

TIL Calls for Entries for Works Published in 2006

Judges have been named for TIL awards committees who are charged with selecting the best works published in 2006 in eleven categories. Prize money amounting to almost \$22,000 will be made at the annual spring banquet, to be held in Dallas in April. Submissions must be in the hands of every committee chair and committee member by early January with a postmark no later than January 7, 2007—but, for the sake of the judges and their demanding time constraints, the sooner the better.

Here are the rules:

Entries must be sent directly to each judge at the addresses listed below for the competition entered. **(Do NOT send entries to the TIL address.)** The words “For TIL Award” should appear on the outside of the container or envelope.

A writer may have only one work entered in a category. No work may be submitted in more than one category. Different works by the same author may be submitted in different categories. All works must have been first published during 2006. Clear photographic reproductions of the publication are acceptable for articles but not for books.

Each entry should be accompanied by a statement of the entrant’s eligibility: birth in Texas or two years consecutive residence in the state at some time. A work whose subject matter substantially concerns Texas is also eligible.

Those competing for the translation award should send the chair of the committee a copy of the original, published book-length text unless the published translation submitted is presented in a bilingual format.

Each entry should include the entrant’s address, email address, and phone number.

Winners and finalists will be notified in late February or early March 2006. Winners will be announced at the spring banquet. Banquet announcements and newspaper articles cover the winners; no other notification will be sent. The TIL reserves the right to withhold an award if the committee and the president consider that to be appropriate.

For additional copies of the list see the TIL web site at <http://www.wtamu.edu/til/>.

Carr P. Collins Award for Best Book of Nonfiction (\$5,000)

Ricardo Ainslie, chair
3208 Gilbert St.
Austin, Texas 78703

Betty Wiesepepe
1706 N. Cheyenne
Richardson, TX 75080

Nate Blakeslee
3011 S. 5th St.
Austin, TX 78704

Jesse Jones Award for Best Work of Fiction (\$6,000)

Steven Turner Award for Best Work of First Fiction (\$1,000)

Cheryl Chapman, chair
P.O. Box 143434
Anchorage, Alaska 99514-3434

Ruth McAdams
5301 Campus Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76119

Campbell Geeslin
209 Davis Ave.
White Plains, N.Y. 10605

TIL Award for Most Significant Scholarly Book (\$2,500)

Clay Reynolds, chair
625 Meadow Dr.
McKinney, TX 75069

Paul H. Carlson
Dept. of History
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, TX 79409

Russell L. Martin III
Director, DeGolyer Library
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, TX 75275-0396

Kay Cattarulla Award for Best Short Story (\$750)

Jan Seale, chair
400 Sycamore
McAllen, TX 78501

William Hauptman
240 Warren St., Apt. 5
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Claire Osborne
1406 Windsor, Apt. 205
Austin, TX 78703

Helen C. Smith Memorial Award for Best Book of Poetry (\$1,000)

Frances E. Neidhardt, chair
321 N. Grand Ave.
Sherman, TX 75090

Greg Glazner
Creative Writing Department
College of Santa Fe
St. Michael's Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

H. Palmer Hall
Box AL
1 Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, TX 78228

Soeurette Diehl Fraser Award for Best Translation of a Book (\$1,000)

Lynn Hoggard, chair
111 Pembroke Lane
Wichita Falls, TX 76301

Harvey Yunis
Department of Classics, MS 150
Rice University
6100 Main St.
Houston, TX 77005-1827

Dennis Kratz
Dean, Arts and Humanities
University of Texas at Dallas
Richardson, TX 75080

O. Henry Award for Best Work of Magazine Journalism (\$1,000)

Ben Fountain, chair
5307 Preston Haven Drive
Dallas, Texas 75229-3042

Tom Huang
Features Editor
The Dallas Morning News
508 Young St.
Dallas, Texas 75202

