

UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON** **Creative Writing Program**

**With two new hires in Poetry,
the Creative Writing Program
Looks Forward
to an Exciting Future!**



John Roberts
Dean, CLASS

Wyman Herendeen
English Dept. Chair

j. Kastely
CWP Director

Kathy Smathers
Assistant Director

Shatera Anderson
Program Coordinator

713.743.3015
cwp@uh.edu

**2009-2010
Edition**

WWW.UH.EDU/CWP



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...

As you will see in this year's Newsletter, we have hired two wonderful poets: Ange Mlinko and Kevin Prufer. With the hire of Martha Serpas last year, we have now added in the last two years three poets to our faculty—making our Creative Writing faculty 10—5 fiction writers and 5 poets. It feels as if we have achieved a momentary stability. I am thankful for that, but I am even more thankful for the collegiality that these 10 faculty members share. I think that this collegiality is quite rare, and it is a great gift. The faculty members are pleasure to work with, and I imagine a very bright future for the program precisely because this faculty works together so well. During the searches, I was reminded that we seek faculty who are good writers, good and committed teachers, and good citizens. It is not easy to find people who can meet those requirements, but for a program that is working, those are precisely the kinds of faculty you need. Because they are committed and collegial, they can work as a faculty and that is not something that is always valued at a University. I remember listening to an administrator pontificating on the desirability of the faculty conceiving of themselves as entrepreneurs, and thinking to myself that that person had absolutely no understanding what a university is or how a faculty is supposed to function. For him, a university was simply a location or base of operations for people who did not fundamentally share anything—there was no common enterprise. The faculty's primary job was to bring in grants. Deliberation was irrelevant, and any institutional discussion was inevitably either an open or disguised competition for resources. He imagined a university without an intellectual life.

I believe that at the core of our program is a commitment to the intellectual life, to a belief that creative writing is an important way of knowing. This belief is behind our assumption that one becomes a better writer by developing into a person of letters and not simply through an exclusive focus on craft. One of our prospective students asked me why our graduate degrees took so long (3 years for the MFA and 5 years for the PhD), and I explained that it was important to have enough time for your work to fall apart and then to rebuild yourself as a writer. The act of reflection is integral to the writing life, and whatever else we do, we should make our students more self-conscious about their writing. This does not mean that a good writer will necessarily follow a conscious plan—that is probably one way to avoid the life of a writer. That reduction of thought to conscious choice shows a deeply impoverished understanding of what a mind is. Rather a deliberative or reflective writer begins to take an appropriate responsibility for his or her choices as a writer. That is, the writer lives the examined life. All graduate education is an invitation into difficulty. If you stay intellectually alive, it is because you have learned how to cultivate a productive dissatisfaction—you have learned how to live with questions that don't have easily available answers and which, originally, may not even announce themselves as clearly defined questions. You don't actually know what you are asking, but in an inchoate way the question forces itself upon you. A good faculty brings you into that practice and makes a life without such intellectual restlessness seem uninviting. So as we head into the next academic year, I feel grateful to work with writers who, in their collegiality, keep such an intellectual life alive.

As Ever,

j. Kastely,
Director

Program News

It's hard to believe that another year has already come and gone since the last newsletter went out. We have the beginnings of a student directory and the CWP website is up to date. We're working through the economic downturn and still growing. Inprint, Inc., has again been a great help and provided support. We'll have a wonderful group of new students this year chosen from the largest applicant pool we've ever had. That's encouraging! We're really excited about our new faculty members - Ange Mlinko and Kevin Prufer.



Dr. j. Kastely

Our farewell party for the 2010 graduates this year was a real success. We'll definitely miss those who graduated and wish them the very best in the future. Also, David MacLean, who graduated in 2009, has moved on to hopefully bigger and better things in Chicago. He has been an important part of the program for the past few years and was of invaluable help during the faculty search this year. Good luck, David!

With the help of, Dr. Herendeen, Chair of the English Department, we were able to send 24 students to AWP in Denver again this year. We hope they learned something and they said they enjoyed them-

selves. We were really proud to have them, along with several of our faculty and David MacLean, represent us there.

We're still buying the new books of our faculty, students and alumni for our library and display case. So, please let us know when you have a new publication so we can get it.

If you have something come up during the year, please let us know. We love to have news for this newsletter but we're also happy to put news on the website. We hope to make it more interactive this year. Mike Doyle continues to be the go-to person for us when working on the website and, of course, we couldn't get this newsletter done without his dedication and expertise.

Shatera Anderson is currently in her third year at Texas State Univ. here in Houston. She's managed to stay an honor student throughout her college while working here fulltime and raising her two daughters. She's also had singing engagements in Houston, New York and Chicago. As usual, she was indispensable this year during the application process and as a go-to person for faculty and students. She plans to graduate next year with a degree in Sociology.



Kathy & Shatera

Kathy Smathers wishes to thank everyone for sending news and not making her beg overly much. She says that it's really fun putting the newsletter together because that's about the only time of year she hears from alumni. Also, it gives the students a chance to let alumni and supporters know what they're doing. And she loves hearing from everyone.

Kathy is still working closely with Mike Doyle to keep the website updated and fresh. She would really appreciate input from everyone on how to make the website more informative and user friendly. She's looking forward to meeting all of the new students and hopes to help make their time here enjoyable and memorable. She leaves the educational part to fellow students and faculty.

Kathy still heads to the Lake Livingston house on the weekends.

Mike Doyle started work as a Communications Director for a church in Houston back in February but is still helping us with our publications and website. In the future, he hopes to expand the appeal of the CWP website with more audio/visual content. In other news, he's working hard on his time management skills.



Mike Doyle

Cynthia Woods Mitchell

Center for the Arts

The Graphic Novel

In the Spring of 2010 the University of Houston's Creative Writing Program began offering its first course in the Graphic Novel. Sponsored by the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts, the course was a collaboration between the Creative Writing Program and the Art Department, and saw graduate students in both artistic disciplines coming together for a semester long exploration of the graphic storytelling form. The course combined close readings of major graphic text with a workshop of the students own work. Art students composed original scripts and illustrated their work for their final project, and writing students composed two scripts, one short, one long. The scripts, similar to screenplays, were then selected by three professional comic book artists for illustration. **Brandon White** (M.F.A., Fiction), James Roberts, and **Jonathan Niles-Gill** (M.F.A., Fiction) had their work translated into visual form by Dean Haspiel, Mike Cavallaro, Joe Infurnari, respectively. The innovative class garnered local attention as well, with profiles done by the [Houston Chronicle](#) and Channel 39 News. A show of the class work was presented at the Project Rowhouse Gallery in August.



Inprint Houston

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

In 2010-2011, Inprint will provide \$146,000 in direct support to the UH Creative Writing Program. This consists of \$85,000 in recruiting fellowships (including Anderson, Brown, Cambor, Elkins, Fondren, Jones, and Zilkha Fellowships); \$7,500 in support for international and out-of-state students; \$42,500 in juried prizes (including Barthelme Fellowships and Alexander, Joy, Sussman, and Verlaine Prizes); and \$11,000 in support of Gulf Coast: A Journal of Literature and Fine Art. New this year is the Robert J. Sussman Prize in Fiction, named for a beloved Inprint Board member who passed away in April 2009. Bob was a brilliant lawyer, an occasional fiction writer, and a lovely man, and it is a great honor to offer this prize in his memory. In April, Inprint will host a reading by the prize winners, which all Creative Writing Program students and faculty will be invited to attend.

The Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series, presented in association with the UH Creative Writing Program, celebrates its 30th anniversary season in 2010-2011 and will feature an internationally acclaimed roster of authors. All readings will take place at 7:30 pm in downtown Houston. The Series will present:

Amy Tan, Monday, September 20, 2010, Cullen Theater, Wortham

Center, 501 Texas Avenue—Tan's debut novel, *The Joy Luck Club*, called "powerful" and "full of magic" by the Los Angeles Times, made her an overnight sensation and a pioneering voice of Chinese American literature. Her other critically acclaimed works include *The Kitchen God's Wife*, *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, and *Saving Fish From Drowning*. Tan has been a finalist for both the National Book Award and National Book Critics Circle Award, and her work has been translated into 35 languages.

Carlos Fuentes, Monday, October 11, 2010, Hubbard Stage, Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Avenue—Fuentes, one of the greatest literary figures of Latin America, is the author of more than 25 books, including The New York Times bestseller, *The Old Gringo*, the first book by a Mexican author to become a bestseller in the U.S.; *Terra Nostra*; *The Death of Artemio Cruz*; *A Change of Skin*; *The Eagle's Throne*; and his most recent story collection, *Happy Families*, which Booklist praises as "completely captivating and entertaining, with . . . characterizations dancing off the page." Among his numerous awards and honors, he has received the Miguel de Cervantes Prize, the top literary prize in the Spanish-speaking world.

Salman Rushdie, Friday, December 3, 2010, Cullen Theater, Wortham Center, 501 Texas Avenue—Rushdie, one of the most thought-provoking writers of our time, is the author of more than ten novels, including *Midnight's Children*, winner of the Best of the Booker; *Shame*; and the controversial *The Satanic Verses*. Knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for his services to literature, Rushdie was ranked 13th by The Times of London on their list of "the

50 greatest British writers since 1945." He will read from his new novel, *Luka and the Fire of Life* (to be released in November), a companion to *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*.

