

Maria Sticco, Publicist  
e-mail: mes5@pitt.edu  
tel: (412) 383-2493 fax: (412) 383-2466

3400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
tel: (412) 383-2456 fax: (412) 383-2466  
www.upress.pitt.edu

*For immediate release January 6, 2008*

### **Twenty-eighth Drue Heinz Literature Prize awarded to Pennsylvania native**

PITTSBURGH—Anthony Varallo has been named the twenty-eighth winner of the annual Drue Heinz Literature Prize, one of the nation’s most prestigious awards for a book of short stories. Varallo’s manuscript, *Out Loud*, was selected by best-selling author Scott Turow from a field of nearly 300 entries. The collection will be published by the University of Pittsburgh Press this fall.

Turow said, “The stories in *Out Loud* are just awfully damn good. They are the work of a very talented and accomplished writer. As a group, they seem to be runners off the same root themes and thus as you’d hope, the book is even greater than the sum of its parts.”

Varallo, a Pennsylvania native who resides in Charleston, South Carolina, explained that the stories in his collection are driven by “a love of the ordinary life. Disappointment, loss and longing appear in the periphery of these stories, but each is essentially hopeful, rendered with a light touch, humor, and grace.”

Recalling his reaction to earning the Drue Heinz prize, Varallo said, “I was overwhelmed to learn that I’d won. I’ve always been a fan of the Drue Heinz series, and I feel honored to be part of such an amazing tradition. My wife went out and bought us a bottle of champagne!”

Varallo was born in Media, Pennsylvania, on June 12, 1970, but was raised in Yorklyn, Delaware. He received his B.A. from the University of Delaware, his M.F.A. from the University of Iowa/Iowa Writers’ Workshop, and a PhD from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Varallo is an assistant professor of English at the College of Charleston and the fiction editor for *Crazyhorse*.

Varallo’s first collection of short stories, *This Day in History*, won the 2005 John Simmons Short Fiction Award, published by the University of Iowa Press, and was also a finalist for the 2006 Paterson Fiction Prize. His stories have appeared in *Epoch*, *Story Quarterly*, *New England Review*, *Harvard Review*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Mid-American Review*, and *Shenandoah*, among others. He received an NEA Fellowship in Literature.

###