For the third year in a row, an English professor has won the College of Humanities and Natural Sciences Faculty Excellence in Research Award, given for “superiority in scholarship and in the publication of books, articles, and creative endeavors.”

This year, English Chair John Biguenet was chosen as the college’s top researcher. In 2015, Dr. Christopher Schaberg received the award. In 2014, Dr. Trimiko Melancon won (and she also won the College Language Association’s 2016 Creative Scholarship Award).

A commitment to scholarship and to involving English majors in such research is the foundation of the hands-on education that sets Loyola’s English department apart. The early engagement of students in research and publication results in ongoing experiential learning. English majors don’t simply passively listen to lectures on literature; based on the rigorous instruction they receive, students make literature themselves and publish criticism, often in partnership with their faculty mentors.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, reports on recent faculty and student publications and other scholarly activities make clear that English at Loyola is a vital community of practicing writers and scholars.

Recent Books by English Faculty Members

In just the past two years or so, English faculty have published 16 books—from biographies to plays to cultural criticism to Renaissance scholarship to accounts of human trafficking to poetry to nonfiction studies of wide-ranging subjects. For more information about those and additional recent publications click here.
English Majors Win Multiple Awards

Outstanding English Writing Major: Jade Stewart & Meredith Sutton
Julian Wasserman Outstanding Literature Major: Bret Buckel
Peggy McCormack Outstanding Film & Digital Media Major: Amanda Minchella
Award of Excellence in Writing: Joseph Gehringer
Award of Excellence in Literature: Caitlin Vanderwolf
Award of Excellence in Film & Digital Media: Jerome Keith
Dawson Gaillard Award for Poetry: Anna Schulte
Dawson Gaillard Award for Fiction: Anna Schulte
Dawson Gaillard Award for Scripts: Anna Schulte
Dawson Gaillard Award for Nonfiction: Joseph Gehringer

English Major Wins Top Loyola Award

English writing major Phillip Michael Kane has been named a winner of the 2016 Ignatian Award, Loyola’s highest honor for graduating seniors. The award recognizes students who demonstrate Ignatian, Jesuit values through service to others, high integrity of life and the advancement of religion and citizenship. Phillip served as an Admissions student ambassador, SGA senator, Awakening Retreat participant and staff member, Loyola University Community Action Program volunteer, and as a member of the Residence Hall Council and Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity. Following graduation, Phillip will pursue a master’s degree through the University of Portland, Oregon, while teaching world and American literature in Hawaii through the Pacific Alliance for Catholic Education Program.
Dr. Laura Murphy Honored with College Advising Award

Dr. Laura Murphy has won the 2016 College of Humanities and Natural Sciences Faculty Excellence in Advising Award for her distinguished service as the university’s national fellowships advisor and her dedicated work as an advisor of English majors, of African and African American Studies minors, of students working for the Modern Slavery Research Project, and of the Loyola chapter of Free the Slaves. Of special note was her role in helping multiple Loyola students win Fulbright awards this past year, resulting in Loyola’s designation as a “Top U.S. Fulbright Producer” institution. For more information click here.

English Alumnus Featured in the New Yorker and Rolling Stone for His Biography of Tom Petty

Warren Zanes ‘93 recently published Petty: The Biography, a deeply personal account of Tom Petty’s life. Zanes, guitarist for the Del Fuegos, toured alongside Petty in 1987. Read more about Zanes’ experience with Petty, both as a young musician and as a writer interviewing Petty and his legendary Heartbreakers, in Rolling Stone here and in the New Yorker here.

New Orleans Review to Release Special Issue

New Orleans Review Editor and Loyola English Professor Mark Yakich has announced the publication of a special issue guest edited by Dr. Hillary Eklund and dedicated to Shakespeare during this four hundredth anniversary year of his death. See the announcement of the issue and other news here.

English Alumna Wins $50,000 Whiting Award for Fiction

Loyola extends sincere congratulations to alumna Catherine Lacey ’07, who received the Whiting Award, given annually to 10 emerging writers in fiction, nonfiction, drama, and poetry. The $50,000 award honors superior early accomplishment and the promise of great work to come. Read more about the award here.

Photo by Lauren Volo
English Majors Start Online Student Magazine

Under the direction of Jerome Keith, Michael Hogan, Adam Albaari, and many other students, the department’s new online magazine, Critical and Creative Arts Publication (CCAP), has brought together creative writing with literary, film, and other digital media criticism to establish one of the liveliest undergraduate magazines in the country. Featuring podcast interviews, short films, articles and reviews, poetry, and fiction, CCAP joins existing English student publications Revisions and The Reader’s Response as publishing outlets for original work by students as well as for hands-on experience in editing and publishing. See the magazine here.

English Professor Co-Hosts International Videogames Conference

In November, Loyola hosted the third meeting of the International Conference Series on Games and Literary Theory. Organized by English professor Timothy Welsh and communications professor David Myers with the help of Loyola students Jerome Keith (English) and Jake Calhoun (History), the highly selective conference brought together twenty-four scholars from nine different countries. Espen Aarseth, founder of the first scholarly journal on game studies, delivered the keynote address. Following the success of the New Orleans meeting, Welsh and Myers are formalizing an international scholarly organization devoted to the study of games from literary perspectives. Previous conferences in the series took place at the University of Malta (2013) and the University of Amsterdam (2014). The next meeting will be hosted by Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, this fall.

For more information about studying English

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