

Creative Writing Contests

Sponsored by the Department of English
Texas Christian University
Spring 2010

Entry deadline is November 14, 2009

General Information and Requirements for the Contests

Entrants must be currently registered TCU students except for entrants in the Boswell Poetry Contests. For some contests, the entrant's credit-hour classification is also a specification.

Previous first-prize winners of the contests may not enter the same contest again. This includes the Boswell Poetry Award (deadline for Boswell Poetry Award is January 1). So long as these rules are honored, students may enter as many contests as they choose and qualify for. However, students may submit only one entry per contest and the manuscript cannot be entered into more than one contest, except for portfolio contests.

Entries must be submitted in standard, hard copy manuscript (MS) form **as well as submitted as attachments in Microsoft Word via email to CreativeWritingAwards@tcu.edu**. Each entry must have the contest number and name in the subject line of the email, and each entry should be sent in a separate email. **Note: Your name should not appear anywhere on the hard copy version of the manuscript (with the exception of portfolio entries). You will be given a cover page in the English Office on which to write your name and the title(s) of your submissions. Your entry will not be considered if the entry guidelines and deadlines aren't followed. Any winning entry submitted is eligible for publication in the yearly Creative Writing Awards publication, space allowing.**

Entry deadline is November 14, 2009. Entries must be in the Department of English (Reed Hall 314, Box 297270, TCU, Fort Worth, TX 76129) and sent via email as a Word attachment by 4 p.m. on this date to be considered. **Students may collect only portfolio entries after the contests in Reed Hall 314 until the end of the spring semester. All other entries will be recycled—please make sure you have your own hard copy or copy saved on your computer.**

Contest judging is arranged by the Department of English. Judges' decisions are final; in unusual cases, the judge may recommend that no award be made in a contest.

Notification: Only those who receive awards will be notified; if you are not contacted by February, your submission is not receiving an award.

Contest results and awards will be announced and presented at the Creative Writing Reception and Awards Program on Thursday, February 25, 2010, 3 p.m. in the Dee J. Kelly Alumni Center. **You will be notified before that date only if you have won an award.** A reading by the novelist/memoirist Robin Romm will precede the presentation of the awards.

The Contests

Except for Portfolio Contests, the contest title indicates any general subject matter, perspective, or genre requirement. In individual contest listings, "Word limit" refers to prose; "Line limit," to poetry.

Open only to First-year and Sophomore Students

1. Fiction (short story or incident). Word limit: 5000. Prize: \$150.00. Sponsor: The Woman's Wednesday Club, Fort Worth. Awarded since 1935.
2. Research Paper or Essay making use of source material. Word limit: 3000. Prize: \$150.00. Sponsor: The Woman's Wednesday Club. Awarded since 1958.
3. Sigma Tau Delta Essay Award (narrative of fact, personal essay, sketch, or critical review). Word limit: 2000. Prize \$50.00. Sponsor: Chi Alpha Chapter, Sigma Tau Delta. Awarded since 1973.
4. The AddRan English 10803 Award. Word limit: 2500. Prize \$50.00. Sponsor: Anonymous. Awarded since 1980. **Note: Entrants must have submitted the essay to satisfy a requirement in English 10803.**

Open to All Undergraduates

5. Environmental Writing Award. This award is given for the best essay, narrative, story, or journal dealing with scientific or environmental themes. Genres and structures are open, and the criteria for selection of the winning text will be based on both topical relevance and overall descriptive excellence. No word limit. Prize, \$100. Sponsor: Dr. Dan Williams. Awarded since 2009
6. The Harry Opperman Short Story Contest. Word limit: 6000. Prizes: First, \$200.00; Second, \$150.00; Third, \$100.00. Sponsor: Dr. and Mrs. David L. Vanderwerken. Awarded since 1937, renamed in 1996.
7. Non-Fiction Prose Contest. Word limit: 5000. Prizes: First, \$100.00; Second, \$50.00; Third, \$25.00. Sponsor: The Thursday Group, TCU Women Exes. Awarded since 1944.
8. The C. S. Lewis Prize for Christian Literature. Limits: word—3000; line—50. Prize \$50.00. Sponsor: Joyce Rogers estate. Awarded since 1965.
9. The Mortar Board Prize in Literary Criticism. Word limit: 2000. Prize \$50.00. Sponsor: TCU Chapter, Mortar Board. Awarded since 1973.
10. The Siddie Joe Johnson Poetry Award. Line limit: 100. Prizes: First \$100.00; Second \$50.00. Sponsor: An anonymous friend of the late Siddie Joe Johnson.
11. The Nancy Evans Memorial Award for Texas Writing. Limits: word—3000; line—50. Prizes: First, \$100.00; Second, \$25.00. Sponsor: The Evans Family. Awarded since 1989.
12. The Neil Daniel Drama Contest. Limit: 10 pages in standard play or script format. Entry may be a one-act play or an excerpt from a longer work. Prize: \$100.00. First offered in 1994.
13. The Subversive Thought Award. This scholarship will be awarded to the best original piece that addresses a contemporary ethical, legal, political, or social issue. There are no specifications for genre or length, but the entry should abide by the guidelines appropriate for its chosen genre (for example, if it purports to be a research paper, then it should include primary and secondary sources; if it purports to be satire, then it should be funny; etc.). Whatever form it takes, it must explore an important (and preferably controversial) modern issue from an original perspective, offering either a novel solution or a new direction for further inquiry. Prize: \$50.00. Sponsor: Anonymous. Awarded since 2004.

