Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Commencement Convocation

Yale University
Sunday, May 17, 2015
Order of Exercises

COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION
Sunday, May 17, 2015

Procession
Brass Ensemble

Welcome
Lynn Cooley
Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the C.N.H. Long Professor of Genetics
Professor, Cell Biology and Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology

Student Prizes
Presented by Dean Richard Sleight
Associate Dean of the Graduate School

Public Service Awards
Presented by Dean Richard Sleight

Prize Teaching Fellows
Presented by Dean Richard Sleight

Graduate Mentor Awards
Presented by Joori Park
Chair of the Graduate Student Assembly

A reception will follow immediately after
Convocation in the Hall of Graduate Studies Common Room.
Graduate School Student Prizes

Departmental Awards

The **Marston Anderson Prize** is awarded on an occasional basis to truly outstanding dissertations in the field of East Asian Languages and Literatures in memory of Professor Anderson for his contribution to the intellectual and pedagogical mission of the department.

**Jessica Moyer**
East Asian Languages and Literatures
“Gender and Genre in the High Qing: Depictions of Feminine Sociability and Household Dynamics across Late Imperial Genres”

Moyer’s dissertation is not only a learned work, but also an admirable new study of the late imperial (especially 17th-18th century) Chinese domestic fiction and morality books. The dissertation is also about the role of genre, especially on how women’s kinship and household relationships illuminate the role of genre in the textual discourse.

The **Francis J. Anscombe Award** is given on an occasional basis for outstanding academic performance in the Department of Statistics.

**Chao Gao**
Statistics

The **Henry Prentiss Becton Prize** for exceptional achievement in research is awarded to a graduate student within the Council of Engineering.

**Ngai Yin Yip**
Chemical and Environmental Engineering
“Sustainable Production of Water and Energy with Osmotically-Driven Membrane Processes and Ion-Exchange Membrane Processes”

Ngai Yin Yip’s dissertation focused on novel membrane-based processes for sustainable water production and renewable energy generation. His rigorous and fundamental approach to studying these technologies has yielded pivotal findings that enhanced the mechanistic and thermodynamic understanding of these processes. The implications of his research are far-reaching and will shape the discussion on sustainable water and energy production using membrane technologies.

The **Frederick W. Beinecke Prize** is awarded upon the recommendation of the History Department for an outstanding doctoral dissertation in the field of Western American History.

**Ryan Hall**
History
“Blackfoot Country: The Indigenous Borderlands of the North American Fur Trade, 1782-1870”

This is an exemplary work of historical scholarship. Hall uses primary sources of the North American Indian trade (the fur trade) to reconstruct the history of the Blackfoot Country. He utilizes these sources to provide readers with a convincing narrative of Blackfoot actions and motivations. His reconstruction is a triumph of historical enterprise.

The **Frances Blanshard Fellowship Prize** is awarded annually for the outstanding doctoral dissertations submitted to the History of Art Department.

**Meredith Gamer**
History of Art
“The Sheriff’s Picture Frame: Art and Execution in Eighteenth-Century Britain”

Meredith Gamer’s exploration of the relationship between art and capital punishment in eighteenth-century England offers an entirely new conceptualization of the overlapping spheres of the artistic and the social. In demonstrating that
public executions were fundamentally a visual phenomenon with numerous connections to the world of the Royal Academy, the dissertation transforms our understanding of British art of the period.

SYLVIA HOUGHTELING
History of Art
“Politics, Poetry and the Figural Language of South Asian Cloth, 1600-1730”

Sylvia Houghteling’s trailblazing account of the world of South Asian cloth in the early modern period is a key intervention into a new global history of art. Paying close attention to the spinning of thread, the texture of weaving, and the steps of painting and dyeing, this groundbreaking study reveals the hybridity, reciprocity, and pluralism of Indian cultural production.

The Harding Bliss Prize for Excellence in Engineering and Applied Science is awarded annually to the outstanding student who has completed his or her Ph.D. thesis during the current academic year and who has done the most to further the intellectual life of the department.

