

Kenyon College



The Honors Day Convocation

Four-Thirty O'clock, April Thirteenth
Two Thousand Twenty-One

Program

Welcome

Sean M. Decatur
President

Awards and Honors

Trustee Teaching Excellence Awards
Sean M. Decatur

Fellowships and Awards
Sean M. Decatur

Departmental Prizes
Jeffrey A. Bowman
Provost

College Prizes
Meredith Harper Bonham
Vice President for Student Affairs

Closing Remarks

Sean M. Decatur

Musical Performance

“Tempus”
by Stephen Chatman (1950-)

Sung by the Kenyon College Chamber Singers
Conducted by Professor of Music Benjamin R. Locke

Awards and Honors

Trustee Teaching Excellence Awards

Established by the Board of Trustees of Kenyon College to recognize distinguished teaching by Kenyon’s faculty. Annually there are two substantial monetary awards, one to a tenured faculty member who has been teaching at the College for at least ten years, and the other to either a tenured or tenure-track faculty member who is in his or her first ten years at Kenyon. The awards for 2021 were presented to: Assistant Professor of Mathematics Erin R. Leatherman (junior award) Professor of Political Science Stephen E. Van Holde (senior award)

Unless otherwise noted, recipients of awards, fellowships, and prizes are members of the Class of 2021.

Fellowships and Awards

Boren Scholarship

Awarded in national competition; funds study abroad by U.S. undergraduates in world regions critical to U.S. interests; recipients agree to work in qualifying national-security positions for at least one year. Seamus Claire, Class of 2022

Critical Language Study Award

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs; awarded to college students for participation in intensive overseas language and cultural immersion programs. Djibril Branche, Class of 2023 Ariella Kissin, Class of 2022

Henry G. Dalton Fellowship in American Studies

Established in 1946 in memory of Mr. Dalton; awarded to students who have demonstrated leadership, character, and excellence in academic work for graduate study in American government, history, or literature. Sigal Felber

Fulbright Fellowship

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State; provides funds for recipients to study, conduct research, teach, or exercise their talents abroad in furtherance of cultural competencies. Camille Baxter, Taiwan Rose Bialer, Class of 2020, Argentina (Alternate) A complete list of names and country assignments of Fulbright winners will be included in the Commencement program for 2021.

Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship

Established by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State; provides scholarships to U.S. citizens for study abroad in their junior year. Araya Caba Jess Dannery, Class of 2022

Barry M. Goldwater Excellence in Education Scholarship

Established by the U.S. Congress in 1986 to encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in engineering, mathematics, and the natural sciences. Scholarships are awarded to rising juniors and seniors. Emma Becker, Class of 2022

The Elmer A. Graham Endowed Scholarship

Established in 1988 to honor a former chairman of the Kenyon College Board of Trustees; covers tuition costs for the recipient’s senior year. Shanti Silver, Class of 2022

National Collegiate Athletic Association Postgraduate Award

A one-time, non-renewable grant of \$7,500 awarded by the NCAA to a total of 174 recipients annually, equally divided between men and women; presented to student-athletes who excel academically and athletically and who are at least in their final year of intercollegiate athletic competition. Carter Powell, Class of 2020

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

Five-year fellowship; recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported STEM disciplines who are pursuing research-based master’s and doctoral degrees at accredited U.S. institutions. Rachel Nguyen, Class of 2019

Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellowship

Established in 1987 in honor of Dr. Scoville; provides recent college and graduate-school alumni with the funding and opportunity to work with senior-level policy experts at one of more than two dozen leading think tanks and advocacy groups in Washington, D.C. Shannon Paige, Class of 2020

Departmental Prizes

American Studies

The Muriel B. Kahrl Prize in American Women’s Culture

Established in 2019 to honor the memory of Muriel Kahrl, a Mount Vernon resident who taught mathematics at Kenyon while regular faculty members were in service during World War II. Sophie Krichevsky

Anthropology

The Margaret Mead Award

In honor of the renowned American anthropologist; presented to a student majoring in anthropology who, in the judgment of the department’s faculty, has demonstrated consistently excellent academic achievement in all areas of the discipline. Liza Brilliant

Art

The Robert H. Hallstein Memorial Award in Art

Established in honor of Robert H. Hallstein by his parents, this award is granted to a senior art major whose consistent high level of artistic accomplishment in studio art courses is recognized by the art department faculty. Cody Benjamin Bratzler Meam Hartshorn

