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# MAJOR NEWS!

Office of Undergraduate Studies  
Department of English

## A note from the director...



**Dear Students:**

**Happy Black History Month!** In order to celebrate, we've been listening to **28 Days of Black Excellence**, UIC's podcast featuring inspiring stories of Black students, faculty, alumni and friends in celebration of Black History Month. Developed by **Aisha El-Amin**, associate vice chancellor for equity and belonging in the Office of Diversity, Equity & Engagement, the series features conversations with luminaries, visionaries and waymakers about their journeys and what it means to give back to the university and community while creating impact in Chicago and beyond. Podcasts guests include UIC graduates from 1975 to 2017 who are now engineers, academics, social workers, nonprofit leaders, authors, military veterans and more. Click [here](#) to listen.

There's other exciting news as well. First, Writing Center peer tutors can now receive an **internationally recognized certification!** Second, read about student **Madeline Zuzevich** who turned a course assignment into a paid trip to **London**. Then read about **Marlem Juarez** who, preparing to teach English, is also learning Korean. Also, take a moment to read about the **new requirements** for the **English major, minor** and the **B.A. in Teaching of English**.

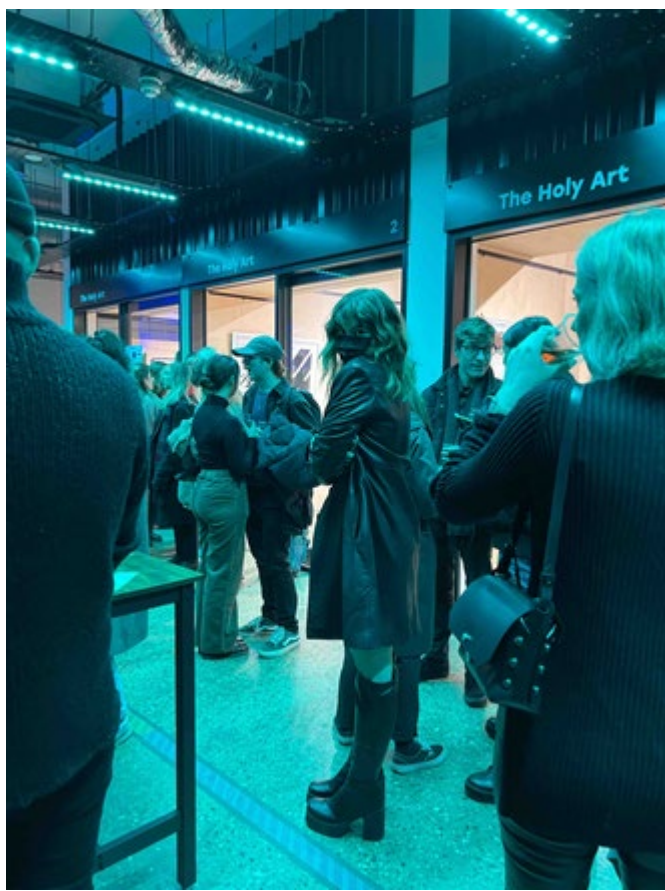
And that is not all! Keep reading for information on an exciting **new writing contest** announced by *Fix*, two **new for Fall 2022 courses** on the environment, some unmissable **LAS career development events**, as well as an invitation to a discussion and reading of ***The Greek Trilogy of Luis Alfaro***, the **MacArthur Genius Award-winning** Chicano playwright and performance artist.

If you have an idea for a story, would like to write for us or just have feedback, please contact [kboulay@uic.edu](mailto:kboulay@uic.edu). It is always a delight to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Prof. Robin Reames, Director of Undergraduate Studies  
[rreames@uic.edu](mailto:rreames@uic.edu)

## Student Shows Work from Newberry Seminar in London



Zuzevich at Opening of "Praxis"

### From the Newberry Library Undergraduate Seminar to London

Chasitivity Garland

Would you like your work shown in a **London** gallery? Are you a UIC undergraduate? The work submitted for Spring 2021 **Newberry Library Undergraduate Seminar (NLUS)** sent **Madeline Zuzevich**, a third-year English major, to London to show her work in the **Holy Art Gallery's** group show, **Praxis**. Not only has this opened doors for Zuzevich's career, it has confirmed her dedication to her education and shows that classwork can be a ticket to international travel and acclaim.

