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MAJOR NEWS!

Office of Undergraduate Studies
Department of English

A Note From The Director...



Dear Students,

Hope this letter finds you well and in good spirits. Just wanted to take a moment to express heartfelt appreciation for your dedication and resilience during these challenging times. Despite the obstacles we have faced, your commitment to learning and growth has been truly inspiring.

We just had our first open mic event two weeks ago, and were blown away by the talent and creativity displayed by our students. It was a reminder of the incredible community we have built, even in these virtual times. Your participation and enthusiasm make all the difference in creating a vibrant and inclusive environment for everyone. Keep up the fantastic work!

Is there an event you would like to see featured here? Is there someone we should profile? Let us know at english@uic.edu.

Sincerely,

Prof. Robin Reames
Director of Undergraduate Studies
rreames@uic.edu

The English Club Update



Thanks to everyone who made it out to the first open mic of the year! If you shared or if you listened, we appreciate you so much.

It was so nice to hear everyone's essays, music, and poetry. A talented group of people came together on that night and a rare and profound space was created. If you couldn't make it, don't sweat it! More events to come in the future. Make sure you are in the [GroupMe](#), and following us on Instagram at [@englishclubatuic](#).



Spring 2024 Courses



ENGL 490: Advanced Poetry Workshop

Professor Christina Pugh

CRN: 29430

Days/Time: MW 9:30-10:45

In this class, we'll be writing and revising poems in specific genres (including in some rhyming and metrical forms), to be submitted as a final portfolio at the end of the course. Students will also write a prose introduction to their portfolios, as well as a short critical paper based on some of our readings.

Throughout the course, we will pay particular attention to the relationship between sentence and line – especially as it is expressed in line breaks, line length, and stanza formation. We'll consider varieties of poetic music and

poetic voice. The course includes critical materials addressing these issues, as well as older and contemporary poems that we'll be reading for illustration and inspiration. We'll be considering strong literary (lyric) models and will work from the notion that critical and creative thinking inform one another. Our emphasis will be on the discussion of student poems and on the development of craft at the advanced undergraduate level – in an environment that is rigorous, but also positive and encouraging.

Questions? [Email the professor](#).

Ready to register? Enroll [here](#).

ENGL 446: Afro pessimism: A Critical Overview

Professor Ainsworth Clarke

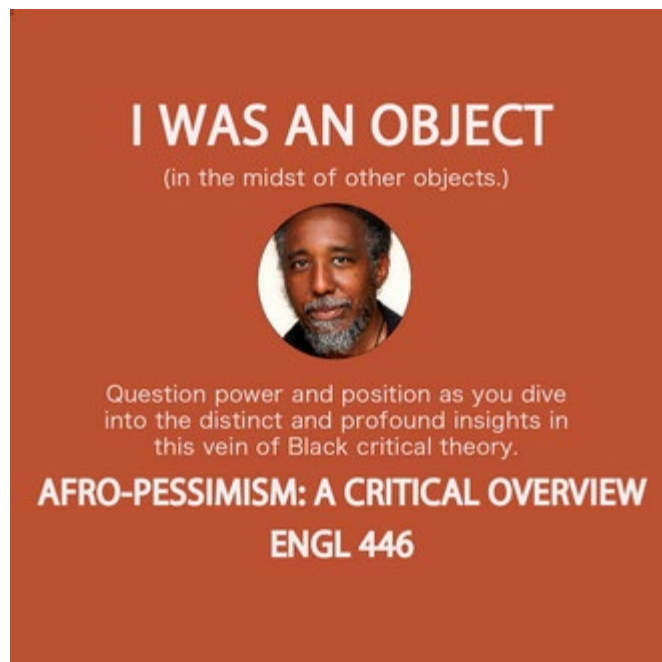
CRN: 24820

Days/Time: MW 3:00-4:15

Afro pessimism is a provocative and increasingly influential current of black critical theory that reassesses and contests the theoretical investments that have dominated cultural studies over the last generation. Identified principally with the work of Frank Wilderson and Jarod Sexton, Afro pessimism proposes a “different conceptual framework,” one that dispenses with the “theoretical aphasia” it argues marks cultural studies and that informs the latter’s inability to genuinely consider the question of power. The aim of this course is to interrogate the theoretical assumptions on which these claims rest and situate Afro pessimism in relation to other important currents in black critical theory. Along with the work of Wilderson and Sexton, we will be reading Saidiya Hartman, Katherine McKittrick, Fred Moten, Kevin Quashie, and the recent work of Christina Sharpe, amongst others.

