



RICE UNIVERSITY

School of Humanities

*Department of English*

HONORS & AWARDS  
2019-2020



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## Welcome

Welcome to the 2020 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 to all!

# Bachelor of Arts Degrees

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**Matthew Archibald** (Will Rice)  
English

**Sierra Beckstrom** (McMurtry)  
English, Visual and Dramatic Arts

**Reagan Borick\*** (Hanszen)  
English, History

**Wan-Hsing Chao** (Jones)  
English

**Joyce Chen** (McMurtry)  
English, Asian Studies

**Kayla Cherry** (Lovett)  
English, Economics

**Emma Every** (Wiess)  
English (Minors: Biochemistry and Cell Biology,  
Medical Humanities)

**Jennifer Fu** (Duncan)  
English, Sociology (Minor: Politics, Law, and  
Social Thought)

**Emma Gordon** (Sid Richardson)  
English (Minor: Business)

**Daniel Koh** (Jones)  
English

**Ashley McDonald** (Wiess)  
English

**Ellie Mix\*** (Martel)  
English, Art History

**Samuel Morimoto** (Jones)  
English, Political Science

**Shami Mosley** (Jones)  
English, Business

**Hania Nagy** (Martel)  
English

**Areli Navarro Magallón** (Duncan)  
English, Art History (Minor: Museums and  
Cultural Heritage)

**Katherine Nezelek** (Hanszen)  
English

**Ana Paula Pinto-Diaz\*** (Brown)  
English, Visual and Dramatic Arts

**Matthew Pittard** (Martel)  
English, French Studies

**Megan Shen** (Baker)  
English, Biochemistry and Cell Biology

**Caroline Siegfried** (McMurtry)  
English, History

**Anna Ta** (Will Rice)  
English

**Rebecca Topper** (McMurtry)  
English (Minor: Jewish Studies)

**Juliette Turner-Jones** (Duncan)  
English (Minors: Business, Politics, Law, and  
Social Thought)

**Michael VerMeulen** (Duncan)  
English, Political Science (Minor: Cinema &  
Media Studies)

**Cameron Wallace\*** (Brown)  
English, European Studies

**Lily Wulfemeyer\*** (Brown)  
English (Minor: Museums and Cultural Heritage)

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

# Undergraduate Senior Theses

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*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.*

**Reagan Borick**

“Plath, Sexton, and the 50’s in Contemporary Pop Culture”

Advisor: Scott Derrick

**Shami Mosley**

“ULTRA”

Advisor: Amber Dermont

**Cameron Wallace**

“Theater of the Not-So-Absurd: Power, Space, and Time in the drama of Samuel Beckett, Harold Pinter, and Edward Albee”

Advisor: Judith Roof

# Undergraduate Senior Seminar Projects

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*The Senior Seminar & Research Workshop is an immersive, year-long, research and writing methods course. The culmination of the course is an in-depth critical or creative work with the potential for public-facing components (e.g., performances, websites, e-zines, podcasts, community events), as well as collaborations with a student's secondary major or minor.*

## **Matthew Archibald**

"Movement and Freedom in Flannery O'Connor's Fiction: A Portfolio of Work"

## **Nathan Archibald**

"Wasting Time: A Critical Look at Vonnegut, Waugh, and Green"

## **Kayla Cherry**

"Deadweight Loss: What Economics is Missing and How Literature Can Help"

## **Jennifer Fu**

"Fusion Foods: Reimagining Racial Citizenship in Contemporary America"

## **Sean McCormick**

"Coming of Age"

## **Ashley McDonald**

"Asian American Literature & Impacts of Race on Family Dynamics and Generational Conflict"

## **Ellie Mix**

"Fear, Fascination, and the Foreigner: Surveilling Sherlock's Spaces"

## **Hania Nagy**

Collection of Four Short Stories:

"Las Uvas"; "Reaction to Minor Disturbance"; "Scurvy"; "Pursuit, Women, Groceries"

## **Kate Nezelek**

"Dread Mouth"

## **Ana Paula Pinto-Diaz**

"Our Own Making"

## **Matt Pittard**

"A LONG WAY FROM AVIGNON"

