

Good evening, and welcome to the annual English Department Awards Ceremony and Sigma Tau Delta Induction. I am Susan Goulding, and it is my honor and pleasure to serve as the Chair of the Department of English, and to begin this evening in which we celebrate the accomplishments of our students. Their accomplishments over the last two years are particularly worthy of our recognition, as they have persevered through adversity to attain excellence. My thanks and appreciation to all of you for the work you have done to bring us together today. Since it is the main responsibility of the welcomer in a Zoom event to be brief, I will now turn to my esteemed colleague Alena Graedon, Assistant Professor and novelist, and chair of this year's awards committee.

> Susan Goulding, Ph.D. Chair, Department of English