

## 2018 Weatherford Award Winners for Best Appalachian Books Announced

BEREA, Ky., Mar. 13, 2019—Winners of the Weatherford Awards (for 2018) are Michael Clay Carey’s *The News Untold: Community Journalism and the Failure to Confront Poverty in Appalachia* (non-fiction), Silas House’s *Southernmost* (fiction), and Sarah McCartt-Jackson’s *Stonelight* (poetry).

The Weatherford Awards honor books that “best illuminate the challenges, personalities, and unique qualities of the Appalachian South.” Granted by Berea College and the Appalachian Studies Association, the awards commemorate the life and achievements of W.D. Weatherford, Sr., a pioneer and leading figure in Appalachian development, youth work, and race relations, and of his son, Willis D. Weatherford, Jr., late Berea College President.

The winners will be recognized on their achievement at the 2019 Appalachian Studies Association Conference in Asheville, North Carolina, on March 15th.

### Non-Fiction Award

In *The News Untold* (University of West Virginia Press), Michael Clay Carey shows how the local media within Appalachia tends to favor stories boosting community business interests and tends to ignore poorer residents, seemingly seen as part of a natural process. This local media thereby reinforces the idea of an overarching “culture of poverty” and displays a lack of awareness of inequality within Appalachia and between Appalachia and the rest of the country. By looking at these stories, or lack of stories, and by putting them in a larger theoretical frame, Carey suggests how the factors behind poverty, as well as possible solutions, might be described.

Dr. Michael Clay Carey is an assistant professor of Journalism and Mass Communication at Samford University. His academic research focuses on cultural studies of media, specifically the impacts of stereotypes and the roles media play in the formation and maintenance of individual and group identity.

Prior to his academic career, Dr. Carey spent 10 years working as a reporter and editor at several newspapers in Tennessee, covering everything from prison escapes and state government to stock-car racing and agriculture. He wrote for *The Tennessean* in Nashville and covered the state as a news correspondent for *USA Today*.

Non-Fiction Runners-Up: John M. Coggeshall’s *Liberia, South Carolina: An African American Appalachian Community*, Karida L. Brown’s *Gone Home: Race and Roots through Appalachia*, Tom Hansell’s *After Coal: Stories of Survival in Appalachia and Wales*

### Fiction Award

The Weatherford Award for best Appalachian fiction goes to Silas House’s newest novel, *Southernmost* (Algonquin Books). This novel takes on the story of a disastrous flood, which many Appalachian communities have dealt with over the years. This novel finds new ways to tell of human transformation in the midst of tragedy.

One Weatherford judge explains, “This book about something is fueled by a deep humanity. The beautiful concept of the ‘Everything,’ voiced by a child, breaks down sectarianism, provincialism, othering—all the ugly separations. High time such a concept came to Appalachia, a place that historically has suffered from being othered and, upon occasion, from othering. Yet there is nothing of the polemic or propaganda piece about *Southernmost*. These characters are working out their own salvation according to their consciences and capacities.”

House is the *New York Times* bestselling author of six novels, one book of creative nonfiction, and four plays. House’s writing frequently appears in *The New York Times* and *Salon* and has been published in *Time*, *Garden and Gun*, *Oxford American* and *Newsday*.

House serves as the NEH Chair at Berea College and on the fiction faculty in the MFA in Creative Writing program at Spalding University. He is a native of Southeastern Kentucky.

He has been honored with the E.B. White Award, the Nautilus Prize, the Hobson Medal for Literature, the Intellectual Freedom Prize from the National Council of Teachers of English, and many others. *Southernmost* was recently long-listed for the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, is a recommendation of the *New York Public Library*, and has appeared on year-end best-of lists in magazines such as *The Advocate*, *Paste*, *Booklist*, and *Southern Living*.

Fiction Runners-Up: Robert Gipe’s *Weedeater*, Michael Henson’s *Maggie Boylan*, and Tim Poland’s *Yellow Stonefly*.

### Poetry Award

Sarah McCartt-Jackson’s *Stonelight* (Airlie Press) uses vibrant language, memorable imagery, and profound themes to give a powerful new look at labor in the Appalachian region. *Stonelight* has been called a beautifully wrought testament to the strength of the Appalachian people living

in the grip of monoecology.

Rebecca Gayle Howell, writer in residence at the Hindman Settlement School, calls *Stonelight* “a triumph”: “For a century and more, it has been our women, hillbilly women, who—despite corporate warfare and starvation, disease, poverty, abuse—have led the nation to believe in and take up the right we have to own our labor, to believe in and fight for the dignity of work. I actually pray, every day I pray, that today’s generation of women will rise to tell our story, write our story, bearing its mythos and universal power for those who will need it next. Then Sarah McCartt-Jackson’s debut landed in my lap. A true poetry that bends into this history with such precise vision and moral, human clarity—not to mention beauty—that I am astonished it is her first book.”

