Congratulations Class of 2015

December Graduates:
Meagan Damore, Alicia LeBlanc, Edward O’Toole, Casandra Sullivan

May/August Graduates:
Ashley Anthony, Jerimiah Bergstrom, Leila Bilick, Allison Christiansen,
Andrew Cooper, David Cronin, Megan Cunniff, Eamon Cunningham, Melissa Curcuru,
Jessica Dick, Savannah Garrett, Jianyu Huo, Manal Khan, Dewayne Lehman, Jessica Melendy,
Maggi Metry, Ann-Kathrin Michaelis, Caleb Nelson, Andrea Paletta Guerrero,
Gregory Pavlisko, Samantha Sarantakis, Stephen Tsai, Lauren Twardy, Samantha White

MA Program Award Winners

This year has been an exemplary year for the English MA Program. With our wonderful group of dedicated students the department has a lot to celebrate this year.

Ann E. Berthoff Prize: Eamon Cunningham
The Berthoff prize is awarded to the outstanding final exercise in Composition Studies.

Crossley Prize: Maggi Metry
The Crossley prize is given to the most innovative, or risk-taking final project, as these qualities define Prof. Crossley’s scholarship.

Kennedy Prize: Jessica Melendy
In memory of David Kennedy, the prize honors exceptional work in the field of poetry.

Ryan Prize: Leila Bilick
The award is given for the best literature paper in the English MA Program.

Dean’s Book Award: Jerimiah Bergstrom
This award is given to the year’s outstanding graduating student in the English MA Program.
We are thrilled to announce that Sarah Chaves has been selected for a 2015-16 Fulbright U.S. Student Award to Portugal. The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program of the United States. Sarah will join over 100,000 Fulbright U.S. Student Program alumni who have undertaken grants since the program began in 1948.

We had our end of year MA Program Conference. This year we expanded and invited students from the MFA program, American Studies, History, and the Undergraduate Honors program. Professor Hugh O’Connell served as the conference chair. The papers sparked lively discussions that continued into the hallway and beyond!

We had our second annual End of Semester Celebration and Networking Event. We had a blast catching up with all of the faculty, alumni, and students. Be sure to join us next year!!

Stephen Tsai (2014 alumnus) will begin Special Studies concentration in the MA program at Harvard Graduate School of Education


Katie Oliver, a 2013 graduate of the MA Program, published “A Poem is a Made Thing’: An Interview with Catherine Phil MacCarthy” in the February 2015 edition of Women’s Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal. Katie completed the interview while she was a student in the MA program.

You went to a lot of conferences this year! Including: Mind, Body and (Con)Text: Cognitive Approaches to Literature and Linguistics, Purdue University; Consequences of "the Fall": Growth and Decline in Medieval and Early Modern Literary Culture, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; "Memory and Action" Remembering the Past, Negotiating the Present, and Imagining the Future” at The Lincoln University, PA; Midwestern Conference on Literature, Language, and Media at NIU. Great job!

More Congratulations are in Order

Our students have done a lot this academic year, and special congratulations go out to:

MJ Cunniff has been accepted to Brown University’s PhD program. Best of luck to MJ in her future endeavors.

Kyle Chalker (2014 alumnus) has accepted a position in the University of Houston’s Rhetoric, Composition and Pedagogy PhD program for Fall 2015. We are very excited for him!

Robert Collins (2014 alumnus) has accepted a position in the University of Wisconsin Madison’s PhD program for Fall 2015. Good luck, Robert!

Alyssa Luck (2014 alumna) has enrolled in Temple University’s PhD program. Congratulations, Alyssa!