



SPOTLIGHT ON ENGLISH MAJOR NEW DEGREE PLAN

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



SPOTLIGHT ON FACULTY MARTY SALGADO

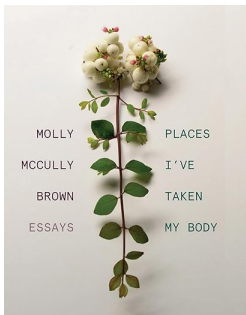
NEWSLETTER

Spotlight on Students: English Majors Talk About Why They Chose English

By T Jones

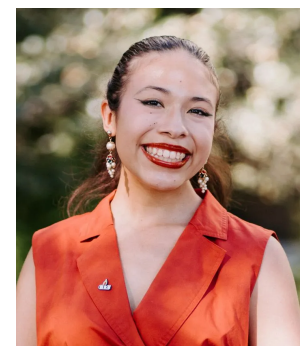


Leah Partipilo *My name is Lea Partipilo, and I am a senior studying English literature and communications. I enjoy supporting the English department and my friends by attending open mic nights, artist panels, and the English fair. As a member of Reisher I have become passionate about volunteering during the UCCS LEAD days of service with my team and learning more about community initiatives in Colorado Springs. I became an English major because literature has consistently changed and expanded on my knowledge of the world. It serves to connect people, perspectives, and ideas across time and space. I find this access to knowledge invaluable to my personal growth and humanity. A book I was incredibly moved by and recommend to anyone is Places I've Taken My Body by Molly McCully Brown. Brown has a hauntingly raw way with words and a unique but important perspective to share with society. A piece of advice I wish I learned earlier in life is to control your own narrative. When you let others define you that becomes your story, but when you define yourself, that is when you find peace and begin to achieve your dreams.*



Adara Ceja Albarran *I'm Adara, a part time film enthusiast, a creative writer, and Junior pursuing a bachelor's in literature studies. I love the color pink, horror and nuanced revisionist history of the context we surround ourselves with. I love reading, and I'm a slave to print culture, cd's and collages. I'm currently the co-president of the Latinx Student Union, but I also filled the roles of pr officer and general member earlier. I work with an amazing board and my fellow co-president Sharenie to plan events, and fundraise for the club.*

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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



LAS Awards Ceremony Fall 2024

Congratulations to Joe Brucker, Evangela Dudeck, Erin Hansen, Tabitha

Richardson, Larissa Snoddy who received the Outstanding Student Award in English at the Fall 2024 Awards Ceremony! And, sincerest appreciation to the English Department’s own, Kathy Johnson, who received an award marking her many years of service to UCCS as she retired in Fall 2024!

On Wednesday, March 12, 2025, Dr. Suhaan Mehta hosted an Alumni Panel Discussion with former UCCS English majors: Jennie Morris, Dean of Students at Caprice Academy, Cody Reed, Graduate Student at Colorado State University, & Sean Purcell, Digital Health Humanities Program Coordinator at the



University of CA San Francisco. A good number of English majors, faculty, and even guests sitting in from Ohio attended this virtual event. Jennie, Cody, and Sean talked about the challenges and advantages of seeking Graduate degrees.



On March 18, 2025 The Visiting Author Series hosted Natanya Pulley at the Heller Center. Organizer Catherine Grandorff highlights events with us: *Natanya was a*

gracious, generous reader, offering not only compelling excerpts from her previously published collection of short stories, With Teeth, but also lyric selections from her forthcoming nonfiction work. In addition, she provided insightful commentary on growing up and living in the West as a biracial, Diné woman. I was pleasantly surprised how many souls braved the snow! I think everyone who attended felt warmed.

Adara Continued from page 1

I started off as a biology major in a pre-med track because I wanted to be a credit to my family. Both of my parents are immigrants, and neither of them finished high school. I'm the eldest and oldest daughter and the first generation in my family to go to college. There's always been this cultural pressure to succeed materially. I tried hard for 3 semesters, but by the end of it I was exhausted and drained. I was so unhappy, I switched majors halfway through my sophomore year to English. It was my favorite subject in high school, and I used to devour books whole as a kid. It was a form of necessary escapism. Words are magic, and I wanted to learn how others harnessed them. I need books, I need words, I need language.

When asked what piece of advice she would give to others Adara said,

Create, create, create. Create often, create recklessly, create to practice beginnings and conclusions, create alone, create under watchful eyes and dedicate time to learning about yourself, and all the contradictions you house. Honor all parts.

English Majors Beyond Campus

Junior English Major, Tessa Schauer presented her paper,

“Hello Darkness, My Old Friend: The Effects of Lighting on Monsters, Mothers, and Heroes in *Beowulf*” at the prestigious National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania April 7—9. Tessa had a chance to meet groups from universities all over the United States and her presentation was a hit!



Five Questions for Dr. Carter About the New Fall 2025 English BA Degree Plan

In an interview with the *Newsletter* editor, Dr. Stephen Carter, Chair of the English Department shared his thoughts on the new English Degree Plan.

Question 1: What was the primary motivation for the decision to change the degree plan for English majors?

Dr. Carter: *We began by thinking about ways to revise certain aspects of the degree plan. While our degree plan had quite a few useful and helpful aspects, it wasn't very flexible. We were looking for a way to make it easier to complete, easier to advise students about, and easier to revise as new ideas and innovations occur in the field.*

Question 2: How do you envision the new degree plan will benefit our English Majors most?

