

2005 Texas Institute of Letters Call for Entries
For works published in 2005*
Entry deadline JANUARY 9, 2006

Rules and Judges

Entries are to be sent directly to each judge for the competition entered. **Do not send entries to the TIL address.** Write "For TIL Award" on the outside of the submission. A writer may have only one work entered in a category; no work may be submitted in more than one category; different works by the same author may be submitted in different categories. All works entered must have been first published during 2005. Clear photographic reproductions of the publication are acceptable for articles but not books. Each entry should be accompanied by a statement of the entrant's eligibility: birth in Texas or two years consecutive residence in the state at some time. A work whose subject matter substantially concerns Texas is also eligible. Those competing for the translation award should send the chair of the committee a copy of the original, published book-length text unless the published translation submitted is presented in a bilingual format.

Each entry should include the entrant's address, e-mail address, and phone number. Winners and finalists will be notified in late February or early March 2005, and the winners will be announced at the Spring banquet. Banquet announcements and newspaper articles cover the winners; no other notifications will be sent. The TIL reserves the right to withhold an award if the committee and the president consider that appropriate.

For additional copies of the list see the TIL web site at:
<http://www.wtamu.edu/til/>

Carr P. Collins Award for Best Book of Nonfiction (\$5000)

Mark Busby, Chair
Southwest Regional Humanities Center
Center for the Study of the Southwest
Texas State University
San Marcos, TX 78666
(must write "For TIL Award" on package)

Carol Hatfield
3404 Northwood Circle
Austin, TX 78703-1070

Clay Smith
Texas Book Festival
610 Brazos, Ste. 200
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 472-3808
(must write "For TIL Award" on package)

Helen C. Smith Memorial Award for Best Book of Poetry (\$1000)

Isabel Nathaniel, Chair
18040 Midway Rd., #215
Dallas, TX 75287

Daniel Rifenburg
1921 W. 15th St.
Houston, TX 77008

William Wenthe
2828 24th St.
Lubbock, TX 79410

Fred Whitehead Award for Best Design of a Trade Book (\$750)

David Lindsey, Chair
1102 Kennan Road
Austin, TX 78746

Jean Rather
45 East 80th Street
New York, NY 10021

Charles J. Lohrmann
3710 Bridle Path
Austin, TX 78703

Jesse Jones Award for Best Work of Fiction (\$6000) and Steven Turner Award for Best Work of First Fiction (\$1000)

C.W. Smith, Chair
Dept of English PO Box 0435
SMU
Dallas, TX 75275

Greg Garrett
Department of English
Baylor University
Waco, TX 76798-7404

Sandra Scofield
107 Bentley Park Loop
Missoula, MT 59801

Kay Cattarulla Award for Best Short Story (\$750)

Lisa Sandlin, Chair
819 Lincoln St.
Wayne, NE 68787

Bret Anthony Johnston
2772 Belmont Ave
San Bernardino, CA 92407

Tracy Daugherty
118 NW 21st St.
Corvallis OR 97330

**Friends of the Austin Public Library Award for
Best Children's Book (\$500) and
Best Young Adult Book (\$500)**

Jane Roberts Wood, Chair
567 North Argyle Road
Argyle, TX 76226

Bryan Woolley
18040 Midway Rd. #215
Dallas, TX 75287

Karen Hoover
PO Box 843081
Richmond VA
23219

**Friends of the Dallas Public Library Award for Book Making the Most Significant
Contribution to Knowledge (\$1000)**

Darwin Payne, Chair
9021 Gunnison Dr.
Dallas, TX 75231

Robin Doughty
Dept. of Geography
University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas 78712

Kenneth L. Untiedt
Dept. of English
Stephen F. Austin State University
P.O. Box 13007, SFA Station
Nacogdoches, TX 75962-3007

