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Poet Rebecca Gayle Howell named Senior Editor of *Oxford American*

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS – The *Oxford American* magazine is thrilled to announce the appointment of **Rebecca Gayle Howell** as Senior Editor.

Since 2014, Howell has served as Poetry Editor for the *Oxford American*, publishing acclaimed poets such as Jericho Brown, Ansel Elkins, Nikky Finney, Fady Joudah, Davis McCombs, Naomi Shihab Nye, and many others.

“In the two years that Rebecca and I have already worked together, she has made countless contributions to the magazine, from soliciting work from extraordinary poets, to creating our Poetry in Place online symposium, to representing the magazine at readings and events,” said Editor Eliza Borné. “She is a gifted poet and a brilliant editor, and I am delighted that she is joining our team in this expanded role.”

As Senior Editor, Howell will continue to select poetry for the *OA*. She will also manage the magazine’s companion website, OxfordAmerican.org, and edit for both print and the web. A native of Lexington, Kentucky, Howell will be based in the magazine’s office in Little Rock, Arkansas.

“Over these last few years, my position as *OA*’s Poetry Editor has become my greatest joy,” said Howell. “I’m beyond excited to now join the core editorial team. Moving to Little Rock will mean the chance to directly collaborate with editors I so respect, while I also begin fresh conversations with our readers to enrich *OA*’s online community. To think I will now be a Senior Editor for the magazine I have most loved all my reading life? Grace.”

Howell brings a wealth of experience to her work at the *Oxford American*. She is a former Executive Director of the Kentucky-based Women Writers Conference, and in 2015, she received a doctorate in English from Texas Tech University. She has numerous publication credits, including her collection *Render /An Apocalypse*, which was selected by Nick Flynn for the Cleveland State University First Book Prize and was a finalist for ForeWord Review’s Book of the Year. Her other awards include fellowships from the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown and the Carson McCullers Center, as well as a 2014 Pushcart Prize.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Rebecca to the *Oxford American* as a full-time member of the staff,” said Executive Director Ryan Harris. “I am confident that her talent and enthusiasm will help propel us to new heights as we prepare to launch exciting new projects heading into our twenty-fifth anniversary in 2017.”

Howell will start at the *Oxford American* as Senior Editor on June 13, 2016, joining Borné, Managing Editor Maxwell George, and Senior Editor Jay Jennings on the Little Rock-based editorial staff.

ABOUT THE OXFORD AMERICAN

The *Oxford American* is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization and national magazine dedicated to featuring the very best in Southern writing, while documenting the complexity and vitality of the American South. Billed as “A Magazine of the South,” it has won four National Magazine Awards and other high honors since it began publication in 1992. The magazine has featured the original work of such literary powerhouses as Charles Portis, Roy Blount, Jr., ZZ Packer, Donald Harington, Donna Tartt, Ernest J. Gaines, and many other distinguished authors, while also discovering and launching the most promising writers in the region. The magazine has also published previously unseen work by such Southern masters as William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Walker Percy, James Agee, Zora Neale Hurston, James Dickey, and Carson McCullers, to name just a handful. In 2007, *The New York Times* stated that the *Oxford American* “may be the liveliest literary magazine in America.” *Oxford American* is committed to the development of young individuals aspiring to work in the publishing industry, and to the production and presentation of multidisciplinary arts events in and around Little Rock, Arkansas. The *Oxford American* is published from the University of Central Arkansas. For more information, visit OxfordAmerican.org.