Peter Carey, Monday, January 24, 2011, Hubbard Stage, Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Avenue—Carey, born in Australia and the author of 11 critically acclaimed novels, is only the second writer to twice win the Booker Prize. His major works include *Oscar and Lucinda* (winner of the Booker Prize), *Illywhacker* (shortlisted for the Booker), *True History of the Kelly Gang* (winner of the Booker), *Jack Maggs* (based on characters from Dickens' *Great Expectations*), and his most recent novel, *Parrot and Olivier in America*, from which he will read.

Major Jackson and **Alicia Ostriker**, Monday, February 14, 2011, Neuhaus Stage, Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Avenue—**Jackson**, an award-winning African American poet and poetry editor at Harvard Review, is the author of three collections, including *Leaving Saturn*, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and the winner of the Cave Canem Poetry Prize, *Hoops*, and *Holding Company*. **Ostriker**, world-renowned poet, literary critic, and nonfiction writer, was twice a finalist for the National Book Award. She is the author of 12 poetry collections, including her latest, *The Book of Seventy*, which won the Jewish National Book Award.

Chitra Divakaruni and **Gish Jen**, Monday, March 7, 2011, Zilka Hall, Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby Street—Faculty member at the UH Creative Writing Program, **Divakaruni** is the author of 16 books, including novels,

short stories, poetry collections, and children's books. Her novel, *Sister of My Heart*, was a national bestseller, and her story collection, *Arranged Marriage*, received an American Book Award. She will read from her new novel, *One Amazing Thing*. Chinese American fiction writer, **Jen** is the author of three novels and a collection of short stories, including *The New York Times* Notable Book, *Typical American*, shortlisted for the National Book Critics' Circle Award. She will read from her new novel, *World and Town*, to be released in October 2010.

Kay Ryan, Monday, April 11, 2011, Hubbard Stage, Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Avenue—Sixteenth U. S. Poet Laureate, Ryan's major poetry collections include *The Niagara River*, *Say Uncle*, *Elephant Rocks*, *Flamingo Watching* (a finalist for both the Lamont Poetry Selection and the Lenore Marshall Prize), and her latest, *The Best of It: New and Selected Poems*, about which Annie Dillard says, "These are poems that inspire us with poetry's greatest gifts: the music of language and the force of wisdom."

Four of the writers—Peter Carey, Gish Jen, Major Jackson, and Alicia Ostriker—will give talks on the UH campus, specially geared to meet the needs of UH Creative Writing Program students. For more details on the Inprint Margaret Root Brown Reading Series and other Inprint programs, visit www.inprinthouston.org.

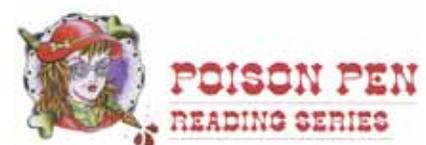
Poison Pen

The Poison Pen Reading Series continues to chug away as Houston's premier location for readings steeped in bourbon. Started in September of 2006 by UHCWP alums **Greg Oaks** (Ph.D., 2001), **Casey Fleming** (M.F.A., 2007) and **David MacLean** (Ph.D., 2009) and entrepreneur/fiction writer, Scott Repass, the reading series continues to grow and pull in larger crowds than we expect and better talent than we deserve. This past year we were lucky enough to have been selected by the readers of the *Houston Press* as "Best Reading Series in Houston". Our line-up continues to be a mixture of UH grad students, faculty, and visiting writers. Our past year's highlights include readings by Dean Young, Matt Hart, **Emily Fox Gordon**, **Rich Levy**, **Tony Hoagland**, Terrance Hayes, **Taije Silverman** and **Jason Koo** (M.F.A., 2002). Victor LaValle came to UH's campus to give a craft talk at the Honors College and then later gave a reading at Poison Girl with **Robert Boswell**. This double feature came by way of a unique partnership between the UH English Department, UH Creative Writing Program, and Poison Pen. This year also was the third annual *Gulf Coast* Editors' Reading and was an excellent sampler of some of the best writers UH is churning out. PPRS has started a webpage at poisonpenreadingseries.com and a youtube channel where we post videos of our readings. This year was also significant as UHCWP Prof. **Antonya Nelson** agreed to be on PPRS's advisory board and UHCWP Prof. **Mat Johnson** agreed to come on as an inner circle member (after the standard initiation rites). We had an unexpected moment of sentimentality

break out on us when we scheduled UHCWP student **Analia Sotelo** with fiction writer Andrew Porter, who just happened to be an old teacher of Ms. Sotelo. We all got a little choked up. And then made jokes about how silly it is to get choked up.

Thanks to UHCWP and the citizens of Montrose, it's been another great year of literature and liquor. Like whiskey, we're only getting better with age (but only when we're kept out of the sun and sealed inside of our individual barrels).

David MacLean



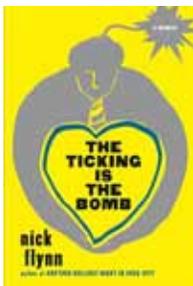
Faculty News

Robert Boswell spent the summer teaching at the Tin House Conference and the Warren Wilson residency.



Chitra Divakaruni's new novel, *One Amazing Thing*, was published in the United States (Hyperion) and in India (Penguin). It will be published in translation in

the upcoming year in the following countries: France, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Korea and Spain. Her previous novel, *The Palace of Illusions*, was nominated for the Impac-Dublin Literary Award and has now been translated into eight foreign languages.

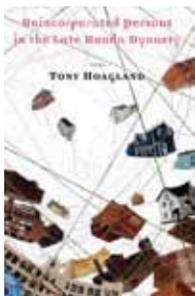


Nick Flynn's most recent book, *The Ticking is the Bomb* (Norton), came out in January--the Los Angeles Times calls it "a disquieting masterpiece." This

spring he was one of three judges for the 92nd Street Y/Boston Review poetry prize, and gave a commencement speech at Bennington College. *The Captain Asks for a Show of Hands*, his first book of poems in eight years, is due out next January (Graywolf). For the summer he and his family were based in Brooklyn and wandering elsewhere.

Tony Hoagland's latest book (Feb 2010) *Unincorporated Persons of the Late Honda Dynasty* "has been translated into British" and

published by BloodAxe Press in the U.K. under the title "*Unincorporated Persons in the Late Honda Dynasty*". It is a selection of the UK Poetry Society. This past spring he taught a course for the Houston Seminar on 20th Century American Poetry, which was a marvelous experience.



One of his poems is selected for the 2010 Pushcart Prize Anthology. Tony has essays forthcoming in *Poetry Magazine* and the New Ohio Review, and poems in an anthology edited by Judd Apatow. (Hollywood!) He also was guest editor for a great issue of *Ploughshares* this spring, which featured poems by former Houston graduates **Peter Hyland** (M.F.A., 2007) and **Miho Nonaka** (Ph.D., 2006).

Mat Johnson's second original graphic novel, *Dark Rain*, was published by Vertigo Comics August 15th. The story is about New Orleans and Hurricane Katrina. His third novel, *Pym*, is scheduled for release in April 2011 with Spiegel and Grau.



Antonya Nelson has a novel coming out in October (Bloomsbury) called *Bound*. It makes use of some of the true-life experience she had in Kansas during her adolescence surrounding the notorious BTK serial killer. Toni was awarded a USA Artists' Fellowship for 2010, and had personal essays appear in Smithsonian Magazine, The New York Times, and More magazines. She also had short stories in Narrative, Tin House,

and TriQuarterly.

Having survived year one of parenthood (see photo of tiny, delicious crustacean), **Alex Parsons** was promoted with tenure to Associate Professor and awarded the 2009-10 UH Teaching Excellence Award before slinking off to enjoy his sabbatical. His whereabouts are unknown, though likely he's in close proximity to the aforementioned crustacean as well as a laptop with disabled email software.



Martha Serpas will be participating in "Remembering Katrina: A Fifth Anniversary Reading" at Tulane University with, among others, Yusef Komunyakaa, Nicole Cooley, Peter Cooley, and Alison Pelegrin. She unfortunately has been busy since the advent of the BP Gulf Oil Disaster, reading from *The Dirty Side of the Storm*, helping to finish a documentary seven years in the making about coastal erosion ("Veins in the Gulf"), and writing an op-ed piece for The New York Times, "Our Life, Between Sea and Oil," published July 11. (She told them the Gulf is not a sea, but "those Yankees are hard-headed.") Also this year she has published work in Southwest Review among other journals, and her poems were reprinted in *The Art of the Sonnet* and *Bearing the Mystery: The Best of Image*.

New Faculty



Kevin Pruffer

comes to the University of Houston after serving as Professor of English and Coordinator of the Creative Writing Program at the University of Central Missouri. While at UCM, Kevin was the editor of Pleiades: A Journal of New Writing, which, under his editorship, has been transformed from a small regional journal to an important national journal that is helping to shape contemporary American letters. His impact on American letters, however, goes beyond his editorship of Pleiades. Kevin has established a distinctive poetic voice, and, as an editor of three important anthologies, he has brought to the attention of the reading public the work of overlooked American writers and of contemporary European poets. And in his most recent anthology, *Contemporary American Poetry: A Bilingual Anthology*, he has made contemporary American poetry available to an audience whose primary language is Urdu.

