

# Meet the 2022-23 English Department Award and Scholarship Winners



## Rojda Arslan

**HOMETOWN:** Morgantown, WV

**MAJORS/MINORS** including concentrations: M.A. in English (Literature track)

### Rebecca Mason Perry Award

I come from Istanbul, Turkey, where I earned my B.A. in Western Languages and Literatures at Bogazici University. My research interests revolve around mixed-race discourse in fiction, memoir, and theory, with a focus on psychoanalysis. When I'm not reading or writing, I'm *trying* to write poetry in Turkish and playing the piano. I can't wait to get back home this summer and reunite with my piano, who's been with me since I was 14.

**Favorite thing about English and English courses:** Discussing and hearing others' thoughts about world building ideas and theories. Beyond the academic aspect, I find it incredibly satisfying to be able to read and talk about those big ideas.

**Future plans:** After graduation, I would like to pursue a Ph.D. degree. My end goal is to head back to Turkey and teach at a university there. I'd love to teach a theory class someday!



## Aiden Barnette

**HOMETOWN:** Ripley, West Virginia

**MAJOR/MINOR:** Environmental Geoscience major with an Italian Studies minor

### Waitman Barbe Writing Creative Award – Fiction Division – Runner-up

**Hobbies:** Baking and raising my gerbils, Fudge and Caramel

**Major/ Minor:** I'm an Environmental Geoscience major with an Italian Studies minor.

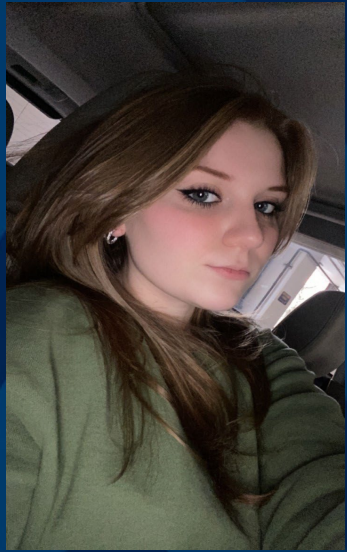
**Favorite thing about English:** My favorite thing about English is the ability to express many different feelings and emotions through words.

**Future plans:** After graduation, I'd like to travel and watch squirrels and birds in the woods.

## Sal Barrett

### Carter Bishop Scholarship





## Jennifer Barry

HOMETOWN: Wheeling, West Virginia  
MAJORS: English and History major

### Appalachian Writing Award

I love reading, painting, and babysitting my nephew.

**Favorite thing about the English Department:** Being able to express my creativity and love for literature!

**Future plans:** After graduation, I plan on moving back to my hometown, and getting a job at a museum. I really want to start writing in my free time, and hopefully get published!



## Layne Butturff

HOMETOWN: Martinsburg, West Virginia  
MAJOR: English with an emphasis in Creative Writing

### Blanche Haskins Lough Capicola Scholarship

I am from Martinsburg, West Virginia but have been moving around the Eastern Panhandle quite a bit lately. I am also very passionate about writing and making my stories come to life.

**Favorite part about English courses:** To improve my writing as well as expand my horizons by reading a wide variety of texts.

**Future plans:** After I graduate, I intend to take a break and try to get my foot into the writing field before coming back to get my Masters.



## Erica Cottrill

HOMETOWN: Quiet Dell, West Virginia  
MAJORS: BA in English (Creative Writing Concentration)/BFA in Acting

### Appalachian Writing Award George Bird Evans Literary Scholarship Virginia Butts Sturm Creative Writing Award Waitman Barbe Creative Writing Award, Poetry Division

Erica loves storytelling in all its forms. Her main goal is to write shows and publish stories about Appalachia. She uses crochet to relieve stress and make fun gifts for herself and her loved ones. She adores her family's cats: Ollie, Blake, Venus, and Cookie (as well as Alfie, the collective neighborhood pet). Erica thanks WVU's English Department for all the opportunities they've given her during her time as a student here!

**Favorite thing about English and English courses:** Language is so important, and I love discussing how it functions, whether it's in a literary text from hundreds of years ago or a casual conversation from yesterday. Writing is vital to recording our history and ourselves, so why wouldn't I want to learn more about it?

**Future plans:** Sometime after her extra semester in the fall, Erica plans to move to New York City and pursue my passions for acting and playwriting there. She wants to go to graduate school eventually.



