

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 24, 2025

George Mason University Student Media Publications Awarded Top Honors by Associated Collegiate Press

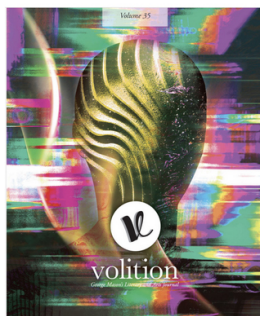
***Hispanic Culture Review* Wins 2024 “Student Pulitzer” National Pacemaker Award, *Volition* Named Finalist**



Hispanic Culture Review
George Mason University
Fairfax, Virginia
Editor-in-chief: Katty Becerra De Melo
Advisers: Carla Burns, Jason Hartsel

FAIRFAX, VA—[Student Media](http://StudentMedia.org), the home of George Mason University’s official student-run media outlets, is proud to announce that [Hispanic Culture Review](http://HispanicCultureReview.org) (HCR) has been awarded a 2024 National Magazine Pacemaker Award by [The Associated Collegiate Press](http://TheAssociatedCollegiatePress.org) (ACP), the preeminent award in student journalism. [Volition](http://Volition.org), George Mason’s undergraduate literary and arts journal, was [named a finalist](#) in the same category.

First published in fall 1990, *Hispanic Culture Review* is a bilingual literary journal at George Mason University that features poetry, essays, narratives, photography, and visual art in both Spanish and English. Celebrating more than 30 years of excellence, HCR’s mission is to bridge communication gaps and strengthen cultural bonds between English- and Spanish-speaking peoples by publishing original works from diverse creators around the world.



Volition
George Mason University
Fairfax, Virginia
Editor-in-chief: Natalia Romero
Adviser: Jason Hartsel

Since the first issue of *Volition* in fall of 2006 (formerly known as *Apathy*), the publication’s mission has been to unite Mason’s artistic community and serve as a showcase for undergraduate creativity. Publishing original poetry, prose, and visual art, *Volition* seeks to elevate emerging artists and writers while fostering free expression on campus.

Unofficially known as the “Student Pulitzer,” the Associated Collegiate Press has awarded the Pacemaker to spotlight excellence in college media since 1927. According to the ACP website, this “prestigious award recognizes overall excellence and distinguishes the top student media produced during a particular school year.”

“Well-deserved but not surprising; both editorial teams consistently create publications that are the best of the best in college media journals,” said Mason Student Media Director Kathryn Mangus.

"I am extremely proud of Mason's student publications and thrilled to see these two journals recognized nationally by the Pacemaker committee," said *Volition* and HCR faculty advisor Jason Hartsel. "Each individual issue is the culmination of many hours of hard work, creativity, and hands-on learning by our talented students, and this award will no doubt inspire future teams to leave behind their own legacy of distinction."

Pacemaker finalists were named in September 2024, with winners announced at the ACP National College Media Convention in New Orleans last November.

"It is a profound honor to support this amazing group of students as they share narratives that celebrate Hispanic culture and foster cross-cultural understanding—especially through Mason's only bilingual literary journal," said HCR faculty advisor Carla Burns. "I'm continually impressed by their dedication and so proud of this important accomplishment."

Gary Lundgren, ACP associate director and coordinator of the Pacemaker competition, noted the quality of the winning student magazines rivals those produced by professionals: "The verbal and visual storytelling in the winning magazines is incredible and robust long-form stories combined with shorter quick-reads to pace the reader through the pages of the feature magazines," Lundgren said. "And the creativity displayed in the literary arts magazines is incredible — the unique formats and creative designs make the magazines themselves a work of art."

Comprised of more than ten unique student-run media groups that publish original content online and in print, George Mason Student Media "empowers students to exercise their First Amendment rights and creativity through the creation of works that inform, enrich, and entertain the Mason community." Those outlets include Mason's official student newspaper, radio station, and television network, as well as seven journals/magazines, a sports broadcasting team, and student chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Learn more about Student Media by visiting studentmedia.gmu.edu or following @gmustudentmedia on X/Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

Student Media Professional Staff:

- Kathryn Mangus, Director
(kmangus@gmu.edu)
- David Carroll, Associate Director
(dcarrol2@gmu.edu)
- Jason Hartsel, Assistant Director
(jhartsel@gmu.edu)

2023-2024 HCR Editor-in-Chief:

- Katty Becerra De Melo, Mason alumna, 2024 (kbecerr@gmu.edu)

2023-2024 HCR Faculty Advisors:

- Carla Burns, Associate Professor, Modern and Classical Languages
(cburns1@gmu.edu)
- Jason Hartsel

2023-2024 *Volition* Editor-in-Chief:

- Natalia Romero, current Mason student, 2026 (nromero5@gmu.edu)

2023-2024 *Volition* Faculty Advisor:

- Jason Hartsel