

# DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



**2025-26 Awards**

***Congratulations!***



## APPALACHIAN WRITING AWARD

This contest is open to all WVU undergraduate students who grew up in Appalachia, including all of West Virginia, and whose work is set in Appalachia. The student will receive a scholarship to the West Virginia Writers' Workshop, which features writers of national reputation. This contest is funded by writer Dwight Harshbarger.

## JAMES PAUL BRAWNER EXPOSITORY WRITING CONTEST

Upon Dr. Brawner's retirement in 1972, the Department established this award in his honor. Dr. Brawner served as department chair for 18 years.

# Writing Contests

**Winner: Rose Spangler**

"Swallowed"

Class: English111/Professor Brian Broome

**Honorable Mention: Laney Eichelberger**

"Morgantown Bird Watchers Flock Together"

Class: MDIA215S/Professor Shay Maunz

**Honorable Mention: Katie Stewart**

"Flashes of Mountain Tranquility"

Class: English313/Professor Ella Wisnewski

**Honorable Mention: Destinney Ringer**

"Appalchia, Unearthed"

Class: ENGL418/Professor Christa Parravani

Judge: Dalan Nelson

### Undergraduate Division

**First-place:** Olivia E. Robinson

*Serving American Realness: The Continued and Changing Legacy of Paris Is Burning in American Popular Culture*

Instructor: Ben Bascom

**Second Place:** Elizabeth Blackburn

Impersonation and Performance in Jamaica Kincaid's 'Girl' and 'Putting Myself Together'

Instructor: Andrea Starr

Judges: John Kurpiel, Penny Lane, Andrea Starr

### 102/103 Division

**First-place:** Laney Eichelberger

Local Newspapers as a Caretaker,  
Informer, and Champion

Instructor: Ren Clarke

Judgg: Sarah Morris

## **Graduate Division**

**First Place:** Adwoa Tiwaah Ofori Atakorah  
Migrant Women and the Violence of 'CompondedWaiting in  
Chimanda Ngozi Adichie's Dream Count  
Instructor: Rose Casey

**Second-place:** Katrina Bonevento  
Keeping the House in the Woods:  
Queering Gender and Genre in Bisclaret  
and "The Erl-King"  
Instructor: Lara Farina

Judges: Ben Bascom, Christine Hoffmann, Mitch  
Therieu

## **JON SCOTT NELSON FIRST-YEAR WRITING AWARD**

In 1992, Dr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Nelson established this  
contest for student papers from English 101.

**First Place:** Tucker Cooley  
"The Lifew of a Mothman"  
Instructor: Ahna Lewis

**Second Place:** Abby Pisano  
"The Human Menagerie"  
Instructor: Ahna Lewis

Judges: Camille Gazoul, Kelly Keel, Jess Munley

### **Freshman Creative Writing**

**First Place:** Catherine Camenga  
"I Crave a Gentile Life"  
Instructor: Andy Kerstetter, English213

**Second Place:** Ava Layman  
"What Comes After"  
Instructor: Andy Kerstetter, English 213

**Third Place:** William D. E. Stoepfel  
"Something New"  
Instructor: Oliver Brown, English 214

Judge: HG Grubmeyer

# RUSSELL MACDONALD CREATIVE WRITING AWARD

This contest was established in 1991 to honor Russ MacDonald upon his retirement. Prizes for these awards come from the James Paul Brawner Endowed Writing Award fund.

## Fiction

**Winner: MattEidson**

"Cover"

Instructor: Mark Brazaitis, English 618A

**Honorable Mention: Nick Van Nuland**

"A Man Called This Morning"

Instructor: Christa Parravani, English 618A

Judge: Rebecca Cuthbert (WVU MFA Graduate)

## Nonfiction

**Winner: Kelly Keel**

"Why I Believe in Vampires"

Instructor: Christa Parravani, English 618A

**Honorable Mention: Sophie Machesky**

"An Episode of a Medical Drama"

Instructor: Mark Brazaitis, English 618B

Judge: Katie Fallon (WVU MFA Graduate)

## Poetry

**Winner: Andy Kerstetter**

Poems by Andy Kerstetter

Instructors: Mark Brazaitis, English 618; Mary Ann Samyn, English 618

**Honorable Mention: Ella Wisniewski**

Poems by Ella Wisniewski

Instructors: Jenny Johnson (thesis hours); Mary Ann Samyn, English 618

Judge: Lauren Reed (WVU MFA Graduate)

# WAITMAN BARBE CREATIVE WRITING AWARD

This contest honors former English faculty member Waitman Barbe, a published writer and poet who served on the faculty from 1895 until his death in 1925. Prizes for these awards come from the James Paul Brawner Endowed Writing Award fund.

