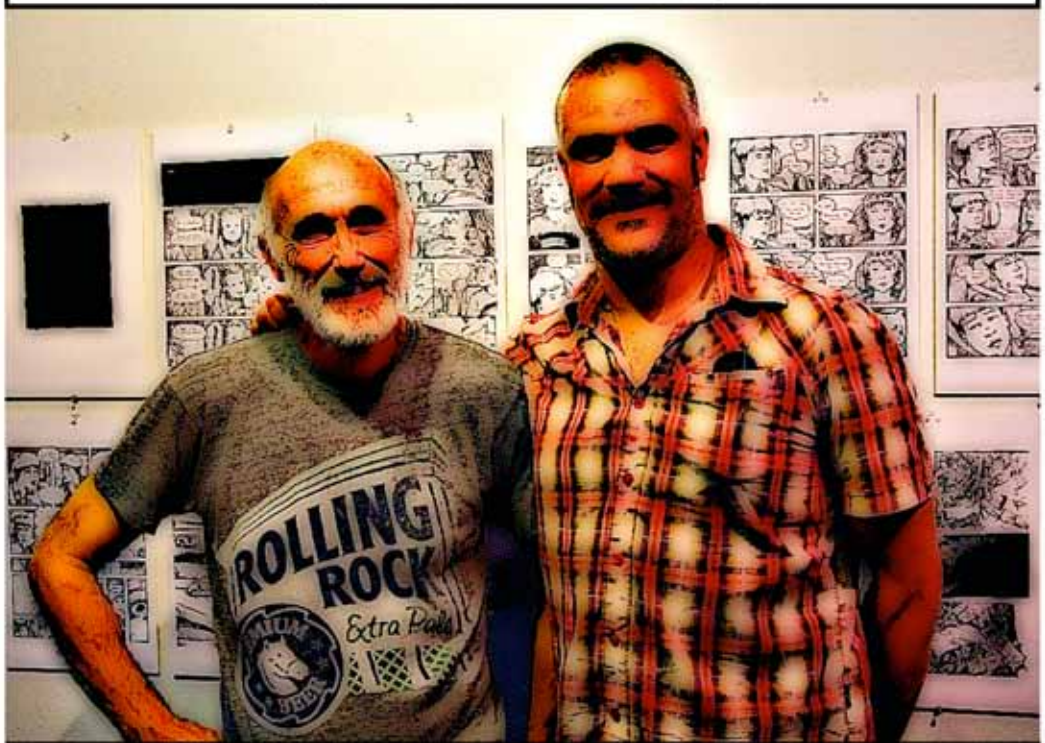


# UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON Creative Writing Program

## UH CREATIVE WRITING

THE NEXT 10 YEARS



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**2010-2011  
Edition**

[WWW.UH.EDU/CWP](http://WWW.UH.EDU/CWP)

***Honoring the Past  
Challenging the Present  
Shaping the Future***

*Every effort has been made to include faculty, students, and alumni news. Items not included will be published in the next edition.*





## From the Director...

In the past, I have used this column to celebrate some aspects of the program or to reflect upon an issue in graduate creative writing. This year I am announcing an initiative to secure our program's future as we address the longstanding problem of providing adequate financial support for our graduate students. For those of you who studied here this must come as welcome news. Inadequate funding is an issue we have struggled with for a long time, and we are determined to deal with this set of concerns. To this end we are inaugurating a fundraising campaign that will both provide immediate assistance to our students and lay the foundation for an endowment to supply them the support they need and merit. Equally important, this funding will insure our program competes for the best writers, and that we will not lose them to other schools for lack of financial support. Given the state of Texas' cuts to higher education, it is imperative we take decisive action to achieve a fiscal independence that will insure aesthetic and intellectual independence.

Our goals are simple. We want to: 1) create fellowships to augment the currently deficient teaching assistant salaries; and 2) create fellowships that allow students, especially those in the latter part of their graduate studies, to concentrate on their writing. We believe that these fellowships will address the problem of inadequate support, freeing our writers from the need to sacrifice a great deal of their time to earn money for food and rent so that they can focus on the priority that matters most: their writing and intellectual development. Already 100% our Creative Writing Faculty have contributed money to this initiative.

Now that we have finally completed the long process of hiring faculty, we are in a position to take an active role in determining the program's future. This year, we are looking critically at our curriculum and discussing how it can better serve our students as well as how the faculty can more directly provide intellectual guidance. I sense a strong confidence and optimism among the faculty. We are in one of those rare moments where we can effect serious change.

Several of you responded to our letter last year in which we began to formulate this campaign and we are deeply appreciative of your support. We invite and encourage all to join us as we help our students and invest in the program's future. If you are interested in contributing to our fundraising effort, you can either send a check to the UH Creative Writing Program, or go on-line to UH CLASS website, click on the tab labeled "Giving," click on the form for donations, go to the pull-down menu and click on creative writing. If you wish to get involved with or contribute to our efforts, please contact me. With your investment in our program, we will continue to educate the best young writers and provide intellectual leadership in the field of creative writing. I want to thank you in advance for your help.

As ever,  
j. Kastely,  
*Director*

## Program News

Can another year be starting already? The past year has gone so quickly. Students who it seems just got started in the program are graduated now. Time does indeed fly when you're having fun. We had another successful graduates' reception at Inprint House back in May and everyone enjoyed themselves. We always hope our alums will stay in touch and sometimes they actually do.

This year was relatively quiet in the Creative Writing Program. There was no faculty search and that's a good thing. We hope we can keep this very energetic and exciting group of faculty members for a long time. Kathy and j. were kept very busy during the application process in 2011. We had 356 student applicants to the program. That's the highest number of applicants we've ever had and we think it provided us with a stellar group of news students for the Fall 2011.

Sadly, Shatera Anderson left us in December 2010. With budget changes all over the UH campus, the Creative Writing Program's Office Coordinator position was eliminated. We still miss Shatera a lot and wish her all the best. She is a full time student at TSU and plans to graduate with a degree in Sociology this Fall. She's also still working on her singing career with gigs around Houston and Galveston as well as engagements in Chicago and New York City this year.

We're really proud of the successes of our students and alumni this year as you will see though out this newsletter. We wish the best of luck to everyone for a prosperous and satisfying year to come. Please keep us posted when wonderful things happen for you.

### Kathy Smathers

It's been a really busy year for Kathy. With Shatera's departure, it became clear very quickly just how valuable Shatera was. Taking on the additional Office Coordinator duties kept her on her toes. She's just thankful that j., the faculty and students were very patient during the transition. She learned everything she ever wants to know about the application process. With a bumper crop of applications she really missed Shatera's incredible organizational skills. Luckily, there were some great systems in place for processing and tracking the applications. Of course, there were also the other "duties as assigned" to learn and take care of.

Kathy was ready for the fall when the new students got in, the old students got back and the faculty returned. It's awfully quiet during the summer months and, although she's able to get lots of stuff done when it's quiet, she likes the hustle and bustle of the new semester.

Kathy's escape is still her place at Lake Livingston which she shares with her partner, her dog, Happy, and her cat, Dixie.

### Mike Doyle

Mike continues to help the Creative Writing Program where he can. In addition to working with the CWP, Mike is the Director of Communications for a church in north Houston. Among his more recent projects he worked with the Vienna Boys Choir, during their most recent U.S. tour. As always, Mike enjoys keeping up with CWP students and alumni.



Lauren Cobb, Mike Doyle, Lourdes Gomez & Sean Hill at Goode Co. Bbq.

## Remembering Marion Barthelme



In March of 2011, the CWP community lost Marion Knox Barthelme Fort after a long battle with cancer. Though she had no official title at UH, the program bears the

mark of years of her kindness. She was a tireless advocate, a generous patron, a mentor, and a friend to the program's students, faculty, and editors. She contributed to its ethos a sense of collaboration and possibility, and here, as elsewhere, she found solutions that gave others the freedom to live wholeheartedly and create fiercely.



Marion came to Houston in 1982 with her husband Donald when he began teaching in the CWP. Even after his death, she remained a force on the boards

of Inprint, which they both helped found, and at Gulf Coast, which he had. Over the years, she sponsored student scholarships and prizes, hosted readings and salons, and opened her home and hearth to artists in the community. Her deep appreciation for aesthetics and ideas was contagious.

Marion's delight in words showed in her affinity and skill for helping those who made them—and in her own writing, where her voice was as intelligent, incisive, and witty as she



was. After her BA in International Relations and French from the University of Wisconsin, Marion became a correspondent for *Time* magazine and freelanced for other publications, including *The New Yorker*. Her book, *Women in the Texas Populist Movement: Letters from the Southern Mercury*, was published after she



earned a History MA from Rice University. She studied throughout her life, reading voraciously, traveling, and attending seminars with the ongoing appetite of someone

wholly alive and curious. Together with her husband, Jeff Fort, Marion supported Houston arts for many years, serving with organizations including the Alley Theater, Menil Collection, Houston Seminar, and De Camera.

Marion was stunningly beautiful and vibrant. For decades, she shed her generous light among us. Houston will not be the same without her, though it will, for years, continue to shine a little from the lovely residue she cast over everyone she met.

