



# The Hopwood Awards Ceremony

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026



| LSA

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
HOPWOOD AWARDS PROGRAM  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

# Welcome to the 95th Hopwood Awards Ceremony



At a time of turbulence and uncertainty, it's especially rewarding to welcome you to the 2026 Hopwood Awards Ceremony and a 95-year-old tradition of honoring excellence in student writing at the University of Michigan. This tradition began with a gift from Avery Hopwood, a well-known Broadway playwright of the Jazz Age who left one-fifth of his considerable fortune to fund the Avery Hopwood and Jule Hopwood Prizes at his alma mater. His will stipulated that "students competing for prizes shall be allowed the widest possible latitude and that the new, the unusual, and the radical shall be especially encouraged." Since 1931, the Hopwood Awards have afforded generations of University of Michigan students with a supporting foundation for their literary careers, among them Arthur Miller, Robert Hayden, Lawrence Kasdan, and Jesmyn Ward.

This year's contest submissions were carefully read and evaluated by a roster of 47 distinguished writers. Their publication credits and other honors are listed at the end of this program. Several are U-M alumni and Hopwood laureates who were especially excited to support new writers in the same way they were nurtured as Hopwood Award winners. From a record 1,165 submissions by students at all three campuses, the judges selected the winners and finalists who will be honored this evening. As happens every year, many judges said their tasks were made difficult by the high caliber of the submissions.

The Hopwood Program's tradition of supporting student writers doesn't end with the Hopwood Awards. Since the 1930s, students have gathered to read, write, and socialize in the Hopwood Room (1176 Angell Hall). After graduation, the annual Hopwood newsletter keeps laureates in touch with the program and one another. The Hopwood Library includes hundreds of books written by former Hopwood winners. No living person is more responsible for maintaining this unbroken tradition of support than Dr. Andrea Beauchamp, Assistant Director of the Hopwood Program from 1979 to 2017 and the recipient of this year's Avery Award for outstanding service to the Hopwood Program. We owe her enormous thanks for her hard work, steady hand, and guiding light.

The Hopwood Program is thrilled to welcome the award-winning author, editor, professor, and cultural critic Roxane Gay as this year's Hopwood Lecturer. Her critically acclaimed books include *Bad Feminist* (2014), *An Untamed State* (2014), *Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body* (2017), *Difficult Women* (2017), *Ayiti* (2018), and *Opinions: A Decade of Arguments, Criticism, and Minding Other People's Business* (2024). You can purchase Roxane Gay's books at the Schuler Books table near the ballroom entrance and have them signed after the ceremony.

Please join me in congratulating the 2026 Hopwood Award winners and finalists.

**Rebecca Manery**

Hopwood Program Manager

# Order of Events

**Welcome**

Laura Kasischke

**Opening Remarks**

Rebecca Manery

**Presentation of Awards**

Hopwood Committee

**Presentation of Avery Award to  
Andrea Beauchamp**

Rebecca Manery  
Laura Kasischke

**Introduction of the Hopwood Lecturer**

Aisha Sabatini Sloan

**Hopwood Lecture**

Roxane Gay

**Hopwood Committee**

*Ceremony presenters in bold*

**Jim Burnstein**  
**Jeremy Chamberlin**  
**Laura Kasischke**  
Aliyah Khan  
**Rebecca Manery**

Aram Mrjoian  
**Esther Okonkwo**  
James Pinto  
**Laura Thomas**  
**Cody Walker**

**Hopwood Staff**

Laura Kasischke, Director  
Rebecca Manery, Program Manager  
Grace Johnson, Administrative Assistant  
Ava DeMar, Hopwood Program Assistant

Schuler Books is the on-site bookseller for the Hopwood Awards Program.

Closed captioning by Annette Blough.

Event photography by Ellen Chaney.

Poster design by Raquel Buckley.

Special thanks to: Erica Jolokai, Julie Cadman-Kim, Dominique Witten, Rick Smoke, Amanda Austin and the staff of the Michigan League, and the University of Michigan Spectrum Center.



# 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** Carson Grace Becker and Julianna Gonzalez

**Final Judges** Cris Eli Blak and Kristin Idaszak

### First Place (tie)

Gonzalo Delgado

“Dear Michelangelo”

Class of 2027

SMTD, Theatre Performance: Directing

### Finalist

Jennifer Nessel

“Speak, That You May Understand”

Class of 2026

Helen Zell Writers' Program

### First Place (tie)

Cecilia Bermudez

“Huntress”

Class of 2027

LSA, English; SMTD, Theatre Arts

### Finalist

Christian Bade

“The Waste”

Class of 2027

LSA, Statistics

### Second Place

Katriona Voogd

“Club Spencer”

Class of 2026

School of Information, Libraries, Archives,  
and Knowledge Environments in Society

### Finalist

Jason Lesiewicz

“Breeding: A Play of the Future”

Class of 2026

Rackham, Public Administration

### Third Place

Simon Nigam

“Scenes from a Teenage Romance”

Class of 2028

SMTD, Theatre and Drama: Acting

# Hopwood Screenplay

**Preliminary Judges** Ashley Whitaker and Warner James Wood

**Final Judges** Cole Haddon and Mick Hurbis-Cherrier

First Place (tie)

Bob Fike  
“Wolvey & Me”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

Finalist

Hannah Cronin  
“The Other Line”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

First Place (tie)

Olivia Tarling  
“Stand Up”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, Film, Television, and Media, English

Finalist

Alejandro Cantu  
“Fantasia on a Lullaby”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

Second Place

Ares Valdiviezo  
“Stealing Venus”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, Film, Television, and Media, Psychology

Finalist

Robin Wyllie-Scholz  
“Camp Dybbuk”  
Class of 2025  
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

Third Place

Zach Forman  
“Balefire”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

# Hopwood Novel

**Preliminary Judges** Roohi Choudhry and E.Y. Zhao

**Final Judges** Ravi Howard and Kiley Reid

First Place

Alejandro de la Garza  
“Brightlands”  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Fourth Place

Anuttara Lath  
“A Dark Dark Night”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, Residential College, Creative Writing & Literature, Philosophy

Second Place

Anna Attie  
“Are You Mad?”  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Fifth Place

Sara Abbood  
“Sea Legs”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, General Studies

Third Place

Sophie Weisskoff  
“Off Off”  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers' Program

# Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize

## Preliminary Judge

Michael M. Weinstein

## Final Judge

Shane McCrae

### First Place

Charlotte Trumble  
“Whatever Divides the Hoof”  
Class of 2027  
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

### Finalist

Tyler Dunston  
“Found Art”  
Class of 2027  
Rackham, English Language & Literature

### Second Place

Emily Tian  
“Predicaments”  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

### Finalist

Peter Stuart  
“of David”  
Class of 2027  
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

### Finalist

Caroline New  
“Archives of the Altamaha”  
Class of 2031  
Rackham, Anthropology

### Finalist

Ben Hefter  
“Afraid of Americans”  
Class of 2027  
Law, Juris Doctor

### Finalist

Matt Dhillon  
“The Disassembled Sky”  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

### Finalist

Marxie Colliver  
“Handprints of a Home”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, English

### Finalist

Edgar Morales  
“Out in the Field, There Are No More Fences”  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

### Finalist

Julie Zhou  
“She Bloomed as a Butterfly”  
Class of 2027  
UMSI, Master of Science in Information

