As I reflect on the Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society’s accomplishments for 2013, it is with much pride that I detail our efforts to expand the opportunities, in and outside of the academy, for studying Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins. This year, we used the website to share new archival treasures, decided to promote Hopkins via social media, developed two awards which will capture the heart and minds of established and young scholars, created additional opportunities to share scholarship, and maintained a dedicated group of leaders and members. If you are not a member of the Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society (PEHS), I encourage you to become a part of this dynamic organization.

Public Awareness
The PEHS announced Dartmouth College Library’s acquisition of an amazing first edition of Hopkins’s Contending Forces on its website. The edition has two letters nestled within it exchanged between Hopkins and Emma S. Burnett. The letters are especially revealing because they provide evidence that African Americans across the country, not just in the Northeast, were among the readers of Contending Forces; Burnett resided in Kalispell, Montana. I should also note that we still offer on our website a full online publication of Hopkins’s New Era Magazine, which cannot be found anywhere else.

We also stepped into the social media realm by launching a Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins page on Facebook. Amy Bennett-Zendzian, of Boston University, graciously volunteered to design and manage the page. Please visit the PEHS on Facebook when it officially debuts in 2014.

Lastly, under the leadership of Monuments and Awards Committee Chair Nicole Aljoe, we have begun to organize a bi-annual Pauline Hopkins Memorial Scholarship for a college-bound African American female student of the Boston or Cambridge, MA public school system who writes the best essay on any aspect of social justice. By recognizing the writing talents of a young woman in high school, the PEHS seeks to commemorate Hopkins’s own prize-winning essay and speech on “Evils of Intemperance and Their Social Remedy.”

Scholarship
In addition, we continued to recognize and support scholarship on Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins. At the 2013 American Literature Association Conference, we hosted two panels: “Pauline Hopkins and Intertextuality” and “New Directions in Hopkins Scholarship: A Roundtable Discussion.” Indeed, the latter panel spotlighted the publications of two PEHS officers, Alisha Knight’s Pauline Hopkins and the American Dream: An African American Writer’s (Re)Visionary Gospel of Success (University of Tennessee Press, 2011) and Jill Bergman’s The Motherless Child in the Novels of Pauline Hopkins (LSU Press, 2012).

We also unanimously voted to launch a second competition, a bi-annual essay contest. The prize will recognize the best essay published on Pauline Hopkins and/or her work over a two-year period. We hope to grant this award for the first time in 2015. Lastly, the Society decided to add three new sections to our newsletter to give members an opportunity to share their discoveries and approaches to teaching Hopkins: “Research & Archive Notes,” “Pedagogy Notes,” and “New Publications.”
My dear Miss Hopkins:

I have just finished reading your most interesting “Contending Forces.” It is grand. I wish that every man and woman in the universe might read it. Especially of the more favored race for surely then they could not help but look upon us with more favor. We are living almost at the two extremes of this country yet your forceful words have come to us on the western side of the Rockies. I shall do all I can to have my friends in this section secure a copy as I feel that it will be food and strength for them.

One of your own townsmen, whom I met while visiting Boston last Sept sent me the book. I will once more add my tribute of thanks to you for the good work you have done for the race.

Your friend sincerely

Emma S. Burnett
Box 223.
Miss Emma S. Burnett,
Kalispell, Mont.

My dear Miss Burnett,

Your favor of Feb. 13, is before me. Pray excuse my long delay in acknowledging its receipt; illness is my excuse.

I thank you for your helpful words of encouragement and endorsement. Sometimes one becomes discouraged and is unable to see any good accomplished by the most faithful work. Your letter found me at such a time, and it has strengthened me to press forward in the good fight that we are all waging against wrong and oppression.

Again thanking you for your spontaneous expression of approval, believe me to be always,

Your friend,
Pauline E. Hopkins

53 Clifton St., No. Camb., Mass.
April 2, '02.
The annual meeting of the Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society was held on Saturday, May 25, 2013. The meeting was called to order by the Membership Officer, Eric Gardner, at 9:36 a.m. [N.B. Eric presided over the meeting in Dorri Beam’s absence until elections were held and April Logan was elected president.]

The minutes of the May 25, 2012, meeting, which were previously distributed, were approved.

