



Faculty Updates

Dr. Stacy Erickson-Pesetski

Dr. Erickson-Pesetski has had a fun semester teaching two of her favorite classes—Shakespeare and Literary Criticism. She's already getting excited about developing a new course for next Spring: Culture Through Literature: Prison Literature. Prof. E-P gave

two talks about her prison work this semester, a VIA for the Manchester community in March and a presentation about the “School-to-Prison Pipeline” for Education majors across Northeast Indiana in April. Summer plans include more trips

to help with the Shakespeare group and a new book club at Pendleton Correctional Facility, as well as a couple camping and hiking trips with her family and revving up her training for Marathon #2 in September.

Dr. Beate Gilliar

Dr. Beate Gilliar sends best wishes to all readers from her sabbatical (Jan. and Spring 2017). She enjoys her work on learning more about flag myths, mysteries and all else striped,

starred and serendipitous. She has met up with MU students in Germany and cherishes how their love for another language has translated into a passion to learn more about other cultures and traditions. Congratula-

tions to all of our graduates: Ashley, Ashton, Emily, Jessica, Sarah, Stratton, and Tyler. May your next steps guide you further into the future of your Vision and Hopes.

Dr. Katharine Ings

This spring Dr. Katharine Ings presented her research on visual representations of interracial mother/child relationships at the Popular Culture Association conference in San Diego, CA. She was also accepted into the Summer Seminar “In Black and White: Race and American Visual Culture,” sponsored by the Center for Historic American Visual Culture, to

be held at the American Antiquarian Society in Massachusetts this June. Prof. Ings was awarded a summer artistic/research grant from Manchester University to support this summer research. She continues to write for *Selvedge* magazine, the beautiful textile/fashion publication from London, and published a story this spring on the Georges Méliès *Voyage to the Moon*—influenced

collection by the Madrid-based label Delpozo. A story on Greek designer Mary Katrantzou is forthcoming this summer. Professor Ings also reviewed three volumes of poetry for the *Journal of Canadian Poetry*, and copyedited works from the Norton Critical Editions of *Tristram Shandy*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The Poetry of Adrienne Rich* to *The Norton Anthology of Drama*.

Dr. Shane Thomson

Outside of teaching spring courses in Spanish, German and English, Dr. Shane Thomson has been working closely with STAR Financial to coordinate its Leadership Development Program through the Office of Strategic Initiatives. He was pleased to spend time with other Manchester col-

leagues Jack Wiley and Mary Lahman, designing and presenting training sessions in the Friendly Style Profile, a personality profiling instrument, and the Six Thinking Hats model of decision making, problem solving and innovation.

In his “free” time, he coaches MU's and Huntington North High School's pole vault

squads. He also coaches business and fiction writers. He just finished ghostwriting a short-story collection of true-life Indianapolis-area homicides. It was the coolest project ever. Almost as cool as cutting class to play Frisbee on the mall. Shhh.

Dr. Jonathan Watson

Dr. Jonathan Watson has been awarded a summer grant (MU Artistic Endeavor Grant) to explore literary Ireland. He's hoping to visit Dublin, Cork and Galway, as he builds up

material for his ENG 250 Literary Passport class (“Irish Literature”). Of particular interest will be the Abbey Theatre, or National Theatre of Ireland, in Dublin. Watson's interest in Irish literature extends back to

his undergraduate days at Vanderbilt University, where he wrote an undergraduate thesis on James Joyce's *Ulysses*.



2017 English Graduates

On May 20, seven English majors will graduate from Manchester University

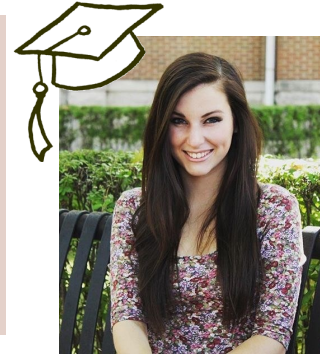
Sarah Farnam

Major: English Writing
Minor: Business
Graduation Plans: I will be moving back to Michigan and looking for a job in marketing or publishing. In my free time, I will be writing novels and working on applications for screenwriting

grad school.

I was influenced by *The Fault in Our Stars*, which I read in my Senior Seminar class. I'm inspired by John Green and the way he writes young adult fiction, which is what I like to write!

My seminar paper analyzed three John Green novels, exploring his opinions on authorship and readership and what I thought the opinions of his characters would be.



Jessica Klemm



Major: English Writing
Minor: Art
Graduation Plans: To seek out a full-time position! Until then though, I may, during the summer, still be working for the Marketing Department until school starts up again &/or they find my replacement.