# Hopwood Poetry

## Hopwood First- and Second-Year Poetry

### Judges

David Hornibrook and Gala Mukomolova

#### First Place

Jaxson Kaplan-Rudolph  
"Chromesthesia"  
Class of 2029  
LSA, Intended Public Policy

#### Third Place

Valerie Edem  
"Drowning in Milk"  
Class of 2029  
LSA, Psychology

#### Second Place

Atlas Fister  
"Icarian Transdivinity"  
Class of 2029  
LSA, Residential College, Creative  
Writing & Literature

#### Fourth Place

Sandra Fernandez  
"Drifting Dreaming Angel Girl"  
Class of 2028  
LSA, Anthropology

## Hopwood Undergraduate Poetry

### Preliminary Judges

Susanna Lang and Mairead Small Staid

### Final Judges

Douglas Kearney and G.C. Waldrep

#### First Place

Elise Dobrzynski  
"Dreadfully Ordinary Sins"  
Class of 2026  
LSA, English Honors, Secondary Education

#### Finalist

Sara Wong  
"Hungry Ghost Festival"  
Class of 2026  
LSA, English

#### Second Place

Ava Kunnath  
"Holy Are the Hands That Wreck"  
Class of 2027  
LSA, Creative Writing

#### Finalist

Munachimso "Muna" Agwa  
"Origins: Poems"  
Class of 2027  
LSA, Neuroscience

#### Third Place

Qiyong Feng  
"We don't talk about it"  
Class of 2026  
LSA

#### Finalist

Nate Miller  
"this resurrection"  
Class of 2027  
LSA, English

#### Fourth Place

Macie Hayden Richardson  
"The Devil in the Rearview"  
Class of 2026  
LSA, Residential College, Creative Writing &  
Literature, Linguistics

# Hopwood Graduate Poetry

## Preliminary Judges

Tommye Blount and Jaswinder Bolina

## Final Judges

Douglas Kearney and G.C. Waldrep

### First Place

Moon Boyoung  
"Bird in an envelope"  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers' Program

### Finalist

Jordan Stanley  
"Near-Death Experience"  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers' Program

### Second Place

Desireé Bewley Dallagiacomo  
"Blood Quantum Pastoral"  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers' Program

### Finalist

Matt Dhillon  
"The Disassembled Sky and Other Poems"  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers' Program

### Third Place

Amogha  
"The Grammar of Turning, On My Heel, Into God"  
Class of 2027  
Helen Zell Writers' Program

### Finalist

Ben Hefter  
"The Rubber Chicken Circuit"  
Class of 2027  
Law, Juris Doctor

### Fourth Place

Edgar Morales  
"Portrait of a City"  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers' Program

# Hopwood Fiction

## Hopwood First- and Second- Year Fiction

### Judges

RS Deeren and Jennifer Galvão

#### First Place

Siena Beres  
“Pale Blue Dot”  
Class of 2028  
LSA, English

#### Fourth Place

Oummu Kabba  
“The Librarian”  
Class of 2028  
LSA, Creative Writing

#### Second Place

Amanda Bergman  
“Advantage, Bennet”  
Class of 2029  
LSA, English

#### Fifth Place

Iliana Woloch  
“Do Svidaniya Leningrad”  
Class of 2028  
LSA

#### Third Place

Elias Miguel Simon  
“To the Shawangunks”  
Class of 2029  
LSA, Anthropology

## Hopwood Undergraduate Fiction

### Preliminary Judges

Samantha Edmonds and Sara Schaff

### Final Judges

Allegra Hyde

#### First Place

Paris LeClaire  
“Three Brief Stories”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, English

#### Fourth Place

Alexandra Berryman  
“A Boat Meant for Two”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, Residential College, Creative Writing, Psychology

#### Second Place

Myrra Arya  
“Hollow”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, BSC

#### Finalist

Hara Choi  
“Sumbisori”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, Molecular Cellular Developmental Biology

#### Third Place

Olivia Glynn  
“Repair, Reprogram, Re-educate: A Simple  
Three Step Process to Fix Your Super-Computer”  
Class of 2027  
STAMPS, Art & Design

#### Finalist

Salem Loucks  
“The Hour of Lies”  
Class of 2026  
Engineering, Computer Science

#### Finalist

Megan DeGrand  
“Walk (Away) Man”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, English

# Hopwood Graduate Fiction

**Preliminary Judges** Nishanth Injam and Bonnie Nadzam

**Final Judges** Allegra Hyde

## First Place

Brianna Uzoh  
"Two Stories: 'Splinka' & 'The Ghostface Dilemma'"  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers' Program

## Second Place

Jazelle Jajeh  
"Mediterranean Essentials / Authenticity"  
Class of 2027  
Helen Zell Writers' Program

## Third Place

Micaela Daney  
"Two Stories: 'Whatever Creeps on the Earth' and  
'The Bad Sex Board'"  
Class of 2027  
Helen Zell Writers' Program

## Fourth Place

June Bumgardner  
"Two Stories: 'Venessa Coulton' & 'The Other Side'"  
Class of 2030  
Rackham, English Language & Literature

## Finalist

Arielle Damiana  
"The Trial of Pausanias"  
Class of 2026  
Rackham, Biological Chemistry

## Finalist

Jared Scribner  
"Returns"  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers' Program

## Finalist

Zach Anderson  
"Tasi: Stories of the Ocean from Turtle Island"  
Class of 2027  
Helen Zell Writers' Program

# Hopwood Nonfiction

## Hopwood First- and Second-Year Nonfiction

### Judges

Kristin VanEyck and Crystal VanKooten

#### First Place (tie)

Samantha Jacobs  
“Hoping Nobody Would Notice: My Life  
with Tourette Syndrome”  
Class of 2029  
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

#### First Place (tie)

Lauren Chi  
“The (Asian) American Dream”  
Class of 2028  
LSA, English, Biology, Health, & Society

#### Second Place

Alexandra Fierst  
“Changeling”  
Class of 2029  
LSA, Anthropological Archaeology

#### Third Place

Victoria Halpin  
“100 Beating Hearts”  
Class of 2029  
Nursing

#### Fourth Place

Warren Riccardi  
“A Derangement of the Senses”  
Class of 2028  
LSA, Economics, Philosophy

## Hopwood Undergraduate Nonfiction

### Preliminary Judges

Lisa D. Chavez and Brett M. Griffiths

### Final Judges

Omar El Akkad and Wendy S. Walters

#### First Place

Maureen Waldner  
“The Legend of Battle Creek”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, English

#### Second Place

Darrin Zhou  
“The New Wave”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, Cognitive Science, Computer Science

#### Third Place

Althea Rhiannon  
“On work, (loving & becoming real);  
Saying I Love You: An Environ 436 meditation”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, Program in the Environment

#### Fourth Place

Samuel White  
“I've Worn Many Hats”  
Class of 2028  
LSA, English

#### Fifth Place

Alexander Goda-Blake  
“The Ontology of an Art Briefcase”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, General Studies

#### Finalist

Jenna McIntire  
“i'm still here”  
Class of 2027  
Criminal Justice, Sociology

#### Finalist

Claudia Torrey  
“A Message in a Bottle”  
Class of 2029  
LSA, Anthropology

# Hopwood Graduate Nonfiction

## Preliminary Judges

Carmen Bugan and Margaret Lazarus Dean

## Final Judges

Omar El Akkad and Wendy S. Walters

### First Place

Kabelo Sandile Motsoeneng  
“What the War Museum of the Boer Republics  
Means to a Native”  
Class of 2030  
Rackham, English Language & Literature

