

SPECULATIVE LITERATURE FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the first 2008 SLF Newsletter

Welcome to the first 2008 SLF Newsletter! You may not have seen us in a while, but this year promises to bring the full return of the SLF, with many new staff additions and a revitalization of several programs, including the Mentorship Program and the Fountain Award. We are also re-launching the forums and are planning on opening a Classifieds section of the website. To help us in our mission, we have several new volunteer positions open (see below) <#volunteer>. Thank you for your continuing support of the SLF! /--Corie Ralston <#Corie>, SLF Managing Director/

SLF Older Writers Grant

The final day for submitting 2008 applications for the fifth annual Older Writers Grant closed today, March 31, and this year's winner will be announced June 1, 2008. The grant is intended to assist writers who are fifty years of age or older at the time of grant application, and who are just starting to work at a professional level. One 750 dollar grant is offered, to be used as the writer determines will best assist his or her work. Learn full details about the grant here.

<<http://www.speculativeliterature.org/Grants/SLFOlderWriters.php>> For further inquiries, the PR Coordinator is Ashley Gronek at press@speculativeliterature.org.

2007 SLF Older Writers Grant Results

The fourth annual Older Writers Grant was awarded to Hilary Wilce, journalist and writer. Grant Administrator Malon Edwards said of Wilce's entry, /After Beauville the Road Changed/, "The reader is immediately thrust into a deliciously creepy story from the onset. A subtle, macabre

atmosphere is set with excellent imagery, which includes a decrepit house sitting on untended grounds and unsettling, disturbed children. This is a rural French countryside few see, and none ever want to see again." More details here

<http://www.speculativeliterature.org/Grants/SLFOlderWriters/OlderWritersGrant2007.php>

The Gulliver Travel Research Grant

One SLF travel grant of 600 dollars is awarded annually to assist writers (speculative fiction, poetry, drama, creative nonfiction) in their research by covering airfare, lodging and/or other travel expenses. Travel grant applications will be considered from July 1 through September 30, 2008. Learn full details on how to apply for the grant here.

<http://www.speculativeliterature.org/Grants/SLFTravelGrant.php> For further inquiries, the PR Coordinator is Ashley Gronck at press@speculativeliterature.org.

2007 Travel Research Grant Results

The Travel Research Grant was awarded to author Matt Hughes for travel to Seville, Ecuador, to research records concerning the Spanish Inquisition and the history of a local family for a historical novel with elements of magical realism. Hughes' novels have been published by Warner Aspect, Tor, the Science Fiction Book Club, Night Shade Books, Pocket Books, PS Publishing, Robert J. Sawyer Books, Maxwell Macmillan Canada, and Doubleday Canada. More details here

<http://www.speculativeliterature.org/Grants/SLFTravelGrant/TravelGrant2007.php>

Awards in the Field

2008 Crawford Fantasy Award

The winner of the 2008 Crawford Fantasy Award is Christopher Barzak for his first novel, *One for Sorrow* (Bantam). Sponsored by the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts, the award recognizes an outstanding first book of fantasy published during the preceding year and is presented at the association's annual conference in Orlando, Florida. Other titles on this year's shortlist included: Laird Barron, *The Imago Sequence* (Night Shade); Ron Currie, Jr., *God is Dead* (Viking); Ellen Klages, *Portable Childhoods* (Tachyon); and Ysabeau Wilce, *Flora Segunda* (Harcourt).

Announcements

Participation in the SLF Small Press Co-operative

The SLF Small Press Co-operative offers a unique opportunity for small presses within the science fiction, fantasy and horror genres to co-operate on projects and exchange useful information. Membership is currently free. All that SLF asks is that members place a small, 100 x 100 pixel button on their websites (when applicable). Jennifer Dawson is updating members' information, so please let her know if your listing needs to be added or updated. Members can also contact Jennifer at webcoord@speculativeliterature.org with suggestions for content and/or programs the SLF Small Press Co-operative should consider offering. We also encourage all Small Press Co-operative members to become institutional members of the SLF. More details about the SLF Small Press Co-operative <http://www.speculativeliterature.org/Programs/SLF_coop.php>

Re-launching SLF Forums

The foundation has new and improved SLF Forums with lots of additional features thanks to the work of Greg Banks. The new forums provide much more flexibility. Among the features available with the new forums are calendars for posting events, uploading articles with layout formatting, and many other options, such as an image gallery. Before announcing the forums to the public, we would like to give SLF members a chance to explore the new SLF forums. Please go to this link, register and take a look. <<http://www.speculativeliterature.org/Community/>>

SLF Seeks Volunteer Staffers

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the following positions, or have any questions about the positions, please contact the SLF Director Mary Anne Mohanraj at director@speculative_literature.org.

