

2012 Literary Contests

Please announce the following literary contests in your classes and encourage your students to enter. For all contests:

- Entrants should complete an entry form specific to the contest(s) they are entering. (Entry forms are available in the English Department Office, 202 Andrews Hall.)
- **No past winner of a first prize in any contest is eligible to enter that contest again, except undergraduate Vreeland winners may enter again as graduate students. No more than one prize award will be given to any individual in the same year.**
- Entrants should submit **two typed copies** of all entries (single spaced for poetry, double spaced for prose, 1" margins, Times New Roman 12pt font, black ink) and attach the copies to the entry form.
- **Authors' names must not appear anywhere on the submitted manuscripts.** All manuscripts will be recycled after judging.

The deadline for all contests is Friday, March 2nd. A separate entry form must be submitted for each contest entered. Entries should be submitted to the English Department Office, 202 Andrews.

The Vreeland Awards: The competition is open to **undergraduate** and **graduate** students majoring in English. Up to two prizes: undergraduate \$1,000 and graduate \$2,000. Material: A portfolio of representative creative writing in single or various genres. Prose portfolios are limited to 50 pages of text, double-spaced (approximately 12,000 words). Poetry portfolios are limited to 20 pages or 20 individual poems. Portfolios consisting of both poetry and prose should not exceed the 50 page/12,000 word overall limit. Literary essays may be included, but the award must be based on achievement in creative, not critical, work. **Applicants should prepare brief statements (250 words) of their experiences and aims as writers for attachment to the entry.**

Mari Sandoz/Prairie Schooner Awards for Short Story: The competition is open to **graduate students** in English. Three prizes: First Prize \$400, Second Prize \$100, Third Prize \$75. Each entry is limited to two pieces, totaling no more than 7,000 words.

Marjorie Stover Awards for Short Story: The competition is open to **undergraduate** majors in the College of Arts and Sciences currently enrolled in the English Department. Two prizes: First Prize \$300, Second Prize \$100. Each prize is to be awarded for an outstanding original short story, with a preference to children's stories. Entries are limited to 20 pages of prose (approximately 5,000 words). Each entry is limited to two pieces.

The Susan Atefat Peckham Fellowship: The competition is open to **graduate students** in English. One prize of \$500. Submit **either** one creative nonfiction piece (limited to 20 pages of prose – approximately 5,000 words) **or** a maximum of 200 lines of poetry in any combination.

Gaffney/Academy of American Poets Award for Poetry: The competition is open to **graduate students** in English. Three prizes: First Prize \$400, Second Prize \$200, Third Prize \$100. Each poet may submit no more than 200 lines of poetry in any combination. Winner of first prize will be included in the Academy's announcement of winners, which appears in the summer issue of *American Poet*, the Academy's journal. In addition, as funds permit, the Academy will arrange to publish selected winners in anthologies or nationally distributed literary journals.

Undergraduate Student Awards for Poetry: The competition is open to **undergraduate** majors in the College of Arts and Sciences currently enrolled in the English Department. Three prizes: First Prize \$800 (the Irby F. Wood Prize for Undergraduate Poetry), Second Prize \$150 (Gaffney Prize for Undergraduate Poetry), third Prize \$100 (Gaffney Prize for Undergraduate Poetry). Each entry is limited to no more than 200 lines of poetry in any combination.

Wilbur Gaffney Essay Contest: Open to **undergraduates** only. Two prizes: First prize \$300, Second Prize \$100. Entries are limited to 5,000 words in length. Topic open; personal, academic (critical/research), or creative nonfiction essays welcome. Essays should demonstrate originality, clarity, and rhetorical purpose and effectiveness.

Ted Kooser Award for Outstanding First-Year Writers: The competition is open to **students nominated** by their first-year writing teacher for this award. Instructors may nominate only one student from each first-year writing section (both spring and fall semester). The nominated submission will consist of up to ten pages of written work. A monetary prize of \$300 will be awarded to the recipient and \$100 will be awarded to the instructor. The prizes will be presented at the English Department Awards Celebration.

NOTE: These contests are open only to currently enrolled UNL students. Students who are UNL employees will have federal and state withholding deductions reflected in their award check. **UNL students of any major are eligible for all contests except as specified above.**

All winners of these contests will be honored at a public reading in the Dudley Bailey Library, Andrews 229, on April 25 at 3:00 pm and at the English Department's Awards Ceremony on April 26th at 3:00 pm in the Bailey Library.

NOTE: Winners will be announced on the English Department Website, www.unl.edu/english, by April 13th.

If you are an undergraduate, and your work wins a prize, the department may contact you about printing your work online. *Laurus*, the undergraduate literary journal, may also contact you about including your work in their print edition.

Michael Page, Contest Coordinator