
Writing & Rhetoric Studies

THE WRITING & RHETORIC REVIEW



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

**DEPARTMENT OF WRITING
& RHETORIC STUDIES**

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OCTOBER NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

DWRS DEPARTMENT SUMMER

What was the department up to this summer?

We've traded sunscreen for syllabi, but let's take one last look at summer before we say goodbye. From family trips to weddings to fellowships and publications, the WRS department knows how to fill the sunny days!

Enjoy our **Summer Snapshots!**



The Department welcomed six new graduate students! Here they are out for a get-to-know-you lunch with our Chair, Dr. Jennifer Andrus. Pictured from left to right: Shamsul Islam, Jem Ashton, Zarek Zeng, Stella Gu, Lotus Yu, and Bekki Hood (not pictured).

Jay Jordan was a fellow at the National Humanities Center in June—in Research Triangle Park, NC. He was one of a cohort of about 35 scholars from across the country plus India. And he completed a draft of an article on second language writing and visual rhetoric, which he submitted to College Composition and Communication.



Bekki Hood and Zac Jones welcomed their daughter, Emmie, into the world on April 22nd after an emergency C-section. She's often described as the "smiliest baby" people have ever seen. You can find our new unofficial mascot being strolled around the LNCO halls!

In Mid-July, **Zac Jones** presented at the IWAC Conference held at Colorado State University. He presented about a project he'd been working on with Dr. Andrus and Dr. Mathison about students' (particularly in the medical sciences) ability to identify medical mis-

and-dis-information, as well as their beliefs about doctor/patient relationships.

DWRS DEPARTMENT SUMMER



Tiffany Barney: This summer was busy with PhD stuff. I completed my 3 written exam papers, which felt like 3 months straight of finals—the state of my house and pantry proved it! I also was honored to work with Christie Toth, Jessica Nastal, and Norbert Elliot on a Journal of Writing Analytics White Paper about Writing Placement and GenAI, which we're still revising. Best of all, I just completed the verbal portion of my exams on September

3rd and passed! I topped off the summer with a long weekend in San Diego, one of my very favorite places since it's like the perfect date every day, April 25th --not too hot, not too cold. All you need is a light jacket.

Rachel Lott was a busy bee this summer!

She attended the 3rd Annual Salt Lake MLA Summer Institute on Reading and Writing Pedagogies at Access-Oriented Institutions (AOIs), facilitated by Christie Toth (University of Utah), Darin Jensen (SLCC), and Melissa Valerie (University of Michigan). The sessions offered rich conversations about supporting students across diverse institutional contexts.

Rachel and her family tackled the yard in preparation for two bridal showers, a wedding, and a neighborhood party for three-to-five-year-olds. Ultimately, the corny games, pastel macarons, and bright chalk art made all the work worthwhile.



Rachel Bryson: This summer, I presented at/was accepted to the CWPA conference and the IWAC conference. I was also invited to join the Research in Editing and Publishing (REAP) research group, sponsored by the BYU Humanities Center and the BYU Department of Linguistics, which brings together scholars in editing and publishing from all over the country. As part of that group, I'm engaged in

collaborative research with other scholars about editing pedagogy, and I am part of the steering committee to hold the first-annual REAP symposium next summer. Oh, and I went to the Oregon Coast, and, as always, I wanted to stay forever!

DWRS DEPARTMENT SUMMER



Outside the office, **Hailey Densley** filled her summer days with hiking, paddle boarding, art markets, a concert, and searching for the best ice cream shop in the valley (Blacksmith Ice Cream Co., if you're wondering).

Keola Kinghorn: My platform, The Rhetorical Review, continues to gain traction. It has become a space not only for theatre reviews but also for dialogue across performance, rhetoric, and cultural criticism. One highlight of the season has been being asked to interview ten-time Grammy Award-winning Cuban trumpeter Arturo Sandoval, who performed at the University of Utah on September 4th.

I also traveled to Cedar City and Ivins to review multiple productions at the Utah Shakespeare Festival and Tuacahn Amphitheatre. Back in Salt Lake City, I covered world premieres at the Great Salt Lake Fringe Festival, spotlighting new and experimental work in intimate community spaces.

