Noah Heringman receives NEH grant for *Vetusta Monumenta* project

By Sara Strong

This August, English professor Noah Heringman was named as a recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant of $286,000 over three years to support a scholarly conservation project: creating a high-quality, open-access digital edition of *Vetusta Monumenta*, a seven-volume collection published by the Society of Antiquaries of London over the course of the 18th and 19th centuries into the early 20th.

The MU Libraries own one of the 11 copies of the collection that still exist, and Heringman first encountered it as a part of the research for his 2013 book, *Sciences of Antiquity: Romantic Antiquarianism, Natural History, and Knowledge Work*. The mission of the Society of Antiquaries was “the encouragement, advancement, and furtherance of the study and knowledge of the antiquaries and history of this and other countries,” and in keeping with that charge, the volumes of *Vetusta Monumenta* feature prints made from extraordinarily detailed copperplate engravings of everything from architectural wonders of the ancient world to artifacts of everyday life, dating from the 3rd century up to the 17th. According to the introduction on the *Vetusta Monumenta* website, “In more than a few cases, these prints provide the sole record of artifacts and monuments that do not themselves survive.” When Heringman realized that the only digital copies of these plates that existed at the time of his research were of a low quality that, in addition to being unsuitable for research, did them no justice, he began working with MU’s rare books librarians to create high resolution scans and make them available online, thereby preserving a record that was itself a preservation project.

Heringman’s goal of making the collection accessible is twofold. Providing scans of the work digitally makes it easier for scholars—and anyone who is interested—to access these volumes and navigate them, rather than having to travel, sometimes internationally, just to set eyes on them. However, Heringman and his team are also working to enrich the viewer/reader’s experience and understanding of the work by researching each plate and writing commentaries that detail the provenance, history, and importance of the artifacts they portray. As a part of this research, the *Vetusta Monumenta* team tries to locate each object in the present day, but has found that many are lost to this age.

Many of the current or past contributors who have worked with Heringman on this project are also affiliated with the MU English department, including project co-director Crystal Lake, a 2008 alumna of the graduate program who is currently Associate Professor at Wright State University; MU English professor Anne Meyers, who worked on the project from 2012-2014; Elise Broaddus, a current PhD student who provided Latin translations of the text on a number of plates in 2014-2015; and Brad Fuller, who worked on the project in 2012 as a part of an undergraduate research mentorship.

See the collection for yourself and read more at vetustamonumenta.org.
Welcome to the 2017 edition of the Tate Times! I hope this annual newsletter finds all of our alumni well. By the time this goes to press, I will be finishing up my fifth month as Chair, and believe me when I say that this has been an extraordinary time to help guide this wonderful department through all of its research and teaching successes. And what successes we have had! In this issue of the Tate Times you will read about some of the astonishing awards, remarkable books, and inspiring endeavors of our faculty and students. You will also meet our fantastic new faculty – Becca Hayes and Lynn Itagaki – and hear about some of our programs, all of which are open to the public and which we invite you to attend.

As always, this is a department that thinks big about what an English department can and should do, not only for our majors but also for students across the entire University. It is in that spirit that we have created new and exciting courses, collaborated with our colleagues in other departments, involved our students in groundbreaking research, and fashioned new spaces for out-of-classroom learning. For instance, the English department has the highest rate of majors who do internships of any department in the College of Arts & Science. Combined with our “Careers and English” course for Juniors and Seniors, our majors are getting more exposure than ever to how the English major prepares them for a vast array of experiences beyond graduation.

The programming for our students and faculty has never been so strong, as we have brought a number of fantastic scholars and creative writers to campus this semester already. Nonfiction writers Jose Orduña and Jericho Parms, poet Diane Glancy, and scholar and public intellectual Peter Coviello have all lead workshops, given public readings and talks, and met with graduate students. These events supplement the many events that the faculty and graduate students put on themselves: the new series, Underway, highlights faculty work in progress; the ongoing series, Intersections, showcases graduate student work; the monthly program for undergraduates, Coffee with Majors, provides an informal space for our majors to get to know the faculty; the Monica A. Hand Memorial Graduate Student Reading Series features groundbreaking fiction, poetry, and nonfiction by our creative writing students; and the many pedagogical workshops expose the whole community to the very best of what happens in our classrooms.

