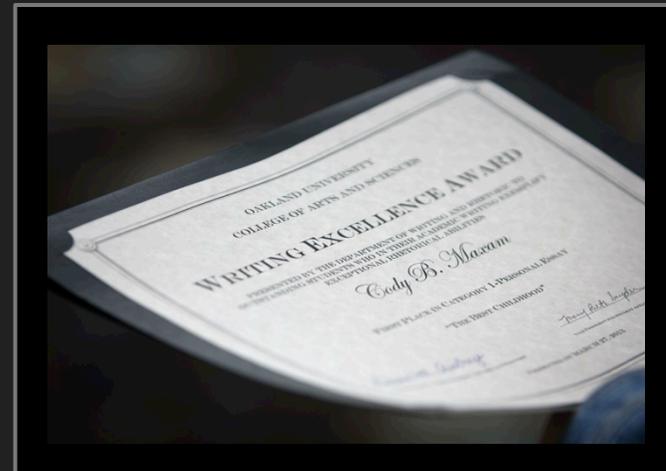


# Department of Writing and Rhetoric Writing Excellence Awards 2015

Tuesday, March 10, 2015  
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Oakland Room, Oakland Center



2014 WEA Winners



# The Categories

**Narrative Essay**

from WRT 102, 150, or 160

**Research Project**

for upper level courses

**Analytical Essay**

from WRT 102, 150, or 160

**Creative Nonfiction**

**Research Essay**

from WRT 160

**Multimedia Project**

## Category Chair

Benjamin Bennett-  
Carpenter

## Judges

Elizabeth Allan

Amanda Laudig

Pamela Todoroff

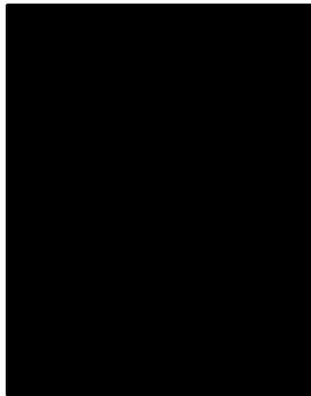
Jason Torrente



# 1. Narrative Essay

Outstanding experiential or expressive essays written for WRT 102, 150, or 160. Essays may include some source use and some multi-media content but the focus is on personal expression.

# Narrative Essay: Third Place



Instructor:

Shaun Moore

Class: WRT 150

## “Day to Day” Amber Mazzie

“I come home to an empty house. Everyone works opposites shifts. You would think there are only two ends of opposite, but it turns out there's at least four. I change out of my uniform immediately. I sit for what feels like the first time all day to reply to the text messages I got 4 hours ago.

‘Guess what happened at school today!!’ My best friend, Kristen, lives two and half hours away from me.

‘Hey sorry I missed this. If you're still up I can text. If not, get me back tomorrow. I wanna know what happened.’”

# Narrative Essay: Second Place



Instructor:

Marshall Kitchens

Class: WRT 150

“Collaborate”

Shawn Ryan Howe

“Pre-millennial and young millennial generations need to start looking to us 80’s babies as interpreters to serve the digital immigrants in helping them become fluent in what the digital natives were born into.

We were there when life was still simple and innocent, we grew up around all of the advancing technologies, and we’ve changed with technology to incorporate it into our personal and professional lives.”

# Narrative Essay: First Place



Instructor:

Jennifer Coon

Class: WRT 150

## “The Value of Money According to Me”

Karalyn Suzanne Smith

“The first time that I realized that my family was poor, I was eight years old and my twin sister and I had asked my mother if we could have a Playstation 2 for our birthday. When we were greeted with Gameboys instead, we were distraught. A Gameboy is a smaller handheld device that pales in comparison to the beautiful, gleaming, black Playstation 2, a home gaming console. The Gameboys cost my mother \$60 for two of them, but the Playstation 2, at the time, was around \$300. That is not to say I was completely oblivious to our financial situation before. This was just the first time that I was really struck by the importance of money.”