## Fiction

### **1<sup>st</sup>: Katie Stewart**

"The Precipice of Dread and Hope"  
Instructor: Camille Gazoul, English 312

### **2<sup>nd</sup>: Amina Wood**

"The King, the Chancellor, the Prince, the Queen"  
Instructor: Mark Brazitis, English 318

### **3<sup>rd</sup>: Olivia Nestor**

"Sweetums"  
Instructor: Mark Brazitis, English 318

Judge: Cade Mullins (WVU MFA student)

## Creative Nonfiction

### **1<sup>st</sup>: Rose Spangler**

"How to Sew a Button"  
Instructor: Brian Broome, English 111

### **2<sup>nd</sup>: Trista Hulsey**

"Fear of Forever"  
Instructor: Caleb Milne

Judge: Sophie Machesky (WVU graduate student of journalism)

## Poetry

### **1<sup>st</sup>: Laney Eichelberger**

"My Soul Contains Rivers"  
Instructor: Penny Lane, English 213



# Faculty Recognition

CAPERTON AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN THE  
TEACHING OF WRITING

**Catherine Gouge**

PHILIP BORDINAT AWARD

Adam Komisaruk

Eberly Outstanding Public  
Service Award

**Mark Brazaitis**

ECAS Outstanding  
Researcher Award

**Rose Casey**

ECAS Outstanding  
Teacher Award

**Erin Brock Carlson**

WVU HONORS COLLEGE  
FACULTY FELLOW

HUMANITIES CENTER  
FELLOWSHIP

RESEARCH AND  
SCHOLARSHIP  
ADVANCEMENT GRANT



# Graduate Recognition

## EBERLY COLLEGE OUTSTANDING GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT

## DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

## REBECCA MASON PERRY AWARD

The late Kermit and Rebecca Mason established this award in memory of their daughter, Rebecca Mason Perry, who received her B.A. and M.A. degrees in English from WVU. The award is given every May to the outstanding first-year graduate student.

Madison Giles

## ZIEROLD CREATIVE WRITING AWARD

This endowment provides resources for graduate students enrolled in the Masters of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing. Recipients of this award are West Virginia residents.

## BLAYDES FAMILY SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

Mary Rose Manspeaker

DAVID G. ALLEN  
DISSERTATION  
FELLOWSHIP

Isabella Martinez  
Phatik Poudyal

DENNIS ALLEN  
SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

Destinee Harper

HAYDEN WARD  
DISSERTATION  
FELLOWSHIP

Destinee Harper

JOHN C. & MILDRED W.  
LUDLUM DOCTORAL  
FELLOWSHIP

Mary Rose Manspeaker

OGEL OUTSTANDING MERIT  
FELLOWSHIP

SUMMER HUMANITIES  
INTERNSHIP

WVU FOUNDATION  
DISTINGUISHED  
DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP



## Undergraduate Recognition

### EBERLY COLLEGE OUTSTANDING SENIOR ENGLISH MAJOR

### CAPTAIN WILLIAM NEELY AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SOPHOMORE

### BLANCHE HASKINS LOUGH CAPICOLA SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established to recognize outstanding students who are English majors in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences.

### CARTER BISHOP MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established, in honor of Professor Carter Bishop, to recognize outstanding sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are majors in English, in the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, and are planning to be English teachers on the secondary or post-secondary level.

## ELEANOR TUCKER DONLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship, awarded since 1965 to the Department's outstanding junior, was established by the late Robert T. Donley and his daughter, Demain Donley Whitesides, to honor Mr. Donley's mother.

## ELENA ILLA GRAHAM MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship, awarded since 1980 to West Virginia residents who are majoring in English, was established by the late William L. Graham in memory of his wife, Elena Illa Graham.

## ELSIE M. AND ETHEL M. JONES SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was established to recognize an outstanding undergraduate student majoring in English.

## FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

## GEORGE BIRD EVANS LITERARY SCHOLARSHIP

The Old Hemlock Foundation is dedicated to promoting the life and legacy of George and Kay Evans, who lived in Bruceton Mills and cowrote many books and articles about grouse hunting, bird dogs, and life in Appalachia.

Katie Stewart

## VIRGINIA BUTTS STURM CREATIVE WRITING SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship, established by Albert Lee and Virginia B. Sturm, is awarded to an outstanding undergraduate creative writing major.

## VIRGINIA BUTTS STURM ENGLISH SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship, established by Albert Lee and Virginia B. Sturm, has been awarded since 1995 to an outstanding undergraduate major in English language and literature.

## SIGMA TAU DELTA INDUCTEES

(International English Honor Society)

## SIGMA TAU DELTA OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD

Nathalie Singh-Corcoran