

Gannon University and the Erie County Poet Laureate Initiative

2009-2010 High School Poetry Contests

Gannon University's English Department is sponsoring its **33rd Annual High School Poetry Contest**. This year, as part of Erie County's Poet Laureate initiative, *there is a separate contest for high school students who live in Erie County.* In each contest, students may win **\$100.00** for first place, **\$75.00** for second place, or **\$50.00** for third place, in addition to a signed book of poems by our featured Awards Night speaker, **Billy Collins**. Poems may also be awarded Honorable Mention.

The enclosed flier describes the procedures for entering each contest. The deadline for submissions is **February 1, 2010**. **Teachers, please make copies of the flier to distribute to all English faculty at your school, to post on your school bulletin boards, and to use in your student newspaper.**

Winners will be announced and awards given at the English Department's

AWARDS NIGHT
Tuesday, April 20th, 2010
7:30 p.m.
The Yehl Room / Waldron Campus Center

Our speaker for this event is poet:

Billy Collins

Billy Collins was U.S. Poet Laureate from 2001 until 2003 and was New York Poet Laureate from 2004 until 2006. His many awards include the Oscar Blumenthal Prize, the Bess Hopkins Prize, the Frederick Bock Prize, and the Levinson Prize. Collins is also the recipient of the Poetry Foundation's Mark Twain Award for humorous poetry. He was named "Poet of the Year" in 1994 by Poetry Magazine and is a distinguished professor of English at Lehman College of the City University of New York.

Collins has published nine collections of poetry, including Questions about Angels, Sailing Alone Around the Room, and Ballistics. His poems have appeared in journals such as The New Yorker, The Paris Review, and The American Scholar and have been selected for the Pushcart Prize anthology and the Best American Poetry series.

Collins is known for giving dynamic performances to a variety of audiences. According to Bruce Weber of The New York Times (1999), Collins has a skill for "building a rare bridge of admiration for his work between a serious literary fold and poetry novitiates."

This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit www.gannon.edu/resource/dept/english/. You may also call Berwyn Moore, Associate Professor of English, at (814) 871-7504 or email her at moore001@gannon.edu if you have questions.