

2013 Kentuckiana Metroversity Writing Competition

Poetry: Denise Duhamel

Denise Duhamel is the author, most recently, of *Blowout* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2013) and *Ka-Ching!* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009). She is a professor at Florida International University in Miami.

Fiction: John Dufresne

From his own website: I write and I teach. Here's what I've written: the short story collection, *The Way That Water Enters Stone*; three chapbooks, *Lethe*, *Cupid*, *Time and Love*; *Well Enough Alone*; and *I Will Eat a Piece of the Roof and You Can Eat the Window*; the novels *Louisiana Power & Light*, *Love Warps the Mind a Little*, *Deep in the Shade of Paradise*, and *Requiem, Mass.*; the story collection *Johnny Too Bad*, and *The Lie That Tells a Truth: a Guide to Writing Fiction*. I was one of the thirteen authors of the mystery novel, *Naked Came the Manatee*. My short story "The Timing of Unfelt Smiles" was included in *Miami Noir* and in *Best American Mystery Stories 2007*. I wrote a full-length play, *Trailerville*, which was produced at the Blue Heron Theatre in New York in 2005. I wrote the screenplay for the award-winning short film *The Freezer Jesus*. My friend Don Papy and I wrote the screenplay for *To Live and Die in Dixie*, which was released this June. I teach in the MFA program at Florida International University in Miami. When I'm not writing, I'm reading or walking or playing tennis. I suppose I'm an unreconstructed old new lefty. I still like baseball and still believe in the ideals of socialism. When I'm confused or beside myself, I try to ask, *What would Chekhov do?*

Academic Writing/International: Becky Lee Meadows

Becky Lee Meadows, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of English and Humanities and English Program Director/Core Studies Director at St. Catharine College in St. Catharine, Ky. She is in her 16th year of teaching at the college and university level, and routinely teaches classes in creative writing and composition, as well as Humanities, Philosophy, and Theatre. Her publications include two novels, *Progeny* (2002) and *Phantasy* (2003), as well as an academic book, *The Consciousness of Damnation: A Hermeneutical Phenomenology of the Path to Damnation in Matthew Lewis's 'The Monk'* (2008). She is currently revising an academic book for publication as well.

Nonfiction: Julie Marie Wade

Born in Seattle in 1979, Julie Marie Wade completed a Master of Arts in English at Western Washington University in 2003, a Master of Fine Arts in Poetry at the University of Pittsburgh in 2006, and a PhD in Interdisciplinary Humanities at the University of Louisville in 2012. She is the author of *Wishbone: A Memoir in Fractures* (Colgate University Press, 2010), winner of the Lambda Literary Award in Lesbian Memoir, *Without: Poems* (Finishing Line Press, 2010), selected for the New Women's Voices Chapbook Series, *Small Fires; Essays* (Sarabande Books, 2011), selected for the Linda Bruckheimer Series in Kentucky Literature, *Postage Due: Poems & Prose Poems* (White Pine Press, 2013), winner of the Marie Alexander Poetry Series, and the forthcoming *Tremolo: An Essay* (Bloom Press, 2013), winner of the Bloom Nonfiction Chapbook Prize. Wade is the newest member of the graduate teaching faculty in creative writing at Florida International University in Miami.

Announcing the 2013 Kentuckiana Metroversity Writing Competition Winners and Judge Comments

FICTION

Undergraduate Fiction

First Place: "The Alien in the Cereal Aisle"

By Amy Miller, University of Louisville

This is a storytelling at its best: scenic, honest, focused, and gripping. The prose is gorgeous without being distracting—there's not a word here that doesn't belong. Impressive work.

Second Place: "Warming Up"

By S.D. Lintz, Indiana University Southeast

Sexual dysfunction, obsession, and murder in the end of days. The story is both compelling and unsettling and is told with appropriate restraint and an unerring eye for significant detail.

Graduate Fiction

First Place: "Gheorghe"

By Charles Maynard, Spalding University

A story so powerful and engaging, I wish I'd written it. What ambition, what a fresh voice, what a brilliant capturing of an appalling, post-Soviet dystopia. The writer is apparently fearless and goes where many a lesser writer would dare not go.

