

Department of English & Creative Writing

2020 Student Prizes



**Academy of American Poets Prize** . . . *for the best poem or poems written by an undergraduate (offered through the Department of English & Creative Writing).*

* to **Sanjana Thakur**, Class of 2020, for “Birthday Party”

**Jacqueline Award for Literary Essay***. . .* *established by Eleanor and Rosamond Peck in memory of their sister Jacqueline, Class of 1934, the prize is assigned with “particular reference to the ability of the student to write with delicacy and beauty of expression as well as power.”*

* 1st Place to**Margaret Roberts***,* Class of 2020, for *”'*There is no justice': Jean Rhys’s Women as Advocates”
* 2nd Place to Doris Li, Class of 2020, for “Poetic Palliation: The Anaesthetic of the Imagination”

**Johanna Mankiewicz Davis Prize for Prose Fiction***. . .* *established by Peter Davis in memory of Johanna Mankiewicz Davis, Class of 1958,**for excellence in prose fiction.*

* 1st Place to Sanjana Thakur, Class of 2020, for “Sexual Relations”
* 2nd Place (tie) to Christine Arumainayagam, Class of 2020, for “Ceramic Sand”
* 2nd Place (tie) to Ashley Anderson, Davis Scholar, Class of 2021, for “Reenlistment”
* 3rd Place to Tanvi Kodali, Class of 2020, for “Lost at Sea”

**English Department Prize for Excellence in Translation** . . . *established by the Wellesley Club UK as an annual prize for translation of a text into English.*

* 1st Place (tie), Poetry, to Christine Arumainayagam, Class of 2020, for her translation of “Saudade” by Pablo Neruda
* 1st Place (tie), Poetry, to Cheryl Wang, Class of 2023, for her translation of “Daydream” by Bei Dao
* 1st Place, Prose, to Laura Hamm, Class of 2020, for her translation of “The Bride” by Anton Chekov

**Mary Lyons Prize for Writing**. . .*awarded* *to a junior or senior for an outstanding story, scholarly study, or essay reflecting topical interest and showing literary distinction.*

* 1st Place, Personal Essay, to Margaret Roberts, Class of 2020, for “Non Sequiturs for Grandma”
* 1st Place (tie), Literary Review, to Claire Cheek, Class of 2021, for “The Elegy for the Mundane in Jana Prikryl’s No Matter”
* 1st Place (tie), Literary Review, to Audrey Powers, Class of 2020, for “Reading Thom Gunn in the Time of Coronavirus”
* 2nd Place, Personal Essay, to Mei Hing Samantha Lai, Class of 2021, for ”Siege”
* 3rd Place, Personal Essay, to Ashley Anderson, Davis Scholar Class of 2021, for “One Night”

**Agnes F. Perkins Prize for Literary Essay***. . .**awarded for creative or critical prose.*

* to **Funing Yang**, Class of 2022, for “Slaying the Jabberwocky: Made-up Language and Child Growth”

**Charlotte Paul Reese ‘38 Memorial Prize for Creativity in Fiction***. . .**established in 1995 by Robert Reese and Harriet Chamberlain Wilson ’38.*

* 1st Place, *Creativity in Creative Non-Fiction*, to **Allison Bobb**, Davis Scholar, Class of 2020, for “Heaven or Las Vegas”
* 1st Place, *Creativity in Writing for Television*, to **Lily Zella Jackson**, Class of 2020, for “Joyride”
* 1st Place (tie), *Creativity in Short Story Collection*, to**Christine Arumainayagam**, Class of 2020, for “When Rambutans Are in Season”
* 1st Place (tie), *Creativity in Short Story Collection*, to **Sanjana Thakur**, Class of 2020, for “Belly Up and Other Stories”
* 1st Place, *Creativity in Novella*, to **Victoria Merkle**, Class of 2020, for “Cleaving”
* 1st Place (tie), *Creativity in Poetry*, to **Haley Cheek**, Class of 2020, for “I Wanted a Cat”
* 1st Place (tie), *Creativity in Poetry*, to **Cheryn Shin**, Class of 2020, for “onomatopoeia”
* 2nd Place, *Creativity in Poetry*, to **Sophia Saco**, Class of 2022, for “Love Poems for the Apocalypse”

**Virginia Wainwright Sonnet Prize** . . .*established in 1963 by Virginia Wainwright.*

* 1st Place (tie) to **Margaret Olmsted**, Class of 2021, for “The City That Salt Built”
* 1st Place (tie) to **Sanjana Thakur**, Class of 2020, for “Lassie”

**Florence Annette Wing Memorial Prize for Lyric** **Poetry** . . . *Established by Mabel Wing Castle, Class of 1887, in memory of her sister for excellence in lyric poetry.*

* 1st Place to **Matilda Berke**, Class of 2021, for “Rotary Dial”
* 2nd Place to **Christine Arumainayagam**, Class of 2020, for “In a black pond everything looks sinister”

**Mary Ann Youngren Memorial Award in Critical Reading** . . .*established in 1981 by Diana Lissauer Fraid for the essay which best demonstrates a detailed responsiveness to the shape and substance of a work or works of English literature.*

* 1st Place to **Audrey Powers**, Class of 2020, for “Emily Dickinson’s Gendered Dualism”
* 2nd Place to **Angela Zhao**, Class of 2021, for “Virginia Woolf’s *To the Lighthouse*: Between Impersonality and Character”
* 3rd Place to **Megan Ruppel**, Class of 2020, for “Explain the title. How is “composition as explanation””
* Honorable Mention to **Lily Herold**, Class of 2022, for “Smoke, Lilies, and Jade: A Stylized Depiction of Intersectionality”

2020 Prize Committee:

Marilyn Sides, Chair; Frank Bidart, Margaret Cezair-Thompson, Lauren Holmes, Larry Rosenwald