



Rutgers History Department

Ceil Parker Lawson Memorial Prize

The Ceil Parker Lawson Memorial Prize is awarded annually to a graduating senior who has the highest grade point average in all of their History courses.

Ceil Parker Lawson was a housewife who lived in a Bronx apartment with her husband, Murray, her two children, Lona and Steven, and her parents, Abraham and Sara. She only had a high school education, graduating from Theodore Roosevelt High School in the Bronx, but she inspired her son to pursue his education to the highest level he could achieve. She created a household environment that supported learning. Even more, she was a warm and wise human being who had many friends among her neighbors on Morris and Townsend Avenues, and many of them came to her often for counsel and laughter. She had a terrific sense of humor, which she needed to get through the various illnesses she had during her short life. Ceil Parker Lawson died in 1962 at the age of fifty from cancer. The words on her tombstone sum up the quality of her life and legacy: "Her memory is a heritage of love."

In 2003, Professors Steven Lawson and Nancy Hewitt provided the funds for an endowed prize in memory of Lawson's mother, Ceil Parker Lawson. At the time, Professor Lawson was Vice-Chair for Undergraduate Education in the History Department and director of its honors program. As a scholar of twentieth-century U.S. History, Lawson created the prize to recognize outstanding students studying History.

2021 Prize Winner:

- Aaron Eisen - History Major, Class of 2021

2020 Prize Winner:

- Eric Fecso - History Major, Class of 2021

2019 Prize Winner:

- Kenneth Morrissey - History Major, Class of 2019

2017 Prize Winners:

- *First Place:* Charles Melman - History Major, Class of 2017
- *Second Place:* Christopher Layton - History Major, Class of 2018

Dr. Martin Siegel Prize in History

The Dr. Martin Siegel Prize was established in honor of Dr. Martin Siegel who was a History major at Rutgers University. Throughout his life he spoke of how much his education at Rutgers University was a transforming experience, allowing a boy from a constricted background on a poultry farm in South Jersey to become a sophisticated thinker and man of the world. Although he entered Rutgers in 1945 as an Engineering student, his heart was elsewhere -- in foreign films, theatre, music, and the great game of being a university student, actively participating in a new universe of ideas and cultural interests.

After his graduation in 1949 he went on to earn a M.A. and Ph.D. in European Intellectual History at Columbia University. He became a professor at Kean University for 40 years. He led classes in the History of both France and Russia; but the course he loved to teach above all others was the Senior Research Seminar. Therefore, this prize is awarded to that undergraduate Junior or Senior majoring in History who is judged to have prepared the best research project in the History Seminar course.

2021 Prize Winner:

- Evan Royds - History Major, Class of 2021

2020 Prize Winner:

- Giovanni Occhipinti - History Major, Class of 2021

2019 Prize Winner:

- Kevin Salcedo - History Major, Class of 2018

2018 Prize Winner:

- Kevin Dragert - History Major, Class of 2017

2017 Prize Winner:

- Thomas Federowicz - History Major, Class of 2017

Edward McNall Burns Award in History

The Edward McNall Burns Award in History is given to a non-traditional undergraduate student who graduates with the highest academic record in the field of History in the School of Arts and Sciences.

2021 Prize Winner:

- Samantha Fitzgerald - History Major, Class of 2021

Edward Romano Memorial Award

The Edward Romano Memorial Award in History and Public Service is awarded to a student who combines a passion for historical study with a commitment to activism and public service.

On September 20th, 2015 the Department of History was devastated to learn of the unexpected passing of Edward Romano. Just 21 years old, Edward was a History and Political Science double major and an honors student. At the time of his death, he was in the process of writing a groundbreaking honors thesis on the Camden and Amboy Railroad, the dominant force in New Jersey politics in the nineteenth century. Edward was at the heart of our undergraduate program—he was a student in many of our classes, headed the History Club, and spent three years working in the History Department office as a work study student. Other students looked to him for advice on the major and on navigating their way through Rutgers University. He made the department a warm, fun, and thought provoking place to be.

Edward was a leader and a community builder and he was well known for his interest in democratic politics and his leadership of the Rutgers University Democrats. He was an intern with the Middlesex County Democratic Organization and had served on the Barbara Buono campaign for governor. He intended to apply to law school and was poised to take the LSATs the weekend after his passing.

2021 Prize Winner:

- **Cara Del Gaudio** – History and Art History Major, Class of 2021

2020 Prize Winner:

- **Carson Cummins** – History major, Class of 2021

2019 Prize Winner:

- **Hallel Yadin** – History major, Class of 2019

2018 Prize Winner:

- **June Titus** – History Major, Class of 2020

2017 Prize Winner:

- **Rakim Solomon** – History Major, Class of 2017

Harold L. Poor Memorial Fund Undergraduate History Prize

The Harold Poor Prize is awarded annually to the best, second best, and third best honors theses overall in the History Department. The department, with the support of Professor Philip Greven, established the Prize in the early 1990s, and it has been given every year since.