Second Place: "Black Mold"

By Ted Chiles, Spalding University

An extraordinarily insightful story full of vivid and uncomfortable details about a budding writer who makes unmindful and calamitous decisions. And bad decisions, this writer knows, make good stories.

POETRY

Undergraduate Poetry

First Place: "Fault"

By Rina Perlin, University of Louisville

The pleasure of this poem is both its breeziness (starting with a sneeze) and its depth, its awareness of mortality and interconnectivity. The form works to hint at what is lost through the white space and blocking.

Second Place: "Prayers"

By Karyl Anne Geary, Indiana University Southeast

This uneasy elegy is an honest look at a complicated relationship. It's brazen framing of the poem with the question of being "okay" in the light of such a loss accurately portrays anguish and anger.

Graduate Poetry

First Place: "Vegetables"

By Conyer Clayton, University of Louisville

This elegy confronts the cliché of someone in a coma as a "vegetable" and then plants that image throughout the poem. The dream of the speaker and the coma-state of the beloved in the dream are a way to connect that is impossible in any other way.

Second Place: "Sockeye"

By Katelyn Wilkinson, University of Louisville

This eerie poem presents a female speaker who sees herself (easy to do!) as being trimmed by knives behind a seafood counter and presented as a delicacy "on ice." Great feminist and political statement without being didactic.

ACADEMIC WRITING

Undergraduate AW

First Place: "Relations of the Sensible and Intelligible"

By Jonathan Carson, Indiana University Southeast

This paper exhibits excellent prose and command of language, including a solid, creative, original thesis and well-documented evidence to support the writer's ideas.

Second Place: "Quaker Persecution as the Provocation for Women's Power"

By Esther Ragan, Indiana University Southeast

This paper is well composed and illustrates command of language and an interesting twist regarding Mary Dyer. Sources are well-documented and used to support original ideas.

Graduate AW

First Place: "The Embodied Panopticon: Anorexia as Performance"

By Katie Keller, Indiana University Southeast

This paper exhibits excellent prose and command of language, including a solid, creative, original thesis and well-documented evidence to support the writer's ideas.

Second Place: "Into the Wilderness: The Visual as Subtext in *Thelma & Louise*"

By Julie Nichols, Spalding University

This paper has excellent prose, including a strong command of language, and solid evidence from sources to support its original thesis.

NONFICTION (THEMED)

First place: "Strawberries"

By Shannon M. Kleier, Indiana University Southeast

"Strawberries" brings to mind T.S. Eliot's discussion of the objective correlative. In much of the best writing in any literary genre, an object comes to represent a particular emotion and to deliver that emotion more profoundly to the reader because of its tangible quality. This essay is brave, thoughtful, and honest, and when I reach the last line, "To this day, I hate the taste of strawberries," I hate the taste of strawberries, too. As a reader, that's how deeply I was moved.

Second place: "Happiness is Going Way Too Fast for Me to Pursue"

By Jacob Downen, Indiana University Southeast

Michel de Montaigne asked of himself as the pioneering personal essayist of the Western tradition, "What do I know?" This wasn't a merely glib or rhetorical remark. He genuinely wanted to know what he knew and understand why. In the spirit of Montaigne, the author of "Happiness is Going Way Too Fast for Me to Pursue" wrestles with the meaning of a great intangible, raises questions about it, invokes the insights of other thinkers (Thomas Jefferson, for instance, and the Roman philosopher Boethius), and allows his mind to wander. It is a controlled and nuanced wander, though, which leads him to this satisfying final scene: "A particularly bright meteor streaks across the sky. I don't need to make a wish."

INTERNATIONAL

First Place: "Good-bye Son off to the Banana Boat"

By Even Romilus, Indiana University Southeast

A story about a Haitian son's reflection on his father's attempt to flee political cruelty and escape to Miami by banana boat, this story demonstrates that human cruelty breeds the paradox of community fellowship intertwined with fear and isolation.