We were thrilled that Anne Stevenson was doubly honored this fall. In October, she became the second recipient of the Neglected Masters Award of $50,000 from the Poetry Foundation. “The award brings renewed critical attention to the life’s work of a significant but under-recognized American poet. Stevenson was born in England of American parents in 1933. She was brought up in New England and in Ann Arbor, Michigan, graduating with a Major Hopwood Award for poetry from the University of Michigan in 1954. Her many books of poems include Reversals (Wesleyan, 1969), Correspondences (Oxford University Press, 1974), The Fiction-Makers (Oxford University Press, 1985), and Granny Scarecrow (Bloodaxe Books, 2000). Poems1955–2005, published by Bloodaxe Books, collects 50 years of her poetry, written during a full and much-traveled life in America, England, Scotland, and Wales. She is also the author of Bitter Fame: A Life of Sylvia Plath (Penguin, 1990) and recently of Five Looks at Elizabeth Bishop (Bloodaxe Books, 2006). In 2002 she was the inaugural recipient of the Northern Rock Writers Award. In 2003, John Lucas edited a 70th-birthday Festschrift in her honor, The Way You Say the World. Her latest collection of poems, Stone Milk, will appear from Bloodaxe Books in the autumn of 2007. Stevenson has three children and lives with her husband, Peter Lucas, in Durham, England, and in North Wales. On April 1, 2008, The Library of America will publish Anne Stevenson: Selected Poems in conjunction with the Neglected Masters Award. This will be her first poetry publication in the United States in over two decades.” Then the November 8 New York Times announced: “The American lyric poet Anne Stevenson, 74, who has lived in Britain for more than 40 years, was named the winner yesterday of the $200,000 lifetime achievement award of the Lannan Foundation of Santa Fe, N.M.” The Lannan Literary Awards and Fellowships were established in 1989 to honor both established and emerging writers whose work

Continued, page 2
is of exceptional quality. Over the last 19 years, Lannan Foundation, through its Awards and Fellowships program, has awarded 171 writers and poets more than $13 million. The awards recognize writers who have made significant contributions to English-language literature. The fellowships recognize writers of distinctive literary merit who demonstrate potential for continued outstanding work. And, lastly, she is the recipient of the Aiken Taylor Award in Modern American Poetry from Sewanee Review. Our warmest congratulations to Anne on these marvelous awards.

The Hopwood Underclassmen Awards Ceremony, at which the winners of the fall term writing contests are announced, will be held on Tuesday, January 29 at 3:30 in the Rackham Amphitheatre. George Saunders—author of The Braindead Megaphone, Pastoralia, Civil War Land in Bad Decline, In Persuasion Nation, and the children’s books The Brief and Frightening Reign of Phil and The Very Persistent Gappers of Frith—will give a fiction reading following the announcement of the awards. The Graduate and Undergraduate Hopwood Awards Ceremony will be held at 3:30 on Wednesday, April 16, in the Rackham Amphitheatre. The Hopwood Lecturer will be Charles Johnson, author of Middle Passage and three other novels, The Sorcerer’s Apprentice and two other short story collections, and many nonfiction books, including Africans in America: America’s Journey Through Slavery and, most recently, Turning the Wheel: Essays on Buddhism and Writing. There will be a reception after each ceremony in the Rackham Assembly Hall. You are cordially invited to these events.

