

The University of Houston
Creative Writing Program
2014 Newsletter

TIER ONE





John Roberts
Dean, CLASS

Wyman Herendeen
English Dept. Chair

j. Kastely
CWP Director

Kathy Smathers
Assistant Director

713.743.3015
cwp@uh.edu

WWW.UH.EDU/CWP



Inside

Program News.....Page 4

Students..... Page 8

Readings & Publications Page 11

Alumni News Page 15

With renowned faculty, excellent students, distinguished alumnae, and generous financial resources, the Program continues its 30 year tradition of offering an exhilarating creative and intellectual experience in Houston, Texas—the nation’s fourth largest and (we feel) most fascinating city.

*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...

I want to begin by thanking John McNamara for stepping in as acting Director for the year of my leave. As most of you know, it was John who, as English Department Chair, created this program and set in motion the productive conversation between literary scholars and creative writers. It was fitting, then, that he got the chance to direct the Program for a year. I knew that the Program could not be in better hands, and John skillfully guided it through the turbulence that is an essential part of any vital academic institution. So I thank him.

I also want to thank Kathy Smathers, who is retiring in July. It has been a great pleasure to work with Kathy, as she has brought order and professionalism to our administrative offices. Even more, Kathy embodied a courtesy and generosity that are all too rare. She genuinely cared that our program administration served both faculty and students, and she had a personal investment in the success of the students and in the continuing achievements of the faculty. One of the great gifts is to work with someone who is your friend, and I truly value the friendship of Kathy and will miss working with her on a daily basis.

I will also miss Ange Mlinko, who will be moving to the University of Florida. Ange is that rare person who is both creative writer and literary critic. She is also a wonderful colleague, and it will be difficult to find someone to replace her. We wish her all the best, and hope and intend to invite her back for special events.

I welcome Audrey Colombe, and her joining our faculty is a cause for serious celebration. Audrey will not only take over the faculty adviser position for Glass Mountain and Boldface but also begin to put in place undergraduate courses in journal editing and graduate courses in creative writing pedagogy. Her arrival on the faculty signals an important move forward, as the undergraduate concentration will now receive a sustained attention in a way that it never has before. This is a very exciting prospect.

It has been a year since my leave, and, as you might imagine, I feel very much back in the routine. But my leave was important. Being the Director is a bit like having an attention deficit condition. One never seems able to maintain a sustained focus on a project but rather is always dealing with the ever-changing immediate concerns. To have a year in which I could have sustained concentration on my work and on which I could operate in a more human time was a helpful reminder of how busy we all are and how easy it is for the demands of the present simply to squeeze out all other considerations. It is a pressure that we all feel, and my leave has made me resolve once again to resist that pressure and to see it as inimical with a serious writing life. It is never easy but we need to figure out how to make the time and psychic space that allows our intuitions to mature into original work. We need to relearn continually how to resist intellectual and creative fashion. To do this, the support of the writing community is essential. My return to the Directorship has reminded me of the importance that faculty and students to me in keeping my larger projects on track. So as another year begins, I enter it with the knowledge that we will again confront change but that we will not permit the pressing distractions that accompany change to cause us to lose sight of the larger and more important work that grounds our intellectual and creative lives. May we all thrive in the coming year.

as ever,

j.



From the Acting Director...

As I sit here in the office of the Creative Writing Program, I wonder how I got here. I'm serving this year as "acting" or "interim" director while j. Kastely, the regular director, has taken a year's leave to work on his book on Plato. He honored me by asking me to read his chapter on Book 10 of *The Republic*, and I must say that it is brilliant and destined to make us all rethink what we thought we thought about Plato. He also honored me by asking me to serve in his position for his year of thinking and writing, a year that is now coming to a close. So, I wonder not only how I got here, but how there even came to be a Creative Writing Program to get to. And those who know me will not be surprised if my wondering takes a historical turn.

When did the program begin? In 1976-77, when David Judkins, then the Director of Graduate Studies, got an NEH grant to bring in Helen Vendler as a consultant on our graduate program? With her recommendation that UH would only make a national mark by finding or creating a "niche" in the profession? With the retirement of senior professor of creative writing Sylvan Karchmer? With the conversation Terrell Dixon, the new Director of Graduate Studies, and I, as new department chair, had--asking whether we should simply replace Sylvan or think larger, creating that "niche" for ourselves by developing a whole new program in creative writing? Or with Terrell's research finding that there was no doctoral program for writers anywhere in our half of the country? Or with securing another grant that brought Cynthia MacDonald down from Hopkins to advise us on what such a program should look like? Or when Terrell, his two predecessors, and I spent a weekend in Galveston on "retreat" to clarify the goals and structure of both a master's and, especially, a doctoral program? Or when Terrell and I insisted, again and again, that this should be a degree in literature as well as creative writing, partly for academic reasons and partly because that was where the jobs were in an increasingly difficult marketplace? Or when Cynthia brought in Stanley Plumly to form a team to put our evolving conception into credible practice? Or when Cynthia used her contacts from Up East to inaugurate the program here with the PEN Conference in 1978--attended by over 400 people--that attracted the attention of *The New York Times*? Or with amazing organizational work by Terrell, while I worked to get administrative and financial support? Or with the admission of our first brilliant graduate creative writing class in Fall, 1979? Or with the success of Cynthia and Terrell (as new chair after me) in bringing Don Barthelme "home" to UH, thus cementing our national stature?

The rest, as the saying goes, is history. A history that has seen great writers, both teachers and students, flourish in Roy Cullen. But am I growing sentimental? Perhaps, but one point rises in my memory again and again. Even when there have been difficulties, it has been the students who have been most resourceful and effective. We faculty, however supportive, have not always been able to fix problems, notably when these involved salaries, benefits, and working conditions for TAs and TFs. Students to the rescue! From the "sick-outs" of 1981 to the "sit-ins" of 2013, there is another history, one that does not make it into official accounts. This is a history driven by the ethical strength of students, and their successes have benefited students across the university. Yes, the students in our program have proven quite able to make history. And it is being part of their history that makes it all worthwhile.

Cheerfully,

John McNamara

Program News

Graphic Novel Class

In the third incarnation of the Graphic Novel Seminar, Professor Mat Johnson and students from the Creative Writing Program and Arts Department collaborated in creating the first ever complete comic book of the term's class projects. The final product, a printed and bound pamphlet comic titled Tier One, is a major milestone in the evolution of the class, and will become a permanent component of the course going forward. In addition, the term also added the feature of using only local illustrators to bring student scripts to life, showcasing talent from the larger Houston community deserved of broader recognition.

Since its inception, the Graphic Novel Seminar has served to provide an opportunity for collaboration between the Writing Program and the Arts at the University of Houston, as well as offering exposure to a few selected undergraduate students to graduate level study. The course offers exposure to graphic form, practical experience creating within it, as well as an opportunity for writers to work outside their primary genre on issues of narrative, symbolism, and visual imagery. The first year of the class entailed a visit by comics' scholar Scott McLeod, as well as collaboration with nationally known visual artists. The second year brought the class's first off-campus show. With the addition of an actual comic book as the year's product, future students will be able to view directly past class accomplishments, and build on this for future endeavors.

The class show for the project took place Monday, May 6th, at the Joan-

na Gallery in the neighboring Third Ward, where students' illustrations and collaborations with local artists were hung on display. In addition, copies of issue #1 of Tier One comics were made available to visitors of from the larger Houston arts community.



Kathy Smathers

Well, here we are at the start of another year. Hopefully it will be as fun and successful as last year. Our students made us proud last year with their stand on financial issues and the faculty, as usual, stood behind the student 100%. What a time it was!

I personally want to thank John McNamara for his patience and hard work while he was with us. He had an overwhelming task and took it on with his eye always on success for our students, faculty and me.

I also want to thank Mike Doyle for his continuing work with us to get this newsletter out, get our ads into the publications and do the finishing work on our student roster. Not sure what I'd do without him. And, if anyone saw our new ad in The Writers Chronicle, Poets & Writers or

The American Poetry Review (it's also on the back of this newsletter), I just want you to know that the great new design was done by a group consisting of Mike, Becca Wadlinger (thanks Becca), j., the faculty and me.

Personally, I'm still spending my weeks in my one-butt apartment in the Heights and escaping to my home at Lake Livingston on the weekends. I have good friends there as well as my partner Marilee, Happy Dog and Dixie the cat. However, this will be my last newsletter as I plan to retire at the end of July. There are so many people to thank for my happy and successful times at UH. I want to thank the students, faculty, and my coworkers (past and present) for all your help and patience. I especially want to thank my BFF, coworker and cohort, Carol Barr, for getting me my first job on campus 19 years ago and sticking with me ever since. I also want to thank j. for making this job fun and rewarding for the past 12 years, John McNamara, Chair of the English Dept. at the time I was hired, and Wyman Herendeen for his support and patience the past few years. I would be remiss if I didn't also thank Lois Zamora and Paula Withers Clare (God rest her soul) for their help and guidance at the beginning.