Attending UIC as a first-year student, Zuzevich began as a neuroscience major and ended up switching to English after she discovered writing is her passion. I asked Zuzevich, *why English?* "English is my first love. I've always been a writer. When I was a child, I would sit at my grandmother's table and write for hours. It has always been a very huge part of my life," Zuzevich told me. After being introduced to English Rhetoric in Professional Writing and Nonfiction Writing, she decided to focus on

creative writing for the remainder of her degree. After graduation, Zuzevich plans to spend a year in Europe focusing on her writing and art. She is currently working on a poetry book that she plans to publish this spring.

Zuzevich expressed that UIC has been a positive influence, helping her research and secure numerous professional opportunities. Because she took initiative to lead student organizations and events, she was able to build a network of professors, directors, and peers that helped her locate internships and job opportunities. Zuzevich says, "I've always felt so much support from UIC, but especially from LAS and the English Department. They are always willing to help me discuss my plans and projects." She adds that she is especially grateful to **Professor Lisa Freeman**, Head, Department of English and the **NLUS**. While NLUS paid for her travel to London and fees associated with the show, it was Professor Freeman who helped Zuzevich find and apply for the funding that made her trip possible.

In fall 2020, Zuzevich was accepted into NLUS, an interdisciplinary program involving undergraduates from multiple Chicago universities offering students an opportunity to produce an original research project using the world-renowned collections. It was at this point that Zuzevich's educational journey really accelerated. After working with concepts of image circulation and reproduction in a book from 1541, she submitted her collection to the Holy Art Gallery in London. Initially, Zuzevich was unsure whether her work would be selected since the process for international submissions is highly competitive. Although she was unsure, her work was selected the next day! Zuzevich knew she would appreciate this moment forever.

Zuzevich shares that without support from the English Department and NLUS, she would have not been where she is today. Reflecting on her experience at the gallery, “It was very special for me to see all the hands-on projects my peers were creating, and I look forward to making friends all over the world.” Zuzevich explains that she is grateful that her travel to London allowed her to build her platform professionally and explore career opportunities post-graduation. By participating in her first international exhibition, she expanded her reach to the artistic community overseas. She also says that because of her trip to London she has been able to expand her community to include international artists and explore post-graduate opportunities.

Speaking to UIC English students, Zuzevich says, “Submit your work. There is someone who is going to love what you’re doing. That’s just the way the world works. Once you’re seen, your career has a platform to lift from.”

## Student of the Week

### Marlem Juarez

By Chasitivity Garland

Do you have a passion for teaching English? Have you always wondered what it is like to have a positive impact on students? Have you ever found yourself eager to learn about grammar, editing, or reading literature in English?

**Marlem Juarez**, an undergraduate majoring in **Teaching of English**, shares why she chose English to be a part of her career path and why UIC is the best place for her academic journey.

Juarez grew up in Little Village where she mostly spoke Spanish. Stepping out of her comfort zone and wanting to learn more, Juarez knew she could do this by attending college. Juarez also found herself interested in the Korean language and knew she wanted a school that offered courses in it. This led her to choose UIC. As Juarez started to tour the campus and noticed UIC’s diversity and knew it would be an easy commute, she knew this was the best place for her.

Attending UIC, Juarez stayed true to her career goals by making sure she could continue to study English and also learn more about Korean culture. Juarez expressed, “I consider English to be one of my strongest assets. I know I have a natural gift, and every piece of writing I turned in got a good score. I am proud of that.” Juarez knew she wanted to teach Reading and Writing and a focus on ESL, English as a second language, so she can share her experience with people like her and with those whose first language is not English.