ALYSSA SIEFERT
Biomedical Engineering
“Biomimetic Nanosystems Targeting Antigen-Presenting Cells for Improved Therapeutics”

Alyssa Siefert’s work shows how the principles of nanoassembly can be used to design safer vaccine vectors that are highly optimized for delivery of antigen (vaccines) or drugs (therapeutic treatment). The designs she worked on would not only be useful in prevention of infectious diseases, but also could introduce new treatment options for disorders such as asthma, allergy, and cancer.

The Sylvia Ardyn Boone Prize is awarded annually in memory of Sylvia Boone, a noted scholar of African art, who was the first tenured African-American woman on the Yale faculty. In her memory, Vera Wells, Yale ’71, has established a prize to honor Sylvia Boone’s life and work.

JOHN COOPER
African American Studies, History of Art
“Imperial Balls: the Arts of Sex, War, and Dancing in India, England, and the Caribbean, 1770-1870”

John Cooper’s revelatory study of ‘the dancing image’ brings to life nineteenth-century representations of the body in motion. His comparative framework juxtaposes the London stage, dance forms in colonial India, and the drama of motion in the Jamaican street. By working with living dancers on three continents, Cooper has unlocked the formal complexities and cultural meanings of historical dance.

The Dirk Brouwer Memorial Prize was established in 1966 by friends of Professor Dirk Brouwer, Chairman of the Department of Astronomy and Director of the Yale Observatory from 1941 to 1966. It is awarded to a student in the department for a contribution of unusual merit to any branch of astronomy.

KATHERINE TEASE
Astronomy
“A Cosmic Metamorphosis: The Quenching of Star-formation in Massive Galaxies Over the Last Eleven Billion Years”

The Anthony DiGuida Delta Mu Research Prize was established in memory of a doctoral student from the School of Nursing. It is given to a graduating student whose love of clinical scholarship has resulted in a disserta-
tion that advances nursing knowledge and demonstrates creative conceptualization of a complex clinical problem, methodologic and analytic excellence, and superb writing.

**LISA BRAUN**
*Nursing*

“U.S. Navy Women's Experience with Abnormal Cervical Cancer Screening & Follow-Up Care”

Lisa Braun designed a study to examine the experiences of women in the US Navy who had abnormal cervical cancer screenings that required follow-up colposcopy. Through narrative analysis, Braun exposed disparate health care journeys for women and system gaps. She demonstrated immense courage in her presentation of findings to the military command that were not especially positive, but from which she was able to provide useful strategies for future policy and practice. Braun represents the qualities of the Anthony DiGuida Delta Mu Research Prize, including love of doctoral study, courage, and exceptional leadership.

The **George Washington Egleston Historical Prize**, established in 1901, is awarded annually to a research student who discovers new facts of importance for American history or gathers information or reaches conclusions which are useful from a historical, literary, and critical point of view.

**ANDREW HOROWITZ**
*History*

“The End of Empire, Louisiana: Disaster and Recovery on the Gulf Coast, 1915-2012”

Horowitz has submitted a deeply researched and beautifully written dissertation on the response of south Louisiana people to the disasters that have befallen them. I cannot think of any student in my experience who moves more adeptly or gracefully across the disciplinary line that is said to divide history from sociology. I predict that Horowitz’s book will be the go-to source for a new kind of historical inquiry.

The **English Department Dissertation Prize** is awarded for the best dissertation in the current year.

**SAMUEL FALLON**
*English Language & Literature*

“Personal Effects: Persona and Literary Culture in Elizabethan England”

Fallon shows how English writers of the 1580s and 1590s invented the persona, a new figure that could simultaneously reveal and obscure the author’s biographical identity — and how, in the process, these writers helped to redefine the status of literature by distinguishing their art from the world of everyday printed texts.

**JUSTIN SIDER**
*English Language & Literature*

“Parting Words: Address and Exemplarity in Victorian Poetry”

Sider explores how nineteenth-century authors used valediction, the art of saying goodbye; this beautifully written dissertation teaches us that they did so, not so much to take leave from the world, as to address new kinds of publics and to establish the terms of their own literary afterlives.

