January, 2006

New Year’s Greetings!

This winter we’re honored to mark the 75th anniversary of the Hopwood Awards Program. Events throughout the winter term—most open to the public, but some for Hopwood winners exclusively—will let us celebrate this important time in Hopwood Program history.

Inside you will find a calendar of events including readings, films, a presentation of Hopwood’s play *The Gold Diggers*, and many other notable events. The calendar begins with a poetry reading by Alice Fulton at the Hopwood Underclassmen Awards Ceremony in January and culminates in April with Charles Baxter’s delivery of the Hopwood Lecture, “Losers,” at the Graduate and Undergraduate Hopwood Awards Ceremony. The ceremony will be followed by a banquet for returning Hopwood awardees. You will receive a formal invitation to the banquet in February. The day after the banquet will see the release of *The Hopwood Awards: 75 Years of Prized Writing*, an anthology of fiction and poetry by Hopwood Award winners from the 1930’s until the present. The anthology was co-edited by Nicholas Delbanco, Michael Barrett (a Hopwood Award winner himself) and Andrea Beauchamp, and there is an Introduction by Prof. Delbanco. My heartfelt thanks to Mike not only for his efforts with the anthology but also for helping to produce the Festival’s other activities.
Alice Fulton Poetry Reading at the Hopwood Underclassmen Awards Ceremony
January 24, 3:30 pm, Rackham Amphitheater

Alice Fulton’s work has been included in five editions of The Best American Poetry series and in the 10th Anniversary edition, The Best of the Best American Poetry, 1988-1997. She has received a Pushcart Prize, the Bess Hokin Award from Poetry, The Elizabeth Matchett Stover Award from Southwest Review, and the Emily Dickinson and Consuelo Ford Awards from the Poetry Society of America. Poems also have appeared in Poetry, The New Yorker, Panassus, The Paris Review, The Atlantic Monthly, The New Republic, and many other magazines. She is the author of Cascade Experiment: Selected Poems, Palladium, Powers of Congress, and other works. Alice Fulton is a past faculty member of the University of Michigan Department of English. The winner of a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Fellowship, Ms. Fulton recently was elected the Ann S. Bowers Professor in English at Cornell University. (http://www.people.cornell.edu/pages/af89/)

Winter Term

Hopwood Film Festival

At the beginning of the term, the University will screen Gold Diggers of 1933, the iconic film based on Hopwood’s play The Gold Diggers, starring Ginger Rodgers, Joan Blondell, and Dick Powell, with choreography by Busby Berkeley and containing such tunes as “We’re in the Money.” Thereafter the series will screen films written by past Hopwood awardees Arthur Miller, David Newman, and Laurence Kasdan. Professor Peter Bauland will teach a mini-course for University students on the subject of these films. Open to the public, the films will be shown on Monday evenings in the Michigan Theater at 7:00.

January 30  Gold Diggers of 1933
February 6  The Misfits Screenplay by Arthur Miller
February 13  Bonnie and Clyde Screenplay by David Newman
February 20  Body Heat Screenplay and direction by Lawrence Kasdan

Reading by Hopwood Award Winner Elizabeth Kostova
January 12, 5:00 pm, Rackham Amphitheater

Elizabeth Kostova graduated from Yale and holds an MFA from the University of Michigan where, as a student, she won the Hopwood Award for the Novel and for Graduate Essay. She is the author of the recently published best-selling novel, The Historian.

Lecture and Reception for the Opening of the Exhibit: “Avery Hopwood’s Legacy: Literary Descendants at Michigan”
February 8, 8:00 pm, Special Collections Library, 7th Floor, Hatcher Graduate Library

This exhibit of photos, books, and papers by Hopwood Award-winning authors Henry Van Dyke, Nancy Willard, Marge Piercy, and Emery George will be on display daily, open to the public, and will run from February 6 to June 24.

Avery Hopwood’s The Gold Diggers
February 9-12

Under the direction of Philip Kerr, The University of Michigan Theatre Department’s performances of Hopwood’s widely popular, long-running 1919 play will take place at the Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, 7:30 pm on February 9th, 8:00 pm on the 10th and 11th, and 2:00 pm on the 12th.

Live music by James Dapogny’s Chicago Jazz Band will accompany the productions.

