

STADLER CENTER *for Poetry & Literary Arts*



SEARCHING FOR PITTSBURGH

The fox pines softly, blindly through me at night,
between the liver and the stomach Comes to the heart
and lacerates. Consider and then goes around it.
Come deeper, searching for what remains of Pittsburgh
in me. The rusting mills smoked agonically
along these rivers. The authority of them
dissolved and on the inferno always waiting in the air.
The great Locomotive driving through the cold
frost and beyond in their strength. Massive wheels
flaring morning and night through the cold
grids with county bridges. Summertime
with the sun and the night sky
A city of smoke and iron
of death. The search
for the heart of the city
in the heart of the city
in the heart of the city

Bucknell
UNIVERSITY

PHOTO: AMANDA NICHOLS

Fall 2021 Programs and Events

From the Acting Director

As a longtime member of the Stadler Center's staff, I'm honored to assume the Center's acting directorship during our director Chet'la Sebree's sabbatical year. This fall, the Stadler Center is thrilled to host several readings and conversations that will be offered remotely, including a visit from Aracelis Girmay, who will serve as Sojka Poet-in-Residence in October 2021. Please see the last page of this brochure for a full listing of Fall 2021 events. All events in the Stadler Center Writers Series are free and open to the public.

This year, the Stadler Center is thrilled to welcome Hasanthika Sirisena as the Acting Editor of *West Branch*, Sylvia Jones as the Stadler Fellow in Literary Editing, and Joshua Garcia as the Stadler Fellow in Literary Arts Administration. We are grateful for the distinct energies and skills that each of these literary artists brings to the Center's initiatives.

I am pleased to announce an exciting initiative that Chet'la Sebree has been working on for the past year: the Center's new partnership with the Boutelle-Day Poetry Center at Smith College and the Rose O'Neill Literary House at Washington College. The aim of the Small Literary Arts Centers Coalition (SLACC) is to share ideas about how our organizations can best serve our own communities and the larger American literary community, and to develop and mount cooperative initiatives. This fall SLACC will present its first joint event, an online workshop with poet/biologist Katherine Larson, who will guide undergraduate writers in bringing scientific data to their creative writing.

The Stadler Center will be accepting applications for the 2022-23 Roth Residences, Stadler Fellowships in Literary Editing and Literary Arts Administration, and the 2022 Bucknell Seminar for Undergraduates. The June 2022 Seminar will feature visiting poets Philip Metres, Raena Shirali, and Jane Wong. Please see the relevant sections of this brochure for deadlines and further information.

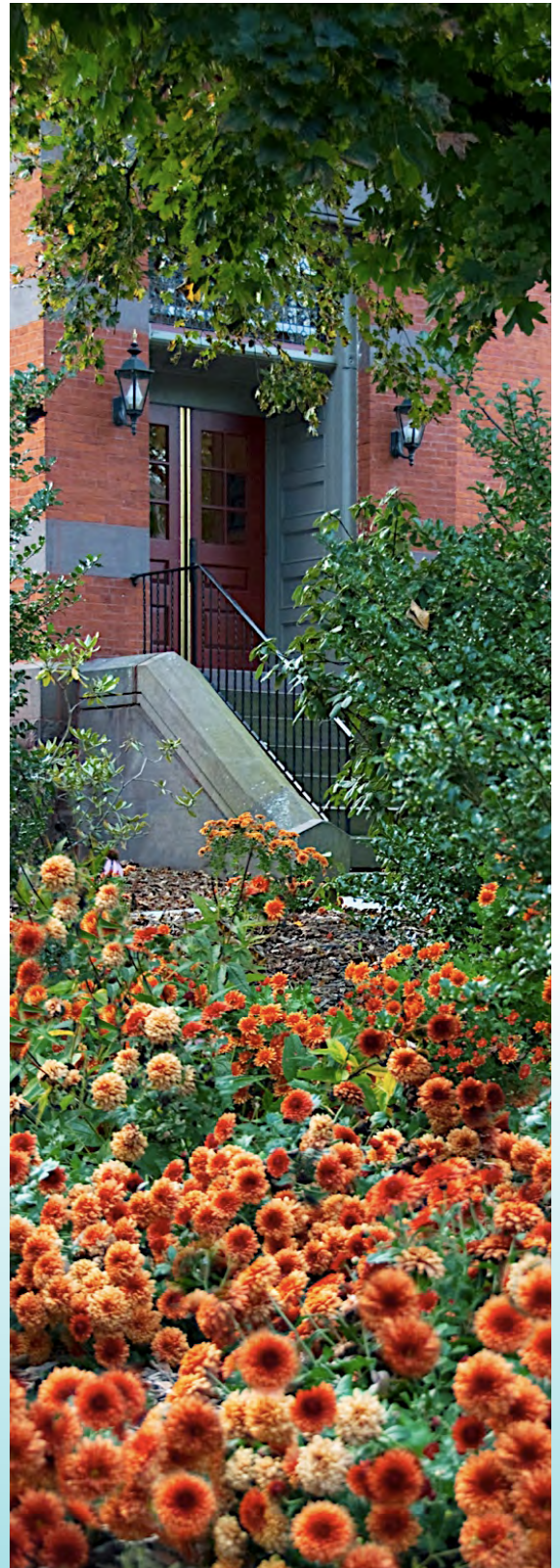
For contributions that help make our programming possible, we are grateful to Gary & Sandra Sojka, to the Stadler family, and to the many individuals whose generosity each year allows us to promote contemporary poetry and support writers at various stages of development. If you wish to foster the work of the Stadler Center for Poetry & Literary Arts, please consider making a gift — no amount is too small.