- Sasha West

## Cynthia Woods Mitchell

### Center for the Arts

#### UH CWP Graphic Novel Course Celebrates Second Year

On May 13th, a packed crowd at Montrose's Joanna Gallery were treated to a literal look into the storytelling of UH students at "GRAPHIC CONTENT: Comics from The UH Graphic Novel Seminar 2010-2011." Showing the creations of two courses worth of comic book creations from UH, the walls were covered with work that spoke to the variety of styles and voices that develop at UH CWP.

The Graphic Novel Seminar combines close reading of some of the most prominent graphic novels published internationally today, along with an ongoing workshop of students own comic book manuscripts. With students from both the CWP and Art departments, the course allows for collaborative learning and development across mediums.

Participants produce two original scripts during the course of the term: one 8-page short story and one 22-page story or graphic novel excerpt. The shorter of the two scripts is illustrated over the course of the term, either by the students themselves or by an outside artist. The goal of the course is to teach students how to produce their own comic books, as well as allow participants to gain an understanding of the art of storytelling outside of their traditional genres and comfort zones

Led by CWP's **Mat Johnson**, a novelist who has also written three graphic novels, this year's show featured comics by Erica Ciesielski Chaikin, Shane Patrick Boyle, **Ashleigh Eisinger**, Ted Closson, Chuck Ivy, Jill Hogno (with Ashley Murray), **Whitney Mower** (with Jared Snow), **Andy Dimond** (with Cristina Tortarolo), James Roberts (with Mike Cavallaro), **Brandon White** (with Dean Haspiel), and **Jonathan Niles-Gill** (with Joe Infurnari).

- Mat Johnson



## Inprint Houston

Inprint, Houston's leading literary arts nonprofit organization whose mission to inspire readers and writers, is excited to once again partner with the UH Creative Writing Program.

In 2011-2012, Inprint provided \$136,000 in direct support to the UH Creative Writing Program. This consisted of \$85,000 in recruiting fellowships (including Anderson, Brown, Cambor, Elkins, Fondren, Jones, and Zilkha Fellowships); \$5,000 in support for international and out-of-state students; \$35,000 in juried prizes (including Alexander, Barthelme, Sussman, and Verlaine Prizes); and \$11,000 in support of Gulf Coast: A Journal of Literature and Fine Art. In April, Inprint will host a reading by the prize winners, to which all Creative Writing Program students and faculty will be invited.

The Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series, presented in association with the UH Creative Writing Program, celebrates its 31th anniversary season in 2011-2012 and features an internationally acclaimed roster of authors. Readings take place at 7:30 pm in downtown Houston, with one reading held on the University of Houston campus at the Moores Opera House.

*The 2011-2012 Series includes:*

**Francisco Goldman** and **Nicole Krauss**, Monday, September 19, 2011, Cullen Theater, Wortham Center, 501 Texas Avenue—Francisco Goldman's first novel, *The Long Night of White Chickens*, was awarded the Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction and was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award. His nonfiction book *The Art of Political Murder*

was a New York Times Notable Book of 2007. He read from his acclaimed new book, *Say Her Name*.

In 2010, The New Yorker named Nicole Krauss one of the 20 best writers under 40. Her novel, *The History of Love*, became an international bestseller, won France's Prix du Meilleur Livre Étranger, and was named #1 book of the year by Amazon.com. Krauss read from her latest novel, *Great House*, a 2010 National Book Award finalist.

**Michael Ondaatje**, Monday, October 10, 2011, Moores Opera House, University of Houston, Entrance #16—Michael Ondaatje is the author of five novels, including the Booker Prize winning *The English Patient*. He is also the author of a memoir, *Running in the Family*, and 11 books of poetry. Ondaatje read from his much anticipated new novel, *The Cat's Table*, released in October 2011.

**Jeffrey Eugenides**, Wednesday, October 26, 2011, Cullen Theater, Wortham Center, 501 Texas Avenue—Jeffrey Eugenides received rave reviews in 1993 for his first novel *The Virgin Suicides* which became an international bestseller and was made into a feature film by Sophia Coppola. A decade later, Eugenides won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for his blockbuster novel *Middlesex*, a three-generation family saga centered around a hermaphrodite of Greek descent. He came to Houston to read from his highly anticipated third novel, *The Marriage Plot*, which came out in October 2011.

**Margaret Atwood**, Monday, January 23, 2012, Cullen Theater, Wortham Center, 501 Texas Avenue—Margaret Atwood, one of the world's most celebrated writers and the author of more than 40 books,

has been writing for five decades and is internationally renowned as a novelist, poet, literary critic, essayist, and environmental activist. Her tenth novel, *The Blind Assassin*, won the 2000 Man Booker Prize—a prize for which she has received five nominations. She read from her most recent novel, *The Year of the Flood*, the sequel to *Oryx and Crake* in the MaddAddam trilogy.

**Rae Armantrout** and **Christian Wiman**, Monday, February 27, 2012, Neuhaus Stage, Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Avenue—Rae Armantrout is the author of 11 poetry collections and one of the founding members of the West Coast group of "language" poets. She won the 2010 Pulitzer Prize in poetry, as well as the 2009 National Book Critics Circle Award, for her book *Versed*. Her most recent collection, *Money Shot*, explores how deeply our everyday experiences are embedded in capitalism.

Since 2003, Christian Wiman has been the sometimes controversial editor of Poetry, the oldest and most prestigious American poetry magazine. Born and raised in West Texas, Wiman has lived in England, Mexico, Guatemala, and the Czech Republic. His first collection, *The Long Home*, received the Nicholas Roerich Poetry Prize. Wiman will read from his latest collection, *Every Riven Thing*.

**Téa Obrecht** and **Gary Shteyngart**, Monday, March 26, 2012, Cullen Theater, Wortham Center, 501 Texas Avenue—Téa Obrecht became an overnight literary sensation in spring 2011 when her debut novel, *The Tiger's Wife*, became a New York Times bestseller. The book received the 2011 Orange Prize, making Obrecht the youngest writer to receive England's highest award for a female novelist. Born

in 1985 in the former Yugoslavia, Obrecht and her family immigrated to the United States in 1997. Colum McCann calls her “the most thrilling literary discovery in years.”

Gary Shteyngart was born in Leningrad in 1972 and came to the United States seven years later. His first novel, *The Russian Debutante's Handbook*, won the National Jewish Book Award for Fiction and was listed as a New York Times Notable Book. His second novel *Absurdistan* was named one of the 10 Best Books of the Year by The New York Times Book Review and Time magazine. He will read from his most recent novel, *Super Sad True Love Story*, which was an instant New York Times bestseller.

**W. S. Merwin**, Monday, April 23, 2012, Hubbard Stage, Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Avenue—W. S. Merwin is currently the 17th U. S. Poet Laureate. During the last half century, he has written more than 20 collections of poetry, nearly as many books of translations, and numerous prose works, and has won every major literary prize. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1971 for *The Carrier of Ladders* and won it again for *The Shadow of Sirius* in 2009, for which he also received the National Book Award. Merwin lives in Hawaii, where he cultivates endangered palm trees.

Five of the writers—Francisco Goldman, Michael Ondaatje, Rae Armantrout, Christian Wiman, and W. S. Merwin—will give craft talks on the UH campus in the Honors College for graduate students in the UH Creative Writing Program and others interested in contemporary literature and poetry. For more details on the Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series and other Inprint programs, visit [www.inprintheouston.org](http://www.inprintheouston.org).

## Poison Pen

The Poison Pen Reading Series celebrated its fifth year featuring nationally-established writers together with local talent and UH Creative Writing graduate students, all on the raucous back porch of Poison Girl Lounge at 1641 Westheimer. Readers this year included **Antonya Nelson**, David Eagleman, Deb Olin Unferth, Matthew Zapruder, Susan Wood, Gwendolyn Zapeda, Maggie Nelson, **David Maclean** (Ph.D., 2009), **Eric Ekstrand** (M.F.A., 2010), Rick Barot, Neela Vaswani, Amanda Eyre Ward, **Mat Johnson**, and Catastrophic Theater's Troy Schulze. Some of the UH graduate students who read included **Ryler Dustin** (M.F.A., Poetry) and **Becca Wadlinger** (Ph.D., Poetry), as well as the whole editorial board of Gulf Coast Literary Journal in November. Poison Pen also sponsored a benefit for poet Dean Young's heart transplant surgery featuring numerous writers, including **Robert Boswell** and **Tony Hoagland**, reading their favorite Dean Young poems.

In 2011, the Poison Pen team (comprised of Poison Girl co-owner Scott Repass, UH Creative Writing faculty member Mat Johnson, and UH Creative Writing graduates **Casey Fleming** (M.F.A., 2007), David Maclean, and **Greg Oaks** (Ph.D., 2001) implemented the first ever Poison Pen Audio Contest, “the Mud and the Blood and the Beer,” whereby writers were invited to submit recordings of themselves reading from their own work. The winner received \$500 and was one of the featured writers for September's 5th anniversary reading. We were also proud to welcome two UH undergraduate interns, Tiffany Thor and Steven Simeone, who, after enduring the necessary initiatory hazing and public ribbing, have proven themselves

dogged in their work ethic and are in the process of designing our new Poison Pen website.

