
The awards for the Hopwood Underclassmen Contest were announced on January 20 by Professor Nicholas Delbanco, Director of the Hopwood Awards Program. The judges were Charlotte Boulay, Lizzie Hutton, Todd McKinney, and Adela Pinch. A fiction reading by Tobias Wolff, author of This Boy’s Life, Old School, and Our Story Begins: New and Selected Stories, followed the announcement of the awards. And the winners were:

Nonfiction: Xu (Sue) Li, $800; Jillian Maguire, $800; Alex O’Dell, $1,000; Eli Hager, $1,500

Fiction: Eli Hager, $800; Da-Inn Erika Lee, $1,000; Andrew Lapin, $1,000; Perry Janes, $1,750

Poetry: Perry Janes, $1,200; Gahl Liberzon, $1,500; David Kinzer, $1,750

Other writing contest winners were:

The Academy of American Poets Prize: Jane Cope (Undergraduate Division), $100; Nava Etshalom (Graduate Division), $100

The Bain-Swiggett Poetry Prize: Catherine E. Calabro, $600

The Michael R. Guttermann Award in Poetry: Zilka Joseph, $450; Emily Zinnemann, $450

The Jeffrey L. Weisberg Memorial Prize in Poetry: Perry Janes, $600; Gahl Liberzon, $800

The Roy and Helen Meador Writing Award: Perry Janes, $1,000

The Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship (judged by Raymond McDaniel): David Buccilli, $2,000; Jane Cope, $2,000; Ryan Crawford Downs, $2,000; Elizabeth Parker, $2,000; Mary Paul, $2,000; Sara Walters, $2,000

The Hopwood Newsletter Vol. LXX, 2

http://www.lsa.umich.edu/english/hopwood/

June, 2009

Editor Andrea Beauchamp
Design Anthony Cece

Inside:
3 Publications by Hopwood Winners
6 -books and chapbooks
6 -articles and essays
7 -reviews
6 -fiction
7 -poetry
9 -drama performances and publications
10 -film
12 News Notes
12 Awards and Honors
13 Deaths
14 Special Announcements
The awards for the Graduate and Undergraduate Hopwood Contest were presented by Nicholas Delbanco on April 22. A lecture by Ellen Bryant Voigt, author of Kyrie, Two Trees, The Flexible Lyric, and Messenger: New and Selected Poems 1976-2006, followed the announcement of the awards. Local judges for the contests were Peter Bauland, Gorman Beauchamp, Jordan Bohy, Amy Carroll, George Cooper, Michael Hinken, Brenda Marshall, Jennifer Michaels, Sean Norton, OyamO, Leslie Stainton, and E. J. Westlake and Hopwood winners Laurie Barrett, Frank Beaver, Jeremiah Chamberlin, Richard Gallagher, Nicholas Harp, Lauren Kingsley, Deanne Lundin, Patricia O’Dowd, Kodi Scheer, and Ann-Marie Thomas. National judges were:

Drama: Deborah Salem Smith
Novel: Brian Hall and Marianne Wiggins
Nonfiction: Kelly Cherry and Philip Graham
Short Fiction: Sarah Shun-lien Bynum and Marshall Klimasewiski
Poetry: Thomas Lynch and Susan Wheeler

Hopwood Award: Theodore Roethke Prize: Mary Kinzie

The winners were:

Drama: Catherine R. Smyka, $3,000; Sara Beth Ferguson, $4,000; Seth Moore, $4,000; Sara Schaff, $5,500
Novel: Dana Kletter, $8,500; Bradford Kammin, $10,500
Screenplay: Paul Haapaniemi, $4,500; Kimberly Jacobson, $4,500; Amanda Adelson, $7,000; Brendt Rioux, $7,500
Undergraduate Nonfiction: John Willoughby, $3,000; Jeremy Borovitz, $8,000; Cathe Shubert, $8,000
Graduate Nonfiction: Juliet Fara, $3,500; Timothy Hedges, $6,000; Rebecca Porte, $6,000
Undergraduate Short Fiction: Megan Cummins, $9,500; Jessie Roy, $9,500
Graduate Short Fiction: Lowen Liu, $3,000; Shira Handler, $6,000; Brian Short, $6,000
Undergraduate Poetry: Ariel Kennedy, $3,000; Perry Janes, $4,500; Hannah Ensor, $9,000
Graduate Poetry: Sheera Talpaz, $5,000; Kyle Booten, $6,000; Sarah Beth Ferguson, $6,000
The Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize for the Long Poem or Poetic Sequence: Joshua Buursma, $5,000