**Stanley Walker Award for Best Work of Newspaper Journalism Appearing in Newspaper
or Sunday Supplement (\$1000)**

Gary M. Lavergne, Chair
P.O. Box 7052
Austin, Texas 78713-7052

Carol Moczygemba
600 Texas Ave.
Austin, Texas 78705

Anita Bunkley
3554 Ashfield Drive
Houston, Texas 77082

John Bloom Humor Award for the Funniest Texas Book (\$1000)

Marsh Terry, Chair
SMU
English Dept
PO Box 750435
Dallas Tx 75275

Katy Vine
Texas Monthly
P O Box 1569
Austin Tx 78767-1569

Mike Nichols
6313 Purington Avenue
Fort Worth Tx 76112-5551

**O. Henry Award for Best Work of Magazine
Journalism (\$1000)**

Tom Dodge, Chair
302 Stiles Drive
Midlothian, TX 76065

Hugh Aynesworth
3828 Townsend Drive
Dallas, TX 75229

Steve Blow
The Dallas Morning News
Box 655237
Dallas, TX 75265

Soeurette Diehl Fraser Award for Best Translation of a Book (\$1000)

Bryce Milligan, Chair
627 E. Guenther
San Antonio, TX 78210

Elizabeth Miller
5418 Meadow Crest
Dallas, TX 75229

Philip Boehm
7141 Stanford Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63130

News of Members and Others

A half-page photograph of **Jean Andrews** holding two red Cubanelle peppers up by her ears appeared in the *Houston Chronicle*, accompanied by a review complete with recipes of her latest work on peppers—*The Pepper Cookbook: 200 Recipes from the Pepper Lady's Kitchen*, from UNT Press. It was a “beam me up, Scotty,” sort of photograph in full color of the irrepressible **Jean**. *The Alcalde* also announced that **Jean**, a Distinguished Alumna of UT, had the new cookbook out. In the same issue, there is a piece on **Liz Carpenter** and her philosophies. **Liz** says, “I think the keys to success are sharing and having a generous heart and a sense of humor. . . . I’m 84 years old and still earning my own living. . . . I want to keep on writing as long as I can and sell my words.”

Liz Carpenter also hosted what she describes as “a midsummer night’s watermelon thump” at her Austin home to honor her pal Carol Channing and Carol’s husband of 2 years, Harry Kullijian. Alan Peppard reports in the *Dallas Morning News* that the couple were high school sweethearts but broke it off at her mother’s insistence. They reunited in their 80s after she wrote about him in her memoirs. **Liz**, who’s known for her love of hot tubbing, has asked guests to dress “nearly naked,” and join in for “a watermelon seed spitting contest.”

Laura Wilson had the tables turned on her in the latest edition of F!D in the *Dallas Morning News*. Photographs of **Laura** in her foyer surrounded by photographs was the lead in a piece detailing her new book, *Avedon at Work: In the American West*. “She shadowed the Shadower,” **Larry McMurtry** writes in the book’s forward, “and showed us as much as can be shown of how his work was done.” **Laura** worked as researcher and Avedon’s assistant on his project of photographing the American West. The Dallas Historical Society, celebrating its 25th anniversary of presenting Awards for Excellence, has announced that **Laura Wilson**, will receive the Creative Arts Award. “Her reputation as a museum-level photographer of the American scene and her status as a go-to photographer for several international magazine covers has made her a name on two continents.”

Prudence Mackintosh has received the Pro Bene Meritis Award which honors individuals who are committed to the liberal arts, who have made outstanding contributions in professional or philanthropic pursuits or who have participated in service related to the College of Liberal Arts at The University of Texas at Austin. The headline reads: “**Prudence Mackintosh**: Tackling Life with Humor and Panache.”

L. D. and **LaVerne Harrell Clark** are scheduled to appear on the “Langdon Week-End of Readings by Authors/Photographers at the Langdon Center in Granbury in celebration of the 2005 issue of *The Langdon Review*, the new literary magazine, published by Tarleton State University. The new issue is spotlighting the **Clarks** and their work. The **Clarks** will also be reading and signing at the Bandera Book Festival. **LaVerne** had an essay entitled “Mari Sandoz & Her Legacy,” with her photos, appear in the Summer issue of *Whispering Wind*.

