



**BLEAKHOUSE
PUBLISHING**

**Victor Hassine Memorial
Scholarship**

ARCHIVE

(2011-2015)



Tatiana Laing
2015

Laing is graduate of the School of Public Affairs at American University and majored in Communications, Law, Economics, and Government. She has a passion for creative writing and public policy and has had several of her poems published. She also is one of the founding writers for The Bare Light Bulb, a blog run by BleakHouse Publishing that focuses on social justice issues. Laing was a key organizer of “The Darkening,” a demonstration undertaken on the AU campus to protest police violence, a problem that disproportionately affects minorities, a group that includes Tatiana. By her creative voice, expressed in a body of poems and blog posts on social justice, and her informed activism for constructive change, Tatiana Laing exemplifies the ideals embodied in the Victor Hassine Memorial Scholarship. This award is accompanied by a \$500 stipend courtesy of the Hassine family.



Joanna Heaney
2014

Joanna Heaney is an undergraduate in the honors program at American University majoring in Public Communication with a minor in Law and Society. Heaney has a deep and abiding interest in the notions of liberty, justice, and individual choice; these

subjects inform her studies, her creative writing, and her commitment to BleakHouse Publishing, which has as part of its core mission offering a voice to those rendered voiceless in our society, notably by the justice system. Heaney is the author of several poems, including the award-winning poem on the death penalty, “Too Little, Too Late,” published in BleakHouse Review. Heaney is also the founding editor and chief voice of the BleakHouse Blog, The Bare Lightbulb, which now has over 1900 followers and a growing cadre of regular contributors, all American University students. This award is accompanied by a \$500 stipend courtesy of the Hassine family.



Nora Kirk
2014

Nora Kirk is an American University undergraduate driven by a passion for criminal justice reform. As Chief Development Officer at BleakHouse Publishing, Kirk works to expand the voice of prisoners and to bring their creative writing and art to the attention of a broad public audience. To achieve this goal—at the heart of the BleakHouse mission and in the spirit of Hassine Award—Kirk coordinates all media and promotional activities for BleakHouse Publishing, and works to develop strategic partnerships and joint ventures with DC social justice organizations. Notable among Kirk’s achievements in this respect is a partnering with Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop to release *Up the River*, a BleakHouse book released to rave reviews. Kirk has also developed a partnership with the Safe Streets Arts Foundation, an organization that reaches thousands of prisoners across the country. This partnership has allowed BleakHouse to increase the number of prisoners’ works the press is able to publish, which in turn increases the reach of the press into the prison system and the lives of prisoners. This award is accompanied by a \$500 stipend courtesy of the Hassine family.



Charles Huckelbury
2013

Charles Huckelbury served thirty-eight consecutive years in maximum-security prisons before being paroled. A graduate of Ohio University and New England College, he is a widely-published and award-winning author of two books of poetry as well as a host of essays and poems. He is a member of the Distinguished Writers and Authors Guild. This award is accompanied by a \$500 stipend courtesy of the Hassine family.



Rachel Ternes
2013

Rachel Ternes is a sophomore at American University majoring in psychology and minoring in French and studio arts. She is an artist and consulting editor for BleakHouse Publishing. Her award-winning drawings and paintings have been featured in BleakHouse Review, Tacenda Literary Magazine, and American University's literary magazine, AmLit., among other venues. This award is accompanied by a \$500 stipend courtesy of the Hassine family.



Claire Callahan
2012

Claire Callahan is a gifted and versatile undergraduate student majoring in Justice, Law and Society at American University. Her record of achievement combines near perfect grades, fluency in French, a thorough grounding in the humanities as well as law and justice, research interests that span national and international issues, excellence in dance, and a talent for writing that is at once precise and elegant. This award is accompanied by a \$500 stipend courtesy of the Hassine family.



Carla Mahaddat
2012

Carla Mavaddat is the Art Curator for BleakHouse Publishing and an undergraduate student majoring in Political Science at McGill University. Her creative work has appeared in several venues, including Adore Noir, a fine arts magazine. Mavaddat edits and designs BleakHouse Review, which showcases her distinctive noire aesthetic. This award is accompanied by a \$500 stipend courtesy of the Hassine family.



Sonia Tabriz
2011

Sonia Tabriz is a merit scholar and J.D. candidate at The George Washington University Law School. The Managing Editor of BleakHouse Publishing. Tabriz is best known for her award-winning works of fiction, including poetry and short stories, as well as her legal commentaries and edited collections on crime and punishment. This award is accompanied by a \$500 stipend courtesy of the Hassine family.