Other writing contest winners:
The Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing (judged by Frank Beaver and Kasdan Pictures): Paul Haapaniemi, $7,400
The Arthur Miller Award of the University of Michigan Club of New York Scholarship Fund (judged by Sean Norton): Brian Alkire, $2,000
The Dennis McIntyre Prize for Distinction in Undergraduate Playwriting (judged by OyamO): Seth Moore, $3,300; Catherine R. Smyka, $3,300
The Chamberlain Award for Creative Writing: Emily McLaughlin, $3,250
The Helen S. and John Wagner Prize: Sara Beth Ferguson, $1,000
The Andrea Beauchamp Prize: Brian Short, $1,000
The John Wagner Prize: Timothy Hedges, $1,000
The Robert F. Haugh Prize: Megan Cummins, $2,500
The Meader Family Award: Joshua Buursma, $2,800; Jessica Young, $2,800
The Naomi Saferstein Literary Award: Brent Rioux, $1,100
The Leonard and Eileen Newman Writing Prizes: In Dramatic Writing: Eric Harburn, $1,000; In Fiction: Megan Tucker, $1,000
The Paul and Sonia Handleman Poetry Award: Hannah Ensor, $2,600
The Geoffrey James Gosling Prize: Bradford Kammin, $750
The Stanley S. Schwartz Prize: Jessie Roy, $500
The Helen J. Daniels Prize: Cathe Shubert, $3,000

The dates for next year’s awards ceremonies have been set. The Hopwood Underclassmen Awards Ceremony will take place on Tuesday, January 26 in the Rackham Amphitheatre at 3:30. The reader has not yet been chosen but I’ll let you know his or her identity in the January newsletter. The Graduate and Undergraduate Hopwood Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday, April 22 at 3:30 in the Rackham Auditorium. Playwright, screenwriter, and director John Patrick Shanley will deliver the Hopwood Lecture. Mr. Shanley won the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay and the Writers Guild of America Award for Best Screenplay Written Directly for the Screen for his script of the 1987 film Moonstruck. In 1990, Mr. Shanley directed his script of Joe Versus the Volcano. His play Doubt: A Parable was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and
a Tony Award for Best Play in 2005. And he directed the film version of the play in 2008. The film was nominated for an Academy Award in Best Writing (Adapted Screenplay) and also earned nominations for Meryl Streep, Amy Adams, Philip Seymour Hoffman, and Viola Davis.

### Publications by Hopwood Winners*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alex Cigale</td>
<td>Chronicle of Calamities, chapbook, Pudding House, 2008.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tina Datsko de Sanchez</td>
<td>The Delirium of Simón Bolívar, poetry, forthcoming from Floricanto Press.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Gaitskill</td>
<td>Don’t Cry, stories, Pantheon, 2009.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Haven</td>
<td>An Invisible Rope: Portraits of Czeslaw Milosz will be published next year by Ohio University Press/Swallow Press.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Kaufman</td>
<td>O Florida!, graphic novel, Inter Ad Agency Publishing, 2008. “A series of 27 collages (15” X 20”) that tell the story of a New Yorker who becomes a snowbird, with or without wings, goes back and forth, cold and hot, as the world turns and goes nuts…in the tumultuous year of 2008.”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose A. Melikan</td>
<td>The Counterfeit Guest, her second novel in the Mary Finch series, Sphere (Little Brown), 2009 in the UK, forthcoming from Touchstone (Simon and Schuster) in August 2009. The paperback of her first novel, The Blackstone Key was published in 2009. She is also the author of John Scott, Lord Eldon, 1751-1838: The Duty of Loyalty, a biography, Cambridge University Press, 1999, and the editor of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Assume date unknown if no date is indicated.