Dr. Carter: *There are three things that I see as benefiting our students with this new plan. 1) The new degree plan provides explicit shared courses that all English majors can take and feel that they are part of a common structure. 2) The Spaces of Inquiry model provides more pathways making it easier for students to achieve their degree while also giving them a chance to explore what interests them. 3) Our new course, English 3710 Pathways provides opportunities to think about work in the major and how and what they can do outside of the university.*

Question 3: What is the biggest difference students will notice about this Degree Plan vs. the old English Degree Plan?

Dr. Carter: *The thing students will first notice is that subfield emphases are not as prominent. You will still be able to find pathways to pursue your interest but these pathways will not be as siloed. There will be more cross-pollination between courses. Creative Writing will also be more fully integrated into the degree plan.*

Question 4: Are there new courses that will be offered because of this change?

Dr. Carter: *Yes, but only a handful. Rather, existing courses are being reframed for new ways of thinking about the study of English.*

Question 5: Which new (or reimagined) course are you most excited about for our students?

Dr. Carter: *One of our new courses is Engl 3855 "Reading with the Past". This course will offer a new topic each semester that will focus an Historical lens on the contemporary moment. This will help students to think about things more deeply through the lens of history. I also really like the Engl 3710 Pathways course as it gives students a chance to learn about how meaningful and productive an English degree can be.*

Majoring in English?

FLEXIBLE

Earn your major while having flexibility to choose a minor and finish in 4 years.

INTERACTIVE

Enjoy small classes, hands-on learning, and world-class professors committed to your success.

OPTIONS!

Direct your learning through courses that prepare you for success while fitting your interests.

39 CREDITS
13 COURSES



5 CORE COURSES

Build your foundation in writing, reading, and language.

5 SPACES OF INQUIRY

Explore your interests in literacy, traditions, craft, worldviews, and media.



2 SEMINARS

Dive deep with in-depth senior special topics courses.

1 ELECTIVE

Choose one more course in your favorite area.



Questions? Contact
Department Chair
Dr. Carter
scarter2@uccs.edu

Scan for
more info:



**Student Q&A
Sessions Scheduled
for Fall 2025 (TBA)**

Upcoming Events

English
Majors Fair
2025 Wednesday,
April 30, 2025
4:00-6:00pm in the T.
Rowe Price Career
Center UC 114



Student
Writing
Symposium
Thursday, May 1,
2025 5:00—7:00pm in
Centennial 186



Spring
2025 Awards
Ceremony Tuesday,
May 6, 2025
4:00-6:30pm in Berger
Hall



Glass Ceilings &
Ivory Towers:
Women's Experience
in Higher Education
April 25, 2025
1:00pm
In Hybl 225

Spotlight on Faculty: Marty Salgado Talks Writing and Music

Interview by T Jones

What inspired you to explore the connection between music and nonfiction narrative for this craft talk? *As a writer, I have known that my sensibilities have always been with sound and music. It's shaped my community. It's shaped my life. It's shaped my personality. So, as a nonfiction writer, I thought, "How can I not write about music?" My first connection to music and nonfiction was Fleetwood Mac. They write about their life experiences with one another. They are nonfiction writers! So, I considered how I can share my experiences with music as well and how I could weave all of my favorite musicians and music into my narrative.*

Can you share a specific moment when music deeply influenced a piece of your own writing? *The specific moment that comes to mind is when I was thirteen and I was deep into my listening experience with Simon & Garfunkel. My teenage self had just experienced Yosemite for the first time on an eighth grade class trip. I am a city boy, and that was my first real experience with nature. I was in bed and couldn't fall asleep, and I was listening to "The Dangling Conversation". There was something about the production on that song, the harmonies and Paul Simon's lyrics that made me leap up out of bed, run to the bathroom so my parents wouldn't see that I was awake, turned on the light, and wrote my first poem about Half Dome and those California trees.*

You mentioned using musicians as narrative models. What qualities do they offer that writers can learn from? *There are similarities between musicians and writers, we both have craft, we both perform, and we tap into our inner sensibilities when it comes to emotions. Musicians can offer timing, sensitivity and structure to prose writing. I always say that if a songwriter can get a million people to sing along to a song about a breakup, then I have plenty to offer, too!*

How do you suggest writers translate the abstract elements of music (like rhythm or mood) into written form? *This is such an interesting question! Regarding mood, I think if you simply write while listening to a song, your consciousness will take that song in and your subconscious will take over. Memories, emotion, and people will begin to appear on the page. You may listen to a song that reminds you of a moment in childhood that you never would have written about unless you listened to that song. I am still exploring rhythm, but it all has to do with diction, form, and structure.*

Were there any surprising reactions or questions from the audience that made you see your topic differently? *First of all, I am so grateful that people even came out! I am so fortunate that folks were interested in this as much as I am. What I appreciated most was that a lot of students and faculty listen to music the same way as I do. Not just as a fun thing to listen to, but they are all curating their music listening life by taking musicians, bands, and songs that speak to their experiences. Music isn't just songs we drive, work out, or karaoke to, these songs can become a deeper part of our story.*

What's one piece of advice you'd offer to writers looking to integrate music more intentionally into their process or storytelling? *Writers interested in weaving music into their narratives should do two things: Read other writers who write about music, listen to your favorite music, and simply write about that music listening experience. Think of yourself as adding to the conversations that your favorite songwriters have started.*