

CORNERSTONE

INTEGRATED LIBERAL ARTS

Cornerstone for Business Spring 2026 Contest “Great Expectations”



In Charles Dickens's great novel about wealth, social climbing, and social outcasts, the orphan boy Pip is convinced that he is “no common boy,” and is destined to become a society gentleman and marry his true love, Estella. He moves to London to make his fortune. But he soon finds that wealth and gentility do not come easily or bring happiness. Only after working hard abroad and learning the true meaning of love and forgiveness does his future seem brighter. This semester, Cornerstone offers you the opportunity to see *Great Expectations*, staged at Loeb Theatre on February 11 and 12, as well as a film version on January 27.

So, what are your great expectations? Do you worry that you also idealize your future, or are you afraid of what might come? And how much do wealth and position correspond to your ideals of happiness and love? Taking inspiration from your readings and discussions this semester, share your great expectations through a creative medium of your choice.

Eligibility: Any student currently enrolled in SCLA 101 and 102, or any Daniels Business School course.

Criteria: Artwork, essays, short fiction, videos, and poetry inspired by Transformative Texts. All contest entries must be a student's own work without any use of generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT, DeepSeek, DALL-E, Midjourney). A committee composed of Cornerstone faculty will judge submissions based on originality and creativity.

Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards. First Place: \$95; Second Place: \$65; Honorary mentions: \$35. Winners are automatically nominated for publication in *The Cornerstone Review* or *The Exchange: Literature, Art, and Business*.

Timeline: Submission deadline: **Wednesday, April 8, 2026**. Please send your submissions to TheExchangeDSB@gmail.com. **Files must be labeled with your last name. In your entry, please list your full name and your professor's name.** Winners announced: **Friday, April 24, 2026**.