

THE 2014 DELL MAGAZINES AWARD

Sunny Orlando, Florida, and the March 2014 International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts (ICFA), was a welcome respite from a brutal New York winter. The lovely weather was a special gift for this year's Dell Magazines Award for Undergraduate Excellence in Science Fiction and Fantasy Writing award-winner, Rich Larson. Rich had traveled from his home in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and he made the most of his expense paid opportunity to soak up some rays by the pool. The award, which includes a five hundred dollar first prize, is co-sponsored by Dell Magazines and the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts and is supported by the School of Mass Communications, University of South Florida.

The finalists are ultimately chosen from a blind read of the submissions. Still, my co-judge Rick Wilber and I had met Rich a year earlier when he attended the conference as our second runner up. This year, Rich wore two hats—both as winner for his remarkable and very funny science fiction story of “The Nostalgia Calculator” and, again, as second runner up for his fantasy tale about “The King in the Cathedral.” Rick is a senior at the University of Alberta. Born in West Africa, he is a second-generation student of languages. This young author is a modern language major specializing in Spanish and French. He has already sold stories to *Apex*, *Strange Horizons*, *Lightspeed*, and other markets and he will be attending the Clarion West Writers Workshop in Seattle this summer.

Our first runner-up, Noam Altman-Kurosaki of Princeton University, was unable to collect his certificate for “The Sons” in person. Although historically many of our finalists have attended Princeton, we rarely see them at the conference because the university's schedule seems to conflict with ICFA.

Our talented third runner-up, Jameyenne Fuller, is a senior studying English, creative writing, and Italian at Kenyon College. Luckily, this meant she could be on hand to personally accept her award for “The Year of Salted Skies.” Although Jameyenne's plans for the future have not yet been determined, she has been accepted into Dartmouth's Comparative Literature Masters Program for the fall.

Alas, three of our five honorable mentions could not be in attendance. Two of the missing are students at the aforementioned Princeton University—Alexandra Gürel is the author of “The Fire in the Sky” and Taimur Ahmad wrote “Canyonlands.” The third, Jessica May Lin, is the author of “Lolita in the Light of Nitroglycerin.” She studies at the University of California-Berkeley. Happily, we were able to meet our two other finalists. Gwendolyn Karpierz is a senior at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. In addition to majoring in creative writing, Gwendolyn rises at two A.M. most days to work in a bakery. She received her honorable mention for “Autumn Drowning.” Our other honorable mention is Kayla Chronister. Kayla is a senior at Seattle Pacific University where she studies literature and philosophy. Kayla hopes to spend next year teaching pre-school in Cambodia. She received her award for “Swans and Ravens.”

The 2014 competitors received a warm welcome from former finalists E. Lily Yu, Rebecca McNulty, and Lara Donnelly. Lara's powerful 2013-award-winning story, “In the Guts of the Night,” is now up on our website at www.asimovs.com/dellmagazinesawardwinner/InTheGutsofNight.pdf.

The students dined with Kit and Joe Reed, Kathleen Ann Goonan, Ellen Klages,



Left to right: Rich Larson, Kayla Chronister, Rick Wilber, Jameyenne Fuller, Gwendolyn Karpierz, and Sheila Williams

Photo credit: Francesca Myman, Locus Publications.

Joe and Gay Haldeman, Eileen Gunn, Fran Wilde, Cecelia Tan, and Nick DiChario. Plus, they had the chance to meet conference guests of honor Nnedi Okorafor and Ian McDonald, and to chat with James Patrick Kelly, Suzy McKee Charnas, Ted Chiang, Stephen R. Donaldson, Andy Duncan, Sofia Samatar, John Kessel, Peter Straub, Patricia McKillip, Geoffrey A. Landis, Mary Turzillo, Will Ludwigsen, David Lunde, Steven Erikson, Daryl Gregory, Theodora Goss, James Morrow, Sandra McDonald, Jeffrey Ford, and many others.

You can visit with previous finalists and current writers at our Facebook site. Search for the **Dell Magazines Award** or go directly to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/manage/#!/pages/Dell-Magazines-Award/177319923776>

We are actively looking for next year's winner. The deadline for submissions is Monday, January 5, 2015. All full-time undergraduate students at any accredited university or college are eligible. The award is not limited to unpublished authors, but all submissions must be previously unpublished and unsold, and they should be from 1,000 to 10,000 words long. Writers may submit an unlimited number of stories, but each manuscript must include a cover sheet with the writer's name, address, phone number, and the name of the university the writer attends. Manuscripts should be double-spaced, with adequate margins, and with pages numbered.

Before entering the contest, contact Rick Wilber for more information, rules, and manuscript guidelines. He can be reached care of:

Dell Magazines Award
 School of Mass Communications
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Next year, our award winner will be announced at the 2015 Conference on the Fantastic, in the pages of *Asimov's Science Fiction* magazine, and on our website.

Editor's Note: Dell Magazines invites you to take a peek into the publishing world. Join our four fiction titles at the Brooklyn Book Festival, NYC's largest free literary event, for author signings, giveaways, subscription deals, writers' guidelines, and more.