

Writing Faculty & Student Awards Announced

May 3, 2019

The Writing Program Award Ceremony honors award-winning teachers and students at the end of each year. The celebration is a recognition of writing faculty at CWRU which includes full- and part-time lecturers, SAGES Fellows, English graduate student assistants, and other friends of writing at CWRU.

The English Department, SAGES, and the Writing Program are pleased to recognize this year's winners of teaching awards and student writing prizes.

The Jessica Melton Perry Award for Distinguished Teaching in Disciplinary & Professional Writing* recognizes outstanding instruction in writing in professional fields and/or disciplines other than English.

This year's **first winner** is **Frank Ernst**, the Leonard Case Jr. Professor of Engineering and Chair of Materials Science & Engineering.

Professor Ernst developed a new graduate course entitled, "Scientific Writing in Materials Science," which addresses the wide range of skills needed by graduate students as they prepare theses, dissertations, and journal articles for publication. This course emphasizes *reading* as well as *writing* scientific articles. His students spent a lot of time discussing relevant research literature, learning how to become critical reviewers of the scholarship in their fields of study. From formatting of mathematical formulae to overcoming writer's block, the course provides much-needed scaffolding for developing scientific writers and scholars.



Prof. Frank Ernst & Dean Timothy Beal

As one of his many student nominator's wrote, "Prof. Ernst developed a welcoming and collegial environment for students to gain a deep understanding of the scientific writing process and to cultivate their own skills."



Prof. Jonathan Sadowsky &
Dean Timothy Beal

This year's **second winner** of the Jessica Melton Perry Award is **Jonathan Sadowsky**, the Theodore J. Castele Professor of History.

Professor Sadowsky works with students at all stages of their writing development and their educations, from humanities students to biomedical engineers, many of whom have never spent a lot of time on their writing. Over the last three years, every single student in his course (nearly 100 of them) has reported becoming a writer by the end of the semester.

* The Jessica Melton Perry Award was established in 2009 by Edward S. Sadar, M.D. (ADL '64, SOM '68), & Melinda Sadar (FSM '66) in honor of Melinda's mother, who worked in the Center for Documentation and Communication Research at Western Reserve University from the late 1950s into the late 1960s.

Much of the credit for the students' progress is attributable to Prof. Sadowsky's patience and thoroughness as he reads and responds to weekly analytical papers from every student and meets writers outside of class to continue discussing their work.

One of his doctoral students explained, "The right question asked at the right moment can have a profound impact on one's intellectual trajectory. Jonathan Sadowsky has a knack for asking the right questions....I credit my growth as a writer and historian to the questions [he] has asked, year after year, milestone after milestone."

The SAGES Excellence in Writing Instruction Award recognizes outstanding commitment to and success in teaching academic writing to CWRU undergraduates in SAGES.



Dr. Eric Chilton & Dean Peter Whiting

This year's **first winner** is **Eric Chilton**, a Lecturer of English and SAGES Teaching Fellow. Transformative is a word Dr. Chilton's students use about his courses. One student wrote, "[he] taught me how to write a more effective research paper and gave me a new perspective towards my surroundings, ultimately transforming me into a completely different person than who I used to be."

Passionate and dedicated are words that Dr. Chilton's collaborators use to describe his teaching style. "One of the things that most impresses me about Eric's approach," writes one faculty collaborator, "is how effectively he introduces the idea of developing a compelling counter-argument when writing papers, as it creates an environment where students genuinely need to consider and weigh opinions that run counter to their own. This develops both critical thinking and empathy in the students."

This year's **second winner** of the SAGES Excellence in Writing Instruction Award is **Kristine Kelly**, Lecturer of English and SAGES Teaching Fellow. One of Dr. Kelly's faculty collaborators wrote, "I must admit that I have learned as much as our students have about writing and writing instruction from Kris." This is a consistent theme in Dr. Kelly's evaluations – she is a collaborator who is generous with her knowledge and who challenges everyone to learn and grow, including herself.



Dr. Kristine Kelly & Dean Peter Whiting

As a demonstration of her love of learning and growing, Dr. Kelly has developed new and creative projects that engage students in digital and multimodal writing. She has brought classes year after year to the Celebration of Student Writing and Research, often with innovative multi-media presentations of their work. Her students rave about these experiences and about how much Dr. Kelly has done to improve their writing and learning.

