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Writing & Rhetoric Studies

**THE WRITING & RHETORIC REVIEW**

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THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

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**DEPARTMENT OF WRITING  
& RHETORIC STUDIES**

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# UTAH ASIA CAMPUS

The University of Utah Asia Campus (UAC) recently celebrated their 10th anniversary! A founding member of the Incheon Global Campus, UAC pairs academic excellence with global experience. Students receive a world-class education as they pursue one of the many offered undergraduate programs. Writing & Rhetoric Studies is proud to offer a Minor option to those looking to acquire analytical and persuasive skills as well as improve their academic and professional writing. The WRS faculty at UAC are experts in their field and are committed to the inspiring and transformative goals of the university.



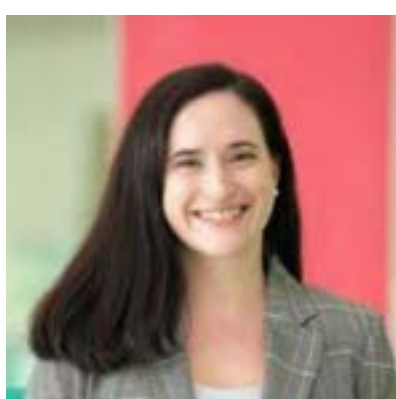
**BRANDY BIPPES:** Associate Professor (Lecturer), Director of the English Language Lab, and tech nerd at UAC, specializes in technical communication, rhetoric, second language acquisition, and integrating AI in writing. Brandy's work supports multilingual writers, advancing their skills in technical and cross-cultural communication in WRTG 1008, 1010, 3015, off-season 2010, and ECE 3030.



**JACQUIE HEBERT:** I have been an Assistant Professor (Lecturer) at UAC for just over two years. Prior to this, I gained extensive experience as a writing instructor and English language educator at a community college in Canada and as a visiting lecturer in Korea. My passion lies in supporting students and engaging them in the learning process. In my free time, I enjoy hiking, biking, and traveling.



**NATHAN MEYER:** An Assistant Professor (Lecturer) at UAC, Nathan Meyer has extensive international teaching experience and education. He has worked with the US State Department on various projects, founded an NGO for post-conflict resolution, and developed media literacy and teacher training programs. His research focuses on hybrid course design, pedagogies based in sports science, and narrative-based learning.



**ALLISON SEGAL:** Allison Segal is an Assistant Professor (Lecturer) with interest and expertise in ESL/EFL studies, Shakespeare, Pop Culture, and Curriculum Development. In collaboration with Oxford University Press and Bob Books, she's developed curriculum for English language learning. Before joining the UAC faculty, developed multiple English Immersion Programs for the English General Education Department at Incheon National University.

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# DWRS FACULTY NEWS

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## Rachel Bryson

Rachel Bryson presented twice at the 42nd ACM International Conference on Design of Communication (SIGDOC) in October 2024.

- With Jared Colton (USU): "Discipline and punish: The problems with policing AI in student writing."
- With Sam Clem (University of Delaware), Ryan Cheek (Missouri S&T), and Hannah Stevens (USU): "You want me to teach what!?! Emerging technologies, required knowledge, and pedagogical practice."

Read the paper based on the second presentation [here](#).

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## Trace Daniels-Lerberg

Trace Daniels-Lerberg co-edited *Short Diary Fiction: A New Global Anthology*. Funded by the department and the college, and assisted by UROP student researcher Melissa Lire, the book explores the diary genre across time and space.

Find her book on Bloomsbury [here](#).

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## Jay Jordan

Jay Jordan has been selected as a US Department of State English Language Specialist for Thailand for March-May 2025. As part of his extended responsibilities, Dr. Jordan will conduct an online needs analysis in March and then hold in-person workshops in April and May at the Mahidol University in Bangkok and Prince of Songkla University in Pattani. The workshops will focus on English-language academic publication for social sciences and humanities.

Read more about his prestigious project [here](#).

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## Jon Stone

Jon Stone's most recent article "The Folkness of Harry Shearer" will be published in the journal of *Resonance* in early 2025.

Stay tuned for a link!

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# Professor Maximilian Werner



Maximilian Werner is an accomplished writer, researcher, and educator, currently serving as a Professor (Lecturer) in the Writing and Rhetoric Studies Department at the University of Utah.

With over two decades of teaching experience, he has made significant contributions to the fields of writing and environmental studies.

Werner is a prolific author, having published seven books across various genres. His works include *Black River Dreams*, a collection of literary fly-fishing essays; the novel *Crooked Creek*; the memoir *Gravity Hill*; and *Evolved Chronicles of the Pleistocene Mind*, which blends memoir and natural history.

He has also written *The Bone Pile: Essays on Nature and Culture*, a poetry collection titled *Cold Blessings*, and *Wolves, Grizzlies, and Greenhorns: Death and Coexistence in the American West*.

His creative and scholarly writings have appeared in numerous journals and magazines, such as *The Robert Frost Review*, *Inside Higher Education*, *Times Higher Education*, *Counterpunch*, and *The North American Review*.

Werner's research interests are diverse, encompassing environmental writing, rhetoric, and cultural studies. He has explored topics ranging from the poetics of Ezra Pound to the ecological and cultural implications of human interactions with wildlife.

His recent publications include articles on the rhetoric of death by grizzly bears and the biocultural explanations for trophy hunting. Werner teaches a variety of courses, including Intermediate Writing, Environmental Writing, and Writing About War. His teaching philosophy emphasizes critical thinking, creativity, and the importance of understanding the natural world. Werner is known for his engaging and thought-provoking classes, which inspire students to explore complex issues through writing.

