

# Anthos

ETSU Department of Literature and Language Newsletter



## ETSU Milton Marathon

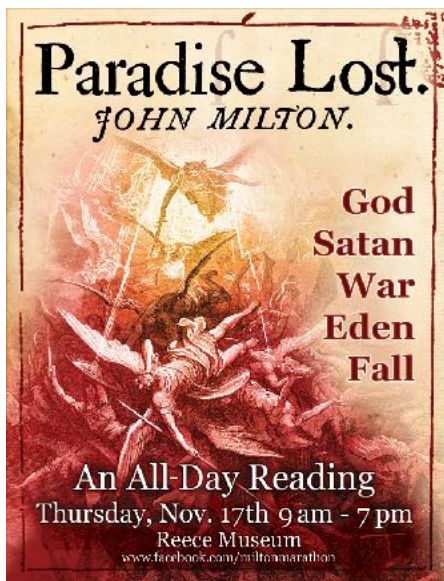
“The mind is its own place, and in itself can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven.”

The Milton Marathon is returning to ETSU on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Reece Museum. The event features a public reading of all 10,565 of John Milton's masterpiece, *Paradise Lost*. President Brian Noland will lead off the reading of the epic poem that features God, Satan, the war in Heaven, and humankind's loss of the Garden of Eden. In addition, there will be an exhibit of famous 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century illustrations, along with an exhibit of student verbal and visual art inspired by the poem.

President Brian Noland will start the Marathon at 9 a.m. with a reading of the famous invocation. Provost Kimberly McCorkle will also be there at that time to read.

A rare book exhibit, featuring celebrated 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century illustrated editions of the poem. A student art exhibit, featuring verbal and visual works inspired by *Paradise Lost*.

Students who attend are eligible for a \$100 Barnes and Noble Gift Card drawing. Norton has also donated copies of *Paradise Lost* for us to give away at the event.



This semester, we will have two special zoom lectures on Milton to help kick off this fall of *Paradise Lost*. The first is internationally renowned **Miltonist Dr. Gordon Teskey (Harvard)** giving a talk on “Milton's *Paradise Lost* in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>.

The second is a virtual homecoming for **Colby Johnson-Ellis**, who got his B.A. and M.A. at ETSU, and who is now a Ph.D. student at Texas Tech, giving a talk on “The ‘Snakie Sorceress’ of Hell's Gate: Reframing Milton's Sin via Intergenerational Feminist Conversation” on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>.

Fall 2022

In this issue...

LILA events: pg 2

A Notable Career: pg 3

New Faculty: pg 4

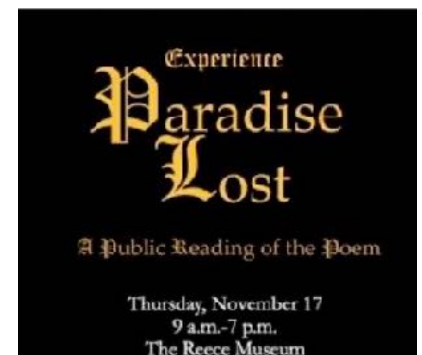
Faculty Highlights: pg 5

Alumni Spotlight: pg 5

Japanese Major: pg 6

Recent BA Grads: pg 8

Recent MA Grads: pg 13



WATCH THE TRAILER

[T-shirts are available again this year here.](#)

# Literature and Language

## Events

### Join Us on Your Journey

At the center of our philosophy is the ancient credo: “know thyself.” To us, the faculty and staff in the Literature and Language Department, that means working to educate the person and the passion through individual student care, a rich diversity of class options, and real world growth opportunities such as internships and study abroad. Our classrooms are everywhere – on campus, abroad, in the workplace and online. Our students succeed because we teach transferable 21st Century skills like written and oral communication, complex reading methods, research techniques, long-term project organization, and cultural competence. We create a nurturing environment that helps build a passionate resilience in our students because they find their unique critical and imaginative voice. Our students discover what motivates and drives their dreams. We seek to facilitate intense engagement with the human wisdom of the past and the possibilities of each individual student’s future. Join us on your journey!

### Upcoming SASCOL Conference

The Southern Appalachian Student Conference on Literature (SASCOL) is currently seeking abstract and paper submissions from graduate and advanced undergraduate students for its 10th annual conference, which will take place on April 14th, 2023.

