**Cathleen Miller**

Written by Yulissa Ferreira and Christian Navarro

The Department of English and Comparative Literature honors Professor Cathleen Miller for her lasting impression on the department, the campus, and her students and colleagues.

Miller has been teaching at San José State University for 15 years, and during that time, she’s made such a positive impact. She is a 2018 Fulbright Scholar who served as the Distinguished Chair of the Humanities at the University of Manchester from 2018-19. Her biography about the UN leader Nafis Sadik was named one of Booklist’s Top 10 Biographies for 2013. In her time at SJSU, Miller served as the editor-in-chief and faculty advisor for *Reed Magazine* and the Director for the Center of Literary Arts. In addition, she has written three books *Desert Flower, The Birdhouse Chronicles: Surviving the Joys of Country Life.* and *Champion of Choice: The Life and Legacy of Women’s Advocate Nafis Sadik*

In her time at SJSU, Miller primarily taught nonfiction writing, her speciality, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Her favorite part about teaching was getting to know and befriend her students. She was more than just a teacher; she sought to “for[m] lasting friendships with them.” In addition to nonfiction writing, Miller also taught nonfiction literature and craft seminars specializing in biographies and memoirs

Miller has loved being a part of a literary community in San Jose and the greater Bay Area, and her work with *Reed Magazine* made it possible for her to usher her students into this community as well. Miller and her students worked incredibly hard to produce every edition of the magazine, and she enjoyed seeing the amazing work her students produced. She says, “Creating a magazine is an incredibly inventive endeavor. Each edition begins to take on a life of its own, and it’s fun to watch that life emerge slowly during the year we work on it.” About her *Reed Magazine* students, she says, “I’m proud that when they finish the course they will have topnotch skills they can take out into the world—everything from graphic design to copyediting to sales to event planning.”

Outside of school, Miller is part of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs. She took a team from Reed to their annual conference each year where they staffed a booth at the bookfair.

Currently, Miller is finishing the remainder of the Spring semester in England. In the near future she will be working with the British Red Cross for a live-streamed speakers’ series titled “Women on the Front Line.” During the live-streamed event, she will talk about her career and experience working on her book about migration and female genital mutilation titled *Desert Flower*.

After her retirement, she looks forward to marrying the man she met when she was a Fulbright scholar to the University of Manchester. Miller will be settling into a village in Marple, Greater Manchester where her fiancé lives. She plans to explore England, and to engage in her hobbies of gardening, baking, painting. She hopes to even finish a book she started 20 years ago on Eadweard Muybridge. Not only that, she plans to write another memoir about all the experiences she’s had during her 25 year career in academia because, as she says, “My work was all consuming.” About her retirement, she says, “I’ve discovered that time is the greatest commodity [...] We don’t know how much time we have left, so carpe diem!”