Poet Phillips named National Book Award finalist

By Susan Killenberg McGinn

Poet Carl Phillips, professor of English and of African American studies, both in Arts & Sciences, has been selected — for the third time — as a finalist for the National Book Award in poetry.

Phillips was nominated in 2009 for his 10th collection of poetry, "Speak, Lo" published in April by Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and in 1998 for his third collection, "From the Devotions," published by Graywolf Press.

I am honored, surprised — and above all, grateful to think that my work might resonate with someone interested in making art," Phillips said in an email.

Phillips is a member of the School of Arts & Sciences. He is currently the Edgar F. Kaiser Professor Emeritus of Business, Economics and Law at the University of California, Berkeley. He earned a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago in 1971.

Phillips and his work have received numerous awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Creative Writing Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, and a fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

WUSTL's Nobel laureate welcomes new prize winners

By Melody Walker

Douglas C. North, Ph.D., the Spencer T. Olin Professor in Arts & Sciences, was fielding calls from around the world after this year's winners of the Nobel Prize in economics were announced.

North, who is known for his work on the economic theory of property rights and for his many leadership qualities, expressed sincere admiration and respect for his colleagues, colleagues and students.

"I was truly surprised, and I do not think it is going to get any better," North said. "I am not sure how many people think it is going to be better, but I do think it is going to be better."

North, who has been a professor at WUSTL for more than 40 years, said he was "very excited and very happy." He added that he was "very proud" of his students and colleagues.

"At the same time, he championed a dramatic change in the composition of the student body, favoring more minority and women students.

"He said the St. Louis Post Dispatch in 1991. "There is simply no basis for skepticism about women doctors any more." North said. "Ostrom is the first woman to receive the economics prize."

King's colleagues expressed sincere admiration and respect for his many leadership qualities, including his"
E nergy and the environment are among the most important issues facing this genera-
tion of students. What better way to learn about these issues than over a dinner banquet or two?
The elective International Experience in Energy, Environmental & Chemical Engineering course at WUSTL, underwritten by the opportunity to study energy scientists and engineers to China, and Brazil, and another country.
These travel and research initiatives are coordinated by WUSTUS.
Williamson is a visiting scholar at the Rockefeller Foundation and one of the leading figures in the Rocky Mountains.
The course is limited to 16 students, and the students will be divided into teams.

**Engineering and Curry: International program offers unique experience**

By DINA LETZ

The annual health open enrollment period for the health/dental only - only health plans begins Nov. 1. (as of Nov. 1) at hr.wustl.edu or 935-6103.

**Northeastern first woman to win Nobel in economics**

Williamson was cited by the Nobel committee for “his broad analysis of economic governance, espe-
cially the growing power of the financial system.”

"Oliver Williamson has done pioneering work, following the recommendations of Ronald Coase’s work, attempting to understand how in the world resident and economic analysis functions of the firm.

The new mouse model also may provide an important tool for screening new drugs, according to Baloh. Scientists already have another mouse model of ALS with a mutation in SOD1, the first gene to be linked to an inherited form of the disease.

"If we see two models together to test potential treat-
ments, though, that might provide even more useful information for Baloh. "This could help relieve the patients’ suffering. I think the long term is that there are a number of new drugs ready to be tested in hu-
an studies and we need ways to determine which should be tried first."
Health Happening wellness fair Oct. 28

The School of Medicine and BJC Healthcare have installed additional closed-circuit cameras throughout the campus. The School of Medicine added six cameras, bringing the total to 51. The number will increase in October when the BJC Institute of Health at Washington University is completed in December.

"We took a hard look at the campus and couldn't see it well, studied campus maps and came up with the need for additional cameras," said John Ursch, director of Protective Services. "We now have close to 100 percent coverage of the campus, or as complete a view as we can get.

The cameras follow a programmed route, but can be manually operated by an officer to look closer at an area of concern, Ursch said. The new lighting also offers better visibility for the Street crime has not been a problem within the Medical Center, but improvements help ensure the campus remains safe, inviting and distinctive, Ursch said.

