

May-June-July 2016 Acknowledgements

College of Liberal Arts

Congratulations:

Andy Sansom (GEO), executive director of The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, was awarded the Bob Armstrong Award for Lifetime Achievement in conservation at the 2nd Annual Shoal Creek Awards on May 17th.

Patti Giuffre (SOCL) is the recipient of the Mariel Muir Excellence in Mentoring Award for 2016.

Lucy Harney (MODL), Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and International Programs, was appointed as Chair of the Department of Modern Languages beginning August 1st.

John Blair (ENG) has been named the sole finalist of this year's Association of Writers and Writing Program (AWP) Grace Paley Prize. His short story manuscript "White Sands" along with the prize-winning story will be featured on the AWP website and in the September issue of the *Writer's Chronicle*.

Cecily Parks (ENG) had her poem "Hurricane Song" selected for the Pushcart Prize; it will be published this fall in *The Pushcart Prize XLI: Best of the Small Presses*.

William McWhorter (MA History, 2005) was named executive director of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission.

Madison Walker (PSY undergraduate senior) received the 2016 John Garrison Leadership Award and the 2016 Student Foundation Award.

Mackenzie Carhart (GEO undergraduate senior) received the 2016 Bill Hogue Memorial Scholarship.

Graciela Sandoval (GEO doctoral student / advisor: Osvaldo Muniz) has been selected as the 2016-2017 Grosvenor Scholar, as part of Texas State's Program at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Two Liberal Arts graduates were selected as recipients of the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award by the Texas State Alumni Association: **Jim West** (BA Political Science, 1977) and **Lindsay Bira** (BA Psychology, 2008). They will be honored at the 2016 University Distinguished Alumni Gala on October 21st.

Robert Fischer (PHIL), **William Jensen** (ENG/CSSW), and **Deirdre Lannon** (HIST) were awarded Study-in-America New Program Development Grants from the Office of Extended and Distance Learning. The grants will support faculty in developing study/travel program for students within the United States.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board officially approved the new MA/MS in Sustainability Studies, which will begin in fall 2016. Although housed in Sociology, the degree is an interdisciplinary program developed by faculty from across the College of Liberal Arts, including Geography, Philosophy, Political Science, and Sociology.

A committee comprised of children's literature scholars **Marilynn Olson**, **Teya Rosenberg**, **Katie Kapurch**, and **Graeme Wend-Walker** (all ENG) successfully bid to host the 2018 annual Children's Literature Association Conference. The international conference will be held in San Antonio in June 2018, with a theme of "springs and rivers."

The Society for Technical Communication (STC) Board of Directors passed a motion to create a Texas State University student chapter of STC. MATC graduate and former Graduate Assistant **David Hernandez** submitted the application, recruited student members, and served as President of the Texas State University Student Chapter of STC.

Cari Gray (MA, Political Science 2011) was recently named winner of the Frank R. Kemerer Award presented by the Texas School Administrator's Legal Digest (TSALD) and the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals (TASSP). The Award was presented at the TSALD/TASSP Conference in Austin, TX on June 14.

In the News:

Three College of Liberal Arts graduate programs were featured in the spring Edition of *Hillviews*; the **Master of Arts in Legal Studies**, the **Master of Science in Dementia and Aging** and the **Doctoral program in Geography**.

External Venues

A new exhibit at the Library of Congress features 65 of the most influential books written by American authors — books that have both formed and informed the public consciousness over the country's history. Among the featured books is *The Things They Carried* by **Tim O'Brien** (ENG), an autobiographical novel about the Vietnam War.

Amitai Abramovitch (PSY) was quoted in an article, "Is Superior Memory Really a Form of OCD?" in *New York Magazine*. (5/20)

<http://nymag.com/scienceofus/2016/04/is-superior-memory-really-a-form-of-ocd.html>

Shannon Duffy's (HIST) article "Loyalists" is a featured entry on the *Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia* website.

<http://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/?s=Loyalist>

Steve Wilson (ENG) and MFA poetry student **Meg Griffitts** took part in a discussion of the Beat Generation sponsored by KUT radio and recorded live for the “Views & Brews” series:
<http://kutpodcasts.org/views-and-brews/vb-the-beat-generation>.

Mark Busby (ENG) published “McMurtry’s Best,” in the July 2016 *Texas Monthly* as a companion piece to Skip Hollandsworth’s cover story on Larry McMurtry at 80. Mark discusses a list of McMurtry’s six best books in addition to **Lonesome Dove**:
<http://www.texasmonthly.com/the-culture/larry-mcmurtrys-best-books/>.

Tim Loftus (GEO) is featured in an article, “The Q & A: Tim Loftus,” in the *Texas Tribune*.
www.texastribune.org/2016/06/14/q-tim-loftus/?mc_cid=5300a37afd&mc_eid=b1e408a88b

The Free State of Jones, a film based on Distinguished Professor of History Emerita **Vicki Bynum**’s 2001 book, *The Free State of Jones: Mississippi’s Longest Civil War*, was released in June. The film stars Matthew McConaughey and Keri Russell

University Star

Emily Lund (PSY) undergraduate senior is featured in an article about her grant from the Student Undergraduate Research Fund (SURF). She intends to use the funds for her research investigating the impacts and causes of collegiate sports injuries. (7/6)

Dwight Watson (HIST) was quoted in an article about the Black Lives Matter march in San Marcos. (7/20)