I am grateful, as always, to the staff, faculty, graduate students, and alumni who make doing my job a real pleasure. Without their commitment to the work they do, we would not be the community we are today. I have had the opportunity to meet with many alumni in recent months and I plan to continue doing so in the months and years ahead. Your memories of your time in the English department, your ideas about what we might be doing more of now, and your support of our programs, scholarships, and students helps sustain the excellent work that has been happening in Tate Hall for generations. I invite you to reach out to me at socaridesa@missouri.edu if you would like to be even more involved with the English department.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Socarides
New Faces

Becca Hayes, Director of Composition

Area(s) of Specialization:  writing pedagogy and administration, cultural and queer rhetorics, community-engaged pedagogy and research
Where she was before:  Department of Rhetoric and Writing at Michigan State University
Recent publication:  My forthcoming chapter on rhetorical tactics used in queer community organizing will appear in an edited collection called Community Action for Social Justice, part of the Writing and Working for Change series with Parlor Press.
Favorite part of the job so far:  This fall I’ve observed many composition classes, including English 1000, Intermediate Composition, and Professional Writing. I’ve loved the chance to see firsthand the exceptional teaching (and learning!) in the Composition Program and to meet with instructors to discuss and reflect on their teaching.
Last book she read that she’d recommend:  Brilliant Imperfection: Grappling with Cure by Eli Clare (essays/nonfiction)

Lynn Itagaki, Associate Professor

Area(s) of Specialization:  20th-21st century US literature; women of color and transnational feminisms; Asian American literary and cultural studies; comparative race studies; critical ethnic studies; American studies and globalization; African American studies.
Where she was before:  Columbus, Ohio, The Ohio State University
Favorite part of the job so far:  Meeting and learning about students from different parts of Missouri.
Last book she read that she’d recommend:  Exit West, Mohsin Hamid

Moving Up

Gabriel Fried has been re-hired from his position as (?) to a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor.

Lee Manion received tenure this past year, and is now Associate Professor.

Marc McKee was promoted from ___ to ___.

Scott Garson was promoted from ___ to ___.

Congratulations, all!
A Word from Alumnus John Shaw, Founding Member of the English Department Leaders Board

The English Department Leaders Board has been working with the Chair of the English Department for many years in support of the faculty and also the undergraduate and graduate English students. It is considered a model for other departments to follow. At each semi-annual Board meeting, the Chair provides a report of faculty accomplishments and needs accompanied by a presentation from a faculty member. The Board currently funds three $1,000 scholarships for students (with this past year’s winners featured here) and conducts an annual writing contest with awards in conjunction with the publication of Epic, the University of Missouri’s undergraduate literary journal. Additionally, the Board works with the English Graduate Students Association regarding its funding needs, and has established a fund for the annual William Peden award to an outstanding graduate student creative writing instructor. Our Board members are located both within and outside of Missouri and include writers, academics, business owners, CPAs, lawyers, and public relations consultants. If you are interested in joining the Leaders Board, please contact English Department Chair Alexandra Socarides at socaridesa@missouri.edu.

Presenting the 2017 Winners of the English Alumni Scholarships

Undergraduate Recipient Jamie Berry
“I am studying English and Theatre, with an emphasis in writing for performance. I will be graduating Cum Laude in December, a semester earlier than originally planned. In 2016, I was selected to workshop a play with theatre professionals at the Kennedy Center, as well as to take part in a playwriting intensive led by Gary Garrison. I studied abroad in Melbourne, Australia during the fall of 2016 and spent a month traveling across New Zealand at the end of the term. This scholarship makes it possible for me to continue participating in the MU Theatre Department, which demands a rigorous rehearsal schedule, because I do not have to worry about funding my studies with a job. It also makes it possible for me to graduate early in spite of studying abroad.”

Undergraduate Recipient Allyson Chapman
“My major area of study is English, and I am pursuing minors in French and anthropology. The English Alumni Scholarship has helped me tremendously in saving up for a solo trip to France once I graduate. I’m currently learning about literary criticism and research methods in order to write my honors thesis in the spring. Another project I’m working on has me comparing a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel with a bestselling novel of the same year; I chose Toni Morrison’s Beloved and The Sands of Time by Sidney Sheldon. I have no clue where it will take me but I’m excited to see!”

Graduate Recipient Kate Harlin
“I am very grateful to have received the 2017 Alumni Scholarship! I am a third year PhD student in African Diaspora studies, though I have been in the English department since I began my MA in 2013. The last school year was an exciting one for me! I won a Green Chalk teaching award, served as EGSA President, and presented papers at the College Language Association annual conference here at Mizzou as well as at the African Literature Association conference in New Haven. The scholarship has allowed me to travel for these conferences and to focus on preparing for my comprehensive exams this winter.”
Aliki Barntone’s book, *Dwelling*, came out with the Sheep Meadow Press. Her chapbook, *So That They Shall Not Say This Is Jezebel*, appeared with Locofo Chaps. As poet laureate of Missouri, she has traveled the state to give readings, visit schools, and support the regional Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest championship in Jefferson City, and our Missouri champ, Emily Bauer, in Washington, D.C. Out of over 310,000 high school students who competed nationwide, Emily was among the final nine. In Hannibal, China Central TV (the largest TV station in Asia) interviewed her about Mark Twain. She has been awarded a research leave from MU and a residency at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts to write a book of poems, *Happenstance*, which deals with her Greek family’s history as refugees and the current refugee crisis.

