Cash prizes for essay and manuscript entries double for a total of $12,000 to be awarded at the third annual Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference of the Southwest at the Hilton DFW Lakes in Grapevine July 27-29.

Three reporting-based narratives and three personal essays will be awarded at the Saturday night Literary Lights award ceremony and dinner preceding a keynote lecture by Joyce Carol Oates. First, second and third prizes in each category will be awarded $3,000, 2,000 and 1,000, respectively.

The top 50 narrative article or essay submissions and the top 20 manuscript submissions will be selected by a panel of judges to participate in the conference workshops. The winning manuscript proposal will once again be awarded a provisional book contract with NT Press and the Mayborn Institute. Top essays will be published by the Hearst Corporation and the Mayborn Institute in the third Mayborn Literary Journal.

Deadline for essay and manuscript entries and scholarship applications is June 15.

Journalists from small to midsized newspapers, educators and students are eligible for 20 scholarships to the conference. Applications are available online at MaybornInstitute.unt.edu. Visit our Web site to register, find a complete list of speakers, view the conference schedule and more.

We welcome guest speakers from a variety of writing fields. Other keynote speakers are Mary Roach and Allison Hedge Coke.

**Archer City hosts nonfiction narrative writing course in July**

Preceding the third annual Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference of the Southwest, 30 students will immerse themselves in the setting of their writing—Archer City, Texas, the hometown of author Larry McMurtry—to study and practice creative nonfiction writing.

The course (JOUR 5350.001) will be taught for the third year by professor George Getschow and will meet Monday through Friday, July 9-27. Students will be admitted to the conference, July 27-29, but hotel costs in Archer City are additional and must be paid at the Mayborn office, GAB 207.

The stories from the class of 2005 were published in the Mayborn Literary Journal, “Spurs of Inspiration.” Purchase the journal at the Mayborn office or place an order by calling 940-565-4564.
The Chorsu outdoor market bustled with activity but there was something distracting the spring day crowd from its shopping. Police officers, whose daily job is to crack down on vendors without the proper paperwork, were now preoccupied blocking off the roads. Nearby, a taxi cab slowed to a stop and the wary occupant, Mayborn scholar Sarah Junek, had no choice but to get out.

Junek moved from her small hometown of Hempstead, Texas, in 2003 to render humanitarian aid in Uzbekistan. She worked in the capital city of Tashkent with the World Languages University teaching fourth-year students English in the morning and learning Uzbek at The Central Asia Free Exchange languages office in the afternoon.

As she approached the languages office, stern police officers at a roadblock outside the market stopped her. Junek called the central office across town to see what had happened.

“I was told a bomb had gone off about 100 meters away from my office,” Junek said. “All the aid workers were told to meet at the central office.”

The aid workers watched the television for more information on the bombing. All that was showing was a documentary on platypuses. Junek did not find reports on the multiple city bombings until that evening.

Uzbek government often restricts reports to citizens. Government authorities blocked CNN and BBC from entering the country because of a BBC broadcast in May 2005 that reported what Human Rights Watch called a “massacre” of an estimated 500 Uzbek citizens in a gathering that began as a peaceful protest.

The government keeps criticism out of the news by threatening journalists. Consequently, journalists who write critically about the social situation in Uzbekistan must use an alias. Citizens must learn to extrapolate information from the highly censored news.

Little progress has been made against this censorship because freedom of speech is not as primary a concern to Uzbek citizens as making sure they have enough food for their families, Junek said.

“My goal as a future journalist is to get the information out that is true,” Junek said. “The current situation in Uzbekistan is one of fear, which makes it impossible to practice real journalism.”

Candace Carlisle is a Mayborn Scholar and news-editorial student at the Mayborn Institute.
Gayle Reaves doesn’t require her colleagues to punch a timecard or keep to a specific schedule each day; instead she cares about the quality of work produced and the amount of time spent preparing and writing the story. She keeps a casual atmosphere in the office, but she is serious about her job.

Reaves is the editor-in-chief of the Fort Worth Weekly, an alternative weekly newspaper-magazine. The Department of Journalism and the Mayborn Institute will honor her with the 2007 Professional Achievement Award at the Journalism Banquet April 21.

“The reporter must dress to fit in, depending on what they’re covering and whom they’re working for,” she said.

At the Fort Worth Weekly, reporters are expected to work around their stories, doing all that’s necessary to craft well-written pieces, she said.

Before Reaves became a full-time editor, she started writing as a reporter. Her investigative work led her to Washington, D.C., but she disliked the business dress code of daily meetings and the stressful work environment. She left D.C. and became a reporter and, later, assistant city editor for The Dallas Morning News.

At the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Reaves met Dan Malone, who became a friend, coworker in this newsroom and later at The Dallas Morning News, and co-educator at the University of North Texas Department of Journalism. Reaves taught public affairs journalism, a course on locating government records, piecing together in-depth public affair stories and using Internet research to report on primarily government-related hard news.

Together, Reaves and Malone led the award-winning Mayborn Distributed Reporting Project on Taser abuse by law enforcement in the state of Texas, a project organized and assisted by the Light of Day Project at the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. The resulting story ran as a cover feature in the Fort Worth Weekly. The students, she said, did most of the hard work necessary to complete the project.

Although her career has taken her to senior management, Reaves holds onto her roots as a reporter to stay fresh.

“I still write occasionally because that allows me to keep from getting burned out,” she said.

Marie Williams is a news-editorial student at the Mayborn Institute.
Congratulations to our
May graduates

Rickie Adams
Casey Conway
Mary Ekene
Michael Brandon Evans
Reyna Gobel
Casey Hart
Linda Jacobson

Randy Loftis
Komla Masro
Trevor Naughton
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