Beyond reviewing, I made progress on my dissertation research, drafted sections of my open-access article for the ADE Bulletin special issue, and deepened my scholarly writing practice. It has also been deeply affirming to see my work recognized by others: one of my reviews was cited in a peer-reviewed article, "A Spirit to Resist": Women's Non-Traditional Casting and/as Feminist Intervention in The Taming of the Shrew by Emily Pickett (Wooden O Symposium, Queen's University).

Lisa Shaw: This Summer I spent two weeks at our family cabin relaxing with my dog! But most of the summer was spent tabling for First Year Writing information at the many Orientation resource fairs. Our school mascot, Swoop, is super cool, kind of intimidating, and definitely not the same guy every time.



**So Long, Summer
Welcome, Fall!**



DEPARTMENT PUBLICATIONS

LuMing Mao

Last year LuMing joined a group of colleagues around the world in a discussion on the challenges facing higher education. The outcome of this conversation has now appeared in the peer-reviewed journal *Minerva: A Review of Science, Learning and Policy*, titled “A Crisis of the Professoriate.” Here is the link to this article: <https://rdcu.be/eZNEz>

Maureen Mathison

Maureen Mathison’s chapter, “Activism in Science: Saying No to the Objectionable Appropriation of Research” was published in *Scientists, Politics, and the Rhetoric of Public Controversy*, edited by Pam Pietrucci and Leah Ceccarelli, published by Springer Nature Switzerland, 2025.

Keola Kinghorn

Keola Kinghorn was excited to see one of her papers be accepted for publication in the *ADE Bulletin*, the journal of the Association of Departments of English – a subsidiary of the Modern Language Association of America.

Zarek Zang

Zarek Zang was a corresponding author for the article, “Research on the Fitting Degree between the Texts of English Reading Comprehension in National Entrance Examination and the Lexicons from the English Curriculum Standards. It was published in June 2025 and is indexed by the National Center for Philosophy and Social Sciences Documentation of China, China National Knowledge Infrastructure, and Chinese Humanities and Social Science Attractive, Management, and Impact Citation Database.

Zabrina Le

One of our recent graduates, Zabrina Le, published her article, “Cultivating Empathy in the Age of AI: A Student Editor’s Philosophy” in *Range*, the university’s undergraduate research journal. This was part of her UROP project.

DWRS DEPARTMENT NEWS

Joseph Mayaki

Joseph Mayaki received a Mary Ann Travel Award for Rhetoric of Health and Medicine (RHM) Scholars. Joseph will be presenting a paper about online grief communities at the RHM Symposium, which will be held in Minneapolis, MN. In mid-October.

Keola Kinghorn

Keola Kinghorn was awarded the University Teaching Assistantship, by the graduate school for the 2025–2026 academic year (Fall & Winter semesters) and will have the opportunity to teach a class she designed in the Spring Semester.

Keola also interviewed ten-time Grammy Award-winning Cuban trumpeter Arturo Sandoval for her platform, The Rhetorical Review. Sandoval performed at the University on September 4th.

We Live Amid and As Archives

Mark your calendars for our first guest speaker in our new *We Live Amid and As Archives* speaker series!



José Cano presents: "Apparitions of la Llorona: A Photography Journal from the US-Mexico Border."

Through a photography journal, this talk examines how beliefs shape realities at the US-Mexico border. The entries in the journal feature photos of la Llorona dolls at sites of immigration enforcement to juxtapose federal and community beliefs. This talk aims to complicate immigration enforcement and position la Llorona as an uncapturable yet haunting force.

October 14th | LNCO 2910
Pedagogical Talk: 1:30pm – 2:30pm
Scholarly Talk: 2:30pm – 4:00pm

José Luis Cano Jr. is Assistant Professor of Rhetoric, Composition, and Literacy Studies at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in Brownsville, Texas. Cano investigates immigration enforcement, border rhetorics, and college writing.

ISSUES RESUME

OCTOBER 20TH



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