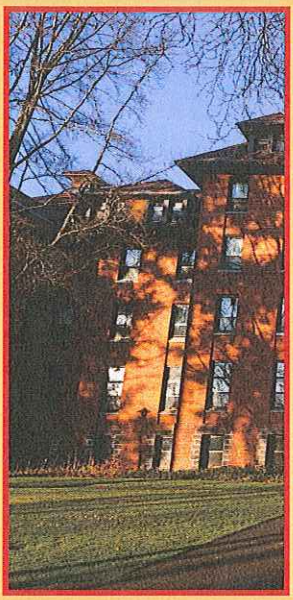
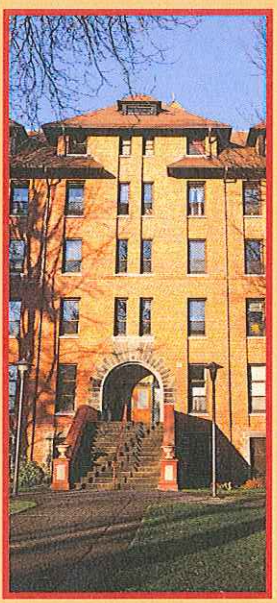
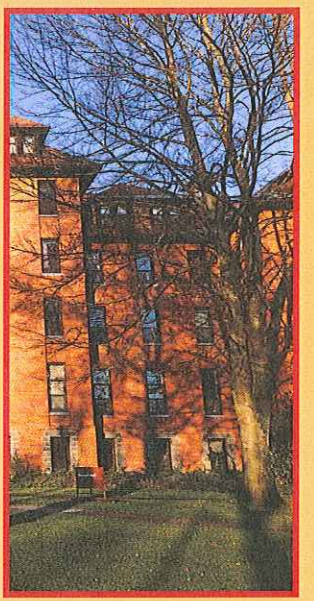
# PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

