FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESEARCH

Noʻu Revilla won the 2021 National Poetry Series prize for her manuscript Ask the Brindled. She is the first ‘Ōiwi poet to win this award. Her debut book of poetry will be published by Milkweed Editions in fall 2022.

S. Shankar's 2017 novel Ghost in the Tamarind was translated into Italian as Il Fantasma del Tamarindo. A review called the translation "A very beautiful book to read and think about." Shankar finished two forthcoming critical essays on freedom of expression and on "literatures of the world." Among other obligations, he continues to serve on the Board of External Experts for the Nobel Prize in Literature, the Advisory Board for the PMLA, and the Editorial Board of OUP's Approaches to the Novel series.

FEATURED WRITER: Gary Pak

Recently retired, Gary Pak is the author of The Watcher of Waipuna and Other Stories, A Ricepaper Airplane, Children of a Fireland, Language of the Geckos and Other Stories, and Brothers Under a Same Sky. One of his favorite sayings that he tries to live daily is by Duke Ellington: "I took the energy it takes to pout and wrote some blues." As for the work ethic, he cites Gabriel Garcia Marquez: "Writing is nothing but carpentry."


Gary is continuing his work in preserving oral histories by video interviewing social/political/cultural activists in the islands and producing them for subsequent screenings on YouTube and ‘Ōlelo Community TV. His series on Kokua Hawai’i is currently running on ‘Ōlelo TV 54 and also on YouTube. He is also in the planning stages of producing a feature film set in Honolulu’s Chinatown. He has begun rehearsing with his jazz combo, The Gary Pak Trio, after a hiatus brought on by the pandemic. “Hopefully, a good gig will come shortly!” Gary was a subject for an episode of Jin-young Lee Won's documentary series on the Korean diaspora in Hawai’i, Words of Wisdom: From the Rainbow State. Words of Wisdom was part of HIFF 2021;
after the premiere screening, Gary was part of a panel discussion with the other subjects of the film, Big Island Mayor Harry Kim and Hawai‘i Supreme Court Justice Ronald Moon.

To view the trailer and stream the film, visit https://vimeo.com/ondemand/huliodocumentary

Anyone with an active UH library card can stream the film via the UH library system catalog.

For more information on Gary and his work, visit Wakeupress.carrd.co
和 see https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/art/2021/10/689_317469.html

GARY PAK (CONTINUED)

DANIELLE SEID sat down to chat with No‘u about some of her recent accomplishments and current work.

DS: Congratulations again on winning the National Poetry Series Competition! How did you find out you were selected as the winner and what does the recognition mean to you?

“I am one in a long line of ‘Ōiwi poets and I am so proud of the moʻolelo excellence that raised me. This award, this partnership with Milkweed is affirming, but I am more eager to hear from and continue to collaborate with my communities, especially ka poʻe moʻo, ‘Ōiwi wahine, and Indigiqueer creatives. When I reached out to Rick Barot to express my gratitude for selecting me as the NPS winner for Milkweed, he was incredibly gracious about my work. His generosity and artistic vision reminds me of the work being done by mentors like Craig Santos Perez, Brandy Nālani McDougall, and kuʻualoha hoʻomanawanui, who want to build with and alongside their haumāna, not against them. I feel lucky. And ready.”

DS: In the era of Me Too and Idle No More, you are bringing attention to the intersection of colonialism and sexual violence through your poetry. How has poetry been a part of your own healing process and how might poetry help us heal from a world ravaged by colonialism and patriarchy?

“Poetry teaches me how to ask better questions of my relationships to pain, silence, and change; it must be a part of a set of connected practices. Dunya Mikhail said it best: ‘Poetry is not medicine; it’s an x-ray.’ E ola nā iwi.”

DS: Your kumu, the late Haunani-Kay Trask, introduced you to the idea of being slyly reproductive. Do you have advice for how we can all be more slyly reproductive in our lives?

“Earn a better relationship to water, especially the ocean.”
Kristiana Kahakauwila’s excerpt from her short story “Portrait of a Good Father” was performed by Kaliko Kauahi, known for her role as Sandra on *Superstore*, at Kundiman’s 2021 Gala.