Best wishes to you All.



Kathy & Marilee

The Sit-In

Of course, the biggest news of last year was the remarkable strike by Graduate Teaching Assistants and their supporters in April, and their successful effort to “lobby” for their first salary raise in twenty years. In a carefully orchestrated, courageous, and civil demonstration of organized protests, the GTAs staged a sit in at the office of University President Khator.

The demonstrations, which took place over the course of a week, received national attention, including an article in the Chronicle of Higher Education. Over one hundred GTAs and faculty physically took part in the action, which resulted in feverish meetings with the Dean, the Provost, and ultimately with the president herself. The result? GTA funding was increased by one million dollars a year, finally placing our graduate English programs on a par --in financial aid-- with many others. And the GTAs now have approximately a living wage.

In this action and its result, the graduate students themselves achieved what faculty had been unable to achieve in nearly a decade of serious efforts through administrative channels. In this brave and risky act of organized public protest, they proved that civil disobedience can still sometimes result in a kind of practical justice. Consequently, the quality of life of University of Houston graduate English students has been-- permanently-- vastly improved. The general spirit is one of jubilation.



Faculty News

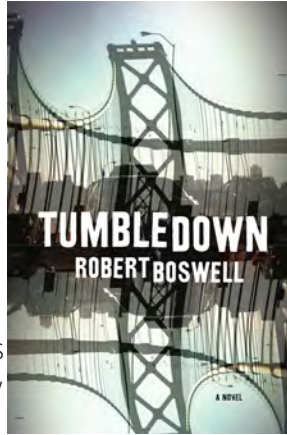
Robert Boswell's new novel, *Tumbledown*, came out in August, 2013. The first sentence of the Publishers Weekly starred review:

“This is a crowded, tender, and captivating novel, the experience of which brings to the fore how reading itself

can replenish our love of the imperfect beauty of humanity.” He read from the novel at several venues around the country. Other recent publications include “Some Something with Wings,” coming out in *Fugue*, “How I Met My Wife,” an essay on characterization just out in *Tin House*, and “The Long Shrift,” a play, which is debut off Broadway in 2014.

Boz and wife, **Antonya Nelson**, will be on faculty at the Taos Writers’ Conference and Breadloaf Writers’ Conference. He and **James McBride** launched the 2013 – 14 Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series and he will also launch the Fall 2013 La Sociedad reading series at New Mexico State Univ. In September he conducted a 3-hour creative writing class at the Lighthouse Writers Workshop in Denver and a Master-Teacher Weekend Workshop in Sacramento.

Chitra Divakaruni had two books published last year. The first, *Oleander Girl*, is a novel where a young woman leaves India for post 9/11 America in her attempt to unearth a family secret. (It was



published in the USA by Simon and Schuster, and in India by Penguin. Italian and German translations are forthcoming.)

The second book, *Grandma and the Great Gourd*, is a retelling of a Bengali folktale about a grandmother who must outwit a series of dangerous animals in order to make her way through a forest. Chitra’s previous novel, *One Amazing Thing*, (a Gulf Coast Reads choice) has been picked as a campus-wide read for several universities, including California State Univ., Northridge, California State Univ., Sacramento, Maryville Univ., St. Louis, and Oklahoma City Univ. Her short story “Word of Love,” was made into the bilingual film, “Ammar Ma”, which has been shown at the international film festivals in Cannes, Auckland, Manhattan and Bangalore.



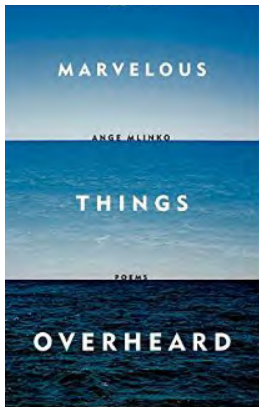
Nick Flynn

Tony Hoagland's essay, “Twenty Little Poems That Could Save America,” was featured in *Harper's Magazine* online in the spring. The essay was also the subject of an online interview with the PBS News Hour in the spring. It's the title essay of an essay collection coming out in 2014. He was also the “Special Feature” artist with 14 new poems in the Vol. 26, No. 1 issue of *Green Mountains Review*. For the last two years, Tony has been teach-

ing a weekend intensive in the art of teaching poetry--called Five Powers of Poetry-- to high school teachers at various locations around the country--most recently Chicago, San Antonio and New York.

Mat Johnson has completed his fourth novel, *Loving*, which is scheduled for release by Spiegel & Grau/Random House in Spring 2015. On September 14th, his collaborative work with fine artist Robert Pruitt, "Fantastic Sagas," will be opening at LA's Koplín Del Rio Gallery. Based on an original script by Johnson, Pruitt created a series of large charcoal illustrations that together add up to an entire 22 page comic book, to be displayed in the gallery in narrative form. Mat Johnson began the Fall 2013 term promoted to the rank of Full Professor.

Ange Mlinko's new book of poems, *Marvelous Things Overheard*, came out in September, 2013, from Farrar, Straus and Giroux. You can hear some poems and conversation about it at the website of KCRW, on Michael Silverblatt's Bookworm at http://www.kcrw.com/etc/programs/bw/bw130124ange_mlinko_shoulder



Antonya "Toni" Nelson had two stories in *the New Yorker* in 2012, one of which will appear in *Best American Short Stories 2013* (edited by Elizabeth Stout). She was also at the Taos Writers' Conference, Breadloaf Writers Conference and Tomales Bay last summer and fall. She says she had a fantastic time sitting in with the TAs at the chancellor's office and only wished that dogs had been allowed.

Alex Parsons is hard at work concocting a literary goulash that is various parts gothic, speculative, dystopian, thriller, and literary. It smells a little strange at the moment. The Houston Arts Alliance generously funded part of the grocery bill with a 2013 Established Artists Grant. When not burning himself at the stove, Alex is warning his nerdlets away from it and the knives. For their part, the girls are quickly mastering the art of narrative. Vivienne's story involves princesses, ballerinas, and pink (also her favorite flavor); Lila's features a bumblebee and a lot of repeated questions that may or may not be rhetorical, among them Why?, I scary?, and Where we going? Note to students laboring through manuscripts: it seems to help to dress like your protagonist, especially if he or she sports capes, wings, gowns, tiaras, mermaid/man tails, eyepatches, galoshes, wigs, antennae, or all of the above. My daughters can talk you through this immersion technique provided you schedule an appointment.

Robert Phillips, Professor Emeritus and former director of the Creative Writing Program published his fourth book of fiction, *Ice House Sketches* (Texas Review Press) this year. The book is set in a mythological bar in the city of Houston. A story, "A Teacher's Rewards", also appeared in *The New Paper Windows*, an anthology of short stories edited by Richard Baines from Cambridge Univ. Press.



Kevin Prufer has gotten a couple of edited volumes out in the past couple of years: *Until Everything is Continu-*

ous Again: Essays on W.S. Merwin (with Jonathan Weinert) and *Russell Atkins: On the Life & Work of an American Master* (with **Michael Dumanis** [Ph.D., 2005]). And Four Way Books will publish Kevin's next single-author collection in January, 2014. It's called *Churches*.

Martha Serpas taught on the faculty on the Glen Workshop East, sponsored by *Image: A Journal of Religion and the Arts*, last summer at Mount Holyoke. While in Amherst, she said she learned Emily Dickinson's dog was a Newfoundland. Her poems are included in *The Ecopoetry Anthology* (a fine historical and contemporary collection, she says) and new work appears in *The Southwest Review*, *The Hopkins Review* and other journals. She is gearing up for Ecopoetics on the Gulf (the Shrimp Boat Projects), and an experiential course that runs every other fall. This year the class will try collaborative poetry and filmmaking projects and read new shore lyrics from recent anthologies.

Peter Turchi joined the program in the fall, 2012. He came from Arizona State to the UH program as a professor teaching creative nonfiction. He is no stranger to our program since he was a visiting professor here in 2006, but this time he assumed a permanent position with us.

He is the author of numerous works of nonfiction, but perhaps the best known is *Maps of the Imagination: The Writer as Cartographer* (Trinity University Press, 2004), a discussion of cartography as a metaphor for writing--with a large audience among writers, critics, and teachers of design. The book has been designated as a *New York Times* "Best Nonfiction Book of All Time." His next book is *A Muse and a Maze: Writing as Puzzle, Mystery, and Magic*, and is scheduled for publication in October, 2014, by Trinity University Press.

New Faculty

The Creative Writing Program welcomes two new faculty members:

Roberto Tejada and **Audrey Colombe**.

Roberto Tejada will hold the Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Professorship of English and Creative Writing. Professor Tejada's work crosses a multitude of disciplinary boundaries: he is an art historian, media studies scholar, literary critic, editor, and poet. He comes to UH from Southern Methodist University, where he held the Distinguished Endowed Chair and Professorship in Art History. He is the editor and publisher of *Mandorla: New Writing for the Americas*, and he is one of the two or three top scholars of Latin American Art History. His creative work has appeared in a variety of journals, and he has authored several collections of poetry, including *Exposition Park* and *Full Foreground*.