Kevin Pruffer received a BA, with honors, from Wesleyan University where he pursued an interdisciplinary degree that worked across the boundaries of literature, history, and philosophy. He received an MA in Creative Writing from the Hollins Graduate Creative Writing Program, and an MFA in poetry writing from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Kevin is the author of 4 collections of poetry: *National Anthem*, *Fallen from a Chariot*, *The Finger Bone*, and *Strange Wood*. His fifth collection, *Little People Sacrifice*, is due out in April 2011, and a German

language edition of his *Selected Poems* will be published in 2010. His poems have appeared in numerous anthologies and in such journals as Ploughshares, Indiana Review, American Poetry Review, The Georgia Review, Boulevard, The Kenyon Review, TriQuarterly, and Prairie Schooner among many others. He has also published fiction and non-fiction, and a slew of reviews.

Critics and reviewers have found much to praise in Kevin Pruffer's work. His is a poetry that raises the question of the place of poetry in the 21st century. How does one reconcile the need to communicate love in a world dominated by an empire falling apart? Or put another way, how does one live a life adequate to a world that has been disorganized by empire? What does it mean to live in a fallen world, and what is the role of poetry in such a world? Clearly, part of the answer is that poetry must serve as witness and must draw on history to remind us of the fate of other empires. But that is only part of the answer. The other part is that poetry needs to assist us in making sense of that world, in placing it emotionally and imaginatively. Its task is not to supply answers but to make us aware of our situation, to allow our understanding to move beyond its containment in the busyness of the all pervasive images of self-justification and aggrandizement that any empire serves up to its citizenry. Kevin Pruffer's poetry succeeds admirably at this task. We look forward to his presence at UH.



In an enthusiastic review of *Starred Wire*--Ange Mlinko's second book, Stephen Burt claimed that Ange was one of a handful

(and a small hand at that) of contemporary poets who are able to maintain a razor edge balance between a poetry manifesting "manic invention, non-Euclidean dreamlike verbal spaces, acrobatic attempts to get around and above ordinary prose syntax" and a poetry engaged in making "wry observations on modern urban life." Burt observes that you can usually get one or the other, but rarely both. As soon as you read Ange's poems, you understand what Burt is getting at. Although this is work that can be seen as inheriting and participating in the tradition and aesthetic associated with Frank O'Hara, John Ashbery and others, it is not a poetry that can be comfortably reduced to that tradition or any tradition. There is a vitality at the heart of Ange Mlinko's poetry that is evident in its electric and fractured syntax, in its luscious vocabulary (there is a sensuality in her poetry that is very interesting), and in the restless of a mind that dances its restlessness through that syntax and vocabulary.

Ange Mlinko was educated at St. Johns College in Annapolis, where she majored in Philosophy and Mathematics and at Brown University, where she received her MFA in Creative Writing—Poetry. Her poems have appeared in The New Yorker, The Nation, the London Review of Books, the Village Voice, Agni, the Chicago Review, Poetry, Colorado Review, Grand Street, and elsewhere, and she has been anthologized in *19 Lines*:

A *Drawing Center Writing Anthology*; *Bowery Women: Poems*; and *Isn't It Romantic: 100 Love Poems by Younger American Poets*. Ange also writes poetry criticism—very good criticism, which appears regularly in [The Nation](#) and the [London Review of Books](#). In 2008, she was awarded the prestigious Randall Jarrell Award by the Poetry Foundation for her criticism.

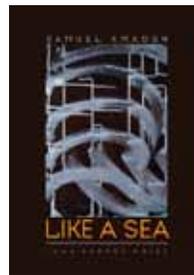
She is the author of 3 collections of poetry: *Matinees* (Zoland, 1999); *Starred Wire* (Coffee House Press, 2005) which was selected by Bob Holman for the National Poetry Series and was also a finalist for the James Laughlin Award; and *Shoulder Season* (Coffee House, 2010).

Ange's poetry is an ongoing act of reclamation. It is sort of an embrace of schizophrenia—of a state in which things both cohere and fail to cohere--as a defensive stance to maintain sanity. In *Shoulder Season*, she begins by providing an image of butterflies setting themselves on bromeliads as offering "a little spa for the mind." The need for such a spa becomes clear when the poet argues that it is not possible to distinguish the "dilapidated boutiques" from the ongoing construction. In a world in which decay cannot be distinguished from rebirth—disorder from order, a spa for the mind becomes attractive. We all understand the value and attraction of intellectual retreat, of beauty as an antidote to chaos. But since we are dealing with a poet who looks with an unblinking eye, it should surprise no one that in her next poem, the poet makes clear that "the mind is not a little spa." That retreat is not an option. This raises the obvious question: what is the option? The answer is a poetry that sees this world of confused and jumbled categories and events and understands it as a subject matter for poetry. Poetry is not retreat from the world but

engagement with it. You can trace Ange Mlinko back to the New York school of poets but you can't explain the excitement of her poetry's achievement by such a genealogy. Ange Mlinko is the kind of poet whose poetry enacts the wonderful restlessness of mind, the vital play of order and disorder that is at the heart of poetry.

Student News

Samuel Amadon (Ph.D., Poetry) won the 2009 Iowa Poetry Prize for his first poetry collection, *Like A Sea*.



Sean Bishop (M.F.A., Poetry) graduated this year and will be the 2010-2011 Diane Middlebrook Poetry Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison next year. He's done a wonderful job as Managing Editor for [Gulf Coast](#).

Over the last year **Chuck Carlise** (Ph.D., Poetry) had poems published in [Pleiades](#), [Hayden's Ferry Review](#), [The Southern Review](#), [The Southeast Review](#), [DIAGRAM](#), [Confrontation](#), [Fourteen Hills](#) and [American Literary Review](#). His poems have also been finalists for contests with [The Southeast Review](#), [The Pinch](#), and [Phoebe](#). This summer, he taught at the BoldFace Writer's Workshop here in Houston, and then attended the Tin House Writer's Workshop in Portland, Oregon, on scholarship.

Laurie Ann Cedilnik (M.F.A., Fiction) graduated in May, after spending a wonderful two years as the Editor of [Gulf Coast](#). Her reviews have appeared in [News-](#)

[day](#), [Bust](#) magazine, and [amNY](#), and her fiction is forthcoming in the [Colorado Review](#) and [Cimarron Review](#). She is currently living in Houston with her partner, a fellow UH CWP grad, and their very large book collection.

Hayan Charara (Ph.D., Poetry) had poems published in [Callaloo](#) and [The Massachusetts Review](#), and has work forthcoming in [Artful Dodge](#). Three of his poems were nominated for the Pushcart Prize, and his poem "The Rules" was translated into Arabic for the international journal, [Meena](#).

Adam Day (Ph.D., Poetry) won one of the four Poetry Society of America Chapbook Fellowships for 2010. His chapbook, *Badger, Apocrypha*, was chosen as a winner by James Tate. Each year four renowned poets select and introduce a winning manuscript for publication. Each winner also receives \$1,000.

Will Donnelly (Ph.D., Fiction) had a short story and an interview in the Fall 2009 issue of a magazine called [Smokelong Quarterly](#). He also read a short story at the 2009 SCMLA conference in Baton Rouge in October. He will be teaching a fiction workshop for In-print in the Fall.

Ryler Dustin (M.F.A., Poetry) was in his hometown Bellingham visiting friends and family this summer. In early June, he toured through the south with his friend **Denise** attending and participating in poetry slams. "Savannah is really beautiful." He did a Chicago show where the first poetry slam was invented by a construction worker who still



hosts it. Ryler also went on a road trip with his mom.



Ryler Dustin

Ashleigh Eisinger (Ph.D., Fiction) and her boyfriend, **Paul**, adopted a little chihuahua puppy in February. Her name is **Maeby** and she was 7 months old in July. She had a tough start - she was abandoned at 6 weeks and lost all her hair to mange - but now she's on the mend and frisky as ever. And Ashleigh and Paul adore her, of course.

Hannah Gamble (M.F.A., Poetry) was awarded the Cecily Parks Fellowship from Rice University. She will spend the 2010/11 school year teaching multi-genre Creative Writing classes, supervising the production of Rice's undergraduate literature magazine R2, and writing poems.

Eric Howerton (Ph.D., Fiction) had fiction acceptances last spring in Johnny America, and has work forthcoming in Grey Sparrow Press and Night Train.

Janine Joseph (Ph.D., Poetry) currently teaches with Writers in the Schools and serves as a poetry editor for Gulf Coast. A recipient of a 2010 Brazos Bookstore/Academy of American Poets prize, she had poems published recently in Clementine and in the chapbook *Here is a Pen: An Anthology of West Coast Kundiman Poets*. She served on the "7 and 7: 7 Poets Celebrate Kundiman's 7th Year as a Poetry Community" panel at Split This Rock in D.C., as well as on the "Kundiman: Love Songs and Leaps of Faith" panel at AWP in Denver. This summer, she was teaching with WONDER-

WORKS in Houston.