Daphne Desser’s article “Public Memory, Memoir, and the Shoah: Narrating Family and Inherited Trauma” was published in the *Journal of Modern Life Writing Studies*. She received three grants, totaling $6,000, for travel and research. She served as a fellow for the Schusterman Center’s Summer Institute for Israel Studies and travelled to Boston and Israel in the summer and to Minneapolis in October. She has accepted invitations to speak on the Shoah and contemporary anti-Semitism for a local podcast in November and for a local chapter of a national Jewish organization in December.

Li Shan Chan was co-winner of the Biography Prize 2021, and recipient of the Graduate Dean’s Scholarship in Spring 2021. This year, Li Shan was invited to join the Singapore National Healthcare Group Population Mental Health Steering Committee as a mental health advocate and the Global Mental Health Peer Network as a Singapore representative.

Chaim ben Avram was nominated for a Pushcart Prize and Best New Poets in 2021. Poems *Passenger Manifest* and an anti-creation myth were featured in *Foothill Journal Volume 10:1* and *aliyah (a primer)* is forthcoming in *Denver Quarterly 56:1*. 

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**SOME RECENT EVENTS**

**WHAT WE’VE BEEN UP TO**

JAN—DEC 2021

**Joseph Keene Chadwick**

Lecture: Melissa Sanchez “Feminist Guilt”

Melissa Sanchez presented a thought-provoking and insightful lecture on feminist guilt in the context of gender and sexuality studies.

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**Haunani-Kay Trask**

and Literature in Hawai’i

Our Department colloquium panel celebrated and explored the writing and ideas of Haunani-Kay Trask, a long-time member of the UHM community, as an opportunity to assess her profound legacy.

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**SHAWNA YANG RYAN,**

“Anatomy: A Literary Reading”

Shawna Yang, director of the Creative Writing Program in English, presented excerpts from her sabbatical project on performance art, pop culture and the female body.

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**625 Colloquium**

Our graduate students held their annual conference, performing presentations on topics organized around the theme, “Self.” Students gave presentations on topics such as online education, American values in feminist rhetoric and commodity culture.

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**English Represents!: Undergraduate Showcase**

Our undergraduate students gave wonderful presentations of their Work in Undergraduate English Classes from 100+ to 400+.
NEWS FROM RECENT ALUMNI

Agatha Danglapin, BA ‘19
"After leaving my jobs with influencer Bretman Rock, KHON2 News, and Buzzfeed, I currently work as a video producer at IMGN Media, a Warner Music Group company, in NYC. My job’s a playful grind where I research, concept, and produce fun ad content for WMG, IMGN, and our clients (Levi’s, Panasonic, and more). Sometimes ads are straightforward, others require me to walk around with a pumpkin on my head promoting Fall/Winter clothing on a beach. Though fun, my education within the English department was diverse and it helped me produce the content I do today. Without copy or a good concept, videos would struggle to perform. The classes I took expanded my mind critically, creatively, and it helped me approach ideas from different angles. With that, I’m also able to phrase words in a way that is on-brand, concise, and impactful."

Christie Honoré, MA ‘21
“I graduated from the English Masters program with a concentration in Composition and Rhetoric in Spring 2021 after completing my master’s project. In June 2021, I was hired by Stanford University as the Marketing Coordinator for Stanford Social Innovation Review, a publication housed under The Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society (PACS). In this position, I collaborate with the publishing and editorial teams on organizing and promoting philanthropy-focused conferences and webinars. A large portion of my job involves writing clear and compelling marketing copy that appeals to a highly educated audience for a variety of platforms including social media, email, and the web. Having a strong background in rhetoric has helped me immensely when crafting marketing copy. Additionally, I’m excited to be presenting two papers virtually at the upcoming MLA conference in January 2022 which I proposed as a graduate student: The Forever House: Digital Narrative Strategies in House of Leaves and The Haunting of Hill House, and Where’s the Affective-Labor Union? Equity for Disabled Women in Post-pandemic Academia.”

