



PRESS RELEASE

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Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas

(<http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org>)

Encouraging poets and poetry in Arkansas since 1931

Affiliated with National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

(www.nfspd.com)

Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas (PRA) is pleased to announce the winners of its 2021 statewide Jeanie Dolan Carter Memorial Collegiate Poetry Contest. Because of the pandemic, instead of live readings, the winners shared recordings for the virtual Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration, an annual PRA event. The statewide contest has been sponsored annually for the last five years by the recently deceased Mr. Roger Carter of Hot Springs in memorial to his wife, Jeanie. PRA member, Dr. Emory D. Jones, served as judge. In addition to first, second, and third place recognition, he selected five poems worthy of honorable mention. Winners are listed below.

1st Place (\$500)—Flannery Hirrel, a junior creative writing major at Hendrix College, for her poem, “remains.” She began writing poetry in elementary school and quickly developed a love for the craft. Hirrel is no stranger to PRA contests, placing third as a high school freshman and winning first place when she was a senior in the PRA’s Spring Student Contests for Middle and High School. When hearing the news that she’d won first place, Hirrel said, “I am thrilled to have the opportunity to share my work with more Arkansas poets.”

2nd Place (\$300)—Kaitlin (Katie) Butler, a senior at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, for her poem, “I Looked in the Mirror and Saw Flowers.” She is expected to graduate in May 2021 with a BA in Rhetoric and Writing with a minor focus in Creative Writing. While her passion lies in creative writing, Katie also loves helping others find their own love for the written word, which she practices often as a student tutor with her university’s Writing Center. “As a long-time writer and passionate poet, being awarded in this contest means the world to me. Thank you, PRA, for encouraging me in writing what I know and love!” Christian Gerard Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Rhetoric and Writing had this to say about Katie’s win: “I am so glad and grateful for Katie's incredibly hard work, over the years I've know her, to become the writer she wants to be by putting in the good, hard work.”

3rd Place (\$200)—Annemarie Bennett, a junior at Hendrix College, for her poem, “Some Things Stay.” She is the fiction editor for her school’s literary magazine and has always been passionate about writing and literature. In her free time, she enjoys sitting outside in the sun and adding to her collection of house plants. “I am beyond honored and excited to have placed in this contest and have the opportunity to share my poem here.”

“Thank you to the Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas for recognizing two promising Hendrix College poets, Flannery Hirrel and Annemarie Bennett. In ‘remains,’ Hirrel’s talents for evoking moments of unexpected beauty are on display, while ‘Some Things Stay’ compels the reader to

take a second look at those places we neglect. Our poetry community at Hendrix is thrilled to see the work of these two stellar poets applauded.” – Erin Hoover Ph.D. Murphy Visiting Fellow in Poetry, Hendrix College

First Honorable Mention—Luke Childress, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences for “The Gnome Poem”; Second Honorable Mention— Mason Rostollan from University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences for “The Price of a White Coat”; Third Honorable Mention— Zoie Keys from Hendrix College for “Cacophony”; Fourth Honorable Mention—Makenna Cofer from John Brown University (Siloam Springs) for “Queens rot in towers, too.”; Fifth Honorable Mention—Olivia Adams from University of Arkansas, Fayetteville for “Rock, ____, Scissors.”

Poets’ Roundtable of Arkansas is the oldest, non-profit poetry organization in the state, established in 1931 to encourage the art of poetry. Members are from all around the state, including past and present Arkansas Poet Laureates. Poets are encouraged to contact any PRA Branch President and visit a meeting. PRA is affiliated with the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS). PRA and NFSPS sponsor educational poetry conferences and contests throughout the year for all ages. For more information, see the website listed above and like us on Facebook. Or contact PRA President John McPherson (mcpherson8391@gmail.com) or PRA’s Collegiate Contest Chair Karen Moulton (jkmoultons@yahoo.com).