

### Note from our Chair:



Warm greetings to all of you, the department's community of friends, alumni, and current students, as we begin another new academic year. In the following pages, we've highlighted some of the many activities of the department in 2018. It is a year of several transitions for us. After thirty-five years in the department, Prof. Rob Stoops retired at the end of Summer Quarter 2018 (see more on Prof. Stoops inside). We are delighted that Dr. Ethan Bushelle begins this Fall as a tenure-track Assistant Professor (see more on page 3). We also congratulate our colleagues who have been promoted this year -- Michael Slouber, tenured and to the rank of Associate Professor; Jonathan Miran and I to Full Professor.

And the department is planning another major change – a name change (our thanks to all of you who kindly submitted survey feedback last year!). Starting Fall 2019, we plan to become the Department of Global Humanities and Religions. Some of our courses will be called "Humanities" and some will be called "Religion" (for example Humanities 121 and Religion 231). As always, we feel fortunate to have such a talented group of students and alumni – doing so many interesting things in communities near and far – and faculty, busy with a wide variety of teaching, research, and professional service activities. Of course only a small sliver of those activities are described in the following pages. The department continues to bring a variety of events to the Western campus community. And, especially if you're nearby be sure to join the department's Facebook page ([Facebook page](#)) or watch our web site for more information on upcoming events ([News & Events page](#)). We hope that you'll join us for our annual reception for alumni, students, and faculty (current and emeritus) during Alumni Weekend, in May 2019 – look for more details in your email in the coming months! And we are always delighted to hear from our alumni – the easiest ways to contact the department remain by phone at 360-650-3031 or email at [Liberal.Studies@wwu.edu](mailto:Liberal.Studies@wwu.edu) (where you're likely to be greeted by our Administrative Services Manager, Maureen Christman).

We hope this finds you all very well.

*Kimberly Lynn*

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**Save the date!**

2019 Liberal Studies

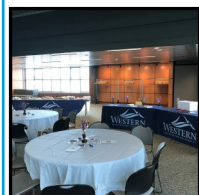
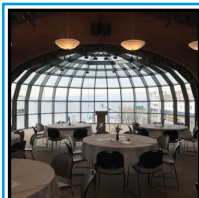
(Coming Fall 2019—Department of Global Humanities and Religions)

**Alumni Weekend** and annual

**Scholars Week Symposium**

**Please join us Friday, May 17th, 2019, 4-7pm**

**Bellingham Cruise Terminal, Dome Room**





## *Transitions: Congratulations to Rob Stoops on his retirement!*

Prof. Rob Stoops retired at the end of summer session, after decades of devoted service to the department. Stoops came to WWU in the Fall of 1983 after earning a Ph.D. in the Study of Religion from Harvard University. He was tenured in 1988, promoted to Full Professor in 1998, and served as Department Chair from 2000 to 2006. His primary area of research has been early Christianity in its Greco-Roman context. He taught LBRL 121 (on the Humanities of the Ancient World) every year for 35 years. And, over the years, his interest in the use of visual materials in the Humanities led to the development of LBRL 243: Art and Ideas. He expanded the course on the Biblical Tradition from a single 4 credit course to two 5 credit courses (the current LBRL 334: Hebrew Bible and the Religion of Ancient Israel; and LBRL 336: New Testament and Early Christianity). And, with help from Bill Stoeber, he developed LBRL 303: Methods in the Study of Religion. Stoops also had a leading role in the development of the Study of Religion concentration within the major. And his leadership in curriculum has continued; he taught the department's first online course, LBRL 332: World Religions in the summer of 2016.

Stoops' interest in curriculum development also led him to serve on curriculum committees at the department, college and university level. He was especially active, over many years, in efforts to reform General Education and improve writing instruction on campus, serving on several task forces with the goal of "trying to stop stupid stuff from happening." For example, as chair of the Council on University Programs he argued successfully for the preservation of Women Studies (now Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies) as a distinct program. Stoops also had a career-long dedication to first-year students, with reserved places in his introductory courses and frequent teaching of Freshman Honors courses. He developed and taught the Freshman Humanities Sequence with Prof. Mariz of History and Prof. Payton of Liberal Studies. And he participated in the university's experiments with First Year Experience courses, Freshman Interest Groups, and GUR Strands.

