

The Hopwood Awards Ceremony



April 17th, 2024

Order of Events

Welcome

Meg Sweeney

Opening Remarks

Rebecca Manery

Presentation of Awards

Rebecca Manery, Meg Sweeney,
Jim Burnstein, Laura Thomas,
Cody Walker

Introduction of the Hopwood Lecturer

Jim Burnstein

Hopwood Lecture

Kemp Powers

Closing Remarks

Meg Sweeney

Hopwood Committee

Jim Burnstein

Jeremiah Chamberlin

Nicholas Harp

Khaled Mattawa

Aaron Stone

Laura Thomas

Cody Walker

Hopwood Staff

Meg Sweeney, Hopwood Director

Rebecca Manery, Hopwood Program Manager

Emma Behrendt, Hopwood Program Assistant

Matthew Buxton, Hopwood Intern

Nora Sullivan, Hopwood Intern

Program Credits

Program design and editing by Emma Behrendt • Cover photo by Rebecca Manery



Welcome to the 93rd Hopwood Awards Ceremony



Avery Hopwood penned his first play, “Clothes,” in 1905 while finishing up his senior year at the University of Michigan. Upon graduation he found work as the “special New York representative” for the *Cleveland Leader*. Once in the Big Apple, however, Hopwood wasted no time shopping the script of “Clothes” to theatrical managers and agents and almost immediately received a production offer and a \$250 advance. On the strength of this largesse, Hopwood telegraphed his resignation to the *Cleveland Leader* and resolved to become a full-time playwright. Seventeen years later Hopwood had four plays running concurrently on Broadway and had become the most commercially successful playwright of his time. In 1922, at the height of his success, Hopwood drafted a will earmarking a significant portion of

his substantial fortune to establish the future Avery Hopwood and Jule Hopwood Prizes at the University of Michigan.

Kemp Powers had a seventeen-year career as a journalist before he turned his talents to writing for the stage and screen. In 2002 Powers was awarded a Knight-Wallace Fellowship in Journalism at the University of Michigan and took the opportunity to enroll in a screenwriting course. Just over a decade later his play, *One Night in Miami* premiered to critical acclaim. A film version of *One Night in Miami* debuted in 2020 and received three Oscar nominations including one for Powers for Best Adapted Screenplay. Also in 2020, Powers was co-director and a screenwriter of Disney/Pixar’s Oscar-winning animated feature, *Soul* and made history as the first Black person to receive a director or screenwriter credit on any Pixar project. Most recently, Powers co-directed the Academy Award-nominated *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*. We’re thrilled to welcome Mr. Powers to Ann Arbor as the 2024 Hopwood Lecturer.

Success—even survival—in writing has always required talent, hard work, persistence, and a bit of luck, but it can also depend on the support and encouragement of mentors. Since 1931, the Hopwood Awards have offered recognition, remuneration, and an annual opportunity to hear wise counsel from an acclaimed writer. The Hopwood Room with its circulating library of contemporary literature provides a quiet space to write while the weekly Hopwood Tea welcomes readers and writers to gather for conversation and conviviality. I’m grateful to the students, faculty, staff, donors, and judges whose participation and support made this year’s awards possible. I hope you will join me in thanking all those who nurture the outstanding community of writers at the University of Michigan.

Rebecca Manery
Hopwood Program Manager

Presentation of Awards

Avery Hopwood and Jule Hopwood Awards in Creative Writing

- Hopwood Drama • Hopwood Screenplay • Hopwood Novel •
- Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize •
- Hopwood Poetry • Hopwood Fiction • Hopwood Nonfiction •

Other Juried Awards

- Academy of American Poets Prize •
- Arthur Miller Award of the University of Michigan Club of New York Scholarship Fund •
- Bain-Swiggett Prize • Cora Duncan Award in Fiction •
- David Porter Award for Excellence in Journalism • Frank and Gail Beaver Script Writing Prize •
- Jeffrey L. Weisberg Memorial Prize • Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing •
- Keith Taylor Award for Excellence in Poetry • Marjorie Rapaport Award in Poetry •
- Michael R. Gutterman Award • Peter Phillip Pratt Award in Fiction •
- Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship • Text/Image Composition Prize •

Additional Prizes

- Andrea Beauchamp Prize • Chamberlain Award for Creative Writing •
- Dennis McIntyre Prize for Distinction in Undergraduate Playwriting •
- Geoffrey James Gosling Prize • Helen J. Daniels Prize • Helen S. and John Wagner Prize •
- John Wagner Prize • Leonard and Eileen Newman Prize for Dramatic Writing •
- Leonard and Eileen Newman Prize for Fiction • Meader Family Award •
- Naomi Saferstein Literary Award • Paul and Sonia Handleman Poetry Award •
- Robert F. Haugh Prize • Roy and Helen Meador Award • Stanley S. Schwartz Prize •

Avery Hopwood and Jule Hopwood Awards in Creative Writing

Hopwood Drama

Preliminary Judges

Kareem Fahmy and Kat Zukaitis

Final Judges

Marisa Carr and Mickle Maher

First Place

Sam Aupperlee

“My Name is Not John”

Class of 2025

SMTD, Theater/Playwriting

Finalist

Nathan Goldberg

“Chekhov's Gun”

Class of 2024

SMTD, Acting

Second Place (tie)

Mark Bryk

“Empire Schmempire: A Family Drama”

Class of 2024

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Finalist

Holly Tsch

“Other Hells”

Class of 2025

LSA RC, Creative Writing & Literature

Second Place (tie)

Margaret Brice

“The Laird and Bhean-Nighe”

Class of 2024

LSA, English/French

Finalist

Sara Gee

“You Are Never Getting Your Money Back”

Class of 2024

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Third Place

Christian Bade

“The Hand of Fortune”

Class of 2027

LSA RC, Journalism

Hopwood Screenplay

Preliminary Judges Phoebe Hopp and Rola Nashef

Final Judges Anna Maria Hozian and Maya Perez

First Place (tie)

Daniela Castillo
"Righteous Women"
Class of 2024
LSA, Film, Television, Video and Media

First Place (tie)

Adam Miros
"¡Macías!"
Class of 2024
LSA, Film, Television, Video, and Media

Second Place (tie)

William Chehab
"Fixing the Hole in the Wall"
Class of 2024
LSA, Film, Television, Video, and Media

Second Place (tie)

Meredith Kratochwill
"You Have Value"
Class of 2023
LSA, Film, Television, Video, and Media

Third Place (tie)

Noah Johnson
"Wild Ones"
Class of 2024
LSA, Film, Television, Video and Media

Third Place (tie)

Bao Polkowski
"Macdeath"
Class of 2024
LSA, Film, Television, Video and Media

Finalist

Yoel Gebremariam
"Fra Mauro"
Class of 2024
Ross, Business Administration

Finalist

Derek Weinstock
"Body Wrangler"
Class of 2024
LSA, English/Film, Television, Video and Media

Hopwood Novel

Preliminary Judges Mo Daviau and Christopher Hebert

Final Judges Ramona Ausubel and Gabriel Bump

First Place

Sarah Anderson
"Fallow"
Class of 2024
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Second Place

Elizabeth Lee
"The Compendium of Fluencies"
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Third Place (tie)

Sheena Raza Faisal
"Monsoon Fever"
Class of 2024
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Third Place (tie)

Doug LeCours
"Ezra, an excerpt"
Class of 2024
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Fourth Place

Tyler Dunston
"Greyfriars"
Class of 2026
Rackham, English Language & Literature

Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize

Preliminary Judge Dunya Mikhail

Final Judge Sumita Chakraborty

First Place

Claudia Creed
“Topology”
Class of 2024
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Second Place

Matthew Buxton
“Exaltation: A Space Opera”
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Finalist

Madelyn Chau
“The Metamorphosis of Mai”
Class of 2024
LSA, Earth & Environmental Sciences