### Second Place

Etim Singkem  
“The End of Carr Road”  
Class of 2027  
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

### Third Place

Anna Attie  
“‘You Can’t Draw a Triangle’ and ‘No Main  
Characters’”  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

### Fourth Place

Arielle Damiana  
“The Elements Essential to Life on Earth”  
Class of 2026  
Rackham, Biological Chemistry

### Finalist

Jennifer Nessel  
“The Severity of the Ordeal, The Crime of  
Shame: My Embark on Reproductive Identity in  
the Reawakening of Attacks on Bodily  
Autonomy”  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

### Finalist

June Bumgardner  
“Two Essays: ‘An Essay is A Puzzle’ & ‘Notes On  
Suicide’”  
Class of 2030  
Rackham, English Language & Literature

# Other Juried Awards

## Academy of American Poets Prize

### Judges

Carlina Duan (Graduate) and Perry Janes (Undergraduate)

#### Graduate Winner

Desireé Bewley Dallagiacomo  
“Ten Weeks, Six Days”  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

#### Undergraduate Winner

Elise Dobrzynski  
“Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, English Honors, Secondary Education

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

### Judge

Kelsey Ronan

#### First Place

Munachimso "Muna" Agwa  
“Origins: Poems”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, Neuroscience

#### Second Place

Ava Kunnath  
“Holy Are the Hands That Wreck”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, Creative Writing

## Bain-Swiggett Prize

### Judge

Carlina Duan

#### First Place

Edgar Morales  
“The Alphabet, for Rosalba”  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers' Program

#### Second Place

Dagmawe Berhanu  
“Mississippi Appendectomy”  
Class of 2027  
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

## Cora Duncan Award in Fiction

### Judge

Jen Knox

#### First Place

Myrra Arya  
“The Cobra Effect”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, BSC

#### Third Place

Paige Wilson  
“The Waiting of Margaret”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, English

#### Second Place

Madilyn Carpenter-Sauvie  
“Le Couche-Mal”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, English

## David Porter Award for Excellence in Journalism

**Judge** Briana Rice

First Place

Astrid Code  
“Abandoned Michigan cemetery unearths  
history of segregation — even in death”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, English

Second Place

Taylor Jordan Bentley  
“Close to Class, Far from Food: The Grocery Gap  
at the University of Michigan”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, Program in the Environment

## Frank and Gail Beaver Script Writing Prize

**Judge** Film, Television, and Media Undergraduate Committee

Winner

Aleesia Mangham  
“Malaya”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

## Jeffrey L. Weisberg Memorial Prize in Poetry

**Judge** Perry Janes

First Place

Sandra Fernandez  
“august’s last bite”  
Class of 2028  
LSA, Anthropology

Second Place

Anna Liao  
“confessions of a goodbye”  
Class of 2029  
LSA, Biophysics

## Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing

**Preliminary Judge** Frank Beaver

**Final Judges** Katie Plott and Lawrence Kasdan

Winner

Ares Valdiviezo  
“Stealing Venus”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, Film, Television, and Media, Psychology

Winner

Robin Wyllie-Scholz  
“Camp Dybbuk”  
Class of 2025  
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

## Keith Taylor Award for Excellence in Poetry

**Judge** Keith Taylor

Winner

Tiffany Phoebe Sudijono  
“Inheritance of Ash and Rain”  
Class of 2028  
LSA, Cognitive Science, Information Science

## Marjorie Rapaport Award in Poetry

**Judge**

Perry Janes

First Place

Alissa Vezikov

“pregnant with probabilities”

Class of 2026

LSA, Psychology, Economics

Second Place

Sara Wong

“My Sister as a Butcher”

Class of 2026

LSA, English

## Michael R. Gutterman Award in Poetry

**Judge**

Carlina Duan

First Place

Desireé Bewley Dallagiacomo

“Cedar Lake Recreation Area, Hodgen,

Choctaw Nation, Oklahoma”

Class of 2026

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Third Place

Matt Dhillon

“Lap Joint”

Class of 2026

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Second Place

Moon Boyoung

“A letter from under the shoe sole”

Class of 2026

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

## Peter Phillip Pratt Award in Fiction

**Judge**

Kelsey Ronan

First Place

Minglu Jiang

“Shimmer Shimmer”

Class of 2027

LSA, Economics

Third Place

Myrra Arya

“Hollow”

Class of 2026

LSA, BSC

Second Place

Nate Miller

“Stanzas on the End”

Class of 2027

LSA, English

# Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship

**Judge**

Ruth Ann Schmitt

First Place—Ann Arbor

Myrra Arya  
“Milk, Blood and Music : A Collection of Work”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, BSC

Second Place—Ann Arbor

Harper Rose Johnston  
“The Land Speaks”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, Residential College, Creative Writing  
& Literature, English

Third Place—Ann Arbor

Munachimso "Muna" Agwa  
“Origins: Poems”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, Neuroscience

Fourth Place—Ann Arbor

Paige Wilson  
“Woman after Woman”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, English

Fifth Place—Ann Arbor

Camille Nagy  
“As a Feather”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, Residential College, Creative Writing  
& Literature, English

Sixth Place—Ann Arbor

Ava Kunnath  
“Holy Are the Hands That Wreck”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, Creative Writing

Seventh Place—Ann Arbor

Atlas Fister  
“from a moth to his mother”  
Class of 2029  
LSA, Residential College, Creative Writing  
& Literature

Eighth Place—Ann Arbor

Joey Messano  
“Red Knuckles”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, Political Science, Film, Television, and Media

Ninth Place—Ann Arbor

Iliana Woloch  
“21 Questions”  
Class of 2028  
LSA

Tenth Place—Ann Arbor

Minglu Jiang  
“Three Stories: ‘Shimmer Shimmer’, ‘Music When  
the Lights Go Out’, & ‘Madchester’”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, Economics

Finalist—Ann Arbor

Oummu Kabba  
“The Unravelings”  
Class of 2028  
LSA, Creative Writing

Finalist—Ann Arbor

Maureen Waldner  
“Static”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, English

Winner—Dearborn

Francisco Korn Spinoso  
“The Devil in Dreams”  
Class of 2028  
LSA, Philosophy

Finalist—Dearborn

Hunter Amo  
“Draculaura's Collection”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, English

Finalist—Dearborn

Alexia Musta  
“A Collection of Stories”  
Class of 2026  
Health and Human Services

# Text/Image Composition Prize

## Judge

Gabrielle Civil

### First Place

Tiffany Phoebe Sudijono

“What the Hands Remember”

Class of 2028

LSA, Cognitive Science, Information Science

### Second Place

Tyler Dunston

“A Field Guide to the Atmosphere”

Class of 2027

Rackham, English Language & Literature

### Third Place

Jennifer Nessel

“Freud's Hysteria or ‘Why I Cut Up My Family Photos’”

Class of 2026

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

### Finalist

Elena Mills

“Comics for Palestine”

Class of 2026

LSA, English, Arts & Ideas in the Humanities

### Finalist

Salem Loucks

“A Strange Newness”

Class of 2026

Engineering, Computer Science

# Additional Prizes

## Andrea Beauchamp Prize

Brianna Uzoh  
“Two Stories: ‘Splinka’ & ‘The Ghostface Dilemma’”  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

## Chamberlain Award for Creative Writing

Arielle Damiana  
“The Trial of Pausanias”  
Class of 2026  
Rackham, Biological Chemistry

Zach Anderson  
“Tasi: Stories of the Ocean from Turtle Island”  
Class of 2027  
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Jared Scribner  
“Returns”  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

