



Story explores love and luck. . .

Johns' success soars

ACHS grad publishes award winning novel

By Kelly Holcomb

Icebergs resemble people, only 10 percent of themselves are revealed, underneath, the rest is hidden from the world.

This principal is the basis of a new novel, *Icebergs*, released April 4, written by Antioch Community High School graduate: Rebecca Johns.

Johns, class of 1989, was inspired to capture the real-life scenario of her grandfather's story about crashing in the wilderness in Labrador, 1944.

"The novel is an exploration of love and luck," replied Johns.

Her grandfather was hurled from the wreck into a drift of snow and was suffocating to death until friends heard him kicking the fuselage with his foot for help. They dragged him to safety when only 10 percent of him, his boots, was visible above the snow.

A recent letter, sent to former ACHS teachers, features her successes since high school.

She continued her education at the University of Missouri and received her master's degree of fine arts at the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Johns and her spouse currently reside in Iowa City, Iowa.

Her articles have appeared in *American Baby*, *Bride's*, *Cosmopolitan*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *Crain's Chicago Business*, *Fitness*, *Mademoiselle*, *Parents*, *Self*, *Seventeen*, and *Women's Day*.

Publications that she has worked for include: *LIFE*, *Highlights for Children*, and *Women's Day*.

After working for *Women's Day*, Johns went into free-

lance writing.

"The highest compliment I can give any piece of writing," says Johns, "is 'I wish I had written that.'"

Icebergs is John's first novel and has received the Michener-Copernicus Society of America Award.

Johns is continuing her writing career with a second novel.

"All the possibilities in the world are open

to you at the beginning of a new book," said Johns.

Johns states that it is hard for writers to expect any kind of success with a book.

"If someone enjoys reading my book, then I feel I've achieved the kind of success I'm after," replied Johns.

Johns affirms that her goals have not changed since she attended ACHS, they are simply to spend life doing what she loves the most: writing.

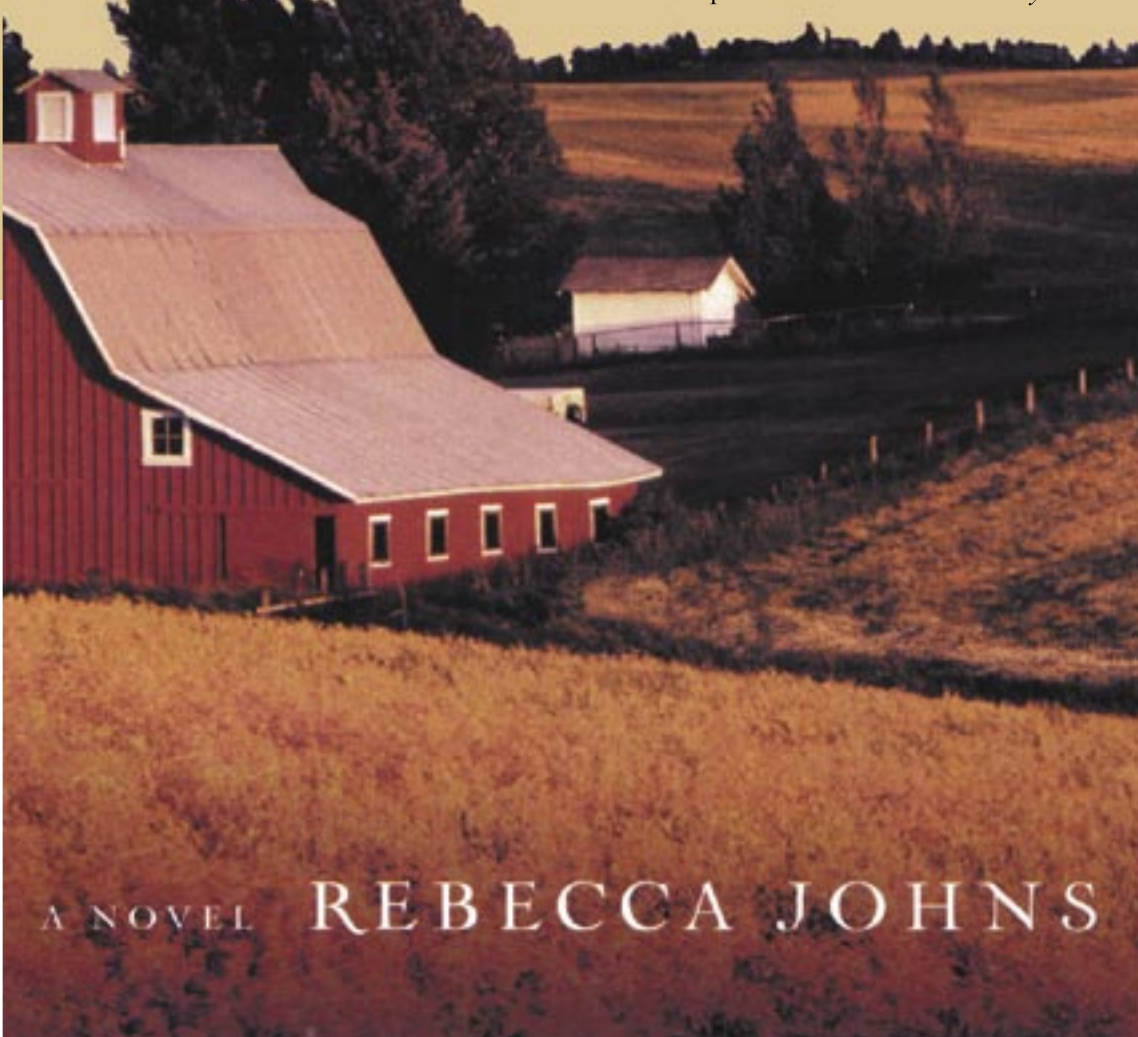
"She spent a lot of time attending to detail, she was more of a literary writer than journalistic," said Michael Gordy, her former ACHS journalism teacher and newspaper advisor.

Icebergs has gotten numerous positive appraisals. Some which include *Publishers Weekly*, *Library Journal*, and *Booklist*.

"With stark, lovely prose, Johns weaves a delicate tapestry of linked narratives, confirming that the paths not taken can be as significant as the ones taken," raved *Publishers Weekly*.



Photo by Jean Clough



A NOVEL REBECCA JOHNS

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