



EDEN

OUTSTANDING GRADUATING STUDENT AWARDS 2015-16

Congratulations to the Winners of the Outstanding Graduating Student Awards for English for the 2015-16 academic year:

Outstanding Graduating MFA Student: Amy Hansen

MFA Nominees: Robin McCarthy, Matt Weinkam, Andrea Wuorenmaa, and Caleb Nelson

Amy Hansen is the English Department's Outstanding Graduating MFA Student, graduating in May 2016 with an MFA in poetry. Amy has served as vice president of the Graduate Writers' Association, an associate reader for *Passages North*, a graduate teaching assistant, teaching her own sections of EN111, EN 109/EN109W and EN215, a graduate intern for the NMU Writing Center, and Assistant Director of the NMU Writing Center. Her numerous accomplishments in the NMU Writing Center include co-teaching EN 305: Tutoring Writing, updates and enhancements to supporting technology, presenting scholarship at three national/international conferences, and re-conceptualizing the NMU Writing Center space to be more inclusive to a wider diversity of thinkers and learners. Her poetry and essays have appeared in *Cream City Review*, *Hippocampus*, *LIT Magazine*, *Stirring*, *Yemassee* and elsewhere.

Outstanding Graduating MA Student: Matt Ftacek

MA Nominees: Janin Chapman, Kelsey Lueptow, Molly Fox, and Max Wojciechowski

After graduating with a BA in anthropology and creative writing from Western Michigan University, Matt Ftacek began his graduate studies in literature at NMU in 2014. Matt has maintained a 4.0 GPA, demonstrating intellectual acuity and tenacity in navigating the coursework, writing, and teaching. He is a leader in class discussion, asking critical questions and interrogating ideas to better engage with complex theoretical concepts. His thesis project, a study of illness and metaphor in the plague narratives of Defoe, (*Journal of the Plague Year*), Camus (*The Plague*), and Saramago (*Blindness*), is an intriguing analysis of the line between historical and fantastic—and the role of policy and ideology—in understanding the implications of epidemic on cultural narratives. After graduation, Matt plans to begin further studies for a Ph.D. in literature.

Outstanding Graduating English Senior: Melissa Orzechowski

Undergraduate Nominees: Aaron O'Brien, Lindsey Nemeth, and Liz Butler

Melissa Orzechowski will graduate in May 2016 with a triple major in English writing, environmental studies and sustainability, and communication studies with a minor in Spanish. Beyond excelling at three diverse majors and a language minor, which would be impressive on its own, Melissa devotes her time and know-how to many environmental and citizenship efforts, organizing the People's Climate March: Marquette, volunteering with the NMU Hoop House, and coordinating No Impact Week to educate the NMU and Marquette communities in how to reduce over-consumption, just to name a few examples. She is a fearless rock and ice climber, mountain and snow biker, and cross country skier.



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GOOD LUCK WITH MID-TERMS AND TRAVEL SAFE





ANNOUNCEMENTS

The NMU Writing Center has been awarded a Wildcat Innovation Fund grant for a program in which they will help central Upper Peninsula high schools start their own writing centers. The program involves outreach, an introduction to the NMU Writing Center for interested high school students, and training of high school tutors by college tutors. The high school writing centers will then serve as satellite centers to the NMU Writing Center, receiving administrative and pedagogical support as needed. Director Heidi Stevenson and Assistant Director Amy Hansen are currently in the early stages of working with three area high schools on this project with a great deal of help from the NMU Writing Center tutorial staff and interns.

Passages North is delighted to announce our 2016 issue, the 37th in the journal's history, is complete! The journal represents the work of dozens of graduate student editors, undergraduate interns and volunteers, and faculty editors. We're proud of the work in this issue and can't wait to share it with you!

Please join us Sunday, February 21, in the Ore Dock's second floor Community Room from 5-7, for a launch party and celebratory reading of some of the most exciting work in the new issue. We'll provide pizza and encourage pot-luck snack contributions to the celebration, especially if those contributions are thematically or aesthetically reminiscent of this community's fine literary journal.

Congratulations to our Faculty and Staff on their achievements.

WRITING CONTEST

Cohodas Literary Prize: This prize was established by Rabbi Samuel & Lynn Stahl and Nancy & Paul Oberman, in honor of the 65th wedding anniversary of their parents, Lois & Willard Cohodas. The goal of the competition is to provoke serious thought about one or more of the following topics:

- Promoting awareness of the Holocaust
- Combating prejudice and hate, preventing genocide, fighting terror
- Enhancing interethnic and interfaith understanding
- Remembering crimes against humanity
- Advancing respect for human rights and democratic norms around the world

This contest is open to all undergraduates and the **deadline is March 21, 2016**. First Place is awarded \$500, Second Place \$250, and Third Place \$100. Please [click here](#) for guidelines and instructions.

VISITING WRITERS

STEVEN CHURCH: Thu. 3/10/16: Steven Church is the author of *The Guinness Book of Me: a Memoir of Record*, *Theoretical Killings: Essays and Accidents*, *The Day After The Day After: My Atomic Angst*, and most recently, the collection of essays, *Ultrasonic*. His fifth book of nonfiction will be released in Fall 2016. His essays have been published and anthologized widely, including in the Best American Essays; and he is a founding editor and nonfiction editor for The Normal School. Professor Church serves as the Hallowell Professor of Creative Writing at Fresno State.

