



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF

ENGLISH

Awards

Monday, April 25, 2016

Longaberger Alumni House

Department of English Awards Ceremony

*Monday, April 25, 2016
Longaberger Alumni House*

4:00 pm: Opening Reception

5:00 pm: Awards Presentation

Master of Ceremonies:
Debra Moddelmog, dept. chair

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Student Awards

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External Awards

Throughout the past year, members of the Department of English have received numerous awards at the College and University levels, as well as from professional organizations, and we are proud to recognize them here.

Ronald and Deborah Ratner Distinguished Teaching Award in Arts and Humanities

This award, established in 2014, recognizes faculty in the Arts and Humanities for their creative teaching and their exemplary records of engaging, motivating and inspiring students. Each award includes a \$10,000 cash prize and a \$10,000 teaching account to fund future projects.

Wendy Hesford

Arts & Humanities Diversity Enhancement Award

This \$1,000 award recognizes individuals, programs, or organizations in the Arts & Humanities that promote diversity by increasing participation/recognition of diverse groups; demonstrating a significant impact for the Division of Arts & Humanities, Ohio State, or the broader community; or by innovatively addressing a specific diversity-related issue or concern.

Andreá Williams

Denman Undergraduate Research Forum

Undergraduate students from across the university are invited to present research in poster form at the Richard J. and Martha D. Denman Undergraduate Research Forum. Participants are evaluated by faculty judges and ranked within their field.

Kaylor Montgomery

3rd Place, Humanities; Advisor: Elizabeth Kolkovich

Graduate Associate Teaching Award

This award, granted by the OSU Graduate School, is the university's highest recognition of the exceptional teaching provided by graduate students at Ohio State. Award winners receive \$1,500 and are recognized at the annual Graduate School awards reception.

Kaitlin Clinnin

Distinguished Scholar Award

This award, granted by the University's Office of Research, recognizes exceptional scholarly accomplishments by senior professors who have compiled a substantial body of research. Each recipient receives a \$20,000 research grant and a \$3,000 honorarium to pursue their scholarly activity.

Brian McHale

Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching

This award, granted by the Office of Academic Affairs, honors faculty members for superior teaching. Recipients receive a cash award of \$3000 and a \$1,200 increase to their base salaries.

Elizabeth Kolkovich

Amy Shuman

Columbus Business First's 40 Under Forty

This award honors up-and-coming Columbus professionals and community leaders under 40 years of age who are “shaping our community’s future.”

Angus Fletcher

NDIAS Residency Fellowships

The Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study is dedicated to fostering and supporting integrative scholarship addressing ultimate questions at the intersection of the arts, engineering, humanities, law, and natural, physical, and social sciences, especially those which transcend disciplinary boundaries.

Leslie Lockett (one semester)

Koritha Mitchell (two semesters)

Awards in
**Business and Professional
Writing**

**The Kitty O. Locker Undergraduate Professional
Writing Contest**

\$750 awarded to the first-place student group and \$250 to the second-place group for demonstrating excellence in professional writing produced in English 3304. Honoraria are also awarded to the instructors.

2016 First Place Winners

Zaynah Ahmed

Alexa Cohen

Molly Kime

Jared McNutt

Mitchell Richert

Jennifer Burgess, instructor

Second Place Winners (tie)

Alex Mathew

Emma Noecker

Alexandra Peters

Andrea Randall

Christa Teston, instructor

Second Place Winners (tie)

Maggie Betz

Alyssa Friedman

Alexia Kraft

Shana Meyer

Jennifer Burgess, instructor

The Kitty O. Locker Travel Grants

Grants to subsidize travel for graduate students attending conferences or presenting research on professional communication.

2016 Awardees

Jennifer Burgess

Kaitlin Clinnin

Chad Iwertz

Sara Wilder

The Kitty O. Locker Research Grants

Grants awarded to subsidize research-related expenses of graduate students studying business and professional writing.

