DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

2020-21 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.

Winner: Georgia Beatty
"Valley Baptism"
Instructor: Mark Brazaitis (English 318)

Runner-up: Melissa Reynolds
"Shadows from Flame"
Instructor: Mark Brazaitis (English 318)

Runner-up: Alexandria Webb
"The Sunfish"
Instructor: Mark Brazaitis (English 318)

Judge: Jordan Carter

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.

Undergraduate Division

First-place: Erica Cottrill
"Agency through Narration and Perspective in 'Never Let Me Go'"
Instructor: Lisa Weihman (English 200)

Second-place: Mary Grace Rich
"The interconnections between Mary Poppins, P.L. Travers, and Eastern philosophical views on substance use for spiritual enlightenment"
Instructor: Marilyn Francus (English 386)

Judges: Kristen Gragg, Andrew Lewis, and Patrick Stahl

102/103 Division

First-place: Armâan Karimpour
"The Performing Arts and COVID-19: How to Live with Both"
Instructor: Kelli Wilhelm (English 103)

Second-place: Linda Ma
"Dumplings and their Stories"
Instructor: Sarah Morris (English 103)

Judges: A.J. DeLauder, Morgan Roediger, Kelli Wilhelm
Graduate Division

First-place: Wenyu Kong
"Exploring Temporality in Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man"
Instructor: Michael Germana (English 741)

Second-place: Gabriella Pishotti
"Materializing Grief: The Re-realization of Loss in Kamila Shamsie's Home Fire"

Judges: Erin Brock Carlson, Cari Carpenter, and Johanna Winant

JON SCOTT NELSON FIRST-YEAR WRITING AWARD
In 1992, Dr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Nelson established this contest for student papers from English 101.

Emily Aman
"A Playlist of Paradoxical Love"
Instructor: Rebecca Thomas (English 103)

Emily Gwaltney
"How Homeschooling Prepares Students for College"
Instructor: Rebecca Thomas (English 103)

Skylar Jenkins
"Soulmate"
Instructor: Anna Schles (English 101)

Armâan Karimpour
"Newsies: A Personal Drama"
Instructor: Kelli Wilhelm (English 103)

Lauren Layton
"Burnt"
Instructor: Nancy Caronia (English 103)

Natalie Wonsettler
"Bon Appétit"
Instructor: Rebecca Thomas (English 103)

Judges: Vahid Arefi, Liam Wholihan, and Leslie Wilber
PROFESSIONAL WRITING AND EDITING AWARD
This contest is open to all students enrolled in undergraduate Professional Writing and Editing courses. Prizes for these awards come from the James Paul Brawner Endowed Writing Award fund.

First-place: Taylor Miller
"The Computer is Quicker, but the Human is Smarter: Solving Overreliance on Technology for Proofreading:
Instructor: Erin Brock Carlson

Second-place: Lily Wright
"Navigating Theories of Qualitative Research Ethics for Applications on Oral History in West Virginia"
Instructor: Erin Brock Carlson (English 301)

Judges: Brian Ballentine, Erin Brock Carlson, and Catherine Gouge

JON SCOTT NELSON FRESHMEN CREATIVE WRITING AWARD
This award was established by Dr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Nelson in memory of their son, Jon Scott Nelson. Contributions have been made by friends, relatives, and classmates.

First-place: Jordan Buechler
"Dark, Seductive Thoughts"
Instructors: Vincent Frontero and Jenny Johnson (English 213 & 313)

Second-place: Michael Duong
"Delusion: A Collection of Poems"
Instructor: Michael Green (English 131)

Third-place: Avery Ballard
"Love, Life and Death"
Instructor: Mark Brazaitis (English 213)

Judges: Rachael Bradley, Vince Frontero, and Morgan Roediger
Fiction Division
Karen Klein
"Disturbed"
Instructor: Mark Brazaitis (English 618)

Nonfiction Division
Storey Clayton
"Glass Houses"
Instructor: Ann Pancake (English 618B)

Honorable-mention:
Rachael Bradley
"What is Felt"
Instructor: Ann Pancake (English 618B)

Poetry Division
Liam Wholihan
cudweed teeth
Instructor: Mary Ann Samyn (English 618)

Honorable-mention:
Gabriel Bass
"Various Poems"
Instructor: Mary Ann Samyn (English 618)

Judges: Charity Gingerich and Rachel King
Fiction Division

Lauren Pauley
"The Backpack"
Instructor: Mark Brazaitis (English 312)

Honorable-mention
Erica Cottrill
"Dependent/Independent: A Collection of Short Plays"
Instructor: Radhica Ganapathy (Theatre 404)

Nonfiction Division

Macy Kile
"Vignettes From Fall"
Instructor: Christa Parravani (English 314)

Honorable-mention
Ross Liggett
"Hug the Dogs for Me"
Instructor: Christa Parravani (English 314)

Poetry Division

Valerie Browne
"Life, Death, and Somewhere in Between"
Instructors: Ann Pancake and Mark Brazaitis (English 352 & 212)

Honorable-mention:
Lauren Volk
"People and Places that Made me Who I Am"
Instructors: Vincent Frontero and Jenny Johnson (English 212 & 313)

Judges: Rachael Bradley, Vince Frontero, and Morgan Roediger
Faculty Recognition

Benedum Distinguished Scholar

Cari Carpenter

Philip Bordinat Award

Johanna Winant
"Walt Whitman's Formalism"

Innovation, Design, and Entrepreneurship Applied Faculty Fellowship

Krista Sarraf

West Virginia Humanities Council Fellowship

Nancy Caronia
Kirk Hazen
Sarah Morris
Erin Brock Carlson
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BLAYDES FAMILY SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

SUMMER HUMANITIES INTERNSHIP

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.A. Recipient: Miranda Smith
M.F.A Recipient: Liam Wholihan
M.A.P.W.E. Recipient: Devin Lacy

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.
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.

Undergraduate Recognition

EBERLY COLLEGE OUTSTANDING SENIOR ENGLISH MAJOR

Aerianna McClanahan

CAPTAIN WILLIAM NEELY AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SOPHOMORE

Lauren Volk

2021 ORDER OF AUGUSTA

Amelia Jones

BLANCHE HASKINS LOUGH CAPICOLA SCHOLARSHIP

Alicyn Craig
Lauren Lee
Lauren Volk
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.

Sara Money
Megan Swiger

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.

Leah Brennsteiner
Erica Cottrill
Rachel Killough
Jordan Pugh

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.

Tucker Nadeau

ELsie M. AND ETHEL M. JONES SCHOLARSHIP
This scholarship was established to recognize an outstanding undergraduate student majoring in English.

Kelsey Greene
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.

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
GRADUATES
(International English Honor Society)
SIGMA TAU DELTA

INDUCTEES

(International English Honor Society)

Malory Adams
Isabella Correll
Erica Cottrill
Casey Dye
Brandi Hall
Matthew Kasopksy
Erin Langan
Caitlin Mead
Annmarie Miller
Tristen Nichols
Heather O’Brien
Kelsy Robbins
Paris Russell
Kacie Steele
Kristine Waddell
Bryant Young

SIGMA TAU DELTA

OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARD

Marilyn Francus