

The Creative Writer

White County Creative Writers

www.whitecountyc creativewriters.org

Five members win 33 awards at Arkansas Writers' Conference

Gary Breezeel took 1st Place in LaViness Award for Living Mystery with "Deception" about a young woman wrongfully committed to an institution who receives help from an unexpected source as she tries to win her freedom; and 1st Place in Del Garrett's Gimme the Creeps Award for "Getaway" about an embezzler who attempts to flee before he is discovered, but encounters unanticipated obstacles on the way. He took 2nd Place in the Camille Lancaster Award for "Why Couldn't I Have Been a Boy?" about a 10-year-old tomboy who finds acceptance from her older brother and his friends after they reluctantly agree to let her join them in a baseball game. He won 3rd Place in Dusty Richards Memorial Award for "Dilemma at Comanche Creek" about a fugitive who flees a determined sheriff through a barren desert and ultimately must decide whether to help the injured lawman or make his escape; and 3rd Place in the Dorothy Truex Memorial Prize Award for "Stalker" about an entertainer who grows increasingly fearful of a man who watches her every night, but eventually finds her dream man. He also won three Honorable Mention Awards: a 1st Honorable Mention Bearly Believable

Award for "Sweet Misfortune" about Stogey the Bear and his raccoon sidekick, Zorro, which have a number of misadventures, including a ranger with a tranquilizer gun and a runaway lawnmower as Stogey attempts to satisfy his sweet tooth; a 2nd Honorable Mention Penpoint Group Contest Award for "Changing of the Guard" about a young journalist assigned to report on the Moonshine Festival in a dry county and witnesses the newly-elected sheriff's roundup of the scofflaws, despite the fact that his elderly aunt is one of the producers and sellers of the illicit product; and 3rd Honorable Mention Wow! Press Award for "Wrong Turn" – an autobiographical story of how his youthful choice to drive the fun, curvy route instead of the straight, level highway led to the wreck of his dad's new car and a permanent knee injury for him.

The Creative Writer

is a monthly newsletter for the White County Creative Writers of Searcy, Ark.

If you have news stories or photos to share, send them to del.garrett.s0ke@gmail.com.

Deadline for reader submission is seven days prior to each month's meeting. WCCW reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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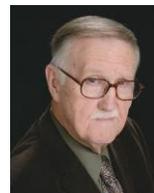
Steve May



Breezeel



Garrett



McPherson



Rodgers



Vernon

Del Garrett won 1st place Carl J. Iannacone Memorial Award for “Christmas in the Tropics with Hope” about a photographer who covered Bob Hope's 1968 Vietnam USO tour; and 1st Place in The Erdel Family Memorial Award for “Murder Under the Bridge” – a cold case crime story involving the discovery of human remains leading to a second murder in Louisiana. He won 2nd Place in the Arkansas Pioneer Branch Poetry Award for “Oh, The Magic Bag” about finding Santa's lost toy bag; and 2nd Place LaVines Award for Living Mystery for “The Girl in the Bath” which is a lost DaVinci painting that some "golden girls" find and discover the greedy art museum director is about to steal, so they foil his plans by stealing it first and returning it to the museum's Board of Directors. He also took 1st Honorable Mention in the Camille Lancaster Award for “Sand Dollars” about a little girl who watches “Mr. Sandman” – a beachcomber who finds a magical sand dollar on the beach and goes to Heaven; and another 1st Honorable Mention, Mistletoe Award, for “A Happy Home” about one of his daughter's dogs who refuses to go back to Texas with her and adopts dear old dad as its new owner. He took 3rd Honorable Mention in the Dusty Richards Memorial Prose Award for “The Fastest Gun” about a poor boy who hates his life and feels everyone picks on him, so he forces another youngster into a gun fight and loses.

John McPherson won a 1st Honorable Mention in Del Garrett's Gimme the Creeps Award for “Number 51” about an orbiting prison (The Big House in the Sky): Number 51 refers to the 51st prisoner assigned to the facility; and 1st Honorable Mention in the Pinpoint Writer's Group Contest for “Moonshine and the Sioux” about a tee-totaling small town newspaper assigned to cover the annual Moonshiner's Convention (disguised as a meeting of still making as a hobby) held in a dry country. The winning entry was constructed by a full blooded Sioux. He won a 2nd Honorable Mention, David Goodgame Memorial Award, for a poem titled “An Old Faded Scar” about cancer surgery a decade ago. He also won a 3rd Honorable Mention, Camille Lancaster Award for “What is Your Name, Little Girl?” – a monologue by a precocious 10-year old girl named Tweed.