2016 Awardees

Nora McCook

Cate St. Pierre

The Kitty O. Locker Prize for Excellence in Business Communication

\$1000 awarded for an outstanding graduate-student conference presentation, publication, or dissertation on professional communication.

2016 Winner

Kaitlin Clinnin, “Defining Our Terms, Defining Our Commitments: Cataloging the Uses of ‘Community’ in CCC.”
Presented at the Conference on Community Writing: Boulder, CO (October 2015).

Awards in

Creative Writing

Reba Elaine Pearl Burkhardt Roorbach Award in Creative Nonfiction

\$100 for the best essay or nonfiction book chapter by an undergraduate student

2016 Winner

Lauren Moliterno, “Expectations: A Guide on How to Braid Traditional Italian Easter Bread”

Judge’s Notes: “Expectations,” in which a young woman comes of age one Easter at a time in a family ritual that’s both restrictive and liberating, for women only. Beautifully written and elegantly structured, and a bowl of dough runs through it.

Haidee Forsyth Burkhardt Award in Creative Nonfiction

\$100 for the best essay or nonfiction book chapter by a graduate student

2016 Winner

Cade Leebron, “Instructions On Your Decay”

Judge’s Notes: This meditation on living with multiple sclerosis gets real, gets funny, goes deep. The instructions are poignant, all right, and might just teach the rest of us what it means to be alive.

About the judge: Bill Roorbach funds and judges the Burkhardt Roorbach and Forsyth Burkhardt prizes in honor of his mother, Reba, and his grandmother, Haidee, and in thanks for his time

on the English and creative writing faculty at Ohio State. His newest novels are *The Remedy for Love* and the bestselling *Life Among Giants*, both from Algonquin Books.

Jacobson Short Story Award

1st place \$500; 2nd place \$250; 3rd place \$125 for the best short story by an undergraduate

2016 1st Place Winner

Alex Turissini, “The Real Deal”

Judge’s Notes: The writing here was so lovely, I completely forgot I was reading a student submission. Candidly, I don’t believe the world is lacking for stories dealing with the Holocaust, but this piece genuinely surprised me multiple times in the best possible way.

2nd Place Winner

Lindsey McHenry, “Dubble Trubble”

Judge’s Notes: Great voice, and I loved the way that something so small—a bubble blowing contest—became huge, not just for Marly but for the reader. I legitimately found myself reading ahead to see if she won.

3rd Place Winner

Nanki Hura, “Crossing Borders”

Judge’s Notes: There was some really great writing here with details that transported me to two different worlds.

Honorable Mentions

Ivy Decker, “Thrown”

Judge’s Notes: Gorgeous writing that captured the rise and fall of a relationship.

Kent Grosswiler Jr., “The Good Deed”

Judge’s Notes: Completely drew me into this world.

Emily Yandel, “Kizuna”

Judge’s Notes: Haunting.

About the judge: Shari Goldhagen is a 2002 graduate of Ohio State’s MFA Program in Creative Writing. She is the author of the novels *In Some Other World Maybe* (St. Martin’s Press, 2015) and *Family and Other Accidents* (Doubleday, 2006), and the YA novel *100 Days of Cake* (Atheneum, 2016). A fellow at both Yaddo and MacDowell, Shari writes about pop culture, travel, and relationships for publications including *Salon*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Us Weekly*, *Life & Style Weekly*, and *DaySpa*.

Gertrude Lucille Robinson Award

1st place \$750; 2nd place \$350 for the best piece of creative writing (any genre) by an undergraduate woman

2016 1st Place Winner

Rachel Benton, “Cherry Popsicles”

Judge’s Notes: What struck me immediately about this story was the confident voice of the narrator, a narrator who is immediately likeable and human.

2016 2nd Place Winner

Laura Esposto, “For Spring”

Judge’s Notes: I think of Spring as a violent season, full of storm and destruction as well as new life. This poem gives us that dark, violent, frightening Spring.

