

Kenyon College



The Honors Day Convocation

Eleven-Ten O'clock, April Fourteenth
Two Thousand Twenty

Program

Sean M. Decatur, presiding

Musical Interlude

“*Gaudete omnes*”

Composed by Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck (1562-1621)

Translation: Everyone rejoice and be happy, for behold, the desired one has come. Enter into his presence with exulting; know that this is the expected one. Alleluia.

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

Closing Remarks

Sean M. Decatur
President

Welcome

Sean M. Decatur
President

Awards and Honors

Trustee Teaching Excellence Awards
Sean M. Decatur
President

Fellowships and Awards
Sean M. Decatur
President

Departmental Prizes
Joseph L. Klesner
Provost

College Prizes
Meredith Harper Bonham
Vice President for Student Affairs

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 2020 were presented to: Associate Professor of History Patrick G. Bottiger (junior award) Associate Professor of Political Science H. Abbie Erler (senior award)

Unless otherwise noted, recipients of awards, fellowships, and prizes are members of the Class of 2020.

Fellowships and Awards

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. Lydia Claire O’Donnell

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. Nicholas Aaron Cooper-Hamburger, Class of 2016 Lydia Claire O’Donnell Christopher Luis Paludi Camila Wise A complete list of names and country assignments of Fulbright winners will be included in the Commencement program for 2020.

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. Emma Banks, Class of 2022 Shannon Paige

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. Ericka Florio, Class of 2022 Ryn Grutkoski, Class of 2021 Katerina Tang, Class of 2021

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. Eleanor Jane Tetreault, Class of 2021

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. Brooks Edward McCoy, Class of 2019 Hannah Elena Orbach-Mandel, Class of 2019 Abigail Marie Wilson, Class of 2019

Schwarzman Scholarship

Schwarzman Scholars are chosen and supported by an international scholarship program, founded in 2016 by American financier Stephen A. Schwarzman to help future leaders better understand China by providing them with the firsthand knowledge and relationships necessary to foster collaboration and cooperation between nations. Maher Mohammad Latif, Class of 2017

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. Celina German, Class of 2021

The William B. Scott Award

Awarded annually for the best written, visual, or exhibition project in an American studies course; presented to a student for work done in the current or previous academic year. Allison Vivian Beard

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. India Kotis

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. Luke Hester Emma Wolfe Raible Jane Charlotte Zisman

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. *Jessica Anne Lane* *Annika Ostrom*

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. Katrina Haley Peterson

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. Haofan Li

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. Joseph Elias Duke-Cohan, Class of 2022 Hailey Napier, Class of 2022

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. Alex Freidinger Weichen Zhao

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. Meheret Ourgessa, Class of 2023

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. Mackenzie Ellen Bruzzio

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. Margo Goldfarb

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. Benjamin Bradley Baturka

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. Jamie Nicole Gluckman, Class of 2023, Greek Minh Pham, Class of 2023, 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. Ruth Cohen

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. Alexia Ainsworth, Class of 2021 Virginia Kane, Class of 2022 Emmy Muskin Roday, Class of 2021 Armiya Sadiq Shaikh, Class of 2021 Jenny Tie, Class of 2021 Erintrude Pieta Wrona

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. Vahni Kurra Paola Liendo Matthew Manno Heather Leah McCabe

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. Katherine Franco, Class of 2021 Tariq Thompson, Class of 2021

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. Alex McDaniel Maleah Christine Miller Justin Van-Lee Wyman Sun Jonah W. Zitelli

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. Lina Beron Echavarria Xiaoxuan Hu

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. India Kotis

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. Hanna Feuer, Class of 2021 Lydia Claire O’Donnell

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. David Han, Class of 2021 Samuel Elston Hosmer-Quint, Class of 2021

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. Catherine Ashley Fairchild Perloff

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. Nora Elizabeth Qiao Boles
Shannon Paige

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. Sofia Alpizar Roman, Class of 2021

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. Cameron Scott Austin
Emily Rachfal

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. Jonathan George Gregory Lambrinos
Oliver VandenBerg

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. Emily Rachfal

Modern Languages and Literatures

The Arabic Prize

Presented for outstanding achievement in the study of Arabic. Shannon Paige

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. Jillian Margaux Selander

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. Carley Townsend

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. Erin Donnelly

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. Lucas Desmond Kreuzer
Thomas Patrick Merkle

The Italian Prize

Presented for accomplishment in the study of Italian. Jessica Anne Lane

The Japanese Prize

Presented for outstanding achievement in Japanese studies. Coco Yuan

The American Council of Teachers of Russian Post-Secondary Scholar

Laureate Award

Presented to junior or senior students of the language who best embody an enthusiasm for and love of things Russian. Grace Harris

The Natalia Olshanskaya Scholarship in Russian Studies

Awarded each year to one sophomore or junior Russian major pursuing off-campus study in the language. Gretchen Feil, Class of 2022

The Russian Prize

Presented for extraordinary work in the Russian language. Nyota Mbuyu

The Spanish Prize

Presented for excellence in the study of Spanish literature. Scout Crowell
Carolyn Pine

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. Leah Meredith Dunbar

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. Joseph Young Chimes, Class of 2019

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. Mohammad Haider Riaz

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. Ethan Bradley
Mara Kaspers

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. Patrick Flanagan Hudnut

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. Benjamin Ethan Sanger, Class of 2023

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. Tommy Johnson

Psychology

The Psychology Award for Outstanding Service

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

The Jeffrey S. Williams Memorial Award for Integrative Study

in Psychology and Economics

A cash prize established by the Williams family in 1984 in memory of Mr. Williams, Class of 1983, the award is presented to the student majoring in either psychology or economics who, in the opinion of the faculties of those departments, best demonstrates the capacity to progress beyond his or her own discipline and seek integration between it and other fields of inquiry. Yara Khaled Awwad

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. Karinne Nicole Robbins

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. Kathleen Maureen Duffy

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. Ellie Corser
Isabel Kotlowitz

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. Rose Walker Bialer
Sarah Campbell

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. Claire Delight McPartland

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. Hayden Scott Toftner, Class of 2022

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. Jenny Tie, Class of 2021

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. Armiya Sadiq Shaikh, Class of 2021

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. Justin Van-Lee Wyman Sun

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. Virginia Kane, Class of 2022
Sarah J. Pazen, Class of 2022

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. Paola Liendo

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. Emily Blanquera

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. JT Baldassarre

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. Oubadah Alwan

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. Claire Delight McPartland

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. Naomi Rose Lofchie

The Jess Willard Falkenstine Awards

Given by the Beta Alpha Chapter of Beta Theta Pi in honor of the late Mr. Falkenstine, coach and director of athletics at Kenyon from 1953 to 1964; awarded annually to outstanding athlete-scholars who, in the opinion of the selection committee, display the characteristics, including leadership and integrity, exemplified by the award. The winners' names are inscribed on a plaque displayed in the Kenyon Athletic Center trophy case.

Hannah Sklar
Jake Zalenski

The North Coast Athletic Conference Scholar-Athlete Awards

Established by the NCAC; awarded annually to one man and one woman from each institution in the conference in recognition of outstanding academic and athletic achievement.

Paige Matijasich
Carter M. Powell

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.

Jodi-Ann Juexuan Wang

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.

Delaney Barker

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.

Jodi-Ann Juexuan Wang