

*MEMORANDUM*

*To:* Tutorial Board

*From:* Andy Romig

*Date:* March 31, 2008

*Re:* Awards and Prizes

Harvard offers many awards and prizes for undergraduate work. Some of the prizes require faculty nominations; others invite students to submit their work for consideration. We encourage you to talk to your students about applying for awards or prizes that recognize the excellence of their work, and we suggest that you nominate your students for awards that you think are appropriate. If an award needs a departmental nomination, please see me.

Below are listed the prizes and awards that are most likely prospects for History and Literature students. However, you can also look at the Harvard Prizes web site at <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~secfas/studentprizes.htm> to see whether others might be appropriate for your students' work. Two prizes on this list that are nation-wide and not restricted to Harvard students are the Dante Prize and the Norton Scholar's prize.

I have attached a list of published deadlines. Absent a published deadline, students should consult the department and/or website listed in the description. Please let me know if you or your students have any questions.

**CYRILLY ABELS SHORT STORY PRIZE (A RADCLIFFE FUND)** The Cyrilly Abels Short Story Prize is awarded for the best short story written by an undergraduate during the academic year. For further information, please contact the Department of English and American Literature and Language.

**HELEN CHOATE BELL PRIZES** These prizes were established by friends of Mrs. Helen Choate Bell to commemorate her connection with American Literature. They are open to any student in the University and are awarded for merit in the field of American literature. Two prizes are offered: 1) A prize for the best essay of from 5,000 to 10,000 words on a subject in American literature. Excellence in form as well as content will be required. Essays prepared for Harvard courses may be submitted, but no essay submitted for any other prize in the same academic year is eligible. 2) A prize for an outstanding Ph.D. thesis on a subject in American literature completed any time during the twelve months prior to the deadline for submission. Manuscripts of essays and of substantially completed theses must be submitted to the Chairman of the Bell Prizes Committee, the Barker Center, by the deadline, not later than five o'clock in the afternoon. For further information, please contact the Department Administrator, Department of English and American Literature and Language.

**LILLIAN BELL PRIZE IN HISTORY (A RADCLIFFE FUND)** The Lillian Bell Prize in History, established by Lillian Bell '26 on the sixtieth anniversary of her graduation from Radcliffe College, is awarded annually to an undergraduate who, in the judgment of the History Department, has written the best paper on the Holocaust or other major 20th-century event involving human tragedy. Further information may be obtained from the Department of History.

**BERNHARD BLUME AWARDS** The Bernhard Blume Awards for excellence in the study of Germanic languages and literatures were established in 1969 by an anonymous donor in honor of Bernhard Blume, Kuno Francke Professor of German Art and Culture, Emeritus. An award is given to the graduating senior concentrator in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, or in the Program of History and Literature, provided the major field is German, who has written the best honors thesis and whose performance in courses offered toward concentration is of equal merit. There is no competition for these awards; recipients are selected by a departmental faculty committee. For further information, please contact the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures.

**BOSTON RUSKIN PRIZE** A prize, the gift of the Boston Ruskin Club, is awarded for the best essay on the life, work, or interests of John Ruskin, unless no essay is submitted which in the opinion of the Department of English and American Literature and Language seems worthy of the prize. The competition is open to all students in the University. Manuscripts must be submitted to the Barker Center, by the deadline, not later than five o'clock in the afternoon. For further information, please contact the Department Administrator, Department of English and American Literature and Language.

**BOWDOIN PRIZES FOR UNDERGRADUATES** For undergraduates in Harvard College **RESIDENT** at the University who do not hold an academic degree or have not fulfilled the requirements therefor, and for others who are candidates for the degree of A.B. or S.B. in Harvard University, annual prizes are offered. With the exception of translations into Greek, all manuscripts must be typed. Five copies of all essays not in Latin or Greek are required. A student may submit only one essay in any division. Each winner of a Bowdoin Prize will receive, in addition to a sum of money, a medal and a certificate, and his or her name will be printed in the Commencement Program.