Anna Journey's (Ph.D., Poetry) first poetry collection, *If Birds Gather Your Hair for Nesting* (University of Georgia Press, 2009), selected by Thomas Lux for the National Poetry Series, has been called "magical" by film director David Lynch and has received reviews from the Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, The Kenyon Review Online, Blackbird, The Rumpus, and Poetry International. She's currently completing her second poetry collection, *Whisper to the Hive*, and plans to graduate with her Ph.D. from UH this December. Recently, Journey's poems have been solicited by The Kenyon Review for inclusion in their fall 2011 feature on art and perversity. Journey's most recent prose publications include an essay on contemporary elegy in Par-nassus, an autobiographical lyric meditation on Sylvia Plath's Yaddo poems in *Plath Profiles: An Interdisciplinary Journal for Sylvia Plath Studies*, and a review of Beckian Fritz Goldberg's forthcoming collection in FIELD. This September, Journey will read her own poetry and present her essay on metamorphosis imagery in Larry Levis's *Elegy* at the conference, "Larry Levis: American Poet," at Virginia Commonwealth University. She also makes an appearance in the forthcoming independent documentary film about Larry Levis, "My Story In a Late Style of Fire", directed by Michele Poulos and funded in part by Nick Levis, New Virginia Review, Inc., and VCU.

Eric Kocher (M.F.A., Poetry) had a poem accepted by Boston Review. Also, Eric taught poetry at the Young Writers Workshop at the University of Virginia this summer.

David Lombardi (Ph.D., Fiction) and his wife, **Liz Ehrhart**, had a baby girl, **Juliet Elizabeth**, on

November 16, 2009. He also received the Alexander Prize in fiction from the University of Houston. **Josephine**, David's other daughter, has her own sense of style (see photo). One day as they were driving to the grocery they passed the store where they buy her shoes. When Josephine saw where they were she said, with her three year old voice going on 16, "I feel like I need to go to Stride Rite, guys." No joke. David says that he and Liz don't know how this happened. Are they in trouble or what?



Josephine Lombardi

Keya Mitra (Ph.D., Fiction) has accepted a tenure-track position in creative writing and literature at Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA. Her novel is also currently a semifinalist for the Amazon Breakthrough Novel contest and was reviewed by Publisher's Weekly.

Caitlin Plunkett (M.F.A., Poetry) has had two poems recently published on "Poets for Living Waters." Also, she spent the summer teaching Space Science and Tennis to kids in Harris County.

Edward Porter (Ph.D., Fiction) has a story coming out in the online journal Booth.

Kent Shaw (Ph.D., Poetry) will have poems appear in Denver Quarterly.

Analicia Sotelo (M.F.A., Poetry) was nominated for the Alfredo Cisneros Del Moral Award for emerging and established Texas writers.

Ian Stansel (Ph.D., Fiction) has

had stories appear in Barrelhouse, Ecotone, and Ploughshares, and has finished (sort of) his first novel. In July, he took over the position of editor at Gulf Coast. Best of all, in August he married writer **Sarah Strickley**.

Allyn West (Ph.D., Non-Fiction) was nominated for a Pushcart Prize for an essay, "Sperm Donors," published in the Cimarron Review. Also, he was married this year to **Sara Cooper**, who is a Ph.D. candidate in rhetoric and composition at UH.

Jessica Wilbanks (M.F.A., Poetry) presented a conference paper this April at the University of Texas at Austin's 2010 Africa Conference on Women, Gender, and Sexuality and had a paper approved for presentation at the American Academy of Religion's 2010 Conference in this coming November. She received a Pre-Doctoral Research Fellowship from the West Africa Research Association to fund two months of research in Nigeria for her M.F.A. thesis. She also received word recently that her essays were finalists in Fourth Genre and The Normal School's essay competitions, and that her essay, "Father of Disorder", will be published in the next edition of The Normal School: A Literary Magazine.

2010 CWP "Prom"

We're sure its not official and we're pretty sure its not traditional but over the last few years some of our students have indulged in that time-honored rite of passage: the prom. And we love them for it.

Here are a few photos from the most recent CWP "Prom". Enjoy!



Writing Competitions

The University of Houston's Creative Writing Program is pleased to announce the writing awards winners for 2009-2010

INPRINT/JOAN and STANFORD ALEXANDER PRIZE FICTION
David Lombardi

INPRINT/PAUL VERLAINE PRIZE IN POETRY
Eric Higgins

INPRINT/BARTHELME MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIPS IN FICTION
Ian Schimmel (\$5,000)
Zachery Bean (\$2,500)

INPRINT/BARTHELME MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP IN NON-FICTION
Mari Jorgensen

INPRINT/LUCILLE JOY PRIZE IN POETRY
Hayan Charara

INPRINT/BARTHELME FELLOWSHIP IN POETRY
Sean Bishop

BRAZOS BOOKSTORE / ACADEMY OF AMERICAN POETS PRIZE
Janine Joseph

HONORABLE MENTIONS:
Jane Koh and Kent Shaw

JUDGES
REBECCA WALKER—Non-fiction
MARLON JAMES--Fiction
LAURA KASISCHKE--Poetry

Incoming Students

Fiction

Justin Chrestman, Ph.D.
B.A. and M.F.A.
New Mexico State Univ.

James Franco, Ph.D. (Defer to
Fall 2011)
B.A., Univ. of California, Los Angeles
M.F.A., Columbia Univ.
M.F.A., New York Univ.
M.F.A., Warren Wilson College

Aja Gabel, Ph.D.
B.A., Wesleyan Univ.
M.F.A., Univ. of Virginia

Michelle Mariano, Ph.D. (Defer to
Spring 2011)
B.A., Bryn Mawr College
M.F.A., New Mexico State Univ.

Zachary Martin, Ph.D.
B.A., Univ. of Chicago
M.A., Florida State Univ.

Whitney Mower, M.F.A.
B.A., Utah Valley Univ.

Celeste Prince, M.F.A.
B.A., Macalester College

Steve Sanders, Ph.D.
B.A., Univ. of Oklahoma
M.F.A., Boston Univ.

Austin Tremblay, Ph.D.
B.A., Univ. of North Carolina
M.A., New Mexico State Univ.

Kevin Tynan, M.F.A.
B.A., Massachusetts College of
Liberal Arts

Non-Fiction

Jameelah Lang, Ph.D.
B.A. and M.F.A.
Univ. of Kansas

Poetry

Rhianna Brandt, M.F.A.
B.A., Salem College

Kimberly Bruss, M.F.A.
B.A., Univ. of Wisconsin- Madi-
son

Sophie Klahr, M.F.A.
B.A., Emerson College

David Tomas Martinez, Ph.D.
B.A. and M.F.A.
San Diego State Univ.

Karyna McGlynn, Ph.D.
B.A., Seattle Univ.
M.F.A., Univ. of Michigan-Ann Ar-
bor

TaraShea Nesbit, Ph.D. (Defer to
Fall 2011)
B.A., Ohio State Univ.
M.F.A., Washington State Univ.-
St. Louis

Ryan O'Malley, M.F.A.
B.A., DePaul Univ.

Frances Justine Post, Ph.D.
B.A., Hampshire College
M.F.A., Columbia Univ.

John Sherer, M.F.A.
B.A., Univ. of Chicago

Elizabeth Tapia, Ph.D.
B.A., College of Charleston
M.F.A., Purdue Univ.

Nicole Walker, M.F.A.
B.A., Univ. of St. Thomas

Graduates

Fall 2009

Garret Johnson, M.F.A., Fiction
Kathryn Paterson, Ph.D., Fic-
tion

Spring 2010

Sean Bishop, M.F.A., Poetry
Laurie Cedilnik, M.F.A., Fiction
Eric Ekstrand, M.F.A., Poetry
Hannah Gamble, M.F.A., Poetry
Kasten Glover, M.F.A., Poetry
Ian Schimmel, M.F.A., Fiction
Monique Stevens, M.F.A., Fiction

Hayan Charara, Ph.D., Poetry
Michael Jones, Ph.D., Fiction
Brandon Lamson, Ph.D., Poetry
Keya Mitra, Ph.D., Fiction
Paul Otremba, Ph.D., Poetry



Gulf Coast

There have been some big changes afoot in the [Gulf Coast](#) office. Most noticeably, there have been administrative changes, as both Editor **Laurie Ann Cedilnik** and Managing Editor **Sean Bishop** have graduated and moved on from the bright halls of Roy Cullen. In July, the baton was passed to **Ian Stansel**, who has taken over as Editor, and **Rebecca Wadlinger**, who has bravely taken the Managing Editor position. Ian is a fourth-year PhD candidate in fiction, while Rebecca is beginning her second year as a PhD candidate in poetry.

In addition, **Laura Eve Engle** has taken over as Reviews and Interviews Editor, **Janine Joseph** is the newest Poetry Editor, and **Ed Porter** is the latest addition to the Fiction Editorial team. Finally, we have created the new position of Online Editor, which has been filled by **Will Donnelly**. Keep an eye on the [Gulf Coast](#) website as we begin blogging and publishing exclusive online content. We have the utmost confidence that all our new editors will help make the upcoming issues of [Gulf Coast](#) some of the best yet.

Our recently retired Managing Editor, Sean Bishop, has headed north to spend a year in Wisconsin, having won the UW-Madison's Diane Middlebrook Poetry Fellowship. Meanwhile, happily for the rest of us, Laurie Ann Cedilnik, who has been at the helm of [Gulf Coast](#) the past two years, will be staying in Houston and working as the Events Coordinator at UH's Honors College. We heartily congratulate both Laurie and Sean on their graduation and their quick post-graduation accomplishments, and we thank them for all

the fine work they did during their time with the journal.

