

ROBERTO ARGENTINA is a U.S. History and Art History public school teacher in Houston and is currently finishing his MLS program at Rice University. An Italian native, he is on his second Houston tour. He first lived in Houston in the 80s where he attended high school and the University of Houston. After a few decades in Chicago and Southern California being an actor, a grocer, and a chef, Houston is home again.

BRYAN BLAKELEY is a student in the Doctor of Liberal Studies program at Southern Methodist University. He received his Bachelor of Science in Biology at the University of Texas at Arlington and his Master of Arts in English and Film at the University of Houston Victoria. He has always been interested in using scientific methods to understand humanities topics, and he is currently working to understand the human behavior of storytelling from biological and cognitive perspectives.

NEWELL D. BOYD, PHD, is a semi-retired professor of history whose primary teaching field is Victorian Britain and the British Empire. He has presented papers at academic meetings and been published regularly in a variety of books and scholarly journals in the field of British history. He has recently published historical novels on the lives of John Ruskin and Joseph Chamberlain. He holds a PhD in history from Texas Tech University and has done post-doctoral research at the University of London, Birmingham University, the University of Manchester, the London School of Economics, Oxford University, and the University of Edinburgh. Dr. Boyd has been a fellow at the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London and is a member of England's Society of Authors and the Royal Historical Society.

LEE CASSON is a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University, enrolled in the Master of Liberal Arts program.

HANA S. ELYSIA is a professional dancer turned writer with an M.A. from San Diego State University. Her work has appeared in publications including *pacificREVIEW*, *The Horror Tree*, *Confluence*, and others. When she's not staring at a blank document hoping for ideas, she can be found reading, gaming, or cuddling with her dog.

DENNELLE GIBBINS-LYON is a (grateful) Rice University MLS student, a (proud) mother of four grown children, and a grandmother of one with another on the way. She is more an avid reader than writer, an equal slave to reason and imagination, and a devotee to caffeine. Huzzah!

DONNA GRIMLEY is in the Master of Liberal Studies program at Rice University and she feels that she is in her element. No longer the only nerd in the room, she is surrounded by intelligent, accomplished, and witty scholars, and all she can say is “better late, than never”; the program at Rice has been a source of challenge, reward, insight, growth, and lasting relationships. New to Liberal Studies, Donna studied electrical engineering, married and raised four children, spent most of her career as a math teacher, and enjoyed enrichment through discussions at book club. When stumped by her writing, Donna retreats to her pollinator garden or joins fellow volunteers in the greenhouse at the Mercer Botanical Garden.

KELLY A. HARRISON (she/they) is a part-time student in Stanford's Master of Liberal Arts program, class of 2025. Her undergraduate work was in English and Aviation, and she worked in computer software as a technical writer before a transition to academe. She acknowledges her privileged position as a life-long student who is now focused on the history of science. She currently edits a literary magazine, *West Trade Review*, and enjoys traveling and photography.

PATRICIA MAGEE'S life began in Nagasaki, Japan, where she was born into an Army family. After a childhood spent moving every few years, Patricia settled in Amherst, MA, and earned two English degrees at the University of Massachusetts. She taught English at the University of Delaware for 33 years, and after retirement she enrolled in UD's Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) Program, where she is currently enjoying life as a returning graduate student.

MARGARET VAUGHAN, PHD, makes her academic home at Metropolitan State University, in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul Twin Cities. She is the Director of the Master of Liberal Studies and Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies in the Department of Ethnic, Gender, Historical, and Philosophical Studies, among many other roles. She holds a Master's and Doctorate in Indigenous Studies from the University of Arizona.

Confluence is a free-access journal with a 20+-year history of publishing the best work from faculty, students, and alumnae/i of AGLSP member programs. Although still conceived as the premier showcase publication for work from AGLSP member programs, the Journal now accepts submissions from any institutions and areas of interest that reflect the interdisciplinary engagement that is constitutive of a liberal education. *Confluence* welcomes essays, research papers, short fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, art pieces, and photography, as well as book reviews of interdisciplinary works of interest to the Liberal Arts community.

Confluence is published in print once or twice per year, while online content is updated regularly; because we do not wait for a particular print issue before publishing individual works, submissions are accepted and reviewed at all times.

