

MERIT AWARDS CEREMONY

BOGOMOLNY ROOM ★ APRIL 14, 2016



UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE
YALE GORDON COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

YALE GORDON COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

undergraduate programs

Merit Awards Celebration

April 14, 2016

division of applied behavioral sciences

Psychology

division of legal, ethical and historical studies

History

Jurisprudence

Philosophy, Society and Applied Ethics

division of science, information arts and technologies

Applied Information Technology

Environmental Sustainability and Human Ecology

Simulation and Digital Entertainment

klein family school of communications design

Digital Communication

English

Integrated Arts

office of the dean

Interdisciplinary Studies

Welcome

Christine Spencer, Sc.D.

interim dean

Opening Remarks

Darlene Brannigan Smith, Ph.D.

executive vice president and provost

Presentation of Awards

PROGRAM AWARDS

Giovanni Vincenti, D.Sc.

Julie Simon, M.F.A.

Cheryl Wilson, Ph.D.

Stanley Kemp, Ph.D.

Nicole Hudgins, Ph.D.

Jonathan Shorr, Ph.D.

Steven Scalet, Ph.D.

Sally Farley, Ph.D.

Bridget Blodgett, Ph.D.

SPECIAL AWARDS

ROSE, B.T. TURNER, KANIGEL

DONAHOO, FISHER

E.H. TURNER

Congratulations, graduates!



special awards



ALEXANDER ROSE MEMORIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CREATIVE WRITING

The Alexander Rose Memorial Award for Excellence in Creative Writing recognizes a graduating student in the Creative Writing Specialization whose creative work and contributions to the program have been recognized as outstanding by the faculty. The award is given by the Rose family in honor of Alexander Rose, UB Professor Emeritus of English.

BEATRICE KANIGEL PRIZE FOR LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

The Beatrice Kanigel Prize for Language and Literature is made possible by Robert Kanigel, a local author and former writer in residence in the Klein Family School of Communications Design. The award is in memory of his mother, who could recite Shakespearean sonnets from memory, read voluminously all her life, and inspired her three children, two of whom became writers or journalists. The prize recognizes an undergraduate or graduate student's achievement in writing—in any genre: creative, journalistic, or scholarly—or in the theatrical arts.

Brandy McCluskey will graduate from UB in May 2016 with a B.A. in English, Creative Writing Specialization. An energetic and articulate student, Brandy has a high level of intellectual curiosity and an impressive breadth of knowledge. She can always be counted on to bring new and interesting perspectives to class discussion, and is unfailingly steadfast in presenting and supporting her arguments. Professor Marion Winik notes that Brandy's writing "shows lyricism, self-awareness and humor," and Professor Kendra Kopelke explains that as editor of the literary magazine *Welter*, Brandy approached her job with "seriousness of purpose and gusto." She truly embodies the creative spirit and energy of the English program! The faculty of the Klein Family School of Communications Design selected her to receive both the Rose and Kanigel awards.



special awards

BETTY TARPLEY TURNER AWARD

The Betty Tarpley Turner Award is presented annually to the graduating English major who, in the opinion of the faculty, has the most distinguished record as a student of literature. The award is given by H. Mebane Turner, long-time president of UB, in honor of his mother who was an avid fan of literature.

Christy McCurdy graduated in December 2015 with a B.A. in English, Professional Writing Specialization, and 4.0 grade point average. An outstanding student in all of her classes, Christy is an accomplished writer, strategic thinker, and impeccable researcher who made valuable contributions to the English program through her thoughtful and generous class participation. In fall 2015, Christy interned with the College of Arts and Sciences Communications Coordinator, Monica Queen, who described her as “an excellent intern—diligent, inquisitive and enthusiastic.” The English program faculty certainly concur!

CHARLES FISHER AWARD

The Charles R. Fisher Award is given to commemorate the teaching of Professor Charles “Bob” Fisher, whose avid interest in history created a loyal following among UB students. The Fisher Award recognizes an outstanding history graduate.