Mike Campbell, Regents’s Professor at UNT, edited *Frederick Law Olmsted’s A Journey through Texas, Or A Saddle Trip on the Southwestern Frontier* (The Library of Texas. Degolyer Library & William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies at SMU.) He published a chapter,

“The First African-American Public Officials in Texas: Voter Registrars in 1867,” in Donald Willet and Stephen Curley (eds.) *Invisible Texans: Women and Minorities in Texas*, McGraw Hill.

Donald Chipman, Professor Emeritus at UNT, had his most recent book, *Moctezuma’s Children: Aztec under Spanish Rule, 1520–1700*, published by the University of Texas Press.

Judy Alter does it again, turning in a sterling column of The Art of Writing for Kids, in the *Dallas Morning News*. **Judy** writes about **Jane Roberts Wood’s**, *Mocha, the Real Doctor*; **Bryan Woolley’s** *Home Is Where the Cat Is* and *Mr. Green’s Marvelous Machine*; **Joyce Roach’s** *Cowgirl of the Rocking R* and *Horned Toad Canyon*.

Joe R. Lansdale’s *A Fine Dark Line*, about a boy “consumed by the contents of an old tin box that carries the secrets of a small town’s past,” was sold to Traveling Light producer Adam Friedman, who will also direct.

Bill Minutaglio’s *Beyond Humble*, a biography of U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, sold to Rene Alegria at Harper, for publication in English and Spanish in summer 2006, by David Hale Smith of DHS Literary.

Thomas Zigal’s *The White League*, a thriller that “probes the dark, fuming underbelly of New Orleans,” sold to producer Jonathan Bogner, by Bill Contardi at Brandt & Hochman.

Robert Miller’s column in the *Dallas Morning News* reports that “A compelling piece by noted Western author **Elmer Kelton** of San Angelo on the history of cattle ranching in the state,” is one of the feature articles in the new sesquicentennial edition of the *Texas Almanac*.

Lynn Hoggard, in Tampere, Finland, for a meeting of the International Federation of Translators was elected to the Board of Directors of that group.

Reviewed in *Publishers Weekly*:

Naomi Shihab Nye, *You and Yours* reviewed, “Redemptive moments and struggling households from south Texas to the Middle East dominate the ample, likable latest collection from the prolific **Nye**, whose Palestinian-American heritage forms part of the staging of these poems....Part one covers **Nye’s** personal experience at home with her child in San Antonio....Witty prose poems alternate with clean-lined, moving verse reminiscent at times of Stanley Kunitz. Part two covers the Middle East with compassion, considering the blameless citizens for whom “to be able to say/ this is a day and I live in it safely,’ for those I love, was all.”

Steven G. Kellman, *Redemption: The Life of Henry Roth*, “The obvious hurdle in writing a biography of Roth is the 60-year gap between his first novel . . . and his second. **Kellman**, an English professor and author of seven previous scholarly works, makes a strong case against writer’s block as the reason for the long silence....Instead he suggests Roth . . . withdrew from writing rather than allow his autobiographical fiction to confront his worst adolescent shames. . . . **Kellman** gives readers a thoughtful and objective perspective on Roth’s life.”

Rick Riordan, *The Lightning Thief*, “A clever concept drives **Riordan’s** highly charged children’s book debut (the first in a series): the Greek Gods still rule, though now from a Mt. Olympus on the 600th floor of the Empire State Building, and their offspring, demigods, live

among human beings. . . . Without sacrificing plot or pacing, **Riordan** integrates a great deal of mythology into the tale and believably places mythical characters into modern times, often with hilarious results. . . . This swift and humorous adventure will leave many readers eager for the next installment.