Bich Minh Nguyen


Sharon Pomerantz


Austin Ratner

The Jump Artist, novel, Bellevue Literary Press, 2009. It was recently named one of ten promising debuts of 2009 by Publishers Weekly.

David Rosenberg

Two books forthcoming from Counterpoint in Fall 2009: A Literary Bible: An Original Translation, "a collection of thirty years of his poetry and prose versions of the relevant biblical books"; An Educated Man: Moses and Jesus, "a dual literary biography exploring their historical, ancient educations, measured against a liberal education today."

Elizabeth Schultz

Her Voice, poetry, Topeka: Woodley Press, 2008; The Nature of Kansas Lands, University Press of Kansas, 2008, edited by Beverly Worster. "The latter contains essays I have been writing for 10 years now for a column in the Kansas Land Trust newsletter, Stewardship Notes. The column is titled 'Senses of Place' and all royalties for this book go toward the Kansas Land Trust."

Marc J. Sheehan


Susan Collins Thoms


Keith Waldrop


Keith and Rosmarie Waldrop

Flat With No Key, poetry, Burning Deck, 2008.

Jesmyn Ward


Articles and Essays

Peggy Adler


Robyn Anspach


Jeremiah Chamberlin


Victoria Chang


Gloria Dyc


Barry Garelick


Celeste Ng  “Stranger Than Fact: Why We Need Fiction in a World of Memoirs,” fictionwritersreview.com, October 5, 2008.


Marge Piercy  An interview with Dr. Maya Angelou, aired on January 13, 2009 on Satellite Radio.


Reviews

Natalie Bakopoulos  The following reviews in fictionwritersreview.com: "Enlightenment" by Maureen Freely, October 1, 2008; "Netherland" by Joseph O'Neill, October 18, 2008; "Sketches of Themselves: Sana Krasikov's One More Year," December 4, 2008.


Fiction


Celeste Ng  "We Are Not Strangers," Meridian, Issue 22, January 2009. Celeste has been teaching fiction classes at a writing center in Boston called Grub Street.

Austin Ratner  "Darker Shadows," The Normal School, Fall 2008.


Ian Singleton  Translated "Die Fluch" ("The Elopement") by Rainer Maria Rilke, Knock #10, December 2008.
Melanie Rae Thon


Victoria Chang


Alex Cigale


Gregory Loselle  "The Magnolia and the Telephone: Spring View from the Den Window," The Ledge. “It’s part of a book of poems, The Very Rich Hours, about being a child in my grandparents’ house.” “Shelling in the Philippines, World War II” was been awarded the 2009 Pinch Poetry Award of The Pinch Magazine at the University of Memphis and will be published in the spring issue.


Marc J. Sheehan


Laurence W. Thomas


Matthew Thorburn


Keith Waldrop


Keith & Rosmarie Waldrop


Rosmarie Waldrop


Ronald Wallace


Joyce Winslow

has had her first poem, “On The Other Side Of The Poem,” published on 330 buses and metro cars in Virginia as part of the Moving Words initiative. Moving Words, inaugurated in 1999 during National Poetry Month, is a program that places poetry on Northern Virginia Metrobuses operating in Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax County and Fairfax City. Joyce writes: “I’m looking forward to seeing my poem cut me off when a bus squeezes into my lane!” In addition, she will have a short story published in an anthology of Washington Women Writers called Gravity’s Dancers, and debuted at Politics and Prose Bookstore in Washington, DC in July.

Drama Performances and Publications

Kim Yaged

The Downtown Urban Theater Festival in association with The Real Theatre Company presented her play America on May 12 at HERE Arts Center in New York. “Directed by Maggie Levin and choreographed by Emma Canalese, America is a provocative social commentary that uses dance and ‘land of the free’ stereotypes to explore ethnicity, race, religion, and culture in the United States.”

Edmund White

Terre Haute, “inspired by the essays Gore Vidal wrote for Vanity Fair about his correspondence with Timothy McVeigh, who bombed the Alfred P. Murray Federal Building in Oklahoma City” [NYT], has played in San Francisco, Edinburgh, the West End of London, and, in February, Off Broadway in New York at 59E59 Theaters.
The Strawberry & the Kaiser, a full-length play, was performed as a staged reading, as part of the Performance Network Theatre Fireside Festival of New Works, on March 17, 2009 in Ann Arbor.