"Our campus is a more collection of buildings and lots and the Medical Center, including sidewalks, parking lots and garages. They determined that some areas were well lit, but other areas had less consistent lighting.

The newly installed cobblestone-light style fixtures provide 80 percent of the light on the sidewalks, Ursch said.

To complete the utility work, the sidewalks were to be removed and replaced. The new lights were replaced, and decorative lights were added and have been added every 25-30 feet along the sidewalk. The pavers, at a cost of $800,000, are able to the School of Medicine and Barnes-Jewish and Medical Center, but these installations have been the cost of reinstalling the sidewalk. The pavers, at a cost of $800,000, are able to the School of Medicine and Barnes-Jewish and Medical Center, but these installations have been the cost of reinstalling the sidewalk.

The sidewalk is now cordoning off the Medical Center and is free to all School of Medicine employees.

"The project also is a continuation of a commitment to a campus style that is distinctive and brightening lighting and the sidewalk pavers, the Medical Center is creating a visible identity that defines its boundaries. This identity helps foster an awareness of the areas within the protective services presence of the School of Medicine and Barnes-Jewish and St. Louis Children's Hospital.

Though the Medical Center is taking these measures to keep students, faculty and visitors on the community, it is important to remember that personal safety is a shared responsibility. Pedestrians are reminded to be aware of their surroundings and to be attentive to potentially risky situations.

"I am confident that with her guidance, this department will continue to be at the forefront of research that is redefining how we think about human disease and how best to treat it." Solnica-Krezel said.

Solnica-Krezel is the University Professor and the Martha Rivero Ingram Professor of Developmental Genetics at Vanderbilt University. She also is a professor of biological sciences, of pediatrics and of cellular and developmental biology.

"I am honored by the invitation to head the new Department of Developmental Biology at Washington University, which has superb traditions in the area of developmental neurobiology and embryology," Solnica-Krezel said. "It is a particularly opportune time for developmental biology research as recent technological breakthroughs have enabled model systems to afford insights into human embryonic development. We are discovering that many of the adult human diseases have their origins during embryogenesis, while studies of stem cells and regeneration are bringing us closer to curing human diseases and pushing boundaries of aging. I am thrilled about joining the excellent group of developmental biologists at Washington University and working with them to shape the future of the department.

The molecular biology and pharmacology department became the developmental biology department in 2007. The change reflected a shift in the department’s research focus from embryonic development, aging, regenerative biology and physical and cellular developmental biology through life.

As head of the Department of Developmental Biology, Solnica-Krezel succeeds interim head David M. Orritt, M.D., Ph.D., who has held the position since October 2008. Orritt will return to his full-time research and teaching responsibilities.

Fielding doctoral fellowship in developmental genetics in 1995 at Harvard Medical School, where she helped to initiate and carry out the first large-scale genetic screen for mutations that affect vertebrate embryonic development.

Solnica-Krezel studies the molecular mechanisms that control early development of vertebrate animals. She has studied this process in zebra fish, using a combination of genetic analysis with embryological and molecular methods.

Shapiro to give Dean's Update

Larry J. Shapiro, M.D., executive vice chancellor for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, will give the annual Dean's Update to the School of Medicine employees Oct. 29 from 2-3 p.m. and Nov. 4 from 10-11 a.m. in the Cone Auditorium in the Farrell Learning and Teaching Center.

In each session, Shapiro plans to give updates on the School of Medicine’s key initiatives, including the educational programming, clinical practice, research enterprise, BJC Institute of Health at Washington University and progress on gender balance and diversity.
Bugs to Drones • Mirth Busters • America's Energy Future

University Events

See biggest display yet of undergraduate research at DUC

By Neil Schoenherr

How does the word "recession" relate to confidence in the economy? How can depression affect the body? What constitutes presurgical starvation?

The answers to these questions and many more will be revealed during the annual fall Undergraduate Research Symposium from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, throughout the Danforth University Center.

More than 300 undergraduate students are expected to showcase their research projects through poster presentations and visual and oral presentations during the event, which is free and open to the public.