Panel Discussion: Avery Hopwood, Then and Now
February 10, Michigan Union, Kuenzel Room, 2:00 pm

Hopwood scholars Jack Stanley and Jack Sharrar and playwright Bruce Kellner will participate in a panel discussion on Hopwood’s impact and legacy, moderated by Nicholas Delbanco and Philip Kerr.
**Reading by Hopwood Award Winners Elwood Reid and Porter Shreve**  
**April 6, 5:00 pm, Residential College Auditorium**

Elwood Reid is the author of the novel *If I Don’t Six* and the short story collection *What Salmon Know*. He spent two years working in Alaska as a carpenter. He lives in Brooklyn, New York. His latest novel is *D.B.* (Doubleday, 2004).

Porter Shreve’s first novel, *The Obituary Writer*, was published by Houghton Mifflin in June 2000. He has co-edited six anthologies and published fiction and nonfiction in many journals and magazines, including *Witness, Northwest Review, Salon, the Chicago Tribune, the San Francisco Chronicle* and the *New York Times*. *Drives Like a Dream* (Houghton Mifflin, March 2005) is his second novel.

**Hopwood Graduate and Undergraduate Awards Ceremony with Hopwood Lecture, “Losers,” by Charles Baxter**  
**April 21, Rackham Auditorium, 3:30 pm**

Charles Baxter is the author of four novels, four collections of short stories, three collections of poems, a collection of essays on fiction, and is the editor of other books. He teaches at the University of Minnesota. His most recent novel is *Saul and Patsy*, Pantheon 2003, and he has recently published the essay collection *Burning Down the House: Essays on Fiction*, Graywolf Press, 1998. Charles Baxter has been a past faculty member with the University of Michigan’s Department of English. ([http://www.charlesbaxter.com/](http://www.charlesbaxter.com/))

A reception for contestants and Mr. Baxter will follow the reading and presentation ceremony.

**Release of The Hopwood Award: 75 Years of Prized Writing and Signing of Works by Hopwood Awardees**  
**April 22, 10:00-12:00 am, Shaman Drum Bookshop**

Marking the history of the Avery Hopwood and Jule Hopwood Award, The University of Michigan Press will release its compendium of works by Hopwood Award-winning writers of note, *The Hopwood Awards: 75 Years of Prized Writing*, edited by Nicholas Delbanco, Michael Barrett, and Andrea Beauchamp, introduced by Nicholas Delbanco. Photos of Hopwood writers and copies of their works will be displayed in the windows of the Shaman Drum Bookshop for this event, and books by past Hopwood Award-winning authors included in the anthology will available for signing by their authors.

**Forthcoming in Winter 2007**

**MQR Hopwood Special Edition**

The winter 2007 edition of the *Michigan Quarterly Review* will feature works and essays by and about recent Hopwood Award-winning authors. The edition will be co-edited by Nicholas Delbanco and Laurence Goldstein. MQR invites manuscripts by Hopwood Award winners from 2000-2005. Deadline for manuscripts is May 15, 2006. Send mss. to *MQR*, 3575 Rackham, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1070. Both prize-winning work and new work are invited.

**In addition, there are two events just for Hopwood winners:**

**Friday, April 21, 2006**

There will be a special welcome and tour of the exhibit, “Avery Hopwood’s Legacy: Literary Descendants at Michigan,” for all Hopwood winners and guests in the Special Collections Library, 711 Hatcher S (7th floor of the Grad Library) from 1:00-3:00 p.m. The exhibit will also be open from 10:00-12:00 on Saturday.

Please join us at a banquet for current and returning Hopwood Award winners, donors, and other friends of the Hopwood Program. It will be held in the Michigan Union Ballroom at 7:00 p.m.

You are cordially invited to attend all these events.
Awards for the 68th Summer Hopwood Awards Contest were presented by Prof. Eileen Pollack in the Hopwood Room on September 23. The judges were Derek Green and Lizzie Hutton, both former Hopwood Award winners.

**Essay:** Adam L. Wilmers, $800

**Fiction:** Jeff Walton, $1,000; Alice Fornell, $1,250

**Poetry:** Claire Smith, $800; Bradley Lubin, $1,000

**The Marjorie Rapaport Award in Poetry:** Margaret Reges, $350; Carrie L. Luke, $250

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**Publications by Hopwood Winners**

### Books and Chapbooks

**Al Alverbach**  

**Maury Dean**  

**Ken Fifer**  

**Mary Gaitskill**  

**Merrill Gilfillan**  

**Cynthia L. Haven**  

**Lawrence Joseph**  

**X.J. Kennedy**  

**Rita Lakin**  

**Richard Loranger**  

**L. G. Mason**  

* Assume date unknown if no date is indicated.
The Hill Road, a novella and three stories, Viking, 2005.