The **Estwing Hammer Prize** is awarded by the Estwing Manufacturing company to outstanding geology or geophysics graduate students.

**ZHIXUE DU**
*Geology & Geophysics*

**ALLISON HSIAW**
*Geology & Geophysics*

**VICTORIA MCCOY**
*Geology & Geophysics*
The **Excellence in Teaching Prize**, new this year, is given in recognition of a student’s outstanding contribution to the teaching process at the Department of Geology & Geophysics.

**David Auerbach**  
Geology & Geophysics

**James Super**  
Geology & Geophysics

The **Miguel Ferreyros Memorial Award** is awarded to the joint-degree student in Global Affairs with the highest academic achievement.

**Christopher Harnisch**  
Global Affairs

The **Harry Burr Ferris Prize** is awarded to a doctoral candidate in Cell Biology for a distinguished record of academic accomplishments. A distinguished record is evidenced by many of the following criteria: publications, a scholarly and well-written dissertation, fellowships and other awards, leadership and service activities that benefit the Department or the University.

**Nicole Darricarrere**  
Cell Biology  
“Mechanistic Studies of Small RNA Pathways Mediated by Argonaute Proteins and Novel Insights from Genome-Wide RNA Interference Screening Applications”

Darricarrere’s research focused on a novel role for short pieces of genetic material (RNA) in controlling gene.

**Eric Guo**  
Cell Biology  
“Regulation of T-Cell Function by Herpesvirus Noncoding RNA’s”

Guo examined why a tumorigenic monkey virus targets a particular host-cell regulatory element (a microRNA) for destruction. Destroying this microRNA makes the cell more hospitable for the virus by increasing the levels of certain host activating proteins. Interestingly, related viruses accomplish the same goal by a completely different means – acquiring genes for the same activating proteins over evolutionary time.

**Brant Webster**  
Cell Biology  
“Quality Control of Nuclear Pore Complex Assembly”

Brant Webster discovered a quality control pathway that ensures the function of nuclear pore complexes, which control molecular traffic to and from the nucleus of cells. His study provides insight into natural cellular processes that prevent age-related disease.

The **William Ebenezer Ford Prize** was established in 1963 by gift from Mary Ford in memory of her husband, Professor William E. Ford, Ph.B. 1899, Ph.D. 1903. It is awarded to students who have distinguished themselves in study or research in mineralogy.

**Taylor Kilian**  
Geology & Geophysics

**Colton Lynner**  
Geology & Geophysics

The **Hans Gatzke Prize** is awarded upon the recommendation of the History Department for the outstanding dissertation or dissertations in a field of European history.

**Nathaniel Kurz**  
History  
“‘A Sphere Above the Nations?’: The Rise and Fall of International Jewish Human Rights Politics, 1945-1975”

Nathan Kurz has written a truly dramatic and extremely compelling dissertation that is part of a
A growing body of serious scholarship. In short, this is a first rate dissertation — one of the best I have seen in my career. The presentation of the thesis is excellent, and the range of scholarly reference in it is exemplary.

Rachel Rothschild  
History of Science and Medicine  
“A Poisonous Sky: Scientific Research and International Diplomacy on Acid Rain”

Rothschild’s dissertation is the first scholarly account and analysis of the struggle to control acid rain in Europe. She clearly surpasses any previous work in these fields. She found a perfect balance between the scientific, political, social, and cultural dimensions of this complex and important story. This dissertation will have an important impact.

The James B. Grossman Dissertation Prize was established in memory of a doctoral student in Psychology. It is given to the author of an outstanding Ph.D. dissertation in Psychology, with preference for research embodying some of the characteristics of James Grossman’s scholarship, such as creativity, use of other disciplines, and clinical work with children.