The WRC Excellence in Consulting Award recognizes outstanding writing instruction for students of the University and exemplary service to the Writing Resource Center during the academic year. This year, the winner is **Anthony Wexler**, Lecturer of English and SAGES Teaching Fellow. One student who nominated Dr. Wexler for this award noted that he was always a “helpful and kind resource,” while another noted his “very calming energy.” Yet another student wrote that Dr. Wexler “gives focused, tangible and direct feedback on writing during appointments, which I think is very important -- it's easy to say ‘make your writing more like ...’ but to put forth the effort to give specific feedback, every time, is so helpful.”



Dr. Kimberly Emmons & Dr. Anthony Wexler

Dr. Wexler’s approach to consulting focuses on the student as a developing writer, and his remarks emphasized the value of working one-on-one with student writers. In his consulting philosophy, he described one student encounter: “after multiple sessions, [the student] came to see how the writing process could help her to better understand why she wanted to become a doctor. In this way, she realized just how much the act of writing could help her to think through a given issue or question. These encounters, and others like them, have made the WRC a wonderful place to work.”

The Celebration of Student Writing & Research is a university-wide showcase of student writing and research projects. It encourages students to present and display their scholarly and creative work in formats other than word-processed letters and lines on the printed page. The Celebration is held each semester in conjunction with Research ShowCASE and Intersections: SOURCE Symposium and Poster Session; it is sponsored by SAGES and the Writing Program. The following students were recognized at the Awards ceremony:

Fall 2018

Best Individual Research Presentation Winner: **Anna Giubileo** (FSSY 185R: Oh the Places You Will Go!, Instructor: Cara Byrne)



Bill Ding & Dr. Barbara Burgess-Van Aken

Best Individual Research Presentation Runner Up: **Bill Ding** (USSO 286L: Exploring Nonprofit Organizations, Instructor Barbara Clemenson)

Best Class Presentation: **FSCC 100: International Student Wellness** (Instructor: Mary Assad)

Spring 2019

Best Individual Research Presentation Winner: **Nick Charles** (USSY 291H: Radical Children's Literature, Instructor: Cara Byrne)

Best Individual Research Presentation Runner Up: **Prerna Mamileti** (USNA 287P: Woman and Science, Instructor: Barbara Burgess-Van Aken)

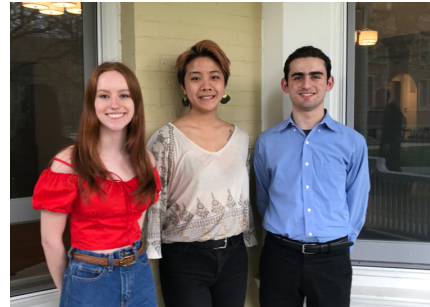
Best Class Presentations: **FSCC 100-100: Defining Community** (Instructor: Mary Assad) and **USSO 290B: Contemporary American Rhetoric** (Instructor: Martha Schaffer).

The SAGES First and University Seminar Essay Prizes recognize the best writing that students produce in their First and University Seminars. These essays are chosen from those nominated by SAGES seminar leaders each semester.

The First Seminar Awards are judged in January and recognized at the Celebration of Student Writing in April each year. The winners for Academic Year 2017-2018 are:

“Space for LGBTQ+ Children in Jessica Love’s *Julian is a Mermaid*” by Jessica Bumgarner

Written for FSSY 185R: *Oh the Places You’ll Go*; Cara Byrne (Seminar Leader)



Jessica Bumgarner, Isabella Pua, & James Kristell

“Lin Manuel Miranda’s *Hamilton*: A Revolutionary(?) Musical” by Kehley Coleman

Written for FSSY 185M: *Hamilton* and American Identity; Caitlin Kelly (Seminar Leader)

“Time to Get out of the Margins” by Tatiana Pavlides

Written for FSSO 185F: Reading – Past, Present, Future; Barbara Burgess-Van Aken (Seminar Leader)

The University Seminar Awards are judged in September – and recognized at the Celebration of Student Writing in December of each year. The winners for Academic Year 2016-2017 are:

“Social Context and the Popular Reception of Poetry: The Examples of Dickinson and Longfellow” by James Kristell

Written for USSY 293I: High Art and Guilty Pleasures; Steve Pinkerton (Seminar Leader)

**“Redefining Health: Peyote, Ritual Healing, and the Concept of the Soul” by
Isabella Pua**

Written for USNA 287H: Plants in Medicine; Erika Olbricht (Seminar Leader)

**“The Needle and the Damage Done: Needle Exchanges and the AIDS Epidemic” by
Grace Schaller**

Written for USSO 291A: “We’re Dying in America”: The History of the US AIDS
Crisis; Andrea Milne (Seminar Leader)

All of these outstanding essays and information about the Essay Prizes and are available online
at Writing@CWRU.