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Duke University Press Publishes Danny Wilcox Frazier's
Driftless: Photographs from Iowa

New Book is Third Winner of The Center for Documentary Studies/Honickman Foundation
First Book Prize in Photography

The new winner of biennial Center for Documentary Studies/Honickman First Book Prize in Photography, Danny Wilcox Frazier's *Driftless: Photographs from Iowa* (November 8, 2007), is a fitting follow-up to 2003's much-heralded *On Fire* by Larry Schwarm and 2005's compelling *The Weather and a Place to Live* by Steve Smith.

The 2007 competition was judged by Robert Frank, one of America's preeminent photographers. In choosing Frazier's poetic and dark photographs of Iowa, he hearkens back to his own most famous work, *The Americans*.

In *Driftless*, Danny Wilcox Frazier's dramatic black-and-white photographs portray a changing Midwest of vanishing towns and transformed landscapes. As rural economies fail, people, resources, and services are migrating to the coasts and cities, as though the heart of America were being emptied. Frazier's arresting photographs take us into Iowa's abandoned places and illuminate the lives of those people who stay behind and continue to live there: young people at leisure, fishermen on the Mississippi, veterans on Memorial Day, Amish women playing cards, as well as more recent arrivals: Lubavitcher Hasidic Jews at prayer, Latinos at work in the fields. Frazier's camera finds these newcomers while it also captures activities that seemingly have gone on forever: harvesting and hunting, celebrating and socializing, praying and surviving.

This collection of photographs is a portrait of contemporary rural Iowa, but it is also more than that. It shows what is happening in many rural and out-of-the-way communities all over the United States, where people find ways to get by in the wake of closing factories and the demise of family farms. Taken by a true insider who has lived in Iowa his entire life, Frazier's photographs are rich in emotion and give expression to the hopes and desires of the people who remain, whose needs and wants are complicated by the economic realities remaking rural America.

Frazier is a freelance photographer. Raised in Le Claire, a small Iowa town that sits along the Mississippi River, he now lives in Iowa City. He is currently photographing 2008 presidential candidates as they stump in his state in advance of the upcoming caucuses. Frazier has a master's degree from the University of Iowa, and he has received awards from the University of Missouri's Pictures of the Year International, including its 2004 Community Awareness

Award for selections of his work from Iowa. He has also received a Stanley Fellowship, as well as awards from the National Press Photographers Association and the Society of Professional Journalists. His images have appeared in such publications as the *New York Times*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Mother Jones*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Life*, and *Forbes*.

DRIFTLESS

Photographs from Iowa

by Danny Wilcox Frazier

with a foreword by Robert Frank

Images from the book are available for use in reviews or feature articles. Please visit
<http://cds.aas.duke.edu/press/fbp/frazier/index.html>

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