

**WILLIAM
PATERSON**
UNIVERSITY

**Spring 2017
Honors Performing
and Literary Arts Track
Presentations**

SHOWCASING THE WORK OF STUDENTS
COMPLETING THE
PERFORMING AND LITERARY ARTS
HONORS TRACK OF THE
UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE

Dr. Philip Cioffari, Track Director

**Tuesday, April 4, 2017
7:00 p.m.**

**William Paterson University
David and Lorraine Cheng Library
Auditorium**

Program
(in order of appearance)

Ryanne Doran

Tiffany Rodriguez

Laura Taylor

Priscilla Cordero

Jessica Super

Ben Frank

Jessica Wachuku

Mckinley Tull

Tom Smith

John Mould

Jennette Firriolo
and
Yevgeniya Gutina
are presenting

Wednesday, 4/5 at 1:30
and 1:45 p.m. in UC 171 A/B

**Please join us for a reception
in the Friends Lounge
immediately following
the presentations.**

Presenters' Notes



Priscilla Cordero

Major: Anthropology
Thesis Title: *Silk City Views*
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Maria Kromidas

In this project, I essentially curated a photo of my hometown of Paterson, NJ. As a student at William Paterson University, due to its proximity my experience in college has been a series of reintroducing myself to my home town. The historical, cultural and political complexity of my home was something that I began to deeply understand and deconstruct through my experiences as an undergrad. I wanted to create a project that focused on the voices of Patersonians. Through these images and my paper, I explored the political messages found within art found in the landscape of the city. I took pictures of a range of art found in public spaces such as monuments, murals, graffiti, structures, signs, flags, dancing, etc. These images can be seen on an instagram page I began to curate myself: [instagram.com/silkcityviews](https://www.instagram.com/silkcityviews).



Ryanne Catherine Doran

Major: Elementary Education/TSD
Thesis Title: *Sonnenblume*
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari

Writing has been my passion for as long as I can remember. When I was in first grade, I would create stories and draw illustrations about all different things and gave them to every person I came into contact with. As I continued to grow, my ideas and interests changed. I focused on a variety of different subject matters. I found myself reading many different styles of writing and looking for inspiration for my own stories. Following some of my favorite authors, I have worked in the beginning of my own historical fiction novel. This was an incredibly fun project for me, and truly rewarding as well. I would like to thank Dr. Cioffari, with his guidance and support throughout this creative process. It was with his notes, his suggestions, and his confidence in my writing that this story has come to be. Thank you, Dr. Cioffari! I would also like to thank my parents, Michael and Erin. You two have always supported my passion for writing and through every endeavor as my biggest fans. Thank you for reading my stories as a child and as an adult, giving me praise, constructive criticism, and helping me pursue my writing. I would also like to thank my siblings, Sam, Mac, and MaryKate for challenging me to succeed and helping me exceed all expectations. Finally, I would like to thank James, my muse and confidant. Thank you for all of your encouragement. I love you all!



Jennette Firriolo

Major: Popular Music
Thesis Title: *Jennette Elizabeth: The Process of Making an EP*
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari

Since I was 6, I've been playing instruments; I started with piano, then flute, guitar, mandolin, and some percussion. At age 16, I started writing my own songs after years of playing covers. As of now, I've written hundreds of songs and this project, *Jennette Elizabeth*, is the result of selecting seven songs to showcase out of sixty. I spent many hours arranging, recording, and playing every track in Logic Pro X and then the tracks were brought to Portrait Recording Studios where they were mixed and mastered. I had the pleasure to watch and actively be a part of the mixing experience. This EP is the culmination of everything I've learned, not only in college, but, in my life up to this point! I had so much fun creating it, and working with everyone along the way. I hope everyone who listens can relate to the music and have fun listening too! If you would like to hear the full EP you can find it on iTunes, Amazon, and Spotify!