The keynote speaker SASCOL 2023 is Dr. Erin Presley, Associate Professor of English at Eastern Kentucky University. Dr. Presley earned her B.A. and M.A. from East Tennessee State University, and she will be returning to ETSU to deliver her keynote lecture titled “Horace Kephart’s Place in Appalachian Studies.”

Student submissions for SASCOL can be about literature from any genre, region, or historic period. Abstracts of 100-250 words should be emailed to the conference organizers, [Dr. Joshua Reid](mailto:reidjs@etsu.edu) (reidjs@etsu.edu) and [Dr. Thomas Alan Holmes](mailto:holmest@etsu.edu) (holmest@etsu.edu) by March 1st, 2023. In addition to their abstracts, students may submit completed essays of approximately 6-8 double-spaced pages in length by March 1st, 2023, for consideration for the Achievement in Essay Award. Winners of the Achievement in Essay Award receive a certificate and a cash prize (last year’s prize: \$250), as well as recognition on the conference website. Our last conference featured 41 presenters from ETSU, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Emory & Henry College, King University, and Belmont University.

SASCOL offers students a welcoming yet professional environment to present their research and to network with faculty and other students in their academic areas. As Samantha Campbell, English M.A. student, said, “Participating in SASCOL is an enriching and enlightening opportunity for students. It gives rising scholars an opportunity to experience academic conferences in a less intimidating environment and allows them opportunities they might not have elsewhere, such as organizing and chairing their own panels, sharing their research, and the possibility of recognition for excellence in academic writing.”

Also, Seth Lewis presented in 2019 as an undergraduate, and he said about his experience, “SASCOL provided me with the first opportunity to share my research in a conference setting, and in doing so, I gained the knowledge and confidence to continue presenting my work at the professional level.”

SASCOL has been supported by the Department of Literature and Language, the Office of the Provost, and Dr. Brian Chisom, alumnus of ETSU and now Associate Vice President of Roanoke College. For more information link to [SASCOL <www.etsu.edu/cas/litlang/sascol>](http://www.etsu.edu/cas/litlang/sascol).



# A Notable Career



At the spring graduation, 2022, Dr. Judith Slagle ended her distinguished career at ETSU and joined the ranks of retired professors.

In August 1999 Judy left Roane State CC where she was chair of Humanities (after being an Asst. Prof. at MTSU). She replaced Tom Lane for 18th-c, as Styron Harris was getting ready to step down as

chair and retire. Ron Giles was interim chair for 1999-2000 while the department implemented its new curriculum. The department advertised the position in the spring of 2000, and Judy became chair that summer. In summer 2014, she moved to the dean's job in Honors.

Judy remembers one of the highlights of her tenure as chair: "I think one of the good things we did in the department was to start hiring lecturers and post-docs, supported by President Stanton. Sadly, that went away as soon as he retired. We actually had a staffing plan in those days and replaced people when they left. What a novel idea. We also made a lot of technological and physical updates to old Burseson during those years, sadly needed."

"One thing close to my heart was that we turned the faculty focus from just teaching to research, and we funded research trips as much as we could from the department but got lots of faculty to apply for small research grants from Research and Sponsored Programs."

"We also approved pretty much every trip to present at academic conferences. I was doing a lot of research on Joanna Baillie at the time and was going to a lot of conferences and getting research grants myself. I think 2000-2014 were very productive years for everyone."



BEN APPROVED

At a special event in April, a new scholarship, named the Judith Bailey Slagle Transfer Scholarship, was announced. The scholarship will be given to a deserving transfer student majoring in English each year.



## Classical and Medieval Studies Minor

As of fall 2022, the Classics Minor has been expanded and renamed as The Classical and Medieval Studies Minor. This change is intended to reflect the vast historical, cultural, literary and linguistic continuity between the periods traditionally distinguished as 'classical' and 'medieval'.

The vitality of the Latin language throughout the western Middle Ages is a supreme example of this continuity: from the fifth century on, Latin continued as the language of law, government, religion, and literature. Medieval ecclesiastical and monastic institutions preserved and disseminated classical learning, and, importantly, also helped establish vernacular literacy throughout and beyond the former Empire.

For that matter, without medieval scribes, copying out text after text, Greek and Latin literature—including history, philosophy, and science—would not survive at all! For these and other reasons, the expansion of our Minor to include the medieval period is a natural development, as well as a better reflection of current academic practice.



DR. JUDY SLAGLE AND DR. THOMAS H. CROFTS AT THE SPRING 2022 GRADUATION.