Elections for the following offices were held, and the individuals listed were elected to three-year terms:

- President: April Logan (2013-2016)
- Vice President: Cherene Sherrard-Johnson (2013-2016)
- Secretary: Alisha Knight (2013-2016)

Eric presented a brief Treasurer’s report on behalf of Jill Bergman. The Society is in good standing and has had no expenditures at this point. There is just over $3,000 in the account. John Gruesser suggested the Society should start to pay its fair share of the co-sponsored ALA events, like the Michael Johnson poetry reading. April offered to contact AALCS about making a contribution.

Eric presented the Membership report and filed it with the Secretary. The Society’s membership currently stands at 32 members, which is a small increase from the previous year. Eric believes the increase in lifetime members (4 to 9) is likely due to both interest in the Society and the revision of our dues structure. Eric raised a few items of concern: the low number of listserv members who are dues paying members, membership retention, the difficulty international scholars have in joining the Society, and the need to broaden cooperative relationships. One of the most common questions Eric answers is “What do I get as a PEH Society member?” He wants to offer a “richer” answer. He concluded his report by offering a few recommendations: implementing an online payment system, exploring partnerships with other societies, considering a “right size” for the Society membership. A number of these concerns and recommendations were discussed later in the meeting (see below).

Colleen O’Brien presented the Program Committee report, and noted that the PEH Society is now affiliated with SSAWW. She intends to investigate an affiliation with C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists. John noted that the next ALA conference will be in Washington, D.C. instead of San Francisco, and this may impact possible panel topics next year.

Nicole Aljoe presented a proposal from the Awards and Monument Committee for a high school essay contest and publications prize. She moved that the Society approve the essay contest and publications prize with understanding that Executive Committee will finalize the process. The motion carried after some discussion about various aspects of this initiative, including the amount and form the prizes should take (e.g., cash or lifetime membership), the desired length of high school essay submissions, and a location for awarding the prizes.

April presented the Web Master’s report on behalf of Mary Frances Jimenez, and filed it with the Secretary. The Web Master updated the site in the spring of 2012, and worked with John Gruesser, Hanna Wallinger, Emory University’s Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library and Howard University’s Moorland-Spingarn Research Center to make both issues of New Era Magazine available on the Society’s website. A link to the Negro University Press edition of Colored American Magazine is also available on the Society’s website. Future updates to the site will include an online payment system and a section for scholarly reviews.

In Other Business, Colleen nominated Rynetta Davis at Univ. Kentucky to serve as the next Parliamentarian. [N.B. The Executive Committee will take this under consideration.]

The Society discussed how to broaden its cooperative relationships with other organizations, and Colleen volunteered to contact Warren Carson (College Language Association) and other societies about this.
The Society discussed strategies for increasing membership retention, like creating a Facebook page, and considered a target goal for the ideal size of the organization. Eric agreed to contact other societies and inquire about their membership numbers. [N.B. After the meeting adjourned, Amy Bennett-Zendzian volunteered to set up a Facebook page for the Society.]

The Society discussed suggestions for panels at the next ALA conference, which will be in Washington, D.C. next year. Colleen suggested panels on Hopkins's intertextuality with Clotel, Hopkins's commentary about the government, and the theme of North/South.

April offered remarks about her vision for the Society during her term as the next President: She's interested in making participation in the Society more worthwhile for members. She also wants to raise general public awareness for the Society, like conducting workshops with high school teachers in our areas to make them more aware of Hopkins. She encouraged us to think beyond our scholarship about what more can we do to raise awareness among Americanists about Hopkins's contributions to the canon. April intends to meet more regularly with the Executive Committee (via email if needed), and she wants to review the bylaws again.