Benjamin Frank

Major: Music Jazz Studies
Thesis Title: *Musical Expression*
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari

For my Honors College Senior Project, I wrote and recorded three separate musical compositions aimed at expressing my own experience and view of the world. In my track I have done significant course work in music theory, which is aimed at describing and understanding the rules of Western Classical Harmony. These rules are used in a large amount of the music we are exposed to. I have also done course work in ear training which is aimed at learning to perceive these relationships and harmonies that have been described without looking at notes on a page, and purely "by ear." In studying these fundamental principles I have been given the tools to search for my own musical expression.



Yevgeniya Gutina

Major: Legal Studies
Thesis Title: *Short Story*
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari

Having chosen the Performing and Literary Arts Honor's track, I knew I was in for something I was not used to. Being a pre-law major, I never really had to leave anything to my imagination, it was just all there - in all the books and online sources.

Creating two fiction pieces gave me a chance to really reach deep into my imagination and create stories that I felt many young adults may relate to. With the tremendous help from Professor Cioffari, whom I am so grateful for, I was able to write these two pieces that would have never been possible without his guidance.



John Mould

Major: Media Studies and Media Production
Thesis Title: *Gravy with Cheese*
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari

When I was five years old, back in the days of VHS tapes, I directed and starred in my first short film. It was nothing I would ever show anyone today, but nonetheless I consider it an impressive achievement for someone who just learned to speak. Throughout my life, my passion for the arts has only grown deeper. When I entered college, music took the front seat

and film stepped back significantly. When confronted with the possibility of a creative project for my thesis, I knew exactly what I wanted to do. "Gravy with Cheese" is an experiment in visual effects and sound design through celebrating the work of several of my favorite people I've met in my time here at William Paterson University. With cinematography by Kalani Mackson, spoken word by Antonnyo Runge, original music by Matt Califero, & actress and designer Shannen Gallardo; I take an in-depth look into the picture and sound of depression in action.



Tiffany Rodriguez

Major: Communication Disorders
Thesis Title: *Puppy Love*
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari

I recently moved in with my boyfriend of three years and I would be lying if I said this piece wasn't inspired by the experiences I've had in the past 6 months. I started working as a waitress at a Mediterranean restaurant down the street from our new apartment and my boss made me realize some things about myself and my relationship that

I hadn't given much thought to. This short story follows the evolution of my relationship and the realization that love may not always be this sweet. I want to give a special thanks to Dr. Cioffari who provided me with excellent feedback and helped me complete my first short story.



Thomas Smith

Major: Communication
Thesis Title: *Thesis Film: Story Board*
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari

"Storyboard" explores the story of Clark, a young college writer struggling with creativity on his quest for greatness as he attempts to write his first big story. Always sticking to what he knows, Clark rarely explores the world outside of his books, but when his way of thinking begins to fail, he

will need to seek out a new way to find the inspiration that is inside him. This was the first short film that I took on by myself and is a culmination of the superior education I have received at William Paterson. I wrote, directed and edited this film in order to use for possible employment opportunities upon graduating. Without the guidance of Dr. Cioffari, and many other incredible mentors and companions along the way, I never would have been able to achieve this goal that I set for myself. I hope you enjoy.



Jessica Super

Majors: Secondary Education & History
Thesis Title: *American History- A Comic Book*
Thesis Advisors: Dr. Philip Cioffari

Initially being accepted as an art student to William Paterson and making the change to Education and History was a very difficult decision for me to make. Art has been such an important part of my life for as long as I can remember and has had such an influence

on becoming the person I am today. Being able to incorporate the three things that drive and interest me has been something that I will forever be grateful for during my college years. My biggest hope is that I will one day be able to incorporate this project into my own future classroom to benefit my future students!



Laura Taylor

Major: Elementary Education TSD and 5-8
Thesis Title: *On Being...*
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari

I was inspired to write this compilation of poetry by my dear friend, Mercy, who is always a voice for those who don't or can't speak for themselves. I wrote this poetry to shed light on how people truly feel about life, their jobs, religion, etc., but may

not feel comfortable sharing with an audience. I wanted to talk about truths that impact our world from sexism to racism. My goal was for readers to experience these poems in a way that they can draw connections to themselves in their own lives. In doing so, I hoped to foster a sense of hope so that people struggling can know they aren't alone. If we can embrace who we are without having to worry about what someone else might think or say or judge, we could live in a much better world. I decided to name this collection, 'On Being' because this action is something we can all relate to. Regardless of occupation, religion, or ethnicity, we all are living, surviving,... being. In this life, there will be a lot of ups and downs, but each experience molds us and shapes our character toward who we are meant to become.



