



*May 2021*

*English Majors  
Awards*

**\* Director of Ceremonies \***

***David Zimmerman***

***Professor & Undergraduate Director***

Thank you, family members and friends, for joining us in celebrating these extraordinary students. I know how proud you are of these students' hard work, their remarkable gifts, and their considerable achievements. As the department's Director of Undergraduate Studies, it's a joy to recognize these students' commitment to their English studies and to reward their success.

The award winners were chosen by the English Department's Undergraduate Awards Committee. The committee read dozens of impressive essays and scholarship applications. I want to acknowledge and thank the donors who generously funded these scholarships and prizes. Their gifts help support the tremendous work of English students and faculty.

Congratulations, award and scholarship winners, and On Wisconsin!



## **\*\*WRITING PRIZES\*\***

### **The John McMynn Williams – Senior Thesis Award**

This award is given to one student for a senior thesis chapter that demonstrates exceptional writing and analytical skills.



**Recipient:** Eli Wachter

**Thesis Title:** “A Queer Perspective of Female Friendship and Family: Understanding Katherine Philips and Hester Pulter”

**Professor:** Karen Britland

Eli (they/them/theirs) is graduating with a BS in psychology and honors English. Their undergraduate work has primarily focused on transgender studies and queer theory. They hope to continue community-focused dissemination work in the future and intend to study library science or secondary education curriculum and instruction in graduate school.

*Thank you to Dr. Karen Britland for her continued support in the writing and editing of this senior thesis chapter. Through her thoughtful guidance, Dr. Britland has helped me turn a formless thought into a cohesive thesis. I would also like to thank Erin Polnaszek Boyd and Julia Meuse, from the English advising department, and Samitha Senanayake, from the Writing Center, for providing me the resources and space to write. - Eli Wachter*

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### **The William F. Vilas Prizes**

These prizes were established by Anna M. Vilas in 1912 and are awarded each year for the two best expository essays written by undergraduates in an upper-level English course.



**Recipient:** William McKinley

**Essay:** “Chronotope and Capitalism: Management of Time and Space in Melville’s *Bartleby, the Scrivener*”

**Professor:** Monique Allewaert

Will McKinley is a Senior graduating with degrees in Genetics and Genomics and English. He enjoys looking at the world through an interdisciplinary lens informed by the sciences, humanities, and arts. Upon graduation, he plans to work as a technician in a genetics laboratory.



**Recipient:** Asher Courtemanche

**Essay:** “The Poetics of Kissing: The Erotic Tradition in *Astrophil and Stella*”

**Professor:** Elizabeth Bearden

Asher is a senior graduating with majors in English, Classical Humanities, and Latin. He will be continuing his summer taking various language courses before applying to graduate school in the intended fields of Classics and Comparative Literature for the

fall of 2022. Besides education plans, he hopes to spend some time exploring nature with a trusty book and his trusty life partner, his cat Finn.

*I would like to thank Professor Elizabeth Bearden for providing me a platform to explore my love for the intersection of Renaissance Literature and Classics, and Professor Alex Dressler [Classics and Near Eastern Studies department] for igniting my love of Catullus' character and poetry. - Asher*

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## Digital Media Prize

This prize recognizes the outstanding use of digital media to express ideas in unique ways, to re-imagine the work of English studies in English classes, and to take advantage of the affordances of emerging media. Projects winning this award demonstrate an understanding of how digital media allow for novel modes of expression, communication, and persuasion.



**Recipient:** Ella Quinton

**Essay:** "Pop Art and Protest: The Space between Utopia and Dystopia"

**Professor:** Sarah Wood

Ella Quinton is a Creative Writing Major. She works as the Assistant to the Director at the Loka Initiative, an education and outreach program supporting faith-led environmental and climate efforts locally and around the world. Her favorite part of being an English Major has been working as a Writing Fellow, where she has been able to connect with students, faculty, and fellows across disciplines who have inspired her and shared their brilliance with her in so many amazing ways.

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## James T. Lewis Prizes

These prizes were established in 1968 and awarded annually for the two best essays written by first-year students in an English Department course.