Honorable Mentions

Katie Catipon, “In Her Little Yellow Kitchen”

Elizabeth Coyle, “Goodbye, Kid”

Katherine Isabella, “Paintings”

Jessica Wong, “Home”

About the judge: Letitia Trent’s first novel, *Echo Lake*, is available from Dark House Press/Curbside Splendor. Her first full-length poetry collection, *One Perfect Bird*, is available from Sundress Publications. Her chapbooks include *You aren’t in this movie* (dancing girl press), *Splice* (Blue Hour Press) and *The Medical Diaries* (Scantly Clad Press). She was the 2010 winner of the Alumni Flash Writing Award from the Ohio State University’s *The Journal* and has been awarded fellowships from The Vermont Studio Center and the MacDowell Colony. She is a 2007 graduate of OSU’s MFA Program in Creative Writing.

Citino Undergraduate Poetry Award

\$1,500 for the best group of poems by any OSU English major

2016 Winner

Laura Esposto, *Collection of Poems for the Dead*

Judge’s Notes: *These poems all display considerable skill: control of the line, a musical ear, tonal and rhetorical sophistication—all this, yes—but more importantly, they take imaginative leaps and emotional risks. They create a magnetic ethos of grit and whimsy and more grit. But here’s what impressed me most: these poems grabbed me and insisted I listen, because they know that theirs is an urgent art. Created from bright and sharp scraps of language, this is a voice for which I truly believe there is much at stake.*

Honorable Mentions

Dylan Ecker, “First Date” and other poems

Lauren Ubbing, *Game of Fuck-Marry-Kill*

About the judge: Rochelle Hurt is the author of two poetry collections: *In Which I Play the Runaway* (2016), forthcoming as the winner of the Barrow Street Prize, and *The Rusted City* (2014), published in the Marie Alexander Series from White Pine Press. Her writing has been included in the *Best New Poets* anthology series and awarded prizes from *Crab Orchard Review*, *Arts & Letters*, *Hunger Mountain*, *Poetry International*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, and the Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Fund. She is a 2008 graduate of the OSU English undergraduate program, and was the 2008 winner of the Citino Award.

Academy of American Poets Award/The Arthur Rense Prize

\$400 for the best poem or group of no more than three poems (open to graduate and undergraduate students)

2016 Winner

PhD student **Louis Maraj**, “A geriatric Bukowski” and other poems

Judge’s Notes: I love how each of these poems is animated by its own rhetoric to invite engagement on the levels of formal, societal, and emotional structure. And I admire the way the poet proceeds into the workspace of inquiry (of both themselves and the reader), and the work they do with language: sensitive and dynamic. I would read more of these sonnets in a heart-beat.

Honorable Mention

MFA student **Cait Weiss**, “Ode to the Small Black” and other poems

About the judge: Lo Kwa Mei-en is a 2012 graduate of Ohio State’s MFA Program in Creative Writing. Her first book, *Yearling*, won the 2013 Kundiman Poetry Prize and is available from Alice James Books. *The Bees Make Money in the Lion*, a

new book of poems, won the Cleveland State University Poetry Center Open Competition and is forthcoming in Spring 2016. Other work includes *The Romances*, a chapbook forthcoming from The Lettered Streets Press, and essays in *VIDA: Women and Literary Arts* and PEN's 2015 Banned Books Week feature.

Tara M. Kroger Award

\$500 for the best short story by an MFA student

2016 Winner

Gwen Cullen, "The Little Sisters of Dissent"

Judge's Notes: "The Little Sisters of Dissent" perfectly captures the beautiful, fleeting thing that is the camaraderie of a close-knit band of high school friends—that burning-bright defiance and lightness and restlessness, all shadowed by the adult world the friends are in the process of entering. It's an important time of life but a difficult one to remember clearly once you're past it. There's an easy confidence to the writing, a wide-ranging, playful intelligence. A multiple-point-of-view story is hard to pull off, but the author makes it look easy. All three point-of-view characters are fully imagined. Well done.