Frank Beaver continues writing his monthly “Talking About Movies” column for Michigan Today. An especially interesting one is April’s “M-ollywood” about the recent legislation that offers tax breaks to film producers who film in Michigan. Gran Torino was filmed in Highland Park and an upcoming Hilary Swank movie, Betty Ann Waters, was filmed in Ann Arbor.

Amy Bingaman gave a talk at the U of M’s Nineteenth Century Forum on December 5. It was titled “The ‘Infinite Boon of Bliss’: Jane Morris, Astarte Syriaca, and D. G. Rossetti’s Re-appropriation of Classical Sources.” Amy is an Assistant Professor in the School of Art at Bowling Green State University.

Michael Castleman We were delighted to hear from him after many years: “I left Ann Arbor in 1975, and moved to San Francisco, where I’ve lived ever since. I’m a freelance journalist and novelist. My journalism has focused on health defined broadly: staying well, mainstream medicine, the alternative therapies, nutrition, fitness, and sexuality. I’ve written some 1,500 health articles for magazines and Web sites, and a dozen consumer health books, among them The Healing Herbs (about herbal medicine), Before You Call the Doctor (with Anne Simons, M.D., a home medical guide), There’s Still a Person in There (about Alzheimer’s disease), and Building Bone Vitality (with Amy Lanou, Ph.D., about osteoporosis prevention, forthcoming in June 2009). My novels are a mystery series set in San Francisco featuring newspaper reporter Ed Rosenberg. The titles include: The Lost Gold of San Francisco, Death Caps, and A Killing in Real Estate (December 2009). True confession: During the summer after my freshman year, the summer of 1969, I stayed in AA and got a job as a janitor for the University, working 4 p.m. to midnight. I was assigned to Angell Hall and my area included the Hopwood Room. I worked more quickly than necessary—sweeping up, emptying trash cans, polishing floors and woodwork—and usually finished my appointed rounds by about 11, leaving an hour to amuse myself. Assuming I did not hear the jingle of keys that meant my boss was approaching, every night, I returned to the Hopwood Room and reveled in all the wonderful reading material there. I dreamed of studying writing, winning a Hopwood, and earning my living as a novelist.”

Derek Green and his wife Maggie McInnis announce the birth of Benjamin Thomas Green on February 26. Benjamin weighed 6 pounds, 1.5 ounces.

Cynthia Haven spent last summer as a Milena Jesenská Journalism Fellow at the Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen in Vienna, doing her fieldwork mostly in Kraków, but also working in Warsaw, London, Oxford, and Prague. Her subsequent articles have appeared in the Times Literary Supplement and the Los Angeles Times—with more on the way. Her forthcoming An Invisible Rope: Portraits of Czesław Miłosz will be published next year by Ohio University Press/Swallow Press. Her essay on Zbigniew Herbert’s “Report from a Besieged City,” originally on Words Without Borders website, will appear in the anthology Fall of the Wall (Open Letter
Books) later this year. And she did her first podcast on www.poetryfoundation.org, to accompany her article on Milosz, “The Doubter and the Saint.” “But you will see from the attached photo what I am most likely to be remembered for this year—I interviewed Yoko Ono.”

Nathan Jones and his wife Judy announce the birth of Grady Nathan Jones (3lbs. 11 0z.) and Tatum Sadie Jones (3 lbs. 12 oz.) on March 5.

Laura Kopchick “I’ve recently been named as the new General Editor for the Katherine Anne Porter Award through UNT Press. It’s a national book award (short stories) with the winning manuscript published each year by the University of North Texas Press. 2009 will be my second year as General Editor.”

Elizabeth Kostova “In the last two years, I’ve created the Elizabeth Kostova Foundation to assist Bulgarian writers and translations, and to bring native-English writers to Bulgaria. Last spring, I was distinguished guest instructor in the MFA program at UNC-Wilmington, and I continue to teach annually at Bear River Writers’ Conference.”

Gregory Loselle “The Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble debuted a piece, ‘Just Out of Reach,’ which incorporated two poems of mine. The ensemble performed the piece in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in August, then took it to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland.”

