



University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of English

English Majors

AWARD CELEBRATION

◆ ◆ 04.23.2023 ◆ ◆

Alumni Room, Pyle Center

**Sunday, April 23, 2023
Alumni Room, Pyle Center
4:00-5:30PM**

Ceremony Program

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Christa J. Olson

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

Closing Remarks

Reception

****WRITING PRIZES****

The John McMynn Williams Senior Thesis Award

Presented by: Richard Begam

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

Recipient: Pierce Stastney

Thesis: "The Man in the Brown Macintosh: or, *Ulysses'* Grand Enigma"

Instructor: Richard Begam

The William F. Vilas Prizes

Presented by: Keli Tucker

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: Noelle Candler

Essay: "The Messy, Precious Beauty of Human Creativity: A Queer Linguistic History"

Instructor: Keli Tucker

Recipient: Ileaha Anderson

Essay: "(En)gendering Power: An Analysis of Race, Sex, and Violence in *Down These Mean Streets* and *When the Spirits Dance Mambo*"

Instructor: Theresa Delgadillo

McMynn Williams Digital Media Prize

Presented by: David Zimmerman

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: Emily Cheng

Project: "History, Speculation, and Memory-Shaping in Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*"

Instructor: Raquel Kennon

James T. Lewis Prizes

Presented by: Caroline Hensley

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: Maya Dettwiler

Essay: "1984 & Panopticism: A Theme Critique"

Instructor: Heather Martin

Recipient: Molly George

Essay: The Personal Essay

Instructor: Eric Thomas

Standish Henning Shakespeare Prize

Presented by: David Zimmerman

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: Jackson Wyatt

Essay: "See Feelingly: The Complex Treatment and Implications of Disability in Shakespeare's *King Lear*"

Instructor: Joseph Bowling

McMynn Williams Data Analysis Prize

Presented by: Emily Hall

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: Sophie Boes

Essay: “Conversation at the Boundaries Between Communities”: An Examination of Tutor and Peer Review Effectiveness Based on Commenting Practices

Instructor: Emily Hall

Mary Ellen Williams Golby Writing Prize

Presented by: Keli Tucker

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: Allyson Mills

Essay: “Supporting Neurodivergent College Students Within Writing Centers”

Instructor: Keli Tucker

****SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS****

The Helen C. White Award

Presented by: Sarah Ensor

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: Sarah Egan

Recipient: Allyson Mills

The Dorothy Classen Urish Scholarship

Presented by: Andie Barrow

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: Haley Laufenberg

Helen Black Bennett Memorial Scholarship

Presented by: David Zimmerman

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

Recipient: Addy Hagen

English Undergraduate Scholarships

Presented by: Caleb Parker and Elaine Cannell

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: Natalie Bercutt

Recipient: Greta Harris

Mary Brabyn Wackman Scholarships

Presented by: Richard Begam

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: Sarah Egan

Recipient: Justice Moore

Recipient: Kelley Schlise

McMynn Williams First-Generation College Student Scholarship

Presented by: Erin Polnaszek Boyd

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: Roshnie Rupnarain

Lila Hicks Furber Scholarship

Presented by: Caroline Hensley

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: Addy Hagen

Vivian Mowry English Scholarships

Presented by: Heather Swan

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: Emma Hamilton

Recipient: Amanda Jentsch

Recipient: Allyson Mills

Jeffrey Allen Steele Memorial Scholarship

Presented by: Lisa Cooper

This award was established by Jocelyn Riley in 2018 to honor the memory of her husband Jeffrey Allen Steele (far right in photo), 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: Cole Roecker

Mary Ellen Williams Golby Scholarship

Presented by: Ramzi Fawaz

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

Recipient: Azura Tyabji

Cyrena Pondrom Scholarship

Presented by: David Zimmerman

This award was established by Julie Bogle who graduated from UW-Madison in 1985 with a BA, majoring in both English and History. While an undergrad, she was a student of Prof. Cyrena Pondrom, who taught modern English literature. Julie was fortunate enough to work with Prof. Pondrom on an independent study project focused on Virginia Woolf. It was a transformative experience. Being exposed to someone as brilliant and insightful as Prof. Pondrom was both intimidating and deeply enriching, truly a life-changing experience. After working in publishing for several years, Julie went on to attend UW Law School, graduating in 1999. Fifth of six children, Julie could afford to attend UW Madison as an undergrad only because she was given the Mary Brabyn Wackman Scholarship. She is happy to have the ability, through the UW Foundation, to provide a similar opportunity to young English majors today, and to honor the woman who had such a deep influence on her future.