Harold Poor came to the Rutgers College History Department in 1966 where he continued to teach and administer until his premature retirement in 1991 on disability because of AIDS. He died on January 24, 1992. He was one of the most gifted and charismatic teachers in the History Department. His courses ranged widely over German and European history. He pioneered in the teaching of gay history with his course on "History and the Homosexual" in the fall of 1984. For the History Department, Harold served as Undergraduate Chairperson from 1989 to 1991 and was the Director of the Rutgers Junior Year Abroad Program in Germany from 1985 to 1987.

2021 Prize Winners:

- **First Place:** Austin Wang: "Sepoys in the Crosshairs: The Elevation, Fall, and Journey of the 70th Bengal Native Infantry, 1856-1860"
- **Second Place:** Ethan Bull: "The Making of Masculinity: Hazing, Fighting, and Cadet Culture at West Point, 1897-1901"
- **Second Place:** Ethan Iano: "Creation from Contention: Competing Visions of Iraqi Futures Prior to and during the 1920 Revolution"
- **Third Place:** Anny Lu: "The Anson Place Spectacle: The Life and Death of Elizabeth Hamblin in the Victorian Liverpool Dock and Sexual Economies, 1850-1884"
- **Honorable Mention:** Alexandra Schindewolf: "The Diabolical Woman: Gender and Witchcraft in Tudor and Stuart England"

2020 Prize Winners:

- **First Place: Jonas Tai** - "The Archaic Evolution and Classical Form of *Andrapodismos*"
- **Second Place: Dante Intindola** - "Rowing on the Passaic River: Boat Clubs and the Rise of Industry in Gilded Age Newark, New Jersey 1865-1901"

2019 Prize Winners:

- **First Place: Bailey Lawrence** - "Resistance on the Raritan: Segregation, Urban Renewal, and the Police in New Brunswick, 1967-1991"
- **Second Place: Annika Hansen** - "The Rush to Cure: Navigating Medical Breakthroughs in Biochemical and Cytogenetics, 1900-1973"
- **Third Place: Sherine Hamade** - "More Than Mothers: A Look Into the Lives of Reconstruction Ybor's Afro-Cuban Women"

2018 Prize Winners:

- **First Place: Michael Antosiewicz** - “Disputed Dicing: *Kuboi*, *Astragaloï*, and the Cultural Contestations around Dice Games in Classical Greece”
- **Second Place: Joseph Westendorf** - “The Culture of Secession: New York City, New Jersey, and the Secessionist Movement in the North During the Secession Crisis 1860-1861”
- **Third Place: Katherine Mitchell** - “The Indian Man’s Burden: The British Women’s Suffrage Movement and Westernization in Indian Nationalist Rhetoric”

2017 Prize Winners:

- **First Place: Patrick Travens** – “The Ormée of Bordeaux: Popular Politics and Urban Revolt during the Fronde (1648-1653)”
- **Second Place: Charles Melman** – “Racial Retrenchment: Morris Milgram and the Struggle to Integrate Philadelphia’s Post-War Suburbs”
- **Third Place: Alexandra Williams** - “‘A Curse and Plague unto the Nation’: The Political Perceptions of Louise de K rouaille in Restoration England”

Helen Praeger Miller Prize

The Helen Praeger Miller Prize is awarded by the Douglass Associate Alumnae to the most outstanding History major who is a member of the Douglass Residential College.

2021 Prize Winner:

- **Samantha Fitzgerald** - History Major, Class of 2021

2020 Prize Winner:

- **Alexis Olsen** - History Major, Class of 2022

2019 Prize Winner:

- **Daria Martin** - History Major, Class of 2019

2017 Prize Winner:

- **Kelsey Haddorf** - History Major, Class of 2017

Henry Rutgers Scholars Award

The Henry Rutgers Scholars Award is given to the best senior honors work in any discipline in the School of Arts and Sciences.