### Category Chairs

Glen Armstrong

Colleen Doyle

### Judges

Timothy Briggs

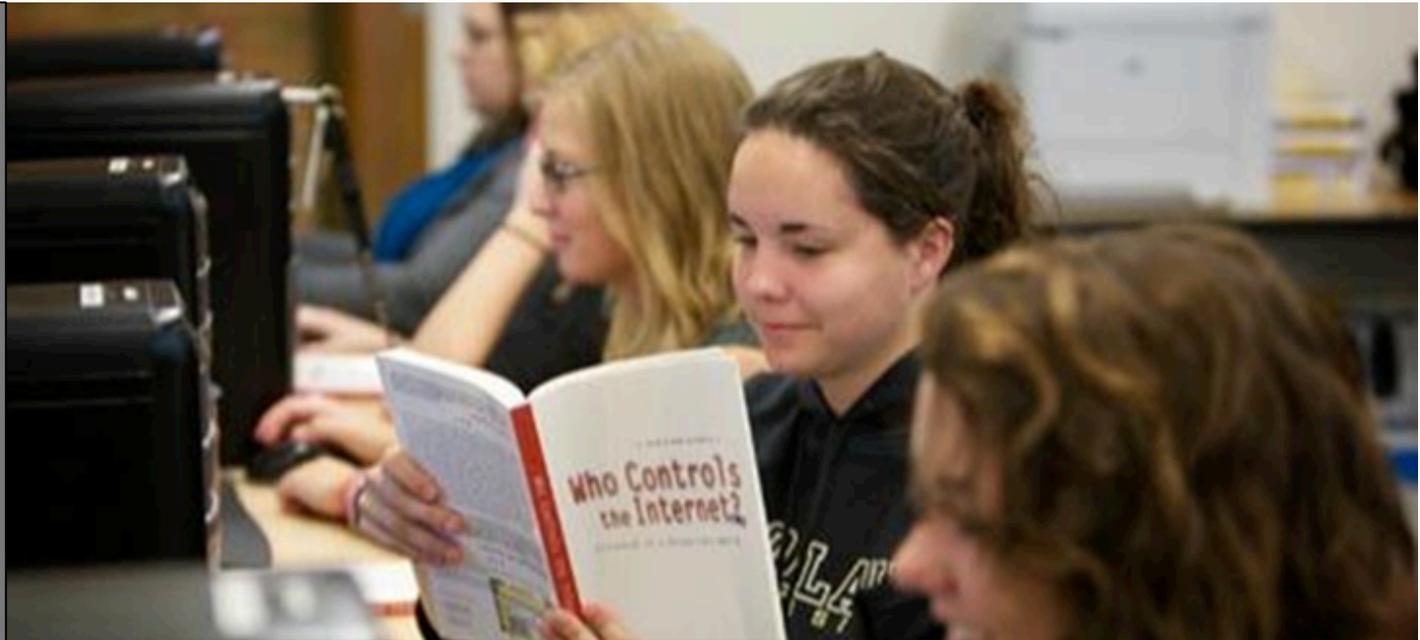
Tara Hendin

Lisa Hine

Marshall Kitchens

Laura Klein

Josephine Walema



## 2. Analytical Essay

Outstanding analytical essays written for WRT 102, 150, or 160. Projects may use some secondary sources and multi-media content but the focus is on primary research, such as case study, ethnography, or textual analysis.

# Analytical Essay: Third Place



Instructor: Jason Torrente

WRT 160

“Veganism: A Rhetorical Argument on the Principles of Health, Environmental Restoration, and Animal Rights.”

Alexander Joseph Boundy

In his analytical essay, “Veganism: A Rhetorical Argument on the Principles of Health, Environmental Restoration, and Animal Rights,” Alexander Boundy concludes that much of what PETA claims in their literature is true. He goes on, however, to deftly argue that “celebrity vegans and testimonials” hinder PETA’s overall credibility. He finds a more evenhanded rhetorical approach in Nicole Oca’s *Veganism: The Silent Healer*, “a fact-based documentary that [provides] the viewer with a logical and credible argument on the health effects of a vegan diet.”

