January 2018

The Hopwood Newsletter is published electronically twice a year, in January and July. It lists the publications and activities of winners of the Summer Hopwood Contest, Hopwood Underclassmen Contest, Graduate and Undergraduate Hopwood Contest, and the Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize.

Sad as I am to be leaving, I’m delighted to announce my replacement as the Hopwood Awards Program Assistant Director. Hannah is a Hopwood winner herself in Undergraduate Poetry in 2009. Her email address is ensorh@umich.edu, so you should address future newsletter items to her.

Hannah Ensor
Photo Credit: Aisha Sabatini Sloan

We’re very happy to report that Jesmyn Ward was made a 2017 MacArthur Fellow for her fiction, in which she explores “the enduring bonds of community and familial love among poor African Americans of the rural South against a landscape of circumscribed possibilities and lost potential.” She will receive $625,000 over five years to spend any way she chooses. The fellowships reward exceptional “originality, insight and potential.” The MacArthur Foundation goes on to say:

‘Jesmyn Ward is a fiction writer exploring the bonds of community and familial love among poor African Americans in the rural South.

She is the author of three novels and a memoir, all set in the Gulf Coast region of her native Mississippi and centered on marginalized black communities. In prose that is simultaneously luminous and achingly honest, Ward captures moments of beauty, tenderness, and resilience against a bleak landscape of crushing poverty, racism, addiction, and incarceration.

The novel Salvage the Bones (2011) follows the four siblings of the Batiste family as they protect and nurture each other in the days leading up to and just after Hurricane Katrina.

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Ward transcends the brutal reality of their experiences—pit bull fights, a missed opportunity to attend college, a pregnancy at fifteen—through the narration of Esch, who imagines herself as a triumphant Medea, a strong, beautiful, and legendary leader. *Sing, Unburied, Sing* (2017), Ward’s most recent novel (winner of a 2017 National Book Award for fiction), is wider in its scope, moving back and forth in time and including the voices of ghosts and the people they haunt. Ward does not shy away from uncomfortable truths or how her characters’ own flawed choices contribute to their situations. Leonie and Michael’s drug addiction and selfish love for one another force their young son, JoJo, to assume the role of parent to his toddler sister. When the family journeys upstate to pick up Michael from Parchman Prison, JoJo encounters the ghost of Richie, a young boy who died at the prison in the 1940s, revealing the long legacy of Parchman both in JoJo’s family and as a tool for oppressing black communities in Mississippi.

In her novels and nonfiction accounts of her own experiences with loss and injustice, Ward is offering a raw and powerful portrayal of the circumscribed possibilities and lost potential faced by many African Americans after generations of racial and economic inequality."

We send warmest congratulations!

**Antonya Nelson** will read at the *Hopwood Underclassmen Awards Ceremony* on January 30 at 3:30 in the Rackham Amphitheatre. She is the author of four novels, including *Living to Tell and Bound*, and seven short story collections, including *Some Fun, Nothing Right*, and, most recently, *Funny Once*. Her short stories have appeared in *Esquire*, *The New Yorker*, *Ploughshares*, *Quarterly West*, *Harper’s*, and other magazines. They have been anthologized in *Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards* and *Best American Short Stories*. She teaches in the Warren Wilson College MFA Program for Writers, as well as in the University of Houston’s Creative Writing Program.

**Janet Leahy** will deliver the Hopwood Lecture following the announcement of the awards at the *Graduate and Undergraduate Hopwood Awards Ceremony*. It will be held on April 18, at 3:30 p.m. in the Rackham Amphitheatre. She was a graduate of UCLA’s school of film and television. She started her career as a secretary on the situation comedy *Newhart* and went on to become a freelance writer for the series. From there she spent eighteen years as a comedy writer, producing, writing and executive producing for series such as *Cheers*, *The Cosby Show*, *Roseanne*, and *Grace Under Fire*, amongst others. Her work continued in the one hour arena as Consulting Producer on *Gilmore Girls*, followed by Executive Producer of *Boston Legal*, *Life Unexpected*, and *Mad Men*. She has received several Emmy nominations and awards, as well as the Writers’ Guild and Peabody awards for her work.

