

Virtual Awards Ceremony Newsletter





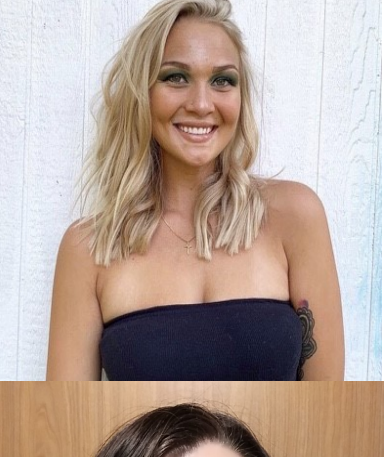




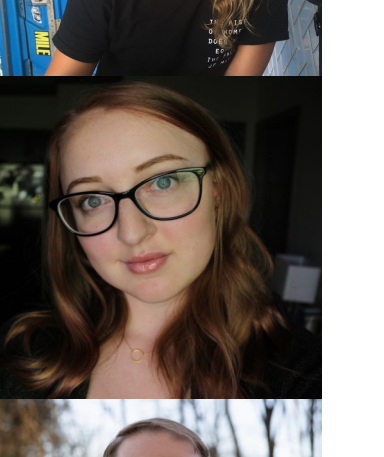
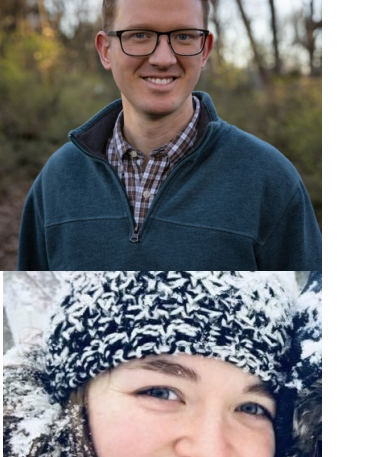
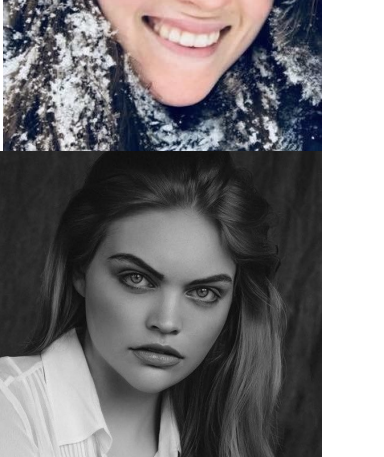

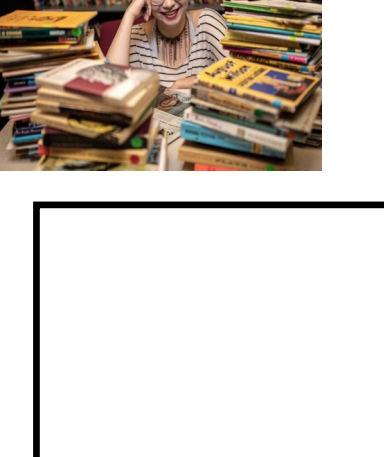
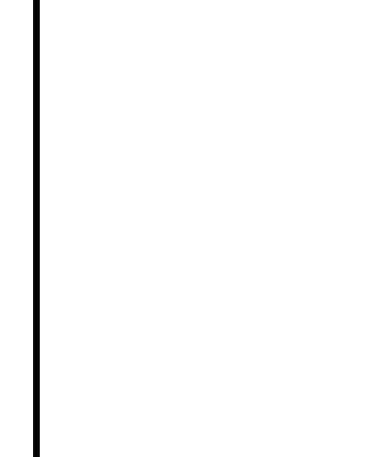
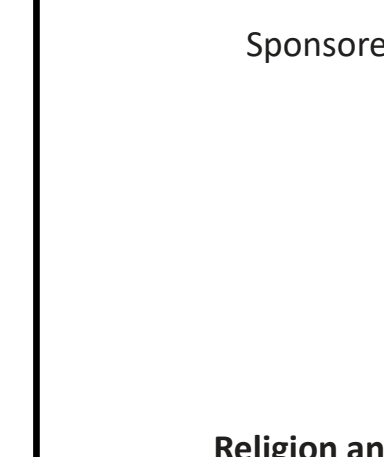
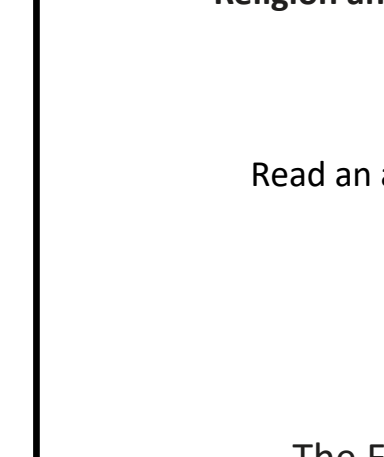
The 2019-2020 academic year has brought new challenges in multiple forms to the Gender and Women's Studies program, but I'm happy to say the program has remained incredibly student-centered. We reached over 400 students with our events/presentations and countless others through GWS co-sponsorships. Through the generosity and flexibility of our donors, GWS was able to award over \$14,800 in aid to GWS students. The program sent two undergraduates and one graduate student to the 2019 University of Kentucky GWS conference and two students to the Sundance Film Festival for a study away course to research gender/diversity in the film industry. We used creative writing to engage 200-300 local 8 to 10 year old girls at the Journey to the Vote "Herstory" event, and discussed women directors/protagonists with 16 metro Nashville high school students through the Belcourt Theatre's *Strong Leads* program. (See photos below.)

