

The Hopwood Newsletter

Vol. LXVIII, 2

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

June, 2007

We are very sorry to announce the death of Professor John W. Aldridge, who directed the Hopwood Program from 1975 until 1988, when he was succeeded by Nicholas Delbanco. Professor Delbanco wrote this piece for the *University Record*:

John W. Aldridge, Emeritus Professor of English, passed away in Madison, Georgia, on February 7, 2007. He retired from active faculty status as of December 31, 1990, after a highly productive career as teacher and scholar. John Aldridge studied at the University of Chattanooga in his native Tennessee from 1940 to 1943; he was graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1947. His service in the Second World was distinguished; an Infantry Rifleman and Information Specialist, he was decorated with the Bronze Star Medal and five bronze combat stars for Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and the Ardennes.

Having taught at such institutions as The University of Wyoming and Sarah Lawrence College, he came to Ann Arbor in 1964 and remained here until his retirement. He served as Chairman of the Editorial Board of the *Michigan Quarterly Review* and, for more than a decade, as Chairman of the Hopwood Writing Awards Committee. When *After the Lost Generation* appeared in 1951, it was immediately hailed as the rallying cry of a new generation of novelists—writers such as Norman Mailer, Gore Vidal, Truman Capote and Paul

Bowles. In his 1985 Introduction to the re-issued text, Norman Mailer suggests that "Aldridge was the nearest guideline to absolute truth that the working novelist had in my young days. I wonder if there was ever a critic who understood any better the roots of the problems that beset the novelists of his own generation."

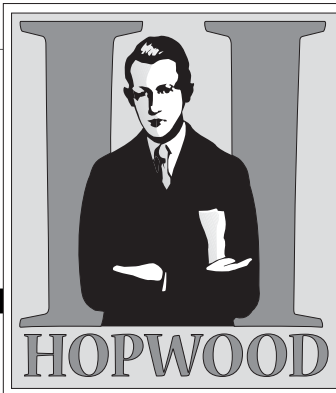
As critic and cultural arbiter, he remained in the forefront of the literary life of America. He wrote a novel, *The Party at Cranton*, and social commentary such as *In the Country of the Young*. His other works of literary criticism include such titles as *Time to Murder and Create*, *The American Novel and the Way We Live Now*, and *Classics and Contemporaries*; he was a regular

Continued, page 2



Former Director of the Hopwood Awards Program

John W. **Aldridge**



Inside:

- 4 Publications by Hopwood Winners
- 4 -books and chapbooks
- 5 -articles and essays
- 7 -reviews
- 7 -fiction
- 8 -poetry
- 10 -audio
- 11 -film
- 11 -Drama Performances and Publications
- 12 News Notes
- 14 Awards and Honors
- 15 Deaths
- 15 Special Announcements

Editor Andrea Beauchamp
Design Anthony Cece

contributor to such magazines as "The Atlantic Monthly," "Esquire" and "Harper's" as well as a book commentator on The MacNeil-Lehrer news hour. In his last years he continued to write—producing articles, book reviews and a memoir. Married five times and the father of five sons, he is survived by his widow Patsy Aldridge, who requests that donations in his memory be sent to the Hopwood Awards Program at UM.

We are happy to announce the publication of a special issue of **Michigan Quarterly Review** entirely devoted to "Hopwood Award Winners, 2000-2006," edited by Nicholas Delbanco and Laurence Goldstein. This 256-page issue is mainly written by recent Hopwood winners, but it begins with three related items: The Hopwood Lecture for 2006 by Charles Baxter, "Losers"; a newspaper profile and chat with Avery Hopwood from 1920; and a long interview with Arthur Miller during his last visit to the University of Michigan in the fall of 2004. Contributors to the issue include Robyn Anspach, Phillip Crymble, Rae Gouirand, Nicholas Harp, Matthew Hittinger, Evan McGarvey, Jennifer Metsker, Derek Mong, Rachel Richardson, Tung-Hui-Hu, Katie Umans (poetry); Jeremy Chamberlin, Travis Holland, Valerie Laken, Patrick O'Keeffe (fiction); Margaret Lazarus Dean, Cyan James, Elizabeth Kostova (nonfiction); Ashley David, Benjamin Paloff, Preeta Samarasan (review essays).

For a copy of the issue, send a check for \$9 to **Michigan Quarterly Review**, 3574 Rackham Building, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1070.

Awards for the **Hopwood Underclassmen Contest** and for the other fall term writing contests were presented by Professor Nicholas Delbanco on January 30. A poetry reading by Linda Pastan followed the announcement of the awards. Judges for the contests were Margaret Dean, Robert Fanning, Elizabeth Hutton, Davy Rothbart, and Lynne Roughley. And the winners were:



Hopwood Lecturer
Susan Stamberg

The Hopwood Underclassmen Contest

Nonfiction: Xiaoqian Donica Liu, \$600; Beenish Ahmed, \$1,000; Jennifer Leija, \$1,250; Jessica Vosgerchian, \$1,200

Fiction: Lauren E. Walbridge, \$800; Clare Smith Marash, \$1,500; Rebecca Shafer, \$1,500

Poetry: Hayley Berkshire, \$600; Lauren Keils, \$600; Beenish Ahmed, \$1,000; Shaelyn Smith, \$1,250; Keilor Kastella, \$1,500

Academy of American Poets Prize: *Graduate*, KC Trommer, \$100; *Undergraduate*, Evan Briggs McGarvey, \$100

Bain-Swiggett Poetry Prize: Cyan James, \$550

Michael R. Gutterman Award in Poetry: Chris Pruitt, \$350; Michelle Brown, \$450

Jeffrey L. Weisberg Memorial Prize in Poetry: Audra Puchalski, \$500; Beenish Ahmed, \$650

Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowships: James Dean Menter, \$1,000; Erin Schlitts, \$1,000; Natasha Stagg, \$1,000; Melissa Shook, \$1,500; Nithya Maria Joseph, \$2,000; Erica Krutsch, \$2,000; Noelle Williams, \$2,500

Awards for the **Graduate and Undergraduate Hopwood Contest** were presented by Professor Nicholas Delbanco on April 18, with a lecture by Susan Stamberg, Special Correspondent for National Public Radio, following the announcement of the awards. A total of \$137,000 was awarded in the Hopwood Contest and \$37,700 in the other winter term writing contests.

Local judges were Peggy Adler, Robyn Anspach, John Bacon, Geoffrey Bankowski, Paul Barron, Scott Beal, Frank Beaver, Charlotte Boulay, Jim Burnstein, Louis Ciccirelli, Ian Fulcher, Joseph Heining, Lauren Kingsley, Jonathan Marwil, Raymond McDaniel, Jennifer Michaels, OyamO, Sharon Pomerantz, Alex Ralph, Leslie Stainton, and Beth Winsten. National judges were:

Drama: P. J. Gibson and Peter Wallace