

# The 2026 Hopwood Awards Contest Winners and Finalists

## The Avery Hopwood and Jule Hopwood Awards in Creative Writing

### **Hopwood Drama**

First Place (tie)	Gonzalo Delgado for “Dear Michelangelo”
First Place (tie)	Cecilia Bermudez for “Huntress”
Second Place	Katriona Voogd for “Club Spencer”
Third Place	Simon Nigam for “Scenes from a Teenage Romance”
Finalists	Jennifer Nessel for “Speak, That You May Understand” Christian Bade for “The Waste” Jason Lesiewicz for “Breeding: A Play of the Future”

### **Hopwood Screenplay**

First Place (tie)	Robert Fike for “Wolvey & Me”
First Place (tie)	Olivia Tarling for “Stand Up”
Second Place	Ares Valdiviezo for “Stealing Venus”
Third Place	Zachary Forman for “Balefire”
Finalists	Hannah Cronin for “The Other Line” Alejandro Cantu for “Fantasia on a Lullaby” Robin Wyllie-Scholz for “Camp Dybbuk”

### **Hopwood Novel**

First Place	Alejandro de la Garza for “Brightlands”
Second Place	Anna Attie for “Are You Mad?”
Third Place	Sophie Weisskoff for “Off Off”
Fourth Place	Anuttara Lath for “A Dark Dark Night”
Fifth Place	Sara Abbood for “Sea Legs”

### **Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize**

First Place	Charlotte Trumble for “Whatever Divides the Hoof”
Second Place	Emily Tian for “Predicaments”
Finalists	Caroline New for “Archives of the Altamaha” Matt Dhillon for “The Disassembled Sky” Edgar Morales for “Out in the Field, There Are No More Fences” Tyler Dunston for “Found Art” Peter Stuart for “of David” Ben Hefter for “Afraid of Americans” Marxie Colliver for “Handprints of a Home” Julie Zhou for “She Bloomed as a Butterfly”

### **Hopwood Poetry**

#### **First- and Second-Year Undergraduate**

First Place	Jaxson Kaplan-Rudolph for “Chromesthesia”
Second Place	Atlas Fister for “Icarian Transdivinity”
Third Place	Valerie Edem for “Drowning in Milk”
Fourth Place	Sandra Fernandez for “Drifting Dreaming Angel Girl”

## **Hopwood Poetry, continued**

### **Undergraduate**

First Place	Elise Dobrzynski for “Dreadfully Ordinary Sins”
Second Place	Ava Kunnath for “Holy Are the Hands That Wreck”
Third Place	Qiyong Feng for “We don't talk about it”
Fourth Place	Macie Hayden for “The Devil in the Rearview”
Finalists	Sara Wong for “Hungry Ghost Festival” Muna Agwa for “Origins: Poems” Nathaniel Miller for “this resurrection”

### **Graduate**

First Place	Moon Boyoung for “Bird in an envelope”
Second Place	Desiree Dallagiacomo for “Blood Quantum Pastoral”
Third Place	Amogha Halepuram Sridhar for “The Grammar of Turning, On My Heel, Into God”
Fourth Place	Edgar Morales for “Portrait of a City”
Finalists	Jordan Stanley for “Near-Death Experience” Matt Dhillon for “The Disassembled Sky and Other Poems” Ben Hefter for “The Rubber Chicken Circuit”

## **Hopwood Fiction**

### **First- and Second-Year Undergraduate**

First Place	Siena Beres for “Pale Blue Dot”
Second Place	Amanda Bergman for “Advantage, Bennet”
Third Place	Elias Simon for “To the Shawangunks”
Fourth Place	Oummu Kabba for “The Librarian”
Fifth Place	Iliana Woloch for “Do Svidaniya Leningrad”

### **Undergraduate**

First Place	Paris LeClaire for “Three Brief Stories”
Second Place	Myrra Arya for “Hollow”
Third Place	Olivia Glynn for “Repair, Reprogram, Re-educate: A Simple Three Step Process to Fix Your Super-Computer”
Fourth Place	Alexandra Berryman for “A Boat Meant for Two”
Finalists	Hara Choi for “Sumbisori” Salem Loucks for “The Hour of Lies” Megan DeGrand for “Walk (Away) Man”