We are currently in the process of putting together a Poison Pen offsite reading for 2012's AWP in Chicago. Check our Facebook page and our website ([www.poisonpenreading-series.com](http://www.poisonpenreading-series.com)) for location, as well as for the announcement of the winner of the Poison Pen Audio Contest.





## Faculty News

**Robert Boswell** and Toni Nelson taught at the Taos Writers' Conference, and gave a reading for SOMOS at the Harwood Museum in Taos. They also worked on the old Post Office in their ghost town, Bonanza (see photo below).



2010 was a year of translations for **Chitra Divakaruni**, whose books appeared in translation in the following countries:

*One Amazing Thing*- Spain, Turkey, Poland, France, *Mistress of Spices*- Czech, Russia, Bulgaria, *Sister of My Heart* and *Palace of Illusions*- Russia.

Divakaruni was awarded a Light of India literary award in March 2011. (The other one went to Salman Rushdie).

Her latest novel, *One Amazing Thing*, was picked for a number of "best books of 2010" lists and was chosen as the 2011 book for Gulf Coast Reads, the One Region One Book program for Houston and several nearby areas.

In January of 2011, she was invited to read at the Jaipur Literature Festival in India, a mega-fest that attracted 60,000 attendees. In addition to hobnobbing with the likes of J.M. Coetzee and Kiran Desai, she got to ride her very first camel.



In early 2011 **Nick Flynn's** latest collection of poems appeared, *The Captain Asks for a Show of Hands*, and filming began on "Being Flynn", an adaptation of his memoir *Another Bullshit Night in Suck City*. The film stars Robert De Niro, Julianne Moore, Paul Dano, and Lili Taylor.



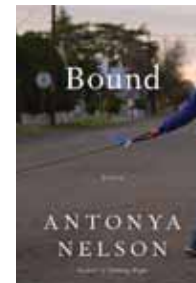
**Tony Hoagland** has had feverish, controversial essays appearing or forthcoming in the *AWP Writer's Chronicle* and *American Poetry Review*. His latest book, *Unincorporated Persons of the Late Honda Dynasty*, was an American Library Association Notable Book, and a finalist on many prize lists. In October he was part of the Poetry Foundation's TED talks in Chicago. Meanwhile, he is working on lyrics for a musical about the Bernard Maddoff Affair.

**Mat Johnson** published his third novel, *Pym*, in March 2011. After garnering starred reviews from *Publisher's Weekly* and *Kirkus*, *Pym* received generous coverage from a variety of media outlets, including *The New York Times*, NPR's "Fresh Air", *The Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. The audio version of the work was released in June.



**Ange Mlinko** was a featured reader at the Poetry Foundation's open house in late June celebrating their new building. She read in the company of Billy Collins, Atsuro Riley, Kay Ryan, Robert Hass, Jack Prelutsky, Elizabeth Alexander and others. She led a Q&A with Kay Ryan in April at the Alley Theatre for Inprint and was a featured poet in *Lyric Nation*, the new audio poetry website for *The Nation*. New work has been published in *Poetry* magazine and on the *Boston Review* website. Ange continues to write her column, "Lingo" for *The Nation*.

A paperback version of **Antonya Nelson's** novel *Bound* came out in the fall (Bloomsbury). The novel won a Kansas Library Book of the Year Award, and was also a Notable Book for 2010 from *The New York Times*. Short stories appeared in the anthology, *Best of the West*, in 2010 and 2011.



**Alex Parsons** finished his novel, *El Repoman*, and spent the summer teaching at the Warren Wilson MFA Program. His essay on the use of physical setting in *Blood Meridian* was published in the *AWP Writer's Chronicle* and the anthology *A Kite In the Wind*, edited by Peter Turchi and Andrea Barrett. In a bid to populate the world one writer at a time, he fielded the sudden arrival of **Lila Renee Parsons**, born March 15 in a remarkably quick labor Lila's mom, **Aimee**, attributes to a last-minute, extra large Snickers bar. Since then his two-year-old, **Viv**, has been kenneled so she can commit *Remembrance of Things Past* to memory while Lila focuses on her grammar



Lessons.  
 (Note: Lila's Black Sabbath onesie is a gift from our illustrious and much-missed graduate **David MacLean**, PhD, MFA, BMOC, etc etc).



sis and the Poet." Her most recent poems are forthcoming in Image. Martha edited *Improbable Worlds: An Anthology of Texas and Louisiana Poets* from Mutabilis Press.



**Kevin Prufer** had a new book out last year called *In a Beautiful Country* (Four Way Books). Another one -- his selected poems in German translation -- called *Wir Wollten Amerika Finden* (We Wanted to Find America), was just published by Luxbooks Verlag. The translators are Norbert Lange and Susanne Mewe. He is also still Editor-at-Large of Pleiades: A Journal of New Writing. And, of course, he says he's truly enjoying his new job at UH.



"Veins in the Gulf", a documentary about erosion in Louisiana and featuring poems by **Martha Serpas**, was screened in Houston in April. The event was sponsored by the Mitchell Center and Aurora Pictures, and drew a crowd of 120. The film has been shown in Chicago, New Orleans, elsewhere, and soon in Boston.



Martha was also awarded the Elizabeth Matchett Stover Award by Southwest Review, and she was the featured speaker at the University of St. Thomas's Sacred Arts Festival in St. Paul. As writer-in-residence at the low-residency MFA program of Seattle Pacific (home of Image: A Journal of the Arts and Religion), she gave a craft talk entitled, "Perichore-



# Student News

## Samuel Amadon

(Ph.D., Poetry) will have his second book, *The Hartford Book*, published by the Cleveland State University Poetry Center in March 2012. It was a finalist for their contest. His poem, "Tourism" has been accepted to appear in an upcoming issue of *The New Yorker*.



## Chuck Carlise's

(Ph.D., Poetry) chapbook, *A Broken Escalator Still Isn't the Stairs*, won the Concrete Wolf Press chapbook competition. It came out in fall 2011. He also had an essay in *Pleiades* and poems in *Southeast Review* and *Minnesota Review*. This summer Chuck taught at the Bold-face conference and WITS Summer Camp, and then headed to Paris to work on a book of poems that he's hoping to finish before he graduates in the spring. In May, Bateau Press announced that the winner of its 5th annual Boom Chapbook Contest is Chuck's *Casual Insomniac*.



**Liz Countryman** (Ph.D., Poetry) was named a finalist for the Poetry Society of America's Alice Fay Di Castagnola Prize for a manuscript in progress.

**Adam Day** (Ph.D., Poetry) was awarded the first ever PEN American Award for Best Emerging Writer in Poetry for 2011. Details about the awards can be found at [www.pen.org/page.php/prmID/2171](http://www.pen.org/page.php/prmID/2171).

**Will Donnelly** (Ph.D., Fiction) taught a workshop at Inprint and a film and journalism class for WonderWorks, a local non-profit organization that offers summer classes to local high school students. Also, a short story of his called "Coyotes" that was published in the Fall 2008 issue of the *Potomac Review* will soon be featured in the *Potomac Review's* "Best of the First Fifty Issues" issue.

On August 13th, **Danielle Dubois** (M.F.A., Fiction) married fellow CWPer **Andy Dimond** (M.F.A., Fiction) at Rice Chapel in Houston. Danielle is working at Brazos Bookstore and editing her thesis into a novel. Andy works part-time at Brazos and is hard at work on his own thesis. Also, he was involved this year with the Graphic Content art show for **Mat Johnson's** class.



Danielle Dubois & Andy Dimond

**Ashleigh Eisinger** (Ph.D., Fiction) tells us that she, **Eric Howerton** (Ph.D., Fiction), **Chris Webb** (Lit. MA, 2011) went to Milledgeville, GA, in April to participate in the Flannery O'Connor "Startling Figures" Conference at GCSU. While they were there, they visited Andalusia, Flannery O'Connor's home. The picture is of Chris and Eric in front of the main house where Flannery lived until her death in 1964 (and where she wrote many of her most famous stories).



**Laura Eve Engel's** (M.F.A., Poetry) work has recently appeared or is forthcoming from *Denver Quarterly*, *LIT*, *Cincinnati Review*, *Cream City Review* and elsewhere. In August, she relocated to the Midwest where she is the Jay C. and Ruth Halls Poetry Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Quincy Flowers** (Ph.D., Fiction) moved to New York this past summer and started a tenure track job in the fall at SUNY Orange. He says he was excited and surprised.

**Aja Gabel's** (Ph.D., Fiction) stories have appeared in the *Southeast Review*, *Bat City Review*, and the *South Carolina Review*, and a story of hers that previously appeared in the *New Ohio Review* was shortlisted as an honorable mention for the Pushcart Prize. An apocalyptic story she wrote in **Mat Johnson's** class won the fiction prize at *Phoebe* and was published there in September 2011. This past summer Aja taught at WonderWorks here in Houston and attended the Sewanee Writers Conference as a Tennessee Williams Scholar. She was also one of 21 students who received a stipend to help with costs to attend AWP in February 2011.