One book that influenced me is *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coe-

lho for World Lit. It helped me realize that it takes time and understanding to get from Point A to Point B. Everything that happens in life will lead to something else, be it good or bad. And sometimes the unexpected path is what we really needed. For example, going to Manchester University wasn't the path I thought I would

take, but now that I'm at the finishing line, I realize that it was the path that I needed to take.

My Senior Seminar paper is about is the "contract" between the reader and the publisher as represented by book covers, which have the potential to influence the readers' interpretation.

Ashton Krider

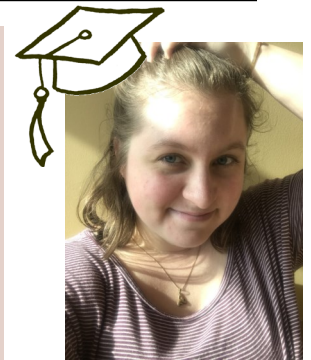
Major: English Education
Minor: Spanish
Graduation Plans: I plan on getting a middle- or high school teaching job around the area.

The Awakening by Kate Chopin was one of my favorite books, and it influenced me by

broadening my ideas of feminist theory and symbolism in literature. It was an empowering novel for a small-town girl to read.

My Senior Seminar paper looks into fiction versus non-fiction in terms of the place of the author and the reader. I used *The Fault*

in Our Stars by John Green and Joan Didion's memoir *The Year of Magical Thinking* to look into readers' involvement in literature in terms of our ability to sympathize or empathize with the characters.



Ashley Martin



Major: English Education
Minor: History
Graduation Plans: I plan to find a teaching job in either high school or middle school English/ Language Arts.

The book *A Lesson Before Dying* in Intro to Literary Studies class influenced me, because I am a history fanatic. Being able

to see an African American's perspective about life in the 1950's was fascinating, because Ernest T. Gaines was not only the author of this novel, but also a real person who lived through these times.

My Senior Seminar paper, which analyzes Joan Didion's *The Year of Magical Thinking*,

explores the concept that we grieve the way we read. Specifically, the reading process mirrors the grieving process and through the steps of communal, individual and internal grief, we will all be there for one another whether or not we have experienced similar tragic events in our lives.

Tyler Roebuck

Major: English Writing
Minors: Journalism and History
Graduation Plans: I have recently accepted a position as a full-time reporter for the *Churubusco News* and *In Whitley County*, which are part of the KPC Media Group. I'll be working out of Churubusco.

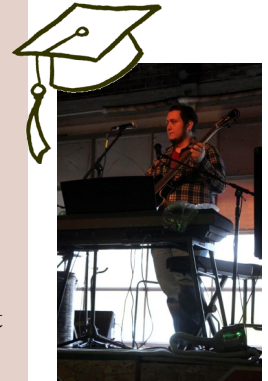
I'd have to say *The Magnificent Ambersons* by Booth Tarkington was a book that influenced me. The main character, George Minafer, is one of the first fictional characters with whom I identified. It most certainly wasn't his presence through most of the book—he was a pretentious, spoiled brat who stepped on the faces of those who

he deemed lesser—but rather his fall that resonated with me. It, in some ways, mimicked parts of my personal life: going from relative stability to realizing all the sudden that you're nowhere near the image you think you are. I disliked George through most of the book, but that opinion changed with his comeuppance to one of sympathy.

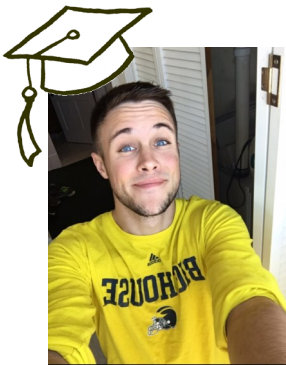
My Senior Seminar paper was about how Tim O'Brien attempted, and ultimately failed, to come to peace with his personal trauma from the Vietnam War. It established a baseline for how trauma

affects the brain before moving into a more open discussion about how reality and truth are relative to the person experiencing them.

I argue that O'Brien's purpose for writing *The Things They Carried* was to write out his traumatic memories, and that he failed in the process because he did not confront them correctly. But I also defend him, because the inherent nature of some traumas is such that it cannot be directly addressed, or, perhaps, ever laid to rest.



Stratton Smith



Major: English Writing
Minor: Sales
Graduation Plans: I plan to take a year off from school and then attend graduate school to study screenwriting.

In my Literary Criticism class, one of my first English classes as an official English

major, I was exposed to one of my favorite writers, Kurt Vonnegut. We read the fantastic sci-fi novel *The Sirens of Titan*, and I realized how unique and imaginative Vonnegut was for his time. That is something I always aspire to be . . . unique and imaginative.

Within my Senior Seminar paper, "The Death of Fiction," I analyzed the thought process of not only the reader of a story, but of the writer as well. Can a writer really "make up" a story, or do they take their real-life experiences and put different names and faces to them?

