

SMU CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS 2026

THE DAVID R. RUSSELL MEMORIAL POETRY AWARD

\$1,000/500/250

for a single poem among a collection of three

THE UNDERGRADUATE PRIZE FOR FICTION

\$1,000/500/250

for a short story or excerpt from a longer work

THE FRANCES MOSSIKER PRIZE

\$1,000/500/250

for any creative genre other than poetry or fiction, including creative nonfiction, screenplays, playscripts, & podcast scripts

GUIDELINES

Competition is open to all regularly enrolled undergraduate students at SMU. Entries should be emailed as Word documents to "smu.cw.contests@gmail.com" by **11:59 p.m. on Thurs., March 26**. In the subject heading of each submission, write the name (Fiction, Russell, or Mossiker) of the contest. Include your name and the title of the work in the body of the email, but do not put your name anywhere on the work itself.

Poetry entries should consist of three poems not exceeding 100 lines in total, submitted as a single Word document. Fiction should be a single story or excerpt from a longer work, maximum 5,000 words. Mossiker prize entries can contain hybrid elements of poetry or fiction but should not be solely comprised of either of those genres, and should not exceed 5,000 words.

No entry will be considered that has won an SMU Creative Writing award in the past. The use of generative AI is not permitted. By submitting your entry, you attest that your work was not written or edited, in whole or in part, with the assistance of AI.

You may enter any of the three contests. Entries for different contests should be sent in separate emails. Do not submit more than one entry to any of the three contests.

Questions can be directed to Richard Hermes at rhermes@smu.edu.