Jeff Guinn
3704 Westcliff Road South
Fort Worth, TX 76109

**Friends of the Austin Public Library Award for Best Children's Book (\$500)
And Best Young Adult Book (\$500)**

Joyce Roach, chair
P.O. Box 143
Keller, TX 76244

Jeanne Williams
P.O. Box 16335
Portal, AZ 85632

Mary D. Wade
17522 Brushy River Ct.
Houston, TX 77095

Fred Whitehead Award for Best Design of a Trade Book (\$750)

Dick Holland, chair
309 Moore Blvd.
Austin, TX 78705

Kay Cattarulla
5825 Overdowns Dr.
Dallas, TX 75230

Gerald Saxon
3409 Sheffield
Arlington, TX 76013

Stanley Walker Award for Best Work of Newspaper Journalism Appearing in Newspaper or Sunday Supplement (\$1,000)

W.K. Stratton, chair
P.O. Box 609
Round Rock, TX 78680

Robert Compton
3205 S. Glenbrook Dr.
Garland, TX 75041-4404

Carolyn Barta
6902 Hillpark Dr.
Dallas, TX 75230

John Bloom Humor Award for the Funniest Texas Book (\$1,000)

This award will not be offered this year, the TIL anticipates that it will be offered next year with works published in 2006 to be eligible in addition to those works published in 2007.

Dobie Paisano Writing Fellowships Named for 2006-2007

A poet who is the caretaker of the Vallecitos Mountain Refuge in the Carson National Forest in New Mexico and a fiction writer who is systems administrator for the Undergraduate Writing Center at UT Austin are the two winners of the Dobie Paisano writing fellowships for 2006-2007.

Each winner will spend six months at Paisano, the late author J. Frank Dobie's 254-acre retreat west of Austin, now owned and maintained by The University of Texas at Austin.

The poet is Sam Taylor, a native of Florida, who will begin his six-month fellowship in September 2006 as holder of the Ralph Johnston Memorial Fellowship.

The fiction writer is Vicente Lozano, who grew up on the Texas Gulf Coast, will begin his stay at Paisano in March 2007 as holder of the Jesse Jones Writing Fellowship.

Both fellowships are sponsored by the Texas Institute of Letters and The University of Texas at Austin.

Taylor received his B.A. from Swarthmore College and his M.F.A. in Writing from UT Austin, where he held a Michener Fellowship in Poetry. He has published poems in a wide variety of literary journals. His collection of poetry, *Body of the World*, was published by Ausable Press in 2005. At Paisano he plans to work on a second collection of poems that "strives to achieve an engaged voice within the American landscape and that endeavors to speak as a citizen-poet into our collective moment of history."

When Lozano was 13 his father retired from the Air Force and moved his family back to the Gulf Coast, where his Mexican-American forbears settled in the 1880s. Lozano received a B.A. and M.A. in English and a Master of Library

and Information Science from UT Austin. He held a Michener post-graduate fellowship in fiction and was runner-up for the Paisano Fellowships in 2000.

For 15 years Lozano has pursued his family's complicated Border history, drawing on Chicano scholarship, archival material, and family gossip. As the *Texas Observer* put it recently, Lozano "stumbled onto his great obsession, a family history that in its own way is a microcosm of the history of North America." During his residency Lozano plans to complete the first installment of his fictionalized family history, "The Free Floating Broadcast."

Runners-up for the fellowships were Michael Erard of Austin, a nonfiction writer, and Dao Strom, also of Austin, also a writer of fiction. Her book of short stories, *The Gentle Order of Girls and Boys*, was published by Counterpoint Press in 2006.

Deadline for the 2007-2008 competition will be January 25, 2007. Information and an application may be found on line or a hard copy (after Oct. 1) from Dr. Audrey N. Slate, Director, Dobie Paisano Fellowship project, J. Frank Dobie house, 702 East Dean Keeton St., Austin, Texas 78705. Deadline for the 2007-2008 competition will be January 25, 2007. On-line information may be found at www.utexas.edu/ogs/Paisano.

(Amy: I'll forward two photos to you to accompany this article.)