Lostlindens, an English country house mystery, Quality Words in Print, 2005.

translated Snow White and Russian Red by Dorota Maslowska from the Polish, Black Cat, New York, 2005.


Dissonance (if you are interested), essays on modern poetry and translation, University of Alabama Press, Modern & Contemporary Poetics Series, 2005.

Articles and Essays


“How to Pull Your Head Out of the Sand,” The Old-Millpond Anthology, Fall 2005.


Reviews


Fiction


Mary Gaitskill  “The Bridge,” Zoetrope All Story, IX, 2, Summer 2005.

Laura Kasischke  “If a Stranger Approaches You about Carrying a Foreign Object with You onto the Plane…,” Ploughshares, Fall 2005.


Therese Stanton  “Reading and Writing in America,” Meridian, No. 15, Spring/Summer 2005.


Poetry


Ken Fifer  has published poems in the past year or so in Barrow Street, Blueline, Bryant Literary Review, California Quarterly, Comstock Review, and elsewhere. He is a Professor of English, and the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Division Head, at Penn State Berks College in Reading, PA.


Alice Fulton, 2006 Hopwood Underclassmen Awards Ceremony Reader.


Ralph Luttermoser  “Notes towards a cosmology of longing,” *Poetry NZ* [New Zealand], #31, September 2005.


Audio

Aric Knuth worked again with Public Radio International’s “This American Life.” His story aired on May 13 in a show called “Go Ask Your Father.” The entire show is available online at www.thislife.org.


Drama Performances and Publications

Kenyon Brown “Weddings and Revolutions,” a short play, was performed at the Off-Market Theatre on January 21 as part of the Playwrights’ Center of San Francisco Scheherazade Festival. PCSF also presented his full-length play “rearrange / Reinvent / Reconnect,” in a staged reading at the Off-Market Theatre on February 22. “The
“Last Nosebleed” was given a staged reading at Berkeley Repertory Theatre on March 21 as part of PlayGround’s 2004-2005 season; it was performed at the Eureka Theatre on Aug. 1 and 2 as part of Three Wise Monkeys’ Short Leaps 2005 Festival. “In View Of” was performed at the Performance Network in Ann Arbor on June 11 as part of the Heartlande Theatre Company’s 2005 Play-by-Play Marathon Festival of Short Plays. It was performed a week later in NYC at the Marjorie S. Deane Little Theatre as part of the 8 Minute Madness Playwright Festival 2005. Kenyon’s play, “Once,” was given a staged reading at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco on July 31 as part of the 2005 Bay Area Playwrights Festival 28. Kenyon’s new full-length play, “The Exploits of Shiney Boy and Furst Man,” was given a staged reading on Aug. 18 at Z Space in San Francisco as part of the Contemporary Masters Playwriting Workshop under the auspices of the Playwrights Foundation.

“Foul Play,” *Boston Theatre Marathon of Ten-Minute Plays, Vol. IV, Fall 2005*. “Baker’s also has previously published my musical ‘Voices In My Head’ and my children’s play ‘The Monster’ as individual volumes but both of those publications

*Charles Baxter, 2006 Hopwood Lecturer.*
happened several years ago.” “Man On Dog” was produced in New York City, Off Broadway, by the Emerging Artists’ Theatre Company, as part of their spring 2004 EATfest festival of new plays. His short play “Child’s Play,” co-written with Kolby Granville, was produced in Rockport, Maine as part of the 15 Minutes or Less Festival and in Tucson, AZ as part of the Wilde Theatre 15 Minutes of Fame Festival, and in Providence, RI as part of the NewGate Theatre’s New Play Festival. “Vamp” is scheduled to be produced by the Stark Raving Theatre Company in Portland, OR in 2006 and his children’s play “The Monster” was performed by the Young Actors’ Company at the Castle Theatre in Saskatoon, Canada.

Joseph Keckler presented a new performance piece he wrote, “Has Beens and Wives: Tales of Eccentricity from the Mitten State,” at Dixon Place Theater in NYC. The Men That Got Away, the group he co-founded, wrote and performed “Panty Raid,” which was presented at the 11th Annual International Performance Studies Conference at Brown University and in New York at Dixon Place. He and Melaena Cadiz performed their two-person absurdist musical drama, “The Ballad of Junk and Malfunction,” at HERE Arts Center’s American Living Room Festival. He is a contributor to the online arts magazine, Culturebot.org, and frequently sings principal bass baritone roles at the Amato Opera Theater.