## Dennis McIntyre Prize for Distinction in Undergraduate Playwriting

Gonzalo Delgado  
“Dear Michelangelo”  
Class of 2027  
SMTD, Theatre Performance: Directing

Simon Nigam  
“Scenes from a Teenage Romance”  
Class of 2028  
SMTD, Theatre and Drama: Acting

Cecilia Bermudez  
“Huntress”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, English; SMTD, Theatre Arts

## Geoffrey James Gosling Prize

Alejandro de la Garza  
“Brightlands”  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers' Program

## Helen J. Daniels Prize

Maureen Waldner  
“The Legend of Battle Creek”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, English

Darrin Zhou  
“The New Wave”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, Cognitive Science, Computer Science

## Helen S. and John Wagner Prize

Moon Boyoung  
“Bird in an envelope”  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

## John Wagner Prize

Kabelo Sandile Motsoeneng  
“What the War Museum of the Boer Republics  
Means to a Native”  
Class of 2030  
Rackham, English Language & Literature

## Leonard and Eileen Newman Prize for Dramatic Writing

Bob Fike  
“Wolvey & Me”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

Hannah Cronin  
“The Other Line”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

Olivia Tarling  
“Stand Up”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, English, Film, Television, and Media

Alejandro Cantu  
“Fantasia on a Lullaby”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

Ares Valdiviezo  
“Stealing Venus”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, Film, Television, and Media, Psychology

Robin Wyllie-Scholz  
“Camp Dybbuk”  
Class of 2025  
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

Zach Forman  
“Balefire”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

## Leonard and Eileen Newman Prize for Fiction

Paris LeClaire  
“Three Brief Stories”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, English

Alexandra Berryman  
“A Boat Meant for Two”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, Psychology, RC Creative Writing

Myrra Arya  
“Hollow”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, BSC

Hara Choi  
“Sumbisori”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, Molecular Cellular Developmental Biology

Olivia Glynn  
“Repair, Reprogram, Re-educate: A Simple Three Step  
Process to Fix Your Super-Computer”  
Class of 2027  
STAMPS, Art & Design

Salem Loucks  
“The Hour of Lies”  
Class of 2026  
Engineering, Computer Science

## **Leonard and Eileen Newman Prize for Fiction (continued)**

Megan DeGrand  
“Walk (Away) Man”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, English

## **Meader Family Award**

Jordan Stanley  
“Near-Death Experience”  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Tyler Dunston  
“Found Art”  
Class of 2027  
Rackham, English Language & Literature

Matt Dhillon  
“The Disassembled Sky and Other Poems”  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Peter Stuart  
“of David”  
Class of 2027  
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Ben Hefter  
“The Rubber Chicken Circuit”  
Class of 2027  
Law, Juris Doctor

Ben Hefter  
“Afraid of Americans”  
Class of 2027  
Law, Juris Doctor

Caroline New  
“Archives of the Altamaha”  
Class of 2031  
Rackham, Anthropology

Marxie Colliver  
“Handprints of a Home”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, English

Edgar Morales  
“Out in the Field, There Are No More Fences”  
Class of 2026  
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Julie Zhou  
“She Bloomed as a Butterfly”  
Class of 2027  
UMSI, Master of Science in Information

## **Naomi Saferstein Literary Award**

Bob Fike  
“Wolvey & Me”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

Olivia Tarling  
“Stand Up”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, English, Film, Television, and Media

## **Paul and Sonia Handleman Poetry Award**

Elise Dobrzynski  
“Dreadfully Ordinary Sins”  
Class of 2026  
LSA, English Honors, Secondary Education

Ava Kunnath  
“Holy Are the Hands That Wreck”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, Creative Writing

## **Robert F. Haugh Prize**

Paris LeClaire  
“Three Brief Stories”  
Class of 2027  
LSA, English

## **Roy and Helen Meador Award**

Jaxson Kaplan-Rudolph  
"Chromesthesia"  
Class of 2029  
LSA, Intended Public Policy

Siena Beres  
"Pale Blue Dot"  
Class of 2028  
LSA, English

## **Stanley S. Schwartz Prize**

Myrra Arya  
"Hollow"  
Class of 2026  
LSA, BSC

The Hopwood Program congratulates

# Andrea Beauchamp

Recipient of the 2026 Avery Award

for Outstanding Service to the Hopwood Program



Former Hopwood Assistant Director Andrea Beauchamp served the Hopwood Program from 1979 to 2017, the longest-serving Hopwood staff member in the program's history. During her tenure, Dr. Beauchamp managed the Hopwood Awards contest and the Hopwood Room and Library; composed the biannual Hopwood Newsletter; co-edited the anthology, *The Hopwood Awards: 75 Years of Prized Writing*; assisted in fundraising, establishing many new prizes; organized three anniversary celebrations; and administered the Visiting Writers Program. Please join us in congratulating Andrea for this well-deserved recognition!

The Hopwood Program proudly presents

*The 2026 Hopwood Lecturer*

# Roxane Gay



ROXANE GAY is an award-winning author of multiple bestselling books, including *Bad Feminist*, *Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body*, *Difficult Women*, and *An Untamed State*. A Guggenheim Fellow, she is a contributing opinion writer for *The New York Times* and the first Black woman to lead a Marvel title, writing *World of Wakanda*. She holds an endowed professorship at Rutgers University and runs her own publishing imprint, Roxane Gay Books.

# The 2026 Hopwood Judges

**Frank Beaver** (*Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing, Preliminary*) 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. In 2025 he received the inaugural Avery Award in recognition of his outstanding service to the Hopwood Awards Program.

**Carson Grace Becker** (*Hopwood Drama, Preliminary*) is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter whose work has been commissioned and produced throughout the country, including by The Goodman Theatre, Nebraska Repertory, and Honolulu Theatre for Youth. A former Artistic Director of Chicago Dramatists, she is also the founder of The Root & The Bloom, a Humanities non-profit based in Butte, MT. Her accolades include a Joseph Jefferson Award, The Ofner Prize, and two Illinois Arts Council artistic merit grants, alongside placement awards at the LA New Wave and Austin Film Festivals. Becker has extensive teaching experience, holding positions at The University of Chicago/Graham School, Columbia College, and Roosevelt University, and has been a guest artist at institutions such as NYU and the University of Iowa. She holds a BA in English Literature and Women's Studies from UCLA and an MFA in Playwriting from the University of Iowa.

**Cris Eli Blak's** (*Hopwood Drama, Final*) work has been produced and performed around the world. He is a staff writer on the hit series, *Power Book III: Raising Kanan*. He is the inaugural winner of the Black Broadway Men Playwriting Initiative, the 2024 Charles M. Getchell New Play Award, and the Atlanta Shakespeare Company's inaugural winner of the Muse of Fire BIPOC Playwriting Festival. He is currently the recipient of the 2025-26 Signpost Fellowship, an artist-in-residence with Abingdon Theatre Company, a 24-2027 Core Writer with The Playwrights Center and a member of the Evolving Playwrights Group with Circle X Theatre Company. His work has been published by Smith & Kraus, Inc., Ghost Light Publications, 1319 Press, Flowersong Press, YOUTHPlays, Applause Books, The PlayGround Experiment, New World Theatre, Breath of Fire Latina Theater Ensemble, and in the Black Theatre Review.

