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Jonas Zdanys, an English professor at Sacred Heart University, was a featured poet at the ninth annual Scissortail Festival (<http://ecuscissortail.blogspot.com/>) in Ada, Okla. The Scissortail Creative Writing Festival is an annual poetry and literary arts gathering that is held the first weekend of every April on campus at Oklahoma's East Central University. Ken Hada, a widely published and award-winning American poet and professor of English at East Central, first created this festival back in 2005. This festival is the largest gathering of its kind in the American Southwest.

"This festival was created to bring together highly published and internationally recognized authors and feature them in designated literary reading sessions," said Zdanys. "Those authors are joined during the three-day festival by other promising writers who are developing their literary and publishing careers. Scissortail intentionally mixes everyone together, regardless of achievement or acclaim, personality or style because, above all, the festival celebrates creativity and seeks to encourage writers to inspire one another and the audiences who come to hear them read their works."

The festival this year took place on April 3-5 and hosted poets, novelists and short story writers from across the country. Zdanys was among four featured authors including Nathan Brown, Carolyn Wright and James Hoggard.

"I was honored to be selected as the featured poet for this year's festival," said Zdanys. "Having the ability to represent not only my work but the University was a great privilege."