Special Sections of the Journal:

Human Values—Insights, Implications, Applications

Liberal education bears the responsibility for providing the tools with which to question, to discuss, and to recognize and cultivate new manners of relating. As the voice for graduate liberal studies in North America, *Confluence* works to foster the kind of dialogue, engagement, and relation that constitutes the heart and the value of a liberal education. Work published in this section will deal specifically with applications of 'liberal' learning to questions of human values and contemporary challenges to the stability and security of human society.

Commentaries

Commentaries are brief opinion pieces (1,000 to 2,000 words) that are intended to introduce an idea or identify connections between works which beg for deeper investigation and analysis. Explicitly not an account of a research project or a comprehensive investigative endeavor, a Commentary in *Confluence* is a snapshot, a single moment from the initial encounter with an idea or connection that suggests possibilities for interrogation toward new understanding. The Commentary is an appeal to think about an idea, to consider a question, and to take up in earnest the possible conversation toward which the Commentary points.

Book Reviews

Book Reviews are brief but compelling evaluations (1,500 to 2,500 words) of interdisciplinary works of interest to the Humanities and Liberal Arts community. Reviews should introduce the text, give a general characterization of its purpose and content, and discuss aspects of particular relevance to the 'humanities' as either an academic or existential endeavor.

Reader's and Educator's Corners

Are you currently reading (or have you recently read) something which you feel would be particularly relevant to the general AGLSP community? Have you found a creative way to engage the students/faculty in your classroom or in your program? Please tell us about your experience and spark a conversation!

Confluence Reader's Corner

The Reader's Corner features brief accounts (no more than 1,500 words) of one specific aspect of a text and suggests its particular significance for the AGLSP community.

Confluence Educator's Corner

The Educator's Corner features brief accounts (no more than 1,500 words) of a particular classroom experience, in which the writer identifies the program or class context, describes the strategy and its outcomes, and offers insight into how similar strategies might be appropriate and effective for other classes and programs.

All approved submissions will be published at the *Confluence*/AGLSP websites as a discussion forum, and featured submissions will be published in a print issue of *Confluence*.

Submission and Style Guidelines

Prose manuscripts may be up to 20 double-spaced pages, including bibliography, tables, images, and endnotes. Poetry should be single-spaced, with each poem limited to 10 pages. No more than one work of prose, three poems, three art pieces, or three photographs may be submitted. You may submit in two genres.

The journal follows the Chicago Manual of Style; please consult the manual when composing your manuscript. Either endnotes or footnotes are permitted as long as one style is used consistently throughout the manuscript. The manuscript should be set in Times New Roman, 12 pt. type.

Each writer should take care in preparing the manuscript before submitting. Style should be consistent throughout the manuscript, such as in the treatment of titles, abbreviations, and foreign words. Proofread carefully for possible errors of any sort, noting especially any foreign or highly technical words or phrases. Format and style of the manuscript are solely the responsibility of the author; even if your submission is accepted for publication, you may be asked to revise your manuscript if it fails to meet the journal's style requirements.

The first page of your manuscript should begin with the title of the piece, followed by the author's/authors' name(s). The manuscript should follow with no page headers/footers or any other designations. Please number your pages. The manuscript should allow for 1" margins.

All text, including tables, must be incorporated into the body of the manuscript. Any graphic material such as photographs or diagrams should be submitted as separate digital files (.jpeg, .pdf, .tiff). The dimensions of graphics should be no greater than 4.25 inches wide by 6.5 inches high with a resolution of 300 dpi or greater. The placement of graphic material must be clearly indicated in the body of the manuscript. PLEASE NOTE: Currently, the print version of the journal does not include color; while full-color images will be published online, all such images will be converted to grayscale for print publication.

Prepare a short biographical statement as a separate document. The biographical statement should be from three to five sentences in length and should include the author's institutional and program affiliation. After the biographical statement, also include full phone, e-mail, and mailing information.

Submit manuscript and biographical statement files to Editor@confluence-aglsp.org in Microsoft Word format. In the Subject section of the e-mail, state “Confluence Submission” and the title of your submission. Your submission will be acknowledged by e-mail and will be under review and consideration for approximately six to eight weeks.