The meeting adjourned 10:51 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alisha Knight
PEH Society Secretary

(continued from page 1)

Vision
The PEHS's continuity in terms of officers and ability to attract new leaders accounts for our vision and growth. Our Business Meeting and Elections at the 2013 ALA Conference proved no different. I am fortunate to be able to work with and learn from long-standing officers such as Historian (and former President) John Gruesser (Kean University), Secretary Alisha Knight (Washington College), Membership Officer Eric Gardner (Saginaw Valley State University), and Webmaster Mary Frances Jimenez (University of Maryland, College Park), who have been with the PEHS since its founding. However, I am also eager to benefit from the fresh ideas and experience of new and returning officers Vice President Cherene Sherrard-Johnson (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Immediate Past President Dorri Beam (Syracuse University), Newsletter Editor Karin Hooks (Lorain County Community College), Parliamentary Rynettea Davis (University of Kentucky), and Treasurer Jill Bergman (University of Montana). I also should note the consistently excellent work done by our Program Committee, chaired by Colleen O'Brien (University of South Carolina Upstate), and Monuments and Awards Committee, chaired by Nicole Aljoe (Northeastern University). Our active membership has been critical to our success as well. If you are interested in volunteering with the PEHS in any capacity, I again suggest that you become a member. Our membership fees are quite modest; in fact, we lowered them last year.

Upcoming Activities
In 2014, we will advertise our Essay Contest and Memorial Scholarship. We also will host two more illuminating panels on Hopkins at the ALA Conference May 22-25 in Washington, D.C., “Pauline Hopkins and Washington” and “Open Forum on Hopkins Scholarship.” Please see our website for the complete CFPs; note that only members are able to present participate in panels. In addition, we will continue to explore avenues for collaborating with the Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW), of which we are an affiliate.

The annual PEHS Business Meeting occurs each year at the ALA Conference. If you would like to know more about Hopkins and our work, please attend the panels and our Business Meeting. We welcome new ideas and the support of other scholars who share our passion for Hopkins's life and times.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. We hope that you will join us on our mission to celebrate the career, works, communities and legacy of Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins.

Sincerely,

April Logan, PEHS President
Salisbury University
Call for Papers
American Literature Association
25th Annual Conference
May 22-25, 2014
Hyatt Regency, Capitol Hill

Sessions Sponsored By
The Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society

Panel 1: Pauline Hopkins and Washington D.C.
As a writer with a keen interest in national politics at a crucial moment in American history, Pauline Hopkins frequently referred to the District of Columbia in her writings, both journalistic and literary. From the historical fiction of *Hagar's Daughter*, which incorporates the built environment and the political milieu of the antebellum United States in its dramatic action, to comments on American domestic and foreign policy in the *Colored American*, Washington D.C.'s location as the center of an emergent modern world and the liminal space between southern antiquity and northern modernity figures significantly in Hopkins's work. This panel seeks contributions that address any aspect of Washington D.C. in Pauline Hopkins's writing, including but not limited to discussions of built environment, material culture, historical fiction, political protest, geography, and temporality.

Panel 2: Open Forum on Hopkins Scholarship
The Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society invites scholars to submit proposals for an open panel on any aspect of Pauline Hopkins's work. In recent publications, Hopkins has been cast as a “black exaltada,” a revolutionary (but figuratively motherless) daughter, an anti-imperialist or internationalist, a mystic, and a writer of the American Dream. Papers that discuss, extend, or engage with this new scholarship are welcomed, as are papers that emphasize other approaches including but not limited to performance studies, visual culture, indigenous studies, environmental studies and media studies. One-page proposals in Microsoft Word or PDF format should be submitted to Colleen O’Brien, Program Committee Chair, at cobrien@uscupstate.edu by 1/7/14. 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.
2013 American Literature Association Hopkins Society Events

The Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society sponsored both a panel and a roundtable at the ALA Conference held May 23-26, 2013, in Boston, Massachusetts. The panel invited scholars to consider how Hopkins’s intertextuality allowed her to occupy “a crucial intermediary moment in the development of American literatures.” Drawing on the recent publication of four book-length studies of Hopkins’s life and work, the roundtable explored new directions in Hopkins scholarship. A list of panelists and paper titles, and a list of roundtable discussants follows:

Session 18-E Pauline Hopkins and Intertextuality
Chair: Colleen O’Brien, University of South Carolina-Upstate
1. “Renegotiating New Negro Womanhood in Pauline Hopkins’s Contending Forces,” Amy Bennett Zendzian, Boston University
3. “Calling for Civility: Hopkins’s Recontextualization of Emerson’s Abolitionist Rhetoric,” Karin L. Hooks, Ohio State University

Session 19-F New Directions in Hopkins Scholarship: A Roundtable Discussion
Moderator: John Gruesser, Kean University
1. Rynetta Davis, University of Kentucky
2. John Gruesser, Kean University
3. Alisha Knight, Washington College
4. Greg Laski, United States Air Force Academy
5. Colleen O’Brien, University of South Carolina-Upstate
6. Cherene Sherrard-Johnson, University of Wisconsin-Madison

In conjunction with the African American Literature and Culture Society, the Charles Chesnutt Association, the Paul Laurence Dunbar Society, the Charles Johnson Society, the Toni Morrison Society, the Ralph Ellison Society, and the John Edgar Wideman Society, The Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society hosted a reception following Michael Harper’s Poetry Reading.

