Student News

**Hispanic Studies**

The Hispanic Studies graduate program is pleased to announce that three current graduate students have been accepted into several prestigious PhD programs with full funding. **Manuel Olmedo** has been accepted to Vanderbilt University and the University of Chicago. Manuel will be attending the University of Chicago in the fall. **Majd Subih** has been accepted to George Mason University. **Isabel Moreno** will continue studying towards her PhD next year at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid, Spain.

**Alba Fano-Trabanco**, currently in her first year as a graduate student in the Hispanic Studies program, has been awarded the prestigious “Premio Fin de Carrera” at the Universidad de Oviedo (Spain). This award is granted every year to the graduating student with the most exceptional academic profile in each degree at the University. The award, conferred by the University President at a special ceremony, recognizes extraordinary academic achievement and includes a monetary prize intended to assist students with pursuing the next step in their academic or professional careers.

**History**


**Alexander Langer** was accepted with full funding into the PhD program at the University of Colorado at Boulder, with a focus on US Diplomatic History. He was also put on deferred acceptance by the University of Connecticut at Storrs, pending the availability of funding.

**Kent Weber** was accepted into the PhD Program in History at the University of Minnesota with an offer of full funding.

**Political Science**

**Laura Caccioppoli** recently published an article in the *PA Times Online*. Her article can be accessed [here](#). Laura is pursuing both a Masters in Political Science and the Certificate in Non-Profit Management.

**Meredith LaSalle Tarantin** has been awarded a Fulbright US Student Grant for 2014-2015. After graduating from Villanova in May 2014 she will head for Morocco, where she will hold a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship.

**Psychology**

**Alexander Berenato** coauthored a paper with Dr. Charles Folk and Brad Wyble, Ph.D., assistant professor, Pennsylvania State University. The paper entitled “Semantic priming produces contingent attentional capture by conceptual content,” was presented by Dr. Folk at the annual meeting of the Vision Science Society (May 17-21, 2014).

**Teagan Bisbing** and **Marie Saxon**, current MS students, co-authored a presentation with
Dr. Michael Brown entitled “Personal Information and Social Information in Spatial Choice”. The work was presented by Dr. Brown at the annual International Conference on Comparative Cognition, Melbourne, FL, March 26 – 29, 2014.

Teagan Bisbing, Marie Saxon and Jennifer Ruff, current MS students co-authored a presentation with Dr. Michael Brown entitled “Follow the leader IV: Flexibility of Individual and Social Learning. The work was presented by Ms. Bisbing at the annual International Conference on Comparative Cognition, Melbourne, FL, March 26 – 29, 2014.

Tiffany Chang, a current MS student, and Tamires Michida (BA, Psychology 2013) co-authored a presentation with Dr. Deborah Kendzierski at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association in Boston on March 14-2014. The presentation was entitled “Testing the generalizability of the Physical Activity Self-Definition Model to Healthy Eating.”

Five students from the MS program in Psychology and two undergraduate psychology majors attended the annual meeting of the Society for Personality Assessment and presented their research on March 20, 2014 in Arlington, Virginia. Emily Pammett authored a poster entitled “Predicting treatment process variables in veterans with Personality Assessment Inventory.” Evan Good authored a poster entitled “Self and other reported personality traits and pathological narcissism.” The poster was co-authored by David Marino (MS Psychology 2013). David is currently enrolled in the clinical Ph.D. program at the University of Toledo.

Jennifer Ruff, a current MS Student, co-authored a presentation with Dr. Michael Brown entitled “Control of Choice by Human Gestures in Domestic Dogs.” The presentation was given by Ms. Ruff at the annual International Conference on Comparative Cognition, Melbourne, FL (March 26 – 29, 2014).

Public Administration

Emilia Allen received a Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship.

Katie Fischer has accepted the position of Director of Strategic Communication at Villanova University.

Matt Gwin has accepted the position of Director of Volunteer Engagement at Villanova University.

Shanna Lodge was recently elected as the 2014-15 Graduate Student Council President.

Stephanie Myers has begun an internship with Hatfield Township.
**Stephen Rochette** was recently quoted in an article entitled, "Officials explain why Margate dune project is mandatory, Wildwood's plan is not." To read more, click [here](#).

**Theatre**

Papers written by graduate students **Lauren Fanslau, Emily Poworoznek**, and **Christen Mandracchia** were accepted into the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Conference, sponsored by the Gender and Women's Studies Program at Villanova University. Fanslau's paper, "Surfing on the Social Margins of a Personal and Spiritual Wasteland: The Contemporary Irish Masculine Identity as seen through the Post-Modern Lens of Mark O'Rowe's Howie the Rookie"; Poworoznek's paper, "The Cycle of the Butterfly: The Gender Condition within Hwang’s M.Butterfly"; and Mandracchia's Paper, "Brechtian Distance, War, Romance, and Redemption: Analyzing The Feminist Spectator's Response to Ruined by Lynn Nottage," were all presented at the conference on Friday, April 4th.

**Theology**

The Graduate Theology Student Committee organized its annual spring retreat from April 4 – 6 at the same beautiful beachfront property located in Ocean City, NJ. This year's theme, "The Joy of Our Faith," provided the theological context to explore the dimensions of Christian Joy. Twelve grad students and three faculty gathered together in fellowship to experience joy through a variety of engaging activities: small group discussions; a service trip to participate in the Wii Tournament with the elderly residents at The Shores senior community; and creative expression through sharing the ways to encounter ‘joyfulness’ in poetry, scripture, tactile crafting, song, movement and spiritual prayer.

(upper row, left to right) Michael Hagan, Kayley Hawk, Kristen Williams, Joseph Grabau, Luke Pigott, Scott Grapin, Michelle Pyfer, MaryEmirine Gandeza, Dr. Margaret Mell, Jacqueline Perry, Manisha Divecha, Ryan O'Connell, Dan Madden, Dr. Peter Spitaler

**Eric Demeuse** presented the paper, “Person, Relation, and the Resurrection of the Body” at the Edith Stein Conference at The University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN on February 8, 2014. Eric also presented the paper, “I Am Your Expiation: Eucharist as Sacrifice in the Letters of Ignatius of Antioch” at the Pappas Institute Graduate Student Conference at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Boston, MA, March 8, 2014. A third work, "When the Pope Cannot Speak: Pius XII, the Third Reich, and the Jewish Community," was presented at the St. Anselm Conference at St. Anselm College, Manchester, NH, April 12, 2014.
Joseph Grabau presented his paper, "The Image of the Bishop in the Authentic Letters of Ignatius of Antioch," at the 10th Annual Graduate Student Conference in Patristic Studies, Historical Theology, and History of Christianity in Late Antiquity sponsored by the Pappas Patristic Conference of the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, on March 7, 2014. Joseph was also selected to attend the 2014 Byzantine Greek Summer School in the Byzantine Studies Program of Dumbarton Oaks, in Washington, D.C. from July 7 to August 1, 2014. Joseph will participate in the summer program with four weeks of instruction and access to the library for research and study purposes.

Kayley Hawk presented the paper, "Wise Sex: the Affirmation of Human Sexuality and Female Desire in the Song of Songs," at the 25th Annual Elizabeth Cady Stanton Conference on Friday, April 4th at Villanova University. The paper was also accepted for publication in the 2014 issue of CONCEPT, the Villanova Graduate journal. Kayley has also been training since January 2014 to participate in the Gettysburg North-South Marathon on April 27-2014. The marathon honors the Battle of Gettysburg with a unique competition that pits runners representing the North and the South against each other in a scored competition.

Two students presented at the Theology Department's "Dies Academicus," a day set aside to appreciate the academic work of others and to foster reflection on theological questions. This year's program was held on February 25, in Falvey Library. Daniel Madden presented a paper on "Eating So Others May Live: Our Commodified Food System and Ethical Implications of How and What We Eat." Benjamin Winter presented his work entitled, "A Philosophical and Theological Analysis of Bonaventure's Six Arguments Against the Eternity of the World."