

The 2025 Hopwood Awards Program Contest Winners

The Avery Hopwood and Jule Hopwood Awards in Creative Writing

Hopwood Drama

First Place (tie)	Ryland Gigante for “Jack of Thebes”
First Place (tie)	Sophie Weisskoff for “Resource Room”
Second Place	Hank Hietala for “Lookout”
Third Place	Holly Tschirhart for “Dead Girl”
Fourth Place	Maeson Linnert for “Bear Foot!”
Finalists	Renée Flory for “Ruin Me for Sport” Nora Sullivan for “Less Family Drama”

Hopwood Screenplay

First Place	Lillian Reed-Nordwall for “Valkyrie”
Second Place	Derek Weinstock for “Beloved by God”
Third Place	Benjamin Henschman for “An Abstract Epiphany”
Fourth Place	Rachel Vesey for “LifeSkills”
Finalists	Izzy Soden for “BRAIN CANCER IS FOR P*\$\$IES!” Gwennyth Paulson for “Beneath the Monument” Kyla Kralapp for “TO THE DOGS” Hann Kim for “Dancing Spiders Play Jazz in Nooks”

Hopwood Novel

First Place (tie)	Holly Tschirhart for “Absolute Realities” Katherine Hattersley for “Sevgi”
Second Place	Renée Flory for “Bendigo and Jane”
Third Place	Kimberly Gurwin for “The Intellect’s Candor”
Fourth Place	Brandon David Servos for “A Darkness That Can Be Felt”

Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize

First Place	Tahani Ali for “PUNKS N’ FREAKS”
Second Place	Monica Masiello for “Crown of Sincronizadas”
Finalists	Caroline New for “Letters of Salt” Clara Rosarius for “Locate” Moon Boyoung for “Parachute-Bird” Matt Dhillon for “Fast” Ethan Hsi for “Inertia Sonnets” Safa Hijazi for “Let’s Get This Show on the Road” Noor Al-Samarrai for “The world is one big sick poem” Julie Zhou for “The Tales of the Tired Little Girls”

Hopwood Poetry

First- and Second-Year Undergraduate

First Place (tie)	Christian Bade for “Forbearance’s Fool and Other Worlds Through Human Eyes” Aja Lynn for “Particularities”
Second Place	Alissa Vezikov for “I Tried to Refrain From Saying This”
Third Place	Lillian Maloney for “I Am a Stone: A Collection of Poems”
Fourth Place	Michael Hong for “Winter Comes from Heaven”

Undergraduate

First Place	Amanda Venclovaite Pirani for “Roach”
Second Place	Heami Oh for “After The End”
Third Place	Safa Hijazi for “MEDITERRANEAN SEA AS FUEL”
Fourth Place	Christian Hooper for “Mythology of a Dreaming Black Boy”
Finalists	Jessica Hsu for “Chronology of a Divine Scientist” Allison Wei for “Abide” Yumna Dagher for “please, make no mistake and other poems”

Graduate

First Place	Caroline New for “Conversations with the Shark Head”
Second Place	Rebecca Hawkes for “Desire Lines”
Third Place	Clara Rosarius for “Specimen”
Fourth Place	Tahani Ali for “ARAB PUNK RIOT”
Finalists	Emma Erlbacher for “Light and Work” Edgar Morales for “Out in the Field, There Are No More Fences” Matthew Buxton for “Premortality: A Family Drama”

Hopwood Fiction

First- and Second-Year Undergraduate

First Place	Meghan Dwan for “The Hawk and the Hare”
Second Place	Maureen Waldner for “End Times”
Third Place	Ana Sharshar for “Neither am I”
Fourth Place	Dabney Peters for “Riverside Trash”

Undergraduate

First Place	Alex Hetzler for “The Seawall”
Second Place	Minsoo Kim for “Zodiac”
Third Place (tie)	Sara Wong for “And Then We Got Married” Megan Kleiner for “Where Did Hannah Go?”
Fourth Place	Charles Pappalardo for “Save It For Saint Peter: Ma Loved Gerry Ford & A Lifetime In The Sport of Kings”
Finalists	Alexandra Berryman for “Marble Women” Simon Moncke for “Photographs: “Far from Noise and Disturbance” and “A Day's Amusements””

Graduate

First Place	Alejandro de la Garza for “Two Stories: Son and Revelation”
Second Place	Caroline Porter for “Nancy” and “Mutual”
Third Place	Abeje Schnake for “House Rules”
Finalists	Julianne Angeli for “Three Stories: Oscar; The Bull; That Night” Benjamin Chappelow for “REIFIER” Jennifer Nessel for “Two Stories: ‘Swallow,’ and ‘And Calls His Name’” Alexie Milukhin for “Near Child, A Collection: Genuine Ferret, Strange Uncle, and the Woman Who is Not My Mother”

