



Carlen Donovan

Carlen Donovan is a teacher, writer, and hobby photographer. She earned an MA in English from Idaho State University, where she currently teaches writing and film studies courses. She lives in Pocatello with one tall man and two short dogs. Carlen has been a Let's Talk About It visiting scholar since 2014.



Carrie Seymour

Carrie Seymour has been a farmer in the Sunnyslope fruit-growing region of southwestern Idaho for thirty years, a teacher of literature and writing at Boise State University for twenty-one years, and a writer for as long as she can remember. When she is not doing one of those things, she can be found in the mountains - camping or snowshoeing or looking at the sky. Her essays, interviews, and poems have been published in a variety of local and regional publications as well as Creative Nonfiction, Bellingham Review, Mid-American Review, and Educe Literary Journal. Her essay "Strands" was a finalist and editor's choice for the Mid-American Creative Nonfiction Prize. She is a co-editor and contributor to the anthology Archives of a Fantastic

Small History: Writings from the Gamekeeper Salon, forthcoming from Educe Press. Her book, The Distance Between Things, a collection of essays, is in the final editing stage. She feels weird talking about herself in third person.



Cheryl Oestreicher

Cheryl Oestreicher is the head of Special Collections and Archives and associate professor at Boise State University. She has a PhD in modern history and literature from Drew University and an MLIS from Dominican University.



Clark Draney

Clark Draney is a transplanted Idahoan, but with deep Idaho roots. His great-grandfather, Samuel Ebenezer Draney, homesteaded in the Tygee Valley, Caribou County, Idaho and Clark spent many happy summers there riding motorcycles, shooting varmints, and avoiding ranch work. He learned from his grandmother that raw cream is a good salve for sunburn, and that trout is, in fact, for breakfast.

Dr. Draney received a Doctor of Arts degree from Idaho State University in 2004. He came to CSI that same year and has enjoyed an unexpectedly long stay in Twin Falls, raising—together with his love, Keri—a family of four boys and one girl. He teaches writing, literature, and graphic novels (including the making of graphic novels).

Clark enjoys the smell of freshly cut alfalfa, the song of the Western Meadowlark, and the taste of a watercress sandwich on Grandma's fresh bread. He loves hearing what you're reading and telling you what he's reading.



Dave Nicholas

Dave Nicholas teaches creative writing and English composition at the College of Western Idaho in Boise, Idaho. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Utah and a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from Boise State University. While studying at Boise State, Dave worked on the award-winning journal, *The Idaho Review*. At CWI Dave edits the student-run publication, *Stonecrop*.



Elizabeth Sloan

Elizabeth Sloan lives in Moscow, Idaho where she focuses on writing and mixed media. She leads workshops with Blue Sage Writing out of Longmont, CO., as well as giving and receiving prompts and word play through a blend of other virtual venues. Her historical nonfiction, *When Songbirds Returned to Paris* (Fawkes Press), is set in the European theatre of WWII. Her current work is a collection of essays and stories that might be true, as well as an upcoming revived and revised anthology on breastfeeding titled *The Dairy Bar is Always Open*. She has essays in *Idaho Magazine*, *High Desert Journal*, and drawings published in a number of literary journals over the years. You can follow her author page (E.M. Sloan) at facebook.com/lizziebzArt.



Georgia Tiffany

Georgia Tiffany, a native of Spokane, Washington, holds graduate degrees from Indiana University and University of Idaho. Recipient of grants from the Washington Commission for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts, she has served as a visiting scholar for the Idaho libraries' "Let's Talk About It" program for over a decade, and given readings and workshops from Washington to New Mexico, Ohio to Tennessee. Her work has appeared in various anthologies such as *Poets of the American West*, and in scores of literary magazines. Her chapbook, *Cut from the Score*, was published by Night Owl Press. In November 2023, her new book, *Body Be Sound*, was released by Encircle Publications. She lives in Moscow, Idaho, where she writes and teaches piano.



Heike Henderson

Heike Henderson is Professor of German and Associate Chair of the Department of World Languages at Boise State University. Originally from Germany, she has now spent more than half of her life in the US, most of it in Idaho where she has lived since 1997. At Boise State, she has taught a wide variety of literature and culture classes. She has published on Turkish-German women writers, on food in literature, and on transnational crime fiction. Her newest research interests are the intersections of artificial intelligence and humanity.