Audrey Colombe has previously taught at University of Tampa, where she taught a range of courses from American literature to Creative Writing. She has been hired into a newly created position in creative writing pedagogy at UH in Creative Writing. Professor Colombe will be the faculty adviser to Glass Mountain and Boldface and teach undergraduate courses in journal editing and graduate courses in creative writing pedagogy. She is uniquely qualified for this new position and brings both extensive experience with undergraduate literary journals and experience mentoring teachers of creative writing.

We are excited by our two new faculty members and the ways in which they will help us shape new directions for the program. Their addition makes a strong and vital program even stronger. We look forward to working with and learning from both of them.

Student News

Zack Bean (Ph.D., Fiction) will be teaching at Montana State University as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Creative Writing starting in the Fall Semester. Also, his story "Perseids" was published in the spring issue of The Watershed Review.

Conor Bracken (M.F.A., Poetry) finished his first year at UH with a couple publications, including in The Foundling Review, Lungufl!, The Oklahoma Review, and Spry. Last summer he worked on a local food truck and attended the Squaw Valley Writer's Conference.



Conor Bracken

Katie Condon (M.F.A., Poetry) traveled to Italy as a participant in the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference in Sept., 2013.

Christine Ha's (M.F.A., Fiction) cookbook that was part of the winner's prize for "MasterChef" season 3 was released in May 2013. She had a guest appearance on the inaugural season of "MasterChef" Vietnam and on "MasterChef" USA season 4. Christine is working on



her memoir and has an agent who will help her shop it around once it's finished. The memoir chronicles her diagnosis of Neuromyelitis Optica (NMO) and its subsequent vision loss, which is paralleled with the year her mother had cancer.

Laura Jok's (M.F.A., Fiction) fiction appeared in the Fall & Winter 2012 issue of Alaska Quarterly Review. Last summer, she taught a thesis workshop at the Writing Center and worked on a draft of a novel, which she hopes to dismantle and reassemble in workshop this fall.

Jennifer Lowe (Ph.D., Poetry), in 2012, had poems accepted by DIAGRAM, Third Coast, and Salt Hill Journal. Her long poem "Cherry-emily" is came out as a chapbook in November 2013 from dancing girl press. She's had two poems taken by Hobart. And other highlights of 2012-2013 were: visiting Japan for 10 days; having poets Don Share and Dana Levin come to Houston to read as part of Kevin Prufer and Ange Mlino's series; and working with the other English teaching fellows in (victorious?) protest concerning their stipends. Her summer plans mostly involve doing work as online editor for Gulf Coast, and eating popsicles.

David Tomas Martinez

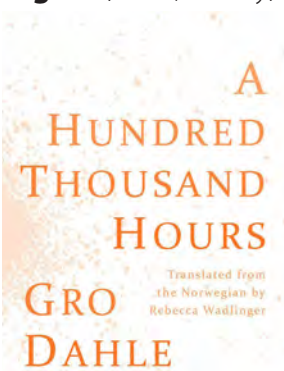
Celeste Prince (M.F.A., Fiction) was hired by YES Prep Gulfton for the upcoming school year to teach ninth grade English.

Henk Rossouw's (Ph.D., Poetry) poem "The Dream of the Road" came out in the summer 2012 issue of The Paris Review. In South Africa in the '80s, his father led the Kingdom Riders, a Christian motorcycle gang, and that's where the poem begins, from the pillion seat of a Kawasaki 1300 c.c. six-cylinder. Henk also spent the summer of 2013 working as the director of Putney Student Travel's pre-college enrichment program at Amherst College.



Henk pictured alongside a poster of Frederick Seidel in the men's room of The Paris Review. Seidel adores motorbikes.

Rebecca Wadlinger's (Ph.D., Poetry) translation of Norwegian poet Gro Dahle's *A Hundred Thousand Hours* was published by Ugly Duckling Press in Fall 2013. She is currently writing and living in Portland, OR, where she works on the creative team for Wieden+Kennedy.



New Students FY 2015

Fiction

Jeffrey Albers, Ph.D.
B.A. and M.A., Cal. State Univ.
M.F.A., Arizona State Univ.
William Burns, Ph.D.
B.A., Univ. of Arkansas
M.F.A., The New School
Elizabeth Davies, M.F.A.
B.A., Univ. of Houston
Samuel Dinger, M.F.A.
B.A., John Brown Univ.
Jonathan Meyer, M.F.A.
B.A., Emerson College
Michele Nereim, Ph.D.
B.A., Univ. of Florida
M.F.A., Florida State Univ.
Brenden Oliva, Ph.D.
B.A., Univ. of Utah
M.F.A., Univ. of Montana

Non-Fiction

Rachel Fairbank, M.F.A.
B.A., Cornell Univ.

Poetry

Melanie Brkich, M.F.A.
B.S., Univ. of Florida
Erika Brown, Ph.D.
B.A., Cornell Univ.
M.F.A., Univ. of Iowa
Meaghan Callen, M.F.A.
B.H.A., Carnegie Mellon Univ.
Luisa Muradyan, Ph.D.
B.A., Univ. of Kansas
M.F.A., Texas State Univ.
Georgia Pearle, Ph.D.
B.A., Smith College
M.F.A., Lesley Univ.
Nathan Stabenfeldt, M.F.A.
B.A., Belmont Univ.

New Students FY 2014

Fiction

Melanie Sweeney-Bowen, Ph.D.
B.A., Texas A&M Univ.
M.A., Sam Houston State Univ.
M.F.A., New Mexico State Univ.
Nicholas Goman, Ph.D.
B.A., Macalester College
M.A., Oregon State Univ.
Jennifer McFarland, M.F.A.
B.A., Univ. of Houston
David Messmer, M.F.A.
B.A., Colorado State Univ.
M.A. & Ph.D., Rice Univ.
Adrienne Perry, Ph.D.
B.A., Hampshire College
M.F.A., Warren Wilson College
Dina Piacentini, M.F.A.
B.A., Occidental College
Matthew Salesses, Ph.D.
B.A., Univ. of North Carolina
M.F.A., Emerson College

Non-Fiction

Carlos Hernandez, M.F.A.
B.A., Sam Houston State Univ.

Poetry

Eleanor Boudreau, M.F.A.
B.A., Harvard Univ.
M.A., Columbia Univ.
Rhianna Brandt, Ph.D.
B.A., Salem College
M.F.A., Univ. of Houston
Christopher Murray, Ph.D.
B.A., Univ. of Montana
M.A., North Carolina State Univ.
M.F.A., Univ. of Michigan
Martin Rock, Ph.D.
B.A., Florida State Univ.
M.F.A., New York Univ.
Andrea Syzdek, M.F.A.
B.A., Univ. of Houston

Graduates

Spring 2014

Claire Anderson, M.F.A., Fiction
D'Lynn Barham, M.F.A., Fiction
Layla Benitez-James, M.F.A., Poetry
Thomas Calder, M.F.A., Fiction
Andrew Dimond, M.F.A., Fiction
Patrick James, M.F.A., Poetry
Dickson Lam, M.F.A., Non-fiction
Caitlin Mailing, M.F.A., Poetry
Olga Mexina-Bykova, M.F.A., Poetry
Tyson Morgan, M.F.A., Fiction
Whitney Mower, M.F.A., Fiction
Michele Oakes, M.F.A., Poetry
Sara Rolater, M.F.A., Fiction
Kellie Smith, M.F.A., Poetry
David Taylor, M.F.A., Fiction
Elizabeth Winston, M.F.A., Fiction

Eric Howerton, Ph.D., Fiction
Lauren Genovesi, Ph.D., Fiction
Adam Peterson, Ph.D., Fiction

Spring 2013

Rheanna Brandt, M.F.A., Poetry
Kimberly Bruss, M.F.A., Poetry
Christine Ha, M.F.A., Fiction
Sophie Klahr, M.F.A., Poetry
Corey Noll, M.F.A., Fiction
Celeste Prince, M.F.A., Fiction
John Sherer, M.F.A., Poetry
Nicole Walker, M.F.A., Poetry

William Donnelly, Ph.D., Fiction
Eva Foster, Ph.D., Fiction
Janine Joseph, Ph.D., Poetry
Edward Porter, Ph.D., Fiction
Rebecca Wadlinger, Ph.D., Poetry

Spring 2012

Karie Buss, M.F.A., Poetry
Jason Daniels, M.F.A., Fiction
Joshua Gottlieb-Miller, M.F.A., Poetry
Thea Lim, M.F.A., Fiction
Jane Koh, M.F.A., Fiction
Margaret Monahan, M.F.A., Poetry
Caitlin Plunkett, M.F.A., Poetry
Analicia Sotelo, M.F.A., Poetry
Nicole Zaza, M.F.A., Non-Fiction

