AWARDING of PRIZES 2024

VASSAR

18 MAY 2024, 10:00 AM

AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

THE FRANK BERGON BOOK PRIZE

Established in 2006 upon the retirement of distinguished professor Frank Bergon, this prize awards a book in the field of American studies to an outstanding graduating senior whose multidisciplinary work best exemplifies the creative accomplishments of Frank Bergon.

Ida-Rose Chabon

THE HARVEY FLAD/ANNE CONSTANTINOPLE AMERICAN STUDIES BOOK PRIZE

This prize was established in 2003 upon the retirement of professors Harvey Flad and Anne Constantinople, two distinguished and longstanding faculty in the American Studies Program. It recognizes a student's outstanding academic contribution to understanding phenomena concerning Mr. Flad or Miss Constantinople.

Julia Maisel-Berick

THE HELEN D. LOCKWOOD PRIZE

This prize was established in 1999 by faculty and friends of the American Studies Program to honor Helen Lockwood, an outstanding Vassar professor of English from 1927 until 1956. Ms. Lockwood believed that an understanding of societies and individuals emerged from the study of several disciplines, mixing theory with practice, and forging relationships between community, student, and faculty. A bequest at her death helped establish the American Studies Program, to promote, as she wrote in her will, "the reinterpretation and deepening of a liberal education." The prize is awarded for excellence in the study of American Studies.

Elizabeth Slein

ART DEPARTMENT

THE FRANCES DALY FERGUSSON PRIZE

Established by Belle Krasne Ribicoff, Vassar College Class of 1945, in honor of the retirement of Frances Fergusson, president emeritus of Vassar College, this prize rewards the outstanding accomplishments of a senior in the Art History Department.

Nicholas Friedland Morgan Stevenson-Swadling Yidan Xu

THE GERTRUDE BUTTENWIESER PRINS PRIZE

Established in 1929 by a gift from Gertrude Buttenwieser Prins, Class of 1927, this prize is awarded to a student who demonstrates originality, independence and excellence in the study of art history.

Ruby Fünfrock

THE LEWIS RUBENSTEIN AWARD

This award was named in honor of the artist, Lewis Rubenstein (1903-2004), who taught painting at Vassar through 1976. It is awarded to a senior major in Studio Art who demonstrates general outstanding achievement in this discipline.

Ciara McLaughlin Ezra Venditti

THE WEITZEL BARBER ART TRAVEL PRIZE

Established in 1986 by Dr. Mary Elizabeth Weitzel to honor the memory of Professor Leila Cook Barber, this prize allows students in the Art Department the opportunity to travel abroad in order to study original works of art.

Ida-Rose Chabon Ruby Fünfrock Anne Goldsmith Yidan Xu

ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

THE SOPHIA H. CHEN ZEN MEMORIAL PRIZE

Established in 1979 by a gift from E-Tu Zen Sun, Class of 1944 and E-su Cheng, Class of 1951, in honor of their mother, this prize is awarded to the student who has written the best thesis in Asian Studies.

Emma Mazloom

ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM AND THE CHINESE AND JAPANESE DEPARTMENT

THE JESSE KALIN BOOK PRIZE

This prize was established in 2003 by the Asian Studies faculty to honor Jesse Kalin, scholar of Japanese film, past director of Asian Studies, and professor of philosophy, at his retirement. The prize is awarded to a senior who demonstrates excellence in Japanese language and cultural studies.

Rosemary Bain Paris James

BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

THE VIRGINIA SWINBURNE BROWNELL PRIZES

In 1913, William C. Brownell established three prizes in memory of his wife, a member of the Class of 1873. This Brownell prize recognizes excellence in the study of biology.

Ayane Garrison Eli Levitt Jacob Steger

THE KATE ROBERTS PRIZE

Established in October 1929, by a bequest of Mary Roberts, in memory of her sister, Kate Roberts Lewis, Class of 1875, this prize is awarded to Vassar students who demonstrate excellence in biology.

Sophia Choi Brynn Conrad Eva Gubitz-Hess

CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT AND BIOCHEMISTRY PROGRAM

THE JEFFREY CHANCE MEMORIAL PRIZE

This prize is awarded to honor the memory of Jeffrey Chance, an assistant professor of chemistry who died in 1991 after having taught at Vassar for two years. It recognizes excellence in both coursework and research in chemistry.

