

Department of English

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

Gregory Stephen Bailey *
Amanda Pauline Brill *
Keith Brown
Brooke SueEllen Caron
Emma Wray Chance
Sophie Camille Charest *
Taylor Elizabeth Combs
Taylor Anne Connell
Reid MacGregor Connolly
Abbey Jane Donahue
Peter Clark Drennan
Anthony Matthew Emerson
Stephen James Fasulo, II
William Jack Hahn, III ***
Troy Michael Haskell *
Gabrielle Elizabeth Hayden
Reilly Krysta Johnson **
Audrey Christine Jones *
Nathaniel Erik Edmund Jonsson
Alana Luong *
Mildred Ivelisse Marzan-Gallop
Jessica Elizabeth Merryman **
Sarah Elaine Michaud *
Madeline Hope Miele ***
Emily Norman
Kyle T. Randall
Justine Taylor Ravenscroft **
Mary Margaret Raymond **
Nicholas Robert Mulkern Schleh
Colleen Shannon Schrowang
Almas Haya Shir
Grace K. Sleeman
Bradford Chapman Spurr
Jessica Leary Walker
Autumn Moon Wentworth ***

* Cum Laude ** Magna Cum Laude
*** Summa Cum Laude

Class of
2020
Graduation

Wishing the Best for our 2020 Graduating English Majors

We wanted to use this edition of the newsletter to congratulate our graduating students. We regret that you have had to complete your academic career under the circumstances caused by the pandemic, and while we always use this publication as a chance to share the accomplishments of all of our students, this year, especially, we want our graduating seniors to know that we are thinking of you and are especially proud of the way you have stepped up to complete your degree despite the challenges you faced. Congratulations to Madeline Miele for acceptance with a scholarship to the MFA program in poetry at the University of Virginia; to Kelsey Frank for her acceptance with a scholarship to the University of Maine School of Law in Portland; to Katie Prior and Grace Sleeman for the publication of their poetry in the journal *Asterism* (<https://tinyurl.com/yd6w864r>); and to all of our students for their success, hard work, and determination this past year. The Department likes nothing better than to celebrate our students. For a list of scholarship winners and other personal accomplishments by students, please see below. Thank you for being a part of the English Department. Take care of yourself and good luck in the upcoming academic year!

~ Professor Shelton Waldrep, Chair

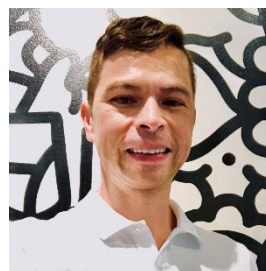


Faculty Lecture Series

On November 12, 2019, Professor Lisa Walker gave a lecture on *Elsie de Wolfe's Queer Animacies: Marie-Antoinette and the Modernist Sapphic Interior* where she discussed how legendary interior decorator, Elsie de Wolfe, used references to Marie Antoinette's eighteenth-century interiors to develop an aesthetic of feminine, queer camp in domestic spaces designed for "bachelor girls" in the early 1900s.



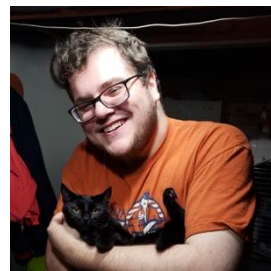
2020 Scholarship Winners



Tim Aliviado – C. Elizabeth Sawyer Scholarship
My journey in the study of literature and the language arts at USM has been instrumental in shaping how I plan on teaching children in my classroom. As an English Major, I had the privilege of working with professors who genuinely care about my success as a student and a future teacher. I never realized that someday, I would be teaching young minds about the power of books to inform, persuade, and entertain. I learned a tremendous amount about myself during my time at USM, and

I look forward to sharing my knowledge and experience with others. I am honored and grateful for the C. Elizabeth Sawyer Scholarship and their recognition of my passion and hard work these past few years.

Steve Fasulo – Rick W. Carbonneau Scholarship The English Department at USM has been an amazing facilitator of my own career path. I want to pursue writing in a professional sense, so being able to attend the Summer Stonecoast Writer's Conference (Summer, 2019) was beneficial in that it helped in finding not only valuable connections in the writing field with people who are fellow writing hopefuls, but also through connections to published authors. I was able to find a path forward to a career I want to have, and I hope to pursue the MFA program upon graduation. I didn't think my time at USM would affect the course of my life too much, as I am a transfer student with the majority of my schooling behind me, but in one semester, my life changed, and I owe it to the opportunities I received in the English Department.