Stoops notes that he leaves with a great sense of appreciation for his colleagues in the department and the students in the major. In retirement he plans to work on his house and garden, and pursue hobbies of stone sculpture, photography and scuba diving. He also warns that he won't disappear from campus completely – he is scheduled to present a paper on Vergil's gates of sleep at the PAMLA conference to be held at Western in November.

And while he is already very much missed in the hallways and department meetings, the department wishes him a very rewarding start to his retirement, as he joins the ranks of our esteemed Emeritus faculty!



Early Years

### *What do the dollars given to the Liberal Studies Foundation by kind donors help us achieve?*

Gifts to the Department of Liberal Studies are crucial in helping us fund guest speakers, including our annual distinguished speaker, a tradition now in its eleventh year, as well as our new annual reunion event at Back2Bellingham, in addition to student research opportunities and, most importantly, scholarships.

<http://alumni.wvu.edu/liberalstudies-giveday>



## *Transitions: The Department Welcomes*

### *Ethan Bushelle~*

We would like to formally welcome our newest tenure-track faculty member, Dr. Ethan Bushelle. Born and raised in the Chicagoland area, Ethan attended Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he completed a double major in Biology and Asian Studies, earning high honors in the latter. In his junior year, he travelled to Japan for the first time, spending six months studying Japanese language and culture, first at a language institute in Aichi Prefecture and then later at Sophia University in Tokyo. After college, Ethan spent three years in Tottori Prefecture, Japan – a small prefecture northwest of Kobe – as a participant in the JET Program. Serving as Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) at the Prefectural Government Office, Ethan was a cultural ambassador of sorts, giving talks in Japanese to local community members about America and visiting primary and secondary schools to foster cross-cultural understanding and exchange. After JET, in 2006, Ethan enrolled in the Regional Studies – East Asia program at Harvard University to pursue graduate study in the field of Japanese literature and East Asian Buddhism. Earning his master's degree in the spring of 2008, he continued on at Harvard in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations PhD program. For his doctoral research on the intersection between Japanese literature and Buddhism in Japan's early medieval period, Ethan spent considerable time in Japan as a researcher at various institutions, from Osaka University and the International Research Center for Japanese Studies in Kyoto to Rikkyō and Waseda universities in Tokyo. He received his PhD in 2015 and, in the 2015-16 academic year, was a postdoctoral fellow at the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard. At Western, Ethan teaches courses on all aspects of religion and culture in East Asia, with a focus on premodern Japanese religions – particularly Buddhism and Shinto. His courses include "Humanities of Japan" and "Religion and Society in Japan," as well as several courses offered through the Program in East Asian Studies such as "The Culture of Nature in East Asia" and "Zen." In all of his courses, Ethan encourages students to consider the role of religious culture in the development of new ways of understanding the world, nature, and society. By doing so, he hopes to broaden students' horizons and help them to appreciate the diversity of ways in which humans have lived in and made sense of their world.

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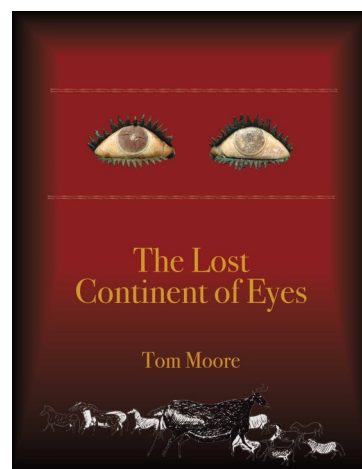
## **NEW FACULTY PUBLICATIONS**

### **Tom Moore**

**A novel—soon to be published!**

#### ***The Lost Continent of Eyes***

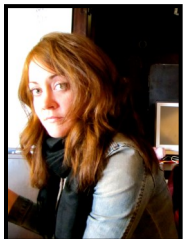
When, in 1941, units of a Panzer brigade seize the village of sixteen-year-old Gitta Molnar, she has to watch helplessly as they unleash their brutality on her family and friends. Luckily for her, she has just come in from the family farm and looks every bit a boy—short hair, muddy boots, dirty farm clothes. Mistaking Gitta for a young man, a Nazi officer conscripts both her and her father into the service of the Reich, and she (disguised as Viktor) begins a journey that will transform her life.