Su Mei Lee  
Psychology  
“Clarifying the Role of the Posterior Superior Temporal Sulcus in Social Cognitive Processing”

Su Mei Lee’s studied the functional role the posterior superior temporal sulcus of the human brain, a region whose apparent heterogeneity of function has vexed cognitive neuroscience. Using advanced imaging and statistical pattern classification techniques, Lee demonstrated common patterns of activation in this region across superficially different tasks. This suggests that a common subprocess might underlie many of the functions attributed to this brain region.

The William J. Horwitz Prize is awarded for continuous excellence and distinction in a chosen discipline within the field of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations.

Marina Brown  
Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations  
“Keeping Enemies Closer: Ascribed Material Agency in Ancient Egyptian Rock Inscriptions and the Projection of Presence and Power in Liminal Regions”

Brown’s dissertation brings a hitherto untapped corpus of material to the task of reconstructing the office of the Viceroy of Nubia during the second millennium BCE. Her study also expands considerations of agency and landscape archaeology into the realm of Nubian rock inscriptions, allowing her both to test and to employ modern, theoretical approaches to such material.

Matteo Di Giovanni  
Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations  

This extraordinary work on Aristotle’s Metaphysics displays impressive linguistic expertise in many languages (Greek, Arabic, Latin, Syriac) and proceeds cautiously and judiciously through a staggering number of complex textual and historical issues, drawing numerous conclusions that overturn or seriously question previous scholarly consensus. A landmark study in Graeco-Arabica, it sets the standard for the critical editions of Aristotle.
The **Award for Academic Excellence in Global Affairs** is given to the master’s student in Global Affairs with the highest academic achievement.

**FARSAN GHASSIM**
Global Affairs

The **Mary Ellen Jones (Ph.D. 1951, Biochemistry) Prize** is awarded to the most distinguished dissertation in Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry submitted during the academic year. Dr. Jones was a leading scientist and a pioneer in the advancement of women in academia.

**HOONG CHUIN LIM**
Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry

“Evidence for a DNA-relay Mechanism in ParABS-mediated Chromosome Segregation”

Fast-growing bacteria have evolved efficient mechanisms to faithfully distribute their genetic material to their offspring. This work, using the model organism Caulobacter crescentus, illuminated how a few bacterial proteins work together to segregate duplicated chromosomes to cellular locations where daughter cells will form.

The **Annie Le Fellowship** is awarded each year to one or more Ph.D. students in the biological and biomedical sciences whose demonstrated commitment to bettering the world around them and outstanding record in research exemplify the life and career of Annie Marie Le, a Yale graduate student between 2007 and 2009.

**OLGA BUZOVETSKY**
Biological & Biomedical Sciences

**JOORI PARK**
Biological & Biomedical Sciences

The **Elias Loomis Prize** is awarded for excellence in studies of physics of the earth. Elias Loomis was a professor of natural philosophy and astronomy in Yale College.

**IVY TAN**
Geology & Geophysics

**SRIKANTH TOPPALADODDI**
Geology & Geophysics

The **John Spangler Nicholas (Ph.D. 1921) Prize** was established in 1972 by bequest of Helen Brown Nicholas in memory of her husband. The prize is awarded annually to outstanding doctoral candidates in experimental zoology.

**NICHOLAS FRANKEL**
Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology

“Trade-offs in Bacterial Chemotaxis and the Adaptation of Non-genetic Diversity”

Cell-to-cell variability is a critical issue in biomedical topics, from antibiotic resistance to stem cell differentiation. Frankel investigated the sources and consequences of cell-to-cell variability using bacterial swimming behaviors as a model. He used experimental and theoretical techniques to show that cell-to-cell variability allows populations to cope with environmental trade-offs and that this variability can adapt under evolutionary pressures.

**DANIEL GOLDHILL**
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

“Robustness, Structure and Thermotolerance: Experimental Evolution of the RNA Phage Phi6”

Goldhill’s dissertation investigated the evolution of thermal robustness and evolvability in a viral system using experimental evolution, population genetics, structural biology and biochemical techniques. This is an extraordinary synthetic achievement and will be paradigmatic for this field.
The Marguerite A. Peyre Prize was established in 1964 and is awarded at the discretion of the chair of the Department of French to a graduate student in that department.

