

The Robert F. Panara Haiku Contest for Deaf Students

Haiku and the Deaf Connection

Haiku has been a part of the Deaf cultural experience for many years. In the United States, many Deaf people were exposed to haiku through the schools and more importantly, through workshops and performances by the National Theatre of the Deaf and the theatre programs at Gallaudet University and the National Technical Institute for the Deaf. Haiku presented in sign language is a unique and inspiring way of experiencing this art form. There have been several deaf writers who have created some fine haiku in English and sign language.

PEN-International sponsored a Haiku poetry contest at NTID and TUT. The goal of the contest is to encourage more deaf students to share their ideas and culture through writing haiku. By establishing a friendly competition or *Hokku Awase* between our sister institutions, we hope to foster a cultural exchange that will benefit all of our deaf students.

Robert F. Panara Haiku Contest Winners

First Place

Jessica McKinney

(Digital Imaging & Publishing Technology)

memory's ashes
drift softly into a fast river
full of life

Second Place (Tie)

Rita DeSarka

(Career Decision Making)

tossed in the ocean
a written note that says
"forget me not"

Sam Sepah

(Film & Video)

impudent clouds wail
scattering tears everywhere
mother earth grows green

Third Place

Danielle Rogers

(Accounting Technology)

the trees are strong
human-like scratching the sky
they hold my soul aloft

Fourth Place (Tie)

Christine LaFrance

(Career Decision Making)

a bird soaring-
with a wing spread
over the city

Sam Sepah

(Film & Video)

no angels' voices
no words from the gods
I shall not hear

Honorable Mentions

Rita DeSarkar

(Career Decision Making)

a rose was beheaded
by the frost that had fallen
on its crying bloom

Raquib Din

(Applied Computer Tech)

the last day of summer
warmth shining from the sun
a yellow wood color

Jonathan Ricks

(Digital Imaging & Publishing Tech)

blazing thru the streets
the rush rises in me
I never have felt so alive

**Tsukuba College of Technology
Haiku Contest Winners**

First Place

OHTA Yoshihiro

Hochoukiwo hazushite maundoni hitori tatsu

leaving the hearing aid
I stand alone on the mound
to pitch, concentrating

ready to pitch
I stand on the mound alone
without the hearing aid

without the hearing aid
I can concentrate on the mound
ready to pitch

Second Place

TAKESHIMA Eri

Chich ihahano koewa shiritai waga mimide

Oh, please ears-
let me hear the true voices
of my dear parents

Third Place (tie)

MATSUMOTO Hiroyuki

Ame agari wakabani asobu katatsumuri

the spring rain has stopped
a snail plays on a wet leaf
slowly but happily

after a spring shower
in the drops on a fresh leaf
a snail is playing

FUCHIGAMI Kszuaki

Otomo naku zujou nagereru amanogawa
twinkling silently
above my head high in the sky
the Milky Way flows

Fourth Place (tie)

TOYOTA Keiko

Otowo kiku karada zenbuwo mimini shite
I experience sound
with my whole body-
like a huge ear

with my whole body
as if I were a huge ear
I feel sound

NAGAI Yumiko

Kotoba naki umiha watashino nakama nari
the sea is my friend-
it has no language that
I must try to hear

Honorable Mentions

IKEDA Chikako

Mayonakani oshaberi shiteiru orion-az
In the midnight sky
I hear the chattering of
Orion as it rustles

in the midnight sky
I see the chattering of
Orion as it sparkles

TAKAMA Junji

Tsukushi tsumi furusatono haru omoidasu

picking a horsetail
I feel far away from home
in this windy field

picking horsetail plumes
I feel far away from home
in this chilly field

YOSHIMURA Shunnichirou

Kimochi yoi haruno kaze ari tsukuba-san

it is pleasant
to have a fresh spring breeze
on Mt. Tsukuba

how good this feels-
the fresh spring breeze here
on Mt. Tsukuba

NAKAJIMA Ami

Tsukuba-san taion ubau kiri arashi

on Mt. Tsukuba
a foggy storm has taken
the warmth

on Mt. Tsukuba
the storm clouds and the mist
have stolen the warmth