**Recipient:** Elizabeth Kallies

**Essay:** "A Smoky Window"

**Faculty Assistant:** Kathryn Harlan

My name is Elizabeth Kallies and I am from Oconto Falls, Wisconsin. I am currently a freshman majoring in Marketing with a certificate in Digital Studies. In the future I plan combine my love of music with my passion for marketing and promotions with a career in the music and entertainment industry.

*From the start of my class, Elizabeth stood out to me as a gifted writer and student who only continued to refine her talent during our time together. Her essay, 'A Smoky Window,' is both a loving tribute and a bold, frank reminder of how the consequences of smoking can reach far beyond the smoker themselves. Deciding to write an essay like this in the first place requires courage and generosity, and executing it as well as Elizabeth has requires true talent. I'm delighted that Elizabeth is receiving the recognition her work deserves. Congratulations! - Kathryn Harlan*

*Thank you, Kathryn Harlan, for encouraging me to write about something that is truly meaningful to me. Your insight was extremely helpful and inspired me to submit my essay for this prize! - Elizabeth*



**Recipient:** Whitney Tabifor  
**Essay:** “Struggles as an Immigrant”  
**Faculty Assistant, PhD:** Kate Merz

My name is Whitney Tabifor, and my preferred pronouns are she/her/hers. I am currently a freshman with an intended psychology major, although my career plans are uncertain as I possess many interests. Despite this uncertainty, I see myself in a field that aligns with my humanitarian values and my desire to help and inspire people.

*Thank you, Whitney, for crafting this powerful essay about your journey from Cameroon to Milwaukee. The piece is full of specific scenes (“dragging your feet” through O’Hare Airport; knocks on an apartment door; a school bathroom) that paint a bigger picture: the pressures faced by the eldest child in an immigrant family. You capture a sense of in-betweenness as you navigate the space between mother and father, parents and siblings, an old place and a new. As you said in your cover letter, this is a story “that would usually remain in my archives.” It took courage to share it. – Kate Merz*

*I am writing this piece to express my immense gratitude to the faculty who supported my paper; more specifically, Professor Kate Merz, who inspired my composing of this paper through an open-ended essay assignment. Her tremendous feedback and suggestions are what helped me sculpt my paper into the award-winning essay it is now. Also, to the faculty that evaluated my paper and deemed it worthy of this award, my appreciation is everlasting. Thank you! – Whitney*

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## Standish Henning Shakespeare Prize

This prize was established by Professor Andrew Weiner (emeritus) in recognition of his teacher and colleague Professor Standish Henning (emeritus). The prize is awarded for the best essay written by an undergraduate in one of the English Department’s upper-level Shakespeare courses.



**Recipient:** Asher Courtemanche  
**Essay:** “Cross-Dressing and Female Identity in Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night* and *The Merchant of Venice*”  
**Professor:** Elizabeth Bearden

Asher is a senior graduating with majors in English, Classical Humanities, and Latin. He will be continuing his summer taking various language courses before applying to graduate school in the intended fields of Classics and Comparative Literature for the fall of 2022. Besides education plans, he hopes to spend some time exploring nature with a trusty book and his trusty life partner, his cat Finn.

*I would like to thank Professor Elizabeth Bearden for positively impacting my writing and being a source of enjoyment during a difficult semester. – Asher*

## Data Analysis Prize

This prize is awarded for an outstanding written project based on the collection and analysis of original data in an upper-level English major course.



**Recipient:** Hannah Filippo

**Essay:** “A Critical Examination of Discrimination Within Writing Centers”

**PhD Candidate and Assistant Director, Writing Fellows Program:** Brenna Swift

Hi! I'm Hannah Filippo and I'm majoring in English with certificates in Development Economics and Technical Communications. My favorite part about the English major is finding and studying shared themes and messages across thousands of years of unique literature. All of the professors I've had have instilled how literature brings out humanity and connects people, and I take carry that beautiful reminder with me in every book I read and piece I write.

*I'm the luckiest instructor in the world to have had Hannah as a student and Writing Fellow! Hannah's final research paper for English 403, our Writing Fellows tutor education seminar, was a powerful call for writing centers to better support tutors of color. Hannah interviewed three tutors of color at our own writing center about their experiences of discrimination from students. She ultimately argued for elevating the voices of writers, tutors, and scholars of color in both the writing center and the university at large. Her insight, intelligence, and skill have contributed so much to our program and to the experiences of her peers. I am incredibly proud of you, Hannah. Congratulations! - Brenna Swift*

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## Mary Ellen Williams Golby Writing Prize

This prize is awarded for the best essay or project by a female English major that focuses on social justice, antiracism, or anti-ableism. The essay or project must be from a UW-Madison English course.



