



RICE

Unconventional Wisdom

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

HONORS & ACHIEVEMENTS

2018 - 2019

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WELCOME

Welcome to the 2019 Commencement Reception for the Department of English at Rice University. This afternoon, we will acknowledge and honor our graduating students along with our award and fellowship recipients. Our department is proud to have you all here with us today to celebrate these students' hard work and impressive achievements. Congratulations!

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREES

Steffanie Alter* (Wiess)
English (minor: Politics, Law & Social Thought)

Claudia Middleton (Sid Richardson)
English, Visual and Dramatic Arts

Christian Carr (Duncan)
English, Political Science

Clay Musial (Hanszen)
English

Olivia Casimir (Hanszen)
English (minor: Medical Humanities)

Elizabeth Myong (Hanszen)
English, Political Science

Rebecca Chen (Brown)
English (minors: Biochemistry and Cell Biology,
Medical Humanities, Sociology)

Natalie Sanchez (McMurtry)
English (minors: Business, Sociology)

Michael Dillinger (Brown)
English, Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations

Erica Schumacher* (Duncan)
English, Political Science (minor: Politics, Law &
Social Thought)

Audrey Doidge (Baker)
English, Sociology

Miriam Shayeb (Will Rice)
English, Spanish and Portuguese (minor: Medical
Humanities)

Emma Everett (Duncan)
English

Kelsie Utz (McMurtry)
English

Dwight Fan (Hanszen)
English, Biochemistry and Cell Biology

Kimberly Wood* (Martel)
English, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
(minor: Business)

Megan Gordon (Duncan)
English, Policy Studies (minor: Politics, Law &
Social Thought)

Lia Wu (Sid Richardson)
English, Asian Studies, Classical Studies

Yanghwa Hong (Jones)
English

Christina Yeh (Lovett)
English

Alan Kim (Martel)
English, Visual and Dramatic Arts

Kaitlyn Zoeller (Will Rice)
English

Courtney Klashman* (Hanszen)
English, Mathematics

Shannon Klein* (Will Rice)
English

Claire Luo (Brown)
English

**Student recommended for University Distinction in Research and Creative Works*

UNDERGRADUATE SENIOR THESES

The Senior Thesis in English is an optional advanced research project in which students undertake a year-long process of research and writing while working directly with their faculty advisor. The senior thesis project culminates in a 50+ page research paper on a topic of their choosing.

Steffannie Alter

Advisor: Paul Otremba

“Groundswell”

Courtney Klashman

Advisor: Judith Roof

“Decolonized Body, Colonized Mind: The Anxiety of the Postcolonial Intellectual”

Shannon Klein

Advisor: Judith Roof

“Feminism, Communities, and Black Women’s Literature”

Kimberly Wood

Advisor: Amanda Johnson

“Eve’s Echoes: Agency of Women in Milton’s Paradise Lost and Poe’s ‘Al Aaraaf’”

UNDERGRADUATE PRIZES & AWARDS

Caroline S. and David L. Minter Award for Outstanding Graduating English Major

Created to honor Emeritus English Professor David Minter and his wife Caroline, this award is given out every year to a graduating English major with an extraordinary GPA and whose transcript demonstrates a breadth of scholarship.

Shannon Klein

Caroline S. and David L. Minter Outstanding Essay Prize

This prize is awarded for a paper of ten pages or more written for an English course by a current junior or senior English major.

Courtney Klashman

“A Man Apart: V.S. Naipaul’s Intellectual in Exile”

Lily Wulfemeyer

“The Space Race of the 1950s: African American Women and Spaces of Health and Healing in Toni Morrison’s ‘Home’”

Minter Summer Scholar Awards

These awards are given out every year to students whose research over the summer will inform their work in English during the following semester.

Emma Every, Shami Mosley, Areli Magallón Navarro, Anna Ta, Lily Wulfemeyer

Lady Geddes Essay Writing Prize

This prize is an annual writing competition for the best academic paper by a currently enrolled freshman or sophomore.