This was the last year for the *Summer Hopwood Contest*, due to the low number of submissions. Spring/Summer writing students may use their courses to enter other Hopwood contests in the academic year. The judges this year, former Hopwood Awards winners Emily McLaughlin and Francis Santana, were impressed with the work of the following winners:

**Summer Hopwood Fiction:** Evan Rose, $600; Riva Szostkowski, $600

**Summer Hopwood Nonfiction:** Kathryn Orwig, $600; Joshua S. Rabotnick, $1,000

The Marjorie Rapaport Award in Poetry contest has been moved to the Fall semester.
John U. Bacon

Samiya Bashir
Field Theories, poetry, Nightboat, 2017.

Donald Beagle
“I am pleased to send word that the publication link went live today [August 3] on Amazon.com for Radcliffe Squires: Selected Poems: 1950-1985.”
https://www.amazon.com/dp/1618460331/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1501684449&sr=8-1&keywords=radcliffe+squires+selected+poems. Don also provided a link to Tamsin Smith reading “A Day in Salamanca” at the 2015 Aspen Institute:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_Dxcn5cOYA&t=34s

Franny Choi

Maury Dean

Mary Gaitskill

Merrill Gilfillan
Small Weathers, poems, Qua Books, 2004; Red Mavis, poems, Flood Editions, Chicago.

Garrett Hongo

Cynthia L. Haven

Lawrence Joseph

Laura Kasischke

Judith Kirscht
The Camera’s Eye, a novel, New Libri Press, 2017, available in print or as ebook on Amazon or Barnes and Noble. The novel was a finalist for the William Faulkner Wisdom Award in 2015.

Danielle Lazarin
Karyna McGlynn

Celeste Ng

Benjamin Paloff

Marge Piercy

Sara Schaff

Carrie Smith

Danez Smith

Laura Hulthen Thomas

Rosmarie Waldrop
Translated and Selected *The Up and Down of Feet: Poems 1994-2010* by Elke Erb, Burning Deck Press, 2017; Translated with Laura Marris *Triste Tristan and Other Poems* by Paol Keineg, Burning Deck Press, 2017. These are the last two books published by Burning Deck Press, after 56 years, and we owe Keith and Rosmarie a real debt for producing the work of so many writers, along with their own poems.

Jesmyn Ward
*Sing, Unburied, Sing*, a novel, Scribner, 2017.

Holly Wren Spaulding

Howard R. Wolf
Articles and Essays

The following Hopwood winners contributed pieces to the “On Beauty” issue of the English Department’s 2017 Alumni Newsletter: Michael Byers, Laura Kasirschke, Aric Knuth, Lillian Li, Beth Aviv

Beth Aviv

Sven Birkerts

Jeremiah Chamberlain
“Interview with Kirstin Valdez Quale,” Glimmer Train #100, Fall 2017.

David Gewanter

Michael Idov (Zilberman)

Cynthia L. Haven

Jascha Kessler
Cammie McGovern

Rachel Morganstern-Clarren
“The Vagaries of Exile: Migrant Literature from Quebec,” Words Without Borders, October 2017. “My feature on contemporary Quebec authors who were born outside of Canada and who write in French, their second language, includes new work by Kim Thuy (translated by Sheila Fischman), Sergio Kokis (tr. by Hugh Hazleton), Ying Chen (tr. by Pamela Casey), and Pan Bouyoucas (tr. by Éric Fontaine and myself).”

Celeste Ng

Kathryn Orwig

Marge Piercy

Paige Pfleger
“DNA testing reunites family after 50 years,” RC Alumni Journal, Fall 2017.

Anna Prushinskaya

Paisley Rekdahl

Sara Schaff

Ian Singleton

Ann Tashi Slater

Mairead Small Staid

Jesmyn Ward

Maya West
Reviews

Laurence W. Thomas
A review of Phillip Sterling’s new book of poems, And Then Snow, Third Wednesday, Fall 2017.

Fiction

Beth Aviv

Yoni Brenner

Michael Byers

Ellen Dreyer

Dennis Foon

Alyson Foster

Clare Higgins
“Love & Other Disorders,” Clare Higgins

Kathryn Orwig

Matthew Pollock
“The Cell Phone,” Xylem, a publication of the Undergraduate English Association at the University of Michigan, 2012-2013.

Kristen Roupenian

Sara Schaff

Ian Singleton

Ben Stroud

Laura Hulthen Thomas

Howard R. Wolf
http://www-personal.umich.edu/~jensenl/visuals/album/annarbor/

Poetry

Peter Anderson

Fatimah Asghar

Stephen Eric Berry

Claudia Buckholts
“The Summer in Oklahoma,” The Southern Review, Summer 2017. She is the author of Bitterwater and Traveling Through the Body.

