

# **2024 LITERARY AWARDS CEREMONY AND READING**

## **Greetings**

Al Lopez, Head of the Department of English

## **Awarding of Prizes**

Michael Johnston and Mary Ellen Lennon

High School Writing Awards  
Expository and Critical Writing Awards  
Interdisciplinary and CLA Awards  
Creative Writing Awards  
Kneale Awards - Undergraduate  
Kneale Awards - Graduate

Irwin Weiser Awards

Budd and Betty Knoll Award for Best of Contest

## **Introduction of Speaker**

Maren Linett

## **Reading, Q&A and Book Signing**

novelist, poet, essayist, screenwriter and  
playwright Chris Abani

## **Reception**

Ringel gallery, Stewart Center

*Books will be available for purchase courtesy of Von's Shops*

**Chris Abani** is a novelist, poet, essayist, screenwriter and playwright. Born in Nigeria to an Igbo father and English mother, he grew up in Afikpo, Nigeria, received a BA in English from Imo State University, Nigeria, an MA in English, Gender and Culture from Birkbeck College, University of London and a PhD in Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Southern California. He has resided in the United States since 2001.

He is the recipient of the PEN USA Freedom-to-Write Award, the Prince Claus Award, a Lannan Literary Fellowship, a California Book Award, a Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, a PEN Beyond the Margins Award, the PEN Hemingway Book Prize and a Guggenheim Award.

His fiction includes *The Secret History of Las Vegas* (Penguin 2014), *Song For Night* (Akashic, 2007), *The Virgin of Flames* (Penguin, 2007), *Becoming Abigail* (Akashic, 2006), *GraceLand* (FSG, 2004), and *Masters of the Board* (Delta, 1985).

His poetry collections are *Sanctificum* (Copper Canyon Press, 2010), *There Are No Names for Red* (Red Hen Press, 2010), *Feed Me the Sun – Collected Long Poems* (Peepal Tree Press, 2010), *Hands Washing Water* (Copper Canyon, 2006), *Dog Woman* (Red Hen, 2004), *Daphne's Lot* (Red Hen, 2003) and *Kalakuta Republic* (Saqi, 2001).

Through his TED Talks, public speaking and essays Abani is known as an international voice on humanitarianism, art, ethics, and our shared political responsibility. His critical and personal essays have been featured in books on art and photography, as well as *Witness*, *Parkett*, *The New York Times*, *O Magazine*, and *Bomb*.

His many research interests include African Poetics, World Literature, 20th Century Anglophone Literature, African Presences in Medieval and Renaissance Culture, The Living Architecture of Cities, West African Music, Postcolonial and Transnational Theory, Robotics and Consciousness, Yoruba and Igbo Philosophy and Religion.

He is Board of Trustees Professor of English at Northwestern University.

# High School Awards

These awards are funded by a generous gift given in memory of  
E. Glenn Griffin, Professor Emeritus

## Short Story

First place: **Sarah Banaszek**  
“The Lunch Note”  
Munster High School  
Teacher: Benjamin Boruff

Second place: **Meredith Carnahan**  
“Forever is a Few Months Away”  
West Lafayette Jr/Sr High School  
Teacher: Marydell Forbes

Third Place: **Novia Chiang**  
“A Fox and a Mouse”  
West Lafayette Jr/Sr High School  
Teacher: Rachel Sandberg

## Personal Experience Narrative

First place: **Eesha Faruqi**  
“Eternal Romantics”  
West Lafayette Jr/Sr High School  
Teacher: Marydell Forbes

Second place: **Alexandra Ying**  
“Let the Snapdragons Grow”  
West Lafayette Jr/Sr High School  
Teacher: Marydell Forbes

Third place: **Savannah Brooks**  
“My Life Through Curls”  
West Lafayette Jr/Sr High School  
Teacher: Marydell Forbes

## **Poetry**

First place: **Natalie David**  
“American Tongue Twister”  
West Lafayette Jr/Sr High School  
Teacher: Marydell Forbes

Second place: **Ashley Yang**  
“A Modern Suite”  
West Lafayette Jr/Sr High School  
Teacher: Marydell Forbes

Third Place: **Ethan Shook**  
“Geometry For Bees”  
West Lafayette Jr/Sr High School  
Teacher: Marydell Forbes

# **Expository and Critical Writing Awards**

**Helen Bass Williams Award**  
for best critical essay on African, African American or  
Black Literature by an undergraduate student

