

Awarded joint first place for Excellence in Public and Professional Writing is the essay titled BUZZING FROM THE BACK GARDEN by Emily Finnegan. Emily wrote the piece for *Writing with Style*, a course instructed by Sam Pittman who presented students with an opportunity to teach readers about a subject using personal experience and research. In stellar fashion of a narrative investigation, BUZZING FROM THE BACK GARDEN leads readers through different worlds—that of the honeybee, that of her grandmother, and that of the self—centered on the importance of a collective.

A single honeybee, Emily reflects, will create only 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in her life; and so, a spoonful of honey is cherished evidence of an individual's contribution to a united effort. And much like the Queen Bee, a grandmother—Emily's grandmother—is the resilient matriarch deserving of recognition for setting a foundation upon which teamwork and dedication can thrive. The essay encourages much needed reflection on how the power of one impacts a community, whether it be the family unit or a broader society reliant on the efforts of a small creature, such as those of a honeybee.

The belletristic thread of Emily's personal experiences was poignantly crafted through her narrative pacing and attention to detail, setting, and dialogue, rendered with the objectivity of investigation, which is why the Committee was particularly impressed with the seamless interweaving between storytelling and research. And so, it is my great pleasure to introduce Emily Finnegan to share her award-winning essay with you.