Julia Gay – CAHS Annual Dean's Scholarship I spent months trying to decide what I wanted to do following high school. After careful thought and deliberation, I settled on teaching, and I chose to major in English with a pathway in Education. It was one of the best decisions of my life. I have had kind and helpful professors who challenged me to push past what I was comfortable with in order to be even better than I could have imagined. My knowledge of English, writing, teaching, and more has expanded and is making a real difference in my life. I can't wait to see how else I can grow as a learner and a future teacher with the aid of the English Department. Receiving this scholarship has been a blessing, and I am very grateful for being chosen.

Kaila Moore – USM Classics Scholarship The English Department has some of the greatest professors I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. I have always loved studying English, but have really found my footing as a student here. Professors Walker and Peters, in particular, have been a great source of inspiration and support for me as I work toward completing my degree. As a non-traditional student balancing both school and work full time, receiving this scholarship is incredibly helpful and such an honor to receive.



Lydia Roberge – USM Classics Scholarship When I started my college career at USM, I had no idea what I would expect. Throughout high school I had always loved writing and English. With writing, I have always enjoyed fiction and creating new stories and characters. Now, I have begun to experiment with the creativity of poetry which has allowed me to express emotion. I find the people I talk to and tell I am pursuing an English degree all agree that my studies will help me get into a good career as employers look for writing skills. Already I have learned so much from the professors of the English Department, and I look forward to meeting others and expanding my knowledge in this subject. I have yet to fully decide where I wish to take my degree, aside from writing, but English has always been the major I would consider and is something I will continue to pursue.

Elizabeth Schepis – Jordan Maroon Memorial Scholarship When I graduated high school, I never thought I would be where I am today. I entered college with an undeclared major but was open to different ideas regarding a bachelor's degree. Through many conversations with family, friends, and faculty, I realized that English was my calling. The English Department presents me with several opportunities to continue my love for reading novels, interpreting stories, and writing about them critically. I recommend any student to declare an English major at USM as the faculty always fill their students with pride, academically and personally. Because of them I have grown and prospered in my education. I am so thankful to have been recognized for this scholarship. The support I received was so thoughtful and appreciated!



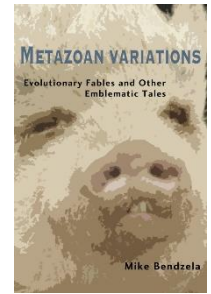
Jessica Toomey – Virginia Weaver Scholarship The English Department is a special place filled with wonderful people. I've received nothing but encouragement from English faculty. Some of my most memorable English classes have been courses that combine English and Women and Gender Studies. These classes encourage cultural awareness and inspire me to analyze literature through a feminist lens. Writing has always been a passion of mine, and I can't imagine a future without it. Therefore, with a double major in English and Sociology and a minor in Women and Gender Studies, I hope to enter a career field where I can put my writing skills to work to help minority groups in my community. I'm not certain what this career will entail, but I'm confident that the skills I've acquired in my English classes will help me succeed. I am honored to be this year's recipient of the Virginia Weaver Scholarship and can't thank the English Department enough for their support.

Congratulations!!

Faculty Highlights

Spring 2020

Mr. Mike Bendzela's collection, *Metazoan Variations: Evolutionary Fables and Other Emblematic Tales*, will be published soon by The Raw Art Review/UnCollected Press of Ellicott City, MD. A parable from the book, "Pinkies," was accepted for the inaugural issue of *Unlimited Literature*. Other selections have appeared recently in *Ilanot Review*, *Meat for Tea*, *Tiny Seed Literary Journal*, and in the anthology *Neighbors* published by Crack the Spine Press. A separate short piece, "Land Line," will appear in Sinister Stoat Press's anthology *Body & Blood, Vol. 1*.