Samuel Amadon, Ph.D., Poetry
Charles Carlise, Ph.D., Poetry
Elizabeth Countryman, Ph.D., Poetry
Eric Higgins, Ph.D., Poetry
David Lombardi, Ph.D., Fiction
Raj Mankad, Ph.D., Fiction
Ian Stansel, Ph.D., Fiction
Sruthi Thekkiam, Ph.D., Fiction

Fall 2012

Mari Jorgenson, Ph.D., Fiction

Fall 2011

Quincy Flowers, Ph.D., Fiction
Kelly Moore, Ph.D., Poetry

*The University of Houston's
Creative Writing Program
is pleased to announce the writing
awards winners for 2013 – 2014*

INPRINT/ALEXANDER PRIZE IN FICTION

Aja Gabel

INPRINT/PAUL VERLAINE PRIZE IN POETRY

Karyna McGlynn

INPRINT/MARION BARTHELME PRIZE IN CREATIVE WRITING

Nancy Pearson

INPRINT/BARTHELME MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP IN NON-FICTION

Allie Rowbottom

INPRINT/ROBERT J. SUSSMAN PRIZE IN FICTION

Michelle Mariano

INPRINT/BARTHELME MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP IN FICTION

Dana Kroos

INPRINT/BARTHELME MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIPS IN POETRY

Caitlin Maling and Michelle Oakes

BRAZOS BOOKSTORE /ACADEMY OF AMERICAN POETS PRIZE

Christopher Murray

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

JUDGES

MARION BARTHELME PRIZE

Jericho Brown (*UH Alum*)

FICTION

Kristian Kahakauwila

POETRY

Wayne Miller (*UH Alum*)

NON-FICTION

Jenny Bouilly

Inprint

Inprint, Houston's premier literary arts nonprofit organization, with the mission to inspire readers and writers, prizes its relationship with the UH Creative Writing Program students and faculty, and looks forward to another great 2014 – 2015 season.



The Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series, presented in association with the UH Creative Writing Program and Brazos Bookstore, and now entering its 34th season, will present 10 internationally celebrated authors, including a faculty member from the Creative Writing Program. Readings take place at 7:30 pm in downtown Houston's Cullen Theater, Wortham Center. The 2014 - 2015 Series features:

Sunday, September 21, 2014—David Mitchell, named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by Time in 2007 and author of *Cloud Atlas*, reading from his new novel *The Bone Clocks*.

Monday, October 13, 2014—Deborah Eisenberg, PEN/Faulkner Award winner for *The Collected Stories of Deborah Eisenberg* and **Antonya Nelson**, co-holder of the Cullen Chair in Creative Writing at UH and reading from her latest story collection *Funny Once*.

Monday, November 10, 2014—Pulitzer Prize winning author of The Hours, Michael Cunningham, reading from his new novel *The Snow Queen*.

Monday, January 26, 2015—Karen Russell, MacArthur Foundation "genius"

fellowship recipient, and author of *Swamplandia* and *Vampires in the Lemon Grove and Other Stories*.

Monday, February 23, 2015—Mary Szybist, 2013 National Book Award winner for her second collection *Incarnadine*, and **Kevin Young**, 2012 American Book Award winner for his collection *Ardency: A Chronicle of the Amistad Rebels* and reading from his latest collection *Book of Hours*.

Monday, March 23, 2015—Kazuo Ishiguro, Man Booker Prize-winning author of *The Remains of the Day*, reading from his latest novel *The Buried Giant*.

Monday, April 20, 2015—Cristina Henríquez, author of two novels—including her latest *The Book of Unknown Americans*, which she will read from—and a story collection, and **Marlon James**, author of the award-winning novel and National Book Critics Circle Award finalist *The Book of Night Woman* and reading from his latest novel *A Brief History of Seven Killings*.

All of the authors will participate in on-stage interviews, many of which are conducted by UH Creative Writing Program faculty members, followed by a book sale and signing. Through the years, some of the visiting authors have also given craft talks on the UH campus and visited with graduate Creative Writing Program classes.



Inprint proudly continues to award fellowships, prizes, and provide other support to graduate students at the UH Creative Writing Program. Since its inception in 1983, Inprint's support has surpassed \$2.7 million to more than 500 graduate students. Inprint also connects these talented emerging writers to the local community by hiring them as instructors for Inprint's Writers Workshops, Teachers-As-Writers Workshops, Senior Memoir Workshops, Third Ward Youth Residency Workshops, and others.

Inprint is also expanding the Inprint Poetry Buskers program. The Inprint Poetry Buskers, many graduate students and alumni from the Creative Writing Program, spread the joy of poetry by writing poems on demand for free at festivals and events around town. These talented poets, using a typewriter and themes specified by attendees, tap into the muse of immediate inspiration and write poems on the spot. The Inprint Poetry Buskers are becoming increasingly popular and last year Inprint more than doubled the number of busking events. In the coming year Inprint will be further expanding the initiative.

For more information on Inprint visit www.inprintheouston.org or call 713.521.2026.



Publications

Gulf Coast

Since its founding, Gulf Coast has always published the very best contemporary literature alongside visual art that showcases work being produced in the Gulf region. The past two years have seen the journal expand this mission by merging with Art Lies, a Houston-based visual art and critical art writing magazine that has a storied history and a great deal of institutional knowledge about the world of contemporary art in Texas and beyond.

The two publications formally merged in the spring of 2013, and the first issue containing 24 more pages of art and art writing was published in October 2013. Visual arts magazine Art Papers, reviewing the first issue after the merger (26.1 – Winter/Spring 2014) noted that the expanded journal “seizes the perfect opportunity to meld the two magazines’ areas of focus, and promises more, productive responses to the changing field of art criticism in issues to come.”

The journal’s literary sections were also honored over the past two years, by having work selected for publication in Best American Poetry, Best American Travel Writing, The Pushcart Prizes, and as Notables in Best American Essays. Some notable contributors from recent issues include Kevin Brockmeier, Jamaal May, Quan Barry, Laura Kasischke, Ander Monson, Patti White, Emma Straub, Dannielle Schoonebeek, Alan Heathcock, Melanie Rae Thon, Lucie Brock-Broido, Anne Carson, Pam Houston, Ilya Kaminsky, Stephen Burt, John D’Agata, Carl Phillips, David Kirby, Timothy Denevi, and many more.

Gulf Coast continues to be active in the Houston literary community. Moving the Gulf Coast Reading Series to Rudyard’s British Pub in 2012 resulted in a huge boost in attendance, and MenilFest (formerly known as Houston Indie Book Festival and the Menil Community Arts Festival, but now merged), attracted more than 2,500 book lovers for a day of readings and musical performances. Recent issue launch events have brought Steve Almond, Emma Straub, and Texas slam poets to town.

The past year has also seen Gulf Coast expand its online presence. Starting with Online Editor Will Donnelly in 2012, the journal began presenting “Online Exclusives,” work that appears on the Gulf Coast website and nowhere else. J.S.A. Lowe, who took over for Will, continued and expanded the online content and the journal’s social media engagement.

The role of Online Editor is now being phased out, because the Department of English has granted Gulf Coast a third senior editor position with full course relief: Digital Editor, a position that will take over all the duties of Online Editor and then some. Carlos Hernandez, a second-year MFA in nonfiction who served in Spring 2014 as Online Editor, will be serving as Digital Editor through 2016, and this summer he will oversee the launch of a brand new Gulf Coast website with lots of extra bells and whistles!

That’s not all for staffing changes. Editor Zachary Martin and Managing Editor Karyna McGlynn are stepping down this summer. Adrienne Perry, a second-year PhD in fiction, will take over as Editor, and

Martin Rock, a second-year PhD in poetry, will take over as Managing Editor. Oh the places they’ll go!

We hope you’ll stay tuned to the major developments happening at the journal—including more public events and an increased focus on work in translation, including an annual translation prize—by signing up for the mailing list, joining us on Facebook and Twitter, and purchasing a subscription on the website.



Glass Mountain

The last two years have been eventful for Glass Mountain. In 2013 Glass Mountain was awarded National Directors' Prize for Undergraduate Literary Magazines in the content category. The prize is presented annually to deserving competitors at the national Association of Writers & Writing Programs and provides important national recognition for the journal in the literary community. This is just the most recent in a series of successes for the journal since its founding in 2006, back when submissions were restricted to UH students and its very existence consisted solely in the minds of a couple likeminded students seeking to create an outlet for young and talented voices on and around campus.

Since then, Glass Mountain's distribution has expanded much farther beyond the bounds of Houston, beginning with the publication of our first national issue in the spring of 2011, and more recently even reaching across oceans in the latest volume when we published a short story submitted by a student in South Africa. Though most of our submissions flow in from the UH campus due to the advantage of class visits and the close proximity of flyers posted around campus and Houston hotspots, the number of diverse voices from across the nation continues to grow and fill an increasing number of pages with each incoming issue.

