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## Welcome Back!

The *Scrap Paper* team wishes you the best this semester. Keep reading for upcoming submission opportunities, an author event, and an introduction to a fun nonfiction essay style.

## Date with an Author: Connor Coyne



Don't have a date for Valentine's Day? Come have a date with an author!

Connor will be at the Writing Center from 12:00-1:30 PM on **February 14th** to lead a creative writing workshop and share his new novella *Hollywood*, described as “a new American myth for readers who enjoy a bit of madness in their weird fiction.”

Visit Connor's [website](#) to learn more about him and his works.

## UM-Flint Poetry Award

Calling all student poets! The UM-Flint Poetry Award is back!

The winner will receive a \$250 prize and two honorary mentions will receive \$50. The submission deadline is **March 10th**. Stay tuned for more details.

## Qua Magazine

*Qua* accepts prose, poetry, and visual art, and the next deadline is **February 19th!** Visit their [submission form](#) to learn more.





Love comes in all forms, ranging from beautiful to downright awful, which is why we are excited to bring back our annual Love Stinks Writing Contest! Students, faculty, and staff are welcome to submit either a short story or a poem by **February 8th** at 11:59 p.m.

Winners will be announced on Valentine's Day at our Date with an Author event as well as on social media. Winning entries will be published on our [blog](#); consider reading past pieces to gain inspiration! Winners will also be published in both *Qua Literary and Fine Arts Magazine* and *Scrap Paper Newsletter*. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

Contest guidelines are available on our [submission form](#).

## Creative Nonfiction: Hermit Crab Essays

By Amanda Seney

Is your writing feeling stale? Freshen it up by exploring hermit crab essays! (No, not essays about your favorite shell-stealing cannibal crustaceans). The hermit crab essay, a form of creative nonfiction first described by Brenda Miller and Suzanne Paola in their book *Tell It Slant*, borrows the “shell” of some other kind of writing. Grocery lists, recipes, eBay listings, online dating profiles, rejection letters, math tests, crossword puzzles, how-to guides—any of them could become the home of a hermit crab essay. The form is relatively new and still expanding, so the only limit is your imagination.

Why would you want to spend your precious writing time crafting an essay that looks nothing like an essay? Maybe you want to explore a different writing voice, or experiment with how containers can shape (or even create) meaning. Those are fine and useful goals, and hermit crab essays will get you there. But honestly: it's just fun. Do it for the writing buzz—you might discover a new favorite form.

To read more about hermit crab essays, check out Vivian Wagner's [Essays in Strange Forms and Peculiar Places: 'The Shell Game'](#). For an example to jog your muse, try Brenda Miller's "[We Regret To Inform You](#)" or Maya Jewell Zeller's "'A Wrong Turning in American \_:' [An Essay in Parts.](#)"

**CREATIVE WRITING HUB**

Visit our [Creative Writing Hub](#) to stay updated on submission opportunities and learn more about our Writers' Circle!



**WRITING CENTER  
MISSION STATEMENT**

To be critical readers and listeners who provide helpful feedback to writers and speakers.

**THE MARIAN E. WRIGHT  
WRITING CENTER**

The Marian E. Wright Writing Center began in 1971 as a place to help students from all disciplines with academic and professional writing.

Our highly-trained tutors help students, faculty, and staff with their writing and speaking needs through in-person and online tutoring. We also support creative writers through tutoring, workshops, writing groups, contests, promotions, and more. Tutors love talking with writers about their work and publication goals. We welcome appointments for creative writing assignments, submission pieces, and personal projects. We can even provide feedback on larger pieces of writing.

[Make an appointment](#) with us today to get feedback on your work and ideas.

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