Division of Humanities
presents the

May 2017

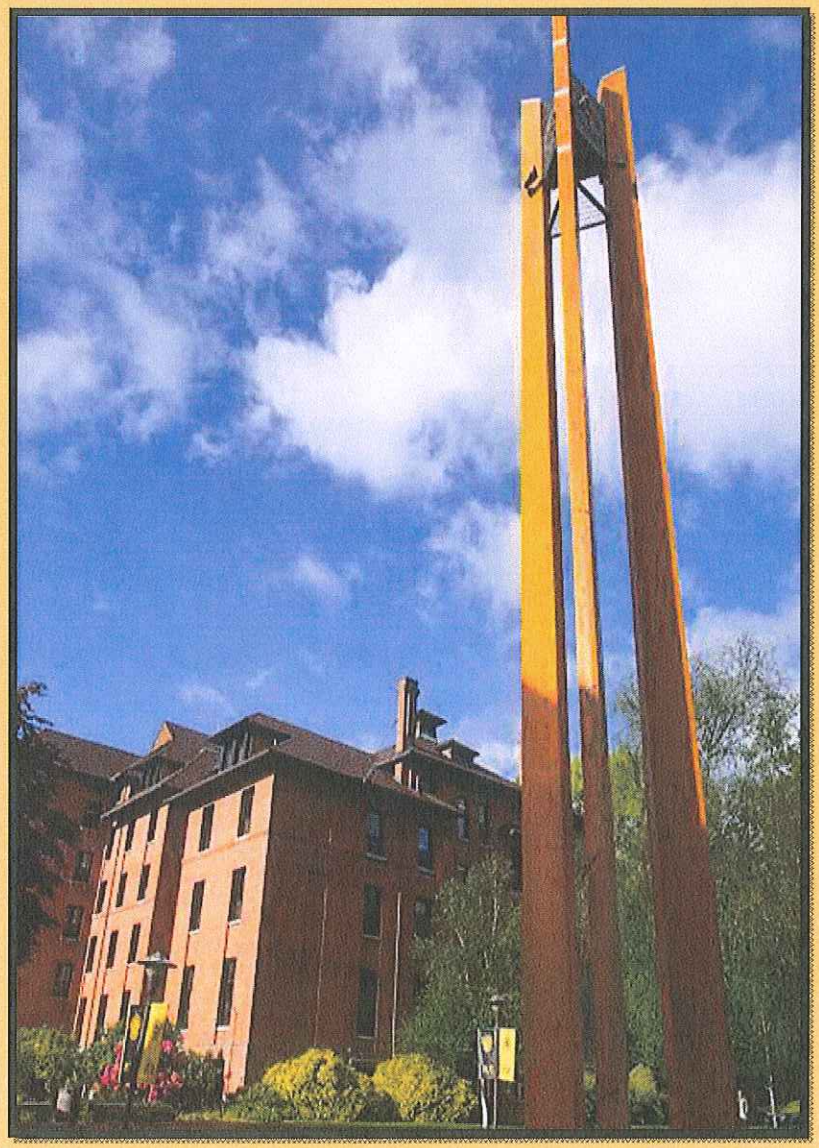
# Spring Academic Festival

## SENIOR CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS

# *Please Join Us*

As the culmination of their academic majors, Pacific Lutheran University seniors present to an open audience the fruits of a substantial project, paper, or internship.

The students and faculty of the Division of Humanities warmly invite all students, faculty, and the public to participate.



# LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

## GERMAN AND SCANDINAVIAN AREA STUDIES

The Languages and Literatures Capstone brings together students from different language programs in a common endeavor: seeking meaning in textual artifacts in their historical context through close and charitable reading that is informed by the tools of critical literary theory. This semester's capstones concentrate on Norwegian and German texts. Two presentations explore the tensions and dynamics of contemporary indigenous (Sámi) identity, and three German capstones investigate texts ranging from the text of a medieval woman German mystic, through film of the Holocaust, to contemporary German political rhetoric regarding refugees.

Professor Eric Nelson

# LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

*Seminar in German and Scandinavian Area Studies*

*Tuesday, May 16, 2017*

*Anderson University Center , Room 213*

*1:30 PM* *Peter Hunt*

"A Post-Colonial Reading of Indigenous Identity in Elle-Maija Tailfeathers' Bihttoš"

*1:55 PM* *Colin Mischel*

"Bringing Life to Indigenous Heritage: Cultural Dynamics Explored through Sudden Onset and Discovery"

*2:20 PM* *Sarah Martin*

"The Body Divine - Feminist Perspectives on the Life and Revelations of Elsbeth von Oye"

# LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

*Seminar in German and Scandinavian Area Studies*

*Tuesday, May 16, 2017*

*Anderson University Center, Room 213*

*2:45 PM* *Josh Stevens*

"Double Consciousness and Jakob der Lügner: From Oppression to Death"

*3:10 PM* *Lisa Hartwell*

"The Rhetoric of Refugees: The Gaze of Chancellor Merkel and her Opposition"

# LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

## HISPANIC STUDIES

"As the culminating course for the major in Hispanic Studies, this seminar immerses students in three intellectually demanding fields. They become familiar with the realm of Critical Theory by studying some of the most important schools of thought as well as the most influential thinkers of those schools (Saussure, Barthes, Freud, Derrida, Lacan, Kristeva, Cixous, Foucault, Marx, Bhabha, Žižek, Anzaldúa, Benítez-Rojo, Stuart Hall.) Concurrently, students also learn about key concepts and methodologies related to research in literature, film and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Finally, students undertake an analysis of primary sources (in Spanish) of their choosing, drawing from the theoretical framework they deem most pertinent for their texts and supported by the secondary sources they critically compile throughout the semester.

At the end of the 15-week course, the aforementioned process culminates in the elaboration of a 20-page argumentative critical essay written in Spanish in which students deconstruct notions of race, ethnicity and/or gender, question representations of violence, reflect upon the ethical positions of the readership/ audience, and discuss the nature of language and the potential and limitations of art."

