

Current Organization Constitution

Mission Statement

Stork is a biannual fiction journal dedicated to demystifying the publishing process and improving student writing. Our commitment to holding writers to a higher standard reflects the Emerson College mission of “instilling the highest professional standards.” As the college provides specialized majors, Stork is a highly specialized magazine that allows staff members to focus their special education and talent. We are committed to excellence in storytelling and communication among students.

Stork was founded on the idea of a dialogue between reader and writer. Stork provides not only a publication credit, but also an environment that teaches students to communicate with authors and editors. Our staff is comprised of dedicated undergraduates who are passionate about fiction and want to help make Emerson students and their writing more expressive.

We are committed to bridging the gap between institutional art and professional art by providing an outlet for budding writers to take their work to the next level—beyond the classroom workshop. Emerson College provides many exceptional educational experiences. However, there is a difference between theory and application. Emerson provides students with publication theory and Stork Magazine provides that necessary application. As a magazine we give writers the opportunity to take their polished prose and put it to the sharp eye of our readers and editors. We give them an opportunity to practice revision. We build a close relationship with writers, and in return they gain a better understanding of the professional editorial process.

Emerson has several other undergraduate literary publications, but none of these groups provide as specialized an experience as Stork. The Emerson Review, Concrete Literary Magazine, and Gauge Magazine publish the submissions they like and give a rejection letter to those they don't. Stork workshops every submission. We give every writer constructive criticism instead of a rejection slip. We feel that this method makes the publication process more accessible to students and holds the editors and staff more accountable for their decisions. Simultaneously, we can distribute a better product to the community—a collection of fiction that has been improved upon over the semester; a book that Emerson students can be proud to display.

Stork will publish two biannual books of fiction, showcasing the best authors at Emerson College. We will also provide constructive and well-organized workshops for every short story submission. We will give critical and timely feedback to writers and are devoted to

working with every writer that is open to improving their art.

Article I—Name

Section 1: The name of both our organization and our publication is Stork.

Article II—Purpose

Section 1: To produce a biannual literary magazine devoted to fiction, providing an outlet for the traditional short story, which encompasses a solid beginning, middle, and end, fully developed characters, and internal conflict. This is a showcase for writers, including undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and alumni, who are serious about the short story genre.

Section 2: To act as an opportunity for publication for the writing community of Emerson

College and establish a close relationship between editors and writers, one which involves an extensive editing and revision process and provides feedback to authors who are either ready for publication or who are not quite yet but show promise. Corresponding with the writers and collaborating with them on their work will promote the general understanding of the short story form at Emerson, and enhance the craftsmanship of submissions and the quality of the magazine.

Section 3: To collaborate with other publishing organizations on campus to co-host prose readings, open mics, and other literary events that will provide a stimulating environment for the writing community.

Section 4: To strive to bring awareness of Stork and its publications to as much of the college community as possible through outreach events, print advertising, promotional items, and social media engagement.

Article III—Membership

Section 1: All full-time undergraduate students. Any person wishing to be a member of the staff will be required to submit a critique of a provided short story, which will be read and evaluated by the Editor-in-Chief and the Managing Editor. This application process will determine each candidate's interest in and knowledge of the short story form.

Section 2: Members will attend all regular meetings and if unable to should notify the Managing Editor. Because we provide a publishing credit, attendance will be taken at all meetings. More than 3 absences is highly discouraged.

Section 3: Because a comfortable but disciplined environment must be maintained at meetings, the total membership of the organization may not exceed 20.

Article IV—Administrative Positions and Duties

Editor-in-Chief: The Editor-in-Chief will fulfill the role of President, administering the organization's business policies and procedures; communicating with administrators and faculty members; overseeing the distribution process, scheduling, and meetings;

and giving feedback to staff members. On the matter of publishing, the Editor-in-Chief will review all submissions filtered through the editing process, and have the final say on each piece, deciding which are to be included in the magazine and, in accordance with the Copyeditor and the Prose Editor, which are to be sent back to the authors with corrections and suggestion for resubmission. In addition, the Editor-in-Chief will facilitate scheduled workshops.

Managing Editor: the Managing Editor shall maintain records of all meetings, respond to queries, and correspond with contributors. The Managing Editor will compile staff members' comments on each work discussed and will include these in a letter to the author communicating the staff's decision of acceptance or rejection.

Treasurer: The Treasurer will keep records of all expenses to the organization.

Head Copy Editor: The Head Copy Editor will proofread all submissions, focusing on the syntactical and grammatical facets of each piece, and prepare the style sheet.

Prose Editor: The Prose Editor will read all submissions, concentrating on content, including, but not limited to, issues of plot, character development, and theme. The Prose Editor will prepare a short response letter for each weekly submission,

Creative Manager: The Creative Manager will be in charge of the aesthetic qualities of the magazine, including cover design and formatting.

Article V—Advisor

At all times the organization must have an advisor. If a new advisor needs to be chosen, the process of doing so will involve all members.

Article VI—Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor, and Treasurer.

Article VII—Meetings

Section 1: Quorum: In the case of a vote, a quorum of more than half of the assistant editors is necessary.

Section 2: Staff members will read and evaluate each work, then discuss the pieces in a workshop environment to determine which are to be sent through the editing process; if need be, a vote on a particular work will be taken.

Section 3: Members may not discuss decisions regarding content in any way outside of the meetings.

Article VIII—Amendments

Section 1: Any staff members may submit the text of a proposed amendment to the Editor-in-Chief. Amendments must be passed by five-eighths majority of all organization members.

Section 2: The Executives will create bylaws for the organization as deemed necessary. The bylaws will be created and amended by a majority vote of the Executives.

Article IX—Content

Section 1: The Assistant Editors will read unsolicited submissions and decide which are to be sent through the editing process. All submissions will be anonymous; staff members who are aware of a particular author's identity may not share this information with other staff members.

Section 2: Because unsolicited submissions are handled anonymously, Prose Editors may submit to the magazine as well, though they are restricted from discussing their own work during the scheduled workshops. The Editor-in-Chief and the Managing Editor may not submit to the magazine.

Section 3: Authors may submit an unlimited amount of work, though no more than two stories shall be published by the same author per issue.

Section 4: The official style guide for the magazine shall be The Chicago Manual of Style. Exceptions to CMS rules may be made in a sheet approved by the Copyeditor and the Editor-in-Chief. The official dictionary for issues regarding spelling and word usage shall be Merriam-Webster.