



*William Faulkner – William Wisdom*

## Creative Writing Competition 2004 WINNERS!

**CATEGORY: NOVEL**

**JUDGE: ANDRÉ BERNARD**

**WINNER:** *The Grave Digger* by **Rob Magnuson Smith**, Santa Monica, CA;

**Rob Magnuson Smith** was born in 1970. He grew up in England, attended high school in Oregon, and graduated with honors from Pitzer College in Claremont, CA with degrees in philosophy and psychology. His work has appeared in a variety of literary magazines including *Inkwell*, *Asphodel*, and next spring in *Karamu*. This year he was a finalist in the Poets & Writers/Barnes & Noble California Voices Fiction Contest. He lives in Los Angeles/.

**FIRST RUNNER-UP:** *A Lifetime Burning* by **A. G. Harmon**, Washington, DC.

**FINALISTS:** *Fire on Mount Maggiore* by **John Parras** of New Milford, NJ  
*In Real Life Women Don't Play Jazz* by **Kathleen De Grave** of Pittsburg, KS  
*The Mercury Visions of Louis Daguerre* by **Dominic Smith** of Austin, TX

**SEMI-FINALISTS:** *A Place to Come Home to* by **Marj Casswell** of Vancouver, WA  
*A Stripper's Tale* by **Roz Kuehn Unruth** of Hockessin, DE  
*Barrington* by **Louis Williams** of Brookings, SD  
*Bellafortuna* by **Chip LoCoco** of New Orleans, LA  
*Bloodless* by **William Coles** of Chapel Hill, NC  
*Dangerous to Self and Others* by **Robert G. Ripley** of Seattle, WA  
*Extreme Consequences* by **Neil C. Hall, III** of Mandeville, LA  
*Haints* by **Baker Lawley** of Tuscaloosa, AL  
*In the Realm of Mere Consolation* by **Carlos Cunha**, West Hartford, CT  
*Life's Fading Illusions* by **Tom Welsh**, Xenia, OH  
*Long Shot* by **Donna C. Ebert** of Caldwell, NJ  
*Lunch Bucket Paradise* by **Fred Setterberg** of Oakland, CA  
*Occitania* by **Paul Byall** of Savannah, GA  
*Precarious* by **Hope Coulter** of Little Rock, AR  
*Sweet Opium* by **Rosary O'Neill** of New Orleans, LA and New York, NY  
*The Lotus Easters* by **Tatjana Soli** of Tustin, CA  
*The Poison That Fascinates* by **Jennifer Clement** of Mexico City, Mexico  
*Zinzi* by **Phyllis MacBryde** of New York, NY

**CATEGORY: NOVELLA****JUDGE: JANETTE TURNER HOSPITAL****WINNER:** *The Ice Garden* by **Moira Crone**, New Orleans, LA

**Moira Crone's** prize-winning novella *The Ice Garden* is part of her forthcoming collection. She won the Faulkner Society's award for short story in 1993 for her story set in Louisiana, *Dream State*, which subsequently became the lead story for her published collection of the same name. Her stories have also won inclusion in the New Best Stories from the South four times. *Elysiana*, her novel-in-progress, is set in the water-soaked ruins of New Orleans in the year 2128. 2004 was big year for her family. Her daughter, Kezia Kamenetz, won the gold medal for best short story by a high school student and her husband, Rodger Kamenetz, was a finalist in both the poetry and essay categories.

**EQUAL RUNNERS-UP:** *GOMI* by **Malina Watrous**, San Francisco, CA  
*Down at the Egyptian Room* by **Michael Prichett**, Kansas City, MO**FINALISTS:** *The Madonna of the Parking Lot* by **Regina La Barre**, New York, NY  
*This Rebellious House* by **Maureen Aitken**, Minneapolis, MN**SEMI-FINALISTS:** *Girls in Peril* by **Karen Lee Boren**, Providence, RI  
*Erica's Books* by **Katie Bowler**, Harahan, LA  
*Safe Shall Be My Going* by **Joan Corwin**, Evanston, IL  
*To Cover Her Eyes* by **Dakin Dalpoas**, Oglesby, IL  
*Rosamundo* by **B. de la Cuesta**, Beachwood, NJ  
*Diary of a Pig* by **Charles Holdefer**, Poitiers, France  
*Listen and Say Nothing More* by **Nancy Nye Knipe**, Green Mountain Falls, CO  
*The Best Dress* by **Cindy Lou Levee**, Baton Rouge, LA  
*The Hundred-Foot Journey* by **Richard C. Morais**, Philadelphia, PA  
*What is Owed* by **Louise Farmer Smith**, Washington, DC  
*The House of Leaves* by **Angela Tung**, Tuckahoe, NY**CATEGORY: NOVEL-IN-PROGRESS****JUDGE: ELINOR LIPMAN****WINNER:** *Jerusalem as a Second Language* by **Rochelle Distelheim** of Chicago, IL