# Analytical Essay: Second Place



Instructor: Amanda Laudig

Class: WRT 160

“Use of the Term ‘Friend’ Among Oakland University Undergraduate Students.”

Madison N. Tilley

Madison N. Tilley delves not only into the meaning of the word “friend” in her original research, but just how we use the word on Oakland University’s campus. “Use of the Term ‘Friend’ Among Oakland University Students” explores the word’s complexities through clearly delineated primary research. She concludes that though campus males describe a friend with “basic or even sarcastic answers,” all of the student subjects here suggest that “the term ‘friend’ is only given to people who ‘earn it,’” a conclusion with rich implications when applied to our interactions on social media sites such as Facebook.

# Analytical Essay: First Place



Instructor: Elizabeth Allan

WRT 150

## “Plans of Care to Promote Progress”

Jessica Rose Walukonis

In “Plans of Care to Promote Progress” Jessica Rose Walukonis explores both the rhetorical and the practical implications of electronic medical records, reminding us that “the physical therapy workplace is now seeing a blend . . . of paper documents and electronic medical recording.” Addressing future professionals, she concludes that critical thinking and metacognition are key to both intellectual growth and skill acquisition.

Category Chairs

John Freeman

Cathy Rorai

Marilyn Borner

Judges

Felicia Chong

Dana Driscoll

Emily Freeman

Cathy McQueen

Cindy Mooty-  
Hoffman

Sherry Wynn  
Perdue

Kathy Skomski

Melissa St.Pierre

Lauren Rinke



## 3. Research Essay

Outstanding research essay written for WRT 160. Features include developing new knowledge, synthesizing sources effectively, and documenting appropriately in APA format. Essays may include some multi-media content and primary research, but the focus is on making new meaning using secondary sources.

# Research Essay: Honorable Mention



Instructor:

Laura Klein

Class: WRT 160

## “Simulation Innovation: A Discussion of Veterinary Medicine”

Caroline Cencer

“The purpose of this compiled research is to prove that all veterinary students need sufficient access to simulation labs. For my primary research, I surveyed a class of Oakland University nursing students about their experience with the simulators. It was determined that the students do appreciate having access to the simulators. My results and the findings of other studies confirm my argument that it is clear that simulators do assist students in becoming even more efficient and confident in their future careers.”

# Research Essay: Honorable Mention



Instructor:

Wallace May Anderson

Class: WRT 160

“Creating the Best Distance Runner”

Ashley Lynn-Burr

“Understanding the time of recovery the body needs is also an important factor, and can impact success as well. Along with that, the mental aspect and coping with stress are key to optimal performance. Every person is unique, and one method of training may work for some and not others. The best runners have deeply analyzed themselves and learned what does and does not work for them, and have therefore adjusted their training and habits to be as successful as possible.”

# Research Essay: Third Place



Instructor:

John Freeman

WRT 160

## “The Sustainability of Bitcoin”

Musaab Muhamaad

“Bitcoin is an open, unstructured, mathematically-based, online currency that is neither backed by a government nor a commodity, also known as crypto-currency. Today, Bitcoin has slowly been accepted as a mainstream currency online, like the USD and Mexican dollar. Some vendors now allow customers to pay their purchases with Bitcoin. Currently, a debate exists in the financial world about whether Bitcoin is sustainable as a currency—or even if it should be considered a currency at all. The paper will examine the challenges experts foresee for Bitcoin in the upcoming decade, from internal technical issues to broader economic and legal ones.”

# Research Essay: Second Place



Instructor:

Cornelia Pokrzywa

Class: WRT 160

“Power of Praise: Positive Behavior Support  
in Early Childhood Education”

Kaylee Blanchard

“Positive Behavior Support (PBS) is prevalent in daycares and early childhood education programs. PBS is a form of discipline where the focus is on prevention and praise rather than punishment (Snell, Voorhees, Berlin, Stanton-Chapman, Hadden, & McCarty, 2012). Additionally, function-based intervention is a theory that explores motives behind challenging behaviors in order to find ways to stop and prevent them; this idea works well with PBS as it works to create environments that support positive behavior (Dunlap & Fox, 2011). I conducted an interview with Assistant Professor Dr. Julie Ricks-Doneen, who explained how PBS and discipline is handled in a real education center.”