Transition and sustainability have been this year's goals for the program, and while there is still much to be done, our core and affiliated faculty along with the staff who support our program remain dedicated to GWS student growth and transformation. A deep thanks goes out to the core faculty, Dr. Jane Olmsted and Dr. Kristi Branham, to our part-time office associate, Renee Purdy, and to our graduate students, Lauren Haynes, who joined us in August, and Patrice Thomas, who joined in January. **Special thanks to all those who worked with GWS this year:** Dr. Dale Rigby, writing contest coordinator; GIFS committee: Dr. Ted Hovet, Sara Thomason, and the film presenters, Dr. Marla Zubel, Ms. Jessica Folk, Dr. Thea Browder, Dr. Victoria Gordon, and Dr. Patti Minter. The Scholarships and Awards Committee: Ms. Trish Jagers, Renee Purdy, Lauren Haynes, Patrice Thomas, and a big thank you to the newly formed GWS steering committee: Dr. Merrill Price, Dr. Enakshi Roy, Dr. Lauren McClain, Dr. Sophia Arjana, and Dr. Kristi Branham. Thanks also goes to the English Department faculty and staff for their warm welcome and administrative assistance as GWS settled into the department.

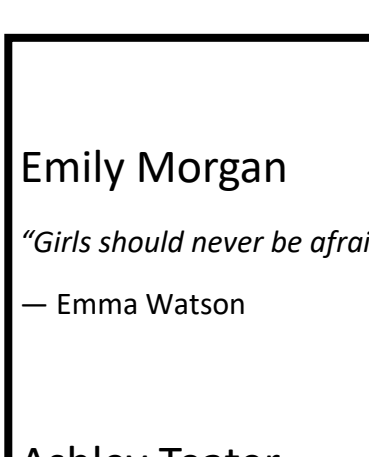
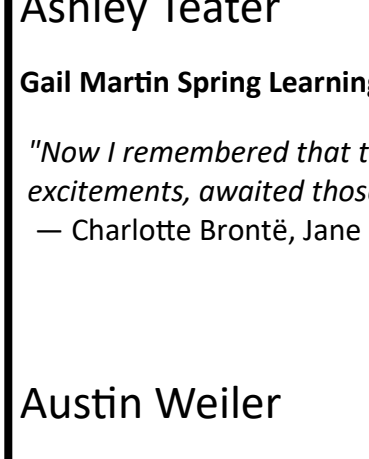
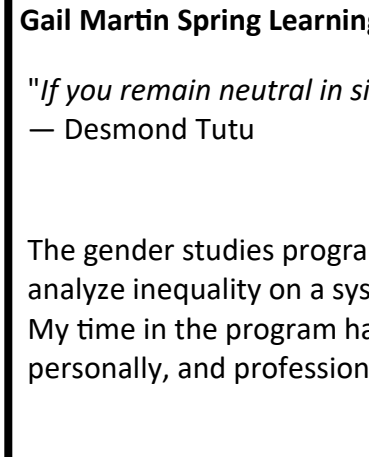
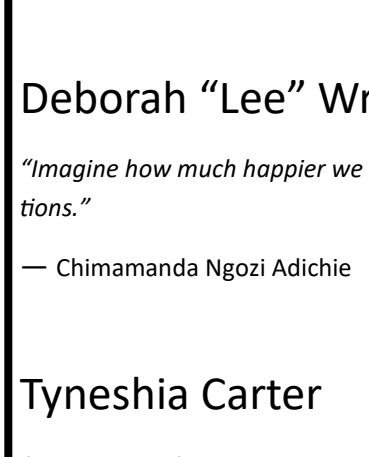
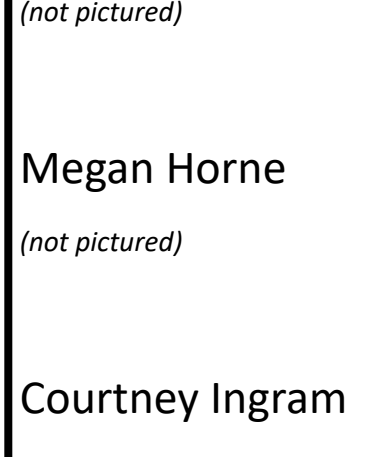
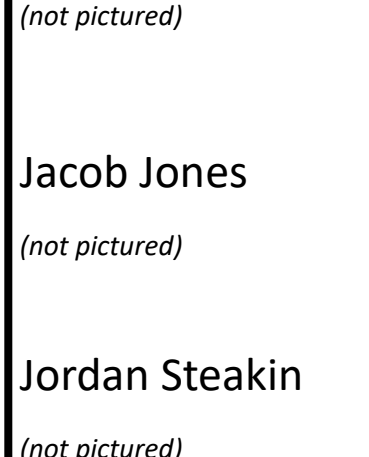
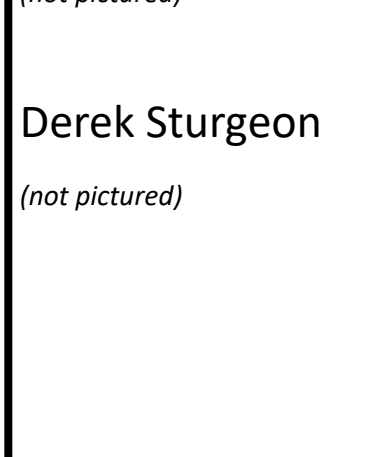
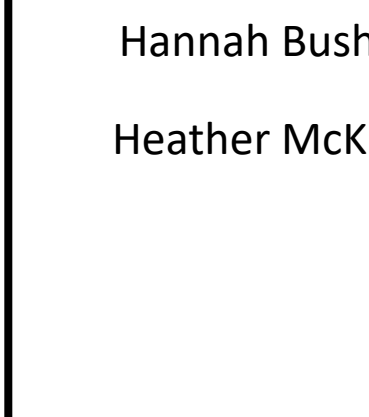


I would also like to thank the visionaries whose foresight has sheltered and supported the GWS program, Dr. Catherine Ward and Ms. Gail Martin. Both of these women's careful planning and dedication to the GWS mission has allowed us to weather the changes brought to the program. Due to their care and concern for the program's minors and students, we were able to create the 2019-2020 Catherine C. Ward Study Away/Abroad Scholarship and the Gail Martin Spring 2020 Learning Assistance Scholarship and impact student learning and success during such a difficult season. Thanks also to all of you for your continued support; please stay well and safe. **Congrats to our 2020 graduates** and enjoy the celebration below.