## Michael DiBacco

HOMETOWN: Elkins, West Virginia

MAJOR:: English (with a Creative Writing emphasis) and Biology

### Eberly College Outstanding Senior English Major

I am passionate about reading and writing and enjoy spending time in the outdoors. I also love board games and visiting new places with my friends.

**Favorite Thing About English and English Courses:** During my time at WVU, the mentorship that my professors have provided me has been invaluable. I have had the opportunity to discuss inspiring authors and improve my writing through well-considered feedback. I also appreciate how the research that I have conducted with Dr. Caronia has allowed me to apply my learning and explore avenues of English study that I wouldn't have known about otherwise.

**Future plans:** After graduation, I plan on working in a biology-based field before applying to graduate school for Environmental Journalism/Scientific Writing. I hope to write about issues such as climate change and genetic engineering, while also exploring the intersection of science and art. Additionally, I will work towards becoming a published novelist.



## Mikaela Eackles

HOMETOWN: Shepherdstown, West Virginia

MAJORS: English and Public Relations

### Blanche Haskins Lough Capicola Scholarship

I'm passionate about literature, music, and film and would love to work in the publishing or entertainment industry upon graduation.



## Taylor Estlack

HOMETOWN: Morgantown, West Virginia

MAJOR: Bachelors in English

### Elena Illa Graham Memorial Scholarship

I am a native of Morgantown and an alumni of WVU's Potomac State College with my Associates in general studies where I was cheer captain. I have been an avid reader and writer since I was young and was most influenced by my great grandmother. I am also a Disney College Program alumni from Fall 2021 where I made magic at the Emporium and in entertainment costuming. I will obtain my Bachelors in English with no intention of a minor at this time.

**Favorite thing about English:** The various interpretations each individual has while reading the same work.

**Future Plans:** After graduation I plan on experiencing life in the real world before deciding the next steps in furthering my education and see where the wind takes me.



## Gabrielle Frazier

HOMETOWN: Gerrardstown, WV

MAJOR: English and Geography double major with a minor in Political Science

### Blanche Haskins Lough Capicola Scholarship

I love uplifting those in my community as I work with my local library back home and the Appalachian Prison Book Project in Morgantown. I love reading, watching movies, and finding new music in my free time.

**Favorite Thing About English and English Courses:** My favorite thing about English courses at WVU is the amazing faculty and how they help guide you to be a better writer and critical thinker.

**Future plans:** After graduation, I plan on attending law school. I would like to work in environmental law helping ensure that vulnerable communities are protected and safe.

## Caylee Fulton



### Carter Bishop Scholarship

## Evelyn Furuya

HOMETOWN: Tokyo, Japan

MAJOR: English and History

### Elena Illa Graham Memorial Scholarship

My passion is writing. I read widely, but right now, I am interested in public health. For me, cities and localities are like living creatures in a way they grew both good and bad. I really think literature allows us to see the problems rather sarcastically or positively and that is something quantitative research cannot convey. As an English major, my concentration is Literary/Cultural Studies. I only speak two languages, but I think in every culture, there are fragments of communal spirit woven into its language.

**Favorite thing about English and English courses:** My favorite thing about our learning environment at WVU is discussion. Reading stories is fun, but it also supplements our thinking on the topic. Reading is a way of communicating between readers and the text, but for me, interacting with classmates using text is a higher level of communication.

**Future plans:** I will continue writing and be a part of writing circuits. For my career, I am currently thinking of finding a job as a social work or public health researcher; I still want to live in a city and actively find a way to contribute to American society using my critical thinking I cultivated at WVU.





## Daria Gavriushchenko

HOMETOWN: Makeevka, Ukraine  
MAJOR: English with a TESOL minor

### Blanche Haskins Lough Capicola Scholarship

Since my childhood, I've been interested in learning languages and reading books. So far, I speak Russian, Ukrainian and English, but I also learned French and German. English as a second language has been my passion since kindergarten. The desire to become fluent in English brought me to West Virginia to study

**Favorite thing about English courses:** The ability to be creative and express my opinion through writing and an infinite number of chances to develop my writing skills.