Awards for the 70th Annual Summer Hopwood Awards Ceremony were presented by Prof. Michael Byers, himself a former winner, on September 20. The judges for the contest were Paul Barron (Hopwood Award winner) and Jennifer Michaels. And the winners were:

**Fiction:** Joya M. McCrory, $800; Paul Fiehler, $1,000

**Poetry:** Claire Smith, $1,750

**The Marjorie Rapaport Award in Poetry:** Melissa Kim, $300; Sarah M. Sala, $500

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**Charles Johnson**

**George Saunders**
### Publications by Hopwood Winners*

#### Books and Chapbooks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew Hittinger</td>
<td><em>Pear Slip</em>, poetry, Spire Press, 2007; <em>Narcissus Resists</em>, poetry, winner of the Beauty/Truth Press 2007 Chapbook Competition.</td>
<td>Matthew says, “There will be a limited edition run of a physical copy of the book with full cover art, etc., and the e-book will look exactly like the physical book, but will have clickable, interactive links, etc.” <a href="http://www.beautytruthpoetry.com/publications.html">www.beautytruthpoetry.com/publications.html</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nami Mun</td>
<td><em>Miles from Nowhere</em>, a linked story collection, forthcoming from Penguin/Riverhead.</td>
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* Assume date unknown if no date is indicated.


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**Articles and Essays**


Elizabeth Kostova  Interviewed by Sarah Sala, *Oleander Review*, University of Michigan, Issue #1, Fall 2007.


David Erik Nelson A piece on Pep-Squeak, Avery Hopwood’s monkey, who inherited a $10,000 trust fund after Hopwood’d death, Ann Arbor Observer, April 2007.


Reviews


Fiction


Bart Plantenga An excerpt from his novel Beer Mystic in Chanticleer (Scotland) and from his novel Paris Sex Tete at Parisiana.com.


Poetry

Geoffrey Bankowski “Sunday To Watch Horses,” “Saving All the Waitresses,” The Southern Review, Summer 2007.


Lyn Coffin translated “What Is Prohibited,” “Black Picture,” “Snowflakes,” “What Are We?” and “Screaming” by Jirí Orten, The Virginia Quarterly Review, Summer 2007. The contributor’s note says; “Lyn Coffin is the author of seven books of poems and translations from Russian and Czech. She is a member of Effective Arts, a professional acting troupe based in Seattle, and was a featured speaker last year at the World Congress of Poets in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Her next book is a translation of White Picture, a book-length collection of Jirí Orten’s poems.”


At the Equinox,” *Shenandoah*, LVII, 1, Spring 2007.

**Patricia Hooper**


**Tung-Hui Hu**


**Laura Kasischke**


**Josie Kears**


**X. J. Kennedy**


**Lynne Knight**


**Laurence Lieberman**


**Gregory Loselle**


**Karyna McGlynn**

“Her head was blacker than coal, she didn’t mind,” *Lit*, Winter/Spring 2008; “How to Delicately Detect I Lied About the Dosing,” *Diagram*, Fall 2007; “Hot Button God, Move Your Thumb…,” “But to find, he said with a recondite sneer…,” *Quarterly West*, 2007; “[In a landscape, the color of bleached limes],” “[Sometime in the night a naked man passes],” *Forklift*, Ohio, Summer 2007; “It wasn’t phenomenal, she followed the phone poles up & up,” *The Concher*, 2007.

**Hank Meijer**

“Comfort Inn,” selected by Billy Collins to be included in *Voices*, a collection from the 2007 Dyer-Ives Poetry Competition.

**Jennifer Metsker**


**Derek Mong**


**Rachel Morgenstern-Clarren**

Marge Piercy


Marc J. Sheehan


Anne Stevenson


Sara Talpos


Laurence W. Thomas


Douglas Woody Woodsum


Audio

Kristen Lems

“I am happy to report that “Equality Road,” my 26 song double CD containing albums “We Will Never Give Up” and “In the Out Door,” is now ready to sell! You can order it right here: http://cdbaby.com/cd/kristinlems6.”

