Scholarships & Awards – 2008

The English department at NMSU awards a number of scholarships and prizes to outstanding undergraduate and graduate students in our programs.

The following are the 2008 award winners:

Undergraduate Awards

Paideia Documented Argument Contest

*Students enrolled in ENGL 111 in the summer or fall of the year the award is given are eligible to win. Three Documented Arguments will be selected as winners with a monetary prize and will have the opportunity to be published in the upcoming Paideia issue. Awards will be decided by the Writing Program Administrators.*

- 1st place: Bobby Herrera, “The Global Meltdown” (rhetorical analysis)
- 2nd place: Jekaterina Akatjeva, “John McCain’s Acceptance Speech: A Nationalism Where Ethos Meets Pathos” (rhetorical analysis)

LOLA Awards

- Alice Munro Prize for Fiction: Amanda Burns
- Eudora Welty Prize for Fiction: Colleen Dugle
- Grace Paley Prize for Fiction: Avra Elliott
- James Crumley Prize for Fiction: Joe Kierst
- Orson Welles Prize for Screenwriting: Mitchell T. Williams
- William Goldman Prize for Screenwriting: Josh Worley
- John Berryman Prize for Poetry: Naomi Estrada
- Louise Gluck Prize for Poetry: Aaron Daughtery
- Randal Jarrell Prize for Poetry: Michael Harrell
- Elizabeth Bishop Prize for Poetry: Candace Major

Robert A. Wichert Endowed Memorial Award for Creative Writing

*Two awards will be given to undergraduate students who have written an outstanding piece of fiction, poetry, or drama in an English class. The winners of this award are determined by the Creative Writing faculty.*
Camilo Roldan (poetry)  
Luke Luna (fiction)  
Jarrett Scanlon (poetry and fiction)

Dr. Larry L. Wilson Endowed Memorial Scholarship

This award is given to a New Mexico resident majoring in English with a GPA of 3.0 or better who demonstrates financial need, but does not qualify for aid. Determined by the Department Head in consultation with Financial Aid. Preference is to returning students.

- Matthew Guinard

Emerson Award

Selected from the Sutherland-McManus Memorial English Scholarship winners, this award recognizes outstanding writing by an undergraduate student in English. This award is decided by the Undergraduate Studies Committee. No applications accepted.

- Joe Kierst

Joseph H. Forsyth Endowed Memorial Scholarship

One or more native New Mexican juniors majoring in English with a 3.5 GPA or better can be awarded this scholarship. The Department Head determines the winner.

- Brittany S. Butler

Marion P. Hardman Endowed Memorial Scholarship

Two awards will be given to outstanding juniors or seniors majoring in English. Students must have completed 80 credits to be eligible. The Undergraduate Studies Committee determines the winners.


Mary Powell Ambrose Endowed Memorial Scholarship

Award to an outstanding junior or senior English major, the winner of this scholarship is selected by the Undergraduate Studies Committee.

- Heather Romano, “Architecture and Psychology in Gothic Discourse: Constructions of the Mind”

Sutherland-McManus Memorial English Scholarships

Two awards are given to undergraduate students who have submitted a piece of work that was originally written for an English class. The categories are: 1) the best literary critical
essay and 2) the best work of nonfiction prose (including essays, reports, and electronic documents). This award is decided by the Undergraduate Studies Committee. From these two winners, the Emerson Award winner will be determined.