**Future Plans:** After graduation, I would like to teach adults who are also interested in learning English.

## Madison Giles



### Elena Illa Graham Memorial Scholarship

## Destinee Harper

HOMETOWN: Harrisburg, Virginia  
MAJORS: MA and Ph.D. in English

University Provost Fellowship  
2023 Summer Humanities Internship  
Outstanding English Graduate Teaching Assistant  
James Paul Brawner Expository Writing Contest—Graduate Division, First Place

Destinee has experience teaching introductory English for the department and has served for the past three semesters as Assistant Education Coordinator to the Appalachian Prison Book Project. She is also active with the Higher Education in Prison Initiative. Destinee's academic interests focus on the uses and creation of fiction in carceral spaces. She believes in the restorative property of literature but now realizes, through the pandemic and hectic political climate, that living in a science fiction novel might not be as fun as she once thought.

**Favorite Thing About English and English Courses:** In no other courses but literature have I experienced such an engaged and thoughtful scholarly community. Studying and sharing thoughts about literature and lived experiences make students vulnerable in ways that do not happen in many other places on campus. I love my area of study because I love reading about humans and seeing others' reactions to humanity.

**Future Plans:** Of course, I will be beginning the Ph.D. program shortly, but after I finish this next journey through academia, I hope to either continue as a professor, teach at a prison, and/or work with a higher education in prison initiative. Perhaps I will get lucky and be able to do all three!





## Paige Harrington

HOMETOWN: Lancaster, Pennsylvania  
MAJORS Secondary Education/English

### Virginia Butts Sturm English Scholarship

I have been attending WVU for one year. I love running, reading, and watching movies.

**Favorite thing about English and English courses?** I really have enjoyed how I have been able to grow as a writer while attending school here. I've learned how to write new types of pieces, and how to better what I already know, along with being able to take some interesting and fun classes!

**Future plans:** After graduation, I plan on becoming a Middle School or High School English teacher.



## Jordan Howes

HOMETOWN: Morgantown, West Virginia  
MAJOR: English major with a concentration in Professional Writing and Editing  
MINOR: Music Industry

### Blanche Haskins Lough Capicola Scholarship

I love to read, write, and spend time with my family and friends. I also work for The Daily Athenaeum at WVU, where I am the Newsletter Editor.

**Favorite thing about English and English courses?** There is always an opportunity to expand your worldview in an English curriculum. The concepts we study are versatile and constantly create opportunities to learn about yourself and the world while simultaneously challenging you to grow from said perspectives.

**Future plans:** After graduating from WVU, I intend to go to graduate school to study multimedia writing. I hope to pursue a career in professional writing in the music industry.



## Wenyu Kong

HOMETOWN: Dalian, China  
MAJOR: Ph.D. in English

### John C. and Mildred W. Ludlum Dissertation Fellowship

My study interests lie in British and Irish modernism and Gothic studies. Currently, I am in my dissertation stage and my thesis explores the history of British/Irish Gothic and the transformative usages of Victorian Gothic traditions in Irish modernist writings. I am interested in exploring the intersection of history, literature, and cultural memory. Along with working on my dissertation topic, I am also interested in teaching. When I am not researching or teaching, I also love traveling and cooking.

**Favorite things about English and English courses:** I believe that English courses teach us sympathy and understanding. In literature classes, as we study a particular work, we are not simply studying for our academic purposes—we also learn to listen to different voices and understand various people's lives; In writing courses, rhetoric becomes a powerful tool to express our ideas from multiple perspectives, so that both authors and audience would experience a moment of sharing. I also feel grateful for knowing the wonderful people in our English Department; their passion for the subject helps me to discover more about English and see myself with more potential.

**Future plans:** After I graduate from WVU, I hope I can continue to work as a researcher/lecturer in higher education. I will be happy to continue to teach writing and literature to college students.



## Emeril Lawson-Ross

### Waitman Barbe Creative Writing Award, Poetry Division-Runner-up



## April McGinnis

HOMETOWN: Boone, North Carolina  
MAJOR: Ph.D. in English

### Blaydes Family Summer Fellowship

I'm currently writing my dissertation on walking and ecological thinking in 19th-century British and American literature. Outside of the classroom, I spend a lot of time hiking and overwhelming my social media connections with photos of my pet starling.

**Favorite thing about English/English courses:** Studying English helps us recognize the metaphors that structure the way we think about, experience, and act in the world. My favorite thing about studying language and literature is that you develop a habit of looking for patterns and connections, and you begin to see poetry everywhere you go.

