

The Kelsey Experience Jackier Prize

An Essay Competition

Sponsored by: The Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, The Department of Near Eastern Studies, and the Language Resource Center at the University of Michigan, with a donation from Lawrence and Eleanor Jackier.

General: An essay competition open to undergraduate students enrolled in courses related to the ancient world at the University of Michigan. The top 5 essays will receive cash and book prizes in a public ceremony at the Kelsey Museum on Sunday, April 26, 2015 from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. The winners will also work with curator and archaeology professor Sharon Herbert on an exhibit that would feature their objects and would run at the Kelsey during graduation weekend.

Guidelines:

1. Write a 10-15 page, letter size – 12; double space essay centered on two related objects from the Kelsey Museum, one from the Jackier collection and one from the Kelsey exhibits. For more information about the Jackier objects and some preliminary bibliography, visit the following website:
<https://www.lrc.lsa.umich.edu/eliav/kelsey/jackier-prize/>
2. **Content:** The essay should be written in an engaging and interesting way, based on research, and with the goal of shedding light on (a) the objects themselves, and (b) the area of life associated with them. Questions to be discussed may include, where and how were these objects made? By whom? For what purpose(s)? What was their function? Were there nuances and variations on how they were used (everyone used them the same way or were there difference? If the later, what kind of differences). You should also look at the area of life related to these objects: The cultural and social dynamics associated with them; the beliefs and norms that guided people who used and engaged them; their impact on how people in the ancient world experienced life. Finally, (c) make sure to compare the two objects to each other, highlighting both similarities and differences.
3. **Pictures and Bibliography** should not be part of the page count.
4. Deadline and guidelines for submission – Saturday, April 11, 2015; all essays should be sent to Sandra Malveaux (smalveau@umich.edu) by 5 PM. On the front page provide pictures of the two items you are discussing, the title of your essay, your name, email, and name of course in which you are enrolled and its professor. Questions should be sent to Cathy Person (cperson@umich.edu).
5. Winners will be selected by a committee consisting of Profs. Sharon Herbert Yaron Eliav, and Chris Ratte. Selection will be based on the quality of the research and the presentation, as well as coherency, flow, and eloquence of the essay.