# Research Essay: First Place



Instructor:

Laura Klein

Class: WRT 160

## "Prison Rehabilitation and Its Effects"

Elizabeth Kellogg

"In this paper, the issue of increasing prison rehabilitation programs, and the effects they have on both inmates and society are discussed. Since the Progressive movement began in the early 20th century, various attempts at rehabilitating inmates and curbing criminal behavior have been trialed. In recent decades, however, the focus of prisons became not to rehabilitate prisoners, but instead punish them. Recent studies show that this policy has proven to be disastrous,"

### Category Chairs

Matthew Burkett

### Judges

Jill Chrobak

Alice Horning

Bill Rouster

Crystal VanKooten



## 4. Research Project

Outstanding formal research project for any upper-division WRT or general education writing intensive course. Features include developing new knowledge, synthesizing sources effectively, and documenting appropriately.

Essays may include some multi-media content and primary research.

# Research Project: Third Place



Instructor: Brian R. Goslin

Class: EXS 350

## “The Importance of Correct Technique/Biomechanics in 100/110 Hurdle Racing”

Hayley MacDonald

“Proper form consists of a quick forward motion of the lead leg, with flexion at the hip joint as well as flexion and extension at the knee joint, a speedy trail leg that is tucked under the body’s center of gravity and brought back down to the ground vigorously, and rapid arm movements that will force the legs to run and clear a hurdle as quickly as possible. Ultimately, if a hurdler can learn to incorporate the proper technique and mechanisms discussed within this research paper into their training, he or she will experience great success in their hurdling career.”

# Research Project: Second Place



Instructor: Greg Giberson

Class: WRT 491

“Internal Language Barrier: Addressing Disconnects in  
Discourse at the Collegiate Writing Level”

Megan Anne Phelps

“By including students’ native dialects and utilizing their NDC [native discourse conventions] in the classroom, we, as a discipline, can show students the validity of their ideas and help them build the self efficacy necessary to gain self-esteem in their writing—a task that will undoubtedly provide the inclusive environment necessary for students to understand the importance of adaptability within the university.”

# Research Project: First Place



Instructor:

Josephine Walwema

Class: WRT 360

## “The Presence of Cultural Rhetoric in Traditional Music”

Lauryn Johnson

“It is clear how deeply rooted our culture is within us—all the way down to our brain—and how closely related music and culture are. The traditional music of a region reflects the values, customs, beliefs and logic of its people. Each musical style is as different as the people that created them and the histories that surround them. But in studying the rhetoric of music across cultures, you will also find some innate similarities due to the commonalities present among all of humanity.”

Category Chairs

Marilyn Borner

Judges

Wallis May  
Andersen

Karen Brehmer

Christina Moore

Emily Francis

Greg Giberson

Amanda Laudig

Lori Ostergaard



## 5. Creative Nonfiction

Outstanding non-fiction essay written for upper-division WRT or writing intensive general education courses. Projects may use some secondary sources and multi-media content but the focus is on personal expression in writing.

# Creative Nonfiction: Third Place



Instructor:

John Freeman

Class: WRT 386

## “The Last Day of Summer”

Sandra Flury-Gardner

“As I coast into the cemetery entrance, I am perplexed how this day that I dedicate to my mother each year, so often turns to reflections of my father. I suppose I know my father better. I have certainly known him longer (thankfully he is still with us). My mother, I knew for a mere 17 years. My mom feels distant to me. I am unable to remember the exact pitch of her voice or the particular shade of brown in her eyes. She is more of a feeling now, time has stolen her, she is the sun beyond the fog, blurry out of reach.”

