

Young aspiring authors earn U-M's creative writing award

By Diane Gals
staff writer

To be or not to be a writer wasn't a question for two local award winning authors, because both seemed to come by it naturally.

Gregory Coleman and Steven Hamilton, seniors from Farmington Hills, recently won the University of Michigan's Jule and Avery Hopwood Awards in Creative Writing.

"Some people are just writers it seems, that is what they do, and what they are," according to Hamilton, 22, who believes he's the first student majoring in computer science to win the award. "I would have to say that is the case with me."

COLEMAN WON \$400 in the Minor

Essay category for his contribution titled, "Four Brief Essays." His work focused on the stylistic similarities of Johnathon Swift, Charles Dickens, Henry James and James Joyce.

Coleman, an English major, used a same section, character or symbol in a book and discussed that in connection with a longer theme in the book.

"One of my professors told me to get together a group of papers from my classes and turn them in," Coleman said. "One was from my junior year and three from my sophomore year."

Coleman, who graduated from Harrison High School in Farmington Hills, plans to earn his Ph.D. in English, and become a professor, because it's one of his most "lucrative" options. But, he said he is not ruling out free lance writing.

Hamilton and Coleman say their favorite classes in high school were science and math.

"Normally you're either a technical person or an English and words type, and you usually don't possess both abilities," said Hamilton, who graduated from Millford-Lakeland High School.



Steve Hamilton

HAMILTON'S CREATIVE abilities won him \$1,200 for his novel titled, "Terrence."

The story is about a very large, strong boy in Oklahoma who is afraid

of touching others, because he is afraid of harming them.

He was a natural in playing football, but this meant close physical contact, and the possibility of hurting someone.

A conflict surfaces when he begins a relationship with a girl, who wants to be a writer, but lost the hand she wrote with in a farm accident.

"The problem is they are so often tied-up in what other people want them to do," Hamilton said.

Before he tries to get "Terrence" published, Hamilton said he plans to make the novel longer.

"What I plan on doing long term is probably working with IBM as a technical writer, but I will, of course, accept free lance work on the side, and ideally that will eventually be a job in itself," Hamilton said.

The Hopwood award are financed from a bequest by Avery Hopwood, a member of the University of Michigan's class of 1905.

"He became a successful playwright, and probably had more financial success than any playwright of the 20's and 30's," said Prof. John W. Aldridge, chairman of the Hopwood Committee.

obituaries

CLINTON STANSBERRY
Mr. Stansberry, 70, of Anderson, Ind., died April 1 in Howard Community Hospital in Kokomo, Ind.

Born in Fort Wayne, Ind., Mr. Stansberry retired in 1961 from Delco Remy Division after 30 years of employment. He was a member of Fraternal Order of Police, was the first canine trainer for the Anderson Police Department, and was an organizing member and trainer of the German Shepherd Dog Club.

Survivors include his daughters, Nancy Bates of Farmington Hills and Pat Dorsey of Kokomo; one sister, Elizabeth Maxine Waugh and one brother, Walter; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Services were April 4 at Robert D. Loose Funeral Home, with the Rev. Verlin Smith officiating. Burial was in Anderson Memorial Park Cemetery.

CELINA M. SPEELMAN
Mrs. Speelman, 85, of Farmington

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died April 7 in Mt. Vernon Nursing Home, Southfield.

Born in Canada, Mrs. Speelman was a saleswoman for Himelebachs Store before retiring.

Survivors include her sons, Walter and James; sisters, Thelma Graubman and Delina Schatzberg; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Services were April 8 at Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington. Mass was at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church with the Rev. Edward Belcarz officiating. Burial was in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Detroit.

HAROLD C. BAILEY

Mr. Bailey, 43, of Farmington Hills died April 8 in Botsford Hospital.

Mr. Bailey worked for Farmer Jack store in Farmington.

Survivors include his daughter, Cheryl; son, Clifford; mother, Ada Bailey and a brother, William.

Services were April 12 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington with the Rev. Nicholson officiating. Burial was in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Livonia.

WALTER SIMON

Mr. Simon, 73, of Farmington Hills died April 8 in St. Mary Hospital, Livonia.

Born in Chicago, Ill., Mr. Simon was a retired supervisor for Chrysler Corp. Surviving is his wife, Muriel.

Services were April 11 at Ross B. Northrop & Son Funeral Home with the Rev. David Sherwin officiating. Burial was in Cadillac Memorial West Cemetery, Garden City.

ARTHUR H. ROWE

Mr. Rowe, 83, of Farmington Hills died April 9.

Born in Canada, Mr. Rowe was a sheet metal worker before retiring.

Survivors include his stepdaughters, Joan Nitz and Hilda Adams; stepsons,

Mike and Phil Barton; sister, Maude; brother, Ernie.

Services were April 12 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. W.E. Wolcott officiating. Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery, Farmington.

MIRAJA PAPAJ

Mrs. Papaj, 89, of Novi died April 10. Mrs. Papaj was a homemaker. Survivors include her sons, Paul and Justus; daughters, Linda and Luara; ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mass was in Our Lady of Albanians Church, Birmingham with the Rev. Primus Ndrevasay officiating. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery, Detroit.

Arrangements were made by Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington.

MARCELLA D. FRANCIS

Mrs. Francis, 78, of Farmington died April 10 in St. Mary Hospital, Livonia. Born in Wisconsin, Mrs. Francis was a homemaker.

Survivors include her sons, Roland and Fred Spjeldet; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Services were April 14 at Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Gerald Fisher officiating. Burial was in Parkview Cemetery, Livonia.

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