David Garrard Lowe “I have been busy this past year writing, lecturing and serving as President of the Beaux Arts Alliance, a New York organization which celebrates the cultural links between France and the United States. In January I presented a series of sold-out lectures at New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art on the subject of England and the United States in the 1920s and 1930s. This Spring I will be giving four illustrated lectures at the Museum on American writers abroad, including Henry James, Edith Wharton, Gertrude Stein, Ernest Hemingway, and Mark Twain. I have also been lecturing in Chicago, Palm Beach, Dallas, Cleveland, and on cruise ships. I recently have experimented with a whole new genre of writing which is devoted to leading popular musicians of the recent past. The first of these was ‘Cole Porter: He’s the Top,’ with spoken words and images by me and songs by leading cabaret singers. The Porter has been presented in New York, Newport, Palm Beach, Key West, and Louisville. On January 14, my latest, ‘An Evening with Noel Coward,’ was presented at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. I was the narrator and also ‘spoke’ three songs including ‘Mad Dogs and Englishmen,’ while a dozen of Coward’s compositions were sung by the noted cabaret star K. T. Sullivan. The pianist was Dennis Buck. The event drew a standing-room-only audience. My book, Art Deco New York, was awarded a plaque by the Art Deco Society. A lecture I gave on Dorothy Parker to the prestigious Dutch Treat Club at the National Arts Club won the Dutch Treat’s medal. I am currently at work on a new book.”

Laurence W. Thomas “I just returned from Eureka Springs, Arkansas, where I gave two lectures on poetry and some poetry workshops. I have been lecturing for the Ozark Poets’ Retreat for 17 years.”

Susan Siris Wexler “For quite some time now I have enjoyed receiving the Hopwood letter. Now I have some news of my own to offer. I was a 1950 minor essay Hopwood winner on a student trip to Europe I took the summer of 1949. In 1951 I completed an M.A. studying with Roy Cowden in a class with Frank O’Hara. It was a most memorable time. Since 1955 I have lived in Cambridge, MA, where I raised a family of three children and returned to a childhood love, the study of art. I worked privately with various Boston painters, took a BFA at Boston University, studied art history informally at the Fogg Museum at Harvard, and eventually decided that my calling was in drawings. I'm
now in my fourth year at HILR, the Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement, where a show of my drawings is presently on view. It includes portraits, nature, and figure drawings in silverpoint, terracotta pencil, and pen and ink wash.

**Howard R. Wolf** was invited as Keynote Speaker to lecture in Bonn, Germany May 21-24, 2009 (under the auspices of the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, Cultural Section), as part of a conference on "Urban Landscapes. Urban Cultures: The City in the 21st Century." His papers were entitled "Growing Up in New York City During WW II" and "New York City in American Literature." His essay "Paris After WW II: A Young New Yorker's Literary Journal," was part of the Melbourne Festival of Travel Writing, July 19-20, 2008.