With the help of our "big sister" graduate journal Gulf Coast, in July of last year we launched a monthly reading series at Café Brasil to be held every third Tuesday of the month. For each reading we pair

two emerging voices with a more established visiting writer, and the three workshop their pieces in the month leading up to the reading. This not only provides students with invaluable experience reading in public forums, but more importantly it nurtures a young writer's sense of belonging in the literary community, something we strive to accomplish.

The academic year of 2013/2014 was Professor **Lynn Voskuil's** final year as academic adviser to Glass Mountain and BOLDFACE. She was the original advisor to both the journal and the conference, and without her leadership and support neither of these important resources for undergraduate creative writers would be possible. Her dedication to the student editors at Glass Mountain was crucial, as we came to professionalize ourselves as journal editors. We were so fortunate to have her as our advisor, and she has our deepest appreciation and gratitude. Our new faculty adviser will be Professor **Audrey Colombe**, who has already actively assumed the position of adviser. She attended this year's BOLDFACE conference, and we are looking forward to working with her, as our journal and conference enter their next stage. Professor Colombe, who received her PhD in Literature and Creative Writing from UH, brings a wealth of experience to the position, having served as faculty adviser to the undergraduate literary journal at the University of Tampa. We are ready for the next set of challenges.

Boldface 2014

This year Glass Mountain, the undergraduate-run literary magazine

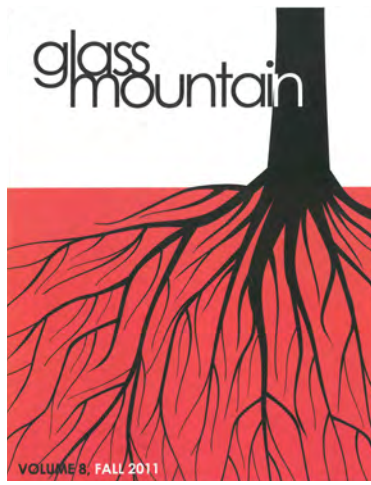
here at the University of Houston, brought an electrifying close to the month of May after another successful run of Boldface: A Conference for Emerging Writers. The conference managed to not only increase its total participants, bringing the number to 97 attendees, but it also brought in more participants from outside the state of Texas than ever before.

The conference, hosted each year in late May, assists writers in gaining a better understanding of their work and how they contribute as well as fit in to the writing community as a whole. This is generally achieved through several hours of group workshops, craft talks, master classes, readings, and panels. More importantly, the participants are constantly surrounded by a diverse set of students, non-students, faculty, visiting writers, and community members that share similar passions for writing and lend their support to see those passions furthered.

The visiting writers for Boldface 2014 included poet Franke Varca, one of the founding members of both Glass Mountain magazine and Boldface, fiction writer Amber Dermont, and nonfiction writer David MacLean, all three of which graduated from the University of Houston. The writers brought with them copies of their published works, knowledge gained from their own varied experiences within the writing world, and last but not least, for a small additional fee, they provided one-on-one time and feedback to attendees through private consultations.

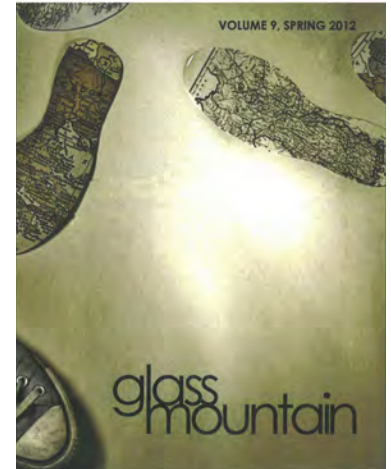
It wasn't all work and no play, as the participants had several oppor-

tunities to get a breather from the writing world as they enjoyed both breakfast and lunch provided every day. Other opportunities presented were field trips to the Museum of Fine Arts, the Menil Collection, and Project Row Houses. The participants also got the chance to witness Houston's writing community first hand and flex their oratory skills by signing up for readings at Kaboom Books and Cafe Brasil, which were both top notch. Lastly, all of those involved in Boldface went out and enjoyed the conference after party hosted at Blackhole Coffee Shop in Montrose.



Check out our website at www.boldfaceconference.com for information, photos, and updates about upcoming events like our Write-A-Thon, which raises funds to help us put on a successful boldface each year. We look forward to another great conference in 2015!

Shaina Frazier,
Glass Mountain Co-Editor



Alumni News

Miah Arnold's

(Ph.D., 2009) essay, "You Owe Me" was featured in the *Best American Essays*, 2012. Her novel, *Sweet Land of Bigamy*, came out in July 2012.



house in Houston's east end, a bit off the beaten path but only a couple of miles from downtown/midtown and a very worthwhile adventure!

Shannon Borg (Ph.D., 1999) lives in the woods on Orcas Island, and is the sommelier at the Doe Bay Café. She also is the marketing coordinator for The San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau in Friday Harbor. This fall, her book *The Green Vine: A Guide to Organic, Biodynamic and Sustainable Wine* will be published by Mountaineers Books' Skipstone Press. She is also working on a culinary memoir project, *26 Kitchens: How Neither Here nor There Became Home*, and is posting initial chapters on her blog, shannonborg.wordpress.com. Other than that, life on the island is full of cooking, hatching baby ducks, beachcombing and great friends in an amazing community – "come visit, everyone!"

J. Matthew Boyleston (Ph.D., 2008) was promoted to the Dean of the School of Fine Arts at Houston Baptist University. He and his wife **Abby** (UH, MA English) welcomed their first child, a girl, Maeve Heller Boyleston on March 13. Poems have been published in *Permafrost*, reviews in *The City*, and a book chapter in *The Blackwell Companion to Creative Writing*. His manuscript "Viewed from the Keel of a Canoe" (not published) was a semi-finalist for the Miller Williams Arkansas Poetry Prize.

Katherine Center (M.F.A., 1998) tells us that Random House published her fourth novel, *The Lost Husband*, this May, and she's now working on her fifth. Other



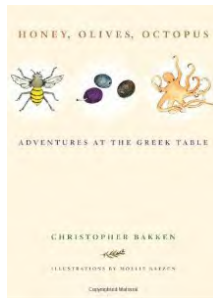
than that, she's still in Houston, still married, and still raising two super cute kids (7 and 10)!

Patricia Clark

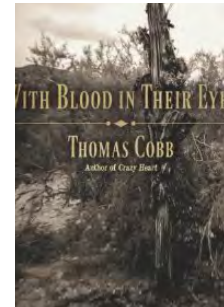
(Ph.D., 1986) has a new book of poems out this year, *Sunday Rising*, from Michigan State University Press.



Christopher Bakken (Ph.D., 1999) published a culinary action-adventure memoir called, *Honey, Olives, Octopus: Adventures at the Greek Table* (University of California Press) in 2013. Poems from his third book manuscript have recently appeared in places like *The Hudson Review*, *32 Poems*, and *Copper Nickel*. He serves as Chair of the English Department at Allegheny College and teaches food and travel writing each summer in the University of Missouri's summer writing workshops on the island of Thasos in Greece. He lives in Meadville, Pennsylvania with his wife, **Kerry Neville Bakken** (Ph.D., 2000), and his children Sophia and Alexander.



Since graduating from UH with an emphasis in playwriting, **Glenna Bell** (Ph.D., 1998) has established herself as a respected songwriter/performer in the world of American Roots music. In June of this year Glenna appeared at Super Happy Funland, not far from the UH campus. She performed in a lineup of touring acts, accompanied by Greg Henkel on his impressive violafiddle, at this old-school, underground artists' ware-



Thomas Cobb

Katharine Coles (M.A., 1983) won a fellowship to visit Antarctica for a month and published a book of poetry, *The Earth Not Flat*, about it. Katharine was Utah's Poet Laureate before the current one, UH alumni **Lance Larsen**.



Robin Davidson (Ph.D., 2001) had two chapbooks and her first full-length book of poems published in 2013. The first, *Kneeling in the Dojo*, received First Honorable Mention in the 2012 New Women's Voices Series sponsored by Finishing Line Press, and involves poems related to her family's

Kneeling in the Dojo



study of the martial arts under the tutelage of a Vietnamese family living in Houston in political exile since the fall of Saigon, now Ho Chi Minh City, in 1975—and the physical and spiritual journeys they encountered as part of that practice. This chapbook appeared in May. Her second chapbook, *City that Ripens on the Tree of the World*, will appear from Calypso Editions, an American artists' collaborative press specializing in small collections of poetry, fiction, and literary translation. This poem cycle is dedicated to Polish poet Ewa Lipska and to the city of Krakow where she taught as a Fulbright scholar of American literature at the Jagiellonian University. This chapbook is slated for release in June.

