

The Newsletter of the Creative Writing Program at the University of Houston

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2005-2006
Edition

UH & 2006 AWP

The CWP, along with Inprint Inc.,
and Gulf Coast was a major benefactor
for this year's AWP Conference in Austin, Texas.

Inprint Studio Reading Series

Starting in the Fall of 2006, the UH Creative Writing Program
and Inprint will launch a new studio reading series.
The readings will be more intimate and informal and
will feature emerging and established writers and alumni
from the UH Creative Writing Program.

Agents & Editors Visit UH

In April 2006, the Creative Writing Program hosted
its inaugural agents/editors visit. Forty-five creative writing
graduate students met individually with three literary agents
and one editor from a major poetry press.



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...

This was another eventful year. We had 2 wonderful residencies: one by Richard Siken and one by Grace Paley. We were an enormous presence at the AWP convention at Austin, TX in March. We had a successful inaugural editors/agents visit in early April. Our friends at Inprint celebrated their 25th anniversary, with the culminating event being a reading by the entire UH creative writing faculty. It was a special night. And we had 2 exceptional writers who were visiting faculty: Patricia Powell in the Fall Semester and Peter Turchi in the Spring. It was a good year.

It was also a year marked by Hurricane Katrina's devastation of a significant portion of the Gulf Coast and a healthy scare provided by Hurricane Rita. For many of our students and faculty, certainly the Fall semester was dominated by Katrina, as they joined with many of their fellow citizens in Houston to help those displaced by the aftermath of the storms.

Finally, it was a year in which several of our faculty departed from UH to take new positions elsewhere. Claudia Rankine, Kimiko Hahn, and Ruben Martinez have accepted distinguished positions at other schools. All will be missed, for each of them contributed significantly to the UH community—as writers, as teachers, as colleagues, and as friends. We wish them the best at their new schools, but we will miss them and will try to stay in close contact with them. Also Glenn Blake, who has been a presence at UH for almost 25 years—first as a student and then as an instructor, is leaving to teach at Johns Hopkins and work at their press. For the past several years, Glenn has been the heart of the undergraduate program in fiction and an important contributor to the development of an alumni association. We will miss him but we do wish him the best as he starts a new life outside of Houston.

The departure of three key faculty, of course, means that our coming year will be defined by the task of conducting searches for new faculty members. As in the past, we hope for broad participation from all who care about the program. Whatever else a faculty search is, it is a process that allows a reflective program to understand better what it is and what it aspires to be. Our task next year is to do this well. I have full confidence that we will.

And we will welcome 21 incoming graduate students. They are a collection of talented writers who will contribute to our community and help us sustain our commitment to the life of letters. Their arrival in August is a reminder that amidst change the Creative Writing Program continues to offer an education guided by a commitment to excellence, creativity, and rigor. These values are at our core and define who we are.

As ever,

J. Kastely,
Director

Program News

Staff News

The application process for Fall 2006 is finished, the semester is over and summer is here. It's been another good year for us and we're looking forward to a few relaxing months before we start over again in September. We lost a couple of staff members and gained a new one.

Cassie Colbert has worked with us as the Office Coordinator since **Maria Martinez** left in the fall to go back to school full time. We wish Maria well and welcome Cassie to the Program. She worked on the UH campus as a temporary employee before joining us in October. Of course, she arrived right in the middle of the application process so she really had to hit the floor running. In addition to her job here, she's a full-time student at the Art Institute of Houston, working on an Bachelor's degree in Interior Design.



Cassie Colbert

Although **Mike Doyle** is not officially a UH employee, we continue to depend on him for his design and technical expertise. He has helped us with so many projects this year and acted as our official photographer at the AWP in Austin. He's also working with the UH technology computer technicians

to get our website updated and more user friendly. Without his guidance and patience we would never get this newsletter out to the masses.

Kathy Smathers, Asst. Director, continues to love being part of the Program. The interaction with students and alumni is so rewarding and having the Program library in her office is a real perk. She assisted with the application process this year, worked with the AWP conference coordinator to get registration fee waivers for students and faculty, assisted **Jennifer Grotz** with the 2006 Krakow Poetry Seminar, assisted faculty with a wide variety of things and worked with students, **j. Kastely**, and the judges on the 2005/06 writing competitions. Of course, there are always those "other duties, as assigned" to keep her busy on a day to day basis.

Agents and Editors Visit

In April 2006, The Creative Writing Program hosted its first visit by literary agents and editors. Visiting UH were agents **Ira Silverberg** of Donadio & Olson, **Rolph Blythe** of Dunow, Carlson & Lerner, and **David Hale Smith**, founder and president of DHS Literary, Inc. Also, visiting UH was **Jeffrey Shotts**, Poetry Editor at Graywolf Press. The visitors presided over two panel discussions; the first was a nuts-and-bolts discussion of the current state of publishing and a discussion of what students could do to increase the likelihood of getting their work read. The second discussion functioned more as a Q&A, with the various agents and the one editor speaking on a wide range of issues that had been generated by the previous day's panel. Thirty students, both fiction and non-fiction, met with the three literary agents, each student meeting individually with two of the agents. And 15 poetry students met with Jeff Shotts. The visit seemed to

energize the Program, as students got a better sense of the current state of publishing. A special thanks to **Tiph-
anie Yanique** and **Brad Teleford**, the CWP student reps, who worked hard to make the visit a success.

Departures

2005-2006 was a year of departures.

Claudia Rankine accepted an endowed Chair at Pomona College. She was awarded the 2006 Academy of American Poets award given in memory of James Ingram Merrill.

Ruben Martinez accepted an endowed Chair at Loyola University at Marymount.

Kimiko Hahn accepted a Distinguished Professorship at Queens College.

While change is a fact of the academy, we will deeply miss all 3 of our departing colleagues. Each contributed to the current transformation of the Creative Writing Program at UH, and each has helped broaden and diversify the political and aesthetic principles that guide both our creation and appreciation of literature. And all three brought energy to the Program that encouraged and supported students and colleagues in their own work. And even as they depart, we will continue to maintain the friendships and the intellectual conversations that they began at UH. We wish them well in their new positions.

Also, **Glenn Blake**, who has been at UH for over two decades and who for the last several years has been the mainstay of the undergraduate fiction program, is departing. Glenn felt it was time for a new beginning. He will be missed. It is difficult to imagine an undergraduate fiction program in which he is not at the center. We wish him all the best.

Inprint-Brown Reading Series

The Inprint Brown Reading Series, now in its 26th season, continues to rank among the nation's leading reading series. Over the past 26 years, IBRS has presented 35 Pulitzer Prize, 36 National Book Award, and 4 Nobel Prize winners to Houston audiences.

The 2006-2007 Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series (IBRS) presented by Inprint, in association with the UH Creative Writing Program (UH CWP), Alley Theatre, and Brazos Bookstore, begins in September and runs through April. Each evening consists of a reading by the featured writer(s), followed by a book sale, and a book signing—a chance for audience members to meet the visiting writer(s). Readings take place at the Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Avenue, on Mondays at 7:30 pm (doors open 6:45), unless otherwise noted. Each reading is \$5 general admission, free for students and senior citizens; tickets for the January reading featuring **Terrance McNally** are \$10 all seats. Tickets are sold only at the door on the evening of each reading. A limited number of reserved season tickets for the entire season are now available through Inprint. For more information, contact Inprint at 713-521-2026 or visit www.inprint-inc.org.

The 2006-2007 season features a dynamic roster of writers, including many who will be giving a reading in Houston for the first time:

Sunday, September 17—**Zadie Smith**, British West Indian writer, rose to stardom at age 23 with the publication of her debut novel, *White Teeth*, winner of the Commonwealth Writer's Prize. Smith's latest novel, *On Beauty*, shortlisted for the Booker Prize, is set on both sides of the Atlantic, and is a brilliant analysis of family life, marriage, and the intersections of the personal and political. Special time: 7 pm.

Monday, November 6—American poets **Denise Duhamel** and **Stephen Dunn**—Duhamel is the author of five volumes of

poetry, including her latest, *Two and Two*. Dunn is the author of 14 collections of poetry, including *Different Hours*, which won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 2001. His newest book, *Everything Else in the World*, will be released this fall.

Monday, November 13—**Richard Ford** is the author of three collections of short fiction and six novels, including *Independence Day*, which won both the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/Faulkner Award. He will read from his soon-to-be-released novel, *The Lay of the Land*, which brings back his everyman character from *The Sportswriter* and *Independence Day*, Frank Bascombe.

Monday, January 22—**Terrance McNally** is a four time Tony award-winning playwright. His works include *Frankie and Johnny at the Claire de Lune*, for which he also wrote the screen adaptation starring Al Pacino and Michelle Pfeiffer, *Lips Together, Teeth Apart, Kiss of the Spider Woman, Love! Valour! Compassion!*, and his most recent, *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life*. He won his fourth Tony award for Best Book of a Musical for "Ragtime". Special tickets: \$10 all seats.