Since her retirement from full-time teaching, **Professor Emerita Nancy K. Gish** has continued her research, publishing, and teaching, and, through 2018, directing the Provost's Summer Writing Seminar. Starting in 2015, she has taught a seminar and delivered a lecture at the T. S. Eliot International Summer School in London and been a keynote lecturer in Florence, Italy. Professor Gish has also presented a series of papers and published on Eliot and Virgil, a topic calling for research on Roman history as well as modernism and feminism. She has also sustained her work on Scottish poets, presenting on Eliot and Scottish literature, and writing biography entries on Scottish women poets. A few of the highlights include:

- An Eliot Summer School Lecture in 2015: "Eliot, Virgil, and Rome: *The Waste Land* as 'A Modern Aeneid.'" "
- A paper delivered at the Harvard Modernism Seminar in 2015: "A Modern *Aeneid*: Eliot, Virgil, and Abandoned Women."
- A paper delivered at the T. S. Eliot Society Conference in 2017: "T. S. Eliot, Dido, and the Virgil Society."
- Her essay, "Eliot and Virgil in Love and War," was published in *The T. S. Eliot Studies Annual*, Vol. I, ed. John Morgenstern, in 2017.
- She published "Silence," in *Reading "The Waste Land" with the #MeToo Generation*, ed. Megan Quigley, which was given as a panel presentation at the T. S. Eliot Society conference in fall, 2019, and also published in *Modernism Modernity.org/forums/posts* on March 4, 2019.

Dr. Carrie Kancilia's article, "'Aftereffect Not Pleasant': Public Masturbation as Middle-Age Reclamation of Sexuality in *Dubliners*, *Ulysses*, and *Finnegans Wake*," was accepted for publication in *Joyce Studies Annual*.

Professor Jane Kuenz's essay, "The Plastic You," examines the appeal of plastinated body shows, such as BODY WORLDS and "Bodies... the Exhibition," for both the people visiting them and those donating their bodies for them. The essay will appear in *A Literary History of Plastics*, edited by Caren Irr, and is forthcoming in 2020 from the University of Minnesota Press.

Professor George Lyons retired after a long career at USM. He was the former director (1984-2011) of the Professional Development Center at USM, and a former director (1980-1990) of the Southern Maine Writing Project. He served as instructor and coordinator (1980-2005) of the annual creative writing project sponsored by the Woman's Literary Union for Greater Portland high school students. He taught English and Latin at Cheverus High School and chaired the English Department at Deering High School (Portland, Maine). As an adjunct faculty member, he has taught writing courses since 1983.

Dr. Michelle Menting participated in the 15th Annual Belfast Poetry Festival on October 19, 2019. She was a finalist in the 2020 Maine Literary Awards in the Short Works Competition in Poetry category. Her flash nonfiction was recently published in *New South*, *Punctuate: A Nonfiction Magazine*, and *New Delta Review*. Her poem, "Pavement," was featured in *Glass: A Journal of Poetry*. This past academic year she served as an Association of Writers and Writing Programs Writer to Writer mentor in poetry.



Professors John Muthyala and Jessica Ouellette received Pillar Grants from the Provost's Office to support Vision 2028:

- Michele Kashub, Jessica Ouellette, Robert Sanford, "Ideas that Work: Intentional Teaching and Learning at USM" (\$20,000)
- John Muthyala, "Digital Infrastructure, Digital Ecosystem, and 21st Century Literacies" (\$7,000)
- John Muthyala, "Multimodality, Digital Literacy, and Career Preparation" (\$23,015, fiscal year '21)

Ms. Sue Nadeau has recently become a Google Certified Level 1 Educator. She is currently working on receiving an EdS degree in Instructional Technology from the University of Maine, Orono.

Professor Jessica Ouellette was accepted into the 2019-2020 UMS Faculty Fellows Program.

Dr. Katherine Peters published two creative essays. "Arrowhead" appeared in *Elsewhere: A Journal of Place* in January, 2020. "Florida: A Clearing Space" is forthcoming in *Canary: A Literary Journal of the Environmental Crisis* in Summer, 2020.

Professor Gerry Peters' book, *The Educational Journey: Nineteenth-Century Utopianism and the American Social Imaginary*, was accepted for publication in the Ralahine Utopian Studies Series by Peter Lang Publishing.