**Future plans:** After I finish my degree, I hope to continue teaching. I really love working with students. I might also renew my songbird license.



## Caitlin Mead

HOMETOWN: Wheeling, West Virginia  
MAJORS: English and Psychology

### Waitman Barbe Creative Writing Award, Non-Fiction

I love to do yoga, read, and take long walks around Oglebay Park with my dog, Finn.

**Favorite thing about English and English courses?** I love having the opportunity to read and discuss literature with my professors and classmates. Most importantly, I feel at home in the English Department!

**Future plans:** This summer, I will be interning with the Rhode Island School of Design through the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). I plan to pursue a master's program in Higher Education Administration or Student Affairs, and ultimately a PhD in Higher Education.



## Scarlet Mebane

HOMETOWN: Morgantown, West Virginia

MAJOR: English major with an AoE in Creative Writing and a minor in Painting.

### James Paul Brawner Expository Writing Contest, Undergraduate Division

I love to write, draw, and play video games. I'm always inspired by the outdoors in my work.

**Favorite Thing about English:** I love how studying English is such a creative and involved process---it's like working on a puzzle, whether you're analyzing a text or workshoping your own writing. There's always new information to tease out and draw new conclusions with.

**Future plans:** After I graduate, the biggest thing I know is that I want to keep on writing!



## Chase Mikles

HOMETOWN: Princeton, West Virginia

MAJOR: English Literature and Philosophy

### English Department's Neely Award for Outstanding Sophomore James Paul Brawner Expository Writing Contest, Undergraduate Division, Second Place

When I'm not too busy from participating in the WVU Marching Band, I enjoy watching films, reading philosophy, and playing video games.

**Favorite Thing about English:** My favorite thing about English courses is always having the opportunity to discover writings/authors/novels that provide me with a deeper understanding of both our past and contemporary world.

**Future plans:** After graduation, I hope to utilize the skills I have gained through my undergraduate degrees in order to pursue a degree in law.



## Mykenzie Nottingham

HOMETOWN: Huntington, West Virginia

MAJORS: Exercise Physiology

MINOR: General Business

### John Scott Nelson First Year Writing, Second Place

I am currently in the Honors Foundation Program and involved with CRU and the HSTA Alumni & Ambassadors Association. My strongest passions are for alleviating hunger and advocating for mental health. I love to read, travel, and spend time with friends and family in my free time!

**Favorite thing about English and English courses?** My favorite thing about English and English Courses is the freedom that I have to express myself.

**Future plans:** After graduation, I plan to attend West Virginia University's Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. I intend to specialize in sports medicine after completion of the program.





## Jules Ogden

HOMETOWN: Morgantown, West Virginia

MAJORS: Journalism and English

### Blanche Haskins Lough Capicola Scholarship

I love to read, write, travel and listen to music! I was recently selected as the 2023-24 editor-in-chief at The Daily Athenaeum, WVU's independent student newspaper, and am passionate about telling stories from my community.

**Favorite thing about English/English courses:** Reading and analyzing literature challenges me to think more critically about the world and others through riveting storytelling and discussions with professors and fellow students. Reading a diverse collection of narratives and stories humanizes conflicts and connects people through shared experience or interest, which is incredibly important especially in light of lonelier times.

**Future plans:** After graduation, I hope to either continue in journalism by pursuing a professional career in the field or attend graduate school to further my education with a master's in publishing or business.



## Amelia Pauley

HOMETOWN: Hurricane, West Virginia

MAJOR: English Secondary Education

### Blanche Haskins Lough Capicola Scholarship

I enjoy reading, baking, playing with my dog, and listening to Taylor Swift songs. However, what I love the most is being able to spend time with my family and friends!

**Favorite thing about English and English courses:** I appreciate being introduced to various kinds of literature in my English courses at WVU; this allows me to understand worldviews and experiences outside of my own, helping me become a more well-rounded individual.

**Future plans:** After graduation, I hope to teach English to middle/high school students and help foster a love for reading in them as my teachers and professors have done for me!

## Allyssa Persinger

### Blanche Haskins Lough Capicola Scholarship Eleanor T. Donley English Scholarship





## Gabriella Pishotti

HOMETOWN: Warren, Ohio

MAJOR: Ph.D. in English

### 2023 Summer Humanities Internship Hayden Ward Summer Fellowship

When I'm not reading and writing for school, I'm usually reading or writing for fun or baking something that is almost certain to have chocolate in it.

