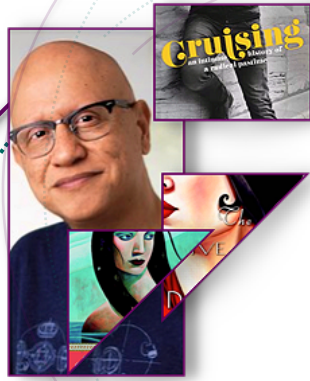


# FALL READINGS SERIES

## 2023

Presented by Grossmont College English Department's Creative Writing Program



### BANNED BOOKS/BANNED LIVES:

NOVELIST **ALEX ESPINOZA**

OCTOBER 5

11AM - 12:20PM, PVAC

Alex Espinoza is the author of two novels, *Still Water Saints*, *The Five Acts of Diego León*. His most recent book, *Cruising: An Intimate History of a Radical Pastime*, is a provocative and personal non-fiction study of the political and cultural forces behind the gay male cruising scene. An associate professor of English at CSU-Fresno, his writing has appeared in *Huizache*, *Salon*, the *New York Times Magazine*, and others.



POET **BRANDON SOM**

OCTOBER 24

2 - 3:20PM, PVAC

Chicano/Chinese-American poet Brandon Som is the author of *Babel's Moon*, 2011 winner of a Snowbound Chapbook Award, and *The Tribute Horse*, 2014 winner of a Nightboat Poetry Prize and Kate Tufts Discovery Award. Som's poetry appears in *Indiana Review*, *Black Warrior Review*, *McSweeney's*, and elsewhere. A former Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center fellow, Som is currently a UCSD assistant professor in the Literature Department.



### LESTER BANGS MEMORIAL READING

JOURNALIST **BROOKE BINKOWSKI**

NOVEMBER 15

12:30-1:45PM, ZOOM REGISTRATION: [TINYURL.COM/2BUSEH24](https://tinyurl.com/2BUSEH24)

Brooke Binkowski is a longtime, award-winning multimedia journalist and fact-checker for Snopes and TruthOrFiction.com. Her reporting focuses on anti-disinformation journalism, environmental justice, borders, migration, and human rights. Her work has been featured on CNN, CBS, Voice of San Diego, BuzzFeed, and many others.

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT  
[grossmont.edu/frs](https://grossmont.edu/frs)



**NEW VOICES** A STUDENT READING

DECEMBER 4

7-8:30PM, PVAC

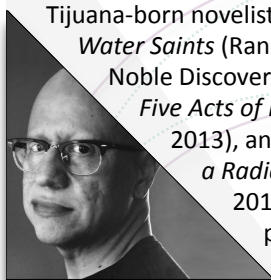
Curated by the Creative Writing Program, this very popular biannual student reading showcases the talent of fall semester students performing original works of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, drama, and hybrid forms.

This year's FRS is generously underwritten by the Grossmont College English Department, the GC Academic Affairs Symposium and Lecture Fund, and the Foundation for Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges (FGCC) Creative Writing Fund.

## BANNED BOOKS/BANNED LIVES:

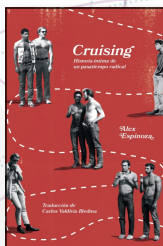
### NOVELIST ALEX ESPINOZA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 11AM-12:20PM, PVAC THEATRE



Tijuana-born novelist **ALEX ESPINOZA** is the author of *Still Water Saints* (Random House, 2007), a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Selection, *The Five Acts of Diego León* (Random House, 2013), and *Cruising: An Intimate History of a Radical Pastime* (Unnamed Press 2019). In *Cruising*, Espinoza draws parallels between events during the COVID crisis and the AIDS crisis of the '80s, including the

ways in which intimacy cost lives and heightened radical behaviors. A book reviewer for the *Los Angeles Times*, *American Book Review*, and NPR's *All Things Considered*, Espinoza's fiction and essays have appeared in anthologies and journals such as *Inlandia*, *Latinos in Lotusland*, *Huizache*, *Silent Voices*, *The Southern California Review*, *Salon.com*, the *New York Times Magazine*, and *The Other Latin@: Writing Against a Singular Identity*. Espinoza is an associate professor of English at CSU-Riverside, where he is currently working on a new novel.



