

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic[®]

The 2009 Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Awards

For RFB&D[®] Members who are College Seniors and Blind or Visually Impaired

DEADLINE: Applications must be *postmarked no later than April 6, 2009*

ABOUT THE AWARD

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D), a nonprofit volunteer organization, is the nation's educational library serving people who cannot effectively read standard print because of visual impairment, dyslexia or other physical disability. Our mission is to create opportunities for individual success by providing, and promoting the effective use of, accessible educational materials.

Each year the **Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Awards (SAAs)** are presented to RFB&D members who are blind or visually impaired and have received, or will be receiving their bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009. The awards are given in recognition of extraordinary leadership, scholarship, enterprise and service to others.

Mary P. Oenslager, was a friend of Anne Macdonald, our founder. She began contributing to RFB&D in 1953 and, in 1959, helped us establish the Scholastic Achievement Awards program, personally funding the awards each year. Mary P. Oenslager shaped the program and enjoyed getting to know the winners each year. In addition to her financial support, she was an active volunteer, serving on our Board of Directors and actively recruiting individual and corporate supporters.

These awards are given to a total of nine students who are chosen by a selection committee. RFB&D presents three top winners \$6,000 each; three special honors winners \$3,000 each; and three honors winners \$1,000 each. The three top winners will be presented with their awards at an event to be announced.

Applicants should be aware that:

- As a top winner, you must be present at the celebratory event in order to receive your award.
- All winners may be asked to represent RFB&D as a spokesperson and advocate at various local and national events. Costs associated with these events will be covered by RFB&D.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Only fully completed applications will be considered for the awards. Please **DO NOT** include further information (such as news clippings, photos or additional references) other than that which has been specifically asked for. Such information will not be considered and will not be returned.

Documents should be paper-clipped (please do not staple) together **in the following order:**

- A fully completed and signed personal application (*Form 1*)
- Essay – with your name at the top of each page
- List of honors, achievements and community activities
- Two letters of recommendation on official school letterhead with two signed referral forms (*Form 2*)
- An official transcript

Any questions regarding the awards may be directed to RFB&D at **609-243-7051** or **866-732-3585** (toll free) or e-mail dnagy@rfd.org.

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic[®]

The 2009 Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Awards For RFB&D[®] Members who are College Seniors and Blind or Visually Impaired

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED TO APPLY

Candidates that meet all of the eligibility criteria must submit the following documents:

1. **A fully completed and signed personal application (*Form 1*)**

2. **One Essay:**

Provide us with an essay of 1,000 words or less that includes all of the following:

- Tell us about yourself and your life, including what you consider important about your background and your future personal and professional aspirations.
- How and when did you discover RFB&D?
- What difference has RFB&D made in your life and what role will it play in your future?
- What role could you play as an RFB&D spokesperson and advocate?

3. **Honors, achievements and community activities:**

On a separate sheet of paper, list and describe the following:

- Honors, awards and honorary society memberships.
- Special achievements (scholarships and talents).
- Extracurricular and community activities. Please provide timeframes and the extent and level of involvement.

4. **Two letters of recommendation for this award** from professors or college administrators who have known you personally and can evaluate classroom performance and extracurricular activities. Attached to each letter of recommendation must be a referral form (*Form 2*) signed by the professor/college administrator. Letters must be on official school letterhead.

5. **An official transcript** of your college grades, covering three-and-a-half or four years (*from all colleges you have attended*).

MAIL TO:

2009 SAA Awards
c/o: Diana Nagy
Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic
20 Roszel Road
Princeton, NJ 08540

Applications must be *postmarked no later than April 6, 2009*

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic[®]
The 2009 Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Awards
For RFB&D[®] Members who are College Seniors and Blind or Visually Impaired

FORM 1 – PERSONAL APPLICATION

Please type or clearly print and include **ONLY** the information that is requested in the spaces below. You may also find this form online at www.rfbd.org.

