

The Academy of American Poets University & College Poetry Prize Program was founded in 1955 with only ten schools, but now awards more than 170 prizes across the country. Many prominent American poets won their first recognition with an Academy College Prize, including Mark Doty, Tess Gallagher, Louise Glück, Joy Harjo, Robert Hass, Heather McHugh, William Matthews, Robert Pinsky, Sylvia Plath, George Starbuck, Mark Strand, and Charles Wright.

Whenever possible, the Academy also publishes selections of prize-winning poems. The eighth volume in the Academy's *New Voices* series was published in 2001.

Prizes are funded by alumni interested in encouraging young writers, by the colleges and universities themselves, or through the gifts of donors to the Academy. Two-thirds of the prizes are now, like Auburn's, supported by permanent endowments. The Academy of American Poets is the largest organization in the country dedicated specifically to poetry. The academy sponsors a broad range of national programs, including the prestigious Whitman, Laughlin, and Marshall Awards, as well as National Poetry Month in April, an annual celebration of the vitality and richness of American poetry. For more information visit www.poets.org, the Academy's lively and comprehensive web site.