Film

Tina Datsko de Sánchez

wrote and produced a short film, Robinson, that was directed by José Sánchez-H. It had its world premiere at the Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival in Hollywood on October 13. Robinson is part of a series of experimental films using spoken word to tell the story of 19th century revolutionary Simon Bolivar. Two of the films aired on Sundance Channel and one received the Audience Award for “Best Short Film” at the Iberoamerican Film Festival in Montreal. She was also the screenwriter for La Paz, a political thriller directed by her husband, which advanced to the Semifinal Round of the 2007 Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting. It is one of 108 entries out of 5050 to make the cut in this competition sponsored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Drama, Performances and Publications

Nigel Gearing

adapted Alain-Fournier’s novel Le Grand Meaulnes into a play of the same name. The novel is a much-loved French classic set in the era just before World War I. The play, which received wonderful reviews, was produced by Quantum Theatre and directed by Di Trevis, and it was performed at Hartford Acres in Pittsburgh August 2-26. Hopwood winner (and former Michigan Daily Arts Writer) Sasha Higgins acted in the play and the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review noted: “It’s easy to understand how Sasha Higgins’ Yvonne de Galais instantaneously captures Meaulnes’ -- and our -- affections.”
Bart Plantenga  A broadcast of the radio play version of his short story “Wet Dreams of the Pope” on Dutch public radio, VPRO’s “Café Sonore”; “Moroscopy,” a 1-hour Audio collage, on VPRO’s “Radio 6.”

Brian Spitulnik  A musical based on his Hopwood Award-winning story, “A Good Boy,” was produced at the U of M’s Musical Theatre Studio I and performed in the Arthur Miller Theatre December 6-9, 2007. Brian wrote the book and lyrics, the music was by Sam Davis, musical direction by Cynthia Kortman Westphal, and it was directed by Linda Goodrich.

News & Notes

Babies Galore!

Dean Bakopoulos and Amanda Okopski announce the birth of Amos Gregor Bakopoulos, born on October 15 and weighing 9 pounds, 4 ounces.

Gabe Burnstein and Darcie Dennigan announce the birth of their daughter, Remy, on March 17, 2007.

Margaret Dean and Christopher Hebert announce the birth of their son, Elliott James Hebert-Dean, on May 1, weighing in at 7 pounds 13 ounces.

Francesca Delbanco and Nick Stoller announce the birth of Penelope Aurora Stoller on October 5. She weighed 6 lbs. 10 ounces.

Benjamin Paloff and Megan Thomas announce the arrival of their daughter, Breina Filomena Paloff on November 6. She weighed 6 pounds 11 ounces and measured 20 inches long.

Jess Row and Sonya Posmentier announced the birth of their daughter, Mina Bhatia Posmentier Row, on June 8, 2007.

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Dennis Harvey writes that he is “still writing reviews and features primarily about film and theatre, primarily for Variety and the San Francisco Bay Guardian, as well as a few strictly on-line outlets.”

Derek Mong taught composition and creative writing at SUNY Albany in the fall.

Marge Piercy served on the NEA Panel for Fiction and Creative Non-Fiction. “I read manuscripts all summer and spent the first week of September in Washington, DC.”

Bart Plantenga A lecture “Mike Johnson: Black Country Yodeler, Outsider” in De Player in Rotterdam and NS16 in Tilburg as part of the Dada publication party for Big Mag, Rotterdam; a lecture “Some Weird Stories About Yodeling” at the Amsterdam Literary Festival. “I am currently working on a compilation called Black and Blue Yodelin’ for the excellent label Trikont and will include (hopefully!) blues, jazz, and rock and soul yodeling as well as African and other black yodeling.”

Margaret Reges is studying in the Iowa Writers’ Workshop. She was awarded an Iowa Arts Fellowship.
Frank Beaver received a grant from the U of M’s Provost’s Office for a study of contemporary films made by young Viet Kieu (‘Overseas Vietnamese’) who have returned to their mother country after being raised abroad. “The films are not about the war, instead lovely, poetic studies of the character, culture, and traditions of Vietnamese life, e.g. The Scent of Green Papaya, and Vertical Rays of the Sun.” Frank will do research in the British Film Institute in London.