Questions? [Email the professor.](#)

Ready to register? Enroll [here.](#)



ENGL 454: Rhetoric, Technology, Metaphysics

Professor Robin Reames

CRN: 46995

Days/Time: MW 3:00-4:15

Technology—including social media and AI—is by turns critiqued and praised. Critics blame technology and social media for the destruction of civil society, democracy, discourse, and thought. Advocates, by contrast, laud it as the herald of a utopian age of meta-intelligence and super-consciousness, or what Google’s Ray Kurzweil has named “the singularity.” This course explores these critiques and commendations by placing them within their context in the history of ideas. We will examine how technology’s opponents and proponents alike implicitly engage in the

foundational questions of rhetoric and metaphysics. How does faith in a future technological singularity re-envision the West’s metaphysical search for pure Being? How does the suspicion of technology reiterate the critique of literate and rhetorical technologies that arise at the very beginning of the rhetorical tradition with the “literate revolution” in Greece? And how do both attempt to define—both with and against the history of rhetoric

and metaphysics—an ideal notion of what it means to be human? And what, if anything, is the difference between a techne, a technique, and a technology? We approach these and other questions from the present day, where our own “technographic revolution” transforms how we communicate, think, and live.

To pursue these lines of inquiry, we turn to a range of authors: Hannah Arendt, Ted Chiang, Jacques Ellul, Martin Heidegger, Marshall McLuhan, Alondra Nelson, and Walter Ong, as well as ancient thinkers Plato, Heraclitus, and Parmenides. Students will gain a solid understanding of the intellectual origins of critical perspectives of technology in the history of ideas, as well as a foundational understanding of rhetoric and metaphysics.

Questions? [Email the professor.](#)

Ready to register? Enroll [here.](#)

ENGL 491: Advanced Writing of Fiction

Professor Mary Anne Mohanraj

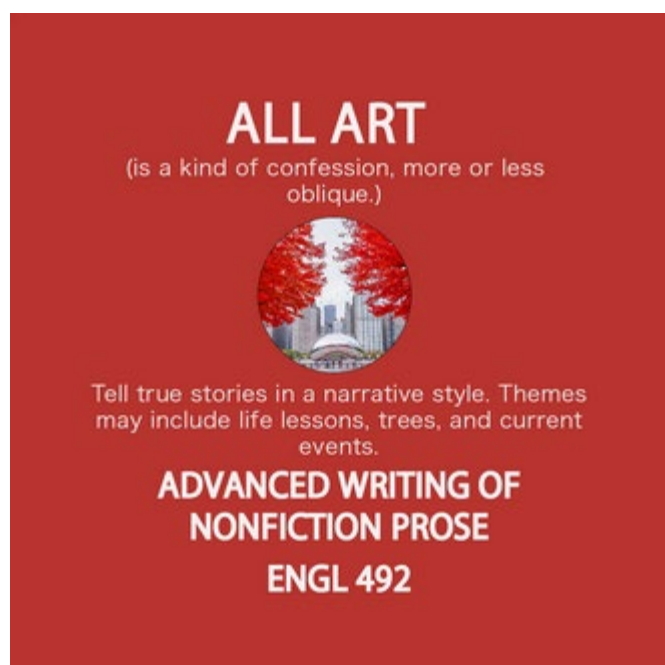
CRN: 22828

Days/Time: MWF 12:00-12:50

This is a combined graduate and advanced undergraduate fiction workshop. We will study the craft of fiction, reading the work of published authors and examining their methods. We will also write fiction and learn to critique each others' work. A broad range of genres are welcome, including science fiction and fantasy.

