

# The Queer Foundation Scholar

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## **2009 English Essay Scholarship Contest**

Members of the National Council of Teachers of English again served as an initial scholarship selection committee, narrowing the 40 entries down to 19. A committee of six nationally recognized queer writers, scholars, and activists is now engaged in selecting the three scholarship recipients. We will report more fully on the 2009 scholarship recipients in our August issue.

## **An Opportunity for all Scholarship Applicants Attending a College/University**

All scholarship applicants (not just recipients) who are enrolled in a college or university are now eligible to be considered for a \$100.00 grant if their submission is accepted for publication in the QF newsletter.

The submission may include poetry or a short story or an essay on a topic of interest to young queers. Submissions should not exceed one page; for essays or short stories, that is roughly 650-700 words.

The editor will select one and possibly two submissions for each issue. If a submission is accepted for publication, the \$100.00 grant will be paid to the author's college or university financial aid office to help offset tuition and fees. Although \$100.00 is not a lot, we hope it will encourage more of you to continue to make your voices heard through this e-newsletter.

Submissions should be sent as e-mail attachments to [rverzasconi@msn.com](mailto:rverzasconi@msn.com). Use WordPerfect, MS Word or Plain Text file format. If you have questions, please contact the editor.

## **The Queer Foundation Endowment**

As endowments go, QF's remains small, but we have seen a small increase in the number of donors in the past year. Long term we do hope to expand the scholarship program with endowment earnings.

Although large donations certainly will help QF increase its endowment more quickly, we welcome donations of \$5.00 and \$10.00 as well. Consider that for little more than the cost of a latte, you, too, can help QF achieve its long term goals.

All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. See <http://queerfoundation.org> for details regarding contributing.

## **A Note from Scarlett Sieber, QF Scholarship Recipient, 2006**

I moved to New York City from a small town in Colorado because I wanted a life-changing experience. My time in New York has been amazing, and I have learned a lot from my experiences thus far.

Speaking of life-changing experiences, last semester I studied in Beijing. It was an amazing experience and I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to go on such a life-altering adventure. During my time in China, I became fascinated with everything Chinese, from the food, to the people, to the business practices.

Since my stay in China I have seen myself grow up and mature so much, and when I graduate from Fordham, I would really love to go back and work in the country. Of course, because I went to China, I am behind in classes for my major (accounting), and thus I have to take courses this summer to catch up.

Since returning to Fordham, I have become active in the GLOBE club, and actually spoke about my study-abroad experience during international business week. I am also still actively involved in the Boyle Society where I tutor my colleagues in basic business classes. I have also become a member of the honor societies Phi Kappa Phi and Beta Sigma Nu.

At present I am looking for a summer internship and I am sure I will be going on interviews very shortly.

## **Alan Cumming on Using Queer**

Some of us remember when it was only GL, e.g., GLAD. By the late 1980s, it was inverted and the B was added: LGB. Recently, I came across LGBTQI. Since we haven't yet addressed all of the sexual sub-cultures, will we end up with LGBMTFFTMQIMIF? Yes, we grant everyone the right to self-identify and that is important when we are discussing policy and political tactics among ourselves – so we don't leave anyone out. But grant this old queer's belief that we have common experiences and the proliferation of acronyms only confuses when we seek to change societal beliefs. This old queer is perfectly happy with the word "gay," but I recognize that the word is perhaps too loaded with stereotypical and organizational baggage. It's why I loved Alan Cumming's recent take in his article in Newsweek.

"I would like to advocate replacing the word "gay" with "queer" when talking in broad terms about our collective experience. Queer isn't just about same-sex tackle. Queer is about sensibility. You don't need to be gay to be queer. Indeed, some of the queerest people I know are straight. My mum is a bit queer. Obama is definitely queer. Little Edie Beale was very queer. I think if more people embraced their queerness, we'd all be better for it." See, "Judy, Barbara, Liza - and Little Edie," Newsweek (April 13, 2009), p. 58.

## **A Film Worth Watching**

XXY (Argentina/France/Spain, 2007). In Spanish with English subtitles. Director Lucia Puenzo tackles the themes of acceptance and rejection involving three teenagers: Alex (a hermaphrodite who is the principal character), Alvaro (who falls in love with Alex's maleness), and Vando (who falls in love with Alex's femaleness and perhaps his/her maleness as well), and the reaction of their parents – ranging from total acceptance to total rejection. Here it is Alex's father, a biologist, who fights for the right of his child to choose to be both male/female if that is his/her choice. The actors who portray Alex and Alvaro are super.

For more on the use of "queer" and the multiplicity of terms for XXY, see:  
<http://queersunited.blogspot.com/search/label/intersexuality> .