

Life

FOCUS ON THE POSITIVE

Local writers honored in annual story contest



Sharon Short
Sanity Check

This spring marks the 16th year of the annual Dayton Daily News Short Story Contest (and the second year that the contest has been co-sponsored with Antioch Writers' Workshop).

All stories were read by at least three judges before entries were narrowed down to a final round. Judges read finalists multiple times before selecting the winning entries. In all, 16 judges from the Dayton Daily News and Antioch Writers' Workshop communities read the entries – more than 100 in the adult division, as well as 50-plus teen entries and 50-plus youth entries.

Thank you to all who entered. As one of the 16 judges, I feel I'm safe to speak on every judge's behalf and say that we enjoyed reading your work and are honored that you shared it with us. Keep writing!

We talked with the interviews with the winners in the Adult and Teen categories.

Rob Boley, First Place Adult/Best in Show winner

Boley grew up in Enon, graduated from Greenon High School and then Wright State University in 1999. Shortly after, he started working for the Boonshoft School of Medicine at Wright State, doing special events and alumni relations. Boley earned his MA in English from Wright State in 2005, the same year his daughter was born. He continues to work at Wright State, now in the University Development offices.

Q: Where did your idea come from for "Bump?"

A: The story started with the notion of a ghost haunting a physical body, rather than a house or other man-made structure. I remember thinking how it's not just places that we cling to, but more often it's people. So, it just makes sense that a ghost would haunt a person,

READ WINNERS ONLINE

You can read the winning stories of the Dayton Daily News/Antioch Writers' Workshop Short Story Contest at DaytonDailyNews.com/lifestyle and the Antioch Writers' Workshop website at www.antiochwritersworkshop.com.

but why do it? Clearly, the two big reasons would be out of love or hate. Hate seemed too obvious, too easy. Love was more interesting. From there, the story mostly wrote itself.

Q: Is this the first story you've written, or have you been writing for awhile? Writing goals?

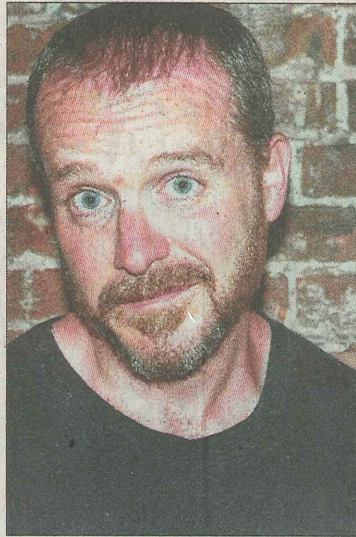
A: Through college and my 20s, I wrote mostly poetry. But after my daughter was born in 2005, it was like something popped in my brain. I suddenly had all these stories to tell. My short fiction has been published in A Cappella Zoo, Day Terrors Anthology, Necrotic Tissue and Pseudopod, and is forthcoming in Clackamas Literary Review and Best New Werewolf Tales. As for my writing goals, I'd just like to someday walk into a bookstore and find one of my books on the shelf. Simple as that!

Heidi Yarger, First Place Teen Winner

Yarger, 17, was born in the Dayton area and attends the Miami Valley School, where she started an Ornithology Club because of her passion for nature.

Q: Where did your idea come from for your story?

A: I took a class at school last spring based on the genre Slipstream, or Strange Fiction. I had been interested in the genre for a while. One of my favorite authors, Karen Russell, published a novel called "St. Lucy's Home for Girls Raised by Wolves" that has been an immense inspiration for me and in how I write. For this story, I wanted to do something based off of fairy-tale characters, but I wanted to hold on to the dark, eerie aspect of what I believe to be the mark of a true fable or fairy-tale.



Rob Boley, First Place Adult/Best in Show winner

Q: Is this the first story you've written, or have you been writing for awhile?

A: I have been writing for a while. Although this story was initially for a class, I write whenever I have spare time. I started periodically writing short stories starting in middle school. I always keep a journal by my bed. I wake up and write at odd hours of the night.

List of winners

Winners of this year's Dayton Daily News/Antioch Writers' Workshop Short Story contest are:

Youth division (12 and younger)

1st place: Emily West, age 11, "Room for Change," Springboro

2nd place: Lauren Conroy, age 12, "My Friend Mary," Centerville

3rd place: Adam Valenti, age 12, "The Cemetery in the Woods," Farmersville

Teen division (13-18)

1st place: Heidi Yarger, age 17, "You Aren't a Horror Movie, You Aren't a Fairy-Tale," Miami Valley School

