



The Hopwood Awards Ceremony

April 16th, 2025



| LSA

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
HOPWOOD AWARDS PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Welcome to the 94th Hopwood Awards Ceremony



Avery Hopwood, class of 1905, was the most commercially successful playwright of his time, but his aspirations to write a serious literary work never materialized. Instead, one-fifth of the considerable fortune generated by his light entertainments funded 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.” As a direct result of Hopwood’s largesse, generations of University of Michigan students have received encouragement and support for their literary careers, among them Betty Smith, Arthur Miller, Robert Hayden, Frank O’Hara, Marge Piercy, Edmund White, Lawrence Kasdan, Mary Gaitskill, Jesmyn Ward, and Celeste Ng.

Hopwood contest submissions are carefully read and evaluated by a distinguished roster of judges. Their publication credits and other honors are listed in their bios at the end of this program. Several were U-M students and Hopwood Award winners themselves. One of these is Frank Beaver, who won Hopwood Awards in the Drama and Essay categories as a doctoral student. He went on to teach film at the University of Michigan for 35 years and is currently the Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus of the Department of Film Television and Media and Communication Studies. Many of his books can be found in the Hopwood Room library, including *Dictionary of Film Terms: The Aesthetic Companion to Film Art*, now in its fifth edition. A former Hopwood Committee member, he is the longstanding preliminary judge for the Kasdan Scholarship Contest. He and his wife, Gail, also established The Frank and Gail Beaver Script Writing Contest. It’s only fitting that Dr. Beaver receive the first-ever Avery Award for outstanding service to the Hopwood Awards Program as a token of our gratitude and appreciation.

We are honored to welcome Hala Alyan as the Hopwood Lecturer. She is the author of two novels: *Salt Houses* and *The Arsonists’ City*. She has also written five acclaimed books of poetry, most recently *The Moon That Turns You Back*. Her memoir, *I’ll Tell You When I’m Home*, is forthcoming in June. Ru Freeman writes, “Hala Alyan shows how we carry our origins in our hearts wherever we may roam, and how that history is calibrated by the places we choose to put down roots.” Please join us at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow, April 17th, in the fourth-floor Rackham Amphitheatre where Dr. Alyan will give a free reading and participate in a Q&A moderated by Noor Al-Samarrai.

The Hopwood Room, 1176 Angell Hall, is a friendly gathering place for all readers and writers. Students, staff, and faculty can check out books and periodicals from our collection of contemporary literature. Tea is served under Florine Stettheimer’s portrait of Avery Hopwood every Thursday afternoon during the regular school year. All are welcome.

Please join me in congratulating the 2025 Hopwood Award winners and finalists.

Rebecca Manery
Hopwood Program Manager

Order of Events

Welcome

Tung-Hui Hu

Opening Remarks

Rebecca Manery

Presentation of Awards

Hopwood Committee

**Presentation of Avery Award to
Frank Beaver**

Rebecca Manery
Jim Burnstein

Introduction of the Hopwood Lecturer

Khaled Mattawa

Hopwood Lecture

Hala Alyan

Hopwood Committee

Tung-Hui Hu
Jim Burnstein
Laura Kasischke
Rebecca Manery
Aram Mrjoian
David Porter
Laura Thomas

Hopwood Staff

Tung-Hui Hu, Director
Rebecca Manery, Program Manager
Mark Bryk, Administrative Assistant
Clare Sahjidak, Hopwood Program Assistant
Ruby Lewis, Hopwood Program Assistant



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

Shawntai Brown and Karina Patel

Final Judges

Anita Gonzalez and Khadijah Queen

First Place (tie)

Ryland Gigante
“Jack of Thebes”
Class of 2025
SMTD, Acting

First Place (tie)

Sophie Weisskoff
“Resource Room”
Class of 2026
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Second Place

Hank Hietala
“Lookout”
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Third Place

Holly Tschirhart
“Dead Girl”
Class of 2025
LSA, Creative Writing

Fourth Place

Maeson Linnert
“Bear Foot!”
Class of 2025
LSA, Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience; Film,
Television & Media

Finalist

Renée Flory
“Ruin Me for Sport”
Class of 2026
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Finalist

Nora Sullivan
“Less Family Drama”
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Hopwood Screenplay

Preliminary Judges Rani Deighe Crowe and Darina Sikmashvili

Final Judges William N. Collage and Megan Halpern

First Place

Lillian Reed-Nordwall
“Valkyrie”
Class of 2027
LSA, Film, Television, and Media; Creative Writing

Finalist

Izzy Soden
“BRAIN CANCER IS FOR P*\$\$IES!”
Class of 2025
LSA, Film, Television, and Media; Spanish; Screenwriting

Second Place

Derek Weinstock
“Beloved by God”
Class of 2025
LSA, Film, Television, and Media; English

Finalist

Gwennyth Paulson
“Beneath the Monument”
Class of 2025
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

Third Place

Benjamin Henschman
“An Abstract Epiphany”
Class of 2025
STMD, Performance

Finalist

Kyla Kralapp
“TO THE DOGS”
Class of 2025
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

Fourth Place

Rachel Vesey
“LifeSkills”
Class of 2024
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

Finalist

Hann Kim
“Dancing Spiders Play Jazz in Nooks”
Class of 2025
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

Hopwood Novel

Preliminary Judges Carson Faust and Leah Stewart

Final Judges Lindsey Drager and Elizabeth Kostova

First Place (tie)

Holly Tschirhart
“Absolute Realities”
Class of 2025
LSA, Creative Writing

Third Place

Kimberly Gurwin
“The Intellect’s Candor”
Class of 2026
College of Engineering, Robotics

First Place (tie)

Katherine Hattersley
“Sevgi”
Class of 2025
LSA, English

Fourth Place

Brandon David Servos
“A Darkness That Can Be Felt”
Class of 2026
LSA, English

Second Place

Renée Flory
“Bendigo and Jane”
Class of 2026
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize

Preliminary Judge

Tarik Dobbs

Final Judge

Mary Biddinger

First Place

Tahani Ali
“PUNKS N’ FREAKS”
Class of 2029
LSA, American Culture

Finalist

Matt Dhillon
“Fast”
Class of 2026
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Second Place

Monica Masiello
“Crown of Sincronizadas”
Class of 2026
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Finalist

Ethan Hsi
“Intertia Sonnets”
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Finalist

