

Project title: *English Achievement in Literary Study*
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Description: The *English Achievement in Literary Study* project, inspired by the LURA 2019 project in Linguistics, created an online platform for celebrating excellent undergraduate research in English for both majors and non-majors. While the English Department always recognized undergraduate achievement with awards and scholarships, the department has not published the award-winning essays. This project makes the award-winning essays visible and also creates a new platform to publicly celebrate writing produced by our non-majors. Hopefully these web publications will inspire English majors to produce excellent research and will encourage non-majors to think about majoring or minoring in English, particularly if they receive public recognition for their excellence in the field early in their academic career.

The project began with a small faculty focus group (4 people) developing a proposal for how to pilot the award program. We decided to begin the project on a smaller scale in spring 2020 with the hopes of building out the project in subsequent semesters. We named the project, agreed to focus on ENGL 3000 (Shakespeare for Non- Majors), drafted sample language for a “Call for Nominations” and discussed the best format for the project. We wanted to celebrate research/analytical writing as well as creative work; we decided to publish full versions of student work (as opposed to shorter blog posts). We also set out a timeline for spring 2020.

After presenting the focus group’s proposal at an English department faculty meeting, I corresponded with our marketing/communication coordinator to discuss the format for publishing the awards on the English department website. I sent out the *Call for Nominations* in March, and instructors identified the 14 award winners in April. We received positive feedback from the award-winning non-majors who were excited to be recognized for their achievements.

Outcome: We now have a working model in place for how to develop the project moving forward. The plan to start small and then develop the project worked well, both in terms of the faculty focus group and beginning with ENGL 3000. This approach made the initial steps manageable because we designed a collaborative work model and didn’t attempt to scale right away.

Unfortunately, our progress was disrupted by the outbreak of COVID 19. We announced the award winners but might not publish the undergraduate work until later this summer or even in the fall 2020/spring 2021 term when we have full staff support.

Reflection: The ASSETT faculty fellow program underscored the importance of leveraging technology to make student learning more visible. The conversations about how to demonstrate measurable learning outcomes were especially helpful. I enjoyed having the opportunity to collaborate with faculty from across disciplines to see the ways that we share and address common concerns despite disciplinary differences.

Artifact: Below is the list of the 2020 recipients.

[2020 Achievement in Literary Study recipients](#)

Lucas Bakker, song based on themes in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Amanda Blanco, drawing of Claudius from *Hamlet* with connections to current power struggles in U.S.

Mckenna Brewer, 3-D laser sculpture of Hamlet's skull

Hannah Capek, ENGL 3000, the symbol of water in *Romeo and Juliet*

Meg Digiovanna, visualizations of the objectification of women in Shakespeare's plays

Nathan Dettlebach, recreation of the trial scene in *The Merchant of Venice*, à la *The Godfather*

Pilar Garcia, painting of women in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as puppets

Jack Kwiat, *Hamlet* Playoffs Tournament

Cheng Li, digital painting of Shylock and blind justice in *The Merchant of Venice*

Garrett Mars, video performance of four young lovers in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Grant Myhre, ENGL 3000, film scene analysis of Justin Kurzel's *Macbeth*

Zoya Petrovska, video on Hamlet's "To be, or not to be" speech in the era of COVID-19

Bradley Ryan, text message sonnet about Puck

Yutian Wu, ENGL 3000, Chinese adaptation of *Hamlet*