We have gotten hugely positive reactions to the two issues of [Gulf Coast](#) we put out in the past year. The Winter/Spring 2010 issue featured most prominently a commissioned work by UK-based artist Ben Powis. The twelve-page spread depicted a graphic interpretation of T.S. Eliot's "The Wasteland." The issue included 2009 Iowa Short Fiction Prize-winner Jennine Capo Crucet, as well as fiction from Matt Bell and John Weir, poetry from the likes of G.C. Waldrep, Ai, and Zachary Schomburg, and nonfiction and lyric essays from Ilya Kaminski, Elena Passarello, and others.

The Summer/Fall issue continued [Gulf Coast's](#) momentum with the first of what will be many "round table" discussions. This one featured four poets talking about what "surrealism" means in the context of contemporary poetry. The feature was accompanied by a slew of great works by poets Dan Beachy-Quick, Joshua Beckman, Cecily Parks, and others. Nonfiction included Lee Martin, Peter Selgrin, and a collaborative piece by Christine Hume and Kathleen Ivanoff. Our fiction in the issue features some great emerging writers, including Megan Mayhew Bergman, Roderic Crooks, and Anjali Sachdeva. And it also includes amazing artwork by Dawolu Jabari and Jules Buck Jones.

The release of our most recent issue was celebrated with our annual Spring event, this year held at the amazing Station Museum in midtown Houston. We were lucky enough to have a reading from the accomplished and charming Cal Bedient, whose books include *The Violence of Morning* (2002) and *Days of Unwilling* (2008). Cal flew in from Los Angeles, where

he teaches at UCLA, and found his first visit to Texas, well, hot. Indeed, it was a sticky night in Houston, but the AC inside the Station cooled the crowd and let everyone attend to the night's reading.

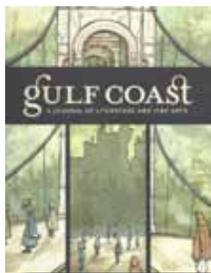
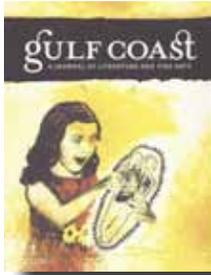
The third annual Houston Indie Book Fair, co-organized with our friends at NanoFiction, and sponsored in part by the Council of Literary Magazines and Presses, took place on April 3rd and was the biggest one yet. Held for the first time on the verdant grounds of the Menil Collection, an estimated 1,500 people showed up over the course of the day to hear readings from **Antonya Nelson**, **Robert Boswell**, **Chitra Divakaruni**, and others, and, perhaps more importantly, to peruse the offerings of more than 40 exhibitors. In addition to mainstay Houston organizations such as Inprint, Inc., the Houston Public Library, and Brazos and Kaboom bookstores, we also welcomed small publishers from as far away as Oregon and Michigan.

This upcoming year promises to be an exciting one for [Gulf Coast](#). This fall we will release an issue that deals with the ongoing environmental crisis in the Gulf of Mexico, and the spring will see a twenty-fifth anniversary issue.

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

Subscriptions to [Gulf Coast](#) are available at \$28 for two years (a savings of \$12 off the cover price) and \$16 for one year (\$4 off the cover price). Send check or money order along with subscription address to: Gulf Coast,

Department of English, University of Houston, Houston, TX 77204-3013. Or subscribe online: Check out www.gulfcoastmag.org.



Glass Mountain

Glass Mountain, the undergraduate literary journal at the University of Houston, is going national in spring 2011! Published bi-annually to showcase outstanding undergraduate work in fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and art, Glass Mountain was founded by undergraduate students in 2006 and has offered scores of new voices a place to be heard both on the printed page and at readings and gatherings. In spring 2011, Glass Mountain will become a national publication to offer an even broader base of undergraduate writers the community and support they need, while continuing to give UH undergraduates the opportunity to learn the process of publishing and being published. Please invite emerging writers you know to submit their work; information and submission requirements may be found at www.glassmountainmag.com.

com

Run by undergraduate students with the wants, needs, and curiosities of the emerging artist in mind, Glass Mountain has joined with the already vibrant arts community of Houston, participating in collaborations with organizations such as the Society for Performing Arts SPA Prelude Series, Writers in the Schools (WITS), and the Poison Pen Reading Series. In addition, Glass Mountain sponsors Boldface each summer (see next article), the conference for emerging writers, extending that community to a national audience.

Tiffany Thor
Glass Mountain Co-Editor



Boldface: A Conference for Emerging Writers

The second annual Boldface conference was held from June 7-12, 2010, in the Honors College at the University of Houston. Sponsored by Glass Mountain, Boldface is a week-long colloquium that celebrates the creativity, community, and collaboration of the writing community at the University of Houston. Targeting the emerging, undergraduate writer, the conference is staffed by MFA and PhD candidates from the UH graduate Creative Writing Program, who establish mentoring relationships

with conferees that allow the writer a level of focus and engagement often unavailable in a purely academic setting. The small, studio-format workshops afford the writer individualized attention as well as networking opportunities during conference-related evening events such as receptions, open-mic readings, and staff readings. The final day focuses on professionalism: conferees learn about publication, graduate school, and the "Writing Life" from panels of graduate students, cwp faculty, and published writers.

Boldface has attracted emerging writers from across the nation to the UH campus, effectively extending the Houston writing community across borders, real and imagined. This year, the conference grew approximately 15% over 2009, its inaugural year, and continues to generate interest nation-wide. Boldface 2011 is scheduled for May 23-28, 2011. Further information may be found at www.glassmountainmag.com and www.boldfaceconference.com. Please mark your calendars and encourage your best undergraduate writers to check us out.

Vanessa Villarreal
Glass Mountain Co-Editor



Alumni News

Charlie Alcorn (Ph.D., 2006) is in his fifth year as Managing Editor of the American Book Review (americanbookreview.org) and Instructor in the School of Arts and Sciences at UH-Victoria and UHSSL in Sugar Land. He was recently elected Secretary of the UH-Victoria Faculty Senate and started that "lovely parliamentary gig" in August. His story collection, *Argument Against the Good-Looking Corpse*, was accepted for publication (spring 2011) by Texas Review Press. A story from the collection, "Miss Juicy Owns It", is in the latest issue of Texas Review. The story "Peace of Mind" is due to be published in Boulevard in 2011.

Charlie says that they have greatly enjoyed hosting UH CWP faculty in Victoria for the UHV/ABR Reading Series over the past couple of years including **Robert Phillips**, **Chitra Divakaruni**, **Antonya Nelson**, **Mark Doty** and (almost) **Ruben Martinez** (Hurricane Ike foiled those plans). He works closely with fellow CWP graduate **Tom Williams** (Ph.D., 1996) who is UHV's new Chair of Humanities and an Associate Editor at American Book Review. **Kevin Prufer** and **Eric Miles Williamson** (M.F.A., 1991) are active Associate Editors for American Book Review as well. And calling all reviewers! Let Charlie know if there's a small press book you think deserves attention- ABR is ready, willing and able to promote any and all your hidden gems.

Christopher Bakken's (Ph.D., 1999) essay about picking olives on the island of Thassos appeared in the most recent issue of Parnassus: Poetry in Review and he's published or has new poems forthcoming in Ploughshares, The Hudson Review, 32 Poems, and PN

Review. He is an Associate Professor of English at Allegheny College in Pennsylvania.

David Bernardy (Ph.D., 2006) and **Joni Tevis** (Ph.D., 2005) welcomed **Caroline Brooks Tevis-Bernardy** into their family on March 22, 2010. "Thanks everybody for

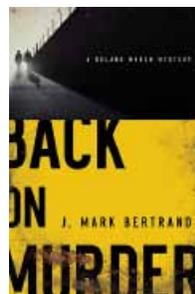


being so loving and supportive, for all your gifts and thoughts and prayers and your time! We appreciate it more than we can say." Joni and David both continue

to teach at Furman University in Greenville, SC. Joni had work taken at Orion and Oxford American; David published online at Sidebrow. Fellow UH alum **Sean Hill** (M.F.A., 2003) spent three weeks teaching a summer course at Furman this past May. Joni, David, and Baby Caroline looked forward to meeting up with him in Keystone, South Dakota this summer for a heaping plate of buffalo ribs.

Lauren Berry (M.F.A., 2009) held the Diane Middlebrook Poetry Fellowship at the University of Wisconsin for the 2009-2010 academic year. Her poetry manuscript, "The Lifting Dress," was a semi-finalist for Perseus's Lexi Rudnitsky First Book Prize in 2009. Lauren's poem, "The Pale-skinned Catholic Girls Go Topless Sunbathing" was accepted for publication in American Literary Review.