### **Graduate**

First Place	Brianna Uzoh for “Two Stories: ‘Splinka’ & ‘The Ghostface Dilemma’”
Second Place	Jazelle Jajeh for “Mediterranean Essentials / Authenticity”
Third Place	Micaela Daney for “Two Stories: ‘Whatever Creeps on the Earth’ and ‘The Bad Sex Board’”
Fourth Place	June Bumgardner for “Two Stories: ‘Vennessa Coulton’ & ‘The Other Side’”
Finalists	Isidoro Damiano for “The Trial of Pausanias” Jared Scribner for “Returns” Zach Anderson for “Tasi: Stories of the Ocean from Turtle Island”

## **Hopwood Nonfiction**

### **First- and Second-Year Undergraduate**

First Place (tie)	Samantha Jacobs for “Hoping Nobody Would Notice: My Life with Tourette Syndrome”
First Place (tie)	Lauren Chi for “The (Asian) American Dream”
Second Place	Alexandra Fierst for “Changeling”
Third Place	Victoria Halpin for “100 Beating Hearts”
Fourth Place	Warren Riccardi for “A Derangement of the Senses”

### **Undergraduate**

First Place	Maureen Waldner for “The Legend of Battle Creek”
Second Place	Tianyu Zhou for “The New Wave”
Third Place	Althea Bruggink for “On work, (loving & becoming real); Saying I Love You: An Environ 436 meditation”
Fourth Place	Samuel White for “I’ve Worn Many Hats”
Fifth Place	Alexander Goda-Blake for “The Ontology of an Art Briefcase”
Finalists	Jenna McIntire for “i’m still here” Claudia Torrey for “A Message in a Bottle”

### **Graduate**

First Place	Kabelo Sandile Motsoeneng for “What the War Museum of the Boer Republics Means to a Native”
Second Place	Etim Singkem for “The End of Carr Road”
Third Place	Anna Attie for “‘You Can’t Draw a Triangle’ and ‘No Main Characters’”
Fourth Place	Isidoro Damiano for “The Elements Essential to Life on Earth”
Finalists	Jennifer Nessel for “The Severity of the Ordeal, The Crime of Shame: My Embark on Reproductive Identity in the Reawakening of Attacks on Bodily Autonomy” June Bumgardner for “Two Essays: ‘An Essay is A Puzzle’ & ‘Notes On Suicide’”

## **Additional Contests**

### **Academy of American Poets Prize**

Graduate Division	Desiree Dallagiacomo for “Ten Weeks, Six Days”
Undergraduate Division	Elise Dobrzynski for “Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow”

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

First Place	Muna Agwa for “Origins: Poems”
Second Place	Ava Kunnath for “Holy Are the Hands That Wreck”

### **Bain-Swiggett Poetry Prize**

First Place	Edgar Morales for “The Alphabet, for Rosalba”
Second Place	Dagmawe Berhanu for “Mississippi Appendectomy”

### **Cora Duncan Award in Fiction**

First Place	Myrra Arya for “The Cobra Effect”
Second Place	Madilyn Carpenter-Sauvie for “Le Couche-Mal”
Third Place	Paige Wilson for “The Waiting of Margaret”

## **David Porter Award for Excellence in Journalism**

First Place	Astrid Code for “Abandoned Michigan cemetery unearths history of segregation – even in death”
Second Place	Taylor Bentley for “Close to Class, Far from Food: The Grocery Gap at the University of Michigan”

## **Frank and Gail Beaver Script Writing Prize**

Aleesia Mangham for “Malaya”

## **Jeffrey L. Weisberg Memorial Prize in Poetry**

First Place	Sandra Fernandez for “august's last bite”
Second Place	Anna Liao for “confessions of a goodbye”

## **Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing**

Ares Valdiviezo for “Stealing Venus”  
Robin Wyllie-Scholz for “Camp Dybbuk”

## **Keith Taylor Excellence in Poetry Award**

Tiffany Sudijono for “Inheritance of Ash and Rain”

## **Marjorie Rapaport Award in Poetry**

First Place	Alissa Vezikov for “pregnant with probabilities”
Second Place	Sara Wong for “My Sister as a Butcher”

## **Michael R. Gutterman Award in Poetry**

First Place	Desiree Dallagiacomo for “Cedar Lake Recreation Area, Hodgen, Choctaw Nation, Oklahoma”
Second Place	Moon Boyoung for “A letter from under the shoe sole”
Third Place	Matt Dhillon for “Lap Joint”