### Awards & Honors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Award/Institution/Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robyn Anspach</td>
<td>won New Letter's $1,500 Dorothy Churchill Cappon Essay Prize for &quot;Three Hooks.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John U. Bacon</td>
<td>won the 19th annual Golden Apple Award at the University of Michigan and delivered his &quot;ideal last lecture,&quot; &quot;What I Learned—Despite My Efforts,&quot; on March 31. The award recognizes outstanding University faculty and is given by the student group, Students Honoring Outstanding University Teaching. John is a lecturer in American Culture and taught the very popular courses &quot;History of College Athletics&quot; and &quot;The Rise and Fall of the American Sportswriter.&quot; John's most recent book is Bo's Lasting Lessons, written with Bo Schembechler.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremiah Chamberlin</td>
<td>His short story &quot;What We Can&quot; won 1st place in Glimmer Train's Family Matters Competition this February and will be published next year. His essay &quot;Workshop Is Not For You&quot; appeared in Glimmer Train's April Bulletin. He is also the recipient of a 2009 Fellowship to attend the Sozopol Fiction Seminar in Sozopol, Bulgaria, this summer. In addition to teaching at the University of Michigan, he is the Associate Editor of Fiction Writers Review, where he is a frequent contributor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delia Decourcy</td>
<td>were winners of the 2009 David and Linda Moscow Prize for Excellence in Teaching Composition at the University of Michigan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D’Anne Witkowski</td>
<td>were winners of the 2009 David and Linda Moscow Prize for Excellence in Teaching Composition at the University of Michigan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tung-Hui</td>
<td>won the second annual Summer Poetry Residency from the University of Mississippi. He received a one-month residency at the Lawrence House, near the University of Mississippi campus, and an honorarium of $1,500.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Kasischke</td>
<td>is the recipient of a 2009 Guggenheim Fellowship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregory Loselle</td>
<td>&quot;Buried Dinner,&quot; a short story, was a runner-up in the Wordworks competition and is part of their anthology. It was also a runner-up in the Georgetown Review's fiction competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randon Billings Noble</td>
<td>was awarded a three-week residency at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, funded by the Gwendolyn and Morris Cafritz Foundation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paula Peterson</td>
<td>won the $1,000 Virginia Faulkner Award for Excellence in Writing for her story &quot;Shelter,&quot; published in the Spring 2008 issue of Prairie Schooner. She is the author of the story collection Women in the Grove, Beacon Press.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Ralph</td>
<td>was awarded the 2009 BEN Prize at the U of M, funded by an endowment in honor of alumnus Larry Kirshbaum. The prize goes to a lecturer who has achieved a high level of excellence in the classroom.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kodi Scheer won a $5,000 award from Dzanc Books to complete her short story collection and teach a series of workshops at the U of M Cancer Center.

Elizabeth Schultz held a Distinguished Fulbright Lectureship at the Beijing Foreign Studies University in 2007. In October 2008, she co-organized a conference in Beijing at Tsinghua University on ecocriticism, “Beyond Thoreau: American and International Responses to Nature.”

Larissa Szporluk is the recipient of a 2009 Guggenheim Fellowship.

Donald A. Yates received a John Guggenheim Fellowship for the period 2008-2009 to complete a memoir/biography of Jorge Luis Borges. In 2008, the Authors Society of London selected Labyrinths: Selected Writings of Jorge Luis Borges as one of the fifty most important translations into English over the past fifty years. With James E. Irby, Mr. Yates co-edited and co-translated the book, which was published in 1962 by New Directions. Mr. Yates was the principal translator of Argentine writer Edgar Brau’s short story collection, Casablanca and Other Stories, published in 2006 by Michigan State University Press. The book was one of four finalists for the PEN 2007 award in the category of translation. Mr. Yates travelled to Buenos Aires in December, 2008. While there, he received the title of “Visitante Ilustre” from the City of Buenos Aires and the Argentine Academy of Letters held a special session to honor him for a half-century of translating into English and seeing into print the novels and short stories of many Argentine authors.

We were saddened to by the death of Milan Stitt, winner of a Minor Drama Award in 1961 and a Major Drama award in 1963, on March 12. Dennis Hevesi wrote in the New York Times:

“Milan Stitt, 68, Playwright and a Nurturer of Talent, Dies CLOS
Milan Stitt, the author of the critically praised 1976 Broadway drama ‘The Runner Stumbles’ and founder and director of the play development program at the Circle Repertory Theater, an Off Broadway incubator for playwrights, died on Thursday in Manhattan. He was 68 and lived in Pittsburgh and Manhattan. The cause was liver cancer, his sister, Susan Miller, said.

Mr. Stitt wrote ‘The Runner Stumbles’ in 1974. Based on an actual event in rural Michigan in 1911, the play is about a Roman Catholic priest who is tried for killing a nun after their passion is thwarted by their vows. A 1979 film version, directed by Stanley Kramer, starred Dick Van Dyke, Kathleen Quinlan, Beau Bridges, Ray Bolger, Maureen Stapleton and Tammy Grimes. The play was revived off Broadway in 2007 at the Actors Company Theater. Although best known for ‘The Runner Stumbles,’ Mr. Stitt wrote 17 plays for the theater and television as well as articles on theater and travel. In 1981, his account of another true story, titled ‘Ephraim McDowell’s Kentucky Ride,’ was broadcast on PBS. It told of the Kentucky frontier surgeon who performed the world’s first successful surgery to remove an ovarian tumor, in 1809.