Winner: **Katherine Raykova**  
“Cut the Deficit - The Empathy Deficit”

**Leonora Woodman Award**  
for best essay on women’s literature by an undergraduate student

Winner: **Katherine Raykova**  
“The Feminine Urge to Seize the Means of Literary Production”

**Peter C. Braeger Memorial Awards**  
for best essay on the Middle Ages by an undergraduate student

Winner: **Katherine Raykova**  
“Painting the Portrait of Arthurian Manhood”

**Peter C. Braeger Memorial Awards**  
for best essay on the Middle Ages by a graduate student

Winner: **Allyn Pearson**  
“Yif me my deeth, er that I have a shame: Gendered Shame in  
Chaucer’s *The Physician’s Tale* and *The Franklin’s Tale*”

**R.W. Babcock Prize**  
for best essay on Shakespeare by an  
undergraduate student

Winner: **Kaita Gorsuch**  
“Shakespeare in Love: How Love Stands the Test of Time”

**R.W. Babcock Prize**  
for best essay on Shakespeare by a  
graduate student

Winner: **Emily Crider**  
“Violence, Morality, and the Redemption of Women in *Titus*  
*Andronicus* and *Goblin Market*”

**Sarah Fielding Award**  
for best essay on Children’s or Young Adult literature by an  
undergraduate or graduate student

Winner: **Katherine Raykova**  
“Ivanushka, the Low Hero of The Little Humpbacked Horse”

**Von’s Book Shop Award**  
for best literary criticism by a graduate student

Winner: **Dylan Henderson**  
“Conflicting Visions: The Evolution of the Weird Tale”

# **Interdisciplinary and CLA Awards**

## **CLA Diversity Action Award**

**for best creative writing work or essay addressing the historical significance of diversity in our society by an undergraduate or graduate student**

**Winner: Alex Anderson**

“Eerie Peripheries: A Paratextual Reading of  
Pauline E. Hopkins’s Serialized Novels”

## **Department of Anthropology Award**

**for best ethnographic essay by an undergraduate or graduate student**

**Winner: Olivia Palepoi**

“Returning to the Water”

## **Disability Studies Award**

**for best essay or creative writing exploring some aspect of disability studies by an undergraduate or graduate student**

**Winner: Frankie Knuckles**

“Repetitive Stress (Or: Field Notes from A Disabled Academic)”

## **Environmental Studies and Nature Writing Award**

**for best essay or creative writing exploring some aspect of environmentalism/nature by an undergraduate or graduate student**

**Winner: Monica Wolfe**

“Animated Interventions: Imagined Postcolonial Eco-Futures in  
Indigenous Film and New Media”

## **LGBTQ Studies Award**

**for best essay or creative writing exploring some aspect of sexuality and gender studies by an undergraduate or graduate student**

Winner: **Kanika Ahuja**  
“North-Facing Heart”

## **School of Design, Art, and Performance Award**

**for best essay analyzing some aspect of art history  
by an undergraduate or graduate student**

Winner: **Mitchell Sloane**  
“History of Medicine and Medical Practices – A Study of Ergotism  
and Grünewald’s Isenheim Altarpiece”

## **School of Languages and Cultures Award**

**for best literary/cultural analysis of texts written in a language other  
than English by an undergraduate student**

Winner: **Katherine Raykova**  
“Avoidance, Sameness, and Mortality”

## **School of Languages and Cultures Award**

**for best literary/cultural analysis of texts written in a language other  
than English by a graduate student**

Winner: **Roseline Adewuyi**  
“AGUES DE LA THÉORIE DE L’ÉCOCRITIQUE DANS OIL ON  
WATER D’HELON HABILA”

## **Science Studies/Science Fiction Award**

**for best essay exploring the impact of science and technology on society  
and culture (including literature/film) by an  
undergraduate or graduate student**

Winner: **Matt Morgenstern**  
“Contemporary Fiction’s Climate Engineering”



# **Creative Writing Awards**

## **Poetry**

### **Bain-Swiggett Award**

**for best single poem, any kind, by an undergraduate student**

Winner: **Samantha Nowiski**  
“To-Do”

### **Barriss and Iola Mills Award**

**for best single poem by a graduate student**

Winner: **Weiji Wang**  
“The prodigal daughter departs”