Thank you for your participation in the Stadler Center's reading series, for spreading word of our opportunities for undergraduates and working writers, and for your abiding belief in the value of poetry and the literary arts.

With gratitude and good wishes,



K. A. Hays
Acting Director, 2021-2022



The Stadler Fellowships

Since 1998, the Stadler Fellowship has offered recent MFA graduates in poetry the opportunity to receive training as literary professionals while providing time to work on a first book. The Stadler Fellowship offers two distinct tracks: a fellowship in literary editing and a fellowship in literary arts administration. The Stadler Fellow in Literary Editing serves as a poetry editor for *West Branch*, Bucknell's professional literary journal. The Stadler Fellow in Literary Arts Administration is a key player in the Stadler Center's programs and regional outreach efforts. In June, both fellows serve as staff poets in the Bucknell Seminar for Undergraduate Poets, the Center's signature summer program that draws some of the nation's most promising undergraduate poets. The 10-month residential fellowship provides a competitive stipend and health insurance, as well as access to Bucknell's cultural and academic resources.

The 2021-2022 Stadler Fellows are **Joshua Garcia** (Literary Arts Administration) and **Sylvia Jones** (Literary Editing).

Applications for the 2022-23 Stadler Fellowships (extending from August 2022 through June 2023) are due on December 1, 2021. For eligibility and application requirements, and to submit an application, please see our [website](#).



Joshua Garcia



Sylvia Jones

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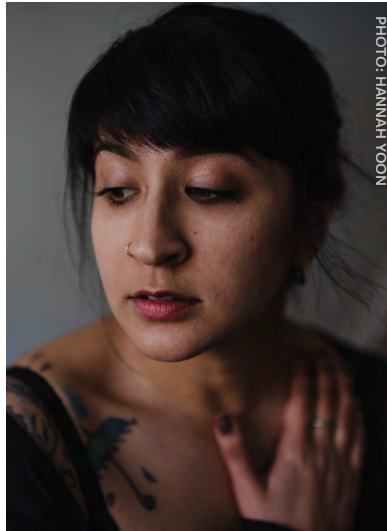
“As a Stadler Fellow, I loved gaining experience in editing and arts administration while having ample time to complete my first book and write new poems. This fellowship and my experiences within the Stadler Center community has already had a profound impact on my writing life. I’m certain I’ll continue to see its impact in years to come.”

— Laura Villareal, 2020-21 Stadler Fellow

Bucknell Seminar for Undergraduate Poets



Philip Metres



Raena Shirali



Jane Wong

A three-week residential program, the renowned **Bucknell Seminar for Undergraduate Poets** program provides emerging poets time and space for writing and the opportunity to study with established poets. The Seminar is directed by Assistant Professor of English and Seminar alumna K. A. Hays. Seminar alumna Deirdre O'Connor serves as associate director. Accepted applicants receive free tuition, lodging, and meals. The 2022 staff includes visiting poets **Philip Metres, Raena Shirali and Jane Wong** in addition to Bucknell faculty and staff. Dates for the 38th Bucknell Seminar for Undergraduate Poets are June 4-25, 2022. The application deadline is January 31, 2022. For eligibility and application requirements, and to submit an application, please see our [website](#).