**Rochelle Distelheim's** short fiction has been published in *North American Review*, *Other Voices*, *Story Quarterly*, *Nimrod*, *Confrontation*, among others, as well as in several anthologies. She was awarded two literary prizes and five Fellowships in fiction by the Illinois Arts Council. Other awards include the Katharine Anne Porter Prize, two Sewanee Conference scholarships. She has twice been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. Ms. Distelheim lives in a Chicago suburb, as does her daughter, Laura Distelheim, who won the Faulkner Society's gold medal for Best Essay in 2001.

**FIRST RUNNER-UP:** *The Perfect Journey* by **George Wen**, New York, NY**SECOND RUNNER-UP:** *The Hobbyist* by **John Bullock**, Madison, WI**FINALISTS:** *And Soon There Will Be None* by **Joe Jenkins**, Savannah, GA  
*A Soft, Leafy Brilliance* by  
*Autobiography of My Twin* by **Anne Hellman**, Brooklyn, NY  
*Back in the Day* by **Caitlin O'Neil**, Cambridge, MA  
*Cadillac Day* by **Linda Wojtowick**, Lake Oswego, OR  
*Caterpillars* by **Eileen Cronin**, Arlington, VA  
*Cleaning Up* by **Cinthia Ritchie**, Anchorage, AK  
*Courting Jane*  
*Eugene in August* by **Barret O'Brien**, New Orleans, LA  
*Isadora Liberated* by **Danella P. Hero**, Belle Chasse, LA  
*Krewe of Venus* by **Jane Neathery Cutler**, Minneapolis, MN  
*On Locust Street* by **Kathleen Crowley**, Somerville, MA  
*Retroman* by **Bruce Wexler**, Elmhurst, IL

**CATEGORY: NOVEL-IN-PROGRESS (cont.)****JUDGE: ELINOR LIPMAN**

**FINALISTS:** *Save Your Own* by **Elisabeth Brink**, Newburyport, MA  
*Sympathy*  
*Taming Judith* by **Mark Wiederanders**, Carmichael, CA  
*The Girl in the Lands' End Catalogue* by **Dale Edmundson** of New Orleans, LA  
*The Luck of the Blue Dragonfly* by **Angela Lam**, Santa Rosa, CA  
*The Monumental Hoax* by **B. J. Ryan**, Bodfish, CA  
*The Queen of Cups* by **Amy S. Kennedy Foseen**, New Brighton, MN  
*Tropical Depression* by **Rosary O'Neill**, Ithaca, NY

**SEMI-FINALISTS:** *Black Time*, by **Otis Twelve**, Walnut, IA  
*Blindspots* by **Sarah Stark Doyle**, Santa Fe, NM  
*Computer Boy and the Frozen Ark*.  
*Evremonde* by **Diana Mayer**, Dulles, VA  
*Fooling the Sun* by **Gwen Strauss**, Savannah, GA  
*For Zane* by **Amanda Luna**, Caledonia, MS  
*Higher Ground* by **Michael Shumate**, High Point, NC  
*Into the Afterfall* by **Robert Gatewood**, Water Valley, MS  
*Making the Good Times Last* by **Linda T. Wilson**, Atlanta, GA  
*Or So You Say* by **Leah Fortson**, New York, NY  
*Overdue* by **Peggy O'Neal Peden**, Nashville, TN  
*Running Money* by **Rita Welty Bourke**, Nashville, TN  
*Saluting the Sun* by **Mary Hutchings Reed**, Chicago, IL  
*Tears Upon Sorrow* by **Laurie K. Walls**, Titusville, FL  
*That's What I Want* by **Robert Morgan Fisher**, Woodland Hills, CA  
*The Best Seat in the House* by **Maria Massei-Rosato**, Cold Spring Harbor, NY  
*The Buddha in the Hot Tub* by **Anne Mini**, Seattle, WA  
*The Antidote* by **Mary Hoffman**, Brooklyn, NY  
*The Fog Machine* by **Susan Follett**, Oakdale, MN  
*The Gestation of Pegasus* by **Del Coates**, San Jose, CA  
*The Ghost Car* by **Susan Dewell**, Tulsa, OK  
*The Girl in the Bathtub* by **Robert Raymer**, Penang, Malaysia  
*The Mermaid Chronicles* by **Donna Olson**, Southhampton, NY  
*The Playhouse Society*, **Anita Kragelund Busbord**, Roegilsvej, Denmark  
*The Tyranny of Seedless Things*, **Trevor John Bundy**, New York, NY