*For Essays in the English Language - Undergraduate* Two annual prizes are open for competition to undergraduates. Essays, containing not more than 7,500 words, including notes and references, offered in competition for these prizes may be on any subject. The essays should be addressed to the general reader, not the specialist. Essays or theses that form part of the regular work in a course may be offered in competition. If a thesis chapter is submitted, it must be so modified that it stands alone as a complete essay. Essays previously presented for other prizes, or for academic recognition elsewhere than in Harvard University, or already published, are not admissible, but essays submitted for publication (but not yet published) are acceptable. Each manuscript must have a title page that conforms to the General Information for Competitors, including a single-sentence epitome of the essay and a word count. **A PSEUDONYM IS REQUIRED.** The author's true name should be submitted in a sealed envelope. Five copies of each essay must be delivered to the Prize Office, University Hall, by the deadline, not later than five o'clock in the afternoon. A student who is to receive his/her degree at midyear, however, must submit his/her manuscript on or before the day following the first day of the January reading period, not later than five o'clock in the afternoon. All inquiries should be addressed to the Prize Office or sent by email to [fas-prizes@harvard.edu](mailto:fas-prizes@harvard.edu).

**BOYLSTON PRIZES FOR ELOCUTION** The Boylston Prizes for Elocution were established in 1817 by Ward Nicholas Boylston in honor of his uncle, Nicholas Boylston, who in 1772 established the Boylston Professorship of Rhetoric and Oratory. Prizes will be awarded after a competition open to seniors, juniors, and sophomores in good standing. The prizes are given "for the delivery of memorized selections from English, Greek, or Latin literature," not to exceed five minutes in length. Competitors should submit one typed (or xeroxed) copy of their selection, in person, for approval on or before the deadline, not later than five o'clock in the afternoon. For further information, please contact the Department Administrator, Department of English and American Literature and Language.

**DANTE PRIZE** The Dante Society of America offers a \$250 prize for the best essay on a subject related to the life or works of Dante written by an undergraduate student or by anyone not enrolled as a graduate student who has received the degree of A.B. or its equivalent within the past year. The competition for these prizes is nationwide and not restricted to Harvard University students. All submissions must be made by e-mail attachment of a file in either Word or WordPerfect and sent to the Dante Society at [dsa@dantesociety.org](mailto:dsa@dantesociety.org). Undergraduate essays should be no longer than 5,000 words including bibliographies and any other material.

The deadline for submission is June 30 of each year. For more details see <http://www.dantesociety.org/prizes.html>.

**THE ETHNIC STUDIES SENIOR THESIS PRIZE.** Starting in 2002, a new award of \$1,500 will be available for best senior thesis on an Ethnic Studies subject in any concentration at Harvard College. Required are two (unbound) copies of the thesis, transcript, and copies of the thesis readings from the concentration. Further information may be obtained from the Committee on Ethnic Studies.

**THE REVEREND PETER J. GOMES PRIZE IN RELIGION AND ETHNICITY** The prize is named for the Reverend Dr. Peter John Gomes, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Minister in the Memorial Church, to honor the work and commitment he has made to Religious Studies, to the study of ethnicity and diversity, and to African American Studies. A prize will be awarded annually to the student, from any graduate or undergraduate program, with the most outstanding thesis or dissertation relating to Religion and Ethnic Studies. For further information, please contact the Department of African and African American Studies.

**JAMES R. AND ISABEL D. HAMMOND PRIZE** In 1992, a fund was established by a gift from James R. Hammond '57, an international banker specializing in Latin America and Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the Latin American Scholarship Program of American Universities (LASPAU), to establish a first-ever prize at Harvard for theses in Spanish-American Studies. The James R. and Isabel D. Hammond Prize is to be awarded each year to the senior in Harvard College who writes the best thesis on a subject concerning the Spanish-speaking countries of the Americas. The Standing Committee on Latin American and Iberian Studies (CLAIS) will invite each department and instructional committee to submit its best thesis by a senior in Spanish-American Studies, and will choose a winner from among these submissions. Further information is available from the Committee.

**THOMAS T. HOOPES, CLASS OF 1919, PRIZES** From the estate of Thomas T. Hoopes '19, Harvard has received a fund from which to grant annual awards to undergraduates on the basis of outstanding scholarly work or research. Mr. Hoopes was Curator of the City Art Museum in St. Louis for over twenty-five years. He was an expert on firearms from the crossbow of the 16th century to modern handguns and wrote widely in the field. The fund provides undergraduate prizes to be given for the purpose of "promoting, improving and enhancing the quality of education . . . in literary, artistic, musical, scientific, historical or other academic subjects made part of the College curriculum under Faculty supervision and instruction, particularly by recognizing, promoting, honoring and rewarding excellence in the work of undergraduates and their capabilities and skills in any subject, projects of research in science or the humanities, or in specific written work of the students under the instruction or supervision of the Faculty." "An incidental objective or purpose" of the fund, as stated by Mr. Hoopes, is to "promote excellence in the art of teaching." Awards are therefore given to those members of the Faculty or teaching staff who have both supervised and nominated the prize-winning work of undergraduates.