First Place - **Brianna Satow**

“Private Eyes”

Second Place - **Simona Matovic**

“Painting as Procreation: Lily Briscoe’s Artistic Alternative to Motherhood”

Inprint Marion Barthelme Prize in Creative Writing at Rice University

This award is given out every year to a graduating student who has completed course work in creative writing at Rice University.

Megan Carlier

“‘We r just crazy’: A Lineage”

UNDERGRADUATE PRIZES & AWARDS

R2: The Rice Review Awards

R2: The Rice Review is a student-run literary journal at Rice University. The journal was founded in 2004 by creative writing professor and author Justin Cronin and made possible by the generosity of the Huisick, Epstein, and Williams families. Each year, *R2* gives out Williams Awards to those students whose work merits additional recognition.

George Williams Prize for Fiction

First Place – **Jordan Wheeler** for “Fragments from Catalonia”

Second Place – **Sunny Liu** for “Shade of the Deepest Blue”

George Williams Prize for Creative Nonfiction

First Place – **Izzie Karohl** for “Disassembling”

Second Place – **Grant Lu** for “Glass Canon”

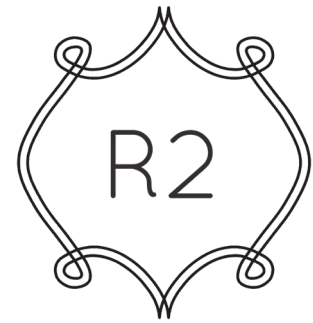
George Williams Prize for Poetry

First Place – **Alice Liu** for “Pet fish dreams of better death”

Second Place – **Megan Carlier** for “‘We r just crazy’: A Lineage”

Cover Art Prize

Suzanne Zeller for “Aphrodite Reborn”



The English Department also recognizes **Ian Schimmel**, who serves as faculty advisor to *R2: The Rice Review*. Instructor Schimmel consistently goes above and beyond to mentor, and serve as a resource for, those students that serve on the editorial staff of this incredible journal.

UNDERGRADUATE SERVICE

Kristen Hickey, Ellie Mix, Lily Wulfemeyer,
Co-Editors-in-Chief, *R2*

Joshua Anil, Ryan Chow, Fiction Editors, *R2*
Sanvitti Sahdev, Creative Nonfiction Editor, *R2*
Annabelle Crowe, Poetry Editor, *R2*
Ana Paul Pinto-Diaz, Art Editor, *R2*

Ellie Mix, Layout Editor, *R2*
Colton Alstatt, Caleb Dukes, Ginny Jeon,
Anna Jorgenson, Clara Kraebber, Cassia
Lewandowski, Kristie Lynn, Rynd Morgan,
Rebecca Noel, Mark Trevino, Theresa
Vanderventer, Kate Weeks, General Staff, *R2*

Matthew Archibald, Nathan Archibald, Rebecca Chen*, Megan Gordon*, Areli Magallón
Navarro, English Undergraduate Association (EUA) Officers

*For going above and beyond the call of duty, the Department would like to thank Megan Gordon and Rebecca Chen for their remarkable efforts on behalf of the EUA this past year.

Founded in 2016, the EUA seeks to ready students for diverse career paths and lives. Instructor Ian Schimmel and Instructor Amanda Johnson serve as faculty advisors.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES

Mark Celeste

Professor Helena Michie

“Maritime Networks: The Oceanic Imagery in the British Long Nineteenth Century”

May 2019

Joe T. Carson

Professor Caroline Levander

“Savage Arcadia: The American Romance in the Anthropocene”

May 2019

ACHIEVEMENT OF CANDIDACY

Lindsay Graham

Kevin MacDonnell

Clint Wilson III

NEW ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Elizabeth Womack

Ph.D. 2010

Associate Professor of English (promotion), Penn State Brandywine

Derek Woods

Ph.D. 2017

Assistant Professor of English, University of British Columbia

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS & PRIZES

EXTERNAL

Nina Cook

Sherry Clarkson Prize (for best conference paper) for her essay, "Putting on Blinders: Repression and the Semantic Field of Blindness in Bleak House," presented at Research, Art, Writing (RAW) Graduate Conference, The University of Texas at Dallas