Honorable Mentions

Mallory Laurel, "Sugar Cane Girls"

Zachary Leven, "Connecticut"

Noelle O'Reilly, "Salt, Smoke"

About the judge: Douglas Watson is the author of *A Moody Fellow Finds Love and Then Dies* (Outpost19, 2014) and *The Era of Not Quite* (BOA Editions, 2013). A 2007 graduate of OSU's MFA Program in Creative Writing, he now lives in New York City.

Vandewater Poetry Award

1st place \$650; 2nd place \$400 for the best poem or group of no more than three poems by a graduate student

2016 1st Place Winner

Daniel O'Brien, "Still Arriving" and other poems

Judge's Notes: These poems contain a compelling mix of formal variation and emotional displacement. Embedded within the loves and sorrows of a single speaker seem often the loves and sorrows of another or "we." Or maybe at the heart of each is restlessness? The assumed stability of couplets or tercets, for instance, is strangely undone with relentless ongoingness, captured best in "Still Arriving."

2nd Place Winner

Liz Rose-Cohen, "On collections to cover the cost of defending the lynching of Emmett Till"

Judge's Notes: This poem tackles the difficult task of understanding the present moment through a lens of the past. It braids the deceptively simple and continuous image of a glass jar filling with money with flashes of Mamie Till-Mobley's loss and singer-activist Nina Simone's lyrics. The poem invites its readers to be fully active in it, to participate in a kind of Mad Libs-filling of historical, sonic, and sensory gaps—"click / clack click" at the store register, at the river.

Honorable Mention

Cait Weiss, "Portrait of Family" and other poems

Judge's Notes: These poems contain such joy, momentum, and urgency for the moments out of which they seem written. They're peculiar in their visions of bodies, but test the boundaries of what the language of girlhood and "other" might become.

About the judge: Yona Harvey is the author of the poetry collection *Hemming the Water*, winner of the Kate Tufts Discovery Award and finalist for the Hurston-Wright Award. Her work has been anthologized in various publications including *A Poet's Craft: A Comprehensive Guide to Making and Sharing Your Poetry* and *The Force of What's Possible: Accessibility and the Avant-Garde*. A 2001 graduate of Ohio State's MFA Program in Creative Writing, she is currently an assistant professor in the University of Pittsburgh Writing Program.

Helen Earnhart Harley Creative Writing Fellowship in Fiction

\$1,000 for the best body of fiction by a graduate student

2016 Winner

Molly Olguin, *The Sea Gives Up The Dead*

Judge's Notes: *The author is clearly possessed of not only enormous skill (because the writing in these stories is pretty much flawless), but also of a wide-ranging and thoughtful vision. This fiction opened up the world for me. If these stories had begun a published collection, I'd have read happily to its end—and I suspect that someday soon I will have just that opportunity.*

Honorable Mentions

David Bukszpan, *Caring Only Makes It Worse—Stories*

Judge's Notes: *Caring Only Makes It Worse was sensationally written, and made me laugh out loud.*

David Yee, "Fontanelle" and other stories

Judge's Notes: *"Fontanelle" was also great, and broke my heart a few times while I read.*

About the judge: Christopher Coake is the author of *You Came Back* (Grand Central Publishing, 2012) as well as the collection of short stories *We're In Trouble* (Harcourt, 2005), which won the PEN/Robert Bingham Fellowship. In addition, Coake was listed among "Granta's Best of Young American Novelists" in 2007. A native Hoosier, he received his MFA in fiction in 2004 from Ohio State University. He lives in Reno, where he is a professor of English at the University of Nevada.

Helen Earnhart Harley Creative Writing Fellowship in Poetry

\$1,000 for the best body of poetry by a graduate student

2016 Winner

Mikko Harvey, "Sick Goat" and other poems

Judge's Notes: These poems stood out for their commanding execution of a particular kind of disaffected energy; each poem, for all its nonchalance, left me feeling startled. "You're losing control," the speaker of the first poem proclaims to a reflection in a spoon, but in fact these poems know exactly what they're doing.

