



English Graduate Program

2017-2018 Year in Review Newsletter

A message from the Graduate Coordinator, Brooke:

It has been an amazing year for our English MA students! They've won awards, presented at conferences, been accepted into competitive PhD programs, attended and participated in many successful events on and off campus, and so much more. The Department of English sends a huge 'Congratulations' to all of our students and graduates! We are so proud and can't wait to see what the next year will bring!

Congratulations to the Class of 2018!

■ Michelle Callaghan, Susan Cash, Michael DeAngelo, Brighid Flynn, Kevin Halleran, Maria Klecko, Christian Leithart, Stephen Reaugh, William Repetto, Casey Smedberg, Mark Aaron Thomasson

Awards:

- William Repetto: Meyer Award from the Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship Institute for serving as project lead for the launch of the Diversity and Inclusion Resource Guide at Falvey
- Nicholas Manai: Department of English Margaret Powell Esmonde Memorial Award for the most distinguished scholarly or critical essay by a graduate student for "Back from the Dead: Rediscovering Value in John Okada's *No-No Boy* and John Williams's *Stoner*"
- Christian Leithart: Graduate Studies Service Award in recognition of his valuable contributions as one of the student editors of the 2018 issue of *CONCEPT*

Current Students & Recent Alumni Starting PhD Programs:

- Casey Smedberg, University of Connecticut
- Stephen Reaugh, Washington University
- Angeline Nies-Berger, Rutgers University
- Recent alumni: Annmarie Jakubowski '17, Washington University; Kenny Roggenkamp '17, Binghamton University; Theodora Sakellarides '14, Temple University; Laura Tscherry '17, Indiana University Bloomington

Publications:

- *CONCEPT* print edition: Nicholas Manai, "Back from the Dead: Rediscovering Value in John Okada's *No-No Boy* and John Williams's *Stoner*"
- *CONCEPT* online: Amelia Mrozinski, "Is Stephen Dedalus a Vampire? Bodily Breath, Creation, and Art in 'Proteus' and 'Aeolus'"; Angeline Nies-Berger, "Maxine Hong Kingston's complex, multi-faceted, and paradoxical postmodernism in *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*"; Stephen Reaugh, "The Uncomfortably Close Narrator of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*"; Casey Smedberg, "And down now, down...': the Wildernesses of 'Burning Chrome' and *Inception*"
- Alexandra Einspahr, "It was a parting with himself, or rather a part of himself': Tracing Severed Accounts of Disabled African American Union Veterans," *Dosis* magazine, Fall 2018
- Nicholas Manai, "Turning Inward: Using Insight as a Catalyst for Change in *The Corrections*," *The Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies*, Vol. 18, 2018
- Stephen Reaugh, "Quotidian" in *Rabbit Catastrophe Review*, "All in Good Fun" in the *Doctor T.J. Eckleburg Review*, and "Sinner's Prayer" in *Pomona Valley Review*. Poetry forthcoming in the *Hawai'i Review* and a book chapter forthcoming in *Once Upon a Time in the Twenty-First Century: Unexpected Exercises in Creative Writing*, published by GFT Publishing



Conference Presentations:

- Joseph Alicea, NeMLA Pittsburgh, "The Projective Acts And Expanding Spaces Of 'Nuyorico'"
- Brian Borosky, Narrative Innovations Across Time and Media Conference, University of Virginia, "'Clarity and Respect': George Oppen's Poetics of Cultural Memory"
- Angela Christaldi, Literature and Social Justice Conference, Lehigh University, "'Ou libéré? Are you free?' The Legacy of Sexual Assault on the Fiction of Edwidge Danticat"
- Nicholas Manai, Telling Stories 2018, St. John's University, "Back from the Dead: Rediscovering Value in John Okada's *No-No Boy* and John Williams's *Stoner*"
- Angeline Nies-Berger, Narrative innovations Across Time and Media Conference, University of Virginia, "'Come all ye...' along with Maxine Hong Kingston on her personal exploration of 'truth' in *The Woman Warrior*"
- Stephen Reaugh, New York College English Association Conference, "'Something is being eroded. Back to the romance again:' Reconfiguring the 'Love Triangle' in Brian Friel's *Translations*" (won the prize for the best graduate student paper in the conference)



VU Gender & Women's Studies Conference Presentations:

- Alexandra Brodin, A "Feeling in My Tablecloth": Uncanny Reflections in *Bread Givers*
- Angela Christaldi, Reclaiming the "Children of Ham": Race, Conservatism, and Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*
- Ashley DiRienzo, *The Bluest Eye's* Perspective on Exclusion, Isolation, and Racial Self-loathing
- Alexandria Einspahr, "'Mad people have only one story': Translating Narrative Madness in *The Woman Warrior*"
- Nicholas Manai, "'My Beautiful Aloneness': The Struggle for Independence and Community Integration in *Bread Givers*"
- Amelia Mrozinski, "The Inheritance of Trauma and Exilic Liminality in Edwidge Danticat's *Breath, Eyes, Memory*"
- Angeline Nies-Berger, "Maxine Hong Kingston's Complex, Multi-faceted, and Paradoxical Postmodernism in *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*"
- Elena Patton, "Drown or be Drowned: Gender Constructions in *The Mill on the Floss*"
- Casey Smedberg, "'Are you free?': Narration, Postmemory, and the Face of Trauma in *Breath, Eyes, Memory*"
- Michelle Wrambel, "Giving Voice to Trauma in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*"