"This symposium continues to grow and expand each year," said Henry B. Kornhauser, associate dean in Arts & Sciences and director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. "Our previous high watermark was 220 posters, and this year, it looks like we will have more than 300." The DUC was transformed for one day last fall into a center of undergraduate research. On Saturday, Oct. 24, it again will be brimming with posters and displays, this time detailing more than 300 undergraduate research projects.

Mayor Francis Slay to address urban issues for Assembly Series

By Kurt Muller

Chances junior Honorary and the Assembly Series are co-sponsoring an informal discussion with Francis G. Slay, mayor of the City of St. Louis, at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 29 in the Danforth University Center Tisch Commons. The event is free and open to the public.

According to Chances co-chair Jake Novick, a junior business student, the goal of the program is to create awareness among students of urban problems such as educational disparities, homelessness and gun violence, and how these issues affect the students' adopted city.

"We hope that Mayor Slay will give an overview of what's happening in the City of St. Louis, how the local leadership is trying to address the types of social infrastructure that play in urban areas, and what we can do to help," Novick said.

Slay, elected in 2001, was re-elected to his third term in April 2009. He is the third mayor in the city's history elected to serve three terms in office.

During his tenure as mayor, Slay has been working to fight chronic poverty and those in poverty. He is only the third mayor in the city's history elected to serve three terms in office.

His third term in April 2009. He is only the third mayor in the city's history elected to serve three terms in office.

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From the Post Dispatch

"We are excited to have Mayor Slay speak in our Assembly Series event due to his leadership in addressing complex urban problems," said the mayor's office.

"Our previous high watermark was 220 posters, and this year, it looks like we will have more than 300 undergraduates presenting their research. We expect that this will be one of the biggest symposiums ever.\)

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See the stars on campus Participate in the International Year of Astronomy by making a visit to the observatory on top of Crown Hall. It is open to the public every Wednesday on clear skies. For more information, visit the Observatory's website: record.wustl.edu

Saturday Science sessions focus on astronomy

USTL, physics professors will explore topics in astronomy this fall during the Saturday Science seminar series, sponsored by the Department of Physics and University College in the Arts & Sciences.

Astronomy was chosen as the theme of this fall's Saturday Science series in honor of 2009, designated as the International Year of Astronomy by the International Astronomical Union and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Lectures are free and open to the public on no reservations is required. Presentations start at 10 a.m. and take place in Crown Hall, Room 201. The series begins Oct. 17 with the presentation "Production of the Elements" by Ernst Zinner, D.D.S., D.P.M., professor and interim chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

The rest of the schedule: Saturday, Sept. 26, "A Fall Ovew, Galaxies. The New Astronomy of Gravitational Waves," presented by Clifford Will, Ph.D., the James S. McDonnell Professor, of physics.

Since the time of Galileo's observations, science has sought to explain the nature of the universe. The discovery of a "supermassive black hole" — with a mass exceeding one million times the mass of the sun — was a significant achievement.

No. 7: "Cosmology and Particle Physics," presented by Mark Alford, Ph.D., associate professor of physics. Humans live in an expanding universe, where "dark matter" cloaks galaxies and "dark energy" drives the expansion rate faster and faster. In Switzerland, the Large Hadron Collider is about to prove the blocking models of matter at the smallest distance ever explored. Alford will discuss how advances in the study of small matter make physicists understand the structure and evolution of the universe.

For more information, call 935-6276 or visit physics.wustl.edu.

Sam Fox School Public Lecture Series continues Oct. 27 and 28

Celebrated husband-and-wife filmmaking team Bill and Jillian Tamaki will deliver a joint talk as part of the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts Lecture Series at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 27 in the School of Design and Visual Arts Auditorium.

In addition, Marco Spina — founder of PATTERNs, a design research architectural practice in Los Angeles — will discuss his work for the Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts Lecture Series at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 28 in the School of Design and Visual Arts Auditorium.

On Stage

Friday, Oct. 23
2 p.m. Lee Sandgren, life presentation. "Ragtime." (Also 8 p.m. Oct. 24, 30 and 31; 7 p.m. Oct. 31.) 79 E. Gay St., Room 310. $50 for students, $30 for seniors and $35 for regular tickets. 935-7900 or visit samfoxschool.wustl.edu.

