

# THE Dell<sup>®</sup> MAGAZINES

## *Award*

### For Undergraduate Excellence in Science Fiction and Fantasy Writing

The Dell Magazines Award for Undergraduate Excellence in Science Fiction and Fantasy Writing (formerly The Isaac Asimov Award for Undergraduate Excellence in Science Fiction and Fantasy Writing) has been established by Dell Magazines and the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts.

The \$500 award will go to the best unpublished science fiction or fantasy short story submitted by a full-time undergraduate college student. The winner will be invited to the IAFA Annual Conference on the Fantastic in mid-March in Orlando, FL, and the winning story will be considered for publication in Asimov's magazine.

Deadline for entries for this year's contest is postmarked by Tuesday, January 3, 2012. The contest is open to all full-time undergraduates at accredited colleges and universities. The award is not limited to unpublished authors, but all submissions must be previously unpublished, and they should be from 1,000 to 10,000 words long. Writers may submit an unlimited number of stories, but each manuscript must include a coverpage with the writer's name, address, phone number and the name of the university the writer attends.

There is a \$5 entry fee per story. Checks should be made out to The Dell Magazines Award/Wilber. You can submit your story or stories by e-mail attachment in Word to [RWilber@usf.edu](mailto:RWilber@usf.edu), though you must send the submission fee separately to the submission address. You should put "Dell Award submission" in the subject line of your e-mail and write a brief e-mail

cover letter telling the judges that you are submitting the attached stories.

You can also submit your stories through the contest website at <http://dellaward.com/>

#### Writing Guidelines:

In general, the winner of the Dell Magazines Award will be the story that best meets the expectations of Dell Magazines' science fiction editors. Those stories typically are "character oriented"; the characters, rather than the science, provide the main focus for the reader's interest. Serious, thoughtful, yet accessible fiction will have the best chance of success. The editors do enjoy humorous stories, but pun endings have little chance of success, and the editors are not interested in sword & sorcery, elves, trolls, or dragons. They are not interested in explicit sex or violence, either. Generally, bear in mind that all fiction is written to examine or illuminate some aspect of human existence, but that in science fiction the backdrop against which events occur is the size of the universe.

Your manuscript should be neatly typed, double-spaced on one side of the sheet of paper, with adequate margins. Mail it flat in a 9x12 envelope.

**Do not put your name on the manuscript, but include your name, address, phone number and the university you attend on a coverpage.**

The editors reserve the right to doublecheck your university status. For this year's contest, you must have been a full-time undergraduate during the fall

2010, spring 2011, summer 2011 or fall 2011 semester (or quarter) of your university. Story submissions should have been written during your time as a student. However, if you attended college full-time during a qualifying semester and then graduated, went to part-time status or quit entirely for a time, you are still eligible. Manuscripts cannot be returned, but if you include a self-addressed stamped envelope we will send you the announcement of the winner and runners-up.

The winner will be determined by the editors of Asimov's Science Fiction magazine and the award administrator Rick Wilber, whose email address is [RWilber@usf.edu](mailto:RWilber@usf.edu)

Submissions should be sent to:  
**Dell Magazines Award**  
**School of Mass Communications**  
**University of South Florida**  
**4202 E. Fowler**  
**Tampa, FL 33620**

The Dell Magazines Award for Undergraduate Excellence in Science Fiction and Fantasy Writing is cosponsored by the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts and Dell Magazines and supported by the Humanities Institute at the University of South Florida, the School of Mass Communications at the University of South Florida and by the Student Publications Office at the University of South Florida.

Several previous award winning stories are available at the Asimov's Science Fiction magazine homepage at: <http://www.asimovs.com>.

**IMPORTANT:** For this year's contest there is a special class-project category. Any instructor may submit an unlimited number of stories from any one class for a flat rate of \$15. The manuscripts must meet the general requirements of the award and should be put into one envelope along with a brief cover letter from the instructor listing the college or university and the name of the class. This offer is for any college class and not limited to creative-writing classes.