**Recipient:** Emily Cheng

**Essay:** “A Writing Fellow’s Role in Encouraging Linguistic Diversity”

**PhD Student, Assistant Director of Writing Fellows:** Emily Bouza

Emily Cheng is a second-year undergraduate studying English literature and molecular & cell biology. She deeply enjoys being a part of the UW-Madison community, where she is involved with cancer immunology research, the Writing Fellows program, Alpha Chi Sigma, and the Language Institute’s Languages Initiative. Her favorite part of being an English major is getting to learn from her fellow English majors, who are an endlessly thoughtful and inspiring group of people.

*Emily Cheng is deeply committed to linguistic justice and thus so deserving of this award! Emily is someone who brings her whole heart to everything that she does, bringing compassion and empathy into the classroom, into her research, and into her work with students as a Writing Fellow. In her paper, Emily brilliantly combined thoughtful reflection of her own experiences into the critical analysis of an interview she conducted on our campus. She is continuing to be driven by this work this semester and is showing she is dedicated to the strong values shared in her writing. Congratulations Emily! – Emily Bouza*

*I am deeply grateful for your recognition and support of my research paper. In my role as a Writing Fellow, I conducted research with the goal of understanding how to fully support and empower all students in their writing, no matter their linguistic background. Naturally, this became a social justice effort. Thank you again for believing in the promise of my research and allowing it to receive increased visibility! – Emily Cheng*

## **\*\*SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS\*\***

### **The Helen C. White Award**

This award is presented to senior women majoring in the Humanities who exemplify the sterling character of Helen C. White, a great teacher and scholar in the Department of English at the University of Wisconsin, on the basis of academic standing and a deep interest in the life of the community. Donor Ineva Baldwin felt that recipients should have demonstrated their interest in sharing their humanistic culture with their families and community.



**Recipient:** Greta Kelly

I am an English literature major with a special interest in Medieval Poetry. I am also in the TESOL certificate program and hope to teach English abroad in Germany once I graduate. My favorite part of being an English major is the multitude of personalities and perspectives I encounter every day. The best way to learn about people is to step into their shoes, and that's exactly what I get to do when I read!

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### **The Dorothy Classen Urish Scholarship**

This scholarship was established by Jack Urish, a former English major at UW-Madison, in honor of his mother Dorothy, who was an English teacher in Stoughton, WI. The donor wishes to offer financial support toward the academic success of a senior English major.



**Recipient:** Duncan Slagle

Duncan Slagle is a queer poet and performer studying Classical Humanities & English–Creative Writing as a First Wave scholar. They plan on taking a gap year to read, write, and edit before beginning an MFA in poetry. Duncan currently interns in the editorial department at Graywolf Press, and manages social media communications for the arts & culture organization, TruArtSpeaks.

## Helen Black Bennett Memorial Scholarship

This award was established by the donor, Penelope G. Sticha, in honor of her mother, in 1994.



**Recipient:** Isabel Fernandez

I am a Junior studying Creative Writing and Spanish with certificates in Studio Art and Leadership. My favorite part about being an English major is the ability to create my own world through my writing and coursework. I am so appreciative of these English department awards and I am very thankful to the donors who made them possible.

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## English Undergraduate Scholarships

This scholarship provides financial assistance to deserving undergraduate students who are English majors and whose personal and family resources do not cover the costs involved in attending UW-Madison. Thanks to the generosity of Thomas Johnson '73 and Barbara Johnson, the English Department has provided scholarships to students through this fund since 2014.



**Recipient:** Asher Courtemanche

Asher is a senior graduating with majors in English, Classical Humanities, and Latin. He will be continuing his summer taking various language courses before applying to graduate school in the intended fields of Classics and Comparative Literature for the fall of 2022. Besides education plans, he hopes to spend some time exploring nature with a trusty book and his trusty life partner, his cat Finn.