H. W. Brands received a starred review in *PW* for his *Andrew Jackson: A Life and Times*. “Historian **Brands**, author of the bestselling *The First American: The Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin*, now turns to Andrew Jackson, illuminating both the mettle of a fascinating leader and the crucible in which American democracy was forged. . . . **Brands** argues that the populist Jackson changed the very nature of the presidency, vetoing more bills than all six of his predecessors combined; thwarting the bank of the United States; and . . . preparing for civil war when South Carolina threatened to secede over tariffs. . . . **Brands** meticulously renders Jackson’s life, his ugly massacres of Indians as well as his triumphs, with unflinching detail. He also conveys the vagaries of war, life on the frontier, the perilous state of the union and the brassknuckles politics of the day. The result is a bracing, human portrait of . . . a remarkable man and of American democracy. Agent for the book is Jim Hornfischer.

Marion Winik’s *Above Us Only Sky: Essays by Marion Winik* “intertwined humor and poignancy of life’s exigencies in this earthy essay collection, taking stock of moments from childhood to motherhood and reliving them with relish. . . . As she traces her path from New Jersey to Austin, Tex., to rural Pennsylvania, she brings her forthrightness and wit to bear on topics from blended family life to her religious ambivalence.”

Edgar finalist **Jay Brandon’s** *Running with the Dead: A Chris Sinclair Novel* is called “compelling . . . high on legal twists and turns” in a mystery with a student charging rape, affairs with fellow teachers, deadly beatings, school administrators as suspects, and stalking of lawyer Chris Sinclair himself. “Provides intelligent entertainment for lovers of courtroom drama.”

Elmer Kelton’s *Six Bits a Day* has Hewey Calloway, a fun-loving cowboy who can’t shoot straight, his younger brother, Walter, a serious cowboy who, much to Hewey’s horror, wants to marry a pretty girl and become a farmer, hiring on with Mr. C. C. Tarpley for six bits a day. **Kelton** gives us a friendly Texas Ranger, a cattle drive from San Antonio to the Pecos, cattle stealing, range feuding between two cattle barons, rival gangs of cowboys who would rather get drunk together and let their bosses fight, add in some of Hewey’s pranks and his smart mouth, and you have **Kelton** “riding high again.”

Other Reviews and News

Tracy Daugherty’s latest collection of short stories and a novella, *Late in the Standoff*, “offers engaging blends of characters and relationships set in Texas and Oklahoma in the late 20th century,” according to the *Dallas Morning News*. In the same issue, **Kinky Friedman’s** *Texas Hold ‘Em*, is described as a wide-ranging collection of essays and observations about Texas and Texans, and an “Outrageous Winner.” **Kinky Friedman** also, according to *The New Yorker*, has made a campaign tour of the Lone Star state and is off and running for governor. He has T-shirts emblazoned with “Kinky 2006: Why The Hell Not?” **Kinky** declared that if he wins the first thing he will do is demand a recount. It might also be interesting to be able to say, “Our governor is Kinky.”

Gemini Ink invites teachers to get inspired with poet **Naomi Shihab Nye**, Oct. 8, 2005, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., and

Work and Play: Writing Our Ways Together, a class to inspire educators, enlarge confidence, answer questions about the writing experience with students.

In the August 7, 2005, edition of the *Dallas Morning News*, Betty Wiesepeape “sets the record straight on” J. Frank Dobie, who was NOT a founder of TIL. Now you know.

The *NYT* will add fiction to a new section in its Sunday magazine, focusing on genre fiction (“mysteries, detective stories, and the like, which is having a particularly vibrant moment in popular culture just now”). The first 14-part serialized original work is by Elmore Leonard. The section is called, for some reason, “The Funny Pages.”