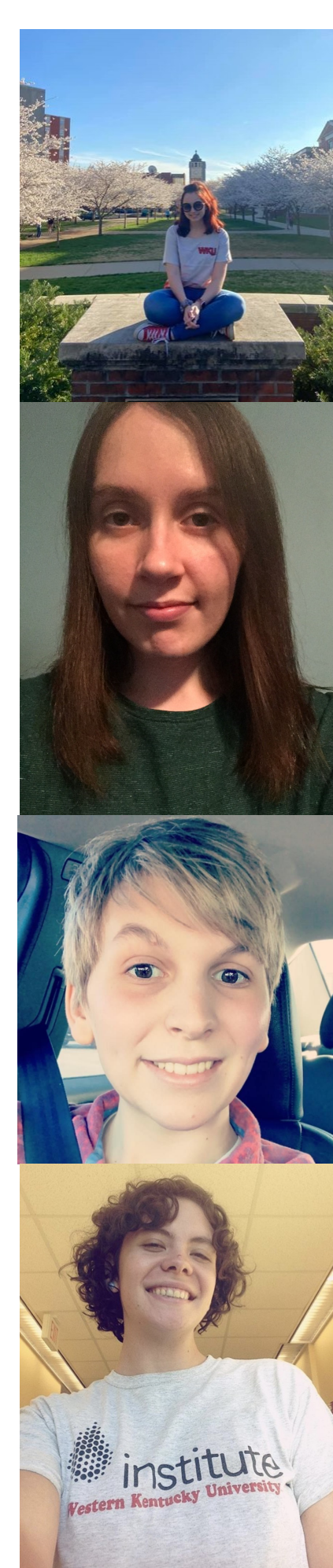
Congratulations, GWS Scholarship & Award Recipients:

Note: Order of lists is alphabetical, with the exception of those not pictured.