### **Polymnia Prize**

**for best sequence of 3-7 poems on a related topic by an undergraduate student**

Winner: **Garrett Rodgers**  
“prompt & response”

### **Tom Andrews Clapping Award**

**for best sequence of five or more thematically related poems, or one long poem of at least five pages by a graduate student**

Winner: **Weiji Wang**  
“The RENÉ sequence”

# **Creative Writing Awards Fiction**

**Booth Tarkington Award**  
for best short story by a graduate student

Winner: **Dylan Henderson**  
“I Will Show You How to be a Better Person”

**Margaret Church Memorial Award**  
for best short story by an undergraduate student

Winner: **Nicholas Brown**  
“The One About the Sailor”

**Paul Sidwell Memorial Award**  
for best novel-in-progress by an undergraduate or graduate student

Winner: **Dylan Henderson**  
“The Man Unking”

**Purdue Federal Credit Union Award**  
for best short story  
by an undergraduate student

Winner: **Javier Melo**  
“Gírame El Sol”

**Purdue Federal Credit Union Award**  
for best short story  
by a graduate student

Winner: **Dylan Henderson**  
“The Toymaker”

# **Creative Writing Awards Other Genres**

**Flash Fiction/Prose Poem Award**  
for best flash fiction or prose poem by an undergraduate student

Winner: **Amanda Wolf**  
“Rain Shadow”

**Flash Fiction/Prose Poem Award**  
for best flash fiction or prose poem by a graduate student

Winner: **Kanika Ahuja**  
“We Learned So Little About Survival”

**Original Play or Screenplay Award**  
for best original play or screenplay by an  
undergraduate or graduate student

Winner: **Shaelyn Hatter**  
“UNDER THE ICE”

**Purdue Federal Credit Union Award**  
for best creative nonfiction essay  
by an undergraduate or graduate student

Winner: **Weiji Wang**  
“RENÉ”

# **Kneale Awards—Undergraduate**

## **American Literature**

First place: **Sam Montgomery**

“The Ethereal and the Damned:

Southern Womanhood in *Lena Grove* and *Joanna Burden*”

Second place: **Darby Gallagher**

“Freedom, Revolution, and Social Order in *The Coquette* and *My Kinsman, Major Molineux*”

## **British Literature**

First place: **Samantha Nowiski**

“To Love is To Control”

## **Film and Pop Culture**

First place: **Annie Bonnett**

“Taoist Beliefs and Art Reflected in *Big Fish* & *Begonia*”

## **History**

First place: **Mikayla Klemp**

“Cultural Implications of Female Presence at  
Cheng Kung University”

Second place: **Eva Melendez**

“Explicit Content:  
Hip-hop, Rap, and Government Censorship”

## **Postcolonial Literature**

First place: **Katherine Raykova**  
“Danticat’s Portrayal of Intergenerational Dynamics:  
Mother-Daughter and Mother-Son”

Second place: **Jade Gu**  
“Hegemonic ‘Big Things’ in The God of Small Things”

## **Kneale Awards—Graduate**

### **Creative Writing-Fiction**

First place: **Ogadinma Enwereazu**  
“THE DEVIL AT WORK”

Second place: **Dylan Henderson**  
“The Wooden Indian”

### **Creative Writing-Poetry**

First place: **Weiji Wang**  
“Hanging Out”

Second place: **Monica Wolfe**  
“They Say Autistics Don’t Get Figurative Language”

## **Literary Criticism**

First place: **Dylan Henderson**

“Faulkner in Context: How Readers of the *Saturday Evening Post*  
Experienced Faulkner’s Early Stories”

Second place: **Alex Anderson**

“Caroline Chesebro’s Gothic Pilgrimage”

## **Theory and Cultural Studies**

First place: **Weiji Wang**

“Aesthetics of Realism in Dario Argento’s *Tenebrae*”

Second place: **Jeeyoung Choi**

“An Illusion of Philosophers and Fools:  
Pure Time in Faulkner’s *The Sound and the Fury*”

# **Special Prizes**

## **Irwin Weiser Awards**

**for best high school entry**

**Natalie David**

“American Tongue Twister”

**for best undergraduate entry**

**Katherine Raykova**

“Cut the Deficit - The Empathy Deficit”

**for best graduate entry**

**Monica Wolfe**

“Animated Interventions: Imagined Postcolonial Eco-Futures in  
Indigenous Film and New Media”