**CATEGORY: SHORT STORY****JUDGE: STUART DYBEK**

**WINNER:** *The Attaturk of the Outer Boroughs* by **Jacob Appel**, New York, NY  
**Jacob Appel** has been published widely in both fiction and nonfiction, having written on such diverse topics as the Dutch Revolution, United States history, kidney transplantation, forcible treatment in the courtroom, and the question of euthanasia. In fiction, he has previously won the Boston Review Short Fiction Contest, the Dana Award, the Open Voice Fiction Award, the Blackberry Hill Creative Arts Award for short fiction, and has been nominated or short-listed for the Pushcart Prize and the O. Henry Award. He has been an adjunct assistant professor at Brown University for two years, and is a licensed notary public, bartender, and New York City travel guide.

**FIRST RUNNER-UP:** *This Whole Negativity Thing* by **George Harrar**, Wayland, MA

**SECOND RUNNER-UP:** *See Ben's Family* by **Kenneth Kaye** of Evanston, IL

**FINALISTS:** *Einstein's Daughter* by **Mary Michael Wagner**, San Francisco, CA  
*Scales* by **Mario Rene Padilla**, Venice, CA  
*Lives of Mapmakers* by **Alicia L. Conroy**, Minneapolis, MN  
*Local Boy* by **Laura Denham**, London, England

**CATEGORY: SHORT STORY (cont.)****JUDGE: STUART DYBEK**

**FINALISTS:** *See Ben's Family* by  
*Dead Cat Bounce* by **Steve Hermanos**  
*Erice* by **Janie Dempsey Watts**  
*Thaw* by Caitlin O'Neil  
*The Last Girl on Earth* by **Mary Michael Wagner**, San Francisco, CA  
*What you ask for* by **A. C. Lambeth**  
*She Plays* by **Effrem Sigel**, New Rochelle, NY  
*This Whole Negativity Thing* by **George Harrar**

**SEMI-FINALISTS:** *Adopt A Highway*, **David Comfort**, Santa Rosa, CA  
*A Winter's Day*, **Robert Steven Williams**, Westport, CT  
*Darkside*, **Elaine Winer**, Morristown, NJ  
*Flowers and the Statue of Liberty*  
*Fondling the Dark*, **Gail Waldstein**, Denver, CO  
*Gatekeeper*, **Leslie Fish**, Phoenix, AZ  
*Ghosts of Amsterdam*, **Larry Caldwell**, Seaside Park, NJ  
*Going Home*, **Elinathan Ohiomoba**, Houston, TX  
*Gone*, by **Bill Lochfelm**  
*Hardship Pay*, **Leighton Scott**, Vilas, NC  
*How Things Might Be Otherwise*  
*I'm Gonna Be A Wheel Someday*, **Michael H. Rudeen**, Denver, CO  
*Lynchburg*, **David Snow**, New Orleans, LA  
*Mojave*, **Katheryn Laborde**, River Ridge, LA  
*Nor Dark of Night*, **Paul Michel**, Seattle, WA  
*Passing on the Right*, **Robert J. Kriss**, Winnetka, IL  
*Proof of a Man*, **Marilyn Moriarty**, Roanoke, VA  
*Redemption*, **Amy K. Humphries**, Dallas, TX  
*Something Else Entirely*, **Donna Lee Davis**, Hartwood, VA  
*The Man Who Couldn't Lose*, **Scott Burkhead**, Apex, NC  
*The Next Great Ice Age*, **Thomas Cooper**, Gainesville, FL  
*The 78*, **Amanda Osgood Jonientz**, Seattle, WA  
*The Testimony*, **J. Timothy Rice**, Folsom, LA  
*Thirteen Ways of Looking at Love, Flowers, and The Statue of Liberty*  
By **Dale Edmonds**, New Orleans, LA  
*Times Valuable* by **Bill Gregg**, Louisville, KY