Recipient: Emily Wesoloski

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

The Early Career Alumni Award recognizes UW-Madison English 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.

Erika Lee, BA English 2014



Erika is an attorney and the Assistant Director of New Media Rights, a nonprofit legal clinic that provides free and low-cost legal services to creators, entrepreneurs, and internet users whose projects require specialized internet, intellectual property, privacy, media and entertainment law expertise. In addition to providing preventative, transactional legal services, Erika also develops educational resources for New Media Rights and engages in public policy advocacy in regulatory proceedings at the Copyright Office. She is also an adjunct professor for California Western School of Law, teaching the Internet and Media Law Clinic.

Erika received her Juris Doctorate from California Western School of Law, and her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. During law school, Erika worked for New Media Rights as an intern and student fellow before spending a semester in Los Angeles working in the business and legal affairs department of Shout! Factory, a multi-platform media company. While obtaining her undergraduate degree, Erika worked for four years in the marketing department of Overture Center for the Arts in Madison, Wisconsin, where she assisted in programming projects and events that engaged local communities with the arts and promoted national Broadway and non-Broadway touring productions.

Erika has been published in the Texas Intellectual Property Law Journal and she has co-authored several articles with her colleagues at New Media Rights for Forbes. She also guest lectures at university classes across California and the country, including Otis College of Art & Design, California State University Northridge, San Diego State University, the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, and Champlain College in Vermont.

Most recently, Erika was a guest on the podcast *Pop Culture Detective: Audio Files*, hosted by Jonathan McIntosh (“Demystifying Fair Use, Copyright, and Content ID,” January 31, 2023). She is inspired daily by her clients and their passion for their craft.

Devin Lowe, BA English (Creative Writing) 2016



Devin Lowe is a storyteller from Apple Valley, Minnesota, where she first combined her two passions, writing and sport, in a mentorship program with a local sports TV station. She attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and worked for an engineering professor, the Wisconsin School of Business, the Wisconsin Union and University Communications while pursuing degrees in journalism, strategic communication and English. During her senior year, she “studied abroad” in Philadelphia, working for the Philadelphia Flyers as a public relations intern. Upon her graduation in 2016, she took a yearlong position in digital and social media for her hometown NHL team, the Minnesota Wild. In 2017, she started at the Colorado-based U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee as the Development Writer, crafting impact stories that show how philanthropic support changes the lives of Team USA athletes. She now produces communications touchpoints for donors at every giving level as the Manager, Development Communications. She is most passionate about inspiring those around her and sharing stories about how sport unifies, uplifts, and transforms people and communities.

Hannah Nelson, BS English (Creative Writing) 2015



Hannah Nelson (pen name H.J. Nelson) is an Idaho native who graduated from the University of Wisconsin with degrees in creative writing and wildlife biology. She began writing on Wattpad in 2015, where her story *The Last She* garnered over 12 million reads. It became one of the most read Science Fiction stories on Wattpad in 2016

and 2017 and was acquired by Wattpad Books for publication as a three-book series. Since then, Nelson has had her work optioned for television by Sony and translated for publication into French (Hachette) and Italian (Mondadori). *The Last She* and *The Last City* are available now, and the third book in the series, *The Last Creation*, will be published in 2024.

Nelson has also written for brands like General Electric, National Geographic, and Writers Digest. When not writing, Nelson lived on a boat in the British Virgin Isles, worked in two zoos, and rode an elephant through the jungles of Laos— though she considers raising two daughters her most dangerous adventure yet.

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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