Coming Soon, 2018



## **Faculty Updates**



### **Katie Brian**

Kathleen Brian was delighted to see the publication of *Phallacies: Historical Intersections of Disability and Masculinity* (Oxford, 2017), which she co-edited with James Trent. The volume includes "Mythic Pedagogies; or, Suicide Clubs as Eugenic Alibis," Brian's meditation on the violence of the archives and investigation of the ways that popular suicide club narratives served the interests of industrial capitalists in the late-nineteenth-century. This was the first of two works that Brian published this year. The second, "Inheriting Expulsions from the Insurance Industry," interrogates the historical practices developed by U.S. insurance companies to deny coverage to people with psychosocial disabilities. This was also her first year with WWU's Community Engagement Fellows Program.

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### **Holly Folk**

With a working title of *NextGen Christians: Protestant Heterodoxy in the Modern World*, Holly Folk's current book project is a comparison of new religions from Asia, the United States and Latin America. In the past several months, her research has really accelerated, sending her to Texas, Taiwan, and the Peoples Republic of China. This summer she will be traveling to San Francisco and Philadelphia, to visit the archives for Peoples Temple and the International Peace Mission Movement -- two of the American groups in the study. In June 2018 Folk was awarded a Fichter Research Grant from the Association for the Sociology of Religion. The grant program focuses on women and gender; the award will underwrite research on "female messianism" -- five case studies in Folk's project have women leaders who are regarded as divine incarnations, most often as the return of Jesus Christ. The Fichter Grant funding will allow her to travel to Puerto Rico, where three new Christian religions have sizeable operations (Creciendo en Gracia, King of Salem, and the Mita Church), and also to spend two weeks next summer in New York City, where several groups are based. Folk is thrilled by these opportunities for field research, and also for the chance to apply knowledge from the study of history to living religions.

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### **Andrea Gogröf**

With the gracious and efficient support and participation of the administration and faculty of her department, Western's libraries, the department of History, the department of Classical and Modern Languages, and the department of English, Andrea Gogröf has been busy organizing the annual conference of the Pacific and Ancient and Modern Language Association to be held on our campus this year November 9-11, 2018. The administration of Western Washington University and CHSS have also been very generous in their financial support of this event which brings faculty, students and the larger community of Western and Bellingham together in the presentation of original research and lively intellectual and cultural exchange.

Andrea Gogröf will be on professional leave during Winter quarter 2019 to edit a special volume of *Pacific Coast Philology* entitled *Ways of Seeing: Visuality, Visibility and Vision*. She is currently working on an article bringing together her most recent and ongoing research on surveillance as an integral part of modern life which will be included in this volume.

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### **Kimberly Lynn**

Alongside her administrative work and regular courses on the cultural and religious history of the early modern world (and beyond), Prof. Kimberly Lynn continues her research on the global development of early modern Catholicism and the early modern Hispanic world. She published an article based on research conducted in the Vatican Archives during her 2013-14 sabbatical: "From Madrid to Rome: Communication, Collaboration, and Competition between the Roman and Spanish Inquisitions," in *The Roman Inquisition: Centre versus Peripheries*, ed. Katherine Aron-Beller and Christopher Black (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2018), 60-88. In 2018, Prof. Lynn also gave talks on her research at the History Department at Pennsylvania State University, during a workshop on Inquisitions at Tulane University, and at the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America.

## **Faculty Updates**



### **Jonathan Miran**

Jonathan Miran spent the year 2017-18 on sabbatical leave working on several writing projects related to his research on the history of the Red Sea region. This fall, Jonathan takes over the role of General Editor of the journal *Northeast African Studies*, the premier interdisciplinary peer-review journal in the field, published by Michigan State University Press. In May 2018, he traveled to Ethiopia to consult manuscripts preserved at the Institute of Ethiopian Studies and to promote *Northeast African Studies* in several universities across the country. This spring, Jonathan was also appointed to the Editorial

Board of *Africa. Rivista semestrale di studi e ricerche*, the flagship bi-annual African studies journal published in Italy.