**Recipient:** Barbara Hanna

I am a junior majoring in neurobiology and English literature with a certificate in 2D studio art. I am currently working on my applications to medical schools with the hope to practice surgery one day. My "quarantine hobby" has been learning to play guitar and performing for my biggest fan: my little sister.



**Recipient:** Samuel Wood

Samuel Wood is finishing his third year studying English and Spanish. After graduation, he intends to continue his education, pursuing a doctoral program in English Literature. Sam is incredibly grateful for all the experiences and opportunities he has been able to have and the connections he has been able to make during his time as an English major.



## Mary Brabyn Wackman Scholarships

These scholarships were established by Charline M. Wackman, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin in 1961, in honor of her mother, Mary Brabyn Wackman. Awards are based on academic merit and given to English majors who are Wisconsin residents specializing in literature.



**Recipient:** Amanda Jentsch

My name is Amanda Jentsch and I'm a sophomore majoring in Anthropology, Biology, and English on the Creative Writing track, with certificates in Leadership and Health and the Humanities. After graduation, I plan to attend medical school and specialize in critical care or pediatric oncology. My favorite part about being an English major is the community in the department, and how I see a lot of the same people in my classes semester to semester, which creates a fun, supportive environment. I also love my work as a Writing Fellow, where I get to work with other students on their writing.



**Recipient:** Eloise Johnson

My name is Eloise Johnson. I am a junior majoring in Creative Writing and minoring in Gender and Women's Studies, and I am about to embark on my final semester. In addition to academics I also work for college library, I work with The Madison Review and The Madison Journal of Literary Criticism, I am the chapter lead of UW's branch of March for Our Lives, and I am a mentor with the Gender and Sexuality Campus Center.



**Recipient:** Michelle Nighthoak

Michelle Nighthoak is a 50-year-old mom of five and a 911 dispatcher pursuing her first Bachelor's degree in English with an emphasis in Creative Writing. As a non-traditional student for years, she appreciates and wants to pay forward the education and inspiration she received from hundreds of books, articles, and websites. She plans to pursue non-fiction science writing to make topics accessible for general audiences and science fiction writing to tell stories for all ages to entertain and inspire an interest in science.

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## First-Generation College Student Scholarship

This scholarship recognizes the strength, commitment, and perspective of First-Generation English majors. The English Department Scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic merit and an appreciation of the contributions First-Generation students make in the classroom, the department, the university, and the wider community.



**Recipient:** Madisyn Riste

experience.

I will be graduating from this Spring with majors in English and Education Studies. Fortunately, I will be continuing my studies here in June as I work towards my Master's in Curriculum and Instruction: the Secondary English program. I have absolutely loved being an English Literature major and will never stop thanking this major, my professors, peers, and UW as a whole for an incredible undergrad

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## Lila Hicks Furber Scholarship

This award was established in 1995 by Lila Hicks Furber, who graduated with a degree in English from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1926. After graduation, Lila became a teacher.



**Recipient:** Julia Zeimentz

Julia Zeimentz is a junior majoring in English and Strategic Communications. As a lover of books, she has really enjoyed working for the Madison Public Library Foundation and the Wisconsin Book Festival this past year and hopes to continue in a career where she'll be able to work with authors. She hopes to one day publish her own novel, too. She loves being an English major as the classes are about getting to the heart of humanity through words and stories and she also loves that her homework consists of reading novels she reads anyway for fun!

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## Vivian Mowry English Scholarships

These scholarships are funded through a trust established in 1963 by Vivian Mowry, a 1910 graduate of the University of Wisconsin. Awards are made to English majors on the basis of scholastic proficiency and active participation in campus activities.



**Recipient:** Chloe Christiaansen

Chloe Christiaansen works multiple jobs while finishing her degree in English and communication arts. She is currently a lead at the restaurant "Lucille" and will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in May. Outside of academics, Chloe is proud to Co-Edit the Fiction staff for The Madison Review, an independent creative journal on campus. After graduation, she will be working full time at Lucille while pursuing her dream post-college career in the publishing industry. She has thoroughly enjoyed her time at UW and is looking forward to utilizing her learned skills for the benefit of others in these unprecedented times.