Saturday, Oct. 24
9 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Undergraduate Research Symposium, Darla Moore University Center. For information: starwlab.wustl.edu.

On the Grid, Oct. 28

And More

Saturday, Oct. 25
7:30 p.m. Thursday Jazz at Holmes.

Sunday, Oct. 26
2 p.m. School of Medicine Dean’s Update.

Monday, Oct. 27
7 p.m. Missouri’s First Forensic Team. Steve McCarty, forensic ethnobotanist for the Missouri State Police. Monya Ehrlich, a graduate student in the Department of Genetics, will be live on stage during the game.

MUSIC

Thursday, Oct. 22
8 p.m. John Zorn, trumpeter, and Marc Ribot, guitar. The Stone, 107 MacDougal St., New York, N.Y. $25.

Monday, Oct. 26
8 p.m. Dusty Rhett, Rehfeld Hall, 640 Trinity Ave. $5. 935-7900 or visit samfoxschool.wustl.edu.

FORD'S THEATRE

print on the back of single-
sided paper.

Court of Appeals session at law school

JESSICA MARTIN

The Missouri Court of Appeals Eastern District will hold a special session at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, in the School of Law's Bryan Cave Moot Court Amphitheater in Anheuser-Busch Hall.

The public is invited to hear cases involving a personal injury claim, a domestic violence situation and a contract settlement. The court periodically holds sessions as part of an educational program.

The judges hearing oral arguments are Robert G. Dow, J.D.; Lawrence A. Mooney, J.D.; and Sherri B. Sullivan, J.D.

After the special session, the judges will be available to answer general questions about judicial procedures as well as judicial clerkships.

To limit the amount of disturbance to the law students who are asked to enter and exit the court between each attorney’s oral arguments, Court clerks for the oral argument session will be assigned to the case to assist with communication between each attorney’s oral arguments.

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Chance vs. strategy
Anna Zatoniski (left), the recently crowned 2009 U.S. Women's Chess Champion, combines chess and roulette with Rex Sinquefield (right), president and chairman of the board of the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis Oct. 14 in the Midwest Kemper Art Museum. This unique game — the ultimate mix of chess and strategy — was co-created by Jennifer Shahade (center), the 2002 and 2004 champion, as an artist Marcel Duchamp. A lifelong chess player, Duchamp often included chance elements in his work, which is featured in the exhibition "Chance Aesthetics," on view at the museum through Jan. 4.

Ginzburg to present Lara Memorial Lecture
By Neil Schoenherr
Carlos Ginzburg, Ph.D., professor emeritus of history at the University of California, Los Angeles, will present "Copies, Facsimiles, and the Invisible" for the 2009 Rolando Lara Memorial Lecture at 8 p.m. Nov. 2 in Whitaker Hall Auditorium. The lecture, sponsored by the Department of Romance Text, is open to the public.

Sixteenth Century Miller"
"The Cheese and the Worms" is a study of the popular culture in the 16th century as seen through the eyes of one man, a miller brought to trial during the Inquisition. Ginzburg uses the trial records of Domenico Scandella, a miller also known as Carlo Ginzburg, as a starting point to reveal the political and religious conditions of his time. Ginzburg will use the opportunity to clarify the attachment of different symbolic and monetary value to representations of signs and to set the document in context, not in intrinsically features of painting and literature. Ginzburg claims Dante was one of the first poets to articulate this interplay.

For more information, call 935-5175 or visit wustl.edu/ginzburg.

Watts wins second national tennis title
Senior John Watts captured his second men's tennis individual national title Oct. 3 in New York City, winning the Division III ITA National National Championship tournament.

Senior Lauren Budde tallied 52 more points for the Bears' offense with 58 kills and a .244 hitting percentage. She tied the 2004 season-high of 38 kills and was the No. 1 seed in the conference tournament, winning her first three matches as an outside hitter. She recorded 11 kills and 10 blocks in the championship match.

