The Department of English would like to congratulate our seven new PhDs.

R.J. Boutelle
On May 3, 2016 R.J. successfully defended his dissertation:
“The Race for America: Blackness, Belonging, and Empire in the Transamerican 19th C.”
The dissertation was directed by Vera Kutzinski. R.J. will be joining the department in the fall as a lecturer.

Petal Samuel
On May 6, 2016 Petal successfully defended her dissertation:
“Timing on Descant: Sonic Temporalities of Slavery in Caribbean Literature.”
The dissertation was directed by Colin Dayan. In the fall Petal begins a postdoc at the Carter G. Woodson Institute at UVA.

Faith Barter
On May 25, 2016 Faith successfully defended her dissertation:
“Human Rights: Deciphering Legal and Literary Personhood, 1830-1860.”
The dissertation was directed by Colin Dayan. Faith will be joining the department in the fall as a lecturer.

Killian Quigley
On May 31, 2016 Killian successfully defended his dissertation:
“Nature’s Spectacles: Ornament, Performance, and Natural History in the Long Eighteenth Century.”
The dissertation was directed by Jonathan Lamb. Killian will be joining the department in the fall as a lecturer.

Lucy Mensah
On June 6, 2016 Lucy successfully defended her dissertation:
The dissertation was directed by Vera Kutzinski. In the fall Lucy will start as a Jane and Morgan Whitney Research Fellow in the Department of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Anne Castro
On June 15, 2016 Anne successfully defended her dissertation:
“The Sacred Act of Reading: Spirituality, Performance, and Power in Afro-Diasporic Literature.”
The dissertation was directed by Vera Kutzinski and Ifeoma Nwankwo. Anne will join the department as a lecturer in the fall.

Stephanie Higgs
On June 30, 2016 Stephanie successfully defended her dissertation:
“Invisible Threads: Fictions of Cotton in the Atlantic Triangle, 1833-1863.”
The dissertation was directed by Jay Clayton.