

Pauline B. Adamson Awards

G U I D E L I N E S

Submission Deadline: Wednesday, March 26, 2008

Guest Speaker:

Russell Banks

Friday, May 2, 2008

8:00 p.m.

Adamson Wing, Baker Hall 136

**Department of English
Writing Awards**

**Pauline B. Adamson Award Guidelines
2008**

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Department of English Writing Awards

The Adamson Awards

In 1983, Clarence H. Adamson, a graduate of Carnegie Tech, gave Carnegie Mellon University and the Department of English several gifts in memory of his wife, Pauline, who had died three years earlier. One of these gifts was the Adamson Scholarship for undergraduate women majoring in English. Another was the Adamson Awards for Writing and a fund for the support of an annual series of lectures by distinguished authors. And another was the Pauline B. Adamson Wing in Baker Hall, where the Adamson Awards ceremony is held every spring. The gifts were intended by Mr. Adamson as testimonials to the 35 years of companionship he shared with his wife and to her interest in education, language, and literature.

The Adamson Awards are intended to encourage students to pursue excellence in writing.

There are five categories for which you can submit your work:

1. Nonfiction -
 - A. Theoretical and research-based articles for professional journals, open to undergraduate and graduate students
 - B. Essays and articles for popular/literary journals open to undergraduate students.
2. Fiction - undergraduate students.
3. Poetry - undergraduate students.
4. Screenplays and plays - undergraduate students.
5. Creative writing - graduate students; (all genres)

Department of English Writing Awards

The Adamson Awards

Prizes

At the discretion of the judges, monetary awards plus one honorable mention are given in each category to undergraduate students and graduate students; \$300 is given for first prize, \$100 for second prize and \$50 for third prize.

Judging

Outside judges appointed by the Awards Committee of the English Department evaluate entries and choose the winners.

Eligibility

The Awards in Non-fiction are open to all currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students at CMU. Fiction, Poetry and Screenwriting categories are open only to undergraduate students, while the Graduate Creative Writing category is open only to graduate students.

Restrictions

To be considered for any category your work must be submitted by Friday March 26. All submissions must be typed and all work must be original. All previous winning submissions for any of the awards offered by the English Department are ineligible. **Only one manuscript from each entrant can be accepted in each category. Entries cannot be returned.**

Presentation

The Adamson Awards presentation ceremony will take place on the last day of classes of each spring semester.

Department of English

Writing Awards

Non-Fiction

Guidelines for Preparing Manuscripts for Theoretical and Research-Based Articles for Professional Journals

Eligibility

Open to any currently registered graduate or undergraduate student at Carnegie Mellon University.

Format

1. Entries for the Non-fiction categories should follow the same guide-lines that are usually followed when submitting articles for publication. All work must be typed, double-spaced, single-sided, with standard margins. Entries should be accompanied by a short statement about the intended audience or the journal to which it is being submitted.
2. A title page should accompany the entry. Your name, address, the title of your submission, and the category (e.g. Non-Fiction) should appear on the title page. Your name should not appear anywhere else in the manuscript.
3. Entries should be 10-20 double-spaced pages.
4. Notes should follow either the MLA Style Sheet (2nd ed.), APA Guide, or other appropriate manuals of style.
5. Notes should be numbered consecutively and placed on a separate page at the end of the article.
6. A 50-75 word abstract should accompany the article.
7. Articles should follow the NCTE Guidelines for Non-Sexist Use of Language.
8. Pages of the entry should not be stapled together (paperclips, folders, and binder clips are acceptable). Pages should be numbered.

Department of English Writing Awards Non-Fiction

Preparing Theoretical and Research-Based Manuscripts

Suggestions

- Establish a clearly defined problem motivating the article.
- Show how that problem is embedded in an explanatory context of either theory or research.
- Develop a clear analysis with persuasive support.
- Use a style that is appropriate for the audience.
- Edit the article in all respects for submission to the journal you have selected.

While the category Non-Fiction for Professional Journals encourages a wide variety of subjects and research methods, all entries should accomplish the following:

- Adequately review relevant literature,
- Advance knowledge about a subject of significance,
- Present the information clearly,
- Demonstrate substantial research.

Department of English

Writing Awards

Non-Fiction

Guidelines for Preparing Manuscripts for Essays and Articles for Popular/Literary Journals

Eligibility

Open only to any currently registered undergraduate student at Carnegie Mellon University.

