

MFA Class of 2018



Elizabeth Upshur is a poet who considers Tennessee her home state. Her thesis is a womanist, pop culture riddled manifesto featuring her entire family, beauty politics through the microcosm of pageantry, and magic. Her poems have been published in *Zephyrus*, *Lost River*, and *Pomona Valley Review*. She has workshopped at the Frost Place, Bread Loaf Translators' conference, and the Meacham Writers Workshop. She was a finalist for the 2017 Summer Literary Seminars contest, placed first runner up in the 2017 Colorism Healing contest, and has been awarded the 2018 Eleanor Clark prize from the Robert Penn Warren Circle. Elizabeth has interned for two years with Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society. She represented Tennessee in the Miss Earth United States pageant, and she has received a Fulbright scholarship to research and write in Benin with Africologist Dr. Houessou-Adin, a collaboration culminating in a text that combines photography and creative writing. She plans to pursue a doctorate in English or Comparative Literature.

Cameron Moreno hails from Corpus Christi, Texas. His thesis is a hybrid collection of short stories and poetry navigating issues and topics closely related to Mexican-American culture such as machismo, and the intersectionality between masculinity, sexuality, gender, and gender roles. He interned with the Barrio Writers Workshop as a writing advisor. He has writing published or forthcoming in *Panorama Magazine*, *Talisman*, *Typishly: Online Literary Journal*, *The Hunger*, and elsewhere. His poem "Why I Never Look at Planes Flying Overhead" was a finalist for SLAB Literary Magazine's Elizabeth R. Curry Poetry Contest. He has relocated to Corpus Christi to publish more of his writing and later apply to doctorate programs with a concentration in Poetry.





Zane DeZeeuw grew up in the mountains of Southwest Colorado, received his Bachelor of Arts in English from Truman State University. His thesis is a novel titled *Run Me Dusk* that explores how the end of a relationship is a call to meditate on “who we want to be in this world.” During his time at Western Kentucky University, he worked as an intern with the literary journal *Sinister Wisdom*, located in Dover, Florida. There, he copy-edited forthcoming issues, created teaching and reading guides for past issues, and updated the website among his many responsibilities. He was awarded the 2018 Potter College Award for Outstanding Student in English, Master of Fine Arts. He currently writes book reviews for *Lambda Literary* and is applying for jobs.

Leslie Fox grew up in East Tennessee but currently lives in Oakland, Kentucky. She writes both poetry and creative nonfiction. Her thesis is a memoir connecting life experiences across cultures and is reflective of a time period's values. Her writing is lyrical and metaphorical but also honest. She enjoyed the friendships she has made at Western Kentucky University as well as the chance to push herself to write in new and different ways and modify her new skills into a recognizable voice. She has been published in *Pine Mountain Sand and Gravel*, and she worked as an intern with *The Porch*, a writers' collective in Nashville that has helped develop her writing. In the fall, she will be teaching at Western Kentucky University and pursuing her graduate certificate in Gender & Women's Studies.



David Haydon is a poet and essayist/memoirist. David is originally from Springfield, Kentucky and currently lives in Bowling Green, Kentucky. They received a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Western Kentucky University. They have published poetry in *Zephyrus* and *Lavender Bluegrass*, as well as nonfiction in *Lavender Bluegrass*. Their work focuses on gender and sexual identity, grief, and the South, as seen across their body of work and their thesis, an essay collection titled, "Supposed Symmetries." David has worked as an editorial intern with the literary magazine *Creative Nonfiction* and currently teaches composition at Western Kentucky University.