

## Editor's Note

For fifty years, the English Department at Texas Christian University has published *descant*. Like everything else, the journal, started by students and faculty in 1956, has changed in a half century. In its first decades, *descant* was published quarterly. Later, the journal began to publish twice a year, and since 2000, *descant* has appeared annually. The annual format allows us to present a year's harvest of poetry and fiction in one volume, and by publishing once a year, we can better recognize and reward the winners of our writing competitions. We now offer four awards: the Frank O'Connor Award (\$500) for the best story in an issue, the Gary Wilson Award (\$250) for an outstanding story in an issue, the Betsy Colquitt Award (\$500) for the best poem in an issue, and the Baskerville Publishers Award (\$250) for an outstanding poem in an issue. Even though the format, editors, and awards have changed through the decades, one thing has remained constant—our desire to publish fine writing and reward the authors, both seasoned writers and fresh voices. This year, we received more than 2000 poems and nearly 500 stories from writers in the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia. From these submissions we were able to publish fourteen stories and thirty-eight poems. The 2006 issue includes stories that are traditional as well as stories that stretch narrative conventions. The poems in this issue include both formal works and poems that are free in structure. We want to thank all of the writers who submitted to us this year, and we only wish that time had allowed us to comment personally on each work we received. Fifty years is a long publication record for any journal, and to celebrate the journal's history, in 2007 the TCU Press will publish an anthology of outstanding work that appeared in the first half century of *descant*. Our hope is that you will enjoy the 2006 issue and look forward to the forthcoming anthology of the best of *descant*.

—Dave Kuhne