We Need Membership Renewals!

If you have not already done so, please take a moment and renew your PEHS membership now. Our society needs your participation in order to continue promoting study of the life and work of Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins.

The Hopkins Society also 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 $250 fee may be paid as a single lump sum or through two 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.
New Publications


In her recent *Pauline Hopkins and the American Dream: An African American Writer’s (Re)Visionary Gospel of Success*, Alisha Knight sets out to prove that African American novelist, essayist, journalist, and editor Pauline Hopkins (1859-1930) revised and even debunked the idea of the “American Dream” (see xi). Knight convincingly situates Hopkins as a writer who consistently criticizes the US policy toward blacks and promotes agitation rather than integration. In doing so, Knight says, Hopkins “offers African Americans an alternative model for success that embraces African American culture” (xii). Drawing on discussions of the success myth or formula by such critics as Paulette D. Kilmer, Richard Huber, Richard Weiss, Rex Burns, and John G. Cawelti, as well as on H. L. Gates’s Signifying paradigm, Knight argues that Hopkins used and revised the traditional concept of the gospel of success by “expanding the meaning of social respectability to include freedom from racial discrimination” (xiii). Knight’s aim in this well-researched and insightful study is to examine how Hopkins “used the theme of racial uplift, the pursuit of social progress, and the figure of the self-made man to propound her theories and to demonstrate the limitations of the traditional success model” (xvii).

In her first chapter, entitled “‘To Aid in Everyway Possible in Uplifting the Colored People of America’: Hopkins’s Revisionary Definition of African American Success,” Knight provides an overview of the gospel of success and the idea of the American Dream as deeply rooted in the American culture before turning her attention to Hopkins’s era. She argues that black working- and middle-class communities were just as hungry for success literature as whites and that they had a history of “producing and reading success literature, either in the form of autobiographical narratives or biographical dictionaries and collected sketches of prominent individuals” (6). Hopkins contributed to this genre in her “Famous Men of the Negro Race” series, published in the *Colored American Magazine* between February and October 1901. Knight argues that the self-made men Hopkins profiled possessed natural intelligence, high ethical and moral standards, honor, determination, and self-reliance but, unlike their successful white counterparts, they also had a strong commitment to racial uplift and were more politicized (23 and 28).

In her second chapter, “Furnace Blasts for the Tuskegee Wizard and the Talented Tenth: Hopkins and Her Contemporary Self-Made Men,” Knight concentrates on Hopkins’s defiant attitude and subversive ideology in her editorial work for the *Colored American Magazine*. Advocating a distinctive success formula for African Americans, Hopkins protested against Booker T. Washington’s brand of racial uplift and his uncritical adoption of the white gospel of success. Hopkins, Knight argues, eventually emerged as the winner in this contest and became a force that Washington had to reckon with. In her reading of Hopkins’s novel *Contending Forces*, Knight points out striking similarities between Washington and the fictional John Langley, asserting that Langley portrays Washington’s darker side (see 33). In her discussion of the connections between Will Smith and W.E.B. Du Bois in the same novel, Knight sees Hopkins foretelling the later antagonism between the two leaders. Knight also echoes other Hopkins scholars who contend that several unsigned articles were in fact written by Hopkins, citing “The Negro: An Experiment” in the Sept. 1900 issue of the *Colored American Magazine* as a key example. Knight then gives a fascinating and thought-provoking account of
Washington's role in the purchase of the *Colored American Magazine* and the subsequent removal of Hopkins from her editorial position, drawing on the John C. Freund - William Monroe Trotter evidence, and Hopkins's own version of the events and noting Du Bois's keen interest in this maneuver.