Caroline New
“Letters of Salt”
Class of 2031
LSA, Anthropology

Finalist

Safa Hijazi
“Let’s Get This Show on the Road”
Class of 2025
LSA, English

Finalist

Clara Rosarius
“Locate”
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Finalist

Noor Al-Samarrai
“The world is one big sick poem”
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Finalist

Moon Boyoung
“Parachute-Bird”
Class of 2026
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Finalist

Julie Zhou
“The Tales of the Tired Little Girls”
Class of 2025
LSA, Creative Writing

Hopwood Poetry

Hopwood First- and Second-Year Poetry

Judges

Bryan Byrdlong and Matthew Del Busto

First Place (tie)

Christian Bade
"Forbearance's Fool and Other Worlds Through
Human Eyes"
Class of 2027
LSA, Statistics

First Place (tie)

Aja Lynn
"Particularities"
Class of 2027
LSA, Anthropology

Second Place

Alissa Vezikov
"I Tried to Refrain From Saying This"
Class of 2026
LSA, Psychology, Economics

Third Place

Lillian Maloney
"I Am a Stone: A Collection of Poems"
Class of 2028
LSA

Fourth Place

Michael Hong
"Winter Comes from Heaven"
Class of 2028
LSA, English, Communications

Hopwood Undergraduate Poetry

Preliminary Judges

Andrew Collard and Daniella Toosie-Watson

Final Judges

Franny Choi and Craig Santos Perez

First Place

Amanda Venclovaite Pirani
"Roach"
Class of 2025
LSA, Political Science, Creative Writing

Second Place

Heami Oh
"After the End"
Class of 2025
School of Engineering, Computer Science

Third Place

Safa Hijazi
"MEDITERRANEAN SEA AS FUEL"
Class of 2025
LSA, English

Fourth Place

Christian Hooper
"Mythology of a Dreaming Black Boy"
Class of 2027
LSA

Finalist

Jessica Hsu
"Chronology of a Divine Scientist"
Class of 2025
School of Public Health, Public Health Sciences

Finalist

Allison Wei
"Abide"
Class of 2025
Ross School of Business

Finalist

Yumna Dagher
"please, make no mistake and other poems"
Class of 2025
LSA, English, Program in the Environment

Hopwood Graduate Poetry

Preliminary Judges Kenzie Allen and torrin a. greathouse

Final Judges Franny Choi and Craig Santos Perez

First Place

Caroline New
"Conversations with the Shark Head"
Class of 2031
LSA, Anthropology

Finalist

Emma Erlbacher
"Light and Work"
Class of 2026
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Second Place

Rebecca Hawkes
"Desire Lines"
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Finalist

Edgar Morales
"Out in the Field, There Are No More Fences"
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Third Place

Clara Rosarius
"Specimen"
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Finalist

Matthew Buxton
"Premortality: A Family Drama"
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Fourth Place

Tahani Ali
"ARAB PUNK RIOT"
Class of 2029
LSA, American Culture

Hopwood Fiction

Hopwood First- and Second- Year Fiction

Judges

Lily C. Buday and Asher Dark

First Place

Meghan Dwan
“The Hawk and the Hare”
Class of 2027
LSA, Anthropology, Creative Writing

Third Place

Ana Sharshar
“Neither am I”
Class of 2028
LSA, English

Second Place

Maureen Waldner
“End Times”
Class of 2027
LSA, English

Fourth Place

Dabney Peters
“Riverside Trash”
Class of 2027
LSA

Hopwood Undergraduate Fiction

Preliminary Judges

Elinam Agbo and RS Deeren

Final Judges

V.V. Ganeshanathan and Marytza Rubio

First Place

Alex Hetzler
“The Seawall”
Class of 2026
LSA, English, Creative Writing

Fourth Place

Charles Pappalardo
“Save It For Saint Peter: Ma Loved Gerry Ford & A
Lifetime In The Sport of Kings”
Class of 2025
LSA, Political Science, Economics, Religion

Second Place

Minsoo Kim
“Zodiac”
Class of 2025
School of Engineering, Biomedical Engineering

Finalist

Alexandra Berryman
“Marble Women”
Class of 2027
LSA, Psychology, RC Creative Writing

Third Place (tie)

Sara Wong
“And Then We Got Married”
Class of 2026
LSA, English

Finalist

Simon Moncke
“Photographs: ‘Far from Noise and Disturbance’ and ‘A
Day's Amusements’”
Class of 2025
LSA, Political Science, International Studies

Third Place (tie)

Megan Kleiner
“Where Did Hannah Go?”
Class of 2025
LSA, English

Hopwood Graduate Fiction

Preliminary Judges

Adam Dalva and James R. Gapinski

Final Judges

V.V. Ganeshanathan and Marytza Rubio

First Place

Alejandro de la Garza
Two Stories: "Son" and "Revelation"
Class of 2026
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Finalist

Julianne Angeli
Three Stories: "Oscar"; "The Bull"; "That Night"
Class of 2029
LSA, Romance Languages and Literatures

Second Place

Caroline Porter
"Nancy" and "Mutual"
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Finalist

Benjamin Chappelow
"REIFIER"
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Third Place

Abeje Schnake
"House Rules"
Class of 2026
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Finalist

Jennifer Nessel
Two Stories: "Swallow" and "And Calls His Name"
Class of 2026
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Finalist

Alexie Milukhin
"Near Child, A Collection: Genuine Ferret, Strange
Uncle, and the Woman Who is Not My Mother"
Class of 2025
School of Public Policy

Hopwood Nonfiction

Hopwood First- and Second-Year Nonfiction

Judges

Piper J. Daniels and Joanna Lin Want

First Place

Siena Beres
“Two Essays: Six Ways to Spell Lviv, Mark 9:24 (NIV)”
Class of 2028
LSA, English, History

Second Place

Hanqi Shang
“Birds on a telephone wire” and “Conversations with the mirror”
Class of 2027
LSA, Cognitive Science, Creative Writing, Literature

Third Place

Shereen Vernon
“The Beauty of Vulnerability” and “Locating Literacy”
Class of 2027
LSA, English

Fourth Place

Estlin Salah
“Losing Season”
Class of 2027
LSA, EEB, Earth and Environmental Sciences

Fifth Place

Abigail Kalin
“The Diary of a Geriatric Juvenile”
Class of 2027
LSA, Creative Writing