## **Anna Ta**

"Dogeaters & Terrorists: Narrative Form and the Diasporic Writer"

## **Lily Wulfemeyer**

"How to Have a Body"

# Undergraduate Prizes & Awards

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## DEPARTMENTAL

### **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, whose transcript demonstrates a breadth of scholarship.*

**Emma Every**

### **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.*

**Jeeyoon Kim**

“Ulysses: Judaism and its Relation to Irish Cultural Nationalism”

### **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 - **Matey Yanakiev**

“Time, Death and Mere Humanity”

Second Place - **Laura Fagbemi**

“Conjuring Sycorax - The Construction and Deconstruction of Patriarchy in The Tempest”

### **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.*

**Kristen Hickey**

“Winding”

# Undergraduate Prizes & Awards

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## UNIVERSITY

### **Student-Taught Course (STC) Teaching Award, Center for Teaching Excellence**

*The STC Teaching Award recognizes the exceptional undergraduate instructors of student-taught courses at Rice.*

**Daniel Koh** for leading the course, Hip Hop History

### **The Max Apple Prize in Nonfiction, Fondren Library**

*Fondren Library's annual Undergraduate Creative Writing Awards honor Rice undergraduates who show exceptional literary promise in the genres of Fiction, Nonfiction, and Poetry.*

**Jenny Li-Wang** for her piece, "Second Son"

### **Susan Wood Prize in Poetry, Fondren Library**

**Ana Paula Pinto-Diaz** for her poems, "Market", "Convocación y Renacimiento", "I Call It Waking", and "After the Eruption"



# Undergraduate Prizes & Awards

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## **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 – **Elizabeth Rasich** for “Nose Job”

Second Place – **Neha Tallapragada** for “Sunny Day”

### **George Williams Prize for Creative Nonfiction**

First Place – **Jenny Li-Wang** for “Second Son”

Second Place – **Jennifer Fu** for “Poor Man’s Soup”

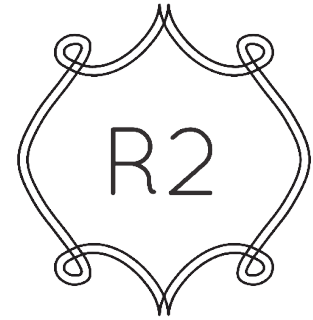
### **George Williams Prize for Poetry**

First Place – **Ana Paula Pinto-Diaz** for “Analysis of the Rose as Sentimental Despair”

Second Place – **Lavina Kalwani** for “I Killed the Hindus”

### **Cover Art Prize**

**Mallory Newbern** for “POP”



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

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**Joshua Anil, Sanvitti Sahdev**, Editors-in-Chief, R2

**Colton Alstatt, Julia Fisher, Katimah Harper, Ella Hoyt, Clara Kraebber, Kristie Lynn, Pamela McInturff, Rynd Morgan, Marcus Munshi, Arianna Napieralski, Rebecca Noel, Karen Okoroafor, Selena Shi, Sarah Swackhamer, Neha Tallapragada, Kierstin Wilkins, Shucheng Yan, Hannah Young, Yumeng Zhao**, General Staff, R2

English Undergraduate Association (EUA) Officers:

**Jade Kanemitsu**, President

**Jeeyoon Kim and Anna Ta**, Vice Presidents

**Laura Fagbemi**, Treasurer

**Rynd Morgan**, Secretary

Founded in 2016, the EUA seeks to ready students for diverse career paths and lives. Instructor **Amanda Johnson** serves as faculty advisor.

# Doctor of Philosophy Degrees

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**Evan Choate**

“Fictional Texts, Imaginary Performances, and Historiographic  
Desire in Renaissance England”  
May 2020

Professor Joseph Campana

**Jade Hagan**

“New Age Romanticism and the Afterlives of William Blake”  
August 2019

Professor Timothy Morton

**Rodrigo Martini Paula**

“*Mutatis Mutandis*: Reverse Mimesis and Modernist Literature”  
December 2019

Professor Judith Roof

**Michael Miller**

“Proximity by Proxy: Contemporary Literature and Cultural Theory  
in the Age of Social Media”  
August 2019