News of Members and Others

Hugh Aynesworth, after twenty years as Southwest bureau chief of the *Washington Times*, will retire in November 2006. Hugh plans to complete his "personal" book dealing with his more than half century in the news business as a crack reporter with the *Dallas Morning News*, *Dallas Times Herald*, *Newsweek*, and others. The book will contain never-before-told stories from early space flight ventures, the JFK and MLK assassinations, Chappaquiddick, the Huey Long assassination, the Cuban missile crisis, convicted murderers Ted Bundy and Henry Lee Lucas, the Jack Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald families, Howard Hughes, and Jim Garrison's "investigation" into the JFK assassination. Hugh is looking for an appropriate home for his accumulated materials concerning these subjects and others.

Ben Fountain, a 2006 TIL inductee from Dallas, received first-rate praise for his book, *Brief Encounters With Che Guevara: Stories*. "Ben Fountain's stories are absolutely jaw-dropping," declared Audrey Bullar, writing an Independent Booksellers Recommendation for that organization's August 2006 best picks. She continued: "The cynical assessment of human nature is so beautifully balanced by the elegance of the writing. The conclusions of his well-orchestrated stories resonate like deep satisfying chords."

Well, heck, Ben is everywhere. Did you see his back-page essay, "The Way Back," in the *New York Times Magazine* on July 16? A fine reminiscence about going back to the tobacco country where he was brought up and seeing the changes.

Kate Lehrer ventured down from Washington, D.C., in spring 2006 to give the commencement address at her alma mater, Texas Christian University. “I talked about how curiosity and questioning are at the center of our life force,” she writes, “and about how refusing to question and entertain uncertainty is to cut ourselves off from life’s excitements.” As for her own novels, she said that the deeper she goes, and the harder the questions she raises about meaning and conflicting drives in the human condition, the more anxious she gets herself. “This anxiety is part of the process, not only of writing, but of living.” Kate, by the way, is a frequent panelist on the “Reader’s Review” portion of Diane Rehm’s daily show on National Public Radio. Kate joins other panelists in discussing a selected book.

When Jerome Weeks, book critic of the *Dallas Morning News*, wrote a column recently under the headline, “10 to watch for from Texas authors,” five of the authors highlighted were TIL members. He liked **Sarah Bird**’s *The Flamenco Academy* (Knopf), a novel about a young girl in Albuquerque, N.M., who after her father’s death finds solace with a flamenco guitarist and his great-aunt from Spain. Will Clarke’s *The Worthy: A Ghost’s Story* (Simon & Schuster) is described as a book about “a frat-boy ghost” who possesses people and gets them drunk. One that is getting much attention from plenty of other sources is **Bill Minutaglio**’s *President’s Counselor: The Rise to Power of Alberto Gonzales* (Rayo), the story of the president’s U.S. Attorney General. Mentioned above already is **Ben Fountain**’s *Brief Encounters with Che Guevara* (Ecco), a collection of eight short stories dealing with such situations as an aid worker who unwillingly becomes a diamond smuggler, an ornithologist who is kidnapped in Colombia, and the wife of a Special Forces officer who faces voodoo in Haiti. **Lawrence Wright**’s *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11* (Knopf) traces the rise of militant jihadists from their origins in Egypt to the Twin Towers.

TCU Press has published a reprint edition of **Shelby Hearon**’s twelfth novel, *Hug Dancing*. Such a title! It reflects the oft-satirized Baptist tenet that “hug dancing” is a prelude to fornication. The book’s settings include Central Texas in the 1990s, the social world in Dallas, and the blackland area where the government had planned to place its supercollider. The *San Francisco Chronicle* wrote: “[*Hug Dancing*] is a breezy, sexy morality tale that seduces the reader with well-drawn characters who continually manage to surprise.”

