



*College of Liberal Arts & Education
Honors Convocation*

*Dudley Randall Poetry Contest Winners
& Student Biographies*

March 26, 2017

Congratulations *from Dean Mark Denham, Ph.D.*

This is a day of great celebration.

Today, we honor the service, leadership and academic achievements of the students in the College of Liberal Arts & Education. Those we honor today are talented, dedicated and inspiring individuals. All of them represent Jesuit and Mercy values and are truly "men and women for others".

Students, we want and expect you to keep doing great things. Keep striving for excellence; keep up a vigilance for social justice; and keep pursuing your dreams. And, in everything you do, share your passion.

It is also important for us to thank these students' families for the sacrifices they have made to help their students not only attend college, but also excel. And to our Detroit Mercy faculty and staff, thank you for the knowledge you have shared and the guidance you have given that shapes the careers and characters of these students.

Congratulations! Celebrate!



University of Detroit Mercy College of Liberal Arts & Education
Honors Convocation

Sunday, March 26, 2017

Procession, Invocation and Welcome
Dudley Randall Poetry Reading
Conferring of Graduate Student Awards
Conferring of Undergraduate Student Awards
Conferring of Dean's Awards

Honey, I Love You

by Alexis Carlisle



She bleaches her hair as if she is trying to bleach away the past;
And even though my roots have grown long
I can still remember the burning sense of rebirth.
She soaks in the first blush of the sun
Like a cat bathing in the rays that
Run their fingers through her hair; Long and tangled
With past stories that only come out
On late night drives home from the bar.
She doesn't remember telling the story.
And when she asks if I've heard it before
I always say no
Because when she speaks, it is the spring
Not the cruelest month, nor the one that comes after or before.
She is the month in between.
Skipped in calendars – Bleached out – Lying in the sun –
– Laughing – She is actually laughing –
At all of the things about me that my mother rolls her eyes at
And in that moment I start to understand what love is
She –
– is the month of love
The protector and the keeper
And I wonder why I do not protect her as she does for me
But I've learned there has to be a teller and a listener
I let her tell
Because out of her mouth sprout flowers and perfume
And I am just the schoolboy
Who forms his first crush on Persephone
Not knowing she is the eternal spring
She melts in the passenger seat of my car
With the seat warmer on she melts like honey
The weather is most unstable in spring
But she doesn't know, the voices she hears
Are just the bees at work building honeycombs in her hair
Lightweight, but stronger than you could ever imagine
The man outside the bar told us that spring is here
And she will not back down
She is two swords and no armor
She is honey with arsenic
The month that no one can see, nor can they pronounce,
She is the first blossom and the first crush,
She is as unstable as spring and twice the beauty
But will slap the mouth that calls her beautiful
And tell them "I. Am. Smart." Brighter than the sun.
But also, right now, asleep like the moon.
Behind me I can hear her purr with golden strands,
Basking in the sunlight.
And it is all of this that is stored in the body of a girl
And the underestimation of such feminine power is punishable by damnation
That pulls Persephone back down.
But please, be cautioned, because like the sun,
She will rise again.

A Note to My Father

by Jasmina Cunmulaj

You placed your hand
over mine
that grasped the fishing pole
so tightly,
as you whispered
the winning strategy
and performed
a rhythmic jerk
like a marionette,
playing his puppet
and danced the invisible line
across the pond

that reflected
a shadow
of a moment in time.
And as the line pulled
and rippled a crack
down the middle,
a silver-breasted fish soared
out, like a newborn
wailing for a first breath
of oxygen.
But quickly delved back
into the one-way mirror,

**2nd
place**



and released our connection,
that was held simply by
string. Just as the ripple
calmed,
the shadow of our bond that
once casted over the grey
waters, vanished with the sun.
And with every sunrise
overlooking the pond,
I hoped it would return
with you,
once again.

I wonder

by Jazmin Nevarez

I wonder what it's like,
to live in a house
That doesn't chip from the
ceilings,
Into our Holy Water bottles
That Tita uses to bless our
doors, daughters and
foreheads.
I wonder.
I wonder what it's like, to live
in a house
Without missing shingles on
the roof,
walls that are finished,
fresh paint-covered plaster
Scratch-resistant, bulletproof.
I wonder.
I wonder what it's like
To not live in fear of the Red
Line.
Especially on summer nights
alone,
In one ear-headphone. Waiting,
watching
Cityscapes with high rises too
pretty to see
My South Side home,
I wonder.

I wonder
I wonder what it's like to
permanently live in a
house
Where the windows and
doors have molding
And white picket fences
are in view.
A bedroom to myself,
No urge to record silver
badges on front lawns
Just in case another Black
and Brown life
Is taken too soon. I
wonder.
I wonder what it's like
To live with a deep, dwell-
ing security.
Not having to fight
consistently for equality.
A tiring effort, unfortunate
example of timeless
Time and again.
I wonder.
I wonder what it's like
To live with peace of mind.
Without the thought of my
9-year-old brother

**3rd
place**



Wearing a transparent back-
pack to school.
Walking through metal
detectors before class
Because, maybe, just maybe
His classmate's father left his
nine
Unlocked, easy access
To protect himself, his family,
his pride—a true Sugarman, in
his prime.
I wonder.
I wonder what it's like to live
Outside the confines of
condensed, cramped
Almost-swelting poverty.
Polluted danger forced upon
us,
Away from suburban and
lavish properties
That unsuccessfully attempt
to suck the soul from what is
left of our woods.
Moving in on us.
Capitalizing off our
soon-be-gentrified neighbor-
Hoods.
I wonder.

