From the Editor

Therese Jones • Kathleen Pachucki

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As is now our tradition, we present and celebrate the three winners of the William Carlos Williams Medical Student Poetry Competition in our December issue. We are honored to introduce the 2011 winners who provided some information about themselves and their work. They are:

First Place: Tom Albert

Tom is a second-year medical student at the University of Virginia. About his poem, “Uncertainty,” he has this to say:

“This poem is loosely inspired by an Edward Hirsch piece that I love in which he muses on the notion of inevitability and life’s inherent uncertainties. I’m not sure if I could pinpoint exactly what mine is about, but it began as a meditation on my fears as a young medical student of clinical uncertainty and making the wrong decisions. It is also though, like many things, about love and its complexities, a glimpse of an intimate moment between two people, and quiet mornings.”

Second Place: Kathryn D. Winters

Kathryn is a third-year medical student at the University of California, San Diego. About her poem, “Reasons That Life is Difficult,” Kathryn writes:

“This poem is actually nothing more than a list of complaints that I recorded in my journal after a bad day during my first year of medical school. But writing has always served as a refuge for me, and I cannot imagine enduring life without the ability to process and reflect upon my experiences through the written word. It is a true joy!”

T. Jones (✉)

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Third Place: Young Min Kim

Young Min graduated from Washington University School of Medicine in May 2011 and has now begun his residency in pediatric neurology at St. Louis Children's Hospital. His poem is entitled, "late february," and he shares his thoughts about writing and doctoring:

"William Carlos Williams has been one of my favorite writers ever since Mrs. Warren, my high school English teacher, said he could always find time to scribble a few words on a prescription pad amidst his busy life. Creative writing has proved most resilient under the pressures and time constraints of medical training, and I have continually found that it allows me to give expression to the profundities of medical practice and also enlarges its conscience."

On behalf of the Editorial Board, we congratulate Tom, Kathryn, and Young Min.

Therese Jones, Editor and Kathleen Pachucki, Managing Editor