The third chapter, ““Mammon Leads Them On’: Hopkins’s Visionary Critique of the Gospel of Success,” focuses on Hopkins’s fictional treatments of the success archetype and how they differ from her portrayals of real-life self-made men. In her short stories “General Washington, a Christmas Story” and “The Test of Manhood, A Christmas Story” Hopkins portrays young characters who fail to acquire or maintain social acceptance, wealth, and respectability. Meanwhile her heroes in her play *Peculiar Sam, or The Underground Railroad*, and in her novels *Contending Forces* and *Of One Blood* do prosper but do not experience their success fully in the United States. These texts prove to Knight that Hopkins “reveals the racism inherent in the American Dream and the negative impact racism has on the quality of life within the African American community” (53). In her readings of the texts Knight applies and then points out the subtly Signifying aspects of the ingredients of the success formula, as defined by Cawelti. Elements of setting, clothing, coincidence and luck, fatherlessness, hard-won respect, and the hero’s involvement in race uplift and community self-help all lead Knight to see Hopkins’s subtle but pronounced revision of the success myth. In her discussion of *Of One Blood*, for example, Knight rightly points out that the setting in Africa can be read as a “Signification on the use of space, location, and environment in the tradition success narrative” (70).

In the fourth chapter, ““In the Lives of These Women Are Seen Signs of Progress’: Hopkins’s Race Woman and the Gospel of Success,” Knight first analyses Hopkins's interactions with the black women's club movements, and in particular with Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, before discussing success stories that concern politically active women like Hopkins herself or the fictional Mrs. Willis—who is based on Ruffin—in her novel *Contending Forces*. In her “Famous Women of the Negro Race” series in the *Colored American Magazine*, published between November 1901 and October 1902; Hopkins defined the successful black woman as someone who cultivates her character and womanhood, as a woman who uses her talents to uplift the black community and one who challenges the central role of marriage in the female success paradigm (79). In this strong and focused chapter, Knight offers a re-reading of Hopkins that goes beyond the tradition of domestic and sentimental fiction (75) and re-evaluates her successful women characters. Knight sees Mrs. Willis, Sappho Clark, Dora Smith, and Grace Montfort in *Contending Forces* as challenging and redefining the archetypal successful female figure. The women in her second novel, *Hagar’s Daughter*, also measure success against various models of marriage. Knight focuses on Aurelia Madison, one of the more ambiguous female characters in her fiction, to highlight Hopkins’s revision of the female success figure. Knight then discusses *Winona* in the context of the bildungsroman tradition and arrives at the conclusion that “racism prevents black women from experiencing success” (95) because all black women are “victims of slavery and its residual racism” (95). If there is one lamentable fact about this study, it is that it include more of this type of intense analysis.

In her conclusion, Knight describes Hopkins as a “renaissance woman whose stage and lecturing experience taught her how to draw in an audience, and whose periodical editorial experience taught her to give readers what they wanted to read without compromising her own principles” (100). *Pauline Hopkins and the American Dream* convincingly portrays Hopkins as a versatile, intellectually astute, challenging, and innovative writer. Knight’s revision of the African American success formula that Knight promises at the beginning of her book will definitely change our view of Hopkins and challenge accepted notions about African American female writers of the period.
Get Involved! PEHS 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 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.
Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society
Membership Form for 2013-2014

Name: ______________________________________________________________

Institutional Affiliation: ________________________________________________

Mailing Address: _______________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Email Address: _________________________________________________________

Phone: __________________________________________________________________

This membership is: ____ a renewal (or) ____ a new membership.

Membership Category:
___ Founding Member. Annual dues: $15.
    Note: Founding Member status is open only to members who joined before 31 August 2010.
___ Regular Member. Annual dues: $15.
___ Graduate Student Member. Annual dues: $10. 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 $250 or two consecutive annual installments of $125.
    If paying by installments, this is installment ____ of two.

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

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.

Checks / money orders should be made payable to the University of Montana, which currently houses the Society accounts.

Payment must be made in U. S. funds through either check or money order; international scholars are encouraged to contact the membership officer to discuss other options if this presents difficulties. Membership questions can be emailed to Eric Gardner at <gardner@svsu.edu>.
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, mfj@umd.edu.

http://www.paulinehopkinssociety.org