

Bennington College Announces the 2020-2021 Young Writers Awards Winners



Bennington College Media Relations <mediarelations@bennington.edu>

Apr 29, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 29, 2021

CONTACT: Media Relations, mediarelations@bennington.edu

Bennington College Announces the 2020-2021 Young Writers Awards Winners

Nine students from high schools around the world were selected as winners of Bennington College's 2020-2021 **Young Writers Awards**.

This annual competition, which accepts entries in poetry, fiction, and nonfiction, is free to enter and open to high school students. A first-, second-, and third-place winner is selected in each of the categories, with cash prizes from \$125-\$500 awarded.

Young Writers Award finalists and winners are also eligible for undergraduate scholarships at Bennington. YWA finalists who apply, are admitted, and enroll at Bennington will receive a \$10,000 scholarship every year for four years, for a total of \$40,000. YWA winners who apply, are admitted, and enroll at Bennington will receive a \$50,000 scholarship every year for four years, for a total of \$200,000.

Another way for college-ready students looking to engage in creative writing opportunities with Bennington College is **Bennington Unbound**, a four-week intensive course in fiction, nonfiction, poetry, creative criticism, and literary studies.

The 2021-2022 Young Writers Awards will officially open beginning on September 3. **Sign up** to receive notifications about the competition.

Bennington College has a **unique literary legacy**, including twelve **Pulitzer Prize winners**, three U.S. poet laureates, four MacArthur Geniuses, countless **New York Times bestsellers**, and two of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people.

"Lifting up the next generation of great writers from every walk of life is a natural fit for us," said President Laura Walker. "It's such an honor to provide this opportunity for emerging talent and to watch many of them blossom right here at Bennington."

Each year, over 3,000 students submit poetry, fiction, and nonfiction to the Young Writers Awards competition. Bennington College congratulates all entrants on their extraordinary submissions and is pleased to announce the 2020-2021 winning entries.

Bennington College will also be launching a Young Activist Award in Fall 2021. Please [sign up](#) to learn more.

2020-2021 Young Writers Awards Winners

Poetry

- **First Place**, "When You Wish Upon a Star / [letter to durga] / Sightseeing," Aanika Eragam, Milton High School, Alpharetta, GA
- **Second Place**, "a sudden nostalgia that i am meant to be somewhere else / The Bedroom / Etymology of Loss," Olivia Yang, Phillips Academy, Andover, MA
- **Third Place**, "Girl Sonnet / Honey Ghazal / Shelter, Water, A Bite to Eat," Madelyn Dietz, Interlochen Arts Academy, Interlochen, MI

Fiction

- **First Place**, "Somewhere Nearby Connecticut, There's a Clan of Vampires and a Woman He May Never Know," Alyssa Wilson, South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, Greenville, SC
- **Second Place**, "Dinner of Three," Wes Davis, Henry Clay High School, Lexington, KY
- **Third Place**, "Birthday Party," Katarina Ivkovic, Hunter College High School, New York, NY

Nonfiction

- **First Place**, "Dissecting Matryoshka," Stefania Bielkina, The Dwight School, New York, NY
- **Second Place**, "Skin Test," Indigo Mudbhary, Lick Wilmerding High School, San Francisco, CA
- **Third Place**, "Gifted," Rebecca Orten, Middlebury Union High School, Middlebury, VT

About Bennington College

Bennington College is a liberal arts college in southwestern Vermont that has distinguished itself as a vanguard institution within American higher education. It was the first to include the visual and performing arts in a liberal arts education. It is the only college to require that its students spend a term—every year—at work in the field. Bennington students work intensively with faculty to forge individual educational paths around their driving questions and interests.

Bennington is also the home of the [Robert Frost Stone House Museum](#) and the [Bennington Review](#), a national biannual print journal of innovative, intelligent, and original poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and film writing.

Notable literary alumni from both the undergraduate and MFA in Writing program include Donna Tartt, Brett Easton Ellis, Kiran Desai, Jonathan Lethem, Michael Ann Goldstein, Safiya Sinclair, Anaïs Duplan, Anne Waldman, Mary Ruefle, Cynthia Sweeney, Jamie Quatro, Amy Gerstler, Morgan Jerkins, and Charles Bock.

www.bennington.edu

More about [Literature at Bennington](#)

More about the [Bennington Writing Seminars](#) MFA program

Media Relations
Bennington College
802.440.4399
mediarelation@bennington.edu