Ziyi Che

THE OLIVE M. LAMMERT PRIZES

These prizes, established in 1933 in memory of Olive M. Lammert, Class of 1915 and a professor of chemistry at Vassar, are awarded to students demonstrating excellent work in chemistry.

OLIVE LAMMERT PRIZE for Excellence in Chemistry

Clara Wiesler

OLIVE LAMMERT PRIZE for Excellence in Biochemistry

Nisrine Jabara

OLIVE LAMMERT BOOK PRIZE for Excellence in Biochemistry Senior Seminar

Francis Ryan Dhriti Seth Darnell Worlev

OLIVE LAMMERT BOOK PRIZE for Excellence in Inorganic Chemistry

Micaela Primer

THE MARJORIE CRAWFORD PRIZE for service in Chemistry

Julie Geller

CHINESE AND JAPANESE DEPARTMENT

THE MAN-SHENG CHEN SCHOLARLY AWARD

This prize was established in 1995 by Yin-Lien C. Chin, professor of Chinese, on the occasion of her retirement from Vassar, in memory of her father, Man-Sheng Chen. It is awarded to a Vassar senior demonstrating excellence in Chinese language and culture studies.

Abigail Wang Darnell Worley

YIN-LIEN C. CHIN PRIZE

This prize was established in 2005 to honor Professor Emeritus Yin-Lien C. Chin's extraordinary contribution to the studies of East Asian languages and literature/culture from 1967 until her retirement in 1995. Professor Chin was the founder and driving force in the development of Chinese at Vassar. This prize is awarded for the best thesis or senior project in the Department of Chinese and Japanese.

Emma Mazloom

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

THE JANET HOLDEN-ADAMS PRIZE

Established in 1998 by Janet Holden-Adams, a long time supporter of computer science at Vassar, this prize is awarded for excellence in the study of computer science and for outstanding participation in the activities of the department.

Benjamin Lee

DRAMA DEPARTMENT

THE MOLLY THACHER KAZAN MEMORIAL PRIZE

Established by her friends from the Class of 1928 in memory of Molly Thacher Kazan, this prize is awarded to drama majors who have produced a particularly creative piece of work in the theatre arts.

Anica Acuna Riley Bates Madeleine Brigman Sydney Duncan Faith Hernandez Kendall Wienecke Yuchen Zhou

THE MARILYN SWARTZ SEVEN '69 PLAYWRITING PRIZE

This award is to be made every spring to a junior or senior in any discipline who submitted the best full-length play, pair of one-act plays, or musical theater work.

Angelina Papa

EARTH SCIENCE AND GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

THE ELLEN CHURCHILL SEMPLE PRIZE

This prize was established in 1997 by geography faculty and alumnae/i to honor an outstanding alumna, Ellen Churchill Semple, Class of 1882, who also earned her MA in 1891. A founding member of the Association of American Geographers and its first female president, she was called, at the time of her death, "Dean of American Geographers" and the greatest anthro-geographer in the world. This prize is awarded for excellence in the study of geography.

Seowon Back Chiara Castaneda

THE ERMINNIE A. SMITH MEMORIAL PRIZE

This prize is for excellence in the study of geology.

Abigail Smith Monika Sweeney Vidan Xu

ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

THE VIRGINIA SWINBURNE BROWNELL PRIZES

In 1913, William C. Brownell established three prizes in memory of his wife, a member of the Class of 1873. This Brownell prize recognizes excellent work in political economy.

Markus Skelton Jessica Young

THE CATHERINE LUCRETIA BLAKELEY PRIZE

Established in 1929 by Chester D. Pugsley in memory of his grandmother, the Blakeley Prize is awarded in recognition of excellence in the study of international economic relations.

Sarah Dumaresq Nathan Strope

THE RUTH GILLETTE HUTCHINSON PRIZE

Established in 1938 by Arthur Hutchinson in memory of his wife, a member of the Department of Economics and Sociology at Vassar for twelve years, this prize is awarded for excellence in a paper on American economic history.

Adah Anderson Nora Jensen

THE AGNES REYNOLDS JACKSON PRIZE

Established in 1988 by Robert F. Jackson in honor of his wife, Agnes Reynolds Jackson, who was a loyal alumna of Vassar College and who was particularly grateful for the teaching of Professor Mabel Newcomer, this prize is awarded to a student who demonstrates excellence in written work in economics.

