

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



2024-25 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: Colin Ware
"A History of Abduction"
Class: English214/Fall 2024/Professor Brian Broome

Honorable Mention: Katie Stewart
"Growing from West Virginia Roots"
Class: English213/Spring 2025/Professor Ella Wisniewski

Honorable Mention: Olivia Nestor
"Destination"
Class: English214/Spring 2025/Professor Brian Broome

Honorable Mention: Cassidy Rucker
"I Grew up in the Mountains"
Class: WRIT202/Fall 2024/Professor Erin Brock Carlson

Undergraduate Division

First-place: Olivia Robinson
A Critical Analysis of Chike Jeffers' "Cultural Constructionism"
Instructor: Geoff Georgi's (PHIL301)

102/103 Division

First-place: Olivia Robinson "Finding
Agency in the Black Community"
Instructor: Nancy Caronia (English 103)

Graduate Division

First-place: Marvellous Taiwo

"Redefining Childhood and Grief in Richard Powers' Bewilderment"

Instructor: Tim Sweet (English 782)

Second-place: Katrina Bonevento

"At the center of all things": A Sensory Reading of The Left Hand of Darkness

Instructor: Lara Farina (English 782)

Judges: Amanda Berrardi Tennat, Christine Hoffmann, Tim Sweet

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:

Frances Welsh

"What Makes a Star Shine"

Instructor: Andy Kerstetter (English 101)

Second Place:

Joley Stemple

"Row of Dominoes"

Instructor: Kelly Keel (English 101)

Judges: Abigail Clarke, John Kurpiel, Gia Joyce

Freshman Creative Writing

Carington "Rylee" Jones

"Aaron"

Instructor: Mark Brazaitis (English 213)

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 Division

Winner: Benjamin Clabault
"The New Loon Nature Preserve"
Instructor: Jacinda Townsend (Sturm Workshop)

Honorable Mention: Oliver Brown
"Breakfast with Wayne"
Instructor: Mark Brazaitis (English 618A)

Judge: Lori D'Angelo

Nonfiction Division

Winner: Matt Eidson
"Pig"
Instructor: Brian Broome (English 618B)

Honorable Mention: Kelly Keel
"Centipedes"
Instructor: Mark Brazaitis (English 618B)
Judge: Sarah Einstein

Poetry Division

Winner: Andy Kerstetter
"Aubade in March at the Swamp by the Highway"; "Columbarium";
"Shadow Work"; "The Trestle"; and "Tuesday at Lucky's"
Instructor: Jenny Johnson (English 618 Fall 2024)
Mary Ann Samyn (English 618 Spring 2025)

Honorable Mention: Penny Lane
"3 Poems: When I Wake as a Vulture; Girls; Another Poem about
the Desert"
Instructor: Jenny Johnson (English 618 Fall 2024)
Mary Ann Samyn (English 618 Spring 2025)

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 Division

Hayden Bradley
"Portrait of the Spectacle as a College Town Coffee Shop"
Instructor: Kelly Ward (English 212)

Honorable Mention: Mustafa Rai
"Incontra"
Instructor: Camille Gazoul

Judge: Terra Rogerson

Nonfiction Division

Cala Palmer
"Smothered"
Instructor: Brian Broome (English 214)

Honorable mention:
Colin Ware
"On the Pursuit of
Terrestrial Grace"
Instructor: Brian Broome (English 214)

Judge: Kelly Keel

Poetry Division

Siegrid Tuttle
"Collected Poetry"
Instructor: Jenny Johnson (English 318)

Honorable mention:
Cheyenne Torres
"Poetry"
Instructor: Jenny Johnson (English 313)

Judge: Winner Olubunmi



Faculty Recognition

CAPERTON AWARD FOR
EXCELLENCE IN THE
TEACHING OF WRITING

PHILIP BORDINAT AWARD

Katy Ryan

CWE CONTINGENT
FACULTY AWARD

DIGITAL
LEARNING AWARD

WVU'S DISTINCTION IN
GRADUATE RESEARCH
MENTORING AWARD

WVU HONORS COLLEGE
FACULTY FELLOW

HUMANITIES CENTER
FELLOWSHIP

Adam Komisaruk

RESEARCH AND
SCHOLARSHIP
ADVANCEMENT GRANT

Rose Casey
Jenny Johnson



Graduate Recognition

EBERLY COLLEGE OUTSTANDING GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT

Kelly Keel

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Abigail Faith Clarke

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.

M.F.A Recipient:

Sanchita Sahoo

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.

John Fox

BLAYDES FAMILY SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

Alexis Constatine

DAVID G. ALLEN
DISSERTATION
FELLOWSHIP

Abigail Faith Clarke

DENNIS ALLEN
SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

Abigail Faith Clarke

HAYDEN WARD
DISSERTATION
FELLOWSHIP

Luke Lyman Barner

JOHN C. & MILDRED W.
LUDLUM DOCTORAL
FELLOWSHIP

Alexis Constatine

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.

Olivia E. Robinson

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)

Justin Arnold, Hayden Bradley
Jacqueline Broush, Lauren Carter
Alice Cruz, Lauren Dean
Emma Fleming, Calder Funk
Emily Kimble, Meaghan Miller
Ava Mills, Erin Possehl
Ethan Prichard, Haley Rider
Destinney Ringer, Alexis Scott
Amiah Stewart, Olivia Ware
Miranda Wright

SIGMA TAU DELTA OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD

Lisa Weihman