

UofM Department of English

2025 Award Winners

Undergraduate Awards

Giem and Collins Awards

ENGL 1010:

- 1st place: Jamie McEachern
- 2nd place: Julia Konigshofer
- 3rd place: Gloria Owuredua Obeng

ENGL 1020:

- 1st place: Zikiya Sain
- 2nd place: Tulani Mwapasa
- 3rd place: Kristian G. Donaldson

ENGL 2201:

- 1st place: J T Hampton III
- 2nd place: Henry Pietrangelo
- 3rd place: Arleth Salazar

ENGL 2202:

- 1st place: Rylee Gore
- 2nd place: Karlie Gorrell
- 3rd place: A'nyiah James

Joseph and June Riley Essay Contest

- 1st place: Bee Wade, "----- God-Damned"
- 2nd place: Abby Griffith, "There is Still Time: *I Saw the TV Glow* as a Haunting Departure from Hollywood Ideals"
- 3rd place: Audrey Rollen, "You Are Not Alone: The American Literary Response to Shifting Cultural Values Between the 1950s and 1980s"

Awards and Scholarships

Children's Literature Award: Jonah Alexander Taylor

MidSouth Society for Technical Communication Scholarship: Cate VanNostrand

Emalie Appleton Brooks Memorial Scholarship: Jenna Demmons

Elizabeth Phillips Scholarship: Jenna Demmons, Timothy Presley, and Cate VanNostrand

Honors Thesis Prize: MaKenna Beck, "The Burning Bush"

Department of English Distinguished Scholarship Award: MaKenna Beck

Undergraduate Theses

- Caitlin Archibald, "Be Careful What You Wish For"
- Rachel Adkins, "Children of Eden"
- MaKenna Beck, "The Burning Bush"

- Laura Isaacs, “Stag of Shadows”
- Chloe Ozier, “Fictional Wounds, Real Impacts: Domestic Abuse in Colleen Hoover’s *It Ends with Us* and Sally Rooney’s *Normal People*”
- Leyla Pehlivan, “The Weaponization of Literature in the Classroom: Propaganda Surrounding George Orwell’s *Animal Farm*”

Graduate Awards

Concentration Awards

Creative Writing Concentration Awards:

- Fiction: Gloria Odary
- Creative Non-Fiction: Justin Okwarachukwu
- Poetry: Sabrina Spence
- Service Award: Aether Henry & Jacob Williams

African American Literature: Madison Hunter

Literature: Spencer Horner

WRTC: Tek Chhetry

Applied Linguistics: Heri Yusup

Teresa Dalle TESOL Prize: David Justin Cole

Awards, Fellowships, and Scholarships

Rebecca Argall Award for Teaching Excellence: Gabrielle Alston

Dr. Reginald Martin Teaching Award: Julia Creson

Dr. Lawrence and Sarah Wynn Fellowship: Matthew Farmer

Dr. Lawrence and Sarah Wynn Scholarship: Kayla Lutes

William and Martha Donigan Graduate Scholarship: Ifeoluwa Awopetu

Ruth and Henry Loeb Scharff Scholarship: Tek Chhetry, Ahmet Curuk, Halle Griggs, Pejman Javanmardi, & Huda Saleem

Mr. And Mrs. Fred P. Gattas Scholarship: Gabrielle Alston & Ming Cheng

Joe Orgill Fellowship in English: Seiko Hayashi & Kayla Lutes

Outstanding Graduate Student Award: Emily Gillo

Department Service Award: Tek Chhetry & Hana Alqabba

Graduate Theses & Dissertations

MA Portfolios

Jaria Spencer – MATC Portfolio

MFA Theses

Adebayo Aderoju – *The Love Story of Our Mother and Other Stories*

Lily Kate Anthony – *Game of Chance*

Emily Binkley – *Catastrophists*

Josh Carlucci – *Men on the Line: A Memoir*

Nadia Farmer – *The Harrison House*

Aether Henry – *a horse named hellstorm*

Sabrina Spence – *Uses for the Hankerchief*

Jacob Williams – *Sons of Macho and Other Messes*

PhD Dissertations

Hind Alghamdi – “Positioning Place Construction in YouTube Travel Vlogs: A Multimodal Study of Saudi Arabia’s Emerging Identity”

Mughram Alshehri – “Students, Teachers, and Policymakers’ Perceptions Towards Teaching Dialect in the Classroom”

Majed Alsulami – “Exploring Arabic as a Second Language (ASL) Learners’ Imagined Communities, Communities of Practice, and Investment in ASL Learning in Saudi Arabia”

Natacia Faulkner – “The Role of Reading in Writing Studies: Historical, Contemporary, and Aspirational Perspectives”

Gul Deniz Hos – “Transnational Care Labor and the Politics of Affect in Contemporary Black Women’s Fiction”

Iratishie Reuben Madaki – “The Affordances of Translanguaging Moments and Spaces for Multilingual Minority Kuteb Students in Nigeria”

Nicholas Adam Pankewycz – “The Letting of Blood: Evolutionary Perspectives on Violence in Cormac McCarthy’s Western Worlds”

Jonathan Vowell – “Immersion and Understanding: Towards a Personal Theory of Literature and Culture”