The Department of English's Undergraduate Research & Writing Conference

April 17, 2019
Humanities 290 and 354
Throughout the day, simultaneous sessions will be held in Humanities 354 and Humanities 290, at staggered times. Please check the program for your desired session’s time and room number. Courses and instructors where these presentations originated are listed below. For English Honors theses, the students’ respective project supervisors are listed.

9:00 – 9:10 COFFEE AND WELCOME (HU 354)

Greeter: Karen Williams

PANEL 1 (9:10 – 10:15, HU 354)

On Craft: Telling Stories, Real and Imagined

Faculty moderator: Wendy Roberts

Carolyn Dunbrook, “Before and After, a Memoir” (American Experiences, ENG 240Z, Instructor Nazia Manzoor)


Erin He, “Peter Shot a Man” (Honors Thesis, AENG 498-499, Professor Aashish Kaul)

Hannah Odasz, “My Life Is My Own” (American Experiences, AENG 240Z, Instructor Nazia Manzoor)

PANEL 2 (10:00 – 11:00, HU 290)

Medieval Women Writers and the Representation of Women in the Middle Ages

Faculty moderator: Helene Scheck

Christina Seeley, “Agnes de Harcourt: Agency and Authority in The Life of Isabel de France” (Medieval Women Writers, AENG/AWSS 368, Prof. Helene Scheck)

Sydney Wilk, “The Roles of Women in Society” (Studies in Writing About Texts, AENG 305V, Prof. Helene Scheck)

Briana Wright, “Hadewijch: Breaking Conventions” (Medieval Women Writers, AENG/AWSS 368, Prof. Helene Scheck)
PANEL 3 (10:20 – 11:20, HU 354)

*Challenging Conventions of Genre, Tradition, and Propriety*

**Faculty moderator:** Erica Fretwell


Melissa Aucompaugh, “‘Queen of the Underworld and Mistress of the Labyrinth’: An Exploration and Critique of Females in the *Bildungsroman*” (Honors Thesis, AENG 498-499, Prof. Mary Valenti)

Stephanie Medrano, “Tim Burton as Auteur: Burton’s Adaptations of the Fairy Tale Genre in *The Nightmare Before Christmas*” (Studies in Writing About Texts, AENG 305V, Prof. Jil Hanifan)

PANEL 4 (11:05 – 12:05, HU 290)

*Postcolonial Literary Traditions*

**Faculty moderator:** Paul Stasi

Christina Avery, “Form and Connections: Importance of History and Ancestry in Saleem’s Narrative” (Postcolonial Literary Traditions, TENG 297, Prof. Paul Stasi)

Olivia G. Baxter, “Perspectives of Truth in *I, the Divine*” (Postcolonial Literary Traditions, TENG 297, Prof. Paul Stasi)

Chloe Ross, “Assia Djebar’s *Children of the New World***” (Postcolonial
Panel 5 (11:30 – 12:35, HU 354)

Variations on Themes of Power and Survival

Faculty moderator: Eric Keenaghan

Henry Burkert, “Reinventing the American Myth through Arthur Mervyn” (Honors Seminar: The Medical Imagination, AENG 399Z, Prof. Rick Barney)

Timothy Chizzik, “Ability Capitalism” (American Experiences, AENG 240, Instructor Andrew Brooks)

Elena Lipsiea, “Our Dystopic Reality: Atwood’s The Handmaid’s Tale (Re)Signified in Today’s America” (Honors Thesis, AENG 498-499, Prof. Mary Valentis)

Tyler Unislawski, “Mysticism and Replacement of Fear through Writing in Post-Blitz London” (Modernist American Poetry, AENG 358, Prof. Eric Keenaghan)

Lunch Buffet (12:30 – 1:00, HU 354)

During lunch, at 12:45, the recipients of this year’s undergraduate awards and recognitions will be announced.