A very sad note. **Jack “Jaxon” Jackson**, Austin artist credited with being the first “underground” cartoonist, has died, evidently a suicide. His first underground comic, “God Nose,” appeared in 1964. He was a co-founder of Rip Off Press, one of the first independent publishers of underground comics. His graphic novels of Texas history included “Comanche Moon,” “Los Tejanos,” and “El Alamo.” He was a lifetime fellow of the Texas State Historical Association. “He enriched our imaginations and our hearts,” wrote a close friend, Emma Little.

Bruce Bond in Denton has two books of poetry soon to be published. *The Anteroom of Paradise* will be published this year by Silverfish Review Press, and in 2008 LSU Press will publish *Blind Rain*, which won first place in the Crab Orchard Open Competition. Bruce has been busy. His poems have appeared recently in the *Georgia Review*, the *Iowa Review*, *TriQuarterly*, and other journals.

Anita Bunkley's latest novel, *Silent Wager* (Kensington), was published in the spring. It's about an African American couple in Houston who lose their historic home and restaurant in a storm, then experience even more tragedy as they seek to regain their footing. Her novella, *You Only Get Better* (Mira), co-authored with Connie Briscoe and Lalita Files, saw publication in July. Anita also wrote a special Mother's Day tribute for the *Houston Chronicle's* Lifestyle section, giving recognition to the powerful impact her mother had when she stressed the importance of reading to her daughter and made sure that she did it. Anita's first novel, we remember, was *Emily, The Yellow Rose*, about the mulatto woman who dilly-dallied with Santa Anna at San Jacinto.

Tracy Daugherty won a 2006 Guggenheim Fellowship. Tracy is currently chairman of the English Department at Oregon State University. His latest book is *Late in the Standoff* (SMU Press).

You may have noticed that **Rick Bass** missed last April's TIL meeting even though his story, "The Lives of Rocks," won the Kay Catarulla Award for Best Short Story. Rick's absence was a rarity. He was in Namibia with his family, his wife Elizabeth and daughters Mary Katherine, 14, and Lowry, 11, working on a story about black rhinos. "It was a great trip—the trip of a lifetime," says the passionate environmentalist who is actively fighting the Bush administration's efforts to open up vast sections of forest to logging near his home in the Yaak valley of northwestern Montana.

Joe Nick Patoski has signed with Little, Brown for a biography of Willie Nelson. Well, it's more than a biography of Willie. "If anything," writes Joe Nick, "I'm trying to explain what Texas is, and why Texans are the way we are, by following the life of the most iconic Texan of the 20th and 21st century (sorry, Bob Wills, LBJ, and George Bush.)" This represents a trifecta for Joe Nick. He coauthored *Stevie Ray Vaughan: Caught in the Crossfire*, and was the author of *Selena: Como La Flor*. Those two covered blues and Tejano. Now Willie will take care of country. Joe Nick has a headstart on his manuscript, which was due July 1. He has been covering Willie Nelson for 35 years and has written about him for *Texas Observer*, *Texas Monthly*, *Rolling Stone*, *Country Music*, and other publications. Movie rights have been purchased for Patoski's book on Stevie Ray Vaughan by the Weinstein brothers.

Here's some more good news! It had been feared that the venerable independent bookstore, Brazos, in the Rice University area of Houston, a landmark since it opened in 1974, would have to close its doors. **Karl Kilian**, who had owned and operated the store since its opening, was taking a job as director of programs for the Menil Collection that required him to sell or close the store. A shudder passed through the ranks of Houston's literary community, for it appeared that yet another independent bookstore would go out of business. A number of interested parties rallied to the cause, including Babette Hale, founder of Winedale Publishing and wife of columnist **Leon Hale**, and they raised enough money to buy the store so that it could continue to operate under the aegis of Brazos Bookstore Acquisition. All of the fourteen new owners were customers of the bookstore. The group is still looking for investors. The new owners intend to continue Brazos' tradition of bringing nationally known authors to Houston for readings. Karl's wife, Kathy, will remain on the staff, as well as two other longtime staffers, Paul Forsythe and Sally Woods.