Special Awards for Undergraduate Students

14. The Woman's Wednesday Club Merit Award. Awarded to a junior English major for distinguished academic achievement. **(Note: This award is made on the basis of GPA, credit hours in English, and a vote of the English faculty.)** Prize: \$150.00. Sponsor: The Woman's Wednesday Club. Awarded since 1961.

15. The Lorraine Sherley Prize for a writing portfolio. No specification as to subject, perspective, length, or genre. Writings entered in the Sherley Prize may be entered in other contest divisions. Prize: \$100.00. Sponsor: anonymous.

16. The Bill Camfield Memorial Award for Humor and Satire in Fiction. Word limit: 2000. Prizes: First, \$150.00; Second, \$100.00. Sponsor: Endowment established by Paul and Stephanie Camfield in memory of Mr. Camfields's father. Awarded since 1993.

17. The Margaret-Rose Marek Memorial Multimedia Writing Award for original work (auditory, visual, or implied) produced or rendered through new media technology to enhance the performance of texts. The text may be entirely new media or traditional texts with such enhancements or supplements as web pages, PowerPoint presentations, DVDs/documentaries and magazines, and/or videotapes. Entries may be submitted on diskette, CD-ROM, or mounted on the Internet. If so mounted, the complete URL must be submitted. Prize: \$75. Sponsors: Dr. Dave Kuhne, Dr. Steve Sherwood, and Dr. Cassandra Parente.

18. The Bob Frye Satire Award. This award is given in honor of Bob Frye, who taught in the TCU English Dept. for over 35 years. Dr. Frye developed the current course offering of Satire, 30733. Open to junior and senior level undergrads. Submission guidelines: The type of essay known as a modest proposal is the backbone of the satiric tradition; you may submit a piece written in this or any other genre, from plays to journalism to poetry, as long as the corrective spirit of humor infuses the work. Word Limit: 5000. First Prize: \$125; Second Prize: \$75. Sponsor: Dr. Bonnie Blackwell. Awarded since 2004.

Open to Seniors and Graduate Students

19. The David John Ball Memorial Prize for a writing portfolio. The contest is open as to subject, perspective and length and *requires a variety of genres* (such as news stories, presentations, proposals, project papers, feasibility studies, briefings, and technical reports as well as academic papers, fiction, and poetry). Unpublished materials are welcome. Submissions to the Ball Prize may be entered in other contest divisions. Prize: \$200.00. Sponsors: Lynn and Joseph Ball and the Chi Alpha Chapter, Sigma Tau Delta.

20. The Lilla Thomas Award for an interpretive or critical essay on feminist writers or feminist issues. Word limit: 3000. Prize: \$100. Sponsor: Marcella Daniel, in memory of an independent woman.

21. Kurt Lee Hornbeck Poetry Award. Line limit: 50 (for a poem or group of poems). Prizes: First, \$65.00; Second, \$25.00. Sponsor: The Kurt Lee Hornbeck Memorial Endowment. First awarded in 1991.

22. The Australia Tarver Award for Critical Essay on Race, Post-colonialism, or Multi-Ethnic Studies. This new award is given in honor of Dr. Australia Tarver, who helped launch the study of multi-ethnic literature at TCU. Open to seniors and graduate students. Word limit: 5000 words. Prize: \$125. Sponsor: Dr. Karen Steele. Awarded since 2005.

Open to Graduate Students

23. The Woman's Wednesday Club Essay Prize. Word limit: 5000. Prize: \$150.00. Sponsor: The Woman's Wednesday Club. Awarded since 1971.

24. The William L. Adams Writing Center Prize for the best essay about rhetoric and composition. Word limit 5000, prize \$100. Sponsor: William L. Adams Writing Center.

25. The Betsy Colquitt Graduate Poetry Award in Memory of Tony Clark. Line limit: 50 (for a single poem or group of related poems). Prize: \$50.00. Sponsor: Linda Clark of Georgetown, Texas.

Open to TCU Alumni

26. The Margie Boswell Poetry Awards. Line limit: 200 (for a single poem or group of poems). Prizes: First, \$500.00; Second, \$100.00. Sponsor: The Boswell family, whose endowed gift honoring Margie B. Boswell funds these awards.