

Series named after college head

Kalamalka Press launches James Hamilton book series

Morning Star Staff Dec 16 A24

The award-winning Kalamalka Press has taken yet another step in its evolving commitment to supporting Canadian writers with the launch of a new book series inspired and supported by one of its directors.

The James Hamilton Series made its debut in the fall with the release of the new novel, *Baptism By Mud*, by Rod Schumacher.

The series' title acknowledges the long-standing support from Jim Hamilton, a former English instructor and now president of Okanagan College.

"We want to recognize the

contributions that Jim has made to the publishing culture in the Okanagan Valley, especially through his lengthy involvement in the operations of Kalamalka Press, and his ongoing support of those operations," said the Okanagan College's regional dean John Lent, also a co-founder of Kalamalka Press.

Hamilton says the creation of the series came as a surprise.

While he and his wife, Liz, provided funding to support the press, he never imagined it would inspire a series in his name.

"I've been firmly committed to the good work of the working writers program for many years now," said Hamilton. "I am honoured that they would name a series after me."

"We intend to publish a unique book once a year from an author who is doing something

new in writing," added Lent, who said Schumacher's book sets the perfect tone.

"It's an experimental novel that explores the landscape of wilderness as it also explores the wilderness of consciousness."

Schumacher first dipped his ink in the writing well as a mature student at Okanagan College's Salmon Arm centre.

His work has since been short-listed for book awards in Alberta, where he is chair of the English department at Red Deer College.

Kalamalka Press' winning books have been short-listed and nominated for numerous regional and national awards, including the Pat Lowther Award.

The press has also been instrumental in launching the significant careers of writers Karen Connelly, Nancy Holmes, Sue Wheeler and Dona Sturmanis.