Questions? [Email the professor.](#)

Ready to register? Enroll [here.](#)



ENGL 492: Advanced Writing of Nonfiction Prose

Professor Lisa Stolley

CRN: 14549

Days/Time: TR 11:00-12:15

This is an advanced creative nonfiction course for students who have taken Engl. 201 or the equivalent. Students will continue to develop the techniques of writing creative nonfiction, including assimilating features of fiction and poetry, experimenting with voice, structure, style, creative integration of research, and revision. Student work will focus on three subgenres of creative nonfiction: personal essay, nature writing, and literary journalism. Published essays will provide models of technique and form for students' own work. This class will be primarily run as a

workshop: students will both receive and contribute constructive feedback on their own and their peers' essay drafts. Students will be expected to write three essays, as well as brief but thorough critiques of their fellow writers'

essays. Tips on submitting creative nonfiction work for publication will be discussed toward end of semester.

Questions? [Email the professor](#).

Ready to register? Enroll [here](#).

Scholarships



**Scholarship and
Awards Program**

Apply now!

UIC Student Affairs is pleased to announce its scholarship process determining funding support for continuing students during the 2024-25 academic year.

Applications are now available for over 30 competitive scholarships for students across all colleges and academic disciplines.

Students may log in to the [UIC SnAP portal](#) to review specific requirements of each scholarship. A **general application** must be submitted in the portal before addressing criteria specific to each scholarship. The deadline for applications is **Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024**. It is recommended that students visit UIC SnAP soon to participate in this scholarship process.

The scholarship opportunities include, yet are not limited to:

- Hassan Mustafa Abdallah Memorial Scholarship.
- Dr. Thomas Beckham Memorial Scholarship.
- UIC Ethel Bohlen Scholarships.
- UIC Eleanor Daley Scholarship.
- Gordon J. Flesch Memorial Scholarship.
- UIC Fred Garcia Award.
- Noveline Delk Kennedy Scholarship.
- Undergraduate - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship (for current undergraduate students).
- UIC Michael J Lewis Scholarship.
- UIC Jim's Original Scholarship.
- UIC Navy Pier Scholarship.
- UIC Ram Lal Seekri Scholarship.
- Rundgren Foundation Scholarship.
- Supporting Excellence Endowment (S.E.E.) Scholarship.
- UIC Eileen and Michael Tanner Scholarship Award.
- Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Scholarship.

If you have questions about the scholarships or the application process, contact the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office at scholarshiphelp@uic.edu.

Sigma Tau Delta Inductions

A formal induction for all new members of **Sigma Tau Delta** will take place on **Friday, December 1, 2023** in **UH-2028** from **3:00-5:00 pm**. Light



refreshments will be served. You are welcome to invite family and friends to see you receive your pin, cords, and medallion for graduation. Prior to the ceremony current students in ENGL 497: Senior Thesis will present a brief overview of their work.

Unlock Your Potential: Turn Your Passion for ENGL 208 into a Rewarding Academic Journey!



If **ENGL 208** was your favorite class, you should consider applying to graduate school! **Graduate school** offers an opportunity to delve deeper into the subject matter and pursue advanced research in a field that truly captivates you. It can provide a platform for intellectual growth, mentorship, and networking with like-minded individuals who share your passion for the subject.

The Graduate Program at the University of Minnesota welcomes applications from students with

interests in all subfields of English and looks forward to admitting a cohort of five students with **diverse research interests**. For the **academic year 2024-2025**, the University of Minnesota would be especially delighted to accept two applicants who would like to **study pre-1800 Anglophone pieces of literature**. Successful candidates focusing on early English literature could enjoy cross-disciplinary **research opportunities with the Center for Premodern Studies** and receive additional **fellowship support** from the English Department's Klaeber Fund (no need for separate applications).

Secondly, they're hoping to enroll **one or two premodern scholars** (medieval through eighteenth-century) in the next **PhD admissions cycle**. Providing **seven years of financing** in the form of teaching and fellowships; fellowship time would be extended to successful candidates with premodern interests as part of this package.