## **Budd and Betty Knoll Award**

**for Best of Contest**

**Katherine Raykova**

“Cut the Deficit - The Empathy Deficit”

## 2024 Judges

### *College Awards*

Dorrie Armstrong  
Josh Brewer  
Bobby Chastain  
Elena Coda  
Austin Cooper  
Marlo David  
Dada Docot  
Catherine Dossin  
John Duvall  
Christopher Ewing  
Wendy Flory  
Jennifer Freeman Marshall  
Geri Friedman  
Adam Giannelli  
Casey Gray  
William Gray  
Shaun Hughes  
Mike Johnston  
Jennifer Kaufmann-Buhler  
Cara Kinnally  
Brian Leung  
Maren Linett  
Dawn Marsh  
Robert Marzec  
Kathryn Maxson  
J Peter Moore  
Daniel Morris  
Derek Pacheco  
Nancy Peterson  
Don Platt  
Arkady Plotnitsky  
Aparajita Sagar  
Ryan Schneider



Jeremy Sklar  
Sharon Solwitz  
Adam Watkins  
Paul White  
Laura Zanotti

***High School Awards***

Jacqueline Borchet

Mary Ellen Lennon

*Purdue College of Education English Education Program*

*Purdue Writing Lab*

## PREVIOUS LITERARY AWARDS SPEAKERS

- 1928 Zona Gale
- 1929 Elmer Davis
- 1930 Carl Sandburg
- 1931 Sherwood Anderson
- 1932 James Weber Linn
- 1933 Thornton Wilder
- 1934 Christopher Morley
- 1935 Stephen Leacock
- 1936 Theodore Dreiser
- 1937 William Allen White
- 1938 Thomas Wolfe
- 1939 Carl Van Doren
- 1940 Robert Frost
- 1941 Mary Ellen Chase
- 1942 Edward C. Elliott
- No contest during the war
- 1947 Jesse Stuart
- 1948 Katherine Anne Porter
- 1949 Mark Van Doren
- 1950 John Crowe Ransom
- 1951 Warren Beck
- 1952 William Carlos Williams
- 1953 Louis Kronenberger
- 1954 Malcolm Cowley
- 1955 J. Frank Dobie
- 1956 Randall Jarrell
- 1957 Lillian Hellman
- 1958 John Ciardi
- 1959 John Crowe Ransom
- 1960 Richard Eberhart
- 1961 Herbert Gold
- 1962 William Golding
- 1963 Howard Nemerov
- 1964 Eudora Welty
- 1965 Andrew Lytle

1966 W. D. Snodgrass  
1967 James T. Farrell  
1968 Stanley Elkin  
1969 Theodore Weiss  
1970 Saul Bellow  
1971 Allen Tate  
1972 Tennessee Williams  
1973 Anthony Burgess  
1974 Gwendolyn Brooks  
1975 Peter Taylor  
1976 Stephen Spender  
1977 Clive Barnes  
1978 Edward Albee  
1979 William Stafford  
1980 Pauline Kael  
1981 John Gardner  
1982 Felix Stefanile  
1983 William Gass  
1984 Mary McCarthy  
1985 John Williams  
1986 John Irving  
1987 John Ashbery  
1988 John Barth  
1989 Grace Paley  
1991 Margaret Drabble  
1992 Adrienne Rich  
1993 Louise Erdrich  
1994 Robert Olen Butler  
1995 Denise Levertov  
1996 Sandra Gilbert  
1997 Russell Banks  
1998 Richard Ford  
1999 Eavan Boland  
2000 Jane Hamilton  
2001 Ha Jin  
2002 Seamus Heaney  
2003 Tony Kushner

2004 Charles Wright  
2005 Maxine Hong Kingston  
2006 A. S. Byatt  
2007 Sherman Alexie  
2008 Michael Chabon  
2009 Rita Dove  
2010 Annie Proulx  
2011 Charles Simic  
2012 Michael Cunningham  
2013 Mark Doty  
2014 Zadie Smith  
2015 Roz Chast  
2016 Robert Hass  
2017 Margaret Atwood  
2018 Emily St. John Mandel  
2019 Colson Whitehead  
2021 Gish Jen  
2022 Claudia Rankine  
2023 Tracy K. Smith

---

Please scan QR code or use link for realtime captions.

<https://tinyurl.com/litawards>

