



Mark Bourne Speculative Fiction Writing Scholarship

Thanks to a generous friend of the Center, starting in 2015 we are pleased to offer a scholarship to help 1-4 outstanding speculative-fiction writers attend one of the Center's summer writing workshops. Our first priority is to assist creative-writing graduate students at KU, but the scholarship is also open to our usual applicants.

The scholarship comes in the form of a fee waiver of the not-for-credit workshop registration fee or a monetary award to help cover fees for enrolling for-credit in ENGL 757 ([Speculative Fiction Writing Workshop](#) only). Recipients also receive a membership to the Campbell Conference following the workshops, an opportunity to meet SF professionals.

The scholarship is intended to enable writers to attend one of the Center's writing workshops who might not otherwise be able to afford it. The donor (Elizabeth Bourne, an alum of the summer program) hopes to "help more writers attend the workshops and benefit from the world-class instructors they attract." The scholarship is established in Mark's name to honor a man who dedicated his life to speculative fiction.



Mark Wilson Bourne was a [science-fiction writer](#), [science writer](#), [screenwriter](#), and [film](#) and [movie reviewer](#), as well as an actor, stage director, teacher, and general awesome person. He even got to [work with Ray Bradbury](#).

Mark passed away February 25, 2012, at the age of fifty. He was born July 10, 1961 in Russellville, Arkansas, to Philip and Elizabeth Wade Bourne. The middle of three boys, he is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; his stepson, Austin Lawhead; both brothers, Richard Bourne of Fort Collins, Colorado, and Randall Bourne of Phoenix, Arizona; and a large network of friends and chosen family.

Mark graduated from Russellville High School in 1979 and first attended Arkansas Tech, then the University of Arkansas where he earned his bachelor's with a double major in Music and English. He then achieved a Master's Degree in Theatre at the University of Nebraska.

Mark went on to script shows at planetaria and museums across the country. He is highly regarded in the science fiction field. His story "What Dreams Are Made On" was reprinted in the 4th edition of [Literature and Ourselves: a Thematic Introduction for Readers and Writers](#), making Mark a writer of academic significance. Mark is also listed in [Brave New Words: The Oxford Dictionary of Science Fiction](#) as having the earliest use of "morph" in his story, "Being Human."

But the things Mark was known best for can't be quantified by the remarkable facts of his life, like his dry and mischievous sense of humor, his infectious grin, his fierce friendship, his braininess and insight, and his love and generosity. He'll never truly be gone as long as we remember him.

For application details, see the Gunn Center's website: <http://www.sfcenter.ku.edu/Bourne-Scholarship.htm>

Mark's bio: <http://www.markbourne.com/Personal.htm>

The Gunn Center for the Study of Science Fiction is an educational, scholarly, and outreach organization housed at the University of Kansas.

www.sfcenter.ku.edu