Clementine Faúre-Bellaïche
French
“‘L’air protestant’ – André Gide and the Religion of Literary Modernism”

Faúre-Bellaïche’s dissertation reevaluates an unexamined phenomenon – the cultural influence of Protestantism on France’s literary modernity. Faúre-Bellaïche shows how a canonical modernist writer, André Gide, confronted with France’s culturally Catholic frame, integrated his Protestant difference into his literary identity. She then retraces a cultural filiation connecting Gide, Jean-Paul Sartre and Roland Barthes, two prominent twentieth-century French intellectuals marked by Protestantism.

Benjamin Hoffman
French
“Posthumous America: Literary Recreations of America at the Turn of the Eighteenth Century”

Why is it that America is never more potent as a driving ideal than in its loss? Benjamin Hoffmann’s dissertation “Posthumous America” provides literary idealizations of a lost American past. It investigates the ways recreating America’s past allowed a series of French writers to imagine France’s future at the turn of the eighteenth century.

The Philip M. Orville Prize was established in 1981 in memory of Philip M. Orville. The prize is awarded to graduate students in geology and geophysics in recognition of outstanding research and scholarship in the earth sciences.

Erin Wirth Moriarty
Geology & Geophysics
Yige Zhang
Geology & Geophysics

The Leonard J. Savage Writing Prize is named for Department of Statistics Emeritus Professor Leonard J. (Jimmie) Savage. This prize is awarded annually to a student who has submitted the best written work.

Cynthia Rush
Statistics
The George Gaylord Simpson Prize was established in 1984 in honor of Professor Simpson and is awarded to graduate students and recent Ph.D. recipients for an exceptional paper concerning evolution and the fossil record.

ALEX DORNBURG
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
“The impact of shifts in marine biodiversity hotspots on patterns of range evolutions: Evidence from the Holocentridae (squirrelfishes and soldierfishes)”

TERESA FEO
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
“Barb geometry of asymmetrical feathers reveals a transitional morphology in the evolution of avian flight”

Both papers used cutting-edge techniques in the analysis of substantial new datasets from the fossil record and the recent biota to investigate significant problems — the role of fossils in illuminating patterns in the geographic distribution of life (Dornburg et al.), and the evolutionary assembly of the avian flight apparatus (Feo et al.) — that George Gaylord Simpson would doubtless have found just as fascinating as we did.

The Carolyn Slayman Prize in Genetics recognizes the remarkable achievements of our best students in the Department of Genetics, based on their body of work, the impact of their findings in the field of Genetics and their commitment to the Genetics Graduate Program and graduate education at Yale.

CAROLYN W. SLAYMAN, PH.D.
An outstanding teacher and scientist, she became a member of the Department of Human Genetics when it was established in 1972, and the first woman to become department chair at the Yale School of Medicine, leading the Department of Human Genetics in 1984. Dr. Slayman is currently Deputy Dean for Academic & Scientific Affairs and Sterling Professor of Genetics.

HELEN RANKIN
Genetics
“Localized JNK Signaling Functions as a Size Organizer”

Rankin did seminal work in the elucidation of the signals that regulate the growth of tissues during embryonic development. Identification of these signals and how they interplay with other patterning cues helps us understand how animals coordinate shape and growth.

STEVEN REILLY
Genetics
“Evolutionary Changes in Promoter and Enhancer Activity During Human Corticogenesis”

Reilly did outstanding work in the identification of regulatory regions that control how genes are expressed in the human brain and how these differ from those in other mammals. This work gets us closer to understanding what makes us human.

The Edwin W. Small Prize was established in memory of Edwin W. Small (B.A. 1930, M.A. 1934) and is awarded in recognition and furtherance of outstanding work in the field of American history.