The Richard Kingan Liggitt Memorial Award in Art History

Established in 1991 in memory of Mr. Liggitt, Class of 1974, by a bequest from Mr. Liggitt’s estate and by friends; granted at the discretion of the department for outstanding achievement in art history. Recipients’ names are engraved on a plaque displayed in the Gund Gallery. Paris Tully

The Peterson Prize in Art

Established by the parents of M. Kristina Peterson, Class of 1973, this award is granted to a senior art major whose consistent high level of artistic accomplishment in studio art courses is recognized by the art department faculty. Kira Lancz Amelia Christina Mott

Biology

The Robert Bowen Brown Jr. Prize

The gift of the late Mr. Brown of the Class of 1911 and Mrs. Brown in memory of their son, Robert Bowen Brown Jr. of the Class of 1940; awarded to a member of the senior class who, in the opinion of the department’s faculty, has done the best original or research work in biology during the year. Julia Nicole Eckberg Samantha Haun Schaffner

The Dorothy E. and Thomas C. Jegla Prize

Awarded to a first-year student who has done excellent work, including the independent project, in the yearlong “Introduction to Experimental Biology” laboratory sequence. Erika Alejandra Pantillo, Class of 2023 Alexander Smirnov, Class of 2023

The Maxwell Elliot Power Prize

Established as a memorial to the late Professor Power of the Department of Biology; awarded to an upperclass student of unusual promise in biology. The prize is a cash award. David Han Miriam Rose Leckrone Hyman

Chemistry

The Chemical Rubber Company Chemistry Achievement Award

A certificate given to a first-year chemistry student who, in the opinion of the department’s faculty, is doing outstanding work in the course. Maddie Friday, Class of 2024

The Carl Djerassi Award in Chemistry

A cash award named for the world-renowned scientist, author, educator, and 1943 alumnus of Kenyon; presented for outstanding achievement to a senior majoring in chemistry or biochemistry who exemplifies the liberally educated scientist. This senior is honored not only for excellence in chemistry, but also for excellence in significant studies undertaken elsewhere in the College. The recipient’s name will be engraved on a plaque displayed in Robert J. Tomsich Hall. Ifeatu Ugonna Menakaya Ryan Dylan Nader

The Gordon L. Johnson Research Prize

Presented in memory of Professor Emeritus Gordon Johnson to the student who, in the opinion of the department’s faculty, has done the best research project during the preceding year with a member of the chemistry faculty. Lawrence Oliver Courtney Kai Christopher Wilczewski-Shirai

Classics

The George L. Brain Prize

Given by friends in memory of Mr. Brain, Class of 1920, a devoted alumnus and trustee of Kenyon; awarded to a student who has done outstanding work in classics. Rory Alexander Isabella Femia

The Carl Diehl Prize

Provided by a donation from Mr. Diehl, friend of the classics and former member of the Kenyon community; awarded to a first-year student or sophomore who has done outstanding work in Beginning Latin and to a first-year student or sophomore who has done outstanding work in Beginning Greek. Sara Nicole Landon, Class of 2024, Greek Claire Lanzendorf, Class of 2024, Latin

Economics

The Paul Titus Economics Prize

Established as a memorial to Professor Emeritus of Economics Paul Titus; presented annually to a senior who has demonstrated unusual competence in economics and the use of the tools of economic analysis. Chelsea Xinlin Huang Kathryn Grace Riggs

English

The Robert Daniel Memorial Scholarship

Given by Dorothea Daniel in memory of her husband, a professor of English at Kenyon from 1960 to 1983; awarded to a returning student who, in the judgment of the Department of English, has made a significant and extraordinary contribution to the literary life and vitality of Kenyon. Aaliyah C. Daniels, Class of 2023 Michelle Lin, Class of 2023

The Denham Sutcliffe Memorial Award

Given by a friend and admirer in memory of Professor Sutcliffe, chair of the Department of English from 1956 until his death in 1964; awarded to a senior for excellence in the study of English and American literature. Willow Green Tariq Thompson

The Philip Wolcott Timberlake Junior Prize

Established by the Lambda Chapter of Sigma Pi in memory of Mr. Timberlake, Class of 1917, the scholarship was made possible by a bequest from the estate of George K. Ralston, Class of 1924; awarded annually to the junior majoring in English who, as determined by the department, has done the most distinguished work in his or her courses in English. Dylan Hartman, Class of 2022 Audrey Mueller, Class of 2022 Amanda Pyne, Class of 2022

