CONTEST: Rachel Carson and her Legacy, 50 Years after Silent Spring
Presented by the School of Sustainability and the Environment, The Rachel Carson Institute, and Chatham’s MFA Program in Creative Writing

ALL-GENRE WRITING CONTEST

Open to all Chatham students, alumni, faculty and staff.

CONTEST GUIDELINES:

Entrants may submit once. Choose one theme below.
Nonfiction (creative or research-based): Max=2,500 words
Fiction: Max = 2,500 words
Poetry: Max = 5 pages

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION ONLY! Submit in Word or PDF format.
Cover Letter: Name, Affiliation with Chatham, Theme, Genre, Title & Word Count.
Body: Title & theme: bottom left of each page. Page number, beginning with 1, bottom right of each page.
Entrant’s name to appear on COVER LETTER ONLY.
Entries or questions to Marla Druzgal: mdruzgal@chatham.edu

FOUR THEMES TO CHOOSE FROM.
Four 1st Prizes of $50 + PUBLICATION!
Additional entries to be chosen for publication.

THEME OPTION: BALANCE
Writers to create from idea of interrelatedness / inter-connectedness within systems of nature and between nature and society.

THEME OPTION: INHERITANCE
Entrants can choose to approach the theme of inheritance. Possibilities include: Carson’s legacy (social, environmental etc.); what future generations inherit based on today’s social and environmental actions.

THEME OPTION: SILENCE AND SOUND
Writers entering in this category would create a piece about either speaking out or keeping silent. Examples may include: speaking out on behalf of those who can’t (animals, plants, earth, etc.); the non-impact of silent citizens on environmental issues; how to give voice to Rachel’s legacy in a culture skeptical of science.

THEME OPTION: DEBUNKING MYTHS
Tackle current anti-Carson rhetoric. Find the anti-Carson myths (e.g. that she was the cause of “more deaths than Hitler, Stalin, Mao and Genghis Khan combined”) and debunk them. This category does not require but would benefit from incorporation of scientific data.

RESOURCES FOR INSPIRATION:

- SILENT SPRING
  Author: RACHEL CARSON

- LOST WOODS: The Discovered Writing of Rachel Carson
  Author: Rachel Carson, ed. Linda Lear

- THE SEA AROUND US
  Author: RACHEL CARSON

WINNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT KICK-OFF CELEBRATION OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR:

Date: Friday, January 20, 2012  6:30pm – 9:00pm
Location: Mellon Board Room
Who to contact: Marla Druzgal: mdruzgal@chatham.edu

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