JUSTIN BARR
History of Science and Medicine
“Surgical Repairs of the Arteries in War and Peace, 1880-1960”

This is an extraordinarily original dissertation that stands as among the very best contributions to the history of surgery we have from the past several decades. Here, in conception, is medical and surgical history as it ought to be done. Barr’s dissertation makes major new contributions to three distinct fields.
The **George Trimis Prize** was established in May 2003 in memory of a doctoral student in Economics who succumbed to cancer. In recognition of the extraordinary example that Trimis set, the prize is awarded to students whose dissertations demonstrate exceptional and distinguished achievement.

**James Duffy**
Economics

*“Three Essays on the Nonparametric Estimation of Nonlinear Cointegrating Regressions”*

Duffy develops methods for estimating nonlinear relationships among time series that may have very general statistical properties. He shows that though these relationships have a clear statistical interpretation, they may not agree with the underlying economic links generating the observed co-movement.

**Nicolas Werquin**
Economics

*“Essays on the Theory of Taxation”*

Werquin develops theoretical formulas for the impact of small changes in the income tax system on aggregate labor supply and on welfare in a setting where workers incur fixed costs when adjusting their labor supply. These costs derive from the effort to search for new jobs. He shows that the fixed adjustment costs have an important impact on the formulas and conclusions. For instance, the costs create long-run welfare gains from increasing the progressivity of the labor income tax schedule.

The **Karl K. Turekian Prize** is awarded for excellence in geochemical or cosmochemical studies.

**David Auerbach**
Geology & Geophysics

The **Marvin B. Sussman Dissertation Prize** is an endowment created in 1993 by Marvin B. Sussman (Ph.D., 1951, Yale). The prize has been offered annually since 1994, and is awarded to the graduate student whose dissertation, completed within the previous two academic years, is judged to be the most outstanding.

**David Minto**
History

*“Special Relationships: Transnational Homophile Activism and Anglo-American Sexual Politics”*

Imaginatively conceived and meticulously researched, it makes highly original arguments and interventions into the historiographies it addresses. An outstanding work of scholarship. Even when David Minto is addressing the historiography, he often uses it in new ways and thus brings to the entire field of GLBT studies fresh questions and avenues of exploration.

**Michael Yarbrough**
Sociology

*I Now Declare You: State Law and the Making of Marriage in Post-Apartheid South Africa*

With a comparative ethnography conducted in South Africa, this thesis explores the role of the state in giving meaning to marriage. Yarbrough looked at the impact of two items of recent legislation, one ratifying customary marriage and the other, same sex marriage. In Zulu society the new legislation had little weight compared to tradition. Same sex couples found the law deeply meaningful. It was a public stamp of legitimacy that allowed bridges to be built to estranged family members.
The Richard Wolfgang Prize was established in 1971 in memory of Richard Leopold Wolfgang, M.A. Hon. 1962, and member of the faculty from 1956 to 1971. It is awarded each year for the best doctoral theses of graduating chemistry students.

Joseph Fournier
Chemistry
“Studies of the Microscopic Structures Underlying the Bulk Properties of the Hydrated Proton and Ionic Liquids Through Cryogenic Vibrational Spectroscopy”

By crafting incisive experimental methods and interpreting the results with skillful application of advanced theoretical tools, Joseph Fournier revealed how water molecules act collectively to accommodate and transport electric charge, thus cracking one of the longest standing problems in fundamental chemistry.

David Romney
Chemistry
“Regio and Enantioselective Reactions Mediated by Peptide-Based Oxidation Catalysts”

David Romney has added fascinating new catalysts to the chemist’s toolbox for the synthesis of complex molecules. In so doing, he has added to our understanding of biochemical systems through bottom-up design of enzyme mimics.

Tina Wang
Chemistry
“Chemical Perspectives on Protein Glycation”

Wang’s dissertation describes groundbreaking studies into the chemistry and biology of advanced glycation end-products (AGEs), a class of non-enzymatic post-translational modifications of proteins formed from reactions with sugars and/or sugar metabolites. Her contributions include the first syntheses of several important AGE metabolites, and the development of a bio-orthogonal AGE sensor.