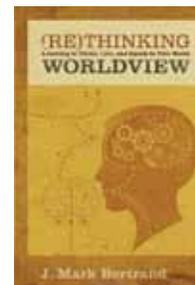
The first book in **Mark Bertrand's** (M.F.A., 2000) series set in Houston, *Back on Murder*, came out in July. In February, 2010, he re-



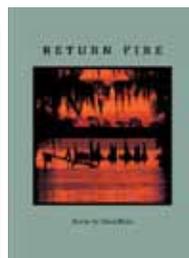
leased *Beguiled*, a story merging romance and mystery, with co-author Deeanne Gist. He's living in South Dakota now, but is hoping to arrange a signing in Houston later this



year. Mark remembers that when he was at UH, Dan Stern was his thesis director, and Dan gave him a hard time about trying to slip stories that were "too genre" into his thesis. So now that he's writing crime fiction he says he has a recurring nightmare in which he's stripped of his MFA for sins against literature!



Nicky Beer



Glenn Blake

Ann Bogle's (M.F.A., 1994) short stories in Big Bridge are the subject of an interview with Jefferson Hansen at "Experimental Fiction/Poetry/Jazz", a blog of reviews, interviews and commentary. Her poems appear in The Argotist Online and in Wordgathering: A Journal of Disability Poetry. Her short stories appeared in the May 2010 edition of Istanbul Literary Review and in Metazen. She performed poetry



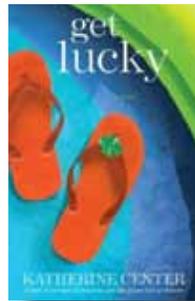
with the Dusie Kollektiv at the 2010 AWP in Denver, where she served on the panel, “Beauty is a Verb—the New Poetics of Disability.” Ann edits creative nonfiction and book reviews at [Mad Hatters’ Review](#), fiction at [Women Writers: a Zine](#), and is a fiction reader at [Drunken Boat](#). Her new and reprinted work appears at [Fictionaut](#). She attended Summer Literary Seminars in Montreal to study with **Padgett Powell** (M.A., 1982) and Patrick Leroux.

Shannon Borg (Ph.D., 1999) is General Manager of a wine shop and wine bar near Pike Place Market in downtown Seattle, called 106 Pine (106pine.com), featuring all Northwest wines and locally made cheeses and cured meats. She asks that if you’re in town, make sure to call or stop by for a glass – it’s also a literary venue, so she’d love to organize a reading the next time you are in town. Shannon also writes the monthly wine column for [Seattle](#) magazine, and her book *Chefs on the Farm: Lessons and Inspiration from the Quilliscut Farm School for the Domestic Arts* seduced her into the world of goat cheese, from which she may never return.

James Matthew Boyleston (Ph.D., 2008) published poems, essays and reviews in the following journals: [Religion and the Arts](#), [Transgressive Culture](#), [The Madison Review](#), [Yemassee](#), [Time of Singing](#), [Tipton Poetry Journal](#), and [The City](#). He gave a series of readings and conference presentations culminating in a reading tour of Wales this summer. James also was promoted to Chair of the Department of English and the Department of Modern Foreign Languages at Houston Baptist University.

Jericho Brown (Ph.D., 2007) was named one of the ten recipients of the 2009 Whiting Writer’s Award. The awards, which are \$50,000

each, have been given annually, since 1985, to writers of exceptional talent and promise in early career. Jericho still lives in San Diego, CA.



Katherine Center

Patricia Clark’s (Ph.D., 1986) poems were recently in or are forthcoming in [Atlantic Monthly](#), [Northwest Review](#), [Blackmarket Review](#) (Liverpool), [Upstreet](#), [Terrain](#), [Ambassador Poetry Project](#), [Controlled Burn](#), [Zone 3](#) and elsewhere. Patricia chaired a panel on Transatlantic Cooperation and Creative Writing Pedagogy at the AWP 2010 conference in Denver. She was also on a panel there, reading an essay titled “Double Vision: The Tactic of Indirection in the Lyric Poem”, forthcoming in *Mentor & Muse: Essays from Poets to Poets*, Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 2010.

Thomas Cobb’s (Ph.D., 1986) book, *Crazy Heart*, was released as a major motion picture this year and the movie was nominated for three academy awards. It won two awards- for Best Actor and Best Original Song. The book was written in the late 80’s but, obviously, has a timeless theme. Tom lives in Rhode Island and last year his second novel, *Shavetail*, won the top fiction prize given by the Texas Institute of Letters.

Jane Creighton (M.A., 1991) is an Associate Professor of English and Director of the Cultural Enrichment Center at the University of Houston-

Downtown. Her publications of the last few years include a reprint of the poem “Milagros” in *We Begin Here: Poems for Palestine and Lebanon* (Interlink Books); “Writing War, Writing Memory,” a personal essay about June Jordan, published in *Still Seeking an Attitude: Critical Reflections on the Work of June Jordan* (Lexington Books) and uploaded on the Poetry Foundation website. Most recently Jane published “The Bodies of Others: A Meditation on the Environs of Reading J.M. Coetzee’s *Disgrace*, and Caryl Phillips’s *The Nature of Blood*,” in *Encountering Disgrace: Reading and Teaching Coetzee’s Novel* (Camden House), written after her experience teaching these texts during her 2006/2007 Fulbright Fellowship year at Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland. She is currently working on an essay about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial solicited for the Edinburgh Companion to *Twentieth-Century British and American (U.S.) War Literature* from Edinburgh University Press. She is also happily serving her second term as a board member with Writers in the Schools.

Aaron Crippen (Ph.D., 2005) is now teaching at Tsinghua University in Beijing where he’s trying to establish a core of English creative writing activity. He has recently finished a project with translator Du Hong, translating sixteen contemporary American poets, including **Tony Hoagland**, into Chinese. The book, which is part of collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, should be published soon. He is also working to build ties between the University of Houston and Tsinghua University.

Deborah Cummins (M.A., 1994) had poems in two anthologies: *The Poets’ Guide to Birds* (Anhinga Press) and *When She Named Fire: An Anthology of Contemporary Poetry by American Women*. She also has a personal essay forthcoming in

Fourth Genre.

Tracy Daugherty's (Ph.D., 1985) biography of **Donald Barthelme**, *Hiding Man*, a finalist for a Texas Institute of Letters award, was released in paperback by Picador in March of this year. SMU Press has just published his fourth short story collection, *One Day the Wind Changed*, featuring pieces originally published in *Tri-*



quarterly, *Boulevard*, *The Georgia Review*, and *The Best of the West Anthology*, among others. Tracy's just completed a biography of Joseph Heller, *Just One Catch*, to be published by St. Martin's Press in the fall of 2011, on the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Catch-22*. On July 22, he hosted a discussion in New York's Madison Square Park celebrating Donald Barthelme's fiction. The event was sponsored by the National Book Foundation and also featured David Gates and Stacey D'Erasmus. Finally, he's been elected to the Board of Directors of Oregon Literary Arts.

Marisa de los Santos (Ph.D., 1996) is in the homestretch with her third novel, which she hopes to deliver to her wonderful and patient editor at William Morrow in a few months. Foreign rights continue to sell for the first two books in places like Russia and China, which she finds exciting if mind-boggling. She's taking ballet classes, doing a lot of volunteer work, watching her kids grow up ridiculously fast (**Charles** is going into sixth grade and has feet bigger than Marisa's; **Annabel** is eight going on twenty-five), and she's eagerly awaiting the publication of her husband **David Teague's** first children's book in mid-August.

Viet Dinh (M.F.A., 2003) received a National Endowment for the Arts fiction fellowship in 2008. He had a story appear in the 2009 *O. Henry Prize Stories* anthology. He also had stories in *Ninth Letter*, *Crab Orchard Review* and *Greensboro Review*. He's still teaching at the University of Delaware and was awarded a Delaware Division of the Arts grant... "An 'established artist,' they call me!" Viet claims to be the master of the chai-spiced sugar cookie.

Barbara Duffey (M.F.A., 2005) has poems forthcoming in the 2011 issue of *Passages North*.

Nancy Eimers's (Ph.D., 1988) fourth poetry collection, *Oz*, will be published by Carnegie-Mellon in winter 2011. The collection will include the poem "How We Thought About Toys," which has been awarded a Pushcart Prize and will appear in *The Pushcart Prize XXXV: Best of Small Presses 2011*.

Emily Fox Gordon's collection of her personal essays, entitled *Book of Days*, came out with Spiegel and Grau this summer, on August 17, along with the paperback of her recent novel, *It Will Come to Me*. The collection of essays will include an introduction by **Phillip Lopate**.



Emily will be reading at Brazos on Sept. 17, an event to which, of course, everyone is invited. Her charming granddaughter, **Emma Constantine**, will be 2 in September.

Duane Franklet (M.A., 1989) has been doing IT consulting in New Zealand for



the past year, and the Franklets are puzzling over how long to stay on in Nelson.

Gregory Fraser (Ph.D., 1999) and his wife, **Milada**, became the proud parents of twins, **Sasha and David**, in late April. This year, Greg also secured a contract for his second co-authored textbook, *Analyze Anything: A Guide to College Writing*, due out from Continuum in 2011. He is an Associate Professor of English at the University of West Georgia.



Kim Garcia's (M.F.A., 2006) 2010 readings to date have been at the Brett Whiteley Studio in Sydney, Australia, the University of Sydney, a National Poetry Month reading in Boston, and an off-site AWP reading at the Mercury Café in Denver. Her work has recently appeared in *Subtropics*, *The Southeast Review*, *Tampa Review* and *Free Verse*, and she received the 2009 XJ Kennedy Award. She teaches creative writing at Boston College.