Juarez is currently a part of KASA, The Korean American Student Association, whose purpose is to promote and expand the interest of Korean culture and to help establish an understanding of the diversity between both American and Korean cultures. Juarez explained she first joined the group by attending the meetings and now she has been promoted to an Executive Board position.

Last words from Juarez, she expresses what UIC has taught her, “Keep an open mind. Be open to different possibilities.” Juarez knows that even though she is dedicated to becoming an English teacher, she knows it could change anytime. Juarez is grateful that UIC has taught her to accept that her future career could change, adapt to it, and be willing to remember to do what you love.



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## International Certification



### UIC Writing Center Tutors Receive International Certification

Chasitivity Garland

**The UIC Writing Center** is pleased to announce that the **UIC WC Peer Tutoring** program has been awarded certification as a Level I certified tutor training program by the internationally recognized College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA).

**The UIC Writing Center** has worked hard to develop a tutor training program that meets CRLA's rigorous standards and has successfully completed the International Tutor Training Program Certification (ITTPC) peer review process. Achieving certification means that UIC WC Peer Tutoring has met CRLA's high standards for tutor selection, training, direct service, and evaluation as an integral part of their overall tutoring program.

"UIC tutors are remarkably dedicated to the continuous expansion of their knowledge and practice," said Vainis Aleksa, the Director, The Writing Center.

#### What is an ITTPC Level I Certified Tutor?

The UIC Writing Center tutor training program is certified by the International Tutor Training Program Certification (ITTPC), which certifies programs according to internationally accepted standards for peer tutoring. UIC staff tutors can be certified at the end of their first semester as paid or volunteer staff: Level I tutors are trained and evaluated in the basics of peer mentorship, communication, and basic learning strategies. The UIC program also includes a focus on anti-racist and anti-oppressive practices to prepare tutors to work with a diverse student body and a range of learning experiences and needs.

#### How can I become a Certified Peer Tutor?

Staff tutors become certified at the end of their first semester as a staff tutor. To become a staff tutor, students must complete English 222 and be hired through a competitive application process. For more information about English 222 or tutoring in the writing center, contact Vainis Aleksa (vainis@uic.edu), visit [writingcenter.uic.edu](http://writingcenter.uic.edu), or come visit the UIC Writing Center in 105 Grant Hall.

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## Acclaimed Playwright Discusses Work

### Luis Alfaro in Conversation with Luis Urrea

Chasitivity Garland

UIC Institute for the Humanities presents:

**Reading and Discussion of:**

***The Greek Trilogy of Luis Alfaro: Electricidad;  
Oedipus El Rey; Mojada***

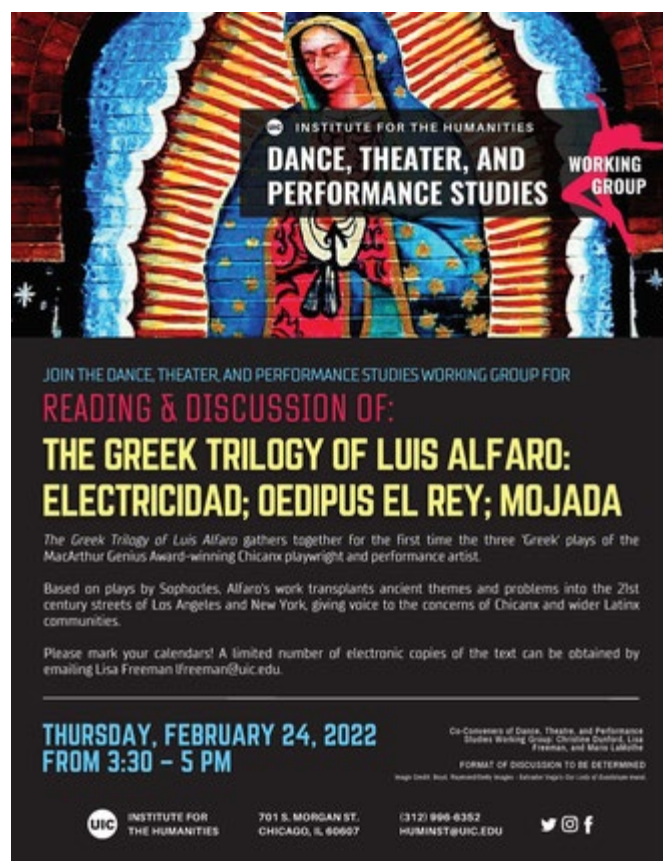
What do 2,000 year-old European plays have to do with contemporary Latinx and Chicax life? Curious about how storytelling and social change inform one another? Want to meet two **preeminent** authors and hear how they talk about their work? Join **UIC's Institute for the Humanities** for a reading and discussion of *The Greek Trilogy of Luis Alfaro* on **Thursday, February 24, 2022 from 3:30-5:00 pm.**

Insisting on the importance of citizen and community to fight discrimination, Alfaro's award-winning work has been staged in multiple influential theaters including New York's esteemed Public Theater. Based on plays by Sophocles, The Trilogy transplants ancient themes and problems into the 21st century streets of Los Angeles and New York in order to give voice to the concerns of Chicax and wider Latinx communities.

The session will be lead by UIC distinguished professor and "**literary bad-ass**" **Luis Urrea**. Both Alfaro and Urrea have won numerous important awards. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear two remarkable and influential contemporary artists/activists talk about writing and its importance to contemporary life.

**The event is free. [Registration is required at this link.](#)**

**Please email [huminst@uic.edu](mailto:huminst@uic.edu) to receive zoom link or location details.**



INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES  
**DANCE, THEATER, AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES** WORKING GROUP

JOIN THE DANCE, THEATER, AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES WORKING GROUP FOR  
**READING & DISCUSSION OF:**  
**THE GREEK TRILOGY OF LUIS ALFARO:  
ELECTRICIDAD; OEDIPUS EL REY; MOJADA**

The Greek Trilogy of Luis Alfaro gathers together for the first time the three 'Greek' plays of the MacArthur Genius Award-winning Chicax playwright and performance artist.

Based on plays by Sophocles, Alfaro's work transplants ancient themes and problems into the 21st century streets of Los Angeles and New York, giving voice to the concerns of Chicax and wider Latinx communities.

Please mark your calendars! A limited number of electronic copies of the text can be obtained by emailing Lisa Freeman lfreeman@uic.edu.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022  
FROM 3:30 - 5 PM**

Co-Collaborators of Dance, Theater, and Performance Studies Working Group: Christine Einfeld, Lisa Freeman, and Maria Labadie

FORMAT OF DISCUSSION TO BE DETERMINED

Image Credit: Book, Photo/Video: Image - Artist: Right for Use of Book/Video

UIC INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES 701 S. MORGAN ST. CHICAGO, IL 60607 (312) 996-6352 HUMINST@UIC.EDU

## Meet the New English Curriculum!



### A redesigned English major, minors, and B.A. in the teaching of English

The **Office of Undergraduate Studies** has been hard at work over the past two years designing several updates to the English major, minors, and the B.A. in the Teaching of English. Get ready for the new curriculum, which launches in **Fall 2022!**

The new curriculum at a glance:

- **Only 27 required credit hours.** You will now be able to finish a degree in English with as little as 3 core courses (9 hours), 1 selective course (3 hours), 3 courses in an area of concentration (9 hours), and 2 electives (6 hours). This will make it easier for students to double major!
- **Only 2 required survey courses, and 3 required core courses in total.** Now, instead of 3 survey courses (241, 242, and 243), students majoring in English or the Teaching of English will be required to take only 2 surveys: ENGL 208: English Studies I and ENGL 209: English Studies II. ENGL 240 will now be ENGL 207: Interpretation and Critical Analysis. This frees up more time for things like electives,

independent studies, and area concentrations!