The Arthur and Mary Wright Prize is awarded upon the recommendation of the History Department for the outstanding dissertation or dissertations in the field of history outside the United States or Europe.

Mary Brazelton
History of Science and Medicine
“Vaccinating the Nation: Public Health and Mass Immunization in China, 1900-1960”

This is a brilliant study of biomedical research, health policy, and public health practice on the margins that at the same time reveals consequential continuities between the Nationalist state and the early Peoples Republic (PRC). Brazelton has written up her analysis in clear, cogent prose. When published, it should be a candidate for book prizes in both history of science and Chinese history.

Shawnakim Lowey-Ball
History
“Liquid Market: Malacca Under the Sultans”

Lowey-Ball has produced an ambitious, groundbreaking Ph.D. dissertation. No scholar has recently studied the city and its environment using the full range of available sources. The writing is terrific: engaging from the get-go, it is a genuine page turner. The argument is tight; the point of the book, crystal clear.
University Awards

The Theron Rockwell Field Prize was established in 1957 by Emilia R. Field in memory of her husband, Theron Rockwell Field, Ph.B. 1889. It is awarded for poetic, literary, or religious works by any students enrolled in the University for a degree. This prize is awarded by the Office of the Secretary of Yale University.

KYLE ANDREW DUGDALE
Architecture
“Architecture After the Death of God: Uriel Birnbaum’s Der Kaiser und der Architekt”

CARMEL ADDIE RAZ
Music
“Reverberating Nerves: Physiology, Perception, and Early Romantic Auditory Cultures”

The John Addison Porter Prize, named in honor of Professor John Addison Porter, B.A. 1842, is awarded for a work of scholarship in any field where it is possible, through original effort, to gather and relate facts or principles, or both, and to present the results in such a literary form as to make the project of general human interest. This prize is awarded by the Office of the Secretary of Yale University.

DANA JOHANNA GRAEF
Anthropology/Forestry & Environmental Studies
“Isles of Green: Environmentalism and Agrarian Change in Costa Rica and Cuba”

SHAWN KIM BLAKE LOWEY-BALL
History
“Liquid Market, Solid State: The rise and demise of the great global emporium at Malacca, 1400-1641”

Public Service Awards

The Graduate School Community Service Award honors a graduate student’s volunteer work in the local community while enrolled at Yale. The student is a dedicated and effective agent for positive change who volunteers with local community organizations, encourages other students to do the same, and may even have started a non-profit or charity. The community service need not be directly related to the student’s academic work. An example might be a student who spends many hours per week volunteering at an animal welfare organization, recruits other friends to volunteer there as well, and develops a new fundraising strategy for the organization, which substantially increases the group’s revenues. Committed sustained service to those in need is the benchmark for this award.

JILL KELLY
Forestry & Environmental Studies
Kelly is a parent-activist and volunteer in the New Haven Public Schools. She is the vice president of the parent-teacher organization at the Engineering Science University Magnet School. At ESUMS, Kelly founded the coding club, where she teaches Python programming after school. She also guided the middle school’s award-winning math team through extra practice on the weekends. She serves on the school planning and management team, maintains the parent communication blog, is co-chair of the hospitality committee, and has advocated for the school and its students in many citywide contexts.
Graduating Winners of Prize Teaching Fellowships

ALEXANDER CERJAN
Physics

JEAN ELYSE GRAHAM
English Language and Literature
2010-2011

ANDREW HOROWITZ
History
2011-2012, 2012-2013

SUSANNA KIMPORT
Mathematics
2013-2014
Graduate Mentor Awards

This year, for the seventeenth time, the Graduate School honors faculty members at Convocation for their exemplary qualities as mentors. Many dissertation advisors were nominated, and the honorees were chosen by a committee of students and faculty, in coordination with the Graduate Teaching Center. All letters of nomination were anonymous.

