CULLOWHEE, NC – Catherine Carter, an assistant professor of English at Western Carolina University, has won the 2009 Randall Jarrell Poetry Competition, sponsored by the North Carolina Writers' Network.

Acclaimed poet Sarah Lindsay chose Carter's poem "Toast" from close to 100 entries.

"It has a greater energy and rhythm . . . creates tension with a split viewpoint, and maintains the imagery throughout," Lindsay said.

Carter will receive a $200 prize from the North Carolina Writers' Network, and her winning poem will be considered for publication in the literary journal *The Crucible*.

Carter was "raised by wolves and vultures on the Eastern Shore of Maryland," and now lives with her husband in Cullowhee, where she coordinates the English education program at Western Carolina University. Her work has appeared in *Poetry*, *North Carolina Literary Review*, *Tar River*, *Main Street Rag*, and *Cider Press Review*, among others. She will have work in the upcoming *Best American Poetry 2009*, and has twice been nominated for a Pushcart prize. Her first book, *The Memory of Gills* (LSU Press, 2006), won the 2007 Roanoke-Chowan Award. Her chapbook, *The Swamp Monster at Home*, is currently circulating.

Poets selected for honorable mention were Marjorie Hudson, Jeff Miles, Rebecca Warren, and Mary Elizabeth Parker.

The Randall Jarrell Poetry Competition honors the work and legacy of the poet and critic Randall Jarrell, who taught at what is now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro for nearly 18 years. The competition is administered by Terry L. Kennedy and the graduate program in creative writing at UNCG, and is open to any writer who is a legal resident of North Carolina or a member of the North Carolina Writers' Network. Visit www.ncwriters.org for more information on this and other contests.