To be considered for a prize, a student project must be nominated by a member of the teaching staff who has supervised the project. A teacher may ordinarily make only one nomination in a given year and must follow the procedures available from the Prize Office, Ground Floor, University Hall North. Students should also be aware that they will be expected to provide, at their own expense, one copy of their winning project to be preserved in the University Archives. Submissions will be accepted in the Prize Office, Ground Floor, University Hall North, by the deadline, not later than five o'clock in the afternoon. Nomination forms will be available in the spring. For further information, please contact the Prize Office.

**KATHRYN ANN HUGGINS PRIZE** for a Thesis on African American Life, History or Culture. A prize of at least one thousand dollars will be awarded to one or more outstanding senior theses from any department on a topic relating to African American life, history or culture. This prize was established in 1987 by her brother, the late Professor Nathan I. Huggins, W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of History and of Afro-American Studies, to remember Kathryn Ann Huggins by bringing attention to the values she held most dear: personal commitment and dedication to study, humanism through the study of other peoples and cultures, and respect for the marginalized and dispossessed. Theses for prize consideration may be submitted by a department or by an undergraduate. Three copies, accompanied by a cover letter, should be delivered to the African and African American Studies Department, Barker Center, 2nd floor, 12 Quincy Street, *no later than five o'clock in the afternoon on the day of the deadline*. The cover letter must include the following information: the entrant's

Social Security number, Harvard ID number, telephone number, mailing address, and permanent legal address. The prize will be awarded at the Department's Graduation Celebration. For further information, please contact the Department of African and African American Studies.

**DE LANCEY K. JAY PRIZE** From a fund established in 1943 by Mrs. Elizabeth S. Jay in memory of her husband DeLancey K. Jay, a prize is offered for the best essay "upon any subject relating to the history or development of constitutional government and free institutions in the United States or Great Britain or any other part of the English-speaking world at any period of history." It is understood that the phrase "constitutional government and free institutions" includes not only governmental institutions but also traditional and necessary institutions of a free society such as the church, the press, the schools, and voluntary organizations. The competition is open to all students in the University. Essays should not be submitted to the Committee by students, but by faculty sponsors in departments or schools. Normally, essays to be considered will be theses submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, but exceptionally good undergraduate work such as honors theses or written work submitted in the normal course of graduate instruction will be accepted for consideration. Departments and schools should submit essays deemed worthy of consideration to the Chair of the Committee.

**LATINO THESIS PRIZE.** The Inter-Faculty Committee on Latino Studies (IFCLAS) Annual Thesis Award, established in the spring of 2003, will be presented to a Harvard College senior who writes the best thesis on a subject concerning Latinos (either recent immigrants or established communities of Latin American descent in the United States). IFCLAS and the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies invite departments, concentrations and instructional committees to submit the best senior thesis in the field and will choose a winner from among these submissions. Students are also encouraged to submit their work directly to IFCLAS for consideration. The winner of this competitive award will be selected by the IFCLAS committee and will be awarded a financial prize of \$500.

**DOROTHY HICKS LEE PRIZE.** Established in 1995 by her daughter and son, this prize honors Dorothy Hicks Lee by bringing attention to her commitment to cross-cultural studies and to her gift for making students understand the ways in which literature is relevant to their lives. She was the first African American and the first woman to earn a Doctorate from the Comparative Literature Department of Harvard University. A prize of at least two hundred and fifty dollars will be awarded for the outstanding senior thesis submitted from any department on the topic of African American literature. For further information, please contact the Department of African and African American Studies.

