UCCS English
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
COLORADO SPRINGS



Flash Writing Contest

Welcome Dr. Danielle Allor
Medieval Specialist





NEWSLETTER

👋 Meet Dr. Allor!

By Sawyer Kean



Hi! I'm Danielle, and I study medieval literature between the 14th and the 15th centuries. I am interested in how the environment, particularly the plant environment, appears in the literature of the Middle Ages. I am a professor here at UCCS, and I teach courses on medieval literature. I have two cats and a lot of houseplants. A little known fact about me is that my undergraduate degree is in physics.

I am Currently Teaching:

- British Literature before 1600: Medieval & Early Modern Worlds (ENGL 2510)
- Studies in Medieval Literature: The Premodern Life of Trees (ENGL 4500)
- Chaucer (ENGL 3950)
- Studies in Gender and Sexuality: A Queer and Trans Middle Ages (ENGL 3650)

My Current favorite show: *Interview With the Vampire* (2022)

My Current favorite book: *The Name of the Rose* by Umberto Eco

Dislikes: Not being able to merge, mealybugs (the pest), humidity, scare quotes



Flash Writing Contest!

For English majors!

Submit your original flash writing (150-200 word poetry, fiction and non fiction, all welcome)! Winners of this contest will see their work **published** in our English Department Newsletter in April 2027.

How to submit:

Email your original work of flash writing in a PDF file to kortega@uccs.edu.

Due Date:

Full consideration will be given to all submissions by English majors received **by 5pm on November 18, 2026.**

Winners will be notified by email by December 14, 2026.

Meet Dr. Allor! *continued*

Dr. Allor was interviewed by the English department's LAS Peak Ambassador, Sawyer Kean who posed a few questions to help us to get to know our newest English faculty member better.

What made you choose your degree path and later career?
In college, I was a physics major. I was always interested in humanities but more on the STEM side. I finished credits early so I took two upper level English classes: a Chaucer course and a Milton course. I became obsessed, and after I graduated, I worked for a test prep company for a while. I just loved medieval English so much that I ended up fully going into it, and when I did, I loved it even more and ended up applying to PhD programs.

What do you want for your students?
I want my students to find that thing they really love that they didn't know they loved. That was kind of my experience. I wasn't attuned to humanities until I started taking English classes, and it resonates so deeply with me. It's kind of my mission to recreate that experience for other students.

Are you doing any other projects or work outside of being a professor?
Right now, I am focusing on getting my house into shape. I just moved in August and it's been hectic since then, so I am focusing on being a homebody right now. Hopefully, I will be able to get more active with things like environmental causes and queer and trans rights.

What do you think is the best piece of medieval literature?
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. It's fun; it has a knight going on a quest. It's one of the best medieval romances (in medieval times, a romance was simply a story). It's about a knight who is green – green skin, green clothes, everything – and he challenges King Arthur's court. He gives them an axe and says they can deal one blow as long as he can deal it back in one year's time. Sir Gawain cuts off his head, thinking it will kill him, Sir Gawain then the Green Knight calmly picks up his own head. He leaves, and Sir Gawain has to face potential death with the impending doom that comes in a year.

English Alumni After UCCS

In his October "Message from CU President Todd Saliman", CU President Saliman highlighted his conversation with Mekella Butterfield-Inama one of 60+ entrepreneurs presenting at CU Innovation Day. Mekella Butterfield-Inama graduated from UCCS in 2023 with her bachelor's degree in English, then earned her master's degree in entrepreneurship from CU Denver. Mekella's company, Ella's Charm, hosts princess and other character parties that excite and engage children in magical experiences. While at UCCS, Mekella's commitment to bringing inspiration to children was clear. Dr. Amicucci recalls that in her Teaching Writing course, Mekella and a partner designed a 3rd grade English Language Arts unit on fairytales to introduce students to a range of stories and guide students in writing their own moral-based tales. – Dr. Ann Amicucci



[Photo: Drea Torresi Oct 2026]

Upcoming Events

Excel Writing &
Communication Center Workshops:
Better Sources, Better Notes
Oct 28 12-1pm

10th Annual Fright Night:
A Scary Story Competition!
Submissions due, October 28th by noon
mferguso@uccs.edu
Prizes presented at Halloween Open Mic,
October 30 2:30-3:30p
Excel Writing & Communication Center

Visiting Author Series
Keetje Kuipers, editor, Poetry Northwest
& Susanna Childress, Best American Essayist
Nov 12 6-8pm, Heller Center

Reading at the Farm
Please join the Sustainability Office, the English Department, and Farmhouse. Let's have Sustainable Silent Book Club at UCCS.
Please Save the following Date
for November Reading at the farm:
November 17th (Tuesday)
from 12:30 to 2:30.

Coming Soon!
Creative Writing Open Mic Night
"Read a poem, essay or story, perform a song, share a skit, or just students sharing their creativity!"



Welcome Our New LAS Peak Ambassador, Sawyer Kean

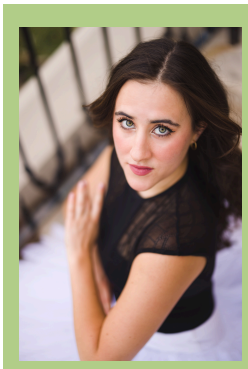
"Hello! My name is Sawyer, and I am an English undergrad on the education track. I also work at the Excel Writing and Communication Center. As a student ambassador, it is my job to make sure that our voices are heard. I'm already working with the outreach committee in hopes to create some awesome events, including ones geared towards English teaching majors! I am so excited to be working in this department, and I will do my best to be a role model and guide to any student who needs it. Don't be afraid to reach out!"

