The Keene Prize is one of the world’s largest student literary prizes. An additional $50,000 will be divided among three finalists.

McFarlane was a finalist in 2010 and again in 2011. This year she has finally taken the big prize. “A Fortunate Man” was chosen from over sixty submissions in drama, poetry and fiction. “The story demonstrates her talent for original characterization, vivid and sensuous description, and subtle irony. All the judges praised her immaculately spare and elegant prose,” said Elizabeth Butler Cullingford, chair of the Department of English and chair of the award selection committee.

Fiona McFarlane is graduating from the James A. Michener Center for Writers. She received her BA from the University of Sydney, Australia, and her PhD from the University of Cambridge, England. Her work has appeared in Best Australian Stories, Missouri Review, Zoetrope, Dossier, and others. In 2010 she won The Missouri Review Jeffrey E. Smith Editors’ Prize, and last month she won the Roy Crane Award for the Literary Arts. She is currently working on a novel.

Keene Prize Finalists:

Carolina Ebeid, graduate of the Michener Center, for her masterly collection of poems, “Small Beauty of the Forest.” Ebeid was also a finalist in 2011.

Corinne Greiner, graduate of the New School for Writers in the English Department, for her vivid and compelling creative non-fiction piece, “Blood Holler.”

Corey Miller, first year master of fine arts student at the Michener Center, for his witty and direct collection of poems, “How we say I love you in coal country.”