Hopwood Undergraduate Nonfiction

Preliminary Judges

Sarah Minor and Patrick Nathan

Final Judges

Kristi Coulter and Sarah Viren

First Place

Brandon David Servos
“What the Trees Told Me and After the Winter”
Class of 2026
LSA, English

Second Place

Alexander Marshall
“White Lillies, Standard Arrangement”
Class of 2026
LSA, History, Film, Television, and Media

Third Place

Wren Wilson
“F44.81”
Class of 2026
LSA, General Studies

Fourth Place

Liam Rappleye
“Four Essays: Two short, one long, one illustrated”
Class of 2025
LSA, English

Finalist

Ahmed Elkhatib
“An Arab Muslim’s Musing on Music” and “The City of Dearborn Within Ann Arbor”
Class of 2026
LSA, Biopsychology, Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience

Finalist

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

Finalist

Arya Kamat
“Hanging by a Thread, Motherhood’s Menu, & At the Heart of Indian Weddings”
Class of 2026
School of Public Health, Public Health Sciences

Hopwood Graduate Nonfiction

Preliminary Judges

LaTanya McQueen and Bassam Sadiki

Final Judges

Kristi Coulter and Sarah Viren

First Place

Dibyangee Saha
“Fish out of water”
Class of 2030
LSA, English

Fourth Place

Caroline New
“Ostreidae”
Class of 2031
LSA, Anthropology

Second Place

Alejandro de la Garza
“Hunan, China: Sketches of a New Generation”
Class of 2026
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Finalist

Hank Hietala
“Martyr to Modernity: A George Mackay Brown
Travelogue”
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Third Place

Sophie Weisskoff
“Things People Say”
Class of 2026
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Finalist

AiLi Pigott
“Dear Zhong Xiaoxi”
Class of 2025
School for Environment and Sustainability,
Geospatial Data Science

Other Juried Awards

Academy of American Poets Prize

Judges

Robert Laidler (Graduate) and Nandi Comer (Undergraduate)

Graduate Winner

Rebecca Hawkes
"Shining Cuckoo"
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Undergraduate Winner

Ruby Lewis
"In the Lamplight"
Class of 2025
LSA, English

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

Judge

Jay Baron Nicorvo

Winner

Myrra Arya
"A Collection of Works"
Class of 2026
LSA, Biology

Bain-Swiggett Prize

Judge

Robert Laidler

Winner

Ruby Lewis
"Mama's Sonnet: A golden shovel after William
Shakespeare's 'Sonnet 73'"
Class of 2025
LSA, English

Winner

Clara Rosarius
"My Father's Bed"
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Cora Duncan Award in Fiction

Judge

Kelsey Ronan

First Place

Suparna Hande
"The Babysitter"
Class of 2025
LSA, Creative Writing, Literature, Asian Studies

Second Place

Sarah Mallon
"I'm not in love with Erin"
Class of 2025
LSA, English

David Porter Award for Excellence in Journalism

Judge Beenish Ahmed

First Place

Meleck Eldahshoury
"Arab Diaspora on University of Michigan Campus"
Class of 2025
LSA, Economics, English

Second Place

Madison Hammond
"I was miserable': MDining employees face alleged
identity-based harassment, isolation and few solutions"
Class of 2026
LSA, PPE, Cognitive Science

Frank and Gail Beaver Script Writing Prize

Judge Film, Television, and Media Undergraduate Committee

Winner

Claire de Vries
"We're Not the Same"
Class of 2025
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

Jeffrey L. Weisberg Memorial Prize in Poetry

Judge Nandi Comer

Winner

Bridget Scully
"Left Art (or what's left of it)"
Class of 2027
LSA, English, Communications and Media

Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing

Preliminary Judge Frank Beaver

Final Judges Katie Plott and Lawrence Kasdan

First Place

Derek Weinstock
"Beloved By God"
Class of 2025
LSA, Film, Television, and Media, English

Second Place

Rachel Vesey
"LifeSkills"
Class of 2024
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

Keith Taylor Award for Excellence in Poetry

Judge Keith Taylor

First Place

Ruby Lewis
"Duck Hunting on the 5th of November, 2024"
Class of 2025
LSA, English

Second Place

Safa Hijazi
"Dream at Dawn Prayer in the Mountains of the
Motherland"
Class of 2025
LSA, English

Marjorie Rapaport Award in Poetry

Judge

Nandi Comer

First Place

Safa Hijazi
“Hail Maryam”
Class of 2025
LSA, English

Second Place

Sneha Dhandapani
“passing the torch with a blade”
Class of 2025
LSA, Cognitive Science, Creative Writing

Michael R. Gutterman Award in Poetry

Judge

Robert Laidler

First Place

Malia Maxwell
“In the not-not-woods”
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Second Place

Allison Wei
“Recipe for Beef Stew”
Class of 2025
Ross School of Business

Peter Phillip Pratt Award in Fiction

Judge

Jay Baron Nicorvo

First Place

David Collins
“Sunset Romance”
Class of 2025
LSA, English

Second Place

Katherine Hattersley
“Ambulatory of a Russian Palace”
Class of 2025
LSA, English

Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship

Judge

Rae Gouirand

Winner—Ann Arbor

Katherine Hattersley
“Sisterhood, In All Its Many Languages”
Class of 2025
LSA, English

Winner—Ann Arbor

Juno Nedumaran
“The Loser”
Class of 2026
LSA, Neuroscience

Winner—Ann Arbor

Safa Hijazi
“MEDITERRANEAN SEA AS FUEL”
Class of 2025
LSA, English

Winner—Dearborn

Carlos Gonzalez
“The Psychosis From Within”
Class of 2025
Business

Winner—Ann Arbor

Je Woo Han
“Scents I Left”
Class of 2026
LSA, Political Science, Film, Television, and Media

Winner—Flint

Jenna McIntire
“witches”
Class of 2027
Criminal Justice, Sociology

Text/Image Composition Prize

Judge

Samiya Bashir

First Place

Elizabeth Lee

“Family Portrait”

Class of 2025

Helen Zell Writers’ Program

Second Place

Audrey Jarrett

“House of Ostara 1”

Class of 2026

Stamps, Program in the Environment, Environment
and ArtDes

Third Place

Elena Mills

“Hurricane Helene”

Class of 2026

LSA, English, Arts and Ideas in the Humanities

Fourth Place

Holly Tschirhart

“Happy Halloween!”