– Sawyer Kean



On September 29th essayist Brenda Miller visited UCCS as part of the **Visiting Author Series**. Brenda visited a nonfiction class and met with students. She also gave a Faculty Talk in the FRC titled "**Writing as a Pathway to Attention.**" Brenda was in conversation about her new memoir in essays and poetry collection *Love You, Bye: A Daughter's Journey in Essay and Poems* with Marty Salgado. The event was a huge success with over 40 students, faculty, and community members attending.

–Martin Salgado



Spotlight of Students: Emma Taylor, Senior Ambitions

Senior English major, Emma Taylor sat down with Professor Posusta to talk about what her experience as an English major at UCCS has meant to her.

What are some of your favorite English classes you have taken at UCCS? English 2530 19th Century British Literature. The time period and book selections were really interesting. I love the Gothic period. I also really liked the structure of the course. Another favorite was Dr. Carter's English 3000 focused on Marxist theory. The content of this course was a revelation. I loved the round table discussion format as well as exploring critical analysis of a variety of texts through the lens of Marxist theory. I also enjoyed Dr. Carter's detective fiction course. I liked how Dr. Carter focused on historicizing the genre and contextualizing the reading material.

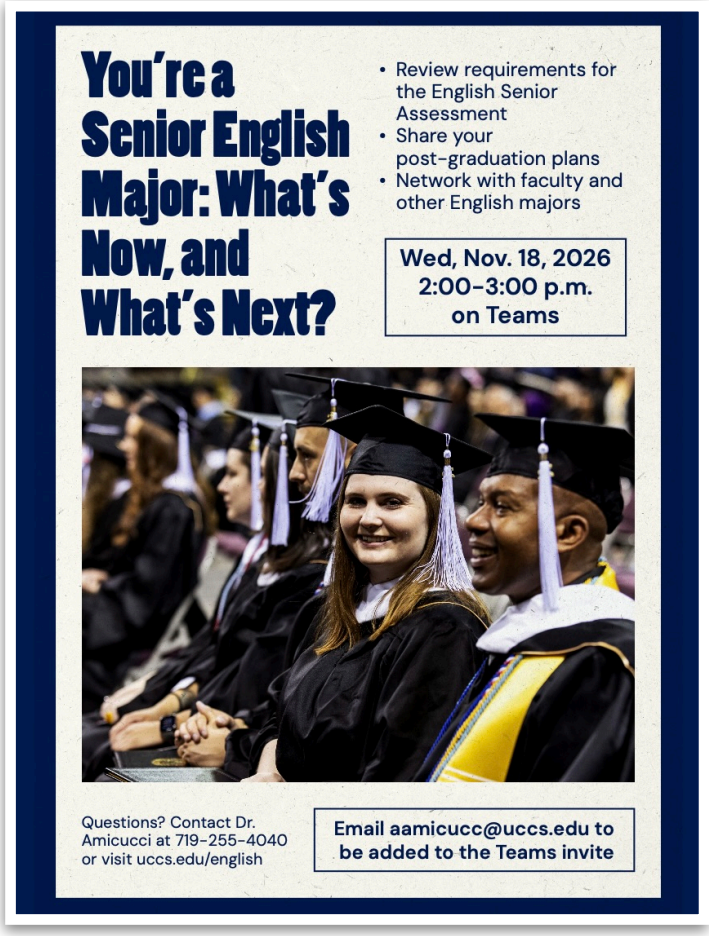
What book(s) did you read for your classes that you like the best? Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. I read it in English 2010 and became a lifelong fan of Austen. I am currently working on an independent study with Prof. Professor in which I will be researching and writing about Austen.

What do you like best about being an English major at UCCS? The best part is the active growth in critical thinking I have experienced. I enjoyed learning the meaning and contextual depth of the literature I've read and what those works are doing in a variety of different contexts.

What do you want to do with your degree when you graduate? I want to eventually go to grad school and get an M.A. in English Lit (my dream is to attend Edinburgh University) and then a Ph.D . I want to teach at the college level. I will work for at least a year between graduation and applying to grad schools .

Do you think a degree in English from UCCS will help you to achieve these goals? Most definitely. I have grown intellectually and honed skills in critical thinking as a result of my time here. My personal interactions with faculty in the English department was much more meaningful than at the other universities I considered before attending UCCS. Being able to ask questions and have intellectual conversations is so much more accessible than at larger universities. I am generally pretty introverted, but here I felt comfortable, more open and able to grow intellectually. – Rebecca Posusta

📣 Calling all Senior English Majors



Summer/Fall 2026

Commencement Ceremony



Date: Friday, December 18, 2026

Time: 2:00 pm
Doors open at 12:30 pm

Location: The Broadmoor World Arena

This Newsletter is produced by the English Department Outreach Committee. 2026 **Contributors**: Sawyer Kean, Martin Salgado & Dr. Ann Amicucci **Editor**: Rebecca Posusta **For more information** contact rposusta@uccs.edu or visit https://english.uccs.edu/