- Joe Kierst, “Saddle Broke” (nonfiction prose)
- Heather Romano, “Oversimplification in Spencer’s The Faerie Queene: The Power of the Margin Between Good and Evil” (literary criticism)

**Verna Newman Rule Endowed Memorial Scholarship**

_Determined by the Department Head, this award is given to a junior or senior student with the highest GPA. If there is a GPA tie, the number of credit hours will be used as a criterion. No applications accepted._

- Jessamyn S. Buttram (junior)
- Suzanne C. Tharp (senior)

**Graduate Awards**

**Frank Waters Fiction Lectureships**

_Awarded to three outstanding graduate students enrolled in the MFA in Creative Writing program. This award is decided by an outside judge and the Creative Writing faculty._

- 1st place: Justin Chrestman, “In Search of Victim”
- 2nd place: Michaela Spampinato, “Although I Burn”
- 3rd place: Mike Meginnis, “Strange Fruit”

**Keith Wilson & Joe Somoza Poetry Prize**

_In honor of retired NMSU faculty members Keith Wilson and Joe Somoza. Three awards are decided by an outside judge in cooperation with the Creative Writing faculty, and are awarded to outstanding graduate students enrolled in the MFA in Creative Writing program._

- 1st place: Kevin Honold
- 2nd place: Kara Doris
- 3rd place: Blase Drexler

**Ruth Scott Academy of American Poets Prize**

_A graduate student poet enrolled in the MFA in Creative Writing program is awarded this prize which is decided by an outside judge and the Creative Writing faculty. For more information, contact the Creative Writing faculty chair._

- Natalie Day

**Charles & Pamela Sphar Scholarship**
For an outstanding female English Department graduate student with a GPA of 3.0 or better in need of financial assistance, this scholarship is selected by the English Department Head in consultation with the Graduate Studies Committee and Financial Aid Office.

- Angela Rainbolt

**Emerson Award**

Selected from the Sutherland-McManus Memorial English Scholarship winners, this award recognizes outstanding writing by a graduate student in English. This award is decided by the Graduate Studies Committee. No applications accepted

- Jeff Frawley

**English Department Research & Creative Activities Award**

One or more small awards will be awarded in support of expenses related to their academic research or creative activities. The Graduate Studies Committee makes recommendations to the Department Head.

- Sipai Klein
- Stephen Lloyd Webber
- Carrie Grinstead
- Marc Scott
- Blase Drexler
- Bethany Fields
- Josh Osborn
- Jennifer Bracken

**EGSO Symposium Award**

The English Graduate Student Organization awards this to a student who had the best presentation at the EGSO Symposium. No applications accepted.

- Austin Tremblay

**Mary L. & Ellis Wright Fellowship**

- Neal Adelman
- Ed “Mac” McCormick

**Sutherland-McManus Scholarships**

Two awards are given to graduate students who have submitted a piece of work that was originally written for an English class. The categories are: 1) the best literary critical essay and 2) the best work of nonfiction prose (including essays, reports, and electronic documents). This award is decided by the Graduate Studies Committee. From these two winners, the Emerson Award winner will be determined.

- Stephen Lloyd Webber, “Handwritten Parrots,” creative nonfiction prose
• Jeff Frawley, “Party Like It’s 1925: Failed Festivities in ‘The Dead,’ Mrs. Dalloway, and Under the Volcano,” literary criticism

**Verna Newman Rule Scholarship**

_Determined by the Department Head, this award is given to an outstanding master’s and doctoral student with the highest GPA. No applications accepted._

• Angela Clark (master’s)
• Gustav A. Verhulsdonck (doctoral)

**LOLA Awards**

• Reed Dasenbrock Graduate Award for Critical Writing: Micah Donohue, “Civics-book Images: The Illusion of Autonomous Judicial Decision in Legal Sentencing”
• Andrea Lunsford Graduate Award for Nonfiction: Marc Scott, “Service-Learning: Bridging Cultural Materialism and Pedagogy”
• Truman Capote Graduate Award for Nonfiction: Joshua Wheeler, “Things Most Surely Believed”
• William Trevor Graduate Award for Fiction: Daniel Cameron, “Untamed”
• Toni Morrison Graduate Award for Fiction: Nathan “Nicky” Pessaroff, “Vehicular Homicide”

**Outstanding Master’s Degree Student, Alumni Association of NMSU**

• Nathan “Nicky” Pessaroff