**Graduate Student News**

**Biology**

Sarah Leone (BS ’13/MS ’14) and current student Erin Neal attended the Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology Meeting in Seattle, Washington July 29-August 3, 2014. Both presented posters and examined different aspects of the thiamine signal transduction pathway in *Candida glabrata*. Ms. Leone is working as a laboratory technician at NYU Medical School, and Ms. Neal is finishing her thesis in the laboratory of Dr. Dennis Wykoff in Biology.

**Communication**

Melissa Thompson, a second-year Communication graduate student, presented a paper at the annual Social Media Technology Conference and Workshop at Howard University in Washington, D.C. on September 26, 2014. Her presentation, "Smartphones and Social Media: Its Impact on African Americans and their Communication Practices," explored the increasing use of smartphones among African Americans, computer literacy and the digital divide. Melissa worked on this research with Communication professor Dr. Emory Woodard. She was awarded a Graduate Studies Travel Award to present at the conference. In addition, Melissa was promoted from social and online media coordinator to Communications Specialist at Health Partners Plans.

**English**


Katharine McIntire presented a paper called "'Time Be Time': The Intertwined Nature of Time and Technology" at the Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture Association in Baltimore November 6-8, 2014.

**History**

Menika Dirkson’s paper “Is Any Exhibit Worthy of Stirring Up Horrid Pain, Anger, and a Fiery Debate? The Controversy of Without Sanctuary Exhibit” won Best Paper in U.S. History at Temple University’s James A. Barnes Graduate Student Conference, March 28-29, 2014. Menika was awarded a fellowship at the Library Company of Philadelphia’s Mellon Scholars Summer 2014 Workshop and a Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship from the Graduate Studies of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for her genealogical work on former slaves.

James Esposito received a Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship to do archival research in England during the summer of 2014. He visited the A.K. Chesterton Collection at the University of Bath and also the National Archives in...
Kew for MI5 documents about Chesterton and the League of Empire Loyalists, an extremist political group from the 1950s.


James Holmes won the 2014 Graduate Research Prize with his piece “‘I Trust the Gospel and All Its Contents’: The Deputation of Jiri the Monk and the Medieval Islamic Knowledge of the Bible,” published in *Concept, Interdisciplinary Journal of Graduate Studies*, Volume XXXVII, Villanova University, Spring 2014.

Michael Johnson and James Kopaczewski spoke together on a public panel, “Leaving the Emerald Isle: Trials and Tribulations of Irish Immigrants in 19th Century Philadelphia,” held at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania on November 11, 2014. The panel also featured historians William Watson (Immaculata University), Zachary Scragg (George Mason University), and Charlene Mires (Rutgers University-Camden).

Laura Layne was recently hired at the National Constitution Center as a Museum Programs Demonstrator.

Jennifer Putnam published her piece “NAGPRA and the Penn Museum: Reconciling Science and the Sacred” in the online edition of *Concept, Interdisciplinary Journal of Graduate Studies*, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Villanova University, Spring 2014.

Michael Thompson was hired by Anheuser-Busch to work as an Archives Specialist at their corporate headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri.

Philosophy


Charles Richard Strong won the 2014 Harvey Teaching award. The Harvey Teaching Award is given each year to a graduate student in the Department of Philosophy for outstanding instructional contributions.


Mr. Westmoreland published “Surviving Heredity” a review of Reproduction/Race, and Gender in Philosophy and the Early Life Sciences, edited by Susanne Lettow in American Philosophy Association Newsletter on Feminism and Philosophy (Nov. 2014).


Psychology

Leeland Rogers, current MS Psychology student, and Brian Emmert, Jr., current BA Psychology student co-authored a presentation with Dr. Irene Kan and Dr. Anna Drummey. The poster, entitled "Mortality salience: Methodological considerations for future research," was presented by Mr. Emmert and Mr. Rogers at the Psychonomic Society Annual Meeting in Long Beach, CA (November 22, 2014).

Marie Saxon and Dr. Michael Brown, presented a paper entitled "Control of Spatial Choice by Personal Information and Social Information" at the annual meeting of Psychonomic Society held in Long Beach, California, November 22, 2014.

Kelsey Heslin, Taylor Curley, Michael Jackiewicz, Colin Flowers, and Heather Anne Phelan who are current MS students in Psychology co-authored a poster with Dr. Thomas Toppino. The poster was entitled, “Influence of Feedback on metacognitive Decisions About Spacing Practice Tests: A Framing Effect?” The poster was presented at the annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society in Long Beach, CA, November 22, 2014.

Public Administration

Christopher Myhand was elected as the Historian for the North Carolina FBI National Academy Association.

Shanna Lodge recently submitted a profile of Villanova’s MPA Program to ELGL.org, which features different MPA Programs at a variety of universities nationwide. Villanova’s profile is now featured on their website, encouraging prospective students and group members to take a tour of our MPA program! Click here to see our profile with ELGL.

Shanna also recently wrote a reflection piece on her time at the ICMA conference. Click here to read the full article.

Johnny Cooper is now the Director of Business Development at Global Health Corps, a nonprofit organization focused on mobilizing a global community of emerging leaders to build the movement for health equity. We are building a community of change-makers who share a common belief that health is a human right. GHC was founded in 2009 by Barbara Bush and in the past five years has created a network of more than 450 young leaders whom have successfully completed the GHC fellowship program in East & Southern Africa as well as the US. www.ghcorps.org.

Kamira Evans is now the SSS Grant and Title IX Coordinator and the Executive Assistant to the Dean of Student Services at Pennsylvania Institute of Technology.
| Christian Isham | accepted a position as a Policy Analyst with the Executive Office of the President (EOP), Office of National Drug Control Policy, Office of Supply Reduction, International Interdiction Branch. |
| Scott Savett | is now Constituent /Community Relations Coordinator at Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA). |
| Kyle Whitmire | is now Veterans Service Representative for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. |
| Graduate Students in Dr. Catherine Wilson’s Special Topics Course 8199 participated in a project with Global Philadelphia to help the organization devise a business plan. The project is featured on the Global Philadelphia website [here](#). |