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### **Tom Moore**

Tom about ready to publish his first novel, *The Lost Continent of Eyes*. With luck it will be up on Amazon's Kindle Direct any day now. A second book of poetry is in the works. On the home front, Caty and Tom are thoroughly enjoying their granddaughter (Charlie), whose first birthday came on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Caty has retired from 38 years of clinical practice and has not even the slightest desire to return.

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### **Seán Murphy**

Another excellent year for the pursuit of medieval European studies at Western. After a three-year interlude, Dr. Murphy offered a long-standing senior seminar in which current Department majors were able to investigate multiple kinds of relationship between Jewish and Christian cultures in medieval Europe. This sustained study of past minority-majority relations provided critical access, as always, to present analogues. Two of the Department's majors wrote senior theses in 2017-18 on medieval topics: Jeremy Meehan on ideas about the land of Israel in medieval Jewish poetry and philosophy;

Sydnee Preedy on the transformation, over a lifetime, of Dante's political ideals, in the context of contemporary political historiography and theory. Congratulations to both of them for their fine, culminating work. In 2018-19, Dr. Murphy will be on professional leave at the National University of Ireland, Galway, where he will hold a visiting research fellowship in the Centre for Ancient, Medieval, and Pre-Modern Studies. At Galway, he will finish an edition and translation, with introduction and notes, of the massive treatise, *On Laws*, written by an influential, early 13th-century Bishop of Paris. He'll also be playing the graduate student again, as he joins the seminar on Old Irish grammar, taking time, while in Ireland, to study at the feet of the masters.

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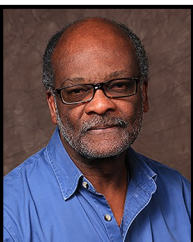


### **Scott Pearce**

This year, Scott Pearce has been finishing up a book-length study of the history of the East Asian Northern Wei regime (386-534) (slated to be completed in Summer 2018). He has also been working on a source book for teaching Chinese history, in collaboration with Peter Lorge from Vanderbilt, to be published by Cognella; and as co-editor on a special issue of the journal *Early Medieval China*, on China's Northern Dynasties (forthcoming 2019). A book review on Joy Yi's "Yungang: Art, History, Archaeology, Liturgy" (Routledge, 2017) was also done, forthcoming in the 2018 volume of *Early Medieval China*.

In terms of teaching, at request of the department, he developed a new 400-level course, "The Wanderings of the Monk Xuanzang: From History to Myth to Fiction," which was first taught in the Fall quarter of 2017.

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### **Errol Seaton**

In addition to the Western Tradition sequence—LBRL 121, 122, 123—Seaton teaches other courses such as The Romantic Paradox, Representations of Otherness. His particular teaching interests are themes in modern British and American literature; poetry of WWI, postcolonial writings.

## **Faculty Updates**



### **Michael Slouber**

Michael Slouber was awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor, effective this Fall. He won a grant to travel to southern India this summer to make arrangements for a new study abroad program in Karnataka and Kerala, which will run for the first time in the summer of 2019. He is working on an edited collection of narratives about Hindu goddesses for general readers and classroom analysis. In addition to regular teaching on South Asia and general department courses on religion, he has also been tutoring several students in Hindi-Urdu and supervising senior theses.

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The department is also pleased to have the following colleagues teaching with us in the 2018-19 academic year: **Dr. Philip Tite**, an expert in early Christian studies and a notable Religious Studies scholar (current editor of the periodical *Bulletin for the Study of Religion* and author or editor of multiple scholarly books) will be teaching the lower-division introduction to the study of religion as well as upper-division courses in biblical studies, early Christian martyrdom, and food and religion. **Dr. Siyamak Zabihi-Moghaddam** will again be adding to the department's offerings in Islamic studies. **Dr. Nicholas Margaritis**, who has taught extensively in the English Department, will teach the Ancient Mediterranean and Medieval and Early Modern Europe components of our Humanities sequence in Winter 2019. **Dr. David Bresnahan** will be new to the department in Winter and Spring 2019, teaching our long-running Humanities of Africa course and developing a new offering for the department on Religion and Society in Africa.

