Book deal and cash prizes awarded at Mayborn Writers Conference
DENTON (UNT), Texas -- A web-marketing specialist from Argyle won a provisional publishing contract with the University of North Texas Press and three others earned cash prizes July 23 (Saturday) at The Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference of the Southwest, sponsored by the UNT Mayborn Graduate Institute of Journalism. The awards were announced on the second night of the three-day conference, which ran July 22-24 at the Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center in Grapevine.

- Argyle resident Peggy Heinkel-Wolfe, a UNT web marketing specialist and freelance writer, wrote the winning manuscript entry (a first chapter and synopsis) for "Baby Book: A Mother's Memoir," chronicling her son's struggle with autism through his first four years of life.
- Gretchen Heyer, a University of Houston student, earned a $3,000 cash prize for her article, "Coffee with the CIA."
- Noor Elashi, a UNT student from Richardson, won a $2,000 cash prize for her untitled essay.
- Dallas resident Erin Burdette, a writing tutor, clinched a $1,000 cash prize for her piece titled "Circles."

The manuscript entries and the article/essay entries were judged by James Hornfischer, president of Hornfischer Literary Management; Keith Shelton, former UNT journalism professor; Steve Blow, columnist for The Dallas Morning News; Ann McCutchan, author of Marcel Moyse: Voice of the Flute; Bob St. John, former Dallas Morning News columnist; Randy Lee Loftis of The Dallas Morning News; Cathy Booth Thomas, TIME Dallas bureau chief; Bill Marvel of The Dallas Morning News; and Dave Tarrant of The Dallas Morning News.

Writers of the top 20 manuscripts and the top 50 articles and essays participated in special conference workshops offering intensive hands-on writing instruction.

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