John Lorenzana was a history student beloved by fellow students and faculty alike for the way he always offered his help. Thus, it is not surprising that John has shown interest in teaching here in Baltimore since his communication skills are top-notch. He is also a former soldier and a former chef—truly a multi-talented history graduate! Overcoming terrible penmanship, John earned excellent marks in all of his American and World history courses at UB.

special awards



DONAHOO AWARD

The Donahoo Award is given in memory of Professor Bill Donahoo, long-time member of the Department of History and Philosophy, to a graduating senior in history who is planning to pursue a career in teaching

Audrey Hayes combined her love of history, military experience, and writing skills to begin her career publishing stories for the U.S. Army online. In class, she combined humor and scrupulous politeness, completing a fascinating capstone project on wartime American women last year. We hear she started a full-time position in the Federal Aviation Administration in March. She was also accepted into UB's M.F.A. program in Creative Writing and Publishing Arts, which she will start in the fall. We're happy to know she will be around for a while.

E. HALCOTT TURNER AWARD

The E. Halcott Turner Award is presented to the graduate of the Jurisprudence major with the highest grade point average. This award is presented by H. Mebane Turner, long-time president of UB, in memory of his father.

Christopher Noske graduated Summa Cum Laude from the Jurisprudence program in December 2015. As a resident of Joppa on the Gunpowder River, once the county seat of Baltimore County before the American Revolution, perhaps his orientation toward history and law was inevitable. At UB, Chris's academic work was exceptional in every discipline area of the Jurisprudence program, a highly interdisciplinary pre-law major. His instructors report that he made a strong impression for his critical and independent thinking, his predictably constructive comments in class, and his truly excellent writing.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS



applied information technology

Patrick Maynard grew up in the Midwest before moving to Maryland and becoming a part-time UB student and graduating in December 2016. As a web developer at *The Baltimore Sun*, he has had the chance to apply skills from UB's Applied Information Technology program to some of Baltimore's biggest news stories, including police militarization and the Baltimore Uprising. Patrick is married and has lived in Baltimore for nearly a decade.

digital communication


Tinbit Alemayehu is a dedicated student and self motivated learner. Her commitment to her craft and dedication to understanding how to communicate her message is evident in the work she produces. She has demonstrated that she is willing to go far beyond what is asked to achieve a level of quality in her work that deserves our attention and admiration.

english

Christy McCurdy was selected as the Outstanding Student in the English program. Her bio appears on the page for the Betty Tarpley Turner award (page 4).

environmental sustainability and human ecology

Stehle Harris graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.A. in Environmental Sustainability and Human Ecology in fall 2015, having worked throughout her time at UB. Last year she interned with Blue Water Baltimore, the city's primary organization dedicated to improving the health of its urban waterways, an internship that entailed many hours of strenuous and demanding field work to collect samples from and inspect the urban streams of Baltimore. Her performance earned her the 2015 Blue Water Baltimore 'most hard working volunteer of the year' award. More recently, she accepted a paid position at the Baltimore National Aquarium primarily assisting their educational programs. Stehle has been an exemplary student and intern while at UB, and has developed very promising prospects in environmental science in a short period of time.






OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS

history

Stephanie Danesie combined her undergraduate history studies with a full-time job working in the Merrick School of Business dean's office. In addition to her reliably excellent classwork, she always pursued further learning more about her favorite topics, including an independent study about the painter Matisse with Dr. Hudgins, which incorporated a trip to Morocco and New York City. She volunteers for Baltimore organizations like the Walters Museum and the city zoo, and graduated Summa Cum Laude as a Helen P. Denit Honors student in December 2015.