Finalist

Safa Hijazi
“Fate; this is fate”
Class of 2025
LSA, English

Finalist

Diepreye Amanah
“Don't You Dare Tell It Otherwise”
Class of 2024
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Finalist

Faatimah Raisa
“To the Good land, We Return”
Class of 2026
Michigan Law School

Finalist

Tyler Dunston
“Found Art”
Class of 2026
Rackham, English Language & Literature

Finalist

Clare Sahjidak
“If You Lift Me Up”
Class of 2024
Ross, Masters of Business Administration

Finalist

Morgan Granzow
“I’m Tired”
Class of 2025
Stamps, Art & Design

Hopwood Poetry

Hopwood First- and Second-Year Poetry

Judges Austin Farrell and Robert Laidler

First Place

Joe Provenzano
"Unicycling Towards Eternity"
Class of 2026
LSA, Undeclared

Second Place

Ashley Wang
"Confrontations with Everything I Cannot Say
Out Loud"
Class of 2027
LSA, English

Kenya Hall

"A real dice roll, this one"
Class of 2026
LSA, Earth & Environmental Sciences

Fourth Place (tie)

Hanqi Shang
"Excerpts from a poet's dictionary"
Class of 2027
LSA, Undeclared

Fourth Place (tie)

Maureen Waldner
"Autopsy of a Girl"
Class of 2027
LSA RC, Creative Writing & Literature

Third Place

Hopwood Undergraduate Poetry

Preliminary Judges Threa Almontaser and Jaswinder Bolina

Final Judges Garrett Hongo and Donika Kelly

First Place

Minsoo Kim
"guide to gods / guide to korean transness"
Class of 2025
College of Engineering, Biomedical Engineering

Class of 2024
LSA, Neuroscience

Finalist

Alexander McCullough
"Bird King"
Class of 2024
LSA, English

Second Place

Yanna Cassell
"Phantom"
Class of 2024
LSA, English

Finalist

Stella Moore
"Sloughed Skin Makes Keepsake"
Class of 2026
Stamps/LSA, Art & Design/Political Science

Third Place

Kailey Kuhlman
"I Swallow the City"
Class of 2025
LSA RC, EEB/Creative Writing & Literature

Finalist

V. Maethorne
"Good Christian Woman"
Class of 2028
U-M Flint

Fourth Place

Bryce Murray
"Jack and Janice"

Hopwood Graduate Poetry

Preliminary Judges Leslie Harrison and Jake Skeets

Final Judges Garrett Hongo and Donika Kelly

First Place

Noor Al-Samarri
"Selections from Baghdad: City of Memory"
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Second Place (tie)

Courtney DuChene
"Natural Causes"
Class of 2024
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Second Place (tie)

Malia Maxwell
"Out of the Deep Night"
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Finalist

Danilo Marin
"The Dream of Reason Produces Monsters"
Class of 2024
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Finalist

Jordan Hamel
"Father Time is Undefeated - Courtney Act"
Class of 2024
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Finalist

Sheena Raza Faisal
"Odes, Still Life, Self Portraits"
Class of 2024
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Finalist

Anthony DiCarlo
"whatever curse you hold to"
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Hopwood Fiction

Hopwood First- and Second-Year Fiction

Preliminary Judges

Chloe Alberta and Jennifer Galvao

First Place

Paris LeClaire

“Help! I Think I’m In Trouble!”

Class of 2027

LSA RC, Creative Writing & Literature

Third Place

Minglu Jiang

“Two Stories”

Class of 2027

LSA, Economics

Second Place

Neha Nedumaran

“Blue Wolf”

Class of 2026

LSA RC, Creative Writing & Literature

Fourth Place

Jules Livio

“Home at Sea”

Class of 2027

LSA, Mathematics

Hopwood Undergraduate Fiction

Preliminary Judges

Cherline Bazile and Kristiana Kahakauwila

Final Judges

Danielle Evans and Ben Stroud

First Place

Katherine Hattersley

“This Is How I Remember It”

Class of 2025

LSA, English

Finalist

Claire Hall

“Departures”

Class of 2024

LSA RC/School of Ed, Creative Writing & Literature/Secondary Education

Second Place

Kyla Kralapp

“Dinner Service” & “If I ever go looking...”

Class of 2025

LSA, FTVM

Finalist

Jackson Clark

“Confessions of a 21-year-old F*g” & “Waking Up to Him”

Class of 2024

Ross, Business Administration

Third Place

Paz Regueiro

“Raw Materials: A Treatise on the Techno...”

Class of 2024

LSA, English/FTVM

Finalist

Nora Keast

“Fairy Tale”

Class of 2026

Stamps, Art & Animation

Fourth Place

Safura Syed

“Forum for Fathers with F***ed Up Children”

Class of 2024

LSA RC, English/EEB

Hopwood Graduate Fiction

Preliminary Judges

Manuel Gonzales and Lillian Li

Final Judges

Danielle Evans and Ben Stroud

First Place (tie)

Yash Kumbhat

“--You Come, Too”

Class of 2025

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Mark Bryk

“Holy Unholies”

Class of 2024

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

First Place (tie)

Hayley Boyd

“Seabedding” & “St. Francis Park”

Class of 2025

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Fourth Place (tie)

Doug LeCours

“Three Stories”

Class of 2024

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Second Place

Elizabeth Lee

“The Report” and “Lacy’s Lovers”

Class of 2025

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Finalist

Olivia Cheng

“The Wife,” “Ascension,” & “What Must Be Will Be”

Class of 2024

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Third Place

Caroline Porter

“The Lock-In” & “Dalgetty”

Class of 2025

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Fourth Place (tie)

Hopwood Nonfiction

Hopwood First- and Second-Year Nonfiction

Preliminary Judges Darina Sikmashvili and Molly Traver

First Place

Alina Murata
“Everything a Daughter has to Love and Hate”
Class of 2027
LSA RC, Undeclared

Third Place (tie)

Janae Shao
“The Journey of Leaves”
Class of 2027
LSA, Data Science

Second Place

Sara Wong
“Taishanese” & “You Animal Crossing...”
Class of 2026
LSA, English

Third Place (tie)

Anika Puttaiah
“Amma”
Class of 2026
LSA RC, Neuroscience/Creative Writing

Hopwood Undergraduate Nonfiction

Preliminary Judges Sejal Shah and Avi Steinberg

Final Judges Beth Nguyen and David L. Ulin

First Place (tie)

Kelly Tang
“To Love, and Be Loved”
Class of 2024
LSA, Neuroscience

Third Place

Tess Beiter
“Blue Eyes and Heartaches”
Class of 2025
School of Nursing

First Place (tie)

Safa Hijazi
“Eve's Interlude & A Letter to Persephone”
Class of 2025
LSA, English

Finalist

Ritvik Pasham
“Naked”
Class of 2025
LSA, Computer Science/German

Second Place

Alina Murata
“Human Morality, Nature's Mortality”
Class of 2027
LSA RC, Undeclared

Finalist

Jessica Hsu
“Unnamed”
Class of 2025
School of Public Health, Public Health Sciences

Finalist

Emily Dodde
“Lost Memories” & “The Purple Tulip”
Class of 2025
LSA, Psychology/Sociology

Hopwood Graduate Nonfiction

Preliminary Judges

Donovan Hohn and Elissa Washuta

Final Judges

Beth Nguyen and David L. Ulin

First Place (tie)

Oluwakemi Falodun

“Longing” & “Soro-Soke...”

