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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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Writing & Rhetoric Studies

# THE WRITING & RHETORIC REVIEW



## Introducing a New Writing and Rhetoric Studies Newsletter!

The Department of Writing and Rhetoric Studies would like to introduce a new newsletter! The newsletter, which you are reading right now, will be published digitally in a number of places (website, social media, email, etc.) the second Monday of every month. It will contain key pieces of news and information for and about faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students; information about up-coming events; a feature on faculty teaching and/or research; an interview with a faculty member; and more!

The newsletter is a place for information for new and interested students about the great WRS undergraduate degree programs as well as those who are already taking courses towards their WRS degrees. The newsletter provides a space for us to communicate the great things going on in WRS to each other, alumni, the university community, parents and families, and the broader community.

We look forward to putting together the newsletter every month, and we hope you will enjoy reading it!

- Dr. Jenny Andrus

# DWRS FACULTY NEWS

## Introducing Dr. Jenny Andrus:



Dear WRS and University Communities,

We are pleased to announce our new chair, Dr. Jenny Andrus. Jenny has been a member of the Department of Writing and Rhetoric Studies as our friend and colleague since 2010. Since joining the U of U, Jenny has served and often chaired committees at the department, college, and

university levels. She was also the Director of First-Year Writing for many years.

Jenny's research is about narrative and domestic violence studied from a discourse analysis perspective. She collects and analyzes stories that people tell about their experiences with domestic violence. Her research has produced two books and numerous articles and book chapters. Finally, Jenny loves teaching. She has taught courses from the most introductory writing class for first-year students to graduate classes. Her teaching philosophy centers students and validates the language practices that they bring with them to the university. Jenny is excited to be the chair of the department and to work with and serve her fellow faculty, undergraduate students, and graduate students.

**Welcome, Jenny!**

# DWRS FACULTY NEWS

## WEAB Conference 2024



With support from the College of Humanities; the Department of Education, Culture, and Society; the Department of English at Weber State University; and the Prison Education Project, the Department hosted the 2024 meeting of the Conference on Writing Education Across Borders September 20-21. Approximately 65 presenters

plus three plenary speakers traveled from throughout the US and from several other countries to share scholarship and to network. Topics ranged from Generative AI and transnational academic job markets to national language and policies and carceral education.

- Dr. Jay Jordan



Photo Credit: Jay Jordan and Xiaoye You

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# DWRS FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

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## Jenny Andrus:

"My word against his': Micro and Macro analysis of stories about violence in intimate partner relationships"

Published September 2024 in *Language & Communication* in Elsevier.

Read the full publication [here](#).

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## Maureen Mathison & Alexandria DeGrauw:

"Leveraging Grant-Writing for Transforming Students' Views of STEM"

Published in *Across the Disciplines* (WAC Clearinghouse, University Press of Colorado, 2024).

Read the full publication [here](#).

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## Anne McMurtrey:

"Boundaries and Labor During the COVID-19 Pandemic"

Published in *Story Writing Center Labor for Anti-Capitalist Futures* (WAC Clearinghouse, University Press of Colorado, 2024).

Read the full publication [here](#).

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## Christie Toth & Darin Jensen:

"Examining English Mythology: PhD Programs, Access-Oriented Institutions, and the Future of the Profession(s)"

Published 2024 in the *ADE Bulletin 161* of the Modern Language Association.

Read the full publication [here](#).

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## Professor Hua Zhu

My research lies at the intersection of comparative global rhetorics and the transnational writing pedagogies. I join in the disciplinary discussion of global rhetorics by studying Chinese rhetoric in dialogue with other rhetorical traditions, by employing comparative methodology - a critical lens that studies both the cultural specificity of rhetoric and the dialogism between rhetorics, by attending to pedagogical experiences of writing teachers that are marked as "non-Western," and by forming allyship between comparative rhetoric and decolonial studies. For example, in my current single-authored book project, I recover a rhetorical action of speaking to power from



ancient Chinese treatises and historical anecdotes, and further foster a critical and self-reflective comparative dialogue between the classical Chinese rhetorical concept and acts of power subversion from other rhetorical traditions. In doing so, I envision a new rhetorical theory for reorienting power transformation in today's global contact zones from antithetical resistance to critical engagement.

Another project that showcases my research interests is a special issue that I am co-editing with my colleagues for the journal *Rhetorical Society Quarterly*. This special issue aims to clarify and reimagine the relationship between comparative rhetoric and decolonial scholarship and to consider how rhetoricians and writing scholars might bring together the two areas to study global rhetorics in ways that interdependence and pluriversality become possible.

**BIOGRAPHY:** Dr. Zhu is an Assistant Professor of Writing and Rhetoric Studies at the University of Utah. Her research lies at the intersections of comparative global rhetorics, non-Eurocentric history of rhetoric, and transnational writing pedagogies. Dr. Zhu has published in *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, *The Routledge Handbook of Comparative Rhetorics*, *Rhetorical Review*, *Rhetorica*, and *Composition Forum*.

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# DWRS STUDENT NEWS

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## Welcome New Grad Students!

The Department of Writing & Rhetoric Studies is excited to introduce our new graduate students!

**Luz Carreno**  
**Jennifer Greenlee**  
**Jessica Holiday**

**Zachary Jones**  
**Kobe Rathsavong**  
**Mohi Uddin**

Check out our Graduate Directory on our website to learn more about our students and their areas of scholarship. Click [here](#).

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## Tiffany Barney:

"PhD Candidate Tiffany Barney contributes to the latest round of the *Writing Spaces* textbook series. In the Digital Literacy section of Activities & Assignments, Tiffany Barney published "Summaries: GAI vs. Human".