## **News From Emeritus Faculty**



### **David Curley**

David writes: I confess that I spend more time than is productive thinking about how to be an effective citizen at this stage of my life. I have continued to write essays on social history that focus on a Calcutta Brahman family of 'managers' in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Last summer saw publication of the first: 'Economic Interests and Moral Sentiments in the Eighteenth-Century Life of Gokul Ghoshal'. This year I have completed an essay about sacred and worldly 'mastery' using Gokul's brother and a Bengali description of a long journey by a large group of pilgrims whom he paid for and led. I am now planning a third, tentatively titled, 'Goku's Accusers'. It will explore the social nature of a rebellion against Gokul and English East India Company in eastern Bengal.

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### **Milt Krieger**

Milt Krieger (pictured last December with Judy at the signing event for their book about Loon Lake, B.C., at its community hall), applauds the department's proposed name change, remains on a Cameroon publisher's editorial board but has written his last book, continues to browse "global lit," is for sadly obvious reasons reading Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* over the summer, and is both enthused and fretful about the Mariners and the Whatcom Jazz Music Arts Center.

## **In Memoriam**

As the department nears its half-century mark, we note the deaths of two founding members. **Nita Clothier** taught the Western Civ sequence for a quarter century, with emphasis on the classical world. She substantially pioneered Western's off-campus programs, taking students and adults to Greece well into her retirement. **Wayne Lobue**, an American religion specialist, left in the late 1970s for college and private academy teaching in Cleveland. His own practice included both Trappist and Zen Buddhist ordinations, and prison outreach commitments. Nita died just past 90, Wayne just short of 80. Their program contributions and their gracious and collegial ways remain fresh in survivors' memories.



# Liberal Studies Speaker Series



Dr. Philip Lutgendorf

The department's *10th annual Liberal Studies Speaker* event brought University of Iowa Professor Dr. Philip Lutgendorf to campus this past April. Dr. Lutgendorf is a Professor of Hindi and Modern Indian Studies and has taught in the University of Iowa's Department of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literature since 1985. His illustrated talk "Chai Why?," detailed the promotion and spread of tea-drinking in 20<sup>th</sup> century India. Drawing on both archival and field research, it focused on the mass popularization of "chai" through innovations in marketing and manufacturing, as well as changes in eating habits and social networks, and gave special emphasis to the role played by advertising and large and small-scale commerce in transmitting the "tea habit" to Indians, both before and after Independence in 1947. Learn more about Dr. Lutgendorf [here](#).



## *Save the Date*

### **11th Annual Liberal Studies Speaker**

***Tentatively, Thursday, April 18th, 2019***

*More information coming soon!*

## Other 2018 Guest Speakers



[Dr. Donald Baker](#), University of British Columbia, Korean Religious Art—March 2018

Dr. Baker's interests include the cultural and religious history of Korea. He received his Ph.D. in Korean history from the University of Washington and has taught at UBC since 1987. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on Korean history and thought (religion, philosophy, and pre-modern science). At Western, he spoke about the impact of Christianity on non-Christian religions in Korea. Learn more about Dr. Baker [here](#).

## Liberal Studies 302 Seminar



Photo from the party that ended the year in Prof. Andrea Gogröf's Liberal Studies 302 seminar. 302 remains the cohort-forming research seminar which majors take at the end of their junior year. It is still frequently taught (by Prof. Seán Murphy) as a Dante seminar, but we're also experimenting with new themes. Prof. Kimberly Lynn has taught a 302 centered on the seventeenth-century novel *Don Quixote*, and Prof. Gogröf's version, new in 2018, focused on the nineteenth-century thinker Friedrich Nietzsche.

# Meet The 2018-19 Liberal Studies Leadership Team



Left to right: Names and Humanities Major Track

Jodie Permen— History of Culture with Thesis

Jonathan Davidson— Religion & Culture with Thesis

May Killorin— Religion & Culture

Caitlin Hanson— History of Culture with Thesis

## ***The 2018-19 Leadership Team Answers, "Why Humanities?"***

**Jodie—** I am pursuing a Humanities major to develop myself through an interdisciplinary education before heading toward a digital-media postproduction trajectory. Studying the Humanities offers a fantastic background for creative students, such as myself, to cultivate more global and historical awareness before specializing in artistic disciplines. Through blurred boundaries of art, religion, and literature, the Humanities courses here at Western offer a wellspring of inspiration, while fostering practical research skills. I am double majoring in English with a Creative Writing Emphasis. Outside of the Humanities and English departments, I look forward to studying Latin in preparation for future research.