### POET BRANDON SOM

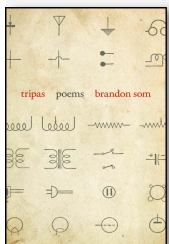
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2-3:20PM,

PVAC THEATRE

Born in Phoenix, Arizona, **BRANDON SOM** is the author of *Babel's Moon* (Tupelo, 2011), winner of a Snowbound Chapbook Award, and *The Tribute Horse* (Nightboat, 2014), winner of a Nightboat Poetry Prize and Kate Tufts Discovery Award. *The Tribute Horse* explores the story of Chinese immigrants like Som's grandfather, who circumvented the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act in 1928 by falsely claiming kin with Chinese Americans. His latest book, *Tripas* (Georgia Review Books 2023), is a follow-up to *The Tribute Horse* and a collection of poems built out of a multicultural, multigenerational childhood home, in which he celebrates his Chicana grandmother, who worked nights on the assembly line at Motorola, and his Chinese



American father and grandparents, who ran the family corner store. Som's poetry appears in *Barrow Street*, *Indiana Review*, *Black Warrior Review*, *McSweeney's*, and elsewhere. A former Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center fellow, Som currently is an assistant professor in the literature department at UCSD.



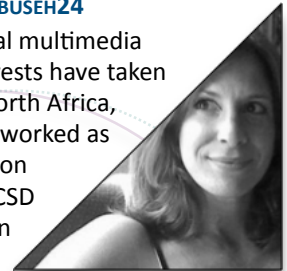
## LESTER BANGS MEMORIAL READING:

### JOURNALIST BROOKE BINKOWSKI

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 12:30-1:45PM, VIA ZOOM

REGISTER TO ATTEND: [TINYURL.COM/2BUSEH24](https://tinyurl.com/2BUSEH24)

**BROOKE BINKOWSKI** is a professional multimedia journalist whose career and interests have taken her to Mexico, Alaska, Europe, North Africa, and South America. She has also worked as a freelance border and immigration reporter while completing her UCSD master's degree in Latin American Studies with a focus on the culture of the U.S.-Mexico Border and Mexican immigration to Anchorage, Alaska. Binkowski has reported for NPR, CBS, and the BBC. A fact-checker for TruthOrFiction.com and a former managing editor for Snopes, Binkowski was awarded the 2017 Society of Professional Journalists Sunshine Award for her efforts to make government more transparent and hold elected leaders accountable in an emergent era of "fake news" and "alternative facts."

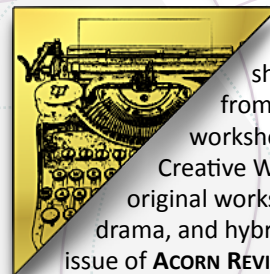


Brooke Binkowski is also this year's featured guest presenter for the annual Lester Bangs Memorial Reading, which honors influential music journalist, author, and musician, **LESTER BANGS**. Bangs, an El Cajon native and Grossmont College alumnus, is widely credited for having coined the terms "punk" and "heavy metal." In 2009, Grossmont College

officially honored Bangs's international celebrity status by dedicating to him a bronze "Walk of Fame" plaque, located in the Main Quad in front of the Tech Mall.

## NEW VOICES A STUDENT READING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 7-8:30PM, PVAC THEATRE



The finale of the 2023 Fall Readings Series, **NEW VOICES**, is a showcase of writing talent curated from this semester's courses and workshops. Students are selected by Creative Writing instructors to perform original works of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, drama, and hybrid forms. The latest

issue of **ACORN REVIEW**, Grossmont College's own student-operated literary arts journal, will also be available for sale at the event. Many who perform in New Voices readings submit their work for publication in *Acorn Review*. Find submissions info @ [grossmont.edu/acorn](https://grossmont.edu/acorn).



**GROSSMONT COLLEGE** • 8800 Grossmont College Drive, San Diego, CA 92020 • 619-644-7000 • [www.grossmont.edu](https://www.grossmont.edu) • Governing Board Members: Elena Adams, Linda Cartwright, Debbie Justeson, Brad Monroe, Julie Schorr Student Members: Sasha Reva, Courtney Etnyre. • Chancellor: Lynn Ceresino Neault, Ed.D. • Grossmont College President: Denise Whisenhunt, J.D.