New Mexico Poetry Out Loud 2016

St. Francis Auditorium | New Mexico Museum of Art | Santa Fe
11th Annual New Mexico Poetry Out Loud

“In the old days, memorization and recitation of poetry was an education staple meant for building kids’ public-speaking skills and cognitive capacity while also introducing them to language and literature. In 2006, Poetry Out Loud was formed and the practice was brought back. Since then, 10 national champions have been crowned.”

-Jennifer Levin, Santa Fe New Mexican 3-4-16.”

Poetry Out Loud is a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and state arts agencies. The New Mexico portion of the national poetry recitation contest is sponsored by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs. For the statewide competition, seven high schools sent their winners to the state final in Santa Fe on March 6, 2016. In remarks prepared by Governor Susana Martinez and read by New Mexico Arts Executive Director, Loie Fecteau, the Governor said, “Poetry Out Loud is an amazing competition. This program helps you gain tremendous experience in public speaking that you will use over and over again, no matter what career path you choose. I want to thank the teachers and family members who have nurtured and encouraged our students along the way; you are doing your part to promote literacy in our state, which is so important. Congratulations, and well done!”

Cover: l. to r., First Place, Michelle Zhou, Albuquerque; Third Place, Verona Gomez, Las Cruces; Second Place, Oceana Vasquez, Albuquerque

2016 NMPOL Photographer: Tim Keller
Selena enjoys puzzles, reading, writing, math games, art, watching movies, and listening to music. Her dreams for the future are to finish college without any debts, work in the field she loves—Engineering, and to stay happy and positive.

Selena Solis, 17
Rio Grande Preparatory Institute
Las Cruces
Teacher: Kelly C. King

1. *The Conqueror Worm*, by Edgar Allan Poe
2. *Insomnia*, by Dante Gabriel Rossetti
3. *Sonnet #18: Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?*, by William Shakespeare
Luc Perrault, 17
Deming High School
Deming
Teacher: Nelva Jones

1. *The Salutation*, by Thomas Traherne
2. *The Destruction of Sennacherib*, by Lord Byron
3. *A Hymn to God, My God, in My Sickness*, by John Donne

Luc’s favorite writers or poets are Horace, Ephrem the Syrian, Gregory Nazianzen, Dante, Goèthe, Racine, Donne, Traherne, Keats, Byron, Baude-laire, Mallarmé, Apollinaire, and Hopkins.
Luc's interests include philosophy, theology, art, history, literature, music, reading, drawing, and cooking. His dreams for the future are holy orders and/or academia.
Samantha’s hobbies include keeping a journal, reading, and collecting vinyl records. She is interested in psychology and music, and is a member of the school dance team. In the future, she hopes to study and write about fading cultures. She has also thought about owning a restaurant. Her favorite writers are Charles Bukowski, J.K. Rowling, Rick Riordan, and John Green.
Samantha Baca, 15
Pojoaque Valley High School
Pojoaque
Teacher: Josh Robbins

1. *The Wooden Toy*, by Charles Simic
2. *Envy*, by Mary Lamb
Michelle’s interests include ukulele, Netflix, eating, singing, reading, and debate. Her dreams for the future: I want to be a pediatrician who also blogs and DIYs things from Pinterest in her free time. I also want to be able to fight robot sharks and live in a house that is mostly windows.

Her favorite writers and poets are Rita Dove, Sara Dessen, Jane Austen, and Theodor Geisel.
Michelle Zhou, 16
La Cueva High School
Albuquerque
Teacher: Martha Bedeaux

1. *Testimonial*, by Rita Dove

2. *August 12 in the Nebraska Sand Hills*
   *Watching the Perseid Meteor Shower*,
   by Twyla Hansen

3. *The Days Gone By*, by James Whitcomb Riley

First Place
Verona Gomez, 17
Oñate High School
Las Cruces
Teacher: Tim Staley

1. *Mi Historia*, by David Dominguez
2. *Love (III)*, by George Herbert
3. *To the Desert*, Benjamin Alire Sáenz

Third Place
Verona’s favorite writers are Rick Riordan and Isabel Allende. In the future she hopes to attend UNM School of Medicine.
1. Traveling Through the Dark, by William E. Stafford
2. A Boat Beneath A Sunny Sky, by Lewis Carroll
3. The Tide Rises, The Tide Falls, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
Adam enjoys biking, track & field, and reading. His plans for the future include becoming a scientist and traveling the world.

His favorite writers and poets are J.K. Rowling, William Shakespeare, and Ralph Waldo Emerson.
Oceana’s hobbies include music, swimming, poetry, and make-up. Her dreams for the future? Be Happy!

Bruce Coville and Shel Silverstein are her favorite writers.
Oceana Vasquez, 16
Public Academy for Performing Arts
Albuquerque
Teacher: Juliette Beck

1. *Their Bodies*, by David Wagoner
2. *Novel*, by Arthur Rimbaud
3. *Try to Praise the Mutilated World*, by Adam Zagajewski

Second Place
Loie Fecteau, Executive Director
New Mexico Arts

Opposite: Judges

Hakim was the inaugural Poet Laureate of the City of Albuquerque. He is a W.K. Kellogg Foundation Fellow, and the On-Air host of New Mexico PBS’s ¡Colores! program. He is an educator, musician, actor, journalist, playwright, community organizer, and most importantly, a daddy.

Tom’s career in music and the arts spans more than 50 years as a performer, arranger, and conductor. He has served as Executive Director of the Santa Fe Desert Chorale and Director of Development for the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. Tom is a New Mexico Arts Commissioner.

Debbi’s poetry has been published in national and regional journals, magazines, and anthologies of note including Poetica, Broomweed, and Sin Fronteras. Her newest full length poetry book is titled, In Everything Birds. This is Debbi’s 10th year as Accuracy Judge for the New Mexico state final.

Lisa teaches poetry and nonfiction writing at the University of New Mexico. She has published two books of poetry, Destruction Bay, and In An Angry Season. Her essays have appeared in Arts and Letters, The Fourth Genre, and other magazines and anthologies including the Other Latin@: Writing Against a Singular Identity, and An Angle of Vision: Women Writers on Their Poor and Working Class Roots.
Hakim Bellamy, Tom Maguire, Debbi Brody, Lisa Chavez
Master of Ceremonies Michelle Laflamme-Childs, left, is a poet, radio personality, and Public Arts Manager at the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs.

Below: Selena Solis
Upper left:: Luc Perrault

Above: Mi’Jan Celie is a cultural worker, visiting Scholar at Columbia University and lead digital storytelling training designer with the Steinem Initiative at Smith College.

Left: Samantha Baca, Michelle Zhou, Verona Gomez, Adam Stewart, Oceana Vasquez
Selena Solis, Luc Perrault, Samantha Baca, Michelle Zhou, Verona Gomez, Adam Stewart, Oceana Vasquez
The Laser Cats
Matt Ruder (guitar), Dan Mench-Thurlow (bass), Kyle Driscoll (guitar)