



April 24, 2022

English Majors
Awards Ceremony

**Sunday, April 24, 2022
Alumni Room, Pyle Center
4:00-5:30PM**

Ceremony Program

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Anja Wanner

Enid H. Anderson Professor of English and Department Chair

Remarks from the Director of Ceremonies

David Zimmerman

Elizabeth Ritzmann Professor of English and Director of Undergraduate Studies

Presentation of Scholarship and Writing Prize Recipients

Recognition of the Early Career Alumni Award Recipients

Presentation of the Distinguished Alumni Award

Closing Remarks

Reception

****WRITING PRIZES****

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 courses

Recipient: Cole Roecker

Essay: "Singing Out of Time: Avian Atemporality in Medieval and Nineteenth-Century Texts"

Instructor: Professor Lisa Cooper

Recipient: Samuel Wood

Essay: "When Conquering a New World: English Colonial Imagination and Critique in Margaret Cavendish's *The Blazing World*"

Instructor: Professor Karen Britland

McMynn Williams 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: Holly Puza

Project: "Musical Reflections Concerning the Loss of Self and Complexities of Re-Discovery"

Instructor: Professor Kristina Huang

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: Sarah Heywood

Essay: "Beauty is Natural"

Instructor: Karen Best

Recipient: Olivia Polich

Essay: "The Child Behind the Cell"

Instructor: Josh Kalscheur

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: Carsyn Barber

Essay: "Adriana Uses Public Economy as Private Revenge"

Instructor: Dr. Joseph Bowling

Honorable Mention

Recipient: Sarah Egan

Essay: "Temporal Dimensions Present Within Shakespeare's *As You Like It* and *Twelfth Night*"

Instructor: Professor Richard Begam

McMynn Williams 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: Jett Bailey

Essay: “The Implications of Formerly Homeschooled Students’ Pre-College Writing Experiences on Collegiate Writing Center Practices”

Instructor: Brenna Swift, Assistant Director, Writing Fellows Program

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: Dana Craig

Essay: “Linguistic Profiling Evidence: Setting a Legal Standard”

Instructor: Professor Tom Purnell

****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: Amanda Jentsch

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: Austin Kiesow

Helen Black Bennett Memorial Scholarship

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

Recipient: Samuel Wood

English Undergraduate Scholarships

This scholarship provides financial assistance to deserving undergraduate English majors. 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: Dana Craig

Recipient: Kelley Schlise

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: Dana Craig

Recipient: Olivia Dunham

Recipient: Cole Roecker

Recipient: Kelley Schlise

Recipient: Samuel Wood

Recipient: Julia Zeimentz

McMynn Williams 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: Anna Watters

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: Cole Roecker

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: Miriam Engel

Recipient: Barbara Hanna

Recipient: Amanda Jentsch

Recipient: Sini Marcks

Recipient: Miles Roth

Recipient: Anna Watters

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: Lindsey Knuth

Mary Ellen Williams Golby Scholarship

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

Recipient: Roshnie Rupnarain

****Early Career Alumni Award****

The Early Career Alumni Award recognizes alumni who have demonstrated exceptional success in their chosen field within the first ten years after obtaining their degree. This can be demonstrated in several ways. Examples include, but are not limited to, professional achievements, contributions to society, service, or support of the University of Wisconsin.

The honorees demonstrate the value that their English education has had on their lives and the rewarding paths that an English major may take initially upon graduation.

Deshawn McKinney, BA English (Creative Writing) 2017



Deshawn McKinney is a writer who proudly reps his home of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A First Wave and PEOPLE scholar, he earned a BA in Creative Writing at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2017. He is a recipient of both the Truman Scholarship, which he earned for his grassroots work in Madison, as well as the Marshall Scholarship for graduate study in the United Kingdom. While overseas he earned a Master in Social Policy from the London School of Economics and Political

Science and a Master in Creative Writing - Poetry from the University of East Anglia.