Monday, February 26—Leading Latino writers **Alicia Gaspar de Alba** and **Luis Alberto Urrea**—Gaspar de Alba is a poet, novelist and Chicano studies scholar. Her most recent book, *Desert Blood: The Juárez Murders*, about the ten-year crime wave of murdered women in Ciudad Juárez, won both the Lambda Literary Award and the Latino Book Award for Best Mystery Novel. Urrea, born in Tijuana, Mexico, is the author of several volumes of poetry, non-fiction, and fiction. His book *Nobody's Son* won the American Book Award; *The Devil's Highway* was a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize; and his novel *The Hummingbird's Daughter* was named a "best book" of 2005 by the Los Angeles Times and The Washington Post.

Monday, March 26—Leading South Asian writers, mother and daughter team, **Anita Desai** and **Kiran Desai**—Anita Desai, "grande dame" of South Asian diaspora writers, is the critically-acclaimed author of 14 books, including *The Clear Light of Day*, *Diamond Dust*, *Fasting, Feasting*, and her most recent *The Zigzag Way*. Three of

her novels have been short-listed for the Booker Prize. Kiran Desai, the daughter of Anita Desai, is the author of two novels, *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard*, published to unanimous acclaim in 22 countries, and her latest, *The Inheritance of Loss*.

Monday, April 16—**Mary Oliver**, the author of more than 20 books of poetry and prose, has won both the Pulitzer Prize (for *American Primitive*), and the National Book Award (for *New and Selected Poems*). Her most recent book of poetry, *Thirst*, to be released in fall 2006, introduces a new direction in her writing, as she grapples with grief after the death of her partner of more than 40 years.

Special event of the Inprint Brown Reading Series, co-sponsored by Museum of Fine Arts, Houston:

Thursday, October 26—An evening with National Book Award winning nature writer **Barry Lopez**, renowned fiction writer **Antonya Nelson**, and writer/editor **Debra Gwartney**—This special event focuses on the book, *Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape*. Edited by Lopez and Gwartney, *Home Ground* brings together 45 poets and writers—including Nelson, **Barbara Kingsolver**, **Robert Hass**, **Patricia Hampl**, and **Jon Krakauer**—to write the definitions for the words we use to describe the diverse landscapes of the U.S. Lopez will give a brief reading, Nelson will join him for a conversation on the language of landscape, and Gwartney will discuss the making of the book. Lopez is the author of *Arctic Dreams*, *Of Wolves and Men*, *Resistance*, *Light Action in the Carribean*, 11 other works of fiction and nonfiction, as well as the lead essay in the catalog for the Museum of Fine Art Houston's exhibition, "The Modern West", opening October 27th. Nelson is the author of three novels and four story collections, including *Talking in Bed*, *Female Trouble*, and her latest, *Some Fun*. Debra Gwartney is a writer, editor, and university teacher who lives in Eugene, Oregon. Free admission.

The Inprint Studio Series, new this year, features some of the most exciting emerging voices in the literary arts, as well as alumni from the UH CWP, offering Hous-

Calendar for Reading Series Fall 2006/Spring 2007

9/13: Poetry and Prose	John Weir/Bob Phillips, <i>M.D. Anderson Library, UH Campus</i>
9/17: Inprint/MRB Series	Zadie Smith, <i>Cullen Theatre, Wortham Center</i>
9/27: Inprint Studio	Bob Hicok, <i>DiverseWorks</i>
10/4: Poetry and Prose	Inprint Reading, <i>M.D. Anderson Library, UH Campus</i>
10/9: Inprint/MRB Series	Joan Didion, <i>(Tentative)</i>
10/11: Mitchell Ctr. Performance	Anne Waldman, <i>Mitchell Center for the Arts, UH Campus</i>
10/19: Inprint Studio	Farnoosh Moshiri, <i>The Honors College, UH Campus</i>
10/26: Inprint/MRB Series	Barry Lopez/Antonya Nelson/Debra Gwartney, <i>Brown Auditorium, MFA, Houston</i>
11/1: Poetry and Prose	1st-year CWP students, <i>The Honors College, UH Campus</i>
11/6: Inprint/MRB Series	Stephen Dunn/Denise Duhamel, <i>Stude Concert Hall, Rice University</i>
11/8: CWP	Brian Barker/Wayne Miller, <i>Location TBA</i>
11/13: Inprint/MRB Series	Richard Ford, <i>Brown Auditorium, MFA, Houston</i>
1/22: Inprint/MRB Series	Terrence McNally, <i>Alley Theatre</i>
2/8: Inprint Studio	Andrew Feld/Pimone Triplett, <i>The Honors College, UH Campus</i>
2/21: Poetry and Prose	Toni Nelson/Karen Brennan, <i>The Honors College, UH Campus</i>
2/26: Inprint/MRB Series	Alicia Gaspar/Luis Urrea, <i>Alley Theatre</i>
3/7: Poetry and Prose	Inprint/Michener Winners, <i>M.D. Anderson Library, UH Campus</i>
3/22: Inprint Studio	Emily Fox Gordon, <i>The Honors College, UH Campus</i>
3/26: Inprint/MRB Series	Anita Desai/Kiran Desai, <i>Alley Theatre</i>
4/16: Inprint/MRB Series	Mary Oliver, <i>Alley Theatre</i>
5/5: Inprint Studio	Laura Kasischke, <i>DiverseWorks</i>

tonians the opportunity to hear firsthand tomorrow's great writers today. The readings, presented by Inprint, in association with DiverseWorks, The Honors College and the Creative Writing Program at the University of Houston, are free and open to the public and include:

Wednesday, September 27—Poet **Bob Hicok** is author of *Insomnia Diary*, *Plus Shipping*, *The Legend of Light*, and *Animal Soul*. Time: 7:30 pm.

Thursday, October 19—Fiction writer **Farnoosh Moshiri**, a graduate of the UH CWP, is author of the novels *At the Wall of the Almighty*, *The Bathhouse*, *The Crazy Dervish and the Pomegranite Tree* and *Against Gravity*. Time: 6 pm.

Thursday, February 8—Poets **Pimone Triplett** and **Andrew Feld** are graduates of

the UH CWP. Triplett is author of the collections *The Price of Light* and *Running the Picture*. Feld is author of *Citizen*. Time: 6 pm.

Thursday, March 22—Memoirist and essayist **Emily Fox Gordon**, who studied at the UH CWP, is the author of *Mockingbird Years: A Life in and out of Therapy* and *Are You Happy?: A Childhood Remembered*. Time: 6 pm.

Thursday, April 5—Writer **Laura Kasischke** has authored *Be Mine*, *The Life Before her Eyes*, *White Bird in a Blizzard*, and *Suspicious River*. Time: 7:30 pm.

The Inprint Brown Reading Series receives generous underwriting support from The Brown Foundation, Inc., and Weatherford International, and is also supported

by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, "which believes that a great nation deserves great art." Inprint also receives in-kind support from the Alley Theatre, Continental Airlines, Hines, [Houston Chronicle](#), and KUHF 88.7 FM, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, as well as other support from the Texas Commission on the Arts and The City of Houston through the Cultural Arts Council of Houston/Harris County, the Convention and Entertainment Facilities Department, and the Theatre District.

Inprint, Inc., has moved to new offices. Visit them at their new home at 1520 W. Main, Houston, TX 77006.

New Studio Reading Series

The UH Creative Writing Program and Inprint are beginning a new studio reading series this year, and we are very excited about it. The series will be housed in smaller, more intimate venues, and the series readers will also do a residency as part of their visit. One goal of the series is to promote greater contact between the visiting writers and UH faculty and students. And this series allows us to realize a dream that we have had for some time: to bring back UH Creative Writing alumni and to have them read at UH. This year more than half of the readers will be UH alumni. As part of the series we will have two residencies in fiction, two in poetry, and one in non-fiction.

The series has a great line-up for its inaugural year, and these readers set the tone for what we believe will be one of the best series in the country. The series will feature **Bob Hicok** (*Insomnia Diary, The Legend of Light, Animal Soul, Plus Shipping*), and **Laura Kasischke** (*The Life Before her Eyes, Gardening in the Dark, Suspicious River, Fire and Flow, Boy Heaven, White Bird in a Blizzard, Dance and Disappear, Be Mine, Housekeeping in a Dream, Wild Brides, What It Wasn't, Fatale Beruheung*). UH alumni featured in the series are: **Farnoosh Moshiri** (*At the Wall of the Almighty, The Bathhouse, Against Gravity, The Crazy Dervish and the Pomegranate Tree*), **Andrew Feld** (*Citizen: Poems*), **Pimone Triplett** (*The Price of Light, Ruining the Picture*), and **Emily Fox Gordon** (*Are You Happy?: A Childhood Remembered, Mockingbird Years: A Life in and out of Therapy*).

For the dates and locations of the readings, please refer to the Calendar of Readings in this year's Newsletter. We hope to see many of you there.

Faculty News

Chitra Divakaruni's children's novel, *The Conch Bearer*, has now been translated into 14 languages. Her new children's novel, *The Mirror of Fire and Dreaming* (Fall 2005), was selected as a Book Sense Pick. Her novel, *The Mistress of Spices*, was made into a film by Gurinder Chadha and Paul Berges (the makers of the movie "Bend it like Beckham"). She was awarded the South Asian Literary Association's Distinguished Award Achievement for 2006.