**Favorite thing about English:** My favorite thing about literature is its ability to introduce people to different worlds and perspectives. With every book I pick up, I learn something new.

**Future plans:** After graduation, I hope to continue teaching English and pursuing my research interests.



## Matthew Powney

HOMETOWN: Vienna, West Virginia

MAJOR: Master of Fine Art in Creative Writing Poetry

### Zierold Creative Writing Award

I enjoy playing soccer in competitive leagues around Morgantown, playing the electric bass, creative writing, reading literature and poetry, and being an amateur home chef. Before pursuing my MFA, I received my Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering and Business Management at West Virginia University with minors in Computer Science and Creative Writing.

**Favorite thing about English and English courses:** English courses give me the freedom to explore my experience so I can distill it into my art.

**Future plans:** After graduation, I would like to find a career where I can focus on the betterment of West Virginia, and I'd also like to start a garden.



## Ashley Preece

HOMETOWN: Highpoint, North Carolina

MAJOR: MFA in Creative Writing (with a focus in Poetry)

### Russ MacDonald CW Award-Poetry-Honorable Mention

**Favorite thing about English and English courses:** Regardless of what is being focused on, communication can be built around the topic. There is always something to say towards the questions we ask in English courses.

**Future plans:** Outside of the typical job hunting, future plans include writing and submitting poetry chapbooks with the end goal to publish a full manuscript.



## Qazi Arka Rahman

HOMETOWN: Bangladesh

MAJOR: Ph.D. in English

### 2023 Summer Humanities Internship Placed third in WVU Three-Minutes Thesis (3MT) Competition

Arka is interested in the nexus of digital humanities, South Asian studies, postcolonial literature, and the environmental justice movement. A firm believer in the power of narratives to develop a critical understanding of diversity and social justice, Arka also enjoys critical studies of films & popular culture and loves music & science-fiction – all kinds! Learn more at <https://qazirahman.academia.edu/>

**Favorite thing about English and English courses:** English courses open doors to a world of inspiration and creativity. They allow you to engage with complex topics and help you to develop multiple perspectives through unlearning and re-learning. English courses also broaden your horizon and facilitate the development of an array of transferrable skills – a matter of utmost importance in these times of rapid changes.

**Future plans:** I would like to pursue a career in academia as I enjoy research and like to teach. As a scholar, one of my goals is to bring in Bangladeshi literature in English and Bangla to broaden existing notions of South Asian identity while incorporating DH tools and methods. I would also like to work as a grant writer as I enjoy solving “grant-puzzles” to help people get the means to work on their desired projects.



## Kathryn Riggs

HOMETOWN: Gainesville, Florida

MAJORS/Minors: English with concentration in literature and cultural studies; History Major

### Blanche Haskins Lough Capicola Scholarship

Though I was born in Gainesville, Florida, I have lived in Morgantown since I was five and consider it my home. My greatest passion is working with children. I have worked as a swim coach with Club Mountaineer Aquatics since 2020. I also enjoy reading, going on walks, and working in the West Virginia Dialect Project lab.

**Favorite things about English:** This major has helped me develop my writing, reading, and analysis skills. I love the creative freedom we are granted and advanced thinking skills that are required in the courses. I have also made lifelong friends through my courses and working in the WVDP.

**Future plans:** I plan to attend graduate school and receive an MAT in English Secondary Education. My goal is to become a high school English teacher.



## Destinney Ringer

HOMETOWN: Masetown, West Virginia

MAJOR: Double Major in English with an emphasis in Creative Writing as well as Women's and Gender Studies

### Blanche Haskins Lough Capicola Scholarship

I have always had a love of writing. I most enjoy poetry, but I also love to branch out and challenge myself with other genres.

**Favorite things about English:** I have enjoyed all the English courses I have taken during my time at WVU, but I have to say my favorite aspect has been the opportunity to examine a variety of genres, pieces, and authors.

**Future plans:** After graduation, I plan to teach English at a high school level while pursuing a Master's degree and, eventually, a Doctorate in English.