To apply for this award, you must be able to respond affirmatively and check **all** of the following eligibility criteria:

- I am legally blind
- I have been registered as an RFB&D member for at least one year, up to and including the period of March 2, 2008 — March 2, 2009 (individually or through a school)
- I have received, or will receive, a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree from an accredited four-year college or university in the United States or its territories between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009
- I have an overall grade point average for my undergraduate years of 3.0 or more on a 4.0 scale (*or equivalent if an alternative grading system is used*)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Graduation: _____

Undergraduate or graduate degree granted between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009:

BA: ____ BS: ____ Other: _____

Major: _____ Minor: _____

3½- or 4-year grade average (rated on a 4.0 scale): _____

Describe your particular visual disability: _____

Totally Blind: _____ Legally Blind: _____

Continued on Page 2

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic[®]
The 2009 Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Awards
For RFB&D[®] Members who are College Seniors and Blind or Visually Impaired

FORM 1 – PERSONAL APPLICATION CONTINUED

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Are you registered with RFB&D individually? Y/N _____ If Yes, provide ID # _____

If you have a membership through an institution/school, provide details below:

Name/Membership # of institution/school: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Contact Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Duration of your membership? _____ Approximate number of **RFB&D** audiobooks read in the last 3 years (or, if membership is under 3 years, during your membership): _____

Name of school currently attending: _____

City/State (if different from above): _____

Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

SIGNATURE

The applicant's signature constitutes a pledge that this application is accurate to the best of their knowledge, that the application is entirely the work of the applicant and that the applicant meets all of the eligibility criteria. In addition, by signing this form, the applicant agrees to participate in RFB&D media activities and gives RFB&D the absolute right and permission to feature the name, photograph, videotape, quotes and/or information about the applicant in any RFB&D publication and/or public relations materials; and hereby waives the right to approve the finished product(s).

Signature: _____ Date: _____

RFB&D USE ONLY: Inst. Ind. Reg. Date: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic[®]
The 2009 Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Awards
For RFB&D[®] Members who are College Seniors and Blind or Visually Impaired

FORM 2 – PROFESSOR/COLLEGE ADMINISTRATOR REFERRAL FORM

This form must be attached to your letter of recommendation, which **must** be on school letterhead and both documents mailed with the candidate's application.

PLEASE TYPE OR CLEARLY PRINT

Applicant's Name: _____

Name of College/University: _____

Name of Professor/College Administrator: _____

Title and Department: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

The student whose name appears above is applying for a **Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Award**, presented by **Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic** to members who are college seniors and who are blind or visually impaired, in recognition of extraordinary leadership, scholarship, enterprise and service to others. Your recommendation offering specific information about the accomplishments and qualifications of the applicant, and your comments as to how RFB&D has helped this student, will be most helpful to the selection committee in its evaluation.

Your estimation of the applicant's performance, abilities and personal qualities will be carefully reviewed. If you are aware of contributions the applicant has made to the school or community, please comment on his/her talent, dedication and effectiveness.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic[®]
The 2009 Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Awards
For RFB&D[®] Members who are College Seniors and Blind or Visually Impaired

FORM 2 – PROFESSOR/COLLEGE ADMINISTRATOR REFERRAL FORM

This form must be attached to your letter of recommendation, which **must** be on school letterhead and both documents mailed with the candidate's application.

PLEASE TYPE OR CLEARLY PRINT

Applicant's Name: _____

Name of College/University: _____

Name of Professor/College Administrator: _____

Title and Department: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

The student whose name appears above is applying for a **Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Award**, presented by **Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic** to members who are college seniors and who are blind or visually impaired, in recognition of extraordinary leadership, scholarship, enterprise and service to others. Your recommendation offering specific information about the accomplishments and qualifications of the applicant, and your comments as to how RFB&D has helped this student, will be most helpful to the selection committee in its evaluation.

Your estimation of the applicant's performance, abilities and personal qualities will be carefully reviewed. If you are aware of contributions the applicant has made to the school or community, please comment on his/her talent, dedication and effectiveness.

Signature: _____ Date: _____