

The Maurice Scharton Award for Excellence in Rhetoric and Writing Studies

The Maurice Scharton Award celebrates the over 140 years during which dozens of teachers and thousands of students at Illinois State University have delivered oral "rhetoricals," presented written "themes," and revised Comp 101 "portfolios." The award is presented to the graduate student and undergraduate student who have written the best papers in rhetoric, composition, and writing studies in history, theory, or criticism.

The award is given in honor of Professor Maurice Scharton who taught rhetoric at ISU from 1977 through 2002—for twenty-five years. Professor Scharton came to ISU in 1977, having finished his masters at Utah State and his Ph.D. at Kansas State. He quickly became a popular teacher of rhetoric, writing, grammar, as well as a teacher of teachers through grants and workshops. His wit and good humor made learning a pleasure for all his students. As a scholar, he changed the course of teaching by writing books, book chapters, and articles, which always moved at the cutting edge of research and teaching in the field. He liked to say that his research was a way to take his teaching to an audience beyond the ISU community. Not only was he prolific in his publishing, but he also edited the oldest English journal in the United States, the *Illinois English Bulletin*, and, through the Illinois State Writing Project, worked with teachers from across the state to help them improve their own writing and their teaching of writing.

To be eligible:

- Students must be Junior or Senior English majors (for the undergraduate award); or graduate students in English (for the graduate award);
- Students must submit one piece of scholarship (no more than 25 pages), the content of which must be grounded within the scholarly tradition of rhetoric and composition studies;
- Students must also attach a cover letter with their submission that describes the context within which the text was written as well as states the writer's purpose, target audience, and strategies undertaken during the revision process.