- **3 new area concentrations.** We're adding new concentrations in Rhetoric, Public Engagement and Language Studies; Film, Media, Performance, and Pop Culture; and Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Multiethnic English Studies. English students take an array of courses in multiple areas of study—now your transcript will reflect your well-rounded education!
- **Add up to 3 concentrations.** You no longer have to choose only one; you can have as many as three! And you have the option to design your own concentration as well.
- **Upper-level writing.** Students will now take a selective course in upper-level writing in their senior year. It will help prepare your launch into post-academic life!

Current students will have the option of graduating under the previous catalog or the new catalog. If you want to know more about how the coming changes might impact your progress toward graduation, feel free to reach out to the English advisor, [Hideaki Noguchi](#) or the [Office of Undergraduate Studies](#).

We're excited about the coming changes and hope you will be as well!

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## Fix's Short Story Contest: Imagine 2200: Climate Fiction for Future Ancestors

This initiative celebrates short stories rooted in hope, justice, creative solutions, and cultural authenticity, while amplifying voices that have been, and continue to be, affected by systems of oppression.

**Imagine 2200** is inspired and informed by literary movements like Afrofuturism and Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, disabled, feminist, and queer futurisms, along with hopepunk and solarpunk. We hope writers [look to these genres](#) for inspiration, and we urge writers within these communities to submit stories. A truly clean, green, just future is about so much more than slashing carbon emissions. It means upending the status quo of colonialism, extraction, and oppression. We're eager to share your visions for achieving that.



**Find everything you need to submit a story [here](#).**

**[Submissions for year two - due by May 5, 2022 - are now open](#).** We're looking for stories of 3,000 to 5,000 words that envision the next 180 years of climate progress — roughly seven generations. The winning writer will be awarded **\$3,000**, with the second- and third-place winners receiving \$2,000 and \$1,000, respectively. An additional nine finalists will each receive \$300. Winners and finalists will be published in Fall 2022 in an immersive collection on Fix's website and celebrated during a virtual event.

This year, stories will be judged by a panel of literary experts, including acclaimed authors and editors Grace L. Dillon, Arkady Martine, and Sheree Renée Thomas.

Interested in the environment but not quite ready to write about it? Check out some of our courses offered in Fall

2022. Two new courses include **ENGL 251: Literature and the Environment** and **ENGL 253: Environmental Rhetoric**. Organized as a literary history of environmental writing, ENGL 251 asks students to research and consider how environmental issues have been represented in fiction. For its part, ENGL 253 asks students to examine environmental aspects of rhetoric in the U.S., and analyze how those rhetorical forces impact the lives and identities of individuals in society. ENGL 251 and ENGL 253 nicely complement **ENGL 452: Freshwater Lab** and **ENGL 453: Freshwater Lab Internship**. Stretching the boundaries of what the humanities can offer, these two courses explore the challenges surrounding the Midwest's shared waters. You can learn more about the **Freshwater Lab** and courses [here](#).

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## Upcoming LAS Career Development Events



Going from college to the job market can be confusing and stressful to say the least. To learn more about what's available to you and to ease the transition, attend one or more of these upcoming LAS Career Development Events:

### [Careers in the Helping Professions Panel \(Social Work, Counseling and Community Organizations\) 2022](#)

**February 17, 2022**

12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

Learn about various roles in the Helping Professions! Panelists with Bachelor's Degrees and beyond (social workers, counselors and community-based roles) will share their experiences and advice for exploring pathways.

### [Major to Career: What can I do with my LAS Degree?](#)

**February 24, 2022**

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Did you know that your LAS major can lead you to a wide variety of career paths and industries? Not sure what you can do with your major? Join this workshop to begin the process of exploring careers based on your interests and values. You will learn ways to explore various career paths of interest and ideas on ways to build key experiences in paving your career. You will leave this session with action steps!

### [Developing Your Own Internship](#)

**February 18, 2022**

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Create an opportunity for yourself by reaching out to organizations of interest. Over 80% of positions aren't posted online! Learn how to leverage your interests, skills, and strengths to develop an internship position.