Zhiyang Chen Markus Skelton

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The DANIEL MINDICH '87 PRIZE

Established in 2019 in honor of Daniel Mindich '87, who inspired students and colleagues to work collaboratively to build communities of teachers, this prize is awarded for outstanding achievement and future promise in the field of education, as evidenced through academic preparation and demonstrated leadership in collaborating with peers and in field placements.

Evelyn Silva

THE JOHN F. DEGILIO PRIZE

Established in 1994 in honor of John DeGilio, who taught in the Vassar Education Department for many years, this prize is awarded for creative skills in secondary teaching only when there is an exemplary senior math/science major who has completed the New York State Certification program in one of these fields.

Michele Wilson

THE JOHN IYOYA PRIZE

This prize is awarded for creative skills in teaching.

Eve Dorfman

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

THE BEATRICE DAW BROWN POETRY PRIZE

Established in 1962 by a number of her close friends and associates as a memorial, the Brown Prize is awarded for proficiency and excellence in the writing of creative poetry.

Arlo Povill

THE ANN F. IMBRIE PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN FICTION WRITING

Established in 1988 by the Department of English, this prize was renamed in 2006 to honor the memory of Ann E. Imbrie, who joined the department in 1979 and at the time of her death was Professor of English on the Mary Augusta Scott Chair. This prize is awarded to a senior major for excellence in the writing of fiction.

William (Colin) Kirk

THE ALICE D. SNYDER PRIZE

Established in January 1944 in memory of Alice D. Snyder, Class of 1909, professor of English for 32 years, this prize is awarded for excellence in English.

Bryn Marling

THE LAURA ADELINA WARD PRIZES

Established in 1979 to honor Miss Ward, an outstanding scholar in the Class of 1915, this prize is awarded for excellence in English literature.

Yuqi Zhao

THE E. ELIZABETH DANA MEMORIAL PRIZE

For an individual reading project in English.

Morgan Stevenson-Swadling

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM

H. DANIEL PECK PRIZE FUND IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

The H. Daniel Peck Prize, named for the first director of the Environmental Studies program, is awarded to a graduating senior who demonstrates a mastery of the topic, and a committed and successful engagement with environmental issues.

Rosemary Bain Sadie Krichmar

FILM DEPARTMENT

THE DAVID C. MAGID MEMORIAL PRIZE IN CINEMATOGRAPHY

This prize was established in 1995 in memory of David C. Magid, Class of 1976. It is awarded to a major who has demonstrated both academic excellence in film study and outstanding achievement in the field of cinematography.

Camden Luck Preston Bowe

THE KEN ROBINSON MEMORIAL PRIZE IN EDITING

This prize is awarded for most outstanding work in film editing and related aspects of film production.

Maya Page

GREEK AND ROMAN STUDIES

THE LARKIN PRIZE IN LATIN

Established in 2003 and 2004 from the Larkin fund bequeathed by Edwin Larkin in memory of his wife, Florence Sullivan Larkin, Class of 1910. This prize is awarded for outstanding work in the study of Latin.

Maeve Smith

THE LARKIN PRIZE IN ANCIENT SOCIETIES

Established in 2003 and 2004 from the Larkin fund bequeathed by Edwin Larkin in memory of his wife, Florence Sullivan Larkin, Class of 1910. This prize is awarded for outstanding work in the study of Greek and Roman civilizations.

Riley Traub

THE RENO PRIZE IN GREEK

For outstanding work in the study of Greek.

Margot Gordinier

THE LESLIE S.B. MACCAULL-MIRRIT BOUTROS GHALI PRIZE IN CLASSICS

For the student majoring in Greek and Roman Studies with the highest overall grade point average.

Maeve Smith

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

THE SOPHIA H. CHEN ZEN MEMORIAL PRIZE

Established in 1979 by a gift from E-Tu Zen Sun 1944 and E-su Cheng 1951 in honor of their mother, this prize is awarded to the student who has written the best thesis in history.

Cating Greene

THE VIRGINIA SWINBURNE BROWNELL PRIZES

In 1913, William C. Brownell established three prizes in memory of his wife, a member of the Class of 1873. This Brownell prize recognizes excellent work in history.

Heidi Compton

THE LAURA ADELINA WARD PRIZES

Established in 1979 to honor Miss Ward, an outstanding scholar in the Class of 1915, this prize is awarded for excellence in English or European history.

Aidan Chisamore

THE CRISTIAN CROLEY PRIZE IN HISTORY

In 2021, Professor Maria Hoehn and Charles Geiger, along with family and friends, established this prize in memory of their son, Christian Croley. This prize acknowledges an outstanding history major in the graduating class who represents the first generation of their family to attend college, has overcome adversity, or has brought creativity to the study of history.

