The Oval would like to acknowledge the winners of this year’s Honorable Mentions, whose pieces will be uploaded to the blog following the release of Volume IX. Visit www.umoval.wordpress.com to read more poetry and prose and to view more visual art from University of Montana undergraduates.

Lark, by Callie Atkinson • Poetry

All For the Love of Rock and Roll, by Jason Bailey • Non-Fiction

When the Sweet Talkin’ Ends, by Sara Bickley • Non-Fiction

Autumn God, by Kaylene Big Knife • Visual Art

Feral, by Claire Compton • Fiction

Bullseye, by Zoe Contreras • Visual Art

Stealing Cletus, by Chance Cooney • Non-Fiction

The Institute, by Anna Costain • Fiction

She Reads Aloud Ode to the Naked Body, by Jeron Jennings • Poetry

Eat with Me, by Elaine Kelly • Poetry

Year’s Supply, by Miriam Krainacker • Fiction

Shaded Man and Working Old Hands,
both by Lucy Larson • Visual Art

Song of Humanity Sings, by Ashley Palmer • Poetry

Waiting for Rene and Warm Winter’s Day,
both by Silas Phillips • Visual Art

sea captain catman and his shitty night vision,
by Samantha Ricci • Poetry
**Contributors**

**James Akin** is majoring in Parks, Tourism, and Recreation Management and is minoring in English. He has always had an interest in writing and has pursued his passion by taking multiple writing workshops at the University of Montana. He grew up in Troy, Montana, on an old homestead that fueled his interest in nature and sparked his creative addiction.

**Kaylene Big Knife** is an emerging illustrator and writer from the Chippewa Cree Tribe located on the Rocky Boy’s Indian Reservation, Montana. She is a Native American Studies major with a minor in Studio Art. Her creative interests include: humor, comics, fiction writing, watercolor, ink pens, collage, and cats, especially cats.

**Carly Campbell** is a senior getting a degree in History and a minor in Studio Art. She grew up in the desert around Tucson, Arizona, and spends her time writing, running, and making art.

**Lili Casteel** is a junior in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Montana.

**Courtney Cathers** is a graduating senior looking for a career in entertainment management. She is a photography enthusiast who enjoys producing pictures of mythical, enchanting, and beautiful subjects.

**Ryan Clouse** is from Helena, Montana. He is a senior studying History with an emphasis in Italian.

**Erin Goudreau** is a sophomore in the English department, with a double-concentration in Literature and Creative Writing. When she isn’t writing for her classes, reporting for the *Montana Kaimin*, or singing in a band, Erin enjoys writing fiction and non-fiction, as well as staying in bed all day to re-read everything by Junot Diaz.

**Ryan Hitchcock** is a senior at the University of Montana.
Kelaiah J. Horat is a freshman at the University of Montana, pursuing an undergraduate degree in Music Performance on the violin and a minor in French. Kelaiah was born and raised in the Bitterroot Valley, enjoying the beauty and adventure offered through skiing, hiking, and backpacking.

Amber June is a student of Creative Writing and Psychology, and a general lover of words, here at the University of Montana. She is also a mother of three, a thrift-store junkie, a blogger, and a seeker of adventure.

Nico Larsen is currently an art student at the University of Montana. After attending Rocky Mountain College of Art & Design, and then completing an internship with artist Lauri Lynxse Murphy, she moved from Denver, Colorado, to Missoula to continue pursuing a BFA.

Katie Marshall is originally from Belgrade, Montana, and is currently a junior studying Fine Art, Nonprofit Administration, and good intentions. In her free time, she enjoys running outdoors, social activism, and trying to be a better poet than Spencer Ruchti.

Katie McCluer is a Creative Writing student at the University of Montana. She was born and raised in California but has been living in Montana, Washington, and Mexico for the past four years.

Katie Mostad is a junior at the University of Montana, studying English Literature and Creative Writing and pursuing minors in both Ecological Restoration and Wildlife Biology. Her passion is writing non-fiction centered around ecology and the environment.

Colter Murphy is a junior pursuing a degree in Wildlife Biology.

Nicole Musci is originally from Salt Lake City, Utah. She is currently a junior at the University of Montana majoring in Creative Writing and Anthropology.

Eli Redeker is a junior at the University of Montana. Raised in Eastern Kansas, Eli now lives in Missoula, Montana. His work has appeared in The Oval and on Montana Public Radio’s “The Write Question.”

Kaley Schumaker enjoyed an adventurous childhood in a tiny mountain town beside Rocky Mountain National Park. Searching for new peaks, interesting people, and quiet expanses, she moved to Montana in 2009 and later enrolled at the University of Montana to study Creative Writing and Studio Art.
SAVANNAH STEWART is a freshman studying Wildlife Biology and Climate Change Studies at the University of Montana. Savannah grew up in the small town of Jamestown in the foothills of Northern California. Savannah is an aspiring photographer and biologist.

SHELBY STORMER is a senior studying Creative Writing and English Literature at the University of Montana. She is minoring in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

ANTONIO TORRES is a junior from Arlee, Montana. About “When the Real Battle Begins,” his piece in this volume of The Oval, Antonio writes: “This is my place piece, or at least a piece of my place. My favorite place. My favorite people.”

ANDREW VIGESAA was born and raised in Montana. He currently studies Creative Writing and spends time with his dog.

MCKENZIE WATTERSON is from Billings, but Missoula is the town that made her fall in love with Montana. At the University of Montana, she is pursuing a double major in Creative Writing and French. She is also a proud member of both the University of Montana Advocates and the Davidson Honors College.

SANDRA WILLIAMSON is a native of Missoula, Montana. She attends the University of Montana where she is currently earning a BA in English and an Irish minor. She is a singer, songwriter, and professional house cleaner.

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