Professor Judith Roof

**Elena Valdez**

“Chicano Literature and the Folkloric Difference”  
August 2019

Professor José Aranda

## Achievement of Candidacy

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**Andrew Battaglia**

**Annie Culver**

**Emerson Zora Hamsa**

**Randi McInerney Mraovic**

**Sólveig Sigurðardóttir**

**Sam Stoeltje**

**Els Woudstra**

## New Academic Positions

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**Brittany Henry**

Development Writer, Rice University

Ph.D. 2018

# Graduate Student Awards & Prizes

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## 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 - **Alexander Lowe McAdams**

“Toward a Blue Gender Studies: The Sea, Diana, and Feminine Virtue in *Pericles*”

Second Place - **Kevin MacDonnell**

“Aesthetics in the Enlightenment Anthropocene: The Limits of Geometry in Eighteenth-Century British Design”

### **Chair’s Best Dissertation Prize**

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

**Evan Choate**

“Fictional Texts, Imaginary Performances, and Historiographic Desire in Renaissance England”

Director: Professor Joseph Campana

May 2020

## UNIVERSITY

**Evan Choate**

John W. Gardner Award for Best Dissertation in the Humanities for 2019-20, School of Humanities

**Kevin MacDonnell**

Lodieska Stockbridge Vaughn Fellowship, Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies

**Sophia Martinez-Abbud**

2020 Fondren Library Research Award, Fondren Library

**Clint Wilson III**

2020 Graduate Teaching Award for Independent Instruction, Center for Teaching Excellence

# Graduate Service

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**Nina Cook**, Graduate Student Representative

**Sophia Martinez-Abbud**, Humanities Graduate Student Association (HGSA) President

**Bren Ram**, HGSA Communications Chair

**Sonia Del Hierro, Paul Burch, Randi McInerney Mraovic, Kelly McKisson**,  
HGSA Executive Board Members

**Bren Ram, Clancy Taylor**

Organizers of the Spring 2020 English Graduate Symposium: “Working-With: Collaborative English Symposium”, unfortunately canceled due to COVID-19

# Graduate Conference Presentations

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## **Stacie Cruz**

“Towards a Theory of Companion Objects”

Posthuman Global Symposium

New York, NY

(This conference is being rescheduled due to COVID-19)

## **Sophia Martinez-Abbud**

“Cecilia Rodriguez: Chicanx Solidarity with Indigenous Communities”

The XV Recovery Conference

Houston, TX

## **Alexander Lowe McAdams**

“Enraptured: Reading Ovidian Sexual Violence in Early Modern Literature”

Our Voices: A Conference for Inclusive Classics Pedagogy

New York, NY

## **Els Woudstra**

“The Smell of the Text: Olfactory Transduction in Djuna Barnes’ Nightwood”

Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900

Louisville, KY

“Kill the Rats: Mapping the 1920 Galveston Bubonic Plague”

Texas State Historical Association

Austin, TX

“The Skin of the Platform”

Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts

Irvine, CA

“Prodigious Abstinence and Nervous Consumption: Tracing Medical Discourses of Female (In)digestion, 1651-1694”

History of Science Society

Utrecht, The Netherlands

Organized symposium, “Bio and Psyche: Reading the Symptomatic Body”, which was postponed due to COVID-19

# Faculty Hosting the Reception

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## **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 2006. 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, for which she served as director from 2006-2015. Her research and teaching interests include feminist theory, sexuality studies, U.S.-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, Enlightenment natural histories, political philosophy, and travel narratives.

# About the Department of English

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Rice English integrates creative and critical practice through training in close reading, analytical writing, cultural history, and craft/form. Our faculty research and pedagogy cover the breadth of the study of British and American literatures and cultures ranging from the medieval era to the present. The curriculum emphasizes literature and literary history, race and ethnicity studies, feminist and gender studies, queer theory and the history of sexuality, visual culture and comparative media studies, and the Anglophone literature of the postcolonial world. Faculty have particular strengths in the newer interdisciplinary areas of medical humanities, ecocriticism, post-humanism, and environmental humanities.

Rice English is also home to a vibrant creative writing concentration offering a range of courses in fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction. And our doctoral program is training the next generation of teacher-scholars through interdisciplinary seminars and a comprehensive professionalization program.