Professor Giovanna Urdangarain

# LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

*Seminar in Hispanic Studies*

*Thursday, May 18, 2017*

*Anderson University Center, Room 201*

*4:10 PM* *Elmer Coria-Islas*

"Negritud y exclusión en la historia nacional mexicana/Negritude and Exclusion in Mexican National History"

Q&A 4:30PM—4:40PM

*4:50 PM* *Collin Yadon*

"Narcos y fútbol: un mismo mundo/"Narcos and Soccer: Two Worlds Collided"

Q&A 5:10PM—5:20PM

*5:30 PM* *Kate Hall*

"La (im)posibilidad de la equivalencia en la autotraducción/The (im)possibility of equivalence in self-translation"

Q&A 5:50PM—6:00PM

# LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

## CHINESE STUDIES

The Chinese Studies Program capstone course combines general readings in Chinese Studies which focus on modern and contemporary Chinese issues, followed by independent research conducted under close supervision of program faculty. Capstone students also work with a group of 190 Inquiry Seminar students (enrolled in Introduction to Chinese Studies) as discussion leaders as well as models for good college research practice.

Professor Paul Manfredi

# LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

*Seminar in Chinese Studies*

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

*Hong Hall, Language Resource Center*

*4:00 PM* *Rodjanee Foster*

"Butterfly (蝴蝶. 2004): Case Study in Chinese Lesbian Film"

*4:30 PM* *Jessi Ling*

"Lights, Camera, Action: Chinese Film Industry's Soft Power Invasion of Hollywood"

*5:00 PM* *Ye Tian*

"From Silk Road to 'One-Belt-One-Road' (一带一路)"

*5:30 PM* *Shalyn Van Beek*

"The Modernization of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Its Symbiotic Relationship with Modern Medical Research"

# RELIGION

Scholarly work is conducted within a community: Scholars share their early ideas with friends and colleagues, their drafts with anonymous reviewers, and present their findings to professional guilds. In the Religion Department, the capstone process models such communal scholarship.

The work begins in the Fall of senior year, when students take a class on research in religion to learn a wide range of methods, read classics in the field, and write a literature review on a topic of their own choosing. In the Spring capstone course, students delve deeper into that topic, creating their own original argument, editing and reviewing one another's drafts, writing a polished piece of scholarship, and making a formal public presentation.

The study of religion at PLU is widely diverse, ranging from Biblical to Buddhist research, from ancient history to contemporary theology. The work of the capstone honors this diversity, as each student develops a unique project but also joins a community in which they can support, challenge, and learn from one another.

Professor Kevin O'Brien

# RELIGION

*Seminar in Research*

*Tuesday, May 16, 2017*

*Anderson University Center, Room 201*

*1:00 PM* *Michaela Myers*

"Why Sex Education Matters to Evangelicals"

*1:30 PM* *Theodore Miller*

"The Dialectic Dance with Death"

*2:00 PM* *Aron Roberts*

"Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Discovering the Arcane Discipline"

*2:45 PM* *Elizabeth Henderson*

"The Mystical Motivation of Catherine of Siena"

*3:30 PM* *Jessica Ho*

"Genesis 2-3 on Trial"

# ENGLISH

## POETRY

For many, poetry is often thought of as an art that begins and ends with the poet's feelings. However, even one hour in a beginning poetry class will undermine that assumption. Poetry, the beginning student immediately learns, is an art full of rigor--formally speaking, thematically speaking, intellectually speaking. In short, poetry is profoundly complex, and a student's study of poetry is as much an inquiry into the complexities of the art as it is an inquiry into the student's mind and heart.

The poetry capstone is a culmination of a student's work in reading and writing poetry. Each week this semester, students wrote poems that engaged with various elements of form and theme. The students also carefully investigated the workings of subject matter and craft in poets as far-ranging in history and style as Anne Carson, Seamus Heaney, Li-Young Lee, Louise Gluck, Lucille Clifton, Lois-Ann Yamanaka, and Emily Dickinson.

