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A Note from the Editors

Journal Editors

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A note from the editors

Welcome to the 2005 issue of *The Yalobusha Review*. We're very excited about this issue and have a few special points of interest to which we'd like to draw your attention.

The MFA program in Creative Writing has been very fortunate to have Brad Watson as this year's writer-in-residence. Brad is author of the short story collection, *Last Days of the Dog-Men*, and the novel, *The Heaven of Mercury*, which was a 2002 National Book Award Finalist. We at *The Yalobusha Review* are doubly fortunate to have had Brad not only in our midst, but also as a contributor to our journal with his very funny short story, "Are You Mr. Lonelee?" Brad originally wrote this story when he was in graduate school at the University of Alabama, studying with Barry Hannah. The story was his first published piece, in *Intro 10*, but, as he told us "that year the printer went out of business before the run was completed and the anthology wasn't properly distributed. Someone at AWP, which sponsored the series, once told me it was the only volume even they didn't have in their archives. So I've always wished the story could have a few more readers. It seems fitting that if the story is going to see daylight again, the light should come from a magazine edited by graduate students in a writing program directed by Barry Hannah." *The Yalobusha Review* is thrilled to bring a few more readers to this story.

Brad was also kind enough to be the final judge in our inaugural *Barry Hannah Fiction Contest*. We received a great response in this first year of what we hope will be an ongoing literary event. This year's winner is Alex Taylor, for his story "We Were Men and the Fire Made Us." We're honored to have Alex as our first contest winner.

Anyone who has been to Oxford, Mississippi knows that this is a town that takes writing seriously, and similarly, Oxford is a town that writers take seriously. Quite a few of them pass through every year to read their works at Square Books, for the numerous writing conferences and events, or even just to soak up the literary atmosphere. This last Fall and Winter, the editors of *The Yalobusha Review* decided to take advantage of all the writers passing through our town by conducting brief interviews with as many of them as we could. You can see the results in our *Passing Interviews* section.

For the artwork this year, our Art Editor decided to try something new.

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She gathered a committee of local artists to collaborate on the journal, and as we accepted stories and poetry for the journal, the art committee selected certain pieces as inspiration for their own work.

There are two poems in this year's journal that need special mention. We sat on Mitchell Metz's poem, "Diplomat This," for nearly a year before finally deciding to run it. The reason for our hesitation was not the poem itself, which immediately struck us as strange and wild and worthy, but we were not sure whether we could run the piece without some sort of context of Mitchell's poetry. He worked with us for some time to find another piece that we all agreed suitably complemented "Diplomat This." We think that "One Nation Under Dog" is exactly what we needed. On the flip side of waiting, we *inadvertently* sat on Mark Jenkins' piece, "False Moon," for a year due to a printing error; "False Moon" should have been included in the 2004 issue of *The Yalobusha Review*. Mark has generously allowed us to run it this year instead. We'd like to thank both Mitchell Metz and Mark Jenkins for their patience.

Finally we would like to thank John and Renee Grisham for financial support; Tom Williams for, among many other things, putting us in touch with Lewis Nordan; Rebecca Latil for her tireless efforts with the nuts and bolts of production; Farrah Miller for always coming through in a pinch and at a moment's notice; Joe Urgo and David Galef for departmental support and encouragement; and a big thanks to all of the writers who participated in our passing interviews, everyone who submitted to the journal and the contest, and, of course, to our readers.

Enjoy!