Ms. Laima Vince Sruoginis is pursuing a PhD in Cultural Studies from Vilnius University in Vilnius, Lithuania. She published *Mūsų nepalaužė, Vilnius: Alma Littera* in 2019, which is a collection of essays and oral histories of women in Lithuania who resisted and survived the Soviet occupation of Lithuania (1940-1941 and 1944-1991) and the Nazi occupation of Lithuania (1941-1944). Her essay "Nutildyta Mūzė" (The Silenced Muse) was included in the book, *Atrakintas dienoraštis (The Unlocked Diary)*, edited by Mindaugas Kvietkauskas and published by the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore. This book brings together essays about Matilda Olkinaitė, a talented young Jewish Lithuanian (Litvak) poet who was murdered in the Holocaust in Lithuania, with Matilda's poetry and her diary. Matilda Olkinaitė has been called "The Anne Frank of Lithuania."



Professor Shelton Waldrep referred various publications and joined the board of a new journal of body studies, *Corpus Mundi*, which is published in Russia. At the 51st Northeast Modern Language Association convention in Boston in March he presented two papers: "Porn and the Art Film Short" and "The Complex Dance of Film and Television."

Steve Fasulo, '20, writes about his time at USM: *I want to say that the time at USM that I've had in the English Department has genuinely been one of the most gratifying periods of my life. I was met in a system I was unenthusiastic about with open arms. Members of the faculty saw something in me and wanted me to step up which meant quite a bit to me. It felt like I was getting something like a drink of water, when I had been so used to being thirsty I couldn't remember it was making me miserable.*

The people in life who manage to offer me something I didn't know I wanted usually become the most cherished people or things in my memory, and I have no doubt that will be the case here. I don't know if I would be enthusiastic about my education, or be pursuing higher education further at all if it wasn't for my time at USM, and for that I will be forever grateful.

Julia Rhinelander, '14, is currently working in the Glickman Library at USM where she is a Library Specialist in Access Services.



Casey White, '16, is a 4th grade teacher at the Canal School in Westbrook, Maine. To read about her experience, visit <https://usm.maine.edu/educator-preparation/english-major-casey-white-becoming-teacher>.

Kayla Wight-Staples, '12, shared the following with us: *Since graduating from USM in 2012 with a BA in English... I married a fellow USM student that I met on my very first day during an RA break-the-ice session. Together, we have two children – Zia (7) was born in North Carolina in 2013 and Gauge (5) was born in Vicenza, Italy in 2015. As a family, we have explored numerous European countries while stationed overseas and over a dozen U.S. states while my husband serves active duty for the U.S. Army. In a few short weeks we will be moving to our fifth duty station in Missouri, where we will experience four seasons for the first time in almost a decade and my son can finally build a snow man in his backyard.*

The Army lifestyle isn't an easy one. We move every 3 years, sometimes with incredibly short notice. But we have learned to adapt to our environments, embrace different cultures, and we have found resilience in the chaos. I spend a lot of time solo parenting through deployments, missions, and training schools. In an attempt to not go crazy, I have discovered a missing piece of myself in CrossFit, weightlifting, and yoga. I try to read 52 books each year (for fun – not textbooks!). I coach my son's T-Ball team every summer and my daughter loves horses – so we gallop all over the southern states to find different stables and events for her to attend. Horses remind me of my childhood. They smell like Vermont to me, like home. I love that when I see her riding a horse, I see a little piece of me up there – my wavy brown hair and my husband's aqua blue eyes.

After moving back to the U.S. in 2016, I enrolled in full time graduate school through the University of New England's Master of Social Work program. I will graduate in May 2021. After obtaining licensure, I plan to transition into working full-time once my son enters first grade. Ideally, I would like to work in a psychiatric or medical setting with children or adolescents experiencing mental illness or substance use and addiction disorders. I didn't know what I wanted to "be" when I moved into the USM dorms at 17. I still love English, I still love writing, and I still love the smell of a good book. But some people need to experience life a little bit before they determine how they can contribute to the world – I am one of those people. At the root of it all, my education is my foundation. Even though it started in 2008 and is ending (we'll see...) in 2021 – education never actually ends. We are consistently learning, changing, growing. The future is such a bright and wonderful thing.



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If you have tips or updates about your career or personal milestones, please send them to Pam LaRiviere at harjula@maine.edu.