**Melissa Roberson**

## Hayden Ward Dissertation Fellowship

**Sarah Rogalcheck**

HOMETOWN: New Jersey

MAJOR: English/Secondary Education, with a minor in Spanish

### Carter Bishop Memorial Scholarship

Originally, I am from New Jersey and much of my extended family lives there, so I still consider it home. However, I've also lived in Kentucky, Virginia, and, of course, West Virginia. I've found things to love about all the places I've lived, but I have to say there is a soft spot in my heart for the beautiful mountains surrounding Morgantown. I have three younger sisters, and I consider them to be my first students—even if they haven't always been enthusiastic learners. I enjoy cooking, hiking, and listening to Taylor Swift. Above all, I love reading and I currently host a book club with my coworkers from Target!

**Favorite things about English:** I love being in any classroom, but there is something special about a literature class specifically. I love that with any work or any group of people you will have a diverse range of interpretations and opinions. While certain fields of study can feel isolating, the study of English has always been a work of community. It is interesting, because reading itself is a solitary activity, one that encourages internal reflection and development. The beauty of literature, however, is in connection to others. Literature reaches to our core sense of being, the parts that make us human. Not only do we connect with the characters within the book, but we also seek to share our own thoughts and feelings with those around us. I am excited to encourage a love of reading in my students and help them find works of literature that inspire them and make them feel seen.



**Joud Sabag**

MAJOR: Game Design and Interactive Media Major with an interest in User Experience (UI/UX) Design.

### Jon Scott Nelson First-Year Writing Award

I love my family, nature, plants, and birds. I like to read and to make art. I love poetry and language. I am interested in learning more about people and designing exceptional experiences for them.

**Favorite thing about English and English courses:** Language is an extremely malleable tool, but only an experienced alchemist who has learned its secrets and mastered its techniques can wield its true powers. An alchemist can turn language into gold to catch everyone's eye, or he can turn it into tough ivory and craft with it a fine sword by which he can sever falsehood away from the truth. And sometimes, when he is bored, he can pound it into a sort of funny slime and fiddle with it as he wishes. A lot of power comes with learning the ropes of a language; A lot of freedom, and a lot of responsibility, too. English courses are a gateway into this magical world of word-craft, and that is why I like them.

**Future plans:** I would love to work as a UX Designer, but I am also open to public relations and marketing positions. Islam teaches me to do good wherever I am at, and so regardless of what I end up doing, I want to make a positive difference in people's lives and provide the utmost benefit I can to everyone.





## Jadon Sandy

HOMETOWN: Parkersburg, West Virginia

MAJOR: in English with a concentration in Creative Writing

### Blanche Haskins Lough Capicola Scholarship

I have a passion for academic education and teaching. My interests include creative writing and physical education.

**Favorite thing about English:** The connectivity it brings in both expression (such as creative writing) and study (such as close-reading and essay writing). My favorite thing about English courses at WVU is that the professors seem to be passionate about the varying subjects they teach within the English umbrella and allow a non-repetitive education for English major students such as myself.

**Future plans:** After graduation, I would like to pursue public teaching in my hometown of Parkersburg, whether it be substitute or more depending on what is available. I will either pursue a teaching certificate or, ideally, I would like to get in contact with a school who has an English teaching position open who would be willing to contribute to me getting a Masters degree (which would most likely be an MFA). Most importantly, I want to become a teacher to make a positive impact on the next generation and encourage their pursuits of learning.



## Anna Schles

HOMETOWN: Charleston, West Virginia

MAJOR: MFA in Fiction

### Russell MacDonald Graduate Creative Writing Contest, Fiction

I'm interested in literature, writing, chess, and art.

**Favorite thing about English and English courses:** I've enjoyed the excellent professors I have had at WVU and the way that their classes have broadened my thinking.

**Future plans:** I would like to continue teaching and writing, and I'd also like to travel.

## Kevin Sparks

HOMETOWN: Jefferson County, West Virginia

MAJOR/MINOR: English major with a minor in Biology

### Appalachian Writing Award Waitman Barbe Creative Writing Award, Nonfiction-Runner-up

I am interested in English literature and creative writing.

**My favorite thing about English and English courses at WVU:** There is always something that inspires me to write from each class.

**Future Plans:** After graduation, I plan to find work as an editor or technical writer for a year before looking at Master programs to further my education in an English-related field.