UNIVERSITY

Mark Celeste

2019 Graduate Teaching Award for Independent Instruction, Center for Teaching Excellence

Kelly McKisson

2019 Robert Lowry Patten Award, Graduate Student Association

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS & PRIZES

DEPARTMENTAL

Shirley Bard Rapoport Essay Prize

This essay prize is awarded every year for the best essay by a graduate student in the English Department. Morris Rapoport established this endowed prize as a memorial to honor his beloved wife and lifetime partner, Shirley Bard Rapoport, and her love of writing and literature.

First Place - **Samuel F. Stoeltje**

“Hauntology, Otherwise”

Second Place - **Kevin MacDonnell**

“Subsurface Aesthetics Beneath Crusoe’s Island”

Chair’s Best Dissertation Prize

Each year this prize is awarded to the best dissertation in the English department.

Alanna Beroiza

“Out of Sight: Gender in Scopic and Aural Systems”

Director: Professor Judith Roof

August 2018

Margaret C. Ostrum Summer Research Grant

This summer research grant allows students to travel to archives or work on ethnographic projects outside of Houston, especially for work related to their dissertation.

Andrew Battaglia

Kevin MacDonnell

Randi Mihajlovic

Sólveig Ásta Sigurðardóttir

GRADUATE SERVICE

Paul Burch, Graduate Student Representative

Brooke Clarke, Graduate Student Representative

Paul Burch, GSA/HGSA English Department Representative

Meredith McCullough, Sarah Jordan Stout

Organizers of the Spring 2019 English Graduate Symposium: “With Pleasure: Reconsidering Pleasure’s Role in the Humanities”

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

Evan Choate

2019-2020 Huntington Library Fellow
Shakespeare Association of America

Els Woudstra

2018-2019 Andrew W. Mellon Graduate Research Seminar Fellowship
Humanities Research Center, Rice University

GRADUATE PUBLICATIONS

Evan Choate

“Misreading Impotence in Richard III”
Modern Philology, Forthcoming, August 2019

“Staged History and Alternative Sir Johns”
Shakespeare Quarterly, Forthcoming, Fall 2019

Jade Hagan

“New Age Blake Memes and the Spectral Self”
Configurations, Forthcoming, Issue TBA

“Network Theory and Ecology in Blake’s Jerusalem”
Blake/An Illustrated Quarterly, Forthcoming, January 2020

Scott Pett

“Whitman’s Environmental (In)Digestion”
Commonplace: A Journal of Early American Life, May 2019

Elena V. Valdez

“Ownership and Order in the Fiesta de Santa Fe”
Chiricú Journal: Latina/o Literatures, Arts, and Cultures, Vol. 3, No. 1, 2018, pp. 120-138

GRADUATE CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Mark Celeste

“*Persuasion* and Longitude”

North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA)

St. Petersburg, FL

Nina Cook

“‘The Office Becomes a Woman Best’: Procreative Speech and Persuasive Silence in ‘Sonnet 18’ and The Winter’s Tale”

South Central MLA Conference Otterbein University

San Antonio, TX

“The Unhomely and the Uncanny: A Feminist Approach to Freud’s Unheimlich”

Rice University English Graduate Symposium, “With Pleasure: Reconsidering Pleasure’s Role in the Humanities”

Houston, TX

“Putting on Blinders: Repression and the Semantic Field of Blindness in Bleak House”

Research, Art, Writing Conference, The University of Texas at Dallas

Richardson, TX

“‘Fog in the eyes’: Infectious Blindness and Conscious Revision in Bleak House”

College English Association Conference

New Orleans, LA

Scott Pett

“Whitman’s Environmental (In)Digestion”