Before attending the University of Houston, **Joshua Gottlieb-Miller** (M.F.A., Poetry) was awarded fellowships to the Vermont Studio Center, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and the Bucknell Seminar for Younger Poets. In July of 2011, he attended the Sewanee Writers' Conference on a graduate student scholarship. His collaborative poems, with Maureen Alsop, have appeared in *The Burnside Review*, *Many Mountains Moving*, and *Inertia Magazine*. Other poems and reviews have appeared or are forthcoming in *The Laurel Review*, *Mare Nostrum* and *Gulf Coast*. He is a poetry editor for *Gulf Coast* (2011-2012)



**Janine Joseph** (Ph.D., Poetry) recently had work appear in Hayden's Ferry Review and Lantern Review, and has a poem forthcoming in the *Best New Poets 2011* anthology. This past year, she served on the "We Were All Poets in the 3rd Grade: What Happened?" panel for Writers in the Schools at AWP in D.C., as well as on the "Consumption: A Reading and Roundtable with Asian American Poets" panel at the Association for Asian American Studies Conference in New Orleans. Over the summer, Janine taught with WON-DERWORKS Houston. She also jumped out of a plane with fellow CWP-er, **Chuck Carlise**.



**Eric Kocher** (M.F.A., Poetry) was awarded the position of Writer-in-Residence at an organization called Hub Bub in South Carolina. He was there this summer and very much enjoyed it.

**Jameelah Lang's** (Ph.D., Non-fiction) mother is from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and her father is from Bridgeport, CT. She was raised in Kansas, although she has lived in and often visits the Middle East. Jameelah received her BA in English Literature and her MFA in Creative Writing, both from the Univ. of Kansas. In Lawrence, KS, Jameelah co-founded the Bathtub Kansas Writers' Collective, an initiative aimed at creating a more integral relationship between creative writing and community. During the third year of her MFA, Jameelah also served as the year-long Writer-in-Residence at HUB-BUB, a non-profit, grassroots arts organization based out of Spartanburg, SC. There, she interned for Hub City Press, a regional, sustainable

Southern press. At the University of Houston, Jameelah has received an Inprint Fellowship and a Mitchell Center Fellowship. She is an Assistant Editor of Non-fiction for Gulf Coast, and will serve as Non-fiction Editor beginning in the spring. She also works for Writers in the Schools.

**Meggie Monahan** (M.F.A., Poetry) had poems accepted by Cimarron Review, The Los Angeles Review, The Greensboro Review, Third Coast, NANO Fiction, and Chronogram this past year. She was also a finalist for a prose poetry contest with Sonora Review and read the poem on-air during an interview with Houston NPR. This year she served as Nonfiction Editor for Gulf Coast while periodically freaking out about having to write her thesis. Meggie's went to South Korea for Thanksgiving because she figured it was just bizarre enough to be fun.

**Kent Shaw** (Ph.D., Poetry) has had poems appear in The Believer, Boston Review, Memorious, Minnesota Review and Missouri Review Online. In fall of 2011, he started as an Assistant Professor at West Virginia State University. And in October, he wed poet **Carrie Oeding** in St. Louis.

**Rebecca Wadlinger** (Ph.D., Poetry) works as the managing editor of Gulf Coast and has poems and translations in Black Warrior Review, Field, Forklift Ohio, Kenyon Review, and Mid-American Review, among others. She was married this past fall in Marfa, TX.

**Dylan Walsh** (Ph.D., Fiction) and **Kate Megear** announced the birth of their daughter, **Guinevere Winifred Megear-Walsh**, born in Houston, January 11, 2010.



**Allyn West** (Ph.D., Non-fiction) had an article appear in the magazine Cite: The Architecture and Design Review of Houston. It appeared in Cite 84, Winter 2011, titled, "Timelessness is a Veneer: New Technologies and Management Transform Brochsteins."





# Graduates

Fall 2010

**Erin Boyd Namekawa**, M.F.A.,  
Fiction

**Anna Journey**, Ph.D., Poetry  
**Katy Miner**, Ph.D., Fiction

Spring 2011

**Danielle Dubois**, M.F.A, Fiction  
**Ryler Dustin**, M.F.A., Poetry  
**Laura Eve Engel**, M.F.A., Poetry  
**Adrienne Fisher**, M.F.A., Poetry  
**Colin Garretson**, M.F.A., Fiction  
**April Goldman**, M.F.A., Poetry  
**Manuel (Eddie) Gonzalez**, M.F.A.,

## Fiction

**Eric Kocher**, M.F.A, Poetry  
**Jonathan Niles-Gill**, M.F.A., Fiction  
**Briana Olson**, M.F.A., Fiction  
**Polina Slavcheva**, M.F.A., Poetry  
**Brandon White**, M.F.A., Fiction  
**Dane Wisher**, M.F.A., Fiction

**Farnoosh Fathi**, Ph.D., Poetry  
**Kent Shaw**, Ph.D., Poetry  
**Russel Swensen**, Ph.D., Poetry

## UH Alumni: Some ways to continue to be involved with the Creative Writing Program

### The Teaching of Creative Writing

A significant number of UH Creative Writing alumni have authored or edited books on the teaching of creative writing. We are interested in starting a collection of those texts specifically designed for creative writing courses. We would like to have them available in a special section of our program's library, so that both faculty and graduate students teaching creative writing would have access to them. We hope that this will lead to some of these texts being adopted for use in creative writing courses at UH and also that they will contribute to the ongoing discussions about the teaching of creative writing that are an important part of any vital program. So if you have authored or edited a text, please send us a copy, even if you have already sent us one. We feel that our alumni have a lot to contribute to the program, and we want their ideas to be a resource for faculty and current graduate students.

### Thoughts on Fundraising

Some of the best ideas on how to secure the future of the Creative Writing Program come from our alumni. We encourage you to send us your thoughts on possible approaches to raising the funds necessary to secure the Program's future. And we welcome any leads for fundraising that you might have. If you know of individuals or institutions that you think might have an interest in supporting our program, please send us their names and we will follow up and contact these leads. And if you would be willing to provide us an introduction to an individual or group who might be interested in helping the program, even better. We see our alumni as partners in the long-term effort to create a financial base that will allow the program to continue a tradition of excellence and to meet the future in innovative ways. We thank you for any help that you can provide in this effort.



*CWP Graduates - 2011*

## Writing Competitions

The University of Houston's Creative Writing Program is pleased to announce the writing awards winners for 2010 - 2011

INPRINT/  
JOAN & STANFORD ALEXANDER  
PRIZE FICTION  
**Edward Porter**

INPRINT/PAUL VERLAINE  
PRIZE IN POETRY  
**Ryler Dustin**

INPRINT/BARTHELME MEMORIAL  
FELLOWSHIPS IN FICTION  
**Adam Peterson**

INPRINT/ROBERT J. SUSSMAN  
PRIZE IN FICTION  
**Eddie Gonzalez**

INPRINT/BARTHELME MEMORIAL  
FELLOWSHIPS IN NON-FICTION  
**Kelly Moore**  
**Thea Lim**

INPRINT/LUCILLE JOY  
PRIZE IN POETRY  
**Samuel Amadon**

INPRINT/BARTHELME  
FELLOWSHIP IN POETRY  
**Rebecca Wadlinger**

BRAZOS BOOKSTORE /  
ACADEMY OF AMERICAN  
POETS PRIZE  
**Aja Gabel**

JUDGES  
**Rick Bass - Non-fiction**  
**C.J. Hribal - Fiction**  
**Adrian Blevins - Poetry**

## Incoming Students

### Fiction

**Claire Anderson**, M.F.A.  
B.A., Rice Univ.

**Thomas Calder**, M.F.A.  
B.A., Univ. of Florida

**Peter Kimani**, Ph.D.  
B.A., Univ. of South Africa  
M.A., City University London

**Dana Kroos**, Ph.D.  
B.A., Boston Univ.  
M.A., Purdue Univ.  
M.F.A., Rhode Island School of Design  
M.F.A., New Mexico State Univ.

**Talia Mailman**, M.F.A.  
B.A., Williams College  
M.M., Boston Univ.

**Tyson Morgan**, M.F.A.  
B.A., Macalester College

**Bradley Parrigin**, M.F.A.  
B.A., Univ. of Michigan  
J.D. and M.B.A., Wake Forest Univ.

**Sara Rolater**, M.F.A.  
B.A., Rice Univ.

**Daniel Wallace**, Ph.D.  
B.A., Taylor Univ.  
M.F.A., Columbia Univ.

**Elizabeth Winston**, M.F.A.  
B.A., Sarah Lawrence College

**Ashley Wurzbacher**, Ph.D.  
B.A., Allegheny College  
M.F.A., Eastern Washington Univ.

### Non-Fiction

**Dickson Lam**, M.F.A.  
B.A., Univ. of California-Berkeley  
M.A., Columbia Univ.  
M.A., Rutgers Univ.

**Sarah Allie Rowbottom**, Ph.D.  
B.A., New York Univ.  
M.F.A., California Institute of the Arts

## Poetry

**Layla Benitez-James**, M.F.A.  
B.A., Trinity Univ.

**Catherine Cosgrove**, Ph.D.  
B.A., Fairfield Univ.  
M.F.A., Sarah Lawrence College

**Patrick James**, M.F.A.  
B.M., Manhattan School of Music

**Jennifer Lowe**, Ph.D.  
B.A., Mount Holyoke College  
M.A., Univ. of Cambridge  
M.F.A., Arizona State Univ.

**Caitlin Maling**, M.F.A.  
B.A., Univ. of Melbourne  
MPhil., Univ. of Cambridge

**Olga Mexina-Bykova**, M.F.A.  
B.A., New York Univ.

**Michelle Oakes**, M.F.A.  
B.A., Univ. of Central Missouri

**Kellie Smith**, M.F.A.  
B.A., Univ. of North Texas

**Yerra Sugarman**, Ph.D.  
B.F.A., Concordia Univ.  
M.A., City College of New York  
M.F.A., Columbia Univ.

**Dara Weinberg**, Ph.D.  
B.A., Stanford Univ.  
M.A., Johns Hopkins Univ.



*Patrick James reading at the  
M.D. Anderson Library  
Poetry & Prose Reading Series*

## Gulf Coast

Ah, summer (March through October) in Houston. Air conditioners gently humming on the wind. Grackles chasing squirrels. Thin-hipped hipsters tossing Frisbees outside the Menil. Sighs of relief at an afternoon only in the low 90s. But even in the midst of a sweltering drought, there are ways to keep cool and only most of them are found at Specs.