Class of 2025

LSA, Creative Writing

Additional Prizes

Andrea Beauchamp Prize

Alejandro de la Garza
Two Stories: "Son" and "Revelation"
Class of 2026
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Chamberlain Award for Creative Writing

Julianne Angeli
Three Stories: "Oscar"; "The Bull"; "That Night"
Class of 2029
LSA, Romance Languages and Literatures

Jennifer Nessel
Two Stories: "Swallow" and "And Calls His Name"
Class of 2026
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Benjamin Chappelow
"REIFIER"
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Alexie Milukhin
"Near Child, A Collection: Genuine Ferret, Strange Uncle, and the Woman Who is Not My Mother"
Class of 2025
School of Public Policy

Dennis McIntyre Prize for Distinction in Undergraduate Playwriting

Ryland Gigante
"Jack of Thebes"
Class of 2025
SMTD, Acting

Maeson Linnert
"Bear Foot!"
Class of 2025
LSA, Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience; Film, Television & Media

Holly Tschirhart
"Dead Girl"
Class of 2025
LSA, Creative Writing

Geoffrey James Gosling Prize

Holly Tschirhart
"Absolute Realities"
Class of 2025
LSA, Creative Writing

Katherine Hattersley
"Sevgi"
Class of 2025
LSA, English

Helen J. Daniels Prize

Brandon David Servos
"What the Trees Told Me and After the Winter"
Class of 2026
LSA, English

Alexander Marshall
"White Lillies, Standard Arrangement"
Class of 2026
LSA, History, Film, Television, and Media

Helen S. and John Wagner Prize

Caroline New
"Conversations with the Shark Head"
Class of 2031
LSA, Anthropology

John Wagner Prize

Dibyangee Saha
"Fish out of water"
Class of 2030
LSA, English

Leonard and Eileen Newman Prize for Dramatic Writing

Izzy Soden
"BRAIN CANCER IS FOR P*\$\$IES!"
Class of 2025
LSA, Film, Television, and Media; Spanish;
Screenwriting

Kyla Kralapp
"TO THE DOGS"
Class of 2025
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

Gwennyth Paulson
"Beneath the Monument"
Class of 2025
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

Hann Kim
"Dancing Spiders Play Jazz in Nooks"
Class of 2025
LSA, Film, Television, and Media

Leonard and Eileen Newman Prize for Fiction

Alexandra Berryman
"Marble Women"
Class of 2027
LSA, Psychology, RC Creative Writing

Simon Moncke
"Photographs: 'Far from Noise and Disturbance' and
'A Day's Amusements'"
Class of 2025
LSA, Political Science, International Studies

Meader Family Award

Emma Erlbacher
"Light and Work"
Class of 2026
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Matthew Buxton
"Premortality: A Family Drama"
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Edgar Morales
"Out in the Field, There Are No More Fences"
Class of 2025
Helen Zell Writers' Program

Naomi Saferstein Literary Award

Ryland Gigante
"Jack of Thebes"
Class of 2025
SMTD, Acting

Lillian Reed-Nordwall
"Valkyrie"
Class of 2027
LSA, Film, Television, and Media; Creative Writing

Paul and Sonia Handleman Poetry Award

Amanda Venclovaite Pirani
"Roach"
Class of 2025
LSA, Political Science, Creative Writing

Heami Oh
"After the End"
Class of 2025
School of Engineering, Computer Science

Robert F. Haugh Prize

Alex Hetzler
"The Seawall"
Class of 2026
LSA, English, Creative Writing

Roy and Helen Meador Award

Meghan Dwan
"The Hawk and the Hare"
Class of 2027
LSA, Anthropology, Creative Writing

Stanley S. Schwartz Prize

Minsoo Kim
"Zodiac"
Class of 2025
School of Engineering, Biomedical Engineering

The Hopwood Program proudly presents

The 2025 Hopwood Lecturer

Hala Alyan



DR. HALA ALYAN is the author of two novels, *The Arsonists' City* and *Salt Houses*, winner of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize and the Arab American Book Award, as well as five acclaimed collections of poetry including *The Moon That Turns You Back*. She is a clinical psychologist and professor at New York University.

The 2025 Hopwood Judges

Elinam Agbo (*Hopwood Undergraduate Fiction, Preliminary*) holds an AB from the University of Chicago and an MFA from the University of Michigan's Helen Zell Writers Program. A graduate of the Clarion Workshop, she was a 2019 Aspen Words Emerging Writer Fellow and the 2021-2023 Kenyon Review Fellow in Prose. Her writing has appeared and is forthcoming in *Transition*, *Apogee*, *American Short Fiction*, *Nimrod*, *Best Debut Short Stories 2018*, and elsewhere. As an editor, she curated *Black Estrangement*, a special online issue of *Kenyon Review*, featuring emerging Black writers. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Bucknell University.

Beenish Ahmed (*David Porter Award for Excellence in Journalism*) is a reporter at the NPR news station Michigan Public and a Local Reporting Network fellow with the investigative news outlet, ProPublica. She's also the founder of THE ALIGNIST, a box subscription service that connects international literature to international news along with fair trade artisanal goods and authentic recipes to create an immersive and engaged literary experience. Beenish is a former Fulbright Scholar, NPR Kroc Fellow, and Spencer Fellow at the Columbia School of Journalism. Her writing has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, and on NPR.

Kenzie Allen (*Hopwood Graduate Poetry, Preliminary*) is the author of *Cloud Missives* (Tin House, 2024). She is a Haudenosaunee poet and multimodal artist, and the recipient of a 92NY Discovery Prize, an inaugural James Welch Prize for Indigenous Poets, the 49th Parallel Award in poetry, broadside prizes from Sundress Publications and Littoral Press, and fellowships from Vermont Studio Center, Aspen Writers' Foundation, and In-Na-Po (Indigenous Nations Poets). A finalist for the National Poetry Series, her poems have appeared in *Poetry* magazine, *Boston Review*, *Narrative* magazine, *Poetry Daily*, *Best New Poets*, and other venues. She is a first-generation descendant of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin.

Samiya Bashir

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.