	Ashley Bernaugh	The Esther Fund Graduate Scholarship Gail Martin Spring Learning Assistance Scholarship	\$1,500
<i>"So much of my life, as I knew so early on, does not fit neatly into a little box titled 'American Girl.' From the days of skinned knees and muddy Easter dresses, to the hopes and dreams of a girl growing up in a world much bigger than the immediate world presenting, nothing I seemed to choose would put me on a path to anything other than feminism."</i>			
	Hannah Bushon	Valere Scott Undergraduate Scholarship Catherine C. Ward Study Away/Abroad Scholarship	\$2,200
<i>"For a majority of my life, I never really pictured myself as an activist. And even now, at 28 years old, I feel I don't fit the glossy, magazine image of an activist with her fist raised on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. But the older I've gotten, and the more I've been able to explore the world around me, I've come to realize that most of my life has been spent in quiet activism, in professional settings and in social settings."</i>			
	Ruby Chapdelain	Catherine C. Ward Undergraduate Scholarship Gail Martin Spring Learning Assistance Scholarship	\$1,500
<i>"Wealth, which is an individual's accumulated assets and access to resources" (Oliver and Shapiro 191), is something many people come to America in search of, including my own mother. However, wealth is extremely hard to earn, especially if you weren't already born with it. It is even harder for women, people of color, people with disabilities, and queer people to earn given the circumstances of this country that puts such groups at a disadvantage."</i> excerpt from "The Inner Workings of Classism"			
	Bailey Cooke	Catherine C. Ward Study Away/Abroad Scholarship Catherine C. Ward Undergraduate Scholarship	\$2,200
<i>"Highly acclaimed among feminist scholars and readers since its release in 1899, The Awakening was one of the first pieces of literature to focus on a female lead who seriously challenged the gendered stereotypes forced upon her. ...It's true that Chopin's story introduces contemporary standards for women, but attention is drawn away from these principles due to poor representation/consideration of women of color and the romanticized portrayal of suicide."</i> excerpt from "Kate Chopin's The Awakening: A Poor Example of Feminist Literature"			
	Natalie Crane	Catherine C. Ward Undergraduate Scholarship Gail Martin Spring Learning Assistance Scholarship	\$1,500
<i>"Today, when looking at maternity leave from a global perspective it is evident that progressive countries and most developing countries have created or reformed their leave policies to better accommodate their citizens. Now, as the United States stands as the only economically advanced country with unpaid parental leave, the debate on what the country should do continues."</i> excerpt from "Paternity Leave"			
	Rook Jones	Seneca Falls Personal Empowerment Award	\$500
<i>"No matter how many more hours I put into honing my craft with both writing and drawing pencil, my eyes will still more quickly settle on the hands, the horns, the mistakes in false flesh, rather than false thought. The voice of my writing has long accepted that, like my crooked nose and twisted phlange, things will never be perfect."</i> excerpt from "(Of Horns and Hands) Or: Escapism"			
	Alayna Milby	Catherine Coogan Ward Feminist Action Award	\$500
	Shelby Watson	Catherine C. Ward Study Away/Abroad Scholarship	\$1,200
	Samantha Mallon	Catherine C. Ward Undergraduate Scholarship Winner	\$1,000
<i>(not pictured)</i> <i>"In a sense, I felt I was reclaiming the language, embracing "sex-positivity," applauding the women for their work in music videos that centered only around their bodies, etc., and thus it was okay that I listened to them. As I reflect on the popularity of these songs, I am reminded that all they did was recycle and maintain a culture of horrible misogyny—and I ignorantly helped perpetuate that for quite some time."</i>			
Gail Martin 2020 Learning Assistance Scholarship (Partial list. See above for others.) GWS students received \$3,075 to assist in spring 2020 academic success due to the generosity of Gail Martin.			
	Megan Kelly	Gail Martin Spring Learning Assistance Scholarship	
	Hope Wells	Gail Martin Spring Learning Assistance Scholarship	
GWS Creative Writing Contest			
Graduate Winners			
	1st—Caroline Sutphin, "On Posting a Selfie"		\$200
I am hollow and filled/with shovels in the dirt/whose fingers and thumbs/are not more sweet or pure than my own...			
	2nd-- Brian Baker, "Sharp Enough"		\$100
In Boy Scouts, I learned that a dull knife was more dangerous than a sharp one. A dull knife could resist, then slip, as my lock-blade sometimes did. It was always sharper on flesh than wood. I still have scars.			
	3rd— Hailey Hanks, "Dolphin"		\$50
<i>"My wife tells me I'm a dolphin cutting through the water....But she can't always be there to remind me. And when she's not, I might be sleek or smooth but never small. Never a dolphin."</i>			
Undergraduate Winners			
	1st- Mikaila Smith, "Boys and Girls"		\$200
<i>(not pictured)</i> A few schools and hormonal changer later, and I got lost somewhere that exists between girl and woman. I got in trouble for wearing a white tank top outside and running through the sprinklers with the neighbor girl while her brother watched.			
	2nd- Phi Chu, "Marigold Girl"		\$100
Around us, the messy coalescence of life pulses, ever wanting, seldom satisfied, knowing each pulse is another toward silence, each kiss another toward goodbye--yet somehow still happy and beautiful in its chaos.			
	3rd- Abigail Railey, "The Kids Table"		\$50
It presses me/And I am nauseous/And the only things I need/are to take a piss/and for the loves and love-nots to dream under my cerebellum.			

Congratulations, graduating GWS students:

<u>Spring and Summer 2020</u>	
	Emily Morgan GWS Minor <i>"Girls should never be afraid to be smart."</i> — Emma Watson
	Ashley Teater GWS Minor Gail Martin Spring Learning Assistance Scholarship <i>"Now I remembered that the real world was wide, and that a varied field of hopes and fears, of sensations and excitements, awaited those who had courage."</i> — Charlotte Brontë, Jane Eyre
	Austin Weiler GWS Minor Gail Martin Spring Learning Assistance Scholarship <i>"If you remain neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."</i> — Desmond Tutu
The gender studies program is an inclusive space that allows students to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, analyze inequality on a systemic level, and cultivate a strong skill-set rooted in advocacy and research efficacy. My time in the program has been an invaluable and empowering experience that has shaped me academically, personally, and professionally.	
	Deborah "Lee" Wright GWS Minor <i>"Imagine how much happier we would be, how much freer to be our true individual selves, if I didn't have the weight of gender expectations."</i> — Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
	Tyneshia Carter GWS Minor <i>(not pictured)</i>
	Megan Horne Graduate Certificate <i>(not pictured)</i>
	Courtney Ingram GWS Minor <i>(not pictured)</i>
	Jacob Jones GWS Minor <i>(not pictured)</i>
	Jordan Steakin Graduate Certificate <i>(not pictured)</i>
	Derek Sturgeon GWS Minor <i>(not pictured)</i>
Fall 2020 GWS Minors	
Hannah Bushon ; Kayla Duncan ; Jacqueline Fauber ; Rachel Hunter Heather McKinney ; Abigail Railey ; Kendra Rigney ; Shelby Watson Madison Wright	



2019-2020 Calendar of Events and Information

NEWS AND INFORMATION

GWS is proud to welcome new clubs and student activities, including:
The Women's Writers Club, founded by Abigail Railey
In the Fall of 2019, GWS gave seven class presentations reaching 235 students.
Hector will be the new graduate assistant.
GWS 470 was taught at the Sundance Film Festival, and two students received scholarships.

EVENTS

**GWS Welcome Back Western
GWS Major/Minor Fair
Study Abroad/Away Fair**

**Head for the Hill
University of Kentucky Gender and Women's Studies Conference**

Sponsored Hailey Hanks, who presented "Curve of Joy": Autobiography, Sexuality, and Politics in the Work of Djuna Barnes" and two undergraduate minor attendees

PRIDE

Strong Leads Program at Belcourt Theatre

Four hour workshop with 25 female metro Nashville high school students highlighting women protagonists and directors
Read more information here: <http://www.belcourt.org/education-and-engagement/strongleads>

CO-SPONSORSHIPS

Religion and Philosophy Department, Hind Makki's lecture: Of Mosques and Men: Islamophobia, Misogyny, and Muslim Women
Sociology and Criminology Department, Women in Justice Professions
History Department, Annual Kwanza Festival "1619-2019: A Celebration of 400 Years"
Kentucky Museum Journey to the Vote "Herstory"
Read an article about the event, written by GWS Minor, Abigail Railey: <http://wkutalisman.com/wkus-herstory-event-empowers-local-girls/>

First Things First/ Hope Harbor SAAM & Domestic Violence

GENDER IN FILM SERIES

The Film Series was excited to reach 152 students this academic year, thanks to our presenters.
Fall 2019— *Black Girl or La noire de*, presented by Dr. Marla Zubel, Department of English
Mary Shelley, presented by Ms. Jessica Folk, Department of English
Certain Women, presented by Dr. Dawn Hall, Department of English
Spring 2020 — *Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice*, presented by Dr. Dorothea Browder, Department of History



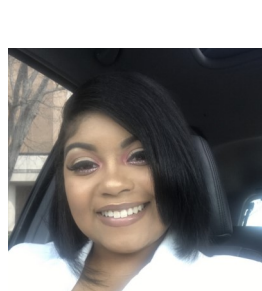
A special congratulations to **Ava Ferguson**, former GWS Minor and current Master of Science, Psychological Science student, who is the recipient of the 2019-2020 **John D. Minton Graduate Student Award**. This prestigious award recognizes a graduate student's extension and application of discipline knowledge within and beyond the University.
Congratulations, Ava!

Gender & Women's Studies Graduate Assistants

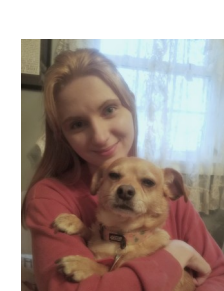
Note: Date indicates graduate started with GWS.



Welcome Hector Dominguez, Fall 2020!
Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing



Patrice Thomas, Spring 2020
Master of Arts in Student Affairs in Higher Education



Lauren Haynes, Fall 2019
Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing
Congratulations Lauren on your 2020 graduation!