Mark Doty's new prose book, *Dog Years* -- part memoir, part essay on the ways canine companionship matters in human lives -- will be published by HarperCollins this coming spring. Here's how **Amy Hempel** described the book in a pre-publication blurb: "Mark Doty moves lyrically from the weight of a dog's head in one's hand to the enduring questions of religion, the soul, and connection. Evocative, compassionate, a love story both intimate and grand, this is a beautiful book." New poems appear or will shortly in The American Poetry Review, McSweeney's, The Harvard Divinity School Bulletin, Five Points, The London Review of Books, and elsewhere. During the last year, Mark's been reviewing new books of poems for O: The Oprah Magazine (believe it or not).

The strangest moment of his literary year took place at Columbia University, where a panel in which he participated to celebrate the Fiftieth anniversary of the publication of "Howl" was disrupted by angry clowns who felt Ginsberg was being co-opted by the literary establishment. *Honest*.



Here's a photo of Mark reading in a church in Manchester, England, in May: notice the serious gestures.

Sometimes Good Ideas Work

Several years ago at the suggestion of **Robert Boswell**, the Creative Writing Program began Masters Workshops that were designed for students near the completion of their degrees to workshop their whole manuscripts. The wisdom of creating a course that allows a teacher and a small group of students to focus on the manuscript as a whole has been borne out by **Mark Doty's** first Masters Workshop in poetry. As the student and alumni notes will tell you, already the manuscripts of 3 of the students (**Laurie Clements Lambeth**, **Michael Dumanis** and **David Vance**) from that workshop have won national competitions and will be published as books. That is remarkable, and we suspect the number of books resulting from that workshop is not finished yet.

Nick Flynn collaborated on "Darwin's Nightmare", a documentary film that was nominated for an Academy Award. There was an interview with him in the March/April edition of The Bloomsbury Review.

Tony Hoagland received the 2005 Mark Twain Award for humor in American poetry by Poetry Magazine. The awards were given in Chicago. Also in October, 2005, he gave a reading and a talk at the Folger Shake-

speare Library in Washington D.C. as part of receiving the O.B. Hardison Award, given annually to an American poet for dual achievements in both teaching and writing. In September, 2006, his craft book on poetry, *Real Sofistikashun*, will be published by Graywolf Press.

Antonya Nelson's book, *Some Fun*, came out in March of this year. A couple of her stories and essays are due out soon. She had an essay in *Ladies Home Journal* and stories in *Tin House*, *Glimmer Train*, *Sonora Review*, and *O Magazine*. She's at conferences this summer in Napa Valley, Portland, Oregon (*Tin House* conference), Vermont (both Bread Loaf and the Post Graduate Program at Montpelier) and will be reading at the *New Yorker* Festival in October.

Robert Phillips' eighth poetry collection, *Circumstances Beyond Our Control*, is out from Johns Hopkins University Press. It has been nominated for next year's Pulitzer Prize and received a very good review in the *Houston Chronicle*. His next book, titled *Are Those Real Poems or Did You Write Them Yourself*, is a collection of personal essays. The title comes from a question he was asked by a young man after giving a lecture. It will be published by Texas Review Press.

One of Prof. Phillips' short stories was made into a short film this year. Released as "Teacher's Pet", it is an East End Film Makers Production and will be entered in film festivals.

Several of Prof. Phillips' poems were read by Garrison Keillor on "The Writer's Almanac" (National Public Radio).

Daniel Stern is the subject of a 336 page festschrift that includes works by scholars, artists, friends, professors and students writing in his honor. Titled *A*

Book for Daniel Stern, it is being published by The Sheep Meadow Press. He also has a story in the spring issue of *The Kenyon Review*.

Adam Zagajewski has had several publications this year. He published *Alteny*, poems in Polish (Krakow, 2005), both *Deseo*, poems, and *Defensa del Ardor*, essays, in Spanish (Barcelona, 2005), and *Povratak*, poems, in Bosnian (Sarajevo, 2006). Residencies, workshops and reading locations included Leukerbad, Switzerland, Barcelona and Madrid, Spain, Dublin, Ireland, Rome, Italy and Nuremberg, Leipzig and Berlin, Germany.



Then & Now: Prof. Robert Phillips with John Updike in 1984 (above) and at the Honors College in 2006.



Photo by Bill Monroe

Residencies

In Fall 2005, **Richard Siken**, whose collection of poems, *Crush*, was selected by **Louise Gluck** as the winner of 2005 Yale Younger Poets series, offered a residency in poetry. In Spring 2006, **Grace Paley**, author of several collections of short stories, including *Enormous Changes at the Last Minute*, *The Little Disturbances of Man*, and *Later the Same Day*, offered a residency in fiction.

New CWP Undergraduate Faculty Member Hired

Starting in Fall 2006, **Aaron Reynolds** (PhD, S2006) will assume the teaching and advising responsibilities that **Glenn Blake** handled so well. Aaron graduated with his doctorate in fiction in Spring 2006, and he is at work revising his manuscript "Wildside". We are delighted to welcome Aaron to this position.

Visiting Faculty

Fall 2006

John Weir, Associate Professor of English at Queens College/CUNY, will teach two graduate workshops: one in fiction and one in nonfiction. John has a BA from Kenyon College and an MFA from Columbia University. He has published two novels: *The Irreversible Decline of Eddie Socket* (1989) and *What I Did Wrong* (2006). His short fiction has appeared in numerous literary journals, including *Gulf Coast*, *Bloom*, *Word: The Literary Magazine*, *Fruit*, and *Playgirl*. His nonfiction has appeared in *Triquarterly*, *The New York Times*, and *Rolling Stone*. His work has been anthologized in such works as *The Columbia Reader in Lesbian & Gay Studies: Lesbians & Gay Men in American Society, Politics and the Media*; *Gay Men at the Millennium* and *Beyond Queer*. He has received a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship and a Lambda Literary Award for Best First Novel. At Queens College, he served as Associate Chair, 1999-2005. He also has a well-earned reputation as a stellar teacher of creative writing.

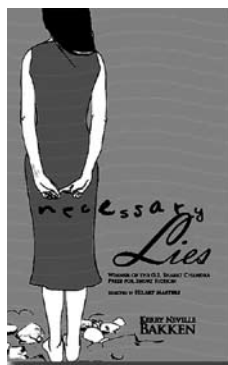
Jane Miller is Professor of English at the University of Arizona, where she directed the Creative Writing Program from 1999-2003. She is the author of 9 books: *A Palace of Pearls*, *Wherever You Lay Your Head*, *Memory at These Speeds: New and Selected Poems*, *August Zero*, *Working Time: Essays on Poetry*,

Culture and Travel, American Odalisque, Black Holes, Black Stockings, The Great Leisures, and Many Junipers, Heartbeats. She has received numerous awards for her work, including a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships, a Lila Wallace—Reader's Digest Writer's Award, and a Pushcart Prize. She has been a visiting poet at San Francisco State University and the University of Iowa Writer's Workshop on several occasions. At Goddard College, she was poet and Director of Women's Studies. Her poems have appeared in over 100 journals and have been frequently anthologized. At UH, Jane will be teaching a graduate poetry workshop and a graduate seminar in Modern Thought.

Spring 2007

Karen Brennan is a Professor of English at the University of Utah, where she also directed the Creative Writing Program. She has an MFA from Goddard College and a PhD in English (with an emphasis in Critical Theory) from the University of Utah. She has published poetry *The Real is Enough, Here on Earth*, fiction *Wild Desire*, non-fiction *Being With Rachel, A Story of Memory and Survival* and work that combines fiction and non-fiction, *The Garden in Which I Walk*. She has taught at the University of Arizona, Southwest Texas State University and Warren Wilson College. In addition to teaching creative writing, she also teaches courses in modernism, post-modernism and 20th Century British and American literature. Her work has been published in a wide ranging selection of journals, and it has been anthologized in several important anthologies. She has received a National Endowment for the Arts Award in Fiction, a PEN Syndicated Short Fiction Prize, and an AWP Award Series Winner in Short Fiction, and her memoir was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. At UH, she will be teaching both a poetry and a fiction graduate workshop.