Giancarlo Buonomo
“Oedipus at Concord,” Xylem, a publication of the Undergraduate English Association at the University of Michigan, 2012-2013.

Victoria Chang

Franny Choi
Bob Clifford
“Devils Gate Rawlins where your dreams died,” “Farewell to the lonesome warrior,” “The casket makers for wars,” “As the daisies wake up for another day of sun,” “Running through the Assabet Valley,” RC Alumni Journal, Fall 2017.

David Gewanter

Ben Gunsberg
“Floating Exhibit,” a finalist for the James Wright Poetry Award, Mid-American Review, XXXVII, 2, 2017.

Nick Harp

Clare Higgins

Garrett Hongo

Lawrence Joseph
“In This Language, in War’s Revolutions,” “Of What We Know Now,” Kenyon Review, July/August 2017.

Laura Kasischke

Dave Lucas
“Marsyas on Aethetics,” The Threepenny Review #151, Fall 2017.

Courtney Mandryk

Derek Mong
“When the Earth Flies into the Sun” Kenyon Review, July/August 2017.

Kathryn Orwig

Marge Piercy
Paisley Rekdal

Matthew Rohrer

Francis Santana

Sara Schaff

Elizabeth Schmuhl

Danez Smith

Laurence W. Thomas

Richard Widerkehr
“Silence,” Third Wednesday, Fall 2017.

Martha Zweig

A wolverine, a native species notorious for its relentless hunting and scavenging instincts. (Photo: Per Harald Olsen/NTNU/CC BY 2.0)
Drama

Peter Anderson

Film/Video/Audio

Dr. Sherman Silber

News & Notes

Frank Beaver

Stephen Eric Berry
has accepted an invitation by Dickinson scholar Marta Werner to be a discussion leader at the upcoming annual meeting of the Emily Dickinson International Society. The four-person roundtable will be focused on Dickinson and Pedagogy, in particular, finding ways for teacher-scholar-artists in EDIS to build meaningful partnerships with teacher-scholar-artists working in public high schools. The annual meeting will be held in Amherst, MA on August 3-4.

Laura Kaschke, Sarah Messer, and Laura Thomas were program participants in the Residential College’s 50th anniversary celebration in October.

John U. Bacon

Cynthia Haven
“I think you mentioned my 2011 book, *An Invisible Rope: Portraits of Czesław Miłosz*, with Ohio University Press. That year, the centennial of Miłosz’s birth, I went around the world, speaking at the British Academy and the University College London, the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, the American University in Paris, and with Columbia University in New York City, and elsewhere.” She wrote her new book, *Evolution of Desire: A Life of René Girard*, while a visiting scholar at Stanford and a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution. “I’m still blogging at the high-traffic Book Haven on the Stanford website (almost 8 years now, as I recall...). We’ve even started an international controversy that was picked up on NPR and *The New York Times* and everywhere else. (A new publication of *Huck Finn*.)”

Tung-Hui Hu
UM English professor Tung-Hui Hu talked with technology journalist David Pogue about “the cloud” for CBS Sunday Morning’s cover story. Tung-Hui, who teaches in UM’s Digital Studies program, is the prizewinning author of four books, most recently *A Prehistory of the Cloud* (MIT Press, 2015). The program aired on October 22 and also streamed online as well.

Celeste Ng
Laura Hulthen Thomas
was featured in the “5 Over 50: Lives of Debut Authors” article in the November/December 2017 *Poets and Writers* magazine.

Sam Walker

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**Awards & Honors**

Jim Allyn
His short story “The Master of Negwegan” was selected for inclusion in the anthology *The Best American Mystery Stories 2017*, edited by John Sandford and published in October by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and available on Amazon, etc. He writes: “If you google ‘Brothers published in same book,’ you’ll see a news story about my brother and I appearing together in this anthology. We both attended Michigan although he didn’t win no Hopwood, eh?”

Donald Beagle
His collection of poems, *What Must Arise* (LP Press @ Wake Forest University), has been nominated for the Roanoke-Chowan Poetry Award 2017.

Katie Hartsock
Her book, *Bed of Impatiens*, was a finalist for the 2017 Ohioana Award in poetry.

