2014 Competition Results
Mark Hitz, a graduate student in the James A. Michener Center for Writers, won the $50,000 Keene Prize for Literature for his two stories: “Shadehill” and “The Laws of Motion.”

The Keene Prize is one of the world’s largest student literary prizes. An additional $50,000 is divided among three finalists. The recipients are all graduate students in the James A. Michener Center for Writers.

Mark Hitz, a first year student at the Michener Center, won the $50,000 Keene Prize for his short stories, "Shadehill" and "The Laws of Motion". Both stories vividly evoke complex families that encounter catastrophe; in Shadehill the catastrophe involves the tragically timely question of the automatic American reverence for firearms.

Alen Hamza, graduate of the Michener Center, is a finalist for his collection of poetry, “Twice there Was a Country”. Alen’s work combines linguistic playfulness with high seriousness, and demonstrates his deep indebtedness to literature from Shakespeare to Ashbery.

Rachel Kondo, first year student at the Michener Center, is a finalist for her short story “Beverly”, an atmospheric evocation of Hawai’i during the Vietnam War that sympathetically explores the relationship between an army volunteer and his disabled younger sister.

Corey Miller, graduate of the Michener Center, is third time Keene finalist, this time for his collection of poems “Onyxed Eden”. The centerpiece of this fine collection is a learned and allusive journey to the underworld of a coalmine.