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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IAIN HALEY POLLOCK WINS 2010 CAVE CANEM POETRY PRIZE

The University of Georgia Press to Publish Spit Back a Boy

BROOKLYN, NY (September 27, 2010) — Cave Canem Foundation, Inc., North America's premier "home for black poetry," is pleased to announce that **Iain Haley Pollock** has received the 2010 **Cave Canem Poetry Prize** for his manuscript, *Spit Back a Boy*, selected by **Elizabeth Alexander**. The University of Georgia Press will publish the collection in spring 2011. Additionally, Mr. Pollock will receive \$1,000 and a feature reading. **Vida Cross** received an **Honorable Mention** for her manuscript, *Bronzeville at Night: 1949*. Established in 1999 with Rita Dove's selection of Natasha Trethewey's *Domestic Work* (Graywolf Press, 2000), the Cave Canem Poetry Prize is an annual first-book award dedicated to the discovery of exceptional manuscripts by African American poets.

Iain Haley Pollock lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and teaches English at Chestnut Hill Academy. A Cave Canem fellow and an alumnus of the Creative Writing Program at Syracuse University, his poems have appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review* and *Callaloo*.

Vida Cross's poetry has appeared in *Reed Magazine*, *Make Magazine*, *Warpland* and *Mochila Review*. She is a Cave Canem fellow and the recipient of scholarships from The Napa Valley Writers' Conference and Voices of Our Nation Arts Foundation.

Elizabeth Alexander is the author of five books of poems, including *American Sublime*, a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize; two collections of essays; and a young adult collection (co-authored with Marilyn Nelson), *Miss Crandall's School for Young Ladies and Little Misses of Color*, winner of the 2008 Connecticut Book Award. She was chosen by President Obama to compose and read a poem for his inauguration, the fourth poet in U.S. history to read at a swearing-in. She is the recipient of the first

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annual Jackson Poetry Prize, and in 2005, received the Alphonse Fletcher, Sr. Fellowship for work that contributes to improving race relations in American society. She is a professor of African American Studies at Yale University.

Founded in 1996 by poets **Toi Derricotte** and **Cornelius Eady** to remedy the under-representation of African American poets in writing workshops and MFA programs, **Cave Canem** is a home for the many voices of African American poetry and is committed to cultivating the artistic and professional growth of African American poets. Cave Canem has grown from an initial gathering of 26 poets to become an influential movement with a renowned faculty and a high-achieving fellowship of over 300. Its programs include an annual writing retreat, first and second book prizes, Legacy Conversations with such acclaimed poets as Pulitzer Prize winner Yusef Komunyakaa, Poets on Craft talks, workshops, publications and national readings. To date, the organization has published *Gathering Ground: A Reader Celebrating Cave Canem's First Decade* (University of Michigan Press, 2006) and *The Ringing Ear: Black Poets Lean South* (The University of Georgia Press, 2007). For more information, go to cavecanempoets.org.

Since its founding in 1938, the primary mission of **The University of Georgia Press** has been to support and enhance the University's place as a major research institution by publishing outstanding works of scholarship and literature by scholars and writers throughout the world. In 2008 the Press received the Governor's Award in the Humanities. The University of Georgia Press has published the following winners of the Cave Canem Poetry Prize: *A Gathering of Matter/A Matter of Gathering* by Dawn Lundy Martin (2006), *The Listening* by Kyle Dargan (2003), and *Leaving Saturn* by Major Jackson (2000). For more information, visit ugapress.org.

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