**Recipient:** Ethan Dickler

My name is Ethan Dickler and I am an English major with a certificate in European Studies. Next year, I will be attending the La Follette School of Public Affairs at UW-Madison for my MPA. My favorite part about being an English major at UW-Madison is the close-knit community of English majors in the department that feel like a family.



**Recipient:** Ellie McShane

Ellie McShane, from Grayslake, IL, is a Junior at UW-Madison pursuing a BS in Dance, a BA in English, and a certificate in Promoting Activity for Diverse Abilities. She currently works as a dance instructor for Performing Ourselves, a Madison-based organization that provides accessible movement classes for underserved youth in the community, and Synergy Dance Academy, a dance studio in Madison. She is passionate about using her skills as a writer and communicator to be an advocate for dance education in her community.



**Recipient:** Ella Quinton

Ella Quinton is a Creative Writing Major. She works as the Assistant to the Director at the Loka Initiative, an education and outreach program supporting faith-led environmental and climate efforts locally and around the world. Her favorite part of being an English Major has been working as a Writing Fellow, where she has been able to connect with students, faculty, and fellows across disciplines who have inspired her and shared their brilliance with her in so many amazing ways.

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## Jeffrey Allen Steele Memorial Scholarship

This award was established by Jocelyn Riley in 2018 to honor the memory of her husband Jeffrey Allen Steele, a professor in the Department of English who loved teaching and focused his research and passion on American Literature, particularly on the author and groundbreaking women's rights advocate Margaret Fuller. The scholarship assists accomplished undergraduate students who are enrolled in the Department of English, with a preference for those studying American literature.



**Recipient:** Max Herteen

My name is Max Herteen, and I am from Wauwatosa, Wisconsin (just west of Milwaukee). I am a senior English and History major, with a French certificate. I will be pursuing either a Masters in education policy and analysis at Harvard University or a Ph.D. in education policy and leadership at Marquette University. I have loved all my English classes, and my favorite part of the major is easily working with wonderful students and professors. I have especially appreciated the small class sizes and personal relationships I have built.



**Recipient:** Carl Zuleger

Carl Zuleger grew up in Appleton, WI and is proud to be graduating from UW this year with his Bachelor’s degree in English-Creative Writing and a certificate in Gender and Women’s Studies. Post-graduation, he plans on pursuing his dream of becoming an author. Be on the lookout in the next few years for his first novel, as well as the possible publication of his sci-fi short story “A Garden of Tigers”!

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## Mary Ellen Williams Golby Scholarship

This award was established to recognize an outstanding English major who is a woman, with preference for a student from a Targeted Minority.



**Recipient:** Kordan Kopp

My name is Kordan Kopp, and I am an English language and linguistics major. I am earning certificates in Teaching English as a Second Language and Gender & Women’s Studies. After graduating, I plan to continue my English linguistics studies in a Master’s and/or Ph.D. program. My favorite part of being an English major is how many opportunities I have within my field of study. The options for research and learning are endless as an English major, and this makes me excited to continue learning in the future.



**Recipient:** Julia Zeimentz

Julia Zeimentz is a junior majoring in English and Strategic Communications. As a lover of books, she has really enjoyed working for the Madison Public Library Foundation and the Wisconsin Book Festival this past year and hopes to continue in a career where she’ll be able to work with authors. She hopes to one day publish her own novel, too. She loves being an English major as the classes are about getting to the heart of humanity through words and stories and she also loves that her homework consists of reading novels she reads anyway for fun!

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## McMynn Williams Scholarship

This award was established in 1997 to honor the transformative force of education for worthy students. Students who show academic promise will be chosen by the English Department.



**Recipient:** Isabel Fernandez

I am a Junior studying Creative Writing and Spanish with certificates in Studio Art and Leadership. My favorite part about being an English major is the ability to create my own world through my writing and coursework. I am so appreciative of these English department awards and I am very thankful to the donors who made them possible.



**Recipient:** Greta Kelly

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**\* English Board of Visitors \***

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**With Gratitude**

The Department of English wishes to recognize and thank the benefactors of the scholarships and awards we have granted today. Your generosity is sincerely appreciated. Private gifts of all sizes provide us with resources for meaningful enhancements to our program and support of our outstanding students. For more information on making a gift or including the Department in your estate plans, please contact:

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