Undergraduates who might be interested can find more information at the following link: [Graduate Program at the University of Minnesota](#)

Jobs, Internships, Careers, etc.

Get ready for National Career Development Month!!



We'll be celebrating with our annual Coffee, Cocoa, Cookies and Career on Friday, November 17th from 1:00-3:00 in Fort Dearborn Room! **BE SURE TO STOP BY FOR GOODIES!!**

America Needs You!

Through **one-on-one mentorship**, intensive **career development**, **strong networks**, and **comprehensive support**, the **two-year Fellows Program** equips low-income, **first-generation college students** with the skills necessary to graduate, succeed in their careers, and compete at the highest level. What you'll get is:

- **Individualized coaching and direction**
- **Support for internships and transfers**
- **Annual grant award of up to \$1,000**

You will be able to learn about the program and application components throughout this session.

OUR HEARTY ADVICE IS THAT YOU BRING YOUR LAPTOP TO FINISH THE APPLICATION! EVERY STAFF CAN ASSIST YOU! **NOTHING SHOULD TAKE MORE THAN 30 MINUTES!**

[America Needs You \(ANY\) Lunch + Application](#)

[Completion](#) On **November 15th, Wednesday (3:00–1:00)** University Hall, Room 850, 8th Floor. We'll be serving food!



America Needs You (ANY)
Lunch and Application
Completion (Bring your Laptop!)

PAID OPPORTUNITIES FOR
FIRST AND SECOND YEAR
FIRST GEN STUDENTS!!!

ANY

QR CODE

America Needs You
Internship Placement Support | Grants | One on One Mentorship

COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION WITH US!
BRING YOUR LAPTOPS AND ENJOY PIZZA!

November 15th, 2023
Drop-in anytime between 1:00-3:00pm
University Hall, 8th Floor, Room 850

LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Creating Your Own Internship!

Create an opportunity for yourself by reaching out to organization of interest. Over **80% of position aren't posted** online! Learn how to leverage your interest, skills, and strength to develop an internship position! By proactively contacting organizations that **align with your interests**, you can tap into the **hidden job market** where most positions are not advertised online. This approach allows you to **showcase your unique combination of skills** and strengths, increasing your chances of creating a customized internship **opportunity tailored to your goals and aspirations**.

RSVP: [Developing Your Own Internship](#)



Developing Your Own Internship

Thursday,
November 16, 2023
11:00 AM to 12:00 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.

@uiclascareer

LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Freshwater Lab Internship



Do you want to protect public water for present and future generations? Are there aspects of industry, pollution, or resource distribution that you would like to transform? Do you want to advocate for environmental justice? Would you like to effectively communicate scientific and social imperatives to the public? Do you want to help mitigate and adapt to Climate Change?

Are you interested in an environmental career? Do you have a vision for the Great Lakes region or for a specific neighborhood?

If you answered yes to these or to related questions, then you want to sign up for the Freshwater Lab Internship Course, a unique experience funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. A crucial component of this class involves taking this knowledge outside of the classroom and into the community through an internship placement.

LEARN CONNECT ENGAGE

The Freshwater Lab Internship course consists of three parts:

1. Study of local and regional water and environmental issues

2. Skill-building with professionals in the areas of environmental writing and communication, community-based research, water policy, and public health

3. Placement in an internship for all interested students. Professor Havelock tailors the internship to student interests. An internship is *not* mandatory for those who prefer to focus on a project.

Last year every student received a summer stipend for their internship. Many have joined an active Freshwater Lab cohort that helps to advance professional careers in the environmental sector.

For more information: contact Professor Rachel Havelock, rahel@uic.edu and visit www.freshwaterlab.org/internship



The **internship program at the Freshwater Lab** provides students with **professional and career development skills** while sponsoring agencies gain access to **new perspectives and innovative ideas**. The leadership program enhances the formation of a Great Lakes constituency representing various localities. For developing leaders, **active instruction, ongoing mentoring, and exposure to current problems and cutting-edge solutions** are necessary. The Freshwater Lab aims to enhance the Great Lakes basin's water community by promoting water **leadership that reflects the experiences of the communities**. The program supports future water leaders, removing barriers and fostering **connections between water-focused organizations and diverse communities**. It connects student interest and creativity to urgent threats facing the Great Lakes and drinking water systems, promoting growth and social transformation. This program represents a generational shift towards better individual, community, and systemic outcomes.

