The annual highlight of the Creative Writing Program is the Adamson Awards. These awards are presented for student excellence in fiction, poetry, screenwriting, and non-fiction. Winners are presented in a formal event featuring a distinguished visiting writer. Other student awards include the Academy of American Poets Prize and the Carnegie Mellon University Press Prize in fiction and poetry.

The Visiting Writers Series brings nationally known writers to campus to become, for a short time, part of Carnegie Mellon's community of writers. Recent visitors have included Li-Young Lee, Philip Levine, Carolyn Forche, Russell Banks, Rita Dove, Jamaica Kincaid, Michael Ondaatje, Jim Harrison, and Carolyn Kizer.

The program also sponsors the Undergraduate Student Reading Series, a forum for creative writing students to gain experience in public reading and a place for the campus community to come together and celebrate the work of student writers.

In addition, the program reaches out to the Pittsburgh community through its sponsorship of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Writing Awards for area high school students and Carnegie Mellon students, and co-sponsors the Power of the Pen workshops, which bring over 500 high school students to campus for a day of workshops and readings.


Our student readings are held in the Center throughout the year, and some writing workshop courses are held in the conference room. The Center serves as a community center for students to congregate in close proximity to faculty members.