**Tommye Blount** (*Hopwood Graduate Poetry, Preliminary*) is the author of the chapbook, *What Are We Not For* (Bull City Press), and the full-length collection of poetry, *Fantasia for the Man in Blue* (Four Way Books)—which was a finalist for the National Book Award, the Kate Tufts Discovery Award, the Lambda Literary Award in Gay Poetry, the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, and others. A graduate from Warren Wilson College's MFA Program for Writers, he is the recipient of commendations, fellowships, and grants from: the Hawthornden Foundation, the Desert Rat Residency, the Whiting Foundation, Cave Canem, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Kresge Arts in Detroit, and the Aninstantia Foundation. Born and raised in Detroit, Tommye currently lives in Novi, Michigan.

**Jaswinder Bolina's** (*Hopwood Graduate Poetry, Preliminary*) most recent book, *English as a Second Language and Other Poems* (Copper Canyon 2023), was awarded the 2025 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award from Claremont Graduate University. He is author of three previous poetry collections, *The 44th of July* (2019), *Phantom Camera* (2013), and *Carrier Wave* (2007), and of the essay collection *Of Color* (2020).

**Carmen Bugan** (*Hopwood Graduate Nonfiction, Preliminary*), George Orwell Prize Fellow, is an award-winning author of ten books that include memoir, essays, and criticism. Her work has been translated into several languages, gathered international praise, and has been widely anthologized. Carmen's selected poems, *Lilies from America*, won a Poetry Book Society (UK) Special Commendation, and her book of essays on politics and poetics, *Poetry and the Language of Oppression* (Oxford Univ. Press), was named "an essential book for writers" by *Poets and Writers* magazine. Carmen's memoir, *Burying the Typewriter*, won the Bread Loaf Nonfiction Prize, was shortlisted for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize and the Orwell Prize for Political Writing, was BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week, and has been featured on NPR, ABC, PRI and the BBC. The book will be released again as a "modern classic" with Picador/ Macmillan in June 2026. Carmen was educated at the University of Michigan (BA), Lancaster University, UK (MFA), and Oxford University, UK (PhD), and she has been teaching creative writing worldwide for over twenty years to people aged 12 to 92.

**Lisa Chavez (she/her)** (*Hopwood Undergraduate Nonfiction, Preliminary*) has published two books of poetry, *Destruction Bay* and *In An Angry Season*, and has had poems anthologized in *Floriscanto Si!: U.S. Latina Poets*, *Camino del Sol: Fifteen Years of Latina and Latino Writing*, and elsewhere. Her essays have appeared in *Arts and Letters*, *The Fourth Genre* and other magazines, and in anthologies including *The Other Latin@: Writing Against a Singular Identity*, and *An Angle of Vision: Women Writers on their Poor and Working Class Roots*. She lives in the mountains in New Mexico and teaches in the MFA program at the University of New Mexico.

**Roohi Choudhry** (*Hopwood Novel, Preliminary*) was born in Pakistan and grew up in southern Africa. She is the author of *Outside Women* (University Press of Kentucky, 2025), named one of the most anticipated feminist books of 2025 by *Ms. Magazine* and described as "riveting... an incisive story of how change happens" by *Publishers' Weekly*. She holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of Michigan and is the recipient of a New York Foundation for the Arts fellowship and residencies at Hedgebrook and Djerassi. Her stories and essays have appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Adi Magazine*, *Longreads*, *Poets & Writers*, and the *Kenyon Review*. She worked as a researcher in urban placemaking, criminal justice reform and public health, wrote for the United Nations, and facilitated workshops for community organizations. Learn more at [roohichoudhry.com](http://roohichoudhry.com).

**Gabrielle Civil** (*Text/Image Composition Prize*) is a black feminist performance artist, poet, and writer, originally from Detroit, MI. She has premiered over fifty original performances worldwide, most recently "sealing" (2025), *My San Francisco* (2024) and *Black Weirdo School* (Pop Up Critique) (2023). Her performance memoirs include *Swallow the Fish* (2017), *Experiments in Joy* (2019), *(ghost gestures)* (2021), *the déjà vu* (2022), and *In & Out of Place* (2024). Her writing has also appeared in *New Daughters of Africa*, *Kitchen Table Translation*, *Teaching Black*, and *A Mouth Holds Many Things*. A Hopwood award winner, she graduated from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor with Highest Distinction in Comparative Literature (High Honors), English (Creative Writing) (High Honors), and French. Foundress of the Black Weirdo School, she earned her Ph. D. in Comparative Literature from New York University and teaches at the California Institute of the Arts. The aim of her work is to open up space.

**Margaret Lazarus Dean** (*Hopwood Graduate Nonfiction, Preliminary*) is the author of *Leaving Orbit*, winner of the Graywolf Nonfiction Prize and a *New York Times* top ten book of 2015. She is also the co-writer, with Scott Kelly, of his bestselling memoir, *Endurance*, as well as the author of a novel, *The Time It Takes to Fall*. She is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and Bread Loaf and has been awarded residencies with MacDowell and the Virginia Center for Creative Arts. Her work has appeared in the *Paris Review*, *StoryQuarterly*, the *New Yorker*, and *Popular Mechanics*,

among others. She holds an MFA from the University of Michigan, where she won a Hopwood Award in the novel. She lives in Knoxville, where she is a professor of creative writing at the University of Tennessee.

**RS Deeren's** (*Hopwood First- and Second-Year Fiction*) debut story collection, *Enough to Lose*, won a 2024 Michigan Notable Book Award and was a finalist for a 2024 Midwest Book Award. A native of Michigan's Thumb Region, Deeren is an assistant professor and Co-Coordinator of Creative Writing at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee. His research interests include contemporary fiction, US working-class studies, and rural-urban dynamics. His fiction, nonfiction, and poetry have appeared in periodicals including *The Great Lakes Review*, *Joyland*, *Midwestern Gothic*, and more. Before leaving Michigan, he worked as a line cook, landscaper, lumberjack, and bank teller. He earned his MFA from Columbia College Chicago and received his PhD at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

**Carlina Duan** (*Academy of American Poets Prize, Graduate; Bain-Swiggett Prize; Michael R. Gutterman Award*) is a writer, educator, & scholar. She is the author of the poetry collections, *I Wore My Blackest Hair* (Little A, 2017), and *Alien Miss* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2021). Carlina received her M.F.A. in Poetry from Vanderbilt University, and her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan's Joint Program in English and Education, where she served as the Poetry Editor for *Michigan Quarterly Review*. Carlina's recent poems appear in *POETRY*, *Narrative Magazine*, *Poets.org*, and elsewhere. Carlina is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where she teaches poetry.

**Samantha Edmonds** (*Hopwood Undergraduate Fiction, Preliminary*) is the author of the story collection, *A Preponderance of Starry Beings*, as well as the chapbooks, *Pretty to Think So*, and *The Space Poet*. Her work appears in *The New York Times*, *Fourth Genre*, *Ninth Letter*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Mississippi Review*, *Creative Nonfiction*, and *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, among others. She's an Assistant Professor in the creative writing program at Berry College and lives in Rome, Georgia.

**Omar El Akkad** (*Hopwood Nonfiction, Final*) is an author and journalist. His work has been translated into more than a dozen languages. His debut novel, *American War*, was selected by the BBC as one of 100 novels that shaped our world. His second novel, *What Strange Paradise*, won the Pacific Northwest Booksellers' Award, the Oregon Book Award for fiction, and was shortlisted for the Aspen Words Literary Prize. His latest book, *One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This*, won the National Book Award for nonfiction. Omar lives near Portland, Oregon.