# Creative Nonfiction: Second Place



Instructor:

Glen Armstrong

Class: WRT 386

## “An Argument with My Brain”

Angela Marie Spinazzola

“I remove the cash and count the number of twenties, count the number of twenties by twos, count the twenties by ones. Lock up the tills. Lock the back door. Pull on the locked door. Check the locked drawer with the tills and walk back. Pull on the back door, once and then twice. Check the locked drawer and pull twice. Punch in the code. Lock the front door and pull on the handle. Pull on the handle again. Again, pull on the handle. Walk to the car with co-worker and ask, “Did I lock the door?” “Yes.” Once she leaves pull up and check the front doors. Again, pull on the handle once and then twice.”

# Creative Nonfiction: First Place



Instructor:

Marshall Kitchens

Class: WRT 386

## “Clara: A Story”

Marissa Zhu

“That night the yelling and screaming was particularly intense. The yelling was punctuated by a banging so loud it shook the floors of our apartment. ...

I stared at the wall, trying to imagine the scene on the other side, trying to see what Clara was doing right now. The voices faded after about half an hour. For the rest of the night, I tried to strain my ears for a hint of Clara's voice. Nothing.

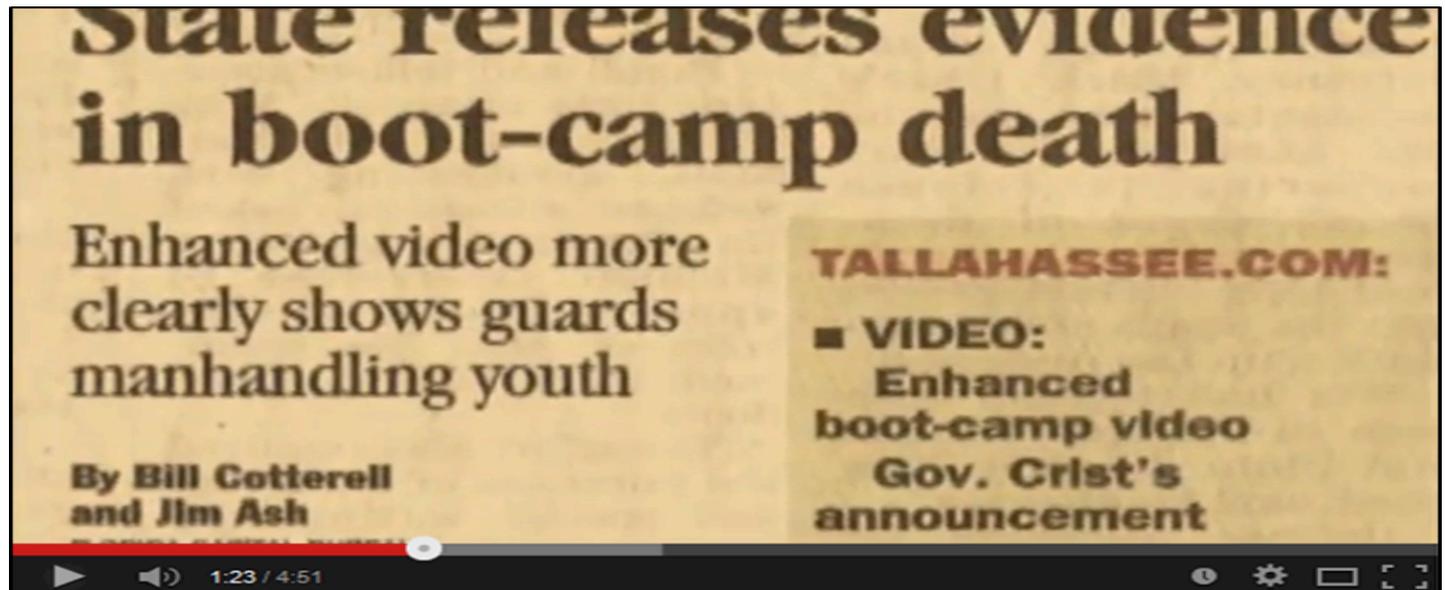
The next day, I banged on Clara's fence at 4:30 PM. She wasn't there. No one came out. Clara never reappeared on her side of the balcony again.”