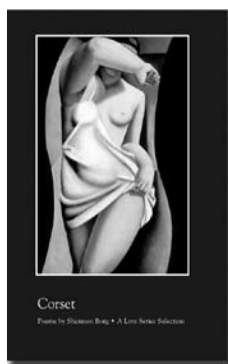
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Kerry Neville Bakken



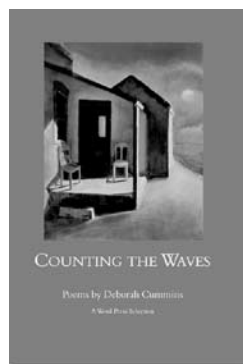
Richard Lyons



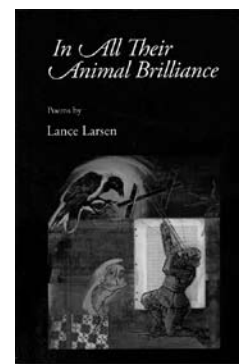
Shannon Borg



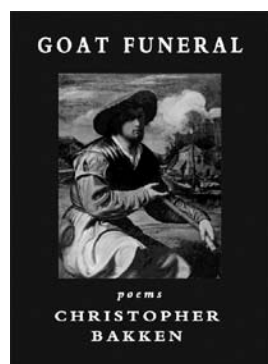
Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni



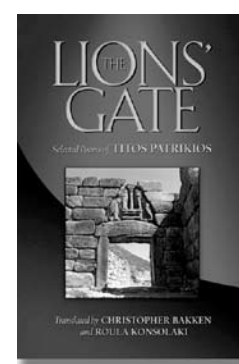
Deborah Cummins



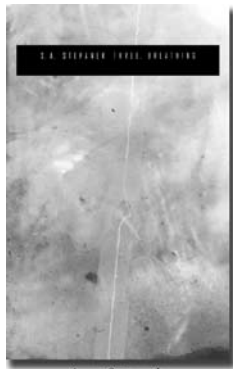
Lance Larsen



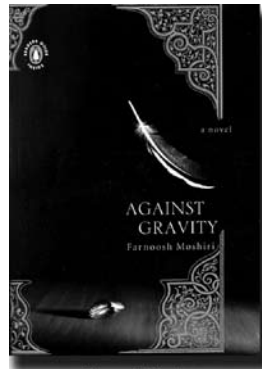
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Christopher Bakken



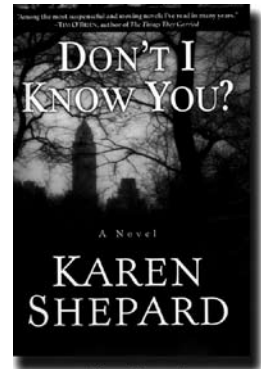
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Farnoosh Moshiri



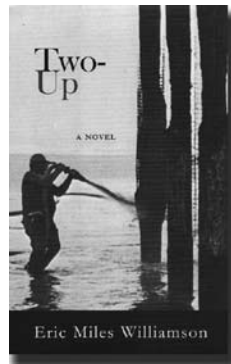
Robert Phillips



Karen Shepard



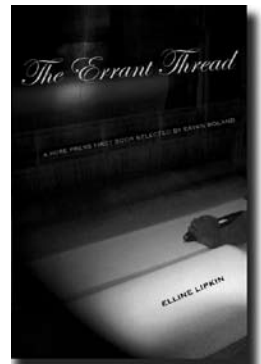
Mark Doty



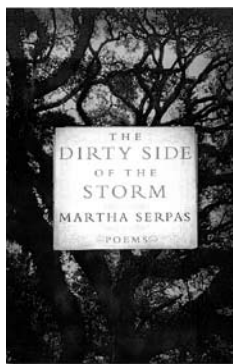
Eric Miles Williamson



Marisa de los Santos



Elline Lipkin



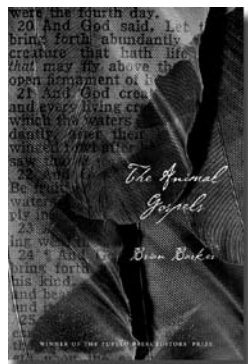
Martha Serpas



Antonya Nelson



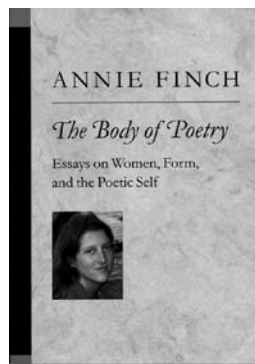
Emily Fox Gordon



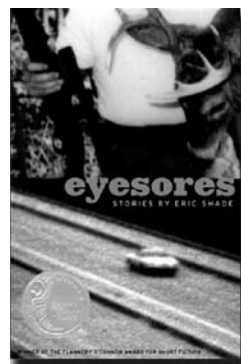
Brian Barker



Annie Finch



Annie Finch



Eric Shade



J.D. Smith

Student News

Charles Alcorn has been appointed by UH-Victoria to be the Managing Editor of the American Book Review, a literary journal that transferred its editorial offices from Illinois State to UH-Victoria. He received his Ph.D. in Fiction in May of this year.

David Bernardy received his Ph.D. in Fiction in May of 2006. He currently lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he received a Minnesota State Arts Grant to fund a research-gathering kayak trip through the Everglades in December.

Casey Fleming won runner-up for Fourth Genre's 2006 Editor's Prize in Non-fiction.

Jennifer Grotz is a new assistant professor in poetry at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. In the past year, her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in Image, New England Review, Cincinnati Review, and American Literary Review. Her reviews and translations have appeared in Boston Review, The Washington Post, Circumference and Agni Online. She completed her Ph.D. from the University of Houston this past December, and began teaching in the Warren Wilson MFA Program this past spring. She is the assistant director of the Bread Loaf Writers Conference. Along with Edward Hirsch and Adam Zagajewski, she administers the Krakow Poetry Seminar.

James Allen Hall received his Ph.D. in May and has joined the English faculty of Bethany College in West Virginia. Two of his poems, "A Fact Which Occurred in America" and "Portrait of My Lover Singing in Traffic," will appear in the Ultra-

Talk Issue of TriQuarterly, edited by **Barbara Hamby** and **David Kirby**. He's also had poems appear in Third Coast and West Branch.

Brad Hipps' big news this year is that he and his wife, **Laura**, had their first child, a son, born May 25th. His name is **Walker Stroh Hipps**.

Andrew Kozma had poems published in Pebble Lake Review, Lilies and Cannonballs, Backwards City, Buffalo Carp, Meridian, Third Coast, Illya's Honey, Zone 3 and Best New Poets 2005. Two of his poems were nominated for Pushcarts and his play, "Waiting for Engines" was produced by Unheard Voices in the spring.

Laurie Clements Lambeth graduated with her PhD in December. Her poetry manuscript, "Veil and Burn", was selected by **Maxine Kumin** as the winner for the National Poetry Series. It will be published next year by University of Illinois Press. Alongside **Mark Doty** and **James Hall**, Laurie presented a talk on writing poetry and nonfiction at this year's AWP conference. And there's more. After reading Laurie's lyric nonfiction piece in The Iowa Review, a literary agent tracked her down to ask if she was interested in signing with her, and after "a great talk on the phone", Laurie signed the contract. She's working on the book now. Aside from the nonfiction piece in The Iowa Review, this past year she's had poetry appear in The Bark, Isotope, and a poem is forthcoming from Indiana Review.

James May has a poem, "Untitled Drawing, 1987", forthcoming in The Texas Review.

Nina McConigley was the honorable mention for the Womens' Writers Conference Prize for Creative

Nonfiction this year. **Sarah Vowell** was the judge of the competition. Nina was asked back to be on staff at the Bread Loaf Writers Conference in Vermont in August. She was in charge of the Blue Parlor Reading series.

David MacLean has an essay forthcoming in Quarterly West.

Kimberly Meyer had work published in Crab Orchard Review and The Southern Review and an essay on ants, motherhood, and free will previously published in Fourth Genre was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Her greatest accomplishment this year, however, was learning to spin yarn--and that's not a metaphor. She's now a proud member of the Contemporary Handweavers of Houston.

Keya Mitra received a Fulbright grant to India in creative writing for next year. Her work appeared this year in Ontario Review and Orchid and, as of May, was forthcoming in Confrontation and Event. Also, her short story collection was one of four finalists for the Mary McCarthy Prize (through Sarabande Books). She will be published in Best New American Voices 2007.

Brian Nicolet reported that the Sewanee Writers' Conference offered him one of the first-year M.A./M.F.A. scholarships. There were only four offered! He was also chosen to attend the 2006 Krakow Poetry Seminar.

Amanda Nowlin-O'Banion told us that a chapter, "The Walls, Texas", from her novel has been accepted for an anthology of essays and fiction inspired by Johnny Cash, *Literary Cash*. BenBella is putting it out in September.

Emily Perez is moving to Seattle where she will begin a teaching job at the Lakeside School. This year her work has appeared in Bat City Review, The New Hampshire Review, DIAGRAM, Poems & Plays, and is forthcoming in Third Coast.

Brian Russell had a poem published in the spring issue of Columbia Poetry Review.

David Vance presented a paper titled "Questing/Questioning the Invisible Divine: A View of Emily Dickinson's Epistemological Double-Vision" at the annual New England American Studies Association Conference in Worcester in Fall 2005. That paper was chosen for inclusion in an anthology of work from the conference due out later this year. David also took on editorial responsibilities (shared with his wife, **Catherine Kasper**) for the journal American Letters & Commentary. In Spring 2006 he wrote a critical introduction to **Mark Nowak's** poetry for an anthology due out from Wesleyan (eds. **Claudia Rankine** and **Lisa Sewell**) to be published this fall and he chaired a panel at AWP on inter-media poetry and poetics. Most exciting, his poetry manuscript, "Vitreous", was chosen by **Mary Jo Bang** as winner of the 2005 Del Sol Press Prize and is slated to be published in November. "Vitreous" was also a semi-finalist for the Walt Whitman Award and a portion of it was a finalist for the Tupelo Press Snowbound Chapbook Prize. Starting in Fall 2006, David has a 1-year Visiting Assistant Professorship at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Gemini Wahhaj was an honorable mention in Atlantic Monthly's student writing contest in fiction and a finalist in Glimmer Train's spring 2005 fiction context for new writers. Her fiction came out this year

in Northwest Review, Eleven Eleven, and Night Train.