**CATEGORY: ESSAY****JUDGE: MICHAEL DIRDA**

**WINNER:** *She's Gone* by **Fred Setterberg** of Santa Clara, CA  
**Fred Setterberg** is the author of *The Roads Taken: Travels Through America's Literary Landscapes*, winner of the Associated Writing Program's award in creative nonfiction, and published by The University of Georgia Press. In 2006, Heyday Books will publish *Under the Dragon: The Changing Face of the San Francisco Bay Area*, co-written and photographed by Lonny Shavelson. Under the Dragon examines the ethnic and cultural changes now taking place in California. The book will be the focus of a major exhibition held at the Oakland Museum. Setterberg has also recently completed a book-length memoir about growing up working class and living middle class, and will soon begin work on another book of linked essays about the impact of music in our lives. He is the recipient of a NEA fellowship in creative writing and the winner of several journalism awards. He received his B.A. in English at UC Berkeley and his M.A. in Creative Writing at San Francisco State University.

**FIRST RUNNER-UP:** *The Book I Do Not Write in Eight Years* by **Nicole Jerr** of Northbrook, IL  
**SECOND RUNNER-UP:** *An Elegy for Edith* by **Margo Feeley**, Berkeley, CA

**CATEGORY: ESSAY (cont.)****JUDGE: MICHAEL DIRDA**

**FINALISTS:** *All It Took Was Oral Surgery* by **Katie Bindley**, Chicago, IL  
*A Single Light: The Letters and Diaries of Sophie Scholl* by **A.K. Leibmann**, Munich, Germany  
*Color* by **Karen Krotzer Laborde**, River Ridge, LA  
*Deep* by **Karel Sloane**, New Orleans, LA  
*Echoes in an Ear Canal* by **Gail Waldstein**, Denver, CO  
*Feel Bad All Over* by  
*Furukawa: Session 6/Skeptical Optimistic* by **Garry Wallace**, Powell, WY  
*In the Name of the Bomb* by **Terre Ryan**, Reno, NV  
*It's So Cliché* by **Leslie Lehr Spirson**, Woodland Hills, CA  
*Larry* by  
*Panic Attack* by  
*Scoldings from Strangers* by **Katy Read**, Minneapolis, MN  
*Susan and the Zunnis* by **Beth Alvarado**, Tucson, AZ  
*The Meticulous Eye: Meditations on Poets who Paint* by **Ruth Moon Kempher**, St. Augustine, FL  
*The Romance of Trash* by **Carlos Cunha**, West Hartford, CT  
*The Scent of Russian Olive* by  
*The Umbilical* by **Rodger Kamenetz**, New Orleans, LA  
*Tune Lock* by **Rodger Kamenetz**, New Orleans, LA  
*Women Die Well* by **Ellen Ann Fentress**, Jackson, MS

**SEMI-FINALISTS:** *Considering the Funeral*, by **Mardith J. Louisell**, San Francisco, CA  
*Daughters of Empire* by **James Satterfield Batteman**  
*Faces Wild: The Battle of Algiers Goes On* by **Steve Street**, Buffalo, NY  
*Frightened George: How The Pediatric-Educational Complex Ruined the Curious Geore Series* by **Daniel Greenstone**, Oak Park, IL  
*Fruit of Wisdom*, **Leah M. Cano**, Santa Cruz, CA  
*Knowhere, UK*, by **James Satterfield Batteman**  
*Mind Fields* by **Thomas Maciocha**, Palm Harbor, FL  
*Sticks and Stones* by **Wendy Reed Bruce**, Bham, AL  
*The Girl Wanted to Be A Homeless Wanderer* by **Judy Copeland**, Iowa City, IA  
*They Wore Green Corduroy* by **Susan Follett**, Oakdale, MN  
*Writing's Parents: Silence and Stillness* by **Mal King**, Santa Paula, CA