The latest issue of Gulf Coast might stave off the heat prickles, or at least distract you for a while. This twenty-fifth anniversary issue has gotten a wonderful response from our readership so far, certainly in part because it is one of the most visually impressive issues yet. The cover is graced with the work of Houstonian artist Dario Robleto. Inside, a retrospective of twelve artists previously featured in the journal help celebrate our silver anniversary. There is also an eight-page spread with the work of Michael Bise, whose graphically-inspired drawings offer a narrative of striking imagery. In addition, this is the first issue to feature comics: Lydia Conklin's "Unhappy Animals" is a playful series of panels exploring the place where the animal kingdom meets existential exhaustion. Finally, the sometimes-steady hands of the Sketch Klubb, a local artist collective, illustrated the pages, turning the issue into a sort of post-modern and none-too-serious illuminated manuscript. Take that Billy Blake!

But it isn't all visual wonders. The issue also features fiction from Quintan Ana Wikswo, Jen Scott, and our Barthelme Prize for Short Prose winner and runners-up. We have nonfiction from Michael Parker, Sarah Gorham, and Gulf Coast co-founder Phillip Lopate. Poetry

comes from such talents as Aracelis Girmay, Yusef Komunyakaa, Dorthea Lasky, Anthony Madrid, D.A. Powell, and Andrew Zawacki.

The fourth annual Houston Indie Book Fair, co-organized with our friends at NanoFiction, and sponsored in part by the Council of Literary Magazines and Presses, took place on April 2nd and was the biggest one yet. Held again on the verdant grounds of the Menil Collection, an estimated 2,000 people showed up over the course of the day to peruse the offerings of more than 70 exhibitors. In addition to mainstay Houston organizations such as Inprint, Inc., the Houston Public Library, and Brazos and Kaboom bookstores, we also welcomed small publishers from as far away as Oregon and Michigan. Visitors also enjoyed readings from Ryan Call, **Hayan Charara** (Ph.D., 2010), Amelia Grey, **Sophie Rosenblum** (M.F.A., 2008), Ann Weisgarber, and Gwendolyn Zepeda.

Our Spring Issue Release event happened on April 29th, with a wonderful reading by short story writer Bret Anthony Johnston, whose works include the critically-lauded *Corpus Christi* and the collection of writing exercises *Naming the World: and Other Exercises for the Creative Writer*. This year's venue was the Glassell School at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston.

Our upcoming issue promises to be just as exciting as the last, with the winners of the 2011 Gulf Coast Prizes in Fiction, Nonfiction, and Poetry (judged by Frederick Reiken, John D'Agata, and Ilya Kaminsky, respectively). Our fiction line-up continues with stories from Michael Czynniejewski, Teresa Milbrodt, Ann Tashi Slater, and others. We'll have nonfiction from Lorraine Dean, Joe Bonomo, Chidelia Edochie,

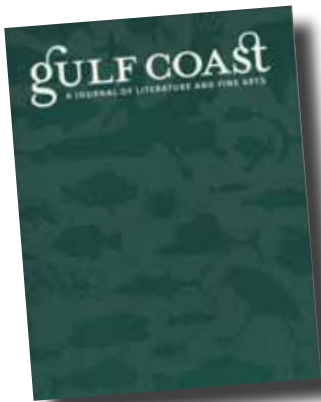
Stephaie Harrison, and more. Poetry will be coming from the likes of Graham Foust, Christopher Buckley, Elizabeth Arnold, Sherman Alexie, Alex Lemon, and Lily Brown. The issue will have an international side to it, with a section featuring work originally written in Arabic, Danish, French, and Spanish. Included also will be interviews with Icelandic poet Sjón and poet/translator Anna Moschovakis. We'll also have a special piece of nonfiction exploring the world of the writer-in-exile. All this will be joined by the visual art of Irish photographer Duncan Ganley and the paintings of the late Cy Twombly.

This upcoming year will see the exciting addition of new genre editors on the GC staff. On the poetry side, **Karyna McGlynn** (Ph.D., Poetry) and **Joshua Gottlieb-Miller** (M.F.A., Poetry) will be joining **Janine Joseph** (Ph.D., Poetry). In nonfiction, **Thea Lim** (M.F.A., Fiction) will be joined by **Meggie Monahan** (M.F.A., Poetry), while, in the Spring, **Jameelah Lang** (Ph.D., Non-fiction) will take Thea's spot. Finally, **Justine Post** (Ph.D., Poetry) will be taking over the Reviews and Interviews position. We know that all our new editors will do a fantastic job. And we'd like to say one more, big thank-you to our out-going editors **Sam Amadon** (Ph.D, Poetry), **Liz Countryman** (Ph.D., Poetry), **Laura-Eve Engel** (M.F.A., Poetry) and **Jessica Wilbanks** (M.F.A., Fiction), as well as Thea, all of whom have done such great work during their time on the journal.

We look forward to working with our new staff members, our returning editors, assistant editors, and readers, as well as with the incoming class of M.F.A. and Ph.D. students, all of whom will certainly make this next year a productive and positive one for the journal.



Subscriptions to Gulf Coast are available at \$28 for two years (a savings of \$12 off the cover price) and \$16 for one year (\$4 off the cover price). Send check or money order along with subscription address to: Gulf Coast, Department of English, University of Houston, Houston, TX 77204-3013. Or subscribe online. Check out [www.gulfcoastmag.org](http://www.gulfcoastmag.org).



## Glass Mountain

Glass Mountain, the undergraduate literary journal at the University of Houston, has gone national! The journal, managed by undergrads, is a wonderful opportunity to showcase outstanding works of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and art. Since 2006, Glass Mountain has explored the many voices of various genres and looks to keep the tradition alive with its second nationally published issue. Glass Mountain accepts submissions from undergraduate students across the nation, and encourages any and all undergrads to submit and take part in the writing community it represents. Everything from the journal itself, to the many live readings, to Boldface - the national writing conference for emerging writers sponsored by Glass Mountain - encourages the writing community to have pride in their work. Please inform emerging writers of this opportunity, and encourage them to submit! The submissions deadline is November 14th. Submission guidelines and contact information can be found at our website:

[www.glassmountainmag.com](http://www.glassmountainmag.com)

James Roberts  
Managing Editor, GM



## Boldface:

A Conference for Emerging Writers

Glass Mountain hosted their third annual Boldface conference from May 23-28, throughout the M.D. Anderson library. Boldface is one of the only conferences of its kind that caters to new and emerging writers, providing the opportunity to foster community, craft, and diligence. Organized by Glass Mountain and staffed entirely by graduate students from the UH Creative Writing Program, the conference consists of small workshops each with their own unique approach, craft talks given by graduate students and visiting faculty that help establish new ideas or reinforce old ones, and readings that immerse the conferees in the writing of their peers and mentors in ways that they wouldn't otherwise. The last day of the conference focuses on the professional aspect of writing, giving the conferees a look at the inner workings of the process of publishing, and applying to graduate school through the eyes of people who are involved in those fields.

This year's conference saw a great number of new faces, both in faculty (including CWP alums **David MacLean**, **Darin Ciccotelli** and **Aaron Reynolds**) and conferees, and fostered many strong relationships that have endured past the borders of the conference itself. Next year's Boldface conference is already locked in, be on the lookout for dates, tell your friends, and tell your friends to tell their friends, so that we can put on another successful conference for you. Check out [www.glassmountainmag.com](http://www.glassmountainmag.com) and [www.boldfaceconference.com](http://www.boldfaceconference.com) for more information.

Steven Simeone  
Co-Editor

# Alumni News



Charles Alcorn



Brian Barker

**Craig Beaven** (Ph.D., 2009) poems are out or forthcoming in [Green Mountain Review](#), [Rattle](#), [Poet Lore](#), [Copper Nickle](#), [River Styx](#) and others.

**Nicky Beer** (M.F.A., 2003) was awarded the 2011 Colorado Book Award for Poetry for her first book of poems, *The Diminishing House* (Carnegie Mellon, 2010).



Lauren Berry

**Heather Bigley** (M.F.A., 2003) graduated with her Ph.D. in English from the University of Florida in December 2010 after successfully completing and defending her dissertation, entitled "Cinematic Transcendence: Religious Women and Global Migration in the Historical Epic."