**Jennifer Galvão** (*Hopwood First- and Second-Year Fiction*) is the 2025-2026 Carol Houck Smith Fiction Fellow at the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing. A graduate of the University of Michigan's Helen Zell Writers' Program, she is the recipient of the 2023-2025 Kenyon Review Fellowship. Her short fiction has been published or is forthcoming in *The Missouri Review*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *The Rumpus*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, and *The Masters Review*. Her debut novel, *MARIA, MARIA*, will be published by Random House in Spring 2027.

**Julianna Gonzalez** (*Hopwood Drama, Preliminary*) is a playwright who has had her works featured all over the country, including New York City and Portland, Oregon. She is currently working and living in Detroit, Michigan where she collaborates with fellow writers, works behind the scenes for various theater companies, and continues writing. She holds a BA from Vassar College.

**Brett Griffiths** (*Hopwood Undergraduate Nonfiction, Preliminary*) is the editor of *The MacGuffin*, a journal of literary prose and poetry published in Southeast Michigan since 1984. Griffiths writes poetry,

creative nonfiction, and academic research. Her creative work has appeared in *PoemMemoirStory*, *The Journal*, and *The Shore*. She is currently writing a book-length collection of creative nonfiction on grief, memory, and faith. She is the editorial co-author of *Two-Year College Writing Studies: Rationales and Praxis for Just Teaching*, winner of the 2025 Mina P. Shaughnessy Award and the 2025 CCCC Outstanding Book Award for a compilation. In the summer of 2026, Griffiths will pair up with colleagues Dr. Anne Gere and Professor Suzanne Labadie to host the MLA Institute on Reading and Writing Pedagogy for the Midwest.

**Cole Haddon** (*Hopwood Screenplay, Final*) is an Australian-American screenwriter, novelist, and journalist. “*Dracula*”, his first television commission, was produced by NBC and Sky Living starring Jonathan Rhys Meyers, and he has gone on to develop dozens of feature films and TV series around the globe with legendary filmmakers like Park Chan-wook, Wes Craven, and Walter Hill. His debut novel, *Psalms for the End of the World*, was published by Headline in 2022 and his graphic novels have been published by Dark Horse and others. He also writes and hosts *5AM StoryTalk*, an arts & culture newsletter and podcast. He currently lives as far away from America’s floundering democracy as he could geographically get – in the Macedon Ranges outside Melbourne.

**David Hornibrook** (*Hopwood First- and Second-Year Poetry*) is a Pushcart Prize-winning poet and author of *Night Manual* (Wayne State University Press, 2019). His work can be found or is forthcoming in *Rogue Agent*, *Split Rock Review*, *RHINO*, *Juked*, and elsewhere. David lives in Petoskey, Michigan and holds an MFA from the Helen Zell Writer’s Program.

**Ravi Howard** (*Hopwood Novel, Final*) is the author of two novels, *Like Trees, Walking* and *Driving the King*. In addition to being selected as a finalist for the Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award, *Like, Trees, Walking* won the Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence. He has received fellowships and awards from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Arts. His writing has appeared in *Salon*, *The New York Times*, *Atlanta*, *Oxford American*, *Best American Mystery & Suspense*, and *Gravy*, and he has recorded commentary and fiction for NPR’s *All Things Considered*. He has taught summer fiction workshops with *Callaloo*, *Bread Loaf*, and *Kimbilio*.

**Mick Hurbis-Cherrier** (*Hopwood Screenplay, Final*) is a screenwriter, filmmaker, retired film professor (Hunter College, New York City) and an alum of the University of Michigan (’86) where he received a Hopwood Major award, the Arthur Miller Award and the Kasdan Scholarship. He recently developed the television series, *Dinner at the Center of the Earth*, from Nathan Englander’s bestselling novel (with director Sameh Zoabi and writer William N. Collage). The project is currently with Sony Pictures Television. And he is currently adapting Hisham Abdo’s political thriller, *Shamshoum’s First Visit to Manhattan*, for Atlantique Productions (France) and Masha Productions (Israel). Hurbis-Cherrier has also authored three books published by Routledge: *Voice & Vision: A Creative Approach to Narrative Filmmaking*, 4th ed.; *Directing: Film Techniques and Aesthetics*, 6th ed. (with Michael Rabiger); and most recently, *Mastering Screenplay Form & Style* (a screenwriting style manual), all among the core film production textbooks in film programs throughout this country and internationally.

**Allegra Hyde** (*Hopwood Fiction, Final*) is the author of the story collection, *The Last Catastrophe*, an Editors’ Choice selection at *The New York Times* and a finalist for the Ohioana Book Award. Her debut novel, *Eleutheria*, was named a best book of the year by *The New Yorker*, shortlisted for the VCU Cabell First Novelist Prize, and featured on *Late Night with Seth Meyers*. Her first story collection, *Of This New World*, won the John Simmons Short Fiction Award. Hyde has also received four Pushcart Prizes and the O. Henry Prize. Her work has been selected for anthologies including *The Best American Short Stories*, *The Best American Travel Writing*, and *Best of the Net*. She has received fellowships and grants from the

MacDowell Artist Residency, the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the Sewanee Writers' Conference, The Elizabeth George Foundation, the U.S. Fulbright Commission, and elsewhere. She currently lives in Massachusetts and teaches at Smith College.

**Kristin Idaszak** (*Hopwood Drama, Final*) is an internationally produced playwright, essayist, and dramaturg whose recent work focuses on climate change, gender, and disability. A two-time Playwrights' Center Jerome Fellow and the former Shank Playwriting Fellow at the Goodman Theatre, she is a 2025 3Arts Awardee in Theatre. She has received commissions from the Goodman, EST/the Sloan Foundation, Cleveland Play House, St. Louis Shakespeare Festival, and others. Her play, *Second Skin*, received the Kennedy Center ACTF Paula Vogel Playwriting Award and the Jean Kennedy Smith Playwriting Award. Kristin is the Interim Head of Dramaturgy/Criticism at The Theatre School at DePaul University, and she has also taught at Northwestern University and was a visiting scholar at FLAME University in Pune, India. She previously served as the artistic director of Cloudgate Theatre and Associate Artistic Director/Literary Manager of Caffeine Theatre. Her essays appear in *The American Scholar*, *Fourth Genre*, and elsewhere. MFA: University of California, San Diego. [kristinidaszak.com](http://kristinidaszak.com)

**Nishanth Injam** (*Hopwood Graduate Fiction, Preliminary*) is the author of the story collection, *The Best Possible Experience*, which was named a *New York Times* Editors' Choice pick and longlisted for the PEN/Faulkner and The Story Prize. His writing has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Zoetrope: All-Story*, *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, *ZYZZYVA*, *The Georgia Review*, *Best Debut Short Stories 2021*, and *The Best American Magazine Writing 2022*. Raised in Telangana, India, he now lives in Illinois.

**Perry Janes** (*Academy of American Poets, Undergraduate; Marjorie Rapaport Award; Jeffrey L. Weisberg Prize*) is the author of the poetry collection, *Find Me When You're Ready*, from Curbstone Books (2024). His poems and stories have appeared in The Academy of American Poets Poem-a-Day series, *POETRY*, *Zyzzzyva*, *MQR*, *Electric Literature*, *Best New Poets 2024*, *The Pushcart Prize Anthology*, and others. He lives in California, where he works as a screenwriter.

**Lawrence Kasdan** (*Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing, Final*) 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.