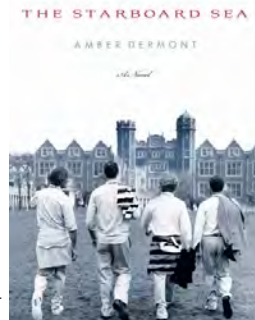
Robin's first full-length collection of poems, tentatively titled *Trellis for the Orphaned World*, received the 2012 Richard Snyder Memorial Prize judged by poet Elizabeth Spires. *Trellis* spans the trajectory of her work in poetry over the past two decades, and integrates a 25-poem cycle that uses the figure of a Mrs. Schmetterling (modeled upon Lipska's "modern European every woman" she calls Mrs. Schubert) with poems designed to contemplate: 1) identities (whether individual, social, or national) as composed of both personal and historical forces, and 2) the uncertain intersection of those forces in one's own interior life.

Marisa de los Santos (Ph.D., 1996) reports that the paperback edition of her third novel *Falling Together* came out in October of 2012, the same month that her husband David Teague and she got a contract from HarperCollins Children's for two co-written middle grades novels. They had a much tighter deadline than she's used to, which she thought might kill her, but writing to-

gether was wonderfully fun, and the first book, *Saving Lucas Biggs* comes out in early summer 2014. Marisa and David are now working on the second book, and in addition, she's writing a fourth novel for adults called *The Precious One*, which William Morrow will publish in 2014. On a personal note, last May, they added eleven pounds and many tons of joy to the family by getting two Yorkshire terriers, Finn and Huxley.



Amber Dermont's (Ph.D., 2006) book, *The Starboard Sea*, was featured by Janet Maslin in The New York Times in February last year and in The New York Times Book Review on March 4, 2012. Amber was a reader for the Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series in April, 2013.



Will Donnelly (Ph.D., Fiction) started a job as assistant professor of fiction writing at Berry College in Rome, Georgia in the fall semester of 2013. He's working, too, on both a novel and a collection of short stories.

Laura Eve Engel's (M.F.A., 2011) work has recently appeared or is forthcoming in *Boston Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *The Southern Review*, *Tin House* and elsewhere. She is the Residential Program Director of the University of Virginia's Young Writers Workshop.

Farnoosh Fathi's (Ph.D., 2011) first book, *Great Guns*, was published this April 2013 by Canarium Books. She's currently teaching middle schoolers as a writing instructor at Stanford's Education Program for Gifted Youth and living in the San Francisco Bay area.



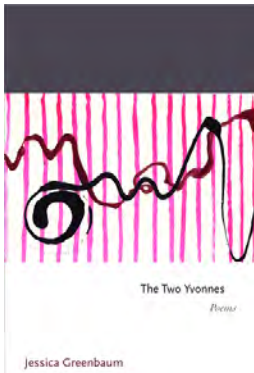
Annie Finch's (M.A., 1986) *Spells: New and Selected Poems* is out from Wesleyan University Press. Bringing together poems, translations, and verse drama from several of Annie's previous books, *Spells* also includes many previously unpublished poems, including 30 of the "lost poems" written while she was a student in University of Houston's MA program.

Renata Golden (M.F.A., 2000) hosted the first ever Golden Ink party in Santa Fe, New Mexico, because sometimes virtual just won't do. Golden Ink develops certification courseware and exams for the IT industry, and in June 2013, writers, editors, illustrators, photographers, spouses, partners, friends, and neighbors from Georgia, Massachusetts, Utah, Arizona, and all around New Mexico gathered to celebrate. It was the first time many members of the team had met in person, after having worked together via conference calls for several years. Food was provided by Red Mesa Cuisine ("Native American with a modern twist") and entertainment by Kumusha Marimba. A little monsoon rain added a special touch.



Jessica Greenbaum's (M.A., 1981)

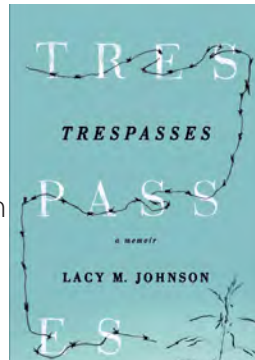
book, *The Two Yvones*, came out from Princeton last October 2012 and was chosen by Library Journal for their "Best Books 2012: Poetry" list. Jessica was part of the Barnard Women Poets series in fall 2013. She's been facilitating a poetry workshop for older adults at the Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, and is the poetry editor for [upstreet](#).



for the New American Press Poetry Prize. The prize was \$1,000 plus publication. The book was published in March 2012. The title poem is about the Rothko Chapel.

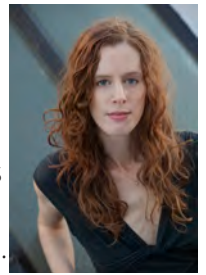
Antonio Jocson (Ph.D., 2002) "A couple of years ago, I gave up tenure at Prairie View to move back to Manila to be with my mother and take care of things there. I now run a hotel. (Check us out at [hoteldurban.net](#) and on [tripAdvisor](#).) Michael is establishing a small legal practice helping locals who need the services of a US attorney - yes, he came, for which I am ever thankful. We have a good life here, though I'm constantly exhausted from work, even more so than when I was teaching. We get back to Houston about once a year, usually in March, but not this past one."

Lacy M. Johnson's (Ph.D., 2008) second book of nonfiction, [*the two directions of a door*], will be published by Tin House Books in 2014. Her work has recently been anthologized in *Literature: The Human Experience* (Bedford/St. Martin's), *True Crime* (InFact Books / Creative Nonfiction Foundation), and will appear in *The Racial Imaginary* (Fence Books, forthcoming in 2014), edited by former UH Poet **Claudia Rankine**. Lacy was awarded an Established Artist Grant from Houston Arts Alliance for her work on [the invisible city], an interactive digital installation that premiered in Houston in April, 2014. She has recently returned to UH as Director of Academic Initiatives at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts.



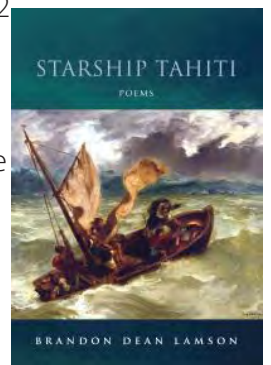
Anna Journey's

(Ph.D., 2010) second collection poems, *Vulgar Remedies*, has just been released this fall by Louisiana State University Press (2013). Her poems have recently appeared in *The Best American Poetry 2013*, [FIELD](#), [The Kenyon Review](#) and [The Southern Review](#). Her creative nonfiction appears or is forthcoming in [At Length](#), [Better](#) and [The Southern Review](#). She currently teaches creative writing in Pacific University's Master of Fine Arts in Writing program. She lives in Venice, California.



Brandon Lamson (Ph.D., 2010)

received the 2012 Juniper Prize in Poetry for his book, *Starship Tahiti*. James Tate was the judge and the book was published in March, 2013. Brandon is an assistant professor at Bethany College and lives in Pittsburgh.

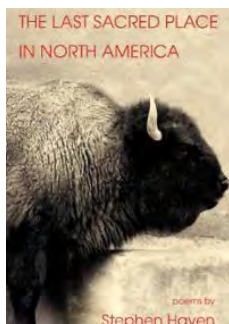


James Allen Hall (Ph.D., 2006) has published recent poems in *Best American Poetry 2012*, [New England Review](#), and [American Poetry Review](#). Last fall, he took up a new post as Associate Professor of English at Washington College, on the eastern shore of Maryland.

Chris Haven (Ph.D., 2001) continues as Associate Professor of Writing at Grand Valley State University in Michigan. He has recent fiction in [Arts & Letters](#), poems in [Slice Magazine](#), [Copper Nickel](#), [Cold Mountain Review](#), [Blackbird](#), [Cider Press Review](#), [Grove Review](#), [Gargoyle](#), [Versal](#), and [Louisville Review](#), and a piece about the Brady Bunch on the [Passages North](#) website accompanied by some troubling humming. He has written some rambles about submissions fees for [The Millions](#), and excerpts from his "Terrible Emmanuel" prose poem series won the 2012 Deborah Tall Lyric Essay Prize from [Seneca Review](#).

Stephen Haven's

(M.A., 1984) book of poems, *The Last Sacred Place in North America*, was selected by judge T.R. Hummer



In 2012, **Laura Lark** (M.A., 1989) was awarded a fellowship for fiction writing at the MacDowell Colony from March through May. Her solo exhibition of drawings, paintings, and installation, "The Liveable Forest" was on view from February through April at Devin Borden Gallery in Houston. Her drawing, "Cheveux D'Ange V" was acquired by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston earlier that year. In July, her column of "advice" and cultural criticism, "Laura Lark Loves You" was launched on Texas and Southern California based online arts website [Glasstire](#). In 2013, Lark was awarded

a fellowship for fiction writing at the Virginia Creative Center for the Arts from January through March. Her visual art appeared in "Through the Eyes of Texas: Masterworks from Alumni Collections", The Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas at Austin, TX, February 24-May 19. She recently completed a commissioned essay on artist/singer/songwriter Daniel Johnston for London-based [Juke Magazine](#). Her large scale drawing, "Janice" was featured in the March edition of [Vogue Italia](#).