After his year as the Diane Middlebrook Poetry Fellow at the University of Wisconsin, they decided to keep **Sean Bishop** (M.F.A., 2010) around as the new Creative Writing Program Coordinator. He is office-neighbors (and neighbor-neighbors) with **Laura Eve Engel** (M.F.A., Poetry), who is the new Ruth Halls Poetry Fellow there in Madison.

**Ann Bogle's** (M.F.A., 1994) story collections, *Solzhenitsyn Jukebox* (2010) and *Country Without A Name* (2011), are published by Argotist Ebooks. Her recent work appeared at [fwriction](#): review, [Big City Lit](#), [Mad Hatters' Review](#), [October Babies](#), [Whale Sound](#), [Blip](#), [Thrice Fiction](#), [Wigleaf](#), [Wordgathering](#), and [Chant de la Sirene](#). She performed her stories at the French Broad Institute in Marshall, NC, and at Happy Ending Lounge in New York. "Un(en)titled" is her response to Claudia Rankine's Open Letter. Russell Bittner interviewed her at [Long Story Short's](#) Poet's Corner.

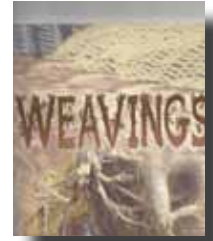


**Shannon Borg** (Ph.D., 1999) author of *Corset* (Cherry Grove Collections, 2006) and *Chefs on the Farm: Recipes and Inspiration from the Quillisascut Farm School for the Domestic Arts* (Mountaineers Books, 2008) is the café manager and wine buyer at the Doe Bay Resort and Retreat on Orcas Island in Washington's San Juan Islands (a great place to escape to a yurt or cabin and write!). She is the wine columnist for [Seattle](#) magazine, and is currently working on a book about sustainable winemaking in the Northwest and a memoir about kitchens.

**Matthew Boyleston** (Ph.D., 2008) was named Interim Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Humanities at Houston Baptist University. He has had poems published in [The Biologos Project](#), [Confrontation](#), [Transgressive Culture](#), [The Madison Review](#) and [Yemassee](#). Essays and reviews were published in [Religion and Arts](#) and [The City](#) and a book chapter in the *Blackwell Companion to Creative Writing*. His manuscript "Viewed from the Keel of the Ca-

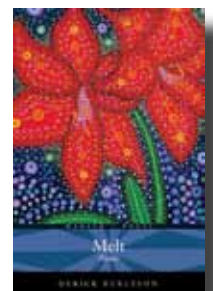
noe" (not published) was first runner up for the Melissa Lantis Gregory Poetry Prize and semi-finalist for the St. Lawrence Book Award.

**Mary Ellen Bran-**an (Ph.D., 1991) published her first book, *Weavings*, in November, 2010, as the 2010 winner of the Blue Light Press Book Award (San Francisco). In May, 2010, she had the highest number of winning poems in the Austin Poetry Society's annual contests. She now lives in Bastrop, where she is editor of the local Audubon chapter's newsletter. A section of ten poems in *Weavings* are inspired by her two years (1994-96) of teaching in Poland as a Peace Corps volunteer. Mary attended a special luncheon for writers at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 22, for returned Peace Corps volunteers (RPCV) who wrote about their experiences in the Peace Corps. *Weavings* will appear in a display at the Library, celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the P.C., and will be archived at the Library.



**Andrew Brininstool's** (M.F.A., 2008) work has appeared in [Green Mountain Review](#), [Hobart](#), [New South](#), [Quick Fiction](#) and [Best New American Voices 2010](#). He also received the Sherwood Anderson Fiction Award from [Mid-American Review](#) and the Editors' Prize from [/nor](#).

**Derick Burle-**son's (Ph.D., 2001) third book of poetry, *Melt*, is forthcoming from Marick Press. The cover is a painting by Derick!



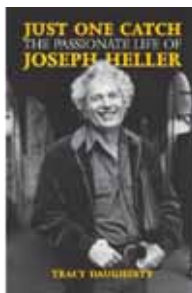
In the past year, **Laurie Ann Cedilnik** (M.F.A., 2010) has taught with Inprint and the UH Honors College, and published new fiction and nonfiction in [Colorado Review](#), [Cimarron Review](#), [The Rumpus](#), and [Brevity](#). She's a 2011 recipient of an Individual Artist Grant from the Houston Arts Alliance and an Assistant Fiction Editor for [Barrelhouse](#) magazine.

**Hayan Charara** (Ph.D., 2010) had poems appear in [Connotation Press](#), [Banipal](#) (UK) magazine of Modern Arab Literature, and in the inaugural issue of [Tongue: A Journal of Writing](#). An essay, "Going Places," appeared in [Witness](#) and in the anthology *Arab Detroit 9/11: Life in the Terror Decade* (Wayne State University Press, 2011). Along with poets Brian Turner and Eliza Griswold, he was a featured reader at the Vegas Valley Book Festival. This past Fall he began a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Poetry at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio.

**Anna (Stepanek) Cox** (Ph.D., 2003) has no publishing news recently--but wedding news! **Terry Cox** and she married on March 26th in Silverton, Oregon. Their wedding and engagement photos can be found on their website link: [www.coxmarriage.com](http://www.coxmarriage.com). She's sending out the manuscript for her second book, *Jerusalem, Jerusalem*, and working on a third.

### Tracy Daugherty

(Ph.D., 1985) told us that [Vanity Fair](#) magazine printed an excerpt of his new Joseph Heller biography, *Just One Catch*, in its August issue. This past summer, also, [The Paris Review's](#) on-line edition ran his short essay, "The Angel of



Forgetfulness," about the writing of biography and cultural history. [Booklist's](#) June issue included an interview with him. *Just One Catch* was released in August from St. Martin's Press. The fall issue of [The Writer's Chronicle](#) published his article on the future of creative writing as an academic discipline, "De-Programming the Program Era."

**Nancy Eimers'** (Ph.D., 1988) fourth poetry collection, *Oz*, was published by Carnegie-Mellon University Press in January 2011. She teaches Creative Writing at Western Michigan University and in the MFA Program at the Vermont College of Fine Arts.



Nancy Eimers



Landon Godfrey

**James Allen Hall** (Ph.D., 2006) was awarded a 2011 Fellowship in Poetry from the National Endowment for the Arts. He also received the George Garrett Award in New Writing from the Fellowship of Southern Writers. New poems appeared or will appear in [American Poetry Review](#), [Bloom](#), [Ninth Letter](#), and [New England Review](#).

**John Harvey** (Ph.D., 1998) continues to teach at the Honors College, where he is Artist in Residence and Director of the Creative Work Minor. In Spring 2011 he directed his third Dionysia festival play, his own original translation (in collaboration with Professor Richard Armstrong) of Aeschylus' "Agamemnon". In addition, his original play, "Under the Big Dark Sky", premieres this April-May through Mildred's Umbrella Theater Company. **Gabriela Maya** (Ph.D., 2005) also teaches at the Honors

College, as well as coordinating the Honors College Tutoring Program and the annual Dionysia student art exhibit. In the fall of 2010 her original short play, "Selkie", was produced as part of the Mildred's Umbrella Theater of Dysfunction Short Play Festival. Their son, **Demian**, entered 1st grade in the fall. He plans to become an ancient weapons specialist.

**Chris Haven** (Ph.D., 2001) had a story in [Huffington Post](#) and poems recently in or forthcoming in [Ascent](#), [Z calo Public Square](#), [Fugue](#), [DMQ](#), [Grist](#), [Knock](#), [Gargoyle](#), [Two Review](#), [Smartish Pace](#), [Meadowland Review](#) and [Linebreak](#), and [Juked](#) nominated his poem for the *Best New Poets* anthology. He also collaborated on a photography/poetry exhibit titled "Ghetto Heaven" for ArtPrize in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is founding editor of the journal [Wake: Great Lakes Thought & Culture](#).

Over the last year, **Lacy M. Johnson** (Ph.D., 2008) contracted with University of Iowa Press to publish her first book of nonfiction (forthcoming in 2012) and was awarded a Kansas Arts Commission Artist Innovation Grant to support her work on this project. She had poems accepted for publication at [Sentence](#), a poem published in [Nimrod](#), and her latest web-installation, "[white scraps like beacons]," appears in the current issue of [TriQuarterly Online](#). In November 2010, Lacy and her husband **Josh Okun** welcomed a son, **Owen William**. In May 2011, the family moved back to Houston, where Lacy is currently working on a children's book for her daughter, **Hazel**, and a second book of nonfiction.



**Claire Kagayama's** (Ph.D., 2004) second book, *Bear, Diamonds and Crane*, came out in October of 2011. She teaches a full load of classes at HCC, Central Campus. She's been teaching there full time since 2005. She has also donated her hair (11 inches) to create wigs for cancer patients. Her mother battled cancer and passed away June 2, 2009. She's been Claire's inspiration.