News & Notes

Beth Aviv is teaching developmental writing at Katherine Gibbs in NYC, at Prep for Prep, which prepares minority City 8th graders for prep school, and will teach in the Mamaroneck Public Schools in the fall.

Dean Bakopoulos announced that Lydia Virginia Bakopoulos was born on May 18. She weighed in at 7 lbs., 7 oz. and has dark hair.

Juliet Barnes is Director of Marketing at Other Press, “a small press in NYC that publishes literary fiction, literature in translation, and an array of non-fiction with an interdisciplinary/multicultural outlook (www.otherpress.com).”

Larry Dean writes: “I have finally bitten the bullet and now have a MySpace site: http://myspace.com/larryodean. There you may listen to and download demos and newly recorded music, peruse show dates and pics, and more!” Larry is Poet in Residence at James Shields Elementary School in Chicago.

Ann Fagan Ginger gave a talk on November 17 at the U of M Law School on new paths for “Challenging U.S. Human Rights Violations Since 9/11,” the title of the book she edited. She is the Executive Director of Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute in Berkeley, CA. The event was sponsored by the National Lawyers Guild, the Hopwood Program, the Office of Public Service, ACS, ACLU, and WLSA.
Rae Gouirand is teaching a variety of literature-based writing courses/workshops through the Sacramento City College Davis Center at UC-Davis, the Davis Art Center, California Poetry in the Schools, and the Davis Teen Center, where she started workshops for junior and senior highschool students last year with a grant she received from the Poets & Writers California Readings and Workshops Program. 

“I’m loving the community teaching component of my practice out here in northern CA, especially having dozens of students who are decades younger or older and hungry for the permission to apply their voices to the work of writing.”

Ry (Jeffry) Herman works as a playwright and theatrical director in Tucson, Arizona, where he runs the Bloody Unicorn Theatre Company, which is dedicated to producing new works for the stage.

David Nolta talked about The Da Vinci Code with Stone Philips on “Dateline” in April, 2005 and was then interviewed by Matt Lauer on “The Today Show” concerning Leonardo in Florence in July.

Karen E. Outen received a Careers-in-the-Making Fellowship from the U of M Institute for the Humanities this year. She gave a talk there entitled “Belonging: Claiming the Collective and the Individual” on December 5.

Nancy Shaw appeared on author panels at the Midwest Literary Festival in Aurora, Illinois; the Kerrytown Bookfest in Ann Arbor; “Publishing for Children and Teens” at the Ann Arbor Book Festival, May 21; and “I Thought I Nailed It, But…” at the Society of Children’s Book Writers & Illustrators Michigan Spring Conference, East Lansing, June 11; and “Author Talks: Connecting with Young Audiences” at the Society of Children’s Book Writers & Illustrators Michigan Fall Conference, Adrian, October 8.

Dr. Sherman Silber of St. Luke’s Hospital in St. Louis headed the surgical team that successfully transplanted ovarian tissue from one twin to another, enabling a woman to give birth to a healthy baby girl. The baby was conceived naturally and the pregnancy was “uneventful.” Dr. Silber called the case a compelling demonstration that ovarian grafts can restore fertility. His report was published in the June 7, 2005 The New England Journal of Medicine in both the online and print editions.

Leah Stewart wrote in May: “In anticipation of my new book, The Myth of You and Me, which is due out in September, we’ve revamped my website—www.leahstewart.com. The novel’s about friendship, so we’re soliciting stories about best friends, and for a limited time, there’s even a book give-away.”

Martha Bennett Stiles Her novel Lonesome Road was the Kentucky Educational Television BookClub’s May selection.

Patricia Sarrafian Ward has a cartoon in the Humor and Satire issue of Mizna: Prose, Poetry, and Art Exploring Arab America, VII, 1, 2005.
John U. Bacon is the first Benny Friedman Fellow for Sports Journalism in the U of M’s Knight-Wallace Fellowship Program. “Friedman was an All-American ‘triple threat’ in the late 1920s for the Michigan football team, whom Rockne said was in a class with Babe Ruth and Bobby Jones. Also, the first Jewish captain of the squad.” He’ll be studying the uniquely American phenomenon of college sports.

Dean Bakopoulos won Virginia Quarterly Review’s Emily Clark Balch Prize in fiction for his story “Happy,” which appeared in the Summer 2004 issue. He received $1,000. His novel Please Don’t Come Back from the Moon was chosen as one of the New York Times Book Review’s “100 Notable Books of the Year.”

