

Hummingbirds

BY LUKE MANNING ('11)

That spring my grandmother hung
the feeders out above the porch,
plastic flowers shining like
saliva-wet cinnamon candy,
their glass cylinders full of thick sugarwater.

The next afternoon the hummingbirds came,
a mass of them, their feathers a spectrum
of sunlit corundum, from rubies to emeralds
to sapphires. They flitted in an orgiastic
furor, their wings blinking, the long tendrils
of their snouts entering and exiting the
tiny openings, engorging themselves.

A wind blew one of the feeders from the string,
it's shattered on the porch. All the hummingbirds
went at the quickly dissipating sweetness,
hovering above the pile of shining glass.

About the Poet Luke Manning ('11) of Woodbridge, Va., published his poem *Two Oceans* in the 2009 issue of *Gardy Loo*, the JMU student arts magazine. Manning is an English major and a creative writing minor and has his own show on WXJM Radio. He enjoys using the techniques of multiple voice and multiple characters in creating his poetry, and his favorite poets include Charles Simic, James Wright and Sharon Olds.

