

## **THE EUGENE BUTLER SCHOLARSHIP IN CREATIVE WRITING (\$3,000 per year)**

### **Who may apply?**

The Butler Scholarship is for graduate students and upper-class undergraduates who are interested in studying creative writing at Mississippi State University. Winners must be enrolled at MSU to receive money. Priority will be given to candidates who are entering graduate school at MSU or who are transferring to MSU from a community college. If there are no satisfactory candidates in these categories, the competition will be opened to students who are already at MSU and who have demonstrated an interest in and talent for creative writing. There is no restriction on the major course of study; winners must simply be interested in continuing their work in creative writing and take one course in it each year.

### **Are these scholarships renewable?**

Yes, ordinarily these scholarships are for two years. You must maintain a B in at least one of the several eligible writing courses each year and demonstrate a continuing interest in improving creative writing skills. All undergraduates must maintain an overall Quality Point Average of 2.5 with a full load and make normal progress toward a degree; graduate students must maintain a 3.0 and make normal degree progress.

### **How do I apply?**

First, submit the normal application for admission to Mississippi State University.

Second, **by March 15**, submit the following:

- 1) A letter of about five hundred words to Professor Becky Hagenston and Dr. Catherine Pierce, Chairs, Eugene Butler Scholarship Committee, explaining why you are applying for this

scholarship. This letter should summarize your writing experience and outline your goals, even if they are tentative, and should reflect your best writing.

2) An original manuscript consisting of at least 10 and no more than 30 pages of fiction or poetry or both. Poems should be single spaced; prose should be double spaced.

Applications should be emailed to Professor Becky Hagenston and Dr. Catherine Pierce (emails below). Please include all application materials (letter, all parts of manuscript) in **one document**. PDFs or Word documents are both fine.

### **How will scholarship recipients be chosen?**

Applications will be assessed by the creative writing faculty at Mississippi State. As long as you are qualified for normal admission to the University, other factors such as test scores and course transcripts will not be major considerations. If, however, you are awarded a University Scholarship in the amount of \$4000 or more, you cannot be considered further for a Eugene Butler Scholarship. Winners of the Scholarships will be notified by April 1st. For further information, email Becky Hagenston (bhagenston@english.msstate.edu) or Catherine Pierce (cpierce@english.msstate.edu).

### **REMEMBER, THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 15TH.**

### **About the Eugene Butler Scholarship in Creative Writing**

In 1984, novelist and screenwriter Thomas Hal Phillips began a campaign to fund a series of scholarships for students talented in creative writing. He believed that standardized tests sometimes do not identify all the students with high potential, and that skill in creative writing indicates a special kind of intelligence with practical application in many fields.

Since 1984, Mr. Phillips' ideas have found substantial support. In the fall of 1986, with a major contribution by Mr. Eugene Butler, former Editor-in-Chief and President of the company that publishes *Progressive Farmer* and *Southern Living*, we were able to offer the first scholarship of this series.