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## \* Fountain Award Winner

The Speculative Literature Foundation (SLF) is pleased to announce the results of the third annual Fountain Award, which carries a cash prize of \$1000. The winning story is "Girl Reporter" by Stephanie Harrell, published in ONE STORY. Nine other stories received honorable mentions. Full details are available on the SLF web site: <http://speculativeliterature.org/Awards/SLFFountainAward/2005.php>.

The Fountain Award is given to speculative short stories of exceptional literary quality. The Award is judged by a select jury, and is chosen from work nominated by magazine and anthology editors for the year in question. The judges for the award this year (for stories published in 2005) were Gwenda Bond, Carol Emshwiller, Jeffrey Ford, James Patrick Kelly, and Mary Anne Mohanraj. Questions about this year's awards may be directed to Karen Meisner, Awards Administrator - [FountainAward@speculativeliterature.org](mailto:FountainAward@speculativeliterature.org)

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PR Contact: Ashley Gronek [press@speculativeliterature.org](mailto:press@speculativeliterature.org)

## \* Travel Grant Applications

Applications are invited for the 2006 SLF Travel Research Grant until the 30th September 2006.

SLF travel grants are awarded to assist writers (fiction, poetry, drama, creative non-fiction) in their research.

They are not currently available for academic research, though we hope to offer such funds in the future. We are

currently offering one \$600 travel grant annually, to be used to cover airfare, lodging, and/or other travel expenses.

Our travel grants will be awarded by a committee of SLF staff members on the basis of interest and merit. Factors considered will include:

- \* a one-page written description of the project in question, including details on the travel location and an estimated completion date (no more than 500 words)
- \* a writing sample in the proposed genre (up to 10 pages of poetry, 10 pages of drama, or 5000 words of fiction or creative nonfiction)
- \* a bibliography of previously-published work by the author (no more than one page, typed); applicants need not have previous publications to apply.

If awarded the grant, the recipient agrees to write a brief report of their research experience (500-1000 words) for our files, and for possible public dissemination on our website.

PLEASE NOTE: This grant, as with all SLF grants, is intended to help writers working with speculative literature. If you're not sure what areas that term encompasses, we recommend referencing our FAQ (question #2).

#### Travel Grant Application Procedures

1. Send the three items listed above to our travel grant administrators, Colin Harvey and Tiffany Jonas, as attached .doc files, to [travel@speculativeliterature.org](mailto:travel@speculativeliterature.org). Include a brief cover letter with your name and contact info (e-mail, phone in case of emergency). If you have questions, direct them to that same address.
2. You may apply for travel to take place at any point in the following year (from September to the following September).
3. Travel may take place from any country to any country, or internally within a country; the grants are unrestricted. Funds will be disbursed in U.S. currency (but can be sent through PayPal if that is more convenient for international recipients).
4. Travel grant applications will be considered from July 1st to September 30th, annually. Applications received outside that period will be discarded unread.
5. The grant recipient will be announced by October 15th, annually. All applicants will be notified of the status

of their application by that date.

#### \* Mentorship Program

The Speculative Literature Foundation (SLF) announces the second session of its mentorship program. The program will take place August 1 through October 31, 2006.

Participants will be able to gain valuable advice in the areas of business and craft from accomplished professional writers willing to share their experience.

The mentors will not be critiquing mentee work, but will be talking about the nuts and bolts of writing.

This session's mentors include Leah Cutter, Nnedi Okorafor-Mbachu, Jenn Reese, Ben Rosenbaum, and John Scalzi.

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Leah R Cutter is the author of three historical fantasy novels as well as several fantasy, science fiction and horror short stories.

Her most recent novel is *The Jaguar and the Wolf* (Roc 2005). She's lived all over the world, including Hungary and Taiwan, and now resides in Seattle, WA with her cat and many books. She supports herself and her writing habit by doing technical writing for a California-based software company. Her website appears at <http://www.leahcutter.com>.

Nnedi Okorafor-Mbachu's first novel, *Zahrah the Windseeker*, was published in 2005 by Houghton Mifflin. It will be published in Nigeria in 2007 by Kachifo Ltd. Her second novel, *Ejii the Shadow Speaker*, will be published by Hyperion Books for Children in 2007.

Her short story, *The Chaos Magician's Mega Chemistry Set* will be published in *Space and Time Magazine's* 100th issue in 2006. Nnedi is currently finishing her PhD in English at the University of Illinois, Chicago. She is also a graduate of the Clarion Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers' Workshop (2001).