2021 Prize Winner:

- Ethan Bull - *American Studies*, "The Making of Masculinity: Hazing, Fighting, and Cadet Culture at West Point, 1897-1901"
- Barbara Shi - *Interdisciplinary*, Unapologetically Chinese, "Unforgettably Kiwi, and Undeniably American: A Personal History on Chinese Migration"
- Austin Wang - *History*, "Sepoys in the Crosshairs: The Elevation, Fall, and Journey of the 70th Bengal Native Infantry, 1856-1860"

2020 Prize Winner:

- **Jonas Tai** – "The Archaic Evolution and Classical Form of *Andrapodismos*"

2019 Prize Winner:

- **Bailey Lawrence** - "Resistance on the Raritan: Segregation, Urban Renewal, and the Police in New Brunswick, 1967-1991"

2018 Prize Winner:

- **Michael Antosiewicz** – "Disputed Dicing: *Kuboi*, *Astragalo*, and the Cultural Contestations around Dice Games in Classical Greece"

2017 Prize Winner:

- **Charles Melman** – "Racial Retrenchment: Morris Milgram and the Struggle to Integrate Philadelphia's Post-War Suburbs"
- **Jennifer Stice** – "'The transactions of that period made a deep impression upon her mind': The Female Experience of the American Revolution in Her Own Words 1776-1860"

James Reed Award

The James Reed Award is given to the student with the best honors thesis presentation at the Rutgers History Honors Conference.

This awards is in honor of Professor James Reed, one of our most outstanding teachers at Rutgers University since he joined the faculty at Rutgers College in 1975. His legendary ability to “sing” American History has been inspiring Rutgers undergraduates for almost five decades. It is only fitting that the most outstanding presentation at the History Honors Conference should be recognized by the History faculty with the James Reed prize.

2021 Prize Winner:

- Anny Lu: "The Anson Place Spectacle: The Life and Death of Elizabeth Hamblin in the Victorian Liverpool Dock and Sexual Economies, 1850-1884"

2019 Prize Winner:

- **Bailey Lawrence** - “Resistance on the Raritan: Segregation, Urban Renewal, and the Police in New Brunswick, *1967-1991*”

2018 Prize Winner:

- **Christopher Kay** – “Shifting perceptions of bishops and their rights in Parliament between 1640-1642 and 1679-1682”

2017 Prize Winner:

- **Patrick Travens** – “The Ormée of Bordeaux: Popular Politics and Urban Revolt during the Fronde (1648-1653)”

Joseph B. Bradley Memorial Award

The Joseph B. Bradley Memorial Award is awarded to a graduating senior who has studied Ancient or Medieval History and has exhibited exceptional work in this area.

2020 Prize Winner:

- **Jonas Tai** – “The Archaic Evolution and Classical Form of *Andrapodismos*”

Margaret Atwood Judson Prize

The Margaret Atwood Judson Prize is awarded to the best honors thesis written by a woman. Born in 1899 Margaret Atwood Judson received her Ph.D. from Radcliffe College in 1933. She joined the History Department at Douglass College in 1928 and went on to chair the History and Political Science departments at Douglass and to serve as acting dean of Douglass College. She was a widely-respected scholar who wrote on English constitutional thought.

Long before the second-wave women's movement of the 1960s, Margaret Atwood Judson was pushing through boundaries and limitations on women's lives and showing that women could excel at the highest level of professional scholarship, administration and college teaching.

2021 Prize Winner:

- Cara Del Gaudio: "Elizabeth Catlett: Redefining Activism"

2020 Prize Winner:

- **Monica Dias** - "Twisted-Thinking Intellectuals": Anti-Intellectualism in the United States and in the Post-War American Media Landscape"

2019 Prize Winner:

- **Annika Hansen** - "The Rush to Cure: Navigating Medical Breakthroughs in Biochemical and Cytogenetics, 1900-1973"

2018 Prize Winner:

- **Katherine Mitchell** - "The Indian Man's Burden: The British Women's Suffrage Movement and Westernization in Indian Nationalist Rhetoric"

2017 Prize Winner:

- **Alexandra Williams** - "'A Curse and Plague unto the Nation': The Political Perceptions of Louise de K rouaille in Restoration England"

Maurice Dupont Lee Jr. Fellowship in History

The Maurice Dupont Lee Jr. Fellowship in History is awarded to a History or Art History major who is part of the Douglass Residential College to support their graduate education.

2020 Prize Winner:

- **Catherine Lydon** – Art History Major, History Minor, Class of 2020

2017 Prize Winner:

- **Gabriela Shypula** – Art History Major, Class of 2017

Society of Colonial Wars Prize

The Society of Colonial Wars Prize is awarded to a History major who has written the best essay on Early American History.

2021 Prize Winner:

- Jean-William Mackler: "Revolutionary Pop Culture: The Politicization of Material Culture during the American Revolution (1763-1783)"

2019 Prize Winner:

- **Andrea Vacchiano** - "Not the History of Theirs: Anti-Calvinist Resistance and Refashioning in the works of Hawthorne, Emerson and Dickinson, 1835-1870"

2017 Prize Winners:

- **First Place: Jennifer Stice** - "The transactions of that period made a deep impression upon her mind': The Female Experience of the American Revolution in Her Own Words 1776-1860"
- **Second Place: Elishiva Rosen** - "'Remembering New Bridge Landing': A Window onto New Jersey's Complex History"