Arlene Chen

THE CLYDE AND SALLY GRIFFEN PRIZE

This prize was established in 1998 by James and Linda Merrell to honor Clyde Griffen, Lucy Maynard Salmon Professor of History emeritus, and his wife Sally (Vassar Class of 1958), who served the College as director of the Field Work Office. Celebrating the Griffens' scholarship and their decades of devoted service to the History Department and the College, this prize is awarded for excellence in American history.

Celeste Brinkhuis Eli Hinerfeld

THE SOLOMON AND BARBARA WANK PRIZE

This Prize was established by Vassar alums in appreciation of Professor Maria Hoehn. The award honors Solomon Wank, Maria Hoehn's undergraduate teacher and mentor. Students, family, and friends of Solomon and Barbara Wank and Maria Hoehn contributed to this award.

Arlene Chen

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM

THE M. GLEN JOHNSON PRIZE

This prize is given to honor the work that Professor Glen Johnson did for the International Studies Program between its inception in the 1980s and his retirement in 2001. Glen Johnson came to Vassar in 1964 to teach in the Political Science Department. An enthusiastic supporter of multidisciplinary study, he was a driving force in the establishment of the International Studies Program. This prize is awarded to the graduating senior in the International Studies Program who has done outstanding work in the program, and produced a thesis of particular strength and originality.

Michael Pincus Emily Tieu

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

THE MARY EVELYN WELLS AND GERTRUDE SMITH PRIZE

Established in 1960 by Vassar alum in honor of Miss Wells, a member of the Mathematics Department from 1915-1948 and Miss Smith, also a mathematics professor from 1908-1944, this prize is awarded for excellence in the study of mathematics.

Audrey Myers Steven Raanes

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

THE JEAN SLATER EDSON PRIZE

Established in 1987, this prize in music composition is awarded for a work chosen in a college-wide competition.

Beatrix Postley Fei Wu

THE FRANCES WALKER PRIZE

Established in 1940 by the bequest of Captain John Walker in memory of his sister, Frances Walker, Class of 1913, this prize is awarded to a student displaying the greatest proficiency in piano.

Emma Zhuang

THE KATE CHITTENDEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR SUMMER STUDY

For assistance with summer study in music.

Isabel Granger Beatrix Postley

NEUROSCIENCE AND BEHAVIOR PROGRAM

THE NEUROSCIENCE AND BEHAVIOR SENIOR PRIZE

Established in 1995 by the biopsychology faculty, the prize for excellence in neuroscience and behavior is awarded to the senior major who, having received honors in the Program, is further recognized for outstanding creativity, independence, integrity and performance in both academic and independent research work.

Sloane Boukobza Naomi Fitzgerald

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

THE JAMIE NISSE GREENBERG PHILOSOPHY PRIZE

This prize was established in 2014 by family and friends of Jamie Nisse Greenberg. Jamie was an exceptional student in the Department of Philosophy at Vassar College who had a strong passion for his work and intended to continue studying the philosophy of language in graduate school. The prize goes to students who have shown similar dedication to their work and plan to study philosophy at the graduate level.

Catherine Borthwick

THE VERNON VENABLE PRIZE

This prize was established in 1996 to celebrate the legacy of Vernon Venable, who taught philosophy at Vassar from 1932 to 1972 and who inspired generations of Vassar students and the generation of faculty who succeeded him in the department by his teaching and devotion to philosophical education. It is awarded for philosophical excellence and outstanding contributions to the department.

Christine Kerrol Chung Alexander Peña

PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY DEPARTMENT

THE LUCY KELLOGG ENGLISH PRIZE

Established in 1925 in memory of Mrs. English by her sons and daughters, this prize is awarded for excellence in astronomy and physics.

Benjamin Brady Katherine Canavan Madeleine Carhart John Gador Evelyn Silva

POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

THE MARJORIE LYNN GLUCK THESIS PRIZE

Created in 2010 as a memorial fund with a gift from Nancy and David Gluck, the parents of Marjorie Gluck '84, the prize was created to honor Marjorie and to acknowledge outstanding work on issues about which she cared deeply.

Vi Tường To

THE IDA FRANK GUTTMAN PRIZE

This prize, established in 1937 by a gift from Ida Frank Guttman, Class of 1887, is awarded for the best thesis in political science.