**Jason Koo's** (M.F.A., 2002) first book, *Man on Extremely Small Island*, won the 2010 Asian American Writers' Workshop Members' Choice Award for the best Asian American book of 2009. In the fall of 2010, he began serving as director of the graduate program in English at Lehman College of the City University of New York. His poems have recently appeared or are forthcoming in *The Missouri Review*, *The Journal*, *Diode*, *Octopus*, *La Petite Zine*, *Vinyl Poetry* and other journals. He now lives in Brooklyn Heights, just a few blocks from where Hart Crane used to live.



Jason Koo

**Brandon Lamson** (Ph.D., 2010) signed a contract to have his essay entitled "Orpheus Descending: Images of Psychic Descent in 'Hades' and Circe'" published in *Joyce Studies Annual 2010*. Brandon is a Houston Writing Fellow in the UH English Department.

In the spring of 2010, **Lance Larsen** (Ph.D., 1993) directed a theater study abroad program in London. His poems have recently appeared in *Poetry*, *Raritan*, *Orion*, *Ploughshares*, *River Styx*, *Prairie Schooner* and *New Poets of the American West*. He's at work now on a collection of personal essays, two of which are forthcoming in *Brevity* and *Southern Review*.

**Laura Lark** (M.A., 1989) says that everyone "may proceed to Hell's cafeteria with your plastic tray, as they are now serving snowballs." Her short fiction has been published in the on-line journal, *Intellectual Refuge*. You may read it at [www.intellectualrefuge.com/vol1/this-is-not-about-you](http://www.intellectualrefuge.com/vol1/this-is-not-about-you).

**Leah Lax** (M.F.A., 2004) tells us that since the last newsletter, she's published pieces in *Seven Hills Review*, *Survivor's Review*, and in the debut issue of [jewishfiction.net](http://jewishfiction.net). The short story in *Seven Hills Review* was a contest winner. Bright Sky Press has accepted her three year-old manuscript, "Not From Here: New Americans and Their Journeys", for publication. It's a collection of annotated personal stories of immigrants and refugees that live in Houston. Leah's excited about the e-book version, which they plan to design as an interactive multimedia book by using embedded hyperlinks. The book is a result of work she did for the Houston Grand Opera back in 2007 (there will also be links to clips of the opera she wrote for them) and HGO is very excited about the community outreach and educational possibilities. In addition, her agent is finally pleased with her (twelfth draft) memoir, now entitled "Uncovered", so let's hear it for selling the manuscript.

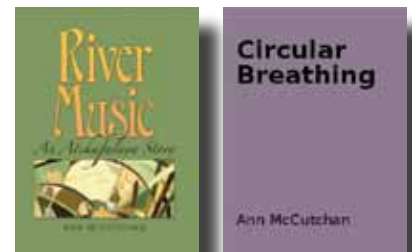
Leah says the best thing, of course, is having great friends and living in her quiet, quirky home with partner

**Susan**, their Airedale, **Magnolia** and terrier mutt **Charlie**, the Fluffy Biter.

**David MacLean** (Ph.D., 2009) won the first ever Pen American Award for Best Emerging Writer in Non-Fiction for 2011. He was nominated by Ladette Randolph at *Ploughshares*. The PEN Emerging Writers Awards were established to promote talented up-and-coming authors whose writing has been featured in distinguished literary journals across the country, but who have yet to publish book-length works.

**James May's** (M.F.A., 2007) poetry recently appeared in *Green Mountain Review*. He also had poems in *32 Poems*, *Grist*, *The New Ohio Review* and *The New Republic*.

**Ann McCutchan** (M.F.A., 1998) is happy to report she had two books out last year. *Circular Breathing: Meditations From a Musical Life* (Sunstone Press) was released April 25. *River Music: An Atchafalaya Story* (TAMU Press) came out August 15. She toured with both books in September and October. Her new website contains more information: [www.annmccutchan.com](http://www.annmccutchan.com). In addition, the New York Public Library has taken custody of her papers surrounding her first book, *Marcel Moyse: Voice of the Flute*. She says she briefly mourned their absence, but now appreciates the extra storage space in her attic. Ann is an associate professor of CW - creative nonfiction - at the Univ. of North Texas.

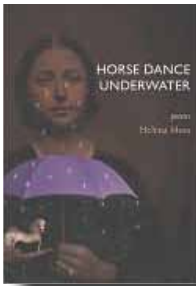


Ann McCutchan

**Marc McKee** (M.F.A., 2003) completed his Ph.D. at the University of Missouri. Over the past year, his poems have appeared in [Barn Owl Review](#), [Copper Nickel](#), [The Fiddleback](#), [Handsome](#), [The Minnesota Review](#), and [New South](#). He is the author of the 2008 New Michigan Press/DIAGRAM Chapbook Award-winning *What Apocalypse?*, and by the time you read this, his full-length debut *Fuse* will be out from Black Lawrence Press.



Marc McKee



Helena Mesa

**Kimberly Meyer** (Ph.D., 2008) has a long essay in a recent issue of [Ecotone](#) on the Holy City of the Wichitas, a replica of Jerusalem in the Wichita Mountains of Oklahoma, where the country's longest-running outdoor passion play is performed each Easter. This past summer, along with her oldest daughter, she retraced the pilgrimage path of Felix Fabri, a Dominican friar from Ulm, Germany, who traveled in 1483 to the Holy Land and Mount Sinai via Venice, the Dalmatian Coast, Greece, and Cyprus. She hopes to write about both her travels and Fabri's when she returns.

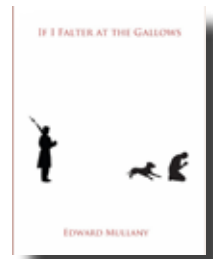
**Wayne Miller** (M.F.A., 2002) says he had a pretty big year. He married his long-time girlfriend/partner, **Jeanne Ouellette**, in November, 2010--"something of a self-imposed shotgun wedding since our daughter, **Harper Elyse Miller**, was born April 29, 2011, at Truman Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri." Wayne says that she's happy and healthy and growing like a weed. He also published *Tamura Ryuichi: On the Life & Work of a 20th Century Master*, co-edited with Takako Lento. This book is the second installment in the Unsung Masters Series, published by [Pleiades](#) Press and edited by **Kevin Prufer**, Phong Nguyen, and Wayne. Unsung Masters books focus on unjustly neglected or out-of-print writers and are distributed free to [Pleiades](#) magazine subscribers, as well as through Small Press Distribution. (The first volume, edited by D. A. Powell and Kevin Prufer was on Dunstan Thompson.) Finally, his third collection, *The City, Our City*, came out in the fall of 2011, from Milkweed Editions.



**Farnoosh Moshiri** (M.F.A., 2000) reports that 2012 will be a good year for her. Her new-old novel *Drum Tower* (maybe under a different name) will be published. This was her MFA thesis. She's also writing a libretto for the Houston Grand Opera for their East-West program. Farnoosh says that it's fun to use her playwriting skills. This opera will premier in March 2012.

**Oindrila Mukherjee** (Ph.D., 2009) joined the Writing department at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, as Assistant Professor, this past fall.

**Edward Mullany's** (M.F.A., 2007) book of poems, *If I Falter at the Gallows*, was published by Publishing Genius in October 2011.



**Chris Munde** (M.F.A., 2008) has been living in upstate New York this past year, and had poetry accepted at [Beloit Poetry Journal](#), [Cider Press Review](#), [Conte](#), [Georgetown Review](#), [The Hollins Critic](#), [Ozone Park Journal](#), [Packingtowntown Review](#) and [Tribeca Poetry Review](#). Also Chris was featured in [Beloit's](#) Poet's Forum online for April of 2011.

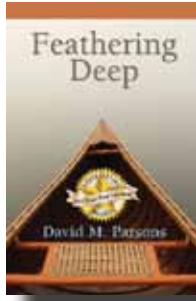
**Yvonne Murphy** (Ph.D., 2000) published a book of poems named *Aviaries*. It was a winner in the Carolina Wren Press Poetry Series Competition.



**Greg Oaks** (Ph.D., 2001) won the Faculty Excellence Award at Lonestar College and had a story published in [Camera Obscura](#). He continues, along with **Casey Fleming** (M.F.A., 2007), **Scott Repass**, **David Maclean** (Ph.D., 2009) and **Mat Johnson**, to run the Poison Pen Reading Series.

**David Parsons** (M.A., 1991) was named 2011 Texas State Poet Laureate by the Texas Commission on the Arts. He had poems published in [The Criterion](#), [Numinous](#), [The Texas Review](#), and [Concho River Review](#). He was asked to compose/read a poem at the dedication of

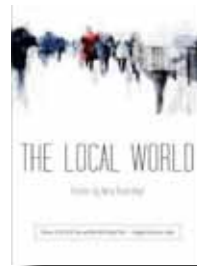
the Historic Texas Flag Park. The Friends of the Flag Foundation, Inc. (FOTFF@yahoo.com%3cFOTFF@yahoo.com) is selling copies of his poem, "Texian," in poster form with the 13 flags and statue for \$20.00 to raise money to maintain the park. Dave's new book, *Feathering Deep*, hit the streets in October. He's still co-sponsoring the Writers in Performance Series ( [www.literary-arts-council.org](http://www.literary-arts-council.org) ) with his treasured friend and fellow alum, **Cliff Hudder** (M.F.A., 1995).



been nominated to join the Board of Directors of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) so please vote!