Geoffrey Bankowski won the U of M’s 2004 Matthews Underclass Teaching Award for “the curiosity, commitment, and passion you inspire in teaching English 124 and 125.”

Kenyon Brown is the winner of BASH! (Bay Area Shorts) as part of the 2005 Bay Area Playwrights Festival 28.

Victoria Chang was selected by Kevin Larimer in Poets and Writers as one of “Eighteen Debut Poets Who Made Their Mark in 2005.” Her book Circle won the Crab Orchard Series in Poetry Open Competition Award.

Mary Gaitskill was a finalist in the fiction division of the 2005 National Book Award. Her novel Veronica was published by Pantheon in October, 2005 and was selected as one of the New York Times Book Review’s “10 Notable Books of the Year.”

Irene Hahn is the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship to Korea, to research and write a novel. She will be in Seoul for year.

Ry Herman won the Judges’ Choice Award at the Play in a Day Festival for “One-Way Ticket,” co-written with Bevan Bluemer. “Vamp” was a finalist in the AQT 2005 Writing Contest. “Man On Dog” was a finalist in Reverie Production’s Next Generation Playwriting Contest. “Child’s Play” was a finalist in the Ten by Ten in the Triangle Competition, and won 2nd place in Theatre Oxford’s 10 Minute Play Contest.

Matthew Hittinger was awarded the 2004 Kay Deeter Award of the journal Fine Madness for “How to Write, How Not to Write About Pears,” which was also nominated for a Pushcart Prize. The full-length version of his Hopwood-winning manuscript, The Erotic Postulate, was a finalist in the National Poetry Series Open Competition and he has also been nominated for a new anthology Best New Poets 2005. His chapbook “Narcissus Resists” was a semi-finalist in the Frank O’Hara Chapbook Award competition and “Pear Slip” was a finalist in the New Michigan Press/Diagram Chapbook Award competition.
Bich Minh Nguyen is the winner of the $5,500 PEN/Jerard Fund Award for *Stealing Buddha’s Dinner*. The award honors a work in progress of general nonfiction distinguished by high literary quality by a woman at an early point in her career. The memoir is forthcoming from Viking/Penguin.

Therese Stanton is the recipient of a $1,500 Individual Artist Grant for Women from the Barbara Deming Memorial Fund. The grants are awarded twice yearly to feminist writers.

Elizabeth Ames Staudt won second place in the Summer Literary Seminars Fiction Contest for her story “Vivisection.”

Matthew Thorburn is the recipient of the 2005 Festivo Prize, awarded by the Belfast (Maine) Poetry Festival, for his poem “Loneliness in Jersey City,” selected by judge Laure-Anne Bosselaar.

Kate Umans won a 2005-2006 Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing Fellowship, the Jay C. and Ruth Halls Fellowship in Poetry. She received a $25,000 stipend and will teach one creative writing workshop each semester at the University of Wisconsin. The fellowship is intended to “provide time, space, and an intellectual community for writers working on a first book.”

Deaths

James E. Camp winner of a Summer Poetry Award in 1953 and a Major Poetry Award in 1955, died in New York City on January 19, 2005. His last publication was a reissue of *Pegasus Descending*, the anthology of bad poetry that he edited with Hopwood winners Keith Waldrop and X. J. Kennedy.

Grace Larson Chickering winner of a 1957 Summer Essay Award, died in Wilmington, Delaware, on May 24, 2004.

Special Announcements

Nancy Shaw writes that the third Ann Arbor Book Festival will take place May 10-14, with numerous readings, discussions, signings, and a public author reception. For details, see www.aabookfestival.org.

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.
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! You could write, fax (using the English Dept.'s number, 734-763-3128) or e-mail me: abeauch@umich.edu. **Important: if e-mailing, please type HOPWOOD in the subject line so your message isn’t deleted by mistake.** The Hopwood Room’s phone number is 734-764-6296. The cutoff date for listings was December 2. If your information arrived after that, it will be included in our next newsletter, which will come out in June. The deadline for information to be included in the June newsletter will be April 30.

The Hopwood Program has a Web page address: [http://www.lsa.umich.edu/english/hopwood/](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/english/hopwood/) and there are links to the 75th Anniversary webpage. Visit the English Department’s MFA Program site: [http://www.lsa.umich.edu/english/grad/graduate.htm](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/english/grad/graduate.htm).

Very best wishes for a happy new year. If you’re in Ann Arbor, do stop by the Hopwood Room to say hello. Our usual hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30. It’s always a pleasure to meet you or to see old friends.

*Andrea Beauchamp*