Mary Biddinger's (*Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize, Final*) most recent poetry collection is *Department of Elegy*. She is also co-editor of *A Mollusk Without a Shell: Essays on Self-Care for Writers*. Her novella-in-flash, *The Girl with the Black Lipstick*, is forthcoming from Black Lawrence Press in July 2025. Biddinger is professor and chair of English at the University of Akron, where she directs the Northeast Ohio MFA in creative writing program and serves as poetry editor for the University of Akron Press.

Shawntai Brown (*Hopwood Drama, Preliminary*) is a native Detroit playwright, poet, teaching artist and 2020 Detroit Kresge Live Arts Fellow. She has a BA in creative writing from Western Michigan University and a MA in Literacy Learning from Marygrove College. Currently, she is the School Programs

Manager with InsideOut Literary Arts. She is a contributing writer and board member with [Extra Mile Playwrights Theatre](#). Along with her wife, she organizes [Black LGBT+ Plays](#) and co-hosts [Woman Crush Everyday](#), a web show dedicated to reviewing media centering Black women-loving-women characters. You can find her poetry in [Wayne Literary Review](#), Kaleidoscope, and Cactus Heart, among others. Her one-act and full-length plays center queer identity and black community through comedy, drama and documentary theatre. Right now, Shawntai is somewhere laughing, crafting a scene, cracking a joke, or cuddling her wife and their dog. Learn more about Shawntai's work at [sbscribes.com](#).

Lily C. Buday (*Hopwood First- and Second-Year Fiction*) is originally from northern Michigan, where she learned to write semi-obsessively about lakes and water. Her work has been published in *Chautauqua*, *GASHER*, *Joyland Magazine*, and *Salt Hill Journal*, and has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. She is the recipient of a 2022 Individual Artist Fellowship from the Arkansas Arts Council and a 2022 Artists 360 Fellowship from the Mid-America Arts Alliance. She holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of Arkansas, where she was awarded the James E. & Ellen Wadley Roper Fellowship in Creative Writing and the Harrison/Whitehead Founders' Fellowship.

Bryan Byrdlong (*Hopwood First- and Second-Year Poetry*) is a Black poet from Chicago, Illinois. He received his MFA in Creative Writing from the Helen Zell Writers' Program at the University of Michigan. He has been published in *Guernica Magazine*, *The Kenyon Review*, and *Poetry Magazine*, among others. Bryan received a 2021 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation. His debut collection, *Strange Flowers*, was published by Yes Yes Books in 2025. He is currently a PhD student in Creative Writing at USC in Los Angeles.

Franny Choi (*Hopwood Graduate and Undergraduate Poetry, Final*) is a poet & essayist. Their books include *The World Keeps Ending, and the World Goes On* (Ecco, 2022), a finalist for the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, *Soft Science* (Alice James Books, 2019), and *Floating, Brilliant, Gone* (Write Bloody Publishing, 2014). Franny's writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Atlantic*, the *Paris Review*, and elsewhere. Franny is the current Poet Laureate of Northampton, MA and the founder of Brew & Forge. She has two books forthcoming: a collection of essays about robots, and an anthology, *We the Gathered Heat: Asian American and Pacific Islander Poetry, Performance, and Spoken Word*, co-edited with Terisa Siagatonu, No'u Revilla, and Bao Phi. Franny is the Spring 2025 Distinguished Writer-in-Residence at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and is Faculty in Literature at Bennington College.

Andrew Collard (*Hopwood Undergraduate Poetry, Preliminary*) is the author of *Sprawl* (Ohio University Press, 2023), winner of the Hollis Summers Poetry Prize. His poems have appeared in *Ploughshares*, *AGNI*, *Kenyon Review*, and elsewhere. He lives with his son and teaches in Grand Rapids, MI.

William N. "Bill" Collage (*Hopwood Screenplay, Final*) is an award-winning screenwriter. His produced credits include: *Ransom* (1996), *New York Minute* (2004), *Accepted* (2006), *Tower Heist* (2011), *Exodus* (2014), *Transporter: Refueled* (2014), *Assassin's Creed* (2016), *Divergent Series: "Allegiant"* (2016), *Emancipation* (2023) and *Sleeping Dogs* (2024). His uncredited work includes *I'll Be Home For Christmas* (1998), *Fun With Dick and Jane* (2005), *Get Smart* (2008), *The Great Wall* (2016), *Freelance* (2022), *The Burial* (2024) and the upcoming film *Afterburn* (2025).

Nandi Comer (*Academy of American Poets Prize, Undergraduate; Marjorie Rapaport Award, Jeffrey L. Weisberg Prize*) is an award-winning poet and essayist. She served as the 2nd Poet Laureate of the state of Michigan 2023-2025, during which time she spearheaded *Michigan Words* and the video series

Michigan in Verse. She is the author of *American Family: A Syndrome* (Finishing Line Press) and *Tapping Out* (Triquarterly), which was awarded the 2020 Society of Midland Authors Award and the 2020 Julie Suk Award. She is a Cave Canem Fellow, a Callaloo Fellow, an Academy of American Poets Poet Laureate Fellow, and a 2019 Kresge Arts in Detroit Fellow. Her poems and essays have appeared in *Green Mountains Review*, *The Offing*, *Callaloo*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *The Journal of Pan African Studies*, and others. She is the co-director of Detroit Lit.

Kristi Coulter (*Hopwood Graduate and Undergraduate Nonfiction, Final*) is a University of Michigan MFA alum and author of two memoirs: *Nothing Good Can Come from This* (MCD Books, 2018) and *Exit Interview: The Life & Death of My Ambitious Career* (MCD Books, 2023). Her writing has also appeared in *The Paris Review*, *New York Magazine*, *Elle*, *Glamour*, *Columbia Journal*, *The Believer*, and elsewhere. She was a finalist for the 2019 Washington State Book Award and has held residencies at Ragdale and the Mineral School. Kristi has taught writing at the University of Michigan, the University of Washington, Hugo House, Write Doe Bay, and elsewhere. She lives in Minneapolis and Los Angeles with her husband and golden retrievers and is at work on a novel.

Rani Deighe Crowe (*Hopwood Screenplay, Preliminary*) is an independent filmmaker and screenwriter as well as theater and interdisciplinary artist. Her award-winning short films including *Safety State*, *Quiet on Set*, *Trying to Remember*, *Heather Has Four Moms*, *Welfare Check*, *Texting: A Love Story*, *Beautiful Eyes*, *The Test*, *Just in Case*, and *Unmasked*, have screened in hundreds of festivals all over the world including British Film Institute Flare London, Athens International Film and Video Festival, Final Girls Film Festival Berlin, Female Eye Film Festival Toronto, Southampton Film Festival UK, Sapporo Short film Festival Japan, Provincetown Film Festival, and Northern Wave International Film Festival Iceland. She has an MFA in Film from Ohio University and is currently an Associate Professor at Ball State University.