**CATEGORY: POEM****JUDGE: DANIEL HALPERN**

**WINNER:** *The Burning of Parliament, 1834* by **Steve Gehrke**

**Steve Gehrke's** second book, *The Pyramids of Malpighi*, was selected by Philip Levine for the Philip Levine Prize for Poetry and published by Anhinga Press in 2004. He has also won the Gulf Coast Poetry Prize, the Marlboro Review Prize for Poetry, and other prizes. Recent poems have appeared or are forthcoming at The Southern Review, Prairie Schooner, Indiana Review, Slate, The Georgia Review, and Poetry Daily. He is poetry editor at The Missouri Review. When Dan Halpern called to tell us he'd made his selections for winner and runner-up, he said, "these have just got to be by the same person!" Not quite, but close. The first runner-up is *Dancing at the Moulin Rouge* by Nadine Meyer. Ms. Meyer happens to be Mrs. Steve Gehrke!

**FIRST RUNNER-UP:** *Dancing at the Moulin Rouge* by **Nadine Meyer**, Columbia, MO

**SECOND RUNNER-UP:** *The Scavenger Hunt* by **Jessica Mae Pavlas**, Brooklyn, NY

**THIRD RUNNER-UP:** *Wings Echoing* by **Emily Lupita Plum**, Lovilia, IA

**FINALISTS:** *A Boy's Kingdom* by **Daniel J. Held**, Ruckersville, VA  
*Ariadneae*, **I. A. Mosvold**, Louisville, KY  
*Before the Death Card*, **Khrynn Yvonne McManus**, Prairieville, LA  
*Building* by **Scott Bailey**, Hattiesburg, MS  
*Classical Black Woman* by **Trenise R. Robinson**, New Orleans, LA

**CATEGORY: POEM (cont.)****JUDGE: DANIEL HALPERN**

**FINALISTS:** *Garage Sale in D Minor* by **Michael Dunn**, Sweet Valley, OH  
*Field of Dolls* by **Hanna Hurwitz**, Milwaukee, WI  
*Headfirst Rantings of an Introvert* by **Tony Magee**, New Orleans, LA  
*I Am the Family Historian* by **Billie Travolini**, Baltimore, MD  
*I Speak in My Mother's Voice* by **Susan Terris**, San Francisco, CA  
*In The Dark* by **Deborah Serra**, Rancho Santa Fe, CA  
*I Want My Country Back* by **John Andrew Vescio**  
*My Son* by **Abayomi Animashaun**, Las Vegas, NV  
*Night Flight* by **James McEnteer**, Oakland, CA  
*Once There Were Nightingales* by **S. T. Eleu**, Chicago, IL  
*Pennies on a Hill* by **Rodger Kamenetz**, New Orleans, LA  
*Return Trip* By **James McEnteer**, Oakland, CA  
*The Crown of Creation* by **Manfred Pollard**, New Orleans, LA  
*The Scavenger Hunt* by **Carrington MacDuffie**, Seattle, WA  
*The first time I laid myself out open to an outside physician* **Rodger Kamenetz**, NO, LA  
*True* by **Dawn McGuire**, MD, Berkeley, CA  
*Uncertainties* by **Pat Gallant** of New York, NY