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# DWRS STUDENT NEWS

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## Aubrey Fochs and GRADitude

Aubrey Fochs is presenting on behalf of the Graduate Writing Center on November 21st for GRADitude week. The event will be held in the Marriott Library, Room 1725 at 10:30am.

Click [here](#) for more information about GRADitude Week!

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## Keola Kinghorn

Keola Kinghorn recently reviewed a new adaptation of Peter Pan.

Read the full article [here](#). Keola's website, "Rhetorical Review" houses her extensive and impressive collection of theater, Shakespeare, and musical reviews.

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## Featured Spring 2025 Courses

Take HUM 1600 or WRTG 3025 with John Gordon!

**HUM 1600 Programming for Humanities (HF)** is an introduction to computer programming explicitly designed for non-tech audiences that takes a humanist approach to exploring how programming can contribute to your educational, research, and employment interests.

**WRTG 3025 Code Studies (CW)** is the humanist exploration of code, data, algorithms, and generative AI. This course applies numerous humanities-based approaches (close-reading, critical theory, rhetorical analysis, etc.) to examine questions in and around the technologies affecting all aspects of modern life. Contact John Gordon with any questions you may have about either course.

Take **WRTG 5905 The Sociolinguists of Writing** with Alex Way! The field of sociolinguistics explores how language is used within everyday situations. Take this course to discover how sociological perspectives enrich writing studies!

Take **WRTG 7760 Rhetoric/Composition/Discourse** with Romeo García! This is an advanced course on the grammars of (de)coloniality. Interdisciplinary in nature, it traces the intellectual traditions of anti-colonialism and post-colonialism that gave rise to the Modernity/Coloniality Research Program and their analytical framework, modernity/coloniality.

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# Joseph Mayaki



I am a Nigerian first-generation college student. My intellectual journey presents a story of perseverance and resilience. I did not find learning easy at the start. It was intriguing to discover that the recent character test I took revealed that the love of learning is my number one character strength. It makes more sense now, when I ask myself, "Joseph, why a second PhD?" I am a three-degree alumnus of the premier

department of English of Nigeria's Premier University, the University of Ibadan. My previous research has examined reflections of community conflicts and violence in African drama, the female face of modern African poetry and the therapeutic functions of literature.

My ongoing research interest lies in the intersections of digital rhetoric and mental health. I am interested in exploring digital stories of grief with a view to examine how the affordances of digital platforms serve therapeutic purposes in the context of grief management. Seeing that digital spaces are fast becoming private and public therapeutic scriptoriums as people often resort to them to narrate their grief in stories and connect to others, I am interested in exploring the unique mental health impact of online compassionate communities amidst the prevalence of digital grief rhetoric. I am also interested in writing education in L2 settings.

As a second-year graduate student of the U's Department of Writing & Rhetoric Studies, I have had illuminating and impactful experiences valuable to the field. I have benefited immensely from the expertise of faculty members and their accommodating practices. I have had the opportunity to present at important conferences such as University of Utah Digital Humanities 8 Symposium (February 2024), The Global Society of Online Literacy Educators Conference (February 2024), Computers and Writing Conferences held at Texas Christian University (June 2024), and Writing Education Across Borders Conference (September 2024) held at the University of Utah. It has been an exciting journey so far.

# Mohamed Ibrahim

## **Tell us about yourself and how you got involved with Writing & Rhetoric Studies?**



My name is Mohamed, and I was born in Baghdad. When the U.S. decided to invade Iraq and change the regime, I was a sophomore in the School of Architecture. The need for linguists and English interpreters skyrocketed, so I changed my major and fell in love with linguistics and writing ever since. After working with the U.S. Armed Forces as an interpreter, I ended up in Salt Lake City as a refugee.

When Covid hit, it caused me to see time in a new way. I decided to go back to school, and I had to start from scratch. Getting my GED from SLCC, I thought to stay for an Associate. After my Associate, I was encouraged to get a Bachelor, so I transferred to the U. During the Transfer Student Orientation, I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Christie Toth, who introduced WRS as a major. I signed up for the free 3-credit course WRTG 3030, and I was hooked!

## **Do you have a favorite course or class assignment from WRS so far?**

Currently my WRTG 3875 class is taught by the funniest of them all, Dr. Kendall Gerdes. Some may argue that funny is idiosyncratic, but I would counter that whoever can reference Nicki Minaj and Cardi B while discussing Gorgias and Protagoras is objectively funny.

## **Tell us about a current research project or interest!**

I am excited to be part of research projects, such as one with Dr. Christie Toth regarding the perspectives of community college students on what makes a good writing instructor, or the research project of PhD student Xiaoyu Yin within the Management Department at the David Eccles School of Business regarding the underutilization of talent provided by the refugee communities within the Salt Lake County.

As for research of my own, I am interested in whether de-Latinization is a requisite for a decolonized higher education.



## Estée Crenshaw



Photo Credit:: UVU Marketing & Communication

Estée Crenshaw was a DWRS student who successfully defended her dissertation in 2023. Since then, she's served as a tenure-line English faculty member at Utah Valley University.

Dr. Crenshaw made a brief return to the University of Utah when she presented at the Writing Education Across Borders Conference in September of this year. She presented, "Poison, Remedy, Scapegoat?: AI as pharmakon in the writing classroom and the ongoing fear of 'language out of context.'"

Dr. Crenshaw is currently working on a new title, "The Rhetoricity of Poetic Dialogues (Zotoka) in Heian Japan." Her article is set to publish in the *Journal for the History of Rhetoric* of the Penn State University Press.

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# LOOK OUT FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE: **DECEMBER 9TH**

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**INTERESTED IN YOUR STORY BEING  
FEATURED IN A FUTURE ISSUE?**

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Follow the link and share the "Story" of your academic and scholarly journey.

**DWRS Undergraduate Form**

**DWRS Graduate Form**



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