View the rest of her contribution [here](#).

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## Jessica Begay:

"Humans of the U" recently featured WRS MA Student Jessica Begay:

Read the full article [here](#).

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## John Gordon:

Associate Instructor and PhD Candidate John Gordon teaches WRTG 3025: Code Studies.

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# Lisa Harris

If you walk by the J. Willard Marriott Library, you can't help but notice the word **BELONG** in big bold letters across the front windows.

At the beginning of my career here, I questioned if I belonged at the U, especially as a non-traditional student and a mother of four. But in



May, I stood beside my student Portia at the department award ceremony. She won the award for the best student paper in Writing 2010, and I received an award for my graduate student paper. I was also chosen to be the graduate WPA. **That was the first time I felt like I truly belonged.**

In my second year, I collaborated on the 2010 curriculum with our WPA Jon Stone and helped to plan orientation for our new

graduate student instructors (GSIs). I became passionate about ensuring that they were familiar with the U's resources, like the counseling center and the food pantry, which can not only help them, but also the first-year students they teach.

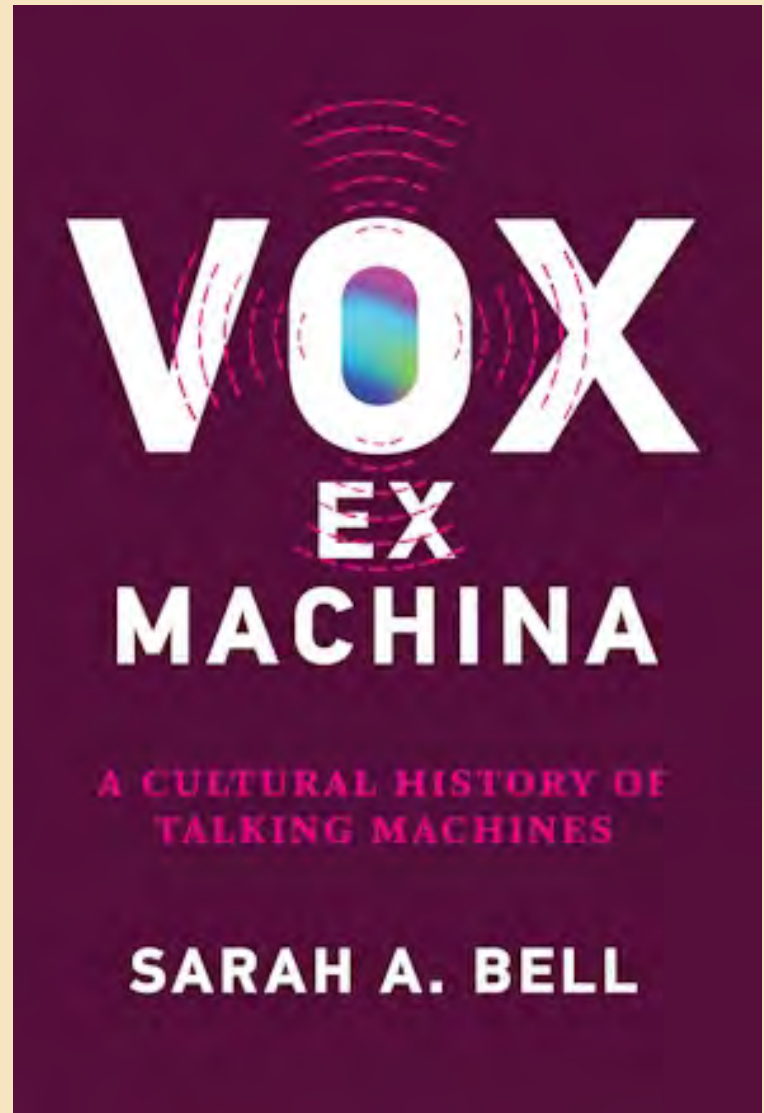
As an outgrowth of my work with the GSIs, I responded to a CFP for an edited collection entitled "There are Writing Emergencies" published by Utah State University Press. My forthcoming article is entitled "Writing in a Time of Trauma: Training GSIs as First Responders in FYW."

In May, I stood again at our department award ceremony. My revised paper from the previous year, written in Dr. Jenny Andrus's class, won an award for best conference paper. It also received an honorable mention and cash prize from the College of Humanities, and I presented it at the RSA Conference in Denver in May.

Starting the PhD program was a big leap out of my comfort zone. But someone once told me that there is no growth in the comfort zone and no comfort in the growth zone. Even in my third year, I'm not completely comfortable, but I do feel like I truly belong at the U.

**BIOGRAPHY:** Lisa Rumsey Harris is a third-year graduate student in the WRS Department. Her scholarship focuses on feminist rhetorics, narrative and identity, and graduate student instructors.

## Sarah A. Bell



Sarah A. Bell (WRS/COMM, 2015), Associate Professor at Michigan Tech University, was recently mentioned in the October 7, 2024 New Yorker Magazine by historian and journalist Jill Lepore. Sarah's book *VOX ex Machina: A Cultural History of Talking Machines*, published by MIT Press, is described by Lepore as "a terrific tour," of voice synthesis. Lepore draws from Sarah's book in her article "Is Chat with a Bot a Conversation?". You can read more about Sarah's book at MIT Press.

Click [here](#).

# LOOK OUT FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE: **NOVEMBER 11TH**



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

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

**DWRS Undergraduate Form**

**DWRS Graduate Form**

"Rhetoric is a mode of altering reality, not by the direct application of energy to objects, but by the creation of discourse which changes reality through the mediation of thought and action."

- Lloyd Bitzer, rhetorician



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