Learn more: [Freshwater Lab Internship](#)

Apply To Be A Student Employee!

Job Opening for an Undergraduate Student Worker in the LAS Career Development and Internships Office!

The student employee will assist the LAS Career Development and Internships Office with **administrative tasks, outreach support, workshop planning, social media content creation, and special projects**. They will **promote online resources, workshops, events, and experiential learning to support LAS undergraduate students**. The student employee will also **serve as an ambassador** at outreach events and support the office's goals. They will also **co-manage the @uiclascareer Instagram account by creating content, tracking trends, and sharing data outcomes**.



Apply Now: [LAS Career Development and Internships Office Undergraduate Student Employee](#)

Position

Calls for Writing

Hayden's Ferry Review Seeks Submissions



[Hayden's Ferry Review](#), Arizona State University's international literary journal, is open for submissions for our 2024 Spring Issue starting, **November 1, through November 30, 2023**. Submissions of **fiction, poetry, nonfiction, translation, and art** are accepted [through Submittable](#), where you'll be able to find more in-depth guidelines. Our spring issue is unthemed.

Founded in 1986, [Hayden's Ferry Review](#) is a semi-annual, international literary journal edited by the MFA students at Arizona State University. Work from Hayden's Ferry

Review has been included in the Pushcart Prize Anthology, Best American Poetry, and Best New Poets. HFR has notable pieces in Best American Short Stories, Best American Essays, Best American Mystery Stories, and the Pushcart Prize Anthology.

[Hayden's Ferry Review](#) is especially committed to uplifting the voices of those who have long been marginalized and underrepresented. Towards this cause, we will have 50 free submissions in each genre for underrepresented voices. If you consider yourself to fit into this category, we encourage you to submit for free to "[Free Submissions for Underrepresented Writers](#)." Among the many types of underrepresentation that exist in literature, we particularly encourage Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and those who belong to the LGBTQIA+ and disability communities to submit to HFR.

Finally, we are also opening for our spring web issue, [IN-QUEER-Y](#), on **November 1-30, 2023**. Submissions are free and guidelines can be found on our Submittable.

We welcome deftly-crafted work that takes risks and orbits oft-neglected aspects of life. We want work that excites and challenges us in equal measure. All topics, styles, and themes are welcome.

Holy Family University Literary Magazine Seeks Submissions



Undergraduate writers and artists are invited to submit selections of **poetry, fiction, non-fiction, photography and visual art** for publication submissions in [Folio](http://www.foliomagazine.org), the literary magazine of **Holy Family University**.

One of Holy Family University's oldest traditions since its launch in 1959, *Folio* will continue to publish the best work from undergraduate students and will share the publication with global audiences, as well as with enthusiasts in the writing and arts communities.

"Submission to *Folio* provides an avenue for students to receive professional feedback and gain publication for their growing portfolios," Assistant Professor of English at Holy Family University Keith Kopka, Ph.D. said. "We invite new voices and new perspectives and especially welcome input from traditionally marginalized and underrepresented communities."

More information about the upcoming magazine can be found at its website, <http://www.foliomagazine.org>.

Folio accepts submissions via [Submittable](https://www.foliomagazine.org/submit). Please visit the submissions page at <https://www.foliomagazine.org/submit> for full submission instructions. The deadline for submissions for the Spring 2024 issue is **March 15, 2024**.

Please email folio@holysfamily.edu with questions.

Mantis Calls for Submissions

In the more than twenty years since it was founded, *Mantis* has produced 21 issues, establishing itself as an important venue for writers and readers of poetry around the world. Recent issues have featured work by Rae Armantrout, Franny Choi, Kenneth Fields, Chinua Ezenwa-Ohaeto, Laura Reece Hogan, Salgado Maranhão, Heather Dohollau, Zeynep Köylü, Ma Yan, Franca Macinelli, and many more!