Mr. Stitt’s 1980 play ‘Back in the Race’ examined this country’s Puritanical heritage through the burdens borne by Jonathan Edwards 7th, an angry young man out of Princeton who is a direct
descendant of the 18th-century Calvinist theologian. Mr. Stitt made what was probably his biggest mark as head of the play development program at the Circle Rep. In his years with the company, he served as dramaturge to budding playwrights like Bill C. Davis, Albert Innaurato, Arthur Kopit, Paul Zindel and David Mamet. In 1992, he helped start the Circle Rep’s theater school. Within two years, the school was offering 44 classes in play writing, acting and directing, with an enrollment of more than 400 students. Mr. Stitt was executive director of the Circle Rep from 1994 to August 1996. After that, Mr. Stitt was professor of dramatic writing at Carnegie Mellon University. He had previously taught at Yale, Princeton, the University of Michigan and New York University.”

Special Announcements

A heartfelt thank you to Program Assistants Monica Buckley and Urvi Shah who graduated this spring. Not only did they capably direct the operations in the Hopwood Room while I recovered from back surgery, but they handled the daily tasks with intelligence, kindness, and a painstaking attention to detail. I’m profoundly lucky to have had the opportunity to work with them.

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 Department’s number, 734-763-3128) or e-mail me: abeauca@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 April 24. If your information arrived after that, it will be included in our next newsletter which will come out in January. The cutoff date for that will be November 26.

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.

Unfortunately, so many of you have personal websites and blogs that we’ll be unable to make note of them in the future. We’re trying to keep the newsletter to manageable size.

Looking for a writers’ conference, center, residency, or retreat to attend? The Writers’ Conferences and Centers (WC&C) website, www.writersconf.org, provides information about the most established and respected writing organizations in North America and abroad.

The Hopwood Program has a Web page address: http://www.lsa.umich.edu/english/hopwood/. Visit the English Department’s MFA Program site at http://www.lsa.umich.edu/english/grad/mfa.

Best wishes for a good spring and summer. Do stop by to say hello if you’re visiting Ann Arbor.

Andrea Beauchamp
NEW LITERARY PROJECTS
FEATURING
HOPWOOD WINNERS

FICTION writers REVIEW

www.fictionwritersreview.com

Fiction Writers Review is an online literary journal dedicated to reviewing, recommending, and discussing quality fiction. Its contributors, a community of emerging and established writers, aspire to get writers and readers talking not only about the ways fiction reads, but also how it works and why it matters.

Currently seeking submissions for reviews, interviews, and essays on craft and the writing life.

Contact Anne Stameshkin, Editor-in-Chief: fictionwritersreview@gmail.com

Hopwood Winners Featured: Peggy Adler, Natalie Bakopoulos, Jeremiah Chamberlin, Shira Handler, Travis Holland, Cyan James, Dana Kletter, Valerie Laken, Danielle Lazarin, Sopang Men, Nami Mun, Celeste Ng, Greg Parker, Mike Rudin, Preeta Samarasan, Sara Schaff, Brian Short, Elizabeth Ames Staudt, Ben Stroud, Katie Umans, and Jesmyn Ward.

The Elizabeth Kostova Foundation was created to promote creative writing in Bulgaria. Specifically, its mission is to encourage, challenge, and publish literary authors in Bulgaria; to cultivate connections among Bulgarian and native-English writers; to assist in the training of translators for contemporary Bulgarian literature; and to facilitate the publication of Bulgarian writers in English. The Foundation also seeks to introduce the work of native-English authors to a Bulgarian audience, to provide native-English writers the opportunity to improve their own work by studying in Bulgaria, and to foster a global exchange of literature through dialogue and creativity.

Hopwood Winners:
Co-Founder – Elizabeth Kostova
2008 Fellow – Travis Holland
2009 Fellows – Jeremiah Chamberlin & Kodi Scheer

Accepting applications (October-March) for the annual Sozopol Fiction Seminars on the Black Sea. Contact Milena Deleva, Director: mdeleva@ekf.bg

www.ekf.bg/en/