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*“For me, one of the wonders of the
Bucknell Seminar for Undergraduate
Poets each June is in listening to
how twelve unique poets interact
in a shared space.”*

— K.A. Hays, from BSUP 2020 Cohort Feature,
The Adriot Journal 33

Sandra & Gary Sojka Poet-in-Residence

The Stadler Center for Poetry is delighted to welcome **Aracelis Girmay** as this year's Sandra & Gary Sojka Poet-in-Residence. Girmay's residency will take place October 25–29, 2021 via digital transmission. Initiated in 1981, the Poet-in-Residence program brings internationally-renowned poets to Bucknell during the spring semester each year. Former Poets-in-Residence include Marilyn Chin, Mark Doty, Terrance Hayes, Claudia Rankine, Brenda Hillman, and Ross Gay, among others.



In 2020, the Poet-in-Residence program merged with the Sojka Visiting Poetry Series. Established in 1995 through the generosity of former Bucknell President Gary Sojka (1985–1995) and his wife Sandra, the Sojka Visiting Poet featured such notable poets as Donald Justice, Eavan Boland, Elizabeth Alexander, and Carl Phillips over the years.

The Sojka Poet-in-Residence continues this tradition of presenting exceptional writers to the Bucknell community. While in residence, the poet presents a poetry reading, participates in a Q&A session on the writing life, and meets individually with poetry students to discuss their writing. The Sojka Poet-in-Residence is arranged by invitation; we do not accept applications for the position. The Stadler Center is grateful to the Sojkas for their continued support.



Oh, body, be held now by whom you love.

*Whole years will be spent, underneath these impossible stars,
when dirt's the only animal who will sleep with you
& touch you with
its mouth.*

— Aracelis Girmay, *Kingdom Animalia*

Philip Roth Residence in Creative Writing

Named for Bucknell's notable literary alumnus and initiated in the fall of 1993, the **Philip Roth Residence in Creative Writing** offers an emerging fiction or literary nonfiction writer over three months of unfettered writing time, without formal academic obligations. Designed to grant the writer time to complete a first or second book, the residency provides lodging and a stipend of \$5,000. We offer two Roth Residencies per academic year, a fall residency extending from August to December and a spring residency extending from January to May.

The Spring 2022 Roth Resident is **Andrés Vaamonde**. The Fall 2021 residency is vacant.

The application deadline for the 2022–23 Roth Residences is Feb. 1, 2022.

For eligibility and application requirements, and to submit an application, please visit our [website](#).



Andrés Vaamonde

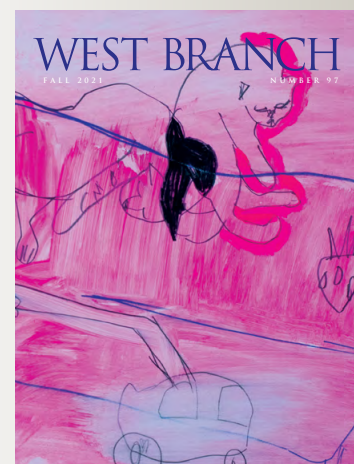


“Many years on, I still rely upon — and benefit from — conversations I had with the faculty and staff during my time as a Roth resident.”

— Mike Scalise, 2009 Roth Resident

West Branch

West Branch, Bucknell's professional literary journal, has provided a venue for emerging and established writers for over 40 years. *West Branch* publishes poetry, fiction, literary essays, and reviews. In recent years, works originally appearing in *West Branch* have been reprinted in the *Best American* anthologies, the *The Pushcart Prize: the Best of the Small Presses*, and other venues. *West Branch* offers competitive publishing internships for Bucknell undergraduates and co-sponsors the Cadigan Prizes for Younger Writers, a creative writing contest for Bucknell students, each year. In 2021–22, *West Branch* will be edited by **Hasanthika Sirisena**, the journal's longtime nonfiction editor. More info at bucknell.edu/westbranch.



Undergraduate Opportunities

The Stadler Center offers numerous opportunities for Bucknell undergraduates to experience the literary arts and engage with literary professionals, from the Writers Series to the Seminar for Undergraduate Poets to our Poet- and Writer-in-Residence programs. Other student-centered opportunities include:

Cadigan Prize for Younger Writers & Annual Student Reading

Each year the Cadigan Prize for Younger Writers awards Bucknell undergraduates for extraordinary poetry and prose. The Cadigan Prize is judged each year by recent contributors to West Branch, Bucknell's professional literary journal, and recognizes outstanding works of poetry and prose by Bucknell undergraduates. The awards are made possible by the generous support of Robb '86 and Joan Daughen Cadigan '86. Judges for the 2021-22 contest will be announced in Fall 2021. The submission deadline is Dec. 8, 2021. See our [website](#) for details.