Adam Dalva's (*Hopwood Graduate Fiction, Preliminary*) writing has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, and *The New York Review of Books*. He is a Contributing Fiction Editor of the *Yale Review* and serves on the board of the National Book Critics Circle. Adam is an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Rutgers University.

Piper J. Daniels (she/her/hers) (*Hopwood First- and Second-Year Nonfiction*) is a queer antiracist intersectional feminist who holds a BA from Columbia College and an MFA from the University of Washington. She's currently an MSW candidate at the University of Michigan's School of Social Work. Piper's debut essay collection, *Ladies Lazarus*, won the Tarpaulin Sky Book Award, was longlisted for the PEN Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award For the Art of the Essay, and was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award in LGBTQ Nonfiction. Her epistolary collaboration with the author David Lazard will be featured in *Double Indemnities*, forthcoming from University of Nebraska Press. Her creative coaching business, Epiphany Author Services, assists authors with everything they need from inspiration to publication, and is devoted to the proliferation of BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ voices. She is a proud auntie to the two coolest girls in the world.

Asher Dark (*Hopwood First- and Second-Year Fiction*) is a novelist and teacher living in Philadelphia, PA. He is a graduate of the Helen Zell Writers' Program at the University of Michigan, and has had work published in *The Baffler*, *Story Quarterly*, and *Philadelphia Magazine*.

RS Deeren's (*Hopwood Undergraduate Fiction, Preliminary*) 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, just like some of the characters in these stories. He earned his MFA from Columbia College Chicago and received his PhD at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Matthew Del Busto

Tarik Dobbs (*Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize, Preliminary*) (b. 1997, Dearborn, MI) is a writer, artist, and Poetry Foundation Ruth Lilly & Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellow. Poems by Dobbs have been featured in the anthologies *Best New Poets* and *Best of the Net*, as well as in *AGNI*, *American Poetry Review*, and *Poetry Magazine*, among others. Dobbs is the director of poetry.onl and has served as a guest editor at *Mizna* and *Zoeglossia: A Community for Poets with Disabilities*. Dobbs holds an M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Minnesota and an M.F.A. in art, theory, practice from Northwestern University. Dobbs is assistant professor of English in creative writing (poetry) at Southwest Minnesota State University. The debut poetry collections by Dobbs, *Nazar Boy* (2024) and *Dearbornistan* (2026), are from Haymarket Books.

Lindsey Drager (*Hopwood Novel, Final*) is the author of four novels: *The Sorrow Proper* (Dzanc, 2015), *The Lost Daughter Collective* (Dzanc, 2017), *The Archive of Alternate Endings* (Dzanc, 2019), and *The Avian Hourglass* (Dzanc, 2024). These books have been listed as a “Best Book of the Year” in *The Guardian*, *NPR*, and *PopMatters*; twice been named finalists for Lambda Literary Awards; and have variously been translated into Spanish and Italian. Recent short fiction can be found in *Conjunctions*, *Kenyon Review*, *Southern Review*, *Iowa Review*, and elsewhere. Recipient of a 2017 Shirley Jackson Award, a 2020 NEA Fellowship in Prose, the 2022 Bard Fiction Prize, a 2025 Pushcart Prize, and a 2025 O. Henry Prize, she is currently the fiction editor of *West Branch* and a faculty member in the creative writing PhD program at the University of Utah where she also volunteers with the University Prison Education Project (UPEP). For more information, visit lindseydrager.com.

Carson Faust (*Hopwood Novel, Preliminary*) is two-spirit and an enrolled member of the Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe of South Carolina. His fiction has appeared in various journals and has been anthologized in *Never Whistle At Night: An Indigenous Dark Fiction Anthology* (Vintage, 2023). His debut novel, *If the Dead Belong Here* is forthcoming from Viking in October 2025.

James R. Gapinski (they/them) (*Hopwood Graduate Fiction, Preliminary*) is the author of the novella *Edge of the Known Bus Line*, winner of the 2018 Etchings Press Novella Prize, named to *Kirkus Reviews'* Best Books of 2018, and a finalist for the 2019 Montaigne Medal. Their short story collection, *The Museum of Future Mistakes*, won the 2024 BOA Short Fiction Prize and will be published by BOA Editions in late 2025. James is also the author of three chapbooks: *The Last Dinosaurs of Portland*, *Fruit Rot*, and *Messiah Tortoise*. They run Conium Press in Portland, Oregon and teach fiction for Southern New Hampshire University's online MFA program. Learn more at jamesrgapinski.com.

V. V. Ganeshanathan (she/her) (*Hopwood Graduate and Undergraduate Fiction, Final*) is the author of the novels *Brotherless Night* (winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction, the Carol Shields Prize, and the Asian Prize, as well as a *New York Times* Editors' Choice, and an NPR Book of the Year) and *Love Marriage* (longlisted for the Women's Prize and named one of the best books of the year by *The Washington Post*). Her work has appeared in *Granta*, *The New York Times*, and *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*, among other publications. She teaches in the [MFA program at the University of](#)

[Minnesota](#), where she is a McKnight Presidential Fellow and associate professor of English. Since 2017, she has co-hosted Literary Hub's [Fiction/Non/Fiction podcast](#), which is about the intersection of literature and the news.