**SEMI-FINALISTS:** *A Lovely Design*, Alan Walter Simpson, Castro Valley, CA  
*A Promise of Doves and Umbrellas*, David Snow, New Orleans, LA  
*Before the Death Card*, Khrynn Yvonne McManus, Prairieville, LA  
*Binary Vision*,  
*Cosmocracy*, Dennis Fomento (check name), New Orleans, LA  
*Crown of Creation*, Manfred Pollard, New Orleans, LA  
*For This Alone*, Marcia Ross, Cambridge, MA  
*Homages*, Lynn Veach Sadler, Sanford, NC  
*In The Night*, M. L. Dunser, Columbus, MS  
*Mirrored Snakes and Orchides*, Amy Trussel, Santa Rosa, CA  
*My Son the Lynx*, I. A. Mosvold, Louisville, KY  
*Near the Metro*  
*North Lied to Him*, Anthony DiLeo, New Orleans, LA  
*Nothing is Perfect*, Billie Vasdev, Rochester, MN  
*Parade of Miraculous Champions*, January 24, 2004,  
*Play Time*, Nick Finnegan, Houston, TX  
*Ready for Stars*, Joseph S. Plum, Lovilia, IA  
*That Woman*, Anne McCrady, Henderson, TX  
*The Calling Card*, Barbara Perry, Chicago, IL  
*The One Thing I could Never Tell You*,  
*The Most Beautiful Girl*, Kay Castaneda, Carmel, IN  
*The Square Root of Leopard*, Carrington MacDuffie, Seattle, WA  
*The Tiger's Girl*, Frank Sherry, Pottersville, MO  
*The Unfinished Book*, Manfred Pollard, New Orleans, LA  
*Welcome to Midnight*, Ryan Browne, Tucker, GA

**CATEGORY: HIGH SCHOOL SHORT STORY****JUDGE: TOM PIAZZA**

**WINNER:** *Digging* by **Kezia Kamenetz**

**Kezia Kamenetz** is a senior at Benjamin Franklin High School and at New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, Riverfront, where her supervising teacher is Anne Gisleson, director of NOCCA's creative writing program. Kezia is the daughter of Moira Crone and Rodger Kamenetz, both writers. Her older sister, Anya also is a writer.

**RUNNERS-UP:** *Scratch-Scratch* by **Rachel Cole**, New Orleans, LA  
*Neither Burning nor Washing* by **Josslyn Lake**, Clayton, MO  
*The Balconies of Camaguey* by **Daniel Castro**, New Orleans, LA

**FINALISTS:** *Be a Man*  
*Head Over Heels*  
*Liquid of the Heart*  
*A Heap of Life*  
*A Matter of Vibration*  
*Insomnia and Cigarettes*  
*Drive*  
*Blue*  
*Fragment*  
*The Children's Story*  
*The Walks of Dreams*  
*Tomorrow*  
*Train*  
*God in Handcuffs*  
*The Cry of Eagles*  
*The Werewolf House*  
*TV and Toddlers: An Experiment in Science*  
*A parable of Feudal Backwardness*  
*Medusa*  
*Red*  
*The Fisherman*

**SEMI-FINALISTS:** *April, Allison Carroll, Clancy, MT*  
*Acting Unusually, Jessica Brock, ?*  
*Blue 17, Allison Nicole Wiltz, New Orleans, LA, NOCCA, Sponsor, Anne Gisleson*  
*God Will Increase, Renee Branum, Carbondale IL*  
*Gourami, Uma Nagendra,*  
*Hurricane,*  
*Idle Hands,*  
*Places That Boil and Freeze, Colin Gilbert, New Orleans, NOCCA, sponsor, Anne Gisleson*  
*Into the Garden of the Dreammaker, Katherine Lieder, Carbondale, IL*  
*Solve, Channel Clarke, New Orleans, NOCCA, sponsor: Ed Skoog*  
*Team Spirit,*  
*The Final Round, C. J. Stapley, Smithfield, UT*  
*The Skin of a Kiwi, Samiron Dutta, Maritinez, GA*  
*The Sweetest Honey, Logan Burda, Lincoln, NE,*  
*Tree, Amy Arthur, Mandeville, LA, NOCCA, Sponsor, Anne Gisleson*

## **About Our 2004 JUDGES!**

### **Novel:**

Andre Bernard, who is Vice President and Publisher, Harcourt Brace. Bernard also is a distinguished and respected editor, who held editorial positions at Book of the Month Club, Simon & Schuster, David R. Godine and Viking Penguin before joining Harcourt Brace. Truly a renaissance man, Bernard is is a seasoned critic, frequently reviewing books for the New York Observer; and he is the author of several highly entertaining non-fiction works about books and writers and readers, including most recently, *Madame Bovary, C'est Moir! The Great Characters of Literature and Where They Came From*. He also is author of *Now All We Need is a Title*, and *Pushcart's Rotten Reviews and Rejections*. Currently, he is working on *The Reader's Guide to Modern American Writing Since 1945*, to be published by Pantheon. Bernard was a member of the faculty for the Society's annual literary festival, *Words & Music*, for th first time in 2003. He will be participating as a faculty member again at the 2004 writers' conference.

