

## **PULITZER PRIZES FACT SHEET -- 2009**

### Overview

- More than 2,400 entries are submitted each year to the Pulitzer Prize competition and only 21 prizes are awarded.
- The year-long process begins with the appointment of 102 distinguished jurors who serve on separate juries and make three recommendations in each of 21 categories.

### Journalism

- In the 14 Journalism categories, 1,028 entries were submitted, down slightly from the previous year's total of 1,167.
- In Journalism, there was a robust competition with finalists coming from 23 different news organizations. Winners represented 10 organizations.
- The 2009 Journalism competition was expanded to include online-only news organizations "primarily dedicated to original news reporting and coverage of ongoing stories." We had 65 entries from 37 different online-only entities.
- One primarily online organization, Politico, was a finalist -- in Cartooning.
- We had substantial online content, most of it from newspapers. Online material was found in nearly one-fourth of all Journalism entries, an increase over past years.
- Online content played a role in seven winning entries: Public Service, Breaking News Reporting, Investigative Reporting, Local Reporting and National Reporting -- as well as Breaking News Photography and Feature Photography.

### Arts

- In the arts categories, juries reviewed 1,167 books (an increase over recent years), 164 Music entries (an increase) and about 50 plays.

### Board

- The Board is composed of 19 members, 17 of whom are voting members.
- Members serve a maximum of three three-year terms.

### Juries

- Juries range in size. Journalism juries have five or seven members, depending on the volume in a category. Book juries have three members. Music and Drama juries have five members.

### Procedure

- Each jury recommends three finalists -- no more, no less -- without statement of preference.
- The Board makes the final decisions after evaluating all the nominated finalists and considering jury reports.
- Prizes are awarded by majority vote of the Board but the Board is also empowered to vote "no prize" or by three-fourths vote to switch nominations among categories or to select any entry that has not been nominated by a jury.

### Notable facts

- To the best of our knowledge, Annette Gordon-Reed is the first African American to win a History prize.
- Two prizes were given in Local Reporting.
- Two entries -- in National Reporting and Feature Writing -- won after being moved by the Board following a three-fourths vote.
- Three prizes went to repeat winners: Steve Breen (Cartooning), David Barstow (Investigative), W.S. Merwin (Poetry).

### Awards luncheon

- The prizes will be awarded at a luncheon on May 28 at Columbia's Low Library.

### Symbol of the Prizes

- The iconic Gold Medal is awarded each year to the American newspaper that wins the Public Service category. It is never awarded to an individual. However, through the years, the Medal has come to symbolize the entire Pulitzer program.