January 2017

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.

In July, those of us in Ann Arbor received a letter from the US Postal Service. A mail truck caught fire and, though the driver fortunately escaped injury, all the mail was burned up. So if you sent me a letter around that time and have heard nothing back, please know I’m not ignoring you!

The Summer Hopwood Awards Ceremony was held on September 22 in the Hopwood Room. Professor Laurence Goldstein of the English Department presented the awards.

And the winners are:

Fiction: San Pham, $2,000
Nonfiction: Kristina Perkins, $800; Sarah Huttenlocher, $1,000
Poetry: Maria Robins-Somerville, $1,000; San Pham, $1,500
The Marjorie Rapaport Award in Poetry: Angelica Esquivel, $500; Antonina Malyarenko, $700

The 2017 Hopwood Underclassmen Awards Ceremony will be held on Friday, January 27, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. in the Rackham Amphitheatre. Tracy K. Smith will give a reading following the announcement of the awards. She is the author of three collections of poetry, The Body’s Question, Duende, and Life on Mars (winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 2012), and a memoir, Ordinary Light (a finalist for the 2015 National Book Award in Nonfiction). She teaches creative writing at Princeton University.

Continued, page 2
We are delighted to announce that former Hopwood Awards Program Director and Robert Frost Distinguished University Professor Nicholas Delbanco will deliver the lecture at the Graduate and Undergraduate Hopwood Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 20, 2017.

The ceremony will be held in the Rackham Amphitheatre and will begin at 3:30 p.m. He has published 29 books of fiction and nonfiction, beginning with The Martlet’s Tale, which came out in July 1966. His works include The Countess of Stanlein Restored, What Remains, and the Sherbrookes trilogy. His most recent books are The Art of Youth: Crane, Carrington, Gershwin and the Nature of First Acts; The Years; and Dear Wizard: The Letters of Nicholas Delbanco and Jon Manchip White. His awards include a Guggenheim Fellowship and two National Endowment for the Arts Writing Fellowships. Formerly the Director of the MFA Program in Creative Writing (now the Helen Zell Writers’ Program), he directed the Hopwood Awards Program for almost 30 years.

Publications by Hopwood Winners*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Books and Chapbooks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Derrick Austin      | Trouble the Water, poetry, BOA Editions, 2016. |
| Phillip Crymble     | Not Even Laughter, poetry, Salmon Poetry, 2016. |
| Randa Jarrar         | Him, Me, Muhammad Ali, stories, Sarabande, 2016. |
| Paisley Rekdal      | Imaginary Vessels, poetry, Copper Canyon Press, 2016. |
Ann Tashi Slater  *Travels Within and Without*, nonfiction, 2016. The chapbook was produced for an event at the Rubin Museum in New York City, “A Tibetan Family History,” on July 6, where Ann gave a talk.


Jack Stanley  *Through A Lens Darkly: Vietnam*, an e-novel available through the Kindle Store on Amazon. Jack writes: “This is my 8th e-novel and a story over 45 years overdue. I never thought I’d write about my time in Nam, --- for all the reasons which most people understand --- but having discovered my love of writing novels since I retired from teaching, it was about time. My other e-books are novels (mysteries, political fiction, and Westerns), screenplays, stage plays, and short stories. Recently I published *Murder in Muleshoe* and *The Reluctant President* about a retired Amarillo surgeon who through happenstance become the President of the United State. It begs the question, ‘What would happen if a good man, an honest man, not a politician, actually became President?’”


Kathleen A. Wakefield  *Grip, Give and Sway*, poetry, Silver Birch Press, 2016.


Howard R. Wolf  “In February, 2017 Prestige Books International (Delhi) will publish three related one acts as a one-act: *Home at the End of the Day*. The three acts are: ‘Reunion of a Summer Evening’; ‘Blue Nights in South Florida’; and ‘Twilight Unveiling at the Hotel de Dream.’”


---

**Articles and Essays**


Mo Daviau  “On Froelich’s Ladder: An Interview with Jamie Duclos-Yourdon,” July 2016.

