Spring 2018

Alumnae on the Copper: MEREDITH NOKOA ’14, MARNEY RATHBUN ’15 & ABE LOUISE YOUNG ’99

Marney Rathbun ‘15, call my father to the race, was a winner of the 2015 Nabisco Bible Made A Choice Book Award. Her work can be seen in Kalamazoo Literary Journal and HYPOTHALAMUS: Contemporary Short Fiction. Rathbun currently teaches at Midlands Junior, River City and elsewhere. At Smith, Nokoa majored in African Studies and English and was a Poverty Concentration. In 2018, she co-edited桅Alumnae Studies at Smith and was a Poetry Concentration Writer. She is currently pursuing her MFA in Creative Writing at New York University.

Abe Louise Young, one of the very first interns at the Poetry Center, is the author of two books, Loveost (2003) and House in the Air (2015). Her poems and essays have appeared in Witness, New Literary Magazine, The Massachusetts Review, and The Nation. Born in New Orleans, she holds an MFA from Northwestern University and an MFA from the James Michener Center for Writers in Utah. She has taught writing workshops in more than thirty states and worked on a wide variety of story-based social change projects.

Supported by the Program for the Study of Women & Gender

Tuesday, February 20 7:30 pm Alumnae House Conference Hall

ELLEN DORE WATSON ’08’s new novel, Veiled Hand was pronounced “wild and brilliant” by Gerald Stein. This reading celebrates the release of Ellen’s first novel—Veiled Hand—and the release of her short story collection, Vero Beach, Florida. Ellen’s short story “Where the Dead Keep Their Gold” was included in New England Review's Winter 2016 issue. This is not a story about—the title, it’s a title—about how one’s life can be changed in a moment. Even when one cannot be named, but must be prayed or sung. Witness of immigrants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the NEA, Watson is a recent translater from Spanish to English, the poetry of Álvaro Paredes. In addition to poetry writing at Smith, Watson’s most recent poetry is for the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the New England Review’s Low-Residency MFA program in Poetry and Translation, and a generative writing workshop in Northeastern’s MFA program in Creative Writing. While this makes her 19th and final year as director of the Poetry Center, she will stay on at Smith for several more years as the Cooling Vising Professor.

Supported by the Lewis Gibbs Stokes Center

Tuesday, April 3 7:30 pm Alumnae House Conference Hall

The 16th Annual Reading is a celebration of poetry at Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith, the University of Massachusetts, featuring two students from each institution. Smith will be represented by Jennifer Tan and Sarah Bergstrom, while Hampshire will be represented by Tianna Moulder and Benjamin Blevins, the Acadiana Poetry Society and the Guggenheim Foundation. They will continue creating work at Smith Lawrence College and New York University.

Supported by the Department of English Language & Literature

Tuesday, March 27 7:30 pm Alumnae House Conference Hall

Five College POETRYFEST

Tuesday, April 10 7:30 pm, Westminster Auditorium, Westminster, MA

MARIE HOWE & THE HIGH SCHOOL PRIZE WINNERS

The announcement that brings all of us together on Tuesday evenings is simple: We Love. Points. We have favorite points that we carry with us throughout our lives, points to help us celebrate, grieve, and make sense of the world we live. What do you, our audience, come here to hear your favorite? Started by latin poet Mika on the west coast of England in 1979, the prize-winning competition is a U.S. poetry tradition that’s been inspiring young poets for more than 30 years. Prizes for all high school students are given to the 5 best poems judged by a panel of poetry experts. Poets who enter must be students in grades 9 through 12, not older than 18. Each student can submit only one entry, which may be a single poem or a series of poems. The winning poems will be featured in a special issue of the Poetry Prize Anthology. Send a copy of this year’s issue to someone who appreciates poetry. Find the book page for a link to the form to submit your favorite poem and to tell us why you chose it.

Supported by the Department of English Language & Literature

Tuesday, April 24 7:30 pm, Westminster Auditorium, Westminster, MA

FAVORITE POEM PROJECT READING

The Poets’ Center at Smith