Class of 2024

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Alexie Milukhin

“Ochi Chernye” & “The Liminal Year”

Class of 2025

Ford School of Public Policy

First Place (tie)

Clara Rosarius

“Pondgirl” & “Lithium”

Class of 2025

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Finalist

Nora Sullivan

“The Lonely Vessel”

Class of 2025

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Second Place

Ethan Hsi

“Dead Angles”

Class of 2025

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Finalist

Jordan Hamel

“Nothing can touch my boy”

Class of 2024

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Third Place

Caroline Porter

“Confessional”

Class of 2025

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Fourth Place

Other Juried Awards

Academy of American Poets Prize

Judges Tarfia Faizullah (Graduate) and Kweku Abimbola (Undergraduate)

Graduate Winner

Lailah Fritz
“Dawn”
Class of 2024
School of Social Work

Undergraduate Winner

Giovanni Smith
“out of body day 1”
Class of 2025
LSA, Earth & Environmental Sciences

Arthur Miller Award of the University of Michigan Club of New York Scholarship Fund

Judge Ian Singleton

Winner

Ariel Litwak
“Twin,” “Thalassophilia,” & “Excerpts”
Class of 2026
LSA, English

Bain-Swiggett Prize

Judge Tarfia Faizullah

Winner

Diepreye Amanah
“Sweet Cream Butter, Smoked Paprika”
Class of 2024
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Cora Duncan Award in Fiction

Judge Chris McCormick

Winner

Savanna Cowley
“Loon”
Class of 2024
LSA, English

David Porter Award for Excellence in Journalism

Judge Joshua Adams

Winner

Cecilia Ledezma Herrera
“23rd Century Dreams”
Class of 2026

LSA, English/German

Frank and Gail Beaver Script Writing Prize

Judge Film, Television, and Media Undergraduate Committee

Winner

Sam Rao
"The Ripening"
Class of 2024
LSA, FTVM

Jeffrey L. Weisberg Memorial Prize in Poetry

Judge Kweku Abimbola

Winner

Hanqi Shang
"transition"
Class of 2027
LSA, Undeclared

Winner

Meredith Knight
"The Sugar Shack"
Class of 2024
School of Education, Secondary Education

Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing

Preliminary Judge Frank Beaver

Final Judges Katie Plott and Lawrence Kasdan

Winner

Yoel Gebremariam
"Fra Mauro"
Class of 2024
Ross, Business Administration

Keith Taylor Award for Excellence in Poetry

Judge Keith Taylor

Winner

Nicole Tooley
"Tuned to Migration"
Class of 2024
Taubman/LSA, Architecture/English

Marjorie Rapaport Award in Poetry

Judge Kweku Abimbola

Winner

Rachel Toma
"We Both Love Eating Dolma..."
Class of 2025
LSA, English

Winner

Isabelle Albaran Fernandes
"Gratitude for a Beach 8,421 Miles Away"
Class of 2024
LSA, Romance Languages and Literature

Michael R. Gutterman Award in Poetry

Judge Tarfia Faizullah

Winner

Claudia Creed

“Elegy for Lost Learning”

Class of 2024

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Peter Phillip Pratt Award in Fiction

Judge Lauren Morrow

Winner

Camille Nagy

“The Rite of the Turnpike”

Class of 2025

LSA RC, English/Creative Writing & Literature

Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship

Judge Jennifer Pullen

First Place - Ann Arbor

Bryce Murray

“Fisher of Men”

Class of 2024

LSA, Neuroscience

First Place - Dearborn

Adam Almaleky

“How Have Muslims Impacted Metro Detroit?”

Class of 2025

U-M Dearborn, Biochemistry

Second Place - Ann Arbor

Safura Syed

“Edge Effects”

Class of 2025

LSA RC, English/EEB

First Place - Flint

Christina Feldermann

“Unveiling the Dangers of Christian Nationalism”

Class of 2026

U-M Flint, Social Work

Third Place - Ann Arbor

Heami Oh

“Siren songs”

Class of 2025

College of Engineering, Computer Science

Second Place - Flint

Syed Kamal

“Dear Desolation”

Class of 2024

U-M Flint, English

Fourth Place - Ann Arbor

Safa Hijazi

“Heaven, Do You Want Me Too?”

Class of 2025

LSA, English

Fifth Place - Ann Arbor

Donovan Rogers

“Into the Light of the Dark, Black Night”

Class of 2024

SMTD, Theatre Performance

Text/Image Composition Prize

Judge Lydia Conklin

First Place

Holly Tsch

“Stairs”

Class of 2025

LSA RC, Creative Writing & Literature

Finalist

Laine Kibler

“Siren songs”

Class of 2024

LSA RC, Creative Writing & Literature

Second Place

Maya Day

“Excess”

Class of 2025

Rackham, English Language & Literature

Finalist

Tyler Dunston

“Heaven, Do You Want Me Too?”

Class of 2026

Rackham, English Language & Literature

Additional Prizes

Andrea Beauchamp Prize

Yash Kumbhat
"--You Come, Too"
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Hayley Boyd
"Seabedding" & "St. Francis Park"
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Chamberlain Award for Creative Writing

Mark Bryk
"Holy Unholies"
Class of 2024
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Olivia Cheng
"The Wife," "Ascension," & "What..."
Class of 2024
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Doug LeCours
"Three Stories"
Class of 2024
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Dennis McIntyre Prize for Distinction in Undergraduate Playwriting

Sam Aupperlee
"My Name is Not John"
Class of 2025
SMTD, Theater/Playwriting

Christian Bade
"The Hand of Fortune"
Class of 2027
LSA RC, Journalism

Margaret Brice
"The Laird and Bhean-Nighe"
Class of 2024
LSA, English/French

Geoffrey James Gosling Prize

Sarah Anderson
"Fallow"
Class of 2024
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Helen J. Daniels Prize

Kelly Tang
"To Love, and Be Loved"
Class of 2024
LSA, Neuroscience

Safa Hijazi
"Eve's Interlude" & "A Letter to Persephone"
Class of 2025
LSA, English

Helen S. and John Wagner Prize

Noor Al-Samarrai
"Selections from Baghdad: City of Memory"
Class of 2024
Helen Zell Writers' Program

John Wagner Prize

Oluwakemi Falodun
"Longing" & "Soro-Soke: The Language..."
Class of 2024
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Clara Rosarius
"Pondgirl" & "Lithium"
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Leonard and Eileen Newman Prize for Dramatic Writing

Daniela Castillo
"Righteous Women"
Class of 2024
LSA, Film, Television, Video and Media

"Fixing the Hole in the Wall"
Class of 2024
LSA, Film, Television, Video, and Media

William Chehab

Adam Miros
"¡Macías!"
Class of 2024
LSA, Film, Television, Video, and Media

Meredith Kratochwill
"You Have Value"
Class of 2023
LSA, Film, Television, Video, and Media

Leonard and Eileen Newman Prize for Fiction

Katherine Hattersley
"This Is How I Remember It"
Class of 2025
LSA, English

Paz Regueiro
"Raw Materials: A Treatise on the Techno..."
Class of 2024
LSA, English/FTVM

Kyla Kralapp
"Dinner Service" & "If I ever go looking..."
Class of 2025
LSA, FTVM

Meader Family Award

Danilo Marin
"The Dream of Reason Produces Monsters"
Class of 2024
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Sheena Raza Faisal
"Odes, Still Life, Self Portraits"
Class of 2024
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Jordan Hamel
"Father Time is Undefeated - Courtney Act"
Class of 2024
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Anthony DiCarlo
"whatever curse you hold to"
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Naomi Saferstein Literary Award

Daniela Castillo

“Righteous Women”

Class of 2024

LSA, Film, Television, Video and Media

Adam Miros

“¡Macías!”

Class of 2024

LSA, Film, Television, Video, and Media

Paul and Sonia Handleman Poetry Award

Minsoo Kim
“guide to gods / guide to korean transness”
Class of 2025
College of Engineering, Biomedical Engineering

Yanna Cassell
“Phantom”
Class of 2024
LSA, English

Robert F. Haugh Prize

Katherine Hattersley
“This Is How I Remember It”
Class of 2025
LSA, English

Roy and Helen Meador Award

Paris LeClaire
“Help! I Think I’m In Trouble!”
Class of 2027
LSA RC, Undeclared

Stanley S. Schwartz Prize

Kyla Kralapp
“Dinner Service” & “If I ever go looking...”
Class of 2025
LSA, FTVM

The Hopwood Program proudly presents

The 2024 Hopwood Lecturer

Kemp Powers



KEMP POWERS is a Golden Globe Award-winning and Academy Award-nominated screenwriter, playwright, producer and director. Powers wrote the critically acclaimed Amazon feature, *One Night in Miami...*, adapted from his 2013 award-winning stage play of the same name. Directed by Regina King (in her directorial debut), the film received three Oscar nominations, including one for Powers for Best Adapted

Screenplay.

