"WE DID IT!" -- THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Never until we welcome the Negro, the foreigner, all races as equals, and welded together in a common nationality, will we deserve prosperity and peace."

We did it! After a few years of planning, we officially launched the Pauline Hopkins Society at the American Literature Association Conference in San Francisco last May, ratifying the Society’s by-laws, electing officers, and outlining plans for the future. Below I provide an update on the activities of the Society.

Membership
Although the deadline for becoming a founding member has passed, I encourage people to become regular or lifetime members, and there is also a membership option for graduate students. To have a dynamic author society that can engage in a variety of initiatives, we need not only your moral support but also your dues. If you receive updates through the Society’s listserv, have made use of the Society’s website, and especially if you attended or presented a paper in one of the American Literature Association Conference panels sponsored by the Society, I urge you to take the steps to become a member. Membership information is available in this Newsletter and on the Society’s website at paulinehopkinssociety.gsu.edu. Or you can contact Eric Gardner, our Membership Officer, directly at gardner@svsu.edu.

Committees
At this time, we have one committee up and running. Tanya Clark, Janet Gabler-Hover, and Hanna Wallinger constitute the members of the Program Committee, with Tanya serving as Chair. Assisted by Society Executive Committee Members Alisha Knight and April Logan, the Program Committee has organized two panels for the 2011 American Literature Association Conference, which are discussed in more detail in the next section. Our other committees are in the process of formation. We have four volunteers for the Awards and Monuments Committee, but only one for the Research and Publications Committee. You may read a description of that committee on page 6 of this newsletter. I encourage anyone who is interested in serving on this committee to contact me at johngruesser@gmail.com.

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Thoughts from the President, continued

Conferences
The Society’s Program Committee is organizing one pedagogy panel and one literary/biographical panel for the American Literature Association Conference in Boston in May 2011. The calls for papers for these sessions appear in this Newsletter. The ALA has been very helpful in the formation of the Hopkins Society, and thus this is a relationship we plan to develop even more fully. We hope that, in addition to the ALA Conference, the Society can be a presence at regional, national, and international scholarly meetings.

Website/Listserv
The indefatigable Mary Frances Jiménez has kindly agreed to take on a third important responsibility for the Society. Besides creating and maintaining the listserv and editing the Newsletter, she is now serving as co-webmaster with Elizabeth West, who, along with Janet Gabler-Hover, established the Society’s website at Georgia State University. Alice Myatt also provides significant assistance. Mary Frances and Elizabeth have exciting immediate and long-range plans for the site. Questions, concerns, and suggestions relating to the listserv, Newsletter, and website can be directed to Mary Frances at mfj@umd.edu.

Publications
I am happy to report the forthcoming publication of two books on Hopkins. The University of Tennessee Press is scheduled to publish Debunking the American Dream: Pauline Hopkins’s (Re)Visionary Gospel of Success, by the Society’s Secretary, Alisha Knight, in Fall 2011. Moreover, the first book-length analysis of Hopkins’s long fiction, Motherless Child: The Novels of Pauline Hopkins, by the Society’s Treasurer Jill Bergman, will appear on Louisiana State University Press’s Spring 2012 list.


How You Can Help
In addition to joining the Society if you are not already a member, you can volunteer to serve on a committee or as the Society’s Historian, a position (described in the by-laws as follows: “The Historian shall preserve the archives of the Society and shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Executive Committee”) that is currently unfilled. You can also submit an abstract for one of the 2011 ALA panels, organize a session relating to Hopkins for another conference, post news of interest to members of the Society on the listserv, or write a piece for the next Newsletter.

John Gruesser, PEHS President, is Professor of English at Kean University and editor of The Unruly Voice: Rediscovering Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins (U Illinois, 1996).
The second organizational meeting of the Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society was held on Saturday, May 29, 2010, at 11:00 a.m., Eric Gardner being the Chair and Alisha Knight, Secretary Pro Tem, being present.

The Chair reviewed the agenda for the meeting, and then the minutes of the May 23, 2009, first organizational meeting were approved.

John Gruesser moved to approve the Society’s by-laws. Eric Gardner recommended a friendly amendment to Article 5 (Web Master responsibilities) on behalf of Mary Frances Jiménez, who was not present. The motion to adopt the by-laws as amended was approved.

At this point, the meeting adjourned very briefly to discuss the process that would be put in place to enroll new members (i.e., opening a bank account before collecting dues from any members).

The meeting then reconvened and the officer elections were held. Tanya Clark of the Nominations Committee presented one candidate each for the positions of President (John Gruesser), Secretary (Alisha Knight) and Membership Officer (Eric Gardner). In addition, Dorri Beam was nominated for the office of Vice President. Motions to elect each of these individuals by acclamation were approved. The position of Treasurer was not filled at this meeting.

