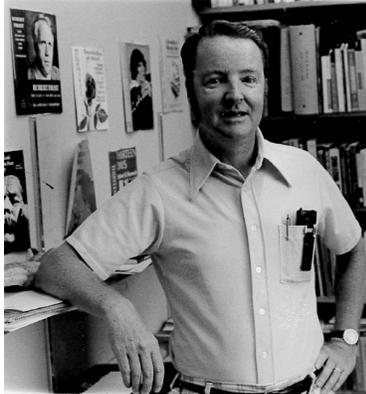


In Remembrance of Professor Cliff Hardie

March 20, 2018



The presentation of the 2018 Wilmington College English Program writing awards will be bittersweet this year. Professor Emeritus Cliff Hardie, for whom the English Essay Award is named, died on March 3 at the age of 85.

Hardie retired in 1996 after serving 36 years on the English faculty. A creative writer at heart, he published seven volumes of poetry. However, in 2010, when Alan Frankel, class of '65 and a current Wilmington College trustee, decided to honor him by sponsoring the previously un-funded competition, he recalled Hardie's influence as a teacher of non-fiction writing: "So much of what I learned from him was applicable in business, where I found myself writing a lot." Recently, Frankel remembered Hardie as "the man who taught me how to think critically and communicate effectively and a friend for more than half a century."

At the 1984 meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English, Hardie said, "Good readers in high school make good writers in college, and good writers in college tend to be leaders in the world of work." The 30 students who have received Cliff Hardie Awards since its inception exemplify this philosophy. Although their essays were submitted in English classes, award winners have majored in disciplines from across the curriculum and gone on to a variety of professions.

Award winner, Amanda Toney, class of 2011, now a senior editor at F&W in Cincinnati, says, "The writing skills I honed while at Wilmington College have served me in everything I have engaged in since graduating—from drafting novels, writing Toastmasters speeches, and blogging as a life coach to crafting content marketing and working with a team of freelance writers to develop magazine and online articles. It's been seven years since I stood in that room with the other Cliff Hardie winners, and I'm just as thankful today."

Taped to Hardie's College Hall office door were Winston Churchill's stirring words: "We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender." The Cliff Hardie English Essay Award recognizes the same dogged determination necessary to achieve writing success—and the Hardie spirit—in all the winners.

