William W. Morgan was a member of the Illinois State University English Department from August of 1969 until his retirement in June of 2000. Although he taught courses in many areas of the Department, he was especially committed to the importance of poetry--both the study of classic and contemporary poetry and the writing of original poetry--in the English Studies curriculum and in the lives of English professors, teachers, students, and ordinary citizens.

The William Morgan Poetry Award is intended to reward students who achieve excellence in the study of poetry and in the writing of original poetry.

Morgan Poetry Awards will normally be given annually to
1. an undergraduate English major in good standing at ISU who demonstrates excellence in both the writing of original poetry and in the scholarly and critical study of poetry, and
2. a master's or Ph.D. candidate in English in good standing at ISU who demonstrates excellence in both the writing of original poetry and in the scholarly and critical study of poetry (including poetry pedagogy).

If, in a given year, there is no clearly deserving application at either the undergraduate or the graduate level, no award will be given.

Candidates for the Award should submit both 5-6 original poems and 6-10 pages of scholarly writing about poetry. Candidates may, if they wish, include a brief introductory commentary on their application materials.

All entries must be typed and submitted with a cover page stating the student’s name, university identification number, major, e-mail, local phone number and address. Entries should be submitted by April 1 to the English Department office, 409 Stevenson.