

MERCY UNIVERSITY GRADUATE ENGLISH SYMPOSIUM 2024



EVENT SCHEDULE &
PRESENTER INFO FOR THE
2024 W.I.T (WRITING IMAGE TEXT)
GRADUATE ENGLISH SYMPOSIUM

SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2024
LIVE ONLINE/ZOOM

MERCY UNIVERSITY GRADUATE ENGLISH SYMPOSIUM 2024

SCHEDULE

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| NOON | Opening remarks Dr. Christopher Loots |
| 12:10 - 1:10 | Nelson E. Orellana “The Colors of Identity: The Role of Santería to Cuba and its Daughters within <i>Dreaming in Cuban</i> ” Chad Teasley “The Epic Poem <i>Beowulf</i> as a Reflection of Anglo-Saxon Society” Raymond Fortunato “The <i>Hypókrisis</i> Mirror” (fiction) |
| 1:10 - 1:40 | Q&A |
| 1:40 - 1:45 | Closing remarks |
| 1:45 - 2:00+ | Optional post-event reflection and discus- sion for presenters and other grad students |

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ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

Nelson Orellana is a dedicated scholar whose passions drove him to unlock the power of the written word. With a concentration in American Literature, he strives to highlight the diversity integral to the legacy of American writers while pushing forward for inclusivity, progress, and empathy. As the current Editor-in-Chief of Mercy University's *Red Hyacinth* Journal, he proudly uplifts the voices of our community and strives to make literature and art accessible to all.

K. Chad Teasley is a U.S. Navy Sailor with 38 years of service in the Submarine Force. Passionate about the study of history and literature, his favorite areas of literary scholarship are nineteenth century American and British literature and that of the medieval era. He holds a master of arts in military history from Norwich University and his baccalaureate in military history is from American Military University. Chad and his wife, Nirvani, have been married for 34 years and are blessed with four adult children and seven amazing grandchildren. They are proud to have a son in the Navy and a son-in-law in the Marine Corps.

Raymond Fortunato has published one short story collection, *Joyful, Sorrowful and Ordinary Mysteries*. His play, *Nothing's Plenty For Me*, was presented by the Xoregos Performing Company in January 2022. He has published stories in *Drunken Monkeys*, *Evening Street Review*, *The Scarlet Leaf Review*, *The Bangalore Review*, *The Write Launch* and *Half and One*. His story "The Great Silence" is forthcoming in the 2024 issue of *Red Hyacinth*. He posts to Instagram @raymondfortunatoauthor and to Facebook @RaymondFortunatoAuthor. His play, stories and music are on his website at www.raymondfortunato.com.