JEN PERCY: Thu. 4/7/16 (Dual reading with Eula Biss): Jennifer Percy is the author of the nonfiction book *DEMON CAMP* (Scribner, 2014) which was a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Pick and a New York Times Notable Book. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, her essays have appeared in the New York Times, Harper's, Esquire, The New Republic, among others. She lives in Brooklyn and teaches writing at Columbia.

EULA BISS: Thu. 4/7/16 (Dual reading with Jen Percy):

Eula Biss is the author of three books: *On Immunity: An Inoculation*, *Notes from No Man's Land: American Essays*, and *The Balloonists*. Her work has been supported by a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Howard Foundation Fellowship, an NEA Literature Fellowship, and a Jaffe Writers' Award. She holds a B.A. in nonfiction writing from Hampshire College and a M.F.A. in nonfiction writing from the University of Iowa. Her essays have recently appeared in The Best American Nonrequired Reading and the Touchstone Anthology of Contemporary Nonfiction as well as in The Believer, Gulf Coast, Denver Quarterly, Third Coast, and Harper's. Eula Biss and John Bresland are the Chicago-based band STET Everything.



Dr. Kia Richmond at NCTE 2016.

FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jaspal Kaur Singh chaired a panel titled "Ecoactivism and Sustainable Development" and presented a paper titled "Deconstructing Ideas of Progress and Rationality in Apartheid and Post-Apartheid South African Fiction" at The Wider Significance of Nature Conference, Jointly Organized by The Forum on Contemporary Theory, Baroda, Gujarat (A Member of the Consortium of the Humanities Institutes and Centers) & Departments of English and History, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, Odisha on the 22nd of December 2015.

Visiting faculty member **Will Arighi** has two articles coming out in the first half of this year. "Gender, Modernity, and the End of the Fil-Hispanic World" (Comparative Literature Studies 53.1, Winter 2016) and "The Literary Economies of Philippine Costumbrismo" (Hispanic Review 84.2, Spring 2016) both focus on how the Philippines is represented in turn-of-the-twentieth-century literature in Spanish under American and Spanish imperial regimes.

In November 2015, **Dr. Kia Jane Richmond** attended the National Council of Teachers of English annual convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she presented two papers:

"Practicing What We Teach in Writing Methods: Crossover Strategies for Preparing Elementary and Secondary English Language Arts Teachers" which includes panelists Maureen McDermott, Allison Wynhoff Olsen, Christy Doherty-McDowell, Kia Jane Richmond, and Matthew Kilian McCurrie; and

"Developing Ideas into Articles: Strategies for Publishing about Your Teaching" at the Conference on English Education Professional Development Workshop .

Dr. Richmond was also thrilled to meet Taylor Mali, author of "What Teachers Make." (see photo above, which includes Kia Jane Richmond, Taylor Mali, and Elsie Olan).



2016 SPRING AND SUMMER CLASSES

REGISTRATION & GRADUATION REMINDERS

Class registration will begin soon. Check your MyNMU page for your date and time to register.

If you are graduating this Spring/Summer DO NOT forget to register for graduation. Look for a reminder email during registration week. Please follow these links for [registration](#) information and [ceremony](#) checklist.

For those of you graduating this Spring/Summer with a thesis as your capstone project, remember your thesis is due Friday, April 1st for Spring or Friday, July 8th for Summer (this includes online [thesis submission](#) and hard copy signature pages submitted to the Graduate Education & Research Office).

Note – two original [signature pages](#) are to be submitted. Please contact the English department if you have any questions



SESSION 1: 5/16-6/25

COURSE	CRN	TITLE	INSTRUCTOR
110-55	50088	WEB: Good Books	Richmond, K
111-55	50015	WEB: College Composition	Wuorenmaa, A
112-55	50116	WEB: Mythology	Whalen, R
125-55	50033	WEB: Intro to Film	Hummell, A
125-57	50584	WEB: Intro to Film	Killilea, P
211-55	50581	WEB: College Comp II	Weinkam, M
284-55	50115	WEB: British Literature II	Prather, R
311Z-55	50017	WEB: World Lit: India	Singh, J
462-55	50120	WEB: Young Adult Lit (May 30-July 9, cross-listed with ED 462)	Farkas, W
462R-55	50192	WEB: Young Adult Lit	Farkas, W
595-01	50278	Northern Shores Writing Project (May 14; June 20-23, 27-30) 8a-4p	Eckert, L

SESSION 2: 6/27-8/6

COURSE	CRN	TITLE	INSTRUCTOR
110-56	50014	WEB: Good Books	Frank, M
125-56	50195	WEB: Intro to Film	Achatz, M
211-56	50582	WEB: College Comp II	Kauffman, C
211-57	50583	WEB: College Comp II	Betzinger, B
311Z-56	50193	WEB: World Lit: Israel	Brahm, G
410-55	50258	WEB: Genres of Writing	May, R
505-55	50260	WEB: Genres of Writing	May, R

Summer registration starts Monday, March 14, 2016.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

If you have any ideas to improve the newsletter or want to submit news, events, or an accomplishment to EDEN email us at: eden@nmu.edu

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Jamrich Hall room 3200.
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JOURNALS

[The Ore Ink Review](#) - NMU's Official Undergraduate Literary Journal

[The North Wind](#) – Northern's independent student newspaper, which publishes every Thursday during the fall and spring semesters. The paper is funded by advertising and the student activity fee. Although independent from the university, the English Department provides a faculty adviser for the newspaper.

[Passages North](#) – The annual literary journal sponsored by Northern Michigan University. This publication has published short fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction since 1979.