2nd place: James Rick, age 17, "Mr. Capsule A-3," Beavercreek

3rd place: Matthew Loxley, age 15, "Sharks and Minnows," Fairborn

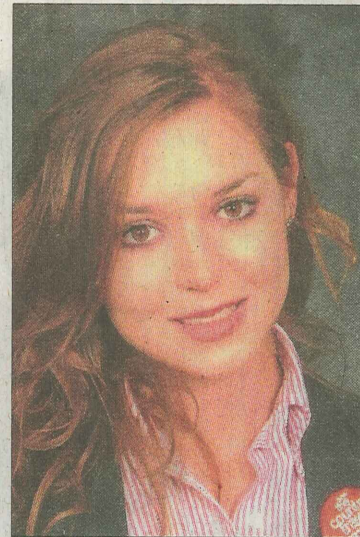
Honorable mention: Francesca Brecha, age 14, "Julie, Not Juliet," Yellow Springs

Adult Division (19 and older)

1st place and Best in Show:

Rob Boley, "Bump," Kettering

2nd place: Wes Bshop, "Fat



Heidi Yarger, First Place Teen Winner

Chance," Kettering

3rd place: Kai Cooley, "Stalker," Yellow Springs

Other Literary Life news

Young Writers' Scholarships: Antioch Writers' Workshop offers an opportunity for Young Writers (those entering 10th, 11th or 12th grade in fall 2012, or ages 15-18) to attend the Full Week workshop July 7-13 at Antioch University Midwest. Open to Young Writers in the greater Dayton area, the program provides scholarships that cover more than half of the regular cost of attending. Young writers must submit a three-page writing sample and a letter of recommendation to be considered; application deadline is May 29. Details: See the Young Writers page of the Antioch Writers' Workshop website (www.antiochwritersworkshop.com).

Today, 2:00-3:30, at Books & Co. at The Greene: Ron Rollins, associate editor of the Dayton Daily News and contributing editor for Ohio Magazine, will share tips and techniques on how to freelance for newspapers and magazines. This free event is cosponsored by the Antioch Writers' Workshop and Books & Co.

Sharon Short is the author of the novel "My One Square Inch of Alaska," to be published by Penguin Plume in February 2013, and the director of the Antioch Writers' Workshop. Contact Sharon at www.sharonshort.com or e-mail sharonshort@sharonshort.com.

BEST SELLERS

Hardcover Fiction

1. DEADLOCKED, by Charlaine Harris. (Ace, \$27.95.)
2. THE WIND THROUGH THE KEYHOLE, by Stephen King. (Scribner, \$27.)
3. THE INNOCENT, by David Baldacci. (Grand Central, \$27.99.)
4. CALICO JOE, by John Grisham. (Doubleday, \$24.95.)
5. THE WITNESS, by Nora Roberts. (Putnam, \$27.95.)

Hardcover Non-fiction

1. THE PASSAGE OF POWER, by Robert A. Caro. (Knopf, \$35.)
2. MY CROSS TO BEAR, by Gregg Allman with Alan Light. (Morrow/HarperCollins, \$27.99.)
3. LOTS OF CANDLES, PLENTY OF CAKE, by Anna Quindlen. (Random House, \$26.)
4. PRAGUE WINTER, by Madeleine Albright with Bill Woodward. (Harper/HarperCollins, \$29.99.)
5. THE POWER OF HABIT, by Charles Duhigg. (Random House, \$28.)

Paperback Nonfiction

1. HEAVEN IS FOR REAL, by Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent. (Thomas Nelson, \$16.99.)
2. BOSSYPANTS, by Tina Fey. (Back Bay/Little, Brown, \$15.99.)
3. THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS, by Rebecca Skloot. (Broadway, \$16.)
4. THE NEW JIM CROW, by Michelle Alexander. (New Press, \$19.95.)
5. MOONWALKING WITH EINSTEIN, by Joshua Foer. (Penguin, \$16.)

Trade Fiction

1. FIFTY SHADES OF GREY, by E.L. James. (Vintage, \$15.95.)
2. FIFTY SHADES DARKER, by E.L. James. (Vintage, \$15.95.)
3. FIFTY SHADES FREED, by E.L. James. (Vintage, \$15.95.)
4. THE LUCKY ONE, by Nicholas Sparks. (Grand Central, \$13.99.)
5. ABRAHAM LINCOLN: VAMPIRE HUNTER, by Seth Grahame-Smith. (Grand Central, \$13.99.)

Mass Market

1. THE LUCKY ONE, by Nicholas Sparks. (Grand Central, \$7.99.)
2. BURIED PREY, by John Sandford. (Berkley, \$9.99.)
- 3(x). SUNRISE POINT, by Robyn Carr. (Mira, \$7.99.)
4. THE FIFTH WITNESS, by Michael Connelly. (Vision, \$9.99.)
5. A GAME OF THRONES, by George R.R. Martin. (Bantam, \$8.99.)