## **Peter Phillip Pratt Award in Fiction**

First Place	Minglu Jiang for “Shimmer Shimmer”
Second Place	Nathaniel Miller for “Stanzas on the End”
Third Place	Myrra Arya for “Hollow”

## **Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship**

### Ann Arbor

First Place	Myrra Arya for “Milk, Blood and Music : A Collection of Work”
Second Place	Harper Johnston for “The Land Speaks”
Third Place	Muna Agwa for “Origins: Poems”
Fourth Place	Paige Wilson for “Woman after Woman”
Fifth Place	Camille Nagy for “As a Feather”
Sixth Place	Ava Kunnath for “Holy Are the Hands That Wreck”
Seventh Place	Atlas Fister for “from a moth to his mother”
Eighth Place	Joey Messano for “Red Knuckles”
Ninth Place	Iliana Woloch for “21 Questions”

## **Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship** (continued)

### Ann Arbor (continued)

Tenth Place	Minglu Jiang for “Three Stories: ‘Shimmer Shimmer’, ‘Music When the Lights Go Out’, & ‘Madchester’”
Finalists	Oummu Kabba for “The Unravelings” Maureen Waldner for “Static”

### Dearborn

Winner	Francisco Korn for “The Devil in Dreams”
Finalists	Hunter Amo for “Draculaura's Collection” Alexia Musta for “A Collection of Stories”

## **Text/Image Composition Prize**

First Place	Tiffany Sudijono for “What the Hands Remember”
Second Place	Tyler Dunston for “A Field Guide to the Atmosphere”
Third Place	Jennifer Nessel for “Freud's Hysteria or ‘Why I Cut Up My Family Photos’”
Finalist	Elena Mills for “Comics for Palestine”
Finalist	Salem Loucks for “A Strange Newness”

## **Additional Awards**

These awards and prizes are “add-ons” to Hopwood Award contests.

### **Andrea Beauchamp Prize**

Brianna Uzoh for “Two Stories: ‘Splinka’ & ‘The Ghostface Dilemma’”

### **Chamberlain Award for Creative Writing**

Isidoro Damiano for “The Trial of Pausanias”  
Jared Scribner for “Returns”  
Zach Anderson for “Tasi: Stories of the Ocean from Turtle Island”

### **Dennis McIntyre Prize for Distinction in Undergraduate Playwriting**

Gonzalo Delgado for “Dear Michelangelo”  
Cecilia Bermudez for “Huntress”  
Simon Nigam for “Scenes from a Teenage Romance”  
Christian Bade for “The Waste”

### **Geoffrey James Gosling Prize**

Alejandro de la Garza for “Brightlands”

### **Helen J. Daniels Prize**

Maureen Waldner for “The Legend of Battle Creek”  
Tianyu Zhou for “The New Wave”

### **Helen S. and John Wagner Prize**

Moon Boyoung for “Bird in an envelope”

## **John Wagner Prize**

Kabelo Sandile Motsoeneng for “What the War Museum of the Boer Republics Means to a Native”

## **Leonard and Eileen Newman Writing Prize for Dramatic Writing**

Robert Fike for “Wolvey & Me”  
Olivia Tarling for “Stand Up”  
Ares Valdiviezo for “Stealing Venus”  
Zachary Forman for “Balefire”  
Hannah Cronin for “The Other Line”  
Alejandro Cantu for “Fantasia on a Lullaby”  
Robin Wyllie-Scholz for “Camp Dybbuk”

## **Leonard and Eileen Newman Writing Prize for Fiction**

Paris LeClaire for “Three Brief Stories”  
Myrra Arya for “Hollow”  
Olivia Glynn for “Repair, Reprogram, Re-educate: A Simple Three Step Process to Fix Your Super-Computer”  
Alexandra Berryman for “A Boat Meant for Two”  
Hara Choi for “Sumbisori”  
Salem Loucks for “The Hour of Lies”  
Megan DeGrand for “Walk (Away) Man”

## **Meador Family Award**

Jordan Stanley for “Near-Death Experience”  
Matt Dhillon for “The Disassembled Sky and Other Poems”  
Ben Hefter for “The Rubber Chicken Circuit”  
Caroline New for “Archives of the Altamaha”  
Edgar Morales for “Out in the Field, There Are No More Fences”  
Tyler Dunston for “Found Art”  
Peter Stuart for “of David”  
Ben Hefter for “Afraid of Americans”  
Marxie Colliver for “Handprints of a Home”  
Julie Zhou for “She Bloomed as a Butterfly”