The Philip Wolcott Timberlake Memorial Prize

In memory of Mr. Timberlake of the Class of 1917, McIlvaine Professor of English at Kenyon and charter member of Lambda Chapter of Sigma Pi; given by alumni of that fraternity to a student who, as determined by the chair of the Department of English in consultation with the department, has written the best essays in his or her courses in English. Alexia Mandla Ainsworth Meredith Sauer

Environmental Studies

Environmental Studies Outstanding Senior Award

Established in 2020; given to senior majors in the Program in Environmental Studies who have demonstrated both exceptional academic achievements and leadership in their commitment to environmental issues. Ava-Rose Florence Beech Jacqueline Morgan O’Malley

History

The Robert L. Baker Memorial Prize

Given annually to commemorate the standards of scholarship exemplified by Mr. Baker, professor of history from 1959 to 1991; awarded to the student who has submitted the best essay on an aspect of European history between the fall of Rome and the era of Napoleon. Grant Holt, Class of 2022 Henry Morgenthau Wessel, Class of 2022

The Alan G. Goldsmith Memorial Prize

A cash award given by friends in memory of Mr. Goldsmith, Class of 1911, a trustee of Kenyon from 1947 to 1952; presented to a student who, in the judgment of the department’s faculty, has accomplished the best work in history in the current year. Hayley Beluch, Class of 2022 Hanna Feuer

The Curtis A. Seichter Award

Given in memory of Mr. Seichter, Class of 1980, by classmates and friends; awarded to a student who has demonstrated excellence in the study of history, irrespective of the field, as judged by a faculty committee appointed to review portfolios of the nominated students’ work. Hannah Petrich

Integrated Program in Humane Studies

The Richard F. Hettlinger Award

Honors the founder and first director of the Integrated Program in Humane Studies; given to the student in the program who best exemplifies the ideals of interdisciplinary scholarship and enthusiastic inquiry into the questions concerning human nature and values that Professor Hettlinger revered in his teaching and life.
Julia Elizabeth Moran

International Studies

The International Studies Award

Established in 2011; awarded to the senior international-studies major who best exemplifies the mission of the Program in International Studies.
Savannah Noel Overly

Latino/a Studies

The Christopher E. Schmidt-Nowara Latino/a Studies Award

Established in 2015 to honor the memory of Mr. Schmidt-Nowara, Class of 1988, professor of Spanish culture and civilization at Tufts University; awarded for the best written, visual, or exhibition project on the diverse experiences of people who trace their origins to the countries of Latin America and the Spanish Caribbean.
Betania Escobar

Mathematics

The Reginald B. Allen Prize

The gift of Mrs. Bessie Allen in memory of her husband, for many years head of the Department of Mathematics; awarded to a student who has shown unusual promise in mathematics.
Steven Charles Lucas
Katerina Tang

The Solomon R.S. Kasper Prize

A cash award established in 1992 in memory of Mr. Kasper, Class of 1986, by his family; given to a student who has demonstrated outstanding creativity and ingenuity in mathematics and computer science.
Thomas Guidotti
Amelia Christina Mott

Modern Languages and Literatures

The Arabic Prize

Presented for outstanding achievement in the study of Arabic.
Gigi Guenther
Hannah Petrich

The Thomas Au '69 and Jack Au '73 Chinese Prize

Established in 2011 by Thomas Au, Class of 1969, and Jack Au, Class of 1973; awarded for outstanding achievement in Chinese studies.
Liam Gerard Berg

The Edward Harvey Prize in French

Named for the late Samuel Mather Professor Emeritus of French Language and Literature at Kenyon; presented for excellence in French studies.
Miah Tapper

The Charles Singer Williams Prize in French

Established in 1992 through the bequest of Thelma S. Williams in honor of her son, Charles Singer Williams, Class of 1963; awarded to an outstanding student of French language and literature.
Schuyler Bunn
Jack Kane

The Sigrid Lanzrath Memorial Prize in German

A cash prize, given in memory of Sigrid Lanzrath, who, as an official of Inter Naciones, Bonn, became a real friend of Kenyon; awarded for outstanding achievement in German studies.
Katerina Tang

The Italian Prize

Presented for accomplishment in the study of Italian.
Kate Rei Perrin
Paris Tully

The Japanese Prize

Presented for outstanding achievement in Japanese studies.
Sasha Ayano Stroud

The Natalia Olshanskaya Scholarship in Russian Studies

Awarded each year to one sophomore or junior Russian major pursuing off-campus study in the language.
Christopher Michael Bechtol, Class of 2023