Anita Gonzalez (*Hopwood Drama, Final*) advocates for beautiful art crafted for social activism and consciousness raising. She is a 2023-2025 Fellow with American Opera Project's Composers and Voice and a winner of Opera America's IDEA grant. **Musicals:** *Kumanana* (Gala Hispanic Theater), *Ybor City* (Latiné Musical Theater Lab), *Zora on My Mind* (The Woodshed), *Ayanna Kelly*. **Plays & Librettos:** *Brathwaite's Mecca* (AOP), *Forever Entwined* (AOP) *Faces in the Flames* (Atlanta Opera and Opera America) *Courthouse Bells* (Boston Opera Collaborative), *Finding the Light* (Louise Toppin and Marquita Lister), *Sunset Dreams* (The Vagrancy), *Home of My Ancestors* (HGOCO). **Books:** *Shipping Out: Race Performance and Labor at Sea*, *Black Performance Theory*, *Afro-Mexico*. Dr. Gonzalez is a Professor at Georgetown University and Co-Founder of the Racial Justice Institute. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Lincoln Center Director's Lab and sits on the Board of Directors of the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation. www.anitagonzalez.com

Rae Gouirand (*Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowships*) is the author of nine titles of poetry and nonfiction, including *The Velvet Book* (Cornerstone Press, 2024), *Glass is Glass Water is Water* (Spork Press, 2018), and *The History of Art* (The Atlas Review, 2019). Her work has appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Bennington Review*, *Boston Review*, *Conjunctions*, *Foglifter*, *The Iowa Review*, *jubilat*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, [PANK], *The Rumpus*, *Spinning Jenny*, *Under a Warm Green Linden*, *ZYZZYVA*, two volumes of the *Best New Poets* series, *Please Excuse This Poem: 100 New Poems for the Next Generation*, *Queer Nature: A Poetry Anthology*, and many other journals and anthologies. She leads several longstanding independent workshops in northern California and online, including the cross-genre workshop *Scribe Lab*, and lectures in the Department of English at UC-Davis, where she teaches poetry, creative nonfiction, and short fiction in the undergraduate creative writing program. / raegouirand.com

torrin a. greathouse (she/they) (*Hopwood Graduate Poetry, Preliminary*) is an award-winning transgender cripple-punk poet and essayist. Her work has been featured in *Poetry Magazine*, *The Rumpus*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *Copper Nickel*, and *The Kenyon Review*. They have received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Effing Foundation for Sex-Positivity, and The Ragdale Foundation. She is the author of two collections, *DEED* (Wesleyan University Press, 2024), winner of a 2025 Stonewall Book Award, and *Wound from the Mouth of a Wound* (Milkweed Editions, 2020), a Minnesota Book Award and CLMP Firecracker Award finalist, and winner of the 2022 Kate Tufts Discovery Award. She teaches in the low-residency MFA program at Pacific Lutheran University.

Megan Halpern (*Hopwood Screenplay, Final*) is Senior Vice President of the Black List, where she oversees their film and television slate alongside a robust array of programs and partnerships. In addition, she produces the Black List's podcasts "Nobody Knows Anything" and "Word by Word," the latter of which raised over \$100,000 for writer support organizations during the 2023 WGA Strike. Halpern began her career in book publishing and joined the Black List in 2014 to develop its lab programs and produce live events. She has since overseen the company's collaborations with Google, UPS, GM, Warby Parker, Marriott, and Tubi, among others, and led its expansion into theater. Independently, she produced Noga Pnueli's directorial debut *DEBORAH*, starring Sophia Bush and Deborah Ann Woll. She graduated from New York University and currently lives in Los Angeles.

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.

Elizabeth Kostova (*Hopwood Novel, Final*) holds a B.A. in British Studies from Yale College and an M.F.A. in creative writing (fiction) from the University of Michigan. She is the author of three novels--*The Historian*, *The Swan Thieves*, and *The Shadow Land*--all of which involve the subject of historical research. Her work has been translated into 40 languages, and *The Historian* received Quill and American Bookseller Awards. It was also the first novel in American publishing history to debut at #1 on the NYT bestseller list. Her fourth novel, *Brogan*, will be published in 2026. Kostova's short fiction, poetry, and essays have appeared in such periodicals and anthologies as *Mississippi Review*, *Poets & Writers Magazine*, *The Best American Poetry*, and *Michigan Quarterly Review*. Kostova reads and lectures internationally and is co-founder of the Elizabeth Kostova Foundation (www.ekf.bg), based in Bulgaria. She lives in Asheville, NC, where she is working on post-hurricane relief.

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

LaTanya McQueen (*Hopwood Graduate Nonfiction, Preliminary*) is the recipient of grants from the National Endowment of the Arts, the Money for Women/Barbara Deming Memorial Fund for feminist fiction, and the Elizabeth George Foundation. She is the author of two books—the essay collection *And It Begins Like This* (Black Lawrence Press, 2017) and the novel *When the Reckoning Comes* (Harper Perennial, 2021; Olive Editions 2024), a Goodreads Choice nominee and Bram Stoker Award finalist. She is an Assistant Professor of English at North Carolina State University where she teaches in their MFA program.

Dr. Sarah Minor (*Hopwood Undergraduate Nonfiction, Preliminary*) is a writer and interdisciplinary artist and the author of *Carousel*, forthcoming from Yale University Press in 2026, as well as the books *Bright Archive* (Rescue Press) and *Slim Confessions: The Universe as a Spider or Spit* (Noemi Press). Her work has been collected in places like *Best American Experimental Writing* and has been awarded a fellowship from the American Scandinavian Foundation and the Barthelme Prize in Short Prose. Minor serves as the Video Essay editor at *Brink Literary Journal* and teaches as an Assistant Professor at the University of Iowa in the Nonfiction Writing MFA Program.

Patrick Nathan (*Hopwood Undergraduate Nonfiction, Preliminary*) is the author of *Some Hell*, a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award, and *Image Control: Social Media, Fascism, and the Dismantling of Democracy*. His latest novel, *The Future Was Color*, was published in June of 2024, and was the Summer Book Club pick at the Los Angeles Review of Books. His writing has appeared in the *New York*

Times, the Boston Globe, the New Republic, American Short Fiction, Gulf Coast, the Baffler, Longreads, the Paris Review Daily, Boulevard, and elsewhere. He also writes Entertainment Weekly, a Substack newsletter about art, politics, culture, and technology. He lives in Minneapolis.

Jay Baron Nicorvo's (*Arthur Miller Award; Peter Philip Pratt Award in Fiction*) memoir, *Best Copy Available*, won the AWP Award judged by Geoff Dyer. His novel, *The Standard Grand*, landed on the Indie Next List, and his poetry collection, *Deadbeat*, debuted on the Poetry Foundation bestseller list. Find Jay at www.nicorvo.net.