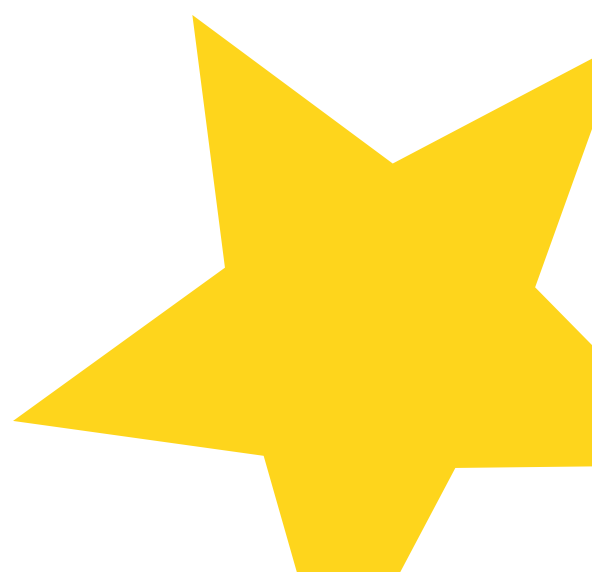
integrated arts

Both writing and music are important in the life of **Lauren Hutcheson Smith**. She is a musician, a songwriter, and a creative writer. With both writing and music in her life, she is able to combine them in service to her community and her church. She employed these two artforms in her Integrated Arts internship and her major capstone project, including the creation of new written work and music for worship. Lauren says about her writing: "My poetry and prose are introspective reflections of who I am versus who I want to be, and they are filtered through the lenses of my Christian beliefs and my worldview as a married, 20-something female residing in urban Baltimore City."



interdisciplinary studies

Shannon Jones will graduate in spring 2016 with a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies, with concentrations in History, Psychology, and Business. Shannon transferred to University of Baltimore in spring 2014. Since her transfer, Shannon has attended UB as a full-time student, while working part-time for Fresh Bakery in Owings Mills, MD. Shannon attributes much of her academic and professional success to the support of her family. After graduation, Shannon intends to pursue a career and graduate degree in clinical social work, a field she chose as a way of giving back to her community. She hopes to begin graduate study this fall.



OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS

jurisprudence

Michael Eberle began his studies in fall 2014, and in short order became a top student across all of his classes, and minored in Philosophy, a natural fit for his wide-ranging interests. Michael was especially impressed with the many relationships that he was able to develop with faculty members, and the feeling was mutual: faculty report that Michael embodies the spirit and ideals of higher education, as his fellow students can attest. Michael frequently debated with fellow students, analyzing class materials well-beyond the classroom setting, integrating ideas across subjects, and bringing great vitality to his educational experience. Michael hopes to work after he graduates for a few years but is keeping one eye on further graduate education in the years ahead.