Margaret Lazarus Dean  “Author Interview: Margaret Lazarus Dean,” *The Ribbon*, September 2016.


Christopher Hebert  “Author Interview: Christopher Hebert,” The Ribbon, September 2016.

Joseph Horton  In Ploughshares blog: “Writ in Water: Retraining the Distance Vision” (July 2016); “Writ in Water: Millimeters to the End of the World” (August 2016); “Writ in Water: The Good Fortunes of Peter Ho Davies” (September 2016).


Bert Stratton  “A European Education,” Third Wednesday, Fall 2016.


Howard R. Wolf  “The rainbow top: on Nabokov’s ‘great gay comic novel’ and his imaginative empathy with the outsider,” Times Literary Supplement, August 5, 2016.


Reviews


Fiction


Poetry


Stephen Eric Berry  “The Vesuvius of Amherst,” Third Wednesday, IX, 3, Summer 2016; “Trespassage,” Bluestem Magazine, October 2016. “Trespassage” is a multi-media broadside, including visual art by John Elkerr with my text, accompanied by an audio recording of the piece being read by me.

Alex Cigale  Translations of 5 Poems from Poems 5 by Mikhail Eremin in Asymptote (July 2016); Anna Akhmatova’s “Requiem” (poem cycle) in The Hopkins Review 9.3; 2 poems by Mikhail Eremin in Plume 63; Poems by Alexandr Kabanov and Boris Khersonsky in Springhouse (May 10, 2016); 2 poems by Amarsana Ulzytuev in Quiddity 9; 5 Poets of the Russian Silver Age (Blok, Bely, Voloshin, Khlebnikov, Khodasevich) in Peacock Journal; 3 prose poems by Alexander Ulanov in South Florida Poetry Journal 3.


Phillip Crymble  “Onions,” from Not Even Laughter (Salmon Poetry, 2016) forthcoming in the Forwards Arts Foundation 2017 Poetry Anthology. He is the Poetry Editor for The Fiddlehead.


Patricia Hooper  “Sunflowers,” “All Morning,” The Hudson Review, Autumn 2016.


_Drama Performances and Publications_  

Leo Rockas  A staged reading of *Solicitudes (Little Jane Austen in school)* was held on November 18 at the Main Stage in New York City.

Davy Rothbart  *Found the Musical* was staged at the Philadelphia Theatre Company November 9 through December 11. “Based on Davy Rothbart’s popular Found books, magazines, tours and appearances on *This American Life* comes a new musical comedy about the things we’ve lost and the ways they bring us together. Tony-nominated book writer Hunter Bell joins composer/lyricist Eli Bolin and director Lee Overtree in creating a semi-autobiographical account of Davy’s life and loves, set against a backdrop of the hilarious and heart-breaking real notes and letters from the pages of Found Magazine, as they come to life on stage. Presented by an award-winning team of producers, writers, and designers, FOUND explores both the objects and the people we encounter along our way, and reveals the stories hidden in plain sight in the world around us.”

**News & Notes**

**Frank Beaver** continues writing his column “Talking About Movies” for Michigan Today. His most recent articles are “Gene Wilder: His search for art,” “Mondo Italiano,” and “The Lyric.”

**Alex Cigale** “I was in DC this November, one week after the election, to take part in my first ASEES (Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies) translation panel, in a celebration of Osip Mandelstam at 125.’ In October, I was in Oakland and presented at my second ALTA (American Literary Translators Association) as part of the ‘Immigrant as Translator’ panel. I will present a similar panel at the AWP DC Conference 2017 in February, ‘Immigration: Cultural Binding, Creative Chaos, etc.’

**Lyn Coffin** “I will introduce Rustaveli to Swedish Academic Society on October 7 at the Royal Palace in Stockholm, Sweden.”

**Patricia Hooper** was the featured writer at a literary picnic at the Roethke House in Saginaw on August 16.

**Marge Piercy** “I conducted my sixth annual Juried Intensive Poetry Workshop last June and am currently reading manuscripts for the next one. After years of fielding requests, I held a workshop in October for poets returning from previous workshops—a very limited number of those who had asked for it.”

