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## **Ready to Build Your Summer Reading List? Check Out IPPY Award-Winners for 2012**

(May 8, 2012 - Traverse City, MI) Summer's almost here and it's time to stock up on award-winning books to read. Need some suggestions? The winners of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Independent Publisher Book Awards have been announced and will be celebrated on June 4<sup>th</sup> during the annual BookExpo America publishing convention in New York. Conducted each year to honor the year's best independently published books, the "IPPY" awards recognize excellence in a broad range of subjects and reward authors and publishers who "take chances and break new ground."

Independent publishers are extremely diverse, in both style and geography. This year's IPPY competition attracted 5,200 entries, and the 372 medalists represent 44 U.S. states plus the District of Columbia, seven Canadian provinces, and ten countries overseas. Launched in 1996 as the first unaffiliated awards program open exclusively to independent, university, and self-published titles, the IPPY Awards contest rewards winners in 74 national, 22 regional, and five e-book categories with gold, silver and bronze medallions and foil seals for their book covers.

See complete results for the 2012 Independent Publisher Book Awards at <http://www.independentpublisher.com/article.php?page=1534>

"Independent publishers are growing in number, and the quality of their work is increasing," says awards director Jim Barnes. "One element driving the high rate of excellence is participation from university presses. This year, 29 medalists came from university presses and 9 came from museums. Their elevated level of writing, editing, design and production raises the bar and inspires us all."

University presses are known for tackling controversial topics and complex social issues. For example, *Arab Detroit 9/11* (Wayne State University Press) explores how the lives of Arab Americans have changed in the "terror decade," *Sovereign Erotics* (The University of Arizona Press) is an anthology of voices from the Native American GLBT community, and *In This Timeless*

*Time* (University of North Carolina Press) tells the stories of Texas prison inmates on Death Row.

Looking for something a bit lighter? Popular topics like country music, wine, and 60's counter-culture are covered by these fiction winners: *Murder on Music Row* (John F. Blair, Publisher) by Stuart Dill, *Vertical* (sequel to *Sideways*, from Loose Gravel Press), by Rex Pickett, and *We Were Stardust* (Bucket List Books), by Kathrin King Segal. IPPY Awards also went to six mouth-watering cookbooks, one of which is *Off the Menu: Staff Meals from America's Top Restaurants* (Welcome Books) and five intimate biographies, one being *House of Cash: The Legacies of My Father, Johnny Cash* (Insight Editions), by John Carter Cash.

So many books, such a perfect time...to start reading an IPPY Award-winning book today!

The IPPY Awards are presented by [IndependentPublisher.com](http://IndependentPublisher.com), "THE Voice of Independent Publishing" operated by publishing services firm Jenkins Group of Traverse City, Michigan. Members of the media are invited to attend the IPPY Awards celebration on Monday night before BookExpo America.

For more details about the Awards, to attend the event, or to interview recipients, please contact:

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