Jenn Reese lives in Los Angeles, where she studies martial arts, plays strategy games, and sits in traffic. She's a 1999 Clarion workshop survivor and her stories have appeared in *Polyphony*, *Flytrap*, and various DAW anthologies, as well as online at *Strange Horizons* and *Lone Star Stories*. Her first novel, *Jade Tiger*, is forthcoming from Juno Books. Her website appears at

[www.jennreese.com](http://www.jennreese.com).

Ben Rosenbaum has been a finalist for the Nebula, Hugo, and Sturgeon awards. His stories have appeared in Asimov's, F&SF, Harper's, Nature, McSweeney's, YBSF, YBFH, and other publications.

John Scalzi is the author of 10 books, including the Hugo-nominated Old Man's War and its sequel The Ghost Brigades, the astronomy handbook The Rough Guide to the Universe, and the best-selling Book of the Dumb humor series. His work has also appeared in various newspapers and magazines, including the Washington Post, the Chicago Tribune, the San Francisco Chronicle, the Dayton Daily News, Jungle magazine, the Official US PlayStation Magazine and others. Scalzi Consulting, his writing/editing shop, consults for online and financial institutions such as AOL, Network Solutions, US Trust and Oppenheimer Funds. He enjoys pie.

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We are accepting a maximum number of 25 applicants, as each of the five mentors will receive five mentees. If you are accepted, we'll ask you for a \$15-\$30 fee for participation in the three month program. The fee (as with all our fees) is sliding-scale; pay what you can afford. Fees go directly to supporting other SLF programs, such as our travel and older writers' grants. To apply, please send a one-page bio and personal statement that includes an assessment of your writing experience and what you would like to get from a mentorship as an attached Word .doc or .rtf (Rich Text Format) file to [mentorship@specfict.org](mailto:mentorship@specfict.org). This will serve as your introduction to your mentor and the group, if you are selected for the program. Also, indicate if you have a preference for a particular mentor (preferences are not guaranteed, however). There is no fee for application to the program.

Applications are due by midnight, July 25th, 2006.

For more information, visit our mentorship website at [http://](http://www.specfict.org/Programs/Mentorship.php)

[www.specfict.org/Programs/Mentorship.php](http://www.specfict.org/Programs/Mentorship.php) or

email PR contact Ashley Gronek at [press@specfict.org](mailto:press@specfict.org)

Thank you!

\* New Staff Member

We are pleased to announce that Rebecca Rowe has joined the SLF staff as Associate Editor of the Newsletter. Rebecca is a freelance writer whose work includes poetry and fiction. Her first SF novel, *Forbidden Cargo*, is due for publication in August 2006.

\* SLF/SH Benefit Readings

Mary Anne reports that the benefit open poetry readings held in San Francisco and Chicago had a good turnout and raised \$600 for the SLF and Strange Horizons, who jointly sponsored them.

\* Small Press Co-op at WisCon

Although sales figures are not available, Erzebet Yellowboy, who organized our table, reports that it got quite a bit of attention. Her small press did very well and she assumes that others must have as well.

\* Site Additions

Resources: Readers: Magazines:

Ballista: [www.mucusart.co.uk/ballista.htm](http://www.mucusart.co.uk/ballista.htm)

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Issue 1 features work from the UK & USA, including contributions from H. Ann Dyess, John Light, Rosie Lugosi & Dermot Glennon amongst others

Greatest Uncommon Denominator: <http://gudmagazine.com>

Editorial Staff: Mike Coombes, Sal Coraccio, Kaolin I. Fire, Sue

Miller. A magazine of fiction, information, poetry and art, which can be purchased as a PDF file or an actual magazine. One can also buy individual parts of the magazine separately.

The Lorelai Signal: <http://www.loreleisignal.com/LoreleiSignal.html>

Ed. Carol Hightshoe. "The Lorelei Signal is a web based magazine dedicated to featuring strong female characters in Fantasy short stories."

Storyteller Magazine:

<http://www.storytellingmagazine.com/guidelines.htm>

Canada's short story magazine. Publishes all genres of fiction, including horror, science fiction and fantasy.

Wicked Hollow: The Journal of Dark Literature:

<http://www.blindside.net/WickedHollow/>

E-zine publishing "character-driven, atmospheric, emotive short stories."

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Newsletter information:

Suggestions, comments, and information to be included in the Newsletter may be sent to Editor David Lunde at [news@speculativeliterature.org](mailto:news@speculativeliterature.org). If you do not wish to continue receiving the newsletter, write to the same address with "unsubscribe" in the subject line-be sure to include your name.

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David Lunde, Senior Editor

Rebecca Rowe, Associate Editor