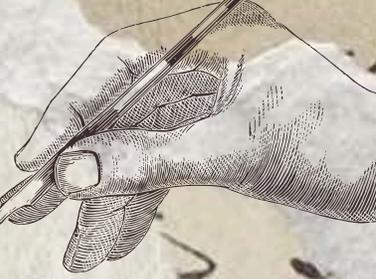


NEWSLETTER



MAC CREATIVE WRITING 2025 RECAP AT-A-GLANCE ISSUE 1



GHOULS GRAB THE MIC

To end the spooky season, Creative Writing hosted a ghoulish SLAYS (Strangers Listening As You Speak) in MAC's Listening Exchange. With cobwebs and skeletons, the department's writers presented 15 poems in the spirit of Halloween, including obituaries and Edgar Allan Poe-themed verses. Student Lola Lewis ('32) spoke to Quill & Scroll Member, Kaiden Elias ('29) about her experience with writing and performing in her first SLAYS:

What were you thinking of when you were on stage?

I was thinking about how to talk confidently and be fierce.

Was this performance dedicated to anyone in particular?

Just to Halloween and scary things!

Were you nervous about this being your first show?

No, I was confident that I would do amazing!

How long have you been writing poems for? What convinced you to start writing poetry?

I have been writing for 3 years now. My 4th-grade teacher inspired me to start!

DESIGN THAT HAUNTS



Did you know that creative writer Fernanda Cepeda wields both a pen and a paintbrush? A special thanks to our student for designing and hand-drawing the SLAYS advertisement poster!



Congratulations to all our performers: Lola Lewis, Caleb Ritch ('31), James Trinity ('31), Olivia Vahan ('30), Nadine Yonev ('30), Lia Flores ('28), Fernanda Cepeda ('27), Davide Essuman ('27), Jade Field ('27), Nathaly Casielles ('26), Roxy Hernandez ('26), Isabella Keeling ('26), Leah Osavas ('26), Sophie Pinto-Woodey ('26), and Liz Yanez ('26).

A WRITER'S RETREAT

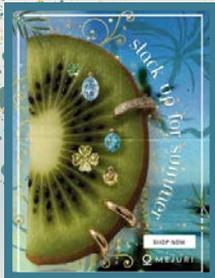
From November 11th to 15th, the Creative Writing department visited Umatilla, Florida, to ignite inspiration and creativity among the beauty of nature. Students journeyed through the Florida Elks Youth Camp, collecting flowers and decorative knick-knacks for their custom bookmarks.

Other assignments included indulging in the lost art of calligraphy, drafting an abecedarian poem or alphabetic acrostic as part of the Creative Non-Fiction unit, and writing personalized letters. Throughout their stay, writers employed their pens and journals to draft limericks for the annual Limerick Battle, with student Lia Flores claiming the victory this year. Under Spanish moss and with the view of a glistening river, students were able to reconnect with their writing.



Our Seniors pictured above: Ciara Solis, Olivia Compo, Isabella Keeling, Nathaly Casielles, Valentina Di-Majo, Victoria White, Leah Osavas, Tyler Seldin, Skye Reines, and Roxy Hernandez.

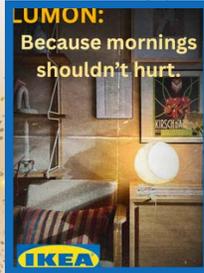
CREATIVE WRITING AND MARKETING



Valentina Di-Majo ('26)



Bimini Lobo ('31)



Isabella Keeling ('26)

To end off the first quarter, creative writers in Journalism explored the world of marketing. Students were tasked with creating a campaign poster to launch a new, unique product from a favorite brand. From color schemes to catchy slogans, the department's writers created a visual story utilizing their savvy Canva skills. Students voted on the most visually appealing designs, with winning posters featuring products from Mejeri, Milani, and IKEA.

Where Books Meet Miami

On November 21st, the Creative Writing department immersed itself in the world of books, literature, and culture at one of the largest literary festivals in the nation: the Miami Book Fair. In the Street Fair section, students visited busy booths featuring a wide range of books by local and international authors, from Dr. Julie Marie Wade to Isabel Allende. With artisanal treats and handmade crafts in hand, MAC's Creative Writing Department enjoyed a celebration of diverse voices across genres and languages. Our creative writers embraced this vibrant hub of the literary arts, fostering connections between community and the unifying power of books.



let's write a haiku

On December 12th, Creative Writing visited the Fairchild Tropical Garden in Coral Gables, a center for botanical research, conservation, and public education. While writing nature poetry, students explored rare collections of tropical plants, both native and exotic. Writers then visited the Wings of the Tropics exhibit, engaging with various species of butterflies from the Americas and Asia. After a tour of the expansive 83-acre garden, students had the opportunity to delve into a gardening activity and learn about Fairchild's Million Orchid Project, a native orchid reintroduction program for South Florida. Through the application of STEM concepts, students developed a deeper understanding of Florida's ecology and gained inspiration for future pieces.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Sophie Pinto-Woodey has been a part of MAC's Creative Writing Program for 4 years. Her preferred writing genre is poetry. In 2025, Sophie won the prestigious National Scholastic Gold Medal for her poem *Roses Mean Revolution*. She was invited to Carnegie Hall this past summer to receive her award. The poem references "The Hand That Feeds" by the Crane Wives.

How did it feel attending the award ceremony at Carnegie Hall?

Carnegie Hall is so grand, so the award felt grand as well. It was a big deal!

What was the inspiration behind *Roses Mean Revolution*?

The political unrest of our country, class inequality, and discrimination.

What are your plans after graduation? Are you going to continue writing?

I'm not sure where I'm going, but I am definitely sure about pursuing creative writing. I most likely will get a degree in creative writing or something adjacent.

Is there any advice you would give to underclassmen writers?

Read more!



Read Sophie's poem [here!](#)

2026

QUILL & SCROLL

This school year, Creative Writing opened its first chapter of Quill & Scroll, an honor society committed to excellence in scholastic journalism and academics. The honor society team is dedicated to advancing the Creative Writing department through newsletters, fundraising, and other promotional activities, like the annual codex.



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Get the latest updates on SLAYS giveaways and what our students are up to!

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