Eva Ginsburg (M.F.A., 2001) has a new baby, **Ilana Dvora Scher**, born on May 4. Eva says that siblings **Freddy** and **Malkah** (five and three) have been behaving quite decently toward their new sister. They live in Urbana, IL, have homemade bread, and do enormous amounts of laundry.

Gary Hawkins (Ph.D., 2004) and **Landon Godfrey** (M.F.A., 2000) are well. Gary is enjoying his job as

Director of Undergraduate Writing at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, N.C. He's also Director of First Seminar there. He's busy! Landon's recent news is that David St. John has chosen her manuscript, "Second-Skin Rhinestone Spangled Nude Souffle Chiffon Gown", as the winner of the Cider Press Book Award. Her book will be published February 2011. They live in Black Mountain, NC, just outside of Asheville. "Very beautiful and lots of black bears!"

Steve Haldeman (M.F.A., 2004) ran away and joined the Roller Derby Revolution. He coaches the Cincinnati Rollergirls, a member of the Women's Flat Track Derby Association and one of the top 20 teams in the country. Steve also plays derby for a Baltimore men's team called the Harm City Homicide. His derby nom de guerre is "Quad Almighty"! He says, "I've been looking for this sport my whole life and now I'm in love with it. Look up your local roller derby league and go see it for yourself. At last estimate, there were over 450 active derby leagues playing worldwide, including the Texas Rollergirls in Austin, who started the whole thing. The world is flat! Join the Revolution!"

John Harvey (Ph.D., 1998) continues to write plays and is an Artist in Residence at the UH Honors College. He's won grants from the Houston Arts Alliance and awards from the Academy of American Poets. He is co-founder of Mildred's Umbrella Theater Company and last fall his latest play, "Night of the Giant", was produced. The production included an original score by Elliot Cole.

Chris Haven (Ph.D. 2001) is Associate Professor of Writing at Grand Valley State University in Michigan. This year he has an essay in Reed; stories in Flatman Crooked, Hunger Mountain, and New Orleans Re-

view; and poems in Memorious, Puerto del Sol, Fourteen Hills, Sentence, Controlled Burn, Wisconsin Review, The Los Angeles Review, and The Normal School. His dissertation at UH, "The Disappearance of Hope Trimble", was a semifinalist in the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award.

Cliff Hudder (M.F.A., 1995) continues as professor of English at Lone Star College-Montgomery in Conroe, TX, which recently awarded him a Faculty Excellence Award for the 2009-2010 academic year. Awarded a faculty exploration grant he, his wife **Kazumi**, and son **Dylan** (now 4) traveled to Japan in the summer of 2010 to conduct research for his course "Writing About Japanese Film and Literature." Alongside colleague and CWP grad **Dave Parsons** (M.A., 1991), he continues as a program director of the college's Writers in Performance reading series that this year featured former CWP professor, Guggenheim Foundation President, and award winning poet **Edward Hirsch** as its April offering. A winner of the Texas College English Association writing award for the second consecutive year, his article "'Most barbarously large and final': Placing Texas in Billy Lee Brammer's *The Gay Place*," will be published in that society's conference journal in the fall, and his short story "Clear Lake" is upcoming in The Texas Review. Also upcoming, Cliff has been named one of three new councilors elected for the Conference of College Teachers of English. In fall of 2009 he began (very slowly) working on his Ph.D. in Literature at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, but has not quit his day job.

Peter Hyland's (M.F.A., 2007) chapbook, *Elegy to the Idea of a Child*, was published by Trilobite Press last year. He's had poems appear recently in New England Review, New South, and Plough-

shares, and has work forthcoming in Conduit. Peter was also recently nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and was a guest blogger for The Ploughshares Blog in March and April of 2010. He and his wife, **Missy**, purchased their first home last October in the Garden Oaks neighborhood of Houston. This summer he left his position as Development Director at Inprint to become the new director of development at the Menil Collection.

Irene Keliher (M.F.A., 2009) wrote the libretto for the bilingual one-act opera, "A Way Home" which was performed at Houston Community College in May.

Jason Koo's (M.F.A., 2002) first book, *Man on Extremely Small Island*, was published in December, 2009, by C&R Press. It was the winner of C&R Press's De Novo Poetry Prize and a Finalist for the National Poetry Series, the Kathryn A. Morton Prize, and the Ohio State University Press's The Journal Award in Poetry. Since the book came out Jason's been doing readings in cities all over the country, including New York (where he had his book release party at the Asian American Writers' Workshop),



Cleveland, Boston, Houston, Louisville, Collegeville, PA, Washington, PA and Columbia, MO. The book is selling well and will soon be going into a second edition. It cracked Amazon's Top Ten Bestsellers in Asian American Literature. In January he completed a four-week resi-

dency at the Vermont Studio Center, where he won a Full Fellowship in poetry. Jason was also interviewed by Elizabeth Hildreth for the online journal [Bookslut](#).

This year **Andrew Kozma** (Ph.D., 2007) has been writing a novel, trying to get an agent with the bait of another novel, and trying to start a theater company (Theater 42) with a director friend. Andrew won the D. H. Lawrence Fellowship to the Taos Summer Writers Conference, but that was his only trip out of the city for the foreseeable future. He's had poems accepted by [The Pinch](#) and [Iron Horse Literary Review](#), and his first published story will be coming out in [DIAGRAM](#) soon. In his spare time, he's been raising orphaned, feral kittens that he and **Megan** find behind their house.

Laurie Lambeth (Ph.D., 2006) was invited to do a writing residency this year at Saint Mary's College of Maryland's Artist House. Her poems and essays appeared or are forthcoming in [Seneca Review](#), [Crazyhorse](#), [Zocalo Public Square](#), [Planet of the Blind](#), and in **Sean Hill's** (M.F.A., 2003) Natural Histories project at "The Owls".

Somebody hit the reset switch on **Bill Lantry** (Ph.D., 1993), who appears under the mild mannered disguise of W.F. Lantry. In the past year, he's published over 80 poems, in print and online, here and abroad, including 12 different countries (thirteen if you count Texas). He came "within an inch" of winning the Rilke World Prize for Mystical Poetry, "within a whisker" of the Morton Marr Prize, and did win [Cutbank's](#) Patricia Goedicke Prize. He was even mentioned, honorably, for the Hippocrates Prize in England. His beautiful wife had trouble cashing the check: "Who knew poetry was paid in pounds?" He's too modest to mention the other four prizes he won this year, but you can find de-

tails at <http://wflantry.com>. He's still Director of Academic Technology at the Catholic University of America. Check out the 2011 Texas Poetry Calendar for a poem workshopped at UH. You'll find it sometime around Cinco de Mayo.

Lance Larsen (Ph.D., 1993) continues to teach at BYU. He has had recent appearances in [Slate](#), [River Styx](#), [Prairie Schooner](#), [Verse Daily](#), and [Best American Poetry 2009](#), with new work forthcoming in [Southern Review](#), [Poetry](#), [Raritan](#), [New Letters](#), and [Brevity](#). In fall 2009 he completed a residency at the Anderson Center in Red Wing, MN, and he served as a poetry guest editor for an issue of [Crazyhorse](#). In spring 2010, he directed a London study abroad program focusing on theater.

Leah Lax (M.F.A., 2004) is still in Houston, "plugging along." She's teaching seminars for Inprint. She has the lead essay in an anthology just out by Random House. The essay is called "Keep Your Wives Away From Them," edited by Miryam Kabakov.

Jared Leising (M.F.A., 1998) is living in Seattle, and is the curator for the 2010 Jack Straw Writers Program. He and his wife are also expecting another son in late July. We wish them luck.

Elline Lipkin (Ph.D., 2003) is still a Research Scholar at UCLA's Center for the Study of Women. She'll be traveling this fall to promote *Girls' Studies* including a talk at the American School in Paris, which she's very excited about. Elline also hopes to launch a blog soon about girls.



David MacLean (Ph.D., 2009) read one of his essays on the NPR program "This American Life" in January (episode #399: Contents Unknown). He recently sold his memoir, *The Answer to the Riddle is Me*, to Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. It will come out in 2012.

James May (M.F.A., 2007) married the poet **Chelsea Rathburn** this July, in Pittsburgh. The couple spent the summer traveling between Paris and Krakow, where they got to visit with Adam Zagajewski. James' poem "Fringe Tree" recently appeared in [The New Republic](#), and he has poems forthcoming in the [New Ohio Review](#). He continues to edit the magazine [New South](#).



Ann McCutchen (M.F.A., 1998) toured five universities in Texas and Colorado in March and April, 2010, with readings, talks, and performances of her musical texts. Also, in May, Ann was inducted into the Texas Institute of Letters. In June and July, 2010, she was writer-in-residence at the Thinking Like A Mountain Foundation in the Davis Mountains.

Kim Meyer (Ph.D., 2008) received a 2010 Established Artist Grant from the Houston Arts Alliance to begin work on her new writing project: retracing the path of the 15th century pilgrim, Friar Felix Fabri, who traveled from Ulm, Germany to the Holy Land and Mount Sinai in 1483.

Leslie Miller (Ph.D., 1991) reported that Graywolf Press has accepted her sixth collection of poems, *Y*, for publication in 2012. Work from this collection has appeared or is forthcoming in numerous publications.