Hope Benedict

Hope Benedict was born and raised in Lemhi County, Idaho. She received her BA in History from Boise State University; she then attended the University of Oregon, Eugene, where she earned an MA in English History and her Ph.D. in United States History with a specialty in the American West. She is the executive director of the Lemhi County Historical Museum and serves on the board of the Idaho Heritage Trust. Her dissertation, "Place and Community in the Mining West, Lemhi County 1866-1929," is an overview of regional western settlement; and she recently completed *Living with the Landscape: Mining, Ranching, and Conservation in the American West*. Dr. Benedict taught History of Idaho and the American West at Boise State and Idaho State Universities.



Jan Johnson

Janis (Jan) Johnson teaches ethnic American literature and film courses at the University of Idaho and directs the Black Studies Program there. She also works with a non-profit group in Lewiston raising money to renovate and reopen a historic movie theater on Main Street as an arts & culture center. In her spare time, she loves swimming in the Snake River and walking with her dogs.



Jennifer Black

Dr. Jennifer Black is a Lecturer in English Literature at Boise State University. She has BA and MA degrees in Humanities and Comparative Literature from Brigham Young University, as well as a PhD in Renaissance Studies from Boston University. She teaches courses in British Literature, World Literature, Shakespeare, Milton, and English Composition. Her primary research interests include Shakespeare's plays, online pedagogy, epic poetry, and women's autobiography. She has lived in the Boise area since 2000 and has two grown children, a supportive husband, and a poorly-trained but lovable miniature schnauzer.



Justin Vipperman

Justin L. Vipperman was born and raised in Wendell, Idaho. He attended the College of Southern Idaho before pursuing a bachelor's degree in history at Idaho State University. Vipperman attended Portland State University where he received a dual master's degree in history and public history. His thesis recounted the African American experience in Portland, Oregon prior to World War II. Vipperman now teaches at the College of Southern Idaho and Idaho State University and is also working on an interdisciplinary doctorate. He is an American West historian specializing in African American history. Vipperman currently resides in Wendell and is the father of three wonderful children and husband to his beautiful wife Rebecca.



Kate Yeater

Kate Yeater received her degree in Anthropology from Purdue University, with concentrations in Political Ecology, American Studies, and Indigenous Studies and research work in the politics of Indigenous representation and justice in global environmental governance. Kate grew up in the flat farmlands of northwest Ohio but moved west to Idaho's Yankee Fork for her first job after graduation. Over the past decade Kate has worked with Indigenous and marginalized communities in the Brazilian Amazon, on the Crow reservation, and in northern Malawi.

As an educator and communicator, she has taught kids about sustainable agriculture in rural Alabama, shared Crow culture and mining history at public lands sites in Montana and central Idaho and served as a ranger at City of Rocks National Reserve and Castle Rocks State Park in Almo, ID, where she directed the interpretation, education, and visitor services programs. After a few years of work across the country and around the world, the central Idaho mountains and Salmon River drew her back. In her current role as a program manager with the local nonprofit Salmon Valley Stewardship, Kate engages the community in trails stewardship projects, outdoor education for youth, and building partnerships across the Salmon Valley.



Kimberly Madsen Dill

Kimberly Madsen Dill is a Professor of English and the Writing Program Administrator at the College of Southern Idaho. She taught high school English and Spanish for five years prior to teaching at CSI and currently teaches writing, literature, and a general education course for the college. Kim is the 2022 winner of the Idaho State Board of Education's GEM Innovative Educator Award for Written Communication.

Inspired by the pleasure she receives in facilitating book discussions for the Let's Talk About It series, Kim started a book/dinner club with friends that is now three years and fifteen members strong. Kim loves to read travel writing, biography, science fiction, history, memoir, fiction, and poetry.

Kim enjoys traveling, camping, hiking, and long walks with her husband and dog Golda. She especially loves road biking, gardening, and playing her guitar.