He is also the co-director and a screenwriter of Disney/Pixar's Academy Award-winning animated feature *Soul*, and made history as the first Black person to receive a director or screenwriter credit on any Pixar project. Most recently, Powers directed *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*, the sequel to the Oscar-winning animated feature *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, along with Joaquim Dos Santos and Justin K. Thompson. The critically acclaimed film surpassed expectations at the box office by besting the original, becoming the highest-grossing Sony Pictures Animation film ever, and the highest earning animated comic book film ever. His stage plays include the award-winning *One Night in Miami...*, *Little Black Shadows*, *Christa McAuliffe's Eyes Were Blue* and *The Two Reds*. Kemp's most recent stage play, *The XIXth* (The Nineteenth) premiered at The Old Globe in San Diego, March 2023. Prior to his work in stage, television and film, Powers was a journalist for 17 years.

The 2024 Hopwood Judges

Kweku Abimbola (Single Poem Contests, Undergraduate) was born in the Gambia, Kweku Abimbola earned his MFA in poetry from the University of Michigan's Helen Zell Writers' Program. He is of Gambian, Ghanaian, Nigerian, and Sierra Leonean descent. Abimbola's first full-length poetry collection, *Saltwater Demands a Psalm*, was published by Graywolf Press in 2023. In 2022, the debut collection was selected by Tyehimba Jess to receive the Academy of American Poets' First Book Award. He has worked as a teaching artist for the literary nonprofit Inside Out Literary Arts and lectured in English and creative writing at the University of Michigan. Abimbola is presently a visiting assistant professor of English and creative writing at the University of Tampa.

Joshua Adams (David Porter Award for Excellence in Journalism) is an Assistant Professor of Instruction in the Department of English and Creative Writing of Columbia College Chicago. He is a writer, educator and journalist who has written for publications such as *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *USA Today*, *Chicago Magazine*, *The Nation*, *Longreads*, *WIRED*, and more. Prior to Columbia, he taught at Urban Prep Academy (Englewood Campus), DePaul University, Salem State University and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Chloe Alberta (Hopwood First- and Second-Year Undergraduate Fiction) is a writer from the Midwest. She earned her MFA from the Helen Zell Writers' Program at the University of Michigan, where she won a Hopwood Award in Graduate Fiction and the Henfield Prize. Her stories and essays can be found in the *Masters Review*, *Joyland*, *Wigleaf*, *X-R-A-Y*, *HAD*, and elsewhere.

Threa Almontaser (Hopwood Undergraduate Poetry, Preliminary) is the author of the poetry collection *The Wild Fox of Yemen* (Graywolf Press 2021), nominated for the National Book Awards, the Pen/Voelcker Award, the NAACP, and a finalist for the Kate Tufts Discovery Award. Her debut is the winner of the Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American poets, the inaugural Maya Angelou Book Award, the George Ellenbogen Poetry Award, and the Brooklyn Public Library Literary Prize. She is a recipient of writing fellowships from Duke University, National Endowment for the Arts, and the Fulbright Program. She earned her MFA from North Carolina State University and teaches English to immigrants and refugees in her area.

Ramona Ausubel's (Hopwood Novel, Final) fifth book, *The Last Animal* was named a best book of 2023 by NPR, Kirkus and the Oprah quarterly. Her previous books are *Awayland: stories*, *Sons and Daughters of Ease and Plenty*, *A Guide to Being Born* and *No One is Here Except All of Us*. She is the recipient of the PEN/USA Fiction Award, the Cabell First Novelist Award and has been a finalist for both the California and Colorado Book Awards and the New York Public Library Young Lions Award. Her work has been published in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Paris Review* daily, *One Story*, *Tin House*, *The Oxford American*, *Ploughshares* and elsewhere. She is a professor at Colorado State University, on faculty at the Bennington Writing Seminars and has taught at Tin House, Writing by Writers, the Community of Writers, Bread Loaf Environmental Conference and elsewhere. She lives in Boulder, Colorado with her family.

Cherline Bazile (Hopwood Undergraduate Fiction, Preliminary) is a Haitian American writer from Florida. She graduated from Harvard University and received her MFA in Fiction from the University of Michigan. Her fiction has been featured in NPR, *The Sewanee Review*, *Symphony Space*, and the Best American Short Stories 2023. Cherline has received fellowships from the Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Vermont Studio Center, and the Mass Cultural Council, among others. She lives in Philadelphia.

Frank Beaver (Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing) is the Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus of the Department of Film Television and Media and Communication Studies at the University of Michigan where he taught film for 35 years. For 25 years he was the film critic for Michigan's state-wide NPR radio stations, WUOM-WFUM-WVGR. He is the author of *Dictionary of Film Terms: The Aesthetic Companion to Film Art*. He received the North Carolina Playwriting Prize and, as a Doctoral student at Michigan, won Hopwoods in the Drama and Essay categories.

Jaswinder Bolina's (Hopwood Undergraduate Poetry, Preliminary) latest book *English as a Second Language and Other Poems* is available now from Copper Canyon Press. His previous books include the essay collection *Of Color* (McSweeney's 2020) and the poetry collections *The 44th of July* (Omnidawn 2019), *Phantom Camera* (New Issues Press 2013), and *Carrier Wave* (CLP 2007). His poems have appeared at venues including *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, *American Poetry Review*, and others. His essays have been featured at the *Washington Post*, *Paris Review*, *The Believer*, and elsewhere. He teaches on the faculty of the M.F.A. program in creative writing at the University of Miami where he also serves as Chair of the Department of English & Creative Writing.

Gabriel Bump (Hopwood Novel, Preliminary) is from South Shore, Chicago. His debut novel, *Everywhere You Don't Belong*, won the Ernest J. Gaines Award of Literary Excellence. His second novel, *The New Naturals*, was a *New York Times* and *Washington Post* Notable Book of 2023. His third novel, *Don't Stop Snowing*, is forthcoming. Bump teaches creative writing at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Marisa Carr (Hopwood Drama, Final) is a playwright from Milwaukee, now living in Chicago after a decade in the Twin Cities. Her work has been presented and/or produced by institutions including: Milwaukee Rep, The Guthrie, Pillsbury House + Theater, the Playwrights' Center, Montana Repertory Theater, Intermedia Arts, and University of Iowa MFA Program. Selected recent awards and honors include: Victory Gardens Playwrights Ensemble (2021-2024), Montana Repertory Theater Warren Miller Commission (2021), Goodman Playwrights Unit (2020-2021), Scratchpad at the Playwrights' Realm (2019-2020), P73 Finalist (2019-20), and American Blues Theater Blue Ink Award Finalist (2020). Marisa is also Co-Founder/former Artistic Director of the Turtle Theater Collective, a Twin Cities-based company committed to producing high-quality, contemporary work that explores Native experiences and subverts expectations about how and when Native artists can create theater, and has taught playwriting for theaters including the Guthrie and Jungle Theatre. She is Turtle Mountain Ojibwe from the Turtle clan.

Sumita Chakraborty (Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize) is a poet and a scholar. She is the author of *Arrow* (Alice James Books/Carcanet Press, 2020) and currently writing a scholarly monograph titled *Grave Dangers: Poetics and the Ethics of Death in the Anthropocene*, which is under contract with the University of Minnesota Press, as well as a second collection of poetry titled *The B-Sides of the Golden Records*. Her honors include a Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation, a Forward Prize nomination from the Forward Arts Foundation (U.K.), and a Kundiman fellowship. *Arrow* received coverage in the *New York Times*, NPR, and the *Guardian*, and won the GLCA New Writers Award and the Seamus Heaney Poetry Prize (U.K.). She is Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing at North Carolina State University. Find her online at www.sumitachakraborty.com.

