Year in Review

➢ We are proud to announce the formation of our new Advisory Council! Many thanks to the members who attended our first meeting: Misty Ayers-Miranda, Gabriel Briggs, Suzanne Clement, April Hefner, Helen Hemphill, Suzanne Nahay, and Ken Roberts.

➢ Our Write Your Life Lecture series continued with a visit from freelance writer Jennifer Chesak.

➢ We were at the Southern Festival of Books again, and will be there this coming year—stop by and say hello.

➢ Starting in the Fall, we will pilot video conferencing as an attendance option for some of our classes. This option won’t change our regular class delivery method, but we hope it will make classes more flexible for student schedules.

➢ Our students have been busy this year. Combined, they did 2 publications, 5 public readings, 13 conference presentations, and won 6 awards!
Belmont’s Master of Arts
Student Features

Publications
➢ Way to go, Gabriel Seals! His poem, “Bailiwick,” was a winner in the Tennessee Magazine’s monthly poetry contest for November.
➢ Charlsie Johnson’s work, “Barrie’s Traditional Woman: Wendy’s Fatal Flaw” was published in the Oglethorpe Journal of Undergraduate Research.

Readings
➢ John Heacock, Gabriel Seals, and Jamey Wood gave a dynamic reading in May at Lyrical Brew, the monthly literary reading at Vanderbilt’s Barnes and Noble.
➢ Sally Anderson was the featured poet at East Side Storytellin’ in September, hosted by East Side Story. The event was afterwards turned into a podcast.

Conferences
➢ Alyssa Wynans participated in a week-long workshop at the Digital Humanities Summer Institute at the University of Victoria.
➢ Taylor Irwin presented on gender and sexuality at the University of Alabama in Huntsville
➢ Jamey Wood presented at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association.
➢ Lauren Santoru gave a paper on Hawthorne and femininity and the University
of North Carolina GSA conference on gender.

- Lauren Santoru and Patten Fuqua will present at the Literary London Conference in the UK in July. We’re jealous of your travels!
- Alyssa Wynans, Grace Miller, Aleks Kojadinovic, and Hannah McIntosh presented at Belmont’s Humanities Symposium, Machines Made of Words.

**Awards and Recognition**

- Alyssa Wynans received a scholarship for her participation in DHSI.
- Alyssa also served as graduate assistant to a grant-funded archive of local Shakespeare. Visit the project at: Shakespeare.belmont.edu
- Gabriel Seals won the Sandra Hutchins Humanities Symposium Award in poetry.
- Congratulations to Alan Tucker for his interview on the Writerist podcast in August for his micropoetry on Twitter (@micro_tommy). Also find him at alandrue.com.
- Jodi Hughes was promoted to the position of editor at HarperCollins Christian Publishing. Congrats Jodi!

John Heacock’s short story, “December Sand,” was named as a finalist in the Iowa Review’s 2016 Jeff Sharlet Memorial Award for Veterans. His submission was chosen from among 459 other entries for consideration.

**Congratulations, Graduates!**

Shannon Dennis  
Alyssa Wynans  
Grace Miller  
Sally Anderson  
Rachel Ryan

We’ll miss you all,  
And we wish you the best!

Grace Miller, Rachel Ryan (with a future book enthusiast!), Sally Anderson, and Alyssa Wynans
Where are they now? Spotlight on our Alumni

Congratulations to Gabriel Briggs (Ph.D., University of Kentucky), for his new position as Senior Lecturer in English at Vanderbilt University. Gabriel published his book, *The New Negro in the Old South* (Rutgers) just last year. He was also awarded the Arts and Science’s Harriet S. Gillian Award in teaching in 2017.

Belmont MA alumnus, Kristi Galligan, was profiled in *The Wilson Post* for her work on African-American history and segregation. Kristi received her MA in English in 2016. Check out the article here: http://wilsonpost.com/woman-of-wilson-kristi-galligan-cms-89164

Congratulations to Nicole Phillips on the arrival of her baby boy, Hewson Smith in August! She also started her own freelance writing business. Hats off to you, Nicole.

And congratulations to Amanda Salmon, who welcomed daughter Ruby MaeKatherine in May! Amanda will also be teaching at Belmont and Nashville State in the Fall.

Graduate School Placements

Marquita Kai Harris, Western Michigan University (Ph.D, Fiction)
Meredith Harrell, University of California, Irvine (Ph.D., Literature)
Laura Hollandsworth, Carson-Newman University (Ed.D., Curriculum and Instruction)

Have something you’d like us to share?? Email it to jayme.yeo@belmont.edu