Professor Rick Barot

# ENGLISH

*Seminar in Poetry Writing*

*Thursday, May 18, 2017*

*Anderson University Center, Room 133*

*5:45 PM* *Emily Khilfeh*

"Only Myths"

*6:30 PM* *Clayton Regehr*

"Eight Hundred Gouaches"

*7:15 PM* *Hilary Vo*

"Gold Camry"

# ENGLISH

## FICTION

Stories shape our world, and we come to know the world through stories. They are how we come to understand and connect with other people and cultures, often those we might otherwise never know. Stories transform us. The central objectives in this seminar are for students to become better storytellers and to create meaningful literature. To accomplish this, they have built upon skills and principles gained from previous literature and writing courses – working with imagery, exploring place, and examining the particularities of people, including their use of language and what shapes their ideologies – to create what Virginia Woolf called "moments of being" in characters' lives. Over this semester, students have considered multiple texts on craft, produced a writer's manifesto, presented on ways that authors use technique and critical frameworks to explore social issues, and wrote two new stories, all with the hope of producing fiction that reveals deeper insights into the human condition.

Professor Jason Skipper

# ENGLISH

*Seminar in Fiction*

*Thursday, May 18, 2017*

*Anderson University Center, Regency Room*

*5:00 PM* *Lyz Frerking*

"Remnant"

*5:45 PM* *Evan Farley*

*"Mother's Touch"*

*6:30 PM* *Harper Schultz*

"Phantom Eye"

*7:15 PM* *Annalise Campbell*

"Welcome to Cut and Dry Hair"

*8:00 PM* *Jesse Herinckx*

"Rock Never Wrong"

# ENGLISH

*Seminar in Fiction*

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

*Anderson University Center, Regency Room*

*10:00 AM* *Kai Russell*

"The Perfect Death"

*10:45 AM* *Shelan Porter*

"Stumbling Strength"

*11:30 AM* *Isabel Olson-Boger*

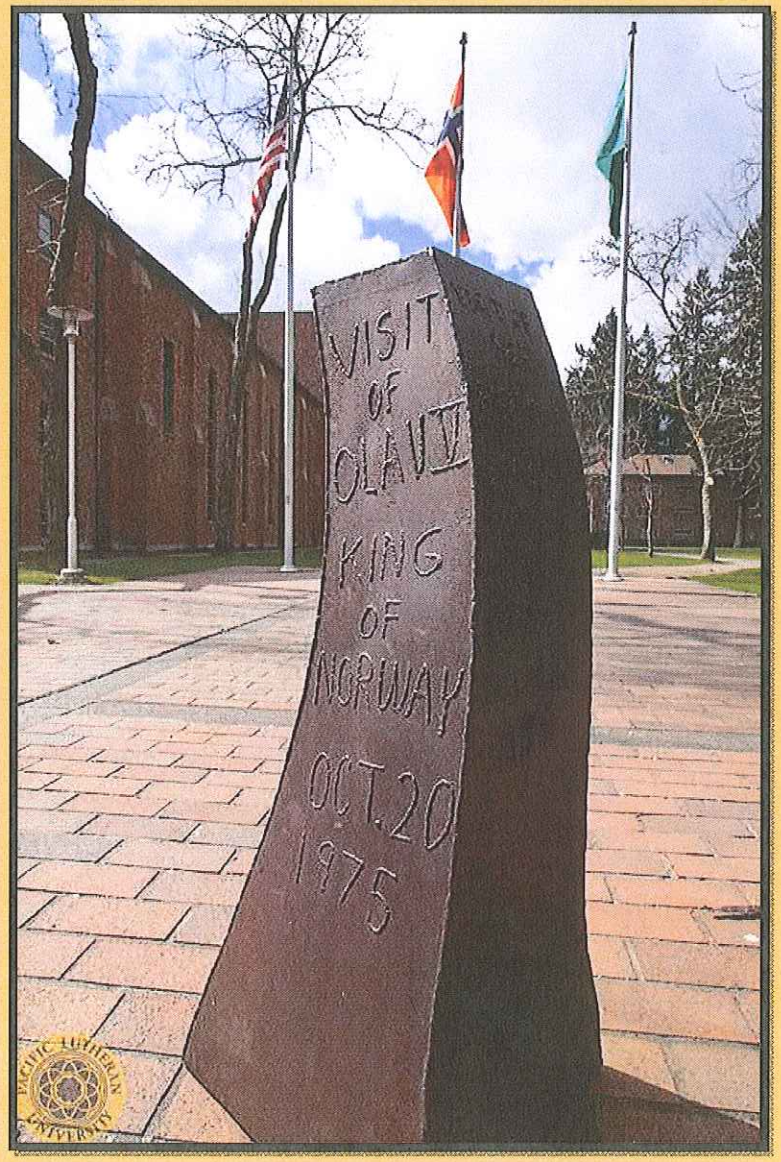
"What It's Like to be Afraid of the Dark"