Featured: "Janice"; ink on Tyvek, 72"x 52", 2012. Courtesy of the artist and Devin Borden Gallery

In May 2012, **Lance Larsen** (Ph.D., 1993) was appointed to a five-year term as Utah's Poet Laureate. He succeeded another U of H alumna, Katherine Coles. He's had recent poems in [Southern Review](#), [Georgia Review](#), [Pool](#), and [Raritan](#), and an essay in [Southwest Review](#). In 2013 his fourth poetry collection, *Genius Loci*, was published by University of Tampa, with groovy cover art supplied by his beloved, Jacqui Larsen. He currently serves as the MFA coordinator at Brigham Young University. He and Jacqui have two kids in college, and two at home.



Elline Lipkin (Ph.D., 2003) is thoroughly enjoying her beautiful three year old son, Leo, born on 10/21/11. She's still affiliated with UCLA as a Research Scholar and is writing and teaching in Los Angeles.

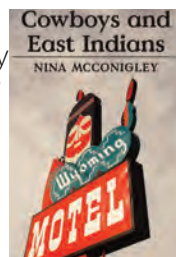
Richard Lyons (Ph.D., 1991) hoped to be on sabbatical from teaching

at Mississippi State University in the fall of 2013, working on marketing his manuscript, "Blood Psalms". He planned to do research in Italy on writers like Italo Calvino and Cesare Pavese. Their home city is Turin (Torino) in the Piedmont mountain range, northwest Italy. Richard says he enjoyed hearing Seamus Heaney and Don DeLillo read at AWP Boston, 2013.

David MacLean (Ph.D., 2009) and his wife, Emily, were "thrilled" to announce the arrival of their daughter, Lydia Suzanne Stone MacLean, in February. His book about losing his memory, *The Answer to the Riddle is Me*, was published in early 2014.



Nina McConigley's (M.F.A., 2006) short story collection *Cowboys and East Indians* was published in August 2013 by Five Chapters Books.



Kim Meyer (Ph.D., 2008) had essays appear recently in the [Kenyon Review](#) and [Ploughshares](#), and her piece on the Holy City of the Wichitas, originally published in [Ecotone](#), was chosen for inclusion in the *Best American Travel Writing 2012*. Last summer, Kim received a one-month residency fellowship to the Vermont Studio Center. And "The Book of Wanderings", a narrative non-fiction account of her journey, along with her oldest daughter, to retrace a 15th-century pilgrimage route to the Holy Land and Mount Sinai, is under contract with Little, Brown. She sent a photo of herself on top of Mt. Sinai.



Wayne Miller's (M.F.A., 2002) third collection, *The City, Our City* (Milkweed, 2011), was a finalist for the William Carlos Williams Award (from the Poetry Society of America) and the Rilke Prize (from the University of North Texas). From January through July, 2013, he was the Fulbright Distinguished Scholar of Creative Writing at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Wayne's wife, Jeanne, and their daughter, Harper, were in Belfast with him.

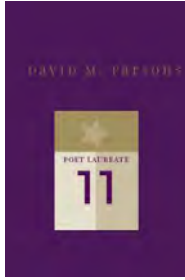


EDWARD MULLANY
Edward Mullany

After eleven years writing, translating and teaching in Japan, **Christian Nagle** (Ph.D., 2000) returned Stateside in 2011 to found a consulting company, Nuance Partners, and co-found a filmmaking group, Empath Media, which is already winning awards for its work. He has been publishing in places like [Esquire](#), [Raritan](#), [AGNI](#), and the [Boston Review](#), and has two books forthcoming -- *Goat Songs*, a translation of the first book of poems by Japanese early modernist Chuya Nakahara (1907-1937), and his own first collection of poems, *Flightbook*. His first feature-length film, "RED-NECK", is now in pre-production.

David Parsons (M.A., 1991) says it's has been a bountiful last couple years for him: being selected as the 2011 Texas State Poet Laureate truly changed his life. He's been traveling the state (and out of state), at least twice a month, to poetry events at libraries and schools, he's had two collections of poems published (*New and Selected Poems* and *Feathering*

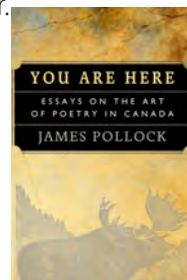
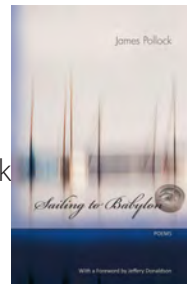
Deep), and he has a new grandson and a new knee. The grandson arrived in August 2013 and the new knee on May 29th. He hopes it has that “new knee smell” and thinks it’s great that we live in a time we can order spare parts. Dave is still teaching at Lone Star College and Co-Directing the Writers in Performance Series with his pal, Cliff Hudder (M.F.A., 1995). Dave met and read with a few state Poet Laureates at a conclave in New Hampshire. Thirty six state Poet Laureates also participated in a renga that was published in book form this past year. (*THE WORLD KEEPS TURNING TO LIGHT: A Renga by the State Poet Laureates of America*. Wendy Barker (Poet in Residence UTSA) and Dave are co-editing an anthology of poems from and about the Sixties. He says it’s been a real “trip” so far. They hope to have it out in 2014. Attached are photos of the Texas State Artist for 2011 & 2012 on proclamation day and state Poet Laureate conclave in New Hampshire.



State Poet Laureate conclave:
Dave Parsons (Tx), JoAnn Belingit (Del), Bruce Dethlefsen (Wis), Lisa Starr (RI), Walt Butts (NH), Marjory Wentworth (SC), Dick Allen (Conn), Julie Kane (LA), Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg (KA) and Karen Kreiter-Foronda (Vir).

In June, **Emily Perez** (M.F.A., 2006) relocated with Matt and their two sons, Wylan and Felix, to Denver, CO. She will start teaching at Denver School of Science and Technology in the fall. In 2013 she was awarded an Artist Trust GAP grant and selected for the Jack Straw Writer’s Fellowship in Seattle. She has poems forthcoming in *failbetter* and *Calyx*. She would love to connect with other CWP alums in Denver!

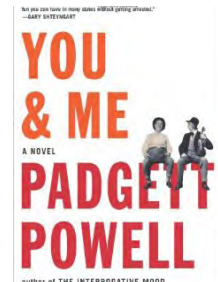
James Pollock’s (Ph.D., 2001) book of poems, *Sailing to Babylon*, came out in summer, 2012, and his book of critical essays, *You Are Here: Essays on the Art of Poetry in Canada*, came out in November. James is an Associate Professor at Loras College in Dubuque, IA, where he teaches poetry in the creative writing program. He lives in Madison, WI, with his wife and six-year-old son.



Texas State Artist Awards: Karl Unlauf, Jesus Moroles (3D Art), Lyle Lovett, Billy Gibbons (Music), Melissa Miller, Billy Fitzgibbons (2D Art), Jan Seals, Dave Parsons (Poet Laureates).



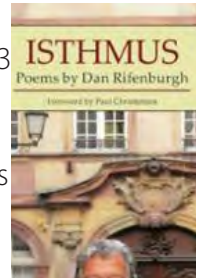
Justine Frances Post



Padgett Powell

Robin Reagler (Ph.D., 1995), executive director of Writers in the Schools (WITS) in Houston, has been elected as the Individual Members’ Representative on the Board of Directors for the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP). Her four-year term ends in 2016.

Dan Rifenburg’s second volume of verse, *Isthmus*, was published in June 2013 from Houston’s Mutabilis Press. Dan lives in The Heights and drives an 18-wheeler truck for a living. His first book, *Advent*, won the Texas Institute of Letters 2002 Natalie Ornish Award.



Mira Rosenthal’s (M.F.A., 2005) translation of Tomasz Rozycki’s *Colonies*, for which she received an NEA Fellowship and a PEN Award, just came out with Zephyr Press. Her poems, translations, and reviews have appeared recently or are forthcoming in *Kenyon Review Online*, *PN Review*, *Harvard Review*, *Cincinnati Review* and elsewhere. In the fall 2013, Mira finished up a Stegner Fellowship in poetry at Stanford University and headed to Jacksonville, Florida, with her husband and two children, where she is writing, teaching, and canoeing the inland waterway. You can follow her mean-



derings and other mischief at www.mirarosenthal.com.

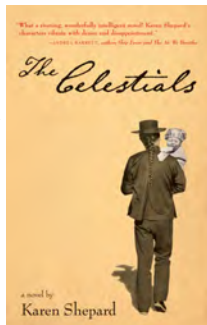
Brian Russell's (M.F.A., 2008) big news from the past year is that Tom Sleigh chose his book, *The Year of What Now*, as the winner of the 2012 Bakeless Poetry Prize. It was published by Graywolf in July 2013.