Lydia Conklin (Text/Image Composition) has received a Stegner Fellowship, four Pushcart Prizes, a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer's Award, a Creative Writing Fulbright in Poland, a grant from the Elizabeth George Foundation, work-study and tuition scholarships from Bread Loaf, and fellowships from MacDowell, Yaddo, Emory University, Hedgebrook, Djerassi, the James Merrill House, Lighthouse Works, and elsewhere. Their fiction has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *One Story*, *McSweeney's*, *American Short Fiction*, and *VQR*. They have drawn cartoons for *The New Yorker* and *Narrative Magazine*, and graphic fiction for *The Believer*, *Lenny Letter*, and the Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago. They've served as the Helen Zell Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan and are now an Assistant Professor of Fiction at Vanderbilt University. Their story collection, *Rainbow Rainbow*, was longlisted for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Award and The Story Prize. Their novel, *Songs of No Provenance*, is forthcoming in 2025 from Catapult in the US and Chatto in the UK.

Mo Daviau (Hopwood Novel, Preliminary) is the author of the novel *Every Anxious Wave*, which won a Hopwood Award for the Novel in 2012 and was a finalist for the Oregon Book Award in 2017. Her essays have appeared in *The Rumpus*, *The Offing*, and *Nailed* magazine, among others, and she has a short story in the anthology *Dispatches from Anarres: Tales in Tribute to Ursula K. LeGuin*. Mo is a bookseller at Annie Bloom's Books, an independent bookstore in Portland, Oregon.

Danielle Evans (Hopwood Fiction, Final) is the author of the story collections *The Office of Historical Corrections* and *Before You Suffocate Your Own Fool Self*. Her first collection won the PEN American Robert W. Bingham Prize, the Hurston-Wright award for fiction, and the Paterson Prize for fiction; her second won the Janet Heidinger Kafka Prize and was a finalist for The Aspen Prize, The Story Prize, The Chautauqua Prize, and The Los Angeles Times Book prize for fiction. She has also been awarded The New Literary Project Oates Prize, a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, and selected as one of the National Book Foundation's annual 5 under 35. Her stories have appeared in magazines and anthologies including *The Best American Short Stories*. She is an Associate Professor in The Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University.

Kareem Fahmy (Hopwood Drama, Preliminary) is a Canadian-born director and playwright of Egyptian descent. He received the 2022 Woodward/Newman Playwriting Award (for *American Fast*), a NYSCA/NYFA Playwriting Fellowship, a MacDowell Fellowship, the Janet Sloane Literature Residency at Yaddo, is a two-time finalist for the National Showcase of New Plays, and was named a Rising Leader of Color by TCG. *A Distinct Society* received a co-world premiere at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley and Pioneer Theatre. *American Fast* had a National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere at Artists Repertory Theatre, City Theatre, and InterAct Theatre. *Dodi & Diana* (O'Neill NPC Finalist) received a world premiere at Colt Coeur. Regional directing credits include: Cincinnati Playhouse, Writers Theatre, Pioneer Theatre, Contemporary American Theatre Festival, Portland Stage, Crossroads Theatre, Premiere Stages. MFA in Theatre Directing: Columbia University.
www.kareemfahmy.com

Tarfia Faizullah (Single Poem Contests) is the author of *Seam* (SIU 2014) and *Registers of Illuminated Villages* (Graywolf 2018). Her work appears in *Yale Review*, *The Nation*, *Poetry Magazine*, *Guernica*, *American Poetry Review*, the *Academy of American Poets*, *BuzzFeed*, *PBS Newshour*, and the like, and is reviewed by *NPR*, *Slate Magazine*, *Paris Review*, *Boston Review*, *Ms. Magazine*, and others. Her awards include a Fulbright fellowship, three Pushcart Prizes, as well as awards from the Writers League of Texas and a Texas Institute of Arts and Letters. In 2016, Harvard Law School recognized Tarfia as one of 50 Women Inspiring Change.

Austin Farrell (Hopwood First- and Second-Year Undergraduate Poetry) is a poet and musician from Moro, Arkansas. He holds a BA in English/Creative Writing from University of Arkansas, and an MFA in Poetry from the Helen Zell Writers' Program at the University of Michigan. His interests of study include 20th Century American poetics, interdisciplinary arts, and media/cultural studies. He lives in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Jennifer Galvão (Hopwood First- and Second-Year Undergraduate Nonfiction) is a writer from New York and a graduate of the Helen Zell Writers' Program. She teaches creative writing at Kenyon College, where she serves as the 2023-2025 Kenyon Review Fellow in fiction.

Manuel Gonzales (Hopwood Graduate Fiction, Preliminary) is the author of the collection, *The Miniature Wife* and other stories, and the novel, *The Regional Office is Under Attack!* He is currently at work on the forthcoming novel, *Blackthorne Island*, due out in 2025 from Flatiron Books. He teaches creative writing and literature at Bennington College.

Leslie Harrison's (Hopwood Graduate Poetry, Preliminary) third book, *Reck* (Arkon, 2023) came out in March 2023. Her second book, *The Book of Endings* (Akron 2017) was a finalist for the National Book Award. Her first book, *Displacement* (Mariner, 2009) won the Bakeless Prize in Poetry from the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. She is an NEA fellow in poetry and a Baker Artist's Portfolio winner. Recent poems have appeared in *Kenyon Review*, *New England Review*, *Copper Nickel* and elsewhere. She lives in Baltimore.

Christopher Hebert (Hopwood Novel, Preliminary) is the author of the novels *The Boiling Season* (HarperCollins), *Angels of Detroit* (Bloomsbury), and *Delivery* (forthcoming, Regal). He's co-editor of *Stories of Nation: Fictions, Politics, and the American Experience* (UT Press). He's a professor of English in the creative writing program at the University of Tennessee.

Donovan Hohn (Hopwood Graduate Nonfiction, Preliminary) is the author of *The Inner Coast: Essays and Moby-Duck: The True Story of 28,800 Bath Toys Lost at Sea*, a New York Times Notable Book and runner-up for both the PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award for Nonfiction and the PEN/E. O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award. His essays have appeared in such publications as Harper's, The New York Times Magazine, The Virginia Quarterly Review, Lapham's Quarterly, and The New Republic. A recipient of the Whiting Writer's Award and an NEA Creative Writing Fellowship, Hohn spent a number of years editing essays, fiction, and literary journalism at Harper's. He has taught nonfiction in the MFA program of the University of Michigan and is now Director of Creative Writing at Wayne State University in Detroit.

Garrett Hongo (Hopwood Poetry, Final) was born in Volcano, Hawai'i and raised there and in Los Angeles. He earned his BA from Pomona College and his MFA from UC-Irvine. His poetry collections are *Yellow Light*, *The River of Heaven*, which received the Lamont Poetry Prize and was a Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, and *Coral Road*. His most recent publication is *The Perfect Sound: A Memoir in Stereo*. In other non-fiction, he has published *The Mirror Diary* and *Volcano: A Memoir of Hawai'i*. His work has been recognized with fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Fulbright Program, and the National Endowment for the Arts. In 2022, he was given the Aiken Taylor Award for lifetime achievement in poetry. Recent poems and essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Georgia Review*, and *Sewanee Review*. He is Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Oregon.

Phoebe Hopp (Hopwood Screenplay, Preliminary) Intimately familiar with the last-second scramble to meet Hopwood deadlines, Phoebe Hopp graduated from Michigan's screenwriting program in 2019 and headed straight to LA. After a stint paying dues at a major management company, she can now finally say she writes for a living, and has two features currently in development at Cinetic Media.