Tiphonie Yanique had nonfiction published by MaComere: Caribbean Feminist Journal, poetry in SaltHill, and a story, "How to Escape from a Leper Colony", won the 13th Annual Boston Review Short Story Contest. The story came out in the May/June 2006 issue. She will be the Parks Fellow in Creative Writing at Rice University next year.

The 2006 Krakow Poetry Seminar



This year's Seminar (directed by **Adam Zagajewski** and **Ed Hirsch**), the first since the death of **Milosz** in 2004, featured faculty members **Jorie Graham**, **Philip Levine**, **Patricia Hampl**, and UH Professor **Tony Hoagland** along with Polish writers **Julia Hartwig**, **Krystyna Miłobędzka**, **Dariusz Suska** and **Jacek Gutorow**.

Banishing the American workshop format in favor of semi-formal panel presentations and the lively conversations that always follow them, this year's Seminar engaged participants in a large array of thoughts and provocations. What is a poet with history? Without history? Can art address suffering? Can poets talk about Guantanamo? After Auschwitz, can truth really equal beauty? Are emerging American poets radical or just insincere? Are established American poets truth-telling or merely humorless? Who are the Polish poets causing such a ruckus in Warsaw? And why? And what is the state of poetry in Poland without **Czesław Miłosz**?

As always, **Jennifer Grotz** did a stunning job as the seminar's administrative director. UH Grad students in attendance included **Craig Beaven**, **Jericho Brown**, **Darin Ciccotelli**, **Farnoosh Fathi**, **Peter Hyland**, **Andrew Kozma**, **James May**, **Brian Nicolet**, **Paul Otremba**, **Vanessa Stauffer**, **Bradford Gray Telford**, and **Sasha West**. Rounding out the UH contingent were CWP alum **Mira Rosenthal**, and Literature Professor **David Mikics**.

- Bradford Gray Telford



*Bradford Telford, Tony Hoagland,
Darin Ciccotelli*

Incoming Students

This year, the Creative Writing Program welcomes 21 new students- ten in fiction, ten in poetry and one in creative non-fiction.

Fiction

Bivens, Marantha F., M.F.A.
B.A., Florida State Univ.

Cantrell, Jennifer J., M.F.A.
M.A., Univ. of Missouri
B.A., Central Missouri State Univ.

Gonzalez, Manuel A., M.F.A.
B.A., Univ. of Oklahoma

Johnson, Brianne A., M.F.A.
M.S., Joint Military Intelligence College
B.S., Georgetown Univ.

Johnson, Garrett D., M.F.A.
B.A., Univ. of Houston

Jorgensen, Mari E., Ph.D.
M.A., Brigham Young College
B.A., Brigham Young College

Keliher, Irene R., M.F.A.
B.A., Scripps College

Lombardi, David J., Ph.D.
M.F.A., Eastern Washington Univ.
B.A., Miami Univ.-Oxford

Voorhees, Coert A., M.F.A.
B.A., Middlebury College

Yapa, Sunil S., M.F.A.
B.A., Pennsylvania State Univ.

Poetry

Berry, Lauren E., M.F.A.
B.A., Florida State Univ.

Charara, Hayan S., Ph.D.
M.A., New York Univ.
B.A., Wayne State Univ.

Elliott, Katherine E., M.F.A.
B.A., Univ. of Virginia

Foster, Eva L., Ph.D.
M.F.A., Univ. of Maryland
B.A., Oklahoma State Univ.

Goldman, April E., M.F.A.
B.A., Rice Univ.

Higdon, Stacey A., M.F.A.
B.A., Univ. of Alabama

Miyagawa, Yu, M.F.A.
B.A., Johns Hopkins Univ.

Moore, Kelly L., Ph.D.
M.F.A., Univ. of Houston
B.A., Univ. of Tennessee

Shaw, Kent D., Ph.D.
M.F.A., Washington Univ. in St. Louis
B.A., Univ. of Missouri

Siegel, Matthew S., M.F.A.
B.A., State Univ. of New York at Binghamton

Non-Fiction

Lee, Lisa S., M.F.A.
J.D., Santa Clara University
B.A., Univ. of California-Berkeley

Graduates 2005-2006

Fall 2005

Selena Flowers, M.F.A., Poetry
Kelly Ann Holt, M.F.A., Poetry

Laurie Clements, Ph.D., Poetry
Jennifer Grotz, Ph.D., Poetry
Joni Tevis, Ph.D., Poetry/Non-Fiction
Robert Vellani, Ph.D., Fiction

Spring 2006

Randi Faust, M.F.A., Fiction
Tiphonie Yanique Galiber, M.F.A., Fiction
Jennifer Hannah, M.F.A., Fiction
Nina McConigley, M.F.A., Fiction
Kelly Moore, M.F.A., Poetry
Sarah Perez, M.F.A., Poetry
Joshua Rivkin, M.F.A., Poetry
Giuseppe Taurino, M.F.A., Fiction

Charles Alcorn, Ph.D., Fiction
David Bernardy, Ph.D., Fiction
Amber Dermont, Ph.D., Fiction
James Hall, Ph.D., Poetry
Miho Nonaka, Ph.D., Poetry
Aaron Reynolds, Ph.D., Fiction
Ranjana Varghese, Ph.D., Fiction



Joshua Rivkin, Giuseppe Taurino

Writing Competitions

The Creative Writing Program's 2005-2006 writing competitions were judged by Kioko Mori for non-fiction, Darin Strauss for fiction and Donna Masini for poetry. The winners were:

Michener Fellowship in Honor
of Donald Barthelme
Bradford Hipps- Fiction

Inprint Fellowship in Honor
of Donald Barthelme
Jericho Brown- Poetry

Barthelme Memorial Fellowships
Sponsored by Inprint, Inc.
Andrew Kozma- Fiction
Aaron Reynolds- Fiction
Miah Arnold- Non-Fiction
Kate Schmitt- Poetry
Jeanine Walker- Poetry

Brazos Bookstore/Academy of
American Poets Prize
Brandon Lamson

Honorable Mentions: **Lacy Johnson**
and **Sasha West**

AWP 2006

The UH Creative Writing Program, along with Inprint and Gulf Coast, was a major sponsor of the 2006 AWP convention in Austin, TX. Over 50 UH graduate students were able to attend the convention, and they had their registration fees waived because of our sponsorship of the convention. UH faculty gave several prominent readings. **Chitra Divakaruni**, **Tony Hoagland**, and **Toni Nelson** were among the convention's featured readers. Other faculty and students participated in various panels. The UH reception was well-attended, as many old friends got together and also made new friends with the current faculty and students. The convention was a major success for the University of Houston and demonstrated again what an important, influential and vital program exists here.



Nicky Beer, Brian Barker, Wayne Miller



Claudia Rankine, David Vance



*Elline Lipkin, Laurie Newendorp,
Laurie Lambeth*

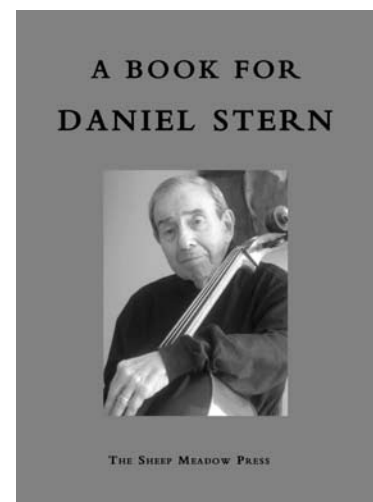
A Book for Daniel Stern

Sheep Meadow Press announced a December release date for the publication, *A Book for Daniel Stern*, a volume honoring the life and work of the CWP's senior faculty member in fiction. The festschrift includes fiction, poetry, and both personal and critical essays from Stern's closest friends, his esteemed colleagues, and former students. The editorial assistant for the book was Ph.D. candidate, **Jericho Brown**. A personal and moving tribute from **Elie Wiesel** introduces the book and it closes with an afterword by the distinguished critic **Frank Kermode**, who, considering Dan's life and work together, says of him, "one of the most original men I've ever known."

Daniel Stern said, "The festschrift, *A Book for Daniel Stern*, was born in the minds and hearts of **Pam Diamond**, a former student, and the poet **Stanley Moss**. The idea quickly spread to other students, past and present, colleagues and friends, writers all. My first reaction was, 'I don't deserve this—at least while I'm alive.' But then I realized, 'I don't have to deserve it, just to accept it.' He concluded, "My reactions now are simple: pleasure, pride, and gratitude."

Events celebrating the publication in Houston and in New York City are now being planned by the University of Houston and Sheep Meadow Press. *A Book for Daniel Stern* will be distributed by the University Press of New England (www.UPNE.com, 1.800.421.1561) and listed with the University Press Catalogue this December.