Paula Coomer

Paula Coomer is a poet and literary writer of fiction and nonfiction. Her poems, short stories, essays, and articles have appeared in many journals, anthologies, and online publications. Books include the novels *Jagged Edge of the Sky* and *Dove Creek*, short story collections *Somebody Should Have Scolded the Girl* and *Summer of Government Cheese*, poetry collections *Nurses Who Love English* and *Devil at the Crossroads*. A food memoir, *Blue Moon Vegetarian*, was followed by a much-loved cookbook *Blue Moon Vegan*. A long-time university teacher of writing, Ms. Coomer's writing has been nominated for the Pulitzer, the Pushcart, and others. She lives with her husband Phil in the tiny town of Garfield, Washington, where she organizes and facilitates a retreat program known as Clearwater Writers.



Ron McFarland

In July 2017 Ron McFarland hung up his cleats (he played soccer for the University of Idaho club team for 23 years) after 50+ years teaching at the college level, 47 of them at UI. He is author or editor of more than 30 books ranging in nature from booklets on Northwest writers including Norman Maclean and Tess Gallagher and a critical study of Blackfeet novelist James Welch to *Idaho's Poetry: A Centennial Anthology* (1988), edited with his friend and fellow poet William Studebaker, and most recently *Professor McFarland in Reel Time: Prose & Poems of an Angler* (2020). Of the latter volume, McFarland promises absolutely no useful angling advice. Ron's most recent publications is *A Variable Sense of Things* (2024). Among his personal favorites among his published books, he lists *The Rockies in First Person*.



Shelley McEuen

Shelley McEuen is the Department Chair for Social Science and Communication at College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls where she also teaches English.

Shelley earned her PhD from Idaho State University where her work focused on the intersection between the urban wild and historical narratives still working to shape these spaces.

An avid reader, gardener, and aspiring knitter, Shelley enjoys cycling with her husband and spending time with their daughter and two dogs, Dottie and Doug.

She loves being a facilitator for Let's Talk About It because the discussions never disappoint, and it provides an opportunity to talk about books with fascinating people.



Stacy Boe Miller

Stacy Boe Miller is an essayist and poet. Her work can be found or is forthcoming in *The Sun*, *Copper Nickel*, *Mid-American Review*, *Terrain.org* where she recently won the Editor's Prize in Poetry, and other journals. Her poetry manuscript has been a finalist for publication three times in the last year. She is the current Poet Laureate of Moscow, Idaho and teaches workshops locally throughout the year. She is currently working on a memoir. Find more of her work at stacyboemiller.com.



Steven Hall

Steven Hall received his PhD in English and the Teaching of English from Idaho State University in 2014. His research and dissertation explored themes related to agriculture and the natural environment found in contemporary literature. Currently Dr. Hall is a Clinical Assistant Professor for the Bengal Bridge program at ISU (a transitional academic program designed to increase college access and opportunity for recently graduated high school seniors) and teaches courses in academic skills as well as courses for the English Department and Honors program.

Susan Bailey



Susan Bailey taught American literature, English literature and composition at the College of Southern Idaho as an adjunct for nine years. Adult students were in the majority although she also taught Wood River High School seniors in the dual credit program for three semesters, bringing to life the best in American literature written after the Civil War. Most of her professional life was spent writing news or arts stories for newspapers in Blaine County and Twin Falls, or in New Hampshire near Boston. As a writer, she won many awards and was nominated for the Pushcart Prize for her short story published in TriQuarterly. She spent seven years as news director for a radio station and wrote the weekly humor column "Bailey's Bailiwick" for an equal amount of time. She holds Master's degrees in Creative Writing and English literature from the University of New Hampshire and Syracuse University and has recently retired to write a novel under the inspiration of her former teacher, Tobias Wolff.



Suzy Avey

Suzy Avey grew up in Montana and graduated from the University of Jamestown with degrees in History and Political Science with a minor in English. She has a Master's in History from Montana State University. Her area of focus was the American West. She has worked for the National Park Service in Yellowstone National Park and for Nez Perce National Historical Park at Bear Paw Battlefield and Big Hole National Battlefield. She has been the Executive Director of the Sacajawea Interpretive, Cultural, and Educational Center since December 2019.



Thomas Klein

Thomas Klein grew up in Ohio and moved to Idaho in 2000 to teach in the English department at Idaho State University. He received his Ph.D. in 1998 from the University of Toronto; his specialty is Old English and medieval literature, but he teaches a range of courses from Introduction to Literature to Medieval Visionaries. Outside of teaching, his passions are trail running, camping, and being outdoors. He and his wife Lucinda, a champion knitter, live in the Old Town neighborhood of Pocatello.