McKinley Tull

Major: Mathematics
Thesis Title: *Four Short Films*

I have always had an interest in acting since high school. Watching the musicals and plays that were performed inspired to me take more interest in acting, however, I never took any action. I wanted to take this opportunity, by utilizing this Honors Track, to finally pursue it. Adams Desir and I perform two scripts from the films *The Player* (1992) and *Love Life* (1997) and parody skit based off of the viral video *Hurt Bae*. I wanted show my ability to act and I thought it would be great to collaborate on this project with Adams who is an aspiring actor. I enjoyed working on this project with him and with Shariff Stubbs and Sheehan Chadhuri who also helped film this project.



Jessica Wachuku

Major: Media Studies
and Media Production
Thesis Title: *WYNETECH*
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Philip Cioffari

Filmmaking and telling stories have always been my way to express myself. I have grown tremendously throughout my time at William Paterson University.

My Honors This has given me the opportunity to display my growth as a filmmaker. Each video is a reflection of myself and I hope I can inspire others through WYNETECH . Thank You.

About the Performing and Literary Arts Track . . .

Sponsored jointly by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of the Arts and Communication, the Performing and Literary Arts Track is a cross-disciplinary program for students engaged in a creative project in one or more of the following areas: writing, theatre, music, film or art. Students select a creative project and work closely with the Program Director to accomplish their academic and personal goals. As is true for the other tracks in the University Honors College, performing and literary arts is not a major, but a distinctive set of courses that adds breadth to, and reinforces, a student's chosen major. The track is open, subject to stipulation, to students of all majors.

PHILLIP CIOFFARI, the Track Director, is the author of five books of fiction: the mystery/thriller, *CATHOLIC BOYS*; the short story collection, *A HISTORY OF THINGS LOST OR BROKEN*, which won the Tartt Fiction Prize, and the D. H. Lawrence award for fiction; *JESUSVILLE*, *DARK ROAD*, *DEAD END*, and just recently, *THE BRONX KILL*. His short stories have been published widely in commercial and literary magazines and anthologies, including *North American Review*, *Playboy*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Northwest Review*, *Florida Fiction*, and *Southern Humanities Review*.

Dr. Cioffari has written and directed for Off and Off-Off Broadway. His Indie feature film, which he wrote and directed, *LOVE IN THE AGE OF DION*, has won numerous awards, including Best Feature Film at the Long Island Int'l Film Expo, and Best Director at the NY Independent Film & Video Festival. He is a Professor of English, and director of the Performing and Literary Arts Honors Track, at William Paterson University.

About the University Honors College . . .

The University Honors College is a place where academically gifted students explore new ideas and engage in intellectual and creative collaborations with experienced and dedicated members of the faculty. Honors students are offered a comprehensive educational experience that brings together academic, residential, social and cultural experiences. Approximately 350 students are actively participating in the Honors College in Honors sections of General Education courses and/or one of the eleven Honors Tracks. Each fall, about 100 new students enter the Honors College, and about half of those live in the Honors Learning Community in High Mountain East, one of the newest residence halls on campus.

Students in the Honors College pursue a disciplinary major and an Honors track. The track may parallel the major, relate to the major, or be very different from the major. Although the various tracks have different requirements, each track culminates in a thesis or significant research or creative project that the student presents to the University community. The two oldest tracks, Biopsychology and Humanities, were established in 1976. The Honors Program was established in 2000, and was expanded into the University Honors College in 2005. There are currently eleven Honors tracks: Biology, Biopsychology, Cognitive Science, Humanities, Independent, Life Science and Environmental Ethics, Management, Marketing, Music, Nursing, Performing and Literary Arts, and Social Sciences.

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