Chance vs. strategy Anna Zatoniski (left), the recently crowned 2009 U.S. Women's Chess Champion, combines chess and roulette, sponsored by the Department of Romance Text for the 2009 Rolando Lara Memorial Lecture at 8 p.m. Nov. 2 in Whitaker Hall Auditorium. The lecture, sponsored by the Department of Romance Text, is open to the public.

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For more information, call 935-5175 or visit wustl.edu/ginzburg.
Architecture faculty earn AIA awards

Four faculty from the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis have been named to the American Institute of Architects (AIA) College Fellows Program. The annual awards honor architects who have made a significant and sustained contribution to the profession and society.

By LEE OTTEN

Richard Sigg has been named admissions director for Brown School

Richard Sigg has been promoted to director of admissions and financial aid for the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis. Sigg joined the school in 2003 and has served in a number of positions in the Office of Student Affairs. He has earned a bachelor’s degree in English and political science and a master’s degree in social work from the University of Miami.

Sigg named admissions director for Brown School

BY JESSICA MARTIN

Obituaries

Welshans, emeritus professor of finance, 91

Welshans served in depth as professor of finance and as chair of the Department of Finance and Business Administration. He was a leader in the field of international finance and was a prolific author, with several books to his name. Welshans was also a dedicated teacher, having taught at various universities, including Washington University in St. Louis, where he served as chair of the Department of Finance and Business Administration. He was a frequent speaker at conferences and workshops, and his research has been published in numerous academic journals.

Katz, 86

Sadie Katz, associate professor at the School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, has been named to the American Assembly of Social Work and Social Welfare. Katz was a leader in the field of social work and was a prolific author, with several books and articles to her name. Katz was also a dedicated teacher, having taught at various universities, including Washington University in St. Louis, where she served as a visiting lecturer in social work in 1989. Katz was a tireless advocate for social justice and was a frequent speaker at conferences and workshops. She was also a respected researcher, with several studies published in leading academic journals.
Bringing out the best

Matthews excels in surgical procedures designed to reduce scars, recovery time

In the laboratory, Brent Matthews, M.D., (left), chief of the Section of Minimally Invasive Surgery, and Corey Deeken, Ph.D., instructor of surgery, evaluate different types of meshes used to surgically repair hernias to determine which works best, depending on the location of the hernia. Hernias are typically patched with a mesh, held in place with sutures, tacks or biological glues. The mesh acts as a scaffold for new growth for the patient’s own tissue.

“I think it is safe to say that there were no limits to what could be developed,” said the Department of Surgery’s Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Endowed Professor and chairman, Timothy Eberlein, M.D., of the Butter Professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery, the Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Endowed Professor and director of the Siteman Cancer Center. “Brent approaches things so much, a lot of it behind the scenes. He brings out the best in everyone he works with. He’s a fantastic mentor — medical students, residents, even faculty.” In his own days as a medical student, Matthews witnessed a revolution in surgery take shape. He stood alongside his mentor, removing a patient’s gallbladder, but not with the customary 10-inch incision extending from the rib cage to the belly button. The surgeons made several half-inch incisions in the patient’s abdomen through which they passed miniature instruments and a high-resolution video camera. Their movements were guided by video images displayed on monitors in the operating room.

“It was an overwhelming and exciting experience,” Matthews says. “I felt like there were no limits to what we could develop. This was the future of surgery, and I wanted to be a part of it.” Since then, laparoscopy has replaced traditional, open surgeries for removing the gallbladder and appendix and repairing hernias. And it has become increasingly common for bariatric procedures to treat morbid obesity and for gynecologic and urologic surgeries. The smaller incisions have significantly reduced patients’ pain and their recuperation time.

Now, surgeons like Matthews are pushing the envelope even further by moving toward “scarless” procedures. But he says, “It’s not simply a matter of deciding that something is cool and offering it to patients. Part of the process of introducing new procedures is to determine if the technology is appropriate and for which patients.”

True academic surgeon

Matthews was recruited to the Department of Surgery in 2004 from the Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, N.C., where he was on the faculty at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. Eberlein, who was looking for a surgeon with expertise in minimally invasive surgery, called three colleagues in the field.

