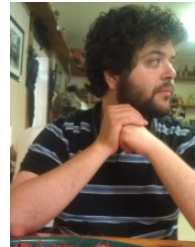
**MARK SCHMIDT  
(MA-CRITICAL, 2022)**

is a second year MA student who, despite being on the critical track, enjoys regularly writing poetry. His poetry has appeared in Digging Through the Fat (2017), Potpourri (2017, 2018), Train River Poetry (2020), and is forthcoming in Mantis Poetry (2023). Mark's literary interests converge on transitions and crossroads, especially the transition from Modernism to Postmodernism and synesthesia between various literary and artistic forms.



**BENTLEY SNOW  
(PHD-CREATIVE, 2021)**

is a third year PhD student in creative writing. He would like to recycle his brief bio from past years, but every year his dissertation focus changes, which actually reflects some growth he is very pleased with. This last year, his work with Professor Roripaugh helped him discover what he hopes might be his home: the lyric essay. Not only does the genre lend itself well to writing about nature—a preoccupation of Bentley's—it also often prizes and manifests some of the same qualities which draw Bentley to nature (e.g. organicism, coherence within/behind fragments, presence). Current models that inspire him include Terry Tempest Williams, Brian Doyle, Amy Leach, and Annie Dillard

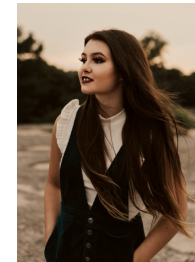


**DAVID LEVINE  
(PHD-CREATIVE, 2012)**

grew up in the poorly named town of New City, NY. He has an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Colorado, and is pursuing a PhD in Literary Studies at the University of South Dakota. His work has appeared in UCity Review, White Whale Review, Painted Bride Quarterly, DREGINALD, Utter, Vinyl, Calamity, and other journals.

**DERRIC LUDENS  
(PHD-CRITICAL, 2016)**

**COURTNEY LUDWICK  
(PHD-CREATIVE WRITING, 2022)**



is a writer, teacher, and doctoral candidate in Literature and Creative Writing at USD, where she has recently received the Emily Haddad Graduate Student Teaching Award and the Wayne Weber Graduate Student Scholarly Activity Award. Court's debut hybrid collection, These Strange Bodies, is forthcoming from ELJ Editions in September 2024. Her poetry, essays, fiction, and criticism have appeared in Jet Fuel Review, Oxford Magazine, Red Noise Collective, Cheat River Review, Necessary Fiction, Sweet Tooth, Watershed Review, Eclectica Magazine, Mid-Heaven Magazine, Milk Carton Press, and elsewhere. She is an associate poetry editor at South Dakota Review and is currently at work on her second book. You can connect with Court on Instagram and Twitter @courtludwick and on www.court lud.com.

**TASNOVA ZAMAN MEEM  
(MA-CRITICAL, 2022)**

is in her second year in University of South Dakota, pursuing a master's degree in Critical Studies. Hailing from Dhaka, Bangladesh, Meem graduated from Jahangirnagar University with a bachelor's degree in English literature and a master's degree in Applied Linguistics and ELT. She has been a full-time faculty member at Bangladesh University for over two years and has published several articles in international online journals, showcasing her keen insights into the nuances of literature and her ability to analyze and critique literary works from different perspectives. Meem's research interests are diverse and span across various genres and periods of literature, including Post Colonialism, African and Caribbean Literature, 18th Century Literature, Feminist Politics, Mystery, and Horror. In 2021, she published several articles in international online journals named "The Literary Herald" and "Asian Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Review [AJMRR]". She wants to explore the interdisciplinary fields of literature while unveiling social, political, and religious hegemony existing in sub-continental literature. She is committed to using her research to effect positive change in her community and enjoys indulging in various creative pursuits, including painting, singing, dancing, and writing.



**SIRAJUM MUNIR  
(MA-CRITICAL, 2022)**

is a second year M.A. student. He comes from Bangladesh, a South Asian country. He completed his graduation in English Literature & Linguistics and holds a M.A. degree in Applied Linguistics & ELT.