Each year the Annual Student Reading in April gathers the winners of the Cadigan Prizes for Younger Writers and the Julia Fonville Smithson Memorial Prize (the Creative Writing Program's literary award) for a formal reading in Bucknell Hall. The 2021-22 reading will take place on April 28, 2022.

West Branch Internship

West Branch, Bucknell's professional, nationally recognized literary journal housed at the Stadler Center, offers a competitive, semester-length, internship for qualified sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are interested in contemporary literature and the world of literary publishing. Applications for the Spring '22 internship will be accepted during the fall semester, and applications for Fall '22 during the spring semester.

Stadler Center Open Mics

The Center hosts a series of literary open mics for Bucknell undergraduates from any year or major who wish to share their poetry, fiction, or other literary writing. Fall '21 open mics will be conducted via Zoom. We look forward to presenting in-person open mics in the future. Please look out on Stadler Center social media for sign-up details.

Fall '21 Open Mic dates are:

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 7pm

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 7 pm

Mildred Martin Library & Lounge

The Mildred Martin Poetry Library & Lounge, which houses a broad collection of modern and contemporary poetry, is at the heart of the Center in the basement of Bucknell Hall. Named for Professor Emerita Mildred A. Martin, a benefactor of the Center, the library provides a quiet space for study, reading, or meeting in small groups. Students are welcome to use the library whenever the Center is open.



PHOTO: AMANDA NICHOLS

STADLER CENTER Writers Series

DUE TO CONTINUING PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS, ALL EVENTS WILL BE CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM.

Fall 2021

Poetry & Prose Reading | Tuesday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m. | [Zoom](#)

G.C. Waldrep & Hasanthika Sirisena

G.C. Waldrep's most recent books are *feast gently* (2018), winner of the William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America, and *The Earliest Witnesses* (2021). Waldrep is a professor of English at Bucknell.

Hasanthika Sirisena's essay collection *Dark Tourist*, winner of the Gournay Prize, will be released in 2021. Her story collection, *The Other One*, won the Juniper Prize for Fiction and was released in 2016. A faculty member at Susquehanna University, she is the acting editor of *West Branch* in 2020-21.



G.C. WALDREP



HASANTHIKA SIRISENA

Generative Workshop | Thursday, Sept. 23, 5:30 p.m.

Cross-pollinations, Ingenious Hybrids, and Deep Mapping: Where Scientific Research and Creative Writing Synthesize

Katherine Larson is the author of *Radial Symmetry* (2011) winner of the Yale Younger Poets Prize and the Levis Reading Prize. She lives in Tucson, Arizona.

A presentation of the Small Literary Arts Center Coalition (SLACC), comprised of the Boutelle-Day Poetry Center at Smith College, the Rose O'Neill Literary House at Washington College and the Stadler Center for Poetry & Literary Arts at Bucknell University.



KATHERINE LARSON



LEILA CHATTI

Writers in Conversation: First Book | Tuesday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m. | [Zoom](#)

Leila Chatti & Nana Nkweti

Leila Chatti's debut poetry collection *Deluge* (2020) was long-listed for the 2021 PEN Open Book Award. She currently teaches at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she is the Mendota Lecturer in Poetry.

Nana Nkweti is the author of the debut story collection *Walking on Cowrie Shells*, published in June. A former Philip Roth Resident at Bucknell, she is an assistant professor of English at the University of Alabama.



NANA NKWETI

Poetry Reading | Tuesday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m. | [Zoom](#)

Q&A Session | Thursday, Oct. 28, 12 noon | [Zoom](#)

Aracelis Girmay, Sandra & Gary Sojka Poet-in-Residence

Aracelis Girmay is the author of three acclaimed books of poetry, *the black maria* (2016), *Kingdom Animalia* (2011), and *Teeth* (2007) and the recipient of numerous grants and awards. She teaches in the graduate writing program at Pratt Institute.

Poetry & Fiction Reading – Tuesday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m. | [Zoom](#)

Joshua Garcia & Onyinye Ihezukwu

Onyinye Ihezukwu worked as a broadcaster, journalist, actress, project director, and playwright in Nigeria before moving to the United States. She was a 2015-2017 Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford University. She is at work on a novel.

Joshua Garcia is the 2020-21 Stadler Fellow in Literary Arts Administration. Garcia's poetry appears in *Arts & Letters*, *Image*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *Poet Lore* and elsewhere. He earned his MFA from the College of Charleston.



ARACELIS GIRMAY



JOSHUA GARCIA



ONYINYE IHEZUKWU

THIS
EVENT
FOR
BUCKNELL
UNDER-
GRADS
ONLY!