**Douglas Kearney** (*Hopwood Poetry, Final*) has published nine books ranging from poetry to essays to libretti. His most recent poetry book is *I Imagine I Been Science Fiction Always*, a collection of visual poetry. He is also the author of a collection of talks he presented for the Bagley Wright Lecture Series titled *Optic Subwoof* (Wave Books, 2022). His poetry collection, *Sho* (Wave Books, 2021), is a Griffin Poetry Prize and Minnesota Book Award winner, and a National Book Award, Pen America, Hurston/Wright, Kingsley Tufts, and Big Other Book Award finalist. He is the 2021 recipient of OPERA America's Campbell Opera Librettist Prize, created and generously funded by librettist/lyricist Mark Campbell. Kearney is a 2022 McKnight Writing Fellow. A Whiting Writer's and Foundation for Contemporary Arts Cy Twombly awardee with residencies/fellowships from Cave Canem, The

Rauschenberg Foundation, and others, he teaches Creative Writing at the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities.

**Jen Knox** (*Cora Duncan Award in Fiction*) is an educator and storyteller who teaches writing and leadership. Her first novel, *We Arrive Uninvited*, won the Steel Toe Books Award for prose, and her collection of eco-fiction, *The Glass City*, won the Press Americana Prize for Prose. Jen's short fiction can be found in *Chicago Tribune*, *Prose Online*, *McSweeney's Internet Quarterly*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, and more. She won CutBank's Montana Prize in Nonfiction for "Disembodied" and the San Miguel Contest for her essay, "Teeth." Jen is the proud recipient of grants from the Greater Columbus Arts Council and the Ohio Arts Council to complete a collection of narrative essays, *At Work*, which will be released by Cornerstone Press UWSP.

**Susanna Lang** (*Hopwood Undergraduate Poetry, Preliminary*) divides her time between Chicago and Uzès, France. Her most recent chapbook, *Like This*, was released in 2023 (Unsolicited Books), along with her translations of poems by Souad Labbize, *My Soul Has No Corners* (Diálogos Books). A new collection of Souad Labbize's poems, *Unfasten the Silk of Your Silence*, was published in 2025 by Éditions des Lisières, and her translation of *My Forests* by Hélène Dorion is forthcoming from Book\*Hug Press. Her fourth full-length collection of poems, *This Spangled Dark*, is forthcoming from Cornerstone Press. Her poems, translations and reviews have appeared in such publications as *The Common*, *Asymptote*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, *American Life in Poetry*, *Rhino Reviews*, *Mayday* and *The Slowdown*. Her translations of poetry by Yves Bonnefoy include *Words in Stone* and *The Origin of Language*, and she is now working with Hélène Dorion and Christine Guinard on new translations. More information available at [www.susannalang.com](http://www.susannalang.com).

**Shane McCrae's** (*Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize, Final*) most recent full-length books of poetry are *New and Collected Hell* and *The Many Hundreds of the Scent*, both from Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and his most recent chapbooks are *Two Appearances After the Resurrection* (Omnidawn, 2025) and *Songs and Sonnets* (Broken Sleep Books, 2025). In 2023, Scribner published his memoir, *Pulling the Chariot of the Sun*, which was chosen by *Vulture* as the best memoir of the year. He has edited a volume of John Berryman's uncollected Dream Songs titled *Only Sing* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2025). McCrae's awards include a Lannan Literary Award and a Whiting Writer's Award and he has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the New York Foundation for the Arts. He lives in New York City and teaches at Columbia University.

**Gala Mukomolova** (*Hopwood First- and Second-Year Poetry*) is a Moscow-born poet and essayist. Her full length book, *Without Protection*, is available through Coffee House Press. Her chapbook, *One Above One Below: Positions & Lamentations*, is available with YesYes Books. Gala is a recipient of the 2016 Discovery Prize from 92nd St Y & Boston Review. She lives and works in New York.

**Bonnie Nadzam** (*Hopwood Graduate Fiction, Preliminary*) is an American writer, Zen Buddhist priest and chaplain. Her poetry, essays and fiction have appeared in *Harper's*, *Orion Magazine*, *The Iowa Review*, *Kenyon Review*, and many other journals and magazines. Her first novel, *Lamb*, was the recipient of The Center for Fiction's Flaherty-Dunn First Novel Prize, translated into several languages and made into an award-winning independent film. Her second novel, *Lions*, was a finalist for the PEN USA Literary Award in Fiction. She is also co-author of *Love in the Anthropocene* with Environmental Ethicist Dale Jamieson. Her next book is a work of nonfiction, *The Magpie Spoke to Me: How Storytelling Shapes Our World* (Shambhala 2026). She is currently Associate Director of Ethics, Culture & Religion with the Animal Law and Policy Program at Harvard University.

**Katie Plott** (*Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing, Final*) 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. Lawrence Kasdan personally oversees judgments for the Creative Writing award.

**Kiley Reid** (*Hopwood Novel, Final*) is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where she was the recipient of the Truman Capote Fellowship. Her *New York Times*-bestselling debut novel, *SUCH A FUN AGE*, was longlisted for The 2020 Booker Prize. Her second novel, *Come and Get It*, was also a *New York Times* bestseller, and named a best book of 2024 by NPR, *ELLE*, and *New York Magazine's Vulture*. Kiley's writing has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Playboy*, *The Guardian*, and others. She has taught graduate level workshops and seminars at Temple University and the University of Michigan. Kiley currently lives in the Netherlands.

**Briana Rice** (*David Porter Award for Excellence in Journalism*) is the civic life reporter at Outlier Media. In that role, she writes about how Detroiters engage with city government and whether or not they're getting what they need. Prior to that, Briana worked for three years at Michigan Public covering criminal justice, city council and other issues facing Detroit. She was named Young Journalist of the Year in 2022 by the Detroit Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. She now serves as the Detroit SPJ secretary and helps lead the Detroit Association of Black Journalists mentorship program. Briana was previously a breaking news reporter at the Cincinnati Enquirer. Before that, she worked at WXIX in Cincinnati as a digital producer and assignment editor. She studied journalism and digital media at the University of Cincinnati. When she's not working, Briana enjoys cooking, reading, writing and going on walks with her dog.

**Kelsey Ronan** (*Arthur Miller Award; Peter Philip Pratt Award in Fiction*) grew up in Flint, Michigan. Her work has appeared in *Lit Hub*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Electric Literature*, *Kenyon Review*, and elsewhere. She is the author of the novel, *Chevy in the Hole*, which was a *New York Times* Book Review Editor's Choice and a Michigan Notable Book. She lives in Metro Detroit.

**Sara Schaff** (*Hopwood Undergraduate Fiction, Preliminary*) is the author of *The Invention of Love* (Split/Lip Press) and *Say Something Nice About Me* (Augury Books), and her writing has appeared in *LitHub*, *Kenyon Review*, *Yale Review Online*, and elsewhere. A 2025 NYSCA Support for Artists Grant Recipient and a 2024 NYFA Artist Fellow in Fiction, Sara is an associate professor at SUNY Plattsburgh, where she teaches creative writing and serves as executive editor of *Saranac Review*.

