

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Anna Maria Copeland is a fifth year graduate student in the department of Microbiology working for Dr. Jay Brown. Upon completion of her degree she plans to do postdoctoral work and pursue a career in academic research. Specifically she would like to study molecular interactions between emerging RNA viruses and their host cells. She spends her free time baking cakes, writing songs, and painting.

Alexandra Garcia attended UVA as an undergraduate, where she double majored in Biology and Economics and minored in Astronomy. After graduating in 2004, Alex entered the Ph.D. program in the Biology Department. She now works in Mike Wormington's lab studying cell cycle regulation and microRNA biogenesis in *Xenopus laevis* early development. Alex was recently awarded the GSAS Dissertation Year Fellowship, and she hopes to graduate next May.

Karen V. Guth is a doctoral student in Religious Studies and a graduate fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture. Her field of study is theological ethics with a particular focus on Christian social ethics and religion in public life. She is particularly interested in the role of Christianity in cultural, social, and political criticism in 20th century America. Prior to studying at Virginia, Karen received a bachelor of arts in religion from Furman University, an M.Th. from the University of Glasgow, Scotland, and an M.T.S. from Harvard University Divinity School.

Wendy Hsu is a doctoral candidate from Critical and Comparative Studies in the music department. With an interest in contemporary popular music and a focus on US-Asian social

landscape, she has published articles on *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, Bollywood film music, and Yoko Ono. She documents and blogs about her dissertation research on Asian American and transnational indie music at YellowBuzz.org.

Katie Hulse is a graduate student in the Microbiology PhD program. Katie is originally from Wisconsin, and received a Bachelor's of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Her current research, in Dr. Judith Woodfolk's lab, focuses on characterizing the effects of a novel allergen variant on T cells and dendritic cells from allergic and non-allergic subjects. In her free time, Katie enjoys competing in triathlons.

Mark Meier taught elementary and high school before beginning graduate work in sociology and English. He also worked as a freelance writer and photographer during those years, and recently decided to prolong a leave of absence from an English PhD to pursue that career full time. His interests include science, social change, and theories of knowledge.

Janet Palmer is a 5th year graduate student in cognitive psychology. She received her undergraduate degree from Birmingham Southern College. Her research interests include emotion, arousal, and false memories. In her free time, Janet likes to hike, mountain bike, road bike, snowboard—and otherwise “just be outside.”

Carey Sargent is a doctoral candidate in the department of Sociology. Her dissertation focuses on digital media and the localization of music culture in the American South. She teaches courses on music culture, urbanism, and social inequality.

Benjamin Snyder is a doctoral candidate in the Sociology Department at UVA and research assistant at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture. He studies religion and culture in America as well as the sociology of memory and emotions. He is currently involved in a project on religious experimentation among American spiritual seekers and a study of medical interventions for anxiety, depression, and ADD/ADHD with Professor Joseph Davis.

Justin Snyder is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology. His dissertation addresses the role of modern selfhood and modern cognitive styles in the experience of posttraumatic stress disorder. His interests also include the scientific classification of mental illness, apologies and regret, ideologies of victimhood, and identity.

Eric Stoykovich is a doctoral candidate in the History Department working on a dissertation under the direction of Peter Onuf and Edmund Russell. Over a twelve-month period in 2006-2007, Eric researched agricultural newspapers, state government documents, rare manuscripts, and archival materials with funding from the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium, the American Antiquarian Society, the Library Company of Philadelphia, and the Hagley Museum and Library. Besides spending time with obscure nineteenth-century Americans, he also enjoys playing the piano. He is currently preparing to enter the search for jobs in the historical profession in the fall.

Chad Michael Wayner is a doctoral student in the Department of Religious Studies. His specialization is in religious ethics, and Christian ethics in particular. His dissertation will examine the relationship between sanctification and the moral life in Christian ethics, by examining faith and love in the work of St. Thomas Aquinas and John Calvin. Chad received his bachelor's degree with honors from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI, where he studied philosophy and political science.

AMALGAM FAQs

What is Amalgam?

Amalgam is a graduate student venture dedicated to showcasing the pivotal role graduate students play in the excellent research conducted at UVA. Our primary means for doing this is by the publication of a multi-disciplinary review journal entitled Amalgam: The Virginia Interdisciplinary Review.

Why Amalgam?

Graduate students are often an isolated and unheard voice in the university's affairs. We believe that, with the formation of an official publication devoted to the dissemination of the excellence of UVA graduate student research, graduate students will become more aware of the other research activities being undertaken across campus. This will lead to more graduate-instigated collaborations between research groups, an acceleration of the pace of UVA's research, and a flourishing of new interdisciplinary ideas.

Who can publish in Amalgam?

All graduate students undertaking research at the University of Virginia are invited to submit papers to Amalgam.

What kind of material is Amalgam looking for?

Any research that is performed at UVA, campus-wide. That means humanities, social sciences, the sciences, engineering and the professional schools. By definition, research performed at UVA is cutting-edge, and therefore relevant to Amalgam's audience.

Who reads Amalgam?

Graduate students from all over campus have expressed interest in reading Amalgam. Amalgam will also be distributed to institutional libraries across the continental USA. The first few editions of Amalgam will be distributed freely.

Can I send a letter to the editor? Will it be published?

We embrace feedback from our readers. Email is the best way to contact us. Send a message to amalgamjournal@gmail.com if you have thoughts, suggestions, rebuttles, or complaints. Letters published in Amalgam may be edited for space.

Why should I publish in Amalgam rather than a professional journal?

Publishing in Amalgam will put you into contact with your most immediate reference frame: your peers at UVA. The graduate population and research groups on campus may be an untapped (source) to help you accelerate your own research projects. Bridging the gaps between otherwise disconnected research groups is what Amalgam is all about.

Other reasons to publish in Amalgam are:

- * To develop your own professional writing skills by writing for an audience outside the readership of your technical journals.*
- * To create public awareness of the key role graduate students play in UVA research*
- * To further promote the excellence of UVA's grad student program by contributing to UVA's first ever publication dedicated to showcasing graduate student talent.*

Who runs Amalgam?

Amalgam is run entirely by graduate students.

When was Amalgam started?

Amalgam was conceived in early spring 2004. Amalgam began its first call for papers in fall 2004 and the first print edition is scheduled to be released in early spring 2005.

Who funds Amalgam?

Funding for Amalgam is currently shared between the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, the Graduate Dean for Arts and Sciences, and the Graduate Student Council for Arts and Science.

Where can I get more info about Amalgam?

The best way to learn about Amalgam is by emailing us at amalgam@virginia.edu. A grad student from our committee will be happy to answer any questions you have. Please feel free to browse our website. Any comments, suggestions and feedback will be appreciated.

What should my Amalgam article look like?

Since Amalgam encompasses a diversity of disciplines, we have settled upon a very broad style. The sectioned format (Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion and Conclusion) typically used in the scientific and engineering disciplines can still be followed when required; however, we ask that authors abstain from explicitly sectioning their articles, but rather use leading sentences to maintain continuity. Although we agree that this format is good for the sciences, we would like to hide it to maintain consistency with the humanities.

The Amalgam guidelines are too limiting for my paper. Should I just give up?

No! Send us your paper, and we will determine whether or not you have a good case for breaking the guidelines. We will work with you to keep good research in the forefront of UVA's public eye.

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