Honorable Mention

Suzannah Showler, *Thing Is*

Judge's Notes: A sharp, stark, and overall intriguing meditation on our relationship to science, technology, and their attendant turns of phrase.

About the judge: Natalie Shapero is the Professor of the Practice of Poetry at Tufts University and an Editor at Large of the *Kenyon Review*. She is the author of the poetry collection *No Object* and the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, a Ruth Lilly Fellowship, a Kenyon Review Fellowship, and a Great Lakes College Association New Writers

Award. She is a 2008 graduate of OSU's MFA Program in Creative Writing.

Helen Earnhart Harley Creative Writing Fellowship Award in Creative Nonfiction

\$1,000 for the best body of nonfiction by a graduate student

2016 Winner

Alessandra Wollner, *Gender, Language, Power: Assorted Essays*

Judge's Notes: *Gender, Language, Power: Assorted Essays stands out for its field reporting, crisp prose, and the ability of the writer to profile outside subjects while also developing a compelling narrative persona—all in an effort to throw light on pressing societal issues*

Honorable Mentions

Samantha Tucker Iacovetto, *The American Dream Starts Here*

Judge's Notes: *for its wit, intelligence, and emotional resonance*

Rachel Toliver, "Discipline" and other essays

Judge's Notes: *because "The Privilege Walk" alone was worth the price of admission*

About the judge: A 2007 graduate of Ohio State's MFA Program in Creative Writing, Joe Oestreich is the author of two books of creative nonfiction: *Lines of Scrimmage* (co-written with Scott Pleasant, 2015) and *Hitless Wonder* (2012). He teaches creative writing at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC, where he is the nonfiction editor of *Waccamaw*. When not writing or teaching, he can be found playing bass and singing in the Columbus, Ohio-based band Watershed.

Awards in **Digital Media Studies**

Digital Media Prize for Outstanding Undergraduate Work

\$100 recognizing outstanding student digital media project(s) completed in an undergraduate course in the Department of English.

2016 Winners

Christopher Lam, “Inspiration Porn” (video)
English 2367.01; Chad Iwertz, instructor

Hunter Lepi, “Bro’s Beer Blues” (audio essay)
English 3405; Mike Bierschenk, instructor

Dylan O’Neill, “Utica Boom” (website and social media campaign)
English 4590.07H; Thomas Davis, instructor

Matt Orr, “Cookies” (video)
English 3405; Mike Bierschenk, instructor

Digital Media Prize for Outstanding Graduate Work

\$300 recognizing outstanding digital media project(s) completed by a graduate student in the Department of English, either in a seminar or as part of the student's research or creative work.

2016 Winners

Erin Bahl and Brittany Warman, *Facets*

Sam Head and Tessa Jacobs, "The Literacy Narratives of Somali Americans in Columbus Ohio: Intersections of Literacy, Immigration, and Social/Political Activism within the Somali American Community of Columbus, Ohio"

Eric Walborn Award for Excellence in Digital Media and English Studies Instruction

Established in memory of Eric Walborn, Coordinator of the Digital Media Project (formerly Computers in Composition and Literature/CCL) 1987–1993, this \$500 award is intended to recognize excellence and innovation in computer-supported teaching and/or the development of digital media instructional materials in any area of English studies by a GTA.

2016 Winner

Trey Conatser, English 2275, "Plagues, Epidemics, and Outbreaks in Literature and Culture."

Awards in

First-Year Writing

The First-Year Writing Program Award for Outstanding Research Paper

\$50 for a researched essay that best demonstrates excellence in analysis, use of researched materials, and academic form; sponsored by Cengage Publishing.

2016 Winners

Natasha Brown, “Shifts in American Education and Teaching Post-No Child Left Behind.” Michael Blancato, instructor.

David Fedyniak, “Nationalism in the Media: How War Makes Money and Money Makes War.” Michael Shirzadian, instructor.