For information about all of the programs, including majors and minors, offered through Literature and Languages, please visit our [ETSU website](#).

# New Faculty in LILA



**Amy Laws** earned a master's degree in teaching from ETSU and a master's degree in French from the University of Georgia. She also earned a certificate in teaching French as a foreign language from CAVILAM (the Centre d'Approches Vivantes des Langues et des Médias) in France. Laws has worked, taught, volunteered and studied abroad in such locations as Cameroon, Senegal and France, and she has taught French at ETSU, the University of Georgia, Battle Ground Academy and other K-12 schools throughout the southeast. Laws has also contributed to The Greeneville Sun as a travel columnist under the name of "The Vivacious Voyager." She is a member of Alliance Française de Knoxville, the Tennessee Foreign Language Teachers Association, the American Association of Teachers of French and The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

**Dr. Kimberly Tweedale** earned her Ph.D. in Rhetoric, Theory, and Culture from Michigan Technological University in 2018. She then moved to the University of North Texas, where she directed the First-Year Writing Program before joining the faculty at ETSU as our new Composition Director. Most of Dr. Tweedale's research and professional work focuses on literacy development, both inside and outside the context of formal education. Dr. Tweedale's scholarship often engages with issues related to public health, crisis, marginalization, and writing programs. Her approach to writing program administration is informed and connected to both her teaching and research, and she is committed to building a writing program that is both strong and stable while also being flexible and adaptive.



**Mallory Nischan** is a doctoral candidate in modern foreign languages and literatures at the University of Tennessee, with concentrations in French and applied linguistics and a certificate in women, gender and sexuality. She earned a master's degree in French from the University of North Texas, and she has taught at Middle Tennessee State University, the University of North Texas, the University of Tennessee and the University of Lille in France. In addition to extensive work as a volunteer and translator, Nischan

has earned certificates in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) and applied linguistics, and she has served as the editor-in-chief of "Vernacular," a graduate student journal at the University of Tennessee. Her research interests are in 20th and 21st century French literature with a focus on North Africa. She is currently working on her dissertation, titled "Retelling Resistance: Orality, Writing and the Kahina in North African Francophone Literature."

For a list of adjuncts and graduate students currently teaching in LILA, please visit our [faculty page here](#).

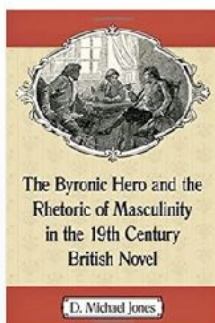
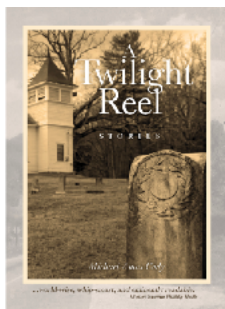
# Faculty Highlights

This February, Spanish professors Matthew Fehskens and Isabel Gómez Sobrino gave a live reading from their recently published poetry at Dos Gatos café in downtown Johnson City. Isabel published a volume of her original poetry in Spanish, *Cenizas susurrantes*, translated to English with the title *Whispering Ashes*.

Matthew published his translation of Colombian poet Armando Romero's collection of poems, *Del aire a la mano*, to English under the title *From the Air to the Hand*.



For more of the recent LILA publications, you can take a look at the [department home page](#).



# Alumni Spotlight

## Sarah Hamilton

This summer, medical student and ETSU Spanish graduate Sarah Hamilton ('20) traveled to Ecuador with Professor of Pediatrics, Dr. Wood, MD, MPH, as well as other medical students from the Quillen College of Medicine.

The trip was organized through the Hombro a hombro ("Shoulder to shoulder") program in Ecuador, which sets up medical brigades in collaboration with the Ministry of Health throughout the country serving rural areas with little to no access to healthcare services.



A CATHEDRAL IN QUITO

[View the video interview between Dr. Katrina Heil and Sarah Hamilton here.](#)

## Meg Foster



French @ ETSU  
@EtsuFrench

Check it out! One of ETSU French's very own, Meg Montgomery Foster (B.A. French/Theatre '05, MAT '08) is a finalist for TN Teacher of the Year! Félicitations, Meg! Way to go!

### CONGRATULATIONS

#### 2022-23 Tennessee Teacher of the Year Finalists

The nine finalists represent each of the eight Center of Regional Excellence (CORE) areas in the state as well as the Shelby County-Municipals area, with three finalists in each Grand Division: West, Middle, and East.