The Russian Prize

Presented for extraordinary work in the Russian language.
John Laurent Sutherland, Class of 2023

The Spanish Prize

Presented for excellence in the study of Spanish literature.
Samuel Canseco
Samuel Elston Hosmer-Quint, Class of 2022

Music

The Gabriel A. Ben-Meir Senior Award in Music

Established in 2015 by the department in memory of Mr. Ben-Meir, Class of 2003; given annually to a senior music major in recognition of outstanding achievement during the course of four years in the department.
Eric S. Schwartz

The Thomas B. and Mary M. Greenslade Award in Music Performance

Established by the late Kenyon Archivist Thomas B. Greenslade, Class of 1931, and his late wife, Mary; given annually to the student or students who have given the most outstanding solo performance or series of performances during the academic year.
Sabrina E. Halavy, Class of 2020
Eleanor Wellik, Class of 2020

The Kathleen “Kay” Locke Community Service Prize in Music

Established in 2015 in honor of Kay Locke, wife of Professor of Music Benjamin R. Locke; given annually to the student or students who have provided outstanding service to the Kenyon community through their musical activities.
Kathryn Dawdy

Neuroscience

The Jon L. Williams Prize

Named for the founder of Kenyon’s neuroscience program; awarded to a senior who has shown exceptional academic achievement, engagement in research, and service to the program.
Afomia Ayele

Philosophy

The Virgil C. Aldrich Prize

Named for a former professor of philosophy at Kenyon; awarded for dedication to, and excellence in, the study of philosophy.
Henry Matthews Terhune

Physics

The Elbe H. Johnson Prize

Established in 1967 by the department in memory of the late Mr. Johnson, Henry G. Dalton Professor of Physics, and in recognition of his many years of devoted service to Kenyon; awarded to a student who has shown special promise in physics during the year.
Kali Wayt, Class of 2023
Braden Yeshe Zeman, Class of 2024

Political Science

The John Chesnut Memorial Prize

Given by Alexander M. Griggs of the Class of 1953 in memory of his classmate Mr. Chesnut, the prize consists of books of permanent value; awarded to the student who has done the best work in the field of political science during the year.
Philip Brain
Harry Clennon

Psychology

The Psychology Award for Outstanding Service

Given to honor the recipient’s commitment to psychology-related community service, on or off campus.
Hannah Haynes

The Wilson Award for Academic Excellence in Psychology

Established in 2020 in honor of Julia T. Wilson, Class of 2018, an outstanding scholar and athlete; given to celebrate high academic achievement in psychology.
Henry Winslow Biedron

Religious Studies

The Simpson Prize

Established by Dr. and Mrs. Hector C. McKnew of Newark, Ohio, in memory of Rev. Thomas Porter Simpson, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Newark; awarded to a student who, in the opinion of the department’s faculty, has done outstanding work in the department.
Sigal Felber

Sociology

The Jane Addams Award

In honor of the much-celebrated social activist; presented to a student majoring in sociology who, in the judgment of the department’s faculty, has displayed in the past year’s work qualities of excellence, enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment in the discipline.
Araya Caba
Makena Markert

The George Herbert Mead Award

In honor of the noted American social theorist; presented to sociology majors who demonstrate innovation in theory or methodology or consistently display other qualities of academic excellence as student scholars.
Ezra Moguel
Ebie Quinn

Women’s and Gender Studies

The Molly R. Hatcher Prize in Women’s and Gender Studies

Established by the Women’s and Gender Studies Committee in 1989 and renamed in 2000 as a memorial to Ms. Hatcher, Class of 2000, who was pursuing a concentration in women’s and gender studies; awarded to a current student for the best work of art, composition, essay, performance, scientific study, or other piece, produced during the previous calendar year, in which gender is a central theme. The recipient’s name is inscribed on a plaque displayed in the Crozier Center.
Virginia Kane, Class of 2022

College Prizes

The George Gund Award

Established by the late Mr. Gund of Cleveland, a Kenyon trustee and parent; given annually for the best essays on topics that illuminate the nature of American life, culture, or principles of government.
Nicholas Becker, Class of 2022
Molly Orr, Class of 2024

The George B. Ogden Prize

A cash award given by Thomas J. Goddard, Class of 1903, in honor of his friend George B. Ogden; awarded annually to the student who submits in competition the best essay in English prose.
Birhanu Tadesse Gessese