There was some discussion about the appointed positions, and April Logan expressed her willingness to serve as Parliamentarian. Tanya Clark expressed her willingness to serve as Program Committee Chair. Alisha Knight indicated that a new Web Master would need to be appointed, at the request of Elizabeth West, the current Web Master. After a brief discussion about possible topics for the 2011 ALA conference, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alisha Knight, PEHS Secretary
Associate Professor of English and American Studies
Black Studies Program Director
Washington College
The Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society (PEHS) seeks paper proposals for the following two panels:

Panel 1: Pedagogy

Many scholars love Pauline Hopkins, yet we do not often see the range of her genius – plays, editorials, articles, novels, and short stories – reflected on syllabi. Why? The PEHS invites paper proposals for its panel that will explore the challenges and benefits of teaching Hopkins’s oeuvre. We invite papers that share effective strategies for studying some of her most popular works. However, the PEHS is also interested in analyzing the unexpected difficulties that come with introducing students to Hopkins’s complex, unique perspectives on activism, race, gender, class, the arts, and the environment. Lastly, this panel could also explore whether the contexts or environments in which we find ourselves, community colleges, Research I institutions, or small liberal arts colleges, influence our pedagogical approaches to Hopkins.

Panel 2: Hopkins’s Contemporaries/Unexpected Pairings

We know that as a Boston resident, Pauline Hopkins likely attended lectures and meetings and operated in the same circles as W. E. B. Du Bois, Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, and William Monroe Trotter, to name a few. However, documenting Hopkins’s interactions with her contemporaries has been a challenge. The PEHS invites paper proposals that discuss Hopkins and other writers/intellectuals of her contemporary era. Papers that examine expected or even unexpected pairings are welcomed. Pairings are not limited to people Hopkins knew or met.

One-page proposals in Microsoft Word or PDF format should be submitted to Tanya Clark, Program Committee Chair, at clarkt@rowan.edu by 12/15/10. Please include a brief bio (200 words) or one-page CV with your proposal. Panelists should plan for a presentation lasting no more than fifteen minutes. Reference “ALA: Hopkins Panel” in the subject line.

Membership in the PEHS is required in order to present a paper. Please contact Eric Gardner, Membership Officer, at gardner@svsu.edu for membership information.
Session Sponsored By the Poe Studies Association

Poe and African American Literature and Culture
Papers might revisit/reconsider Poe’s position on slavery or Toni Morrison’s reading of Poe in connection with American Africanism. Other possibilities include African American tributes to Poe (e.g. T. Thomas Fortune’s sonnet about “the wizard of the Orphic lyre”), African American texts that specifically mention/strategically use Poe (e.g. Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man), African American texts that counter-discursively respond to/signify on writings by Poe (e.g. Pauline Hopkins’s “Talma Gordon” vis-à-vis “The Murders in the Rue Morgue” and “The Gold-Bug”), African American texts that evoke Poe’s texts in uncanny ways (e.g. Linda Brent’s description of the “loophole of retreat” as a “living grave” in Harriet Jacobs’s Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl), and any other African American (re)considerations or reworkings of Poe.

250-word abstracts and brief bios to John Gruesser at jgruesse@kean.edu by December 31, 2010.

Looking Back: 2010 ALA Conference Panels

The Pauline Hopkins Society sponsored two panels at the ALA Conference held May 27-30, 2010 in San Francisco, California. The list of papers and participants follows; full conference abstracts may be found at our website, http://paulinehopkinsociety.gsu.edu.

Pauline Hopkins Then and Now: Hopkins Scholarship and Pedagogy since the Schomburg Volumes.
Chair: John Gruesser, Kean University
1. "Pauline Hopkins and the Problematics of Literary Canonization," Richard Yarborough, University of California, Los Angeles
2. "Why John Brown?" Elizabeth Ammons, Tufts University
3. "Some Thoughts about a Hopkins Literary Legacy," Maryemma Graham, University of Kansas
Respondent: Alisha Knight, Washington College

Open Topic Panel on Pauline E. Hopkins.
Chair: John Gruesser, Kean University
1. "Contending Voices: Locating Emerson and Du Bois in Pauline Hopkins's Contending Forces," Sydney Bufkin, University of Texas
2. "Strange Tales of Romantic Happenings in This Mixed Community': Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins's Winona as a Rewriting of The Last of the Mohicans," Jacob Crane, Tufts University
4. "Hopkins and the 'New' Abolition," Teresa Zackodnik, University of Alberta
Get Involved! Hopkins Society Committees

The Pauline Hopkins Society needs you! Please consider joining one of our committees and offering your time and expertise to help advance Hopkins scholarship. From our newly-adopted bylaws:

The **Program Committee** shall serve as a liaison to various societies and associations; draft, generate, and circulate calls for papers for conference panels; help establish a Pauline Hopkins presence in like-minded organizations; select conference panel participants; propose projects and programs; and present slates of proposed panels to the Executive Committee for approval.