Karina Patel (*Hopwood Drama, Preliminary*) is a director and dramaturg originally from London, UK and based in Chicago, IL. She is currently the Literary Associate at Chicago Shakespeare Theater and New Works Manager at Jackalope Theatre Company. Karina has developed new and devised work with Filament Theatre, The Story Theatre, The Understudy Chicago, APIDA Arts, TimeLine Theatre Company, Avalanche Theatre, Token Theatre, 24 Hour Plays, and more. Most recently, she directed the United States premiere of DUMMY IN DIASPORA at Jackalope Theatre Company. She has also served as an assistant director at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Court Theatre, and the Repertory Theatre of St Louis.

Dr. Craig Santos Perez (*Hopwood Graduate and Undergraduate Poetry, Final*) is an indigenous Chamoru from the Pacific Island of Guam. He holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of San Francisco and a Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies from the University of California, Berkeley. He is the co-editor of nine anthologies and the author of seven books of poetry and the academic monograph, *Navigating Chamoru Poetry: Indigeneity, Aesthetics, and Decolonization*. He has received the National Book Award, the American Book Award, the PEN Center USA/Poetry Society of America Literary Prize, and the AWP George Garrett Award for Outstanding Community Service in Literature.

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.

Khadijah Queen (*Hopwood Drama, Final*) holds a PhD in English and Literary Arts from the University of Denver. She is the author of seven books of poetry and hybrid prose, including *Anodyne* (Tin House 2020), winner of the William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America. Her verse play *Non-Sequitur* (Litmus Press 2015) won the Leslie Scalapino Award for Innovative Performance Writing, and was performed by The Relationship Theater Company in New York City in 2015. Queen is a Cave Canem alum, a 2022 United States Artists Disability Futures Fellow, and a 2023 Civitella Ranieri Foundation Fellow. In 2025 the Foundation for Contemporary Arts recognized her work with the Cy Twombly Award in Poetry. Her memoir, *Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea*, is forthcoming from Legacy Lit/Hachette in August 2025.

Kelsey Ronan (*Cora Duncan Award in Fiction*) grew up in Flint, Michigan. Her work has appeared in *Lit Hub*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Indiana Review*, *Electric Literature*, *Kenyon Review*, and elsewhere. She is the author of the novel *Chevy in the Hole* (Holt, 2022), which was a *New York Times Book Review* Editor's Choice and a Michigan Notable Book. She lives in Metro Detroit.

Marytza K. Rubio (*Hopwood Graduate and Undergraduate Fiction, Final*) is an author and arts

administrator from Santa Ana, California. Her debut collection of short stories *Maria, Maria & Other Stories* was longlisted for a 2022 National Book Award in Fiction.

Bassam Sidiki (*Hopwood Graduate Nonfiction, Preliminary*) is a Pakistani American scholar and writer, currently an Assistant Professor of English at UT Austin. He received his PhD in English from the University of Michigan, during which time he received a Hopwood Nonfiction Award and served briefly as the Nonfiction Editor at MQR. His creative writing and public criticism have appeared in *Hyphen*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Bangalore Review*, *Jaggery*, *Chicago Review*, *Counterclock*, *Lakeer*, and elsewhere. Learn more about him and his work at www.bassamsidiki.com.

Darina Sikmashvili (*Hopwood Screenplay, Preliminary*) was born in Lubny, Ukraine, and raised in Brooklyn, New York. Her writing has been generously supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Elizabeth George Foundation, and UNESCO Arts, among others. Her recent writing appears in *The End* magazine, *Archway Editions*, and *BOMB* magazine. Sikmashvili holds an MFA in fiction from the University of Michigan and works in film production. She's writing a novel. sikmashvili.com

Leah Stewart (*Hopwood Novel, Preliminary*) is the author of six novels, most recently *What You Don't Know About Charlie Outlaw*. She is a professor at the University of Cincinnati, where she teaches in both the undergraduate major and the PhD program, and the director of the Sewanee Writers' Conference.

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.

Sarah Viren (*Hopwood Graduate and Undergraduate Nonfiction, Final*) is the author of *To Name the Bigger Lie*, a *New York Times* Editors' Choice and an NPR and LitHub best book of the year. Her essay collection, *Mine* was longlisted for the PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for the Art of the Essay and received the Great Lakes College Association's New Writers Award as well as the River Teeth Book Prize. Both books were also finalists for a Lambda Literary Award. A contributing writer for the *New York Times Magazine* and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellow, Viren teaches in the creative writing program at Arizona State University.

Joanna Lin Want (*Hopwood First- and Second-Year Nonfiction*) is an Associate Teaching Professor at the University of Notre Dame, where she teaches Writing and Rhetoric. She has served as co-editor of *Fresh Writing*, an online journal of exemplary writing projects by first-year students at Notre Dame, and continues to serve on their Editorial Board. She also serves as a reviewer for the National Council of Teachers of English's (NCTE) Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines Award. She holds an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Indiana University, Bloomington and a Ph.D. in English and Education from the University of Michigan. Her writing has appeared in *Crab Orchard Review*, *Indiana Review*, *Exit 7*, *Spillway*, *JAC* and others.

Daniella Toosie-Watson (she/they) (*Hopwood Undergraduate Poetry, Preliminary*) is a poet, visual artist, and educator. Their first book, *What We Do with God* (Fall 2025) is forthcoming with Haymarket Books. Daniella was shortlisted for the 2024 Oxford Poetry Prize and has been published in *The Atlantic*, *The Paris Review*, *Oxford Poetry*, *Callaloo*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Poet Lore*, and elsewhere. A profile writer for *The Kennedy Center Next 50* and current Visiting Professor at Pratt Institute, they received their MFA from the University of Michigan Helen Zell Writers' Program where they were awarded a Zell Fellowship and Graduate Hopwood Award. Daniella lives in New York.

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 Baron Zerman Book Fund

Over one hundred books have been added to the Hopwood Room since September of 2019. The Hopwood Program is able to better serve the University community because of the Miriam Baron Zerman Book Fund. 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 left the University and married Melvyn Zerman, a fellow undergraduate. When Miriam died in 1985, Melvyn set up the fund with the help of their friend, Dan Greenberg. Since 1985, the fund has continued to receive many contributions, including consistent support from Dan Greenberg. Mr. Greenberg told me, "Miriam was a very kind and thoughtful person," and it seems Miriam's kindness is what makes the fund true to her memory. When someone contributes to a book fund like this, the community of aspiring writers and loving readers which the Hopwood Room serves directly benefits.

A photograph of a library or study room. In the foreground, there is a round wooden table 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 2025 winners and
finalists.**

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

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

January 15th, 2026.