Mentorship Program Director

This program helps beginning writers connect with, and gather advice from, experienced writers. The Director is responsible for reviewing applications for the program, assigning writers to mentors and setting up private discussion areas (such as on Yahoo) for each mentor.

Fundraising Assistant

This person will help Mary Anne with fundraising for the SLF, including arranging readings, writing grants and applying for sponsorships from organizations.

Classifieds Coordinator

We will be opening a Classifieds area on the website to bring together

writers, readers, editors and publishers to trade information and services in the field of speculative fiction. The SLF is looking for a volunteer to manage this section of the site.

Meeting New Members of the SLF Staff

Jennifer Dawson is the new Web Content Coordinator. She has always had a love of the written word. Her passion for reading inspired her career as a writer and an editor. Concentrating mostly on fantasy works, she occasionally dabbles in science fiction and poetry. Her work has been published online in places like /EOTU Magazine/ and /Flashshot/. She is the owner of Winged Halo Productions <<http://www.wingedhalo.com/info.html>>, a web design and publishing company and Editor-in-Chief of /Flash Me Magazine/ <<http://flashme.wingedhalo.com>>, an online magazine for stories under 1,000 words. She currently resides with her husband and their three children in Illinois.

Malon Edwards is the new Grant Administrator. Malon (pronounced May-lon) was born and raised in Chicago. He is a Media Relations Specialist for a school district in his home state of Illinois and also writes. He's been reading science fiction and astronomy books since he was eight years old, and both fueled his desire to write, especially Frank Herbert's /Dune/. At the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, he majored in Rhetoric with a Creative Writing focus. Malon has had short stories published, both speculative fiction and literary fiction. He is also a freelance writer and contributor to an online underground music magazine. Currently, he's working on a collection of short stories based in a not too distant Chicago. His wife Anne and he have a four year old daughter and a 16 month old son.

Genevieve is also new on staff. She is an academic librarian at a small-ish liberal arts institution in the Northwest and an occasional freelance writer. Recently, Genevieve received her first fiction acceptance notice--the first of many, no doubt--and also writes professional and scholarly articles in her field.

Corie Ralston is the new SLF Managing Director. She is a staff scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab and likes to describe herself as a "customer support scientist." She manages several x-ray crystallography beamlines and helps other scientists collect x-ray data, which is used to solve protein structures. She has always loved reading and writing speculative fiction, and she manages to squeeze in writing time between work, karate, running and fostering high-energy kittens. She has sold stories to /Strange Horizons/, /Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet/, and

a variety of other venues. More details here
<<http://www.sff.net/people/cyralston/>>

New Anthology Available

Gregory Bernard Banks, co-webmaster for the SLF, has a new book due out April 14. /Phoenix Tales: Stories of Death and Life/ (2nd edition), is a newly revised and expanded collection of 21 short stories. The book will be published by Banks' own WheelMan Press. In addition, WheelMan Press has officially launched its website <<http://www.wheelmanpress.com/>>. It not only serves as home for WheelMan Press, but also as a resource supporting all independent presses and the Speculative Fiction field.

The Speculative Literature Foundation is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the interests of readers, writers, editors and publishers in the speculative literature community. "Speculative literature" is a catch-all term meant to inclusively span the breadth of fantastic literature, encompassing literature ranging from hard and soft science fiction to epic fantasy to ghost stories to folk and fairy tales to slipstream to magical realism to modern mythmaking--any literature containing a fabulist or speculative element. More information about the Speculative Literature Foundation is available from its website <<http://www.speculativeliterature.org>> or by writing to info@speculativeliterature.org.

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

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David Lunde, Senior Editor
Rebecca Rowe, Associate Editor