

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 which publishes Progressive Farmer and Southern Living, we were able to offer the first scholarship of this series.

WHO MAY APPLY?

The Butler Scholarship is for upper-class undergraduates and graduates who are interested in studying some form of creative writing at Mississippi State University. Winners must be enrolled at MSU to receive money. Priority will be given to candidates who are transferring to MSU from a Community College or who are entering graduate school at MSU. 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 a 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 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; graduates 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. On the MSU's "Scholarship Application" form indicate that you are applying for the Eugene Butler Scholarship in item II. 1.

Second, write a letter of about five hundred words to Dr. Richard Lyons, Chairman, 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 be very well written since it will be taken as indicative of your writing ability.

Third, by May 1st., submit an original manuscript consisting of at least 10 and no more than 30 pages of prose or poetry or both (typed, double spaced). Poems should be single spaced. The manuscript must be submitted by one of your teachers, and accompanied by a nomination form certifying that he/she knows your work and that it is original. It may consist of one or more short stories, informal essays, collections of poems, plays or screenplays.

HOW WILL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS BE CHOSEN?

Applications will be assessed by a committee of three members of the faculty of the College of Arts & Sciences 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 May 30th. For further information, write, call or e-mail:

Dr. Richard Lyons, Chairman
Eugene Butler Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box E, Mississippi State, MS 39762
(662) 325-3644
ril@ra.msstate.edu.

REMEMBER, THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MAY 1ST.

Dr. Richard Lyons
Eugene Butler Scholarship Committee
Post Office Box E
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Dear Dr. Lyons:

My student, _____, has written to you asking to be considered a candidate for one of Mississippi State University's Eugene Butler Scholarships in Creative writing. I would assess his/her potential as an MSU student as follows.

My relationship to the candidate has been as _____ for _____ year(s). In support of his/her application, I am submitting the enclosed manuscript as evidence of his/her talent and ability in creative writing. I certify that this material is original and was written solely by the candidate.

(Signed) _____

(Position) _____

(Date) _____

Remember: The deadline is May 1st. Please send photocopies only. No MSS will be returned.

Please include address, phone number, and e-mail address of sponsor:

EUGENE BUTLER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Candidate's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

MSU ID #: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Position: _____

Please attach this sheet to your letter of application. Mail to:

Richard Lyons, Chairman
Eugene Butler Scholarship Committee
Post Office Box E
Mississippi State, MS 39762

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MAY 1st. OF EACH YEAR