TIL has some members, one in particular, who go crazy every August in the unrelenting Texas heat. They defy all reason and logic and warnings from others. Here is a note from one of them: “I thought I’d report in and let you know that all went well in yesterday’s Hotter’n Hell Hundred. Feeling the vibes were right, I decided to go the hundred-mile route and felt great doing it. The temperature was mostly right, and the humidity, high though it was, didn’t bother me, and I sailed home the last 15 miles fast, zipping along at better than 30 mph for a good spell and cruising along at 20 or better for another neatly sustained spell. I know, too, how inspirational you’ve been through the years in encouraging me in this fine endeavor, and knew you’d want to know that all turned out well. . . . Turns out, too, that the 100-mile route was really 101.7 miles long, but that wasn’t a real concern because I pedaled the three miles to the starting line to begin with then pedaled myself back home feeling, as they say, right good. All best, **Jim Hoggard**” I rest my case.—Ed.

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Nat’l Book Festival September 24, 2005

Some 80 writers and artists are scheduled to appear at the fifth annual National Book Festival officials at the Library of Congress announced. Organizers hope to draw 100,000 bibliophiles to the Mall during the day-long festival; attendance has climbed steadily since the first festival was held in 2001 with a crowd of 25,000. The festival is a pet project of first lady Laura Bush, who started a similar event in Texas when her husband was governor. She is the official hostess and suggests to the organizers which authors to invite. TIL members listed on the web site are: **Pat Mora, Andrew Hudgins.**

Texas Book Festival October 28-30, 2005

TIL members noted on the web site as being authors attending are: **H. W. Brands, Kinky Friedman, Jan Reid, Carlton Stowers, Marion Winik, Tom Zigal.** The 2005 Bookend Award winners, Sandra Cisneros, T.R. Fehrenbach and Cormac McCarthy, will be honored at the Festival’s Opening Ceremony on October 29.

Jerry Bradley announces the Pop Culture meeting 2006 SW/TX PCA/ACA conference will be held February 8 – 11, 2006, at the Albuquerque Hyatt Regency Conference Hotel. **Jerry** is putting together the creative writing readings for the conference (<http://www.swtexaspca.org>). The submission deadline is November 15. See the SWPCA/ACA website for participant fees and information or get in touch with Jerry at jerry.bradley@lamar.edu.

Encourage graduate students to submit to the Jerry Bradley Award in creative writing, which is presented to the graduate student who writes the best creative writing prepared for a SW/TX PCA

meeting. The Award includes a prize of \$100 and inclusion in the conference Proceedings. The deadline for receipt of papers is January 10, 2006. To submit papers for the Bradley Award, contact:

Professor Jill Patterson
English Department
Box 43091
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, TX 79409-3091
Phone: 806-742-2500 Ext. 249
jill.patterson@ttu.ed

Jerry is also chair for the Creative Writing-Fiction sessions for the PCA/ACA national conference to be held April 12–16, 2006, at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel. Deadline for submissions to the national conference is not yet posted but is likely to be November 1, 2005. <http://www.h-net.org/~pcaaca>.

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Katrina and Publishers and Writers

The AAP circulated the following letter from the sales manager at New Orleans' Pelican Publishing

All of us at Pelican would like to thank everyone in the bookselling and publishing community for the words of support that we've received in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Phone calls from customers, fellow publishers and others have been coming in, and are a great support to us.

Based on the reports we have received, we believe that our community on the West Bank of New Orleans in Gretna may not have experienced the massive flooding affecting central New Orleans on the East Bank due to the levee breaches. We are hopeful that our facility and inventory may not have experienced great damage. . . .

With the situation in New Orleans so volatile, we are working closely with our wholesale and retail partners out of the area. Ingram, Baker and Taylor, and other wholesalers have a significant inventory of Pelican titles, so retail customers can contact their usual wholesale supplier for our books. We ask all our customers, retail and wholesale, to hold returns for the moment. As you can imagine, there is simply no way to receive them for the immediate future. . . .

We have been in touch with some staff members via their home email accounts, but not all, and of course we are very concerned about the rest. . . . there are many, many staff with whom we are not in contact.