**Matthew Schmitt** “I’ve recently moved to Detroit with my family. My blog, www.DismantlingWhitesouls.com, earned me a spot as a recent performing storyteller at last Month’s Secret Society of Twisted Storytellers at the Wright African American History museum. You can catch the performance video on the October 21, 2016 post, and the original text is there too.”

**Maya West** is now the Assistant Director of the University of Michigan’s Helen Zell Writers’ Program.

**Howard R. Wolf** “I spent ten days at the MacDowell Colony in September where I wrote a short history of my writing life from my first visit to MacDowell in 1975 and the present. I might add that I hold the record for the longest interval between visits—41 years….In February, I’ll give a lecture at the Cascais Cultural Foundation (Portugal): “Responsibilities of the American Writer at the Present Time.” Mr. Wolf turned 80 in November. He recently wrote “In Our Time: Memories of UB’s [University of Buffalo] English Department.”

**Awards & Honors**

**Kenzie Allen** is beginning her PhD in English and Creative Writing at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee as an Advanced Opportunity Fellow and Chancellor’s Award recipient.

**Derrick Austin** was named the 2016-2017 Ron Wallace Poetry Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Ron Wallace is also a Hopwood Award winner.

**Roohi Choudhry** is finishing a 2015-16 New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship.

**Lauren Clark** received the 2016 Donald Hall Prize for Poetry for her debut collection, *Music for a Wedding*, forthcoming from University of Pittsburgh Press in 2017. She currently works at Poets House in New York City and collaborates with Etc. Gallery in Chicago.
Leah Falk  Her poems were semifinalists in the Orison Anthology Award Contest.


Alyson Hagy  was awarded the 38th annual Lawrence Foundation Prize of *Michigan Quarterly Review* for her story, “Switchback,” which appeared in the Spring 2015 issue. The prize is $1,000.

Nicholas Harp  is the Sheridan Baker Collegiate Lecturer in the English Department Writing Program at the University of Michigan.

Joe Horton  was awarded a 2016 fellowship at the Elizabeth Kostova Foundation’s Sozopol Fiction Seminar in Bulgaria. Elizabeth is also a Hopwood Award winner.

Sara Houghteling  won the 2016 Winter Story Contest for her short story “The Thomas Cantor.” She received $2,500 and her story was published in *Narrative*.

Tung-Hui Hu  will receive the 2017 Henry Russel Award. This award recognizes both exceptional scholarship and conspicuous ability as a teacher, and is one of the highest honors the university bestows upon members of its faculty who are in the early stages of their career.

Judith Kirsch  Her novel *Hawkins Lane* won a “first-in-category” for mystery and suspense, making it a finalist for *Chanticleer Review’s* 2016 Somerset Award.

Benjamin Landry  received a 2016 Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award.

Chigozie Obioma  won the $500 Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction for his novel, *The Fishermen*.


Jess Row  is the recipient of a 2016 Guggenheim Writing Fellowship in Creative Writing. The annual fellowships are $50,000 each and are awarded in recognition of “achievement and exceptional promise.”


Jesmyn Ward  received the $200,000 Mildred and Harold Strauss Livings Award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.
Deaths

Gloria J. Dyc
who received a Major Fiction-Short Story Award in 1982, died in Jamestown, New Mexico on March 24, 2016. She served as a professor at the University of New Mexico-Gallup since 1988 and was the chair of the Arts and Letters Department from 1995-2002. She taught at Sinte Gleska College in Rosebud, South Dakota from 1982-88 and served as an artist-consultant at South Dakota Arts in the Schools Program from 1983-1988 and the Michigan Council for the Arts from 1977-1982. While at UNM-Gallup, Professor Dyc was active on the Advisory Board on Composition Curriculum and was instrumental in institutionalizing the award-winning publication, The Red Mesa Review. She was also active on the Cultural Arts Council. In 2007, she was selected as a Regents’ Professor of English, which is a title she held for the rest of her career. She studied dance extensively and often performed at Tibetan Buddhist retreats.