Gary Rodgers won 1st Place On The Spot Prose Award for “Survivor” — a short story of a dying, last survivor of 24 on an island. He also won a 2nd Place Dilemma Award for “Race Truck Driver” about a road rage involving the exceptionally slow trucks between Little Rock and Memphis; and a 3rd Place, Del Garrett's Gimme the Creeps Award, for “The Solitary Shoe” about a traveling author's encounter with a shoe on the side of the road. He won a 1st Honorable Mention for True Story-Rescued Pet Award for “Sally” — a short story on life with a rescued Labrador retriever; a 2nd Honorable Mention Bearly Believable Award for “Bobby and the Lollipop” about a bear cub named Bobby that takes a summer job to earn money for a giant lollipop. He Also won a 2nd Honorable Mention LaViness Award for Living Mystery for “Lights Over Little Red” about a man's encounter with unexplained lights over the Little Red river; and a 2nd Honorable Mention in The Erdel Family Memorial Award for “Dead Men Don't Drown” about a local sheriff's accidental drowning being discovered to be murder.

Kim Vernon won the On The Spot Poetry Award for a Minute poem , "The Wall," about a visit to the Vietnam Memorial. She won 1st Place for True Story: Rescued Pet Award for "Gizmo's Best Day Ever" about the day she rescued her dog. She took 2nd Place in Dorothy Truex Memorial Prose Award for "Dancing With Joy," a short story about a couple who meet through dancing lessons, and fall in love; and 2nd Place in South Arkansas Poets of the Pines Award for "F-4" about about a tornado. She won 3rd Place in the Scott Plantation Settlement Award for "The Day Momma Switched the Teacher" about a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse who (*Cont. on next page*)

Master storyteller Joseph Campbell featured on Netflix

Joseph Campbell, was an American professor of literature at Sarah Lawrence College who worked in comparative mythology and comparative religion. His work covers many aspects of the human experience. Campbell's magnum opus is his book *The Hero With a Thousand Faces*, in which he discusses his theory of the journey of the archetypal hero found in world mythologies. Since the book's publication, Campbell's theory has been consciously applied by a wide variety of modern writers and artists. His work discusses the need for modern myths that fit our ever-changing world.

Prior to his death, Campbell was interviewed by noted journalist and former White House Press Secretary (Johnson Administration) Bill Moyers.

The interview took place at George Lucas' Skywalker Ranch and discusses various aspects of how *Star Wars* was modeled along mythological concepts of storytelling. Lucas once stated that had it not been for Campbell, he would still be writing *Star Wars* as in a never finished work.

Campbell is also the basis for Christopher Vogler's *The Writer's Journey* which details how to create mythic characters, set the scenes and create the epic quest seen in so many adventure books and movies.

Moyers asked probing questions answered in six segments titled: *The Hero's Adventure*, *The Message of the Myth*, *The First Storytellers*, *Sacrifice and Bliss*, *Love and Goddess*, and *Masks of Eternity*.

AWC Awards (Cont.)

got schooled by a parent. She took 2nd Honorable Mention in the Dusty Richards Memorial Prose Award for "An Honorable Cattle Rustler" about a rustler who has a change of heart and turns on his fellow-outlaws. She also won a 3rd Honorable Mention in The Erdel Family Memorial Award for "Ready, Set, Gone," a murder mystery where the body of a missing child is found and her killer arrested years after her disappearance.

Writers' Block? Can't get started? Maybe you need a bit of prompting

If you're looking at a blank computer screen and can't make the words to your Great American Novel appear, try writing less challenging pieces from the following list. These can be saved as future contests stories, or sent to a magazine somewhere. The psychological push is like priming the pump and start your brain working again:

1. **Nostalgia pieces** – Take a trip down memory lane. What was fun or exciting...or dangerous?
2. **How Toozies** – Do you have an interesting hobby? Tell people about it and how they can do it.
3. **Cooking** – Everybody loves to eat. Tell what's really in that fancy restaurant's "secret sauce" that tastes so good.
4. **Exotic Travel** – Go to world-wide attractions on a shoestring budget.

**Bring stories and poems
for a read around for the
June meeting. Limit
three pages.**

Next meeting

June 18. 6:30 p.m.,
Simmons First Bank,
401 South Main Street
in Searcy.