Hopwood Nonfiction

First- and Second-Year Undergraduate

First Place	Siena Beres for “Two Essays: Six Ways to Spell Lviv, Mark 9:24 (NIV)”
Second Place	Hanqi Shang for “Birds on a telephone wire & Conversations with the mirror”
Third Place	Shereen Vernon for “The Beauty of Vulnerability & Locating Literacy”
Fourth Place	Estlin Salah for “Losing Season”
Fifth Place	Abigail Kalin for “The Diary of a Geriatric Juvenile”

Undergraduate

First Place	Brandon David Servos for “What the Trees Told Me and After the Winter”
Second Place	Alexander Marshall for “White Lillies, Standard Arrangement”
Third Place	Wren Wilson for “F44.81”
Fourth Place	Liam Rapplepey for “Four Essays: Two short, one long, one illustrated”
Finalists	Ahmed Elkhatib for ““An Arab Muslim’s Musing on Music” and “The City of Dearborn Within Ann Arbor””
	Jessica Hsu for “Diary”
	Arya Kamat for “Hanging by a Thread, Motherhood’s Menu, & At the Heart of Indian Weddings”

Graduate

First Place	Dibyangee Saha for “Fish out of water”
Second Place	Alejandro de la Garza for “Hunan, China: Sketches of a New Generation”
Third Place	Sophie Weisskoff for “Things People Say”
Fourth Place	Caroline New for “Ostreidae”
Finalists	Hank Hietala for “Martyr to Modernity: A George Mackay Brown Travelogue”
	AiLi Pigott for “Dear Zhong Xiaoxi”

Additional Contests

Academy of American Poets Prize

Graduate Division	Rebecca Hawkes for “Shining Cuckoo”
Undergraduate Division	Ruby Lewis for “In the Lamplight”

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

Myrra Arya for “A Collection of Works”

Bain-Swiggett Poetry Prize

Ruby Lewis for “Mama’s Sonnet: A golden shovel after William Shakespeare’s ‘Sonnet 73’”
Clara Rosarius for “My Father’s Bed”

Cora Duncan Award in Fiction

First Place	Suparna Hande for “The Babysitter”
Second Place	Sarah Mallon for “I’m not in love with Erin”

David Porter Award for Excellence in Journalism

First Place	Meleck Eldahshoury for “Arab Diaspora on University of Michigan Campus”
Second Place	Madison Hammond for “‘I was miserable’: MDining employees face alleged identity-based harassment, isolation and few solutions”

Frank and Gail Beaver Script Writing Prize

Claire de Vries for “We’re Not the Same”

Jeffrey L. Weisberg Memorial Prize in Poetry

Bridget Scully for “Left Arm (or what's left of it)”

Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing

First Place Derek Weinstock for “Beloved By God”
Second Place Rachel Vesey for “LifeSkills”

Keith Taylor Excellence in Poetry Award

First Place Ruby Lewis for “Duck Hunting on the 5th of November, 2024”
Second Place Safa Hijazi for “Dream at Dawn Prayer in the Mountains of the Motherland ”

Marjorie Rapaport Award in Poetry

First Place Safa Hijazi for “Hail Maryam”
Second Place Sneha Dhandapani for “passing the torch with a blade”

Michael R. Gutterman Award in Poetry

First Place Malia Maxwell for “In the not-not-woods”
Second Place Allison Wei for “Recipe for Beef Stew”

Peter Phillip Pratt Award in Fiction

First Place David Collins for “Sunset Romance”
Second Place Katherine Hattersley for “Ambulatory of a Russian Palace”

Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship

Ann Arbor Katherine Hattersley for “Sisterhood, In All Its Many Languages”
Safa Hijazi for “Mediterranean Sea as Fuel”
Je Woo Han for “Scents I Left”
Juno Nedumaran for “The Loser”

Dearborn Carlos Gonzalez for “The Psychosis From Within”

Flint Jenna McIntire for “witches”

Text/Image Composition Prize

First Place Elizabeth Lee for “Family Portrait”
Second Place Audrey Jarrett for “House of Ostara 1”
Finalist Elena Mills for “Hurricane Helene”
Finalist Holly Tschirhart for “Happy Halloween!”