William Craig Rice
winner of a Summer Hopwood Essay Award in 1987, died suddenly on June 20, 2016. He was 61 and had been on a “site visit” for the National Endowment for the Humanities. He served as the Director of the Division of Education Programs of the NEH. Wikipedia notes: “His publications include: Public Discourse & Academic Inquiry, a study in the sociology of knowledge; Characteristics of Exemplary Schools; a special edited volume of the Harvard Review commemorating Seamus Heaney’s Nobel Prize; and more than fifty articles, reviews, essays, stories, and poems. From 1992 to 2001, he taught expository writing in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University, where he also edited non-fiction for the Harvard Review….He has been a Visiting Fellow at Johns Hopkins University’s Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, and at the American Enterprise Institute; an Ella Baker Fellow at Antioch New England Graduate School; a consultant to the John Templeton Foundation; and from 2001-2004 a staff member at the American Academy for Liberal Education, where he created new K-12 programs. In 2004 he was appointed the President of Shimer College, where he also served as a Professor of English, Education, and the Humanities. Amid controversy, the Shimer College Board of Trustees announced in January 2006 that at his urging it had accepted an invitation to move the school to the Illinois Institute of Technology campus on the south side of Chicago. The move was completed in August of the same year. In August 2007 he left Shimer in order to accept a position with the NEH. He also served as a Visitor of Ralston College.”

L. William Sessions
winner of a Freshman Essay Award in 1938, died in New Canaan, Connecticut at the age of 96 on May 13, 2016. In 1943, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served as a lieutenant at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C. where he worked on advancements in radar technology. After discharge from the Navy in 1946, he began his career as a corporate executive with Monsanto Chemical Company and then American Can Company. His final position before he retired in 1984 was as vice president for energy, environment and chemicals with American Can, representing one of the first instances among major U.S. companies where these functions were recognized as sufficiently important to warrant a dedicated segment of the corporation directed by a senior vice president.

Frank Whitehouse, Jr.
winner of a Freshman Essay Award in 1947 and then a Summer Hopwood Drama Award over half a century later (2004), died on April 13, 2016 in Ann Arbor. He was 91. He had been a member of the faculty of the University of Michigan Medical School’s Department of Microbiology for over 41 years until his retirement. During WWII, he served in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a First Lieutenant co-pilot of a Z-11 B-29 plane in the Pacific. He was the first Executive Director of the Midwestern and National Pre-Professional Organizations. On sabbatical leaves he conducted research at Queen Victoria Hospital in Sussex, England, and also was a Senior Fulbright Lecturer at Bahrain University. He was awarded special recognition in 1995 by the Microbiology and Immunology Departments of the U of M for his distinguished contribution to medical and undergraduate education. He continued to teach an honors seminar after retirement and excelled at a variety of activities, including the composition of a march recorded by the U of M Marching Band on the CD “The Spirit of Michigan.”
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!

Due to time constraints and the number of former winners I know, I am unable to join any social networking sites such as Facebook or MySpace. If you have any news or information you would like me to share, I would be delighted to hear about it through email (abeauch@umich.edu), but please remember to type Hopwood in the subject line so your message isn’t deleted by mistake. You could also write a letter to 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 28. If your information arrived after that, it will be included in our next newsletter in July. The cutoff date for that newsletter will be June 1. Unfortunately, so many of you have personal websites and blogs that we’re unable to make note of them. We’re trying to keep the newsletter to a manageable size.

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.

A special thank you to our wonderful Program Assistant Hannah Klemkow.

Hannah Klemkow

The Hopwood Program has a website: lsa.umich.edu/hopwood/.

Visit the English Department’s Helen Zell Writers’ Program website at lsa.umich.edu/writers.

Do stop by to say hello if you’re visiting Ann Arbor. All best wishes for a very happy new year.

Andrea Beauchamp
Assistant Director
Hopwood Awards Program