<b>Melissa Collins</b> <small>Jordan P. Freeman Optional School            Memphis-Shelby County Schools</small>	<b>Robert Sparks</b> <small>Jackson Central-Alley Early College High School            Jackson-Madison County Schools</small>	<b>Kerri Newsom</b> <small>Dyersburg Primary School            Dyersburg City Schools</small>
<b>Kim Inglis</b> <small>Black Fox Elementary            Murfreesboro City Schools</small>	<b>Rachel Porter</b> <small>Leaning Way Elementary            Bedford County Schools</small>	<b>Aleta Apple</b> <small>Woodland Park Elementary School            White County Schools</small>
<b>Kristin Burrus</b> <small>STEM School Chattanooga            Hamilton County Schools</small>	<b>Margaret Bright</b> <small>Lexia City Elementary School            Lenoir City Schools</small>	<b>Meg Foster</b> <small>Ellisabeth High School            Elizabethton City Schools</small>

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## Jordan Violet

This summer, after her return from a year in France with the TAPIF program, Jordan Violet met with Dr. Katrina Heil for an interview about her experience. Jordan shares with us some great stories, the value of her French major, and her future plans to pursue a graduate degree in literature in France. Jordan reminds us how important it is to follow your passion when planning your career.



This fall, Jordan will be hosting the French Conversation Table meeting Thursdays at 5:00 at Starbucks in the Culp. The conversation group is open to students of all levels, as well as those just interested in making new friends while picking up some French.

[View the video interview between Dr. Katrina Heil and Jordan Violet here.](#)

## Bethany Johnson

Bethany Johnson received her Master's degree in speech-language pathology after completing her BA in English at ETSU. "Every single day I get to teach children words / help them communicate, breaking down components of the language that



I love so much. I also just wrote and published my first children's book! My background in English established a foundation for various aspects of my life, including my career and writing my book. The guidance I received from the [LILA] professors and the analytical skills I learned during the

program made a lasting impact on my life. At the foundation of life, there are words.

Words are powerful.

Words are lasting.

Words change the world.

That is why I chose to be an English major - and in the words of Robert Frost: "that has made all the difference."

## New Japanese Major and Events

Beginning last fall 2021, the Department of Literature and Language started offering a Japanese concentration in the Foreign Language major. The Japanese program is experiencing great growth and popularity. Currently, there are 22 students with a Japanese major and 23 students with a Japanese minor enrolled at ETSU. Enrollments have grown substantially and LILA will be adding a new adjunct instructor this fall. Among the first class of graduating students with a degree in Japanese is Owen Hester. Owen has just arrived in Japan, where he will spend the year teaching for the JET program. Owen won second prize for the Tennessee Japanese presentation contest for the highest (third) level. ETSU

student Heather Quillen won third prize for this level as well. Congratulations ETSU Japanese students!!

In addition to the existing scholarship that LILA offers Japanese minors, Japanese will begin offering a new scholarship this fall explicitly for majors. The new scholarship is provided by Tuff Torg, a Japanese company based in Morristown, TN. The scholarship will help majors in Japanese pay for tuition costs. The association with Tuff Torg will also provide students with local internship and job opportunities where students can use their Japanese!

Another regional Japanese company, Miyake, continues offering Japanese students language

continued next page

internship opportunities. In these internships, students greatly improve their spoken Japanese and can earn credits towards fulfillment of their degree requirements.

See ETSU's faculty spotlight on Japanese coordinator and senior lecturer Junko Tezuka Arnold [here!](#)

Another exciting development in Japanese, led by Japanese lecturer Zachary James: This April saw the return of ETSU's pop culture event, "ETSU-Con". Through the year-long efforts of the Japanese Language students, and several community volunteers, ETSU had a weekend to celebrate anime, video games, sci-fi, fantasy, and the various programs on campus that coincide with these genres. Among the 2,300 attendees were world-class voice actors, seven different ETSU study programs, the ETSU E-Sports team, ambassadors from local interest groups and businesses, and educators from

locations such as The Gray Fossil Site and The American Museum of Science & Energy.

Such a unique and energetic event reminds us just how fortunate we are to have a campus willing to put on a show to celebrate diversity, creativity, and fun! After such a successful relaunch, it is safe to say that planning for "ETSU-Con 2023" is well under way. We hope to see you, or your department, represented there next year and join us in all things "nerdy".