Mantis is currently seeking submissions for the **2024 issue** in four categories: [New Poetry](#), [Poetry in Translation](#), [Observing Observations – Celebrating 100 Years with Marianne Moore's Poetry](#), and [The Digital Lives of Poetry, Encoded](#).

More information and submission details may be found on *Mantis'* [Submittable](#) page. **Submit by November 19, 2023**.



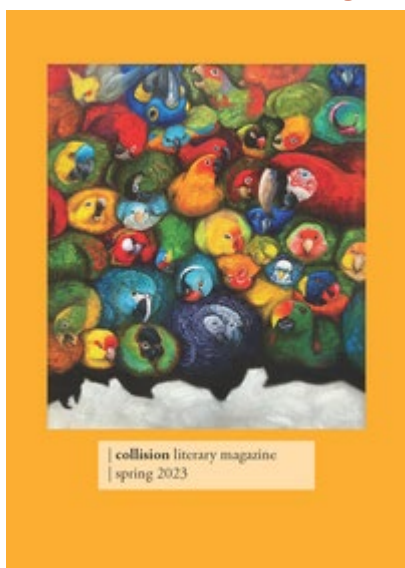
Narratively Calls for Submissions



Narratively is currently accepting submissions for the **2023 Memoir Prize**. They are looking for revealing and emotional first-person nonfiction narratives from unique and overlooked points of view. **The Grand Prize Winner** will receive **\$3,000**, and the **two Finalists will receive \$1,000** each. The guest judge is *New York Times* bestselling memoirist **Stephanie Land**. For more information and to submit a story, [use their pitch form](#). There is a \$20 entry fee — which is waived for subscribers! — and the deadline to submit is November 30.

Narratively is U.S. based but will accept submissions from anywhere. Your piece should be in the 2,000 to 7,000-word range. Work from the winners will be published on [Narratively.com](#) and included in a special Memoir Prize Digital Collection, in addition to the top three writers being awarded cash prizes. They expect to announce their final decision on or around **February 5, 2024**.

Collision Literary Magazine Call for Submissions



Collision is currently open for submissions of undergraduate fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and art! By submitting to the annual magazine, students will be considered for writing and cover art contests.

Submissions for the annual magazine close **Friday, January 12**, but we read on a rolling basis. You can find more information about the magazine and submission guidelines at <https://www.collision.pitt.edu>.

Interview with Karen Putman, UIC Student and Communications & Ribbon Cutting Specialist at the Aurora Chamber of Commerce



A Writing Intensive Position in Local Government...

Alejandra Jimenez

Karen Putman is a soon to be UIC alumni, planning to graduate in 2025 from grad school. She has a lot on her hands, what with simultaneously being a student and having a job. Throughout her time as a communications and operations manager at the Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce, her list of responsibilities has grown. Her tasks include writing bimonthly newsletters, putting together social media and communications calendars, and assisting with events by creating graphics and e-blasts. She also writes grant proposals. Since she became a supervisor in the Chamber, her responsibilities have only increased. Now that they have recently hired a new intern, Karen oversees and guides her. All of these tasks fill up her day with deadlines and she does feel the pressure from it all.

With a long list of responsibilities, some of the skills that Karen utilizes the most are graphic design, writing, and marketing to increase brand awareness. Her position requires mostly professional writing, like emails, press releases, and e-blasts.

Karen's new intern, Ruby, is a UIC student as well, with plans to graduate later this year. As a communication specialist intern, Ruby helps Karen with press releases, emails to new members, and working on social media connections. She enjoys interning with ARCOC, especially the graphic design aspect of the job, as well as assisting with press releases. Since beginning her role at ARCOC, she has also been looking into marketing courses available at UIC.

This internship has helped Ruby not only professionally, but has also informed her further on how business and English intertwine with one another. Although Ruby is currently still an intern, she has already learned a lot. Her main take away from her time at ARCOC is to do something you enjoy. Since you will spend the majority of your life working, she says, it may as well be something that you enjoy doing, but at the very least find a few things you are passionate about.