*1:00 PM* *Tyler Schwartz*

"Makeshift Wings"

*1:45 PM* *Emily Khilfeh*

"Any Kind of Bird"


VISIT
OF
OLAV V
KING
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NORWAY
OCT. 20
1975

# ENGLISH

## LITERATURE

In her 1993 Nobel Lecture in Literature, author Toni Morrison – the first African American to win the Nobel Prize in Literature– reflected on her own life's work of re-animating the dead languages of oppression to body forth the actual and future lives of African Americans in particular, and Americans more broadly. Invoking what she calls a "living language" in her literature, Morrison writes: "The vitality of language lies in its ability to limn the actual, imagined and possible lives of its speakers, readers, writers (...) It arcs toward the place where meaning may lie" (204-5). This spring, PLU seniors in the English Literature Capstone have grappled with the ways Morrison's fiction bears witness to African American history, collective trauma, and artistic attempts at repair. Together, we have considered her novels as windows onto the historical and political urgencies that inspire literary experimentation, while reflecting on our own ethical responsibilities as literary critics to be voices for social change. Students' final projects thus serve to illuminate a range of intellectual problems and questions, including the racialized and gendered understanding of human/animal interaction, the impact of maternal abandonment on self-development, the role of childhood friendship in repairing fractured selves, and the role of orality in the cultivation of familial histories and personal identity.

Professor Jenny James

# ENGLISH

*Seminar in Literature*

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

*Anderson University Center, Room 213*

*10:00 AM* *Kyndall Hoff*

"So we paid very good attention to ourselves": Love and Care in Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye.

*10:45 AM* *Allison Lacombe*

"Becoming the Bard: Self-Discovery through Oral Traditions in Toni Morrison's Song of Solomon"

*12:15 PM* *Shanna Postlewait*

"Hear a tua mãe: Reclaiming of Female Slave Identity in Toni Morrison's A Mercy"

*1:00 PM* *Julianna Schaus*

"I am become wilderness": Animal/Human Interaction in Toni Morrison's A Mercy

# PHILOSOPHY

This year the Philosophy Capstone focused on the role of emotions in the discipline of philosophy and ethics more specifically by reading Martha Nussbaum's work Upheavals of Thought: The Intelligence of Emotions. She draws on the Stoic tradition, music and various forms of art and literature to make the case that a version of emotion is critical to the well lived and ethical life. This book allowed us to reflect upon the Western philosophical tradition which historically privileges rationality and considers emotion as possible bias, partiality or lack of philosophical reflection. This book also raises interesting questions about the boundaries of the discipline of philosophy and the extent to which other disciplines might be important to draw on in doing philosophical work.

Professor Pauline Shanks-Kaurin

# PHILOSOPHY

*Seminar in Philosophy*

*Friday, May 19, 2017*

*Hauge Administration Building, Room 200*

*1:00 PM* *Ashley Mindnich*

"A Critique of the Disinterested Attitude: The Value of Community and Emotion"

*2:00 PM* *Theo Miller*

"Anxiety & Emotions: A Neostoic-Kierkegaardian Critique"

# Humanities Capstones
# Spring 2017

**Pacific Lutheran University**

**Division of Humanities**

Tacoma, WA 98447

www.plu.edu/humanities

**The Division of Humanities at Pacific Lutheran University** is comprised of the Departments of **English** (including Children's Literature and Culture, and Publishing and Printing Arts), **Languages and Literatures** (including Chinese, Classics, French, German, Hispanic Studies, and Norwegian), **Philosophy**, and **Religion,** and is also affiliated with these programs: Chinese Studies, Environmental Studies, Global Studies, International Honors and Scandinavian Area Studies.