Marisa McGehee Jessica Young

THE JULIA FLITNER LAMB PRIZES

Established in 1996 by the Department of Political Science, this prize, made possible by a generous gift from Mrs. Albert Richard Lamb, Jr., is awarded in recognition of excellence in the study of political science.

Julia Barnett Shanna Geiringer Simon LaClair Noura Lamb Ziyao Zhang

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

THE J. HOWARD HOWSON PRIZE

Established in honor of J. Howard Howson, professor of religion from 1929 to 1959, this prize is awarded to a student for excellence in the study of religion and for contributions to the work and life of the department.

Juliana Cianciotta

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY PROGRAM

PAULINE NEWMAN '47 PRIZE IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY

Established in 2017 by Judge Pauline Newman '47 to recognize excellence in Science, Technology, and Society. Judge Newman valued and encouraged continued engagement on the intersections of science, technology and social, political, historic, economic and philosophic contexts. This prize is an extension of her generous support of these endeavors by Vassar faculty and students.

Michael Barbera Robert Freedman Juliana Ishimine

SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

THE HINERFELD FAMILY ANNUAL AWARD

This award was established in 1976 by the Textile Veterans Association and Ruth G. Hinerfeld, Class of 1951, in honor of Norman Hinerfeld. It is given for outstanding work in the Department of Sociology.

Abigail Houton

THE LESLIE A. KOEMPEL PRIZE

For an outstanding thesis in sociology involving fieldwork or a special project.

Skylar Huebner

WOMEN, FEMINIST, AND QUEER STUDIES PROGRAM

THE DASHIELLE ROBERTSON '17 MEMORIAL PRIZE

This prize, established in 2014, by Monika and Mark Robertson, the parents of Dashielle Robertson '17, is awarded to a student demonstrating excellence in women's studies.

Marlee Reinmuth

NON-DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

THE SARA CATLIN PRIZE

Established in 1984 in honor of Sara Huntington Catlin, Class of 1934, a former Alumnae Association president and trustee of the College, this prize is awarded for an outstanding contribution by a senior to the religious life of the community.

Miles Bader Andrew Blackburn Amaavi Miriyagalla Ellie Whiteman

THE HELEN MIRINGOFF PRIZE

Established by friends of Helen Miringoff, who served in Vassar's Field Work Office for 30 years, the last fifteen as director, this award is made to a student whose field work project has made a substantial contribution to the community, reflecting Ms. Miringoff's passionate belief in action informed by knowledge, commitment, and compassion.

Arlene Chen Lauren Johns

THE FRANCES AARON HESS '53 AWARD

The prize was established to be awarded for sustained volunteer activity on behalf of an off-campus organization.

Karun Krishnamurthy

THE OCEL SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD

Recognizes students whose activism and advocacy uplifts those most impacted by injustices and strives to create a more inclusive and equitable community.

Elena Henderson-Downey

THE EDITH GLICKSMAN NEISSER PRIZE

Established in memory of Edith Neisser, Class of 1925, by members of her family, this prize is awarded to a student who has demonstrated exceptional ability in child development and education.

Nina Li Julia Segal

THE ASHISH PATIL '08 MEMORIAL PRIZE

This prize was established in 2014 by the family and friends of Ashish Patil, who passed away at the age of 27 after an extended illness. The Ashish Patil '08 Memorial Prize will be awarded to a student, who like Ashish, exemplifies excellence in interdisciplinary studies.

Madeleine Freundlich

THE JANE DEALY AND WOODROW WIRSIG MEMORIAL PRIZE

This prize was established in 1990 by Woodrow Wirsig in memory of his wife, Jane Dealy Wirsig, Class of 1941, to recognize promise and achievement in the fields of journalism or communication.

Olivia Gross Monika Sweeney

THE NEIL PETER JAMPOLIS AWARD

Supports travel grants to graduating seniors.

Ruby Fünfrock Sharon Nahm

LEO M. PRINCE PRIZE

For the most notable improvement.

Haoyue Qian

THE PHI BETA KAPPA PRIZE

Established by faculty and staff members of the Vassar chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, this prize is awarded to the senior judged by the current chapter members to have the most distinguished academic record.

Rosemary Bain Yidan Xu

Awards presented by

Thomas Porcello

Dean of Studies *and* Professor of Anthropology

Carlos Alamo-Pastrana

Dean of the College and Professor of Sociology

Stacy Bingham

Associate Dean of the College for Career Education