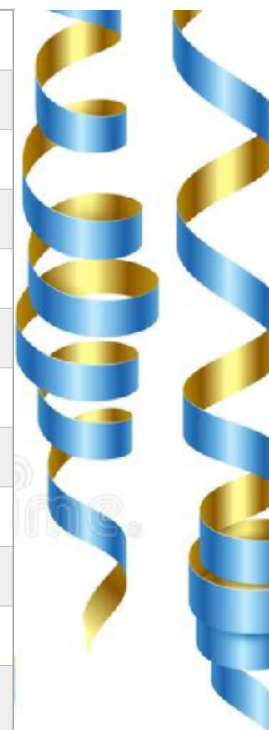


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## LILA Awards Recipients April 2021

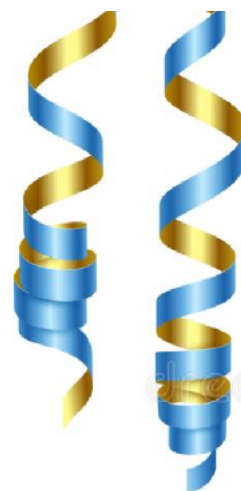
<b>Name of Applicant</b>	<b>Award</b>
Taylor Mackenzie Harr	Karen Cajka
Daniel Stoll	Mary B. Herrin
Nakyla Brady	Christa Hungate
Katelin McKeehan	Golda Merrill
no recipient	Harry Merrill
Gabrielle Humble	Mary and Ambrose Manning
Courtney Holt	Dugger
Takya Hughes	McClellan
Brynette McKinney	Jill MacLean
no recipient	Outstanding Student in Foreign Languages
no recipient	Outstanding Student in English
no recipient	Outstanding Student in WMST
Chris Dunham	Beginning German Award
Owen Hester	Japanese Minor Award
Layla Cantafio	Higgs award Freshman Essay
TaKya Hughes	Higgs award for literature sophomore +
no recipient	Higgs graduate research/ thesis award
no recipient	John D. Allen Graduate Award in English
no recipient	Undergraduate Feminist Activist;
no recipient	Graduate Feminist Activist
no recipient	Graduate Feminist Activist
no recipient	Barbara Murphy Brooks
no recipient	Eduardo-Zayas Bazan
Lori Lee Cooper	Beasley Award
Hannah Hess	Ardis L. Nelson





## LILA Awards Recipients April 2022

<b>Name of Applicant</b>	<b>Award</b>
Lauren Whipple	Karen Cajka
Ethan Barker	Mary B. Herrin
no recipient	Christa Hungate
Jonathan Stokely	Golda Merrill
no recipient	Harry Merrill
Christina Glover	Mary and Ambrose Manning
Madison Barkley	Dugger
Korbin Rhue	McClellan
Sophie Stines	Jill MacLean
Azayzel DeRegis	Outstanding Student in Foreign Languages
Lori Cooper	Outstanding Student in English
Alex Magnuson	Beginning German Award
Zi Min Khor	Japanese Minor Award
Jacob Jenkins	Higgs award Freshman Essay
Molly Williams	Higgs award Freshman Essay
Matthew Barker	Higgs award for literature sophomore +
Andrew Demczuk	Higgs graduate research/ thesis award
Daniell Stoll	John D. Allen Graduate Award in English
KeiAndra Harper	Undergraduate Feminist Activist
Emily Price	Graduate Feminist Activist
Trinitti Sylvia	Barbara Murphy Brooks
no recipient	Eduardo-Zayas Bazan
Kyla Fridell	Beasley Award
Jorge Hinostroza	Ardis L. Nelson
Noemi Mejia	Ardis L. Nelson
Makayla Shortt	New transfer student



## LILA BA Grads

Fall 2021

Bravender, Michelle E.	English
Bunten, Amara G.	English
Cox, India	English
Daugherty, Holsten B.	English
Davis, Cameron E.	English
Ellis, Jesse J.	Foreign Languages
Foster, Blake A.	Foreign Languages
Harless, Zackary T.	Foreign Languages
Keith, Zackary T.	English
McKinney, Brynette R.	English
McKinney, Kiersten T.	English
Phalen, Kylee R.	English
Richardson, Abigail N.	English
Richardson, Emily N.	English
Shuler, Alana D.	English
Todaro, Holly A.	English
Wright, Hollace R.	Foreign Languages

Honors students are highlighted in yellow. The titles of the undergraduate theses can be found in the library's [Digital Commons](#) page.