## **Naomi Saferstein Literary Award**

Robert Fike for “Wolvey & Me”  
Olivia Tarling for “Stand Up”

## **Paul and Sonia Handleman Award**

Elise Dobrzynski for “Dreadfully Ordinary Sins”  
Ava Kunnath for “Holy Are the Hands That Wreck”

## **Robert F. Haugh Prize**

Paris LeClaire for “Three Brief Stories”

## **Roy and Helen Meador Award**

Jaxson Kaplan-Rudolph for “Chromesthesia”  
Siena Beres for “Pale Blue Dot”

## **Stanley S. Schwartz Prize**

Myrra Arya for “Hollow”

# The 2026 Hopwood Awards Contest Judges

## Hopwood Drama

Preliminary Judges: Carson Grace Becker and Julianna Gonzalez  
Final Judges: Cris Eli Blak and Kristin Idaszak

## Hopwood Screenplay

Preliminary Judges: Ashley Whitaker and Warner James Wood  
Final Judges: Cole Haddon and Mick Hurbis-Cherrier

## Hopwood Novel

Preliminary Judges: Roohi Choudhry and E.Y. Zhao  
Final Judges: Ravi Howard and Kiley Reid

## Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize

Preliminary Judge: Michael M. Weinstein  
Final Judge: Shane McCrae

## Hopwood First- and Second-Year Undergraduate Poetry

David Hornibrook and Gala Mukomolova

## Hopwood Graduate/Undergraduate Poetry

Preliminary Judges: Tommye Blount and Jaswinder Bolina (Graduate)  
Susanna Lang and Mairead Small Staid (Undergraduate)  
Final Judges: Douglas Kearney and G.C. Waldrep

## Hopwood First- and Second-Year Undergraduate Fiction

RS Deeren and Jennifer Galvão

## Hopwood Graduate/Undergraduate Fiction

Preliminary Judges: Nishanth Injam and Bonnie Nadzam (Graduate)  
Samantha Edmonds and Sara Schaff (Undergraduate)  
Final Judges: Allegra Hyde

## Hopwood First- and Second-Year Undergraduate Nonfiction

Kristin VanEyck and Crystal VanKooten

## **Hopwood Graduate/Undergraduate Nonfiction**

Preliminary Judges: Carmen Bugar and Margaret Lazarus Dean (Graduate)  
Lisa D. Chavez and Brett M. Griffiths (Undergraduate)

Final Judges: Omar El Akkad and Wendy S. Walters

## **Academy of American Poets Prize (Undergraduate), Jeffrey L. Weisberg Memorial Prize in Poetry, Marjorie Rapaport Award in Poetry**

Perry Janes

## **Academy of American Poets Prize (Graduate), Bain-Swiggett Poetry Prize, Michael R. Gutterman Award in Poetry**

Carlina Duan

## **Arthur Miller Award of the University of Michigan Club of New York Scholarship Fund, Peter Philip Pratt Award in Fiction**

Kelsey Ronan

## **Cora Duncan Award in Fiction**

Jen Knox

## **David Porter Award for Excellence in Journalism**

Briana Rice

## **Frank and Gail Beaver Script Writing Prize**

Film, Television, and Media Undergraduate Committee

## **Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing**

Preliminary Judge: Frank Beaver  
Final Judge: Katie Plott and Lawrence Kasdan

## **Keith Taylor Excellence in Poetry Award**

Keith Taylor

## **Peter Phillip Pratt Award in Fiction**

Kelsey Ronan

## **Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship**

Ruth Ann Schmitt

## **Hopwood Awards Contest Judges** (continued)

### **Text/Image Composition Prize**

Gabrielle Civil

## **2026 Hopwood Committee**

Laura Kasischke, Hopwood Director  
Rebecca Manery, Hopwood Program Manager  
Jim Burnstein  
Jeremiah Chamberlin  
Aliyah Khan  
Aram Mrjoian  
Esther Okonkwo  
James Pinto  
Laura Thomas  
Cody Walker

## **Hopwood Program Staff**

Rebecca Manery	Hopwood Program Manager
Grace Johnson	Hopwood Administrative Assistant
Ava DeMar	Hopwood Program Assistant