**JONATHAN M. LEVIN PRIZE FOR TEACHING AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.** An award to the most promising undergraduate who intends to become a public school teacher. The prize honors Jonathan M. Levin, a compassionate and dedicated man committed to teaching as a means of combating the social injustices that exist in American society. Mr. Levin graduated from Trinity College in 1988 with degrees in English and Psychology and received a master's degree in 1995 from New York University's School of Education. He was teaching English at the William Howard Taft High School in the Bronx at the time of his death in May of 1997. The prize will be awarded in two installments: the first installment will be presented at graduation ceremonies held by the Department of African and African American Studies; and the second installment will be awarded upon the successful completion of two years of public-school teaching. The recipient will be asked to return to Harvard at that time to accept the second award installment and to make a public presentation to undergraduates on his or her experiences teaching in public schools. The Jonathan Levin Prize was established on behalf of the College in cooperation with Phillips Brooks House, through which all undergraduate public service programs are managed, the Assistant Dean for Public Service, and the Director of the Undergraduate Teacher Education Program. The selection committee will include the Assistant Dean, the Director, the Chair of the Department of African and African American Studies, and Mr. Gerald M. Levin, father of Jonathan M. Levin. The committee will consider academic performance, commitment to public service, and student teaching experience. Graduating seniors who wish to apply should submit a letter describing their commitment to teaching in public schools and their overall commitment to public service. Letters must be accompanied by a copy of the student's Harvard transcript and the student's resume, including Harvard ID, SSN and telephone. Students should also arrange for two letters of support. All materials should be sent to: Department of African and African American Studies, Barker Center, 12 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. For further information, please contact the Department of African and African American Studies.

**NORMAN PODHORETZ PRIZE IN JEWISH STUDIES** This prize is awarded to the Harvard College student who has written the best essay, feature article, or short story on a Jewish theme. The prize is a tribute to Norman Podhoretz, distinguished editor of *Commentary* from 1960 to 1995, and is sponsored by the Ernest H. Weiner Fund at the American Jewish Committee and administered by the Harvard University Center for Jewish Studies. Submissions should be 25 pages in length or less. For further information, please contact the Center for Jewish Studies.

**NORTON SCHOLAR'S PRIZE** Established upon the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of W. W. Norton & Company, the Norton Scholar's Prize is awarded annually for an outstanding undergraduate essay on a literary topic. The Norton Scholar will receive a cash award of \$2,500. The Norton Scholar's nominating instructor will receive transportation to the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association. Four runners-up will each receive a cash award of \$1,000. Rules and Restrictions: Competition for The Norton Scholar's Prize is open to undergraduates enrolled during the 2004–2005 academic year in an accredited two- or four-year college or university. No purchase is necessary to participate. Employees of W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., and their children are not eligible, nor are children of authors who have published with W. W. Norton & Company, Inc. Each entry must be accompanied by a covering letter on departmental stationery from a nominating instructor. Each instructor may nominate only one student essay for consideration. The nominating instructor should include his or her name, address, phone number, and title, and should certify that the essay is the only one that he or she is nominating for the prize. In addition, the instructor should provide a one-paragraph summary of the essay's merits.

Student essays may cover any topic in English, American, or comparative literature and must be printed in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and be between 1,750 and 3,000 words in length. The essays should follow the latest MLA guidelines for format and citation of sources, with the exception that the student's name should not appear within the body of the essay, headers, or footers. Students must provide a cover sheet that includes their name, permanent address (where they can be reached during summer months), permanent phone number, projected year of graduation, and title of the paper. Each student may submit only one essay for consideration. For more information, please see the following web site: [www.wwnorton.com/college/English/](http://www.wwnorton.com/college/English/) and click on "Norton Scholars Prize."

**WINTHROP SARGENT PRIZE** From the bequest of Mrs. Winthrop Sargent in 1918, a prize is awarded annually "for the best essay relating to Shakespeare or Shakespeare's work." The competition is open to all students in the University. Essays submitted for the Sargent Prize should be 20-25 double-spaced pages in length (not including endnotes). Longer essays will not be considered. Those wishing to submit part of a thesis should restructure the submission as a self-contained essay. When the quality of submissions merits, the prize may be split between graduate and undergraduate winners. Manuscripts must be submitted at the Barker Center, on or before the deadline, not later than five o'clock in the afternoon. For further information, please contact the Department Administrator, Department of English and American Literature and Language.

**GEORGE B. SOHIER PRIZE** This prize, founded by Waldo Higginson, of the Class of 1833, in memory of George Brimmer Sohier, of the Class of 1852, is given for the best thesis containing approximately 10,000 words of text presented by a successful candidate for honors in English or in modern literature and in certain cases History and Literature. The competition is open to undergraduates. Theses for this prize will be considered without special application by the student. Further information may be obtained from the Prize Office.