

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An Alabama student built a statewide magazine for young writers, with *Big Fish* author Daniel Wallace as its first guest judge

Longleaf, a new independent literary magazine for Alabama student writers, is now accepting submissions for its debut issue, with novelist Daniel Wallace, the Birmingham-born author of *Big Fish*, serving as guest judge.

Longleaf was founded by Lily Shah, a high school student who wanted to give young Alabama writers a serious place to be published as contests and journals for student work have grown scarce. The magazine is free to enter, free to read, and open to students across the state in grades 9 through college.

The debut issue will publish work in poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and cover art, and will offer more than \$1,000 in awards to student writers and artists, including a \$500 Longleaf Prize for the best work in the issue and \$150 in each category. Every selected writer is published in the issue.

"So much strong writing by students in this state never finds a home," said Lily Shah, Longleaf's founding editor. "I wanted to build one, a place where young Alabama writers are read closely and taken seriously. Having Daniel Wallace read this first issue means the world to me, and to everyone who submits."

Submissions are open now through August 30 at readlongleaf.org. Work is read blind by the magazine's editorial team, and Daniel Wallace selects the winners. The debut issue launches September 26.

Daniel Wallace is the author of six novels, including *Big Fish* (1998), later adapted into a film and a Broadway musical. A Birmingham native, he received the Harper Lee Award in 2019 for a lifetime of contribution to Alabama letters.

ABOUT LONGLEAF

Longleaf is an independent, volunteer-run, digital-first literary magazine publishing new writing and art by Alabama students in grades 9 through college. It is free to enter and free to read. Learn more at readlongleaf.org.

MEDIA CONTACT

Lily Shah, Founding Editor

hello@readlongleaf.org

readlongleaf.org · Instagram and Facebook @readlongleaf