Julija Šukys has just published a new book of creative nonfiction, *Siberian Exile: Blood, War, and a Granddaughter’s Reckoning* (University of Nebraska Press). The text weaves together two narratives: the story of Ona, noble exile and innocent victim, and that of Anthony, accused war criminal. She examines the stories that communities tell themselves and considers what happens when the stories we’ve been told all our lives suddenly and irrevocably change, and how forgiveness or grace operate across generations and across the barriers of life and death. Trudy Lewis was granted a 2017-2018 research leave in order to complete her science fiction novel *Medusa’s Bell*. With the help of a research council grant, she traveled to Jena, Germany, where she visited the Villa Medusa, former home of Ernst Haeckel, whose work on jellyfish helped inspire her book. Trudy’s story “Kruk und Goose,” based on the Holocaust writings of Herman Kruk, appeared in *The Chattahoochee Review* in Fall 2016. Trudy gave a reading and conducted a workshop at The University of Tulsa in conjunction with the new creative writing major there. She read from her Oklahoma earthquake story “Red Earth” in the Writers Place Reading Series in Kansas City. In Spring 2017 Trudy was awarded the Davidson Family Fellowship for her service to the English Department. She will be a track speaker at the ShowMe Writers Masterclass in October.

Gabriel Fried’s new book of poems, *The Children Are Reading*, was published by Four Way Books in September 2017, with poems from the book appearing in that month’s issue of *American Poetry Review*.

Frances Dickey continues to research and promote the work of Missouri poet T. S. Eliot, publishing *The Edinburgh Companion to T. S. Eliot and the Arts* in 2016, giving public talks on his poetry, and organizing conferences on his work. As President of the International T. S. Eliot Society, she directed a five-day Eliot conference in Rapallo, Italy, and one in St. Louis. This fall she is teaching a new capstone on “Literature in the Fascist Era” and is planning a new course on Missouri writers in 2018.


Johanna Kramer has just finished a collaborative edition of anonymous Anglo-
Saxon hagiography for the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library series, published by Harvard University Press. The collection, co-edited with colleagues in Canada and Ireland, contains twenty-two prose saints’ lives in Old English, translations, notes, and commentary and is expected to be published in 2018. In June, she spent a week at Texas A&M University for a research collaboration with a colleague in the English Department there. The project involves the edition and translation of a 10th-century Anglo-Saxon manuscript collection of six Old English poems and 23 prose homilies. While there, she also led a workshop on early medieval homilies and preaching for graduate students and other interested parties. This research trip was supported by an SEC Faculty Travel Grant.

Johanna Kramer’s recent monograph Between Earth and Heaven: Liminality and the Ascension of Christ in Anglo-Saxon Literature (Manchester UP, 2014; paperback 2017) won the 2016 Best First Book Prize by the Southeastern Medieval Association (SEMA).

During the 2016-2017 academic year, a group of 12 undergraduates worked with Rebecca Grollemund and Michael Marlo on their ASH Scholars team, Documenting Luyia Together, to carry out original research on understudied varieties of the Luyia language cluster in western Kenya and eastern Uganda. The ASH team was sponsored by the Honors College and the Office of Undergraduate Research. The research contributes to Marlo’s 2014-2018 grant from the National Science Foundation, Structure and Tone in Luyia, and was based largely on data he collected during his Fulbright Scholarship in Kenya in 2016. The ASH team contributed to the development of the first talking dictionaries of three Luyia languages: Bukusu, Tiriki, and Wanga. (A talking dictionary is one where you can click on the dictionary entry and hear a speaker’s pronunciation of the word.) During the summer, several members of the team began new research, working with oral literature in each of the languages, with funding from the Campus Writing Program. They created time-aligned transcriptions, translations, and linguistic analyses of several oral texts. Four members of the team—Jessie Donovan, Sarah Pribe, Emily Raney, and Alexa Thein—continued this research in Bungoma, Kenya in July-August by interviewing speakers of Bukusu and Tiriki. The team now aims to produce a collection of about 20 texts—the first detailed linguistic documentation of its type for each of the languages, which will inform the development of grammatical descriptions of each language.

In spring 2017, Marlo won the Outstanding Undergraduate Mentor Award from the Office of Undergraduate Research, the Excellence in Education Award from the Division of Student Affairs, and the International Recognition Award from the Missouri International Student Council.

Marc McKee’s third full-length collection of poems, Consolationeer, was recently released from Black Lawrence Press <http://www.blacklawrence.com/consolationeer/>. He also made himself an author website this summer, if you’re into that sort of thing <https://admarcmckee.wixsite.com/poet>.