Format

1. Entries should follow style and format guidelines appropriate to the magazine to which the entry might be submitted. Entries should be written for a general audience: well-educated, but not specialist—readers of such magazines as *The New Yorker*, *MS*, *In These Times*, *The Nation*, *The Atlantic Science Digest*, *Kenyon Review*, *Sewanee Review*, etc.
2. A title page should accompany the entry. Your name, address, the title of your submission, and the category (e.g. Non-Fiction) should appear on the title page. Your name should not appear anywhere else in the manuscript.
3. Maximum length is 25 pages. All manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced, single-sided, with standard margins.
4. Pages of the entry should not be stapled together (paperclips, folders, and binder clips are acceptable). Pages should be numbered.

Suggestions

There are no restrictions on the type of essay or article you may submit. However, here are a few genres that typify submissions for this category:

- Personality Profiles – essays about people worth knowing because of some special achievement. They may be famous or little-known.
- Human Interest – essays about people who have dealt successfully with some difficult situation or have excelled in some way.
- Information – essays about events that lead to an important (and often original) conclusion.
- Service or How-To – essays about how something is done.

Department of English Writing Awards Graduate Creative Writing

Guidelines for Preparing Manuscripts for the Graduate Creative Writing Category (poetry, fiction, screenplays)

Eligibility

Open to any currently registered graduate student at Carnegie Mellon University.

Format

Graduate students may enter no more than one submission in a particular genre, but may enter in more than one genre. For example, a student could enter one prose submission and one poetry submission in this category.

1. Maximum length for prose entries is 25 pages. All prose manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced, single-sided, with standard margins.
2. The maximum submission for poetry is 10 pages (not 10 poems). No more than one poem per page. Poetry submissions must be single-sided and single-spaced.
3. A title page should accompany each entry. Your name, address, the title of your submission, and the category (e.g. Non-Fiction) should appear on the title page. Your name should not appear anywhere else in the manuscript.
4. Pages of the entry should not be stapled together (paperclips, folders, and binder clips are acceptable). Pages should be numbered.

Department of English Writing Awards Fiction

Guidelines for Preparing Manuscripts for Fiction

Eligibility

Open to any currently registered undergraduate student at Carnegie Mellon University

Format

Entries for the Fiction category should follow the same guidelines that are followed when submitting such pieces for publication.

1. You may submit one story; entries must be typed, double-spaced, single-sided, with standard margins.
2. Maximum length for entries is 25 pages. Book-length manuscripts will not be considered.
3. A title page should accompany each entry. Your name, address, the title of your submission, and the category (e.g. Non-Fiction) should appear on the title page. Your name should not appear anywhere else in the manuscript.
4. Pages of the entry should not be stapled together (paperclips, folders, and binder clips are acceptable). Pages should be numbered.

Department of English

Writing Awards

Poetry

Guidelines for Preparing Manuscripts for Poetry

Eligibility

Open to any currently registered undergraduate student at Carnegie Mellon University.

Format

Entries in the Poetry category should follow the same guidelines that are followed when submitting such pieces for publication.

1. All work must be typed, single-spaced, single-sided, with standard margins.
2. The maximum submission is 10 pages of poetry (not 10 poems). No more than one poem per page. Book length manuscripts will not be considered.
3. A title page should accompany each entry (**NOT EACH POEM – EACH ENTRY**). Your name, address, the title(s) of your submission, and the category (e.g. Non-Fiction) should appear on the title page. Your name should not appear anywhere else in the manuscript.
4. Pages of the entry should not be stapled together (paperclips, folders, and binder clips are acceptable). Pages should be numbered.

Department of English Writing Awards Screenplays and Plays

Guidelines for Preparing Manuscripts for Screenplays and Plays

Eligibility

Open to any currently registered undergraduate at Carnegie Mellon.

Format

Entries in this category should follow the usual guidelines for submitting such pieces for publication.

1. All work must be typed single-spaced, single-sided, with standard margins.
2. Either one act and a 2-3 page synopsis, or a full play or screenplay— 50 to 120 pages—is an appropriate length. The synopsis must show that the work has been developed from beginning to end.
3. A title page should accompany submission. Your name, address, the title of your submission, and the category (e.g. Non-Fiction) should appear on the title page. Your name should not appear anywhere else in the manuscript.
4. Pages of the manuscript should not be stapled together (paperclips, folders, and binder clips are acceptable). Pages should be numbered.