Anna Maria Hozian (Hopwood Screenplay, Final) is an Associate Professor of Screenwriting at DePaul University's School of Cinematic Arts and an Associate Dean at the College of Computing and Digital Media. She was chosen as one of twelve women for the inaugural year of the New York Women in Film and Television's The Writers Lab funded by Meryl Streep. In addition to winning or placing in some of the most prestigious screenwriting awards (The Black List Lab, the Nicholl, the Page, Austin Film Festival, Samuel Goldwyn Awards), Anna continues to develop projects with independent producers and small production companies. Her web series, *Other People's Children*, traveled the world in festivals, and her short film, "The Pool," is currently making the rounds. Her next two projects — a feature film adaptation of the novel, *The Kindness of Strangers* and a television series entitled, *The Ward*, are in development..

Kristiana Kahakauwila (Hopwood Undergraduate Fiction, Preliminary) is the author of the story collection *This is Paradise* (Hogarth 2013) and the middle grade novel *Clairboyance* (HarperCollins 2024), both of which are set in contemporary Hawai'i. Kristiana earned a BA in Comparative Literature from Princeton University and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Michigan. She has served as faculty at Western Washington University and the Low-Residency MFA at the Institute of American Indian Arts, and now is the Director of Creative Writing at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Her fiction and essays have appeared in *GEO Magazine*, *Kartika Review*, *Hunger Mountain*, and elsewhere. She is currently at work on a historical novel set on the island of Maui.

Lawrence Kasdan (Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing) is a director, screenwriter, and producer. He is the co-writer of the Star Wars films *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980), *Return of the Jedi* (1983), *The Force Awakens* (2015), and *Solo: A Star Wars Story* (2018). Kasdan also co-wrote the Indiana Jones film *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981) and is the writer-director of *Body Heat* (1981), *The Big Chill* (1983), *The Accidental Tourist* (1988), and *Dreamcatcher* (2004). He has been nominated for four Academy Awards: as a producer for Best Picture nominee *The Accidental Tourist*, for which he was also nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay, and Best Original Screenplay for both *The Big Chill* and *Grand Canyon* (1991). He has often collaborated with his wife, Meg Kasdan, his brother, Mark Kasdan, and his two sons, Jonathan Kasdan and Jake Kasdan. As a student

at the University of Michigan, he won four Hopwood Awards. He delivered the Hopwood Lecture in 1999.

Donika Kelly (Hopwood Poetry, Final) is the author of *The Renunciations* winner of the Anisfield-Wolf book award in poetry, and *Bestiary*, the winner of the 2015 Cave Canem Poetry Prize, a Hurston/Wright Legacy Award and a Kate Tufts Discovery Award. A recipient of a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, she is a Cave Canem graduate fellow and founding member of the collective Poets at the End of the World. Her poems have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The Paris Review*, and elsewhere. She is an assistant professor in the English Department at the University of Iowa, where she teaches creative writing.

Robert Laidler (Hopwood First- and Second-Year Undergraduate Poetry) Assistant Professor of Teaching in the Wayne State Department of English, is the author of a poetic libretto, *The Fallen Petals of Nameless Flowers*, which premiered at Chamber Music Detroit in 2022. He earned his MFA in poetry from the University of Michigan, where his poems won various Hopwood awards. Most recently he was a finalist for the National Poetry Series, long listed for Palette Poetry's chapbook contest, a finalist for Driftwood Press' chapbook contest, and a finalist for Missouri Review's Jeffrey E. Smith Editor's prize. His poems can be found in the Missouri Review, Ilanot Review, Driftwood Press, Poet Lore, and elsewhere.

Lillian Li (Hopwood Graduate Fiction, Preliminary) is the author of the novel *Number One Chinese Restaurant*, which was an NPR Best Book of 2018, and longlisted for the Women's Prize and the Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize. Her work has been published in the *New York Times*, *Granta*, *One Story*, *Bon Appetit*, and *Travel & Leisure*. Originally from the D.C. metro area, she lives in Ann Arbor.

Mickle Maher (Hopwood Drama, Final) Called "*One of the most original voices in American theater today*" by The Houston Chronicle, Mickle Maher is a cofounder of Chicago's Theater Oobleck, and teaches playwriting and related subjects at the University of Chicago. Plays include *There is a Happiness That Morning Is*; *Song About Himself*; *An Apology for the Course and Outcome of Certain Events Delivered by Doctor John Faustus on This His Final Evening*; *The Cabinet*; *The Hunchback Variations*; *The Strangerer*; *Spirits to Enforce*; *Lady Madeline*; *It Is Magic*, and *An Actor Prepares* (an adaptation of Stanislavsky's seminal book commissioned by the University of Chicago) and the book and lyrics for the musical *Small Ball*. He is currently adapting the graphic novel *Berlin* by Jason Lutes for the Court Theatre of Chicago.

Chris McCormick (Cora Duncan Award in Fiction) is the author of a novel, *The Gimmicks* (Harper, 2020), a New York Times Editors' Choice, and a short story collection, *Desert Boys*, winner of the 2017 Stonewall Book Award—Barbara Gittings Literature Award. His essays and stories have appeared in *The Atlantic*, the Los Angeles Times, and *The Southern Review*. The son of an Armenian mother and an American father, he grew up in the Antelope Valley on the California side of the Mojave Desert before earning his BA from the University of California, Berkeley, and his MFA from the University of Michigan. He is Associate Professor in the creative writing program at Minnesota State University, Mankato, and is at work on his next book with the support of a 2024 Creative Writing Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Dunya Mikhail (Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize, Preliminary) is an Iraqi American poet and writer. She is the author of the poetry collections, *The War Works Hard* (shortlisted for the International Griffon Poetry Prize), *Diary of a Wave Outside the Sea* (winner of the Arab American Book Award), *The Iraqi Nights* (winner of the Poetry Magazine Translation Award), and *In Her Feminine Sign* (chosen as one of the ten best poetry books of 2019 by The New York Public Library). Her nonfiction book, *The Beekeeper* was a finalist for the National Book Award, and her debut novel, *The Bird Tattoo*, was shortlisted for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction. Mikhail is a laureate of the UNESCO Sharja Prize for Arab Culture and has received the UN Human Rights Award for Freedom of Writing, as well as fellowships from the United States Artists, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Kresge Foundation.

Lauren Morrow (Peter Philip Pratt Prize) Lauren Morrow earned an MFA from the University of Michigan's Helen Zell Writers' Program. She has been a Kimbilio Fellow, an Aspen Words Emerging Writer Fellow, and is the recipient of two Hopwood Awards (Novel & Graduate Short Fiction), an Andrea Beauchamp Prize, and a Ronald Moran Prize. Her work has appeared in *Ploughshares* and *The South Carolina Review*, among others.

She lives in Brooklyn, NY and is a Senior Publicist at Dutton, Plume & Tiny Reparations Books. Her debut novel, *Little Movements*, will be published by Random House.

Rola Nashef (Hopwood Screenplay, Preliminary) Rola Nashef is an award-winning filmmaker, screenwriter, public speaker and educator. Her debut film, *Detroit Unleaded*, won the Discovery Award at the Toronto International Film Festival and became the first Arab-American romantic comedy in American cinema. Rola speaks extensively on the Arab-American image and media representation and the fundamentals of independent filmmaking and producing.

Beth Nguyen (Hopwood Nonfiction, Final) Beth Nguyen is the author of the recent memoir *Owner of a Lonely Heart*, which was a New York Times Editors' Choice Pick, as well as the memoir *Stealing Buddha's Dinner*, and two novels. She has received an American Book Award and a PEN/Jerard Award and her work has appeared in publications including *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *Time*, and *Best American Essays*. She is currently a professor at the University of Wisconsin–Madison where she also directs the MFA Program in Creative Writing.