## Nicole Stahl

HOMETOWN: North Pole, Alaska

MAJOR: PhD program (Literary & Cultural Studies), with a focus on the long poems of the long eighteenth century. (Occasional moonlighting in mythology and film studies.)

### John C. and Mildred W. Ludlum Dissertation Fellowship

The three states I've called home—Alaska, Wyoming, West Virginia—have all shaped my research interests in natural resources and in environmental(ist) narratives and aesthetics.

**Favorite thing about English and English courses:** I've really appreciated getting to study in a department that encompasses such a wide range of literary interests. No matter what period, place, or authors the class is focused on, everyone brings a unique disciplinary and critical lens to the conversation.

**Future plans:** There is a lot of exciting work happening in contemporary environmental policy and the energy humanities; I hope that I am able to be a part of that work.



## Yu Uchida

HOMETOWN: Japan

MAJOR: Ph.D. in English

### David G. Allen Dissertation Fellowship

**Interests and passion:** Reading and teaching.

**Area of concentration:** 19-20th century American Literature with special focus on the nexus of race and time.

**After graduation:** Keep researching and teaching.



## Kelly Ward

HOMETOWN: Clay City, Kentucky

MAJOR: English Master of Fine Arts, Fiction

### Rebecca Mason Perry Award

My interests and passions include exploring feminine identities and family dynamics in rural Appalachia, written with a literary/speculative lens.

**Favorite thing about English & English courses:** My favorite thing about English and English courses includes studying the fundamental power of words, and the ability words have to evoke the deepest, human feelings we all have inside of us waiting to be felt.

**Future plans:** After graduating from WVU, I hope to publish my first novel, and I would like to potentially teach creative writing at the college level.



## Constantine Weissenseel

### Blanche Haskins Lough Capicola Scholarship



## Olivia Wertz

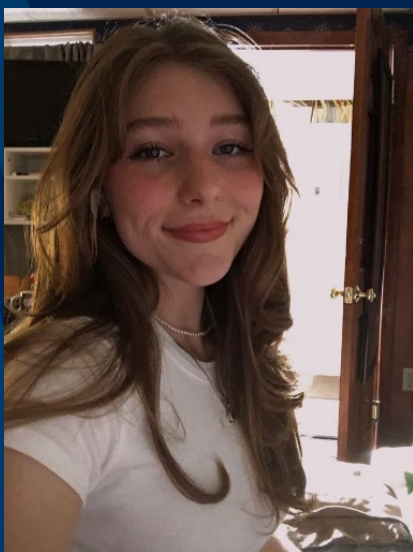
HOMETOWN: Altoona, Pennsylvania

MAJOR: Ph.D. in English

### Dennis Allen Summer Fellowship

#### James Paul Brawner Expository Writing Contest, Graduate Division, Second Place

I'm currently pursuing a PhD in English literature. I'm interested in contemporary American fiction, specifically fiction by women writers. I love that English courses offer students the opportunity to learn about different life experiences.



## Katie West

HOMETOWN: Southern New Jersey

MAJOR: English & Secondary Education

### Waitman Barbe Creative Writing Award, Fiction

I love to read and write.

**My favorite part of English courses:** The rhetorical analysis, along with the class discussion. I like hearing what others have to say, and their own interpretation of readings.

**Future plans:** After graduation, I hope to get my Masters, and become a high school teacher. I would also like to have a writing career!



## Liam Wholihan

HOMETOWN: Chesapeake Bay, Maryland

MAJOR: Master of Fine Arts - Creative Writing: Poetry

### Russell MacDonald Graduate Creative Writing Contest, Poetry

The Chesapeake Bay and its many inhabitants mean a lot to Liam, and he's always on the lookout for friendly bodies of water. In addition to his writing, Liam pursues music and the family practice of martial arts.

**Favorite thing about English and English courses:** Everyday there's an excuse to sit on the porch and read.

**Future plans:** Now that he's a well-seasoned driver of tractors and Zambonis, Liam has his eyes on forklift and skid steer certifications. While he looks for work that lets him further pursue poetry, he'll continue taking care of baseball fields and the ice rink in town.



## Megan Williams

HOMETOWN: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

MAJOR: English Master of Fine Arts

### Russell MacDonald Graduate Creative Writing Contest, Nonfiction

Megan is an MFA student working on a collection of essays about harm done to women's bodies, from overt violence to diet culture to chronic onlineness.