**Novella:**

Janette Turner Hospital, who grew up on the coast of Queensland, Australia, is one of that vast continent's very best literary exports. Ms. Hospital holds the Dickey Chair as a Carolina Distinguished Professor of Literature at the University of South Carolina. Her novels and short stories, which have been published in 13 languages, include the novel *Oyster*, which was a finalist for both of Australia's major literary prizes: The Miles Franklin Prize and the National Book Award. Her new short story collection, *North of Nowhere, South of Loss*, and her latest novel, *Due Preparations for the Plague*, were published recently to international critical acclaim. Ms. Hospital currently is on an extended book tour in her native Australia, where she learned that she is short-listed with Nobel Laureate J. M. Coetzee for Australia's most coveted prize. Prior to leaving for Downunder, she completed a successful book tour in the British Isles. Ms. Hospital has been a member of the faculty for Words & Music, twice and will be participating as a faculty member again at the 2004 writers' conference in addition to judging the novella competition.

**Novel in Progress:**

Elinor Lipman, is the author of eight books: the novels *The Pursuit of Alice Thrift*, *The Dearly Departed*, *The Ladies' Man*, *The Inn at Lake Devine*, *Isabel's Bed*, *The Way Men Act*, *Then She Found Me*, and a collection of stories, *Into Love and Out Again*. She has taught writing at Simmons, Smith and Hampshire colleges, and at the Bennington Summer Writers' Workshop. Her essays have appeared in *The Boston Globe Magazine*, *Gourmet*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *The New York Times*' "Writers on Writing" series. Of her work *The Boston Globe* has said, "Lipman has been referred to as 'the master of the art of screwball comedy,' but 'screwball' doesn't do justice to her fiction, which renders serious subjects through a lens of humor and hope." *Book Magazine*, which named *The Pursuit of Alice Thrift* as one of the top five books of 2003, wrote, "Like Jane Austen, the past master of the genre, Lipman isn't only out for laughs. She serves up social satire, too, that's all the more trenchant for being deftly drawn." Raised in Lowell, MA, she lives in Northampton, MA, with her husband, Robert Austin. She received the New England Booksellers' 2001 fiction award for a body of work. Ms. Lipman will participate as a member of the faculty of Words & Music, 2004, as well as judging the novel-in-progress competition.

**Short Story:**

Stuart Dybek, who is described in a starred review by Kirkus as the Nelson Algren of contemporary literature. Dybek is among the hottest names in fiction today with a sense of humor to rival that of the most intelligent stand-up comics or talk show hosts and an engaging way of presenting the harsh reality of 21st century urban America in his stories. Dybek is author of a new novel, presented in the form of connected stories, *I sailed With Magellan*. *Publisher's Weekly* has this to say about his new book: A powerful, cumulative portrait . . . These beautifully written stories teem with aching recollections. They are lyrical odes to wasted lives, youthful desires, vanishing innocence and the transformative power of memory. Dybek received high acclaim for his first book, *The Coast of Chicago*, an edgy collection of stories about his hometown, Chicago, its sharply divided culture, brilliantly mixing highly sophisticated grit lit with wry humor, frequently of the noir variety. Dybek also is the author of the short story collection, *Childhood and Other Neighborhoods*, as well as a volume of poetry, *Brass Knuckles*. His writing has been frequently anthologized and appears regularly in periodicals, including *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Harper's*, *Poetry*, *The Paris Review*, and *Tri-Quarterly*. Among the many honors he has received for his work are a PEN/Bernard Malamud Prize, a Whiting Writers' Award, several O. Henry Prizes, and a Pushcart Prize. A professor of English at Western Michigan University, he lives in Kalamazoo, MI. *Streets in Their Own Ink*, a collection of poems, will be published by FSG in 2004. Dybek will participate as a member of the Words & Music faculty in 2004.