Yvonne Murphy (Ph.D., 2000) had a baby girl in 2008, **Rory Margaret Friedman**. Yvonne's poetry manuscript, "Aviaries", won the 2009 Carolina Wren Press Poetry Award and will be published by them in January 2011. She is a Mentor in Literature and Writing and Associate Professor of Cultural Studies at SUNY Empire State College.

Laurie Newendorp's (M.A., 1992) daughter's book, *Uneasy Reunions* (**Nicole deJong Newendorp**, 2008, Stanford Press), survived in hardback, is coming out in paperback, and received an award (beneficial ethnography) from the American Anthropology Association. Laurie's son, Taylor and wife **Kate** had their first child, Laurie's third grandson, **Finn Newendorp**.

Amanda Nowlin (Ph.D., 2007) won a 2010 Barbara Deming Award for women artists based on her novel manuscript, "The Greenest Grass". In 2009, she published essays in *Callaloo* and *Vandal*. Amanda still lives in Huntsville, TX.

Greg Oaks (Ph.D., 2001) is still one of the people running the Poison Pen reading series, along with **Casey Fleming** (M.F.A., 2007), **David MacLean** (Ph.D., 2009) and Scott Repass.

David Parsons (M.A., 1991) is still teaching Creative Writing & Racquetball/Handball at Lone Star College-Montgomery. He and his favorite colleague and former UH Alum, **Cliff Hudder** (M.F.A., 1995) are still co-directing the Writers In Performance Series. They are in their 17th year and have hosted well over 200 writers. This past April, they were delighted to have their old UH mentor and friend, **Edward Hirsch**, down for National Poetry Month. A poem of David's was included in a special issue of *Borderlands* spotlighting the University of

Texas Blanton Museum Ekphrastic Poetry Project. He also has two poems forthcoming from *The Texas Review*, and three poems in *descant*.



Padgett Powell

Darby Sanders (M.F.A., 2000) is living in Atlanta and teaching Writing at the Savannah College of Art and Design-Atlanta. He's also working in public broadcasting. He and his wife **Jenny** welcomed identical twin girls into their family in August of 2009- **Estella** and **Luna**. They also have a five year old daughter, **Tallulah**.

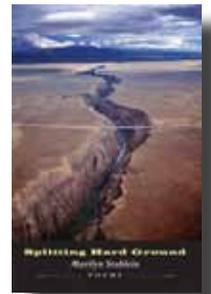
Patty Seyburn's (Ph.D., 2003) poem, "The Case for Free Will," won a 2011 Pushcart Prize. It was originally published in the premier issue of *Arroyo Literary Review*. She's had poems this year in *Poetry*, *Boston Review*, *Hotel Amerika* and *DIA-GRAM*, among others. A highlight of her academic year was having **Ed Hirsch** read at Cal State, Long Beach, where she's an Assistant Professor.

Matthew Siegel (M.F.A., 2009) recently completed his first year as a Wallace Stegner Fellow in poetry at Stanford University and has poems forthcoming in *Lo-Ball*, *Ninth Letter*, and *Washington Square*. He spent this summer teaching creative writing to gifted youth in Singapore and at Stanford. He lives in San Francisco.

John J.D. Smith's (M.A., 1989)

one-act play "Dig" was produced at the Old Red Lion Theatre (one of London's better-known fringe theaters) on June 8-26. A positive review appeared at http://www.extraextra.org/ReviewThe_Next_Curve_2010.html. A short film adapted from the play will be filmed this fall. He gave several readings (in English and Spanish) of his children's book *The Best Mariachi in the World/El Mejor Mariachi del Mundo* at the annual conference of the National Council of La Raza in San Antonio on July 10, 11 and 12. John's first collection of essays, *Dowsing and Science*, will be published by Texas Review Press in late 2010 or early 2011. His story "Fighting Words" appeared in *Cellstories* in June. He is currently seeking publishers for two poetry collections, one in formal verse and one in free verse, and working on new projects in several genres. Updates appear on his blog at <http://jdsmithwriter.blogspot.com>.

Marilyn Stablein (M.A., 1982) has a new book of poems, *Splitting Hard Ground*, from La Alameda Press, 2010. She read and signed copies of the book on a west coast book tour in August and September. She has new work published in *Sin Fronteras*, *Chokecherries*, *The Rag*, *New Perspectives Magazine*, *Sage Trail* and *Malpais Review* where she accepted the position of Art Director. An essay is forthcoming in the anthology, *Voices of New Mexico*. She was a speaker at the Women Author's Book Festival in Santa Fe and presented a lecture at the



State Capitol Rotunda Gallery. Marilyn's artist books have won numerous awards including Best of Show in "Book It!" an exhibition at the Branigan Library, Las Cruces, NM, for her book *Numerals: Units & Equations*. She also exhibited art at Canyon Gallery in Boulder, CO, La Mesa Library in Los Alamos, NM, and Judy Chicago's "Through The Flower" Foundation Gallery.

Gail Donohue Storey (M.A., 1982) won two awards from New Millennium Writings for two excerpts from her nearly finished memoir about hiking the Pacific Crest Trail, *I Never Much Cared for Nature*. Another excerpt from the book will be published in the August issue of *Pilgrimage Magazine*. Her blog features a short music video of the hilariously harrowing hike: <http://www.gailstorey.com/video-1-of-our-hike-of-the-pacific-crest-trail>.

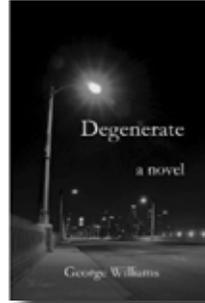
Giuseppe Taurino (M.F.A., 2006) and his wife, **Paola**, continue to live in Austin, where Giuseppe serves as Education Programs Manager for Badgerdog Literary Publishing. This past year, Giuseppe's stories have appeared in *The Potomac Review* and *Epoch*.

Mike Theune's (Ph.D., 2002) review-essay "Impolitic: Kent Johnson's Radical Hybridity" appeared in *Pleiades* (30.1), and his essay "Negative Capability T wang dillo dee" appeared in *Jacket* (40). His poems recently have appeared in *Anti-* and *Poemeleon*. Mike has essays forthcoming in *Poets on Teaching* and *Mentor and Muse: Essays from Poets to Poets*, and he continues to host the blog "structureandsurprise.wordpress.com."

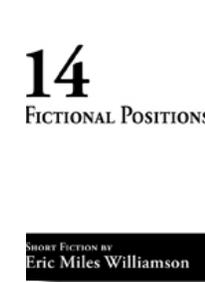
Robert Tinajero (M.F.A., 2004) tells us that in December he finished his Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Writing Studies from the University of Texas-El Paso and currently holds a tenure-track position at Tarrant County

College in Ft. Worth, TX. Robert is sending out articles to various journals and plans on self-publishing a book of poetry in the next year.

George Williams (Ph.D., 1994) published his first novel, *Degenerate*, in February 2010. He also had stories published in *The Hopkins Review* and *Boulevard* this spring. George was the first recipient of the Michener Fellowship in Honor of **Donald Barthelme**. His stories and essays have appeared in *The Pushcart Prize*, *New Virginia Review*, *American Book Review* and other publications. He lives in Savannah, GA, and teaches at Savannah College of Art and Design.



Eric Miles Williamson's (M.F.A., 1991) third novel, *Welcome to Oakland*, was named the #2 Book of the Year by the Huffington Post, which also ranked the novel among the 40 Best Novels of the Decade. *The Washington Post* gave it a rave review, and the French translation will appear on Fayard Noir in 2011. His short story collection, *14 Fictional Positions*, has just been published, and in January 2111 his essay collection, *Say it Hot: Essays on American Writers Living, Dying and Dead*, will be published. For the past two years he has been the featured American literary critic for the French magazine, *Transfuge*. Eric is Senior Editor of *Boulevard*, continues as Fiction Editor of *The Texas Review* and is Associate Editor of *American*



Book Review.

Tiphonie Yanique's (M.F.A., 2006) debut collection of stories, *How to Escape From a Leper Colony*, was released in March. She read at Brazos Bookstore in Houston and participated in a panel discussion at UH in April. Tiphonie is a professor of Creative Writing and Caribbean Literature at Drew University. Tiphonie won the Rona Jaffe Prize in 2010.



0073019300
CWPNews
University of Houston
Creative Writing Program
229 Roy Cullen Building
Houston TX 77204-3015
Address Correction Requested

**Fall 2011
Application Deadline:
January 15, 2011**

Faculty

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

Teaching Assistantships/ Fellowships Available

229 Roy Cullen Bldg
Houston, TX 77024-3015
713.743.3015
www.uh.edu/cwp

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



UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON Creative Writing Program

**A faculty of dedicated writers and teachers
committed to challenging and supporting writers
who will define the American literary landscape
for the next generation.**

2010/2011 Inprint Margarett Root Brown Reading Series

Amy Tan
Carlos Fuentes
Salman Rushdie
Peter Carey
Alicia Ostriker
Major Jackson
Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
Gish Jen
Kay Ryan

Selection of Awards Recently Won by Students:

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

M.F.A. & Ph.D. Degrees Available in Fiction, Poetry & Creative Non-Fiction

The Creative Writing Program is a constituent member of the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts.