CONCEPT 2020

Contributors

Christine Bucher is a graduate student in Communication and a full-time employee at Villanova. She has a BA in English from Muhlenberg College, and has presented her work at the National Communication Association and the Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture Association conferences. She is working with Dr. Shauna MacDonald to complete her master’s thesis, focused on evolving museum interpretations of slavery, performance and tourism.

Brittany Baugher is an MS student in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. Prior to Villanova, she graduated from The Ohio State University with a BA in Psychology and a minor in Neuroscience. Brittany is interested in researching factors of resilience and susceptibility to the development of affective disorders. Her Master’s thesis, under the direction of Dr. Benjamin Sachs, is exploring the role of early life stress on the development of symptoms of anxiety and depression following exposure to stress in adulthood. After she graduates from Villanova, she aspires to earn her PhD in Clinical Psychology, allowing her to continue contributing to psychological research while also helping individuals through therapy.

Caitlyn Dittmeier received her BA in English with minors in Biology, Writing and Rhetoric, and Irish Studies from Villanova University in 2018 (summa cum laude). She is currently a first year MA candidate in the English program, and she works as a research assistant and a tutor at the Villanova Writing Center. Her interests include poetry and Irish literature with topics in ecofeminism, postcolonial theory, memory and performance studies. She is grateful to have been able to further her studies in Ireland when she participated in the Jackie Clarke Collection Internship in Ballina and the Irish Theatre Summer Studio in Dublin and Galway. She would like to thank Dr. Kamran Javadizadeh for his valuable feedback and encouragement to submit this work for publication in Concept.
Anne Jones is a first-year MA student in the English program. She graduated with a BA in English in 2006 from St. Theresa’s College, Kerala, India. Later, she started a small bakery specializing in custom and designer cakes, working for some years with sugar and butter as mediums to create art. Moving to America a couple of years ago, she has returned to the medium of words as a means of creative expression. She is currently interested in Victorian literature, immigrant literatures, and postcolonial literatures, and often focusses on materialist criticisms and on how constructions of spatiality affect social reality within literature. Anne would especially like to thank Dr. Heather Hicks for her generous encouragement towards this paper.

Nicholas Keough is a graduate student in the English program. After graduating from The University of Scranton with a double major in English Literature and Secondary Education, Nick earned an MEd in Curriculum and Instruction from Boston College. He currently teaches Humanities and Advanced Placement English Literature in a Philadelphia-area public high school. Nick is an avid Philadelphia sports fan and Game of Thrones enthusiast. He would like to thank Dr. Alice Dailey for her guidance throughout the essay’s evolution and for her Shakespeare’s War Criminals course that inspired this paper.

Jake Leonard is a second-year graduate student in the Psychology program. In 2018, he graduated with a BS in psychology and a minor in English from William and Mary. While there, Jake relished the liberal arts curriculum and loved having the opportunity to make connections across disparate disciplines. He first fell in love with psychological research while working in a lab that studies the impact of parental incarceration on children’s development, and he had the opportunity to explore his love of literature by studying modern and contemporary religious poetry under the direction of Dr. Henry Hart, the Poet Laureate of Virginia. At Villanova, Jake’s chief interests in psychology revolve around development. He is conducting his thesis under the direction of Dr. Janette Herbers and is studying risk and resilience in the contexts of poverty and family homelessness. Additionally, Jake works with Dr. Joseph Toscano to better understand how language listeners perceive allophonic differences in the pronunciation of phonemes. He would like to thank Dr. Irene Kan for her encouragement and support for this project.
Alexandra Mitchell is a second-year graduate student in the Theatre program, where she works as an assistant in the costume shop. This season, Alex served as assistant costume designer for Orlando and A Midsummer Night's Dream, as well as the Educational Dramaturg for the department. She also participated in the emerging scholars panel at the Philadelphia Theatre Research Symposium with her paper entitled, "Children Will Listen: Effective Adaptation of Fairy Tale in Sondheim and Lapine's Into the Woods."

Alex earned her BA in English and Theatre from Grove City College, where she developed her interest in the intersection between musical theatre research and practice. She would like to thank Dr. Bess Rowen for her guidance in this paper and Dr. Valerie Joyce for advising her thesis project, which explores the disappearance of classical soprano voice in contemporary musical theatre. Alex hopes to continue her scholarly career with the goal to teach undergraduate theatre students on and off the stage.

Kyle Schrader has an academic background is in Classical Studies and modern Visual Culture/Queer Theory. In working on both his Classics and History MA’s, Kyle focused on masculine presentation, at first in the propaganda and art of the earlier Roman Imperial era, then moving into the post-1980s United States. His studies today focus more on alternative masculinities through media and how individuals receive cultural products via both individual and shared experiences. He currently works as the Registrar for Montclair Kimberley Academy while working on additional graduate courses in the History program.

Kyle Scripko is a first-year graduate student in the History program. He received his BA in History from Rowan University in 2019 (summa cum laude), and while at Rowan, he developed a passion for twentieth-century German history. Kyle is a Research Assistant for Dr. Paul Steege, and his current interests include the history of everyday life, violence, identity and culture. When he is not reading or writing for his classes, Kyle is training and competing with his Border Collie Leia in the sport of Dog Agility. He would like to thank Dr. Rebecca Winer for all of her help and support with this essay and with a topic and time period that was completely new to him.
Olivia Stowell is a first-year graduate student in the English program. Her research primarily focuses on racial discourses and narratives in contemporary literature and culture, particularly popular culture. She graduated *summa cum laude* from Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California with a BA in English and a BA in Theatre. She currently works as a tutor in the Villanova Writing Center. Olivia is also a poet, and her work has appeared in *Sandy River Review, Ghost City Press, Kissing Dynamite*, and other publications, and she was recently nominated for the Pushcart Prize. She would like to thank Dr. Kamran Javadizadeh for his What Is Poetry course, which inspired this paper.

Melissa Sturges is a second-year graduate student in the Theatre program. She holds a BA from New York University in English and American Studies, where she focused on political activism and live spectacle. Her current research interests surround feminist theatre, disability studies and psychoanalysis in the United States. She would like to thank Dr. Bess Rowen for her encouragement on the development of this paper, as well as Dr. Chelsea Phillips and Dr. Valerie Joyce for their support and inspiration as she gets ready to pursue a PhD in theatre and performance studies.

Kimberly Webb is a first-year MA student in the History program, focusing on women’s religious lives in premodern Europe. Prior to attending Villanova, she received her BA in History and Italian from Saint Louis University in Saint Louis, Missouri in 2019 (*cum laude*). As an undergraduate, she studied abroad for a year in Rome, Italy, through the John Felice Rome Center, where her travels and internship at the Pontifico Istituto di Archeologia Christiana helped her fall in love with premodern European history, art, and archeology. Outside of her studies, she enjoys baking, journaling, and spending time with her chiweenie, Ellie. She would like to thank Dr. Rebecca Winer for her help and guidance in the writing process of her article.