Ida Yoshinaga, PHD ‘18
“ I am an Assistant Professor of SF Film at the Georgia Institute of Technology, ranked by US News and World Report as the US’s 4th most innovative university and 10th best public university. Currently I teach cultural screenwriting and cinema studies to some of the smartest STEM undergraduates in the nation. UHM English--when I began my Ph.D. a decade and a half into a 25-year-long grad-school plan--let me train under Cristina Bacchilega, Glenn Man, and John Rieder and gave me the yoyuu (space, latitude) to find my critical voice for 10 years. Appreciate that trust in my nontraditional timing, and the brainy knowledge-sharing of the faculty!”

ENGLISH MAJORS ASSOCIATION

EMA: Who are They?
Going on its second official year, the English Majors Association is a new club designed to create a space for fellow English majors and minors to both get to know one another and learn more about language and literature. The association holds special events throughout each semester, including movie nights, book club meetings and workshops for each member to learn about new genres and styles of writing. Recently, the association held a comedy workshop led by Aaron Kiilau, a third-year PHD student in the English Department to learn more about comedic and satirical writing. They also recently held a book club meeting led by fellow faculty member, Danielle Seid, on her article, “No Joke, This Actually Happened: A Not Funny Interview with Danielle Seid.” The EMA also held an open mic night back in October where students and faculty shared their work and ideas. The association continues to grow and has many exciting events and plans for the future.
Karyl Garland received a formal Certificate of Appreciation “in recognition of excellence in teaching and contribution to the growth of Outreach College’s Programs. Karyl has taught 3 sections of Proofreading and Copyediting Fundamentals and 4 sections of Effective Business writing. Karyl crafted a special writing workshop for WCC Upward Bound students and was a presenter from within our Department for over 700 professors attending a conference of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Karyl also wrote a story for the Spring/Summer 2021 issue of Kahala Life magazine called “Reach for the Sky: How the Kahala Hilton & Resort Rose from One Man’s Vision.” She also edited a children’s book written and illustrated by Shaowei Liu called Honu 5690.

Midori Fujioka presented a research paper "The Japanese Poems, Messages & Inscriptions at Angel Island" at the virtual 2021 Asian Studies Development Program. In addition, Midori’s 2021 proposal to the Association for Asian Studies 2022 Annual Conference has been accepted. She will participate in a hybrid Roundtable Session entitled "Collaborative Work Across the Digital Platform: Asian and Asian Pacific American Academic Archives in Community Spaces for Greater Accessibility." This project work is an extension of digital research completed in ENG 773 with Professor ku’ualoha ho’omanawanui.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CRAIG!

Craig Santos Perez’s book, Habitat Threshold, is shortlisted for the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (UK and Ireland) Book Prize 2021! His book (Omnidawn, 2020), also received a gold medal Nautilus Book Award.

Nandini Chandra gave four different online plenary lectures in various conferences and platforms at universities in India on topics ranging from “The Vernacular History of the Child Lumpen” to “The Lumpen Aesthetics of Tik-Tok Videos” to “The Alterity of Artisanal Significations” to "Trans-Realism and Realism—Through the Lens of the Popular and the Digital.” She presented a paper titled “Fetish Sans Commodity: Realism in the Novels of Vinod Kumar Shukla” at the 2021 ACLA Annual Meeting.

So Yeon Kim’s article “Growing Minari on Rural American Soil: Unsettling the Asian American Immigrant Narrative in Minari (2020)” was presented at the Association for Asian American Studies, along with a panel on “(Re)Writing Korean Women’s History: Bodily Inscriptions and Politics of Representation” at the National Women’s Studies Association. She is scheduled to present a part of her dissertation at the upcoming Society for Cinema and Media Studies conference in March and recently passed her area exams this past November.

Ruth Hsu’s Approaches to Teaching the Works of Karen Tei Yamashita was published in November 2021. This volume was co-edited with Pamela Thoma (University of Washington) and is part of the Modern Language Association “Approaches to Teaching World Literature World Literature” series. The publication of the volume coincided with the National Book Foundation honoring Yamashita with the Lifetime Achievement Award Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. Ruth’s paper on Witi Ihimaera’s The Whale Rider and James Nestor’s Deep was published in Atlantic Studies: Global Currents; her chapter on Rousseau reimagined in Karen Tei Yamashita’s Brazil-Maru was published in early 2021. Ruth’s essay on Vilem Flusser’s genre-bending and provocative Vampyroteuthis Infernalis was published in Flusser Studies earlier this year (2021).