

Connecticut Poetry Circuit

Outstanding College Poets 2021-2022



Brian Ataka



Vaughn Goehrig



Colleen Goff



Michelle Rochniak

Brian Ataka (he/him) is a sophomore at Quinnipiac University where he majors in Economics. Interested in the way people behave in a variety of circumstances, Brian finds poetry the only way he can describe his observations of others and of himself. Currently a resident of Shelton, Connecticut, Brian's hometown is Cedar Park, Texas. He was born in Bungoma, Kenya.

Vaughn Goehrig (he/him) is a junior at Yale University where he majors in English. He is the recipient of Yale's Gordon-Barber Memorial Prize for Poetry and currently works as an intern for Yale University Press. Before poetry, his passion for the arts was vested in grunge and metal music, thanks to his mom and dad, respectively. He is a member of Yale's only musical improv-comedy group, Just Add Water, and an esteemed juggler. Vaughn's hometown is Brookfield, Wisconsin.

Colleen Goff (she/her) is a senior at Eastern Connecticut State University where she majors in English, with minors in Creative Writing and Secondary Education. Colleen is the recipient of Eastern's Alexander "Sandy" Taylor Memorial Endowed Scholarship, and her poetry has been published in the *Willimantic Chronicle*. On campus, she is a second-year writing tutor, a teaching assistant and the president of ECSU's Creative Writing Club. Colleen was recently accepted into Eastern's Secondary Education Early Start Graduate program. Colleen's hometown is Waterbury, Connecticut.

Michelle Rochniak (she/they) is a sophomore at Western Connecticut State University where she majors in Professional Writing, with a creative writing focus. She has received the Association of Writers and Writing Program Intro Award for Poetry at the university level. Her poetry has been published in Western's *Perspective* magazine as well as on the Heartland Society of Women Writers website. Michelle also worked as submissions and publications intern for Heartland Society of Women Writers, and was the associate editor of their first anthology. Michelle's hometown is Wallingford, Connecticut.

This event will take place at Eastern is April 13 at 7 p.m.
(Virtual on WebEx)

[https://meet180.webex.com/meet180/
j.php?MTID=m218eb405ddbfc76c2c52a4593f5d6d9](https://meet180.webex.com/meet180/j.php?MTID=m218eb405ddbfc76c2c52a4593f5d6d9)

For additional information, please contact James Gentile, Director, Connecticut Poetry Circuit, at email jgentile@manchestercc.edu.