Tung-Hui
was awarded the University of Michigan’s Henry Russel Award. Considered the University’s highest honor for faculty at the early to mid-career stages of their career, the Henry Russel Award is conferred annually to faculty members who have demonstrated an extraordinary record of accomplishment in scholarly research and/or creativity, as well as an excellent record of contributions as a teacher.

Randa Jarrar
received the $5,000 2016 Story Prize Spotlight Award for *Him, Me, Muhammad Ali* (Sarabande Books).
Bradford Kammin
won the $2,000 Southern Indiana Review Mary C. Mohr Award in Fiction for his story “The One Good Thing About Las Vegas, Nevada.”

Laura Kasischke
*The Guardian* named her alongside of Nabokov and Thomas Mann in the list of the authors of the “Top Ten Authentic Romances. The book they spotlighted was her novel, *Be Mine*.
Laura was awarded the Allan Seagar Collegiate Professorship in English Language and Literature. Her inaugural lecture was on December 5.

Nate Marshall
won the 2017 New Writers Award in poetry for his collection, *Wild Hundreds* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2016). The prize was sponsored by the Great Lakes Colleges Association.

Patricia Hooper
*Separate Flights* was awarded the 2017 Roanoke-Chowan Award for Poetry by the North Carolina Literary and Historical Society.

Sara Schaff
was a semifinalist in the Plays Inverse Press Unemerged Playwrights Contest this summer. She writes that she’s back in her home state, teaching at St. Lawrence University.

Mairead Small Staid
is the 2017-18 George Bennett Fellow at Phillips Exeter Academy.

Courtney Faye Taylor
was one of four poets who won the 2017 “Discovery”/Boston Review Poetry Prize. She received $500, publication of her work in *Boston Review*, and an invitation to give a reading at the 92nd Street Y in New York City.

Laurence W. Thomas
has been named a Chancellor of the Poetry Society of Michigan.

Rosmarie Waldrop
was the winner of the 2016 Los Angeles Times Book Prize in poetry for *Gap Gardening: Selected Poems*.

Joyce Winslow
has won the 2017 F. Scott Fitzgerald Short Story Award given by the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival in Rockville, MD where Fitzgerald and family are buried. Annie Proulx received the 2017 Honoree Award at the same ceremony on Oct. 21, 2017. Ms. Winslow has also received a 2018 Fellowship grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities to write and gather together her much awarded short stories into a collection.

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**Deaths**

We’re very sad to have to report that Peter P. Pratt, winner of a 1985 Major Essay Award, died of pancreatic cancer on October 11 at the age of 59.
His obituary in the Lansing State Journal noted: “Peter considered himself a lucky man, who found great satisfaction in many things. He took enormous pride in his company, Public Sector Consultants, where he spent over thirty years working with an impressive group of people committed to improving Michigan. He was particularly passionate about health care and early childhood issues, always advocating for those whose voices were not heard.”
Special Announcements

Please help us to keep the Newsletter as accurate and up-to-date as possible by sending news of your publications and activities. Your friends would like to hear about you! If you have any news or information you would like me to share, we would be delighted to hear about it through ensorh@umich.edu but please remember to type “Hopwood” in the subject line so your message isn’t deleted by mistake. The mailing address is 1176 Angell Hall, 435 S State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1003. The Hopwood Room’s phone number is 734-764-6296. The cutoff date for listings was November 30. If your information arrived after that, it will be included in our next newsletter in July. The cutoff date for that newsletter will be May 30.

Our thanks to all of you who have so generously donated copies of your books to the Hopwood Library. The special display of recent books by Hopwood winners always attracts a lot of attention. We appreciate your thoughtfulness very much and enjoy showing off your work to visitors.

The Hopwood Program has a web page address: lsa.umich.edu/hopwood/. Visit the English Department’s Helen Zell Writers’ Program site at lsa.umich.edu/writers.

I’m very grateful for all my time in this position. It’s wonderful to be surrounded by dedicated, engaging, bright young writers and to be able, though the generosity of Avery Hopwood and our other donors, to offer encouragement at a time when those writers are very grateful for the validation. I’ve loved spending time with you and following your activities. So do copy me (abeauch@umich.edu) on your messages to Hannah so I can continue to do that.

Do stop by to say hello to Hannah if you’re visiting Ann Arbor. All best wishes for a happy spring and summer.

Affectionately,

Andrea Beauchamp
Assistant Director
Hopwood Awards
Program

Thank you and Goodbye