However, his undying love for literature motivated him to pursue a second M.A. degree in literature here at USD. Munir spent more than two years as a faculty member at United International University, where he taught courses such as Fiction & Non-Fiction, Academic Writing, Intensive English, and others. He is currently serving as a teaching assistant while pursuing his degree. His primary area of research interest is focused on eco-criticism and its representation in modern fiction and digital media. He is also heavily interested in post-colonial literature, & Horror and Gothic literature. Some of his favorite writers include Stephen King, Otsuchi, Chinua Achebe, Haruki Murakami, and James Conrad.



**UKAMAKA OLISAKWE  
(PHD-CREATIVE, 2020)**

holds an MFA in Writing and Publishing and is a Ph.D. candidate and instructor on the creative track. Her academic interests include representations of motherhood in pre-colonial and postcolonial women's literature, music, and film, and literatures on postpartum depression and complications. In 2014, she was named one of the continent's most promising writers under the age of forty by the UNESCO World Book Capital for the Africa39 project. In 2016, she was awarded an honorary



fellowship in Writing from the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa. In 2018, she won the Vermont College of Fine Arts' Emerging Writer Scholarship for the MFA in Writing and Publishing program. In 2019, she was shortlisted for the Brittle Paper Award for Creative Nonfiction. In 2021, she won the SprinNG Women Authors Prize for her novel, Ogadinma. In 2022, she emerged runner-up for the Gerald Kraak Prize. A finalist for the Miles Morland Writing Scholarship, she has had her works appear in the New York Times, Granta, Longreads, The Rumpus, Catapult, Rattle, Waxwing, Jalada, Brittle Paper, Hunger Mountain, Sampsonia Way, and more. Her books include Eyes of a Goddess (2012), Ogadinma (2020), Don't Answer When They Call Your Name (2023). She is the Founder and Editor in Chief of Isele Magazine.

**HEATHER CORRIGAN PHILLIPS  
(PHD-CREATIVE, 2018)**

holds a B.A. in English from Southern Connecticut State University and an M.S. in Professional Writing from Towson University. Prior to joining USD, Heather taught English in the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Czech Republic. After completing her coursework at USD, she joined Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan where she teaches leadership. Her interests include cross cultural narratives, humor writing, and memoir. She has



published essays as Heather Corrigan in North American Review, Ascent, Connecticut Review, Louisville Review, Oyez Review, Litro Magazine and Lowestoft Chronicle, among others. Her essay "Widmarked" was a 2015 finalist in Southeast Review's narrative nonfiction contest and her essay "A Scattershot Approach" was published in Southern Humanities Review in 2020. She plans to graduate in January 2024

**KATIE PIPER  
(MA-CREATIVE WRITING, 2023)**

is a first-year graduate student studying English with a specialization in Creative Writing. She believes English is a way to teach critical thinking and perspective. After getting her teaching credentials from the University of Idaho she taught these foundations in her classrooms.



**KARLI TOKALA ROUSE  
(PHD-CREATIVE, 2020)**

comes from the Ihanktonwan Dakota Oyate, was born in the Sandhills of western Nebraska and raised in Las Vegas. She

earned her MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2020 and is going into her fourth year as a PhD student at USD. For the last year, she served as a GAA

with Native Student Services, a position which has allowed her to support NSS staff in developing and implementing culturally relevant programming and work closely with students at the Native American Cultural Center to help them improve their writing. In September, she will sit her PhD qualifying exams with the culmination of her research into the Oceti Sakowin Literary Tradition and the settlercolonial context of post-1945 American Literature



**AMELIA SAINT (SHE/HER)  
(PHD-CREATIVE, 2021)**

is a third-year creative track PhD student whose current literary hyperfixations include comics and any kind of writing that explores gender and neurodiversity. She is an instructor at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa, where she lives with her partner, children, and various animal friends.



**HUSSEIN SANOOH  
(PHD-CRITICAL, 2021)**

is originally from Baghdad, Iraq. He received his B.A. in English from BHSU and his M.A. in English literature from SDSU. As a poststructuralist, his interest is in subject formation. Influenced by Michel Foucault, he wants to investigate and examine how British Victorian discourses and ideologies form and shape Victorian subjects and literature. He goes by Sanooh.