Department of English Teaching Award for First-Year Writing

\$200 for demonstrated excellence in teaching first-year writing by an experienced GTA, based upon review of syllabi, assignment prompts, student evaluations, and teaching philosophy.

2016 Winner

Lou Maraj

Award for Excellence in Teaching by a First-Year GTA

\$100 for a first-year GTA who demonstrates excellence in teaching First-Year Writing, based upon student evaluations and observations of teaching; sponsored by Cengage Publishing.

2016 Winner

Michael Shirzadian

Undergraduate Awards

Genevieve M. Critel Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Composition

The \$300 Genevieve M. Critel Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Composition honors outstanding writers and the compositions they create within English classes at Ohio State.

2016 Winners

Drew Begg

Essay: “Hindrances of Chattel Slave Literacy”

Course: English 4581, Special Topics in US Ethnic Literature

Instructor: Lynn Itagaki

Anthony Harper

Essay: “Pauline Allusion and Contrast: The Humanity of Paul in *Slow Man* as Seen Through Caravaggio”

Course: English 4590.03H, The Long Eighteenth Century

Instructor: Sandra Macpherson

Logan Householder

Essay: “Robert Neville on Trial: Examining Evil and the Vampire as Victim”

Course: English 3378, Special Topics in Film and Literature

Instructor: Karen Winstead

The Arnold and Frances Shapiro International Scholarship

This scholarship of up to \$1,000 was established by the late Arnie Shapiro, Professor of English at The Ohio State University from 1962-1991, and his wife, Fran, to help English majors and our minors study abroad through the department's study abroad programs.

2016 Recipients

Aliyah Cohen

Chandler French

Sierra Hess

Lindsey McHenry

Connor Poff

Meghan Rice

Bev Steele

Brittany Surgener

Christina Szuch

Dallas Ward

Kathryn Wuebker

The Robert E. Reiter Prize for Critical Analysis

The \$500 Reiter scholarship recognizes the finest critical and scholarly writing by an undergraduate enrolled in an upper-level English Department course.

2016 Winner

Matthew Schneider

Essay: “Poetics of Performance: The Music, Motherhood, and Miseducation of Lauryn Hill”

Course: English 4582, Studies in African-American Literature

Instructor: Joe Ponce

Honorable Mention

Renee Shaffer

Essay: “The Pursuit of Present-to-Hand in *Slow Man*”

Course: English 4590.03H, The Long Eighteenth Century

Instructor: Sandra Macpherson

The English Undergraduate Human Rights Award

This \$250 award is given to the best undergraduate academic paper or multi-modal project concerned with the literature, rhetoric, narrative, folklore, histories, laws, and/or cultural practices of human rights.

2016 Winner

Julia Sabella

Essay: “Broken American Dreams in Williams’ *A Streetcar Named Desire*”

Course: English 2367.02, Literature in the U.S. Experience

Instructor: Mira Kafantaris

The David O. Frantz Thesis Awards

Named in honor of Ohio State Emeritus English Professor David Frantz, this \$500 award recognizes the most outstanding thesis completed by an English major during the previous three semesters.

2016 First Place Winner

Jonathan Wlodarski

Thesis: “Translating *Beowulf*: An Exploration of Form, Language, and Audience in Translating an Epic Poem.”

Advisors: Leslie Lockett and Jonathan Burgoyne

Honorable Mentions

Tyler Clementi

Thesis: “About Authoring: *Brothers: A Tale of Two Sons* as a Semiotic, Narrative, and Rhetorical Text.”

Advisors: Scott DeWitt and Cindy Selfe.

Haley Cowans

Thesis: “‘A woman dressed as a man dressed as a woman’: The Non-Binary Gender of Joan of Arc.”

Advisor: Karen Winstead

The Rosemarie Sena Scholarship for Excellence in English Studies

The \$500 Sena award is designed to recognize and encourage excellence in English studies at the undergraduate level. It is awarded to a student who shows tremendous potential as an English major.