Ruby thinks that the easiest part of her internship is writing newsletters. However, the most challenging for her is keeping up with the specific tone that the company wants to convey when it comes to the way they write. With all of these responsibilities, Ruby utilizes writing, editing, research, and social media the most in her internship.

Both Ruby and Karen have had so many uncertainties when it comes to their academics and careers, and they have learned a lot through the great and bad times.

UIC has a lot to offer its students, from a wide variety of courses in every field to resources to help guide students entering the workforce. However, Karen didn't take classes in marketing and business tactics like writing grant proposals during her time at UIC. She would advise current students to take classes in areas outside your major, given that different fields can overlap and the value of knowledge in general. Despite this struggle in the beginning, Karen researched and taught herself this kind of writing, and now she is excelling at marketing and grant writing.

Ruby offers current students the advice of perseverance, because there will be plenty of times where one will apply to an internship/job and get rejected. She encourages today's UIC students to persevere despite rejection, and to continue applying to other opportunities.

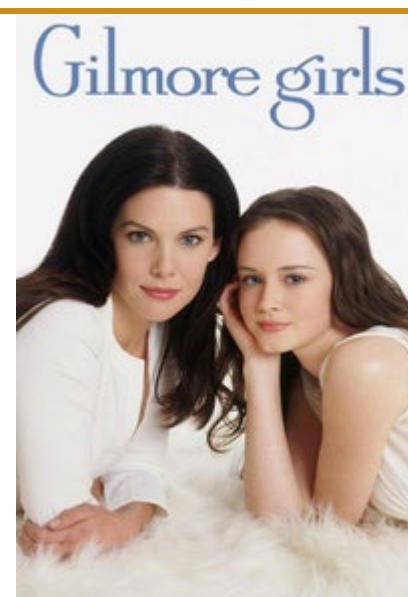
She also mentions that one of the best ways to get an internship is by networking. She had received the opportunity to interview for this internship through networking and she feels very lucky to have that connection. Karen's advice also includes networking, as well as not being afraid to ask for help when you need it.

Embrace the Autumn Vibes: Top Cozy Fall Show Recommendations!

Snuggled up in a warm blanket...

Makayla Goldman

Gilmore Girls is a beloved television series that aired from **2000 to 2007**. Set in the charming town of Stars Hollow, the show follows the lives of Lorelai and Rory Gilmore, a **mother-daughter duo** known for their quick wit and close bond. It's the perfect show to cozy up with during the fall season. The picturesque town of Stars Hollow, with its vibrant autumn foliage and **charming small-town** atmosphere, creates a delightful backdrop that captures the essence of fall. Additionally, the show's **heartwarming storylines** and witty dialogue evoke a sense of **nostalgia and warmth**, making it an ideal choice for those looking to embrace the **cozy vibes of autumn**.



Twin Peaks (1990) is a captivating show that perfectly complements the eerie and mysterious ambiance of the fall season. The Pacific Northwest setting, hauntingly beautiful and encircled by majestic mountains, fosters a sense of **mystery** and **suspense** that perfectly complements the autumn's changing hues. The show's complex characters and **mind-bending plotlines** offer a thought-provoking escape from reality, making it an ideal choice for those seeking a **thrilling** and immersive experience during cozy fall evenings.

While *Gossip Girl (2007)* may not be the first show that comes to mind when thinking about fall, it surprisingly offers a unique appeal during this season. The glamorous and **luxurious Upper East Side** setting of New York City, with its stunning fall **fashion** and **extravagant parties**, adds a touch of sophistication and excitement to the autumn atmosphere. Moreover, the show's intricate web of **secrets, scandals, and unexpected twists** keeps viewers on the edge of their seats, making it a perfect choice for cozy nights as the weather gets chilly.



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. 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.

Thanks to all the contributors of this issue:

Interns: Alejandra Jimenez, Makayla Goldman, Ness Gorlewski, Janet Rodriguez

Faculty and Staff: Robin Reames and Katherine Boulay

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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