



Scrap Paper

Marian E. Wright Writing Center

Second Annual UM-Flint Poetry Award

Your poetry could be worth \$250 and a magazine publication - that's the first place prize of UM-Flint's Poetry Award! This contest is being conducted by Dr. Jacob Blumner and Professor Dave Larsen and *the newly extended* deadline is March 17th. Two honorable mentions will also be recognized, and will receive \$50. Current students are encouraged to submit their poetry [here](#). The winning words will be published in [Qua](#).

Unsure of your words? Dr. Blumner suggests taking them to the [Writing Center](#) for some feedback. Pro tip: give yourself time for revision. Professor Larsen says they are looking for poems that make him and Dr. Blumner "want to re-read them, out loud, and find something new."

The two professors started the contest to give everyone on campus a creative outlet, regardless of their major. Professor Larsen knows that UM-Flint students still write creatively, even if they are not currently enrolled in a creative writing class. This contest offers a chance to exhibit those writing skills.

While the prize money is great, the publishing credit is beneficial too; it can help you stand out if you submit to publications in the future. At the very least, it's an interesting talking point on your résumé.

Inside This Issue:

Second Annual UM-Flint Poetry Award.....	1
Love Stinks Writing Contest.....	2
"Love Stinks – And So Does This Poem" by Echo C. Truly.....	2
Date with an Author.....	3
Creative Writing Mad Libs.....	3
About the Marian E. Wright Writing Center.....	4



Love Stinks Writing Contest

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2024 Love Stinks Writing Contest! Winning submissions are posted on our blog at the links below, and will be featured in the Winter 2024 issue of *Qua Literary and Fine Arts Magazine*. Congratulations to the following winners:

First Place: "[Love Stinks - And So Does This Poem](#)" by Echo C. Truly

Second Place: "[Stars](#)" by Joel Zuehlke

Third Place: "[Playmates](#)" by Sarah Boyd

Love Stinks – And So Does This Poem

By Echo C. Truly

My adoration is like hot trash
The gunk you find in your kitchen grease trap
Mine affection is milk, forgotten in the sun
Sourdough starter way overdone

Or perhaps the feelings I bare
Have me far worse for wear
More akin to blue cheese and burnt hair

These butterflies – they're really just flies
Swarming a dumpster and the person inside
My fantasies of you are like rotting meat
Or Aiden Hutchinson's post-game feet

I think it's finally been enough
Smelling this is just too much
Being alone isn't quite like a rose,
But I'll take the bath with its garden hose

Once I'm free of all your stink,
There might be room for me to think
Then I wouldn't write more garbage like this,
Because let's face it, these words are sh**



Date with an Author: Connor Coyne



By Kay Sheffield

On Valentine's Day, local author Connor Coyne ran "Date with an Author," a two-hour writing workshop, Q&A, and book signing. This event was held at the Marian E. Wright Writing Center and was co-hosted by the Writers' Circle and the Thompson Library.

Student, staff, and faculty attendees participated in several 5-minute writing prompts led by Connor with a focus on different types of relationships. The idea was that depending on the relationship between two people—romantic, familial, or even strangers—the scene they would write and its nuances would be different. The participants were encouraged to share their work as well as their insights on how each prompt manifested for them in terms of setting, characterization, and ease of conceptualization.

After a short break, Connor read an excerpt from his newest work, *Hollywood*. The novella is described by Connor as a "magical realism/cosmic horror queer romance." You can learn more about Connor, *Hollywood*, and his other works by visiting his [website](#).

The Q&A and book signing was opened shortly after, and Connor answered questions regarding his writing and publishing processes, inspirations, previous works, and more.

If you want to keep up with more Writing Center or Writers' Circle events like this one, follow us on Facebook ([Marian E. Wright Writing Center](#)) and Instagram ([@umflintwc](#)), or check out our [Creative Writing Hub](#).

Creative Writing Mad Libs

Made by Jason Lesiewicz

Create-Your-Own Writing Assignment:

In your own words, write a (***type of writing***) that describes the (***emotion***) a(n) (***occupation***) has for (***sport***).

Be sure to include several quotes from (***a celebrity***).

Your writing must be between (***a small number***) and (***a large number***) words long, and in (***gibberish word***) font.

For best results, have your (***relationship type***) read it aloud in a (***venue***) while you (***verb***).

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.

MARIAN E. WRIGHT WRITING CENTER

303 E KEARSLEY STREET
308 FRANCES WILLSON
THOMPSON LIBRARY
FLINT, MI 48502-1950

PHONE: (810) 766-6602

Email:
flint.writingcenter@umich.edu

[FACEBOOK](#) • [INSTAGRAM](#) •
[BLOG](#)



MARIAN E. WRIGHT
WRITING CENTER

Newsletter Team:

Jacqueline Burant
Chase Rodriquez
Kay Sheffield
Jason Lesiewicz

Writing Center

Director:

Jacob Blumner

Writing Center

Coordinator:

Vicky Dawson