Will Dunlap was awarded the University of Texas’s $90,000 Keene Prize in May. It’s given to one writer a year in any field, graduate or undergraduate, who is studying at Texas.

Rachel Harkai was awarded an eleven-month position as writer-in-residence with the Hub City Writers Project of Spartanburg, SC where she will be compiling and editing an anthology of regional poetry and working on her own writing until May 2008. Her poetry is forthcoming in Spork and Michigan Quarterly Review.

Cynthia Haven is the winner of the 2007/08 Milena Jesenská Journalism Fellowship and will be going to Krakow, Warsaw, and Vienna next summer. She will write a series of articles about her research for the San Francisco Chronicle and Los Angeles Times and will gather material for her forthcoming book, Czeslaw Milosz: Memories and Recollections. The forthcoming volume also received a Kosciuszko Foundation grant.

Tung Hui-Hu is the recipient of $3,000 and the 70th James D. Phelan Literary Award from the San Francisco Foundation/Intersection for the Arts, given to California Writers under 35, regardless of genre. Previous winners of the Jackson-Phelan prizes include Philip Levine, Al Young, and Jane Hirschfield.

Josie Kearns has won a month-long residency at the writer/artist colony Ragdale Foundation in Lake Forest, IL.

Eric Leigh is the recipient of a $5,000 Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Prize. The annual awards are given for lyric poems celebrating the human spirit.

Laurence W. Thomas notes, “I won a cash prize in the Margaret Reid contest for traditional verse.”

Oliver Thornton was the recipient of an Emmy Award from the Michigan Chapter of the National Television Academy for his work as writer and producer of “Celebrating Hopwood: 75 Years of Writing Word Reading,” a short documentary made for the 75th anniversary celebration last year. ‘Celebrating Hopwood’ was a co-production of HKO Media and Michigan Television and featured interviews with several former winners, including Lawrence Kasdan and Elizabeth Kostova, as well as Hopwood historian Jack Sharrar and the program’s own Nicholas Delbanco and Andrea Beauchamp.

Keith Waldrop writes that his press, Burning Deck, is reprinting The Grand Hotels (of Joseph Cornell) by Robert Coover, fiction.
**Deaths**

Richard A. Laing of Ann Arbor, died on December 10, 2006. He was the winner of a Major Poetry Award in 1953. Mr. Laing was a U of M researcher, member of the Logic of Computers Group, and affiliated with the department of Computer and Communication Sciences.

Grace Anne Preston of Versailles, Kentucky died on January 14, 2007. She was the recipient of Summer Poetry Awards in 1953 and 1954.

Marilynn M. Rosenthal, winner of a 1970 Major Essay Award, died of cancer at the age of 77 on August 9. She won a Fulbright Scholarship to study medical safety in England and Sweden and became an expert on medical mishaps, authoring and editing several books on the subject, most recently *Medical Error: What Do We Know? What Do We Do?*, which assessed the critical area of patient safety and stressed the need for accountability and transparency in the medical community. A professor and medical sociologist, she directed the Program in Health Studies at the U of M-Dearborn and was associate editor of the U of M Medical Schools Program in Society and Medicine, also founding and coordinating the U of M Health Policy Forum. Her son Josh was killed in the September 11 attack and she established a lecture series in his name at the U of M. Last year, she donated funds to the Hopwood Program to award the Helen J. Daniels Prize in Undergraduate Nonfiction. Helen J. Daniels was the pen name she used when she entered the Hopwood Contest.

Richard Keller Simon, winner of Major Hopwood Awards in Drama and Essay, died on April 4, 2005. He received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from the U of M and Ph.D. from Stanford. He was professor and Chair of the Humanities Program at California Polytechnic State University.


**Special Announcements**

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 Department's number, 734-763-3128) or e-mail me: abeauach@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 November 26. If your information arrived after that, it will be included in our next newsletter which will come out in June.

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.


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

Andrea Beauchamp
Return Service Requested