In the Humanities

VERITY HARTE
Professor of Philosophy and Classics

“I stumbled into having Verity for a mentor, and I couldn’t have been more fortunate. I was sold on going to University of Toronto, which then had a better-ranked ancient philosophy program. I was all but decided before my visit to Yale. Something about that visit shifted my thinking – the possibility of having a truly outstanding mentor.”

“She teaches, through her own example, the importance of looking at the texts very closely, examining every possibility, and letting the texts speak for themselves rather than forcing what we want out of them.”

“She has almost single-handedly created the Joint Program in Classics and Philosophy since arriving at Yale in 2006, and has constantly worked to improve it as a training program for Ph.D. students.”

“I don’t know of anyone else who could have attracted so many great students just on the back of her own commitment to them.”

In the Natural Sciences

HAL BLUMENFELD
Professor of Neurology, of Neurobiology and of Neurosurgery; Director, Yale Clinical Neuroscience Imaging Center (CNIC)

“I knew pretty quickly that I wanted to come to Yale for my training and work with Hal. His passion for his work – pursuing a better understanding of human consciousness through the study of epilepsy – is unmatched by any mentor I have encountered. He has an excitement for his research that is contagious… His patience and attentiveness make you feel like the most important part of his day.”

“He cares deeply about his students and ensures they have the resources to advance their pedagogical goals… He takes incredible care to develop each of the skills necessary for our success in academia and is supportive of our career goals, independent of his own interests.”

“With his great mentorship, I gradually could run projects on my own… By the end of two years in lab, I was an author on five major original research articles as well as twelve abstracts presented at international scientific meetings.”
“In under five years at Yale, Naomi Lamoreaux has mentored a remarkably diverse group of graduate students and has built a truly vibrant and cohesive program in economic history here. She brings out the best in all of us and in all our work.”

“She is both a patient listener and a sharp interlocutor, a helpful combination for a new graduate student.”

“When my oral examination finally arrived, I decided to place Lamoreaux last in order, as I felt confident that our discussion that day would be a highlight of the entire process we’d gone through together over the prior months. I was surprised by how much material she had helped me to synthesize. I could never have come close to that level of understanding without her guidance.”

“Naomi is a great mentor because of who she is – a successful, kind, and generous role model, especially for young women trying to make it in academia.”
THE SHIELD OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The design for the Graduate School shield was drawn by Yale art professor Theodore Sizer and approved by the University. Four themes are symbolized in the arms of the School. The background of the “chief” (the place of honor) is Yale blue, with Roman numerals in white representing 1847, the year of the founding of the Department of Philosophy and the Arts, the earliest formal organization for graduate study at Yale and, in fact, in the entire United States. Below, on a white background, is a black Y-shaped device representing the “pallium,” a garment worn by philosophers in ancient Rome, and frequently used as a symbol for Yale. The three red crosses are derived from the arms of Bishop George Berkeley, who established in 1732 an endowment for Yale College graduates “reading for the second degree.” These were the first scholarships exclusively for graduate study at Yale.

THE MACE OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The mace is carried at the head of ceremonial processions by the School’s marshal and displayed at such events as the annual Matriculation ceremony, awards Convocation, and Commencement.

The shaft of the mace is turned red mahogany. Inset near the top of the shaft on two sides is the shield of the Graduate School, rendered in cloisonné-enamede metal. For description of the shield, see above. The shaft is topped by a disk of grained red and black macasser ebony, on which sits a large, faceted crystal orb, the chief design element of the mace. The orb symbolizes several characteristics of advanced study in the arts and sciences. The global shape suggests the ambition of advanced study to be comprehensive in its inquiry. The transparent clarity of the fine Austrian lead crystal of which the orb is made alludes to the motto of Yale University, Lux et Veritas, and to the enlightenment that scholars seek in their research and teaching. Finally, the many facets of the orb symbolize the complexity of advanced learning in the arts and sciences and the importance of approaching its subjects from many intellectual directions.

In addition to the large ceremonial school mace described above, there are four smaller maces that are carried by faculty and staff marshals. These marshals’ batons each have a similarly turned shaft of mahogany. At their tops is a single enameled shield.