2016 Winner

Rogan Hoefer

The R.L. Stine Scholarship

This \$11,000 scholarship is awarded to an Ohio State English major who has demonstrated a serious interest in Creative Writing. It may be used for tuition and fees, room and board, and other educational expenses. This scholarship has been generously provided by author R.L. Stine, an OSU English alumnus (B.A. 1965) and award-winning author of children's horror stories including the famous *Goosebumps* series.

2016 Recipient will be announced at the ceremony

The Joseph V. Denney Award

The Denney Award is the most prestigious award offered by the Department of English. This \$500 prize goes to the most outstanding graduating English major.

2016 Winner

Sarah Houllles

Nominees

Ivy Decker

Alex DeTillio

Samantha Finley

Stephanie Franer

Molly McCarthy

Kaylor Montgomery

Sam Zafris

Graduate Awards

Muste Dissertation Prize

John M. Muste (1927-2002) was the son of A.J. Muste, the political activist, and was a long-time member of the Department. He worked in twentieth-century literature and culture, wrote *Say That We Saw Spain Die: Literary Responses to the Spanish Civil War*, and numerous essays on writers such as Joseph Heller, Vance Bourjaily, and Thomas Pynchon. Like Marlene Longenecker, John was a stalwart citizen of the Department and served as Director of Graduate Studies and as Vice-Chair. In the years before his retirement in 1986, he served as Associate Dean of the College of Humanities. Upon his retirement, John and the College of Humanities established the fund for the prize for the best dissertation, and the Department decided to name it in his honor.

2016 Winner

Colleen Kennedy

Committee members: Chris Highley, chair; Richard Dutton; Hannibal Hamlin

Estrich Paper Prize

The Robert M. Estrich Fellowship Fund was established October 5, 1990, by the Board of Trustees of The Ohio State University, with gifts to The Ohio State University Development Fund from Alice E. Estrich of Columbus, Ohio, colleagues, friends, and former students in memory of Robert M. Estrich (M.A., English '29; Ph.D., English '35), Professor Emeritus, The Ohio State University Department of English. Robert Estrich was chair of the English department from 1952 to 1964, during which he presided over the department's enormous WWII growth. In both his brilliant hiring and his democratizing of

internal governance, he was instrumental in transforming the department into both a model within the university and a national presence in the academic profession.

2016 Winner

Heather Frazier (Nominated by Sarah Neville)

Sacks Paper Prize

The Sheldon Sacks Award has been given since 1997 when James Phelan established it as a way to honor the teacher who introduced him to narrative theory. After receiving his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago in the late 1950s, Sheldon Sacks taught at the University of Texas and the University of California Berkeley before returning to Chicago in 1968, where he remained until his death in 1979. He is best-known as the author of *Fiction and the Shape of Belief*, the founding editor of *Critical Inquiry*, and an inspirational teacher and advisor.

2016 Winner

Danielle Rogner (Nominated by Sean O’Sullivan)

The English Graduate Human Rights Award

Established by the Department of English Human Rights Working Group in Autumn 2014, the English Graduate Human Rights Award is given to the best academic paper or multi-modal project produced in a Department of English graduate course or independent study in the past year. Submissions should demonstrate a critical engagement with the literature, rhetoric, narrative, folklore, histories, laws, and/or cultural practices of human rights.

2016 Winner

Ryan Sheehan (Instructor: Lynn Itagaki)

Presidential Fellowships

The Presidential Fellowship, awarded by the OSU Graduate School, is the most prestigious award given to recognize the outstanding scholarly accomplishments and potential of graduate students entering the final phase of their dissertation research or terminal degree project. Each fellowship provides financial support so the recipient may devote one year of full-time study to the completion of his or her dissertation or degree project unimpeded by other duties.

