Student Awards and Accomplishments

Stephen Grandchamp

Stephen Grandchamp, Department of English PhD student, has received Honorable Mention in the 2013 AT&T Faculty-Staff Award Competition in Instructional Technology for his online course ENG126. This awards program recognizes outstanding contributions to the use and development of information technology for teaching and learning in credit-bearing courses at Michigan State University. Other team members: Scott Schopieray, director of academic technology; consultation in conceptualization and development of the course; and Judith Stoddart, professor and assistant dean in the graduate school; consultation in developing models of student interaction in an online setting.

Department of English instructors and PhD students Morgan Shipley and Ben Phillips, American Studies Program, have been awarded the 2013 Somers Excellence in Teaching Award.

Steve Lessner

Steve Lessner, graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures and a PhD candidate in the Rhetoric & Writing program, was awarded a 2012-2013 Excellence In Teaching Citation for his outstanding efforts teaching First-Year Writing.

Jenny Carmichael

Jenny Carmichael, Philosophy senior, is the winner of the 2013 Lewis K. Zerby Prize for the best philosophy essay by an MSU undergraduate student for her essay, “Indiscernibles and Plato’s Forms.”

Team Routebook and Team Syllabot

Team Routebook and Team Syllabot, two student teams in Professor William Hart-Davidson’s fall 2012 Interactive Design (WRA 482) class, came up with ideas to help students navigate MSU and learn more efficiently. Team Routebook began development on a smartphone application named Routebook that allows users to see all of their current, fastest-available transportation options. Jessie Whitmill, Professional Writing, Stephanie Sundheimer, Digital Humanities Specialization, and Amanda Michelson, Professional Writing, comprised the three-student team. After creating a demonstration mockup, Team Routebook decided to try and take the project to the next level. Team Routebook applied for and won a $5,000 start-up funding grant as a public favorite through Start Garden, a venture capital group in Grand Rapids, Michigan, that provides weekly venture capital grants to promising projects. Team Syllabot worked to create an API system that interacts with current learning management websites such as Angel or Desire 2 Learn. Team partners Corinne Vieracker, English with Digital Humanities specialization, and Kim Setili, Media Arts Technology with a Digital Humanities specialization, set a goal to make a student-interactive instructor’s syllabus so that when a professor makes changes in a syllabus, students receive e-mails or text messages on their smartphones, laptops, or tablets.

Nathan Leaman

Nathan Leaman, Department of English PhD student, has been awarded the 2013 Somers Excellence in Teaching Award for outstanding performance as an instructor of IAH courses at Michigan State University. The Somers Award recognizes teaching assistants who exhibit a commitment to excellence, innovation and creativity in undergraduate teaching. The award carries a $750 cash award.

Cajetan Iheka

Cajetan Iheka, graduate student and instructor in the Department of English, has been awarded the 2013-14 Nelson Mandela Museum/MSU Museum Graduate Fellowship for Summer Research and Graduate Merit Fellowship. The Nelson Mandela Museum/Michigan State University Museum Graduate Curatorial Fellowship supports graduate student community-engaged research, education, collection management, and exhibition projects based at the Nelson Mandela National Museum and the Michigan State University Museum.

Josh Sietsema

Josh Sietsema, Philosophy junior, is the winner of the 2013 Martin Benjamin-Bruce L. Miller Award to the most promising sophomore philosophy student.

Abigail Koning

Abigail Koning, graduating Spanish senior, was awarded a 2013-14 Fulbright English teaching assistantship in an English classroom in a secondary school in Madrid, Spain.