



Darrell Nicholson, seated, and Dr. Ken Wolfskill review entries for the "New Poets Review" to make selections for the next edition of the college catalog.

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Entries sought for 'Poets Review'

This year, the poems of 10 unknown poets are being read in all 50 states and overseas thanks to an unusual source—the Chowan College 1988-89 catalog.

The 16-page literary supplement within the catalog is called "New Poets Review" and is the brainchild of Ken Wolfskill, chairman of the Department of Language and Literature, and Darrell Nicholson, registrar.

Each year since 1975, "New Poets Review" has contained the poems of 10 poets who have won the honor through a poetry contest conducted by Wolfskill and Nicholson.

Each fall, contest rules are sent to over 500 colleges and universities across the nation. "We get around 400 entries a year, most from college students and professors," stated Nicholson. "The winners include students and professors from some good schools," he added.

Keen Competition

Commented Wolfskill, "The competition is real stiff. Opportunities to be published are not real broad. We have received some really good poetry. Generally we come up with 10 poems that we think are outstanding. We don't publish anything that isn't publishable. One year we published only nine poems." "Every serious poet likes to be published," noted Nicholson. "This

provides an avenue for the new and mostly unknown poets to express themselves. This is a start. This gives poets a chance to have an audience."

Nicholson is himself a published poet. His poems have appeared in a number of regional and national literary publications. Wolfskill's writings have been published in professional and literary journals.

Nicholson expressed the opinion "this is an activity the liberal arts college should support. It's good that the college is willing to commit some of its resources to this activity."

Many Entries

Wolfskill pointed out that entries come from all over and some from "name" poets. He and Nicholson said the latter include well known North Carolina poets Shelby Stephenson and Anthony Abbott, whose poems have appeared in "New Poets Review."

Nicholson said "New Poets Review" has boosted the careers of a number of poets. He said they have gone on to have poems published in other publications. He said several have even had books of their poetry published.

He said the circulation is the number of catalogs printed each year. The 1988-89 edition which is currently in use had a printing of 16,000.

"The catalog has a universal circulation," Nicholson explained.

"An employee of the Nigerian embassy in Washington, D.C. sent word that she was impressed with it."

The "New Poets Review" is taken seriously by the literary community, Wolfskill and Nicholson said. "Sam Ragan of Southern Pines has mentioned our New Poets Review in his column several times," stated Wolfskill.

Nicholson said the late Guy Owens of Raleigh also made positive comments about the poetry section. Nicholson noted, "It's a pleasant respite for persons who think a catalog is dull. It's nice to have a section that is manifesting inner beauty."

"Good Idea"

"Parents attending orientation comment that it's a nice idea. One time in my office I overheard two parents arguing over a poem. The wife told me she didn't know that her husband was interested in poetry," Nicholson said.

Wolfskill said the 10 poems in the 1988-89 catalog are from nine states: Maine, Massachusetts, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, California, Rhode Island, Delaware, and Kentucky, the home of two winners.

He said entries this year have already come from Virginia, North Carolina, Indiana, Oregon, West Virginia, Dallas and Houston, Texas, and South Carolina. The contest deadline is March 1, 1988.



Farewell gift to residence director

Dean of Students Clayton Lewis presents a monogrammed mug as a farewell gift to Pamela Jane Riddle of Goldsboro, who served as residence director in Jenkins Hall, adviser to the Student Government Association, and director of student activities. Miss Riddle, who accepted a position at East Carolina University, was replaced by Elizabeth Stark of Henderson, a graduate of Peace College and UNC-Wilmington.