Scott Garson’s story “Writer” will soon be out in the Amy Hempel-edited volume of Best Small Fictions. He’s got more work forthcoming from The Threepenny Review and a best-of volume of fiction from The New Orleans Review. Other stories have come out recently in Gulf Coast and New Madrid.

Inspired by her “Folklore of Death and Dying” class, LuAnne Roth – along with Jamie Arndt (Psychology), Katina Bitsicus (Digital Storytelling), and Alexandria Lewis (Social Work) – was awarded $25,500 (through MU’s Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities Scholars Program) to support an interdisciplinary research team of 4 faculty and 10 undergraduate students. The year-long project – titled “The Art of Death” – will explore conversations about death/dying by producing creative projects for public outreach (e.g., writing, digital storytelling, film, photography) and then using research methods to examine the impact of these activities on fears about death and on psychological well-being. Most of the award provides scholarships for students, including 5 English and Digital Storytelling majors. Sponsored by the Honors College and Office of Undergraduate Research.


**Graduate Students**

Jennifer Maritza McCauley has been awarded a 2018 Creative Writing Fellowship in Prose from the National Endowment of the Arts. Her first poetry collection, SCAR ON/SCAR OFF, was recently released from Stalking Horse Press. This summer, she received a CantoMundo fellowship for Latinx poetry and a Kimbilio fellowship for African-American fiction. She attended both fellowship workshops at Columbia University in New York City and Southern Methodist University in Taos, New Mexico. She has new work forthcoming this fall in the anthologies Latinas: Protests and Struggles in the 21st Century USA and Just to Watch Them Die: Stories Inspired by Johnny Cash, and in The Los Angeles Review and Vassar Review.

Travis Scholl’s essay “Reading Lyric: Essay and Archive” appears in Fourth Genre 19.2 (fall 2017). The essay originated as part of a panel on the lyric essay at the 2017 AWP Conference. He also has poems forthcoming in Saint Katherine Review and Sehnsucht.

Greg Allendorf had two poems, “Imagine” and “Beset,” accepted by Iowa Review.

Jeffrey Wasserboehr’s essay “Lynn, Lynn, the City of Sin” was accepted for publication in the 30.2 issue of Gulf Coast, to be published this winter. He also had two poems accepted for publication in FIELD (an Oberlin College Press poetry journal), “Tea with Milk” and “Moron in Rain.”
Corinna Cook’s short piece about eagle mama hunting baby of otter mama was accepted for publication in Animal Literary Magazine.

Ashley Anderson’s essay “Sacrifice” was accepted for an upcoming themed issue of Broad Street.

Traci Smith’s flash nonfiction piece, “Smudge,” was accepted by So to Speak literary journal.

Rebecca Pelky’s poem “Midland” won the LED Contest sponsored by Partial Press, LED Publishing, and the Columbia Daily Tribune. Her poem was displayed via scrolling LED at Makes Scents in downtown Columbia until September 15th this fall.

Leanna Petronella had three poems accepted for publication in Origins Journal.

Eric O. Scott has received several awards this year for his creative writing and teaching, including the Judith A. and Richard B. Schwartz Student Travel Award, the John D. Bies International Travel Scholarship, a department Dissertation Fellowship, and the William Peden Teaching Prize for Creative Writing. He was also inducted into the Rollins Society, which recognizes exceptional graduate student service, for his work on graduate employee labor issues. His essay “Memorial Services” has been accepted for publication in the journal The New Territory.


Katie McGinnis’s fiction was on display at the Now.After: an Alumni Group Exhibition, presented by the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards from June 22-July 1st at FRONT art space in New York City. Her essay “Sarah” was also accepted by The Threepenny Review.

Alumni

LaTanya McQueen’s essay collection And It Begins Like This was accepted for publication and will be published by Black Lawrence Press in the fall of 2018. She also has work forthcoming in Harpur Palate, Rockhurst Review and The Florida Review.

Stephanie Carpenter’s short story collection Missing Persons won the 2017 Press 53 Award for Short Fiction and was published this fall. One of the stories appeared in the Fall issue of The Missouri Review.

Anne Barngrover’s latest book of poetry, Brazen Creatures, will be released in Spring 2018 by University of Akron Press, which named it the 2016 Akron Poetry Prize Editor’s Choice Selection.


Sarah Barber’s second book, Country House, will be published by Pleiades Press next October.

In Memory

To those among us who departed this life in the last year:

Monica Hand
PhD Student in Creative Writing

Naira Kuzmich
PhD Student in Creative Writing

William Bradley
Alumnus

Jack Roberts
Professor Emeritus
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Alexandra Socarides
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The department appreciates hearing from alumni and friends. Send announcements or milestones to the address listed above.

We're deeply grateful for the financial support we've received from alumni and friends during 2016 and 2017.