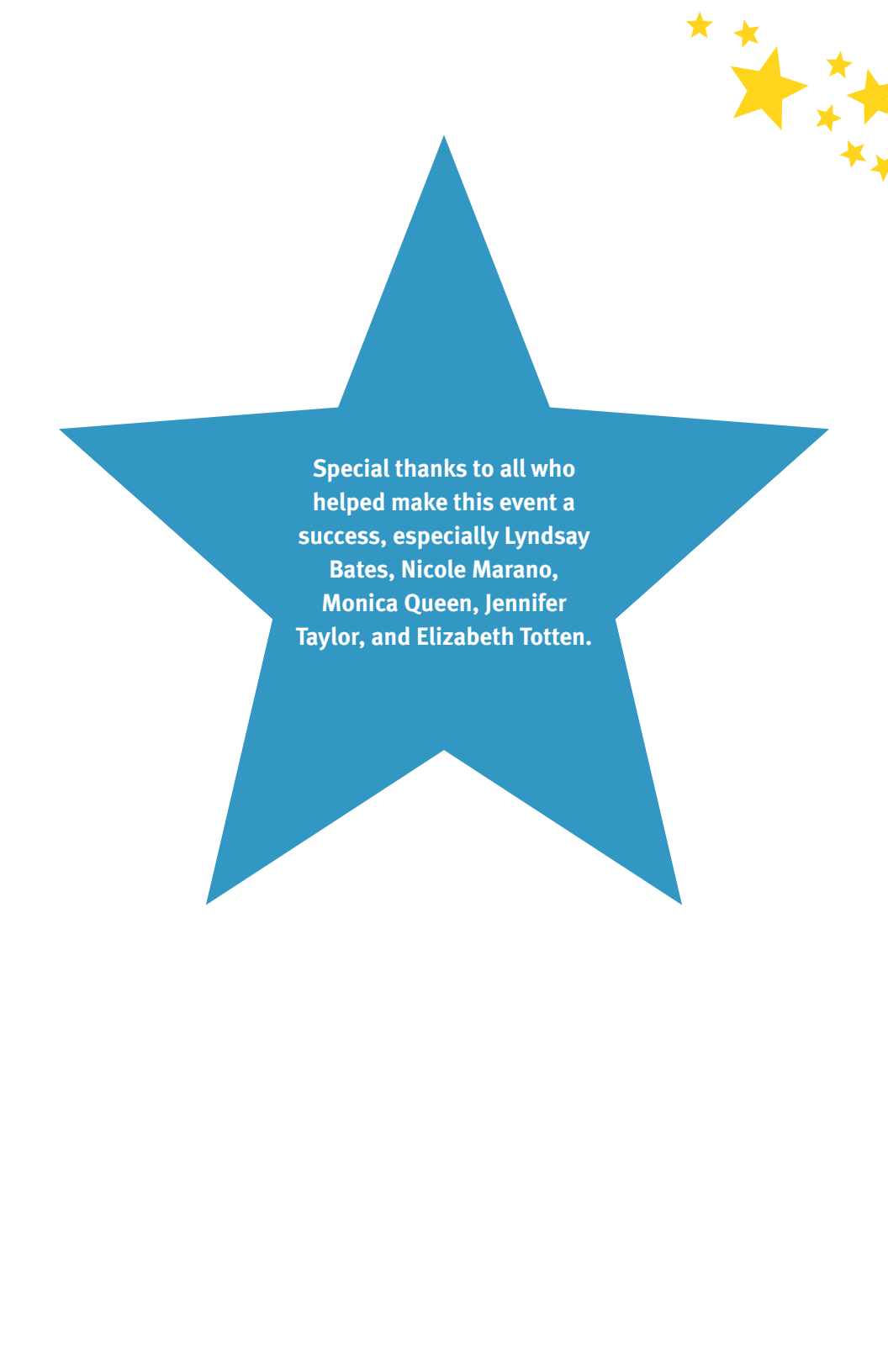
psychology

Hilary Keil graduated Summa Cum Laude in December 2015 with a B.A. in Psychology. Hilary's class performance consistently impressed her instructors: Professor Kris Eysell notes a pamphlet Hilary created of local support services for victims of intimate partner violence and sexual abuse is now in use in UB's Counseling Center. Professor Michael Frederick explains that, even as an undergraduate in a graduate-level course, Hilary's work ethic and class contributions put many of the other students to shame. In addition to her work in class, Hilary also served as president of UB's chapter of Psi Chi, the international honor society in Psychology, and contributed in the lab to every stage of the research process, including presenting research at a conference. By all accounts an exemplary student, Hilary was clearly a standout in the program.

simulation and digital entertainment

Leah Jennings graduated in spring 2015 after finishing a successful Simulation and Digital Entertainment capstone project, during which she showed true flexibility by taking roles of both team lead and 3D modeler on two separate projects. She also received the Robert L. Bogomolny Award for Undergraduate Creative Achievement at UB's Inspired Discoveries Undergraduate Research Day for her work with Kids Team Baltimore, having researched and designed a child-friendly video game controller. Before coming to UB, she had already won a Maryland Distinguished Scholar Award for Visual Art in 2010. Professionally, she has worked as an Illustrator and Graphic Designer at Promise International; as an Illustrator for Boutique of Quality Books Publishing Company, Inc.; and as a graphic designer for UB, Spark Experience, and, currently, Alchemy Learning.

Note: The Philosophy, Society, and Applied Ethics is a new program, created in fall 2015, so no students have graduated from the program in the current calendar year.



**Special thanks to all who
helped make this event a
success, especially Lyndsay
Bates, Nicole Marano,
Monica Queen, Jennifer
Taylor, and Elizabeth Totten.**