The **Research and Publications Committee** shall compile an annual list of scholarly publications, creative projects and research efforts concerning the life and writings of Pauline Hopkins and information pertinent to the purpose of the Society. It shall also work to help keep the writings of Pauline Hopkins in print and available to students, teachers and readers.

The **Awards and Monuments Committee** shall make recommendations for citations for outstanding scholarly work published on Pauline Hopkins in book and article form as well as other noteworthy projects that advance the purpose of the Society. It shall make recommendations for sponsorship of monuments and memorials to be erected in honor of Pauline Hopkins at sites and on occasions appropriate to the purpose of the Society. It shall also make Society Honorary Membership recommendations to the Executive Committee.

Volunteer for a committee by indicating your interest when you return your membership form or by contacting our Membership Officer, Eric Gardner: gardner@svsu.edu.

Lifetime Memberships Help Sustain PEHS

The Hopkins Society offers new and old members the chance to join at the Lifetime Membership level. We strongly encourage scholars committed to Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins’s work and legacy to consider this membership level.

The $500 fee may be paid as a single lump sum or through four consecutive annual payments. In addition to the convenience of never having to renew your membership, this option protects you from any possible dues increase(s) during your lifetime. Even if dues remain the same for the next three decades, the Lifetime Membership will put you ahead, as it is equivalent to 17 years at the current Regular Member level.

But most importantly, this initial investment will lay the groundwork for the Society’s future meetings and projects to honor Hopkins. Please consider supporting these efforts by filling out the membership form on page 7 and choosing the Lifetime Membership level.
Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society
Membership Form 2010-2011

Name: ________________________________________________

Institutional Affiliation: ________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: ________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________

_______________________________________________

_______________________________________________

Email Address: ________________________________________________________________

Phone: ________________________________________________________________

Hopkins Society Service: Please circle committees on which you might be willing to serve.
Research/Publications Committee       Program Committee
Awards/Monuments Committee             Other service work

Membership Category:
___ Regular Member. Annual dues: $30.
___ Graduate Student Member. Annual dues: $15. Open to current graduate students.
___ Student Member. Annual dues: $10. Open to current undergraduates or high school students.
___ Institutional Member. Annual dues: $250.
___ Lifetime Member. Single payment of $500 or four consecutive annual installments of $125.

This application form and your payment should be mailed to:
Eric Gardner, Hopkins Society Membership Officer
Department of English
Saginaw Valley State University
7400 Bay Road
University Center, MI 48710.

Payment must be made in U. S. funds through either check or money order. Checks should be made payable to the University of Montana. Feel free to use the memo line to note that the check is for membership in the Pauline Hopkins Society.

Membership questions can be emailed to Eric Gardner at gardner@svsu.edu
Welcome to the second issue of the Pauline E. Hopkins Society Newsletter! At the formational meeting of the Society, attending members imagined this newsletter as a space to maintain organizational records, a platform to announce publications and conferences dedicated to Pauline Hopkins, and a forum for sharing new ideas about promoting Hopkins and her era through our teaching and scholarship. Future issues of the newsletter might explore Hopkins in the undergraduate and secondary classrooms, Hopkins works-in-progress, and abstracts from recent and future conferences featuring Hopkins scholarship.

We need your submissions! Write to newsletter editor Mary Frances Jiménez at mfj@umd.edu with your ideas for an article, essay, or special issue of the Hopkins Society Newsletter. We are also eager to publish calls for papers related to Hopkins’s work and era, as well as announcements of your recent Hopkins-related publications.

Requests to join the HOPKINSSOCIETY listserv may be submitted to Mary Frances Jiménez, listserv administrator and newsletter editor: mfj@umd.edu

To submit information for possible inclusion on our website, please contact Mary Frances Jiménez or Elizabeth West: engejw@langate.gsu.edu

Hopkins Society Executive Board

The official adoption of the Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society’s by-laws at the 2010 ALA business meeting paved the way for the election of the society’s first official executive board. The following individuals have taken over from the pro tem executive board that steered the Society through its formational first year:

**President**  
John Gruesser — Professor, Kean University  
johngruesser@gmail.com

**Vice President**  
Dorri Beam — Assistant Prof., UC Berkeley  
dbeam@berkeley.edu

**Secretary**  
Alisha Knight — Associate Prof. and Black Studies Program Director, Washington College  
aknight2@washcoll.edu

**Treasurer**  
Jill Bergman — Associate Professor and English Department Chair, University of Montana  
jill.bergman@mso.umt.edu

**Membership Officer**  
Eric Gardner — Braun Fellow and Professor, Saginaw Valley State University  
gardner@svsu.edu

**Program Chair**  
Tanya Clark — Assistant Prof., Rowan University  
clarkt@rowan.edu

**Parliamentarian**  
April Logan, alogan01@temple.edu

**Webmaster**  
Elizabeth West — Associate Prof., Georgia State U  
engejw@langate.gsu.edu

**Newsletter Editor/Co-Webmaster**  
Mary Frances Jiménez, mfj@umd.edu