Student Biographies

Graduate Student Awards - Department

Excellence in Intelligence Analysis

Doug Zundel is pursuing a Master of Science in Intelligence Analysis after graduating magna cum laude with an undergraduate major in criminal justice as part of the 5-year accelerated program. He continues to excel through the graduate curriculum, consistently performing at the top of his class.

Joan K. Wilder Award

Donielle M. Salazer's research for her Master of Arts with a major in Curriculum & Instruction designed and implemented teaching strategies to develop comprehension skills needed by students when reading independently. Teaching strategies were adapted to address identified student-learning needs within purposefully selected small groups.

Richard H. L. Marshall Award for Graduate Excellence in Information Assurance

Ryan Winn is director of technology & security for Munson Healthcare. A father and husband, he lives in Traverse City, Mich. He is dedicated to improving information security in his organization and across the healthcare industry.

Computer and Information Systems Graduate Award

Shuang Li received her bachelor's and master's degrees in Education from Nankai University, China. She began Detroit Mercy's Master of Science in Computer & Information Systems program in 2015 and graduated this past December. She is now a software engineer with an automotive supplier located in Plymouth, Mich.

Undergraduate Student Awards - College

Clarence J. McLeod Award

Mary Warr is a junior in the Secondary Teacher Education program with majors in both History and Social Studies. Her community involvement includes volunteering to help students with special needs. After graduation, she looks forward to being able to share her love of learning with her students.

Undergraduate Student Awards – Department

Communication Excellence Award

Jenna Daniel serves as editor-in-chief of The Varsity News, Detroit Mercy’s award-winning student newspaper. She rose from staff writer to news editor before being promoted to her current role. Daniel supervises a print and online staff of 12 students. She is majoring in Communication Studies with Business and Leadership minors.

Computer and Information Systems Undergraduate Award

Ben Bourdeau is a senior in the 5-year accelerated program currently earning a Bachelor of Science with a major in Computer & Information Systems. He will then further his study with a Master of Science in Intelligence Analysis.

Helen Kean Undergraduate Studies Award

Antony Nedanovski participated in field experiences, used primary resources, communicated through group inquiry and pertinent media and analyzed case studies of educators who described ways that they applied their educational philosophy to practice. He intends to apply his articulated educational philosophy to guide his teaching with secondary students.

Malcom Carron, S.J. Education Award

JD Hess is a Secondary Education Social Studies major with minors in Leadership and Psychology. He is a member of the men’s lacrosse team and has coordinated numerous events to build school spirit and serve the community. After graduating, he plans on pursuing a master’s degree in Educational Administration.

Howard Walsh Memorial Award

Nicole West has loved reading and discussing literature ever since she was a five-year-old child making weekend trips to the library with her mother, who would ask her to explain what she had just read. She is a youth minister at Christian Tabernacle Church and does spoken-word performances for the congregation.

Catherine A. Caraher History Prize

Michael Van Gundy is a University of Detroit Mercy junior majoring in history and minoring in political science. He transferred here from Seminole State College in Florida. He is currently undecided regarding his plans after graduation but is considering going on to graduate school or a career in the business of professional sports.

Historic Memorials Society in Detroit Award

The Historic Memorials Society in Detroit is proud to recognize **Justin Armstrong** for his outstanding student record. Armstrong arrived here after earning a degree in Russian History and working 20 years in information technology. He intends to pursue graduate studies toward his lifelong dream of teaching at the college level.

Msgr. John C. Vismara Award

Ilia Panev is a motivated, responsible and accomplished student, who has done well in very diverse course offerings. Like a good philosopher, he can question, productively, the text and the professor, and that makes his instructors appreciate him all the more. He is planning on graduate study.

Political Science Award

Ilia Panev was born in Bulgaria and immigrated to the United States at the age of six. At Detroit Mercy, he has doubled majored in Political Science and Philosophy, and runs varsity track. He aspires to earn a doctorate in Political Science/Political Theory and teach at the university level.

Economics Award

Lucas Goode is a conscientious student, passionate about and dedicated to learning. He has rightfully earned straight "A's" in all courses in his major. Socially conscientious as well, he helps with mental-health-awareness-promotion and suicide prevention. Upon graduation, he intends to work contributing to the rebirth of the Metro Detroit area.

John J. Muller Psychology Award

Honors Program student **Maria Romo-Canchola** is a major in Developmental Psychology, with supportive courses to meet the academic requirements for provisional certification as a family life educator from the National Council on Family Relations, and a Women's and Gender Studies minor. Her honors thesis explores family size, birth order and gender influences on children's differential treatment and behavior.

Jerome Rozycki Criminal Justice Studies Award

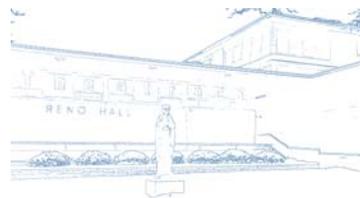
Mary G. LeAnnais is graduating magna cum laude with a major in Criminal Justice and a minor in Leadership. While also being an athlete, she finished her bachelor's degree in only seven semesters and has already started a graduate degree in Industrial/Organizational Psychology.

Rachel Joseph is in the Master of Science in Intelligence Analysis program, having earned her undergraduate degree as a Criminal Justice major this past December. She is currently working on a Ford Community Corps Project that hopes to bring crime awareness and strategies to the local area with Live6 Alliance.

Social Work Award

Sunkrea Mason is in the part-time Social Work program offered in collaboration with WCCCD University Center. She received the Dean's Award in 2016 and is a member of the Kappa Gamma Pi honor society. She plans to pursue a master's degree in Social Work.

 UNIVERSITY OF
DETROIT MERCY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL
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Photos from today's event will be available on the
College of Liberal Arts & Education Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/udmclae

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