Faculty emcee: Glyne Griffith

Plenary (1:00 – 2:00, HU 354)

“Practice Means: Begin Again”

Lynne Tillman, UAlbany Professor and Novelist

Author of Men and Apparitions and American Genius, A Comedy

Faculty emcee: Ed Schwarzschild
PANEL 6 (2:00 – 2:55, HU 354)

*Fiction and the Representation of Social Trauma and Political Violence*

**Faculty moderator:** Helen Elam

Skylar Blankenship, “A Monstrous Plague of the Mind: Victor Frankenstein, His Monster, and Their Lost Battle with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder” (Introduction to Writing in English Studies, AENG 205Z, Prof. Rick Barney)

Elise Coombs, “Decentering the Center: The Mirabal Sisters’ Outspoken Challenge through In the Time of the Butterflies” (Honors Thesis, AENG 498-499, Prof. Paul Stasi)


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PANEL 7 (2:30 – 3:25, HU 290)

*Writing Life: On the Personal and Narrative Bias*

**Faculty moderator:** Laura Wilder

Kaya Carvajal, “Historical Persuasion in Narrative Bias” (World Literature, AENG 222, Instructor Eunai Joh)

Rachel Coopersmith, “Motion” (Creative Writing, AENG 302W, Prof. Mary Valentinis)

Zoe Roswell, “A Sign of the Times” (Introduction to Creative Writing, AENG 102Z, Instructor Joshua Keller)
PANEL 8 (3:00 – 4:00, HU 354)
Innovation and Authority in Black Diasporic Literature

Faculty moderator: Mike Hill

Rachelle Garcia, “Langston Hughes’ Un-Sonnets” (African American Literature, AENG 369, Instructor Victorio Reyes)


PANEL 9 (3:30 – 4:25, HU 290)
Writing Mind: Depression, Grief, and Memory

Faculty moderator: Eric Koch


Chris Lownie, “The Pen as Your Sword: Writing through the Lens of Depression” (Honors Thesis, AENG 498-499, Prof. Jeffrey Berman)

Gabriella Whelan, “The Connection between Home and Memories” (American Experiences, AENG 240Z, Instructor Nazia Manzoor)
PANEL 10 (4:15 – 5:20, HU 354)

Literary Critiques of Social Roles and Communities of Belonging

Faculty moderator: Mary Valentis

Octavia Findley, “‘Suddenly War Became Sweeter’: A Hybrid Approach to War and Memory in Homer’s Iliad” (Honors Thesis, AENG 498-499, Prof. Helene Scheck)

Gaia Kannan, “Racism and Vulnerability” (Introduction to English Studies, AENG 210, Prof. Eric Keenaghan)

Devany Padilla, “The Real Sinner” (African American Literature, AENG 369, Instructor Victorio Reyes)


PANEL 11 (4:30 – 5:30, HU 290)

Addressing Problems Related to Home, Education, and Identity Formation

Faculty moderator: Laura Tetreault

Thermutis Djanie, “A Long Way from Home” (American Experiences, AENG 240Z, Instructor Nazia Manzoor)

Katie Gibson, “Fear of Annihilation in Children’s Media” (Honors Thesis, AENG 498-499, Prof. Eric Keenaghan)

Naji Simmons, “Weaponizing Information in New York State Public Schools: Ideas, Solutions, Concerns” (Critical Thinking and Skepticism in Anthropology, AANT 201, Prof. Sean Rafferty)

ARCH SPRING 2019

READING & RECEPTION (5:30 - 6:30, HU 354)

Editor: Terrik Kobryn Faculty Advisor: Jil Hanifan

Celebrate the Spring 2019 issue's contributors and editors, plus readings by the winners of the Shields McIlwaine Poetry Prize and the Leah Lövenheim Prize for Fiction. Reception concludes with an open mic.
Congratulations to our award winners!

2019 Presidential Award for Undergraduate Research
Emily Aucampagh for "To Speak Ghosts and See Echoes: Longing in Vladimir Nabokov's Lolita"

Arlene F. Steinberg '71 Memorial Fund
Erin He

Vivian C. Hopkins Scholarship Award
Oluwakemi (Kemi) Kehinde
Tyler Unislawski

The Eleanor Rosalie Bazzoni 1906 Fellowship
Joshua Paultre

The Leah Lovenheim Award for Fiction
Mallory McGuinness for "Drowning on Grove Street - CARMEN"
Honorable Mention: Jarrod Fowler for "A Hundred Dying Horses"

The Shields McIlwaine Poetry Prize
Alesha Bonner for "Deuteranomaly"
Rachelle Garcia for "El Pajón"