“They all said to call Brent Matthews,” Eberlein says. “One said, ‘You can get him, you’ve recruited the best guy in the country.’ Dr. Matthews has lived up to that.”

Matthews was lured by Eberlein’s vision of minimally invasive surgery as a true subspecialty of surgery.

“This was unique because most academic institutions still consider minimally invasive surgery a part of general surgery, not a subspecialty in itself,” Matthews says. “It was also clear that Washington University as an institution was very supportive of innovations in minimally invasive surgery. General surgery was even single-incision and natural-orifice procedures, but not in general surgery as it’s understood.”

“What we established was an ambitious program to research and develop new minimally invasive procedures, including robotic techniques, and to train faculty, residents and students.”

Brent Matthews is a real role model,” says William Chapman, M.D., chief of the Section of Transplant Surgery in the Department of Surgery. “He has established himself as an outstanding member of the surgery department in every imaginable way. He provides outstanding patient care and is one of the most sought-after surgeons in the Division of General Surgery, both among patients and referring physicians. He’s also known by students, residents and fellows for his excellence in teaching.”

Matthews says he relishes his career as academic surgeon.

“Academic medicine really stimulates you, it’s a way to stay current, to explore innovative ideas to move the field forward,” he says. “And there’s the continuing challenge from residents and students — you don’t get that in a private practice.”

Before Matthews and other minimally invasive surgeons bring new techniques into the operating room, they practice on simulators in a laboratory setting.

“Surgeons that most laparoscopic abdominal surgeries now performed through four or five small incisions soon will be accomplished through a single incision at the belly button or by combining the single-incision approach with robotic surgery, where a surgeon sits at a computer console maneuvering joystick-like controls that guide scalpels, scissors and high-resolution cameras through small incisions.”

This dual approach would allow surgeons to work in multiple areas of the abdomen with the crowding of instruments through one incision.

Matthews expects that natural orifice procedures will be re-introduced at a low rate, initially at least, for surgeons to remove the gallbladder or the appendix. Both procedures are still in the experimental stage and will be first evaluated at the medical school through clinical trials, expected to get under way in the next 18 months. While there are no external cuts regardless of how the surgeon enters the body, there still is cutting through internal tissues to reach and operate on organs.

“These procedures are either less invasive ways to care for patients or enable us to use technology like robotics to do more complex surgeries using minimally invasive techniques,” Matthews says.

Matthews organized the trip with Surgeon Fresneli, managing director of the minimally invasive surgery lab, who is a nurse by training. The team included residents, anesthesiologists, a fellow in minimally invasive surgery and support staff. They performed 61 hernia repairs and other abdominal surgeries in just five days, working from early morning to late in the evening. The group went with the expectation that all the patients would be adults, but Matthews says they couldn’t turn away children, all in need of help.

The mission trip was made possible through grants from the Barnes-Jewish Hospital Foundation and Christian World Relief. The group paid for part of the group’s expenses out of pocket. “It was a great experience,” says Matthews, who is planning a return trip in January. “There’s a lot of personal reward you get by helping others. And it is only magnified when you are in a close group like ours.”

For Matthews, the experience provided yet another teaching opportunity for the next generation of surgeons, not just in surgical techniques but also in compassion and caring.

It was not an experience lost on surgery resident Louis Melman, M.D., who works in Matthews’ lab and as part of the mission team.

“It was an amazing experience,” she says. “Dr. Matthews leads by example. He’s confident and relaxed, and just the kind of surgeon that all residents aspire to be: dedicated, caring and very professional. He’s in a way of putting you at ease so you can do your very best.”

Brent Matthews

Education: B.A. chemistry, Miami University (Ohio); M.D., Indiana University School of Medicine

Family: Wife, Nicole; daughters Riley, 8, and Lauren, 4

Hobbies: Golfing and running

Nominate him! The Washington University Student Council will make the final selection.

To nominate a student for the University’s Imperative Award, go to wusstudentcouncil.org and click on the "Imperative Awards" tab. The application deadline is Jan. 12, 2009.