**Essay:**

Michael Dirda, literary critic for *The Washington Post Book World* and author of the Post's regular online column, *Dirda on Books*, was graduated from Oberlin College cum laude subsequently won a Fulbright Fellowship to study in France, where he completed advanced studies at the Universite d'Aix-en-Provence. He completed his MA and Ph.D in comparative literature at Cornell University. In 1993 he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Distinguished Criticism and the same year was selected by *Washingtonian Magazine* as one of the 25 smartest people in Washington and has received numerous other awards and honors. He has chaired the Pulitzer Prize jury for biography and has been a board member of *The National Book Critics Circle*. He was annual contributor of *The Year in American Literature* to *Collier's Encyclopedia Yearbook* from 1982-1998 and *The Year in American Poetry* for *The World Book Encyclopedia Yearbook* from 1990 through 1998. His own books include *Caring for your Books*, *A Celebration of Writing*, *Looking for a Good Time: Reading, Libraries and the World of Books*, and his memoir issued last year, *An Open Book: Coming of Age in the Heartland*. His new book, *Bound to Please: Why Reading Flaubert is Fun and Other Essays on Great Books and Their Writers* will be released by Norton this year.

In his capacity as a critic he appears regularly on national television and the national lecture circuit and he has taught at University of Central Florida, American University, George Mason University, and the University of Maryland. In addition to his articles for the Post, Dirda regularly writes reviews, articles, essays, and profiles for The Atlantic Monthly, The Times Literary Supplement, The Chronicle of Higher Education, Smithsonian Magazine, Business 2.0, The Nation, The Review of Contemporary Fiction, Connoisseur, The New Leader, The Week Standard, Crisis, The Writer, The Wilson Quarterly, Inc., The American Book Collector, Brick, and other journals. Dirda, in addition to English, is fluent in French, Italian, Latin, and German and regularly writes scholarly articles for such diverse publications as Fantasy and Supernatural Fiction and The Baker Street Journal. He has been a member of the faculty for Words & Music for five years and will be returning in 2004.

### **Poetry:**

Daniel Halpern was born in Syracuse, New York, and has lived in Los Angeles, Seattle, New York City, and Tangier, Morocco. He is the author of nine collections of poetry, most recently *Something Shining* (Knopf, 1999), *Selected Poems* (Knopf, 1994), and *Foreign Neon* (Knopf, 1991); editor of numerous anthologies, including *The Art of the Tale* (Penguin, 1987) and *The Art of the Story* (Penguin, 2000), and two food books, *Halpern's Guide to the Essential Restaurants of Italy* and *The Good Food: Soups, Stews & Pastas*. He has received numerous grants and awards, including fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as the 1993 PEN Publisher Citation. For 25 years he edited the international literary magazine *Antaeus*, which he founded in Tangier, Morocco with Paul Bowles. He is the recipient of many grants and awards, including fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as the 1993 PEN Publisher Citation. From 1975 to 1995 he taught in the graduate writing program of Columbia University, which he Chaired for many years -- and he has also taught at The New School for Social Research and the writing program at Princeton University. He is now Editorial Director of ECCO, An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, and lives in New York and Princeton, NJ, with his wife, the writer Jeanne Wilmot, and daughter, Lily.

### **Short Story by a High School Student**

Tom Piazza, who won the James A. Michener Award for his first collection of short fiction, *Blues and Trouble*, won the Faulkner Society's gold medal for Best Novel in 2002 and the winning manuscript, *My Cold War*, has since been published to critical acclaim. Piazza is expert in the field of writing non-fiction, too, especially about music and this year he won a Grammy in the Best Album Notes category. Piazza won it for his 5,000-word essay on the blues, which was the main text for the booklet for the 5-CD set *Martin Scorsese Presents THE BLUES: A Musical Journey*. The set came out last fall as a companion piece to the PBS series of the same name. The series was a seven-part exploration of the blues, with individual episodes directed by Scorsese, Clint Eastwood, Wim Wenders, and others. The boxed CD set with Piazza's essay contains blues performances from the early 1920s through the presents, and includes figures like Charley Patton, Robert Johnson, Bessie Smith, Muddy Waters, Professor Longhair, Corey Harris, and Cassandra Wilson. The set itself also won a Grammy Award, for Best Historical Album. Tom wrote the essay last summer at Yaddo, and they featured an article about the essay up on their website. You might enjoy it, and you can find it at: <http://yaddo.org/yaddo/tompiazza.shtml> Tom has been a member of the faculty of Words & Music since 1997 and will return this year.