. . . This storm did come up on us as a bit of a surprise. It was originally not predicted to affect the area. When the storm track shifted west, it was a Friday night, and many New Orleanians were at the Saints preseason game or otherwise letting the good times roll. This general state of ignorance continued even until Saturday, and when the magnitude of the threat became apparent, there was a mad scramble just to get out of town as soon as possible. . . . some Pelican staff members needed from 12–17 hours to get from New Orleans to Baton Rouge, a distance of about 88 miles. So once the community was aware of the threat, most people focused on one thing and one thing only: getting themselves and their loved ones out as soon as possible.

We are concerned not only about our staff members but also our many authors who live in New Orleans, and indeed across Southeastern Louisiana and the entire Gulf Coast. We're concerned about our retail and wholesale partners in the area; these are not only our business associates but our friends. We hope they, their families, and their loved ones are safe. We intend

to be up and running as quickly as we can. We thank you again for your concerns, for your prayers, and for your support.

Best,

Joseph Billingsley, Sales Manager

Helping Hands

John Grisham is donating \$5 million to create the Rebuild the Coast Fund Organization to help uninsured people from Mississippi . . . rebuild homes and businesses. He commented: "We don't normally publicize gifts. It's something we keep extremely private. But in these very, very rare circumstances—this tragic time—we hope the gift will get some attention and inspire other people to contribute money and help our fellow Mississippians on the Gulf Coast."

Scholastic announced a \$100,000 cash donation and indicated: "Scholastic Education and Scholastic Library Publishing divisions will make in-kind donations of books and other curriculum materials to local area schools receiving displaced students. The Company will work closely with the state departments of education in the affected region to assess their immediate and long-term needs for educational materials that will be so important in helping restore normalcy to children's lives."

Scholastic also plans to help coordinate "school-based initiatives that will result in extensive donations of books during the long recovery and rebuilding effort ahead."

The American Library Association has an extensive page with status reports from libraries all over the affected areas, along with some requests identifying libraries' greatest needs, e.g. the state library of Louisiana really needs printers and computers to help evacuees search for information and print and file assistance forms.

The Texas Library Association is collecting financial donations, which can be earmarked for libraries in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi.

Random House also announced that they will make a \$500,000 donation to the American Red Cross's Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund, along with matching employee contributions to "qualified relief aid organizations." Additionally, Random House Children's Books is donating 250,000 copies of their titles to First Book, "the great organization which is distributing reading to kids in the hardest-hit areas."

First Book currently indicates on their web site that they are "providing books to children affected by Hurricane Katrina. Every \$5 donated to First Book will be matched with 1 book that will go to children in the devastated areas." Organization head Kyle Zimmer has been speaking to major publishers about taking a lead role in organizing a national book drive, with the goal of collecting 5 million books. Their plan is to distribute books widely to people currently in shelters, school systems taking in displaced children, and the schools and libraries that will need to rebuild their collections.

Borders is seeking information on 11 employees still missing after Hurricane Katrina, and has signs posted in company stores throughout the Gulf coast area. They've closed six stores in Mississippi and Louisiana, and "will continue to pay employees who can't work because their stores are gone and is offering help through an employee assistance foundation," according to the *Detroit News*.

With refugees fanning out across the country, support efforts are underway all over. Two women

in Houston have arranged for local Borders and Waldenbooks locations to serve as collection points for book donations for the tens of thousands of people currently housed in the Astrodome, hoping to deliver fresh books to the center every Saturday. Contact/delivery info:

Operation Books for Refugees from Katrina

c/o Borders Books

3025 Kirby

Houston, TX 77098

713.524.0200

Hurricane Katrina and Southern UPs

A Letter from LSU Press

Dear Colleagues,

A message to update you on the situation in Baton Rouge. First, grateful thanks to all of you for the outpouring of messages of concern, support, and encouragement. We appreciate each of them, and they mean so much.