Deshawn has performed for and built with audiences around the world, from Jamaica to England, with his work appearing in journals such as *Lolwe* and *Glass Poetry*. His debut chapbook, *father forgive me*, was published by Black Sunflowers Poetry Press in 2021.

Deshawn McKinney serves on the Board of Visitors for Student Affairs at UW and has recently returned to Wisconsin to serve as a Director of Development at the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association.

Kristin Prewitt, BS English 2013



Kristin Prewitt grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in English. It was as an undergrad that she developed a passion for the nexus between the humanities, health system transformation, and activism. She graduated from the University of South Florida with dual M.D. and M.P.H. in Epidemiology degrees. She is currently an OB/GYN resident physician at Oregon Health & Science University. Her research interests include high-risk obstetrics, substance use, abortion, and adolescent medicine. Her career has led her to serve on the board of directors for Medical Students for Choice; work at the Florida Department of Health in Infectious Disease Epidemiology; and engage in activism through organizational partnerships and talks. She's most interested in how destigmatized patient care can be a fulcrum for personal healing and social change.

Danez Smith, BA English (Creative Writing) 2012



Danez Smith is a poet and performer from St. Paul, MN, and a former member of UW-Madison's celebrated First Wave program. They are the author of three award winning poetry books *Homie* (Graywolf Press, 2020), a finalist for the 2020 National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry, *Don't Call Us Dead* (Graywolf Press, 2017), a finalist for the National Book Award, and *[insert] boy* (YesYes Books, 2014), winner of the Kate Tufts Discovery Award and the Lambda Literary Award for Gay Poetry. Danez has won many prestigious fellowships from organizations like the Poetry Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Their work has been featured widely including in the New York Times, PBS NewsHour, Best American Poetry, Poetry Magazine, and on the Late Show with Stephen Colbert. They are a member of the Dark Noise Collective and are the co-host of *VS*, a podcast sponsored by the Poetry Foundation and Postloudness.

****Department of English Distinguished Alumni Award****

Dr. Edward S. Holmes, PhD



Dr. Edward S. Holmes hails from the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. He attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he completed his undergraduate degrees in English and political science, a Master of Social Work degree and a PhD in educational

leadership and policy analysis. Dr. Holmes is well known for founding, producing, and directing the Ebony Expression Cultural Awareness Project, a performance arts group for which he received city, county, and congressional recognition. This innovative program was dedicated to the talent development of African American youth and the education of communities across the state about the richness, significance, and contributions of Black culture to American society.

His 40-year career in the Madison community has focused on the implementation of creative community-based arts and educational programs as well as the creation of inclusive, engaging, academically successful public schools. Holmes received Wisconsin's prestigious Milken Educator of the Year award in 2003 for his work in the revitalization of Wright Middle School, Madison Metropolitan School District's first charter school. He went on to successfully lead West High School for a decade, one of the top public high schools in the state and nation. He received Wisconsin's first Martin Luther King Heritage Award for his work at The Neighborhood House and the South Madison Neighborhood Centers, which served some of Madison's first multi-cultural, multi-racial low-income communities.

Dr. Holmes serves as Chief Equity and Innovation Officer at the Overture Center for the Arts and a member of the shared Executive Leadership Team, a creative non-traditional leadership model that challenges the notion that an organization must have a single president and CEO to achieve success.

*** English Board of Visitors ***

Patricia A. Brady	Thomas J. Johnson III
Emily Brix	Jane I. Katims
Alec Y. Chang	Ward A. Katz
Peter Connor	Maurice A. Lee
Elissa R. Federoff	Lester G. Lennon
Robert S. Grossman	Dr. Karen Redfield
Sigurd B. Gundersen III	Jenna Smith
John H. Jankoff	Peter Zeughauser

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:

Jill Way, Director of Development
University of Wisconsin Foundation
1848 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53708-8860
jill.way@supportuw.org