The Academy of American Poetry Prize

A cash prize, to be awarded annually, is presented to a student for the best poem or group of poems submitted in competition.
Tariq Thompson

The Muriel C. Bradbrook Prize

The gift of Professor Bradbrook, a distinguished visitor to the Department of English from Cambridge University; awarded annually to the student who submits in competition the best original short story or other specimen of prose fiction.
Judah Greenberg

The Propper Prize for Poetry

Given by friends in memory of James M. Propper, Class of 1951; awarded to the first-year student or sophomore whose poem or group of poems, submitted in competition, is judged best by the Poetry Prize Committee.
Michelle Lin, Class of 2023

The John Crowe Ransom Poetry Prize

Established in 1968 by the College in honor of the late Carnegie Professor of Poetry; an autographed copy of Ransom’s *Selected Poems* awarded to the junior or senior whose poem or group of poems, submitted in competition, is judged best by the Poetry Prize Committee.
A. Shaikh

The Barbara H. Reitsma Award of the Math and Science Skills Center

Established in 2020 to honor Barbara Reitsma, the center’s late former director, and recognize a senior tutor in the center who embodies her legacy of compassion and dedication.
Rand Ralph Burnette

The Ashford Memorial Award for Excellence in Dramatics

A cup given by the Iota Chapter of Psi Upsilon in honor of the late William Ray Ashford, professor of modern foreign languages and friend of theater at Kenyon from 1924 to 1954; awarded to the student who, in the opinion of the judges, has made the most notable contribution to theater at the College. The award may be made on the basis of one outstanding performance or piece of work or on the sum of an individual’s activities during one or several years.
Lindsey Conant

The James E. Michael Prize in Playwriting

A cash award established by alumni in 1978 at the opening of the Bolton Theater, honoring the late Professor Emeritus of Drama James E. Michael; given to the student who has submitted the best original script to the judging committee. The recipient’s name is engraved on a plaque displayed in the Bolton Theater lobby.
Sarah Nicole Grousta, Class of 2022
Elinor Davis Melick

The Paul Newman Trophy

Given by Mr. Newman, Class of 1949, for the best acting performance by a male student; awarded annually to a student who, in the opinion of the judges, has given the most skillful and successful performance in an acting role during the year.
Thomas “Teddy” Dunn Fischer, Class of 2022
Juwan Teddyson Jackson, Class of 2024

The Joanne Woodward Trophy

Given in honor of his wife by Paul L. Newman, Class of 1949; awarded annually to the actress who, in the opinion of the judges, has given the most skillful and successful performance in an acting role during the academic year.
Katherine Elizabeth Reber

The Dance Prize

Established in 1987 by members of the Kenyon community; awarded annually to the student who, in the opinion of the judges, has made the most notable contribution to dance at Kenyon. The recipient’s name will be permanently displayed on a plaque in the Bolton Theater lobby.
Willow Green

The Leopoldo López Student Award

Presented to a current student who has shown significant commitment to the advancement of a cause; demonstrable impact, clarity of purpose, engagement with others in the community; meaningful contributions to the understanding of the pursuit of freedom or democracy through research or other scholarly pursuits; and sustained commitment to the creation of a new effort or the infusing of new vigor into an effort that had lost momentum.

Katelyn Elizabeth Schwartz

The Middle Path Partnership Award for Community Service

Awarded to the student who, in the eyes of a selection committee, has demonstrated notable, dedicated, and sustained efforts to enhance existing relationships and efforts or to build new ones between constituents of the campus community (members of the administration, faculty, and staff, students, and union members), the College and the Village of Gambier, or the College and the greater Knox County community.

Sigal Felber

The Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award

This award is presented annually to the student organization and/or individual student that/who has best promoted social justice through service activities and programs as exemplified by the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr.

Hanaa Ibrahim

The Doris B. Crozier Award

Established in 1973 in recognition of the leadership and standards set by the women of the Class of 1973 by friends of Ms. Crozier, dean of the Coordinate College for Women from 1968 to 1972; awarded to a student who has demonstrated qualities of vision, responsibility, courage, and dedication to excellence. The recipient's name is inscribed on a cup displayed in the office of the dean of students.

Jorge Dumenigo

The E. Malcolm Anderson Cup

Established in 1935 by the late Mr. Anderson, Class of 1914; inscribed each year with the name of the student who, in the opinion of students and faculty members, has done the most for Kenyon during the year.

Jonathan Hernández