## LILA BA Grads

Spring and Summer 2022

Alfonso, Claire O.	English
Barnette, Candis D.	English
Bowens, Emily K.	English
Brophy, Amber L.	English
Brown, Madison B.	English
Buchanan, Emily F.	English
Carver, Abigail G.	English
Chapman, Jonah S.	English
Cooper, Lori L.	English
Davis, Andrew H.	Foreign Languages
DeRegis, Azayzel L.	Foreign Languages
DiCola, Nicole S.	English
Dowdell, Mykia T.	Foreign Languages
Eaton, Hunter L.	English
Edwards, Savana D.	Foreign Languages
Ekart, Daniel J.	English
Everroad, Levi J.	Foreign Languages
Gilbert, Emma M.	English
Griffith, Caleb J.	English
Hester, Owen C.	Foreign Languages
Holt, Courtney E.	English
Humble, Gabrielle A.	English
Lawson, Ryan T.	English
Lombr, Sidney R.	English
Marvel, Bailey C.	English
McKeehan, Katelin T.	English
Moore, Leah E.	English
Morelock, Garrett M.	Foreign Languages
Nande, Jennifer C.	Foreign Languages

Honors students are highlighted in yellow. The titles of the undergraduate theses can be found in the library's [Digital Commons](#) page.

Neal, Savannah E.	English
Reale, Samantha E.	English
Schuettler, Corie A.	English
Seehorn, Hunter J.	English
Servedio, Alexa	English
Stanley, Sappho	English
Stout, Phillip C.	English
Taylor, Keena J.	English
Tolley, Stephanie L.	English
Way, Kristen E.	English
White, Jolee S.	English
Whitehead, Noah M.	English
Wight, William R.	English
Wilson, Emily N.	English
Fine, Ray D.	TESOL GR Cert
Erbach, Lilith K.	English
Lefler, Lauren N.	English
McGee, Lucy K.	English
Myers, Leslie A.	English

Honors students are highlighted in yellow. The titles of the undergraduate theses can be found in the library's [Digital Commons](#) page.



## LILA MA Grads

### **Matthew Bennett**

A Lesson in Mourning: The Evolution of the English Anti-Elegy  
Michael Jones

### **Zackery A. "Zac" Castle**

Cyberspace vs Green Space: Nature's Psychological Influence  
Mark Baumgartner

### **Kayli A. Compton**

Posthumanism in the Early Modern Period: Jonson, Marlowe, and Shakespeare  
Robert Sawyer

### **Madeline G. "Maddy" Dawson**

Loving the Mountains, Leaving the Mountains: The Appalachian Dilemma and Jim Wayne Miller's THE BRIER POEMS  
Thomas Alan Holmes

### **Andrew J. "Andy" Demczuk**

Jack Higgs Award for Graduate Research  
Operatic Mysticisms: Mountains, Deserts, Waterscapes  
Matthew Holtmeier

### **Ray D. Fine**

Visions of Christ in THE DOLLMAKER  
Michael Cody

### **Omolola I. "Lola" Giwa**

Accepting or Opposing The Status Quo: A Look at the Women Characters in Mariama Ba's So Long a Letter (1981) and Chimamanda Adichie's Purple Hibiscus (2003)  
Martha Michieka

### **Haley I. Grindstaff**

A Translation Across Mediums: Gareth Hinds' Graphic Novel BEOWULF  
Thomas Crofts

### **Courtney D. Harvey**

Characters Are Unbreakably Bound to Their Identities and Archetypes in UNTIL DAWN  
Thomas Crofts

### **Shelby McBane** (non-thesis)

### **Madeline Neyenhaus** (non-thesis)

### **Emily E. Price**

Distinction in Comprehensive Exams  
The Poetic Subject, Incarceration, and Envisioning Abolition  
Scott Honeycutt

### **Mallory Spisak** (non-thesis)

### **Daniel S. Stoll**

John D. Allen Award for Outstanding Graduate Student  
The Search for Hades, the Absent Invisible God in Ancient Greek Literature  
Thomas Crofts



## We Want to Hear From You!

The Department of Literature and Languages would appreciate receiving news items for the next LILA newsletter, Spring 23. Visit the [department web site](#) for more information about the department.

## Anthos Newsletter

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