Category Chairs

Rebecca Rivard  
Laura Gabrion

Judges

Sheryl Ruszkiewicz  
Kasia Kietlinska  
Craig Smith  
Katie Lieder  
Jenna Katz



## 6. Multimedia Project

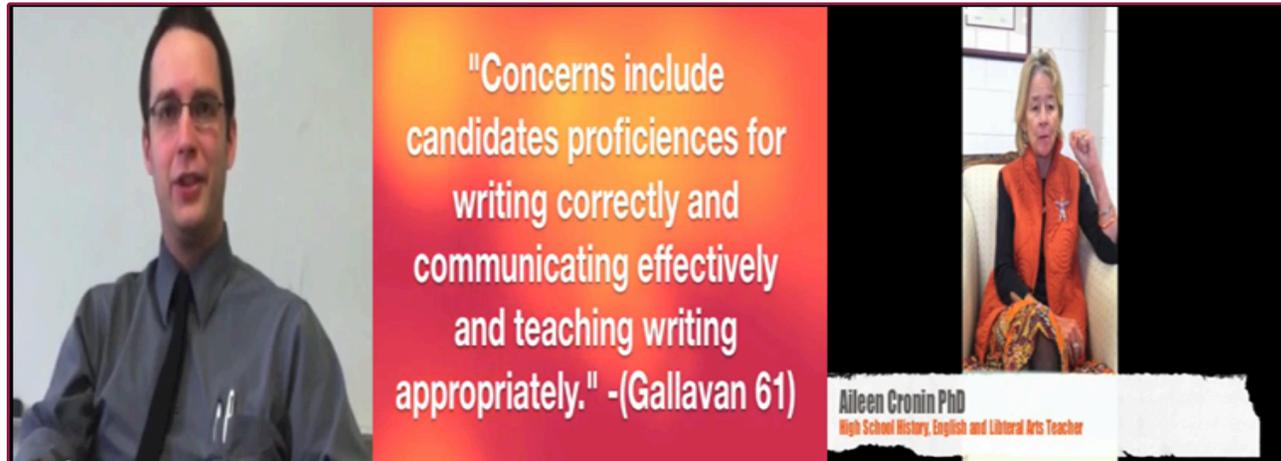
Outstanding multi-media project written for any WRT course or writing intensive general education course. Projects may be any combination of text, graphics, audio, and video but focus is on elements other than text.

# Multimedia Project: Third Place



YouTube Video: "Writing and Communication in Secondary Education"  
Megan Luttinen

Instructor:  
Cindy Mooty-Hoffman  
Class: WRT 150



# Multimedia Project: Second Place

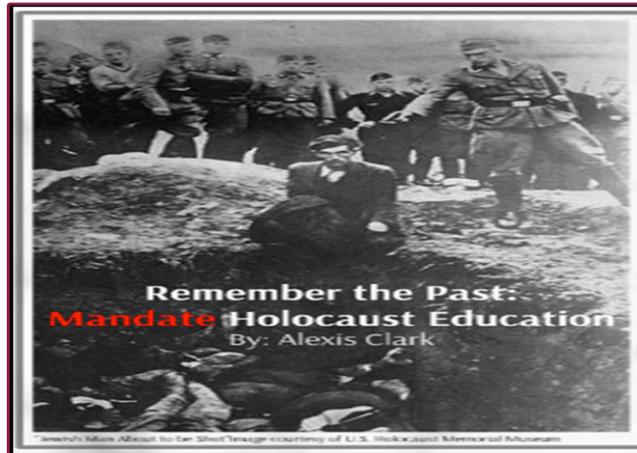


Prezi: “Remember the Past: Mandate Holocaust Education”  
Alexis Clark

Instructor:

Cindy Mooty-Hoffman

Class: WRT 160



# Multimedia Project: First Place



YouTube Video: "The Throwaway Kids"

Eden Hartley

Instructor:

Timothy Briggs

Class: WRT 160



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