- *Jericho Brown*



Gulf Coast

Gulf Coast has received a great deal of recognition for literary excellence in the last few years. In an August 2004 article for The Boston Globe, literary critic and editor Sven Birkerts listed Gulf Coast as an “established player in the progressive mainstream” alongside such well-known publications as Gettsyburg Review, Ploughshares, and Tin House. Some of the earliest work of **Jay Hopler** (winner of the 2005 Yale Series of Younger Poets award), **Allan Peterson** (winner of the 2005 Juniper Prize), and **David Roderick** (winner of the 2006 APR/Honickman Prize) first appeared in Gulf Coast’s pages. Interviews, essays, and poems from Gulf Coast issues are regularly featured on Poetry Daily. Recent grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and The Cullen Foundation reflect both local and national support. Subscriptions, submissions, and sales have nearly tripled in recent years. Once again, the journal will increase its print run to respond to this demand.

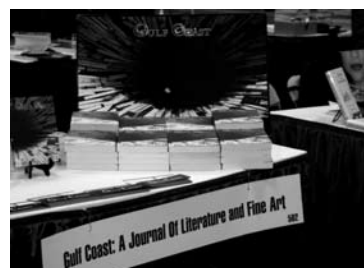
Locally, Gulf Coast helps to make the literary arts a vital and vibrant part of Houston. The annual reading series at Brazos Bookstore was voted “Best Reading Series” by Houston Press in September 2004, and our readers also appear on KUHF’s “Front Row.” On October 20th, 2005, the Gulf Coast Gala took place at the exclusive Bayou Club, featuring readings by **Justin Cronin** and **Mark Doty**, as well as a special tribute to **Karl Kilian**. (Those interested in attending this year’s event should contact Gulf Coast for ticket and table prices.) Lastly, this past year marked the start of a new tradition. In April, Gulf Coast launched its Spring 2005

issue at Richmond Hall, the Menil Collection’s fluorescent-light installation by artist **Dan Flavin**. The event included readings by **James Hall**, **Nina Swamidoss McConigley**, and **Miho Nonaka**, as well as music by saxophonist **Kelly Dean**. If you are in the Houston area and would like to be notified of upcoming readings, fairs, and events, please email us at editors@gulfcoastmag.org.

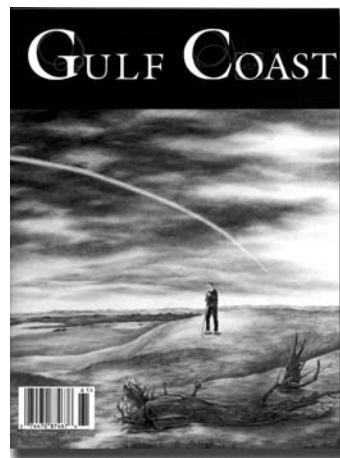
Be sure to check out recent and upcoming issues of Gulf Coast. The spring issue (Volume 18.2) featured new work by **Stephanie Dickinson**, **David Hernandez**, **Michael Kardos**, **Sarah Manguso**, **Davis McCombs**, **Daniel Nester**, **Minnie Bruce Pratt**, **Arthur Saltzman**, **Tracy K. Smith**, **G.C. Waldrep**, and **Mark Yakich**. The fall issue (19.1) promises to be one of our best yet, as it showcases our contest winners, chosen by **Eavan Boland**, **John D’Agata**, and **Antonya Nelson**, as well as interviews with emerging authors **Gail Caldwell**, **Christina Henríquez**, and **Ander Monson**. The issue also features the photographs of **Amy Blakemore**, who was chosen for the 2006 Whitney Biennial, as well as work by authors **Julie Agoos**, **Catherine Barnett**, **Eula Biss**, **Stephen Burt**, **Gabrielle Calvocoressi**, **Victoria Chang**, **Arkadii Dragomoshchenko**, **Elaine Equi**, **Laura Kasischke**, **Farnoosh Moshiri**, **Meghan O’Rourke**, **Emily Raboteau**, **Tomas Salamun**, **Aurelie Sheehan**, and **Susan Wood**. Subscriptions to Gulf Coast are offered to UH CWP affiliates for a special price of \$25 for two-years (a savings of \$7 off the cover price) and \$13 for one-year (\$3 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. Also check out our website at: www.gulfcoastmag.org



Winter/Spring 2006



Gulf Coast Table at the AWP Book Fair



Summer/Fall 2006

Alumni News

Alan Ainsworth (Ph.D., 1996) has just completed editing an anthology, *75 Arguments*, for McGraw-Hill which ought to be available this fall. The anthology is designed for first year argument and analysis courses. Two of his poems were included in *Time Slice*, an anthology of Houston poets, which included many UH faculty and alumni. He continues to be chair of English at Houston Community College Central.

Christopher Bakken (Ph.D., 1999) has two new books appearing in late 2006. His second book of poems, *Goat Funeral*, is being printed by Sheep Meadow Press. And *The Lions' Gate: Selected Poems of Titos Patrikios*, of which he is the co-translator, will be printed by Truman State University Press. His new poems have appeared recently or are forthcoming in [Gettysburg Review](#), [The Paris Review](#), [Southwest Review](#) and [PN Review](#) (U. K.) and he is a regular contributor of reviews to [Contemporary Poetry In Review](#) (www.cprw.com). Christopher and Kerry Bakken welcomed their second child, **Alexander Oscar**, into the world last November.

Kerry Neville Bakken's (Ph.D., 2000) debut story collection, *Necessary Lies*, was reviewed in the April 24th issue of [Publishers Weekly](#). The reviewer said, "Bakken's quiet exploration of life's bookends makes for an auspicious first outing." And she has a new baby. See Christopher's news above.

Brian Barker's (Ph.D., 2004) book, *The Animal Gospels*, was published by Tupelo Press in April. In the fall he'll be starting as an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Creative Writing at Murray State University in Murray, KY.

Charlotte Berkowitz (M.A., 1986) completed a Ph.D. in English at UH after receiving her M.A. She has published four interconnected essays on the literary capacity of the Torah to humanize mankind by facilitating a regenerative return to the mother since 2003. The most recently published piece is called "A Feast of Humanizing Words: How the Torah Can Free Man from Slavery to His Image. Or, On Finding Fresh Milk in Joseph's Cup." It appears in the spring, 2006, issue of the journal of the NAHE (National Association for Humanities Education), [Interdisciplinary Humanities](#).

Shannon Borg (Ph.D., 1999) reported that her first book of poems, *Corset*, was released in May from Word Tech's Cherry Grove Collections.

Katherine Pannill Center (M.A., 1999) sold her first novel, *The Bright Side of Disaster*, to Random House in a two-book, hardcover deal. It is scheduled to come out for summer 2007. The other book is scheduled for 2008.

Jane Creighton (M.A., 1991) got a Fulbright Lecturing Award and will be spending the coming academic year teaching at Jagiellonian University in Krakow. "Hurrah!"

Deborah Cummins (M.A., 1994) still serves on the board of The Poetry Foundation. She was the foundation's first Chair of the Board from 2001 – 2005. Her second book of poems, *Counting the Waves*, was released in June from Word Press and is available through their website and through Amazon. In July, Garrison Keillor featured one of her poems on "The Writers' Almanac". Her work has also appeared in [The Yale Review](#), [TriQuarterly](#) and [New England Review](#). She and her husband reside in Evanston, IL, and Deer Isle, ME.

Tracy Daugherty (Ph.D., 1985) is Chair of the English Department at Oregon State University, where they have a "thriving" new MFA Program in Creative Writing. He recently received a 2006 Guggenheim Fellowship for his writing which he plans to use to complete a biography of **Donald Barthelme**. His latest book, a short story collection called *Late in the Standoff*, was favorably reviewed in the [New York Times Book Review](#). He has a piece forthcoming in [McSweeney's Magazine](#) and is currently at work on a new novel.

Robin Davidson's (Ph.D., 2001) been really busy this past year and it sounds like she won't slow down in the coming year. She's just completed her first year as an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Houston-Downtown, and has enjoyed the year and her colleagues there enormously. She will serve as the Interim Director of the Cultural Enrichment Center for UH-Downtown in 2006-2007 while **Jane Creighton** (UH Alum, MA 1991) spends the academic year as a Fulbright scholar in Krakow, Poland (Typically she directs this center.). Robin hopes to keep UH-D's collaboration with Inprint, Inc. alive during Jane's absence. She will also help coordinate Houston Poetry Fest which is hosted annually on UH-D's campus. She will serve as a new member of the 2006-2007 Board of Directors of the Writers in the Schools program and is looking forward to it. Robin's chapbook entitled "Kneeling in the Dojo" was selected as a finalist for The Center for the Book Arts Poetry Chapbook Competition judged by **Jean Valentine** and **Sharon Dolin** in March 2005. In April, 2005, she was invited to participate in the April Conference 10 ("Language and Identity: English and American Studies in the Age of Globalization"), an international literary conference sponsored by the Jagiellonian University. She

presented and published, as part of the conference proceedings, a paper entitled "Hope Leslie: Catharine Maria Sedgwick's Response to the Epic." In spring 2006, she finished a manuscript of poems entitled "The Shadow of What Burns" and has just begun seeking publishers. She asks that you please keep your fingers crossed for her. She adds, "I am sad to report that I do not yet have a published book of poems of my own--the greatest grief..."