Whitman 200 International Conference

Manchester, UK

Elena V. Valdez

“¡Extra, Extra! The Hispanic Literary Heritage of Texas” curated on behalf of Arte Público Press

Central Houston Public Library, September 7-October 31, 2018

Houston, TX

“The Art of Children’s Book Illustration: 25 Years of Piñata Books” co-curated on behalf of Arte Público Press

Julia Ideson Library Gallery, February 2-May 4, 2019

Houston, TX

GRADUATE CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Els Woudstra

“I Can Feel the Rings’: Circular Aesthetics and the Fort/Da of Samuel Beckett’s Come and Go”
Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900
Louisville, KY

“The Sensory Overload of Microscopic Vision in Pope’s Essay on Man”
Out of Mind: 32nd Annual Conference of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

“A Long Regard’: A Phenomenology of the Aviary Gaze”
22nd Meeting of the International Association for Environmental Philosophy
State College, PA

FACULTY HOSTING THE RECEPTION

Professor Amber Dermont, Chair of the Awards Committee

Professor Dermont teaches creative writing courses in fiction. Her short stories have appeared in numerous literary magazines and anthologies, and she has published two books, *The Starboard Sea* and *Damage Control*, and is currently working on her third book, *The Laughing Girl*, inspired by the 1962 Air France plane crash that killed 121 art patrons from Atlanta.

Professor Sarah Ellenzweig, Director of Undergraduate Studies

Professor Ellenzweig is the author of *The Fringes of Belief: English Literature, Ancient Heresy, and the Politics of Freethinking 1660-1760* (Stanford, 2008), and co-editor, with John H. Zammito, of *The New Politics of Materialism: History, Philosophy, Science* (Routledge, 2017). Her current book project explores the intersections between early modern materialism, theories of motion, and the development of the novel form in the British eighteenth century. Areas of research and teaching include: Restoration and eighteenth-century literature; history of the novel; the British Enlightenment; theories of the secular; history of philosophy; materialism; and history of science.

Professor Rosemary Hennessy, Department Chair

Rosemary Hennessy received her Ph.D. from Syracuse University and has been a professor at Rice since 2007. She is the L. H. Favrot Professor of Humanities in English and the English Department Chair. She is also a faculty affiliate with the Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality which she directed from 2006-2015. Her research and teaching interests include feminist theory, sexuality studies, US-Mexican border studies, affect theory, and twentieth and twenty-first century American literature.

Professor Betty Joseph, Director of Graduate Studies

Betty Joseph is the author of *Reading the East India Company, 1720-1840: Colonial Currencies of Gender* (University of Chicago Press, 2004; republished in Asia by Orient Longman, 2006)-- a book that discusses the role of archives and archiving in British colonialism and ways in which these archives can be read for the presence of women in that history. Her recent areas of research include contemporary globalization and neoliberalism, and Enlightenment natural histories, political philosophy and travel narratives.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

The Department of English is one of the founding departments at Rice University. Established in 1912, the department has long served as a space for intellectual engagement and thought within the Humanities. Today, the department is made up of twenty-four tenured and tenure-track faculty, four non-tenured instructors, and three staff members (one full-time and two part-time). The department offers a B.A. and Ph.D. in English literature and at any given time has an average of 70+ declared majors (the largest pool of majors in the School of Humanities) and 35-40 doctoral students.

Rice English faculty research and pedagogy covers the breadth of the study of English from the earliest Medieval writings to contemporary literatures. There are around 30-40 courses offered each semester, and students engage with forms of writing and expression including novels, poetry, drama, film, and other media. Classes can include material from the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Africa.

Faculty in English are experts who regularly attend conferences, publish within their field, and in some cases have won teaching awards. They are helping shape the conversations around reading practices, teaching, and other inquiries in the Humanities. Moreover, our faculty are active across campus as they engage in collaborations with other departments and schools, serve on committees, and also help mentor undergraduates by serving variously as college magisters, resident associates, and divisional advisors.

