

HOUGHTON

Houghton College alumnus wins \$25K poetry award

HOUGHTON — Thom Satterlee, class of 1989, recently accepted a National Endowment for the Arts award of \$25,000 in the form of a literature fellowship for his poetry.

Satterlee graduated from Houghton College with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and went on to receive a master's degree in English Literature from the State University of New

York at Brockport, as well as a Master of Fine Arts degree in literary translation from the University of Arkansas.

"He was one of the best prepared writers coming to Houghton that I ever met," said Jack Leax, professor of English, poet-in-residence, and chair of the English and writing department.

Satterlee has published one book of poetry, titled

"Burning Wyclif: Poems," as well as numerous individual poems, translations and works of prose.

Satterlee applied for the award in January 2008 and was notified of his selection in November.

"The award is intended to support future work, but is based on past work," he said "The award is not restrictive, and I will use it to write some new poems."

A nurturing environment, Houghton's writing program graduates numerous published writers who go on to accomplish much within the literary community.

Satterlee's award is testament to the quality work being done by both students and professors in the writing department.

"The best work being done by Houghton College

students stands with the best work being done in the country," said Leax.

Satterlee will be visiting Houghton College campus in April.

He will be among other writing graduates who will read some works in honor of Leax, who is retiring after 40 years of teaching at Houghton.

The National Endowment for the Arts was es-

ablished by Congress in 1965 and is, "dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established, bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education".

The Arts Endowment distributed \$23,215,500 in its first round of 2009 funding and is currently the country's leader in annual funding for the arts.