Spring 2015 English Department Recipient

Jonathan Holmes (Advisor: Luke Wilson)

Autumn 2015 English Department Recipients

Ben Novotny Owen (Advisor: Jared Gardner)

Kate Novotny Owen (Advisor: Sandra Macpherson)

2015-2016
Graduate Degrees

Master of Arts

Ebony Bailey (Advisor: Adélékè Adéèkó)

Bethany Christiansen (Advisor: Leslie Lockett)

Heather Frazier (Advisor: Jennifer Higginbotham)

Tessa Jacobs (Advisor: Dorothy Noyes)

Ericka Kilgore (Advisor: Jill Galvan)

Anne Malcolm (Advisor: Ethan Knapp)

Jessie Male (Advisor: Amy Shuman)

Michael Shirzadian (Advisor: James Fredal)

Alexandra Sterne (Advisor: Sean O'Sullivan)

Master of Fine Arts

Chelsie Bryant (Advisor: Lee Martin)

Gwenyth Cullen (Advisor: Lee Martin)

Katherine Evans (Advisor: Lee Martin)

Anne Guidry (Advisor: Lee Martin)

Mikko Harvey (Advisor: Maggie Smith)

Paige Quiñones (Advisor: Kathy Fagan Grandinetti)

Angela So (Advisor: Michelle Herman)

William Versteeg (Advisor: Marcus Jackson)

Caitlin Weiss (Advisor: Kathy Fagan Grandinetti)

Alessandra Wollner (Advisor: Lina Ferreira)

Nina Yun (Advisor: Lina Ferreira)

Doctor of Philosophy

Summer 2015

Cassie Patterson (Advisor: Amy Shuman)

Kristina Garvin (Advisor: Elizabeth Hewitt)

Colleen Kennedy (Advisor: Christopher Highley)

Wanzheng Michelle Wang (Advisor: Brian McHale)

Wanlin Li (Advisors: James Phelan and Steven Fink)

Chase Bollig (Advisor: Beverly Moss)

Erica Haugtvedt (Advisor: Sean O'Sullivan)

Autumn 2015

Kristen Johnson (Advisor: Debra Moddelmog)

Theresa Rojas (Advisor: Frederick Aldama)

Erin Shaul (Advisor: Christopher Andrew Jones)

Spring 2016

Julie Cyzewski (Advisors: Thomas Davis and Pranav Jani)

Staff & Faculty Awards

English Department Staff Member of the Year

The English Department Staff Member of the Year award goes to a person whose energy, creativity, skills, and intelligence have made the work lives of faculty, students, and fellow staff members more productive and enjoyable. Our staff is a high-functioning team, and every member contributes to the Department's continuing success. This award is not meant to single out one member as more important to the team, but to recognize and reward superb attitude and effectiveness.

2016 Winner will be announced at the ceremony

EUGO Associated Faculty of the Year EUGO Professor of the Year

These two annual awards recognize, respectively, an English Associated Faculty Member and an English Professor, each of whom has demonstrated remarkable commitment to students, taught a course in a truly unique way, and/or provided students with an exceptional learning experience. The English Undergraduate Organization (EUGO) oversees the selection process for these awards, inviting all English majors to participate in an online voting process and collaborating with the winners of the previous year's awards as necessary to determine the current winner.

2016 Winners will be announced during the ceremony

EGO Professor of the Year

This award, organized by the English Graduate Organization, recognizes a professor in the English department who has demonstrated commitment to graduate student success through excellence in teaching and advising. All English department graduate students are invited to nominate and to vote.

2016 Winner will be announced during the ceremony

The Marlene Longenecker Award for Teaching and Leadership

This award was originally endowed in 2008 by the English Department Alumni Advisory Board in honor of Marlene Longenecker, on the occasion of her retirement from the faculty. It honors each year a faculty member selected for his or her combination of distinguished teaching and outstanding Department and University service and citizenship.

2016 Winner will be announced during the ceremony

Faculty Retirements, 2015-2016

The Department of English would like to recognize the following individuals for their many years of service, and we wish them the best in their well-deserved retirement.

Richard Dutton

Richard Green

Maura Heaphy

Andrew Hudgins

Barb McGovern

Cindy Selfe



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