Additional Awards

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

Andrea Beauchamp Prize

Alejandro de la Garza for “Two Stories: Son and Revelation”

Chamberlain Award for Creative Writing

Julianne Angeli for “Three Stories: Oscar; The Bull; That Night”

Benjamin Chappelow for “REIFIER”

Jennifer Nessel for “Two Stories: ‘Swallow,’ and ‘And Calls His Name’”

Alexie Milukhin for “Near Child, A Collection: Genuine Ferret, Strange Uncle, and the Woman Who is Not My Mother”

Dennis McIntyre Prize for Distinction in Undergraduate Playwriting

Ryland Gigante for “Jack of Thebes”

Holly Tschirhart for “Dead Girl”

Maeson Linnert for “Bear Foot!”

Geoffrey James Gosling Prize

Holly Tschirhart for “Absolute Realities”

Katherine Hattersley for “Sevgi”

Helen J. Daniels Prize

Brandon David Servos for “What the Trees Told Me and After the Winter”

Alexander Marshall for “White Lillies, Standard Arrangement”

Helen S. and John Wagner Prize

Caroline New for “Conversations with the Shark Head”

John Wagner Prize

Dibyangee Saha for “Fish out of water”

Leonard and Eileen Newman Writing Prize for Dramatic Writing

Izzy Soden for “BRAIN CANCER IS FOR P*\$\$IES!”

Gwennyth Paulson for “Beneath the Monument”

Kyla Kralapp for “TO THE DOGS”

Hann Kim for “Dancing Spiders Play Jazz in Nooks”

Leonard and Eileen Newman Writing Prize for Fiction

Alexandra Berryman for “Marble Women”

Simon Moncke for “Photographs: “Far from Noise and Disturbance” and “A Day’s Amusements””

Meador Family Award

Emma Erlbacher for “Light and Work”

Edgar Morales for “Out in the Field, There Are No More Fences”

Matthew Buxton for “Premortality: A Family Drama”

Naomi Saferstein Literary Award

Ryland Gigante for “Jack of Thebes”
Lillian Reed-Nordwall for “Valkyrie”

Paul and Sonia Handleman Award

Amanda Venclovaite Pirani for “Roach”
Heami Oh for “After The End”

Robert F. Haugh Prize

Alex Hetzler for “The Seawall”

Roy and Helen Meador Award

Meghan Dwan for “The Hawk and the Hare”

Stanley S. Schwartz Prize

Minsoo Kim for “Zodiac”

The 2025 Hopwood Awards Contest Judges

Hopwood Drama

Preliminary Judges: Shawntai Brown and Karina Patel
Final Judges: Anita Gonzalez and Khadijah Queen

Hopwood Screenplay

Preliminary Judges: Rani Deighe Crowe and Darina Sikmashvili
Final Judges: William N. Collage and Megan Halpern

Hopwood Novel

Preliminary Judges: Carson Faust and Leah Stewart
Final Judges: Lindsey Drager and Elizabeth Kostova

Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize

Preliminary Judge: Tarik Dobbs
Final Judge: Mary Biddinger

Hopwood First- and Second-Year Undergraduate Poetry

Bryan Byrdlong and Matthew Del Busto

Hopwood Graduate/Undergraduate Poetry

Preliminary Judges: Kenzie Allen and torrin a. greathouse (Graduate)
Andrew Collard and Daniella Toosie-Watson (Undergraduate)

Final Judges: Franny Choi and Craig Santos Perez

Hopwood First- and Second-Year Undergraduate Fiction

Lily C. Buday and Asher Dark

Hopwood Graduate/Undergraduate Fiction

Preliminary Judges: Adam Dalva and James R. Gapinski (Graduate)
Elinam Agbo and RS Deeren (Undergraduate)

Final Judges: V.V. Ganeshanathan and Marytza Rubio

Hopwood First- and Second-Year Undergraduate Nonfiction

Piper J. Daniels and Joanna Lin Want

Hopwood Graduate/Undergraduate Nonfiction

Preliminary Judges: LaTanya McQueen and Bassam Sadiki (Graduate)
Sarah Minor and Patrick Nathan (Undergraduate)

Final Judges: Kristi Coulter and Sarah Viren

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

Nandi Comer

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

Robert Laidler

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

Jay Baron Nicorvo

Cora Duncan Award in Fiction

Kelsey Ronan

David Porter Award for Excellence in Journalism

Beenish Ahmed

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

Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship

Rae Gouirand

Text/Image Composition Prize

Samiya Bashir

2025 Hopwood Committee

Tung-Hui Hu, Hopwood Director
Rebecca Manery, Hopwood Program Manager
Jim Burnstein
Laura Kasischke
Aram Mrjoian
David Porter
Laura Thomas

Hopwood Program Staff

Rebecca Manery	Hopwood Program Manager
Mark Bryk	Hopwood Administrative Assistant
Clare Sahijdak	Hopwood Program Assistant
Ruby Lewis	Hopwood Program Assistant