McCartt-Jackson is also author of three chapbooks: “Calf Canyon,” “Vein of Stone,” and “Children Born on the Wrong Side of the River,” which won the 2015 Mary Ballard Poetry Prize. She received an Al Smith Individual Artist Fellowship from the Kentucky Arts Council and has served as artist-in-residence for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Shotpouch Cabin through Oregon State University. She works on a farm in Louisville, where she also teaches poetry and makes up half of the art duo Project Diode.

Poetry Runners-Up: Second place is Underwood’s *The Book of Awe* and third is Wright and Graves for *Spectre Mountain*.

Berea College, the first interracial and coeducational college in the South, focuses on learning, labor and service. The College admits only academically promising students with limited financial resources, primarily from Kentucky and Appalachia, although students come from 40 states and 70 countries. Every Berea student receives a Tuition Promise Scholarship, which means no Berea student pays for tuition. Berea is one of eight federally recognized Work Colleges, so students work 10 hours or more weekly, earning money for books, housing, and meals. The College’s motto, “God has made of one blood all peoples of the earth,” speaks to its inclusive Christian character. [www.berea.edu](http://www.berea.edu)

## Beshear: Students of Two Shuttered For-Profit Colleges may apply for Federal Loan Forgiveness

FRANKFORT, KY. (March 18, 2019) – Attorney General Andy Beshear today announced that Kentuckians attending two recently closed for-profit online schools may be eligible for federal student loan forgiveness.

Argosy University and Art Institutes, abruptly closed March 8 after the federal government revoked Argosy’s eligibility for federal student aid.

Eligible students include active students, and those who withdrew up to 120 days before the closure, who were not able to complete their program of study and have not transferred credits into a comparable program at another school.

“My office is reaching out directly to notify more than 80 impacted students whose schools have closed,” said Beshear. “We are providing information and support to help ensure each student has the resources they need to apply for federal loan forgiveness if they choose to do so.”

Beshear said neither school had brick-and-mortar campuses in Kentucky, but both enrolled Kentuckians in their online programs. Both schools are owned by the Dream Center Education Holdings, Inc., which has been operating under a federal receivership since January.

Students impacted by the closure should visit the Department of Education’s website, <https://StudentAid.gov/closures> for detailed information, including how to apply for a discharge of their loans and obtain academic records. If students elect to continue their degree at another school, they are not eligible for a discharge.

Since taking office, Beshear’s consumer protection team has secured more than \$5.2 million in loan forgiveness and cash restitution for thousands of Kentucky students attending for-profit colleges.

In January, Beshear announced that for-profit education company Career Education Corporation (CEC) agreed to reform its recruiting and enrollment practices and forgo collecting more than \$2.3 million in debts owed by more than 1,300 Kentucky students.

As a member of the CEC multistate’s Executive Committee, Kentucky received nearly \$200,000 that will go to the state’s General Fund for lawmakers to appropriate during the 2020 legislative budget session.

In January, Beshear reached a \$1.7 million settlement with Sullivan University, obtaining debt relief for nearly 700 former Spencerian College students.

Last year, the Office of Attorney General won its case against American National University (formerly known as National College) in Fayette Circuit Court, alleging that National College violated the Kentucky Consumer Protection Act by advertising false and misleading employment rates for its graduates. The school has appealed the judgment.

In 2017, Beshear notified approximately 2,000 former Everest University and WyoTech students of their eligibility for federal debt relief. Many of the students were veterans who were victimized by predatory practices by Corinthian Colleges Inc., owner of the schools.

In 2016, Beshear announced nearly 3,500 former students of Daymar College’s Kentucky campuses and online programs would receive restitution checks totaling \$1.2 million.

Beshear’s office is currently investigating the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Authority (PHEAA) one of the largest loan servicers in the country. Beshear’s office won a decision from the Franklin Circuit Court in July 2018 overruling a petition by PHEAA to halt the investigation.

Students who believe a private college has misled them or whose loan servicer has treated them unfairly can contact Beshear’s office at 502-696-5300, or by completing an online complaint form.

## Special Rates Offered At Kentucky State Parks Following Storm Damage

FRANKFORT, Ky. (March 15, 2019) – Kentucky State Parks are offering special rates for people who need shelter in the wake of tornadoes and storms in Western Kentucky this week.

The rates are available at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park, Lake Barkley State Resort Park and Kenlake State Resort Park and start at \$49.95 a night for a lodge room, plus taxes and fees. Call the parks for more information. The number for Kentucky Dam Village is 270-362-4271; Lake Barkley’s number is 270-924-1131 and Kenlake’s number is 270-474-2211. For more information about Kentucky State Parks, visit [www.parks.ky.gov](http://www.parks.ky.gov)

## McKee S&T Hardware

Serving Jackson County since 1967

We are expanding to serve you better.



Plumbing,  
Electrical  
Supplies,  
Paint, Tools,  
Tarps,  
Antifreeze,  
Motor Oil,  
Lawn Care  
Tools,  
Nuts & Bolts,  
& Case XX  
Knives.

New & Gentle Used Appliances with Warranties.

We make keys and our newest arrival is we now have new propane tanks and gas.

If we don't have it, we will try our best to get it for you!

McKee S&T supports all our veterans!