Maya Perez (Hopwood Screenplay, Final) a television producer and screenwriter, Maya Perez was most recently a co-producer on a romantic drama series starring Joshua Jackson and Lauren Ridloff and produced by Ava DuVernay for Starz. Prior to that, she was an executive story editor on Showtime's *American Rust S2* and an executive producer on the unscripted interview series *Austin Film Festival's On Story* on PBS for eleven seasons. Nominated for two Lone Star EMMY Awards®, *On Story* won a Lone Star EMMY Award® for Best Interview/Discussion Program Series in 2018 and for Best Arts/Entertainment Program in 2014. Maya's screenplays have been optioned for production and recognized by fellowships from SFFILM/Westridge, Sundance Institute, and NY Stage & Film. Maya received her BA from Vassar College and her MFA in Screenwriting as a fellow at the Michener Center for Writers. She is the Area Head for Screenwriting at The University of Texas at Austin.

Katie Plott (Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing) Katie Plott is an assistant at Kasdan Pictures. After graduating with degrees in finance and economics from the University of Alabama, she pivoted to entertainment and never looked back. During her time in Hollywood, Katie has worked for a talent agency, movie studio, and independent producers, where she has read thousands of scripts and provided feedback to writers at every stage of development. This is her first time judging the Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing for the Hopwood Program. Lawrence Kasdan personally oversees judgments for the Creative Writing award.

Jennifer Pullen (The Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship) received her BA from Whitworth University, her MFA from Eastern Washington University, and her PhD from Ohio University. Her fiction, poetry, and non-fiction have appeared in *Phantom Drift Limited*, *Cleaver*, *Off the Coast*, *F(r)iction*, *Assay*, and *Slippery Elm*, among others. Her chapbook *A Bead of Amber on Her Tongue* won the Omnidawn Fabulist Fiction Award. Her craft book and anthology, *Fantasy Fiction: A Writer's Guide and Anthology*, was recently published by Bloomsbury Academic. She grew up running wild in the forests of Washington State but has since been sufficiently domesticated to become an Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Ohio Northern University, where she teaches fiction writing, gender studies, fantasy and science fiction, environmental literature, and more.

Sejal Shah (Hopwood Undergraduate Nonfiction, Preliminary) is a writer, interdisciplinary artist, and educator. She is the author of the forthcoming debut story collection *How to Make Your Mother Cry* (West Virginia University Press, May 2024). Her debut essay collection, *This Is One Way to Dance*, was named an NPR Best Book of 2020 and included in over thirty most-anticipated or best-of lists including *Electric Literature*, *Lit Hub*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Millions*, *Ms. Magazine*, and *PEN America*. The recipient of fellowships from Blue Mountain Center, Kundiman, and the New York Foundation for the Arts, Sejal makes her home in Rochester, New York. Visit her online at www.sejal-shah.com.

Darina (Dasha) Sikmashvili (Hopwood First- and Second-Year Undergraduate Nonfiction) was born in Lubny, Ukraine, and raised in Brooklyn, New York, where she moved at age eight. She has received scholarships from the Can Sarrat Writing Residency, the Laimun Artists' Residency, and the Sewanee Writers' Conference, among

others. She completed her MFA in fiction at the University of Michigan and has been working in film production for over a decade. She is currently writing a novel. <https://www.sikmashvili.com/>

Ian Singleton (Arthur Miller Award of the University of Michigan Club of New York Scholarship Fund) is a writer of fiction and criticism and a translator of Russian and Ukrainian literature. He teaches Writing and Critical Inquiry at SUNY Albany and serves as the Nonfiction Editor of *Asymptote*. His debut novel *Two Big Differences*, about the Ukrainian Revolution of Dignity, came out in 2021 and can be found at [2bigdifferences.page](#).

Jake Skeets (Hopwood Graduate Poetry, Preliminary) Jake Skeets is the author of *Eyes Bottle Dark with a Mouthful of Flowers*, winner of the National Poetry Series, Kate Tufts Discovery Award, American Book Award, and Whiting Award. He is from the Navajo Nation and teaches at the University of Oklahoma.

Avi Steinberg (Hopwood Undergraduate Nonfiction, Preliminary) is the author of three books of narrative nonfiction published by Knopf Doubleday. His feature writing and essays have appeared in the *New York Times Magazine* and *New Yorker*. He is a recent NEH Public Scholars fellow. He is currently working on a biography of writer and political organizer, Grace Paley, which will be published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and on a new translation of the David story, from the biblical Book of Samuel, which will be published by Norton/Liveright. He is a lecturer in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Chicago.

Ben Stroud (Hopwood Fiction, Final) is the author of the story collection *Byzantium*, which won the Story Prize Spotlight Award and the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference Bakeless Fiction Prize. His stories have appeared in *Harper's*, *Zoetrope*, *Ploughshares*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, and *One Story*, among other places, and have been anthologized in the *Pushcart Prize*, *New Stories from the South*, and *Best American Mystery Stories*. He received an MFA in Fiction and a PhD in English from the University of Michigan, where he won three Hopwood Awards, and is Professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of Toledo.

Keith Taylor (Keith Taylor Award for Excellence in Poetry) is originally from Western Canada, but has lived for the past 45 years in Michigan. He has authored or edited 20 books and chapbooks. In 2024 he will publish two books, *All the Time You Want: Selected Poems, 1977 - 2017*, and *What Can the Matter Be?* His poems, stories, reviews, essays and translations have appeared widely in North America and in Europe. Six years ago he retired from the University of Michigan, where he taught Creative Writing for 20 years. Before that he worked as a bookseller in Ann Arbor for another 20 years. Taylor has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs. He has been Writer/Artist In Residence at Isle Royale National Park (twice), the Detroit YMCA, The International Writers' and Translators' Centre of Rhodes, Greece, the University of Michigan Biological Station, and Greenhills School.

Molly Traver (Hopwood First- and Second-Year Undergraduate Nonfiction) is a writer from Vermont, currently at work on a novel that explores one family's navigations of grief and remaking against the backdrop of a wild animal sanctuary. Her work has won the Tyson Award and was a finalist for the Hopwood Novel Award and the Henfield Prize in Fiction. Before earning an MFA in creative writing from the Helen Zell Writers' Program, she spent ten years as a developmental editor, first at St. Martin's Press in New York and then as a freelance editor in Los Angeles. She loves working closely with writers and has had the great pleasure of shepherding an array of bestselling and award-winning novels through publication, with specialties in literary fiction, speculative/genre-bending fiction, and young adult. When not at her desk, she can often be found running and hiking in the beautiful woods of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

David L. Ulin (Hopwood Nonfiction, Final) is the author, most recently, of the novel *Thirteen Question Method*. His other books include *Sidewalking: Coming to Terms with Los Angeles*, shortlisted for the PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for the Art of the Essay; *The Lost Art of Reading: Books and Resistance in a Troubled Time*; and *Writing Los Angeles: A Literary Anthology*, which won a California Book Award. He is the books editor of *Alta* and the former book editor and book critic of the *Los Angeles Times*. His work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, *Harper's*, *The Paris Review*, and *The Best American Essays 2020*. The recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Lannan Foundation, and Ucross

Foundation, as well as a COLA Individual Master Artist Grant from the City of Los Angeles, he is a Professor of English at the University of Southern California, where he edits the journal *Air/Light*.

Elissa Washuta (Hopwood Graduate Nonfiction, Preliminary) is a member of the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. Her essay collection *White Magic* was selected as a finalist for the PEN/Open Book Award, longlisted for the PEN/Jean Stein Award, and named among the best books of 2021 by *TIME*, the New York Public Library, and NPR. She is the author of *My Body Is a Book of Rules* and *Starvation Mode*, and with Theresa Warburton, she co-edited the anthology *Shapes of Native Nonfiction: Collected Essays by Contemporary Writers*. Elissa's honors include a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, a Creative Capital award, and the Artist Trust Arts Innovator Award. She is an associate professor at the Ohio State University, where she teaches in the MFA Program in Creative Writing.