**Jonathan—** I initially chose to be a Humanities major because of my interest in religious studies. However, as I took more and more classes within the department, I was also inspired by its interdisciplinary approach. Instead of focusing on only one area of religious study, for example, my Humanities classes encouraged me to look at a topic from all sides, taking into account history, culture, and philosophy. It was this nuanced way of thinking that led me to declare my major!

**Caitlin—** My path to a major was one that had me drifting from department to department, really unsure of what I wanted to commit to because so many areas piqued my interest and I could see myself succeeding in a handful of them. Then I took a Humanities course and felt as though I no longer needed to decide on just one thing. The Humanities major offered me the opportunity to take all of my areas of interest, usually having to do with humans and history and how cultures have interacted and evolved over time, and bring them all together in one interdisciplinary major. This major is immensely important because it encourages study of many cultures and religions and outlines the connecting threads that all of them have. I plan to move into higher education, ideally working as an academic advisor or an educator, and learning how to understand different cultures and peoples while also focusing on clear communication of that understanding will be invaluable when I graduate and am ready for employment. Minor in political science, with a focus on the systemically non dominant in the United States, goes together so well with studying global cultural history and learning how to work with people of all backgrounds effectively and supportively. Moving from the community college to Western was intimidating, but in finding this department I feel like I have found my home on Campus.

## ***Our Goal***

***The mission of the leadership team is to foster communication among the students, alumni, and faculty of the Liberal Studies Department, and to increase the visibility of the department's major and minor programs.***

## ***What We are Doing:***

**Alumni Connection**—The 2018-2019 Student Leadership Team is working on building a database of alumni interested in mentoring current students – so you can expect to hear from them in 2019, if you haven't already!



# 2018 Annual Liberal Studies Highlights

**Alumni Weekend** and annual **Scholars Week Symposium**



**2017-18 Outstanding Graduate**

**Award Recipient:**

*Meghan Woods*



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**3rd Annual (2018-19) Meagan Elizabeth Smith  
Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in the  
Humanities Recipient:**

*Jonathan Davidson*



**2018-19 Humanities Scholarship Recipients:**

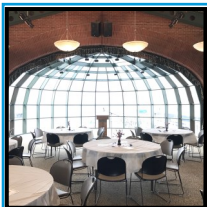
*Caitlin Hanson, Jodie Permen and Vincent Vansaghi*



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**2017-18 Graduates with Departmental Honors:**

*Trinity Dana, Holland Maggard, Jeremy Meehan, Sydney Preedy,  
Adelyn Westerholm, Matthew Wilkerson, Meghan Woods*



**Save the date!**

**2019 Liberal Studies**

**Alumni Weekend** and annual **Scholars Week Symposium**

**Please join us Friday, May 17th, 2019**

**Bellingham Cruise Terminal, Dome Room**

**4-7pm**

*More information coming soon!*



## 2017-2018 Senior Thesis Topics

**Trinity Dana**, "*The Depiction of the Holy Trinity in CS Lewis Literature*" (Advisor: Rob Stoops)

**Holland Maggard**, "*Analysis of Social Aspects Treated in the 'Siete Partidas' Written by Alfonso X de Castilla*" (Advisor: Kimberly Lynn)

**Jeremy Meehan**, "*The Relationship Between Medieval European Jewry and Israel*" (Advisor: Seán Murphy)

**Sydnee Preedy**, "*Political Theory in Dante's Writing*" (Advisor: Seán Murphy)

**Vincent Vansaghi**, "*Character Identity Formation through Indian Martial Arts*" (Advisor: Michael Slouber)

**Adelyn Westerholm**, "*Glory Reimagined: Zeami's Aesthetic Criticism of War*" (Advisors: Scott Pearce and Ethan Bushelle)

**Matthew Wilkerson**, "*The Emerging Church Movement as a Postmodern Response to Mainline Protestantism*" (Advisor: Rob Stoops)

**Meghan Woods**, "*When Church and State Collide: Examining Belief and Determining Sincerity in Cases of Religious Exemption*" (Advisor: Katie Brian)





## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



We are happy to share with you a report from our outstanding graduate of 2017, Riley Jessett who writes us from Milwaukee:



Just e-mailing you with a life update! I finished my first year of teaching. This year I've been teaching kindergarten at a public school called Carson Academy of Science on Milwaukee's North Side. Teaching has been a hugely rewarding and challenging experience for me -- at first, I didn't know if I was going to make it. In the middle of October, the school I was teaching at cut half of its teachers, and I was transferred to the school that I just finished up at. Getting the chance to start over really helped me to improve, as did collaborating with strong educators in my school. Everything sort of fell into place around November, and I've loved teaching ever since. My school is in a deeply impoverished and over-policed neighborhood of Milwaukee, which is currently the most segregated city in the country. My school's population is 98% Black, and I've encountered the racist structure of the city on a daily basis. Milwaukee is embattled in a fight for public education, which is being cannibalized by charter and choice schools that profit off of Black students and take money away from public education. I became very involved in this issue this year, and I'm serving as my school's building representative for my union next year.

Thankfully, all of my kids learned how to read and add this year and did well on their standardized tests. I also created a weekly 'community-building session' for kindergartners in my school with my partner teacher, in which students discussed issues they faced in the classroom, at home, and as members of the Black community in Milwaukee. We invited speakers who had been active in the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s to come work with our students, and it was overall a huge success.

Other than this, I am currently working on a Master's in Urban Early Childhood Education at Cardinal Stritch University and enjoying exploring Milwaukee. My partner and I live in Bayview, on the city's vibrant South Side. We took lots of trips to Chicago and around Wisconsin in the past year, and celebrated Thanksgiving by driving down to Memphis. We both miss Bellingham and WWU, and may be back in August to visit.

I can't believe it's been a year since I graduated!

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### **Keep in Touch!**

Old job? New job? Traveling? Graduate school? Marriage? Family? Please write us with your news. Let us know by writing to [Liberal.Studies@wwu.edu](mailto:Liberal.Studies@wwu.edu) (include your contact information!). We regularly publish articles about careers our graduates are discovering, and we also try to keep you up to date on the activities of faculty members and fellow graduates.



### **2017-18 Spring Commencement**



Grads with Professor Seán Murphy



Grads with Professor & Dept. Chair  
Dr. Kimberly Lynn



(L to R) Holland Maggard, Adelyn Westerholm, Jamie Wilson, Sydnee Preedy & Meghan Woods





*The department suffered a heartbreaking tragedy three years ago, with the loss of our major and member of the 2014-15 Liberal Studies Leadership Team, **Meagan Smith**. We're honoring her memory with a scholarship.*

*The 2014-15 Leadership Team was asked,*

***"Why HUMANITIES?"***

*Meagan's Answer—*



*"Discussing religions and traditions from around the globe as well as from different time periods has helped to expand my cultural understanding of the world immensely. Joining this major has given me opportunities to study a variety of subjects, as well as embarking on a study of Nepal this upcoming summer. The Liberal Studies department has opened my mind to the cornucopia of traditions existing in our world today and the impact we each have on one another."*

## **Meagan Elizabeth Smith Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in the Humanities**

This scholarship honors the legacy of Meagan Elizabeth Smith (1993 - 2015). An outstanding student, Meagan was scheduled to graduate with departmental honors in December 2015, with a Humanities major, a concentration in Religion and Culture, and a German minor. She had developed a particular interest in non-Western societies, and especially in Nepal, which inspired the senior thesis she was researching on "Making Sense of Fierce Deities in Indian Religions." Meagan was a member of the first Liberal Studies Leadership Team, a musician, and an athlete, dedicated to serving the many communities of which she was a cherished part. This is the first named scholarship in the more than forty-year history of the Liberal Studies Department, designed to recognize academic excellence in the humanities.

### **Ways to Give:**

Online at <http://alumni.wvu.edu/liberalstudies-giveday>

With a check made payable to the WWU Foundation and mailed to: [WWU Foundation 516 High Street, MS 9034, Bellingham, WA 98225-9034](#) By phone at: 360-650-3027

\*Please write Meagan E. Smith Scholarship on the memo line of your check.

For more information on ways to give, including instructions for WWU employee payroll deduction or gifts of securities, please visit: <https://foundation.wvu.edu/making-gift>