**Sophie Rosenblum's** (M.F.A., 2008) manuscript, "City, Beach, Farm, Forest", was named a finalist for the James Jones Fellowship Contest from Wilkes University.

**Mira Rosenthal's** (M.F.A., 2005) debut volume of poetry, *The Local World*, won the Wick Poetry Prize and came out in Fall 2011. She worked on her doctoral dissertation, about the Polish poet Czeslaw Milosz, while relocating to California, where she is a Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford University. Mira's second book of poetry translations will be appearing in the Spring of 2012. You can find out more about her poetry, translations, and upcoming readings at [mirarosenthal.com](http://mirarosenthal.com).



**Emily Perez's** (M.F.A., 2006) chapbook, *Backyard Migration Route*, was published in fall 2011 by Finishing Line Press. She also had three poems in the summer



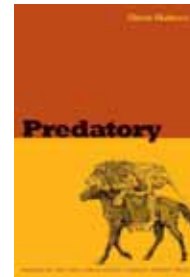
2011 issue of *Crab Orchard Review*. She is currently living in Seattle with her husband and one year old son.

**Ian Schimmel** (M.F.A., 2010) was named as a finalist for the *Chicago Tribune's* Nelson Algren Award.

**Patty Seyburn** (Ph.D., 2003) reports that her biggest publishing news of the last year is that her poem, "The Case for Free Will," which was published in *Arroyo Literary Review*, won a 2011 Pushcart Prize. Aside from that she's had poems recently in *Poetry*, *Boston Review*, *DIAGRAM*, *Hotel Amerika*, *Guernica*, *Green Mountain Review*, *Bellingham Review* and *Seattle Review*. Patty's books include *Hilarity*, *Mechanical Cluster*, and *Diasporadic*.

**Glenn Shaheen** (M.F.A., 2008) won the Univ. of Pittsburgh Press's 2010 Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize for his first book of poetry, *Preda-*

*tory*. His book was selected from over 700 entries by Ed Ochester, Pitt Poetry Series editor.



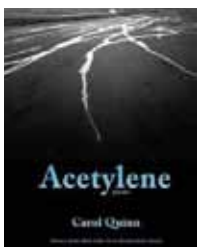
Glenn Shaheen



Eva Skrande

**Matthew Siegel** (M.F.A., 2009) finished the Wallace Stegner Fellowship in Poetry at Stanford in August. Last summer he taught creative writing with Stanford's summer program for gifted youth. Poems recently appear or are forthcoming in *Gigantic Sequins*, *Indiana Review*, *Lo-Ball*, *The Lumberyard*, *Mid-American Review*, *Ninth Letter*, and *Saw Mill Online*. He began sending out his manuscript, "Love Parade", this past summer. He still lives in San Francisco. Keep up with him at <http://matthewsiegel.us>.

**J.D. Smith's** (M.A., 1989) essay collection *Dowsing and Science: Essays* was published in June by Texas Review Press, which has been described in *The Huffington Post* as one of the United States' leading "15 Feisty Small Presses." The book is currently available from online sellers in North America, Europe, Oceania and Asia. The film adaptation of his play "Dig", produced at London's Old Red Lion Theatre in 2010, premiered on July 23 as part of Program 11 of the LA Shorts Fest. A summary is available at the following link: [http://lashortsfest.com/film\\_program\\_details.asp?programnumber=11](http://lashortsfest.com/film_program_details.asp?programnumber=11). J.D.'s



Carol Quinn



Robin Reagler

**Robin Reagler's** (Ph.D., 1995) chapbook *Dear Red Airplane* was published by Seven Kitchens Press in July 2011. Her blog "The Other Mother" ([theothermother.typepad.com](http://theothermother.typepad.com)) was named one of the Top 25 LGBT Blogs by Circle of Moms. She continues to enjoy her work with Writers in the Schools (WITS) and the national WITS Alliance. She has



third collection of poetry, *Labor Day at Venice Beach*, will be published in 2012 by Cherry Grove Collections, which in 2005 published his second collection, *Settling for Beauty*.

**Marilyn Stablein** (M.A., 1984) won the New Mexico Book Award and the New Mexico Press Women's Poetry Award for her recent book of poems *Splitting Hard Ground*. The book also won first place in poetry in the National Federation of Press Womens' annual book awards. She was also awarded a Richard Hugo House Literary Center grant for a Seattle performance and short listed for the Marie Alexander Prose Poem award. Recently she was Writer in Residence at Indiana University. A new limited edition artist book, *More Night Travels to Tibet*, will soon be released by a publisher in Kathmandu, Nepal. New work is forthcoming in the anthologies *Fixed and Free* and *Multiple Perspectives on Creating a Garden, a Life, Relationships and Community*. She also has stories forthcoming in *Gargoyle Magazine* and an essay and some of her Himalayan art work in *The Kyoto Journal*. (illustration below.) She's working with a publisher in London to release her "Ticketless Traveler" tales as an e-book.

An illustration of one of her Day of the Dead shrines, "Mi Abuelita" appears in *Raven Chronicles*. She exhibited her artist books at the Delaware Center for Contemporary Art and the University of Omaha. In fall of 2011 her work will be shown at Towson University, MD.



**Marilynn Talal** (Ph.D., 1993) had three poems published in *Miller's Pond* in January 2011, with two more forthcoming. She also has poems forthcoming in *The Oklahoma Review* and *Podium*. And, she was one of the featured readers in the 92nd Street Y (New York City) end-of-semester reading.



David Theis

**Robert Tinajero** (M.F.A., 2004) self-published a book of poetry last summer. The book, *Love Revolution*, is available on Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.com. Robert and his wife traveled to Puerto Rico in July to celebrate their 5-year wedding anniversary.



Robert Tinajero



Eric Miles Williamson

2010 saw the publication of **Eric Miles Williamson's** (M.F.A., 1991) fifth book, *14 Fictional Positions*, his sixth book, *Say It Hot: Essays on American Writers Living, Dying, and Dead*, and the French translation of his third novel, *Bienvenue a Oakland*. He was elected to his fourth 3-year term on the Board of Directors of the National Book Critics Circle, and is Chair of the Criticism Committee. He continues as Senior

Editor of *Boulevard*, Associate Editor of *American Book Review*, and Fiction Editor of *The Texas Review*. His monthly literary column, "Industrial Strength," appears in *The Industrial Worker*, the newspaper of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). Eric lives in the Rio Grande Valley.



Kate Schmidt, Landon Godfrey, Miah Arnold, Mike Theune and Carol Quinn

## Literary Calendar of Events

**February 27th:** *Inprint Reading Series* - Rae Armantrout & Christian Wiman

**March 9th:** *Gulf Coast Reading Series* - Kay Cosgrove, Corey Noll, Ashley Wurzbacher

**March 22nd:** *Lone Star College Reading Series:* Rick Bass

**March 26th:** *Inprint Reading Series* - Tea Obreht & Gary Shteyngart

**March 29th:** *Poison Pen Reading Series* Nicki Beer, Marc McKee

April 2nd: *Rice/UH Visiting Writers Series* David Shields (@Brazos Bookstore)

April 9th: *Rice/UH Visiting Writers Series* Ghassan Zaqtan

**April 13th:** *Gulf Coast Reading Series* - Zack Bean, Ian Stansel, Rebecca Wadlinger

**April 18th:** *M.D. Anderson Library Poetry & Prose Series* - Undergraduate Creative Writing students with work appearing in [Glass Mountain](#)

**April 19th:** *Lone Star College Reading Series* - Writers reading from *Improbable Worlds, An Anthology of Texas and Louisiana Poets*

**April 23rd:** *Inprint Reading Series* - W.S. Merwin

**April 26th:** *Poison Pen Reading Series* Lacy Johnson, Wayne Miller, Ronaldo Wilson

**May 10th:** *Lone Star College Reading Series* - Bruce Noll

**May 31st:** *Poison Pen Reading Series* Michael Robbins

**June 28th:** *Poison Pen Reading Series* Shannon Cain, Mark Dolan, Ed Porter



Students, faculty & friends of the CWP at Inprint House for the Spring 2011 Grad Party





**Fall 2012  
Application Deadline:  
December 15, 2011**

## **Faculty**

j. Kastely, *Director*  
Robert Boswell  
Chitra Divakaruni  
Nick Flynn  
Tony Hoagland  
Mat Johnson  
Kathleen Lee  
Ange Mlinko  
Antonya Nelson  
Alex Parsons  
Kevin Prufer  
Martha Serpas

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Margarett Root Brown**

### **Reading Series**

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Nicole Krauss/Carlos Fuentes  
Michael Ondaatje  
Jeffrey Eugenides  
Margaret Atwood  
Rae Armantrout  
Christian Wiman  
Tea Obrecht  
Gary Shteyngart  
W. S. Merwin

### **Selection of Awards**

#### **Recently Won by Students:**

*National Endowment for the Arts  
Fulbright Scholarship  
Iowa Poetry Prize  
2009 Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship  
Wallace Stegner Fellowship  
Diane Middlebrook Poetry Fellowship  
Potomac Review Fiction Contest  
Tobias Wolff Award for Fiction  
American Library Assoc. 2009 Top Ten Books for Young Adults  
Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Memorial Poetry Competition  
Ruth Lily Poetry Fellowship*

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