**Ruth Ann Schmitt** (*Roy Cowden Memorial Fellowships*) grew up in New Cumberland, West Virginia, surrounded by tall trees, hills, back roads, a racetrack, and a steel mill that filled the air with smoke and ash. When she is not grading papers, she reads and writes stories about a fictional version of her home, one town over from the World's Largest Tea Pot, along the green Ohio River. She has an M.A. from Ohio University with an emphasis in creative writing and an M.F.A in fiction from Texas State University. She studied with the best writers and teachers to be found anywhere and hopes to impart what she learned to the students at Henry Ford Community College, where she has taught writing for twenty-one years. Currently, she resides in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**Mairead Small Staid** (*Hopwood Undergraduate Poetry, Preliminary*) is the author of *The Traces* (Deep Vellum, 2022), which was a finalist for the inaugural Pattis Family Foundation Creative Arts Book Award. Her work has been published by *The Atlantic*, *The Believer*, and *The Paris Review*, among others, and

she was a finalist for the 2025 DAG Prize, given to “an emerging prose writer whose work expands the possibilities for American writing.” She lives in New Hampshire.

**Keith Taylor** (*Keith Taylor Award for Excellence in Poetry*) is originally from Western Canada, but has lived for the past 50 years in Michigan. He has authored or edited 20 books and chapbooks. In 2024 he published two books, *All the Time You Want: Selected Poems, 1977 - 2017* and *What Can the Matter Be?*, which was selected as a 2025 Michigan Notable Book by the Library of Michigan. His poems, stories, reviews, essays and translations have appeared widely in North America and in Europe. He taught creative writing at the University of Michigan for 20 years and 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.

**Kristin VanEyck** (*Hopwood First- and Second-Year Nonfiction*) is Assistant Professor of English at Hope College in Holland, MI, where she teaches a variety of English education and writing courses. During her time as a graduate student at the University of Michigan, Kristin was gifted space and time to write academic and creative nonfiction, genres she both writes and teaches today. Her recent publications include co-authored essays in *Pedagogy*, *College English*, *Daedalus*, and *American Speech*. She also has a forthcoming co-edited essay collection titled *Purpose & Joy* that centers faculty stories as methodology for sustaining a purposeful career in higher education. Kristin's latest research project gathers stories and insights from first-year secondary school English teachers to enhance undergraduate English education programming.

**Crystal VanKooten** (*Hopwood First- and Second-Year Nonfiction*) is an Associate Professor at Michigan State University, where she directs the First-Year Writing program, teaches courses in Writing, Rhetoric, and Cultures, and serves as senior editor at Computers and Composition Digital Press. Dr. VanKooten’s work focuses on digital and multimodal composition through an engagement with how modes and technologies shape composition practices, pedagogy, and research. Her publications appear in journals that include *College English*, *Computers and Composition*, *Enculturation*, and *Kairos*. VanKooten’s digital book, *Transfer across Media: Using Digital Video in the Teaching of Writing*, was funded by a Conference on College Composition and Communication Emergent Research/er Award and is available online. She earned a PhD in English and Education at the University of Michigan in 2014, an MA in English with a minor in Rhetoric and Composition from Oregon State University in 2004, and a BA in English and Spanish Secondary Education from Calvin College in 2002.

**G.C. Waldrep’s** (*Hopwood Poetry, Final*) most recent books are *feast gently* (Tupelo, 2018), winner of the William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America; *The Earliest Witnesses* (Tupelo/Carcenet, 2021); and *The Opening Ritual* (Tupelo, 2024), one of the *New York Times’s* five best poetry collections of 2024. Recent work has appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Poetry*, *Paris Review*, *Ploughshares*, *New England Review*, *Yale Review*, *The Nation*, *New American Writing*, *Conjunctions*, and other journals. Waldrep lives in Lewisburg, Pa., where he recently retired as Professor of Creative Writing at Bucknell University.

**Wendy S. Walters** (*Hopwood Nonfiction, Final*) is Associate Professor in the Writing Program of the School of the Arts at Columbia University. Her work has been published in *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *BOMB*, *The Yale Review*, *The Iowa Review*, *Lapham’s Quarterly*, and *Harper’s*, among many others. She is the author of two books of poems and a book of prose, *Multiply/Divide: On the American Real and Surreal*. She is a recipient of fellowships from Creative Capital, The Architectural

League of NY, NYFA, the Ford Foundation, Mass MoCA, Yaddo, MacDowell, Bread Loaf, and the Smithsonian Institute and others. She is completing a book about white paint, forthcoming from Scribner in 2026.

**Michael M. Weinstein** (*Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke, Preliminary*) is a poet, scholar, essayist, and translator. He is also a proud alum of the University of Michigan Helen Zell Writers' Program. His first book of poems, *Saint Consequence*, was published by Alice James Books in 2025. He lives in Brooklyn and teaches at New York University.

**Ashley Whitaker** (*Hopwood Screenplay, Preliminary*) is a writer from Texas. She received her MFA in Prose from the University of Michigan Helen Zell Writers' Program. Her work has appeared in *Tin House*, *StoryQuarterly*, and has received support from the Ragdale Foundation. Her first novel, *BITTER TEXAS HONEY*, was published in 2025. She lives in Austin with her family.

**Warner James Wood** (*Hopwood Screenplay, Preliminary*) was raised in the Appalachian Mountains before receiving his undergraduate degree in Human Evolutionary Biology / Mind, Brain & Behavior from Harvard University. After, he took an MFA in Poetry from the University of Michigan's Helen Zell Writers' Program, worked on Wall Street as a structured derivatives trader, and finally moved to Los Angeles to complete a graduate screenwriting fellowship at the American Film Institute Conservatory as a Geffen Fellow. Since then, Warner has completed feature-length adaptations of award-winning novels, has served as Showrunner's Assistant to Mark Fish (*Scandal*) at Shondaland/Netflix, and currently has an original pilot in development with Billy Porter. While at Michigan, Warner received Hopwood Awards in Poetry, Drama, and Nonfiction, as well as the Kasdan Prize in Screenwriting, and he is now thrilled to give back, as a judge, to such an exciting and formative program.

**E.Y. Zhao** (*Hopwood Novel, Preliminary*) is a fiction writer from St. Louis. Her work has appeared in *The Georgia Review*, *Racquet Magazine*, and *Electric Lit*, among others. Her debut novel, *Underspin*, was published by Astra House in 2025. She edits fiction for Joyland Magazine.

# 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.

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

An award to a FTVM student for a distinguished script of up to 30 pages developed in a Department of Film, Television, and Media production class. Consideration for the prize is given to all forms of creative writing: experimental, narrative drama, documentary, and animation.

### **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 Special Thank You

## **Miriam and Melvyn Zerman Book Fund**

We are grateful to the Zerman family for their continued support of the Miriam and Melvyn Zerman Book Fund. Thanks to the Zerman Fund, the Hopwood staff can purchase one hundred or more books and literary journals per year for the Hopwood Room and Library.

Miriam Baron was an English major in Ann Arbor from January of 1949 to January of 1952. She had a passion for books, writers, and writing. In 1952, she married Melvyn Zerman, a fellow undergraduate. When Miriam died in 1985, Melvyn set up the Miriam Baron Zerman fund with the help of their friend, Dan Greenberg. Mr. Zerman worked in sales administration for a major New York publishing house and also authored three books: *Beyond a Reasonable Doubt: Inside the American Jury System*, *Call the Final Witness*, and *Taking on the Press: Constitutional Rights in Conflict*. After Mr. Zerman's death, the Zerman family changed the name of the fund to the Miriam and Melvyn Zerman Book Fund to honor both of their parents. We appreciate their support of readers at the University of Michigan.

A background image of a library or study room. It features a round wooden table in the foreground with several wooden chairs around it. In the background, there are tall wooden bookshelves filled with books. The lighting is warm and soft, creating a cozy atmosphere.

**Congratulations to all  
the 2026 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 14th, 2027.**