Kat Zukaitis (Hopwood Drama, Preliminary) is a dramaturg, arts administrator, and arts advocate. She is the Director of New Stages at Chicago's Goodman Theatre and has worked in dramaturgy/literary management at Victory Gardens, South Coast Repertory, Steppenwolf, and Northwestern's American Music Theatre Project. Prior to working in theater, Kat taught English in France and Austria. She holds an M.A. in religion and literature from Yale Divinity School and a B.A. in comparative literature from Haverford College.

Description of Named Prizes and Awards Administered by the Hopwood Program

Academy of American Poets Prize

Two awards of \$100 are offered by this national organization for poems submitted by University of Michigan undergraduate and graduate students. This contest was endowed by Sharon Galley Sherrow in memory of her late husband, David Galley, a 1966 graduate of the University of Michigan.

Andrea Beauchamp Prize

An award donated by Professor John Wagner to the first-place winner in the Hopwood Graduate Short Fiction division.

Arthur Miller Award of the University of Michigan Club of New York Scholarship Fund

An award for demonstrated achievement by a sophomore or junior in the writing of drama, fiction, poetry, or screenplay. The award was established to honor University of Michigan graduate and Hopwood Award winner Arthur Miller.

Bain-Swiggett Poetry Prize

An award for the best poem in traditional form submitted by a University of Michigan student.

Chamberlain Award for Creative Writing

An award given in honor of Chamberlain sisters, Elinor, Margaret, and Dorothy, who were graduates of the University of Michigan in the 1920s. All three had careers in the field of writing with the oldest, Elinor, receiving a Hopwood Fiction Award in 1951. The award is given to a University of Michigan student who has demonstrated excellence in the writing of short fiction.

Cora Duncan Award in Fiction

An award recognizing excellence in a single short story in honor of Cora Duncan, a five-time Hopwood winner (1951, 1952, and 1953), a brilliant and influential high school teacher, and a great mentor to young writers.

David Porter Award for Excellence in Journalism

An award established by Andrea Sachs, Larry Kirshbaum, and the English Alumni Board to recognize outstanding student journalists, named in honor of David Porter, Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Michigan and Chair of the English Department from 2015 to 2020.

Dennis McIntyre Prize for Distinction in Undergraduate Playwriting

An award established in 1990 by the family, friends, and former students of playwright, screenwriter, and Hopwood Award winner Dennis McIntyre to honor excellence in undergraduate playwriting.

Geoffrey James Gosling Prize

An award donated by Mrs. Enid M. Gosling to the first prize winner in the Hopwood Novel division. The prize is in memory of her son.

Helen J. Daniels Prize

An award donated by Professor Marilyn M. Rosenthal, who wrote: "When I won my Hopwood in the Major Essay division [in 1970], I used a pseudonym composed of my three children's first names, Helen J. Daniels. I am delighted to name this undergraduate essay prize for them. Excellent essay writing is of vital importance in a world troubled with the dis- and misinformation and the political manipulation of language. It is a special pleasure to recognize and reward young essayists at the University of Michigan."

Helen S. and John Wagner Prize

An award donated by Professor John Wagner to the first-place winner in the Hopwood Graduate Poetry division.

Jeffrey L. Weisberg Memorial Prize in Poetry

The family and friends of Jeffrey L. Weisberg established as a memorial two annual prizes in poetry for the best poems submitted by first- and second-year students at the University of Michigan.

John Wagner Prize

An award donated by Professor John Wagner to the first-place winner in the Hopwood Graduate Essay division.

Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing

Endowed by University of Michigan alumni Lawrence and Meg Kasdan, the award recognizes excellence in the writing of drama or screenplay.

Keith Taylor Award for Excellence in Poetry

This award recognizes an outstanding undergraduate poet who best exemplifies the spirit of Keith Taylor's writing and life, exploring the human condition and its relationship to the world around us. The award was donated by Ann Arbor novelist Steve Gillis in honor of Keith Taylor, a poet, writer, and recently-retired A.L. Becker Collegiate Lecturer, director of the Bear River Writers' Conference and coordinator of the English Department's undergraduate creative writing program.

Leonard and Eileen Newman Writing Prizes in Dramatic Writing and Fiction

Throughout their lives, Leonard and Eileen Newman supported the arts and cultural enrichment for their community and for their favorite academic institutions, including the University of Michigan.

Marjorie Rapaport Award in Poetry

This award is presented with thanks to Mrs. Phyllis Rapaport in memorial to her daughter Marjorie. The Hopwood Program acknowledges the recent passing of friend and donor Ray Rapaport, Marjorie's beloved brother.

Meader Family Award

Established by the late Hon. George Meader and his family and friends, Mr. Meader was a Republican member of Congress from 1950 to 1964 and worked as an attorney in Ann Arbor and Washington, D.C. The award is also in honor of his daughter, Barbara Ellen Meader, and his wife, Elizabeth Barbara Meader.

Naomi Saferstein Literary Award

An award to the top-ranking undergraduate in the Hopwood Drama or Hopwood Screenplay division donated by Mrs. Irene Miller and friends and family of Hopwood Award winner Naomi Saferstein.

Paul and Sonia Handleman Award

An award to an undergraduate who has demonstrated excellence in the writing of poetry in the Romantic tradition. The family notes that this award “honors the memory of a husband and wife who for nearly fifty years of their loving relationship shared a fascination for poetry—especially the verse of the English Romanticists. An appreciation of these great poems served to cement their bond, and it uplifted their spirits by infusing them with a sense of the nobility, the magnificence, the glory that are within reach of humankind.”

Peter Phillip Pratt Award in Fiction

An award recognizing excellence in a single short story in honor of Peter Phillip Pratt, a winner of a 1985 Hopwood Award, who went on to be influential in Michigan public policy, investing his endless energy to better our state in many ways, including by expanding access to early childhood education.

Robert F. Haugh Prize

An award to the first-place winner in the Hopwood Undergraduate Fiction division, donated by Mrs. Georgia C. Haugh and the family and friends of Professor Robert F. Haugh. Professor Haugh was Director of the Hopwood Awards Program from 1965 to 1972.

Roy and Helen Meador Award

Given each year to an undergraduate on the basis of financial need and writing talent, the award was established by Helen Meador in memory of her husband, Roy Meador, who was a writer and bibliophile. Mr. Meador was a commercial and science writer for many years in Ann Arbor, as well as a freelance writer, antiquarian, fiction writer, and the author of *Book Row*, a history of the antiquarian book trade in New York City.

Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship

These fellowships were made possible by contributions of Hopwood winners and other students of Professor Cowden, who was the Director of the Hopwood Awards Program from 1935 until 1952. These awards are made on the basis of financial need and writing talent.

Stanley S. Schwartz Prize

An award donated by Ann Arbor novelist Steven Gillis in memory of his father. Mr. Gillis writes of his father, “Stanley Schwartz came to the University of Michigan in 1947 to study English and creative writing. A track star for the University, Stan ran the quarter mile on the University’s then record-setting middle distance relay team at the Milrose Games. Graduating with honors, he attended the University of Michigan Law School and went on to become one of the country’s most successful and influential attorneys. As the founding partner in Sommers, Schwartz, Silver, and Schwartz, Stan blazed the trail for birth trauma litigation, authoring several books while devoting himself to protecting the interests of aggrieved parents.”

Text/Image Composition Prize

This prize was made possible by a gift from Ann Arbor entrepreneur and philanthropist, Joshua Pokempner.

A background image of a library or study room. It features tall wooden bookshelves filled with books, a round table with a white tablecloth, and several wooden chairs. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a cozy atmosphere.

**Congratulations to all
the 2024 winners and
finalists.**

**The Hopwood Program sends
sincere gratitude to everyone
who participated this year.**

We look forward to receiving next year's
manuscripts due at 11:59 pm on

January 15th, 2025.