Brian was part of the Graywolf Poetry Tour last summer, reading with Stephen Burt and Sophie Cabot Black in NYC, Iowa City, and Minneapolis/St. Paul.

Glenn Shaheen (M.F.A., 2008) had a bunch of good stuff happen in the past year, including getting married to Laurie Ann Cedilnik (M.F.A., 2010) in October, and a chapbook of flash fiction, *Unchecked Savagery*, from Ricochet Editions. In the past year his poetry and prose have appeared in *The New Republic*, *Redivider*, *The Cimarron Review* and elsewhere.

Karen Shepard (M.F.A., 1992) continues to teach English lit and creative writing at Williams College in Williamstown, MA, where she lives with her husband, writer Jim Shepard, their three children, and their three beagles ("I know; we're crazy"). Her fourth novel, *The Celestials*, was published in June 2013.



Matthew Siegel (M.F.A., 2009) is busy teaching literature and creative writing courses at San Francisco Conservatory of Music and with Stanford University's School of Continuing Studies. Recent and forthcoming work can be found in *Cimarron*

Review, *Southern Humanities Review*, *Tusculum Review*, and elsewhere. He tweets @MatthewSiegel_ and can be found at <http://matthewsiegel.us/>.

Arthur Smith (Ph.D., 1986) had a new book of poems published in February from Carnegie Mellon UP. The title is *The Fortunate Era*.



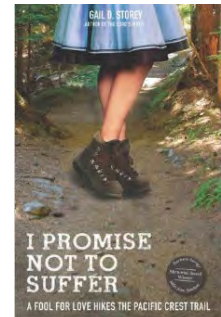
J. D. Smith

Marilyn Stablein (M.A., 1984) won First Place in Graphic Arts in the National Federation of Press Women's 2012 Communications contest for two collages that appeared on the covers of the *Malpais Review*. A new book, *A Pot of Soup*, was published by Book Arts Editions of New Mexico. Her artist books were exhibited at galleries at the University of Puget Sound, University of San Diego, University of South Dakota and featured in *1,000 Artist Books* (LARK 2011) and forthcoming in *500 Artist Books* (LARK 2013.) New work is forthcoming in *Gargoyle Magazine*, *Kyoto Review*, *Santa Fe Literary Review*, *Duke City Fix*, *THE magazine*, and *Malpais Review*. She and her husband operate acequiabooksellers.com, an antiquarian bookstore which specializes in poetry, art and



the avant garde. Visit marilystablein.com for updates on book talks, exhibitions, publications and workshops.

Ian Stansel's (Ph.D., 2012) collection of stories, *Everybody's Irish*, will be published this year by Five Chapters Books. His work has appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Salon*, *Ecotone*, *Memorious*, *Cincinnati Review*, and elsewhere. He is the new blog contributor for *Ploughshares*.



Gail Storey

Giuseppe Taurino (M.F.A., 2006) has joined the Houston Arts Alliance as its Programs and Services Manager. He has over fifteen years of experience in the nonprofit sector as a social worker, counselor, and executive. Giuseppe has also worked as a writer-in-residence with Writers in the Schools (WITS) Houston, taught undergraduate and postgraduate English and Creative Writing, and served as Fiction Editor for *Gulf Coast: A Journal of Literature and Fine Arts*. He's been awarded a Donald Barthelme Fellowship in Fiction and scholarships to the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. His stories have appeared in *Epoch*, *New South*, *The Potomac Review*, *Word Riot* and elsewhere.

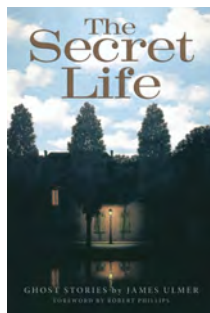
With Kim Addonizio, **Mike Theune** (Ph.D., 2002) has co-edited Voltage Poetry (voltagepoetry.com), an online anthology of poems with great turns in them, and reflections on those turns. A number of CWP alums have contributed. Visit the site, click on "Submit" to learn about the submission process, and consider submitting work yourself.

Robert Tinajero (M.F.A., 2004) was promoted to Associate Professor of English and received tenure at Tarrant County College. He published *Love Revolution*, a book of poems available at Amazon and BN.com and has an academic article upcoming in Itineration (a journal in rhetorical studies).

Jennifer Tseng (M.F.A., 2002) won the 2012 Marick Press Poetry Prize for her manuscript, "Red Flower, White Flower". The judge was prize winning poet, and CWP alum,



Derrick Burleson (Ph.D., 2001).

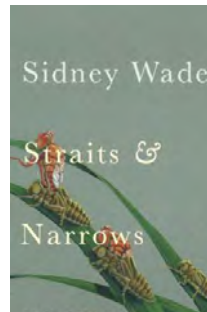


James Ulmer

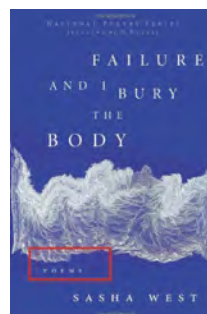
David Ray Vance (Ph.D., 2006) won the 2012 Elixir Press Antivenom Poetry Prize for his second full-length collection, *Stupor*, which will be published this fall. He earned tenure this spring at The University of Texas at San Antonio and also received a University of Texas System Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award. With

his wife, Catherine Kasper, he continues to co-edit American Letters & Commentary, which is now transitioning into a book press.

Sidney Wade's (Ph.D., 1984) 6th collection, *Straits & Narrows*, was published by Persea in April 2013. In the summer of 2012 she taught at the Gettysburg Review Summer Writers' Conference, as well as at the Sewanee Writers' Conference. She returns to both in 2013, as a reader at Sewanee and a teacher at Gettysburg. Gettysburg, by the way, is organized by Peter Stitt, former UH Professor of English. Stan Plumly, former UH CW professor, also teaches in the program. When she's not teaching, Sidney can usually be found birding. She's got a new book almost finished--every poem in it is about a bird. Except one, which is about a radish. Her former student, Geoff Brock, suggested she entitle it "Radish and Other Poems." She just might.

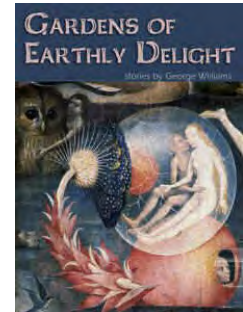


In 2012, **Sasha West** (Ph.D., 2007) married poet Charlie Clark, won the National Poetry Series, and started teaching writing to graduate students at UT Austin's LBJ School of Public Affairs. Her book, *Failure and I Bury the Body*, came out from Harper Perennial in August 2013. She plans to take a brief break from anything noteworthy.

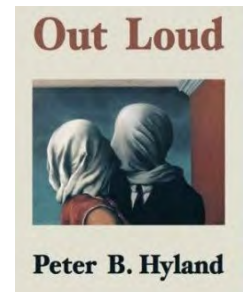


Jacob White's (Ph.D., 2008) fiction has appeared in many journals, including the Georgia Review, New Letters, Salt Hill, and the Sewanee Review, from which he received the An-

drew Lytle Prize. He teaches creative writing at Johnson State College and co-edits Green Mountains Review. His book of stories, *Being Dead in South Carolina* was published by Leapfrog Press in December, 2013.



George Williams

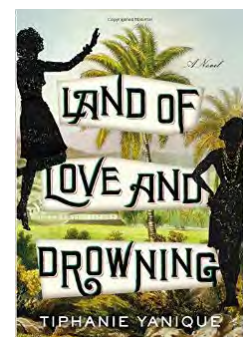


Peter B. Hyland

Peter Hyland



Carol Denson



Tiphonie Yanique

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM

M.F.A. OR PH.D. DEGREES IN FICTION,
POETRY, OR CREATIVE NONFICTION

Fall 2015 Application Deadline:
December 15, 2014



FACULTY

j. Kastely, *Director*
Robert Boswell
Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
Nick Flynn
Tony Hoagland
Mat Johnson
Antonya Nelson
Alexander Parsons
Kevin Prufer
Martha Serpas
Peter Turchi

and new this year...
Audrey Colombe

2014 - 2015 INPRINT MARGARETT ROOT BROWN READING SERIES

Michael Cunningham
Deborah Eisenberg
David Mitchell
Antonya Nelson & Karen Russell
Mary Szybist
Kevin Young
and more

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS
& FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE

RECENT STUDENT AWARDS

Fulbright Scholarship
Iowa Poetry Prize
Wallace Stegner Fellowship
National Endowment for the Arts Grant
Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg
Memorial Poetry Competition
Ruth Lilly Poetry Fellowship
Tobias Wolff Award for Fiction
Middlebrook Poetry Fellowship

and more...

*The University of Houston:
a graduate creative writing program that fosters the growth
of the individual writer as a person of letters
in a vibrant community of scholars and writers.*

www.uh.edu/cwp

The University of Houston is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