The city of Baton Rouge was spared from the fury of the storm: the worst that has happened is that several of us have been without electricity at home. We've had no flooding, with the accompanying horrors, and we all have water, gas, and good health. Everyone here is fine, and all their family members are accounted for. So we feel very lucky indeed.

Of course, like you, we see the devastating images from New Orleans, and we feel absolutely heartbroken and powerless. Individually and collectively, we're trying to do what we can to help, but the lack of forward progress frustrates us all.

Baton Rouge has taken in many, especially the sick, who were trapped in New Orleans. Some have been brought downtown and others to the LSU campus, so classes will not resume until Tuesday, though we at the Press are at work. LSU is working to accommodate students transferring from Tulane and the University of New Orleans, so the enrollment will be somewhat larger.

In fact, the population of Baton Rouge has literally doubled this week. While city officials are coping with the influx as best they can, we are all sort of in shock at the sudden and immediate changes to life as we know it. The airport has twice as many flights coming in, houses for sale are reportedly being sold for cash on the spot, and all roads are jammed much of the time. While many rumors of looting and shootings abound, they are indeed only rumors. We have been asked by the LSU Chancellor, however, to keep the doors to the Press locked and to remain aware of our safety. It is, of course, a measure of life in Baton Rouge that until yesterday the doors of the Press were never locked during office hours. We hope we go back to that soon.

As with all tragedy, the best and the worst in people quickly appear. Much of what you've seen on television and in the newspapers details the worst.

Here are some examples of the best:

- One staff member at the Press is hosting eight members of her family and their two dogs, displaced from New Orleans.

- One staff member made a dangerous trek to Mississippi to rescue her elderly and frail in-laws from a home with no electricity.

- Another woman has arranged for her son's boy scout troop to cook and serve breakfast tomorrow morning to all the out of state police who are helping us out and then sort donated clothes afterward.

- After her power came on, one of our staff drove a generator, extension cords, and three fans across town to another staff member's home so she could borrow them.

- One of our staff is hosting four friends of friends and their dog who just needed a place to go.

And the list goes on. So many people have offered small acts of kindness, reminding us all of how lucky we are to have such colleagues.

Please do continue to keep us in your thoughts, and thank you again.

With best regards,

MaryKatherine Callaway, Director
Louisiana State University Press

A Letter from Mississippi

Dear Friends,

The press offices reopened a short while back, and all of our staff members are safe though not all are at work. Some do not have child care, others do not have enough petrol. There are severe petrol shortages throughout the city. Almost as soon as a petrol station opens, there is a run on it. There are reports that some of the efforts to restore power are being stymied by this shortage. Lack of power (petrol and electricity) is the primary effect Katrina has had on Jackson.

The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, in our consortium, and its campus on the Gulf Coast have sustained damage and are closed. Hattiesburg is ninety miles from Biloxi and was in the direct path of Katrina as it moved north through the state.

Being in the direct path of a hurricane is an experience none of us will ever forget. It was terrifying to watch trees that are 80 to 100 feet high swaying and bending as if the trunks were being held in one's hand and being shaken up, all the while wondering whether one would hit one's house. As we consider the large number of trees that were felled, the wonder is that there was not more loss of lives and property. And wind speeds in Jackson at 60-80 mph were half that in the coastal regions.

Last night at a friend's place we watched television for the first time since Monday noon and had to turn it off very quickly, for the footage was too painful to behold. We have innumerable friends and professional associates in the affected areas and are hoping that they are all right. From those we have heard, we know that while they are safe, they do not know the fates of their homes and businesses and assume the worst.

At this point we have to wonder whether our state and Louisiana, and New Orleans in particular, will ever recover from Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. We know that they will but also know that it will be rough going.

Again, let me say that the number of expressions of concern we have received are heartwarming, and we thank you.

Best,

Seetha Srinivasan, Director
University Press of Mississippi