Robin has been collaborating with **Ewa Elzbieta Nowakowska** of Krakow's Jagiellonian University on a book of translation. They are translating from Polish the entire poetic volume *1999* and selected poems from subsequent volumes (Ja meaning "I" and Gdzie Indziej meaning "Somewhere Else") by **Ewa Lipska**. The book is entitled *The New Century: 1999 and Other Poems*. They also have a recent translation, "No One," forthcoming in *Literary Imagination*. UH-D nominated her for a 2006 National Endowment for Humanities summer stipend to support the completion of this project.

She received a faculty development award from UH-D and a John Woods scholarship from the Prague Summer Seminar to attend the four-week program this July in Prague--something she's wanted to do for more than ten years. She's especially looking forward to the Czech literature course taught by **Petr Bilek** of Charles University. She hopes to present a paper there entitled "Refugees of Reflection: Home and Exile in the Poems of Elizabeth Bishop, Ewa Lipska, and Liliana Ursu". She attended the Poetry Festival at Round Top in early May, and felt restored by remembering "that in the frenetic pace of daily university life, the life of poetry is the far most substantitive one..."

Marisa de los Santos (Ph.D., 1996) lives in Wilmington, Delaware, with her husband, **David Teague**, and their

two children. Her first novel, *Love Walked In*, was published by Dutton in January of 2006. Marisa spent the month of January on a national book tour and was glad to get home and continue work on her second novel, which is under contract at William Morrow, where she moved to stay with her editor. She plans to deliver it in the fall. She left her teaching job at the University of Delaware last year in order to write full time, which, according to Marisa, has been great.

Renee Dodd's (M.F.A., 2004) novel, *A Cabinet of Wonders*, will be published by The Toby Press, September 2006. The Toby Press's website is <http://www.tobypress.com/>, and Renee's website, which she tries to keep up to date with writing-related news, is <http://www.reneedodd.com>.

Barbara Duffey (M.F.A., 2005) is engaged to her partner, **Andrew Breitenbach**, and will be married in 2007. She published an essay-review in *Gulf Coast* (Summer/Fall 2006). Her poems have also appeared in *Indiana Review*, *Blue Mesa Review* and *Epicenter*. Barbara works as a grant writer in the College of Education at UH, and teaches Technical Communications in the College of Technology. In October, 2005, she had three poems accepted in *Prairie Schooner* and they should be forthcoming soon.

Michael Dumanis (Ph.D., 2005) is now an Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln. The younger poets anthology he co-edited with fellow CWP alum **Cate Marvin** (MFA, 1997), *Legitimate Dangers: American Poets of the New Century*, was released by Sarabande Books in January 2006 and has garnered much critical attention including reviews in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and the *Bloomsbury Review*, a feature in *American Poet*, and

the 2006 American Poetry Anthology Award. Also, Michael's first full-length collection of poems, *My Soviet Union*, won the 2006 Juniper Prize for Poetry from the University of Massachusetts Press, and is forthcoming from UMass in Spring 2007. New poems have appeared in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Pleiades*, *Post Road*, and elsewhere.

Annie Finch (M.A., 1986) published three books in the last year: a book of essays and poems, *The Body of Poetry: Essays on Women, Form and the Poetic Self* (Poets on Poetry Series, University of Michigan Press); an anthology co-edited with Deborah Brown and Maxine Kumin, *Lofty Dogmas: Poets on Poetry* (University of Arkansas Press) and a translation of the very sexy Renaissance poet Louise Labé (University of Chicago Press). Annie is enjoying her new job as Director of the Stonecoast low-residency MFA, and she and **Glen** and their children are well and love living in Maine. She has a new website at anniefinch.com and has just started a blog there.

Rebecca Flowers (M.F.A., 1994) found out in July that her agent has gotten a book deal for her first novel --"whoo hoo!". There's no title yet but it should be published by Riverhead sometime next year.

Meg Franklin (M.F.A., 2000) says that her book is still a mess and being edited by her agent! She's currently Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs and Professional Lecturer of English at Marist College. She says, and we quote, "We have a very successful lecture program in writing here, organized by me and our faculty in creative writing."

Eva Ginzberg (M.F.A., 2001) has a story appearing in the new anthology, *Flash Fiction Forward*, published by Norton. She's living in Urbana, Illinois, with her husband and son, and teaches part-time at Parkland College.

Emily Fox Gordon continues to teach workshops at Inprint. She will join the Rice English department in the Spring 2007 as a visiting writer. Her second memoir, *Are You Happy?: A Childhood Remembered* (Riverhead), was published in March and was favorably reviewed by Elizabeth McCracken in the New York Times Book Review. Emily presented a reading and book signing at Brazos Bookstore.

Ben Grossberg (Ph.D., 2000) won the Richard Snyder Publication Prize for his book of poems, *Underwater Lengths in a Single Breath*, from Ashland Poetry Press. His book will be published by Ashland Poetry Press in Dec. 2006. There was a \$1,000 cash prize, plus 100 copies of the published book. The Snyder Prize is an annual, open competition, for unpublished book-length collections of poetry. The book will be published in a paper edition of 1,000 copies.

Gretchen Heyer (M.A., 2001) won first place at the Mayborn Institute Writing Conference last summer. Unfortunately, she notified us too late to be included in last year's newsletter but we wanted to be sure to let everyone know about it.

Rick Hilles has won the Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize, one of the nation's most distinguished awards for a first book of poetry. His manuscript was selected from several hundred submissions. The prize includes \$5,000 and publication in the University of Pittsburgh Poetry Series. He teaches at Vanderbilt University

Kelly Holt (M.F.A., 2005) moved back to Fort Worth, TX, where she's teaching college, writing part time at a local community college and writing and submitting poetry whenever she can. She has poetry forthcoming in American Literary Review.

Robert House got a 3-year, partial tenure contract with Tidewater Community College in Virginia Beach, VA. He runs the Tidewater Literary Festival each year.

Cliff Hudder (M.F.A., 1995) is teaching at Montgomery College in Conroe, TX where most importantly he and his wife, **Kazumi**, had a baby boy on October 4, 2005, 6 lbs, 6 ozs, 19 inches: **Dylan Masaki Hudder**. Cliff, along with CWP alumnus Dave Parsons, is a Program Director for the Montgomery County Literary Arts Council which schedules a monthly reading series and a yearly small press publisher's conference at the college. . . But most important is the Dylan thing—he's GREAT.

Lance Larsen's (Ph.D., 1993) second collection, *In All Their Animal Brilliance* (2005), won the Tampa Review Prize, the Utah Center for the Book Prize, and was a finalist for the Texas Institute of Letters Prize. His recent work has or will appear in Southern Review, Agni, Poetry Daily, Georgia Review, Western Humanities Review, Prairie Schooner, Orion, Field, Antioch Review, and *The Pushcart Book of Poetry: the Best Poems from the First 30 Years of the Pushcart Prize*. A recent nonfiction piece on Robert Smithson's "Spiral Jetty" was mentioned as a notable essay in Best American Essays 2005.

Leah Lax (M.F.A., 2004) has a contract with the Houston Grand Opera to write the libretto for a new opera. It will be performed for the twentieth anniversary of the Wortham Center, on November 10, 2007. The working title is "Song of Houston," and it is about the immigrant experience in Houston. She has been interviewing people in six different immigrant communities and letting their stories write this for her. Leah says, "I've been amazed, moved, entertained and hum-

bled by these phenomenal people." Leah also received a CACCH Artist's Grant of \$7000 this year for work on her (forthcoming) memoir.

Robert Liddell (M.F.A., 2005) will be published in Best New American Voices 2007.

Elline Lipkin's (Ph.D., 2003) book, *The Errant Thread*, was just published this April by Kore Press. It won the Kore Press First Book Award and was chosen by **Eavan Boland**. Elline is still working as a Lecturer for College Writing Programs and Women's Studies at UC/Berkeley and just completed a residency at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Last summer she was the 2005 Writer in Residence at the Paper and Book Intensive in Colorado Springs.

Ann McCutchen is still teaching creative nonfiction at the University of North Texas, and has two essays forthcoming: "Reaching For The End Of Time" in the summer 2006 issue of Image, and "Five Sketches With B" in the fall 2006 issue of Boulevard.

Leslie Miller (Ph.D., 1991) reports that her fifth full-length collection of poems, *The Resurrection Trade*, is forthcoming from Graywolf Press next spring. Three poems from this collection that appeared in the Summer 2005 issue of Prairie Schooner Magazine were given the Edward Stanley Award. Poems from this collection have also appeared or are forthcoming in Kenyon Review, North American Review, Ploughshares, Antioch Review and Nimrod.

Wayne Miller (M.F.A., 2002) tells us that his first full-length collection of poems, *Only the Senses Sleep*, will be published by New Issues this October, and his collaborative translation of *I Don't Believe in Ghosts*, by Albanian poet Moikom Zeqo, is scheduled to

appear from BOA in late 2007. He's also co-editing *The New European Poetry*, which features European poets who published their first books after 1970, and which Graywolf will publish in 2008. He lives in Kansas City with **Jeanne Ouellette** (who was a UH English/Creative Writing major and who just finished her M.S.W.) and teaches at Central Missouri State University, where he co-edits *Pleiades: A Journal of New Writing*.

