

## 2009 Porter Fleming Literary Competition : \$11,000 in Awards Winners Announcement

Augusta, GA (8.28.2009) – Augusta Westobou Festival, Inc. is pleased to announce the winners of the 16th Annual Porter Fleming Literary Competition, recognizing talented writers residing in the states of Georgia, Florida, Alabama, South Carolina and North Carolina. Over 300 entries were submitted in the categories of Fiction, Non-Fiction, Poetry and Play Writing. This special writing competition is held in memory of Porter Fleming, a prominent Augusta, GA citizen and one of the city's foremost philanthropists during his lifetime.

In 1963 Berry Fleming, a noted Augusta author and artist, who had also served as a Trustee of the Academy of Richmond County, created the Porter Fleming Foundation in honor of his father. The Foundation directs the Trustees of the Academy to “contribute annually to the educational, literary, artistic, scientific, historical, musical, and cultural enrichment of the lives of the residents of the City of Augusta and the geographical area immediately adjacent thereto, composed of Richmond, Burke, Jefferson, and Columbia Counties in the State of Georgia, and Aiken and Edgefield Counties in the State of South Carolina.” Thirty years later, Shirley Fleming, daughter of Berry Fleming, and Starky Flythe organized the first Porter Fleming Writing Competition.

George Barrett, a Trustee of the Academy of Richmond County, serves as Chairman of the contest. “It's a pleasure to be able to continue a contest that was created in honor of Berry Fleming,” says Barrett. “An honor to continue a competition that gives writers a forum to showcase their work and have it reviewed by highly acclaimed judges. The winners are then able to have their work appreciated by their peers at the Awards Ceremony in the fine city of Augusta, Georgia.”

This year's Awards Ceremony is held on Saturday, September 26, at 2:00 p.m., during the annual Westobou Festival, Sept. 17-26. All winners are invited to participate in a special literary program during the Awards Ceremony in The Morris Museum of Art Auditorium.

### Fiction Category :

National Judge        Karin Gillespie, Author of the Bottom Dollar Girls Series  
Local Judge            Ed Wilson, Professor at Paine College, poet & novelist

First Place (\$1,500): Roberta George, Valdosta, GA – “Truces”  
Second Place (\$750): Evan Guilford-Blake, Stone Mountain, GA – “My Enemy Dr. Seuss”  
Third Place (\$500): Frank Christian, Augusta, GA – “Hot Summer”

### Non-Fiction Category:

National Judge        Bill Johnson, Retired Chair of Augusta State University Languages and Literature Department & well-published essayist

First Place (\$1,500): Betsy Weir, Thomson, GA – “With A Certain Kind of Hope”  
Second Place (\$750): Joseph Barry, Evans, GA – “Finding Love On The Used Dog Market”  
Third Place (\$500): Thomas McConnell, Spartanburg, SC – “Memory's River”

### Poetry Category:

National Judge        Stephen Corey, Poet and Editor of The Georgia Review  
Local Judge            Farley Briggs, Poet and member of the Authors Club of Augusta & The Augusta Poetry Group  
Local Judge            Linda Lee Harper, Augusta poet with 9 poetry collections including Kiss, Kiss , CSU Poetry Center Open Competition Winner

First Place (\$1,500): Elizabeth Peacock, North Augusta, SC – “Sprinkling Ashes in Oudrif”

Second Place (\$750): Roberta George, Valdosta, GA – “Three o”

Third Place (\$500): William Gray, Belvedere, SC - “Giving Us What We Need”

Play Writing Category:

National Judge        Rick Davis, Playwright and Professor of Creative Writing at Augusta State University

First Place (\$1,500): Jessie Tyson, Augusta, GA – “Kicking and Screaming”

Second Place (\$750): Henry Roberts, Augusta, GA – “Praise The Lord”

Third Place (\$500): Evan Guilford-Blake, Stone Mountain, GA – “Dreamland”

For additional information on the Porter Fleming Literary Competition, please contact Virginia Atkins, Westobou Festival Assistant, 706.755.2878 or [virginia@westoboufestival.com](mailto:virginia@westoboufestival.com).