### [Graduate School: Should I Wait or Should I Go?](#)

**February 25, 2022**

1:00 PM - 2:15 PM

Learn how to evaluate, finance and choose graduate programs that are the right fit for you! Please note, this workshop will not cover specifics about any programs rather an overview of how to explore if graduate school is right for you and the process of researching and choosing the right fit.

For more information on these and related events and careers, check out [LAS' Career Development and Internships page](#).

## Calls for Writers, etc.

### Invictus Prep Spring 2022 Writing Competition



INVICTUS PREP

Invictus Prep Spring 2022 College

# CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

**CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

Poetry & Short Stories  
Send all submissions to [info@invictus-prep.org](mailto:info@invictus-prep.org)

OR SUBMIT HERE 

[invictus-prep.org/writing-contest](http://invictus-prep.org/writing-contest)

The poster features a red typewriter, a stack of books, and a small figure of a person standing next to the books. The background is a light purple color with a subtle pattern of letters and symbols.

Submissions accepted through May 15, 2022.

## Lambda Literary Awards



**SPECIAL PRIZES**

- THE JEANNE CORDOVA PRIZE FOR LESBIAN/QUEER NONFICTION \$2,500
- THE JUDITH A. MARKOWITZ AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL NEW LGBTQ WRITERS \$1,500
- THE J. MICHAEL SAMUEL PRIZE FOR EMERGING WRITERS OVER 50 \$5,000
- THE JIM DUGGINS, PHD OUTSTANDING MID-CAREER NOVELIST PRIZE \$5,000
- THE RANDALL KENAN PRIZE FOR BLACK LGBTQ FICTION \$3,000

**SUBMISSIONS OPEN JAN 14-FEB 15**

LAMBDA LITERARY.ORG/AWARDS

The poster has a purple and orange color scheme with a pattern of small white stars and dots.

**Lambda Literary** invites submissions for a number of special awards for **LGBTQ** writers. For more information or to submit, go to [Lambda Literary](http://Lambda Literary)



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## Fellowships, Internships, Scholarships, and Other Opportunities

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# Fellowships

### Exciting News for Students Interested Classical Studies

Chasitivity Garland

The University of Pennsylvania's [Post-Baccalaureate Program in Classical Studies](#) offers students **two fellowships** that support post-baccalaureate students, providing each recipient tuition and fees for one academic year at a rate of two courses per semester, as well as \$20,000 toward living expenses.

**The Elsie Phare Fellowship** is endowed by Classical Studies Professor Emily Wilson and was established in 2021. Wilson named the fund after her grandmother, Elsie Phare, who would have been unable to attend college without the generous financial help of a scholarship.

**The Masciantonio Fellowship** honors Dr. Rudolph Masciantonio, who earned his master's degree in classical studies from Penn and made a significant impact by bringing Latin and Greek instruction to students from underserved populations in Philadelphia school districts before he retired in 1994.

We particularly invite applications from students belonging to underrepresented minority groups. This includes students from racial and ethnic groups that are underrepresented in fields relating to the study of the ancient world, individuals from low-income households, and first-generation college students.

Penn's [Post-Baccalaureate Program in Classical Studies](#) has been in existence since 1984 and prepares students for graduate-level studies in classical studies, archaeology, ancient history, and related fields. Penn's extraordinary resources include a leading classical studies department with world-class faculty, the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, and the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books, and Manuscripts.

The [application deadline](#) for the 2022 Classical Studies post-baccalaureate program is April 15, 2022, with rolling admissions thereafter. The application deadline for both fellowships is April 15, 2022.

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## About Major News

**Major News** is an occasional newsletter for undergraduates and faculty of UIC's **Department of English**. If you have an event or issue of interest to our community that you would like us to consider including, please email details to [english@uic.edu](mailto:english@uic.edu). The deadline for inclusion in the current week's issue is **Wednesday at noon**. All materials received after this time and deemed acceptable for inclusion in **Major News** will appear in the following week's edition.

Past issues of *Major News* are available at: <https://engl.uic.edu/news-events/newsletter-archive/>.

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<https://engl.uic.edu/programs/undergraduate-studies/>



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