Farnoosh Moshiri's (M.F.A., 2000) third novel, *Against Gravity*, was published by Penguin in January. She presented a reading and had a book signing at Borders Books. *Against Gravity* is a novel, set in Houston in the early 90's and was chosen as the season's pick for both Barnes and Noble and Borders Books.

Laurie Newendorp (M.A., 1992) had 2 poems out this spring- "Isotope" and "Dogwood". Both are Emily Dickinson related. Laurie says that she loved AWP because she got to see so many people! Since she writes at home, she leads a solitary life with **Orpheus**, her dear black Lab companion who's having a difficult spring at 14 ½ years.

Dave Parsons (M.A., 1991) reports that he is semi-retired from teaching...teaching only one Creative Writing class and a Handball/Racquetball class at Montgomery College each semester. "A dream schedule for me!!!" He has a collection of poems entitled *Color of Mourning* coming out hopefully next year from Texas Review Press and individual poems of late are forthcoming in *Louisiana Literature*, *Descant*, *The Texas Review*, *In The Eye: A Nature Anthology* by Thunder-Rain Publishing for Habitat For Humanity of Louisiana, and *Beyond Forgetting: An Alzheimer's Anthology of Prose & Poetry* edited by Holly Hughes. Dave is still very busy with the Writer's In Performance Series that he co-

directs with his super colleague and fellow UH Alum **Cliff Hudder** (MFA, 1995). They reached the milestone of over 100 visiting readers this past year. And he now has four grand-children. He says, "It's been a banner year for me."

Robin Reagler (Ph.D., 1995) continues to blog about family, poetry, and art on her websites, <http://theothermother.typepad.com> and www.bigwindow.org. She has an essay published in *Confessions of the Other Mother* (Beacon Press) this spring. In the fall, she will begin her tenth year as Executive Director of Writers in the Schools (WITS).

Pattiann Rogers (M.A., 1981) won a 2005 Lannan Literary Award for her poetry. The award has a prize of \$125,000.

Martha Serpas (Ph.D., 1998) taught as Visiting Associate Professor of Religion and Literature at Yale Divinity School in Fall 05. She says it was odd to return as a faculty member to a pivotal place she had studied as a student, but wonderful to be back around scholars of theology. Her second collection of poems, *The Dirty Side of the Storm*, will be published by W. W. Norton in November. *The New Yorker* included some of her poems right after Hurricane Katrina. She has enjoyed the credit of being a speed writer or prophet, but she says her part of Louisiana has been "flooding and eroding for fifty years." The disappearance of her home has been her primary subject. She has been on sabbatical in Oregon and will return to full-time teaching at the University of Tampa in the fall.

Patty Seyburn (Ph.D., 2003) will be starting her tenure-track position as Assistant Professor at California State University in Long Beach, CA, in Fall 2007. She has recent or forthcoming

publications in *5 AM*, *Pleiades*, *Oxford Magazine* and *Columbia Poetry Journal*. She's also co-editor of *Pool: A Journal of Poetry* based in Los Angeles.

Eric Shade (M.F.A., 1999) has had stories published recently in *Greensboro Review* and *River Stix* and has one coming out in *Fugue* this summer. He won the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction for his book, *Eyesores*. The book came out in 2003 but he's just now publicizing it. He also has a novel finished and is looking for an agent/publisher. He currently lives in Pennsylvania but plans to move to Tokyo this summer.

Karen (Glazier) Shepard's (M.F.A., 1992) third novel, *Don't I Know You?*, is out from William Morrow.

Arthur Smith (Ph.D., 1986) says that he has had a few poems "here and there". A *Pushcart XIII* poem, "A Little Death", is being reprinted in the *Pushcart Book of Poetry: The Best Poems From the First 30 Years of the Pushcart Prize*. He says it was a "pleasant surprise."

J.D. Smith (M.A., 1989) announced that his second collection of poems, *Settling for Beauty*, was published by Cherry Grove Collections in April. It was also mentioned in the UH publication, *Collegium*. More recently, his op-ed "Pop Viagra and Save a Rhino" appeared in the May 23rd edition of the *Los Angeles Times*. His children's picture book, *The Best Mariachi in the World*, has been accepted by Raven Tree Press and will be published in 2008. He is currently circulating a third collection of poems and writing essays and both literary and genre fiction. He and his wife, **Paula Van Lare** were married in October, 2005. They live in Washington, DC, with **Roo** the Rescue Dog, a beagle mix.

Amy Spade (M.F.A., 1997) has had poems appear recently in Rosebud, New Millennium Writings and Harpur Palate. Poems are forthcoming in Connecticut Review and Poetry East. She also recently recorded a poem for "Writers in the Attic", a show on Connecticut Public Review, and read at Moe's Books in Berkeley. She's still teaching high school in California.

Marilyn Stablein (M.A., 1984) has had poems and stories published in Central Avenue, Ke5tra: Sound Literature, Sin Fronteras, and New Perspectives Magazine. In addition to readings and book signings, she presented her annual Day of the Dead performance and installation. She has recently exhibited or will exhibit her assemblages and book art sculptures in Woodstock, NY, Lexington, KY, Austin, TX, and Las Cruces, Corrales, and Albuquerque, NM. She and her husband **Gary** recently expanded their used & rare bookstore, Acequia Booksellers, into Albuquerque where they will host readings, art shows and lectures.

Anna Stepanek (Ph.D., 2003) has a book coming out in October 2006. It is *Three, Breathing* and was selected by **Mary Ruefle** as the winner of the National Poetry Series.

Gail Donohue Storey (M.A., 1982) gave a Power Point presentation and reading from her tragicomic memoir-in-progress, about hiking the Pacific Crest Trail with her husband, at the Chautauqua Forum Series in Boulder, CO, where she now lives.

Joni Tevis (M.F.A., 2001) is working on her Ph.D. here at the University of Houston and reports that this year she's has essays accepted at Oxford American, Conjunctions, Agni and Bellingham Review. And this summer,

she traveled to the Nantucket Whaling Museum and to Staunton, VA, to do research on Melville and Woodrow Wilson, thanks to the Minnesota State Arts Board.

Robert Tinajero (M.F.A., 2004) is currently working on his Ph.D. in Composition and Rhetoric at the University of Texas-El Paso and teaching both Composition and Poetry courses at the University. He also teaches courses at the El Paso Community College. Robert recently had a poem published in the Texas Review and is still looking for a publisher for his manuscript "Love and Revolution" which came out of his MFA thesis. Robert will be getting married September 9, 2006, to **Cindy Duron**, a nurse from El Paso. Please visit his website at www.blueletters.com which has poetry, essays, links, a blog and some of his students' essays.

Jennifer Tseng's (M.F.A., 2002) book, *The Man With My Face*, was awarded a 2006 Beyond Margins PEN Award and was a finalist for the Texas Institute of Letters Helen C. Smith Memorial Award for best book of poetry for 2005. This fall she'll be a visiting professor at The Colorado College.

Randall Watson's (Ph.D., 1995) latest book, *The Sleep Accusations*, was published by Eastern Washington University Press.

Eric Miles Williamson (M.F.A., 1991) published his second novel, *Two Up*, this year and Librarie Artheme Fayard will publish the translation this fall in Paris. Eric is Executive Editor of American Book Review and Associate Editor of Boulevard. At the University of Texas, Pan American, he is Associate Professor of English, teaching contemporary literature and criticism. He lives in McAllen, TX, with his wife, **Judy**, and their two sons.

Alumni Association

CWP Alumni Association Seeks a New Coordinator

Glenn Blake played a crucial role in helping start a much-needed alumni association for the graduate Creative Writing Program at UH. And just as his work was bearing fruit, his life led him away from UH. We now need to find someone to replace Glenn and to move the alumni association from its current state of planning to become a functioning association to support UH alumni and to keep them connected to the program. If you are interested in taking on this leadership role, please email Kathy Smathers (Ksmathers@uh.edu). With the new studio reading series, which will bring back UH alumni to read at UH and conduct residencies with our current students, we are beginning to find ways to bring our alumni back to campus. It is an exciting time. We have been busy and a little slow in our organization, but we are determined to establish a strong relationship with our alumni. What we need is help from those of you who are also interested in participating in a strong alumni association. Please contact us. We want to use this year to move the association from planning to reality, and we welcome and appreciate your help.



Tracy Daugherty, Rosselyn Brown, Glenn Blake and Richard Lyons share a moment before a panel reading at the 2006 AWP Conference in Austin

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2006-2007

Faculty

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Karen Brennan *Spring 2007*
Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
Mark Doty
Nick Flynn
Edward Hirsch *On Leave*
Tony Hoagland
Kathleen Lee
Cynthia Macdonald *Emeritus*
Jane Miller *Fall 2006*
Antonya Nelson
Robert Phillips
Daniel Stern
John Weir *Fall 2006*
Adam Zagajewski
Edward Albee - *School of Theatre*

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Application deadline for Fall 2007 Semester: January 15, 2007

Creative Writing Program

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