Emily Wells

Majors: Environmental Studies and English Literature
Graduation Plans: I do not have any concrete plans at the moment, but I intend to find a job pertaining to one of my majors and live at home.

The book that has influenced me most at Manchester is

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain. I read this book for the first time in American Lit. Even though the author emphasizes at the beginning of the novel that there is no moral to the story, this book showed me how challenging it can be to overcome societal norms, and

how doing what is right is not always easy.

My Senior Seminar paper, titled "Truth in Fiction," uses Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried* to explore the meaning of truth. I focus on how fictional narratives contain truth by bringing about empathy in the reader.



Oak Leaves Brings Home 9 Statewide Awards

This has certainly been a successful year for the *Oak Leaves* staff and editors in the annual Indiana Collegiate Press Association competition. The *Joak Leaves* won first place for “Best Themed Issue.” Second-place winners were Kody Smith, Zach Newcomer, Guerby Ruuska, Jafet Garcia, Kalie Ammons, and Emily Barand for “Best Sports Page” and Emily Barand for “Best Feature Photo.” Third-place winners were Sarah

Farnam for “Best Non-Deadline News Story,” Cass Ratliff for “Best Entertainment Story,” Sarah Farnam, Aaron Lloyd, and Staff for “Best Continuous Coverage of a Single Story,” Karen Kanyike and Stratton Smith for “Best News or Feature Series,” and Savannah Riley for “Best Sports Photo.”

Congratulations to editors Kalie Ammons and Emily Barand (Spring 2016); Sarah Farnam and Carly Kwiecien (Fall 2016). Dr. Katharine Ings is the faculty advisor.

English Students Studying Abroad

Zoe Vorndran

“I am a sophomore history and English double major. I became interested in studying abroad in fall of 2016. To begin the journey, I looked at the pamphlets about each country that BCA offers at Manchester, and I fell in love with Vienna. I loved the idea of going to this historically beautiful city that is so unlike the places here in the States. I was attracted to the Austrian culture and history, so, when I heard that people could take English-speaking classes there, I jumped at the opportunity. Although they have classes in English, I have been wanting to learn German, and what better way than immersing oneself into the culture? I plan on going in spring of 2018. Currently, my plans are tentative; I am still completing paperwork and making sure that everything will match up with my schedule. Despite being nervous about acclimating to a different culture, I cannot wait to experience this wonderful opportunity.”

Haylee Parrish

“My decision to study abroad came after a conversation I had with my advisor, Beate Gilliar, and an international student at Manchester. They encouraged me to explore my options and that the biggest hurdle, finances, could be managed by looking into scholarships. If it hadn’t been for their support and the guidance of Thelma Rohrer, I probably never would have known that study abroad was possible for me. Currently I am studying abroad in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan, at Hokusei Gakuen University. I have only been here for a month, but I’ve already made memories that will last a lifetime. My host family and I have had a great time visiting Hokkaido Museum and trying Japanese dishes while I attempt to not drop the food with my chopsticks (although I am getting better!). The other international students and I have been traveling all over the city, exploring places like Odori, one of Sapporo’s shopping districts, and beautiful sites such as Nakajima Park and Maruyama Park, the latter of which is home to Hokkaido Shrine. I can’t wait to see what new experiences I will have over the next two months that I will be staying in Japan!”

Hannah Wales

“I am a sophomore secondary English education major with a minor in TESOL. I will be traveling to Maynooth, Ireland, this fall. I have always wanted to travel to Ireland because of its rich history and culture, as well as its beauty. Unlike students from several of the other programs, I did not need to learn a language to travel here, so I felt like I could focus more fully on the experience. I am really looking forward to traveling and exploring the country, as well as its neighbors. As for academics, I am excit-

Fulbright Fellow Update



Emily Pleadwell '16

“Xin chào, các bạn! (Hello, everyone!) Just as the semester's winding down at Manchester, my time as an assistant teacher at Phu Yen University in Tuy Hoa, Phu Yen Province, Vietnam, is coming to an end. I've been soaking up the culture for just over nine months and have four weeks left in this beautiful province that I've begun to call home. I'm excited to return to the United States and start a position at a nonprofit organization or university in either

Long Beach, CA, or Washington, D.C. However, I'm already dreading the cravings I'll have for my favorite local dishes, like nem nướng and bánh xèo. Although, to be fair, today I spent five minutes coping with a craving for thin mints and tacos from my favorite Mexican restaurant, so I suppose it's a two-way street. This opportunity wouldn't have been possible had I not taken advantage of all the opportunities for personal growth I was given at Manchester. Current students: Do the same! Challenge yourselves! It might surprise you where you end up!”